

Title of video: La Familia Posada (Luis Carlos LCP, Luz María LMP y Myriam MP)  
 Date of video: July 2, 2018  
 Translated by: Charlotte Kennedy, Lainie Morris, Katherine Kristinik, Sofía Kearns  
 Date: Fall 2018

[00:03]	
Luz María Posada	Eh, my name is Luz María Ochoa Posada
Miriam Posada	My name is Miriam Pang Posada
Luis Carlos Posada	My name is Luis Carlos Posada, we are from Medellín Colombia and we are sibblings.
LMP	Yes, and we came in nineteen seventy-five here, [pause] and my father brought us, he brought us from Colombia because he worked in a textile mill in Colombia and the textile industry eh in here here needed more workers. So, he was interviewed there in Colombia and they opened the way for him to come work here [pause] in a mill.
LCP	The story is, he worked with Fabricato, in Colombia Medellín, in Bello Colombia which is another municipality of, outside of Medellín, [pause]. The story that he told, or told me about, he was walking through downtown Medellin and found a card [pause] and the card announced that they were looking for people to come to the US, to work in textiles [pause] in the northeastern US.
[01:03]	And in Australia. Then he had the opportunity to choose, from Australia or the USA. And he decided the USA because Australia was very far [pause]. He worked in Pennsylvania, I think, if I'm not wrong the town's name is Tarrytown.
MP	Tarrytown, yes.
LCP	Tarrytown, and there he stayed for a year [pause], that was in 1972, from there he came with a few friends to here, to Greenville [pause] and they called him,
[01:33]	They told him there was a lot of work [here in Greenville] and the cost of living and everything was much cheaper, and there was a lot, a lot of work.
MP	And [pause] and the seasons were not as drastic as it was up there [confirmation of LCP and LMP], that's why they started migrating here, because winters and summers were not as strong as in the north.

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Sofía Kearns	And what kind of work did your father do in, in, in Fabricato?
LCP	He was a weaver
LMP	Weaver, mhm
SK	And here he worked as a weaver too?
LCP y LMP	Ah yes, yes.
[02:03]	
SK	And what does a weaver do, specifically?
LCP	You work, where, the machines make the fabrics, [pause] that are manufacturing, manufacturing the fabric. Handling the machines. In a contract at that time a weaver would be given around ninety plus machines right? Or more than a hundred.
MP	I managed 84 machines, 84 I managed [laugh]
LCP	That's right, same thing for Luz Maria and dad
[02:33]	
MP	Dad was the one who taught us when we started, because we had no idea about textiles, [pause] hm, he was the one who taught us, he was our teacher [laugh]
SK	Here, in, in, in, in
MP	In, yes here, yes
SK	Yes, yes.
LCP	We came here very young, I arrived when I was 14 years old, and they were not even 20 years old, 18 and 19 I think they were.
MP y LMP	Yes
LCP	Both of them [inaudible].
MP	I worked [for] 4 years in textiles, 4 years I worked. How many did you work? (he asks LM)

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LMP	I worked for 10.
LCP	I worked 2 [pausa] years and a half,
[03:03]	in textiles, yes, [pause] and they were taught by dad [pause] I learned by myself. I started [pause] more than anything as a sweeper [pause] in the factory, I swept the room, and there little by little, by watching others, I, I had a lot of free time, so I learned, I started to learn by myself, I applied myself to learn the different jobs of the plant. I wove, I changed the fabric, that is, I did almost all the jobs at the factory, I learned how to do them, all by myself [pause].
[03:33]	I dedicated myself to learn because I had a lot of free time. I swept three times during my shift: when I came, in the middle of my shift and at the end. The [pause], the supervisor used me when someone was missing: "Luis, I need," no, they called me Carlos at the time, "Carlos, I need you to do this job, or that one."
MP	And he, he was the one who gave us breaks, because we only had a break of 20 minutes [laughter], and [inaudible] allowed him to give us the breaks [laugh]
LCP	The breaks
MP	The breaks [laugh]
SK	And why 20 minutes and nothing more? [pause] Was it the rule?
MP	Only, only 20 minutes. That was it.
[04:03] LMP	It was the rule of time, and when one ate, there were many times that they would not give you even 20 minutes, and one ate in the, standing by the machines
MP	And many times, we tried to take our breaks [pause] together to go to the cafeteria, but [pause] hm there were two times, or three times that that the Americans, they thought we were Indians [pause]. And they would stop by our table and start to "o o ooo o" and make a circle and they would dance like Indians. And dad told us,

