

Interviewer 2: Oh, am I supposed to sign this?

#00:00:01-3# Interviewer 1: Can you send this her way? No. Uh, that's for the witness. So either if Cecilia wants me to be the witness or if you have (incomprehensible)

#00:00:08-2# Respondent: Yeah. Hey, Les? No, you go ahead and be the – go. You wanna be the witness that I really did sign this?

#00:00:14-9# Witness: Oh, ok.

#00:00:18-7# Interviewer 1: And can we borrow this?

#00:00:20-8# Interviewer 2: Yeah.

#00:00:20-7# Interviewer 1: Thank you.

#00:00:23-8# Witness: Yeah, that (incomprehensible)

#00:00:27-7# Respondent: You can say that about me when you're about to put down a...

#00:00:30-9# Witness: Is red ink ok?

#00:00:34-0# Interviewer 1: Yeah, red ink is fine.

#00:00:35-1# Witness: Ok.

#00:00:38-0# Respondent: Makes it look like you're a teacher, doesn't it?

#00:00:40-7# Witness: Yeah.

#00:00:40-7# Interviewer 1: (laughing) Um, well, uh... you should ask most of the questions. I think, is that, that's what I'm about to say, right?

#00:00:51-9# Interviewer 2: Mhm.

#00:00:52-0# Interviewer 1: Thank you.

#00:00:53-1# Respondent: Thank you.

#00:00:54-0# Interviewer 1: Um, and then I'll help out, but remember you're supposed to ask them. Rephrase them in your own words.

#00:01:03-6# Interviewer 2: Yeah.

#00:01:08-0# Interviewer 1: Ok, Miss Hunter, do we have your authorization on film to...

#00:01:12-0# Respondent: Yes.

#00:01:12-4# Interviewer 1: To film you and use this possibly for a documentary?

#00:01:14-2# Respondent: Yes, yes. Certainly.

#00:01:15-3# Interviewer 1: Ok. Go ahead.

#00:01:18-0# Interviewer 2: Ok, so, uh, my name is Monica Tanner. I'm a student at Desert View High School and I'm in this program for (incomprehensible) and we are doing this, um, we are doing a documentar-, or documentary about the people that lived in this area, and I would like to know of how you remember the area.

#00:01:39-1# Respondent: Don't you want me to first give you my full name?

#00:01:41-6# Interviewer 2: Oh, sorry.

#00:01:42-6# Respondent: Yeah

#00:01:42-5# Interviewer 2: Yeah, sorry.

#00:01:43-2# Respondent: Do you need my birthdate? Address? What in-

#00:01:45-2# Interviewer 2: Yeah, I was gonna ask you...

#00:01:45-2# Respondent: ...what information?

#00:01:46-7# Interviewer 2: Ok, so, what's your name?

#00:01:47-6# Respondent: My name is Cecilia Aros Hunter. An address? Or a birthdate? What do you want?

#00:01:52-8# Interviewer 2: Um... how about your birthday?

#00:01:56-4# Respondent: November the 18th, 1941.

#00:01:58-7# Interviewer 2: November 18th, 1941. Ok.

#00:02:03-2# Respondent: I was born in Tucson. And at Stork's Nest, which was a birthing hospital right down by the, uh, by this cathedral downtown, on – I think it's on Stone.

#00:02:15-5# Interviewer 2: It's on Stone and Cathedral?

#00:02:17-7# Respondent: Yeah, it's right by the cathedral. The church.

#00:02:20-2# Interviewer 2: Ok, um, how did you remember the area of...?

#00:02:25-4# Respondent: Tucson?

#00:02:26-0# Interviewer 2: Of Tucson.

#00:02:27-4# Respondent: Ok. Well, when I was born, we actually lived, uh, on Riverside Drive, which is in Hollywood, by the Santa Cruz, uh, River. Ok. And Tucson was much smaller. And then we moved over closer to downtown area on Herbert Avenue, which is right by – let's see, it's, it's one block, uh, west of 4th Avenue. Ok, but 4th Avenue then was all built up, and, uh, it was, eh, you know, the grocery stores, and bakeries, and things like this. But that just meant we were just right across the tracks from the downtown area. And Tucson didn't extend that far. You have to remember about – probably the, well, the university was definitely out of town. Ha.

#00:03:14-7# Interviewer 2: Yeah.

#00:03:14-9# Respondent: Ok, Tucson High was right on the edge of town. Uh, even, well, Country Club was still a dirt road. And it didn't go very far. Probably out to Granada. Out to the west. South it probably went down to, hm, can't remember. About south 6th Avenue. Must have gone to at least

south 6th Avenue. Now, town of course was pretty segregated. But we lived on Herbert Avenue. And my parents had a small house there. And so in the earliest time apparently I would run away to go downtown and see my father.

#00:03:51-6# Interviewer 1: (laughing)

#00:03:52-6# Respondent: (laughing) And my father, when he first opened his shoe shop, he had a shoe repair shop that he opened in 1930. And it was on East Congress, right across the street from the Congress Hotel. As a matter of fact, daddy was talking about, several times he mentioned it, that when John Dillinger's gang was caught in Tucson in about 1934, ok, he and all his friends stood out in front of his shoe shop and watched the gang as it was being chased by the police, round and round. (laughing) Then by 1940 – see, he married my mother in 1937. In 1938, my older sister was born. And in 1941, I was born. When daddy's, my father's father, my grandfather, died in 1940, and then they seemed to move around. Ok, they-they move, he moves his shop over to West Congress at 30 West Congress, which would have been right in front of the Fox Theater. Ok? So then I'm born in '41, and that's pretty much where I grew up then, at his second shop on West Congress. So as I was growing up I could, I-I'm very familiar with the downtown area between Stone and Church. But Stone, uh, Stone was, Stone and Congress is the center of town. That's where it is zero, ok.

#00:05:20-7# Interviewer 2: Mhm.

#00:05:21-0# Respondent: So it goes, it changes from east to west. Well, from Stone to, what would street would that be? Oh, that's Granada. Grande is the one that's down by, down farther. Granada, sto-, is what was called "Snob Hollow." And, uh, so on Saturday mornings especially the, uh, the theaters would have Saturday morning cartoons. Kind of like kids get up on Saturday morning and watch television, we went downtown for the, for the, uh, movie theater. So at the Fox, and at the Fox Lyric. Just Fox Tucson and the Fox Lyric were the two, uh, theaters, the English language theaters that were downtown. And that's where we would go for the, uh, for the, for the cartoons on Saturday morning.

#00:06:11-7# Interviewer 2: Mhm.

#00:06:12-0# Respondent: Now sometimes we'd go down to the State. And sometime way down to the Rialto. Ok. And then the Rialto changes its name to the Paramount for a while. But those all had Saturday morning, uh, cartoons, ok.

#00:06:26-2# Interviewer 2: Ok, so you mention cartoons. Uh, what kind of cartoons?

#00:06:29-0# Respondent: Well, at the State they always had the, the Superman, and the Lone Ranger, and Lash LaRue, and those kind of things. And at the, those are the ones I remember the best. Uh, the Fox Tucson and the Fox Lyric had more cartoons like, uh, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, and stuff like that.

#00:06:52-6# Interviewer 2: Mhm.

#00:06:53-2# Respondent: Ok. Across the street from the Fox Lyric was the Plaza, which was the Spanish language, uh, theater.

#00:07:00-6# Interviewer 2: Mhm.

#00:07:01-2# Respondent: They didn't have, uh, they didn't have cartoons but they did have, uh, we'd go the Plaza in the evening. You know, and then Pedro Infante and Jorge Negrete and all those kind of, I don't know if you know those, those. Did you know them? Yeah? Yeah, Pedro Infante is kind of like the Elvis Presley of Mexico. (laughing)

#00:07:18-9# Interviewer 2: (laughing)

#00:07:19-7# Respondent: Was until many years later that I even figured out he'd died. I was so, so upset, my husband came in and told me in about 1980 that Pedro Infante had died in fift- in the 1950s. I told him it wasn't. He was wrong because Pedro Infante went right on...

#00:07:33-3# Interviewer 1: (laughing)

#00:07:33-4# Interviewer 2: (laughing)

#00:07:34-0# Respondent: Right on living. And then when we took a trip down to, we were down in Tampico. And we went into the hotel and turned

on the television and there was Pedro Infante. He was still alive. (laughing)  
I told him. (laughing) But that's, we'd go to the Plaza for that.

#00:07:49-0# Interviewer 2: So you guys went to the Plaza to get entertained, but...

#00:07:52-1# Respondent: Well, that was the Spanish language films.

#00:07:54-2# Interviewer 2: Oh, it was the Spanish language films.

#00:07:57-1# Respondent: Strictly Spanish language. (clears throat)  
Everything else was. But-but then remember that West Congress, from Church down to, uh, let's see, down to about where the federal building is now, ok. That was strictly Mexicans. I was talking to a man just yesterday, he was telling me he graduated from Tucson High School and he had never been west of-of-of Stone cause he, he is Jewish, and his, his family wouldn't let him go west of, west of Stone cause that was the Mexican area.

#00:08:29-2# Interviewer 2: So they were basically like restricted just on Mexicans.

#00:08:32-9# Respondent: Well, see, you can't say it's restricted, but they just didn't go, ok. Yeah, there was no reason for not going. Well, everybody went to the Fox Tucson.

#00:08:42-6# Interviewer 2: Mhm.

#00:08:43-1# Respondent: But that's as far, you know, that's as far into the west of Stone that you'd, that you'd go back in the 50s.

#00:08:49-7# Interviewer 1: Cecilia, you said it was the Mexican area. So how, what made it the Mexican area? What-what was there there?

