Recent immigrant workers in Iowa’s meatpacking industry

Archie Green Fellows Project, 2015-2016

Irma Concepcion Villa interview, 2016-01-12 : interview conducted by Irma M. Ramirez Villa

Interview ID: afc2015026_03099
Date: January 12, 2016
Duration: 01:43:55

00:00:02 introductions
00:00:46 childhood in Mexico
00:02:26 parents and grandparents
00:03:56 father’s family
00:04:18 parents meeting
00:05:05 parents starting a family
00:05:31 moving to San Isidro as a child
00:06:07 mother having to give up career to marry
00:06:44 maternal family occupations
00:07:54 quality of life in San Isidro
00:11:07 family finances
00:11:26 starting work at age 12
00:11:41 schooling
00:12:18 type of work at age 12
00:14:14 leaving school at age 16 to work full time
00:15:00 career aspirations
00:15:39 typical employers in Mexico when first entering workforce
00:16:09  first marriage
00:16:26  leaving school to marry
00:16:45  going back to school for nursing
00:17:29  taking night courses through the medical institute of social security
00:19:07  work as medical assistant at clinic and studying to become a nurse
00:20:27  first husband's occupation in Mexico
00:21:16  early life with first husband
00:21:29  family life in San Isidro and Chapala
00:22:23  first husband leaving family behind to work do seasonal work in Minnesota
00:23:54  arriving in the United States on vacation with her 2 children
00:24:44  first husband's employment at IBP, Inc.
00:26:04  staying in the United States with her first husband and children
00:26:16  impression of Storm Lake, IA
00:27:03  working at IBP, Inc.
00:27:26  cultural diversity of Storm Lake, IA
00:30:27  relationships between other Mexicans at IBP, Inc.
00:31:15  tensions between immigrants at IBP, Inc. based on migratory status
00:35:04  tensions between immigrants at IBP, Inc. based on class
00:36:00  tensions between workers at IBP, Inc. from the same country of origin
00:36:27  demographics in neighborhood of Storm Lake that settled in
00:37:22  relationships in neighborhood
00:37:46  homes' proximity to work
00:38:17  finding housing in Storm Lake
breakdown of coworkers by gender at IBP, Inc.
discrimination at IBP, Inc.
work breaks at IBP, Inc.
safety precautions at IBP, Inc.
passing time while on shift at IBP, Inc.
relationship with supervisors, sexual harassment at IBP, Inc.
work conditions at IBP, Inc.
pay and husband’s pay, financial obligations
starting work at Vil Mar
hiring practices at IBP, Inc.
differences between Vil Mar and IBP, Inc.
closeness of coworkers at Vil Mar
differences in work climate between Vil Mar and IBP, Inc.
size of workforce at Vil Mar
nature of work at Vil Mar
training process at Vil Mar
other types of work at Vil Mar
more differences between Vil Mar and IBP, Inc.
pay at Vil Mar
work benefits at Vil Mar and IBP, Inc.
employee retention at Vil Mar and IBP, Inc.
flexibility of work IBP, Inc. for grade 0
daily rotation at Vil Mar
night shift at Vil Mar
second shift at IBP, Inc. and overtime work
breakdown of countries of origin at Vil Mar, regional differences between Mexicans
percentage of Mexicans at Vil Mar
leaving Vil Mar
moving to Schaller, IA
getting legal work permit and attempting to get work at IBP, Inc. again
comparison of Schaller and Storm Lake
working at fiberglass shop in Schaller
immigrant workforce at shop
Hispanic makeup of Schaller compared to Storm Lake
changes in demographics in Schaller since arrival and community support
Mexican families in Schaller
occupations of Mexicans in Schaller
Mexican families in Schaller fearing others because of migratory status
current work
process to obtain legal work permit and residency
continuing education as dietician assistant for children
recently rumored immigration raids in her area