

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, July 7, 2016: “Immigration a local issue for many.”**  
**Casper Star Tribune, July 9: “Helping young people to a fresh start”**

In a few months Carol Pascal’s family will be celebrating 100 years of residing in Cheyenne. “My grandparents left Chihuahua at the height of the Mexican Revolution,” she said. “They settled in Cheyenne because of job opportunities with the railroad. My grandfather, his sons, and their sons all worked for Union Pacific.”

Ms. Pascal is proud of the fact that the Arias family’s cumulative years with Union Pacific—since 1917 through four generations—represents a collective 300 years. She is equally proud of her efforts on behalf of undocumented immigrants.

“Currently I am working with my 56th DACA applicant,” she emailed. “Most have been approved for documentation and permission to work. It’s humbling, the joy these kids express to be ‘legal’ like their siblings born here.”

DACA offers deferment of deportation for young people who were brought to this country as children, have a clean record, attend school, or have been honorably discharged from the military. Qualifying youngsters may obtain a Social Security card, seek employment—“The highest priority of those I’ve helped”—get a driver’s license, and attend college. Many of the youngsters enroll in Affordable Care Act insurance, seeking physicals for sports programs and other needs. DACA applications are lengthy and require much documentation, plus there’s a hefty fee of \$465. Once approved, the deferment is good for two years. It may be renewed.

“It’s a thrill to take the youth to DMV for driver’s licenses and to see them employed all around town. I take them because the parents are terrified of any authority.”

“These youngsters are old for their age,” she explains, “fearful for and protective of their undocumented parents. Many show signs of having been traumatized by childhood experiences.”

Ms. Pascal has had her share of trauma. When she was twelve, during the “Operation Wetback” hysteria, she was stopped by an officer who called out from his vehicle, “Do you speak English?”

Of course she spoke English: She was born in Cheyenne and attended school. Nonetheless, she was so terrified, “I ran and ran,” she recalls. Unaware that her grandmother had attained citizenship, “I was fearful *mi abuelita* would be taken from us.”

Ms. Pascal hoped the Supreme Court would uphold President Obama’s DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Arrivals). To keep from tearing families apart, DAPA was to extend deferred deportation to parents of DACA offspring and parents of US-born children.

The Court's tied vote unsettled her. "The caliber of youth I have worked with, as well as that of their parents, suggest they would be among the very best. They work hard and pay their taxes. They are here because, like my grandparents, they fled violence at home. Now DACA youngsters are terrified that the information they provided will jeopardize their parents."

Jack Pugh served in the Wyoming legislature. Prior to that, he frequented Texas and Mexico.

"Starting in 1962 I crossed the border into Mexico maybe fifty times, wading the Rio Grande River or fording it in a pickup . . . camping, hiking, fishing and coming back when I felt like it.

"I have woken to sunrises in the Chihuahuan Desert so beautiful I thought I was seeing God. Once, in the deserts of Coahuil, I awoke with a Tarantula on my sleeping bag, big as a hand, staring at my face."

Mr. Pugh related the tragic events of Erica Delgado, age 34, and her daughter Miriam Ortiz, age seven. Both died in Cheyenne on February 3, 2012, in the aftermath of an ICE raid that targeted women working at Little America who were suspected to be undocumented.

"The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency is part of the Department of Homeland Security," he emailed. "Formed in 2003, it has become the second largest criminal investigative agency in the United States. ICE directed the actions in Cheyenne, but deputies from the Laramie County Sheriff's Department also participated."

Changing motel beds is heavy labor at poor wages. Impoverished women, contending with family hardships, accept that.

Ms. Delgado became convinced she would be deported. "We'll be back," the officers told her. Although her daughter, born in Cheyenne, was a U.S. citizen, she killed herself and the girl by setting fire to the trailer they lived in.

What's heartbreaking about the desperate act: Ms. Delgado was eligible for legal status. Her abusive husband had been convicted and deported; the law allows victimized family members to remain out of reach of the abuser. Sadly, Ms. Delgado was unaware that the law was on her side. She only knew she was threatened with deportation.

Two other women ICE rounded up that day were detained in a jail in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, for four months, separated from their children. Eventually the immigration judge threw out the government's case on grounds of questionable conduct.

(Note: This is the first of a two-part sequence on immigration.)