#00:08:57-0# Respondent: Well...

#00:08:57-0# Interviewer 1: If you can...

#00:08:58-5# Respondent: Yeah, there were...

#00:08:58-8# Interviewer 1: Take us on memory lane.

#00:09:00-3# Respondent: Yeah. It was, there, actually west of Church there were more Mexican stores than west of Stone. Because on the corner of Stone... let's see, well, the Fox Tucson was about three stores, three buildings west of Stone. But, and the... west of Stone, before Church, you have what is called the White House, a department store. And that was owned by a Jewish family. So you did have a lot of Anglos going in there. But, uh, this man I was talking to yester-, Friday, was saying his parents didn't like him to go that far, ok. There was no reason he couldn't go that far. It's just his parents didn't want him to go that far. And actually my parents didn't like for me to walk down to the Lyric by myself on the south side of the street of Congress. Because right there were two saloons between Church and, uh, Granada. No, just Church, what would be the next street down? I can't remember the street. Because there is no street there now.

#00:10:12-3# Interviewer 1: Mhm.

#00:10:13-8# Respondent: Uh, so, right about where the Arizona Hotel is, the one that is defunct

#00:10:17-9# Interviewer 1: Uh huh.

#00:10:17-8# Respondent: The Placita. Ok, yeah. Well the Placita, that, you can tell that where the Placita is now, the gazebo?

#00:10:23-4# Interviewer 1: Uh huh.

#00:10:24-2# Respondent: Ok, that was really a street. That was on a, on a street. And there was a park right around it. And across the street from that was the Ronquillo's Bakery. Ok, so now that street to, to Church, uh, there were some saloons there and my parents didn't like me to walk on that side of the street. So when I'd go to the Fox Lyric, uh, which was on the north side of, of Congress, uh, I-I generally had to go with my, with my brother and sister. Number, safety in numbers, you know. However, I can remember getting my first communion dress down at one of the Mexican stores between those two saloons. (laughing) And there was a hot dog stand on Church and, uh, yeah, Church and Congress, that mama never wanted me to eat because she thought I was gonna get sick because it

was a bad hotdog stand. But I always went there anyway.

#00:11:16-2# Interviewer 2: (laughing)

#00:11:17-4# Respondent: (laughing)

#00:11:17-7# Interviewer 1: How old were you?

#00:11:18-2# Respondent: Oh! Fair, we had lots of freedom, ok. 10, 12. Even younger because it was, it was when I was still going to the cartoons, so you know, after the first grade but before junior high. How's that? (laughing)

#00:11:31-1# Interviewer 1: Ok.

#00:11:31-5# Respondent: (laughing)

#00:11:32-3# Interviewer 1: And you said there were, there were Mexican stores. What else made that area Mexican?

#00:11:36-8# Respondent: Well, Ruben Gold's was there. That was definitely the Mexican, uh, furniture store. Ok. Uh, what else? There were restaurants and just stores in general. Uh, I can't tell you. It was a lot of Spanish spoken, although remember I didn't get to speak Spanish because my parents were so afraid that I would get an accent. So they spoke to me in Spanish but I re- I spoke to them in English, ok. And of course that was a time if, eh, when you got spanked for speaking Spanish in school, ok. I was at Wakefield and some teacher threw a ru- an eraser at me, and I wasn't even speaking Spanish. But he threw erasers at us until we shut up, and then he made us bring the, uh, the erasers back to him. None of us speak Spanish. (laughing) We weren't allowed to since we've been in school. And all our, even LULAC didn't want us to speak Spanish, ah, for fear of an, of an accent. LULAC is League of United Latin American Citizens. Ok. They were the big, uh, Latino group at that time. They too were pushing hard, No Spanish, no Spanish. Only English, that in schools on the, every place you'd go. So it would, Spanish was almost like an adult language, unless you were coming from a Spanish like a, I have a friend who didn't learn to speak English until she was in school. But then her parents had come from Mexico, ok. For many of us who had been here for a long time it was just "no Spanish." Ah, and, and I didn't speak Spanish until I was an adult. So,



uh, it wasn't until much, much later, about 1980s or something before I, before I. But when i did learn to speak Spanish, I was fortunate because we went to a, a language school in Cuernavaca. Our university, Texas A&M, Kingsville, required – not required, but strongly urged us to go to a language school to learn how to speak Spanish and to know the culture, because Texas A&M had, uh, Texas allows instate tuition to students, Mexican students from Mexico. Uh, so they wanted us to know our students, and know the language, and know the culture. So they'd send us down to Cuernavaca to learn how to speak Spanish. And, uh, I had, I had the correct accent because I had always heard it. And I, you know, a few words. I mean, it, when you're in school with your, uh, your peers, of course you, our language was half and half. We had lots of Spanish words but we, and we, as I was telling you earlier, it was the literal translation that we had learned. Uh, so it was an awkward English that I learned when I was in college, was an awkward English because my classmates would say, "what was you, what do you," you know, ask me, well, what I thought was a, what did I mean by those, by the word, by the phrases that I used. So anyway, uh, so it was a lot of Spanish spoken, and it was a lot of Mexican music played. Especially in those saloons. I can remember that music.

#00:14:47-7# Interviewer 1: What kind of music was it?

#00:14:50-5# Respondent: Well, in Texas we'd call it *conjunto*. Here it seems to be more, uh, *waila* (sp?). It's a Yaqui music. And I was asking one, Jim Griffith, as a matter of fact, uh, "what's the difference between *waila* and, uh, and *conjunto*?" And apparently it's, *conjunto* is, is, uh, with words, and *waila* isn't. But it's that, that accordion and guitar music that. Uh, and we had much more, uh, of the traditional songs of Mexico. I remember when Ritchie Valens, is that his name? Yeah, Ritchie Valens sang "La Bamba". I don't know if you guys aren't, ""La Bamba"" is still, is still pretty popular. But when Ritchie Valens first came out in the fifties with "La Bamba", all the kids at my school stood up and got into two lines and danced "La Bamba" in a traditional way. (laughing) Ok. I've noticed in film subsequently that that's not the way the rest of the world was dancing "La Bamba". (laughing) But, you know, we were much more traditional, you know. Tucson was much smaller. It doesn't get to be 50,000 people until 19- until the 1950s. So we were our insular group. Uh, so what can I say? I can't tell you what, what made it a Mexican place. It just, it wasn't Anglo. (laughing) It was much more Spanish language spoken.

#00:16:15-7# Interviewer 2: What was your favorite moment at the Mexican place? Like what was your favorite place to go to? What was your favorite thing to do there?

#00:16:22-1# Respondent: Uh, where? At the...

#00:16:23-8# Interviewer 2: At the Mexican, or the Mexican area you were mentioning.

#00:16:27-0# Respondent: That area? Hm, can't say what my favorite was. I always was just used to enjoy being at my father's shoe shop. Ok. I liked working with my dad. My dad and I talked a lot. Ah, so.

#00:16:39-2# Interviewer 2: So you really had a, a great connection with your father.

#00:16:41-4# Respondent: A tremendous connection with my father, yes.

#00:16:43-7# Interviewer 2: Can you describe the connection between you guys?

#00:16:45-9# Respondent: Oh, yes. My dad was, was super. He, uh, he didn't get to go to college, except for one year. He got to go to college for one year. But he was an intellectual. And he loved, he loved music and poetry and literature and art. And, uh, he read to us all the time. Uh, and he was eager to have us go to school and, and get the college education he didn't. So, ah, each night, he would, he would read to us in English and in Spanish so that we would come to appreciate both of our cultures. We were Mexican Americans, he kept pointing out. And he often pointed out to me that I was a member of two minority groups. I was a woman and I was a Latina. Well, we used the term "Chicana" then. Ok. And we did use Chicana. And Chicana came to be militant. But when I was growing up it was simply the word that we used for Mexican Americans – or my dad used, at least. And, uh, so he wanted me to know – he wanted all three of us to know especially – that both of our cultures had everything that we could ever want to be proud of our cultures. And so we should enjoy them, but we should also learn about them. He wanted us to learn that history as well as the art, the music, the literature. Ah, he, and he gave, he quoted, he read poetry in both languages to us, most nights. Cause we didn't have television, you know? (laughing) And the radio, we'd listen to the radio but,

uh, in both languages. Yes. And I remember mornings you'd wake up and Jacinto Orozco would be on the mo-, on the, uh, the radio. I don't know if you know who that was, but he was a big, he was a very popular Mexican radio talk show person. And it, he had a real gruff voice. (laughing)

#00:18:28-7# Interviewer 2: (laughing)

#00:18:29-3# Respondent: I remember I'd wake up and mama would have that on.

#00:18:32-8# Interviewer 2: Ok, um...

#00:18:34-4# Interviewer 1: Do you? What kinds of, uh, things would you and your father talk about when you were in the shoe shop? Or something that, or what would you?

#00:18:41-8# Respondent: Well, something he did, he was always, always quoting, uh, poetry. "My hair is..."

#00:18:48-1# Interviewer 1: Do you remember?

#00:18:48-5# Respondent: "My hair is grey, but not with age. I just turned it white in a single night as men have grown from sudden fear." That's "Prisoner of Je- Zenda". And I can't remember who wrote it, but, uh, or, uh, a lot of, he, he talked about the church. He talked theology, philosophy. I was always intrigued with philosophy because his, whose, he was, he talked about those sort of things. About, uh, popular culture. He was big on reading the newspapers all the time. Everyday we'd read, he would read the, uh, the newspaper and we would discuss what was happening in the world. History was big with him. Uh, that sort of things what my dad liked to talk about. Guess that's why I got, that's why I majored in History and Political Science I guess. Politics certainly. Uh, I love politics. Daddy would always... because we were downtown and not that far from the courthouse, of course all of the city councilmen and the, and Raul, Raul Castro, who was the first Mexican American mayor, maybe the only Mexican American governor of the state of Arizona, was, uh, county attorney at the time, or an assistant county attorney, and then the county attorney. And he'd come in to get his shoes shined. You know, so I got involved in politics.

