

respondent: We lived right down here on Stone Ave, as I can recall. I was born on a street further down, about eight blocks down Kennedy Street. So I don't know what year they moved over to this area but we lived right across the street from The Temple of Music and Art.

#00:00:27-4# respondent: So the things I can remember as a young boy, were that every so often.... The Temple of Music and Art, they use to have boxing matches there all the time (professional boxing matches). And every so often, I remember lots of cars would gatherer and all of that, you know people going to the boxing matches, mostly men of course. So that was one thing I recall.

#00:00:52-9# respondent: I remember that we, we used to... you know, nobody had any money.. no one had any money so we had to makeup our games. We played kick the can a lot. Are you familiar with that game?

#00:01:07-0# respondent: Well kick the can is... you put a can out in the middle and everyone spreads out and one guy is it. So when he was out looking for the others fellas, somebody would sneak up on him and kick the can. As long as they kept kicking the can he was still it. So we used to play that a lot. And sandlot baseball and sandlot football and those kinds of games.

#00:01:38-4# respondent: We didn't play very much basketball because.. I don't know why. Well for one things we didn't have a ball (laughing) and we didn't have a hoop. But it was easy to make a football or a baseball out of tape. You know, we would get an old ball and then just tape it up and so that as our baseball.

#00:02:01-8# interviewer: And were would you play baseball?

#00:02:05-6# respondent: In empty lots, just empty lots. We didn't hit the ball very far so an empty lot was okay.

#00:02:14-0# respondent: I started going to school at Safford Elementary, which was about three blocks east of where we lived... three or four blocks. It is still there, it is now an elementary and a junior high. And I went to both elementary and junior high school at Safford. And it was primarily only Hispanic kids, it wasn't segregated but that's the way it was (laughing). Because most of the people that lived in these areas down here were

Hispanic.

#00:02:49-0# respondent: So we went to school there and I was very much into sports, I loved sports... I played all kinds of sports and then I learned how to play basketball because they had hoops and they had balls.

#00:03:04-6# respondent: My brother Ron was six years younger than I was... is six years younger so, he didn't participate with us very much. He pretty much stayed home but on weekend we used to have... my dad had... we lived in this apartment house, it was like a roll house. You know what a roll house is, don't you? Where there is one apartment right next to another, all connected. You know, where they.... a common wall between the apartments.

#00:03:44-0# respondent: We used to... my dad.... we lived in the back three room or four rooms to the apartment. There's a living room, a bedroom and a kitchen and another room in front. And my dad was a shoe maker (Shoe cobbler) and so he took the front room and he had all of this equipment, all of this machines and all of that stuff was in the front room. So we had a built in business there and of course on weekend when we weren't in school then it was up to us to clean the shop, so that was our chore.

#00:04:23-1# respondent: Since we cleaned the shop my dad was always very good. He used to give me, I forget, 15 or 20 cents or maybe a quarter and my job was to take Ron to the Mickey Mouse Club, downtown at the Fox Theater. So we would go down there and it was kind of like a babysitting things. You know, because we stayed the whole day at the movies and then go home until all the cartoons and all that was over. And then we would go home late, in the evening. So that was interesting. But we did that for many years and my job was to take care of Ron, at that point, and you know pay for the movies.

#00:05:13-2# interviewer: How old were you both?

#00:05:14-8# respondent: Well, I was probably.... well what would it been? I was born in 33 and we left there in... left that apartment house in 58.. 59. So I must have been about 12... 11 years old, something like that. And Ron was, like I said he was six years younger, so he was about six years old.

#00:05:51-9# respondent: Tucson was a very interesting place in those days, small town (Very small). As far as we were concern, you know Congress Street was the end of the world. You walked all the way to Congress Street so you could go to the movies and you didn't go any further than that. You know, you went back home, which was the 300 block on South Stone. So we were only going about four.. five block at max.

#00:06:32-8# interviewer: What is your connection to the area?

#00:06:38-3# respondent: What do you mean? When we lived there what was our connection? You mean what did we do?

#00:06:46-7# interviewer: So you said you lived there for a big chunk of your life, about 12 years.

#00:06:55-2# respondent: I lived there till I was about 12.. 13.. 14.

#00:07:01-8# interviewer: And your parents, when did they arrive?

#00:07:05-0# respondent: Oh, when did they arrive here in Tucson? They arrived here in the early 30s, when I was born. They were both from Sonora. My dad was from Fronteras and my mother was from the mining camp up there at... What's the name of that?

