Rej

din

FEATURE

The apples are picked; the Jaimes family moves on

Revnundo and Marcella Jaimes thave three nomestione in New York, one in Florida and one in Mexico. While this may sound like the lifestyle of a an althy family, they are anything but. The Jaimes strungtant workers: Revnundo, 39, and Marcella, an taske three to four times a year with their four coefficient two sons in-law, two grandchildren and the ends. Originally from Guerrero, Mexico, the familes come to the United States for work to survive

Sauce August the Jaimes had been living in the Alton area in Wayne County. Early this month they pocked up and moved back to Wimauma, Fla., where the family picks oranges for a living.

They will live in Wimauma, about 30 miles from Lampa, until August. Their only reprieve from picking fruit comes in December. Then they go home to Guerrero for a month for Christmas because there is no work.

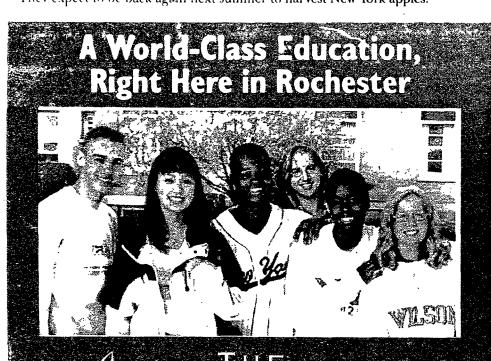
"Thke it here," Marcella said in Spanish, while sitting at her kitchen table in Alton. "There is not a lot of work in Mexico." She says she misses her family and triends in Mexico, though, and her own home. "Tam content in my house in Mexico," she said.

In Alton, Reymundo and Marcella live in a twobedicoun trailer with three of their children, Lorethe 22, Reymundo (Jr.), 13, and Adan, 2, along with 1 strends husband, Oscar Olguin, 30, and their thrend, Guilibaldo Torres, 51. Their other daughter, March, 20 and her husband and two children live Wolcott. The adults work 10 hours a day, seven days a week, while Reymundo Jr. attends school in North Rose and Adan goes to day care.

I ne workers only receive a day off when the weather is too bad to work, but are only paid when

they work. There are no vacation days or sick time. In Florida, they are paid around \$7.50 per crate of oranges; in New York, \$9 for a crate of apples about 40" x 48" and 30" tall and weighing more than 1,000 pounds. In an average week, Reymundo and Marcella fill approximately 40 crates, which pays \$360 for both or about \$2.50 an hour. Despite the low wage, Reymundo, Marcella and Guilibaldo prefer New York to Flori-

da In Alton, the farmer who employs them, Donald Bartleson, provides trailers to live in rent-free, including utilities. In Florida, their rent costs them around \$400 a month. They expect to be back again next summer to harvest New York apples.





Marcella Jaimes sorts through beans for dinner in the streaming afternoon sunlight at her kitchen table in Alton. Her daughter, Lorena Olguin (right) stuffs peppers for the meal.





AT WILSON MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

For highly motivated and talented 8th and 9th graders

> Placement Exam December 9 9:00 a.m.

WILSON MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL • 501 GENESEE STREET Call 328-3440, ext. 3295.

Marcella reaches for an apple to fill the basket she carries around her walst. " am very tired," she said, from manual labor 10 hours every day.