

## Traducción de Porfirio Rico

Porfirio Rico

Translation

Name of interviewee: Porfirio Rico

Date of Interview: October 14 2008

Name of Interviewer: Beatriz Zizumbo

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BZ: Good afternoon sir. Okay, uh, can you tell me a bit about where and when you were born?

PR: Where and when was I born?

BZ: Yes.

PR: I was born in Jericó.

BZ: Jericó

PR: Michoacán.

BZ: In México?

PR: In México.

BZ: Okay, um and in what, when is your birthday?

PR: I was born September 14, 1914.

BZ: And you grew up in in Jeruco?

PR: Yeah, there and I started, well I worked away from there but...I came here to Anaheim in the beginning of 44. I came contracted from Mexico.

BZ: Before we talk about the contracts, can you tell me a little bit about your family.

PR: Uh...

BZ: Tell me a little bit about your family and where you were born.

PR: Uh, I already told you where I was born.

BZ: Yes, but um, how many people were in your family?

PR: Ah, siblings?

BZ: Yeah, how many brothers and sisters did you have?

PR: Well, I don't know. Anastacio, Imelda and Yofanis and who else? Ignacio and Esperanza and then Luz was born and um, and Fabiela.

BZ: So how many boys and how many girls were there?

PR: I think 5 guys no? Me and Anastacio two, Yofanis three, Ignacio four and [incoherent] five.

BZ: Um...three girls?

PR: Three.

BZ: Okay, so there were 9 total? Oh no, Eight. What, what did your parents do?

PR: Mmm, I really don't know. I can say field workers but, but just because they came from the fields, they were just looking after the cows.

BZ: And where do your brothers and sisters live now?

PR: Well, wherever.

BZ: Uh, are they still alive?

PR: Anastacio already died, Yofanis died, Luz died, now only me and Ignacio are left and Imelda died too. There's only two women and two men left.

BZ: Ahh, very well. Um, tell me about going to school.

PR: I only went to second.

BZ: Second year of elementary?

PR: Yup, and then they would take me out because I went to take care of animals.

BZ: And did you go to school there in Jerucho or somewhere else?

PR: No, just there.

BZ: Did you learn how to read and write in school?

PR: Practically nothing! I taught myself how to mark my name and write something down when I got her and said, 'how am I going to write to the wife?' so I had to teach myself at least to write my name.

BZ: And did you work while you were in school?

PR: Well yeah, because well, I didn't work but I was still in the house here and there I had to sweep, make the beds, that's where they choose [incomprehensible]. So the whole day I still went on working.

BZ: So you did a lot of chores in, in in your house.

PR: Yeah.

BZ: And when did you start your first job, work where they paid you, um, how old were you?

PR: About 10 or 11. I started working with a friend of mine and it paid 15 cents. Daily.

BZ: And what did you do there?

PR: En the salon, but like they say "there's nothing in the [incomprehensible] and field".

BZ: To pick or to...?

PR: No, well that was only when we worked in the salon, then to pick, but that's another story.

BZ: Oh, so it was only tilling the soil?

PR: Yeah.

BZ: Well, the good thing is it paid.

PR: Yeah, uhh after being married I got 6...7, 75 cents.

BZ: Mmm.

PR: And, for like 4, 5, 6 years.

BZ: Six years after you got married?

PR: Yeah so I got paid. I didn't see any of it because it all went to the house.

BZ: And so, um, what did you work as when you were in the Bracero Program?

PR: Psss, what was my job? The highway I work 5 years on it. I worked with a shovel and pick and [incomprehensible].

BZ: On the highway that's in...?

PR: Yeah, from Morelia to Guanajuato. Oh going to Juato is nice eh, Michoacán but from central Morelia to where the Guanajuato and Michoacán line meets.

BZ: So you were involved in the construction of that highway?

PR: Yeah and we worked with only shovels and [incomprehensible] and picks. I was there for 5 years through rain and drought and after that I came to Cristodeba. Just there to fill carts with wood, and I did it for about two years too. Then from there I came to Aguas Calientes and the work was poor there and afterwards I came back and I worked on my land that I would harvest a little corner and that's when they mentioned the contracts in Mexico and I went to Mexico and I was contracted. I came here.

BZ: Oh, so you had to travel more or less from Jeruco, Michoacán to Mexico. How long did it take you to get contracted?

PR: On, on the road, ahh... From Morelia Mexico, 6 hours.

BZ: You had to travel 6 hours to sign up?

PR: Yes... And then we'd have to go home to tell them if we had worked it out and then from there they sent us to Guato or to Guadalajara to get the, but the first time. No. In Mexico they hired us and right there the train would pick us up. 900 men in a, in one [incomprehensible]

BZ: Oh, and how did they call you? Like when they said, 'no you have to go to Mexico because there's...

PR: Just through the contracts.

BZ: Contracts.

PR: They're hiring people for Braceros.

BZ: And you, so you live in Jeruco, that's when you came back from Aguascalientes?

PR: Yes, But we only went to Aguascalientes during the week and on um, Saturday we went back home.

BZ: And so you just went to notify your wife that...

PR: That it did work out in Mexico.

BZ: Were you at that time, married for the first time?

PR: Yes.

BZ: And uh, um...

PR: And we had two families.

BZ: But you had never come here before? Before the contracts, it was the first time that...

PR: No, no, it was the first time.

BZ: When, when you decided to come over through the contracts was it because there was no work in Mexico and you wanted to better your family's life or because... Why did you decide to come by contract?

PR: Well, because there was nothing for someone to get by on, the one with a job gains or what? There was nothing. People worked around town, sometimes they used you for a bit, and then not. There wasn't work anywhere. There were the people, we were really poor. We didn't have where to live, nor clothes, nor anything to eat, nor anything. The life of a person is very very sad.

BZ: Yeah, Alright can you explain to me a little bit more about the contract process? Or what prerequisites did you have to complete to, to be able to be part of the bac-Bracero Program?

PR: Well just that you be good and healthy and um... that you knew how to work, that's all.

BZ: They didn't ask for any papers, no vaccinations, nothing?

PR: No.

BZ: What was the process when, when you got to Mexico, and you formed a line or?

