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South Colton Oral History Project

Interview Summary

Interviewees:

Angie Martinez, Nick Martinez Jr., Lorna Martinez-Garcia

Interviewer:

Dr. Tom Rivera

Interview Date:

May 21, 2016

Location:

Grand Terrace, California

Interview Summary completed by:

Kimberly Morales, 2020

Topic:

This interview covers the musician Nick Martinez, the Nick Martinez Band, and Nick Martinez's family. Interview themes include how Nick Martinez's absence in his family impacted his wife and kids as he was mostly away playing music as well as the Martinez Bakery that his mother ran. It focuses on how Nick's wife and mother were strong women role models who took charge in their families because of Nick's absence.

Keywords:

- Bakeries
- Mexican American families
- Nick Martinez Band
- Single parents
- South Colton Community

Comments:

Parts of this interview are in Spanish. Two unidentified people briefly take part in this interview.

Interview Index:

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
DVD	00:05:53, 00:11:38	The Nick Martinez Band
DVD	00:08:48	Nick Martinez's Health issues
DVD	00:11:15	Nick Martinez drafted in World War II
DVD	00:19:42, 00:20:15, 00:40:16	Martinez Bakery
DVD	00:22:44	Different Types of Breads/Pastries Mentioned
DVD	00:39:50	The Broadway of South Colton

Related Materials:

Additional oral history interviews are available from the South Colton Oral History Project at CSUSB, <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/colton-history/>

Full interview transcript can be found below.

Interview Transcript

Interviewees:

Angie Martinez, Nick Martinez Jr., Lorna Martinez-Garcia

Interviewer:

Dr. Tom Rivera

Interview Date:

May 21, 2016

Location:

Grand Terrace, California

Length:

0:58:38

Media format:

DVD

List of Acronyms:

TR = Dr. Tom Rivera

AM = Angie Martinez

NMJ = Nick Martinez Jr.

LM = Lorna Martinez-Garcia

HV= Henry J. Vásquez (Videographer)

RS= Randy Sosa

UP= Unidentified Person

Interview Transcript completed by:

Kimberly Morales, 2020

Start of Interview:

[00:00:00]

TR: Good afternoon, my name is Tom Rivera. Welcome to our South Colton Oral History Project. Today is May 21st, Saturday and it is approximately 2:30 in the afternoon. We are DVDing, at 23170 Vista Grande Way in Grand Terrace. Our guests today are the Martinez family. On my left is Angie Martinez, next to her is her son Nick Martinez Jr., and next to Nick is Lorna Martinez. Welcome to our interview this afternoon and thank you for taking the time this afternoon to share not only in the history of the family but in particular your dad Nick Martinez who was a great, wonderful

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musician and also the business that your grandparents or your in laws had with the Martinez Bakery.

TR: Angie, let me start with you. When did you meet your husband Nick?

AM: I met him the fall of September, I believe it was 1946.

TR: 1946 and where did you meet him?

AM: At a dance hall.

TR: Can you remember what the name of the dance hall was?

AM: [inaudible] Municipal Auditorium in San Bernardino.

TR: How did he get acquainted with you? Did you go and ask him to dance?

AM: No, he did. -Because at the time it was a big band, there was many bands I would see when young, I was in high school. People would just stand around and listening to the music, a lot of people [inaudible] - we were standing together and he turned around to talk to me, how I got there, if I liked the music and see if I would dance when they played danceable number.

AM: So that is how we started, dancing with him at the Auditorium. Then he made a date that like to go see me. In Belltown, of course -

TR: - Belltown? You were not from Colton, you were from Belltown?

AM: Yes.

TR: Now where is Belltown?

AM: Belltown is in Riverside, it is close to the Rubidoux Park.

TR: Okay. And for how long did you date?

AM: October, November, December, January, February, about five months.

TR: and you mentioned you were at a dance and he proposed to you?

AM: Yes, when we were going home from the dance.

TR: Okay and what did he propose? That -

AM: - I said yes, so it started we were gonna go get married in Yuma.

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TR: That same night?

AM: Yes. And a few miles out of Riverside I decided I did not want to get married like that. I wanted him to go talk to my dad, you know, do it the right way.

TR: so did he take you back home?

AM: Yes, so I went back home [*laughs*] and talked to my father. I told him I was very sorry what I had done and Nick would be coming to talk to him. And so Nick did, he asked for my hand and apologized for what we had done, what he had done and that we wanted to do it the right way.

TR: How old were you Angie?

AM: I was 16. And so, we would wait til I was 17.

TR: And then you went to Yuma?

AM: And then we went to Yuma. -Because my brother in law could only go that certain day which was a day before my birthday. So, I went to get married on my birthday.

TR: - So you married in Yuma?

AM: Yes.

TR: And a year later you had a church wedding?

AM: About a year later.

TR: You had a church wedding.

AM: We did not have a big wedding, we just thought one so he could marry us, yeah.

TR: You know, when I see Nick's picture and I see the picture of his band, he reminds me Glenn Miller. You know, he was very tall and -

AM: - Very nice looking, of course.

TR: Good looking, very good looking and he was next to the band, directing the band. And the band had, everything about the band was the big band era.

AM: Yeah [*nods head*].

TR: What was the name of his band?

AM: The Nick Martinez Band.

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TR: The Nick Martinez Band?

AM: Yes, he would make posters and put them up on [*finger gesture*] light poles.

TR: So he would advertise it, the next gig that they would have with the band.

AM: Yes, yes.

TR: And what did he play Angie?

AM: He played piano, tenor saxophone and the clarinet.

TR: Do you remember any names of the members that played in his band during that time?

AM: Yes.

TR: Who were some of the -

AM: Raul Sanchez, Angel Oliva, Kelo Lucero and a few from Riverside that I forget their names but all Latinos.

TR: Were most of them from Colton?

AM: Yes.

TR: Where did they play, where was their main location where they played and provided dance music for, for the different activities?

AM: Well the Sombrero, you know -

TR: The Sombrero in Colton?

AM: Yes and there used to be a bar and grill and a dance floor on, before the freeway, right off the ten, Redlands was the place.

TR: Okay.

AM: And at weddings you know, birthday parties -

TR: - So they played all over the area of Riverside and San Bernardino. Any areas in like Pomona or Ontario?

AM: Yes, he used to go to Los Angeles, they used to go to Ontario, Indio, all around the area, you know.

AM: When they would ask, partly they would listen to the music if they already knew Nick or knew the other musicians and that is how they got their jobs.

TR: What got him interested in music? I think you have a wonderful story NMJ on how he got interested in music because his brother was a good athlete.

NMJ: [*nods head*]

TR: I would imagine that he would have been a good athlete too but why did he decide to move into the area of music? Was it because of illness or -

NMJ: Well I think his first love was sports but every time he went off to play, he would get sick or had a bloody nose, he would get a bloody nose very easily. They found out later that he was anemic so he had to stay indoors a lot and it was hot cause he would get bloody noses like I said. So I think that was a big reason why he got involved with music, because he could play music indoors. -

AM: - That's why he was not involved, because he had to rest and he would get very tired and he would take naps. My mother - in - law took care of that, always taking care of him because of his health.

NMJ: [*smiles*]

TR: Was he the oldest of the family?

AM: No, his brother was, Baker.

TR: Oh, Baker was the oldest.

AM: Baker, [*nods head*].