#00:07:30-3# interviewer: In Chiguagua? or...

#00:07:31-7# respondent: No, in Sonora. You're familiar with that? Big mining camps, it is still a mining camp.

#00:07:40-9# respondent: Anyway, they then moved to Douglas, my dad moved to Douglass. My mother lived in Bisbee, she lived in a little hubble outside of Bisbee proper. The name of the place was Tin Town and it is still there. Tin Town and of course you know why it was called Tin Town. All of the houses were made of tin, you know the roofs and everything else.

#00:08:10-1# respondent: My grandmother... my mother's grandmother had a grocery store there in Tin Town and it was very interesting. She was the only one... well no there was another grocery store but yeah I mean they were really really small things. But enough to keep them alive, keep

them going.

#00:08:29-8# respondent: My dad was in Douglas and he didn't want to work in the mines. Everybody else work at the smelter in Douglas. There was a big smelter there. And he loved... he didn't want to work in the mines.. so because a salesperson. He sold furniture and that sort of stuff but before that when they were still young... the reason they came to Douglas because of the Revolution, as did many of the people... the Hispanics that lived here in Southern Arizona. You know the older generations. They all came here because it was either that or get hung up some place on a telephone pole.

#00:09:19-7# respondent: Well, my grandfather (my dad's father) was a first cousin of a fella by the name of Puterco Elias Calles, you might have heard that name. He was a general in the Revolutionary Army and my grandfather was on the wrong the side. He was a "Diasista" (Porfirio Diaz follower). Well you know they had good reason to be. They were taken care of by Porfirio Diaz, they were given lands and so on and so forth. So they were well off.

#00:10:04-2# respondent: Come the revolution though, all that went away and so the best thing to do was to leave Mexico and go the United States because there was no such thing... there was a border but no such thing as costumes or anything like that. You just crossed the border, that was it.

#00:10:29-4# respondent: And he lived in Douglas... he bought a little business delivery. They had cows and they delivered the milk in those cows and that is what my dad did in the first... when he was a very young boy. He went to school in Douglas and my mother went to school in Bisbee. And my mother went to school through the 8th grade. My dad, I think dropped out on the 5th or 6th grade because they need him on the milk run (laughing).

#00:11:10-4# respondent: Anyway, they grew up there. They met... later on they met in Tin Town. Tin Town used to have a big dance hall, that was run by my grandma. So they met there and they eventually got married. And after they got married they moved Tucson, that was in the early 30s and I was born in 33.

#00:11:31-5# respondent: The only thing I know about Bisbee and

Douglas were some of the relatives we used to go visit once in a while. Later on, I remember going to Tin Town in the summer time, when we were not in school, and we would go visit my grandmother for a week or so. It was always really nice, very pleasant.

#00:11:52-6# interviewer: And that's when they loved then? So they loved shortly after getting married?

#00:11:58-0# respondent: Oh yea, right away.

#00:11:58-9# interviewer: And where were you? That same house were you grew up? Was it the same?

#00:12:04-1# respondent: No, no, there was a... where I was born there was a duplex (it is still there). Over on Kennedy Street, right off South 6th Avenue... right off of Stone Avenue, just west of Stone, the first block.

#00:12:16-5# interviewer: What was it called?

#00:12:18-5# respondent: What was it called? It was called Kennedy Street. But anyway they didn't have any names. It was just a place to live, you know.

#00:12:31-1# respondent: Then later on they moved over here to 288 South Stone, that's where I remember most. I don't remember anything about Kennedy Street, except what I was told later on. But I remember South Stone.

#00:12:49-1# respondent: And then when we were about... well I was in the 7th... I was in the 9th grade... no I was in the 8th grade at Safford Junior High and my dad bought a house, a little house out on South 4th Avenue, on South Tucson. So we moved over there and I was suppose to go to school at Wakefield Junior High but I was going to be on the last grade at Safford, so I didn't want to live there. You know, I had all of my friends there, I was in all the ball teams and all that stuff. So we just never told anyone that we moved. So I finished up school there in the 8th grade... in the 9th grade.

#00:13:48-6# respondent: And then we went to high school 10th, 11th and 12th. In those years we didn't go to high school until we were Sophomores.

We went to go school at 10th, 11th and 12th grades in high school. So, that was a very nice time for us. I remember I was involved: I played baseball, football... this and that, everything! And we used to... there a ball field out there on 3rd Avenue that was called Eagle Field. There was where we played all our games out there, Eagle Field. And when you say it was ballpark that is being a misnomer because it was nothing more than an empty lot (laughing), full of rocks and this and that.

