

regularly tossed off moving trains or left dead on top of the cars, to be discovered by train workers at the next stop.

Enrique has heard of the two most dangerous gangsters: El Indio, who claims the Guatemalan side of the Mexican border, and Blackie, a chubby Salvadoran with dark skin and MS tattooed on his forehead, whose territory stretches from the border to Arriaga in northern Chiapas.

During one of his first attempts to go north, a chance meeting saved Enrique from the worst of the gangs. As he set out on his trip, he noticed another teenager, a gangster named El Brujo, at the bus station in Honduras waiting to go to the Mexican border. Enrique doesn't like gangs. But as the two spent hours traveling through Honduras and Guatemala together, he and El Brujo became friends. On their first train ride through Chiapas, El Brujo introduced Enrique to other teenage MS members. There was Big Daddy, a skinny and short teenager, and El Payaso, the Clown, who had a big mouth and eyes. Sticking with these gang members protected him from attacks along the way.

On his seventh trip, the convenient relationship ended. One of the MS gangsters is upset because a member of the rival gang, an 18th Streeter, has stolen his shirt. He decides to throw the 18th Streeter off the train. Enrique refuses to participate, creating a rift.

"If you are MS, you have to kill Eighteenth Streeters. And if you are Eighteenth Street, you must kill MS. I wasn't like that," Enrique says.

After the fight, the gang members stop riding with Enrique.