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[04:33]	Don't, do not pay attention to them, continue eating because if you pay attention to them they will continue. Until they got tired and didn't do it again.
LMP	But they were very nice people, because
MP	They were very nice, yes, but, however... at the beginning they were very nice, they helped us, [pause] we had hm [pause] Americans that even though we did not speak any English they came to our house and they sat with us. There they sat and, and we looked at each other, we laughed.
[05:03]	And they shared that they were our co-workers [pause]. They were very nice to us.
LMP	And we learned everything by gestures, because we did not speak anything at all only by gestures.
LCP	And this about the Indians, I inferred, was not in the sense of racism, but [pause], and not to undervalue anyone or anything, but the ignorance [pause] of the people here in this area of South Carolina and the south that never had contact with people from another country. We were, pretty much
[05:33]	the first foreigners to arrive in this country. They thought that in fact we lived, they would ask me at school when I started studying, if we lived in huts, if we wore loincloths, or if we wore or if we were barefoot, and I said no, I come from a city of 2 million and a half, 3 million inhabitants, a modern city, a city, you know, not a small town. To make them feel bad I would tell them not a little dead town like this one [Greenville]. In a way I was bothered by these comments.
SK	And this is really interesting because reading,
[06:03]	this text that I told you about, it says that in Medellin there were very modern machines [pause]. Could you compare with the machines here, or did your father comment on any of that?
LMP	No, of what I remember, no
LCP	Dad yes. [LMP interrupts] In a sense yes, he saw more modern machines there[pause] than there were here. The machines in the factory here were old machines, we are talking very

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[06:33]	Very old. And the [Sutcher?Suture?] machines, if I'm not mistaken that was the brand of the machine here. And they were machines, we're talking about 70, 80, 100 years old.
MP	We had to turn them on manually because they had a shuttle [pause]. Then later, they brought electric ones and you would press a button [inaudible]
LMP	They changed them, to modern ones[inaudible]
MP	They soon changed them to more modern ones, I had to deal with a shuttle, that hm if the shuttle flew
[07:03]	[inaudible] it could kill you, because it had a
LMP	A tip
MP	An iron tip
LCP	In each, each end. There were two iron tips
MP	Iron tips
LCP	And it had, what he calls shuttle, is a, some clubs, pac pac pac. And this is happening has a, ah, like I call it a horn, I do not remember in Spanish what is it,
MP	One coil
LCP	One coil and there is the thread [pause]. Then it's what it does the knitting
MP	The weaving of the fabric
LCP	The fabric, the threads go back and forth [pause] and this thread goes here, and it keeps weaving,
[7:33]	weaves it, it makes the fabric, the loom. So it moves at high speed. And many times when it is out of sync, because that has to fit very well, very well synchronized so that when it shoots [pause] [pause] it does it well. If somehow, it is unbalanced [pause] that shuttle flies.

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MP	And the eight hours that you have in your contract that is the eight hours, one has to be patrolling behind those machines all the time because, [pause] in the back the thread is doing this, then it forms a knot [pause], and when it has a knot the machine stops.
[08:03]	
LMP	Or it bursts too
MP	It bursts ... then one has to be patrolling in case a little thread bursts so that a (pause) knot does not form, then all the time it is walk, walk, walk, and we also worked for production, because there was production. The person with the highest contract would do production, because there were large screens and everything was about production (laughs). Production depended on (pause), how you would handle the machines
[08:33]	
LMP	Yes, yes, yes.
LCP	Depending on how long the machines were on, it was an average on how many machines were turned on and the worker working for all 8 hours.
LMP	So, when one would see a stopped machine, one would rush over there, to fix the knot or do whatever it took for the machine to start working again, so one could produce as much as possible.
MP:	Because if not the room's supervisor would realize that a contract was not producing what it should, because it was a contract divided by colors, it had a
[9:03]	lever, which was a blue one, a green one, (pause) they realized that the contract was not producing because a screen would show it (pause) hm They would measure everything by numbers, right?
LCP	Yes, and percentages
MP:	Percentages (pause) hm
LCP:	From, of, of ... let's say from 0 to 100
MP:	From 0 to 100, if it was 0 the contract was doing very well, but,