#00:20:04-1# Interviewer 1: Is there a specific poem that you remember?

#00:20:07-0# Respondent: Well, the Prisoner of Zenda.

#00:20:08-1# Interviewer 1: What was your favorite?

#00:20:08-7# Respondent: Yeah, that was my, always my favorite. Especially since I got white hair. I got white hair very young. I had white hair, one white streak right there. [phone ringing] Why don't you answer that, Les?

#00:20:18-5# Interviewer 2: Can you tell us like the meaning behind the poetry? Do you know like the meaning of like? What was like the moral theme? Or like what was like? Why was it like? Why did he keep on telling you like those quotes?

#00:20:31-4# Respondent: Got no idea. I mean cause it didn't really relate to anything. [Les asks here something] Yes? Tell her I'll call her later. I, she didn't, uh, he didn't really have a moral meaning behind it. He just enjoyed poetry. (laughing) Or what was the other one that he...? It's, uh, "Gunga Din", which is, uh... Hm, what can I say about "Gunga Din"? It-it-it, I've even forgotten who wrote it. God, it's famous. It was written in India. And Gunga Din was, uh, was one of the Sherpas that the British army was using. And, uh, Dad was always talking about, you know, "you're a better man than I am, Gunga Din." It's, it was that moral, "keep on fighting, keep on moving, keep on doing things." I think that was always Daddy's. I remember the, my favorite story he used to read to me when I was a little girl, was about the little, little Indian that could. And, you know, "I think I can, I think I can, I think i can." And so just keep on going because, uh, as I said, he always pointed out I was, I wasn't, I was a... two minority groups. I was a woman and I was, and I was a Mexican American. And I was gonna have to work harder, and do more, look better, sound better, in order to look just, you know, even half as good as an Anglo woman. I'd have to work harder. You see what I mean? An Anglo woman would never have to do that much to look as good as me-, as Anglo men. So I was really going to have to work hard.

#00:22:07-5# Interviewer 2: Ok, so you mention of how like you had to work, you had to work much harder than any person. Why did you mention that?

#00:22:15-7# Respondent: Cause that's what daddy said, you know, that as a member of two minority groups, as a woman and a Chicana, to look half as good I was gonna have to, I could never, never let myself look anything less than wonderful. (laughing) Ok. Even when I was sick, he'd come, he'd come in and he's say, "well, get up and wash your face and put on, uh, clothes, and look good, because you're going to have to work hard your whole life."

#00:22:49-4# Interviewer 2: Um, can you describe how your everyday life was during the time?

#00:22:53-4# Respondent: Oh, certainly. Uh, when we were very little, of course, we lived close to town so I could – apparently I used to run away all the time. (laughing)

#00:23:02-4# Interviewer 1: (laughing)

#00:23:04-5# Respondent: Cause I...

#00:23:04-5# Interviewer 1: Run away? How old were you when you would run away?

#00:23:06-7# Respondent: My, the one that knows, the one that my parents always laugh at now – apparently they were pretty afraid then – was, uh, when we lived downtown we had this picket fence, and I learned how to move one of the slats, squeeze out, and then put the slat back so mama didn't notice I was gone. And head downtown. So one time I was crossing the tracks and the train was coming when mama realized that I had escaped. She says, "I ran so hard and I caught you, and then the train went by and you waved." (laughing) I think a boost man. Bye bye! (laughing) And I (laughing) maybe that's why they moved away from downtown. (laughing) I don't know. But, you know, it was free, it was open. It was open. And I used to go down to my daddy's shop, according to my parents, this is their. And during the war especially is when I would see the guys come in from David Monthan, and I'd stand and put my hand over my heart and sing "God Bless America" (laughing)

#00:24:06-5# Interviewer 1: (laughing)

#00:24:08-2# Respondent: (laughing) So I, they told me those stories. I

don't remember doing this. (laughing) But they told me so often that I feel like I can still. Daddy was downtown on Congress street. And on Saturday night especially all the, all the air – what was it? Air.. it was, it was the Army Air Corps. Remember Air Force doesn't get created until the second World War. The Army Air Corps guys would all come down and they'd have to get their shoes shined. And I can remember a spit polish. That I do remember cause you'd have to get, the guys would shine those shoes so that you could see your face in them. So I remember the, uh, the uh, military coming in during the war. And actually during the 50s too because then you have the Korean War, and the base reopens sometime in that era, that time, the early 50s. And what Dad always did, he had a shoe shine parlor at the front of his, uh, of his shoe repair shop. And he, he was always trying to go out and get, get the pachucos especially. Because, the pachucos are the gang members and, uh, generally they'd drop out of school and things like this. But he was always trying to get them, to get, he wanted them to go into the air, into the military especially, because he wanted them to learn discipline. So he'd put them to work shining shoes. And then he'd talk to them, you know, about going into the military, about not being gang members, you know, and not, but there was lots of drugs, plenty of, well, marijuana at least. Lots of drugs around. And poverty does that. Uh, you get down and drinking and marijuana and broken families. So he, he often would collect these guys and put them to work shining shoes and talking to them about, uh, about working hard and to beat the po-, the cycle of poverty and all that sort of stuff. Mama used to get upset with my dad all the time because she said there were so many pachucos in jail who used his shoe shop as their permanent home address, and this embarrassed my mother. (laughing) Because, "where do you live?" "30 West Congress". Well, (laughing) mom was always complaining about that.

#00:26:22-0# Interviewer 2: Um, what was like the final result? Like did you guys get any person like to go into the military?

#00:26:26-6# Respondent: Yes, I do remember some guys. As a matter of fact the young man I went to the prom with, because my parents didn't let me date, but they did let me go to the prom, the senior prom. But they chose the boy. (laughing)

#00:26:37-8# Interviewer 2: Mhm.

#00:26:38-6# Respondent: That, and he would, and he got to take me to

the prom because he was back from the marines. He was in the marines. And, uh, he beat the gang. I mean he would never become a gang member. He went into the marines. He and his two brothers. I can remember, and I don't know what happened to them subsequently. However I can remember they did all go into the, into the military. And they looked really nice in their uniforms and everything. They didn't, I don't think any of them finished high school. But you could get into the service. And they did, they did, you know, they, they married and that's all I... I don't know what happened to them. But then you could tell a pachuco because he'd have the cross there and there. Now of course the pachucos were bad. Uh, they, the, you know a pachuco right away. You could always tell. The greasy hair. I don't, I don't remember zoot suits. You've heard, studied zoot suits? I don't remember zoot suits being, being around. But I remember zoot suits on some of my cousins in California who lived in California. But the pachuco garb around here – well, the tattoos on their arms, on their hand, and the tattoo here with the little cro- the cross, you could, you knew he was pachuco. You always, you just knew the pachucos anyway. So they weren't. They were easy to spot. Ok. And, uh, my parents were always careful that I didn't get involved in drugs, because drugs were not uncommon. Ok. They didn't make as much noise about them back then because drugs stayed in the, in the ghettos and in the barrios. And so it wasn't till the drugs got out into the main middle class. And, and that was, that would have been during the 1960s, the late 1960s. The early 1960s was a little bit of pot. Ah, but listen to the music of the 1960s and you can, you can hear the changeover at the beginning. And of course that's, those, that's my year, my years. The 1960s. And at the beginning when the hippie movement is, the Civil Rights music, and it's all that nice little songs, and then by 1969 you have, you know, "Come on, baby, light my fire." And it was just all that. But you can really hear the change in the culture. The drug culture in the music of the 1960s.

#00:29:02-6# Interviewer 2: Um, how did the music change?

#00:29:05-6# Respondent: Well, in ma-, in the barrio or in, or in... remember, by the 1960s I'm going to college, and my life largely becomes Anglo. Uh, I'm not... my parents, let's see, Daddy is... Daddy has to close his shop in 19... in 1960. Yeah, in 1960 he loses the lease on his shop and he goes to work out at Hughes. So I'm, we move away from the, uh, from the downtown. And I lived in Pueblo Gardens, which at that time was pretty Anglo. There were not many Mexican families there. It was a new

subdivision. And it's the first integrated housing subdivision in Tucson. Up until that time, it's not that Tucson had laws that restricted or segregated, as much, but the, uh, the new housing subdivisions did have written into their housing deeds, were restrictions on who could live there. Like in this house, when this subdivision is built, if you look at the early deeds you'll see that it specifically says, "No Mexicans here." Ok. We had to stay south of 22nd street in the deeds. And it's a real estate law that you don't, Pueblo Gardens, then, built by Del Webb, is an experiment in integrating housing subdivisions. Now, there weren't more than two or three Mexican families there. And we only lived there because we were closer to 22nd. It was 22nd and Cherry, and Dad was trying to get us in a house that would make us as close to the university as we could get. Because he said that we could, when all else fails, we could walk to school, cause Cherry went through. It's not like now you can't get through. But then Cherry went right through to the university. And, uh, that was important, that.

#00:30:57-7# Interviewer 1: So, Cecilia, how many years did you live in El Barrio? Or...

#00:31:01-6# Respondent: I didn't...

#00:31:02-7# Interviewer 1: What did you call it?

#00:31:03-5# Respondent: In the barrio?

#00:31:04-1# Interviewer 1: Uh huh.

