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Interview No. 1597

Leticia Carabajal

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

Interviewee: Leticia Carabajal

Interviewer: Mireya Loza

Project: Bracero Oral History Project

Location: Oxnard, California

Date of Interview: October 27, 2010

Terms of Use: Unrestricted

Transcript No.: 1597

Transcriber / Summary: Mayra L. Avila

Leticia Carabajal was born in Ventura, California; her father was a field worker and a musician, her mother was an American citizen; her parents met in Mexico at a dance, courted for a short period of time before asking for her hand; her maternal grandfather she explains fought alongside Pancho Villa and was eventually killed; she explains that her father is a bracero but she did not discover this until he began speaking about working in Utah, Colorado, and California; her father worked as a bracero in order to support the family, eventually buying a house with his earnings; she points out that her father does not have his bracero documentation; she began seeing articles about braceros in local newspaper, consequently she began recording her conversations with her dad and gave him a journal so he could write down his experiences; she details her families education and its impact on her; she explains becoming involved once the fight for the ten percent began, she opened the Oxnard office as an extension of the *Alianzas de los Braceros* in Salinas, but she points out that she was greeted with hesitation from the Salinas office because of the many questions she had. Most notably Mrs. Carabajal points out possible corruption in the organization, by explaining how money was collected, how t-shirt sells were for personal gain, and how braceros are tired of being asked for money; she explains that many braceros have opted to fix their paperwork at the Mexican embassy.

Length of interview 60 minutes

Length of Transcript n/a