

Topic: How my family came to the US.

Abstract: I am very happy and honored to have the chance to be living here in the US and have an opportunity to get an education and be someone in life. Because of my aunt Elitania she got married to us citizen my grandfather got to get his papers fixed and got the 2 youngest one my uncle Ignacio and my dad. My father meeting my mother at a clinic and started dating for a couple of months and getting married and got her papers fixed to come to the US.

Keywords: How my grandfather and dad were workings as braceros, How my mother and father met, working in the fields picking up crops

My Family

How my family came to the US is a funny story in my opinion. I am very proud where I come from and never would be embarrassed to embrace my culture. I am very honored to privileged to be living here in the US and getting a chance to get an education and make my parents proud because they went through a lot working in hot days in the fields and raining days. My family maybe not be rich like other family and own houses but I am happy living in apartments because my parents always in every aspect of me and my brothers life. We are a very close family and will always be.

It all started with my aunt Elitania she met a guy who now is my uncle Pancho and he born here in Gilroy. His parents came as braceros and had family here but as soon as Pancho was born they moved back to Mexico. As the years passed by he grew up and met my aunt Elitania. They got married in a very young age and Pancho decided to fix my grandfathers papers so he can come to US and work as a bracero. Because my grandparents were really poor back then most of my uncles and aunts never went to school because they

couldn't afford it or they would drop out of school so they can help out my grandparents. My father being the baby of the family out of 12 kids him and his older siblings never got to go to school. My dad attended school a couple of years up until the third grade. So he really never got to learn how to write and read good and up to this date he can read some what but not really and same for writing my dad has a hard time also writing he needs help spelling certain words. After my grand father got his papers fixed he decided to fix the two youngest kid my dad and my uncle Ignacio. Back then it was easy to get your papers fixed because people did it so they can come to the US and work to get money and come back to Mexico and be able to support their family. At that time my grandfather was one of those typical Mexicans that they didn't want to fix their daughter papers because he believed that guys would only want to date their daughter because they had papers, and would only be interested in getting their papers fixed and not be interested in them as a person. My grandfather fixed my dads and my uncle Ignacio papers and came with my grandfather to work in the fields. My grandfather, my dad and uncle would come to Morgan Hill and work in the chili fields or what ever was growing during the season. After the season would end they would go back to mexico. The season they had off they spent it in my grandfathers ranch cropping on the fields growing lentils, corn. When they had money they would invest their money in buying cows and breeding them and selling them to other people so they can make a profit and have a little extra money. All of my uncles and aunts would have to wake up in the morning and feed the pigs, cows, bulls, sheep, chickens, rosters. When the season for working came again my grandfather, uncle and dad would come back to Morgan hill as braceros. Since my father was young about 15 he would invest his money in things he liked. One good investment he did was buying a two Honda motorcycles but sold one and kept

one and still has it. In that motorcycle he would come and go to México and US.

During the time my father came back to México my grandmother was sick and had to be hospitalized. My mom during that time was working as a nurse in a clinic with her uncle who was a owner. My father would go everyday to visit his mom and there he would see my mom and got to meet her and have short conversations. After my grandmother got released from the clinic there was a time my father and mother did not see each other. A couple of months later my dad returned to the clinic to visit a friend that got hurt and he saw my mom and asked her about his friend if he was there. So they started talking a little my mother asked him about how is mother was doing and from there my father asked her if she wanted to go out n drink soda or go out and eat. My mother turned him down because she had already ate and really didn't want go out because she was working. My father insisted in buying her a soda so they can chat for a little while. In the back of my moms mind she knew my father had a girlfriend but their way was trying to get to know my mother. My mother tried pushing him away but for some reason my father did not want to give up on her. After couple of months father decided to ask her out. My father would go to my moms house to visit her and take her out, but what my mom did not know was that my father had 2 girlfriends including her. My father was the typical smart guy that would have two girlfriends. If it didn't work out with one he had a back up ha ha ha. His first stop was at my mothers house because my Grandfather Jose on my mom side was a little strict on my mom being out late at night. After my dad would visit my mom he would go to his other girlfriends house to visit her and then go back home. My mother dad were dating about month when my dad had to come back to US and work. My parents spent about six months apart while my father was here and my mom in México they would write letters to each

other as a way of communicating with each other. When my father came back to México he decided to ask my mom to marry him. My mom being 21 and father 26 it seemed my father was more in a hurry to get married than my mother. My mother being a smart lady she is said yes to my father just knowing him for about dating six months and about 1 month actually seeing each other. But what my mom did not know what she was getting into.

When my mom and dad got married in January 13, 1985. During that time my grandmother was really ill and didn't attend my parents wedding. A couple of months passed by and my grandmother passed away. From what my mother said she was the nice lady and was very caring about other people. After my grandmother passed away my aunt Lione took over and made everyday a living nightmare for my mother while she was living in my grandfathers ranch. She was one of the sisters that lived there and didn't like my mother at all. She was one of the sister my dad had not got married so she was living in the house and was very over protecting because my dad was the baby out of the house. She tried to make my mom feel uncomfortable and she did but my mother never let my aunt know she her know she was scared of her. My father kept coming to the US in the spring seasons so my mother would go back to her parents house because she didn't want to stay alone in my grandfathers house. During the time my dad was in Morgan Hill he was gathering up money to take my mom with him so they can be together. My mother and father would spend spring season in the US working in the field picking strawberries, cucumbers, cherries, apples, chiles and apricot and winter and during the time they were here my brother Mario was born. My mom enjoyed a lot living in Gilroy and Morgan Hill. She was very excited and happy to be living in the other side people kept always talking about. My mom was very happy and every time she would go to the store she always wanted to buy things for the house or

simple things to decorate it but my dad would always tell her no why do you want to waste money on things you do not need. So she never got to buy things she wanted.

Couple of years passed by my father decided to fix my moms papers so she had to go back to México because they were making sure my mother was actually in México and not in the US. As soon as she got back to México to her mothers house she found out she was pregnant with her second child which was me. I am the only one was that was born in México because my mother was getting her paper fixed it took about two years. Later on my parents would travel with both kids back and forth . When my grandfather Ignacio passed way is when my father decided to come and live in Gilroy and just go to México during Christmas time. Six years later I was born my younger brother was born. My mother and father wanted us to get an oppportunity to get an education they didn't have and be some one in live and be successful and not have to work in the fields like they did. They worked hard to give us everything they didn't have.