TR: So it was a question of keeping healthy and not jeopardizing your [*inaudible*] what got him into music.

AM: Yes

NMJ: [*Nods head*] Exactly, yeah.

LM: - Yeah because I have the same problem, I am anemic and they would give me iron and it would never improve. I finally went and had a specialist have me tested, I am sure my dad had the same thing because it is passed down, it is hereditary. It is called thalassemia, it is beta thalassemia, it is actually a disease a lot of Asians and Latin people have.

TR: Latinos?

LM: Yeah and you tire easily, I still get bloody noses to this day for nothing, I will just be sitting and start getting a bloody nose for nothing.

TR: So you inherited that possibly from your dad?

LM: Yeah [*nods head*]. Yeah, well both parents have to have the trait in order for the children to get it so that means my mom has the trait but she's not sick herself. So my dad had it so now I have it. None of my brothers do, that I know of.

TR: So he was stuck indoors, Nick, he was stuck indoors and his only outlet was the music. Now did he pick up the music quickly or did he take lessons from somebody?

AM: When I got married to him, he already knew everything because he was always playing, [*inaudible*] sometimes we didn't have weekends with the kids [*looks over at NMJ and LM*].

TR: So when you married him, he was already a band leader?

AM: Yes -

TR: - And a musician?

AM: Yes, yes.

TR: You mentioned that you were 16, 17 years old -

AM: - 16 when I met him.

TR: And you mentioned that he was a little older than you were -

AM: -Nine years [*nods head*].

TR: Nine years older than you were.

LM: Yeah.

TR: Now during that period, you know we had the war period. Was Nick in the, was he in the arms services?

AM: Yes, [*nods head*] he was.

TR: When did he get drafted or when did he -

AM: - '42, came back in '45.

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TR: And during that period that he was drafted, what happened to his band? Did anyone take over his band while he was gone in the service?

AM: Well at that time I don't know, [inaudible], I don't know nothing before I got married -

TR: - Oh, that's right.

TR: Because I'm assuming that many of the Colton boys were drafted -

NMJ: - Oh yeah [*nods head*] -

AM: - Yes [*nods head*] -

TR: - or joined the armed forces and that left many people without the -

AM: - without the musicians.

TR: Right, right. Well you know I heard one of the younger Lucero boys said that his brother had been drafted by the arms services so he saw that the saxophone was at the house, in the bedroom where they both slept. And he said "nobody was using it and we need people to play at fiestas and different activities" that he took up -

AM: - Oh, he took up [*nods head*] -

TR: - and learned how to play the saxophone. And he formed the El Lucero Band.

NMJ: [*nods head*].

TR: So anyway, guess that's what happened to many of the people -

LM: - I remember my mom telling me that my dad while he was taught to play the piano and saxophone and he learned, he was schooled and when he met up with Raul Sanchez, he taught Raul Sanchez how to read music and Raul Sanchez taught him to play by ear. Because he did not -

TR: - Who is Raul Sanchez?

LM: One of the bands he used to, Raul Sanchez Orchestra and they used to play in Vegas from time to time and my dad would go to Vegas to play with him. And I didn't have a picture of him with that band, but that was one of the bands he would play with.

LM: And Raul Sanchez told him, well if you teach me how to read music, I'll teach you how to play by ear [*smiles and laughs*].

TR: [*laughs*]

NMJ: He was the biggest band person in Riverside at that time, Raul Sanchez, he was well known.

AM: Oh Raul, he was very good at the, he played trumpet. He used to come to the house and Nick would have the piano, Nick taught him there at the house. He would come at night, bring his wife [inaudible] and that's -

NMJ: - Well back then nobody went to music school [*hand gesture*], my dad was the only one that went to San Bernardino Valley College and actually took courses in music so he was the only one that was really taught so that was an advantage too -

AM: - He was so good that he was called by Stardust [*points finger*] -

TR: - He was called Stardust?

AM: Stardust's Hotel in the [inaudible], in the lounge. And that is where he played for a while.

TR: I'll be darned -

AM: - We used to go see him.

TR: I'll be darned. So he was, people called him for many activities then -

AM: - Yes [*nods head*].

TR: He was well known then -

AM: - Yes -

NMJ: - Oh yeah.

TR: - He was a popular musician -

AM: - Yes, he was.

TR: Like I mentioned before, he looked like Glenn Miller.

NMJ: [*laughs*]

AM: [*laughs and claps*]

LM: Well I even remember, until I was a young girl my dad was still playing and you figure, my dad was almost 40 when I was born so if I remember him kissing me on

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Saturday cause he was going to go play, you know, that was a lot of Saturday nights and I remember that he must have been probably in his 60s. But he played until -

NMJ: - [*shakes head*] He died in his 50s, he died in his 50s -

AM: - No, no [*shakes head*] -

LM: - Well yeah, so he played until til pretty late life because, yeah, I was a young girl -

AM: - Yeah -

LM: - But I do remember him going off on Saturdays -

TR: - So music was all of him, his old essence -

AM: - Yes -

LM: - Yeah and I remember -

TR: - You know, breathe and -

LM: - I remember hearing him play and I used to, that doesn't have no rhythm because he would play jazz on the piano and that kind of choppy [*hand gestures*] sort of unconventional matter and I just thought it was so weird and now I have a much better appreciation for jazz than I did you know, [*smiles and laughs*] when I was younger.

NMJ: Well what helped his music too was that [*hand gestures*] it had a good business. So my grandmother had the money to buy him a piano, buy him a new saxophone, buy him a new clarinet, buy him some patent leather shoes to perform -

LM: - [*laughs*] -

AM: - [*nods*] -

TR: - [*laughs*] -

NMJ: - I mean nobody had that stuff [*laughs and hand gestures*] at South Colton, he was the only one [*claps hands*] -

LM: - [*smiles and nods*] He was very fortunate -

NMJ: - And Baker had his own brand - new major - league glove, I mean they had the money, they had the resources to support them.

TR: So -

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AM: - He wore -

TR: - Go ahead Angie.

AM: He was a suit and tie person, he would not -

LM: - [*raises eyebrows*] he never wore jeans, he never wore tennis shoes, he always wore [*inaudible*] tipped shoes and always wore a suit and tie -

AM: - suit and tie.

TR: Angie why don't we continue where we left off a few minutes ago. You mentioned that Nick your husband -

AM: - Yes -

TR: - was quite a dresser. And you also Lorna mentioned that he was never seen without a suit or tie or his shoes shined or you know, a suit. Tell me about his dressing up all the time.

LM: I just never thought it was usual, that's just the way he was compared to other fathers who, you know, would work blue collar type jobs. He never wore tennies, he never wore any other shoe but wingtips and I remember wingtips and then the dress pants that go with the suit and he always wore tie.

LM: And he was just was always groomed. I mean that was just his, the way he was -

AM: - A suit and tie man, probably because they dressed up to play in the band so he had all of these clothes -

NMJ: - Yeah [*nods head*] -

AM: - When he took me out just like that and we go out to dinner, he wore a tie and a coat you know, dressed up.

TR: Angie, you mentioned that he in his, being dressed to the nines/[*inaudible*] all the time, *estaba muy tirili* okay, he was very *tirili* in his dress that he would also affect the way you dress.

