Interviewer: Benjamin Treutler

## **INTERVIEW AND TAPE SUMMARY**

Name:

Henry Ybarra

Date and Place of Birth: 2125/01 in Granite City, IL

Address:

Telephone Number

Interview Date, Time, and Place: 11/14/01 at 8pm at the above address

Interview Summary (attach additional sheets, as needed):

Henry talked about his life especially growing of in Lincoln Maces Henry also talked about his extended family in Mexico and his trips to Mexico. Henry spends most of the interview going through a box of pictures while he describes them. This Was done as a way to stimulate some new information.

Note any special circumstances involving the interview:

There is a lot of noise on the tape from a TV in the hext room. The house is very small and sound travels.

## Benjamin Treutler 11/26/01

Henry Ybarra was born on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 1961 in Granite City, IL, and except for a brief period when he was first married, he has not left his neighborhood of Lincoln Place since. Henry is the youngest of his father's eight children, all of whom grew up in Lincoln Place. It is a strong sense of family that has kept Henry in the neighborhood, as his mother lives across the street and his brother lives in the house behind her.

Henry's strong sense of family started when he was a young child. Henry's father's older children were like parents to Henry and his two siblings. He also began taking yearly trips with his family to Mexico to visit members of his extended family on both his mother and his father's side. With so many cousins, it would be easy to think that Henry could feel overwhelmed and would want to branch off on his own. However, that is just not the case. In fact, Henry seems to thrive on his sense of belonging in such a large family.

Henry also enjoys his sense of belonging in his neighborhood of Lincoln Place. Having lived there his entire life, Henry feels pride in his neighborhood, even if it has changed a lot since he was growing up. Like his brother, Luis, Henry thinks that the neighborhood could be improved, but the neighborhood's decline is not going to keep him from living there.

Like his brother, Henry has held one major job for his entire adulthood. Henry got a job at Prairie Farms Dairy shortly before he was married. Henry still works there, but is not longer married. The marriage did produce one daughter, Stephanie, who is very close to her father.

If having and keeping a strong sense of family is the definition of the American Dream, then Henry has fulfilled it. While he might not be the most wealthy, or own the most things, he is very happy in his situation of being so close to his entire family, both literally and figuratively.