

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Martin Mauricio

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
& Illinois State Museum's
Oral History of Illinois Agriculture project

Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-041

Martin Mauricio, manager for the migrant labor force at Eckert's Orchard in Belleville, Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's and Illinois State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: July 31, 2008 Location: Eckert's Orchard, 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: Ann Countryman, ALPL Volunteer and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 16 Total Time: 33 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.

© 2008 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Martin Mauricio, *Oral History of IL Agriculture*, AIS-V-L-2008-041

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Martin Mauricio was born on December 18, 1971 in the State of Michoacan in Mexico. He finished eight years of schooling in Mexico, but due to the weak local economy, he went to Texas in 1989 on his uncle's advice, but against his father's desire. He obtained work harvesting Christmas trees. In December of 1990 he began working for Eckert's Orchards in Belleville, Illinois, trimming peach trees. He returned to Mexico each year for the next several years, spending seven months in the United States, and five in Mexico. He started the citizenship naturalization process in 1999, and also was married that year. It was at that time that the Eckert family asked him to manage their migrant workers. It was then that he also became involved with recruiting the farm's labor force.

Martin became a U.S. citizen in 2004, and at the same time opened his own business in Belleville, starting with a grocery store, and a Mexican restaurant that caters to American customers. Martin now lives in Mascoutah, Illinois with his wife and children, who attend local schools. His parents live close by.

Topics Covered: Migrant work in the United States; peach and apple picking; American immigration policies; American citizenship process; recruiting migrant labor force; H-2A visas; housing for migrant labor force; starting a small business 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.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955