#00:14:45-7# respondent: But we learned how to play. And we learned how to play very well. And when we went to high school the coaches were always asking us, "Where did you guys learn how to play because you guys can field the ball." Well we learned how to play at Eagle Field where you knew the ball was going to hit a stone, a rock or something. So you had to be on the look out all the time (laughing).

#00:15:09-2# respondent: Anyway but you are not interested in that. You are more interested in what...

#00:15:14-4# interviewer: Well you were mentioning that you went to the movie theater with your little brother to take care of him, babysit him. What kinds of thing would you do?

#00:15:25-0# interviewer: What was the movie theater called?

#00:15:27-5# respondent: It is the Fox Theater that is right downtown, over here. And we used to go to the Mickey Mouse Club. They had a Mickey Mouse Club for all the little guys and the cartoons and the cereals and this and that. I think they charged 5 cents, if I am not mistaken. I think that is what we had to pay. So we had 15 cents left over to buy popcorn or candy or soda or something else.

#00:15:54-2# respondent: But there was another theater that was the state theater which was a little further east on Congress. We used to go there once in a while but not as much because Fox had the Mickey Mouse Club. And then further west, right about here, right about where you are here... if you go directly north in old Congress Street there was another theater called The Plaza. The Plaza was a Hispanic Theater and that's all they showed, was Mexican movies. We used to go there once in a while, which was good because we learned how to speak Spanish (laughing).

#00:16:35-0# interviewer: Would you speak Spanish at home?

#00:16:37-3# respondent: Yes, my wife and I speak Spanish.

#00:16:39-4# interviewer: When you were small?

#00:16:41-4# respondent: Oh yeah! We had to learn.

#00:16:43-3# interviewer: How about school?

#00:16:46-2# respondent: No, no, we weren't aloud to speak Spanish in school. I am sure you've heard that a number of times. Yeah, if fact you used to get slap in the hand with a ruler if they caught you speaking Spanish, which was really silly and crazy because it was a second language for us and at home we probably spoke more Spanish than anything else. But my dad insisted, my dad always insisted to learn how speak English and then he used to sit me down at night.. there was a newspapers over in Los Angeles called La Opinion and La Opinion was all in Spanish. And my dad used to make me sit at his feet and read the newspaper to him. So I got to be fairly proficient at speaking Spanish, I'd say. Not as good as I'll liked to be. I still forget a lot of words, I can't translate that fast but we did learn.

#00:17:56-8# respondent: And my dad was very insisting of us going to school. Both, my brother and I, would eventually... We never talked about if you but when you go to the university. I didn't know what a university was. That was a mirror images some place out there. The first time I ever saw the University of Arizona I went to a football game. Somebody invited me to go to a football game and that was the first time I ever knew that there was this place called the University of Arizona. So I thought that would be neat to go over there.

#00:18:37-6# respondent: I wasn't a very good student when I was in junior high or high school. I was too much into sports and my whole life revolved around sports. That was the thing that I was most interested in.

#00:18:51-1# interviewer: And what other things would you do Downtown?

#00:18:54-6# respondent: Well there wasn't very much to do. Except that during certain parts of the years, you know like when Armistead Day would

come, which today is Veterans day, they used to have big parades downtown. And I was in the band also in junior high school so I had to be in the Parade and play. So Armistead Day was a big day for parades downtown.

#00:19:22-6# interviewer: Would your family go shopping downtown?

#00:19:25-6# respondent: Yes. But they didn't do too much shopping because there was any money (laughing). Curious thing about my dad, I told you he was a shoe repairman. That was during the depression days and there was very little work. There was hardly any work at all. And I only know that because they use to tell us about that. You know I was too young, I was 7 or 8 years old, I guess, something like that.

#00:20:00-9# respondent: The Ranchers, the cattle men around town... you know there used to be great big farms around the river banks over here at the Santa Cruz River. The Santa Cruz (when we were kids) always had water. Not a whole lot but it always had water running through the river bed. And the cotton wood tree were huge, they were so pretty, it was really pretty. And the farmers would farm their little lots, 10 acres... 15 acres whatever and they would grow all kinds of stuff.

#00:20:42-5# respondent: So the ranchers and the farmers would come in and say, "Jesus I need some soles and heels on these boots." "Okay and I'll give you half a side of beef and this if you take care of myself and my family. It was a bargaining system, you know. He would do the work and they would pay in food. So we always had something to eat but in terms of money we didn't have too much money.