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LCP and LMP	No no no
MP	Bad bad. Sorry, one of the worst contracts was my sister's (laughs)
LCP:	But she still managed
MP	But she worked, she worked hard,
[9:33]	But it was a contract (inaudible)
LCP	This was one of the most difficult contracts , but my dad and these two almost always had the best production
MP	(inaudible) Yes, the best production.
LCP	My dad was the best weaver in that plant
LMP	But another thing, even though these machines were worse in comparison to those in Colombia,
LCP:	Or older
LMP	Or older or whatever, (pause) I had to go through the change to modern ones. And that's when I left because I was not capable anymore. Because it was better to work with the old ones..... it was better
[10:03]	To work with the old ones than with the new modern ones. Because those stopped more, and since they were electric (pause) it was a, with a button, (pause) it was only with a button and the other ones had a lever. Then they kept stopping at all times. Then for me the old ones were better, because the new ones were more complicated, yes.
SK	And it was a very physical job then, to be standing ,
LCP	No, walking
LMP	Walking all the time
LCP	We were never standing still, never (inaudible)
LMP	There were times we could not go to the bathroom,

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[10:33]	We did not have time to go to the bathroom, or if you went to the bathroom you had to go very fast.
MP	I had to keep running.
LMP	We kept running and we would come back from the restroom, and we could not even go eat because it was tremendous physical work
MP	Due to the textiles, because of the very loud noise, we had to use (pause) plugs, some ear plugs. I lost my hearing because of that, I use hearing aids, due to the noise of the machines
LMP	And she only worked 3 years
MP	4 years
LMP	Ah 4 years,
MP	If I had worked more, I think I would have become deaf
[11:03]	
LMP	On the other hand, that noise developed my hearing better. Ha, ha!
SK	And they also say that the ... there was a lot of, in the air
MP	Pollution, in the air
SK	Yes Yes.
LCP	A lot of cotton
LMP	Cotton, sometimes
SK	Yes, did they protect the workers in any way?
MP	No, no hm (pause) never, never
LCP	The ears yes. They made sure that I had ear protection
MP	Because it was a terrible noise, too strong, but about the pollution that was in the air, the lint,



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[11:33]	That little fuzzy thing, that was never a problem at all.
SK	But did it not affect you guys?
ALL	Oh no, no, not at all
SK	And (pause) how many hours did you work (pause) per week, in average?
MP	40 hours
LCP	47. Because you worked the 40 (break) from Monday to Friday, and on Saturday we worked 7 hours
MP	Oh, sure, yes, yes
LMP	That, and if one wanted the overtime, because there was a lot of overtime, a lot of overtime, a lot. Then one sometimes worked up to 12 hours ...
[12:03]	
LMP	I worked for two years for twelve hours a day straight.
LCP	During the summer, when I was in high school. During the summer, I worked for sixteen hours a day. I worked the second and the third shifts and the supervisor of that shift would arrive and say: "I need you for four more hours." "Ah, okay." Because the bums were in the third shift. They would skip work, so younger guys were always put to do something. And he came back after four hours: "I need you. Stay." "Ah, OK." But many times I had to stay for 16 hours.
MP	People changed jobs constantly. Some would get bored, or there were many who
[12:33]	
MP	worked full time in this company and full time in another company. They would work two full
LCP	[interrupts] shifts
MP	. two shifts in
LMP y MP	[at the same time] different companies

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MP	There was a lot of work, yes.
LCP	Yes, at that time there was. And we are talking about the seventies during the Vietnam War. Many people came from other places to work because a lot of other people were involved in the armed forces.
[13:03]	
LCP	And so, they needed the workforce. And, during that time, Medellín was considered the textile capital of, of Colombia. Greenville, and the Upstate was considered the textile capital of the United States because this was where most of the textile companies were concentrated. There were many in the north, but here in this area
MP	there were a lot.
LCP	there were a lot.
MP	There were a lot in Spartanburg. However, I do not remember the names, but Spartanburg had a lot.
LCP	Spartanburg, in Greenwood, ah, Clinton, that is, all the towns in the Upstate
[13:33]	
LCP	a lot, a lot, a lot of textiles.
SK	And, before coming here, had you heard of Greenville or not?
LMP	No, never.
LCP	No. no.
MP	No.
SK	And here in Greenville had they heard of Medellín?
LCP	No, people here did not know anything. There was very little that they knew, as I said, we talked about the people who thought we were Indians and, in short, they were not
SK	[interrupts] Yes, but I refer more to the ones, ah, with whom you worked.
LCP	No

