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Oral History Project of Colton, CA. - March 21, 2014

Dr. Rivera of CSUSB: Hello, my name is Dr. Rivera, and I retired as the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies. And today we are at the Pfau Library, in room #4005; and our guest this afternoon who was added to our oral history project of South Colton is Ms. Terry Constant: and Terry, welcome...

Ms. Constant: Thank you ...

Dr. Rivera: ...And thank you very much for being with us this afternoon—we truly appreciate it.

And also part of our committee is Mr. Henry Vasquez, and again Henry, thanks for undertaking this project with us. As you know, we've been planning this for over a year now, and it's finally coming to a [fruition]. And the other part of the member that's part of our team is Mr. Frank Acosta, also retired like Henry. Frank is doing the video taping of our interview this afternoon.

So again, Terry, welcome to the session and what I'd like to do, Terry, is just talk about your Dad because your Dad was quite a person in South Colton. He contributed tremendously to many projects in South Colton, he influenced many people in South Colton, and he was one of the people that made things work in South Colton. So could you tell us a little bit about your Dad: where was he born?

Ms. Constant: Well, let me start out by saying that—as a family, we didn't know very much about what my Dad did outside the home. Fortunately, when he passed he left some paperwork... he didn't really have an office at home but he did collect certain things and he kept them over the years; and in that way I began to understand what it was that he did and what he was involved in. So my knowledge about/of him working outside the home or being involved in the community comes primarily from the paperwork that I read: so what I did was I composed a sort-of small family history, plus going into some detail as to what he was actually involved in outside the community, as far as I could tell from the paperwork.

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Dr. Rivera: Yes, yes...

Ms. Constant: So probably, what I would like to do is start out with a little bit of the family history...?

Dr. Rivera: Please -

Ms. Constant: ...and tell you where I think we came from, and in talking to my Aunt Mary, more than anyone else, she was able to give me little snip-its of where they came from. And my recollection is that they came from the Jalisco area of Mexico, and they originally came—I imagine through Arizona (inaudible) when they entered California. And it was sort-of like a family migration because it was his Grandfather, I think, and his parents—and aunts and uncles on the Delgado side of the family that came to both Colton and to East Highlands, which most of the families—we are related to many of the families in East Highlands. We also have family in San Bernardino, which are actually the sons and daughters of the original settlers of East Highlands. And they primarily came looking for work, and the area that they first worked in was [with the] inland citrus workers in the orange groves, picking the oranges and working that way. And I'm sure you are aware of the fact that it's a very back breaking work; and over the years my Dad suffered from a lot of extreme back pain, as a result of that. And they also went to the fields like out in Fresno and central California. But in any case, my Dad was born in Colton, in the family home, on 'N' Street, and I believe that several of his sisters and his brothers were also born in Colton: I don't know that anybody even went to the hospital at that time.

Dr. Rivera: How many brothers and sisters did he have?

Ms. Constant: Well... let me check... I had to write everything down... because I can't remember...

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Dr. Rivera: ...So I threw you off script...

Ms. Constant: Well I tried to follow your script and I think I did pretty good...

Anyway, what I found was a little book that it was kind-of... sort-of like a diary, and it wasn't very long but it did document when my Grandfather... how old he was when he died and how old people were when they passed away. So there was the original... my Grandfather or Great-Grandfather, it was a memorial to him: his name was Julio Padilla, and he died in May of 1890; and then there was Simona Padilla, who died in 1888, she was 18 years old; and then there was Victoriano Delgado, who died in 1929, more or less. But my Dad's Father, who was Julio Padilla, he was born in 1872, he got married when he was 25, and he died in 1897... no 1914, actually. My Dad's Mother (Sicilia - ?) Delgado-Padilla was born in November 1876 and she passed in 1925 in Colton. There was 1, 2, 3 brothers: Francisco and Nicholas including my Dad, Manuel; and there was... 5 sisters who were: Maria, Getrudis, Carmen, Ramona, and Maria del (inaudible) Padilla, and that was the extent of the brothers and sisters... buried in the Agua Mansa Cemetery, which is the original cemetery in Colton.

Dr. Rivera: Your grandparents were buried in the Agua Mansa?

Ms. Constant: Yes. Victoriano Delgado was buried there, that was the Father of Sicilia (inaudible): Julio Padilla, who is the Father; Sicilia the Mother, and the two daughters Carmen and Ramona. So that's basically what I took from reading the little diary.

Your next question was: tell me about your Dad. His school experience, he graduated from Colton High School and he went to Valley College.

Dr. Rivera: What year did he graduate from Colton High School?

Ms. Constant: It doesn't say—it didn't say. I could backtrack but that'll take a little extra work. His work experiences was as a citrus worker—picking the oranges; he worked for Portland Cement Company; he was a manager of the Colton projects for San Bernardino County; he was a union laborer—he joined the union, at one point; and he

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worked for Kennedy Pipe Company in Barstow. And then in August of 1959, he was elected financial treasurer for Hod Carriers and Laborers Local 783.

Dr. Rivera: Here in San Bernardino?

Ms. Constant: Yeah, until his retirement. His community involvement from what I could gather from the papers that I read involved: he was a member of the congress of community clubs; and I'm sure people mentioned that to you – have they?

Dr. Rivera: They have—they have. But what do you know about the congress involvement?

Ms. Constant: What I know about the congress: it was taken from the letterhead that I found; he actually created the logo for the letterhead. So it included the Latin American Civic Club; the American Legion Fidel Hernandez Post 754; the Mercury Athletic and Social Club; the Latin American Democratic Club; the Woodrow Wilson PTA; and the Scout Masters Boy Scout Troop 45. And the youth groups included Conquistadores Youth Club; Los Soteris Youth Club, which was a boys club; Las Soteris Youth Club, girls club; and the Latin Teen Drill Team. And he actually prepared the constitutions for each of those organizations, and he recruited objectives for the various youth groups. He also prepared the constitution for Los Latinos Social Club in Redlands in 1965, and the San Bernardino County Civic Association in 1965, which was a political organization. And then he also... there was a youth club in Tucson, Arizona called the Empress Youth Club, and the Congress of Community Clubs was the sponsoring organization for that group; and then there was the Peoples Committee which was created in 1976 in Colton to support political candidates. And as far as I know, I'm sure there [were] other organizations, but... I'm just aware of these because that's what the paperwork showed me.

In terms of his political involvement, I'm not that knowledgeable about his political involvement, but what I do know is that he was involved in helping various people in their aspirations for political office. I couldn't name them for you but I know that he was

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involved in the efforts to have Pete Luque, Sr. to be a candidate for the mayor of Colton. And as you know, that kinda went down the drain 2 or 3 days before the election because of a rumor that was presented to the newspapers that said that he really wasn't a citizen. So that was very disappointing for a lot of people. But at the same time, my Dad helped Mr. Luque prepare speeches to be presented to the city council regarding various issues that were of concern to the people of South Colton. And one of the big ones was that apparently there [were] continued delays in the construction of the underpass for the railroad, what is now La Cadena; and so he was very vocal about that and my Dad helped him vocalize those things. As well as the delays that they had for what they called the community center that was memorial park. Apparently there had been a lot of vandalism because the work was so slow in getting done, so he had to prepare a statement... demanding to know why there had been such delays. I also know that he was involved in organizing support for Ruben Ayala for I believe the senator in California...

Dr. Rivera: Yes, Ruben Ayala from Chino.

Ms. Constant: Yes. I know that, but I don't know anything about what process he went through in order to help him.

Dr. Rivera: Right, Ruben was one of the board-of-supervisors for San Bernardino County, and then after that he had aspirations to be a senator for California, and your Dad was instrumental in helping him in his campaign in the Colton area.

Ms. Constant: One of the reasons I know that he was involved with him was because my son James went to Our Lady of Guadalupe School in San Bernardino; and the nuns organized a field trip to Sacramento, and as they were touring the capital, apparently Senator Ayala came out of his office and asked for James, and he said, "I know your Grandfather..." and they talked for a little bit...but I guess James was a little bit surprised...

(Laughter)

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Dr. Rivera: Well that was a wonderful experience for him.

Ms. Constant: Yeah, it was.

Dr. Rivera: It made going to Sacramento—a memorable memory.

Ms. Constant: Oh-yeah; and he talks about that every once in a while when we start talking about what we call the old days...

Henry Vasquez: ...Grandpa
(Laughter)

Dr. Rivera: Now, did James call him Grandpa?

Ms. Constant: Uh-huh, yes he did. When James was born, we lived at/in my parents' home for a little bit; and then over the years in going to school in San Bernardino there was a lot of connection with my Dad—at my Dad's home. So he got to know his grandchildren... especially the boys, James and Louie Rodriguez. He used to take them with him when he went visiting the bars, and he would introduce them to whoever he knew. He would say, "...this is a good guy, this is a bad guy..." and so James was telling me, "I wish I could have remembered their names."

(Laughter)

Ms. Constant: But, of course, you-know he was too young to realize what was happening.

Dr. Rivera: In the house that you and your Dad lived in, is that the original house that he was born and raised in?

Ms. Constant: Yes. The neighborhood was very consistent; it just stayed the same while I was growing up. So it was his home—the house he was born in.

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Dr. Rivera: That was on 'N' Street?

Ms. Constant: Yes, and there was my Grandmother and Grandfather's house on my Mom's side. Then there was our home, which is the home that he built, you-know, with help. And then the Contreras had transferred down the block, the Serranos, the (inaudible)... we all grew up together, and 'N' Street was our playground. And for us, as his children, we were limited how far we could go or not... but we got to develop relationships.

Dr. Rivera: You were around the corner from 7th and 6th Street... and you were in the middle there on 'N' Street, and around the corner was La Calle Siete, it was the Broadway of South Colton.

Ms. Constant: Yes it was, and I heard some stories—not really stories but a little bit of history where South Colton was a place all its own—it had its own theatre, it had its own markets, it had its own entertainment areas, movie houses. So it was very protected in that regard. And so... going outside that area was... I wouldn't say not allowed but, people were restricted because of discrimination. Because it was felt in the schools and it was felt in other places as well. So it was a community within a community.

