

The Boomtown Chronicles: Reflections On a Changing California

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**Transcript: Interview with Antonio Borraio, Forman, Diane
Cooley Ranch, Watsonville 2004**

ANTONIO BORRAIO: I have been here for 17 years. I like here because nice weather, and because persons that I can deal with. I have a wife and two girls and two boys. I meet them after I came here. I came by myself here, and later I brought my wife and my children's born here.

RACHEL GOODMAN: What kind of change have you seen? What kind of changes? It has more people living here, yea. That's one big change?

RACHEL GOODMAN: How about housing?

ANTONIO BORRAIO: I have been lucky, because Mrs. Cooley provides housing.

RACHEL GOODMAN: How about the people you work with, do they have a hard time finding housing. **ANTONIO BORRAIO:** Yes, especially because the rent is too expensive.

ANTONIO BORRAIO: I like to work for the same person because she treats me right?

RACHEL GOODMAN: What are your hopes for your children?

ANTONIO BORRAIO: I would like them to be here, but sometimes it depends on how they do in school, and then they can afford to live here?

RACHEL GOODMAN: You come from Mexico, how has your feeling about your homeland changed?

ANTONIO BORRAIO: I used to have that thought about moving to Mexico, but if have the job and the housing available, but if that changed, I might have to go back to Mexico.

RACHEL GOODMAN: Do you still have ties?

ANTONIO BORRAIO: Very much, my brothers and mother and father.

RACHEL GOODMAN: Where do you come from?

ANTONIO BORRAIO: It's a town called Santa Cruz de la Lorna.

RACHEL GOODMAN: You're from another Santa Cruz!

ANTONIO BORRAIO: I came from one Santa Cruz to another! Two very different worlds. Over there are only 2000 people, and here it's much bigger.

RACHEL GOODMAN: Do you ever get homesick?

ANTONIO BORRAIO: Not right now, because I am comfortable, but if something changes, I might think twice.

RACHEL GOODMAN: Thank you.

ANTONIO BORRAIO: I am glad you are telling these stories to help the people. I hope that this is something good for people who are in different situations.

8:24: **DIANE COOLEY:** Maria, Antonio's wife is about ten years younger than he. When she came up here, she was very, very lonely! Maria was not happy. She was very lonely, because they lived in a somewhat isolated circumstance, and she was used to not only living in a village, but living in a large household with people all around. This presented a problem, because if Maria isn't happy, Antonio isn't happy. And my job is to keep Antonio happy, because he keeps ME happy. So we arranged to have him live in a little cabin next to a wonderful old retired gentlemen, who had been working in the orchards, so it was kind of like una familia. Then they had a baby or two, and I felt their accommodations weren't adequate, so I moved them to a larger location with more rooms, and they weren't happy with that because it didn't have the same social interaction, and they all stayed in the same room anyway. So now we've got them... the dear old gentlemen died, so we moved Antonio into the house that he'd been living in, and then we moved Antonio's father. To keep Maria happy, we have to keep in-laws around. This is one of the dimensions of housing, the idea that you

12:51: Off mic..talking...

13:58:: Chickens clucking

14:27: good chickens clucking! Some kids in background...

15:12: Sound of car idling.

15:24: Buenos dias! Como estas! Diane explaining about us...

16: 32: Interview in Spanish:

Do you like it here? Yes.

How many years? Ten.

Jalisco. Que región. Jamulco. Condado?

Sometimes I miss my parents, but I want my children to go to school. This is a better

place for them. So they can go to school.

RACHEL GOODMAN: When you visit your friends, are you lonely?

MARIA, WIFE OF ANTONIO: No, in my work, and they come here.

RACHEL GOODMAN: Have you seen changes in the population, and housing?

MARIA, WIFE OF ANTONIO: All the schools for the kids are crowded, and they have some help, but here they have lots of help, there are more opportunities here and hope for their future.

RACHEL GOODMAN: What do you hope for your children for the future?

MARIA, WIFE OF ANTONIO: I want them to study, and to hope, and to have a place for them.

Carmen:

RACHEL GOODMAN: How many years have you lived here?
My husband works part time for the Cooleys and part time to Taey?
Where did you live before this?
Freedom?

RACHEL GOODMAN: Is it hard to find an affordable house?

OTHER WOMAN: Yes, it's hard because it's very expensive. It's hard to find an economical place.

RACHEL GOODMAN: How much did you pay before this?

OTHER WOMAN: \$670 per month.