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SK	your supervisors?
[14:03] LMP	Ahh, no no no.
MP	No, no no.
LMP	Not at all.
SK	So, the connection was directly from Medellín to ah, um
LMP	to Pennsylvania.
LCP	Pennsylvania.
SK	where your parents...
MP, LMP, LCP	Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Houston
LCP	The majority of Colombians initially arrived in the north. They did not come directly to Greenville. They arrived north and from there they started to come here.
SK:	And how? How did they go to the north? Because the companies went to recruit them?
[14:33] LMP, LCP, MP	[inaudible] Yes to recruit them
SK	So, they did know about Medellín?
MP y LMP	[at the same time] Sure, yes.
LCP	Yes, certainly.
MP	But here in this little town, no.
LMP	Not here.

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LCP	At the very beginning there were very few families. The vast majority of the Colombians living here were not older people. And almost all of them were men. There were very few couples, and little by little they began bringing the wives and bringing the children,
MP	[interrupts] the children.
LCP	and then more people began to arrive. More relatives began to come, with their brothers, sisters, and that's how it was
MP:	the community began to grow
[15:03] MP	The majority of us were Colombians. There were a few Cubans; there were about two or three Cuban families.
LMP	mmhm.
LCP	Very few, yes.
MP	But they did not work in textiles.
LCP	No.
SK	And the companies arranged your papers so you could be here legally?
LCP	We came directly, already with papers.
LMP:	Already with papers. Dad came with papers. Directly. Then, he requested us. Because no company brought us [the children]. Dad was the one who requested us, and he arranged our papers and then we arrived with papers.
[15:33] LMP	He was given the papers and we got our papers through him.
LCP	He came with a work contract.
LMP	And with his visa.
LCP	With his visa
LMP	And he immediately asked for us.

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LCP	He asked for the girls first because he had already decided to live in the United States. So, he asked for the girls to start working immediately, and then started saving before bringing the rest of us, we are nine siblings.
MP	Nine siblings, plus our grandmother, plus our aunt. He brought the whole family.
LCP	He brought all of them, yes.
SK	And the children were all born there?
LCP	in Colombia, yes
[16:03]	
SK	All?
LMP	Yes, all.
SK	And, how long did it take to bring them?
LCP	We arrived, well, he arrived in seventy-two. Luz María and I arrived in seventy-five. And in seventy-eight, the rest came.
LMP	The rest came.
LCP	Well, we have a half-brother, and in seventy-five, our mother came with the other five brothers who had stayed there. And, our half-brother, Fernando, arrived in eighty-eight. He was the last one to arrive here.
MP	And afterwards he brought my grandmother, my aunt
[16:33]	and my whole family started to come
MP	
LCP	Everyone did,
LMP	Yes, but, how much time did it take for him to bring us all here? Since he arrived in seventy-two to seventy-eight

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LCP	Seventy-five.
LMP	Seventy-eight.
LCP	Ah, yes. Seventy, seventy eight.
LMP	But the first three came in seventy-five and the others in seventy-eight. Three years later.
SK	Your father decided to stay here, so then life for him was better here than Medellín? And, for you as well?
LCP:	Yes.
LMP:	Well, at the beginning, it was hard. Because change is hard, and all that. But after,
[17:03] LMP	[interrupts] mm. It was great. The best inheritance that dad could have left us.
LCP	It is the truth because Colombia is a very beautiful country and everything, but you cannot cover the sun with your finger. The problems there are not only related to work conditions, because the jobs pay very little and there is job insecurity in Colombia. And even in the time we lived there, there was not as much insecurity as there is now. But, it was starting to get bad. When dad arrived he saw that here it was much better, he earned so much more money.
[17:33] LCP	There were more job and educational opportunities here and everything. That's why he decided to bring the whole family.
SK	And how was work in Medellín compared to here, if he ever shared this with you, about the contracts? Because in Colombia, as I understand it, the contracts are for multiple years and they offer benefits, and then retirement plans.
[18:03] SK	Was it the same here or not?
LCP [18:33]	This is a very different situation. In other words, the whole way these contracts and jobs are handled in Colombia is very different from here. In Colombia, there are benefits, there are retirement plans, there are bonuses that they give and all that. Here, very few companies handle contracts that way, they way of paying the workers.