PR: No, Well it was just, you just made lines of 50 to 100 men. Then from there, they would take you to contract you, see if, well ask them questions if they knew how to work, or what could what could they do, or knew how to do, they just didn't say anything. But if they knew how to work than yeah, but what bugged me is that there wasn't work here, and the one who said, well yeah, one time, yeah I annoyed them because they told me, I had already come over, but another time I went to get contracted I they asked if I knew how to pick melon, if with a ladder or without, I told him with a ladder. He said noo, you're lying. I said well you didn't ask what kind of melon, because there's melon you pick with a ladder which is ehh, the papaya, and the the melon that you pick in the aguilla, watermelon all of that so, yeah I know it [incomprehensible] know it, it's just what they told me. **Something** and melon, but it wasn't good, but you're familiar with it? Yes. And what can you do? I told him, well I, I already [incomprehensible]. What can one do that another one can't?

BZ: And when you went to the contracts did they tell you “we are going to pay you this much or did they tell you how much they’d pay?”

PR: No.

BZ: They just said...

PR: Nothing, you were just contracted to work, here it was all about...if someone worked per hour they paid you 72 cents an hour and if you worked through the contracts then they would only give you a week to train to see what job they could perform. And some were alive but dumb because they would say, in the end I did well, thank God because well I think God gives me [incomprehensible] the first day I let myself fall, another day I did what I could to the limit but I [incomprehensible] just because I couldn’t do less because they already knew what I could do at work. And others, others said “nah man, why am I going to kill myself if it’s just a week of, of hours for training? And say “Well” and they didn’t make the effort to see what it was worth? The next week it’ll be the same thing. No, for the next week I have to make what, what I’m making. So others because of that no longer [incomprehensible] and others chose to leave because they didn’t perform well. It was hard work.

BZ: So then when they, when they enlisted you or the, they didn’t give the people who came a physical exam?

PR: They did everything to you. You couldn’t have dandruff, you couldn’t have lice, you couldn’t have bad hygiene. So that’s why they would all say “ahh, stupid hairy people” because well people would peel, we peeled from the sun, not of our own accord. [Incomprehensible] from the light and others from there would take us out all peeling, nah, well from then on when they inspected us eh, they took our clothes off and they would cover us with EDT. It was making fun of us and then at the end they would turn you around and open you up to see if you were sick.

BZ: Mmmmm, and they did that over there in Mexico or they did it here, when you got here?

PR: Here, in the central, ehh, in the central. In the center, here, ah...over in Mexicali, there’s a place, there all of the contractors of the workers went there to, to bring back the people they needed, the men are there like when you are selling a cow there for your liking, there they made...

BZ: Choosing.

PR: The rings were filled with 100 people and then toon, toon, toon. This one “no”, they passed one up and they you were up.

BZ: And when they um...they made the contracts um did they tell you 'well no, the job will consist of this or we're going to give you this or we'll give you a place to live' or what did they tell you?

PR: No, no.

BZ: Oh, they didn't tell you anything?

PR: They didn't tell us anything, just that they would contract us for here. We'd be assigned to one place and there was a cafeteria if not, afterwards they would say 'you guys will be living in such and such place and you have to pay for your own lunch to make your own meals. But here. But over there they didn't tell you anything.

BZ: So you guys came blindly, you didn't know what to expect.

PR: No we didn't know, not even in what we would end up or anything.

BZ: And when...when you said you came for the, to receive you here the first time, do you remember what the trip was like?

PR: I'll tell you, we came on a train, nine hundred men and I think that 50 of them were lost because they would yell out 'don't be a stupid oak' they would take them like pigs to the slaughter house and others well, I don't know they got off and perhaps they stayed.

BZ: Oh

PR: And all of us who got here [incomprehensible] 50 or 60 people would get on.

BZ: Did you come standing up or sitting down?

PR: No we came sitting, all of us, after all it was a huge train.

BZ: Yeah.

PR: It wasn't a freight train or anything. No. It was a train.

BZ: How long did it take to get from the, where they sent you from Mexico?

PR: Eh, that was lengthy because the train line didn't work at that time. It took a long time to get there. One time we got there, it was from Guadalajara to Mexicali. Sometimes it took 3 or 4 days. But it slowly went along, and they just said no, we're going to wait a little bit because the guilla broke at such and such place and some part and here we are."

BZ: So you guys came prepared with rations, like food, water or did they give them to you?

PR: They gave us. They had everything there on the train, yeah. After they contracted us and everything they gave us to eat on their own. Here too, afterwards they just said 'you'll have a cafeteria here', they just charged us 1.50 per, for each individual for oh, food for the day.

BZ: A peso and 50 cents or a dollar and 50 cents?

PR: No, yeah, a peso, a dollar, a dollar and a half.

BZ: Oh.

PR: And per hour, we worked per hour and they paid us 72 cents an hour.

BZ: The first time you came here or every time?

PR: Yeah, no all the time. Yeah. Here it was still a lemon grove when I fixed my papers, they paid us per hour then there wasn't anything to pick and they took us to pick tomatoes, or no, well per hour, they paid us 72 per hour.

BZ: And do you remember where you crossed? Where you crossed the border on the train?

PR: The border?

BZ: Uh, huh.

PR: No, the train just went to Mexicali, but you're talking about from there to here?

BZ: Uh, huh.

PR: Well the honest truth is no, because sometimes they contracted us in Einpuato, and I think we took a different route, and other times when they contracted us in Gaudalajara, we needed to take yet another route. Well, it's very distinct to know, to have someone know about that.

BZ: Um, and speaking about the center where you said that the contractor went to pick you up, um, that you say was in Mexicali, do you remember what it was like? Was it a big room?

PR: No, they were um, what do you call it? A... I don't know, but they were big halls, and there, because I don't know how, but they even brought women.

BZ: Yeah? Ah. You remember seeing women?

PR: Yeah, because when we started the, the registration, that took us to register a to see if we weren't sick or that we weren't pigeon toed, well a lot of men entered and there was

one department for men and another for women. Or they didn't come contracted; I don't know, in any case, there were men and women who all came, but not together! Each person came, for example, if they brought 6 cars of men on the train, they could bring 2, 3 cars of women.

BZ: So you remember seeing women, but not many? Um, Do you remember if they gave you vaccinations other than... Yes.

PR: Ah, well yeah, they vaccinated one, they vaccinated another and they vaccinated and they covered you with dirt with the hose.

BZ: They covered you with dirt?

PR: Yeah, well with the EDT powder.

BZ: Oh.

PR: Our underwear no, they didn't make us take them off, but they still told us 'take off your underwear' see? And then with the bomb they'd go foosh, foosh, foosh, foosh.