#00:31:05-2# Respondent: We didn't call them barrios. We didn't.

#00:31:06-5# Interviewer 1: It was just...

#00:31:07-3# Respondent: It was just the Mexican, yeah. Main, Meyer, Church. Those were all just the Mexican area. So we did. Except for Hollywood, ok, down, uh, Riverside Drive, down by Saint Marys, ok. Hollywood was a barrio, but we didn't call the rest of them barrios. They were the Mexican district. When I came back to Tucson in 2007 they had the word barrio. Ok, but it's a change in times.

#00:31:37-1# Interviewer 1: And, uh, when you lived in, how many years did you live in that area? In the...



#00:31:41-4# Respondent: In the, deep in the barrio?

#00:31:42-7# Interviewer 1: Uh huh.

#00:31:43-3# Respondent: From, well, we moved, we moved to Pueblo Gardens in 1948, when it opens. Ok. Christmas Day, I remember because we were so worried that Santa Claus wouldn't find us. He did. (laughing)

#00:31:56-0# Interviewer 1: (laughing) So you moved there when you were, uh, in 19...

#00:31:59-5# Respondent: Se- 1948 I was 7.

#00:32:01-2# Interviewer 1: You were 7.

#00:32:01-2# Respondent: Mhm.

#00:32:01-7# Interviewer 1: Where did you live before?

#00:32:03-5# Respondent: In the barrio. Well, well, actually, we went from Hollywood. And then they moved over to Herbert avenue, cause they didn't want Gloria, they didn't want my older sister to go to Davis. Cause Davis was a Mexican school. And so they were very worried about her education. They wanted her to go to (incomprehensible) cause that had Anglo students, ok. So we were able to rent. And Herbert was all Mexican. So we got to live in that little area there. We had a little dinky house, until 1948. We moved there in 1940... about '45, '46. But all of our neighbors, except for one Black family. But I remember we were there when they integrate the schools. And schools get inte- Blacks, ok. Uh, in 1953 I think it is? No, we weren't there. So we must have integrated earlier. Because, let's see, *Brown v. The Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* is '52 to '54. We were in, in, uh, Pueblo Gardens and 48th, but I can remember mama asking my sister what it felt like to go to school with Black students. So...

#00:33:16-6# Interviewer 1: You were asked?

#00:33:16-9# Respondent: My sister. My older sister. I never. There was not a question of it when I was in school, that I can remember.

#00:33:24-5# Interviewer 1: I'm gonna set up (incomprehensible)

#00:33:26-6# Respondent: So.

#00:33:27-9# Interviewer 1: (incomprehensible)

#00:33:29-2# Respondent: But.... yeah, we'd watch in my lifetime, um, watch the integration. Yes. And it changed.

#00:33:40-5# Interviewer 2: What do you mean, it changed?

#00:33:42-8# Respondent: A change in attitudes, uh, about, uh, about things. When I married my husband, who is an Anglo, in 1969, and we went to-to Texas, they considered us a mixed marriage. Ok. And that was an ethnic mixture. Ok. We, were, because, you know, in fifty- I was in high school from '55 to '59, and we didn't talk, we didn't talk about integration or the difference in groups or anything like this. When I go to college in 1960, the Civil Rights Movement starts. And then, then there's the riots. And when I, uh, when I did my student teaching at Tucson High – my first husband died in 1967. And because we had two children, I thought, I've got to go back to school and get certified, because I intended to go into journalism. So my degree was in History with a minor in Philosophy. So I had... but you can't teach philosophy at, in high schools. So I had to go back and get, uh, get certified. That means I had to take education classes and, uh, and get a minor. A teaching minor. So I went back to school, and, uh, was getting certified. And Tucson High was having riots when I was trying to do my student teaching. And that's because that, I was student teaching in the fall of '68. Yeah, the fall of '68. But in the spring of '68, Tucson High had elected a Mexican American girl Rodeo Queen. Uh, Rodeo Queen was the biggest thing that happened. And so by, and then that fall, and I would say that summer, we have the 1968, uh, Democratic Convention, where there is major riots. Now, they burned Watson '65, and Black Power and Brown Power get very active in California. In '68, Brown Power and Black Power come to the Tucson High School campus and they're beating up teachers who aren't Black or Mexicans. Ok, slapping them around. That's, that's one time I certainly did speak Spanish. I'd find my Mexican students to walk me to class, cause it was scary. Uh, uh, you know, they, we were out, out, out of class, because bomb threats every day. And, uh, the students were really angry with, uh, the assistant principal at Tucson High School because when there was cross-dating, Mexicans or

Blacks with Caucasians, she would call the Caucasian in and tell them that, you know, that just wasn't done. They didn't, they weren't supposed to cross-date in that way. So the, uh, Brown Power, Black Power guys, uh, picked up her little Volkswagen and put it in front of her office window, and smashed it into the ground. (chuckles) It was really, I mean, that, but that's the change that we were seeing, is at long last, Blacks and Browns were not going to continue to put up with that kind of garbage. I shouldn't have been told that. That was wrong. So you see, you see all of that happening. It's, uh, is... then we leave Tucson. But South Texas is way behind Tucson. I don't know what happens in Tucson from '69 until we come back in 2007. It's changing because my parents are telling me. Ultimately they had to move out of Pueblo Gardens, cause when we would go down there it was getting increasingly, uh, poverty stricken. Uh, the houses don't look as good as they did when they were brand new and all that sort of stuff. And my older sister, who probably saw a heck of a lot more problems than I, felt more of the segregation than I ever did, because she had to go to Tucson High School. And, uh, she was driven. She, she knew one thing. She wanted to make lots of money. So she did. So she and her husband did. And, and, uh, they bought my parents a house in Green Valley, cause they didn't want them to live in Pueblo Gardens any longer. Really made me sad, that...

#00:37:39-6# Interviewer 1: So Cecilia, is, did you feel that when you were growing in, in Meyer Street? In the Mexican district?

#00:37:46-1# Respondent: I didn't feel it.

#00:37:47-2# Interviewer 1: Do you mean, by Mexican district do you mean like downtown?

#00:37:49-4# Respondent: Downtown, yeah.

#00:37:49-9# Interviewer 1: (incomprehensible)

#00:37:51-0# Respondent: My Main, Meyer, West Congress, yeah. No, I didn't. What I felt, what I felt because I was told. You know, I was such a great token. Uh, they'd send me to all of these places. I simply felt awkward. It wasn't until I took the Chicano classes and read the Chicano literature. Daddy didn't read us any of that because it wasn't around, ok. But I came to understand and appreciate the awkwardness I felt (laughing)

you know, was there, but I didn't know what it was. When I took my first sociology class at the University of Arizona and discovered I was a minority group, I was freed. I was fascinated. I am a minority group? I'd gone to Pueblo High School. I was the majority! So suddenly they were telling I'm a minority. My dad had been saying that. But, you know, that's just what your dad says. What does he know? (laughing) But to discover that, that was a real shock. (laughing)

#00:38:48-1# Interviewer 1: So then again, how many years did you leave in the...?

#00:38:51-6# Respondent: In the area? Well, from the time I was born until... till '59. '41 to '59. So what's that? 20 years?

#00:39:00-7# Interviewer 1: Mhm.

#00:39:01-1# Respondent: Yeah. And I was 20 when I got married.

#00:39:03-4# Interviewer 1: And what was the, La Placita like?

#00:39:05-5# Respondent: Oh, that was wonderful. Oh, that was, it was just a little park. And it had the gazebo in the center, and you could walk over there. And they were always having parties, you know, uh, the 16th of September, uh, was, was always held there.

#00:39:22-6# Interviewer 1: So what was that? I mean, other interviewees have told us about the 16th of September. It's the Mexican Independence Day. So what was, what was it like? What did people do there? What did you do with your parents and your siblings?

#00:39:34-0# Respondent: Music. It was lots of music, it was food. And of course the Ronquillo's Bakery was across the street from Placita. And you could go over there and get, uh, pastries and things like that. And then El Charro was across the, the other direction, south of the Placita. And that was good food. But the best part was those great huge, uh, tortillas with cheese on top. What were they called? Oh, I can't remember. Cheese crisps is what they are called now. Ah, those were great! Uh, you'd go in there and you'd, I always thought that the, uh, bullfighters looked, they had big pictures, those big pictures of the bullfighters. Oh, I thought, oh, that was so neat. Always imagined that a bullfighter had to be the most

romantic person I had ever, I had ever seen. Then I went to a bullfight and I never wanted to go to another one. (laughing) That was horrible! They're gory. They're bad. It's kind of like a boxing match, you know. On the radio they sounded so exciting. If you ever went to a real boxing match, you never want to go back. (laughing) They kill each other, so...

#00:40:33-0# Interviewer 1: You said they have images?

#00:40:34-8# Respondent: Oh, yeah.

#00:40:35-6# Interviewer 1: As in posters or...?

#00:40:36-7# Respondent: Posters and paintings and...

#00:40:38-9# Interviewer 1: Where were those displayed?

#00:40:39-9# Respondent: All over the walls. There were pictures of, uh, *matadores* especially. Oh, boy, they were excit- they were romantic, back then I thought, so handsome. And then the time there was going to be a, a big bullfight down in Nogales, they'd have posters up and, oh, that was very romantic, very romantic. And they'd had *almendrado*. I don't know if they still make it or not, but, uh, I loved *almendrado*. That was good.

#00:41:01-7# Interviewer 1: *Almendrado*. Is that candy?

#00:41:03-8# Respondent: It's a pastry. It, it's a, and it's three layers. So you have the colors of the Mexican flag. Heart as I'll get out make (whistle). And, uh, learned later that actually it was the, the *almendrado* recipe was created by Yndia Smalley Moore, who was the head of the Arizona Historical Society. So... (laughing)

#00:41:23-7# Interviewer 1: Really?