AM: Oh yes, oh no no no [*points and shakes finger*] you're not gonna wear that no, wear the red one. Or no no, [*shakes finger*] I don't like that and I'd go and change.

TR: And you'd be ready -

AM: - I'd like to -

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TR: - And then he would -

AM: - For him to be happy and then to help me -

TR: - So he would look at you and say that's much better -

TR: - and vamosos -

AM: - [*nods head*] So I got to start buying new better clothes and everything to match [*hand gestures*] -

TR: - [*laughs*] -

LM: [*rolls eyes and smiles*] She's still that way to this day [*laughs*] -

TR: - to be a couple -

AM: - wear high high heels cause he was so tall.

TR: How tall was he?

NMJ: [*nods head*]

AM: He was 6'2 and a half, something like that -

NMJ: - No no he was about -

LM: - 6'5 -

NMJ: - 6'3 and a half, 6'3 and a half -

AM: - Well I think they're all taller [*points finger at NMJ and LM*] -

NMJ: - we're taller -

AM: - you're taller and that [*inaudible*] was taller than, my second boy's tallest, he's 6'5 and a half something like that -

TR: - that's Tom?

AM: No, that's -

NMJ: - Edmund -

AM: - Edmund -

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TR: - Edmund, okay.

AM: And Tom is about 6'2 and a half -

AM: - And so he was, his brother Michael -

TR: - And NMJ how tall are you?

NMJ: I was 6'5 and now I'm 6'3 and a half [*laughs*], I lost an inch and a half -

TR: - que paso? -

AM: - [*laughs*] -

LM: - [*laughs*] -

NMJ: - I don't know what happened -

LM: - Age -

NMJ: - I guess [*hand gestures*] my bones sunk into my body [*shakes head*].

NMJ: So -

TR: - So he was quite a dresser right, he was quite a dresser. And you mentioned the influence of being in the public all the time -

AM: - [*nods head and laughs*] -

TR: - NMJ you also mentioned that his mom made sure that he was you know, ready to go out and meet the public, that she would support his suit -

NMJ: - Well now, she invested a lot of money into him because like we mentioned Henry Scrammont [*inaudible*] was his music teacher so she paid for him to have music lessons. Paid for the piano and the saxophone and back then, not too many people had those things, you know -

TR: - Right, right -

NMJ: - Because of the tienda [*hand gestures*], without the Martinez Bakery they wouldn't been able to help my dad in that way and my dad didn't graduate, he loved to play and he did read good [*pats chair*], yeah.

TR: So it was a good thing for both of them -

NMJ: - For both -

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TR: - For both grandma and for Nick -

NMJ: Oh she was very proud of him, very proud of his music.

TR: Now you mentioned that grandma was quite a business woman -

NMJ: - [*smiles and nods head*] -

TR: - That she ran that store with a, you know, an ironed fist and also inspected everything that went on that store. Tell me about your grandma and her running the Martinez Bakery.

NMJ: Well she was [*takes a pause*], she liked to make money, she was a business woman so she strove for excellence. She always had a good baker, the guy that made the pan. When he would retire she would get another one, replace him but with a good [*hand gestures*] baker. They always had good Mexican bread. She saved her money -

AM: - [*nods head*] -

NMJ: - She spend it on her kids, all the kids were well taken care of. And she -

LM: - She gave back to the community also.

TR: In what way? Was she a sponsor for Fiestas Patrias or -

LM: - I don't know, I don't know -

AM: - [*raises hand*] Excuse me, I think she, she was involved with the school. I think she was the first Latina to be in the PTA and she got up there that she was on the wall? What would you call it, the president of this and that?

TR: President of the PTA -

AM: - of the school -

TR: - Which school was that?

AM: The one right here on [*points finger*] -

TR: - Garfield?

AM: Garfield, yeah. Right behind Tom's – (gas station)

TR: - Si, si Garfield -

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AM: - Gas station -

TR: - That's Garfield -

AM: - right there -

TR: - That was the old Garfield -

AM: - Yeah -

AM: - She was the first one [*nods head*], yes.

TR: And you mentioned Laura, the bakery, that when you were a little girl, that you for the first time you saw the big oven -

LM: - Well yeah, when -

TR: - Tell us about that -

LM: - When I would go back there when I was small, I could have been, cause she died when I was 5. And I remember the people on the tables [*hand gestures*] making the bread, making the pretzels and the different shapes of the pan and then the men putting it in the brick oven and they put in the sheet with the long handle and [*hand gestures*] be shoving it all the way into the brick oven which I guess burned wood and the big mixer, like a table top mixer but it was [*hand gestures*] huge cause I remember I was standing up and I could barely reach the rim. And she died when I was 5 and like I had told you, you know, I remember, I even remember the day of the funeral. My dad put me on his shoulders because I told him I couldn't see -

AM: - [*inaudible*] -

LM: - And remembering what fainting was because my aunt Rosie had fainted in the Cadillac that came behind the casket. But yeah, I was very, very - [*nods head*] - But I do remember her giving us twenty five cents to go buy some candy [*smiles*] and I remember the bakery and she had alot of employees.

TR: In the bakery, can you name some of the breads that they cook, I know the little piggies -

NMJ: - [*nods head*] -

LM: - The little piggies and the semas [*hand gestures*] with the cinnamon -

TR: - the cinnamon -

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LM: - used for sandwiches and the, I don't know what the pretzels are called with the big eye, the sugar crystals, I don't know what those are called.

NMJ: They're like figures eights [*draws the number eight with finger*] -

AM: - Elote, elote, elote [*hand gestures*] -

NMJ: - Like figure eights -

LM: - Yeah -

NMJ: - but they're not pretzels, they're Mexican bread. It's got sugar on it -

LM: - Yeah -

NMJ: - not salt but -

AM: - like the long ones [*hand gestures*] -

LM: - on the [*hand gestures*] -

NMJ: - Pan de huevo -

TR: - Okay -

LM: - Yeah -

NMJ: - The real thin one, remember that thin one [*hand gestures*] -

AM: - Empanada -

LM: - The empanadas -

NMJ: - Empanadas and the -

TR: - What kind of empanadas? -

HV: - I think you might mean the compechanas? -

NMJ: - [*nods head*] yeah -

AM: - Probably so [*nods head*] -

HV: - The flaky kind -

NMJ: - The real flaky one [*hand gestures*] -

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HV: - Yeah, those are campechanas -

NMJ: - Nobody has those anymore -

HV: - No -

NMJ: - They were cinnamon too -

AM: - [*nods head*] -

NMJ: - they were big and they were really [*hand gestures*] flaky -

HV: - they would just crunch -

LM: - The fruit filled ones my mom used the pineapple -

LM: - And they'd make some with pumpkin, was it pumpkin?

NMJ: Yes [*Nods head*] -

AM: [*Nods head*] Pumpkin -

HV: - Calabasa -

LM: - Yeah [*nods head*] -

AM: - Yeah [*nods head*].

LM: Those were the ones -

NMJ: - Lemon, cherries, different fruits -

TR: - Different fruits -

NMJ: - Yeah -

TR: And you know, was there a demand for the bakery products that your grandma made?

LM: It was the only bakery around for miles at the time -

TR: - Okay -

LM: - Probably real popular in the thirties and from what I hear it's the only -

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AM: - In the forties also -

LM: - one of two brick ovens that still exist in California today -

NMJ: [*smiles*]

LM: - And so I know she used to ship as far as Los Angeles.

TR: Ooh, ooh.

NMJ: [*raises eyebrows and smiles*]

LM: She was that popular and she was, she made her mark.

AM: - And she liked to save [*inaudible*]. She probably made good money [*nods head*].

TR: So she was quite an entrepreneur then -

LM: - Yeah -

NMJ: - Ooh oh [*raises eyebrows and shakes head*] -

LM: - But she, it really tells me though, she was a really generous woman.

TR: You mentioned that there was some talk that the deal bread, NMJ tell us something about that.

NMJ: If the bread, cause they [*hand gestures*] always made more than they needed and after a day and a half, two days, you can't sell it legally anymore, you have to throw it away. But she would give it away to all the poor people, she knew that -

AM: - [*nods head*] -

NMJ: - Back then Tom, everybody knew everybody [*smiles*], it was a family -

TR: - Right -

NMJ: - All of South Colton so she knew who had the money, who had the kids without no money and she would just give them, whatever they bought, milk or eggs. She would give them a big bag [*hand gestures*] of Mexican bread to take home.

AM: Word of mouth you know, she even gave sometimes meat that you could sell after -

NMJ: - Certain date or something -

AM: - yeah. She -

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LM: - And I know we had a [inaudible] and I'm sure quite a few people had a [inaudible], cause I remember I even used to see the little [*hand gestures*]

NMJ: [Nods head] yeah -

LM: - receipt books and it had the last name on it you know [*smiles*], cause everybody had their little tab -

TR: - Oh so people had credit that -

NMJ: - Yes -

LM: - Oh yeah [*nods head*], the community yeah -

NMJ: - They had a little, I don't know maybe my mom can answer that [*touches AM's shoulder*]. They all paid their bills huh, back then?

AM: Yeah, everybody would charge charge charge -

NMJ: - But they would pay -

AM: - But then payday, they would come and pay -

TR: - So -

AM: - Pay their bills and start again -

TR: - Okay -

NMJ: - More trustworthy back then -

LM: - Make sure families were fed [*nods head*] -

NMJ: - I think they were more trustworthy -

AM: - Yeah, they all were good -

TR: So pon la en la cuenta, put it on my bill -

AM: - [*nods head*] -

NMJ: - [*laughs*] -

TR: - And at the end of the week -

AM: - Yes -

TR: - or the end of the month, people would come back and pay you -

AM: - Their payday [*nods head*] -

NMJ: - Yeah.

TR: So what are the products Lorna, that they had at the store?

LM: I know they had a small [*hand gestures*] refrigerated section where they would have the fresh meats and the baloney and cheese that was the, you know, where they had to manually cut it cause I remember that, they would manually cut it -

NMJ: - There was no packaged meat then, everything was bulk [*smiles*] so you had -

AM: - cut your [*inaudible*] -

NMJ: - You had to [*hand gestures*] cut everything -

H: - You wrapped it in white paper, did they -

LM: - [*laughs*] Yeah -

NMJ: - [*Nods head*] Yeah -

AM: - [*smiles*] -

LM: - Yeah, they didn't have tupperware I don't think back then, yeah if it stayed in the refrigerator, the ends of it would turn up a little bit [*smiles and laughs*] -

NMJ: - And not just Mexican bread, the brick oven I used to help make the cabezas, we would have the big tina like this [*hand gestures*] and we'd get the goat head and I put the garlic right inside the throat on each of the, one piece of garlic [*hand gestures*] and cook it in the oven. And then we would sell the cabezas, fifty cents a cabeza back then, I mean you know [*hand gestures*], what, now if you could find them - And then we make the meat for the weddings and then on Thanksgiving, people would bring their turkey and their little thing [*hand gestures*] with their name on it -

AM: - [*nods head*] -

NMJ: - And have them cook it in the oven, the meat would come out so tender, heated by the bricks [*hand gestures*]. And then they'd pick up their turkey the next, you know, Thanksgiving Day. And weddings -

NMJ: - And then you know, you have to have pan mejicano for all your weddings and chocolate, right? -

TR: - Right -

NMJ: - And that was a given so that's where they made their money right there.

TR: Yeah. And Lorna you said that you like pork chops.

LM: Oh yeah, cause my dad would ask me, you know, what would I want to eat and I'd say pork chops. And he'd tell me pork chops and apple sauce and then we would ask me if I would like ice milk because that's what we could afford. I mean, they don't even make ice milk anymore -

LM: But that was our ice cream and he would go put it on the tab [smiles] and then my mom would get upset because he put it on the tab again [laughs] -

TR: - [laughs] -

LM: - So that was more of him to pay come payday [smiles].

AM: [laughs] He'd call her Lorna Doone, because of the novel you know -

TR: - Oh -

LM: - And my dad used to buy a car, when he was young, like every couple years and I remember there was, when I was a baby I've seen pictures of it, he'd have an old red Buick. Then we went out one day, my dad took me for a ride and I was little and I could just see the, the [hand gestures] grills of the cars and he told me pick out a car. So I looked around and I found the one with the nice shiny chrome grill [points with finger], that one and I remember getting in a phone booth and my dad called my mom, told her he bought a car. She was like [does a face expression] what? [laughs and smiles] -

AM: - [smiles] -

LM: - And you know, that car, and I'm still good at picking out cars, that car lasted until I was out of high school [laughs].

TR: [laughs]

AM: [laughs]

LM: And I mean it went through everything, sandstorms, the hood blowing off in the freeway and we still had that car that Mercury for years and years. It was the car that everybody went to when their car broke down.

TR: [laughs]

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LM: *[laughs]*

AM: *[laughs]*

TR: So all reliable -

LM: - Yeah, yeah but I remember my mom, my dad just calling her "I bought a car".
[laughs] Totally unexpected.

TR: And NMJ you mentioned that you went to Catholic School, all your, you know, you also went to Catholic School -

NMJ: - Well I often wanted to ask my mom, I still don't know to this day. I don't know how they could afford to take us all to Catholic School, we all went to Catholic School. We didn't have no money. *[Turns to AM]* I think grandma has something to do with that -

LM: - *[laughs]* -

NMJ: - I don't know if you -

AM: *[Shakes head]* No, no, I did it -

LM: - No? -

NMJ: - No you didn't, you did it all by yourself, I was wrong then -

AM: - I did it -

NMJ: We had to wear uniforms and all that, it cost money -

AM: - I couldn't work til *[point at LM]* she was in school -

NMJ: - Then she started working -

AM: - But they all went to *[inaudible]* Conception.

TR: Oh, close by?

LM: - So how did we pay for it though? -

NMJ: - We walked to school -

AM: Let me tell you, I used to iron on the side to make the money to pay for the school.

AM: that's what I -

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NMJ: - Ohh -

LM: - But thank God my brothers were good in sports because after propel school, Mr. Helman, he was really good to us and I'm sure all my brothers being in sports, that's not cheap.

TR: So Mr. Helman was the owner of Helman's -

LM: - Yes and he provided a lot of the sports gear -

NMJ: - Yeah -

LM: - and uniforms for a lot of activities in the city of, I know he helped my mom with my brothers as far -

NMJ: - Well then he hired my mom [*hand gestures*] -

AM: - that's when I went to work, when she was in school all day -

NMJ: - So how -

AM: - Then he would come home from high school [*touches NMJ shoulder*], to take care of them till I got home.

TR: . And you worked for Helman? -

AM: - [*nods head*] for Helman -

TR: For how long Angie?

AM: About thirty - one years -

TR: - Ohhh -

NMJ: - [*laughs and smiles*] -

AM: - Thirty years, about thirty years -

TR: - A long time, a long time -

LM: - Yeah [*nods head*].

AM: Yeah.

NMJ: He used to, she used to order Kenny Hubbs' baseball glove when he used to play for Chicago Cubs, he'd come in and order, you know [*hand gestures*], the book. My mom -

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AM: - I used to be the buyer for the -

NMJ: - Yeah, so she would order the, his gloves -

AM: - Catholic uniforms -

NMJ: - That too -

AM: - I had 7 schools that I had to order uniforms.

TR: Now who is Kenny Hubbs, NMJ?

NMJ: Kenny Hubbs was probably the best athlete that ever came out of Colton, I mean he -

AM: - Yeah -

NMJ: - was rookie of the year, I forget what year, sixty - one or two. He was all [inaudible] in three sports. I used see him play basketball when I was a kid and he was just tremendous, he was a legend.

TR: So you would order his glove also, Angie, you would order his glove.

AM: [*Nods head*]

TR: You mentioned also when your dad came back from the service, when your husband came back from the service, did he immediately started playing again?

AM: Like I told you, I met him a year later in '46. He probably started playing again cause that's what he was doing before he left.

AM: Music was his, [*hand gestures and claps*], what is it called, life.

NMJ: [*smiles and laughs*]

LM: Comparable to being a Rockstar in the sixties [*laughs*] -

TR: - [*laughs*] Yeah, that's right -

AM: [*laughs*]

NMJ: [*laughs*]

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TR: You know, coming back and starting over as a musician were there, did he also take advantage of any of the veterans' benefits that he was entitled to? Like a home loan or an educational loan or, you know those -

AM: - Not really, not that I know of [inaudible] but I know that my son Tom, when he passed away he got something from the school he was going, was paid for -

TR: - Because of his veteran services?

NMJ: [*Nods head*]

TR: - Your husband's veteran services -

AM: - I guess so -

TR: - But I guess what I was trying to get at, you were one of the first families that bought a house in North Colton.

AM: Yes

TR: When did you buy your house in North Colton?

AM: In 1950.

TR: 1950?

AM: June 1950 [*nods head*].

TR: Did you have any difficulty because we had the Ayala family, they wouldn't sell to them, they were located on Valencia and I forget the name -

HV: - C Street -

TR: - Eighth, what was -

HV: - C Street.

LM: Valencia and C -

HV: - Valencia and C -

NMJ: - and C Street -

TR: - Yeah, Valencia and C and then -

NMJ: - No it wasn't -

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LM: - Yeah it was -

TR: - Cervantes [inaudible] Cervantes had rode by his house and they were located where Henry? Near your high school?

HV: I forgot the name of the little street, it doesn't come to -

LM: - Well Josephine, dad's cousin, what was her last name?

AM: Rodriguez.

LM: She bought the house next door to my mom's before -

AM: - She's the one that called me -

LM: - She bought her house -

TR: - Ah so it was in the early fifties -

AM: - [nods head] -

LM: - Well it would've been, if she bought hers in fifty, maybe it was in forty - nine -

LM: - Or forty - eight -

AM: - Yeah -

LM: - And you said it was built close to hers -

AM: - it was new -

LM: - was newer than my mom's house, my mom's house was old.

LM: And that house was built right next door to where my mom, that's how she, how Josephine told her about that house when it came up for sale because the people were getting a divorce, that they just wanted someone to take over payments -

TR: - Ah I see, I see -

LM: - Yeah -

AM: - [inaudible] [laughs] -

TR: - What's the address of that, where you bought your house?

AM: 335 West D Street.

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TR: 335 West D Street?

AM: [*nods head*] D Street.

TR: Where is that located?

LM: The dead end, it's a up like [*hand gestures*] above where C Street underpasses -

TR: - Yeah -

LM: - The next street over where the Knights of Columbus is -

TR: - Ohhh okay -

LM: - That dead end, it's always been a dead end [*nods head*] -

TR: - I got it, I got it -

AM: - Not always -

NMJ: - [*points finger*] it wasn't always a dead end -

AM: - When I bought the house -

LM: - Oh [*smiles and laughs*] -

NMJ: - Before C Street was built, it was [*hand gestures*] a through way, I don't think she was born yet but now they put a dead end through that whole area. You can't get, you have to -

AM: - Now they're all dead ends [*laughs*] -

NMJ: - They're all dead ends through that area -

LM: - Yeah, the Citrus Pulp was across the street.

TR: Yeah -

NMJ: - Citrus Pulp [*nods head*] -

TR: Yes, that's right. Now Angie did you have any trouble buying the house in North inner town?

AM: No [*shakes head*]. No trouble at all.

AM: I don't know why, maybe because the [*inaudible*] -

TR: - Possibly -

LM: - Was it a private sell, was it a private sell owned owner? -

AM: [NMJ and LM have a side conversation] - One time it was right after the, well when I got married that same year, we went to Arizona and we stopped to eat at a restaurant and then we were walking and the door read "White Only" [makes a face] -

NMJ: - [laughs] -

AM: - And I said, what is this? Nick said, oh come on open the door, we went in and sat down. Then the waiter comes and looking at Nick and looking at me like [laughs] -

LM: - [laughs] -

NMJ: - [laughs] -

AM: - And then he gave us a menu and we ordered.

NMJ: Well they were white, that's probably why because they were very guerro maybe that's why [laughs] -

AM: - That was in forty - seven and they still had those signs? I couldn't believe it -

LM: - Yeah but dad looked white -

NMJ: - So did my mom -

LM: - He had platinum blonde hair when he was two, three years old -

AM: - Yeah -

NMJ: - Yeah, he was -

LM: - He looked like a little white boy.

TR: But [inaudible] buy your house there in North Colton -

LM: - I think it was a private ownership offer because they took over, she only paid like thirty - nine hundred for her house.

AM: [laughs]

LM: And at the time I think they were going for eight thousand.

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AM: Three thousand nine hundred, can you believe that?

TR: Lo robaste -

NMJ: [*laughs*]

LM: [*laughs*]

AM: And I had two offers that'll give me two hundred and fifty thousand and I said no. Two offers.

TR: Well you're a Colton Knight now.

LM: [*laughs*]

AM: They want the property cause it's right next to the train -

NMJ: - it's right next to the tracks -

AM: - And that's a lot of money -

AM: - I said, what am I going to do with it, just spend it?

LM: - Yeah [*laughs*] -

AM: - Rent, that's all I have for my kids. No, I'm not going to sell it [*laughs*].

TR: Now let me ask you another question that is related to the store. You had a lot of employees, you said that bakers would retire and they would hire another baker who is just as qualified. But I understand it was almost like a training session for potential or future grocery owners. You mentioned that NMJ, for example that Boca Negra Store on 5th Street.

NMJ: [*nods head*].

TR: The, I believe Mr. Bocanegra worked at the bakery before he opened up his grocery store. Any other examples like that?

NMJ: La Esperanza at [*inaudible*] store, Steven Hernandez. My mom might be able to add some more -

AM: - No, all I know is that he started working for the Anciano. Then he opened up his store.

TR: And who is an Anciano?

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AM: Oh, my father in law.

TR: Oh okay, okay.

NMJ: He is the original baker. He bought the town to make Mexican bread from Mexico.

NMJ: So he was the original one.

AM: And then one day he made it and put the money to retire. He wanted to retire and my mother in law, no she would not close it. That's when he went to Mexico.

AM: She didn't want to go but he went and he never came back. Until a long time later because they were not married and he came back when NMJ was two years old. So he was gone a few years. Then he stayed for a while but he wanted to retire from the store, he was tired of the store.

AM: But then my mother in law -

NMJ: - [*shakes head*]. She was a business woman [*smiles*] -

AM: - He stayed maybe less than a year and he took off again. He went to Sacramento.

AM: And from what I know, he opened up a place over there.

TR: So your mother in law was the *mera mera*. She was the one that kept the business alive -

AM: - Yes [*nods head*] -

TR: - And was able to do very very well all by herself -

AM: - Yes -

TR: - And like you said NMJ, she would get up at 5'o clock and get things going like cleaning up and getting ready to produce the bakery goods.

NMJ: She got into real estate, she owned like 4 homes -

NMJ: - So she was a hustler, she didn't uh, she was go - go that's it.

AM: Oh yeah.

AM: She saved her money.

TR: You know NMJ, I was thinking the other day because we have interviewed other people that were also from the 7th Street area, *la calle siete* -

AM: - Si -

TR: - And you know what they call el calle siete Angie, they call it the Broadway of South Colton.

NMJ: *[laughs]*

LM: *[laughs]*

AM: Oh yes, I read it in somebody's pamphlet that you gave us, that's what they called it *[laughs]*.

TR: Angie why did they call it the Broadway of South Colton? Because Nick was there and he looked like Glen Miller or -

LM: - I think cause every popular business was on that street. There was San Salvador Church, there was the Martinez Bakery, there was *[inaudible]*, there was right across the street from Martinez Bakery, was it 7th Street Market and then there was another market down the street this way, another, I mean there was so many little markets on that one street and the El Sombrero and the church so your whole community is right there -

AM: - There was a toll right there *[laughs]* -

NMJ: - Two barber shops, a town square *[hand gestures]* where the councilmen would meet, then that 2nd Street -

TR: - Oh the Caldera -

NMJ: - Yeah, everything was there, you know, it was just a great place to be.

NMJ: And they would crown a queen every year -

TR: - *[unclear]* -

LM: - Yeah, they had their own little town. I mean they had everything that the Mexican community needed right there because they were *[hand gestures]* not included I guess in the regular city government. They just created their own community and were self-sufficient in that area. They had their own teams, they had their own everything -

NMJ: - And what was that day where you burned the *[hand gestures]* -

AM: - A Judas, A Judas -

NMJ: - A Judas *[laughs]* -

TR: - Do you remember how to make them?

NMJ: No, I vaguely remember them hanging this guy, a mannequin -

AM: - A few times when they were little -

NMJ: - But that was just like a little kid, 6 or 7 and -

AM: - Yeah.

HV: How old are you?

NMJ: I'm sixty - seven right now.

AM: *[laughs]*

UP: How old is your mom?

LM: Eighty - six, my mother is eighty - six. My dad would be ninety - five. My uncle is still alive, a baker, he is ninety - six.

RS: So your mom is eighty - six?

AM: Yeah, and a half *[laughs]*. Pretty soon another year.

NMJ: *[laughs]* You'll be alright *[pats AM's back]*.

TR: You said that Baker, your Uncle Baker was older than your dad Nick -

NMJ: - Right.

TR: Now why did they call him Baker? Was he a Baker at the store?

AM: *[Nods head]* Because of the store but he didn't bake -

NMJ: - Because of the store but he didn't bake. He probably delivered and *[hand gestures]* put up the food items because it was a store too.

AM: Yeah.

LM: Because he was the baker's son -

NMJ: - Because he was the baker's son *[smiles]*, we called him Baker.

LM: His name is Albert.

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NMJ: But he was the one that, you saw that presentation, he's on that plaque, you know -

LM: - He was a sports -

TR: - He was a Mercury, the baseball team -

NMJ: - Mercury, yeah -

TR: - What position did he play, do you remember?

NMJ: He played first base.

LM: And he coached baseball up until he was quite older [*nods head*], in Sacramento where he lives now.

AM: Yeah after he couldn't play, he was empire.

NMJ: Yeah, he empired, high school level, they get paid pretty good money on the side. He loves sports and then he was a golfer. He was a member of MAGA his whole life, a Mexican American Golf Association -

TR: - Yes -

NMJ: - He was a member his whole life, I mean he traveled, he took my mom up to a few boat trips, they would go all over the world and play golf.

AM: [*Nods head*] Sometimes I would go with him on the trips -

TR: - So he's a golfer, an [*inaudible*] golfer -

NMJ: - Ohhh -

LM: - Oh yeah, he golfed for a long time [*nods head*].

NMJ: Yeah. He was a -

LM: - And traveled -

NMJ: - And traveled, yeah.

AM: Yup.

TR: Let me ask you one hard question, when your husband Nick was playing, was it a hardship on the family? You know, because you mentioned that you missed him on Saturdays when you got prepared to go to do an activity -

AM: - We hardly had a chance to go out together on weekends so when I kept the car or somebody would pick him up or they had enough room for whatever music instruments they were taking, then when I had the car I would take them [*hand gestures towards NMJ and LM*] out for a ride, visit my sisters or their grandma you know, for the day Saturday or Sunday. Cause he hardly ever had the chance to do it with us.

TR: So it was kind of hard because -

AM: - Yes, to take them -

TR: - Because of playing weekends -

LM: - Well I wasn't used to anything else, I mean that's just the -

TR: - That was life for you -

LM: Yeah so I didn't miss anything. I mean, my mom's trips that she took made me close with my cousins and stuff because we did a lot of things with her side of the family. There was always an event, there was always baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, birthday, you know whatever, there was -

AM: - And I [*inaudible*] -

TR: - Now Lorna, you have your grandchild here -

LM: - [*Laughs*] Yeah -

TR: - What's her name?

LM: Dominique [*smiles*].

TR: And tell me about you, are you a musician?

LM: [*Shakes head*] No, no [*smiles and laughs*] -

TR: - Are you a baker -

LM: - You know what, I had thoughts of opening a bakery for a long time and then I thought why do I have that -

AM: - No -

LM: - little bug inside of me and you know what, I love pastries and stuff like that to this day. I mean, I have to have some kind of pastry sweet bread everyday -

LM: - But no, but I'm very proud of my dad and my grandmother and what they created. I just wished, you know, I would be so, such an, what do you call it, entrepreneur but [*shakes head*] didn't happen.

TR: You're also doing a genealogy of the family?

LM: Yeah, I'm the one that tries to keep all the history and find out more. I'm always the one asking questions and doing research because I want to have that to pass on to my daughter and her children. And my daughter says she's going to keep all the stuff that I have. I have a whole [*hand gestures*] file cabinet full of stuff that I keep.

AM: [*nods head and smiles*].

TR: How far back can you trace your family?

LM: Well I've only traced my grandmother back to 1898. I don't know too much on my grandfather's side because I have limited information available, you know from my mom and I've asked Baker a few times but I don't get to talk to him very often.