BZ: (laughing)

PR: No, they were mocking us. But I was with the interest in well, with the interest of coming and earning something.

BZ: Yeah it was a humiliation. And no one, like they didn't get upset by it or...or refused to have that done to them?

PR: Who would you expect?

BZ: Well you were already all the way here huh?

PR: Nah, well yeah people got upset and everything and they'd grab you and throw you out.

BZ: Mmmm, so yeah. And, did you ever have the option after you had your medical exam and they gave you your job permit, did you at one point have the option to choose the type of job you wanted or, or how long you wanted the job to last or how much you wanted to get paid?

PR: No, no, nothing. You had to do what they told you, eat what they gave you and stuff. You only paid attention to how much they scrawled for you. You looked to see if they paid you, how much they paid, if everyone was equal. Yeah, so working by contract right? Because according to the work of each person, because there are quick hands and there are clumsy hands so per hour, they paid us per hour equally because the job was done anyhow.

BZ: And in regards to the place where you were headed, where they would send you to work, did you get a say or they sent you where they sent you?

PR: No, they just chose you and they brought you over by dawn, [incomprehensible] and there they told you what you'd do or you're going to do this and that. Yeah.

BZ: Just what they said. Do you remember if they allowed you to bring personal items?

PR: Like what?

BZ: Like I don't know. Your own clothes, your, I don't know if you had a radio or if you had something that you wanted to bring, family pictures or something like that?

PR: Oh, that people would take?

BZ: Uh, huh.

PR: Well, that yeah.

BZ: You could take it?

PR: Yeah you could take a radio, or whatever you wanted, they would just say later on that they would take them away, especially in Mexico. Here we could use it but then getting hillside over there, it was different. So yeah you can take it out but on account of money. [Incomprehensible]

BZ: And when you came over the first time, like when they gave you your exam the physical exam and they gave you a work permit, or did they just give an authorization to work with a certain contractor for that time?

PR: No, from when they pick you out at the center you were contracted for 6 months, 7 months.

BZ: So it was permission for 6 months.

PR: Yeah, yeah. And with what you, I even got a contract in the center for [incomprehensible] there it's just the meeting that's 45 days. I didn't even make enough for, not even to eat. It was all the same so I, I came back again to the Escobedo connection to get contracted again and from there I came and I was assigned here in Simi. There we worker per hour, 72 cents per hour but we still worked 8 hours if we wanted then 9. But we worked per hours there. Through the contract it was oranges, lemon, it was what was available through the contract, and the tomato too.

BZ: That too. How many years did you officially work as a Bracero in the United States? Do you remember what years?

PR: I don't remember any more.

BZ: When was... what year did you come for the first time?

PR: In 44.

BZ: In 44?

PR: Anaheim.

BZ: Okay.

PR: And in 45 at San Dimas. Then in 46 I came a little ways from Santa Barbara to a small town named San Marcos.

BZ: Um, hm.

PR: Then I went to Watsonville, that's just from what I remember, another time I went to Yoluc, close to, to Stockton.

BZ: Okay.

PR: Well, of all sorts. Well that's just the places I remember, but yeah.

BZ: And, where did you work the longest?

PR: There in, where I just told you right now, Joluc, I worker there 9 months.

BZ: And that was in 46 also or was it...

PR: In forty-...

BZ: In 46 you came to San Marcos then you went to Watsonville. In the same year or?

PR: No, in a different year. Just each year, each year. For me, my mind, I don't remember anymore since I came here some many times, although sometimes they'd ask me when I received pension, if I had only come over through contract, if I ever came illegally and I said, I did, 4 times. And how many times have you been deported? I have none, they never caught me, it was no big deal, but they never caught me. I left of my own free will.

BZ: And when you crossed illegally was it because your contract was up and you had to leave?

PR: Well yeah, it was after

BZ: But did you go all the way to Michoacán and then go back or?

PR: Yup, yup, um... nah well, people came back whenever they wanted to. The thing with the contracts is you just came when someone needed you, where the contract would be. Then when it was over, they said they were all over so that's why I burned my papers because they said there were no more contracts they were over! So why do I want this now? So there in the center they even gave me, they gave me the um, name, that um, social security number and they gave me a green card and I burned that too. I burned everything. Well why would I want this? It was over.

BZ: Oh no. In what in what year did they tell you it was over? Do you remember?

PR: Well the honest truth is no, I don't remember, but no, I don't know, I don't remember.

BZ: And do you remember the first time you came um, illegally, in what year?

PR: [incomprehensible] I don't know, who knows if I can remember.

BZ: What year was it?

PR: It was like in 49, around there. And that time I came making sacrifices I worked 7 months with a man, some guy who paid me 3 pesos each day. It benefitted me because the dollar rose, over there it was worth 2 pesos, then really soon it rose to 4.80 and then to 6 who knows how much and after it rose to 8, and then it rose to 12! And that's when I bought my little cows and I put the guys to seed with [incomprehensible]. It was just one of many things.

BZ: Ehh, lets return to do where, when you were transported from the reception center to the work places. Did they provide a bus, did someone, pick you up when, when they went for you in the center.

PR: Here, here. No, no, no, no. Well when they contracted us, we paid our own fare, like us going from Morelia ah, to Enpalme.

BZ: From there to the reception center?

PR: Yeah, yeah.

BZ: And then?

PR: Or to, to Guanajuato or to Guadalajara too, we got contracted again in Zamora

BZ: Oh.

PR: No, no not in Zamora. Somewhere where there's a lot of oranges, avocado, that's from Morelia, that way.

BZ: Europe?

PR: In Europe, there we were contracted again, but we only got contracted there and went back to our houses and we had to pay our way to get to...

BZ: The center? The reception center? And then?

PR: The center... eh. They got us there by the ones who contracted us.

BZ: And sometimes they would transport you in what?

PR: Uhh... the buses.

BZ: In buses?

PR: Yeah, because about 30 to 60 men would get on, it was 2, 3 buses.

BZ: And uh, what did you pick in the majority of the farms? Were they farms or ranches, what were they?

PR: No well for example they were, like there, when I bought the house there, I was in San Dimas in 45, there we harvested oranges, like the black ones, Naiwood and Valencia and lemons. Everything. Grapegruits too, the grapefruits were big. The work was good, it was just that ummm.

BZ: Well now that we're talking about work, can you explain how, how you did the work or, and how many people worked at the same time?