Dr. Rivera: And-uh, all the happenings, like your cousin (inaudible) says, "All the happenings happened there on La Calle Siete" – and then down the street from you was a church, which was also quite close.

Ms. Constant: Yes, right. I imagine it was quite a hopping place, especially during the war.

Dr. Rivera: Um-hum, during World War II?

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Ms. Constant: Yes. Um, I know that my Dad was involved in the Fiestas Patrias (inaudible). He was in the organizing committee for many years, and at one point served as President, and he used to write the minutes for the meetings that they used to have. And that's when the fiestas took place on the corner of 8th and 'N' Streets, which is now La Cadena.

Dr. Rivera: Yeah, which is down the street from your house.

Ms. Constant: Oh-yeah, and so it was a happening place you-know with the parades taking place every year going in front of the house. I was involved in many of the royal courts, supposedly. You-know, they would get me dressed up and sit me up there...

Dr. Rivera: Did you give any speeches?

Ms. Constant: Uh, actually I did in my 10 years...

Dr. Rivera: Tell us about that.

Ms. Constant: (Inaudible) We'd talk about the... I can't remember. Anyway, it was a group, and it was initially the Girl Scouts troupe that we had there in Colton. It was Sylvie Castorena, Marylou Vasquez... many of the girls, you-know, I can't remember all the girls, Marylou Castro, I think I mentioned her already. There was a group of about 10 or 11 girls, and my Aunt Tula used to bring us all together and she would teach us the poems for the 15th and 16th – and also the dances.

Dr. Rivera: You-know, I didn't know we had a Girl Scouts troupe in South Colton, tell me about that.

Ms. Constant: The leaders were: Maya (inaudible), Esther Castorena, and I think Esther Beltran was involved for a short while. It was for a few years, and they

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documented who went, who came, and who was involved; and we went on little field trips and things like that—and it was a good time.

Dr. Rivera: Can you remember any of the members?

Ms. Constant: Yeah, the names that I just mentioned; I actually have a list of all the names but I didn't bring it with me—but I do have all the names of all the girls...

Dr. Rivera: Give me some names again; I'm an old guy so I don't remember things.

Ms. Constant: Marylou Castro, Sylvie Castorena, Emily Rodriguez, I think one of our cousins, Stella Ochoa, and Henrietta Lopez, well that's six people already, so that's more than half.

Dr. Rivera: Well they were—most of them were in my class.

Ms. Constant: Oh they were?

Dr. Rivera: Yes, yes.

Ms. Constant: Well I knew you from the gas station.

Dr. Rivera: Oh that's right; I used to work at Henry's gas station, which is also a couple of blocks from your house.

Ms. Constant: Yes -

Dr. Rivera: And your Dad gassed up at our gas station.

Ms. Constant: I used to gas up there too cause I thought you were cute.

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Dr. Rivera: Oooooohhhhhhhh!!!

Ms. Constant: But you know who else worked there—was Tony Busso.

Dr. Rivera: Tony Busso, was he a cousin of yours?

Ms. Constant: I had a crush on him. Well you-know, talking about cousins: um, my Mom used to watch very carefully who we went out with because she wouldn't let us go out with anybody that she thought was related to us—and there was a few times. Even my sister Clara started going out with-uh Junior Chavez, who was the son of one of my Mom's cousins, on my Mother's side. And-um, they lived across the tracks... Clara and Carole were a little bit more involved with some of the kids from South Colton. But they found out very quickly who they could go out with and who they couldn't.

Dr. Rivera: Well, your Mom kept a visual eye on them... so that was pretty good...
(Laughter)

Ms. Constant: Oh-yeah, all the time... she did, she did...

Dr. Rivera: And Tula, you-know your Aunt Tula, she was very much involved with the Fiesta Patrias, yes?

Ms. Constant: Oh-yes.

Dr. Rivera: Was that because of your Dad's influence or because she strongly believed in the program?

Ms. Constant: Well I think they both believed in the program. One of the things that I learned was that-um... I'm going a little bit off my little thing here... But when the war started, World War II, a lot of the young men from South Colton went to war, and while

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they were there they found out that they were actually Americans. They didn't realize that they were American—they thought they were just Mexican.

Dr. Rivera: Mexicans, yes uh-huh.

Ms. Constant: And so it was enlightening for them that they could also celebrate July 4th with pride. And so, when they came back from the war, after the war ended, they started celebrating Las Fiestas Patrias – from the notes that I was reading. So I'm not sure who initially started it or why, I just know that they were very much involved in that celebration.

And the effect of... because my *tia's* (aunts): Kuka and Tula, and also my Aunts on my Mother's side: Ramona and Rosa, they used to go to the dances that were offered by the USO in Riverside at March Field, and other places. And so, they loved to dance and they loved music so they were beginning to integrate into what you would call the 'white' community. But-um, as the men came back and started realizing that they had rights, things started to change; and one of the things that most impressed my Aunts was the fact that they are American—were American not just Mexican-American. Even Mexican-American wasn't a term that they used at that time. But-um... I don't know how it happened, but my Aunts: Maria, Tula, and Kuka – I don't know if they got together, I know they talked about it, and they decided that they needed to be as American as they possibly could. So-um, they went and they officially and formally changed their names from Maria to Mary, Getrudes to Gertrude, and my Aunt Kuka from (inaudible) to Ruth. So they got their birth certificates changed, you-know, it was an official name change, and that...

