## AG 07-23-07 Interview with Desiree Corona

Date and Time: 23 July 2007, 2:45 p.m.

Desiree Corona works at Blarney Bros and when the manager left for the day, she was left in charge. She is a Sandwich Artist and has been working there for about a year and during that time has been promoted to not only making sandwiches, but also brewing coffee for her clientele of "hungry people." She has noticed that some people order certain things because they're watching their health, and some try to, but that is not the case most of the time.

Blarney Bros serves all of the locals, and Subway has not become a competitor. DC described the kinds of foods they serve as "great," and thinks they have a huge advantage because they're products are fresh. The produce is all local, and the rest comes once or twice per week from Klamath.

The owners, Jeff and Trena, create the menu with some employee input on what they think will sell. As far as profiling the various types of foods that a person is going to buy, "there's a handful" of regulars like people on break from the mill who come in an order the same thing every time. Other than that, they get about three vegetarians per week according to DC and she believes she can pick up on that.

Selling cigarettes is seen as an advantage to DC because so many people come in to buy them and then get their sandwiches out of convenience. She also thinks that without Blarney Bros, Lakeview would have "skimpy sandwiches, expensive cigarettes, and expensive booze."

Personally, DC likes Power Bars. She eats one every day in the mornings, but Safeway doesn't sell a good variety. She doesn't like the smell of cabbage, and therefore sauerkraut is her least favorite food. Usually, DC goes to Klamath for her food about once a month. While there she eats at Taco Bell with her friends.

In Lakeview, she likes that Blarney Bros has fresh food instead of frozen, that they have good portions, and you get your money's worth, but she complains that there is "nowhere to eat after 9 pm." So, for the most part DC buys her groceries at Safeway. She used to shop at Stewarts, but ever since the new manager took over, she claims that he doesn't like "locals."

T talked about how she lives on her own and plans to move to California within the next year. She has lived in quite a few other places, but somehow she "always comes back here."

When Allegra Gordon asked about family recipes DC did say there were some from her grandmother that she likes to make. An example was "Taco in the Round," kind of like a nacho dip. DC made it for her friends, and now they all get together and eat it every Friday.

When asked about how farmers and ranchers are doing in the community, DC said she has heard complaints about a draught, but it seemed like a lot of rain to her. She

doesn't really know much about how they're faring in the community or how elderly, low-income, and disabled people in the community get their food, but she does know that the Senior Center has a vehicle with hot meals that they serve to the disabled.

Most businesses get their food from Klamath Falls and don't eat local food.

Before working at Blarney Bros, DC worked in a motel, and from that experience she came across a big demand for organic food that isn't met in Lakeview. She wouldn't mind cutting down on burger places herself.

In 20 years, hoping not to be in Lakeview herself, DC also hopes no more franchises will move in. She claims they are overrated. She has noticed the building of a lot of housing, planning for expansion, but she's not sure if local businesses or franchises are in the future.