3-27-1998

Interview no. 1662

Roberto Flores
Pedro Flores
Romelia Flores

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The Flores family lived in Smeltertown, and Mrs. Flores was born and raised there. Her husband was also a resident. They believe that lead poisoning was a problem in the town, and Mrs. Flores suspects that it was caused by ASARCO. Their daughter was diagnosed with lead poisoning and had to seek medical treatment. Both family members remember the smoke and pollution, but they did not see it as a risk because none of them suffered any illnesses. Mrs. Flores also describes healthy children and recalls being healthy, which makes her skeptical of the lead poisoning cases. She also discusses the community being skeptical of poisoning. Flores discusses her daughter being healthy and a large baby and still questions her being sick. Her daughter did receive a check until she was 18. Mr. and Mrs. Flores discuss their love of Smeltertown and did not want to move, but they were forced out by ASARCO. They would still be living there if they were not forced out. They discuss the everyday life of ASARCO and Smeltertown where Mrs. Flores would make food with her family. The Flores family was then joined by Mrs. Flores’ brothers who still worked at ASARCO. They are not being provided safety equipment, they also have better pay and a good insurance. Mrs. Flores describes how the town has changed over time but Mrs. Flores still feels that Smeltertown is still alive.