

10-30-2017

## Interview no. 1717

Ines Fresquez Enciso

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

Interviewee: Ines Fresquez Enciso

Interviewer: Yolanda Chávez Leyva

Project: Bracero Program

Location: Rio Vista Farm, Socorro, TX.

Date of Interview: October 30, 2017

Terms of Use: Unrestricted

Transcript No.: 1717

Transcriber: Andrea Santos

### Summary of Interview:

Ines was born in Socorro, Texas on February 12, 1933. Her parents used to have a farm in Socorro, but it was sold when they were still alive. One of Ines's first jobs after graduating Ysleta High School was at the Coliseum. At the Coliseum her job was to sit at a table and organized papers and contracts of the Braceros.

At the time she worked at the Coliseum everyone was very welcoming and accepted the Braceros. Ines also mentioned that the center was seen as a totally normal thing and everyone was really nice. One of the things that happen to her at the Coliseum was that she met her husband. She also talks about how when he met her, he told her that one-day she was going to become his wife. Ines didn't think much of it and walked away. A few months later she agreed to date him and later on they got married. Ines daily routine at the Coliseum consisted of working trying to process about 500 braceros a day then taking a lunch break at 12:00 pm and then another at 3:00 pm and at 5:00 pm she went home.

Some of Ines's memories working at the Coliseum were that she talked a lot with the Braceros even though they weren't allowed to talk to them. Work and social life was not to be mixed up and that's why they weren't able to talk to them. Ines enjoyed talking to them because they were very nervous and scared of the process.

After working at the Coliseum, she started working for the Consulate as a secretary because she was bilingual. She met many people and made many friends through out the years because of the languages she spoke. One of the things she saw during her time at the consulate was that people only maintain their jobs there for a couple of months. Ines didn't know the reason for it but she thinks that it was because they found new or better jobs.

Ines got married to the man she met at her first job at the Coliseum in Socorro and that was the time she got fired from working at the Coliseum for a conflict of interest purposes and she then started working in a insurance company. After a couple of years the Bracero program ended and she felt very devastated, because she thought that the program was very good for everyone and both countries.

Ines then retired, but was very happy with the work that she got to accomplish working at the Bracero Program. She felt that it was a great experience and she got to help many people.

Length of interview 49:15 minutes \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Transcript n/a