

4/EL MALCRIADO
and I would go get the money. I went to the Westside, to a Filipino who had a store and borrowed the money. I hurried back to the hospital and found the Filipino brother sitting in the same place in the waiting room where I had left. He was dead.

--Nick Yap

"Before the war we, the Filipinos, could not marry white women here in California, and we couldn't bring our women over with us. This is why today so many Filipinos are old with no family and no home.

"I, myself, fell in love with a white woman here and we decided to get married. When we went to get the marriage license

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Through Our Eyes

we were told that we could not get married. Some of my friends told me that in New Mexico they married Caucasians and non-Caucasians, so I took my bride to

Lordsburg and we were married. "But when we got back to California I can still remember the anger and humiliation I felt when I would be walking with my

wife and some of the Anglos would say things to us like 'Hey, monkey', and "What are you doing with that white woman, you dirty Filp!"

"In those days we could not even buy a house or own land, and we couldn't become citizens. Here in the 'land of the free' we, the Filipinos, could not be free."

--Julian Balido

"Open racism and discrimination was very bad in the '30s and '40s. Discrimination in employment and housing and violations of Constitutional rights, like not being allowed in certain hotels or to buy homes or being cheated in hours and pay by the growers, and being harassed and beaten by the police and vigilantes, were common situations.

"But the worst and most disturbing thing of all is that discrimination and racism are still active. I received many calls in the middle of the night ordering me to stop the strike or something would happen to me or my family.

--Larry Iltong

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"One time a grower kept a \$70 check that belonged to me. When I asked him for it, he told me to get out of here. I needed the money and went to the police to get help. Instead of being helped I was arrested for slander or something like that, and the judge sent me to jail for six months.

"My youth is filled with memories of being run out of restaurants and hotels. Words such as 'get out, we don't want any dirty greasers around here' still echo in my mind.

"In Texas, they hate Mexican people more than they do colored. On the buses the Whites used to ride in the front and the Blacks in the back. I was thrown off a bus when I was 15 years old. They didn't let Mexicans ride at all."

--Roy Valdez

"When you work in the fields, prejudice and discrimination are always there with you. The ranchers feel they must show their authority, they are very rude and

EL MALCRIADO/5
ories I have is when we were training vines. There was a new worker from Mexico working close to where we were. Being new, he did not know how to tie the properly, but the foreman had not bothered to show him the right way. We were about halfway down the row when the grower came. He saw that the man was doing it wrong but instead of showing him how to do it, he became very mad. He turned bright red and rushed at the man. He hit the man on the side of the head, knocking him down. I'll never forget that.

"When we got the Seleneley contract I went to work there. I noticed a big difference there: instead of being separated like the growers have always tried to keep us, the different groups work together. The people try to help

Through Our Eyes

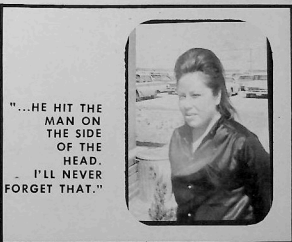
try to humiliate the workers.

"I grew up in the fields. In Fresno, some workers still live in tents, with no toilets and kerosene stoves to cook on, the same as when I was a child.

"One of the strongest mem-

one another. Before there was a lot of separation, but now because of the work and the philosophy of the Union, we realize that we are all brothers under the skin."

--Lily Alvarez



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