

Guillermo Gonzalez Oral History

By

Cristina M. Gonzalez

Spring 2010

Dr. Russell Skowronek

Star County, Rio Grande City, Texas

Porcion & Oral History Project
University of Texas Pan American
Community Historical Archaeology Program for the
Schools (**CHAPS**)

This oral history was conducted between me and my father Guillermo Gonzalez. He has lived in what is today the Rio Grande Valley for the majority of his life. It was really interesting interviewing him and as I usually am when he tells me stories about his life, it was very interesting and made me wish that my grandfather or his brothers were still alive to tell me even more. Unfortunately, as interesting as my father's stories are, most of them are all hearsay. All of the men and women in my family who were raised on the ranch or who had spent any time there at all have already died. My father did spend the majority of his life spending summers at the ranch and helping out my grandfather with all the chores.

I have been hearing stories from my father for as long as I can remember. He loved that time in his life where he was working hard the way his father and his father's father and so on and so forth worked. Every time we went to Rio Grande city to visit family I would hear stories about how everything is so different now than it was before. He would make remarks on what business were or weren't there just twenty to thirty years ago. Just visiting the city you can visibly see the changes from the older architecture in the middle of town and the old homes to the out skirts where there are now restaurants and a movie theater where there was once open country land. The population has even grown. On my last trip to Rio Grande city I noticed the new high school, which from the highway looks to be the size of the STC, South Texas Collage, campus in McAllen. Even when my grandfather, Gilberto Gonzalez, was alive he would always tell stories about the ranch life and knew so much about cattle and the way things were.

I interviewed my father at home on the evening of Wednesday, May 12, 2010. If I did anything different it would have been to record the interview and all the stories that he would tell me. There is so much history in my family that even after this project is over, I will still be researching and learning more about my family history.