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Cueramara, Guanajuato

Sara Victoria Lopez

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SARA VICTORIA LOPEZ, SAN GREGORIO, CUERAMARA, GUANAJUATO

When I was told to do an oral history project based on immigration I automatically thought my parents but I came across the fact that my family does not really have an interesting story. My story is that we came on a plane and they we stayed. My parent's story is very short. Therefore, I wanted to do my oral history project on someone who has a more interesting story than mine. I asked my aunt Cristina Ramirez Lopez if I could do her story and she agreed. I chose to interview her for my oral history project because she crossed the border. Her story is interesting and the way that she sees this experience. She sees the experience as an adventure that she would have thought she would never do. She sees herself as a brave person for doing what she did at the age she had at the time. Her story like any other persons is a brave one and I think that it should be told.

Cristina lived in a pueblo next to San Gregorio, Cuernavaca, Guanajuato. She was 18 years old when she was told that she was going to go to the United States with her sister. She was not given the time to think of what she was going to do. Her uncle in Chicago called her sister and told them that the next day two men were going to pick them up at Manuel Dolvado. They each packed a bag with canned food and water. In the journey they had to cross the Rio Grande River. There were three women, her sister, herself and a girl. The women were in the middle of a lodge and the men at the sides. After they crossed the river they walked across mountains for 3 days. They had to run, climb the fence, jump and hide in one minute. She was lucky to not get hurt while doing this, but the other girl that was traveling with them did. She was hurt in her hand. After jumping the fence they were taken to Austin, Texas. Here they were at an immigrant house. They found out that they were the only women in the palace therefore,

they had to help serve the men their food and help make the food as well. After Austin, Texas all of the people were taken to their destination in a van. Chicago was the last stop of the route. They left people in different places such as Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, etc. During the travel that took five days, they would only eat Burger King. Some people did not have money so others would share their food with them. Once they got to Chicago, they called their uncle so he would go and pick them up. Once they arrived to their final destination, she was able to start working in a supermarket, a Korean restaurant, and an American-Mexican restaurant. Recently, she got married. She works in the south side and gets paid well. Cristina told her story and stated that she saw it as an adventure. She still thinks of going back to Guanajuato in the future because she knows that her country is very beautiful.

I never thought of asking my aunt or anyone how they came to the United States because I thought that most of my family came to the United States like I did on a plane. I came to realize that this is not the case. During my oral history project I came to learn how my aunt came to the United States and that she was very brave to do what she had done. As I was hearing her tell her story I thought of how many people are out there that have not told their stories or have been asked by their family members. It made me realize how important it is to tell the story because you see what they have gone through to get to where they are. You also see how brave they are to cross.