

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Jose L. Martinez

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
& Illinois State Museum

Oral History of Illinois Agriculture project

Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-042

Jose L. Martinez, a Mexican migrant worker employed by Eckert's Orchard in Belleville, Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's and IL State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: July 31, 2008 Location: Eckert's Orchards, Belleville, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Mark Suszko and Greg Lipe, IL Information Service

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: _____

Video Indexed by: _____

Total Pages: 7 Total Time: 11 minutes

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 9/17/2008.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Jose L. Martinez, *Oral History of IL Agriculture*, AIS-V-L-2008-042

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Jose L. Martinez was born on June 20, 1963, in the State of Guanajuato in Mexico. Jose completed six years of schooling, but opportunities for work in his area were very limited. He first came to the United States around 1986 in search of work. He traveled to North Carolina and soon found work picking tobacco and cucumbers. He returned to Mexico during the off season, but continued to come to the United States for agricultural work. Jose began working for Eckert's Orchards in Belleville, Illinois in 1994. He typically spent eight months in the United States, generally from March to October, and the rest of the year in Mexico. His wife and children live in Mexico. He plans on retiring in Mexico, and anticipates his family will remain in Mexico.

Topics Covered: Migrant work in the United States; peach and apple picking; doctor visits; family life in America

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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