#00:41:25-1# Respondent: Yeah, yeah.

#00:41:25-6# Interviewer 1: And that, that was, it's made out of coconut?

#00:41:27-7# Respondent: Uh, yeah. It has, uh, it's largely eggs and milk and, uh, you had to beat them stiff and put a lots of sugar in. I can't remember what else goes into them, but it's, it's a great pudding.

#00:41:41-6# Interviewer 1: So what else was in La Placita?

#00:41:44-6# Respondent: The plaza...

#00:41:45-6# Interviewer 1: Like what did, what would your family do? How would you..? I mean, you would get there and what would you do?

#00:41:50-1# Respondent: Sit down and listen to the music, I mean. But it was tradition music. It was all the mariachi music and all that sort of stuff. So and I'd talk to friends. Uh, and that sort of stuff.

#00:42:00-5# Interviewer 1: What would you talk to them about?

#00:42:01-2# Respondent: I don't remember anything special. I mean it was casual talking. You know, whatever, whatever came up, the conversation of the day. It was an awful lot of people who knew each other, because Tucson was so small, remember. It becomes 50,000 in the 1950s. And we thought we were huge. I can remember the, the, uh, headline in the newspaper. "Tucson Census Reaches 50,000." Everybody was talking about how big Tucson was. Giant of a city. It was too big.

#00:42:32-6# Interviewer 2: Did you guys have like any other like community like gatherings?

#00:42:37-9# Respondent: Yeah. All the time. But it was, it was always the family gatherings. It was neighborhood gatherings. One of my favorite memories, when we lived in the barrio in Hollywood, was, uh, and I was very small. I mean, this was obviously, you know, 5 or 6 years old. But I can remember it was this, this couple that wanted to get married. And they couldn't afford to, to, the house. So the neighbors got together and they were building a house for them on their parent's land, on their parent's backyard. But I can remember them building the adobes, getting the, the, uh, the frame there. And you'd put the thing. But the neighbors would come over after work. And of course remember that in the barrio you'd have all of the people who were the workmen, the plumbers and the electricians, and the con-, the builders, the carpenters, and everything. So they building these, these bricks and putting them up. And the women of course would cook. And the kids would play. I remember that in the barrio. I-I, I just remember feeling the fun of it and knowing that it was happening. I can't

give you specifics about it because I was 5 or 6 years old, ok? Uh, so, but, uh, it was, it was an exciting time. Ah, because it was family gatherings. And then of course we had lots of family gatherings. My mother's had a 13, yeah, 13 brothers and sisters. So my mother's family, they were all very, very close. Uh, my father's family, he was an only child, but he had lots of cousins. And they drifted in and out. A lot of them lived in Phoenix, in Florence, and they just come in all the time. And we had family gatherings more than anything else. Mhm. When I got to high school, I used to have a lot of parties. I liked parties.

#00:44:31-9# Interviewer 1: Where would you have the parties?

#00:44:34-4# Respondent: My house.

#00:44:35-3# Interviewer 1: Your house?

#00:44:36-1# Respondent: My parents, my parents didn't mind at all. Uh, they preferred having them at my house. Everything else... mama came in one time. Uh, she thought she had to be a better chaperone. My parents would generally go to the bedrooms. Mama came in one time. And so one the guys, couple of the guys stood up and danced with her real, real fast, and she went back to the bed, her bedroom and collapsed. (laughing) We got rid of our chaperone.

#00:44:59-5# Interviewer 2: (laughing) So can you, or can you describe how your neighbors are?

#00:45:04-6# Respondent: My neighbors in, in Pueblo Gardens were mostly, were all Anglos, as a matter of fact. I don't know any... I don't, I don't remember any of the Mexican Americans.

#00:45:13-6# Interviewer 1: What about your neighbors down in the Mexican area?

#00:45:16-4# Respondent: That, you see, that, the Mexican area, the one we would go to visit, you know, that, that felt comfortable. I can remember in, that when we lived in Hollywood, ok, and lots of the houses had dirt floors. It was about 3 o'clock, a lot of the women would got out and sprinkle the ground because the coolness would come up from the sprinkled ground. From this watered grounds.

#00:45:41-2# Interviewer 1: Inside the house?

#00:45:41-8# Respondent: Inside the house and outside. Because we'd eat outside. We also slept outside. I remember sleeping outside in the backyard and looking up at the stars, and my daddy would tell me about the stars up there. I never saw anything, but he would tell me, you know, "there's the Big Dipper and there's the Little Dipper." And I... they were just stars to me. I just look up, "ok, that's, if you tell me so". And I remember wash day on Riverside Drive too, because mama would have to go outside and of course boil the water. And the open thing and then she had a ringer washing machine, but she had to put the hot water into the washing machine, and I was always sure she was gonna her hand stuck in the ringers as they went through. And we weren't allowed to go into the, into the Santa Cruz River to play or anything. It was, because that was dangerous. But there wasn't any water in the river that I can ever remember. They tell me there was water in the Santa Cruz River, but I never remember seeing it. It was, it was just sandy to me. I remember, when we lived in the barrio too that, we would go outside and sit in a tree, and the mesquite tree has some kind of, uh, sap on it that we would pull off and use as, as gum. (laughing) Or go to the, the little, there was a little Chinese store down there. We'd go in there and get saladitos. You know, the little, ok, that. What else did we get in there? I remember walking to church, cause we'd go up the street and Saint Mary Margaret's was at the end of that street. We lived on one end. We lived on Riverside Drive. And, uh, Saint Mary Margaret's is on Grande. And a couple of my cousins were nuns there. So when I was very little, and I would walk up there with my sister, and they'd always report me to my mother cause I have, I would always misbehave. (laughing) By the time I'd get home she'd know that I'd misbehaved again. (laughing)

#00:47:41-4# Interviewer 1: (laughing)

#00:47:44-4# Interviewer 2: So how did you guys, like, or like misbehaved?

#00:47:47-6# Respondent: Oh, well I never sat still. And I always talk too much. (laughing)

#00:47:53-5# Interviewer 2: What did you talk about?



#00:47:54-8# Respondent: Anything that came up. I mean, I'm non stop talker. (laughing) Haven't you noticed in this interview? I can talk for hours. (laughing)

#00:48:04-6# Interviewer 1: What would your sister do?

#00:48:05-3# Respondent: She was very different from me. Ok, she was, yeah, when she misbehaved, I'd pinch her. (laughing)

#00:48:11-9# Interviewer 1: (laughing)

#00:48:12-7# Interviewer 2: (laughing)

#00:48:14-5# Respondent: My sister was, was very, she was just very different, ok. She was never, she was never... I guess cause she had to take care of me. She was always just much more serious. Always, always. She... she was just more negative than I, than I ever have been. Or very... I swear, you wouldn't know we were related, if you met her. I'm a Democrat. She's a Republican. Ah. (laughing)

#00:48:44-9# Interviewer 1: (laughing)

#00:48:48-5# Interviewer 2: So you, is that like the only sister that you had?

#00:48:50-8# Respondent: Yeah. I had one sister and one brother.

#00:48:52-5# Interviewer 2: Um, can you describe your brother?

#00:48:54-6# Respondent: My baby brother was born sick, so he didn't get to come home from the hospital for about a year. And then when he was, uh, let's see, he was about 4 or 5... was he that old? Yeah, must have been about 4 or 5, I was ten. He's four years. I was older. Anyway, we were driving on 36th street, which was way far out, ok, and, uh, he said he wanted to go see my dad, and momma said, "well, not quite right now." So he opened the door and jumped out. And his head hit against a rock. And so he suffered head trauma. And, uh, we spent a lot of years, uh, getting him well again. But, and then when he was, uh, so he was very quiet. But fortunately there's lots of family and friends. So he, you know, he came back ok, but he did have trouble in school because of the head trauma he'd suffered. I said, Joey, but then when... let's see, when he was in junior high

school he went out for the football team, because by that time we thought he was well. He still had trouble in school, but we thought he was well. And, uh, the playing football, even though it was flag football, had jarred his head, and discovered he had an epileptic seizure, and they discovered that he had a pressure forming on his brain. And, uh, this caused my mother to get very sick. She had a nervous break down. So she went to the hospital. And so I had to take care of my, my little brother, because if he even sneezed wrong, that pressure could kill him. He told me, God, I can't believe this. But I said to him – by that time my sister was gone. She had moved out. And I was in high school. And, uh, I said, "well, uh, look, Joe, I'm very, very busy, because I've got all these school things." I was everything in school, ok. The editor of the paper and all kind of junk. Uh, secretary, student body secretary. Uh, see, I said, "I'm very, very busy, and I've got the house to keep because dad is working two jobs to pay for mama's hospitalization. So I've got, so I've gotta run the house, I've got to run to school, so if you get sick, you're gonna have to tell me, because if you don't tell me and I don't get you to the doctor, you're gonna die." (laughing) Poor kid. (laughing) Anyway, I said, he told me that the other, one time, and I said, "I didn't say that to you, did I?" He says, "oh, yes, you did. I remember thinking, oh, dear me. I've gotta be sure to keep her informed if I don't feel well." (laughing) Well he got, he got through it. He is, he's perfectly fine now. I don't know how. He says, just one day he woke up, and it was ok. And he, he's got, he's got master's degrees, and he was the, he was the, in the administration of Riverside High School. And so he's ok now, but for most of my life I can remember taking care of my little brother, because he was, he was sick.

#00:52:00-5# Interviewer 1: Would you take him outside? Did you take him to downtown?

