

Interviewer: Lindsay Schmitz

INTERVIEW AND TAPE SUMMARY

Name: Norma Mendoza

Date and Place of Birth: Wilburn, Missouri

Address: 

Telephone Number: 

Interview Date, Time, and Place:
November 28, 2001 6:30 p.m. Edwardsville Public Library

Interview Summary (attach additional sheets, as needed):

- Mexican Honorary Commission
- Interaction between immigrant groups
- Community Center
- Food
- Games and Entertainment
- Women's work
- Army Depot
- Arranged marriages

Note any special circumstances involving the interview:

Biographical Summary of Norma Mendoza
Interviewed by Lindsay Schmitz
November 28, 2001

Maiden name?

Norma Mendoza was born in Wilburn, Missouri located in St. Louis County. In 1960 she married Rueben Mendoza. When the couple first married they lived in St. Louis County but in 1961 they moved to Lincoln Place, an immigrant neighborhood in Granite City, Illinois. Mendoza's husband, Rueben, was a Mexican immigrant whose family had immigrated to Lincoln Place to find work in the steel mills and other factories in the area. The couple lived in Lincoln Place for 5 years during which time they had 3 children. While Mendoza's family has lived in Missouri and the surrounding states for generations, she claims that she never felt like an outsider living in a community of immigrants. Further, she recalls the time she spent in Lincoln Place with a special fondness as she discussed the cohesiveness and sense of safety she felt while living there. Despite the fact that Mendoza and her husband lived only 5 years in Lincoln Place, the couple remains active in the Mexican Honorary Commission, a Mexican organization that began in the neighborhood. Mendoza and her family return to Lincoln Place often to attend fiestas and other celebrations sponsored by the Mexican Honorary Commission. Today, Norma Mendoza is a journalist working for the *Edwardsville Intelligencer*.

born in US