PR: For example, everything was done by teams of 30 men that had a superintendent or two, because there's always a superintendent and a helper and they took us around the corner and it was there that they would give us, we'd each get 4 trees per row. Each individual, two in front and two over there, well they said on the streets, crates in route here, crates there, cars would pass, they pick up from there, pick from here, it was all combined over there. It's just that everything, everyone picked with scissors.

BZ: Everything with scissors? And a ring measure?

PR: Yeah, yeah, the lemon, oranges no, oranges didn't have a measurement. Only the lemons because. Let's say from number 6 to 8! And at first they'd give you a big one and then they'd give you a smaller one and that's it. Everything by size. And don't think that with... that picking lemons, that it was small in the stem, I think it's sharp then you pick the other.

BZ: The other lemon.

PR: Ey, when it rots they don't have them, they had a [incomprehensible] the lemon, you just had to hit it on the [incomprehensible]. But that was tiresome. Now no, now here the lemon pickers they just yank. They even throw in the branches.

BZ: Um, can you tell me about other braceros that worked there with you, did you have a friendship that you remember, that you had a good friend?

PR: No, well everyone had one that was friendly with everyone. It was brotherly, then we'd see where we'd be, like in the one I told you about in San Marcos, there to the side of Santa Barbara. There were like 200 men there, in one camp there would be huge barracks and we would all make our food, each person would, you would join some 4 or 5 or 6 individuals and between all of them, one would buy food for the week (telephone ringing) and then come eating time, one would make the tortillas (phone ringing in the background) others, others would make the food. Others washed dishes, and well everything in accordance, that's friendship. It was good.

BZ: Yeah? You don't remember someone you could say "that one was my friend for that time or or I got along really well with this person?"

PR: Well, I got along really well with everyone. Thank God. I didn't have ... (dog barking).

BZ: Enemies. Um, did the managers ever contract any illegals, while you worked through contracts?

PR: No, that they didn't. No, none of the ... for that reason everyone [incomprehensible] all of their [incomprehensible] contracted workers. They worked people from there, but that's another story.

BZ: So when you were on a contract, it was all pure contracts?

PR: Yeah, pure contract, just contracts in the camps where we were. No well there's in that one no, there were 3, 3 camps, one was of, uh citrus, they call it something like...

BZ: Citrus.

PR: Lemons, oranges, I don't even remember what they called the one for radishes and well all the vegetables, cabbage and everything, I don't know, since that was another camp. And another for those that were the lettuce cleaners and all of that, yeah there's 3 camps in one.

BZ: Three camps of people or of... [incomprehensible]

PR: Of, yeah people. You distinguished a camp [incomprehensible] picking.

BZ: All of those who worked in, in...

PR: And the other worked in something else, and the next on another thing.

BZ: And when you worked, did you have a lot of contact with your boss or the boss's family or did you even know them?

PR: No, no we didn't even know each other, yeah we didn't have, the bosses knew we lived, everyone was a worker, they'd contract them, and everyone was from the company too. God knows where the people from the companies live or what happened to the bosses.

BZ: Yeah. Um, did the Mexican authorities ever go to where you worked? That you know of? In any of the places where you worked?

PR: Sometime, a few people would come and say they wanted to, to see how how people worked but no. We didn't pay attention. They'd just tell of the "Consulate" and that who knows what, they'd visit but at times we didn't even see them. They were just there to talk to the managers that they'd shortly gather us up. They don't let you rest. Even though you work by, by contract, don't think that, they don't let you stayed seated, it's just that time is money, and if you didn't want to work, then they'd give that spot to someone else.

BZ: Oh, and did immigration ever go to look over your documents?

PR: Yeah, they did. Then they'd show up in the fields where someone would be eating. We'd be eating and they come "let's see your papers"

BZ: So you had to take you papers with you where ever you went?

PR: Yeah. Those yes.

BZ: And like when immigration would show up what, no no one got scared because they all had their papers.

PR: Well, why would we be scared if we all had our papers?

BZ: But did immigration ever mistreat you?

PR: No the only thing they'd say was "mucho trabajo". That's it.

BZ: And did they talk to you in Spanish or English?

PR: In Spanish and English. They spoke English and some spoke Spanish. No well, everyone who worked for the government here spoke Spanish.

BZ: And when you were working here, how did you communicate with your family in Mexico?

PR: Well by, through letters.

BZ: Through letters? Is that when you learned how to write?

PR: Well yeah.

BZ: And what about those who didn't know how to write?

PR: They suffered. I told you that one day Matias told asked me why I don't read his letter from his wife. And so I, I told him, I hardly know how to read. I also... "Spell it out" they would say. It doesn't matter. But they wished him the worst and that was the only letter she sent him. And I just told him well yeah she doing good and take care of yourself and all of that. She told him 'you're so dumb', that he had no hands. My brother and I were working together too. And Moises, the one from Tomatila, there were four of us there from the San Marcos block. They would say 'you're so dumb'. What you, you don't have hands? You send her your pathetic money; he'd say 'yeah my brother sent this much in labor'. So yeah, how was I going to tell him that? I just, no well that everything, everything was good. After that I said 'look for someone because I can't, I don't really understand your letter. There she [incomprehensible] and told him a lot of things and Salvador's wife would say 'she didn't fool me the whole time, from the beginning with the love that they had for eternity and you would know'.

BZ: How often would you see your family during the time that you worked as a Bracero? Did you go every year, every two years or?

PR: Who?

BZ: You.

PR: Every 6 months or 7 months or te-nine, according to what...

BZ: According to how long the contract was for?

PR: The contract, yeah.

BZ: So if you came, for example let's say in 44 when you started coming, and the contract lasted 6 months...you went back after those 6 months?

PR: Yup.

BZ: And you didn't return until they...

PR: Until, until there were contracts again, when they said you were contracted, but I didn't stop coming, because a lot of people couldn't come because they hadn't put in for a loan. And I looked a lot for the first time and what was it? 150 that I couldn't raise that was loaned to me. And my mother-in-law, Macedonia got the money from the Marcelina women and that's how I came, if not, no. Because they even assured me, they didn't want me. He said that he had no way of getting them. I said "that's fine". And then what he did was, after I came for the first time and went back, he wanted to fix up the little house I sold him at [incomprehensible] over there I couldn't afford it. It was very little money so instead we just bought little things we needed in the house and I put away the money for when there were contracts and I came. And every year I would put some money aside to...

BZ: To come over on your contract.

PR: Yeah, yeah to not go around...

BZ: Asking for loans.

