

## INTERVIEW SUMMARY

### TAPE INDEX

NAME: Mrs. Juanita Zazweta Huerta  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: March 12, 1991  
LOCATION: Pocatello, Idaho 83201  
INTERVIEWER: Angela Luckey

#### TAPE ONE - SIDE A:

Tape Min.

- 0:30 The family came in April 1918 on a reganche. They came by train to Lincoln, Idaho. Her parents were from Mexico and never, to her knowledge, became citizens. Her father worked in the fields and on the railroad.
- 5:00 Her mother stayed home to care for her children. During summer, she and the kids would go pick raspberries and strawberries and would be paid by sharing the berries. She would tell her children to be good workers. The family came to Lincoln and her first memories of Idaho were farming and visiting friends in Idaho Falls. Her father had a pass on the railroad and they rode the train to Pocatello. Her father returned to Mexico for a visit in 1936. Her parents would talk about Mexico and it was their form of recreation to listen to the stories.
- 13:10 A Mrs. Pierce interpreted for the Mexican people. Juanita remembers when Mrs. Pierce came to tell the people about the end of World War I. At that time, some Mexicans went back to Mexico.
- 14:41 Juanita went to school from first to eighth grade. She remembers the Relief Society ladies coming to give them gifts for Christmas. The children were puzzled because Santa never came to their house. Juanita made her First Holy Communion in Blackfoot. They walked from Firth to church in Blackfoot. They walked six miles to Shelley also. They had no problem walking.
- 19:48 Her mother would pack a lunch before they went to church. After church, they went to visit the Hernandez family in Blackfoot and often they would get a ride home.
- 22:03 Juanita went to school in Firth. She dropped out after the eighth grade because she felt that her clothes were not as nice as she would have liked.
- 24:03 They shopped at Dye's Mercantile, a country store. Her Dad would buy all the kids (5) new shoes every summer to go to the Fourth of July celebrations in Idaho Falls. Dye would provide credit. Both of her parents were literate. They wrote letters home to Mexico. Juanita had no problem with English at school. She loved school. She played with English speaking children since theirs was the only Mexican family in Firth at the time.

#### SIDE B:

- 0:13 No extended family members lived with them. They worked in the fields. During the depression, her father was laid off from the railroad.
- 2:14 The family moved to Pocatello during the depression. Her father worked on a WPA project. The lines for ration items were long. Her father went to work on the railroad again. She was 14.



- 5:01 She describes the neighborhood by identifying people who lived nearby. She knew Idaho Purce as a child.
- 6:13 She talks about the ingredients for food. People had a network to find out about where to get things. They had dances in the Gates building. Domingo Villegas played for the dances. People would take their children with them and as they fell asleep, they were put under the benches. The dance wasn't successful if there wasn't a fight.
- 10:01 Juanita tells about the people who lived here at that time. There were no special kinds of dances.
- 11:03 Many Mexicans were hired to pick the Teton Basin peas. It was a fun job. They didn't make much money but they had a lot of fun. They were paid by weight and they spent the money buy food and items from the wagons that were set up with merchandize for sale. She went every year during the summer. People came from everywhere. Her husband to be came from Nebraska and they met in Driggs while picking peas.
- 14:14 She was married at 21 years old. She went to live with her husband in Nebraska.
- 15:35 She had a civil wedding before leaving here and she had a church wedding in Nebraska. She had cut flowers from neighbors and friends.
- 18:00 She wore her husband's cousin's wedding dress. Her husband's sisters decorated the church.
- 22:05 Juanita lived in Pocatello as a teen and worked during the depression on a NYA project. She worked as a seamstress @ \$17/month making baby blankets.
- 23:16 She paid \$.25 to go to the movies. Tuesdays were 2 for \$.25. She would stay to see the movie twice. The theater was segregated, blacks from whites.
- 25:01 Fountains were segregated ethnically as well and would refuse service. She describes an incident in which some men were called "boys" which they took as a compliment.
- 27:18 An incident on human relations. She describes her daughter being chased out of a yard because of her ethnicity.
- 30:00 Her mother would grind corn to make tortillas. She would spread lard on the tortillas in place of butter. She has her mother's molcajete.

TAPE TWO - SIDE A:

Tape Min.

- 0:10 Her friend made cheese and used her mother's metate to refine it.
- 1:35 Her mother made good tamales. She made lots of tamales and many people came to eat. Today, her husband makes tamales and she makes enchiladas.
- 5:45 Her mother made capirotada during Lent. She also made other special Lenten dishes.
- 9:00 Her mother would ask her to translate. She translates for anyone who needs help now. She recounts a recent example.



15:24 Her children speak Spanish except for three of them.

19:00 She talks about the Mexican organization that used to be in Pocatello.

26:49 The family had an icebox. They would get the ice from Island Park. It was stored in sawdust at the ice house. She talks about families who lived in the Firth area. She has a small brother buried there.

SIDE B: