## TRANSCRIPT OF AN ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

## WITH

## ANTONIO MORALES

INTERVIEWER: GRANT MOOSBRUGGER

This interview was conducted as part of a series on the Mexican American in Minnesota.

Antonio Morales, was born in San Antonio, Texas in 1934. He moved to Minnesota with his family when he was thirteen years old. They settled in the Blooming Prairie area. Mr. Morales married Genevive Ramirez in 1952. They have eight children.

Mr. Morales works transporting goods across the country, for various companies, in his truck. He speaks, in the interview, about various experiences in his life. He stresses harmony with other people.

This is a transcript of a tape-recorded interview edited to aid in clarity and ease of comprehension for the reader. The original tape recording is available in the Audio-Visual Library of the Minnesota Historical Society.

## INTERVIEW WITH ANTONIO MORALES

July 15, 1976

Moosbrugger: This is Grant Moosbrugger, I'm interviewing Mr. Tony (Antonio) Morales,

in Blooming Prarie, Minnesota, on July 15th, 1976 for the Minnesota

Historical Society's Mexican American History Project. Do I have your

permission to interview you for the Minnesota Historical Society?

Morales: You most certainly do.

Moosbrugger: What is your complete name? When and where were you born?

Morales: My name is Antonio Morales. I was born in San Antonio, Texas on October 13,

1934.

Moosbrugger: Who were your parents?

Morales: They were from San Antonio, too. They've both passed away now.

Moosbrugger: What was your father's name and your mother's maiden name?

Morales: My father's name was Antonio Morales, Senior. My mother's maiden name was

Maria Alcazar.

Moosbrugger: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Morales: Nine. Four brothers and four sisters.

Moosbrugger: Were some of them older than you?

Morales: Yes. There's three older than I am; two sisters and a brother.

Moosbrugger: Do you recall where they're all living? Are they all living?

Morales: All except my oldest brother. He passed away last year.

Moosbrugger: Where are those who are alive, living?

Morales: My oldest brother was living in Mason City, Iowa; my second oldest sister

lives in San Antonio, Texas. My other sister lives in Waseca, Minnesota.

Moosbrugger: What's her married name?

Morales: She married Don Morris.

Moosbrugger: Who comes next?

Morales: I do. Then I have another sister next to me. Her name is Mrs. John Clanzy.

Moosbrugger: Where do they live?

Morales: They live in Tracy, Minnesota. Then my brother Jose Morales, lives in

Phoenix, Arizona. I have another brother named Gregorio Morales. He

lives in San Antonio, Texas. I have a sister, whose name is Socorro Carlson.

They live in Minneapolis. My youngest brother is named Martin Morales.

He also lives in Minneapolis.

Moosbrugger: When did you come up from San Antonio?

Morales: 1947.

Moosbrugger: You were born in 1934, so you were thirteen years old when you came here.

Did you come up with your whole family?

Morales: Yes.

Moosbrugger: Did your whole family settle here for a time in Minnesota?

Morales: Well, we settled here the following year, in 1948. Some got married.

Moosbrugger: Then some of your brothers and sisters moved back to Texas after a time?

Morales: No. They all stayed here. All except the ones that moved to different

places after they got married. But they all lived around here.

Moosbrugger: Did your parents pass away here in Minnesota?

Morales: My father passed away last year and my mother passed away eight years ago.

They both passed away here in Minnesota.

Moosbrugger: But they spent the rest of their lives in Minnesota?

Morales: Yes. They are both buried here in town.

Moosbrugger: I see. Did you get some of your schooling here in Minnesota, or mostly

in Texas?

Morales: No. I never went to school.

Moosbrugger: What were your employment experiences once you came up to Minnesota?

What different kinds of work did you learn?

Morales: Well, the only work we ever did was field work. We did sugar beets. We

did potato harvesting; onions; and all kinds of vegetables: like peas

and corn, that stuff.