#00:21:13-2# respondent: Excuse me let me get a drink of water. Is that the kind of stuff you need? I don't know whether that's what you want.

#00:21:27-8# interviewer: No, no that is perfect. Can you describe the place you lived at?

#00:21:34-9# respondent: What was it like? Well we lived.... there was a ... let see one, two, three, four... There were five apartments and they were all identical. If you open the front door you would see the back yard, you know what I mean. It was just like a tunnel all the way back. And like I said my dad had the front room for his shoe shop and we lived in the back



rooms. The second room was the living room and then their bedroom, and Ron and I slept in the living room at night and then the kitchen and then the backyard. If you open the front door you saw all the way to the back (laughing). If anybody was walking around there in we were all together, that was too bad you know, that's the way it was.

#00:22:29-2# respondent: And all the others were the same but in the summer time at night everybody slept outside in cots because there was no air conditioning, obviously. Even the, what do you call them... The coolers that they have today, they didn't exist, there were no coolers. So, you slept outside in the summer time and hope that it did not start to rain. Hopefully the "chubascos" didn't come by because then you'll have to gather all of the stuff in and run inside the house and go to bed. It happened once in a while but then all the other five apartments, they were all doing the same thing. Everybody was outside so every once in while... our next door neighbors were a musical group and sometimes they would practice out there, out in the open, you know. So, they would be serenading us at night (laughing).

#00:23:42-2# respondent: Now that I look back on it, it could have been a lot better but it was good cause we didn't know any better. We didn't know that there was such things as cars, we didn't have a car. If you went any place you had to walk or if you were really really lucky you had a bicycle and might be able to ride the bike.

#00:24:07-8# interviewer: In downtown, what do you remember when you... do you have any memories of what downtown was like?

#00:24:14-1# respondent: It was busy. There was a lot of stores, lots of stores downtown.

#00:24:20-8# interviewer: What would people be doing? What kinds of things?

#00:24:25-3# respondent: A lot of it was parading up and down the streets and in the side walks cause it was probably the only place in town that had side walks, it was downtown. And you would go down there just to be out in the open air and when it wasn't too hot.

#00:24:48-0# interviewer: The Plazita, do you remember going there?

#00:24:50-5# respondent: Oh yeah, yeah! There was a little plazita. Lets see where would be. Right on the other side of church, were the little park is.

#00:25:03-3# interviewer: San Agustin.

#00:25:04-1# respondent: There's a little quiosco there. Well that quiosco was the Plazita and yeah everyone... when they had mexican celebration holidays they would use the Plazita. There as a bakery right next door to ti, La Ronquillo Bakery. You could always get some real goodies there, you know. And across the street on the other side was El Charro Restaurant, which is still in existence here in Tucson, or at least the younger people. And there was a lot of activity in the downtown area simply because there wasn't any place else to go. I mean, if you had a car you might run out to, over to Mission Road and what would that be? Valencia. There used to be a big swimming pool out there. I forger what it was called, but you know you could go have picnics but if you didn't have... that is a long walk from downtown over there. Or the other side was over on I guess what would be now where the Tucson Mall, down in that general area there was a big swimming pool. And they use to have... you know you could go party or have picnics and that sort of thing down there. So there were things to do but I mean but I don't remember all of them.

#00:26:53-9# interviewer: You don't remember any activities that you maybe participated in? Or events that happened?

#00:27:03-6# respondent: No, I don't recall. The only thing I remember is the Halloween.. they use to have Halloween parties right downtown. The city used to put them on and I remember that because one time I won a price for being dress like Popeye. But every Halloween they would have that party down there, right down on Congress and Stone or south 6th Avenue, right in there.

#00:27:34-7# interviewer: And you were talking about, you said there were a lot of mexican festivities that were celebrated at the Plazita. Do you remember of being part of any of them or family taking you?

#00:27:44-8# respondent: Oh, I guess we did go but I don't.... My dad used to belong to a club that was right across the street here. The club that was in the basement of the Maris building that's right across the street.

Well down on the basement there was a club that he belong to. They called them El Club Treinta and they used to have lots of activities. I mean, they didn't have to go outside, they just did their own stuff, you know, barbecues, and this and that and dances and all that. So we would go but we were still young so we sat around the side lines or went out... there was... on the other side of that there was... the church had.. the cathedral had a basketball courts and that sort of thing. So used to go over there and play while they did their dancing and all that we played basketball or baseball or softball or whatever.

