

#00:00:07-1# Interviewer 1: Can you tell me your most vivid memories of this area or the convention center? I know there were some businesses and shops as well as houses (residential areas). But what do you remember most?

#00:00:24-9# Respondent: Most? I think down Convent, where we grew up. I was growing up over there and every corner, they had a Chinese store. Maybe sometimes four stores in one corner and so we would walk down and sometimes we would walk to the oil. Which is where the Convention Center is and my mother and my dad had compadres there and I could visit there. It was just like a real good Mexican community, flowers in the front yards and Mexican music going on. It was just very united, you know, very close families.

#00:01:05-7# Respondent: And then I remember Jerry Slejo Market, where they had a talent show. Jacinto Orozco was a radio announcer and he was at four or five o'clock in the morning talking about anything: divorces, houses that they had for rent and they wouldn't even advertise.... there is a house on fifth avenue for rent and it is clean (no cucarachas). He would say that on the radio and people just loved it.

#00:01:36-4# Respondent: And then he talked about Dona Chona and Don Tomas got a divorce and people knew the whole casa when he was talking. And he talked about jobs for young guys. My brother got a job through him because one of the announcements... my dad heard it about five o'clock in the morning and he ran to his shop. Cause he used to announce from his house, the radio came from his house.

#00:02:02-3# Interviewer 1: So you have the radio station in his house?

#00:02:03-9# Respondent: Yeah! And everybody loved him. So then he started...

#00:02:08-0# Interviewer 1: Can you describe him?

#00:02:09-9# Respondent: He was a gordito and... I wish you could get a tape of his voice for this thing. He was just a little gordito man and he didn't move around a lot. He was just sitting down and then.. it's kind of hard... that's all I can... kind of like...

#00:02:39-5# Respondent: Very friendly of course and then the store, they had a talent show, on the radio too. And then they had all kinds of local singers, artist; and my sister and I where barely growing up and we got in there because we thought we could sing. So we would sing on the radio and then he would gives us a quarter, he would pays us a quarter. We thought it was so much money cause we had no... So we would walk to the show, to the Cine Plaza, which was called the Piojo. The Piojo because it was all Mexican people but we loved it. We would go... without eating or anything. We didn't care about that, we would just get the quarter and we would watch the movie and come out in the afternoon and go home.

#00:03:24-6# Respondent: And then there was time... I can't remember the month when everybody, all the girls would dress up in their white like first communal. And we would walk down the street and go to the Cathedral to (ofrecer flores) offer flower to the Virgin. Since we didn't have flowers the neighbors always saw us walking and they would come out and gives us flowers to go to the Cathedral. It wasn't a lot but even if we had just one, we would all go. And you could see rows of little girls walking down Convent.. all the way down.

#00:03:57-4# Interviewer 1: And this was once a month? Is that the frequency?

#00:04:00-5# Respondent: Well we did it a certain time of the month and then we did it every day for that month. But I cannot remember the month. But anyway, another things that...

#00:04:10-5# Interviewer 1: Can I just... So that was like a Catholic right that happened at a certain time of the year to honor the Virgin?

#00:04:20-7# Respondent: Yes! We might now had enough to eat but we had pretty dresses. My mother was a seamstress and I don't know how she did it but she made dresses for us and a vail. Just like when you make first communal. And we would walk down the street so proud and there was two, three, four... and the ladies would just love us, the little old ladies. And they would come out.

#00:04:41-7# Respondent: These houses are still there and they had flowers, probably in their backyard. And they would wait for us and say,

"Come here I have flowers for you." And we loved it! It as so neat.

#00:04:51-3# Respondent: We would walk sometimes by La Concha. La Concha was a drug store/pharmacy and it was also a little restaurant. And later on in my teens I worked there. So it was nice because the.. I forgot their last name (laughing). Anyway they own the Concha and it is sold now. It is still there but I don't know... I think it became a home.

