

MEXICAN-AMERICAN ARCHIVES

Interviewee: Mrs. Julia Gutierrez
Date: September 27, 1978
Interviewer: Irene Ruiz

Tape 55A

#210304

- 004-008 Mrs. Gutierrez works as a parent visitor in the Switzer Elementary School Follow-Through No. 2 program.
- 009-016 She was born in Rogers, Texas and also lived in Temple and Port Arthur, Texas. Her parents were Jesus Villarreal and Petra Villarreal.
- 017-042 She attended elementary school in Lookeba, Oklahoma. She recalls the older son of a local farmer trying to run them down with a hay wagon as they walked to school each day. Her father was part owner of a farm and was losing his eyesight.
- 043-051 She attended 6 years of school in Oklahoma. Her family moved to Kansas City as her father's sight became worse. She quit school to help support the family when her father could no longer work.
- 052-056 Her oldest brother also quit school and worked for 22½¢ an hour. Mrs. Gutierrez washed and ironed for money and found work in a suitcase factory.
- 057-064 Her parents are natives of Chihuahua, Mexico. They had 6 children total--3 boys and 3 girls.
- 065-077 She wished to continue her education, but found she was too old for elementary school and did not have enough education for high school. She had a strong desire to learn and wanted to be a pilot. She and one of her brothers worked so the younger siblings could attend school.
- 078-096 She worked at a bomber plant building B-25's during WWII. She worked 3 months solid but had to cut back because of eye strain. She was a riveter.
- 097-111 She recalls being told not to discuss anything that happened at the plant, including serious industrial accidents. Description of some of the accidents she saw at North American Aviation.
- 112-147 She met her future husband and he went into the service. Her older brother also went, leaving her as sole supporter of the family. A younger brother was seriously burned during training for the Korean War. He was not expected to live and he now operates a theater.
- 148-157 Her family attended Mt. Carmel Church. Her mother taught Spanish classes at the Armourdale neighborhood center, near where they lived.

- 158-182 The children played sports, participated in the church choir, and the yearly fiesta. She was not allowed to socialize much; girls were strictly chaperoned. She had to be home by 9:00 p.m.
- 183-240 Details of meeting her husband and her courtship. Her husband was wounded in the war. They married while he was still recovering. Her younger brothers and sisters are now working and no longer dependent on her.
- 241-255 Mrs. Gutierrez thinks families now are not as happy because parents give their children too much.
- 256-278 She stayed home until her youngest child was 2 years old. She worked for awhile, but decided the children needed their mother at home. She returned to work again after all her children were in school. She worked at Wolferman's.
- 279-295 All 3 children are now married and she has some grandchildren.
- 295-324 Her civic activities include Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Legion Auxiliary, UCM Femenil (Women's group of Union Cultural Mexicana), and the Human Resources Corp.
- 325-340 She began working in Follow-Through around 1974. Description of her job.
- 341-355 She got her high school diploma and now attends Penn Valley College.
- 356- Mrs. Gutierrez used to work on the annual Sacred Heart Fiesta, but the new priests aren't interested in continuing it.
- 392- Mrs. Gutierrez has enjoyed life with her husband. She hopes to continue her interests in dancing and civic duties although she wants to slow down and have more time for herself.