PR: Well yeah, because it's a lot of work. Then they'd ask you who was there to work per hour and how much were you going to mortgage. Mortgage what? No.

BZ: You didn't have anything to mortgage. Do you remember how many days a week you worked? And how many hours did you work per day?

PR: Well, on average it was 8, 9 hours each day.

BZ: Everyday from Monday to Sunday?

PR: Everyday, times there were Sundays too. They'd let us rest on Saturdays, we even worked just half day on Saturdays. And then we'd get there, we'd eat and we'd bathe and the company car would bring us. It would bring us here to Santa Paula.

BZ: But that was when you were already here in Santa Paula. Was it the same like...?

PR: Wherever.

BZ: It was the same wherever?

PR: Yeah, and there in, now that you remind me, in San Marcos, where the little camp was, there was a little store, like the one that's in the, there's [incomprehensible] to fix my papers.

BZ: The pharmacy?

PR: Yeah, we'd go there, the ones who went would go buy something to eat in a little store there. So no, there were day when we made tortillas and we'd make something to

eat. So we'd just go over there and buy some tortillas, as they arrived in the afternoon. Sometimes we wouldn't get there in time.

BZ: So it was like some 300 meters distance to get to the store?

PR: Yeah I think so.

BZ: So what was a normal day of work like? If you left in the morning would they go pick you up, or did they just take you in buses?

PR: Here they did. And everywhere else too. They were contractors so they'd go pick everyone up there in the camp where everyone slept and every morning you'd have to be ready to go to work.

BZ: Alright tell me, a day as if you had to go to work. What did you do?

PR: Well I would get up in the morning. I'd make my coffee and eat breakfast or eat some bread and yeah, wait because then we'd head out from here to the street.

BZ: About 100 meters?

PR: You have to wait at the corner there. You already knew and they knew where they were waiting for them. From there we'd get it and go to work and when you got back, they dropped you off right there.

BZ: And at work did they let you eat? Did they give you breaks or did you not...?

PR: No, no, no, yeah. When we were at the camp they would give us food there. But when you lived in like these big trailers you would have to make food there. Either way they would let us stay there. We'd take showers, since there were bathrooms and everything in the trailers it's just that the people, all the Mexicans were really... sloppy.

BZ: Why?

PR: Because, some would go shower and leave a mess in the middle of the bathrooms and then they'd get mad and wouldn't let us use the bathrooms but they had reason.

BZ: So they were really untidy?

PR: Yup, and you know that we can all suffer for one persons mistakes. But it was alright.

BZ: And so what, like, when they gave you food what did you eat? Or when you made food, what did you make?

PR: Well, whatever anyone wanted. You'd go and buy what you, for example, you'd buy a piece of chicken, or a piece of , well everything whatever you wanted to buy. And then you'd cook what...

BZ: That was when you cooked your food?

PR: Yeah.

BZ: And when they gave you food, what did they...?

PR: We ate what they gave us.

BZ: Like, what kind of food did they give you?

PR: They'd give us soup, then they'd give us potatoes or they'd change it now and then. A piece of fish.

BZ: Did you think the food was more or less good or was it okay?

PR: Yeah, it was good.

BZ: Yeah?

PR: To me yeah.

BZ: Everywhere you went or some places where you said 'Oh no! This food isn't good here'?

PR: The only thing I didn't like that they gave you in the morning, it was never in an oven, because they gave us, well a lot of people liked it, but I didn't like it. They had some stoves like the size of this one, just look and there'd be 2, 3 on one side and 3 on another. They'd crack an egg and just let it drop. They had a bucket, a small, those soup cans with oil and they'd stick like a brush with a cloth, but it was smaller that way they wouldn't drop egg shells and turn it off turn it off. They'd say no, I don't want it anymore. You eat them. I would just get myself 2 eggs, I cooked too. That was what...

BZ: Did they give you food after you did all of your work? Or in the middle? Didn't they give you a lunch hour?

PR: Yeah, they never did. No.

BZ: So you only ate in the morning and then in the afternoon...until the evening?

PR: No, there they wouldn't give us lunch; they gave us a sandwich with beans and soup. In the afternoon they'd only give you one, until you got home at night.

BZ: So in the afternoon it was what they provided or did you sometimes have to take lunch?

PR: Them. When you were in the fields, them. And when you were by yourself, then you'd take your lunch. Two tacos with beans and whatever you wanted.

BZ: And when they provided, did you think it was sufficient or was it too little?

PR: No, it was sufficient because you would finish it and then go ask for more and they'd give it to you.

BZ: Oh.

PR: Yeah it was good.

BZ: When you say that you lived in the camps, um, how did you live? How many people were there? Did you have a bed?

PR: Yes. You had a single bed, each individual just had their own bed. There was, they were barracks, we'll say that there was, there was, there weren't room, just the walls.

BZ: Like a salon?

PR: Ya. There'd be a group here, another in the middle, and another around the edge.

BZ: So it was pure beds and you couldn't use the stoves, instead they...

PR: But no, 6, like in the cafeteria.

BZ: You cooked? Or you had a cafeteria for everyone?

PR: Yeah, yup.

BZ: It was another big salon?

PR: Yeah.

BZ: So there you also had chairs and tables?

PR: Yup.

BZ: So in your rooms, could you have a chair or no? Just the bed?

PR: No, just your little bed.

BZ: And your belongings? Where did you keep them?

PR: Oh, I think we had a, no, no it was a chair, a little stool that was there, like a [incomprehensible] I could swear like... a stool, a little drawer. You'd stick your shoes in there and your clothes on top.

BZ: Oh, for that did you have drainage bathrooms everywhere you went? Or did you sometimes have to battle?

PR: No, one time in Joyluck, there they didn't, it was very hot there and there wasn't a heater, uh, hot water for the showers and the water was really cold and it made, we were obligated to take showers there but you'd be so hot! It was bad there, in Hona too, some camp there. It was really bad because it had, there were showers but it was a big salon like the one here and there were shower heads here and shower heads there and in the center too. But I don't remember very well, but one on one edge and another on the other. So about 50 men would all enter in one blow. But [incomprehensible] don't think there was even a free spot!

BZ: And there weren't any fights there? People didn't fight?

PR: Later on yeah, just stuck right there between the ones who were showering.

BZ: Wow. There weren't any guards outside to keep order or anything?

PR: No, there was none of that.

BZ: So, whoever fought fought?