#00:05:20-7# Interviewer 1: Do you know what streets it is on?

#00:05:24-6# Respondent: Yes! It's on Major and Simpson, is it. Yeah, if you go down Major you're gonna see La Conchan, it's there. And of course we went to Carrillo School, that was close to the Hoyo and we use to go to that little... I forgot that church's name. Nuns would pick us up after school and they would walks to the... como sella? Catechism!

#00:05:54-2# Respondent: Anyway every Saturday.. because I loved away but every Saturday had a (incomprehensible) for the kids at the Cine Plaza. It was a (incomprehensible) where kids participated, most of the audience participated, young kids. And they had a little group of police men, little guys that were police and they where very serious, you know, they would fix the lines and makes us be quiet. And it was during the movies and it was really nice.

#00:06:29-6# Respondent: And then after the movies they would have birthdays. My sister's birthday was every week and then I would dance, volunteer to dance. I would dance the Bambo. My mother would make my dress and I would dance the Bambo. Very poor... my shoe was all torn but I was there.

#00:06:47-3# Interviewer 1: And this was at the movies also?

#00:06:49-1# Respondent: Cine Plaza. And then after the Cine Plaza we would all walk to Ronquillo's Bakery and he was so given. He gave us a cookie and there was lines and lines of kids to get a cookie.

#00:07:04-1# Interviewer 1: He gave everyone a cookie?

#00:07:05-7# Respondent: He gave everyone a cookie and you know, the thing is that he didn't realize that sometimes that was the only thing we had

to eat all day. It was wonderful. People, I mean... and he had a picture, I saw his office. He opened another bakery, one time I went and I saw a picture of all the kids fighting for the cookies. And then we would walk home but it was just nice. Let me try to think about something else.

#00:07:32-6# Respondent: Going to catechism at the Cathedral, my sister going to school there, you know they had to wear uniforms. I don't know how she got in there because they had to pay and my mom didn't have they money to pay. And then, another things that, when we would walk down Convent and the Busy B, which was a bar (from the black people) it was like this all the time. And my little sister that went to Catholic School knew they had a lot of prostitutes there.

#00:08:01-9# Respondent: So she remembers one times that she was standing there and this big white beautiful car came and one of the black girls (prostitute) said, "Hi are you the ice cream man?" And she said she will never forget that. (laughing) So there was a lot of that. So when we went through there we would run because we where so scared. But we had to go because we wanted to go Downtown. We didn't know any other way because we where very small. So we would run and then cross that and then we where safe.

#00:08:38-3# Respondent: It is just so sad because the Chinese people, they stopped given them the license for beer (for drinks). So they went out of beer... you don't see that but the...

#00:08:53-3# Interviewer 1: It was mostly black folks that went to that bar, you said?

#00:08:56-7# Respondent: The bar? Yeah! And then it was... they had another one. It was called the Elks Clubs before but then it became Teatro del Carmen, which is right there on Major, next to Cushing Street Bar. So there's where La Concha is too, they are all together: La Concha, Elks Club and Cushing Street Bar. And those where the old good days because everyone would sit outside in the afternoon. All the ladies would get a chair and just sit there. I don't know what it was but in the afternoons and then on the evenings people would sleep outside and it was safe.

#00:09:33-1# Interviewer 1: Yeah! I've heard other people mention that. That there was a whole... they used to water the dirt.

#00:09:43-6# Respondent: I am trying to remember what else that is interesting that you could use in your...

#00:09:53-1# Interviewer 1: When you were working at this pharmacy, do you remember any incidents or stories that could be funny? Somebody else that we interviewed told a story of when he was a bus boy and the first time somebody ever called him a Mexican, and they called him a dirty Mexican because he accidentally spilled some water. It is just an interesting story that he had about that. I just wonder if...