Moosbrugger: Yes, but you are not working in that area now, so you must have done

other jobs after that?

Morales: Well, yes. Then I did trucking.

Moosbrugger: How old were you when you started getting involved with mechanics and

trucking?

Morales: I was twenty years old.

Moosbrugger: You are married and have how many children?

Morales: I have eight children.

Moosbrugger: When did you get married? Who did you marry?

Morales: In 1952, I married Genevive Ramirez.

Moosbrugger: Is she from around Blooming Prarie?

Morales: No. She originally came from Eagle Pass, Texas.

Moosbrugger: But she moved up here and you met her here?

Morales: Yes.

Moosbrugger: Will you tell us the names of your children, and if any are married?

Morales: Well, the oldest one is Antonio, too. He is married. He is twenty-one

years old. Then I have a daughter that is still at home. Her name is

Angela. Hector was my third boy, and I lost him last summer. He was

eighteen years old when he passed away. Mary Helen is still at home, and

David; Michael; Patty; and Becky, are all at home.

Moosbrugger: Any grandchildren?

Morales: Yes, I have one.

Moosbrugger: What is his name?

Morales: His name is also Antonio.

Moosbrugger: How old is he?

Morales: He is going to be six months old.

Moosbrugger: Do you belong to any organizations, clubs, civic groups, religious groups,

or unions?

Morales: No. The only thing that I belong to is the American Driver's Association,

Midwest Driver's Association and to the American Independence Trucking

Association.

Moosbrugger: You drive on the road now?

Morales: Yes.

Moosbrugger: You are on the road and working a lot of the time?

Morales: Right.

Moosbrugger: Could you tell us about your cross-country, on the road travel? About

how many states do you get into when you travel?

Morales: Well, with this particular trip that I'm making, I'm going across eight

states. I have five days. I have been in forty-eight states since I've

been in the trucking business. I drive approximately one hundred twenty-

thousand miles a year. It keeps me away from home a lot.

Moosbrugger: Do you have your own truck?

Morales: Yes, I do.

Moosbrugger: Then you haul for different companies? Who do you haul for now?

Morelas: Well, I have a permenant lease with Produce Carriers, out of Austin.

Moosbrugger: So it's primarily hauling meat at this time?

Morales: Yes. That's what I have been doing for the last six months.

Moosbrugger: You hauled other things?

Morales: Yes. I used to haul building materials.

Moosbrugger: Do you see yourself staying in cross-country trucking?

Morales: No. I'm getting tired of it. I don't think I want to do that anymore.

Moosbrugger: Could you stay in some form or phase of trucking, but not just in the

long runs?

Morales: Yes. Every once in a while, trucking.

Moosbrugger: You have a beautiful home here; a nice big family. You have been able to

provide for them. It's probable been pretty good. Is trucking pretty

Moosbrugger: lucrative, can you still make pretty good money? Or is it getting tougher:

Morales: Well, it's getting tougher. I think things are bound to change. It looks good for the future. They changed for the first time in history. They finally let the trucking industry have hearings up in Washington. It looks very successful. I'm looking forward to the next couple of years.

Moosbrugger: Good. Has your Mexican heritage played an important part in your family life? Or do you try to see if it can play a part in the family life of your own children? For instance, do you have any Mexican meals, or anything for sharing the Mexican heritage with your own children?

Morales: Well, yes. We always eat the way we were raised. We still carry that tradition in our family. We eat tacos, enchiladas, and tamales every Christmas. We probably eat the same, because we were raised that way.

Moosbrugger: Does anyone ever use the Mexican (Spanish) language in the home? Or is it all English?

Morales: It's all English, except my wife, my mother-in-law, and I. We use Spanish quite a bit.

Moosbrugger: Have the kids picked up any Spanish?

Morales: Yes. But they don't know how to pronounce the words right. They tease each other about it. They say something in Spanish, they think they don't pronounce the words right, they don't understand it, but still they pick on each other about it.