#00:52:03-1# Respondent: Every place, to actually...

#00:52:04-6# Interviewer 1: (incomprehensible)

#00:52:05-9# Respondent: Yes, yes. Every place. He, he was funny. When he was, uh, let's see, uh, was it after his accident maybe? Was before daddy left the shop. He walked into Martin Drug. Martin Drug was right on the corner of Church and Congress. He walked in and he says – they told us later – uh, he says, uh, "is water free?" Because it was a counter. And they said, "yes." And he says, "Could I have a glass of water?" And then he

says, "is sugar free?" They said, "yes." And so "could I use some sugar?" And then he pulled out his little package of Kool-Aid, put the Kool-Aid into the water, sugar, stirred it up. (laughing) You know, everybody knew about the family. And so the next time my parents were in, they told him what Joey had done. (laughing)

#00:52:53-4# Interviewer 1: (laughing) And where was this again?

#00:52:56-4# Respondent: Martin Drug, which was on the corner of Church and the, let's see, it would have been on the, uh, southwest corner of Church and, uh, and Congress. (laughing) That's right across the street from that hotdog stand.

#00:53:09-1# Interviewer 1: That you weren't allowed to eat?

#00:53:11-2# Respondent: Yeah, we weren't supposed to eat there. And next door to the Greyhound station used to be down there too. And then across the street from the Greyhound sta- Greyhound Station would have been on Church and Broadway. And then across the street from that would be El Charro. And that, Greyhound Bus would be, uh, just east of the Placita. Ok. It's all, it's all connected down there, together like that.

#00:53:34-3# Interviewer 1: Do you remember, are there any most memorable anecdotes about the area?

#00:53:39-5# Respondent: Yes, and as I was telling you at that meeting the other day, uh, used to love Saturday nights. Everybody would go downtown window shopping. Ah, all the stores would be all had those big windows and they had models and clothes in it. And it was i-in, what I remember best is Mike, whose, who had an accordion. He was a Yaqui Indian. He had an accordion and he plays music and, uh, people would pay him, cause he was blind and he couldn't move very easily. He'd sit right there on, not quite on the corner but one building in, because the Tucson Federal Savings and Loan was on the corner, on the southwest corner of Stone and Congress, on Congress, ok. And it was a big building. Federal type, federal looking night building, you know, pillars and everything. And then Mike would sit right there and play his accordion. And when he needed to go to the bathroom or anything, he'd walk down to my dad's shop and used the restroom there. And every christmas – I thought it was so sweet – he'd bring him some toothpaste and a toothbrush as Christmas gift to thank him

for letting him use the, uh, the, uh, the restroom. And, uh, it was, I just always thought that was so sweet, because, I mean he didn't have any money at all. He was begging. And, uh, the music was just part of what I remember on Saturday nights. It was, it was playing because Saturday nights the shop would stay open till 9 o'clock, and then we'd go over to Main. Yeah, I think it's Main Street, to one of the restaurants, the Mexican restaurants. It was this treat. And we had to wait till 9:30 or so to, to eat. But it was just such a treat. And I discovered, I invented the mixed burrito, the chile con carne and beans. I know I did. Other people claim it, but I know that I invented that, that burrito. (laughing) Cause I used to love it.

#00:55:35-9# Interviewer 1: Where would you make it?

#00:55:37-8# Respondent: At that restaurant, made it. One of those restaurants. I introduced it. (laughing) I...

#00:55:41-7# Interviewer 2: What was the name of the place again?

#00:55:44-1# Respondent: Actually it's Miridito [El Minuto?]. It was down there by the Carrillo School. Right in back of the, uh, Tucson Convention Center. It's become very Anglo now. I mean it's just so chic to go there now, but back then it didn't look like it looks now. I asked them one day, "did you move this place?" But remember that they, Main and Meyer would go straight up to Congress, so that means that whole convention center was not there, so, well it felt like it was going a long way in to me. Now it does, it feels like, what is it? West off, that's not Broadway, but what's, is that Scott? I can't remember the name of the street. But now it's, it's right there by Carrillo School. So it, it seems like it's the center of town, but when we were going there, the whole Meyer, Main Street was, uh, was. I-I remember the streets being much more narrow, because there were people all over the place, walking up and down, and, uh, I, the restaurant, El Miridito I think is the name of it. Is that the name of it? Or, yeah, must be.

#00:56:45-5# Interviewer 1: (incomprehensible)

#00:56:49-1# Respondent: Ok, well it, it had a store front on it. It didn't have all that, it wasn't arranged the way it is now. Uh, you'd walk in and there were some tables. And it was a, one huge room. And you could see the kitchen from the entrance way. And the doorway was right there, and you'd go in. And, uh, that's the way I remember it. But the store, the streets

were so narrow that two cars barely fit, it seems to me. You know? Uh... but that's where we'd go for Saturday night dinners, to one of those Mexican restaurants. It was very Mexican. You never saw an Anglo down on Main and Meyer. Now it's all gentrified. But back then you just. And then right on the corner there, by the across the street from the Plaza hotel, uh, Plaza Theater, was a *hierbería*. And my momma always believed in – my mama was a *curandera* – would always go in there to get the various herbs and things like that that would, would, for any kind of an illness. If we, mama used to think we have to take something just to go outside for fear that the, a cold germs were walking by on the air or something like this, you know. Take something so that you don't get sick. (laughing)

#00:58:08-5# Interviewer 2: What did you guys take?

#00:58:09-6# Respondent: Oh, I'm trying to think. *Hierbabuena* for everything. Everything it was *hierbabuena*. "You'll have a, have another glass of tea." "I've got a cold." "Have a glass of *hierbabuena*." (laughing) That's the one I always remember. There were other things too. I remember I used to get migraine headaches. And of course she'd put the potatoes. The cold, you, you soak the potatoes I think in ice water or something. They were always cold. I remember that. And, uh, then you put them on your eyes and your head and makes you, makes you well again. She wasn't, for some reason they determined that I, if with my migraine headaches, if I took Coke, drank a Coke, I was better. And so I, they didn't let us have soda pops very much. So, but for a headache you'd get a, you'd get a Coke. But...

#00:58:56-5# Interviewer 1: And, uh, you said your mother was a *curandera*?

#00:59:00-3# Respondent: Well, not really, but I mean kind of a minor one. But not a...

#00:59:03-6# Interviewer 1: Just for the family? Or...

#00:59:05-0# Interviewer 2: Yeah, well, people always came around. She also had a direct line to God. She was a great prayer. You said you didn't feel well, mama would say a prayer and you'd get well because mama was, mama prayed a lot, she gave everybody medicine, and, uh, it was just, she gave them the sort of things that I just didn't pay much attention to. I just

know that she was a minor *curandera* and that she would... Mama was very, very fair. She was Italian. Northern Italian heritage. And so she was very fair. And, uh, at, when my dad first married her, she wasn't very well liked because she was so light skinned, and light eyed, light eyes. So I guess that's how she fell into being a *curandera*. I mean she passed out every, all this medication for everybody, which wasn't, you know, serious medication. Because it was herbs, *hierberías* and stuff like that. So it wasn't, she wasn't, she wasn't practicing medicine or anything, but she was everybody's healthcare giver. So...

#01:00:09-7# Interviewer 1: And you said she was passing out the medication. She wasn't very much liked because of her skin color, you said?

#01:00:13-4# Respondent: At first. At first. But as she got, as she became accepted in the neighborhood because, in the barrio, because of these, you know, of the *hierbabuena* or whatever it is. Chamomile pill, tea, she became more accepted by the community because she offered help. Both of them did. Both of my parents did as a matter of fact, though. Were eager to help the community. And I grew up with an idea that I had to be of service to society because I was so fortunate. Uh, we didn't have much money. As a matter of fact, now as I look back, we were really poor. It was tremendous poverty. I don't know how they, I don't know how they did what they did. It's just beyond me. But they, they would have shared anything. I-I never remember. I used to think privacy, before I, before I married an Anglo, I used to think privacy was perhaps one section of a chest of drawer. Ok. There was no privacy. There were always people at our house, even when we moved to Pueblo Gardens. And we're surrounded by Anglos. We had more people in that house. It was a two bedroom house. And every inch of it was used, cause my parents were always helping people. And when they moved down to Green Valley, my parents still, as the people would cross the border, in, in Pueblo Gardens too, people would cross the border. They would find their way to my, to my parents house. And mama would help them get jobs. You know, she'd, uh, she'd show them how to clean. How the lady, the rich ladies would want their houses cleaned, or cooked in an Anglo, a Mexican Anglo way, and, uh, send them off to work. She'd find job, help them find jobs. And then when they would have their days off, they'd come back, back to our house to, uh, spend the night or something like this, because they needed some place to go. If they had a day off, they wanted to get out of where they were. I think they...

End Part 1

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Part 2:

#00:00:00-2# Respondent: ...probably also wanted to speak Spanish. Because momma was born speaking Italian, but she, when she married Daddy, she learned Spanish, and she didn't speak Spani- Italian again.

#00:00:09-7# Interviewer 1: So Cecilia, how old was your father when he moved to Tucson?

#00:00:13-5# Respondent: 30. He was 20 years old.

#00:00:15-6# Interviewer 1: 20 years old?

#00:00:16-1# Interviewer 1: Because remember he goes, he starts school when there was, when they were requiring any Spanish surname child to have three years of first grade. So, uh, he had to go to 1C, 1B, and 1A before he could, uh, go on to second grade. So he was 20 years old when he graduated from Phoenix Union High School. Then he comes down here to Tucson and, uh. Now they at first they live at First, what's now First and River. Then it was, it was nothing. I mean it was out in the County. And, uh, so, but and then it, he goes to, he goes to college for about a year. And then he opens his shop on West, on East Congress.