#00:10:24-9# Respondent: No, the only thing I did because I was so used to eating salsa... because they put me to cook, I was a teenager then... they put me to cook at La Concha and I made tacos and I put salsa on them and I sold them like that. And people came back and they were very upset because they don't eat salsa. And I thought it was easy to... I said I'm going to make them real good. And they were so hot but that.... Most of the time when I went to Melton Park, that's when I went to school where they told me, "You cannot speak Spanish." And it was hard for me because that was my language and then they would punish me.

#00:11:05-1# Respondent: They would punish my sister and I. So when I moved to California, when I had my kids... they were all born over there, I didn't teach them Spanish because I was afraid they were going to go through the same thing I did.

#00:11:19-2# Interviewer 1: Can you describe how that felt like? When you were punished.

#00:11:24-0# Respondent: You felt belittle, it was embarrassing, like real hurt. Very very hurt and embarrassed. I don't know, I just couldn't figure out what... I can't even explain it. It was just an ugly feeling and I little. They were always like that. And then even when I went to work in the elevators in Levis, it was called Levis... now it is.. I forgot. And it was Downtown and I went to work on the elevator and there was a lot of hispanic people coming to the store. And that is what gave them the business.

#00:11:59-4# Respondent: So I was talking to a lady, she wanted to know what floor the ties or whatever. And I was talking to her in Spanish and then the Mexican Papagota lady came and said I cannot be speaking Spanish to

the customers. And I said she is talking to me in Spanish. And so then I felt pretty bad about that because here she was Papagota (a big ark Mexican lady) is telling me I can't speak Spanish. There was a lot of times where... it is an ugly feeling. We went through that all through school, elementary but not here, It was over there in Melton Park.

#00:12:43-2# Respondent: The school district. Now it is full of Mexican but it was not Mexicans. I went to work in the cafeteria and food service because I've always liked food services. And they told me I couldn't speak Spanish to the kids but I was sneaky all the time. I was sneaking milk and things for the kids because they were not getting enough and I was risking all that.

#00:13:07-9# Interviewer 1: This was before you left to California?

#00:13:11-5# Respondent: No, I came back from California and I worked in the schools. I liked the hours for my kids because I had five kids and I wanted to be home with them. So that was the perfect hours and then... what else. No, they scolded me for speaking Spanish. We went through a lot and you can talk to anybody that grew up in my time... they would punish us. And so I said I am not going to teach my kids Spanish. But you know what thank the Lord, they all learned Spanish on their own because I guess they had heard it and they kinds of.. One was a bilingual teacher, one is a probation office, the other one works on sales. They all had to learn Spanish and it was really...

#00:13:56-5# Interviewer 1: Do you remember any... I have seen some photos of people in the Plazita area with all these costumes, maybe some kinds of festival.

#00:14:09-4# Respondent: That was the heart of Tucson. There's where they had all the fiestas, the parades. La Selva, which was a night club going down on Congress. La Selva provided these things for the community like The Plazita. That is where the main office was to me, anyway, I don't know about the rest. But it was where you would go and sing up to help. And I was little and I was already helping with Santa Claus wrapping presents for the kids and providing for the poor kids. And we never got one and we where poor, all of us like I said we had ten kids (my mom had ten kids). But it never face me that I wasn't getting any, I was just giving it to the kids.

#00:14:59-5# Respondent: And then to the Pazita, the reason I say that is because it kind of brings me back to that. The Plazita was where all the fiestas where: Cinco de Mayo, 16 de Septiembre and the mariachis and performances. And for some reason I would always get pick to do something, like an Indian for Easter or... Our friend Emily Craz was a singer with Orozco, so we would be in the background with her. She became a movie star and everything.

#00:15:32-8# Interviewer 1: Oh, really?

#00:15:33-4# Respondent: Yeah, Emily Craz and she had a beautiful voice. And then we would all dress up in be there and then a lot of people selling stuff. And they even sold "tesugin", which is kind of like a drink. I don't know if you are familiar with it.

#00:15:49-1# Interviewer 1: No, what is that?