#00:28:53-0# interviewer: Do you have any stories that you remember about being a child and growing up in Downtown Tucson? Or anything related to you and your family?

#00:29:07-6# respondent: What kind of stories?

#00:29:10-0# interviewer: Any kind of story or memory that you might have. Something passed down by your grandparents.

#00:29:18-7# respondent: Well my grandparents didn't live here.

#00:29:21-6# interviewer: Well that's different. What we are trying to ask is what kind of memories do you have of being with your family, growing up in downtown Tucson?

#00:29:32-9# respondent: Well we were very close because a part of the entertaining, as you would call it, the part of the entertainment was that on weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) we used to go visit the comrades or my mom and dad would... you know their comadres. So that was part of the socializing on Saturdays or Sundays. And they took turns, you know, you would go one place, another place, and another place. So every Sundays might be a different place we would go.

#00:30:07-6# interviewer: And that's was weekends that would go?

#00:30:09-1# respondent: On weekend yes.

#00:30:10-7# interviewer: And what would you do at the comrade's house? As a child what do you remember doing?

#00:30:15-5# respondent: Well we played with their kids and the adults did what ever they were going to do, you know, have a a party, a barbecue or whatever. In fact, one of my dad's compadres was the, I guess he would be the grandfather of our chief of police today, Villasenor, the villasenor. My mom and dad were very close, they were compadres. So we would go over their house often and I remember Mr. Villasenor, the head of the family. He used to raise fighting cocks. So we would go (not watch the fights) but we would go look all the little roosters and everything.

#00:31:09-1# interviewer: Where would they have the fights?

#00:31:11-7# respondent: Oh I don't know. We never went to a fight (laughing) so I couldn't tell you where. Well I am sure at that time they were probably against the law also. So we weren't involved in that but I remember we used to go feed the roosters because they had them on cages, just go look at them... a lot of fun. Life was very very calm.

#00:31:46-0# respondent: Oh the radio. Oh the radio! You had to listen to the radio on weekends. Specially when the green hornet and the red rider and captain marble and all those were on. And they had special programs for... everyone would gather around these old radios, you know these old.... I remember those.

#00:32:10-0# interviewer: Would you gather at your house?

#00:32:11-2# respondent: Yeah, well, each family would in their own home but I remember a lot of those things. I remember this thing.... Franklin Roosevelt, when he made the speech about the Japanese had bombed Perl Harbor and we were listening to that. We didn't know what Pearl Harbor was, you know, all we knew that we were on war and we didn't even know what war was, you know. Nobody ever told us that. All we knew is that it wasn't good.

#00:32:48-1# interviewer: What kind of memory do you have about your childhood?

#00:32:58-0# respondent: We had a great childhood. I have great memories of all my friends that I knew, kids that I used to play with and the visits to our comprades and all that. They became good friends and their kids became good friends of ours. And so today, when we are in some

place, some gathering, "Yeah, remember when we used to go over to the Montana's house and have barbecues, or have pinatas or whatever you know. That kind of thing. So it was different... in many ways I think it was better than today.

#00:33:37-9# interviewer: How was it better?

#00:33:38-8# respondent: Because it was more of an interacting with people, as oppose to watching something on television. We didn't hear too much about bad news, you know. Today you turn on the radio or the television or whatever and there is so much bad going on, not only in your own town but in the world. It be nice if it was something like, you know. It would not only be nice, it would be great, if it wasn't like that.

#00:34:18-8# respondent: There was... I am sure we had our fair share of criminals back then but you didn't see them every day in the newspaper or in the radio or television or anything like that. Of course there wasn't any television so you wouldn't have seen them. And I remember when the city decided to do away with the Barrio, I guess, what did they call it? El Ollo, to built a community center. So many people got displaced, so many people. And yeah they got some money and they were able to built another house some place else and it was probably a newer home... maybe even a nicer home but a lot of those little old homes that were down there were nice , they were comfortable, they loved their home, they loved their flowers. As only grandpas and grandmas can do, they loved the plants and watched the roses come up or watched the flowers come up or whatever. We lost.... Tucson lost something of it's heart when that went away.

#00:35:44-9# interviewer: And it was because....?

#00:35:46-7# respondent: Cause they wanted to built the community center.

#00:35:49-1# interviewer: Well, why do you say it lost it's heart?

