

Topic: My grandma's journey to the United States.

Abstract: My Grandma moved here from Mexico seeking better opportunities. When my moved to the United States she found the opportunities she was looking for. The struggles my Grandma went through were worth it because she got a better life.

Keywords: Grandma, Mexico, United States, Opportunities, Choices, Immigration, School, Work

When I was little my Grandma would always tell me stories she would sit me down either on the floor and she'd sit on the couch and she'd braid my hair or we would go to her little sewing room and she'd try showing me how to sew, even to this day she'll still sit me on her lap as if I was still a little girl or she'll still try to teach me how to sew sometimes. I remember my Grandma always telling me stories of when she was little and stories of her coming to the United States. The one story that I'll always remember is the story of my Great-Uncle taking over as a parent and bringing her to the United States, so they could have better opportunities, since my Great-Uncle felt that they didn't have very many opportunities in Mexico.

My Grandma was the seventh of seven kids. When she was little her parents both passed away, after her parents passed away her brother adopted her since he was the only parent figure she had anyways. I remember my Grandma telling the story of when her mom passed away I don't remember much of the story because my Grandma doesn't tell it much since she barely remembers it herself because she was so young when it happened. The part that I do remember was that my Great-

Grandma was going somewhere with one of my great-uncles. They were traveling by train my Great-Grandma was sick and she died on the train. My Great-Uncle didn't have very much money so he carried her and pretended she was asleep because he didn't want to have to pay to have her body sent back to where they lived. I remember my Grandma ending the story by telling me how sad she was because she doesn't have very many memories of her mom and how she can't remember what she looks like all she remembers is that she was tall and skinny with long dark hair. In 1959 my Great-Uncle came to the United States looking for better opportunities since he felt there was none for him or my Grandma in Mexico. While he came to United States to get everything settled he had my Grandma move in with their aunt so she could continue going to school. Exactly a year later after my Great-Uncle left my Grandma's papers were finalized.

When my Great-Uncle came to the United States, my Grandma moved from Jalisco, Mexico to Tijuana, Mexico to stay with her aunt and continue going to school. While she was in Tijuana, she went to a college for nuns and went to a sewing school called Sonia Acadima for a year. By the time she graduated from school, her papers were finalized. On October 30, 1960 my Grandma moved from Tijuana, Mexico to La Puente with her brother. For two years they continued going to school before they both decided to move again and this time Hollister, California.

Coming to the United States had it's share of opportunities and it's limitations. One of the limitations they had was that the United States had just

deported over a million Mexicans a couple years before they tried coming to the United States. Some of the opportunities that they had was a chance at having a better quality life living in the United States. They could both further their education that they already had which they both did when they moved to La Puente. They both had a better chance of getting a good job in the United States then if they would have stayed in Mexico. Another opportunity was when they had children they would be able to provide a better life for them because they had both gotten a better education and had jobs that could provide for their family. Their children would have an easier life in the United States because education would be provided to them for free.

In August 1962 they moved to Hollister, California. My Grandma is a very determined person, if she wants something she'll go for it and with in a week after just moving she got a job working at cannery. My Grandma worked at cannery for thirty years. When the season was over she started working as a seamstress in a men's store. She even had a side job she would make dresses, my grandma even made my Aunt and Mom's wedding dresses. Not long after my Grandma and Great-Uncle moved to Hollister, they were offered a house, if they moved into the house all they would have to pay were the bills and they wouldn't need to pay the rent. They took the offer and again they moved but this time it wasn't a far move they moved to San Juan Bautista.

In 1962 my Grandma met my Grandpa. My Great-Uncle was very protective of Grandma because she was like a daughter to him. My Grandma would tell how my Great-

Uncle didn't like my Grandma seeing my Grandpa because he thought my Grandpa was your typical guy. Since he wouldn't let my Grandma see my Grandpa my Grandma would lie and say she was going to the movie with one of her friends, my Great-Uncle would go to the movies to check up on her and if saw her with my Grandpa he would pull her out of the movies. My Grandpa was only in the states on a working visa and when my Grandpa got his green card he moved back to Hollister. Three years after my Grandpa met my Grandma they got married. After marrying my Grandpa, my Grandma moved for the last time, she moved back to Hollister and she still lives in the same house today. Nine months after my Grandma and Grandpa got married they had their first child. They had four kids together, three boys and a girl.

The choices that my Great-Uncle and Grandma made affected a lot of people in the long run. If it wasn't for Great-Uncle and Grandma then the rest of their brothers would still be in Mexico. It even affected my mom because if my Grandma never would have met my Grandpa they never would have had kids and my mom would've never met my dad and my mom would most likely still in the Philippines. I never really realized how one person's choice could affect so many people. If it doesn't affect people right away then it would be later in life. Like with my Great-Uncle's decision it even affects me and I wasn't even alive at

the time. It makes me wonder how things would be if they would've stayed in Mexico.

During 1959 through 1965 while my Grandma was moving from place to place there was a lot of things going on around the world, there was the aftermath of World War II and the Civil Rights. In 1959 Fidel Castro became the dictator of Cuba, Castro wasn't appointed the position anyways. Castro gained his supporters because in the beginning he was redistributing the land to the poor people of Cuba, Castro began to gain more supporters when Batista started torturing and killing innocent people. In 1962 Moscow sent missiles in to Cuba. The United States to it as a threat. In 1961 the Soviet Union launched the first man into space and the Berlin wall was built. The Berlin wall was built to separate West and East Berlin. East Germans weren't aloud to freely travel to West Berlin 1989. In 1963 was when Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream Speech" and in 1964 the Civil Rights Act passed. In 1965 the United States sent troops to Vietnam. My Grandma never talked to me about all the things she got to witness, she never gave me her point a view or told me what she thought. Since I was supposed to do this projected I looked up what historical events were going on while my Grandma was traveling from place to place. I never realized how much was going during this time, now that I do I hope that I can talk to my Grandma and get her point of view what she thought about things and how they affected her or if they even affected her at all.