#00:15:49-4# Respondent: It is like a drink.

#00:15:52-1# Interviewer 1: Is it like an alcoholic drink?

#00:15:52-0# Respondent: Yeah and we were buying it like nothing and they would sell it. You know, we had fun (laughing). And it was a lot of fun, a lot costumes, a lot of dancing.

#00:16:03-2# Interviewer 1: Getting into costumes. People just randomly dress how ever or was there a certain kind of organization to what costumes you would ware?

#00:16:17-3# Respondent: I think it was the organization because my neighbor, the lady used to work with the Selva. And so then she provided me with the can can dress, the Mexican dress. So we would ware what ever they gave us. If they gave us an Indian, like an Azteca dress, they provided that.

#00:16:37-4# Interviewer 1: And then when you had the costumes, would you just go have fun and be in the costume or you did you actually kind of like a performance or something?

#00:16:45-0# Respondent: No, performance. Probably just stand around the stage and show off and then walk around. It was just like a show. And everybody did it.

#00:16:54-5# Interviewer 1: And the stage, is that the Casibo that is still up there?

#00:16:57-4# Respondent: Yeah, the Casibo. And then they had Ronquillo, El Charro around there. And they had the Ronquillos, the one that had given us the cookie. They had moved to that area. It was so much fun.

#00:17:14-3# Interviewer 1: About how many people. on one of those festival days, would you say (estimate) rather out there?

#00:17:24-3# Respondent: I just saw a lot of people, I don't know. It could have been a thousand people, five hundred, six hundred people.

#00:17:35-4# Interviewer 1: Where there any... not necessarily in these festivals, just in the neighborhood, where there any characters that stood out? Any men or women that where kind of interesting?

#00:17:49-4# Respondent: Yeah! We had el Chango. We called him Chango. He used to ride the bike and he used to stop and he would stop and give you a hair cut to pay him and he would take off. He was called el Chango. I don't know what his name is. And of course the guy from el Cine Plaza, real short guy but I forgot his name. Somebody will tell you what his name is. But he was always kind like big nose but everybody remembers him. He was always working at the Cine Plaza. I am so bad with names. And then who else.

#00:18:28-1# Respondent: And then Chichi. I don't noe if you know Chichi. Chichi was a guy that lived in the neighborhood but he used to walk around. If he would see you stop... everybody would just take a crus just to say hi to Chichi because he would say, "Mama mama culo mama." (laughing) And people loved that. They would say, "Chichi como estas?" And then he would say that and they where satisfied. He died about three or four months ago but he was old already. But he was real big (grandote).

#00:19:00-4# Respondent: And of course all the Chinos in the stores. They all spoke Spanish. We had a photographer across the street. He own his

shop at Downtown. His names was Gabusy... Johnny Gabusy. He was also there in Major's white house. And everybody in that time remembers those stores: Ruben Gold, Stevens, el radio announcer, Oscar Steven. He was there too. He is old now, he is retired. But he does have family. He had a furniture store there. And Tito Flores, which was a drug store where they had... they knew all the medicines: hierba buenas. So everybody would stop at that store on the corner.

#00:19:58-1# Respondent: I remember I was little one that and I was walking. I wanted to go get help and I couldn't and threw up all over (laughing) his front door. I was so sick. But we used to walk, you know, from far away. Even when I move over there to the Melton Park area, I would walk Downtown and just go to the show every Saturday with my... I didn't have any money but I don't know how I did. It was just do neat, you know.

#00:20:22-1# Interviewer 1: Can you sort of walk me... everybody mentions the Cine Plaza and going to the movies there. Maybe try to walk me through moment by moment like walking up there, getting your ticket, I don't know if they sold snacks.

#00:20:42-9# Respondent: I should have brought you the picture. I forgot to bring it.

#00:20:44-7# Interviewer 1: Before the movie, if boys where being rowdy. I don't know, can you just sort of try to relive it?

#00:20:53-0# Respondent: We would all stand in line ready for the door to open and it was a cute... Do you have a picture of Cince Plaza? I have one and I should have brought it for you. And I saved it because it meant to me because I used to dance there.

#00:21:11-0# Interviewer 1: So there was a stage where the screen was.

#00:21:13-8# Respondent: Yeah. But yeah the kids where rowdy outside and once we got in.... and there was the little... I can't remember his name. He is so well known, anyway he would be there greeting everybody real small. And then we would sit down.

#00:21:31-5# Interviewer 1: He was like an usher?

#00:21:32-3# Respondent: Yeah, he was an usher. And they did have refreshments and they also had a window outside so people could buy snacks from the outside. That was real sad because we are talking about before they knocked it down. When I came back and that was gone I just couldn't believe it.

#00:21:53-1# Interviewer 1: Yeah, what did that feel like when you came back and all these things...

#00:21:55-9# Respondent: Oh, it was awful. My Tipies, where we used to buy hamburgers all the times. Patts, everything was knocked down and I was like what happened. I was gone about ten years and it an empty feeling because that was my Tucson, that was where I grew up. I don't know it was just really sad. I am glad because Carrillo is still there, Carrillo School. It is a historic building now.

#00:22:26-6# Interviewer 1: Why do you think these little shops that where destroyed, why did they mean so much to you?

#00:22:35-5# Respondent: It was home to us. All the little kids in the neighborhood would walk with their little shine in front of the bars. So you would always see those people that where in the neighborhood and then all of a sudden they are all gone. They moved all the blacks from la Reforma, Reforma was a little community with houses like low income. I thought... I didn't know they where low income but they where all there. And they where very neat. People had to respect all the rules about keeping it clean. So they lived there and all of those people are gone. They sent them to the East side. No more football players. Tucson High where the great football players. They where all in the East side. It was really sad.

#00:23:23-7# Respondent: And then all of my chinitos where all gone. But you know I joined the Chinesse Culture Center. I don't go that often but if you want any information on the Chinese stores..

#00:23:33-6# Interviewer 1: Oh, that is the place to go. We do want it.

#00:23:36-2# Respondent: I think Ginger is the lady that does all that. She is even giving people tours of the Chinese stores. I just haven't gone but they have a lot of information on all those stores. They even have beautiful

pictures of the families and the stores that they knocked down. This is what I heard from somebody that that is what they did. They didn't renew their license because I don't know. And then they just... that was their business.

#00:24:09-2# Respondent: Esther Tank was a very famous, very rich lady here in Tucson and her dad own four store on the corner of Convent and Simpson, I think it is. Where La Concha is, in that same street. Right on the corner. Long time ago, I wasn't there but he owned four store: three grocery stores and a bakery. Well they didn't knocked it down, there still there but he went back to China, I think. Perro muy interesante, the Chinese history. And that's what it was there, the Chinese where part of our families: Chino Laky, el Chino Loco. There was another Chino Loco that would walk the streets and people would run and get scared but I mean he was sick but we didn't know. We where just kids running around, "Ah ahi viene el Chino Loco!."

#00:25:08-3# Interviewer 1: Was there water in the river?

#00:25:11-9# Respondent: Oh, that was way before I came but I know some people that would know if you needed to know about that.

#00:25:19-5# Interviewer 1: Well, maybe at the end I do want to ask for one or two names of someone else that maybe I could talk to.

#00:25:24-8# Respondent: Who did you talk to already? Tito?

#00:25:28-7# Interviewer 1: Yeah, we talked to this lady Carmen Hunter but we talked to Rita, I forgot her last name. Maybe she is Isabel Garcia's mom. We talked to Guadalupe Castillo. Milta did most of those interviews but we didn't talk to that many people. We talked to like eight people.

#00:25:58-9# Respondent: To Tito?

#00:25:59-1# Interviewer 1: Yeah, we talked to him. We talked to this guy Raul], who's dad's ran the shoe shop, it is still there right now.

#00:26:09-2# Respondent: Those stores meant a lot to us. It was just home. Gopies was five hamburgers for a dollar and then they would go, "Gloria go, go!" Because I would get it free. I don't know why.

#00:26:28-0# Interviewer 1: It sounds like people really took care of each other.

#00:26:29-8# Respondent: Yeah. Even Jerry's Market, the son. We would sit outside like all the ladies outside. We would sit in the stairs outside on the corner of Convent and Kennedy. There was a family named.. Trejo. The house is still there, they sold it. And we would sit there and the guy from Jerry's Market had a crush on us. Then would say, "He is so ugly, probesito." y le digo, "Why didn't you tell me?" (laughing) But I would have never marry... Perro yo le digo y se queda todo bolado. He invites me to the Chinese things on Sunday, pero pues yo no quiero que se buele. Yo estoy casada.

#00:27:14-7# Respondent: Esta muy feo anyway. Pobresito but he would come by and he would say, "You guys are hungry?" Pues seguro! We where always hungry. We never knew until, you know.... So he would go to Gopies and buy us hamburgers. And then we would all get together, all the kids in the neighborhood, right there on the corner of Kennedy and Convent. There is a brick house and it is still there. We would sit on the sidewalk and then at a certain time we would all walk together and go to Carrillo School. Go in the pool and swim because we never had a pool, nobody had a pool. So we would go at night and make a bunch of noise and maybe some of the neighbors would call the cops and they would... you know how they do it in the prison, the lights?

#00:28:00-1# Respondent: And we would all be (laughing).

#00:28:01-3# Interviewer 1: Underwater (laughing)?

#00:28:02-6# Respondent: It was so neat. I mean it was something risky that we did in the middle of the night. And then we would all walk home. We had so much fun!

#00:28:10-2# Interviewer 1: How old where you during that time, when you did those things?

#00:28:13-5# Respondent: It was around 50... I don't know, 9 or 10... something like that.

#00:28:19-2# Interviewer 1: And so you would just sneak out of your

houses in the middle of the night?

#00:28:22-2# Respondent: No. Well we would just meet in the corner and talk to everybody. Everybody would yell to the cars that would pass by. So we where all sitting down and they said lets go and we would walk, like the little (incomprehensible). All walked to the swimming pool and swim. Even adults, there was a couple of adults and then after that we would cross and jump the fence.

#00:28:47-9# Respondent: And then kids would stand in the corner of the stores but it was not to fight or for trouble, it was just... that's the way it was. People got together... there was no hangs, no fighting, no smoking, no drinking. Not that I know of because I have always been against that. But it was fun! It brought a lot of memories.

#00:29:12-6# Interviewer 1: It seems that the quality of being able to just be out in the streets and know that...

#00:29:19-9# Respondent: And then sleep outside at night, safe! Because there where no coolers and we didn't mind, we where so used to it. And then in the middle of the night you would get cold and go inside.

#00:29:30-6# Interviewer 1: My mom talks about... she lives in the Barrio, where the Sun Devil stadium is now, in Tempe. And they where forced to move but she says how all the adults, you know, would take care of who ever... young people where around. Just keeping an eye out, who ever happen to be around.

#00:29:49-7# Respondent: Can you believe some people would sleep in the roof. What if you sleep walk? (laughing) I think about it and I go, I don't know. I know my dad used to go up in the roof and sleep there.

#00:30:01-3# Interviewer 1: What did your dad do?

#00:30:03-5# Respondent: My dad was a professional boxer but then he, you know, got old and retired. But he did presentations like in Mexico a lot. He was born in Denver and then went to Mexico and my tata started him over there and then traveled to the United States.

#00:30:21-1# Interviewer 1: Where you around when he was still boxing?

#00:30:25-2# Respondent: A little bit. Not too much but we did get to go to some of the shows where the boxing and they introduced him. That was kind of neat.

#00:30:35-0# Interviewer 1: Was he kind of well known, as a boxer?

#00:30:37-5# Respondent: Oh my God! Over there! I don't know about over here but over there in Mexico he was. My dad was real prejudice like, "Cingado negro, orita lo van a mandar para la Luna." (They are going to send them to the moon). But his friends where black.

#00:30:56-8# Respondent: He has a belt. He died already but it had... My brother made him a belt and said Reyes Madero Champion of the World. And I think he really believed that. He goes (laughing). But we had a lot of fun with my dad. And my mother was a working... trying to help a little bit and my mother was a seamstress.

#00:31:21-7# Interviewer 1: Did a lot of women/mothers have little side jobs like that to help with family finances and stuff?

#00:31:30-6# Respondent: I don't know really. I think so. I know my mom did. She worked in the laundry for \$1.25 an hour, something like that.

#00:31:43-9# Interviewer 1: A lot of people talked about waking, You guys walked every where. Was it as hot as it is now back then?

#00:31:53-9# Respondent: We didn't notice. It probably was but I don't think it was this hot. But we walked every where. When we would go legally to swim we would have to walk bear footed or something, it was hot (laughing).

#00:32:12-1# Interviewer 1: Did they... I know when my mom was a kid, she could only swim in the pool on certain days of the month. The public pool cause that was right before they where going to drain it.

#00:32:25-5# Respondent: Yeah, the Mexican people? Well in Carrillo it was all most Mexicans because of the Barrio but some pools they would just do that at the last... Even some neighbors like in California, the kids where very close but the parents didn't want my kids in there because they

are Mexicans. And I said.... I have never heard of that and I go: why, what is the difference. "They think we are going to dirty their water." How awful huh? For my kids... It was a real bad feeling. I can't even describe it. It was real hurt.

#00:33:01-3# Interviewer 1: So when you came back and they had demolished so much stuff, did you talk to other people that you knew from before? Did anybody talk about the destruction of the neighborhood and what they thought about it? Do you remember?

#00:33:21-9# Respondent: Silv Peterson was a seamstress and she own a dress shop for many many years here in Tucson. She died about four or five years ago and she was really upset because she had stores Downtown. Her whole life was Downtown. She was really upset and she talked to me a lot about that because I was her driver for events. She is one of my doñas cause I had a group of doñas It is like 12 ladies that are considered with a lot of respect. And these doñas where like Espanolas and she was one of my first ones. She is the one that asked to be her helper. So I became the doñas thing and I am still in there. I've been there for about 10 years.

#00:34:21-9# Respondent: Sliv Peterson was one of the main ones and Ferd Acosta also one of the mentors in Tucson. He was a director for the Acosta Job Core Center. We name the center after him. And he was really into Downtown too. There where all real upset. All I remember being like hearing them. I am more involved now than I was when I first joined them. I pay more attention now because it is really sad. Of course Carlota... you need to talk to maybe Carlota.

#00:34:54-3# Interviewer 1: Yeah! I want to talk to her. She owns El Charro, right?

#00:34:59-1# Respondent: Yeah, and she is... well she wasn't around when we had Monica, her grandmother or aunt (who ever she was) that owned El Charro then. And like I said I don't even know where I got money but I remember that everybody went for tacos. That was the best place for tacos. It is different now but that was the best place for tacos. Now it is El Toreto. Torero is inside... you would think like oh my God but it is the best tacos there and they where like El Charro. It is on 4th Avenue... 4th and 30 something.

#00:35:34-8# Interviewer 1: Yeah, I passed it. Okay, well that is where I have to check out for some good tacos.

#00:35:42-3# Respondent: But anyway El Charro was the main restaurant where everyone went. Pay day my mom would take us there. It was nice. I can't think of anything. I know I saved the picture for you and I just forgot to bring it. And there was an article... did you see that article about Cine Plaza not too long ago?

#00:36:05-5# Interviewer 1: No, I didn't. It came out in the paper?

#00:36:11-2# Respondent: Well I know a lot of people that have a better memory than me and I can help you. Like Tito was good to talk to because he used to know everybody cause he was cleaners. And I knew his dad first and then he came and took over. He is a good artist. But he knew more because he was more of an adult than... we where kids.

#00:36:40-3# Interviewer 1: No, this is very helpful. What do you think contributed to that feeling of security, that everybody kind of knew knew everybody and looked after everybody. Is that because at that time where Mexican and Mexican-American pretty much all in that area? They had not spread out yet?

#00:37:08-6# Respondent: Because it was too much to go to Jonny's on Speeway. We just didn't do that. Well some of the kids but I know that we didn't. First there was no transportation and then no money. So for us to go to the east side. I never knew the east side and then it was... you felt safe. We could talk down the street... the only threat was them and they weren't going to hurt us. They where just going to be there and say, "Hello child." Very friendly pero I don't know what we where afraid. We would run to pass them. My sister and I and my brother. My brother was one of the little orphans that would come and shine, they would do money. Some sold papers but mostly our neighbors (a lot have passed) would come with their little shoe shine boxes, go to the bars and hang out right there. Even at the bar you would pass by and everybody would yell. It was just friendly... it was nice to walk to town. But I think the main thing was that you felt safe. There was no threat and I think that is what brought us...

#00:38:30-4# Interviewer 1: Did you ever hear about any situations like

domestic violence or people having alcohol problems?

#00:38:43-0# Respondent: No, not really. Maybe there was but I wasn't aware of that. Because you would remember if you had a neighbor that was...

#00:38:57-7# Interviewer 1: Where there any Native Americans living in the Barrio at that time?

#00:39:02-8# Respondent: No, but they would pass through the street. For some reason they would pass by Convent, where we lived. I don't know where they were going. But no. Only when my dad would take us to the Mission in a little caranchita, he would take us. Everybody would get car sick. But no, we didn't have any neighbors like that. If we did, I don't remember. I didn't know the people that much. I just knew that I was doing the show over here and I am still the same.

#00:39:29-9# Interviewer 1: And how old were you when you moved away? When you moved to California?

#00:39:34-2# Respondent: I was about 18.

#00:39:41-6# Interviewer 1: Is that because you got married and moved away?

#00:39:44-1# Respondent: Yeah, I went over there and I meet my husband. My sister was a migrant worker and she went... and my other sister went to babysit. Then I went to visit and then I saw him.

#00:39:54-8# Interviewer 1: Before you left and got married did you ever have like a high school sweetheart?

#00:40:02-3# Respondent: Oh, yeah! Of course but don't tell my husband. He was Yaqui. His name was Albert Tapia and he was a State Champ Wrestler. Very good looking and I thought he was so big and then later on when I got old, estaba chikito flakito (laughing). Yeah, he was my sweetheart and he was very popular in school.

#00:40:27-3# Interviewer 1: Can you talk about maybe how you guys met?

#00:40:31-0# Respondent: I think we where walking, I guess but it was Barrio Hollywood. We where walking from a party and he followed us and all the girls where stopping, so he could catch up. They where all in love with him and he kept following me. That is how it started. So he went to Tucson High, I went to John Spring but I knew all the kids from here from Safford because I had grown up with all these kids. So when I came back they where still there and they are still there but I don't know. They are all scattered.

#00:41:10-1# Respondent: I wish I knew where Angie Trejo was. She remember a lot of that. One time I saw Angie Trejo in a funeral and she was like this. And I looked at her and I go, "Angie I didn't know you smoked." She goes, "Well you started me pendeja." I probably did but I never continued (laughing). I was just doing it as a kid. So she got hooked on it, I never did (laughing).

#00:41:35-9# Interviewer 1: Okay I think that is pretty good.