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LCP	It's very different here compared to Colombia
SK	Then, about the contracts here, are they annual or,?
LCP	No.
LMP	No, no, no.
LCP	Here one comes and remains directly linked with the company.
LMP	Yes, of course, and you stay with the company as long as you want to stay.
LCP:	There are people who have worked in the same company twenty, thirty years. I mean a lot of time.
LMP:	Well, even though there were lots of benefits in Colombia and it was easy for dad, he saw that it was better to raise the whole family here than to raise it with the little salary he earned in Colombia.
[19:03] LMP	So it was better for him to stay here, and bring us all here
SK	And then, in the eighties, Medellín entered into a phase of violence.
LMP	[interrupts] of violence. It's a good thing that violence did not touch us.
SK	Yes.
LCP	Yes.
SK	And, the sibling who came later, the one who came in the eighties, did he also work in textiles?
MP	No.
LMP	No.
LCP	No.
MP	Only us.

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LMP [19:33]	Oh, well, yeah. A sister came, Patricia, who now lives in Arizona. She also worked in textiles.
LCP	Ah, yes, yes.
SK	And she came later?
LMP	Yes, she came later.
LCP	She arrived in seventy-eight.
LMP	Seventy-eight.
SK	And for how long did she work?
MP	I believe she didn't work much.
LCP	Yes, she worked for many years.
LMP:	She worked around five, yes.
LCP	Yes, she worked about five years. Did she work at the Monagan?
LMP	Ah, yes she worked at the Monagan.
LCP	At the Monagan, yes.
LMP	[to Luis Carlos] And while you were working, you studied, right?
LCP	Yes, I was studying.
SK	And did the girls study too, or not?
MP:	No, I took a lot of English classes,
[20:03] LMP	But not at that time, no.
MP	Yes.



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LMP	At that time [while we worked]?
MP	Ah, no! Yes, not at that time.
LMP	No, she is saying at that time. In that time we did not work. You see, we did not study because we were not able to. We were so young and the work was so hard that as soon as we arrived home, we went to sleep. And since he was still a child, he was able to. We had already finished high school in Colombia. We had already arrived with our high school degree, right? And at that time, one wouldn't see the need to attend school because everyone was all about working.
[20:33] MP	You worked and worked.
LMP	Everyone – work, work, work – and nobody thought: “I am going to study.” Mhm, not at all. In that time, you did not see the need to. We came to help dad
MP	With the goal of helping him bring the whole family here.
LMP	Yes, mmm. Mmhm.
LCP	And, in my case, I was studying. I was in the eleventh grade and one day my dad arrived and said: "You start working on Saturday". Oh! [pauses with laughter]. And I believe I had just turned 17.
[21.03] LCP	“You start working this Saturday.” Ah, no! I think it was that same day that he said “Come here, you start working today.” I remember it quite well. I asked: “Where will I work?” "In the factory." And I arrived as an assistant, in what? in a little machine that cleaned the bobbins, and around two or three weeks later they sent me upstairs to sweep.
LMP	Ah, we arrived in October, at the end of October and in November we were already working
LCP	Well, they arrived on October 18 and in November they were already working.
LMP	We were working.
MP	We were working, yes.

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LMP	He had already spoken for us there and found jobs for us
[21:33] SK	And did you have time for a social life?
LMP	Yes.
MP	Yes, of course.
LMP	On weekends. On weekends we gathered with the few friends we had.
MP	We often got together at our home. All the women would be in the kitchen, cooking, and the men were in the living room drinking little beers.
LMP	Yes, drinking little beers and yes, we, cooking.
LCP	Listening to music
LMP	Yes, listening to old dear music. Dancing.
LCP	I was the DJ. [laughs]
LMP	[laughs]
MP	Yes, but it was a very nice time.
LMP	Ah, yes, very nice.
[22:03] MP	Very nice community.
LMP	The few of us who were here were very close. If someone was in trouble, we helped each other as we could.
LCP	For me, in particular, it was difficult. Because I when I came from Colombia, a boy of fourteen, accustomed to Colombia with my friends. And when I got here, I had no English proficiency at all. I did not have any friends, no boys my age. I mean, the first months for me were very, very hard.
[22:33]	