#00:00:57-4# Interviewer 1: You said your house was always full. Who-who would be in there?

#00:01:02-7# Respondent: Jam-packed with everyone.

#00:01:04-0# Interviewer 1: And if your house, it wasn't on Meyer Street, right? It was called Barrio Hollywood?

#00:01:09-3# Respondent: Well, yeah, that, yeah, on Riverside, Riverside Drive. Ok, but then when we moved over to Pueblo Gardens it continued to be full, with relatives, with friends, with these people that momma helped find jobs for, uh, with pachucos that daddy picked up. (laughing) It was just people. (laughing) I can't even identify. I just know it was a lot of people.

#00:01:34-7# Interviewer 1: And that was all since you can remember them? Until you were 20 years old?

#00:01:38-7# Respondent: Oh, when they lived in Green Valley they continued to have people. Just people. And I'd come in, and I'd say, "momma, you're going, you and dad are gonna get arrested. You've got all these illegals in here." (laughing) "Oh, that's ok. Nobody notices." (laughing) How do you? How do you? They were nonjudgmental. So anything could have happened. I remember her, that momma called in one day. She says, "I'm so worried." Uh, one of her brothers had a daughter who was into pot, into marijuana and all kinds of other drugs. And they had at a party at, at this, at this house, and Daddy went in and they offered him some marijuana to smoke. But he said, "no thank you." (laughing) So then they're driving home and she says, "what have you done? Where have you been?" He says, "well, you know, they were smoking it. And they offered me some but I didn't take it." She says, "you smell bad. They're gonna arrest you." (laughing) She calls me. She says, "I don't know what to do about him." "Well, wash his clothes. Give him a shower." She didn't mind that everybody was smoking pot. She was just worried that daddy was gonna get arrested. (laughing) And by that time they were older. They were in their 80s or something like this. And so. (laughing) So it was a problem. (laughing) I could just imagine. It's kind of like when, you remember when SB1070 was passed? Ok, and I was so worried that daddy was gonna get deported, cause he was dark skinned. And he was, by that time he was like, let's see. That's, was that, was in 2010, wasn't it? Yeah, he was 100 years old by that time. And he didn't have a driver's license. He didn't have any form of ID. (laughing) I said, "oh, tata, we've got to get you some kind of ID." (laughing) I'm telling my daughter, who was in Nashville, she's a lawyer, "what am I gonna do if my father gets arrested when I'm not around?" She says, "Don't worry about it. He's so easy going, they'd pick him up, deport him, send him off to some small village, and instantly he'd have a million friends, and be ever so happy, and think that this is the most wonderful thing that could have ever happened." (laughing)

#00:03:40-7# Interviewer 1: (laughing)

#00:03:42-8# Respondent: (laughing) Cause that was Daddy. I mean he just, life was, life was so good to him, he thought. And this is a man that when he was 10... 10 years old? Yes, he was 10 years old and they'd just



gotten to Phoenix, and he was a paperboy. So he was downtown Phoenix, selling papers. And then as he walked back to where they lived in the barrio, Phoenix, uh, he tries to hitch a ride on a horse-drawn car. You know, the guess is it's, he was 10 years old... is that how old he is? 1930, yeah. 1920, ok. Tries to catch a ride on a horse-drawn car, he falls, uh, cart, and he falls off, and the cart rolls over one of his legs. And, uh, they, they take him into the barrio, but they, it's dark by that time, it's night, and Anglo doctors wouldn't go into the barrio, into the Mexican district. And so gangrene sets in. They chop off his leg, and, uh, he spent the rest of his life being grateful that somebody could save the rest of his body, and that it, life was ok, you know. He had cousins who took care of him ultimately. I mean, it was a, life was so good to my dad. He couldn't afford to go to college, and that's what he wanted to do most in the world. Still ok. I mean, he found the shop, he got married, he had wonderful children. My dad thought that life was good. I look back at it now. He faced horrible discrimination, you know. I think even though he was born an American citizen, he went out and got citizenship papers because he had no other form of ID, and he didn't want to be deported. And our, everybody he knew was getting deported. I mean, back in the 30s and the 40s, it was like 1070 today. They were picking people up and they were sending them back with out, with no warning at all. So daddy went and got these naturalization papers, cause that was the easiest way to get some papers. He had no birth certificate. He was born during the Revolution. He wouldn't let us leave home without photostatic copies of our birth certificates so that we didn't get deported. He was always worried that we were gonna get deported. It was the thing with him, but still...

#00:05:50-7# Interviewer 1: He was born during the Mexican Revolution?

#00:05:52-0# Respondent: 1910. So he's born. And I don't know what happened to my grandmother. I think they left her down there. She must have been on the wrong side. (laughing) They just came back up here in 1918 when my grandfather's... my grandfather's father dies in 1918. So they come back shortly before he dies. And, uh, it's, daddy, daddy thought life was good. And he, he felt ultimately successful because he got, got his four, his three children through college. And he thought, that's success to my dad. Ok, despite the tremendous poverty. I mean it was, it was no joke when he was paying for my brother's hospitalization, and then my mother's hospitalization. He was, he was, he goes right on thinking, this is good life.

#00:06:40-5# Interviewer 1: What did people do for a living downtown?  
Your father...

#00:06:43-6# Respondent: Was a shoe repairman. There's a lot of shoe repair shops downtown. Ok, a lot of them. That seemed to be very common. Uh, jewelry shops. The guy next door to daddy was a jeweler. And working. You know, county government was downtown. Working in the various shops. Uh, then of course as you go, you know, there's stores. There's no mall then. There's just stores. And they're all over the place. And people worked there. Waitresses, cleaning people. There were even, I don't remember very many Chicana salespeople. Or Chicanos. It was salespeople, but they were in service areas, as I recall. I think they, they might have worked in some of the lesser stores. But like at Steinfelds and Jácome's, which were the very good, Seal Petersons and things like that, you didn't see many La- Chicanos. And they were Chicanos then, remember. That's the term that my dad always used, ok. It didn't, doesn't become a militant term until the 60s.

#00:07:53-0# Interviewer 2: What did your mom do for a living?

#00:07:54-7# Respondent: Momma always tried to find jobs at night so that she could stay home during the day. So like she worked at a bakery on 4th avenue. Uh, it was called the Perfecto Bakery. And it was owned by a couple of Mexican citizens actually. Uh, and uh, she would work there. She'd go to work like at 3 o'clock in the morning so she'd be home in time to send us off to school and things like that. And sometimes I got to go with her. Oh, it smelled wonderful in there. They had bread baking and all that sort of stuff. And wonderful pastries. Ah, yes.

#00:08:30-2# Interviewer 2: Do you remember any of them? Can you describe it to us?

#00:08:33-9# Respondent: The bakery, the bread was the most wonderful thing. And the huge ovens. They had those rolling things. Ok, and you'd put the bread in there and it would come out and it would be beautiful. Ah, or the cream puffs and the chocolate eclairs. It wasn't, you know. It's on the Anglo side of town, so the bak- that bakery had Anglo pastries. It was not like Ronquillo's were you'd have the... we call them *pan de huevos*. And, uh, *molletes*(?) and all that sort of stuff. Uh, but, uh, you know, that's, that's the Mexican side of town, though. So it's a difference- different sized

things. But the bakery was, bakery was not too far from Tucson High School, so that, uh, mama would go back in. Let's say when we were in school. So she'd, she'd go in about 11. But she was always home for lunch. Hm, how does that work? Well, she would go help make lunch and then she's come home and feed us, uh, lunch. She was home when we were home. She was working when, when we were at school, or when daddy was there to take care of us. Momma used to like to go to bingo a lot. So she'd go to bingo at night with her friends. And daddy would stay home and babysit us. Now we were babysat. I mean we were never left alone. I mean not, not till we were in high school and more. I mean when momma got sick of course I was alone with my, my brother, cause daddy was working day and night to, uh, to try to pay for momma's. Fortunately, Hughes, was called Hughes then, now it's Raytheon, fortunately Hughes had really good insurance, and so it paid for momma's, uh, hospitalization. And a lot of Joey's, too.

#00:10:12-6# Interviewer 1: Back in the Placita, um, who would go - you said Saturday nights were the nights to go.

#00:10:18-5# Respondent: Oh, everything.

#00:10:19-7# Interviewer 1: Who then who would go?

#00:10:20-2# Respondent: Everybody was downtown.

#00:10:22-1# Interviewer 1: Your father? Your mom?

#00:10:23-5# Respondent: No. My daddy had to work until 9 o'clock.

#00:10:25-7# Interviewer 1: Ok.

#00:10:26-1# Respondent: Ah, very often though by the time I got to be older, as long as I was going just to the Placita I could go over by myself, as long as that's, you know. And I did that a lot. But it was only for big celebrations that you'd go to the Placita, you know. The 16th of September. The 15th, 16th of September you'd have things happening over there. Sometimes there were parties over there, but I wasn't necessarily invited to the parties, so I didn't always go, uh, to, to it. I can remember – and this is just a feeling, I don't remember specifics – I can remember that there was a joy in going, because you knew that there was going to be music, and fun,

and people there, ok. But I don't, now I can't give you very many specifics about that. It was there and I remember what it looked like. It made a huge impression on me. I can remember on Sundays I think somethings happened, but we didn't go down there cause we went to All Saints Church, which is on, uh, 6th. North 6th. It's 6th and what? By the Armory Park, ok. I think they turned into a Children's Museum or something like this. That's another place that we went to often. Everybody went to the, uh, the library. Across the street from the Armory Park was the Carnegie Free Library. It had air conditioning, so during the summer you definitely wanted to go the library. You sit in- you sit in air conditioning. It was hot outside. (laughing) So, but you had to be real quiet. (laughing)

#00:11:57-5# Interviewer 2: So you mentioned going to the library. Um, what were like the type of books that you read?

