

relate what my eyes saw. I'll never forget" (p. 129). And the author's father, crew chief Felix Lockman, reflected on the lifelong impact of losing a buddy in battle: "I learned one thing in the service: Never make fast friends, friends that are part of your life. . . . [My friend's death] hit me hard, so I made up my mind then that I'd have no friends that would upset me if they went" (p. 178). Interestingly, while the book's introduction makes extravagant claims for the patriotism and sacrifices of this presumed "greatest generation," narrators themselves more often spoke of duty and faith. Here's sailor Lou Neishloss: "There is one thing I would want younger generations to know about the war. If you have a certain duty to do and you do it, and everybody else follows suit and does the same thing, things will work out in the long run" (p. 102).

Good stories, however, don't necessarily make for good history. These individual accounts are not verified, contextualized, or interpreted. The author apparently made no effort to compare narrators' stories to their military service records or unit histories. Broader questions of significance are ignored: how, for example, did the experience of World War II shape a generation and hence the history of the postwar decades in Pennsylvania and the United States? One might argue that it is appropriate to leave it to readers to make of these stories what they will. The problem is that people often get their history wrong. Memories can mythologize the past; and stories of personal experiences, while often arousing genuine human empathy, don't necessarily deepen our understanding of the past.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

LINDA SHOPE

Espejos y Ventanas: Historias Orales de Trabajadores Agrícolas Mexicanos y Sus Familias/Mirrors and Windows: Oral Histories of Mexican Farmworkers and Their Families. Edited by MARK LYONS and AUGUST TARRIER. (Philadelphia: New City Community Press, 2004. 317p. Illustrations. In both Spanish and English. \$20.)

Making ends meet has always been difficult for poor Mexican farmers, and for many, immigration to the United States has offered an alternative that despite the danger seems worth the effort. In *Espejos y Ventanas*, Mark Lyons and August Tarrier relate the experience of Mexican immigrants in the context of their lives working on the mushroom farms in eastern Pennsylvania.

The book is composed of eighteen interviews with immigrants living and working on the farms around Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. These oral histories recall the subject's border crossing, work, and the adjustment to life in an Anglo-dominated society. The interviews reveal the untold stories of these unique individuals. Unique, because who but someone special would risk everything to

find a better way of life? Those who were complacent and satisfied with their position in life have stayed in Mexico. All the oral histories in the book speak to the courage and resiliency of those *mojados* who entered the United States in search of opportunity.

The stories in and of themselves are compelling. They describe the dangers of crossing the border, of depending on *coyotes* or guides who are interested only in the money. Most of the stories relate the loneliness and sadness of leaving family behind. Not surprisingly, many of the immigrants advise those who would think about immigrating north to reconsider because it is difficult and life in the north is not what it appears to be.

But there is more to these stories than hardship and perseverance. More important are the common themes in these narratives that are never directly stated, but are evident throughout. Indirectly these themes speak to the determination to better oneself with limited resources and opportunities. They speak to the optimism that tomorrow will be better and to the willingness to work hard for a just reward. Most important and evident in almost every interview is an unbending faith in God.

The interviews also reveal a nostalgia for Mexico, while at the same time a comfort in living in the United States. The stories stress the importance of community and family and the patriarchal nature of Latino families, in some cases for better in others for worse. Finally, the stories of second-generation Mexicans show how being raised in the United States contributed to the creation of a generation with a dual identity. Most of the children interviewed exhibit a strong Mexican identity yet are decidedly American in both culture and expression.

It is a pity that the majority of the Latino immigrants who would appreciate this book will in all probability never read it—they are too busy living their lives. And, anyway, they are all too familiar with the story. It will tell them nothing new. Nevertheless, it is invaluable to us because it is our story. It is the story of America and will remind us of things that we should not forget.

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LOUIS RODRIQUEZ

The Face of Decline: The Pennsylvania Anthracite Region in the Twentieth Century. By THOMAS DUBLIN and WALTER LICHT. (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2005. viii, 275p. Appendices, notes, selected bibliography, index. Cloth, \$65; paper, \$24.95.)

This important book examines the history of the anthracite coal industry of northeastern Pennsylvania from its origins in the eighteenth century through the peak period of World War I to its ultimate decline in the late twentieth century. Employing an impressive array of manuscript and published sources, carefully