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LCP	And they know it. I was always seeking attention. I was doing silly things to get everyone's attention,
LMP	To get the family's attention
LCP:	Because let's say I started studying. Immediately after arriving, I began to go to school. And, I did not see them [family]until the weekend.
LMP:	Practically.
LCP:	Because I would go to school at seven thirty, seven in the morning I would leave to school, and they worked the second shift and left at two in the afternoon, to start working at three. When I arrived from school at three, three thirty in the afternoon, I was alone. They had already gone to work.
[23:03] LCP	When they arrived from work at two-thirty AM, I was already asleep.
MP	I have a very nice anecdote with dad. Just here, I had a very big accident. We both had a very big accident. A lady who failed to stop at a red light and almost killed us. So dad, and everyone at work asked: "How are you?" And asked dad "is she better?" But dad understood that they were going to send me a hat.
LMP	[laughs]
MP	And my dad told me: my daughter, they are going to send you a hat. [laughs and smile]
LMP	[laughs]
LCP	[laughs]
[23:33] MP	And I waited for that hat, but what they said was: "She's better. She's feeling better, "and he understood "hat." [laughter]
LMP	[laughter]
LCP	[laughter]

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MP	And I expected that hat.
LCP	Another, another anecdote. There was a gentleman here. I'm not going to mention names, he was a Colombian gentleman. And he was the interpreter in quotation marks of the Colombians here. Then he, when someone had an errand to make, then he would help. And one day they went to K-mart I think, the main store at that time here, where everyone went shopping. And a girl who was one of the clerks, came and asked: "Can I help you?"
[24:03] LCP	And the man interpreting says: "See, she's calling you "canepiu". "No, sir, my name is XYZ. [Laughs] Another time was at the factory, and the supervisor came and they said to someone, "Hey, I need you. Come here, I need you" and one man asks the interpreter, what is this man telling me? "eh come here I need you okay I need you" and the interpreter says ah, he lost a ring. I mean, it was all like that
LMP Y MP [24:33] LCP	[laughs] And the other fellow looking for the ring everywhere. Then the supervisor [gestures his hands over his head] gets mad and leaves.
LMP	Clearly, there are so many anecdotes, like for example here people say hello this way [shows right hand moving fingers up and down], but in Colombia they don't, So, when the supervisor came by the machines and waved like that we immediately followed him to his office thinking that he was calling us.
MP	to the office
LMP	When, when we got there he says ... "what's going on with you?"
MP [25:03] LCP	And we had to return. Because in Colombia they call you with one hand like this (shows the same gesture as before). Here they call you with a different gesture like this [shows a different hand movement]
LMP	And he greeted like that. He passed by and greeted one like that.
LCP	More ... that
LCP	They are different customs, in short

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LMP	Yes
MP	But they were very nice experiences in textiles, we have very nice memories of our co-workers ummm as well as of the Colombians. Those were wonderful times.
SK	Did you stay within the group of Colombians?
LCP	(nods)
LMP	Oh yeah
MP	Oh yes, the friendship still continues. We are still in touch and it is a friendship ...
[25:33] MP	... we are like a family
LCP	Yes. Because they were, they were ... we were, how many families? 20 families? Or something like that, more or less.
MP	At the beginning we were less than twenty
LCP	We were less, yes.
MP	Yes, but at the beginning we were very few.
LCP	But it was very was, we were very close. Everyone, we all helped each other.
MP	We would get together every week.
LCP	And there was a little party ... a little dance here ... and one met ... in the summer we always went out with the family ...
[26:03] LCP	We went to the lakes
MP	For Carowinds, for Six Flags.
LCP	And it was always a group and we were all together.
SK	And the connection with Medellín was then lost? Or...