#00:12:03-5# Respondent: Anything that I could get my hands on, ok. Uh, we just, we just, well, that was all we did. I mean I even remember reading encyclopedias because it was cool, and they had them there. I remember especially the Nancy Drew mysteries. Oh, I read all the Nancy Drews. And the, who was that other? Some lady who was a nurse. Some girl who was a nurse. What was her name anyway? Sue Barton. Uh, a nurse. That was all of those series. Uh, those were, you know, and, I-I used to like to read the classics. So I read anything, any time they had any children's classics, children's editions of, of Shakespeare or anything like this, I always enjoyed those. Uh, but that was what I largely read.

#00:12:52-7# Interviewer 2: When did you go? Did you go during the day? Did you go during the...

#00:12:55-2# Respondent: During the summer during the day, ok, cause you wanted to be there at, when it was cool. When, when, when the weather outside was hot, when you could enjoy the coolness of the, of the, uh, a library. Kind of during the summer, during the summer you, there were always programs at the school that we could go to in the morning. Square dancing and crafts and things like that. I mean, during the school year you just go to school and then you come home. But the schools, I can't remember if they were air conditioned or not. They must have had some kind of air conditioning. But I remember during the early 50s, when, uh, when we have the beginning of the Cold War, and all the schools had to be worried that we were gonna get bombed because the titan missiles

were out there, and Davis Monthan was over there. And so Tucson was one of the big hotspots whether we were all gonna get bombed. And all the students were taught how to curl up inside bookcases or something like this in case we got bombed. My husband and I both, both remember the airplanes. And airplanes flew much lower than they are now. Like have you seen the, the airplanes out at the Pima Museum? And they fly low. You just stopped talking. Even when I was in college, I can remember sitting in lectures and the big airplanes would go over. The lecturer would just stop. You know, there was just no point because the plane was so low that it rattled the windows. And we didn't have the double pane windows. We had single pane windows, and you were sure they were gonna fall out on you.

#00:14:36-2# Interviewer 2: You mentioned some programs, um, like you did during the summer. Did you do any? And can you describe like what...

#00:14:43-0# Respondent: Square dancing. That was my favorite. And, uh, all the crafts. I still like to do crafts, I think because I learned how to do those. You know, build stick figures. (laughing) And what we used to do at my school, at Pueblo Gardens Elementary, is we used to, cause it was brand new, and so the, the yard still had lots of rocks and everything, and we designed houses. And we'd carry these heavy rocks over and we'd design these rooms and everybody would, or the game that we played the most often was "Red rover, red rover, let someone come over." And I was real tiny. I was really skinny. So everybody knew that I wouldn't beak through anything. So I got... (laughing) "red rover, red rover, let Cecile come over. Ha, ha, ha." (laughing)

#00:15:30-4# Interviewer 1: (laughing)

#00:15:32-5# Respondent: (laughing)

#00:15:35-3# Interviewer 2: Um, how were your friends like?

#00:15:37-2# Respondent: My friends? Uh, my friends were mostly Anglos, ok, cause I was living in Pueblo Gardens. And so my best friend was Eloise Pew, who lived a block away. And she, she actually taught me how to write my name, cause, uh, my first name is Eleanor, and I never liked that name. So I always use Cecilia. Well actually they called me "Cecile". And I didn't know how to spell "Eleanor", so she taught me how to spell my name. (laughing) She was, we were the same size. That her parents were much,

much older and they didn't, they didn't, they never wanted to, uh, let her dress in all the stylish ways, or anything like this. So every time my mother would make me a dress, she'd make one for Eloise too. And so we dressed alike. And, uh, and then she was my exact opposite because she was as fair and blue-eyed. We were the same size. Both quite short. And Eloise went on, and, uh, she was actually the head cheerleader, and the valedictorian of the class, and everything else, so... But uh, she, you know, she, I saw her not too long ago. She married her high school sweetheart and, surprise, she didn't go on. She, she just graduated from high school and got married.

#00:16:54-7# Interviewer 2: What were your favorite memories with her?

#00:16:57-8# Respondent: Hm, everything I did was with Eloise. Uh, you know, everything. Just about. She spent most nights at our houses, our house. She was one of the people that spent the night, because her parents, as I said, they were much, much older, and they were very... I don't know what, very, very sedate. They didn't like people around. And so she'd come over to my house. Uh, we had a, we had the first television in the neighborhood. And so all my friends came over to watch television. I can remember when Elvis Presley came on, oh, we swooned! Ooh! Ed Sullivan and Elvis Presley. There must have been a dozen little girls sitting there, "ooh!" (laughing)

#00:17:41-3# Interviewer 1: (laughing)

#00:17:43-3# Respondent: But you know, the televisions were, the box was this big and the picture was this big. (laughing)

#00:17:50-9# Interviewer 1: And, Cecilia, is there anything else that really comes to your mind about Meyer Street and...?

#00:17:57-4# Respondent: Mey...

#00:17:57-7# Interviewer 1: You called it "Mexican district."

#00:17:59-4# Respondent: Meyer and Main. Just the crowdedness of it. But the (incomprehensible) of all downtown. It was wall to wall people, everybody in town was downtown. And in the Mexican district, everybody was in was there. The *hierbería* I always remember well. Ruben Golds. All

of those things. I remember the Plaza Theater. When we'd go there there were always long lines around the block. Uh, and I saw a picture of the Star one time, with the long, long lines. I remember, I actually remember walking along that, along that street. It... it was comfortable to me, you know. I remember it fondly. Uh, thinking about it, cause it was home. It was what I knew. And, uh, as that grew and, and as I took the classes and read the Chicano literature, uh, I discovered just what a Mexican upbringing I had for those, those first twenty years. But I married two Anglos, so life changed, uh, after that. When I was in South Texas, and, uh, I came to understand about discrimination and poverty. But it was all an academic venture. And then I could look back and I could feel good about what I had seen. I was describing the people building that adobe house. It made no difference to me when I was four or five or six or however it was. But when I thought about it, I was a very Mexican girl. And... I have, I saw my picture of myself when I graduated from high school and I looked, I looked exactly like a Chicana. (laughing) Like you look. Much more like you, as a matter of fact. You're a typical Chicana-looking girl, ah, ok. I got, I'm not, I'm no longer that person that I was when I was your age. Uh, very, very different. Very different language skills and everything else. Because of the amount of traveling and because I've become extremely militant. I wasn't then, but I am now. I fully understand the discrimination, the poverty, the hardships that Latinos have to go through, ok. I know a lot of those guys that wrote those books for the Ethnic Studies program. And we've discussed it. I understand when they talk about the discrimination and the unfair treatment, ok. But that's all an academic view. And I'm an academic, so I've looked at this objectively, and understood that when I was, before I was 20 years old, before I got married, I was a very, very typical Chicana of my age. Ok, I remember I read. Now Latinos can speak the language. Then we couldn't, but that didn't stop us from being the, the, uh, product of Mexican Americanism.

#00:21:09-6# Interviewer 1: Ok, thank you so much. Is there anything else you? I, we don't want to take any more of your time.

#00:21:15-5# Respondent: Yeah, I do have to cook dinner, don't I?  
(laughing)

#00:21:17-8# Interviewer 1: Is there anything else that you would like to add that you didn't ask?

#00:21:22-6# Respondent: No.

#00:21:22-5# Interviewer 1: That you think is important about...

#00:21:24-5# Interviewer 1: The Barrio? Downtown?

#00:21:25-9# Interviewer 1: When you think about the (incomprehensible) area? The Mexican district?

#00:21:28-7# Respondent: I was, you know, I was thinking about this and about the way it looked, and, uh, you know, once you get past the theaters, because that was, that was really the central points on Congress, is those, are those theaters, that Fox Tucson, Fox Lyric, and the Plaza Theater, ok. When you talk about that, that's where we all were. And next door to the, to the Fox Tucson was La Napolera, which was the, uh, photography shop. Down on the corner of Church and, uh, Congress, was Paulos, which was owned by the mafia. And I could remember when it bombed. You know, they bombed the place. (laughing) (incomprehensible) came to the, to the charro store, to the shop the next day, and Daddy said that they bombed it. He said, "oh dear. It really is mafia." (laughing)

#00:22:18-3# Interviewer 1: (laughing)

#00:22:19-5# Respondent: They were Italians. Mama was saying, "don't say anything bad about Italians." "Ok." (laughing) I remember the hotdog stand, the Greyhound Bus Depot, Meyersons. Don't know what else to tell you except it was, it was a fun and exciting time, and it makes me feel good to talk about it. So because I was little. Now I'm old enough now so that nostalgia, I mean I'm old enough to be your guys' grandmother, so. (laughing)

#00:22:46-7# Interviewer 1: (laughing) Well, thank you so much, Cecilia.

#00:22:51-1# Respondent: Sure, any time..

#00:22:51-8# Interviewer 1: Thank you very much for your time.

#00:22:55-4# Respondent: Glad, hope it helped it you. Hope it, hope you get the feeling of it, of downtown. Remember Mike. Now don't forget that, don't forget that was his name. The accordion player, his name was Mike. I



don't know what his last name was, but he was Mike. He was - he is what I remember. When I talk about Congress street, I remember Mike played the accordion on Saturday night. That's, you can't have a play without having Mike there. You gotta get, you gotta get that accordion, because that's, that's Congress street in the 40s and 50s, when Mike was there.