#00:35:52-5# respondent: When people moved out, people were displaced. El Ollo used to be.... well everything that is the community center today was part of those neighborhoods.

#00:36:08-3# interviewer: And what was your neighborhood like? You said

you had musicians right next to you, they would serenade you sometimes when you were sleeping. What were you other neighbors like? Would they come over to you house, your parents' house?

#00:36:21-6# respondent: Sometimes they would be over there but you know it was... you saw them everyday. Wether you saw them over the fence or yelling... we were yelling at them over the fence or whatever, we saw them everyday. They were good people, good people. But we lost all of that, we don't have that anymore. Now you have to have patio wall to keep everybody out of your place, you know.

#00:36:52-8# interviewer: How did it make you feel when they told you they were going to built a community center?

#00:37:00-8# respondent: Oh the community center? Well, at that time I probably didn't really care but now that I think back on it, our community lost something. I didn't think about those people that were going to get displace. So honestly I didn't think about that. We should have thought about that.

#00:37:30-8# interviewer: Did your family leave before the demolition?

#00:37:37-0# respondent: Oh yeah, we were living way out on the other side of town. We were not involved in that.

#00:37:43-1# interviewer: You left shortly after you were 13 years old? You were 13 more or less when you moved?

#00:37:47-8# respondent: When we moved, yes.

#00:37:50-0# interviewer: And that was before any of that?

#00:37:51-5# respondent: Yeah, oh yeah, long before that. I was probably in college when all of that stuff started happening, so 10 years, maybe 15 years later.

#00:38:09-8# interviewer: What kinds of things would you be able to find downtown, aside from the movie theater?

#00:38:18-6# respondent: WMCA was downtown, we used to go there

quite a bit and what else? All the restaurants... well there are lots of restaurants there now. El Charro and some asian places, good places to go have dinner. The Ronquillo Bakery was right there, you know. One other thing I used to do a lot. They would give me a quarter and say, "Go down and get us some donuts or pan birote or some of this, whatever. It was about a 5... 6 bock walk and I would go walk down there, get the stuff and take it home.

#00:39:11-8# respondent: To a degree I was an errant boy also, you know. My dad would send me for supplies for his shoe shop.

#00:39:19-0# interviewer: And where would you buy those?

#00:39:21-2# respondent: That used to be a long ways. It was over on North 4th Ave, long ways to go walking. I probably haven't been much help to you.

#00:39:38-0# interviewer: No, no you have. The information you have provided us has been very helpful. A lot of the things you've told us I think....

#00:39:46-6# respondent: .... You've already heard.

#00:39:48-1# interviewer: No, no. We've heard somethings, as to how and why people came back to Tucson because the Mexican Revolution. So that's been a common theme and also what you've mentioned about just being very intimate with your neighbors and people.

#00:40:07-5# respondent: Well you know it was like the toys that we had we made and the socializing that the adults had, they made it. So you would go visit somebody and have a weekend visit with the compadres over here and next one over there. So that kind of stuff and it was a small community so there were only about 30... 40 thousand people in this area in those years. So you had... it was a... you found your entertainment or you created your entertainment I should say. Cause not everybody wanted to go to the movies, you know. We went to the movies because you know it was Mickey Mouse Club (laughing).

#00:41:04-8# interviewer: Are there any special saying that your family would have? Special expressions that your parents would say to you or

your brother? Do you have any sisters? Was it just you and your brother?

#00:41:15-6# respondent: No, no just my myself and my brother. I don't remember of anything special that they would say. Other than you need to clean the shop. I used to have the baseball teams waiting for me in the waiting room. It wasn't a waiting room just a little area at the shoe shop. Because I couldn't leave until I finished all those shoes. As I got older I learned.... my father thought me how to repair shoes. And on Saturdays I didn't go anywhere until I finished that mound of those that where on top of the rack. And the guys would be waiting for me so we could go out and play.

#00:42:10-5# interviewer: Would people come over to the shoe shop or would your father take them to their home?

#00:42:15-1# respondent: No, no they would come over.

#00:42:19-1# interviewer: You would see a lot of people in a daily basis?

#00:42:20-7# respondent: Yeah, I got to meet a lot of people and see a lot of people.

#00:42:29-1# interviewer: Is there anything else that we maybe we haven't asked and you might be interested in sharing about downtown, your family, the experience of your family or your self living in downtown?

