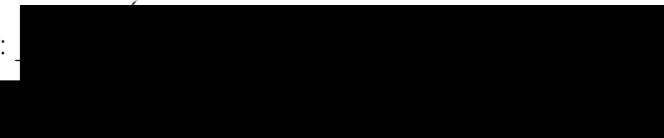


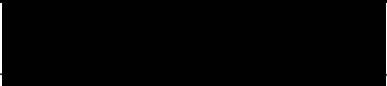
Interviewer: EMILY COFFIN

INTERVIEW AND TAPE SUMMARY

Name: LINDA HERNANDEZ GARCIA

Date and Place of Birth: ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Address: 

Telephone Number: 

Interview Date, Time, and Place:
10/31/2001 3:00 P.M. AT MRS. GARCIA'S HOME

Interview Summary (attach additional sheets, as needed):

Mrs Garcia grew up in a poor household, without a father. Her mother suffered from epilepsy. Linda, the youngest of three girls, had a special 'gift' to her mother when her mother was having a seizure. She worked to help her mother support the family. Later she married; they divorced. She worked as a nurse's aide to support her own family.

Note any special circumstances involving the interview:

There was a toddler sleeping in the adjacent room with a television playing.
Her son stopped by to borrow toothpicks.
Her granddaughter came by and sat in the living room during the final 30 minutes of the interview.

Garcia

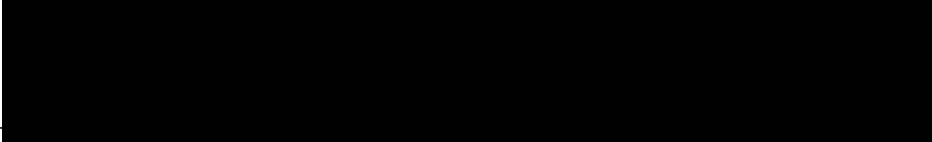
Lincoln Place Oral History Project
Dept. of Historical Studies, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

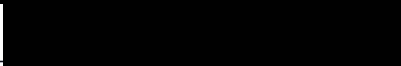
Biographical Information and Family History

Current Information

Full Name: Garcia Linda J
Last First Middle

Maiden Name: Hernandez

Current Address: 

Telephone Number: (home)  (work)

Best time/way to reach: anytime

Family History

Years/dates lived in Lincoln Place: 67 yrs.

Address(es) in Lincoln Place: 926 Reid.

Date and Place of Birth: April 13-1932

Current Marital Status:
single [] married [] divorced [] widowed []

Spouse's name and place of birth: _____

Mother's name and place of birth (if known): _____

Father's name and place of birth (if known): _____

Children's names: _____

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

(Based on an interview of Linda Hernandez Garcia, by Emily Coffin, October 31, 2001)

Sixty-nine year old Linda Hernandez Garcia has resided in Lincoln Place since she was 3 years old. Linda's parents, both of Mexican descent, spoke no English. They moved to Lincoln Place from St. Louis, Missouri in the mid-1930's because there were other Mexican families living in the neighborhood and Mr. Hernandez wanted to find a place where there was affordable living accommodations and better employment opportunities.

Ms. Garcia considers her life to be good, but uneventful. She recalls that people of all nationalities lived in Lincoln Place. In spite of the differences between the ethnic groups, people got along well together. Everyone was poor and they worked hard. Neighbors were always willing to help each other in times of need. People felt safe and secure.

To the contrary, her childhood may not have been very exciting compared to other residents of Lincoln Place, but it was eventful in a tragic and depressed sort of way. Her earliest memories are laced with tragedy. Her father was shot and killed at an amusement park at Chain-of-Rocks when she was 3 years old. Consequently, Linda's mother was left alone to support three daughters and a son. A year later, her brother drowned in a whirlpool in the Mississippi River. Her mother, who had epilepsy, operated a boarding house, cooked meals and did ironing to provide for her family. The children helped by delivering lunches to the men who worked at American Steel Company.

Garcia enjoyed few pleasures of the time. The isolation she experienced in part was because her family was poor. In addition, her mother sheltered Linda and her sisters and would not allow them to go to dances. Even as a young adult, the girls were unable to go on dates or to the movies unless they did it behind their mother's back.

Her memories of the good times include going to the carnival and listening to the St. Louis Browns baseball games. Also, she tells about riding the trolley to St. Louis to visit her godfather and his family.

Linda attended grade school sporadically. She could sense the onset of her mother's epileptic seizures and would bolt out of school and run home. By the time Linda had advanced to junior high school her mother was able to take prescription drugs to lessen the seizures. Linda attended high school in the mornings and worked 2 part-time jobs, as a sale clerk at Glik's in the afternoons and as a dishwasher at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in the evenings. Upon graduation, she took a secretarial job at the Granite City Army Depot. However, she did not care for office work so she returned to the hospital, where she later became a nurse's aide.

Linda was relatively old when she married a GI stationed at the army depot. The marriage didn't work out and Linda, like her mother before her, was left alone to support her 3 daughters and 2 sons. She, too, experienced the loss of a teenaged son. And despite all the hardships, Linda sees Lincoln Place as a good place to live and raise a family.

Linda Garcia a proud woman. She learned at an early age that hard work, honesty and a caring for others are important to survival. She is well known throughout the community by the good deeds she has done for people in need. She is proud of her children and their successes. She admits that she is poor. Her narrative, describing her life in Lincoln Place as 'comfortable' leads to further questions about the expectations and opportunities for women, especially poor women, who lived in Lincoln Place during the mid to late 1900's.