

Topic: My grandparent's experiences making it through time

Abstract: My grandfather worked all his life to support his family; he felt that it was his obligation to help those in needs even if it was his own shirt, as he came to a new country he found a new life and made his own family but not leaving behind his values and his beliefs. They worked all there lives to both support there families even though they had to not enjoy there own lives as they should have.

Keywords: Values, Mexican People, Immigration, Education, Family Values

Immigration Experience

My grandfather was born December 24th 1922, in Michoacan Mexico. He was the third of four children; his mother was an Islaguaca Indian who cared for them alone since her husband passed away. In 1943 my grandfather got the urge to come to the United States to better himself and his family. His brothers and he came to the United States in the Braceros Program, but his brothers did not enjoy living in the United States and returned to Mexico, my grandfather stayed and lived for some period of time in Anaheim and started working picking lemons. He stayed here alone to better his life and his family back home, he felt that he needed to give his family a better life and help them progress. He specially wanted to make ends meet for his mother back home, because he always felt that his mother was a goo mother and a good person who deserved better than they had. After a year working and living in the United States he decided to go back home and visit his family. He came back after a year in Mexico and lived in Gilroy were he found work in the fields and picking fruits and vegetables, as well as pruning the fields.

When he was working in the prunes he meet my grandmother, but they never spoke when they meet since my grandmother's parents were very strict and

demanding. My grandmother was born in March 18, 1929 in Santa Paula; she was the second of eight children. She worked all her life basically because she went to work since she was nine years old with her father, she would go to school but her parents would always pull her out for the seasons of picking. Her brothers and sisters all went to school and finished their education, she never had anger over her parents having her work and not finish her education because she felt a need to help them and she was happy she was able to support them. She worked picking apricots and lemons, prunes. Her parents were extremely strict and were traditional Mexicans that they would not allow their daughters to date until a certain age and they would not let them go out for any reason only to go to work.

My grandparents met in the field but they never spoke since my grandmother wasn't allowed to, but they did meet each other once at the movies after that they would start to send notes to one another by one of my grandmother's cousin. But it got to a point where she and my grandfather stopped talking and never saw each other again. Until one day my grandfather came to my grandmother's house to ask her parents for her hand in marriage and her parents said no to him, after he left her parents told her that she could not get married because he was from Mexico and what if he would decide to take her to live there she would have nothing and she would be miserable. Since Mexico during that time wasn't as developed as it is now in our time, so they felt that it was best if she not get married with him. My grandfather did not take that no he talked to my grandmother another day and he asked her to elope with him, and she did she left with my grandfather but my grandfather did not like the idea of them living together if they are not married so he took my grandmother to

the family who had helped him so much during his time working here and helping him get his paperwork. So he left her there for a whole week until their marriage was legal until the marriage was legal he took her to live with him. They made a home here in Gilroy and started their own family three years later they had five children in total. My grandfather worked all his life and my grandmother stayed home with the children for some time, and then she started working in the cannery for a couple of years. My grandfather was a very hard worker he felt no need to ask for help even if they had nothing he felt that it was his family and he was not going to stop for anything to make his family work. He was angry at people asking why they not asked for assistance from the government and he felt that they are his children and that was his wife that it was his obligation to support them and even if he had nothing he would never go ask for assistance.

After some time they moved to Mexico but the family did not enjoy living there so my grandfather moved everyone back and he would take them back each year. Each year for the holidays or anything he would take everyone to Mexico he felt a need to keep going and keep sending money to his family. Even though his brothers and relatives had economically stable he felt that he needed to still help them in anyway possible. At some point my grandmother felt that it was too much to keep going and going and keep taking the children out of school so they stopped going to Mexico, but my grandfather never stopped from sending them money or items just to help them in any possible way. My grandmother at some point worked and helped my grandfather with anything that was necessary but my grandfather did not like the fact of her working, specially talking to other men. My grandmother

loved getting out and going to work being able to go gossip with the other women and feeling like she is helping her family as well. They both helped each other economically but my grandfather didn't like spending money in things that were not needed or on things that were not necessary for them. But they made it through tough times and worked their whole lives to help their families and be able to make a little difference in their families' well-being and help them get farther in life.