PR: Just those, the ones who took care of the, those, what do you call them? The country guys. There were two guys in the camp keeping watch over the people. They sometimes acted like [incomprehensible]

BZ: And how did you wash your clothes?

PR: Well, there yeah in the corner.

BZ: Oh, you didn't wash them?

PR: We had to wash them.

BZ: You don't remember where you washed them? Or how you washed?

PR: Mmm well believe it or not when the trailers weren't full of people, like women, it was mostly men, there were tubs in almost all the trailers, well there in the trailers. In the tubs. We washed our clothes, ah yeah but in other places there were machines.

BZ: In others, so, were you ever in somewhere where there weren't and you had to do it by hand in the tub?

PR: Yes, yes.

BZ: Are there places where there were machines?

PR: Yeah, for the ones who wanted and the ones who didn't, no.

BZ: And did you like washing them in the machines?

PR: There, better I washed them myself because the machine, well I'd put the clothes in and they weren't too dirty then the others would see it was working and put their clothes and mine would get really ugly...and better each person did their own if they could.

BZ: And do you remember if your boss provided you with personal items, like a tooth brush, soap, towels, razors, blankets?

PR: No, none of that. No. Everyone bought what they needed.

BZ: Everywhere you went? Did they say in any 'here's a blanket'? No?

PR: Aaahh, blankets yes, they gave us, they in the trailers, they'd give us blankets, they'd change our sheets every 8 days.

BZ: That was here in Santa Paula?

PR: But other places no. If you had blankets, if not, then you'd have to buy them.

BZ: When they paid you, did they pay you in cash or in check?

PR: In checks.

BZ: With che, every time in checks?

PR: Yes.

BZ: And you say that the first time they paid you, or did they pay you the majority of the time 72 cents per hour?

PR: All the time they'd be paying time that I was coming here, they paid all the time.

BZ: There wasn't anyone who instead would say 'oh here they pay more'?

PR: There in Watsonville, in in the, in strawberries. There they paid us 90 cents an hour. And do you know why? I think the [incomprehensible]

BZ: The strawberry? It kills it?

PR: Yeah it kills it whatever it had in the middle, they continued paying us 90 cents an hour but working, picking was 72 cents an hour.

BZ: So it didn't matter what you worked, it was 72. It was the same to pick lemon, and pick oranges, strawberries, or anything at 72?

PR: Yes, but no, not in oranges, lemons and grapefruit. Grapefruit was more laborious, it was per box. Wouldn't you know it, oranges too, the Naywood paid you 80 cents a box. 80 cents so that means we were...

BZ: And how many boxes did you pack an hour?

PR: Huh?

BZ: How many boxes did you make per hour?

PR: I don't know, the boxes were, those clothes that are over there, look. 100, 108, 116, 120 to earn 10 dollars. And that's why, in Natividad, a lot like 14 from there. There's everything there... it's a [incomprehensible] Jesus is your king. I climbed up there and I didn't even make enough to eat, no, no it's laborious and then make them in boxes, and form the boxes of grapefruit they paid 3 cents per box.

BZ: Oh, cheap.

PR: Yeah!

BZ: And what did you do with the money you earned? Did you send all your money?

PR: No, I had to leave, for example when they gave us food in the cafeteria, you had to pay for everything, for a drink or something. But I had to send whatever I could gather.

BZ: And you saved your money here or better yet you sent it to your wife so she could save it?

PR: I well [incomprehensible] got there an there's nothing? Nah, well that's to each person, their head. I couldn't even tell another the theater, well everyone is free to do what they want.

BZ: So could you say that all of the Braceros earned the same when they were paid per hour?

PR: Yes.

BZ: Because when they paid you through contract it depended.

PR: Each one his hands.

BZ: Did you ever have any problems receiving pay, that they didn't want to pay you?

PR: No, they paid us every time.

BZ: Yeah? There wasn't a time when you had to fight?

PR: No, like over there in Mexico where we were on the road going in circles charging. I said 'no' well nowadays for example, the day that you buy, the 15<sup>th</sup> or each week, you received a payday, everyone paid all the time, here there weren't things like that.

BZ: And do you remember if you always got the correct pay for the hours worked or did you once say 'I worked more hours and they didn't pay me for them'?

PR: No, [incomprehensible]

BZ: Did they ever take money out of your salary?

PR: That, we didn't even notice. That they worked in already, how much they would take out. That's why the ones who charged money, the ones who contracted us would take money from you, but you didn't notice it. They would just give it to you. What they gave you they didn't have to tax or anything.

BZ: But did they ever say they were going to take money out to save it from the government of something like that?

PR: No, no that was a no, they never said that.

BZ: So how do you know?

PR: How was it? How was I?

Lady: How do you know?

BZ: How do you know they were taking money from you?

PR: I didn't say they were taking money from us.

Lady: You just said so!

PR: Well the people said! But I didn't pay attention to anything, because, you see, I didn't even notice that they'd tell me they'd continue paying when I went to Mexico. That I'd continue paying, that

Man: Security no?

PR: No Medicaid, one thing I continued paying, they lowered it 5 pesos.

BZ: What did they lower 5 pesos?

PR: The check, to pay. I don't know about security, or of who knows what they called it.

BZ: Was it for your pension or what?

PR: Well, I don't know.

BZ: Did you ever have a problem at work?

PR: No, like what?

BZ: Well, like you'd fight with your boss.

PR: No. Well, what for?

BZ: What would happen in the case of an accident or an illness? If someone was sick?

PR: Nah, well that. Chana was already here when in the trailers there were 10, 12 people there resting because they would fall. Because one would go to the room and pretend to fall and they'd give you money for that separately and then others came along, even the in-laws would be complaining that they fell, who knows what else. And Nicolas was also in fights, there were a lot of people, and me, who really fell didn't even tell them.

BZ: You fell? While working you fell?

PR: I tripped on a sprinkler head that are in the grass. And there was a lot of grass and how was I going to notice the sprinkler when [incomprehensible] but I didn't even realize I could complain so they could pay me for it, when I did realize, what then?

BZ: But was that fall during the time you were working as a bracero or was that after?

PR: He was contracted with the packinghouse, in the lemon groves, almost getting out of here.

BZ: What were the most common complaints about? Food, accommodations, bosses or wages? Why did the people complain?

PR: Well the honest truth is I don't know any of that.

BZ: You never heard the workers complain about the way they were treated or about the contracts?

PR: The only thing was if they behaved badly they were scolded.

BZ: But who scolded them?