TR: Well you know, I've looked at your chart and your grandma had a large family -

LM: - Yes, she did and -

NMJ: - [*nods head and smiles*] -

TR: - Eleven or twelve sisters or something -

LM: - Yeah and for that time to see that there was a couple of other women [*smiles*] that actually were married and divorced [*laughs*] and got married again which was unusual for them at the time. Yeah, there was a lot of cousins, a lot of cousins and uncles and it's really hard to keep in touch with everybody because we do have a reunion on my dad's side and I you know, I try to go every year. My daughter is interested in going because she wants to [*hand gestures*] to know -

TR: - And where do you have your reunion?

LM: We have it at Carlsbad or [*looks at AM*] -

AM: - Carlsbad [*nods head*], the last two years -

LM: - Oceanside [*nods head*] -

TR: - Over here near San Diego?

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LM: Yeah, yeah.

NMJ: That's where that other, the ones that were living here, what's the name of that family in San Diego, what's her last name Rochin or?

TR: Rochin -

LM: - Rochin -

NMJ: - Rochin [*nods head*], yeah and they run that reunion.

TR: Yeah.

LM: Yeah, the Rochin does metal work cause I've talked to him quite intensively the last time I went to the reunion and he does metal work for some really nice estates and I've seen his stuff online -

TR: - Yeah -

LM: - Really [*nods head*] -

TR: - Your cousin Refugio [*inaudible*] Rochin was in the Peace Corps with me -

LM: - Oh yeah? -

TR: - Back in 1960, 1962 -

NMJ: - Well he became a professor too, didn't he -

TR: - Yes, yes -

NMJ: - he's very smart, I talked to him a couple of times and -

AM: - He went to back East huh?

TR: Yes -

AM: - He was in -

TR: - Michigan, I think -

AM: - Yes. One of, Juanita's -

NMJ: - Brothers? -

TR: - No, son -

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AM: - Son -

TR: - Son of Juanita -

NMJ: - Oh, Juanita's [*hand gestures*] yeah -

AM: - [inaudible] -

TR: - are you related to Juanita?

NMJ: I'm sure we are -

AM: - Well Enela, her mother was my mother-in-law's sister -

TR: - Ohh so you are related -

NMJ: - We are related [*nods head*] -

AM: - yeah, they are related -

TR: - There's a beautiful love story about Juantia -

LM: - Oh really? -

TR: - And Rochin -

AM: - Yeah, yeah -

TR: - They met in Redlands and the same thing that happened to your mom, they went to Yuma -

LM: - [*laughs*] Was Yuma the town to be married back then?

NMJ: [*laughs*]

AM: Juanita went to Yuma? Juanita, yeah.

TR: Yeah.

AM: Cause my mother - in - law, no, she had a big wedding -

TR: Ohh, Juanita se fue con Rochin -

AM: - [*laughs*]

NMJ: [*laughs*]

LM: *[laughs]*

TR: No, I learned about Lorna, NMJ tell me about you.

NMJ: Me?

TR: Wait a minute, did you marry somebody from Colton?

LM: No, San Bernardino.

TR: Oh, it's close.

LM: *[laughs]*

TR: We'll call it the Inland Empire *[inaudible]*.

LM: *[laughs]*.

AM: *[laughs]*.

TR: NMJ, how about you? You've played a lot of sports.

NMJ: All my life until I couldn't do it no more, I got too old *[smiles]*.

NMJ: Now I just play golf so -

AM: - He plays golf, he plays golf -

NMJ: - I'm into golf *[nods head]*.

TR: And you retired from -

NMJ: - I retired from a Stater Brothers, I drove the big rigs *[hand gestures]* you know, you've seen those big ol' yellow, I used to drive those -

TR: - I've seen it on TV and I've seen you on TV driving -

AM: - Yeah, I did -

NMJ: - Yeah, I was the one waving to you *[waves]*, that was me -

LM: - *[laughs]* -

NMJ: - And before that I worked at a warehouse company remember, in Colton, right across the street from Crane *[hand gestures]*, *[inaudible]* Torres -

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TR: - Yeah -

NMJ: - I worked there eighteen years -

AM: - Warehousing yeah -

NMJ: - Warehouse company so I got retirement from both of them and my social security so I'm pretty well set as far as financially so -

NMJ: - And I played ball at the high school level and then I played ball at University of Redlands, played basketball and baseball.

AM: And also, the Dodgers [inaudible] but he didn't make it.

NMJ: Yeah, well I went to a trial in Ontario, [shakes head] I did real well, I hit a couple over the fence and -

AM: - I know, I was there -

NMJ: - I was hitting shots [hand gestures] and they told me "we're gonna call you" and they had, there was about ten of them and they were all over me. I thought, oh, I went home and told my mom I'm gonna sign but they never did -

LM: - Brains, beauty and an athlete, well 2 out of 3 isn't bad right [laughs] -

AM: - [laughs] -

NMJ: - [Smiles] Yeah, you're right, I think -

AM: - He was so excited -

NMJ: - My speed, I wasn't that fast so I think that probably didn't help.

TR: Now did you marry a Colton girl?

NMJ: I married a girl from Arizona -

TR: - And how many kids do you have?

NMJ: We have two -

LM: But she's actually related to two people here in Colton.

NMJ: Yeah.

AM: They're twins, he's got twins, a boy and a girl.

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NMJ: Boy and a girl, twins -

LM: - Because wasn't it Nino, be a cousin to Nino and then -

NMJ: - But that's in - laws to us so she's not in the blood -

LM: - Oh, yeah -

NMJ: - She was related to my, [*points at AM*] her sister's husbands' family -

NMJ: - He was [*inaudible*] but then original family was [*inaudible*], if you could talk to the grandparents. So she's related to them, not to me.

LM: See she could basically be a Colton girl [*laughs*] -

TR: - Yes, yes, we'll allow it -

NMJ: - She would visit over here a lot, that's how I met her -

AM: - [*laughs*] -

NMJ: - She was visiting here for Mothers' Day and we were having tamales at Henry's, my Nino's mom's, and that's when I met her. And we got married about a year after my dad died, a year or so -

AM: - No [*shakes head*] -

LM: - But they, two months -

AM: - I lost four in a year [*hand gestures*], my husband died in January, [*points at NMJ*] he married in June, [*points at LM*] she married in September, and another son married in December. Four left me in a year.

TR: No tienen verguensa.

LM: [*laughs*]

NMJ: [*laughs*]

AM: And then Tom was away in college -

LM: - Yeah so, she went from having a house full to being alone -

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TR: - Well you know Tom, he was my student at Cal State back in the mid seventies and good basketball player. He was an excellent basketball player. And then I saw him two weeks ago -

AM: - *[laughs and covers face with hand]* -

TR - He came up to me and then he put his face on my face and said "do you remember me?" I said, "No." Then he said "I'm Tommy", I'll be darned. That was a good meeting, a great meeting.

NMJ: He's working out in Mojave? -

AM: - Mojave *[nods head]* -

NMJ: - He teaches special children that have Autism -

AM: - High school age -

NMJ: - He got his masters for that, he finally got his masters so he's doing well.

LM: Yeah, that's one thing I have to credit my parents for is that you know, they raised five pretty bright children -

AM: - *[claps hands]* -

LM: - And my brothers all got scholarships -

AM: - Education -

LM: - Got a good education. I mean they were all very bright and they never really pushed school but for some reason they were ahead of the curve. I mean, that's very, people are pressed to send their kids now to college *[inaudible]*, he did way back then.

AM: You know, they were ready to go to college because they themselves, they wanted to have a college preparatory.

LM: And now all the grandchildren, brain nerds *[laughs]* -

AM: - So they went directly to the university -

LM: - We've got a few doctors in the family *[nods head]* -

AM: - Two doctors -

LM: - And masters, two, three doctors -

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AM: - Two.

LM: - David and Jennifer. And Raquel is going to be a doctor pretty soon.

NMJ: She's on the verge -

AM: - Oh Raquel? -

LM: - Yeah [*nods head*], Raquel, yeah.

AM: Oh yeah but she's with Space Center?

LM: Well she's still getting a doctorate [*laughs*].

AM: Oh yeah, oh wow.

LM: That's still a doctor -

NMJ: - Well she went to Cal Tech -

AM: - Yeah, yeah -

NMJ: - You know how that school is -

LM: - She's going to be a scientist -

NMJ: - And she was at that basketball team -

AM: - A doctor of science -

NMJ: - Yeah.

TR: Well you know, your grandma and your mom sure left a wonderful legacy -

LM: - Yeah -

TR: - For the family. And I think that [*inaudible*] was your dad. Your dad was just quite a musician and -

LM: - He was very intelligent [*nods head*] -

TR: - And your grandma, you know, made sure that everybody -

AM: - Yes -

TR: - Got up and did what they needed to do.

TR: She made sure NMJ, that you would clean up the store when you had to clean up the store -

NMJ: - Well I was there a year and a half, I was involved with sports so much I couldn't, it was too many hours -

AM: - He was fourteen [*pats NMJ's shoulder*] when his grandma died. And grandma told him, I remember, I was there at the hospital, she told him "NMJ, go to school. I wanted to study at college but I was not able to." [*turns to NMJ*] Remember?

NMJ: [*Shakes head*] I don't remember -

AM: - You were fourteen. And he said, "Don't worry grandma, don't worry, I'm going to go." -

TR: - And this [*inaudible*]gal? that came from Mexico, was able to lead a legacy like this -

AM: - Yeah -

TR: - Like you said LM, she left contributions for people -

TR: - and the family way passed after she was gone.

NMJ: Yeah, well thank you for saying that, that's very nice.

AM: Yes.

TR: You have a -

RS: [*steps into screen*] I have a question. [*approaches LM, NMJ and AM*]. Did you know my father Luz Sosa?

NMJ: No.

LM: No, I didn't.

NMJ: Did you [*looks at AM*]?

AM: Sosa? The one who was involved in the [*hand gestures*] fiestas Mejjicanas?

TR: Yes.

RS: Yep, that's my dad -

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AM: - That was your father?

RS: - Always with the steel helmet -

AM: - Yeah -

RS: - And he was always going to Martinez Bakery, all the time -

AM: - *[laughs and smiles]* -

NMJ: - *[Laughs and shakes RS's hand]* -

AM: - Ohh, I remember him.

RS: *[laughs]*

AM: Oh, good to meet you *[shakes RS's hand]* -

RS: - If you were maybe to say if you were from Colton, you knew Sosa and if you did not know Sosa, you were not from Colton *[smiles]*.

AM: *[laughs]*

NMJ: *[laughs]*

LM: *[laughs]*

TR: *[laughs]*

AM: I'm from Riverside but I knew him, at the festivities I would see him, you know. He was involved in that, oh yeah *[smiles]* -

NMJ: - If I might say one thing though, you were talking about my dad being the cornerstone. I think in our minds, this *[touches AM's shoulder]* is the cornerstone right here *[pats AM's shoulder]* -

LM: - That's our *[inaudible]* *[nods head]* -

NMJ: - Because she had to everything because my dad was out playing music *[hand gestures]* and he was gone and she was the one who took care of -

LM: - Yeah -

NMJ: - And then she started working like she said when we went to school -

TR: - Thirty years -

NMJ: - She worked for thirty years and then she had to go home and cook and then take care of my dad because he had to go play -

LM: - She mowed the lawn [*smiles*] -

NMJ: - My dad was very bad around the house [*hand gestures*] -

LM: - [*Nods head and laughs*] -

NMJ: - All he did was music -

LM: - My mom was very -

NMJ: - You'd hand him a screwdriver, he'd go "What's this?"

LM: [*laughs*]

AM: [*laughs*] -

NMJ: - "What do I do with this?" you know -

LM: - Yeah, my dad was not one to work with cars, he just played. You know and my mom picked up the slack -

NMJ: - [*Smiles*] One time we had a flat tire and my dad fixed it. So, we [*laughs*] started going on the road -

LM: - [*laughs*] -

AM: - [*laughs*] -

NMJ: - [*hand gestures*] There goes the rim down the road [*laughs*]. He didn't put the rim on right, you know -

AM: - [*Smiles and hand gestures*] He was a musician -

NMJ: - So my mom had to do everything so -

LM: - Yeah but you have to have a little bit of each [*hand gestures*], a little bit of the labor side, a little bit of the -

NMJ: - Yeah -

LM: - A good mix [*smiles*] -

AM: - You know one time he was in high school [*points at NMJ*] and sometimes I didn't have the time, you know. He'd press [*hand gestures*] press his pants, the crease had to be just so you know and one - time Helman, the Helmans -

NMJ: - Nate? -

AM: - No -

NMJ: - Lefty? -

LM: - Henry? -

AM: - Lefty. Lefty Helman, Nate's son. He says, "You know Angie, you know who was picked the best dressed in high school?" I said, no. "Nick Martinez."

NMJ: - [*Shakes head and smiles*] -

LM: - [*laughs*] -

TR: - Of course, of course -

AM: - Oh my god, I said -

NMJ: - I'll never live that one down -

LM: - [*laughs*] -

AM: - And I said, he was picked the best dressed. Aw poor Nick, you know he doesn't have that many clothes but I know that he keeps it clean and [*hand gestures*] presses [*laughs*].

TR: [*laughs*]

AM: Well he was picked the best dresser.

LM: [*laughs*]

NMJ: That surprised me [*shakes head*] -

TR: - Don't let them forget that, that will be his legacy [*laughs*] -

NMJ: - [*laughs*] -

AM: - Oh [*laughs*] -

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TR: - But Angie, I think I should remove the credit from your mother - in - law and just pass down all the credit to you because -

TR: - Because your son and daughter -

AM: - Well I love them very much and I am glad they have had the live they have [*tears up*] til now and hopefully they will have it forever, for the rest of their lives.

NMJ: Well you left a good foundation, they will. So, AM thank you so much -

AM: - [*smiles*] -

TR: - NMJ thank you so much for being -

NMJ: - Thank you [*nods head*] -

TR: - And LM, I'm glad you were here -

LM: - Thank you [*smiles*] -

TR: - And thank you so much for being with us this afternoon and sharing history of South Colton and that's what our purpose or project is to fulfill that gap that we have about South Colton. So, thank you very much for being with us this afternoon.

AM: Thank you Dr. Tomas Rivera [*shakes TR's hands*] -

NMJ: - Thanks Tom [*claps hands*].

LM: [*laughs and smiles*].

End of Interview:

[00:58:38]