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Ruiz, Sacoro Oral History Interview: Class Projects

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Interviewee: Mrs. Sacoro Ruiz

Interviewers: Martin Tilley & Susanne Hagan

Date: 10/3/77

Interview number 2

One tape side

Interviewee: Mrs. Sacoro Ruiz

Interviewers: Martin Tilley & Susanne Hagan

Hagan : We would like to know if you are a native American or are you from Mexico ?

Mrs. R.: No, I am from Mexico .

Hagan : How long ago did you come from Mexico ?

Mrs. R.: I have been living in Holland for seventeen years .

Hagan: How did you come here ?

Mrs. R.: I was married in 1959 , and I moved to the United States with my husband in 1960.

Hagan: Where did you live when you were in Mexico ?

Mrs. R.: Nuevo Laredo, Tamolipas , Mexico. Across the border from Loredo , Texas .

Hagan: Can you tell us about growing up in Mexico ?

Mrs. R.: Do you want to know about my family?

Hagan: Well, about you .

Mrs. R.: I come from a family of eleven children . I am the oldest one and my mom and dad still live in Mexico .

Tilley: Do you return there often ?

Mrs. R.: I try to be there every two years .

Hagan : Do your parents still practice the old style of Christmas ?

Mrs. R.: Yes, they still practice Dipsadas . This is the nine days before Jesus was born . This is a time of a lot of praying and worship . At this time we eat alot of Mexican dishes .

Tilley : Could you give us the name of one of these dishes .

Mrs.R.: It is called Buñuelos . This is a very good dish. We eat them all the time . I don't know how to tell you how to make them , but I can show you sometime .

Hagan : At Christmas time , do you share gifts or anything. ?

Mrs. R.: Yes, we share gifts, but it is different. Things have changed.

Hagan : Did you ever go caroling at night in Mexico during the Christmas when you were a child?

Mrs. R.: Yes we did but it is not the same in Mexico as it is in Holland. It is too cold here during the winter to do much caroling.

Hagan : What type of celebration do you have here at Christmas?

Mrs. R.: We have many celebrations but one thing we do is play with a lot

of firecrackers.

Tilley : Do you celebrate Christmas like we do at the Fourth of July?

Mrs. R. : Yes, yes. But we don't have drink. No, only the praise and singing and adoration of Him, and a supper we eat.

Hagan : And what is the Christmas season like in Holland?

Mrs. R. : It is not like the old times. It is too bad to say that, but you know, it is the weather. It is kind of hard to go out , but we have some families who do go caroling. They have been doing it for two or three years now. I think it is nice . It is a better way to have more communication in the community. There are so many types of people in community and they should be brought together , yes, so many types of people .

Hagan : At Christmas time , what do you do to Celebrate it ?

Mrs. R.: Right now ?

Hagan : When Christmas comes , here in Holland .

Mrs. R.: Well, we celebrate Christmas nine days before the birth of Christ . I usually buy a Christmas tree and put it up right away . Then we decorate it together , my family and I , you know . We really don't have a specific celebration , just a lot of fun . We are not really interested in gifts . We give just a few things . When I was a little girl , I only got a few things like for example, I got a note book, a pencil and one delicious apple , and maybe some candies . I did not come from a rich family , but my father had and still has a good job . We always had a lot of firecrackers though .

Hagan : For Christmas , do you have American food or do you have Mexican Food ?

Mrs. R.: Well, I serve American food . We used to eat Mexican food like pinto beans but any-more . At the Christmas meal , we have turkey and we have chickens for dinner too . We eat together on the special night .

Tilley : Mrs. Ruiz , What do you do for a living ?

Mrs. R.: Well , I do a lot of work in the community , but on a voluntary basis . I go to school right now , but my poor English , I learn by actual communication .

Tilley : That is one of the best ways to learn .

Mrs. R.: Yes, yes . It is hard , but that is true . I also believe a woman can stay home and be happy .

Tilley : Do you like the American tradition of Christmas better than the Mexican tradition ?

Mrs. R.: No, no . I don't think so . I like the old ways , but the weather around here does not let us do the old things . It is hard to get around here during the winter . Too much snow .

Tilley : I can guess that you do not like snow .

Mrs. R.: No, I like it .

Tilley : You don't see too much of it in Mexico .

Mrs. R.: No,no. You know , another thing about Mexico , it is kind of hard to believe , but the Mexican people believe that America is the best country in the world !!

Tilley : It really is .

Mrs. R.: We believe the government follows very carefully the directions of the law . In Mexico it is very different . We have many poor people . People work at jobs but they get very low pay . Food and rent are high and their salaries are not enough to get by on . A person who has a lot of children , is very hard .

Hagan : About the buñuelos , can you tell us about them ?

Mrs. R.: I can not do them now , but we can do them later .

Mrs. Ruiz said she would do them for us at a later date , so we agreed . She does them from memory and not from a written recipe . We are going to see her next Tuesday .

End