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LCP	No
SK	Or say, was there family left there?
LMP	Oh sure yes
SK	So you were able to return when you were young? Could...
LMP	Sure yes
SK	During vacations.
LMP	Yeah sure
SK	For
LCP	Let's say that shortly after arriving, Luz María went back to Colombia and got married.
SK	Yes.
LMP	with the boyfriend I left there ...
LCP	That, that.
SK	Yes
[26:33] LCP	Eh, I didn't go back to Colombia for sixteen years.. I arrived in '75 and did not return until '91, and I went to get married.
SK	Any other comments about comparisons with the textile industry or observations ... that you may remember from your father
LCP	(Sighs)
SK	of what he lived there, what he lived here ...

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LMP	No, we do not remember much because we were very young ...
SK	Very young
MP	Very young
[27:03]	
LCP	[Nods]
LMP	The only thing one remembers is that he would arrive as tired here as he did in Colombia because he also had to work very hard there.
LCP	He, the time he worked there, we lived in one area called La estrella and he worked in Bello, which was all in the other end of Medellin. Then our grandmother, his mother, lived in Bello. So, he stayed at the grandmother's house during the week, and went to our house on weekends.
[27:33]	
LCP	... and he arrived so tired that very little was said, what ...
LMP	And we being so young, he was not going to talk ...
LCP	[Gesturing)] [inaudible]
LMP	... about work, or of something.
LCP	Yes (Gesture)
MP	Yes, (inaudible
LMP	He talked to us, played with us but didn't talk about his job.
LCP	[agrees]
MP	He didn't share anything about his job with us

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LCP	Right, not about that
LMP	Because we were very young, we could not tell the difference
SK	Right
LMP	Other people, older people perhaps could
SK	But from whatever little information you gathered, perhaps when he moved to Pennsylvania
[28:03] SK	Did he have a good situation there?
LMP	Yes I believe he worked
LCP	He worked well there, there was a time when he had job problems...well, he got sick. I remember he had appendicitis.
MP	He had appendicitis surgery.
LCP	Appendicitis surgery. He was off for a while. There was a family who gave him a lot of support. Mr. Saúl Restrepo. The family of a friend of his, Saúl Restrepo, they were one of the families who migrated here [to SC] and invited him to come.
[28:33] SK	And did your mom get involved in textiles?
LMP	No, no
MP	No
LMP	She didn't



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LMP	When she arrived here she was older, and she worked, but in
LCP and LMP	Sewing
LMP	But not in textiles
LCP	Not textiles
MP	No ... [inaudible]
LMP	Only four siblings and my dad were in textiles. None else.
SK	And having been involved in textiles, was it helpful to you in getting into other job opportunities? Or was it simply an experience?
[29:03] SK	How do you see that time period from today's perspective?
MP	I see it as an experience
LMP	An experience, yes.
MP	Yes.
LMP	Yes.
MP	Yes
LMP	An experience
MP	A very different experience
SK	In order to survive

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LMP	To survive
LCP	[agrees]
SK	The first years
LMP	That
MP	Yes, that
LMP	A memorable time, but just an experience among others
SK	A time of hard work, but also of good earnings?
LMP	Absolutely.
MP	Yes
LCP	Yes
MP	Good earnings.
SK	Any other experience or anecdote that you might want to share?
LMP	About textiles?
SK	Yes, yes about textiles
SK	Especially, yes
LMP	Especially
LMP	It is hard work. Dreadfully hard.
[29:33]	
LMP	But, but it helped us anyway ... The money that we earned helped us to help dad so that he would bring the other relatives, right? To settle us all... yes a very big gain.

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SK	Very big
LCP	And let's say, from my perspective I had a couple of little sisters there who did all kinds of pranks ...
LMP	Oh we had a great time working there
LCP	Oh!
LMP	We did crazy things and everything.
LCP	They adored them in the factory. Because they were all very naughty.
[30:03] LCP	They all made jokes. Let's say, the levers to turn on the machines ... they lathered them, lathered then with grease. Then one was going to turn on the machine, and full of grease ... I was sweeping when that was ... there was cotton everywhere ... they made a ball with the cotton and some grease ... and I would be sweeping, and poof! a cotton ball in the head. They threw coils, they fell on my feet ... they were doing pranks all the time.
MP	We had to make the place fun, right? Because everything was work, work, work.
[30:33] LCP	The Americans were not used to that. So for them it was very strange. And they enjoyed it ... They enjoyed all the pranks that they did.
SK	And the co-workers were mostly white, black, or from other countries?
MP	White
LMP	White
LCP	White