#00:42:41-4# interviewer: Well you are restricting it to the downtown area. Like I said we moved out of here.. let's see if I was about 9 or 10 years old I guess... no about 13 I guess. That means it was 45 or 46 when we moved out. No, it was on 48 when we moved out. I am sorry... that is right because I went to school in 49. 50 and 51, Tucson High. It was later on. But I remember there was just... I can't tell you what we used to do because nothing was really planed, you know.

#00:43:34-3# respondent: I mean like on Stone Avenue here when we were down there were street lights. So at night when we were kids we would go sit under the street light and listen to stories and play games.

#00:43:54-3# interviewer: What kind of stories and games?



#00:43:55-3# respondent: Oh somebody always had a story about La Llorona or something like that. You've heard about that. Kind of scary (laughing).

#00:44:07-1# interviewer: Who would be telling the stories? The other kids?

#00:44:10-8# respondent: No, some of the adults would come over when we were sitting around there. I guess maybe they wanted us inside the houses and the only way to do it was to scare us into going home.

#00:44:22-3# interviewer: Do you remember any of the stories?

#00:44:26-3# respondent: No.

#00:44:30-3# interviewer: So you would be sitting at that light with your friends hearing stories, playing games? What other things would you do?

#00:44:37-8# respondent: Entertaining ourselves, you know. Maybe you experience some of that down there in Jalisco. I don't know maybe not. People are basically the same. I don't care where you are from you probably did some of the same things we did here... you did where you come from and you too. Things don't really change that much. Human beings are human being and they think pretty much the same.

#00:45:23-2# interviewer: What kind of people lived here at the area you grew up?

#00:45:32-3# respondent: Oh where we lived? Well, lets see. The guys... the people... the family that lived right next to us were musicians. So the walls would go like that when they practice. And next to them was a real quiet family. They had a daughter and they were not too social. And next to them lived the Mesas and they were always involved with us, just about everything. Like I told you, my dad used to do things for bargaining. Sometimes he go so much stuff that we couldn't possibly use it all that he went out and redistribute the, you know the cantaloupes, the watermelons, the calabasitas... whatever he had that he too much of he would just go give it to the families.

#00:46:38-8# respondent: You have to remember these were hard times. You know people say we just got done with a depression or recession and

that things were bad. Nothing could be compared to that 1929, 30, 31, 32, 33. It was bad, there was no work, you know most of the men that had a little job worked for the WPA... the workers...

#00:47:16-6# respondent: Franklin Roosevelt created organizations like the WPA and they went out and built things. They didn't get paid very much.

#00:47:27-4# interviewer: What kinds of things would they build?

#00:47:28-9# respondent: Oh, they would build roads, they built bridges, they built anything to keep them busy. And so improvements... Have you ever been up Mount Lemmon. Most of the bridges and the roads that were built up there towards that Catalina Mountains were built by the WPA. I was called Workers something administration, Workers Progress Administration. They built those roads, they built those bridges, everything, hand labor. Just to keep people working, so they had something. So a lot of the people that lived around us were WPA workers. I don't know how much they were paid, \$10 a month or something like that maybe \$20 a month. That's the way it was.

#00:48:34-0# interviewer: Mr. Arnold this your mother also work? You said your father had his shoe shop but did your mother work?

#00:48:39-0# My mother didn't work till later on. Later on before we moved to out there on South 4th Avenue she went to school and got her license as a beauty operator, a beautician. And so when we were... she might have had a license before we moved out there but I know that after we moved out there my dad had saved up a few bucks and he built his own shop and he built a shop for my mother and he built a shop.. they were all together, one big building just split up. And then he built a little restaurant for my aunt, a little mexican restaurant which it really wasn't a restaurant. It was more like a were you buy masa and stuff like that...

#00:49:37-4# interviewer: ingredients?

#00:49:38-8# respondent: She sold ingredients. She did very well at it too. And my dad did his little shop and my mom did too.

#00:49:48-2# interviewer: And that was over on 4th?

#00:49:49-5# respondent: Yes, on South 4th Avenue. That was a long way from Downtown. And we didn't have any transportation.

#00:50:02-7# interviewer: So when you moved there did you stopped more or less coming to downtown?

#00:50:05-7# respondent: Yeah, more or less we stopped coming to downtown, yeah. Well, unless you cut the bus. I used to go to Tucson High in the bus and then I got tired of going in the bus so then I got a bike and I used to ride all the way to Tucson High from 32nd street. Which was good because it made my legs stronger (laughing).