PR: Well the foreman. I told you that they would always be asking me to give Anastasio and Salvador advice because they were dirty, misbehaved. You should just comply and if they didn't understand they'd say "they're dumb and they don't get it" but that's their business. They all had advice to give them.

BZ: During the time you were contracted here, did anyone ever get sick or did anyone die while they were working or they'd be sick but they didn't pay attention to it?

PR: No, I never took notice when I didn't live there. And it happens that Chanas company, her man died in the sea. They called it the sea because it had a lot of turns in the middle of Ventura and Oxnard.

BZ: And he died, but it was, was it because of an illness?

Woman: Yeah, of the heart.

PR: Who knows. He was a drunk. [Incomprehensible].

Woman: [Incomprehensible]

PR: And they buried him there in Santa Clara.

BZ: What could you do if you didn't like the job? The workers like you, could you do anything if you didn't like your job?

PR: Well the only thing you could do, a lot of people did that didn't earn money, they left for somewhere else [incomprehensible]. Everywhere I was contracted, they never told my anything nor did I have problems with them. Yeah I had all of my contracts signed and everything, it was just too bad that I burned them all. That's why when I retired here they said, you could have had a lot of money but you don't have any proof of anything. I said well no. And why did you burn them? Why would I want them? They said it was all over so what? If I knew they would be useful to me I would've not burned them.

BZ: Did you at one point feel discriminated against?

PR: No, thank God that I worked really [incomprehensible].

BZ: But not even by your coworkers?

PR: Ah, well none of that was of interest to me. [Incomprehensible] that they robbed mi ex amount of boxes and who knows what else. That time that we were in San Marcos, there was [incomprehensible] and the guy who would tell me he beat me at filling boxes, picking box fulls and he'd said, well I don't know. I would have my count and everything then the day we'd get checks "Those sons of...! They stole this much from me and I pick more than you so why are you getting paid more than me? I didn't know anything about that. I didn't even know how many I picked. I just grabbed what they gave me. If they robbed you, they robbed you, I never had to say anything to them.

BZ: Did any of your colleagues ever try to stage a labor protest?

PR: What is that?

BZ: Like a strike or something like that when you were working as braceros? For their contracts? Someone that told you we should demand that they treat us better or?

PR: No, no there weren't people like the ones from now. Now there are a lot of strikers and because of that I later didn't like it here better I retired, I didn't think I would retire so soon. But they didn't let us work, all of the people wanted them to pay us better wages and everything and we were better off as it was with the company because you could pick your oranges to make some juice or avocados 2,3 avocados then afterwards they didn't let you pick anything. After that they took our bags when we were leaving in the evening.

BZ: Was that when the Cesar Chavez strike was happening?

PR: Cesar Chavez, yes. From there to here the whole thing stopped working.

BZ: And what about your pastime? What did you do on your days off?

PR: Nothing. Sundays well nothing, you'd wash your clothes. And in the trailers there was a big salon with two billiards tables and whoever knew how to play would go play for money. But when there wasn't anyone there we would go play just for fun because money, I never like playing for money.

BZ: And were you free to come and go from one place to another on your days off or were you restricted?

PR: Yeah you could go wherever you wanted.

BZ: Did they provide transportation?

PR: No, well from there the [incomprehensible] would take us wherever we paid them to.

BZ: Did you and your coworkers play any sports or watch movies?

PR: No, none of that. We hardly had any televisions.

BZ: Did you have radios?

PR: Yeah you had a little radio.

BZ: And were there any Spanish radio stations?

PR: Yes.

BZ: Was there only 1 or where there more than 1?

PR: No there were more.

BZ: Where was the nearest town?

PR: Where?

BZ: Like the different places had towns near them, or how did you get to the towns?

PR: They took us.

BZ: Everywhere you stayed the drove you or?

PR: No, in some places they'd say if you want to go, like Sundays, if you want to go to the town and buy something, the work cars would take you. Some 2, 3 hours y you would have to be ready.

BZ: And if they didn't take you, how would you get there?

PR: We wouldn't go.

BZ: You wouldn't go if they didn't take you?

PR: No, but what would we go for?

BZ: Better yet, how would you go?

PR: There was nothing to go in, we didn't know. Well there were more when you had a city to go to. Thankfully when in the middle of a contract people would start buying little things to take back. Their bag to carry their stuff in and when they took us would but one of those.

BZ: Was there a Catholic church near where you worked? Did you go to mass? In every town you went to, did you attend mass or?

PR: Mass

BZ: Mass, or there wasn't a church in the majority of the towns?

PR: Hardly any. Where it was really bad was Oxnard. It was about 2 kilometers to get to the town, but we went in groups of 3 or 4 individuals we'd go by the edge of the highway.

BZ: Here in Santa Paula too, did you go to church?

PR: No.

BZ: You never when to church while you were working here?

PR: No.

BZ: If you were here during Easter week and Christmas, where you ever here during Easter week or Christmas to celebrate it here or no?

PR: Here, nothing gets celebrated here. There is no Easter week here. So we were working.

BZ: Not even Christmas? Or did you not have to work here during Christmas?

PR: No, I hardly ever had to work Christmas here I spent it in Mexico.

BZ: So you say that nothing is celebrated here, not even September 16<sup>th</sup>? You didn't do anything for the 16<sup>th</sup> of September just like workers?

PR: No, nothing.

BZ: Your life after working as a bracero, did you go back to Mexico when you finished your work contract? When you returned did your boss provide you with transportation back or each person went back however they could?

PR: However you could. And you got here however you could too.

BZ: And towards the end of the contract, when it was over each person was free to leave or did the offer a new contract?

PR: No [incomprehensible] that contract and then if you were called you got contracted if not then no.

BZ: And after finishing a work contract, how difficult was it to get another new contract that same year?

PR: In the same year no. It's just that what happened was, you know what? For example they would get a contract for 6 months and then they'd tell a worker if they wanted to renew their contract they would give them another 6. Because here some people stayed for 18 months, 3 contracts for 6 months. And they were the ones who made more money. Some did and some didn't. From there [incomprehensible] the only one I remember who did 18 months was Simon. And he didn't have, he didn't find anywhere to live. And he was a good picker, but that payday. That's what they say that here, here in Santa Paula there was a bar [incomprehensible] there was a bar and a theater. We went to the theater and there was a bar there. It was number 14, there's 14. Then there was the 14, he'd close the door and pay for everything. He left his entire check there. I don't know, pleasure is pleasure. There was this man who was a really good worker and he earned good money, but what he on Saturday is he would shower and get all ready and everything and he'd leave. [Incomprehensible] Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday and he didn't come back to work until Wednesday or Thursday.

