

**NEW MEXICO  
FARM & RANCH  
HERITAGE  
MUSEUM**

CONSULTANT: Dolores Archuleta

DATE OF BIRTH: March 4, 1933 GENDER: Female

DATE(S) OF INTERVIEW: June 12, 2000

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: NM Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, NM

INTERVIEWER: Jane O'Cain

SOURCE OF INTERVIEW: NMF&RHM\_\_x\_\_OTHER\_\_\_\_\_

TRANSCRIBED: Yes: June 13, 2000

NUMBER OF TAPES: One

ABTRACTOR: Jane O'Cain

DATE ABSTRATED: July 25, 2000

QUALITY OF RECORDING (SPECIFY): Good

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: Relates an incident that occurred when, as a child during World War II, her life intersected with those of the prisoners of war incarcerated in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

DATE RANGE: 1943 – 2000

**ABSTRACT (IMPORTANT TOPICS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):**

**TAPE ONE, SIDE A:**

The consultant was a child during World War II. She relates that in approximately 1943, outhouses were banned in Las Cruces. Consequently, her father built an indoor bathroom. She was very anxious to be able to take a bath in the new bathtub, as she hated taking baths in the “tin washtub.”

The consultant soon learned that “blond” prisoners of war were digging the trenches in which the city’s sewer and water lines were to be laid. Prior to learning this, her teachers had not discussed with her or the other children that prisoners of war were incarcerated a few blocks from their school, Holy Cross Catholic School.

The consultant continued to grow more anxious when daily she would find that the prisoners of war were not digging the trenches on her block. After her father failed to remedy the situation, Dolores went to city hall and met with the city manager. The very next day when she arrived home from school the prisoners of war were digging in front of her house! Although her father knew about her visit to city hall it was never discussed in her family.

**TAPE ONE, SIDE B:** Blank