Dr. Rivera: And what year was that Terry?

Ms. Constant: Well, it was after the war...

Dr. Rivera: So in the 40's?

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Ms. Constant: In the 40s, yeah. I don't know if it was in the mid 40's... it could have been the mid 40's. And they did...

(She begins to cry – so the recording was stopped for a few minutes)

Dr. Rivera: And the attitude that they got after the war, which was to be as American as possible, was it a trend in the community to do something like that, or were they avant-garde kind-of females that thought that was the thing to do?

Ms. Constant: I don't know if that was the thing that they did in the community. I've never heard anybody else mention that. But I think what they wanted to do was be recognized as Americans as much as possible.

And in thinking about it now, I think too that that's one of the reasons that we went to school where we went cause we went to what you would consider a private school, which was, you-know, a Catholic school; and my brother and I went and my sisters. And then when Immaculate Conception School was created Clara and Carole went there, and then they transferred over to St. Bernadine for the rest of their education. But-um, I really never knew why, and I think now that I'm reflecting on the name change, and things like that, I think possibly that was their effort to integrate us into...

Dr. Rivera: Yeah, because, you-know, some of the things that I've read mention that because of the war that-uh our girls from the community had a chance to leave home and get a job outside the home. And then, having a job they were... [they] considered themselves a little more independent; and they were earning money so they could purchase things that they couldn't before. So it gave them a sense of independence. And then we read about 'Rosie the Riveter' — and we had a lot of our girls also working in the Airforce base during the war. So that's why I was curious about your Aunts.

Ms. Constant: My Aunt Ramona, on my Mom's side, she was the one that was most... she was very outgoing. And-um, she went to Long Beach and she worked in the aircraft, I think it was Lockheed at the time, and she was a riveter, she worked on the

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planes. But-um, my Aunt Rosa followed her, Beety Rujan (inaudible), followed her. They were out there earning money and creating a life for themselves...

Dr. Rivera: Yes, yes. Now, you-know, your Aunt Tula and your Aunt Maria, they stand out in my history because they were always involved with the Fiestas Patrias. So when you mentioned the Fiestas Patrias where they taught people that participated [about] the songs, the poems, the history of the importance of Fiestas Patrias, and-uh, they did that for many years.

Ms. Constant: Yes they did.

Dr. Rivera: They did that for many years. And-uh, the other thing is that... were they also very involved in the church in Colton?

Ms. Constant: I would say yes.

(She laughs)

I laugh because, yes, they were very much involved. My Aunt Mary was-uh... she was the... I think she was the oldest one... I gotta read the dates. Anyway she was very much involved: she loved gardening, and so for her, her ministry was the flowers for the church. She also took care of the vestments and the alter cloths, and even made alter cloths, and the little cloths—the one over the ciborium after Mass. She loved doing it, and I have some of those things that I happened to gather after she died. And she was very proud of her work, in that regard.

And-uh Tula, she-uh, she was involved mostly in the Fiestas Patrias. She was involved in church, she was very-um... proactive or... she knew what she wanted to do and how to do it. And-um, I think people realized that her and Father Valencia always used to come to... you-know, they didn't agree on everything.

(Laughter)

Dr. Rivera: (Laughing) She was an assertive little...

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Mr. Henry Vasquez: Yeah, my Mom was a good friend of Tula's; and-um, we'd talk about how she was very strong, you-know, and so... and Father Valencia was very strong too.

(Laughter)

Mr. Henry Vasquez: It was very easy to disagree with him...

(Laughter)

Ms. Constant: And of course he had the louder voice being, you-know, a male. But in any case, she never backed down from him, never. You-know, she knew what was right... and, you-know, if she couldn't get it the nice way, she insisted on it, and that was who she was. She went to Mexico quite often... cause I think she probably visited relatives and things like that. She always made it a point to make friends with the priests and the bishops over there. I don't know how she did it, but she did. And sometimes they would come and visit the family home. So I knew she was well known when she went over there to visit.

Mr. Henry Vasquez: I remember my Mom was visiting with her one time and I went along, and, you-know, she was just so proud of everything, you-know, of the family, of everything in Mexico and she would tell us: *Que no hay ningun siello tan bonito como le Mexico...* and stuff like that.

(Laughter)

Mr. Henry Vasquez: I mean, you-know, such pride.

Ms. Constant: She was very proud.

Mr. Henry Vasquez: Yeah, and then my Mom talked about... well actually I got to see a little bit of the-um, of the children, you-know, reciting at the Fiestas Patrias when they were right there on La Cadena, or 8th and 'N' street, you-know, before—before that was taken away; and that was very beautiful.

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Ms. Constant: And the stage was always set up with all the important people on the background... and the queen and everything. It was—it was quite, what-do-ya-call-it?

Mr. Henry Vasquez: It was very beautiful because even the lighting, you-know, the electric bulbs that people used to hang for the lighting, you-know. I know that this kind of lighting is more efficient and everything but it doesn't seem as pretty. At night, you-know, those old incandescent light bulbs that hung over the fiestas just made everything look good—you-know; and the girls wearing their china poblana with all the sparkling...

Ms. Constant: Red, white, and green, yeah...

Mr. Henry Vasquez: Yes, the sparkly colors—it was so beautiful.

Ms. Constant: And I think all the dresses were handmade at that time.

Mr. Henry Vasquez: I think so, yeah.

Dr. Rivera: And the Fiestas Patrias was what, Henry, the celebration of independence from Spain, 1810-1821?

Ms. Constant: That was the big celebration for our community. The Cinco de Mayo celebration I think a lot of people believe came into being simply because it was during the school year. And the Fiestas Patrias was just before school started.

Dr. Rivera: And the Fiestas Patrias, you mentioned the stage and the girls that were selected as queen and a princess. How did that happen?

Ms. Constant: I think it was primarily fundraising. I have no idea other than that because they were always selling tickets.

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Dr. Rivera: So whoever sold the most tickets became the queen of the-uh... fiesta—la fiesta?

Ms. Constant: Just the way San Salvador has their annual fiesta, they ask the girls to run for queen, and whoever sells the most tickets is elected queen.

Dr. Rivera: They also had a parade, didn't they?

Ms. Constant: Oh-yes, they had a parade that started – I think it started downtown, didn't it?

Mr. Henry Vasquez: It started downtown and then it went south...

Ms. Constant: It went south and then it went up 'N' street and then over on-uh 'F' street; was it 'F' street? And then it came around and then back to the fiesta grounds.

Mr. Henry Vasquez: (He nods – yes)

Dr. Rivera: And did they also have a dance?

Ms. Constant: If they did I don't know.

Dr. Rivera: Did they have a dance, Henry?

Ms. Constant: You-know, I think they did over on the street side.

Dr. Rivera: Yes...

Mr. Henry Vasquez: I think so...

Dr. Rivera: And the activity was what 1, 2, 3 days?

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Ms. Constant: It was the 2 days, on the night of the 15th to the 16th.

Dr. Rivera: Okay, that's September 15th and 16th?

Ms. Constant: Um-hm –

Dr. Rivera: Okay.

Ms. Constant: And there was... the proclamation was read at that time, and the (inaudible). And usually the council of (inaudible) attended. The mayor of Colton, and sometime the mayor of San Bernardino attended. There were a lot of dignitaries that were invited to participate

Dr. Rivera: And were the *Progresistas* the sponsors of the activity? The *Progresistas* group?

Ms. Constant: I don't think so; I have that somewhere in my notes. I don't remember the *Progresistas* being mentioned, I think it was the congress that was primarily...

Dr. Rivera: Congress of Community Clubs. Okay, the Congress of Community Clubs. Yeah, also Terry, your Dad was quite a musician, he played the guitar.

Ms. Constant: Well, yeah, he played the guitar and he played the piano; and he played by ear. And he prided himself in being able to play all the songs of the day, and he would do that. And the guitar was his constant companion wherever he went, and I think people enjoyed his music—and he sang too.

Dr. Rivera: Did he sing boleros or...?

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Ms. Constant: He sang anything that he knew or anything that was popular. He would study—uh-not study, but learn the music and how to play the various changes in the guitar—he would do that. I don't think I ever heard him play any of that at the time, I just heard that that's what he did.

Dr. Rivera: Yeah-yeah. And then-uh, I would imagine that the family also are musicians because you're a musician: you play the piano, and you're actively involved in the church choir. Would you tell us about your activities as far as music and volunteering in the church as a music director or being part of the choir?

Ms. Constant: Well, you-know, being a church musician is a calling. It's not anything that I ever pursued or wanted to do. (She turns to Mr. Henry Vasquez) And I think you understand that, what the calling is? And-um, I learned how to... I started learning how to play the piano when I was five, and my teacher was my *Tia* Kuka. She taught me (inaudible) and so that transitioning from Spanish to English musically was hard for me because the scales don't start the same way: you-know, A, B, C's – C, B... whatever. Anyway, I was taught by Mrs. Engel, you-know, their family was a family of doctors in Colton. I'm not sure how my Mom found them, but anyway I started taking lessons from her, and I took lessons for about, I say, 5 years. And then when I went into junior high I didn't want to take them anymore, so I stopped taking them. But it was the basis of what I know, and that's as far formally as I got in my musical education.

And I didn't really start getting involved again in the church because when I graduated high school, I moved out of the house... and went, you-know, and did my thing. But then, after I got married and I was...oh, in my 30's, we went back to Colton to live in the area; and at that time I also started working for the church as a secretary. And then, um, the people that were involved very much in the church wanted to have a choir – start a choir. And it was primarily Danny Carasco's wife... what was her name?

Mr. Henry Vasquez & Mr. Frank Acosta: Cecelia.

Dr. Rivera: Cecelia.

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Ms. Constant: She—she approached me and said you know how to read music so you're gonna lead the choir. So I said, okay.

(Laughter)

Ms. Constant: If I had known I would have said, why don't you ask Henry? Or one of his brothers or cousins or whatever; but I didn't know any... I didn't know at that time—but anyway, I said, well, okay. So that started for me an education and-uh, how to build a group, how to be nice to people—you-know, because when you don't how to do something and people expect certain things out of you, you start getting very directive—and you say: you do this... Well, the people love to sing and so they accepted me for who I was at the time; and the group grew to be 25-30 people.

Mr. Henry Vasquez: It was big, um-hm...

Ms. Constant: You were an organist at one time, an accompanist, and so was Danny Mercado, and-um Henrietta Lopez' son helped out at one time. And, you-know, I'm surprised they never quit on me cause I was so demanding. You-know, it was terrible, I know, but I have changed...

(Laughter)

Ms. Constant: And at one point we decided to make a tape, and so, Henry helped put it together, and we did it in one afternoon; and, you-know, whether it was good or not we sold the tapes. And it was fun doing that—it was a good fundraiser. And so-um, eventually, uh-and throughout my career as being a church musician, I've worked in many different parishes in very many different capacities. And-uh, I have worked at... I was working on this this afternoon... I have had choirs at St. Edwards in Corona... I had a choir for the Holy Rosary—the cathedral, there was a choir in Holy Family in Hesperia, Our Lady of the Desert in Apple Valley, which is where minister right now. And I've also worked in liturgy committees as such; so... and I've attended many, many-uh workshops and conventions sponsored by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. So over the years, I guess I've developed a certain amount of knowledge in terms of what to do and what not to do. But I've also developed myself in terms of being

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able to lead a choir and also improve my skills as a pianist. And-uh, you-know, this is all God-given, it's not anything that I set out to do. I didn't say, well, this is what I want to do: I want to be involved in church; I want to do this and this... He touched his magic wand and said this is what you're gonna do...

(Laughter)

Dr. Rivera: But you had a tremendous influence with your aunts and your Dad, and you going to private school—to Catholic school.

Ms. Constant: Well maybe that had a lot to do with what I do now, but—but it's not anything that said: okay, I want to do it. I never told myself this is what I want to do; I was always led in that direction. And the way I play piano now, it's-not, you-know, it's a God-given gift, it's not anything that I actually sit down and say okay, I'm gonna play it this way, cause I do a lot of improvising and, you-know, that's not easy...

Mr. Henry Vasquez: It's hard.

Ms. Constant: It's something that you're... you build yourself into. And you will never hear me play the same piece... a piece the same way, never! I never play it the same way; I always get direction from somewhere, and I either do it this way or that way—or even the choir that I'm working with, I may or may not help them with the melody of the thing, but they're so good that they will sing what's written and I will play what I feel is in my heart. And-so, I don't know if you can understand that.

Dr. Rivera: No, I can—I can, I think you improvise very, very well. And you just-ah shift gears when you need to shift gears, and you accommodate people that are helping you or working with you in providing the music that you need to provide at that point. So-yeah...

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Ms. Constant: Well you-know, in your own experience in being a leader of the community, there are some things you do that affect people in a certain way that you don't even realize yourself that you've done that, and so, sometimes I feel that way.

Dr. Rivera: Well, this is why I wanted to interview you about your Dad because your Dad, like I mentioned at the first part of this interview, that he was a tremendous influence to our South Colton community. And can you remember who some of his friends were?

Ms. Constant: Um... very little... I started writing some names down and the only reason why I know this is because he was involved—my Dad was involved in fundraising for the church—for the new church.

Dr. Rivera: The new church was the project of whom?

Ms. Constant: Father Luque.

Dr. Rivera: Junior?

Ms. Constant: Yes. He's the one that started the idea of building a new building for San Salvador.

Dr. Rivera: In the same location that we had the old church?

Ms. Constant: Yes.

Dr. Rivera: On 7th and 'L' Street?

Ms. Constant: Yes. He did it without diocesan approval; he did it on his own. And before the diocese knew it – the church was already built.

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Mr. Henry Vasquez: Well, I think he had to because... do you remember the experiences that Father Valencia... when he had raised the money and the diocese took the money and used it for other stuff?

Ms. Constant: Oh-yeah, oh definitely, that was the diocese of San Diego.

Mr. Henry Vasquez: My Mom or Grandmother said that: *la cathedreal de San Diego de toto dinero de South Colton*. (The cathedral in San Diego took all the money from South Colton)

Ms. Constant: Oh-yeah—and that was very true. And you know when the Bishop came from San Diego, I-mean, he was treated like royalty, absolutely.

Mr. Henry Vasquez: Yes.

Ms. Constant: ...because Father Valencia, you-know, that was his Bishop.

Dr. Rivera: So your Dad was instrumental in raising funds to build a new church?

Ms. Constant: He was part of the group of the committee that raised the funds. And he was so... he was so detailed in his record keeping that-um – he put down the name of every person that donated money. Whether it was just for whatever, or whether it was for vestments or for windows or for chairs, or for anything that was put into the church... and they donated... he kept detailed records of everything

Dr. Rivera: What year was this Terry? '66 or something like that, Henry?

Mr. Henry Vasquez: It was-um, it seems to me it was like the late 60's early 70's... maybe it was finished around...

Ms. Constant: ... I have the dates... that's ... you-know because he dated everything...

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Dr. Rivera: So your Dad was very detailed in who donated to build that new church?

Ms. Constant: Oh everybody, everybody in South Colton.

Dr. Rivera: Did you keep the records?

Ms. Constant: Yes, I have the records.

Dr. Rivera: I'll be darn! Frank, we better see if we can put those records on interviews at Colton museum.

Ms. Constant: I have those records; I have the records of Tula's involvement in trying to-ah... not resurrect—that's a bad word... clean up the Aqua Mansa Cemetery because she was involved in the original group that was created in order to do that, and I have those records. So-yeah, I have all that information...

Dr. Rivera: We have to talk some more...

(Laughter)

Ms. Constant: Well, you-know it's been very enlightening for me... and I also have in my memory, my Dad's job at the Portland Cement Company; and he was fired from there, I think you know...

Dr. Rivera: Why? No, I don't know.

Ms. Constant: He was fired. There was an accident at the cement plant cause you-know, they had these skinny little roads, and one of the trucks overturned and somebody was killed, it was a worker who was killed. And-um at that time, my Father was beginning to get involved in unionizing, and of course, the cement plant didn't appreciate that—so they essentially blamed him for the accident and-um fired him. But

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in those times... cause people knew what was going on—they knew what caused it and who was at fault. And I honestly believe there was such fear in the life of those men working there: it was their livelihood and they didn't want to lose it; so they didn't back him up. He told my Mom about it and my Mother told me, and she did mention a couple of names, but, you-know that's not gonna serve any purpose now. But in any case, I think at that point in time is when his life changed because... and it changed the family life as well...

(Paused because she began to cry)

Ms. Constant: Up until that time he was very much involved with the family... we used to-um... he used to take us visiting some of his friends. We used to visit the (inaudible), the Castorena's... and other people. We used to go on picnics--it was a community-type activity, but after that he changed a lot.

Dr. Rivera: Changed in what way Terry?

Ms. Constant: Well, I'm sure people had mentioned he was an alcoholic, he started drinking quite a bit; and I'm sure there are stories that even I don't know about—other things that would happen. But-um, he started putting his energies more and more into union activities, but also that involved having to meet a lot of people and going to different places and I think things just got out of hand for him—and so, whether he wanted to control it or not, I don't know. But anyway, it changed our whole life, and after that... a lot of this stuff I'm just finding out... it's helping me understand who I am, who the family is, who he was, what he did... He helped many, many people even at home on the weekends he would have people just coming by every hour-on-the-hour... he would help people with immigration papers, taxes, letters of references to parole boards, everything—I mean, he was there for them and he never took payment... whatever they gave him as payment, I don't know. But I know that they helped him in a lot of ways. And he was that way when he worked for the union—the men at the union, he helped them with all the same kinds of things. And talking to my sister Clara, cause she was there quite a bit, she saw everything that was going on and what he did for them and what he did for the union.

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Dr. Rivera: But you mentioned that some of the union members didn't have money to pay for their monthly dues and your Dad would cover them.

Ms. Constant: You-know I think somebody probably said that and I wouldn't be a bit surprised. He instituted health benefits for the union; and I'm not sure about retirement but they had a retirement... if he had any instrument in that I don't know—he never took advantage of the retirement but he did take advantage of the health benefits. And-um, every time I called the union for something, they knew... immediately they would help me—not that I called often.

But-uh, Clara used to go quite a bit, my sister Carol sometimes would go... to the union hall, the one downtown and also when they built the new one over there by the Orange Show. I was not a frequent visitor: I was probably too old, going to high school and stuff like that. My brother wasn't involved at all either.

Dr. Rivera: Do you remember some of his friends? Like-ah was he a friend of... you mentioned Pete Luque...

Ms. Constant: Well, yeah, I took some of these names from the documents for the church. And they're names that I even remember from before; there was Pasqual Oliva...

Dr. Rivera: Pasqual Oliva. I think he was mayor of Colton -

Ms. Constant: Yes he was, but not at the time when I knew him. There was Milton Noriega who owned the Sombrero Restaurant.

Dr. Rivera: Milton Noriega owned the Sombrero, the Sombrero Restaurant.

Ms. Constant: There was Salvador de Montel who was our neighbor across the street; there was Salvador Roberto...

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Dr. Rivera: ...the boxer, yeah, the boxer.

Ms. Constant: The boxer [and] the bar-b-que person too, excellent meat, it was very tasty... Tony Hernandez...

Dr. Rivera: Tony Hernandez... Korean veteran.

Ms. Constant: Jesus Sarete, do you remember who he was?

Dr. Rivera: Who? *No nos conosco.*

Ms. Constant: He was probably one of the younger men. There was Nacho Cabrera...

Dr. Rivera: Nacho Cabrera, World War II veteran, and he owned a barber shop on 7th Street right next to...

Ms. Constant: ...on 'N'... originally on 'N' and then he moved. There was Ray Abril, of course; and then-um...

Dr. Rivera: Was that junior or senior?

Ms. Constant: Senior -

Dr. Rivera: Senior, okay, the Boy Scout master.