BZ: And they would take him like that? The contractors took him back?

PR: Well yeah, he was a good worker. What did he win though? He didn't win anything.

BZ: So you could say that the good workers didn't have too much trouble renewing their contracts?

PR: Yeah.

BZ: Did they keep records of the workers or how did they know who the good workers were?

PR: I think just by the work they did. What they did was they didn't know how to save their money and that was it.

BZ: And if you worked in one place could you go back to the same place and work there the next year or did they say you had to come back in...?

PR: Yeah, for example if I was working here and I already completed my contract if you wanted to you could renew your contract. That's how it was. They just give you...how would I explain it? Like a form of a contract it was just a new one, the just put the date on it and that's it.

BZ: So it was like an authorization for you to come back? And when you crossed the border, did you just show immigration the contract? Where did you cross the border?

PR: From there to here?

BZ: Or how did you have authorization to cross?

PR: No, I didn't renew any contract. No, I went back there. I was even contracted there.

BZ: Oh, so they let you cross the border because you already had a contract there?

PR: Well yeah I was already contracted.

BZ: Did you ever resign from a bracero work contract?

PR: What?

BZ: Did you ever resign any of you...

PR: That I didn't like? No I finished my jobs all the time. I still remember that before I came here to Santa Paula I was in San Dimas. I went there in 46, but since then, since then I landed right here because they renewed my contract here, the one who came here was Jenaro Rico. And Cornelio, a son, you didn't meet him but Cornelio was my size. His dad Pancho Contreras lived there. That man was my grandpa's brother, and he was

also a brother to the mother of... another man was brother of that guy and my granda and Nicolas the "cartín" they called him and of some other man named Seviriano Zizumbo who was Mrs Panchita de Cornels' father. Did you meet him? He was also their brother. But it seems Cornel stayed here. They killed him in a bar here. And Jenaro left. They came from San Dimas they renewed their contracts and they were renewed for here. They sent him here. And they stayed here. You know Jenaro, well he left.

BZ: Did you become a United States citizen?

PR: Who?

BZ: You.

PR: Fsh [incomprehensible], the date why not?

BZ: Okay we are going to talk a little bit about your life after you became a bracero. After you worked as a bracero. What does the term bracero mean to you?

PR: What does what mean?

BZ: The term "bracero" when they call you bracero, what does bracero imply?

PR: I did not know what this term meant until I was speaking with a priest who said they were called braceros because they wander from place to place. Because he says, I went to confess. And he asked me how long has it been since you confessed? I said the honest truth is, I don't remember. Well if no, then no. Why don't you remember how long it's been? And I said, I don't know I can't remember. But well, with someone working outside of here, you have to travel much further for work. Where do you go? All the way to the other side as a bracero. And he said, well that, that doesn't have anything to do with anything. And he said I know everything about the United States. Everything up in the north, Sacramento, San Francisco and everything. And he said, people can confess anywhere or go to mass and everything. And I told him, it's just that a lot of times people say its not good to try different congregations that you don't know. And he said, well if they don't like that, then they don't have to go, but others do. I told him yeah, but they don't know. And he said, they know, they just pretend. I told him, no, no it's not that if there's only 1 then no, I didn't know. He said, that's not even far, he said, who else is there? They are called braceros [incomprehensible] there was another. But that doesn't have to do with a bracero. But he told me in different ways, and I told him, well it's fine, but you are very different. Why? Because you go there on business, for vacation, or just for fun, but others don't they go there out of necessity. To work, to maintain a family. He said yeah, you are right in that, but anyway, don't ever think to go from place to place because you are far away. For that reason I understood that it doesn't mean anything to

be called bracero just because I came to work as a bracero from one place to another. He told me.

BZ: And how do you feel when they call you Bracero?

PR: I don't think about it. What will I stop being one or what? I told you that he told me, if you called me "father" I will tell everyone what does it matter to you? Right? It's called bracero, he said because you are roaming from place to place, whether it be working or like you said, on vacation. Did you just go to mass? Well the honest truth, no. And why not? Well because at times you don't even have a way of getting there or it's too far from the town or the church. Well we just got into talking and there in the [incomprehensible] until he said, it's getting late, cross yourself and I will give bless you and that's it. Well I was still with Trinidad and she was also 5, 6 people back from where I was. When I get home [incomprehensible]. Well why didn't the priest take your confession? He already did! So what were you doing in there? We were talking. In the end he just told me to cross myself because he was going to give me my blessing, he didn't even, no work or anything, he didn't take my confession. We were just talking. Everyone was talking about you. [incomprehensible] I don't owe them anything.

BZ: In general terms, do you have positive or negative memories of having worked as a bracero?

PR: What does negative or positive mean?

BZ: Well that they bring back good memories, or really bad ones.

PR: No, good ones, I worked for the enjoyment, with joy and pleasure and what else?

BZ: Okay, did being a bracero change your life in any way?

PR: No.

BZ: Well maybe economically it did change.

PR: What?

BZ: Your life, having been a Bracero because if you hadn't come over here, perhaps you wouldn't have had the same opportunities to offer your family what you offered them.

PR: No, well I didn't even have hopes. I can assure you I wouldn't have come here. You think I'd live now? Hmmm, thank God because, well yeah I suffered a lot because I was a Bracero many times. I came here to work, I didn't come here to sleep, now I stay asleep because I don't need to wake up but when we came contracted I would wake up at 3:30 in the morning to make my coffee and make my lunch. Then, I didn't know how to make my lunch or anything and I did it by myself. I worked to my liking; I didn't have a

reason to complain. The only thing is what you said yeah. If I didn't come perhaps I wouldn't even be alive. What would I take care of my family with? Yeah, I made a living here. Thank God if it wasn't for here. I don't complain. What can I say after all the work I did here? I'd say it went well for not having anything, with hardly anything to sleep in.

BZ: Specifically speaking of Santa Paula, when was it that you came to Santa Paula?

PR: Here?

BZ: Did you come through contract, illegally or...?

PR: No, I was going, since , since I uh...how would you say it? I fix my papers here in 67.

BZ: In 67 or did you come with your residency?

PR: Yeah.

BZ: Okay, very good. Well we will finish the interview with Mr. Porfirio Rico right here on the Bracero Program.