#00:50:38-4# interviewer: Well one last question. What place stands out most in your mind from what was downtown? And I know you left the downtown area when you were 13 or 14 years old but from what you remember was there anything memorable as a child growing up there? Playing with your brother or any kind of memorable things that might stand out?

#00:50:59-6# respondent: Well I think the thing that I remember the most... I always remembered the most was the river, the Santa Cruz River that had water in it. And we would go and play there once in a while. When I say the river had water it as like this. It wasn't anything huge (laughing) but it was always running. There was enough water to sustain a lot of growth, beautiful. You can imagine the cotton wood trees were 30 or 40 feet high, you know. And of course the only reason they were there was because the water was there.

#00:51:35-1# respondent: And there was a canal that used to come by well pretty close to here, around where the fire station is, you know that fire stating that is down there? There was a canal that run through there also. Where the water came from? I don't know but that was deep and you had to stay aways from the canal because kids would drowned in that canal. There was a lot to do and we were busy all the time, we where always busy. We were playing ball, I loved to play ball. That was my passion.

#00:52:14-3# interviewer: Did you ever played downtown?

#00:52:17-2# respondent: Yeah, there used to be a ball field down over

here... you know where the bridge is? Going west, right around that area.

#00:52:27-4# interviewer: Oh is that the field you were talking about?

#00:52:29-0# respondent: No, Eagle Field was over on the other side, way out there. There was another field over here and we used to play there once in a while. Sandlot teams, nobody got payed or anything. We just played because we loved to play.

#00:52:46-7# interviewer: Was there anything else going on, that a lot of people went to?

#00:52:53-0# respondent: Oh yeah sometimes when the teams got pretty good the cars would line up down the first base line and the second and they wouldn't get out. They would sit on the car and watch the games. There was always plenty to do. You never say home with anything to do.

#00:53:14-2# interviewer: And you would walk there all the way by yourself?

#00:53:16-4# respondent: Yeah, sure or ride my bike.

#00:53:18-2# interviewer: And what would you see when you walking by? What kinds of things would you see?

#00:53:25-6# respondent: Well there was the theaters, the restaurants, the penny arcade. I remember there was a penny arcade down here on West Congress and we would go in there. No body had any money. On Saturdays and Sundays there was always a lot of activity down on Congress Street and on Broadway also. So it was a good place. I don't have any bad memories of Downtown Tucson. There was nothing to have bad memories about (laughing).

#00:54:17-0# interviewer: Well is there anything else that you'll like to add that maybe we didn't ask you that you would like to share with us? Because the project is about downtown and we are trying to understand how people lived. What kinds of things they would do?

#00:54:31-5# respondent: The other thing I forgot to tell you is that we only lived a block and a half of the cathedral. The cathedral always had

programs also and the boy scouts. I used to belong to the boy scout's group at the cathedral. Like I said on the back of the housing that was there where the parking lots are on the back of the cathedral, all of that was a playground. They had basketball courts and all of that kind of stuff there. So we used to come over here and use that a lot. And they kept it lead at night, so you could down in the evening and after dinner and come and play. So between that I used to tell people that I grew up within the shadows of the cathedral (laughing).

#00:55:27-4# interviewer: Under the shadows of the cathedral you said?

#00:55:30-6# respondent: Oh yeah, I used to said that but it was a ... we were just active all the time. They was never a time that we sat around and thought about getting into... we didn't have time for that. That is why I think today... those days were good for us. Those were good formative years.

#00:56:02-5# interviewer: Well thank you so much.

#00:56:03-7# respondent: Well I would like to say one more thing, if you don't mind. I want to thank you and the organization for what you are doing. I think it is great! I majored in History at the University and I happened to like what you guys are doing. We don't do enough of it. We don't do enough of these kinds of things that would let people know what we have here. Because we still have it, we still have all those things here. It is just that they take a different form. It is a good city.

#00:56:49-0# respondent: You know, the last few years that I was here I had an afore to go to Albuquerque and take over the Albuquerque operation and I didn't want to go there. I didn't want to go to Albuquerque, I knew too mucuh about. I said no thank you and then shortly there after they called me and told me, " Why don't you take over Phoenix operation." And I said thank you very much but I don't like Phoenix, never have and I don't want to be there. I said, so why would in my late formative years want to give up what I have that is good for something that I know is not great?

#00:57:47-0# interviewer: I feel like sometimes places are like grandparents, at least to me anyway. They hold this wealth of knowledge and this wealth of emotion and connections that are irreplaceable.