

University of Texas at El Paso

Institute of Oral History

Interviewee: Andrés Héctor Quezada Lara

Interviewer: Myrna Parra-Mantilla

Project: Bracero Oral History

Location: Chihuahua, Chihuahua, México

Date of Interview: June 16, 2003

Terms of Use: Unrestricted

Tape No.: _____

Transcript No.: _____

Transcriber: Juan Mendoza

Biographical Synopsis of Interviewee: Andrés Héctor Quezada Lara was born in Chihuahua, Chihuahua, México, in 1925; because of his outstanding scholastic abilities, he received a scholarship for *secundaria*, which is equivalent to middle school in the United States, in Durango; in 1945, he learned of the Bracero Program; it was then that he decided to quit school and go to the United States to work; he worked in South Dakota, Illinois, Montana, Missouri, Minnesota, and Kansas.

Summary of Interview: Mr. Quezada quit school in order to go to the United States and work as a bracero; he was hired in Chihuahua, Chihuahua, México, but was sent to Querétaro, Querétaro to sign the job contract; his first contract took him to work in the Chicago Milwaukee Pacific Union railroads; after working there, he was sent to Kansas to work in the fields; while there, he organized a meeting to ask for better salary for the braceros; their pay was increased from 50¢ to 90¢ per hour; he was then sent to work in Missouri, where he had an accident while working in the cornfields; after the accident, he was moved to the food processing factory; he recalls that while in Montana, it snowed for eight days, and they did not get paid during that time.

Length of interview 63 minutes

Length of Transcript 26 pages