Moosbrugger: Do you celebrate any national festivals, like the fifteenth, or sixteenth of September, or the fifth of May, any of those fiestas?

Morales: No. We used to, but not anymore. I really haven't been that involved in any such thing, for at least ten years.

Moosbrugger: Do you ever make trips back to Mexico? Either you or your wife, or along with the children?

Morales: No. We always went to Texas. We'd go to the border, but that was as far as we'd go.

Moosbrugger: The kids got to go along though, and visit relatives?

Morales: Yes. We always took the family along.

Moosbrugger: Do your children seem to show any interest in their Mexican heritage? Do you think they might take off some day and decide to learn more about it?

Morales: Well, I think out of the eight children we have, just one of the girls has a real interest in it. But the rest of the boys don't seem to have any interest.

Moosbrugger: They haven't shown that much interest?

Morales: No, they don't show any interest.

Moosbrugger: Do you, or your wife, have any philosophies that you may have picked up at home? Or that you've used in raising your children, which may be influenced by Mexican heritage? Perhaps values, such as loyalty, or respect for parents? Something which may be a little different from what other kids learn around here?

Morales: Well, the kids have really changed, compared to the way we were raised.

We always preach to them the way I want the house. I am the head of the house. On certain things, I do or don't approve. They seem to catch on to it. There's no problem when they go along with it.

Moosbrugger: Have you had any experiences, that you can think of with any discrimination in work, social life, education or jobs?

Morales: No. I can't think of any discrimination experience. Not on my job. It's just the way I was producing my job. They always respect me for that. I always felt this way, through the years, I've had an awful lot of Mexican people bring this up, like Angel Garcia. When I see him, he always seems like he has this ship on his shoulders about something. But that wasn't

Morales:

the way he looked at it. I proved that to him a lot of times. Of course, he's older than I am. He probably doesn't look at things that way. But there has never been any discrimination as far as my job is concerned. As many years as I have lived here, I have found very little discrimination in town. I know that some guy came in here, he had probably been living here about ten years. He had a ship on his shoulder about the Mexican people. He tried it, but, I'm not the type of guy that likes to sit down and take that.

Moosbrugger: So it hasn't been any big problem?

Morales: No, no.

Moosbrugger: The kids seem happy and well-adjusted at school?

Morales: Yes. They are really happy. They get treated just like anybody else. I can't say anything. I'm aware of this and they are too, probably that's why I'm not having any problems. I'm awfully outspoken when it comes to that. We don't bother anybody. My wife plays a big part in the decisions

of the town.

Moosbrugger: What does she do?

Morales: Well, she belongs to different organizations. She was involved in the church. She belongs to Southeastern Developing. She works for the Migrants Health, partly at the school.

Moosbrugger: She keeps active?

Morales: Yes, she sure does.

Moosbrugger: Have you tried to push your children in any one direction? For example, into one particular area of work? Or do you try to give them ideas or values that you hope they'll pick up and carry out in their adult lives?

Morales: Well, my belief has always been this way. We discuss different things, like what they want to do. Sometimes I don't agree with some of the

things, and their way of thinking. But, just like myself, my folks were

Morales:

against my trucking, and I have done fine. As far as I'm concerned, you can be successful in anything. You must really make up your mind what you want to do. Therefore, my kids can go to school, or whatever they want to do. It's just a good thing we have the money needed. down and say, "You do this." I'm always advising them about things that I've learned and about what I've seen.

You're going to leave it up to them? Moosbrugger:

Morales: Yes.

That's a very good policy. Well, thank you very much for the interview. Moosbrugger: Is there anything else you can think of that you would like to add? If you could stop and think that you might be talking to one of your greatgreat-grandchildren, eighty years from now, is there any thought that you

might want to leave with them, or hope for the future?

No, not really. I hope that they remember me just as I was. Morales:

Thank you Okay. It sounds good. Thank you very much. Moosbrugger: