

#00:00:18-9# Respondent: You know that thing that you had there at Carrillo's house? It really blew my mind, which I thought it was great in a way, was seeing the African girls dressed up in their traditional clothes. Specially the one with scarfs. It was really interesting.

#00:00:44-3# Interviewer: I was really interested and here I don't talk about being Mexican and the Barrio. Yes, it was wonderful. Actually they were inspired, a couple of them wrote to me, and said that they wanted to find more about their own family history.

#00:01:05-3# Respondent: Yeah, well it inspires you when you do something like that, you know.

#00:01:09-2# Interviewer: Yes! For sure. And so now that we are going to start the interview. This is for the write so that they can use it as source material to write the play. So if you could just tell us your name and how long you have been here in Tucson.

#00:01:25-8# Respondent: My name is Tito Carrillo, I was born in October 11, 1936 at the "All Storeness," which does not exist anymore. There are apartments right on Court street by El Charro and across the street from El Presidio. It used to be a hospital and that is where I was born. And from there my mother took us to live with my grandmother, which my grandmother at that time lived first on Kennedy St. and Convent but I was small at that time.

#00:02:10-1# Respondent: Then we moved to 343 S Convent, where me and my sister, my mother and my grandmother lived. And from there I went to Drachman School on the first grande but of course I had to go through one C, one B and one A. So I spent three years in first grade learning English.

#00:02:40-0# Interviewer: Can I stop you right there? I have so many questions for you. And I definitely want to come back to that. When you were here, was Drachman pretty much the only Elementary School? Where was Drachman at?

#00:02:57-9# Respondent: Just right down the street?

#00:02:58-6# Interviewer: It is still here? And was Carrillo Elementary around?

#00:03:03-2# Respondent: Yeah, right on the next street.

#00:03:07-2# Interviewer: Okay. And is our family related to the Carrillo?

#00:03:14-9# Respondent: Okay, well there is... how can I put it? There is two Carrillo clans from the old days, from the Territorial days. And that is Leapoldo Carrillo, which Carrillo School is name after. And my grandfather was Don Emilio Carrillo, who had a ranch called Acevadilla, which was at the end of Speedway. Which is now a very famous ranch called El Tanque Verde Guest Ranch. But there's other Carrillos but those two Carrillos (Emilio and Leapoldo) had a lot of property here in Tucson. They where very wealthy and I've heard that they where sort of like related.

#00:04:17-6# Respondent: Then there is Carrillo Mortuary, that was Leapoldo's son tambien.

#00:04:28-4# Interviewer: And that's been around since before.

#00:04:31-9# Respondent: Oh, yes! It's been here since the 1920s.

#00:04:35-2# Interviewer: 1920s? So how did kids end up going to Drachman or Carrillo? Was it set up by where you lived?

#00:04:44-7# Respondent: Huh, yeah. Kids that lived in Major street, which is right down here, went to Carrillo and the ones that lived in El Hoyo (what they called El Hoyo)... all those kids, cause it was a big neighborhood. And from Barrio Libre on Convent St. all of us straight down, we went down to Drachman school.

#00:05:09-0# Interviewer: And is Convent still around? That street?

#00:05:11-2# Respondent: Yeah, it is right there.

#00:05:13-0# Interviewer: Right here? Oh, I've never noticed for some reason.

#00:05:16-2# Respondent: It is right there where Cushing Street is, you

know where that Cushing Street Bar is? That street right there.

#00:05:20-0# Interviewer: Yes! Oh that is right. So it used to be a much longer street then.

#00:05:27-1# Respondent: Oh yeah! It kept going all the way to Congress St. My grandfather (on my real father's side)... My mother divorces my father during WWII. But my grandfather was also very famous cause he had a drug store on Major and Congress and he worked with yiervas with all the Yaquis and Mexicans.

#00:06:09-7# Interviewer: What was the name of the store?

#00:06:12-2# Respondent: It was Flores Nacional, I believe, yeah.

#00:06:16-5# Interviewer: And it was a yierveria?

#00:06:19-3# Respondent: Yeah huh. Well it was a yierveria and a drug store. A lot of the Yaquis and Mexicans would bring him snakes (rattlesnakes) to clean them because the skin you can use it for medicine for cancer, for a lot of things.

#00:06:53-1# Interviewer: Did you go much to his store much?

#00:06:58-5# Respondent: Oh, yeah! I was about like seven years old. I used to go to the drug store all the time.

#00:07:06-0# Interviewer: (laughing) Do you remember seeing him do that? Working?

#00:07:07-8# Respondent: Oh, yea! Afterwards for a long time, I used to get rattlesnakes and clean them up and put them in powder and put them on my food. The indians did that a lot, the Yaquis and the Atoms.

#00:07:28-0# Interviewer: And where the Yaquis and the Tohono O'odham that lived in the neighborhood too?

#00:07:33-4# Respondent: Oh, yeah. There was quite a few Yaquis but they didn't want to be known as Yaquis cause it was detrimental... going to be Mexican. Cause if you were Yaqui you were as low as a black person.

But like me for years and years I was Mexican-American and finally I used to hear my grandmother talked in another language. And finally I decided I want to find out my background. So I found out that my grandmother and my grandfather came from Sinaloa, right in the border of Sonora. And I went down there about 10 or 15 years ago to see my relatives and I had a lot of relatives. And I found out that I was a Mayo.

#00:08:37-8# Respondent: But then on my grandfather's side Tito Flores, he came from Zacatecas through El Paso and went up to Phoenix. And he was one of the few educated Mexicans at that time. His parents made sure he went to school in Denver Colorado and became a pharmacist. He was one of the first pharmacist here in Tucson. And later on I had an uncle, Tom Flores who had his drug store on S 6th Avenue called Empire Drug Store. Then I had another uncle Joe Mendez who had a drug store too on 22 and South 6th. So on the Flores Side most where pharmacist.

#00:09:35-4# Interviewer: How about on the Carrillo side?

#00:09:36-5# Respondent: On the Carrillo side it was the cleaners. When my grandfather sold the ranch they came to live in Tucson because there was four of them. Two brothers and two sisters and they had to go to school here in Tucson. So they couldn't go back and forth, so they had a home right there on N 4th Avenue and 6th St. That is where the wealthy Mexican people, anglo. My dad got involved in the dry cleaning business and for a while worked for someone else and then finally decided... Tusha was a black person from Mississippi and they got together and they open up Cactus Cleaners on 29 St and S 6th Avenue. That was during the war, which was great because it got a lot of contracts from the government to clean clothes from the army.

#00:10:47-0# Respondent: So from the Barrio... I was about eight years old maybe nine. We moved to the anglo neighborhood, very wealthy, Sam Hughes District. And I didn't know, all of a sudden I saw all these gringitos. They drop me from class because I couldn't speak English.

#00:11:20-1# Interviewer: How old were you when you went there? When you moved to Sam Hughes?

#00:11:23-6# Respondent: About 10 years old and the gringos used to always... I remember the first time we went into the cafeteria to eat, instead

of using a fork I would get the bread and eat with my bread because we used to eat with tortillas here. So I had a hard time learning there but there I had a teacher Mrs. Lupey. I walked into her classroom one day and saw this big map and I looked at it and said, "Miss what is this?" "This is the world." "The world?" "Yes!" Boy I was impressed! Specially with Marko Polo (from LA to China). Wow, I just loved world history from that day on. I was good at that. I use to always get As. But when it came to English and Math and all that.

#00:12:25-8# Respondent: So I wasn't doing very good, so my stepfather transferred to me to a very good catholic school, Saint Peter and Paul, which was an elite school. There I did good, I learned a lot. There in the catholic school I learned more about the history of the crusaders than the American history, which was good. So then I left there and went to Mansfield Junior High here and went from 7th to 9th grade. And on 9th I went to Tucson High. Unfortunately on Tucson High there was a lot of prejudice, a lot of gringos didn't like Mexicans and Mexicans didn't like gringos and they didn't like the blacks. So there was a lot of fighting and unfortunately I was one of those that got into those fights and got kicked out of high school. Because I sent a gringo to the hospital. It was his fault, he started it.

#00:13:31-1# Interviewer: What happened?

#00:13:32-3# Respondent: But at that time there was only three high schools: Tucson High, Sunnyside and Catalina. And my dad's (incomprehensible) were so good. I mean in Duke his partner got sick, got a stroke. So I wasn't learning really that much in school because we only went to school from 7:00 to 11:00, there was 3,000 students there. So from there I dropped out my junior year and I went to live with my dad. I had my own truck. See, I had this book here to show it to you. And it shows where I lived as a kid on Convent St.

#00:14:41-5# Interviewer: Oh, that's wonderful.

#00:14:43-0# Respondent: Huh! It showed Drachman School right here and then it shows me here. A little close to people's houses. So from there... my cousins did that for me.

#00:15:00-4# Interviewer: Oh that is great.

#00:15:01-9# Respondent: Oh it as awesome and I couldn't believe that they would do that.

#00:15:06-0# Interviewer: Wow, this is you. This is wonderful.

#00:15:14-0# Respondent: Anyway, I would deliver clothes to all of these neighborhoods... the blacks. That is another thing, I got to know about the Chinese, about the blacks, gringos. I was not just stuck in the Barrio, not just knowing about la raza. But then too I liked to read, I read a lot. I would get book mostly on history. I went to Pima College for one year. The Dry cleaners business went down cause people started washing their clothes. But by that time the war probably started . Kennedy started these programs...Kennedy died and (incomprehensible). So they had a lot of projects for the Barrios and the blacks and the indians. I got involved in these programs, so I joined the Safford Area Council, which was South Tucson.

#00:16:25-8# Respondent: They selected... you had to write a resume as to why you wanted to be a leader in the community. So wrote my resume and they accepted me. So from there on I was on Safford Area Council and we started our own credit union and we where very successful because had the (incomprehensible) of Tucson. That went down and the programs ended. I had to work on La Frontera Mental Health Center. I was an outreach worker there, which I learned a lot about mental health.

#00:17:06-9# Respondent: From there I went Project PEP. Project PEP was a farmer workers program with John Arnold, which I worked with farm workers in South Tucson. Then the best one, I was on the board on Legal Aid here in Tucson. On the board I represented South Tucson and there I got to travel a lot cause every year we would have a conference in Chicago. Tambien there was another experience because I never thought I was going to end up going to New York or Chicago (laughing). And the government paid for all that. And then that ended.

#00:17:54-0# Respondent: And then I had a friend of mine. One day I was in the bar and Jim Ross, "What are you doing?" "Nothing right now." "How would like to work for me...private investigator?" Different projects, which was kind of interesting. And that ended too and then I did legal process serving, court documents. In the Mexican side because I can speak

Spanish. And then from there on I was very much involved with the Yaquis here in South Tucson and 39th St. Y tambien I got them involved in the poverty programs because they where excluded.

#00:18:56-5# Respondent: From there I started going to Mexico with Carmelo the Chief bring up the dancers for the events that the Yaquis have. The deer dancer as you can see. It was on my card. And from there I got interested in more Native America. So I started bring up the Yaqui as an art. Then I found out about Marta Ortiz in Chihuahua, this beautiful pottery and in that book there is a pot. It tell you about how I went down there. I saw this little pueblo, it was real organized in their pottery from their ancient times. Beautiful pottery, still beautiful. So I started selling that and that is what've been doing ever since.

#00:20:08-6# Interviewer: That is great. I am going to go back and talk a little bit about the Barrio, when you where a little kid. So you where born and lived there until you where about 10 years old? So you said that when you first went to Drachman you didn't speak English, right?

#00:20:26-5# Respondent: In Drachman I went to one C, one B and one A, three years in one grade because they wanted us to learn English.

#00:20:39-9# Interviewer: So kept doing the same grade on different level. And by the time you got to Sam Hughes were you speaking English?

#00:20:52-9# Respondent: I was speaking a little English. There the teacher had a time with me, tambien. And then I used to get into fights a lot with the gringritos because the gringos used to make fun of me. And it was funny because we would go into the principal's office Mr Gump, who was the principal. At that time they would given you slaps. So the gringrito would go in there, "Not again." The gringro would start crying but with me being a macho boy. I wouldn't cry. And one day he broke me and I was pretended I was crying. But the nuns were good for me. The nuns really straighten me out in many ways.

#00:22:08-0# Interviewer: And when you went to the Catholic School were there more Latinos there? Were there more Mexicanos?

#00:22:12-0# Respondent: (incomprehensible) Mexicans. The (incomprehensible), the (incomprehensible), the (incomprehensible).

#00:22:23-5# Interviewer: And how did you feel about that? Because the Barrio was pretty mixed, was more low income. How was that? Coming from the Barrio to being around all these wealthy...

#00:22:36-3# Respondent: Well it was a cultural shock at first but then when I would still go work with my dad in the cleaners. I would go with Duke into the Barrios and then some people I would get along. So kept in touch with the Barrio.

#00:23:05-2# Interviewer: Did you feel... Can you talk more about the Barrio? What it was like for you when you were a little kid there?

#00:23:11-8# Respondent: Oh, yeah! It was great. There was my grandmother, Jerry, all the Barrio kids, Corral, Ramirez, Valenzuela. We would talk in Spanish, we would go to the Plaza Theater. They had the Mexican movies so we would go to the plaza, which was just right down the street. The Barrio was great. Even though I moved to Sn Hughes I still kept in touched with the Barrio because of the cleaners (my dad's cleaner). I would go down the streets blowing my horn and even afterwards a lot of people... We used to have an area called la Reforma and a lot of poor people lived there and I would go down those streets. So I knew everybody and kept in touch with the Barrio. I didn't just move and forget the Barrio, I was still part of the Barrio.

#00:24:48-6# Interviewer: Where did you feel most comfortable?

#00:24:50-6# Respondent: I felt most comfortable in The Barrio and tambien after I got into high school... we had an organization called La Alianza Hispano-Americana. That was in the 30s, 40s and 50s and 60s. Very powerful organization, just like the NCCP. We used to go, my father got in the board tambien, which was great. But then they had a night club called La Selva and we used to go dancing there on Saturday nights and we had the Casino Ballroom on Fridays and Saturdays. And we had the Porfirio Diaz Ballroom. But the most popular ballroom was La Selva (that was for the middle class) and el Casino was for everybody: wedding, bautismos. Of course there were other nigh clubs down Miracle Mile. We had latin jazz.

#00:26:19-7# Interviewer: What kind of music did they play at La Selva?



#00:26:22-3# Respondent: La Selva was cumbias, corridos. We had bands at that time.. we had Nunez band, Mendoza band. Oh my dad tambien, bought a ballroom too. You know where 1st is? Right here on Saint Marys. Well that place right there... I walked in there not too long ago. My dad used to own this place and I used to dance here. Every Friday and Saturday I worked there. There were several.

#00:27:21-8# Interviewer: There were several?

#00:27:22-8# Respondent: Yeah, quit a few bands. La Cordovas, Tovas. Tucson in the 50s or 60s and then we used to have reinas tambien. Right here you have the Placita was right across the street from Alianza. Every Cinco de Mayo, September 16 (on Mexican holidays) we would have our fiestas. We had our organizations too. We had Alianza, Alianza would have clubs. Us young guys, we would have the club (incomprehensible). There was others. The girls, there was about five or six groups... club Mavis. Oh God! They would all meet. Most of the guys in the clubs married the girls from the clubs.

#00:28:25-1# Interviewer: So the clubs would go out together? So the different night clubs that they had. So what kind of music did the Casino have?

#00:28:35-3# Respondent: Corridos, cumbias, bambos.

#00:28:43-5# Interviewer: That sounds fun.

#00:28:44-9# Respondent: Oh it was fun man. I mean I loved to dance (laughing). I couldn't dance anymore because my leg, you know, but every Friday and Saturday. But then too we had a Latin jazz group, right here on Miracle Mile. What was the name? Hermano Perez played there and they played the latin jazz music.

#00:29:09-8# Interviewer: And was that on Spanish? Did they sing in Spanish?

#00:29:12-8# Respondent: Yeah!

#00:29:15-7# Interviewer: And so when you went to el Casino Ballroom or

the Selva was it mostly raza that was there or were there other people?

#00:29:22-9# Respondent: Oh no it was mostly raza. Now well of course with rock and roll days came that used to bring in the black groups: Little Richards. In the Casino Ballroom we would be with the blacks tambien. "Come on lets go." They where friendly. We looked forwards to Saturdays, mostly Saturdays. Like I said I can lend you two books, I have with a friend of mine, Raul. That is another person you need to meet, Raul Ramirez tambien. He is very active in the community. In fact (incomprehensible) just died and had a ceremony. Monday they are going to have... if you are not doing anything on Monday at 10:30 at the Cathedral you can go to that place. It is going to be packed.

#00:30:21-9# Interviewer: El Carrillo Mortuary?

#00:30:24-0# Respondent: Yeah, Carrillo Mortuary but it is going to be at the Cathedral Church at 10:30 Monday.

#00:30:31-6# Interviewer San Agustin?

#00:30:32-9# Respondent: Yeah, San Agustin. She was very active in Tucson. Pero tambien on the south side tambien that was for the middle class Mexicans. We had weddings there. Like I said if you ever want to see the two books that I have. They are trasures. The Alianza was very Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, California. They had... what do you call them? They had sections or clubs.

#00:31:13-8# Interviewer: Yeah, I know what you mean. I can't think of the word right now but they have in different... I know what you mean. But I wanted to ask you, is Alianza still around?

#00:31:37-4# Respondent: No, unfortunately.... Mr. Estrada was the director but Carlos Macrovic look over, his son in law. He decided it was going to be his kingdom. So he started... and my father found out about it because one of the secretaries said, "Mr. Carillo you are in the board, you have to do something about it because el Carlos is stilling the money." Unfortunately la Alianza had to file for bankruptcy A lot of people had insurance through the Alianza, like for buriels. Also, you know where Melton Park is? In that park right there they had houses for veterans that came from WWII to live there. So it was a very powerful organization.

#00:32:42-2# Respondent: And like I said I was... Tino Fimbres... who was a member of the Alianza he was with San Carlos, they were the older group. They wanted us to form a club. So we all formed a club, Club Belmont. Like the gringros had fraternities, you know, and we would have a place at the Safford Junior High where we raised money to send kids to the WCA Camp. Yeah, we were very active.

#00:33:19-8# Interviewer: Yes, that is too bad that it is not around. When did that end? Around what time?

#00:33:25-1# Respondent: It ended about when the Vietnam War started. About 60s.

#00:33:29-7# Interviewer: 65... 66? That is interesting. That is around the time that the redevelopment happened in Downtown. So can you talk about that? Like your uncle right? The Flores.

#00:33:46-8# Respondent: Oh, my tata?

#00:33:48-3# Interviewer: Well, the Florez llerveria and pharmacy that you said he had. What was it like for him having to close that down and did he move somewhere else?

#00:34:03-0# Respondent: Oh men! It was terrible for everybody in the Barrio. What happened when he closed down my grandfather retired but his son Joe took over and he open up his llerveria on S. 12th Avenue. He was there for quite a few years until he retired tambien. He closed down the store. Of course my uncle Tom had the drug store. In fact I have a picture of the drug store.

#00:34:50-5# Interviewer : Before it was tore down? Oh! I would love to see that.

#00:34:53-6# Respondent: Okay! And I have a picture tambien of where I lived on Convent Street. There is an artist here, El Montano, on 17th street. One of these days when you have time, I can give you a tour of what Tucson was from el Barrio Pascua (at the end ) all the way through the Downtown here. Shw you all the barrios and then south Tucson, the Yaqui village, Pueblo High School and all down.

#00:35:32-3# Interviewer : I would love that, yes. All those clubs that were here, what happened to them? Was there something like the Friday and Saturday nights replaced?

#00:35:47-0# Respondent: Tambien what happened... at that time there was a lot of prejudice okay. Mexicans couldn't go to University, only went up to high school, join the army, service, worked for the city or for the County.

#00:36:06-7# Interviewer: What do you mean they couldn't go? What do you mean by that?

#00:36:10-8# Respondent: They were prejudices.

#00:36:11-8# Interviewer: It was uncomfortable?

#00:36:13-0# Respondent: They didn't have the money. They didn't have scholarships at that time.

#00:36:19-9# Interviewer: It wasn't written down anywhere, it was just understood.

#00:36:23-3# Respondent: No. Just like the blacks. You could only go certain places. Even where my dad lived. Where we lived in Sam Hughes there was some areas where mexicans couldn't moved in or blacks or indians. Yeah, there was a lot of prejudice until all we started the war of poverty, marching and we started fighting for our rights. In fact, tambien (incomprehensible) we had the Country Club was puros gringos y aqui en el Barrio Hollywood and we started marching. That was a big thing there.

#00:37:17-2# Interviewer: What year was the war? What year did that start, the war of poverty?

#00:37:20-1# Respondent: The war of poverty started about 1965.

#00:37:22-8# Interviewer: So it was all around the time that the redevelopment was happening here Downtown.

#00:37:33-0# Respondent: They wanted to tear down the Placita tambien

pero Alva Torres, who tambien es a native Tucsonian. She organized a group "Save the Placita." I was in that group tambien and we went to city council and told them, "Hey don't knock down our Placita. This is where we have our fiestas." Specially with Alianza you know. So they left it there. Now I don't know if you read the paper but this other guy came out with a very good article where they would have built a Placita right across the street from the Cathedral Church. Which I think it is a good idea.

#00:38:21-5# Interviewer: And to hold events there?

#00:38:24-2# Respondent: Yeah, we used to have our events right there at the Placita and we used to have our booth, sell our tacos.

#00:38:34-7# Interviewer: And so when the Barrio was turn down did those events stop happening? Because they kept the Placita.

#00:38:41-7# Respondent: Yeah, they kept the Placita but it didn't work out afterwards. El Charro used to be just down here tambien. Yeah el Charro was just down the street.

#00:39:07-7# Interviewer: Do you remember what the Placita was like? Do you remember the other places that where there?

#00:39:12-2# Respondent: Oh yeah, there was another placita right across the street from el Charro. The there was Ronquillo's Bakery.

#00:39:22-4# Interviewer: Did you go there much? Ronquillo's Bakery did you go there?

#00:39:26-0# Respondent: Oh, yeah! Everybody would go there to buy their cakes and whatever. I'll tell you a story about el Charro tambien. When I was working with my dad in the cleaners Duke got sick and he had a friend el Rabinson, who would ride on the truck with him. And he knew the route so he went with me. So one day we stopped, "Let's go eat at el Charro." So we went in there and we eat at el Charro. Here comes this black mexican woman, prieta. I knew who she was. And we sat down and she says, "Tito necesito ablar contigo." "Que?" "No Le puedo servir." "Porque?" "Porque es negro." "No, no es negro... Es cubano." (laughing) "Oh, es cubano. Esta bien."

#00:40:32-2# Interviewer: And in that time you couldn't serve...

#00:40:35-8# Respondent: Blacks. In many places here.

#00:40:38-4# Interviewer: What year was that?

#00:40:41-0# Respondent: 1960s.

#00:40:42-3# Interviewer: Still, huh.

#00:40:44-5# Respondent: In fact, the blacks got organized. Chris Lanterns, he just passed away. He was an organizer of the blacks, Mensen Wells. Oh, aqui tambien on Major Street the blacks had their barber shops, tambien, right next to el Charro. They organized and started marching tambien for their rights.

#00:41:11-3# Interviewer: So, in the Barrio who where the people that you would see walking around?

#00:41:19-1# Respondent: The Barrio, we had two people who really where mexican men. They hated prejudice because... Frank Robles. Pero ese era bravo. He was bravo men. He would let the gringos know, "You are not going to discriminate against us." And there was tambien a Tucson barrio (incomprehensible). And right now we still have one, Lilia Grant. I don't know if you have heard of Lilia Grant. She lead them have it.

#00:42:12-0# Interviewer: So you would see black in the Barrio often? I am trying to get a field for the people that walked around before the redevelopment.

#00:42:27-2# Respondent: Down here on Covent streets there as some blacks, not that many but on Cushing Street Bar (Cushing Street) there was some blacks there, they lived there. Then there was Sabino Alley, which was where the prostitutes lived. Then Major street. So a lot of blacks lived in between but most of the blacks lived in between us. Most lived in South Park, 26th street, all that was called sugar hill. Up here by A Mountain tambien el Barrio. The uppity negritos lived right here by Domebar.

#00:43:24-3# Interviewer: And how about Chinese? Some people in their interviews talked about...

#00:43:33-1# Respondent: I would go deliver clothes to their houses. They would say, "Come here, eat some food with us." There was a lot of Chinese Markets here. In fact, a very famous Chinese that just passed away. I can't remember her name. I think it was Gi. Right across the street where I lived on Convent street was a market, there was another on Major street. Jary Li Ho was the king (laughing). And then there was another one on Convent street and 17th. There where all over, on south Tucson tambien. There where quite a few. There still are.

#00:44:29-1# Interviewer: Do you remember the products that they sold there?

#00:44:38-7# Respondent: Yeah, just basic for mexican food: tortillas, beans. What mostly mexicans wanted.

#00:44:51-4# Interviewer: Did they also have Asian products too?

#00:44:57-5# Respondent: Not really, no.

#00:45:01-6# Interviewer: I wonder who it is that they ended up living where all the mexicans were and having mexican products. That is interesting.

#00:45:07-5# Respondent: Because the Chinese were very good to us. A lot of them learned Spanish quick. Boy that was one thing. Then they would get credit, that was the key. They would give you credit at the end of the month when you got your check, you would come in and give them the money.

#00:45:29-4# Interviewer: That is great. Very neighborly.

#00:45:34-7# Respondent: Oh, yea, very neighborly. They went to school with us.

#00:45:39-3# Interviewer: And did you all hang out together or was it more segregated?

#00:45:42-9# Respondent: More segregated. The Chinese staid to themselves. The big (incomprehensible) was Tang, he had a store right

there next to Buffet Bar. That was a big store. The biggest one was Jary Li Ho.

#00:46:04-7# Interviewer: And where was that one?

#00:46:05-8# Respondent: Right there on Major street. It is a lawyers office now. And you'll see a mural there.

#00:46:15-6# Interviewer: And is that family still around?

#00:46:18-1# Respondent: The Li Hos? Yeah but they are not..

#00:46:23-6# Interviewer: It is not the same?

#00:46:24-3# Respondent: No, not the same. First generation Chinese came from China and established themselves. The second generation started going to school and then the third generation started going to College. Nothing to do with stores. Just like with us. Helped out a lot of the Mexican-American minorities was WWII cause they... how can I put it.... A lot of them went to the army (service) and when they came back the GI bill helped, to go to college, to have a home.

#00:47:32-2# Respondent: My uncle. I had an uncle that was born in Mexico. My grandmother's son, my uncle Tony. He was 17 when WWII started and he made it to the (incomprehensible) Troopers. Went to North Africa, they found out that hims and other people where in the Army but were not American citizen. So they made my uncle American citizen in North Africa. So from North Africa he went to (incomprehensible) , there was a big battle there and he got wounded. He got sent to England and from England he got well and D day came. He did not jump on the first jump but then he jumped on the third jump. There was a movie, a Bridge two flowers, something like that. So he fought all to WWii and came back. So when he came back he went to look for a job in LA.

#00:48:43-8# Respondent: They asked him, "Where are you from? From Mexico? Where did you become American citizen?" "North Africa." (laughing). He had to show them papers. My father was also in WWII. He loved the service. My dad was an alcoholic. Thank God he went into the service because my mother, in the four years that he was in Europe, she would get a check from the government, which was good. That helped us a



lot. He went to Italy and he was in some battlers but then he became an interrogator, learned the Italian language, and learned to play the accordion when he came back. Pero tambien came back into the pisteo otra vez. Very educated man.

#00:49:43-8# Respondent: The Flores family, they were all educated too.

#00:49:50-3# Interviewer: How did you deal with the racism and the prejudice? Because I mean, I think that is why you had fights at school and that sort of thing.

#00:50:02-8# Respondent: Yeah, well that was me when I went to that new school. All of a sudden I start seeing the gringos didn't like me. "Oh, you are a mexican." I didn't pay attention to them at first but then I got into fights with them. I learned. "Why are the gringos saying I am a dirty mexican?" So I started reading about the history of Mexico, about the Aztecas. Oh my God these are people that had big pyramids. These people where persecuted in England. And at that time a lot of gringos came to Tucson because of TB. A of gringos had TB and they had to move out here because of the weather. So I would tell them when they started giving me that bullshit. I would tell them, "Hey, my people where here before you where. I don't even want to bother with you man." "You are here because someone in your family got TB." (laughing).

#00:51:42-9# Interviewer: We where talking before we started recording about how long your family had been here and about you being native. Can you talk a little bit about that?

#00:51:52-9# Respondent: Yeah. Well Don Emilio Carrillo came from a little town on the border here called Santa Cruz Sonora. He came by horse, came down through the rio San Pedro by Vincent. His first ranch was right there by Vincent and then from there he moved on across the mountains and established the Sevelian Ranch. So he started a ranch there and became a rancher, a very well known rancher. Bought a home here, he bought a lot of property. Then my dad, and he had my two aunts that lived in California (I think are gone now). I had another aunt that was in WWII in the Navy, Concha, she passed away.

#00:52:58-6# Respondent: On Tito Flores side they were very well educated. On the Emilio side... cause they came from the Ranch, they

didn't have school, they only went up to 6th grade. Well the girls went to high school but my dad only went up to the 6th grade but he was self taught. My uncle Pete tambien was self taught and he went to work.... cause during WWII the trading business was booming. I mean it was a big business, it did real good. I was fortunate I got out of the Barrio to lived with my stepfather. But the Carrillos... my dad tambien politically mexicans couldn't run for office. There was Frank Robles. I wish you could find something because ese si era macho. But a lot of the Mexican-Americans thought Frank was crazy. Don't bother the bot...

#00:54:20-0# Interviewer: Don't rock the bot.

#00:54:21-7# Respondent: Well he would rock the bot.

#00:54:24-5# Interviewer: So did he run for politics?

#00:54:26-5# Respondent: Yes, I think he ran for office. Several Mexicans ran but they sort of kicked him out.

#00:54:31-8# Interviewer: What year was that?

#00:54:33-5# Respondent: This was probably on the 50s or early 60s. But then my dad became very well known in Tucson, with the Alianza (board of directors). A big organization! And we had the dry cleaners business ad the Carrillo family name. So then the Mexican'Americans started getting organized. "We want to represent our people in the legislator." So somewhere along the lines the legislator was able to redistrict, which was good because there was three districts: district 11, district 10 and another district. Well my dad ran for office in district 11 and won. For the state legislator.

#00:55:41-1# Interviewer: What year was that?

#00:55:46-2# Respondent: In the 60s. Arnold Elias tambien here in Tucson is an old family like the Carrillos. El supervisor, his father. In fact, my grandfather... for many years I didn't know why my great grandfather's wife died. Until I started doing research and found that he married Catalina Elias. So we are related to the Elias. I event went to look for her grave. But then my dad was elected to district 11. Arnold Elias was also elected and then there was another district and somebody else got elected. But that

was the first time the Mexicans started go up.

#00:56:43-6# Interviewer: And before that were the Mexicans sort of just in their own barrio doing their thing? Did they sort of keep out? The white people kept out?

#00:56:58-6# Respondent: Tambien there was another thing. We had the Elks Club, which is right down the street here, where they are renting house. They were very prejudice. In fact, my dad... they only had two mexicans: Mr. Ruelas and somebody else (an old family too). My dad went to join the Elks Clubs, he was blackballs and he was a well known Mexican-American but after that they had to change it because all hell broke loose.

#00:57:46-1# Interviewer: Wait when did they change it? What year?

#00:57:48-6# Respondent: Probably the 60s.

#00:57:52-0# Interviewer: So it was a big time of change, it sounds like. It is interesting because that's when the Barrio got torn down but then mexicans integrated.

#00:58:01-5# Respondent: That was Louis Davis, was the major of Tucson at that time and I remember that he used to go down Congress street showing people what they where going to tear down. Tambien on Congress street there was a famous bar called the Bee Hive. I was a kid. That's where they trained all the blacks to go to the Pacific. On Saturday night, Sunday night los negros benian en buses to the Bee Hive. Us kids would be there watching, to see the first ambulance come. Ahi se agaraban a chingasos los negros. It was a show for us because we saw the ambulance come. Bee Hive was a very famous bar for us.

#00:59:09-8# Interviewer: Was that every Saturday night? There would be some kind of fight?

#00:59:11-3# Respondent: Every Friday and Saturday. Even at the Casino Ballroom sometimes a lot of times entre mexicanos. Before you know it there was some fighting inside the dance hall.

#00:59:39-5# Interviewer: And where people all dressed up to go out

Saturday night?

#00:59:44-1# Respondent: Oh, yeah! Saturday night you would dress up.

#00:59:47-3# Interviewer: What would you wear?

#00:59:47-6# Respondent: A tie. Girls dressed up real nice. Now here with the Alianza we had to fight groups. It is funny too because the Club Mavis was the elite clubs for the girls, educated girls. My sister tambien was in the club Mavis. Las que se creian. The other clubs, clubs Hema, they where just from barrio. They would have their annual dance with big dresses like that.

#01:00:33-7# Interviewer: With the skirts and poof out, heels and did you do corsages for the dancers?

#01:00:45-6# Respondent: I'll get you those two books, so you can read them. It is going to blow your mind to read those. You'll see a lot of history. Not only from Tucson but other fraternities: Bisbee and Douglas clubs. They where very powerful. With a flag y todo.

#01:01:21-1# Interviewer: So it sounds like some people, even though they where in the Barrio they where still getting outside of that and growing. How do you think that happened?

#01:01:36-1# Respondent: WWII, first when they came back the GI bill because most of the kids that went in WWI came from poor barrios. After that they got the GI Bill rights, housing, and medical. So a lot of them from the Barrio moved. First barrios where right there on Tucson blvd. and Ranvel Park. The Alianza built the one right there Melrose. That helped, the kids started going to high school and university.

#01:02:34-7# Respondent: But many times tambien like Jesus Rico from Barrio Anita, it is an old family tambien. They all went to college but at first they couldn't get jobs teachings here in Tucson. They had to go out cause no Mexicans could teach here. Finally, I know... my dad knew Mr. Flewhender who was a board member and we got one of our.. Adiana, she graduated from the University. She couldn't get a teaching jobs, so my father called Mr. Flewhender. "I want you to get Adiana a job." "Okay." So she was one of the first Mexican-Americans girls to break the barrier.

#01:03:31-7# Interviewer: Yeah, what year was that?

#01:03:33-4# Respondent: That was in the 60s.

#01:03:42-0# Interviewer: 60s. Big time of change. Before that what were the jobs available to mexicans?

#01:03:51-7# Respondent: Mostly department stores for the women but for men, that was kind of interesting. There was a supervisor, (incomprehensible). He was smart, he would hire puro mexicano. And to work for the city that was prestiges for a mexican because you got a steady job, medical services and all that.

#01:04:44-3# Interviewer: And everyone else? I heard people talked about Pico and Palo. Just working on the mines.

#01:04:52-5# Respondent: Oh, yes. Those were good jobs tambien. If you got into the mines there it was hard work pero you earned good money. But then the copper went down. A lot of them lost their jobs, they had to re-trained. Cooper mines, come burgers, city...

#01:05:24-9# Interviewer: Those where the good jobs. And how many generations has your family been here?

#01:05:32-5# Respondent: On Don Emilio side from the 1800s, 1880. On my grandmother's side, she came in by the time of the revolution. When the revolution was going on in Mexico.

#01:05:53-7# Interviewer: 1910?

#01:05:54-5# Respondent: Yeah. She brought my mother, my tia and my uncle to Naco and then came to Tucson.

#01:06:04-1# Interviewer: And back then you could just cross over. That wasn't a problem. And how would you become a citizen? Or you just didn't?

#01:06:13-3# Respondent: You just didn't become a citizen. You became part of Tucson.

#01:06:21-5# Interviewer: And that wasn't a problem to live here and get a Job? When did it start to become a problem?

#01:06:28-2# Respondent: Tambien at that time, particularly the Yaquis where like the blacks with the mexicans.

#01:06:40-6# Interviewer: What do you mean by that? The Yaquis where like the black. Dark skin.

#01:06:49-1# Respondent: If you were mexican you didn't want to be associated with the Yaquis because they were indians.

#01:06:53-7# Interviewer: Would it be the same to associate with blacks?

#01:07:01-6# Respondent: Yeah, tambien. Depending. Now there was a lot of middle class. I have a book on the blacks of Tucson. I'll look for it. Duke was a very smart man.

#01:07:21-7# Interviewer: That is your father's partner, right?

#01:07:23-2# Respondent: Came from Mississippi. The black got organized, the middle class black. They lived in the Dumball area and over there by Grant Road and N. 4th Avenue. Those were the blacks that had jobs at the University like janitors and things like that. The blacks had here on Major street... right there my Cushing Street Bar you'll see Teatro Carmen. For many years it was a black club. I used to go in there with Duke because I used to ride around with Duke.

#01:08:36-8# Respondent: They had an organization called, Carmel or something like that. Duke had a drive in, right there on by Miracle Mile and Main. Duke tambien had motel because at that time tambien blacks couldn't stay in motels here. Duke provided motels.

#01:09:21-4# Interviewer: How did your father and Duke go into business together?

#01:09:25-5# Respondent: That is a good questions. I guess they must have met some where and they must have had the same thing in mind, lets do it! And they did. I remember as a kid when my mother remarried, I used to go from here cause my mother and stepfather were living in a little

apartment. And my dad had two apartments. So I would go there and in the cleaners. Like in the book there you'll see. In the front you'll see me delivering clothes. Interviewer: would go and wash clothes in the back and make hangers. In fact one time, we use to have a mexican girl that was married to Duke's son, which was black. And Sally sewed. I heard if you touch a black person's hair it gives you good luck. (laughing)

#01:10:38-1# Respondent: So I figured, Sally is mexican but I think she is married to a black guy. So every morning I would go to rub her hair. Until one day, "Why are you doing that boy?" Pendejo me. She threw a knife at me. Another time Duke was teasing me, "I know you like that Gonzalez girl." "I don't like girlfriends." At that age and I called him a nigger. (laughing) Duke told my dad and my dad got a belt and whipped the shit out of me. (laughing) Not used that word that again.

#01:11:32-7# Interviewer: It is probably something you heard around. Did mexicans say that?

#01:11:38-1# Respondent: Mexicans used to always called blacks and the whites all niggers. I learned how to talk black too. I used to go to the black neighborhoods and I learned to go to certain hours to eat their food. They had good barbecue and all that. Con los Chinos tambien y los indios. But I did learn some of the Yaqui language. (incomprehensible) was one of the first ones I learned because a lot came to ask for money. I had no money. So I learned enough to get me by.

#01:13:05-0# Interviewer: When you were doing the dry cleaning stuff they would ask you for money? So you were saying if you were a mexican you didn't want to associate with the Yaquis. If they were Yaqui they didn't want to say they were Yaqui because that was the lowest.

#01:13:18-9# Respondent: I had a friend of mine, Chente was one of the first Yaquis to graduate from the University of Arizona. And Chente and Interviewer: became really good friend. I learned a lot from Chente. I didn't think that much about the Yaquis. To me they were mexicans. When I found out, "Que son los Yaquis?" Came up here because of the revolution, so I learned that pero but if you tell mexican people that you were hanging around with Yaquis.

#01:14:06-3# Interviewer: They didn't want to talk to you?

#01:14:07-5# Respondent: Anda con los indios. How I learned about the day of the dead. Delivering clothes ones day to the barrio, 39 street. I see a table out there with food. "Ques es esto?" "We are celebrating the day of the dead." Cause the Yaquis really celebrated it, at that time. Not that much mexicans. Pero ahora los gringos, they have a big parade. Biggest parade ever.

#01:14:42-3# Interviewer: It's it a big thing here. I though it was such a mexican thing. It is interesting.

#01:14:47-4# Respondent: It was. It still is.

#01:14:50-1# Interviewer: But is it interesting that you said that they didn't really celebrate it back then. It was more the Yaquis.

#01:14:57-7# Respondent: They celebrated it at home.

#01:14:59-7# Interviewer: Oh, okay. It wasn't out.

#01:15:09-2# Respondent: Most mexican families would go to the cemetery and spend the whole day there. They would take the food there all day. Some of them would take music, sing, mostly in the cemetery where they had the ceremonies.

#01:15:35-7# Interviewer: I wanted to ask you about the festivals. Likes September 16.

#01:15:41-9# Respondent: Okay tambien that in the 50s and 60s was big time. Those books that I'll bring you. In fact I'll go see Raul right now because he's got them. It was great. At that time we had our clubs and we would select, for a guy a king and for the girls to run as queens. The ones that got selected as a queen, two princess and two reyes. We had a big dance at the Casino Ballroom. Marching and the major, my father, Mr. Jacobs was the owner of the Casino Ballroom. Would get up there and give speeches. "Viva Meixco!" It was big.

#01:17:06-7# Interviewer: Did they do the parade in the cars to the ballroom? For the king and queen?



#01:17:17-4# Respondent: Mostly south Tucson.

#01:17:18-8# Interviewer: South Tucson, okay. How about over here in the Placita. Did they do the (incomprehensible) celebration?

#01:17:24-1# Respondent: Oh, yes. They would bring up the Reyna y el Rey. They would sit there tambien they would have a fiesta for the king and he queen there. And then we would have puestos, selling tacos. That is when I got organized with the Yaquis. The Yaquis were sort of left out, they were segregated. When I got in, "Come on lets get together." We have to get a booth. So I intergraded them into it. Even on the board. I was on the board. A big mexican girl, she was tuff and she looked like an Azreca queen. But me and her didn't get along because I was more for the people. She was more for the middle class.

#01:18:35-7# Respondent: In fact, we had an uprising. She thought she owned Safford Area Council. If she snapped her fingers, you would say yes ma'am. Every year we had elections. So I had my little group that was always opposed to some of her idea. So I organized the Yaquis. I made them pay \$0.50 for shoes. Election time came and all the Yaquis waiting there. We took over.

#01:19:31-0# Interviewer: And that was on South Tucson? But that was great that you brought them to the Placita for the 16. What did they do?

#01:19:38-8# Respondent: I would take them to the fiestas afterwards. It was so funny because at first, each one would sell tacos, the other one would sell something else sodas. And when we got the money they would take from the taco... "No, no you don't do it that way." Money goes into the pot and afterwards you get (laughing)... they learned tambien. You do it the mexican way.

#01:20:05-3# Interviewer: And who was at the fiestas? Who would you see there?

#01:20:10-5# Respondent: At that time we had all the barrio here.

#01:20:16-7# Interviewer: So everyone from the Barrio would go?

#01:20:18-5# Respondent: Barrio Oyo, Barrio Libre...

#01:20:21-4# Interviewer: La Calle.

#01:20:23-8# Respondent: Barrio Hollywood, Barrio Anita.

#01:20:27-4# Interviewer: Did you ever call it La Calle this right here?

#01:20:31-4# Respondent: Well yes. La Calle would be going Congress street. Vamos a la Calle.

#01:20:37-5# Interviewer: That was La Calle. Is that where the stores were?

#01:20:43-3# Respondent: La Plaza Theater, Lyric Theater, Rubens, Michels, Furnitures, Serivce Stations. Yes Congress street but mostly la Plaza and the Lyric.

#01:21:07-6# Interviewer: So when you moved out of the Barrio did you still come down to the Plaza Theater to watch the movies?

#01:21:19-1# Respondent: Yeah but mostly at that time I was sort of growing up now, I would go to the Fox.

#01:21:27-3# Interviewer: Oh the Fox. So English?

#01:21:29-3# Respondent: In English. And the State Theater. It is a parking lot now. The State and the Pyramid. Those three. Every once in a while I would go to the Plaza to see Cantinflas or one of those comedians.

#01:21:52-8# Interviewer: Did you come out on dates over here to have milkshakes?

#01:22:01-5# Respondent: Well at that time I really didn't have a girlfriend. I was just too busy. I was in dad's business and I didn't have time. All the rest of the club members all had their girlfriend from the clubs but I was always working. In Mansfield Junior High , when I went there I did invite Lupita Relas to a dance. They taught us how to dance. (laughing) After I left Saint Peter and Paul came back to the raza.

#01:22:53-6# Interviewer: How was that?

#01:22:56-6# Respondent: Not a good catholic boy after that. Getting into fights. The reason why I got kicked out of high school because I took a music class, to get a grade. And it was all nothing but guys and this other mexicano new that me and this gringro had had an argument. And he pushed me into the gringo and the gringro turned around, hit me right on my nose. So then I went to get my jacket. When the classed end I hit him too and started fighting and I kicked him in between the legs, down he went. I saw the ambulance come. "Tito Carrillo come in the office." "Tito what did you do?" "Well I just learned that when you fight, you fight to win." This guy hit me first and that was it.

#01:24:30-4# Respondent: Another time, another mexicano. He owed me \$2.00 and he wouldn't pay me back. So I said "Well if you're not going to pay be, we'll have to go to the ally and take care of this." (laughing) But anyway, the beautiful thing with me was working with my dad in the cleaners and getting to know all these families. Even right now a lot of guys that I haven't seen, "Cleaner man!" (laughing)

#01:25:15-4# Interviewer: Cactus Cleaners, right?

#01:25:17-5# Respondent: Cactus cleaners. We used to have.... I worked my butt off in the cleaners but I was making money. They weren't. They would just go to school just playing. At the end of the week I had like \$5.00 or \$10.00 which was a lot of money at that time. I started getting payed \$35.00 a week. Then I was able to rent one of my dad's apartments. The apartment where he used to live, Neal Cleaners. I had my own car and I was able to make money to go visit my cousins in California. My dad got me a Forth 56. In high school he got me a car tambien cause I was working.

#01:26:29-6# Interviewer: That is great! You had a car. Would you drive Downtown to la Calle?

#01:26:36-8# Respondent: Oh yeah!

#01:26:38-4# Interviewer: And what would you do Downtown? I know you when to the movies but what else would you do?

#01:26:47-4# Respondent: Not really that much Downtown. Just go to the

movies. We would go to the White House, which is right around here somewhere. To buy clothes. I would go to my grandfather's drug store and have a milkshake. Go down Major street. There is a pool house there and there was a black man that had a restaurant there. Good black food there but mostly on Saturdays or Sundays, when I was living in Sam Hughes, I went (incomprehensible). Go to the movies at the Fox Theater.

#01:27:47-4# Interviewer: With a tie.

#01:27:49-4# Respondent: Tambien sometimes we would go to the movies and saw a girl sitting by herself, you would sit next to her and move your hand around. (laughing) Started holding hands. Before you know it you where kissing (laughing).

#01:28:13-1# Interviewer: Did you know her from school?

#01:28:14-5# Respondent: Yeah we knew from school. No you didn't do that with strangers. You had to know her. And then tambien we had initiation with the clubs. They would make us go down Congress street to become a member of the club and do crazy things.

#01:28:38-2# Interviewer: Like what?

#01:28:40-2# Respondent: I can't really remember. We would go up Cayon Lake and have parties there, in Phoenix. Some good times.

#01:28:59-7# Interviewer: On that note, we have to end because we have been talking for about an hour and an half.