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LMP	Whites, they were ...
MP	Everyone
LMP	There were yes (Inaudible)
LCP	Yes there were a few blacks
LMP	some
LCP	But yes
MP	Maybe two ...
LMP	If anything, there would be about three
MP	The majority were white
LMP	And they were all families there, who went to work
MP	the husband, the wife, the children
[31:03] LMP	Husband
LMP	So, entire families worked in that factory
MP	Only families
LMP	Only families
LCP	The owners of the company are Indians, natives here, "Native Americans" - the owners of the company - and it was a very family-oriented company, it was always ... focused on the family

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LMP	Very family-oriented
LCP	They helped each other a lot
LMP	always, yes
MP	At Christmas they would throw very nice parties to unite all families, so that we all knew each other.
SK	Which company was this?
LCP	Alice Manufacturing
MP	Alice
SK	Alice
LCP	Alice
LMP	(Inaudible)
SK	So the owners were Native Americans ...
LCP	Yes
MP	Yes, they were a very nice company, very nice with the employees, yes
LCP	And fortunately the last manufacturing plant, there were 5 plants , the last one closed right this summer ... well now at the beginning of the summer; three months ago...

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LMP	No, no ... not that long ago, because Alberto worked until, until this end of this month.
LCP	Oh, okay
LCP	.
LCP	That was The Ellison Plant, which was the last one that closed
SK	Ellison
LCP	Yes, her husband's cousin (Inaudible) worked there
SK	Ohhhh
LCP	they closed it very recently.
SK	And, no more are left?
LCP	No, not of that company, no.
[32:03]	
LMP	No...
SK	Something very interesting that I read was that at the end of the 60s, beginning of the 70s, when the Colombians arrived, the textile industry in Medellín was very strong
LMP and LCP	[all agree]
SK	But here it was starting to decline, and I found it quite interesting because ... to arrive at that juncture ... right?
LMP	Yes, for sure
LCP	inaudible

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[32:33] SK	When it was beginning to decline ... I'm trying to figure out, trying to figure out why ... well you mentioned that it was because there was not enough workforce
LCP	That is it.
SK	... due to wars.
LCP	That's it
SK	Any other ideas why life began to deteriorate here?
LCP	Because...
LMP	They also did not like that kind of hard work
MP	Because it was very hard work
LMP	It was hard work so there were not many people applying for those jobs ...
LCP	to those jobs ...
LMP	among the Americans
LCP	That, and another thing
[33:03] LCP	many of the companies began to flee to Central America, Mexico and let's say, starting in the 80s, from there on NAFTA was implemented. Later it had a lot to do with the decline of textile companies here and, but more than anything else, companies were looking for better huh....
SK	Cheaper labor?

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LCP	yes, cheaper labor because there was a lot of competition from, where is it? from the Middle East and India ...
[33:33] LCP	... and many countries started to export a lot, a lot of cloth to the United States. Then the companies looking for cheaper labor and all that, and they began to go there ...
LMP	But that was the last thing
LCP	Yes
LMP	Not at the beginning
LCP	No
LMP	Not at the beginning
LCP	During the time we worked there was a lot of work.
LMP	Lots of jobs
LCP	a lot (Inaudible)
SK	So, this situation was favorable to all of you?
LCP	Yes, of course, of course
LMP	It favored Hispanics a lot, a lot. That's why so many people started coming. The news spread everywhere. This place started to fill up here.
SK	So you didn't see any industry decline here ... on the contrary, you saw something quite strong



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LCP Y LMP	Right.
LMP	At least we did not experience that, but I think Dad did have a time when textile jobs were very bad, very bad ... When was that? We were told this happened when Mr. Henry came, it was bad.
LMP	And dad and others had a really bad time, but we didn't
LCP	But this was when he had just arrived in the US
SK	In the North
LCP	Yes,
LMP	Yes, yes
LCP	Yes
SK	Yes, because those northern textile mills had declined
LMP	Had declined
LCP	Yes
SK	They had to move south
LMP	That's it.
SK	Well, anything else?
LMP	No, nothing I can remember right now.
SK	Wonderful, well, thanks so much.

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LCP	Thankyou
LMP	Thankyou
MP	Thankyou
LMP	Many thanks to you guys.