Ms. Constant: Yes... And then there was-um... I wrote the name down but I can't read it... Lena Mesa, or something like that. There was the owner of the Mexico Café... her name was Nena, and he worked with...

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Dr. Rivera: Negrete?

Ms. Constant: Negrete, yes, and he worked with her.

[They were] against liquor, and they were gonna be limiting, I think, how much liquor could be served at bars and restaurants. And so they got together, there was a group of business owners from San Bernardino that got together to form against this law. Anyway, those are the names that came out when I was going through paperwork.

Dr. Rivera: So those were kind-of-ah members of organizations that he belonged to?

Ms. Constant: Yeah, he was very much involved in the young adult group called the... you're gonna have to bare-with-me...

Dr. Rivera: Take your time...

Ms. Constant: It was the Dram Shop Liability Law... Do you remember that law?

Mr. Henry Vasquez: No I don't.

Ms. Constant: Yeah, it was in 1977, and it was... there was an organization created called the food, beverage, and spirits association. And Negrete and my Dad helped build it because it was a political organization. Because the Dram Shop Liability Law had to do with limiting liquor—the selling of liquor, and so he was with that...

It was the Association Catholica de Jovenes Mexicana, and it was a group of young men, I think they were in their 20s and late 20s. They were involved in various church activities and they did fundraising... and it was about, I'd say about 10 or 12 men, young men. I have a picture of them but I don't know the names of all of them. But if you showed it around, they would be able to name all of them.

Dr. Rivera: Could we borrow it?

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Ms. Constant: Um-yeah

Dr. Rivera: I'll sign my name in blood.

(Laughter)

Mr. Henry Vasquez: Make a copy of it probably, or scan it.

Ms. Constant: I will bring... Well, you-know, my Aunt Kuka who... she liked to take pictures; [I] found an album and the pictures are about this small, but you could still tell who is in them.

Mr. Henry Vasquez: And you-know, when you scan some of those small ones, they enlarge very nicely.

Ms. Constant: I have a lot of pictures of the fiestas... the platform for the fiestas, some of the parade, and a lot of home pictures as well, a lot of the men or young men who visited the house during the war. You-know, my Father and his brothers and sisters were orphaned at a very young age.

Dr. Rivera: I didn't know that Terry.

Ms. Constant: Yes. By the time... when Kuka was born, their Dad passed away just a few months after that... and their Mother had already died, so they were all alone; and so they used to have a lot of fun. But my Grandmother, my Mom's Mom, used to keep an eye on them cause she lived right next door. But they were always very welcoming of other young people that were having problems at home, they could stay with them—they would help them out. They were always...that was their way... they just did it... that was just who they were. But I forgot where I was heading so you're gonna have to remind me... but anyway, I get caught in these little stories—side stories.

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Dr. Rivera: Yeah, I asked you about your Dad's friends. Do you remember, the last name was Ochoa, Raoul Ochoa. He was also part of the *Progresista* group, and also helped your Dad do many of activities in the community.

Ms. Constant: Probably, I don't remember... the name *Progresista* sounds familiar to me. Did it have anything to do with *Trabajado de Sanitos*?

Dr. Rivera: Yes—yes, Mutual Aid Society, and they were part of the Congress of Community Clubs.

Ms. Constant: They must have been but they weren't on the letterhead so you-know, I don't know. Was it on the letterhead? Did I mention them?

Mr. Henry Vasquez: I don't think so.

Dr. Rivera: And-um, tell us about you. You grew up in South Colton, you went to school where?

Ms. Constant: My brother and I were the first one's that went to St. Bernadine from the first grade. And talking about safety issues: we used to get on the bus on 8th street, and it was the bus that came from L.A., you-know how the red bus used to come... We would go by ourselves unchaperoned and we would end up on 'E' street in San Bernardino and walk through town to school. And we did it all alone—we were 6 and 7 years old at the time; and we never had chaperones, it wasn't necessary. But-um, we did, we went through high school, grade school and high school. And we were not, at least for myself, I was not part of growing up in South Colton, other than the Girls Scouts and the Fiestas Patrias, and so I didn't make any lasting friendships in South Colton. There was friends like in the Girl Scouts and things like that but-um, there was a certain distance between the other kids and myself. And I was very quiet anyway so anything anybody said, you-know, I took it personally. But anyway, I wasn't an outgoing child.

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Dr. Rivera: And then you graduated from which high school?

Ms. Constant: Well, you-know, let me finish, so I was kind-of-ah lonely in that respect, so I kept to myself... But, what was your question?

Dr. Rivera: Oh, high school graduation?

Ms. Constant: Oh-yeah, I graduated from St. Bernadine, and it was good, it was a good education. My brother graduated from there and so did Carol and Clara. And after, when I graduated I saw it as an opportunity to leave home, so I did; and I went to Los Angeles to live with my Aunt, I worked there for about 5 years and I got married. And then I even went to Japan for a year; but came back and lived in various places. My work history: I worked in L.A. and I worked in San Bernardino, it was just a normal, normal existence, until I started working for the church and that's when I started coming out of my shell, so-to-speak.

(Laughter)

Dr. Rivera: Well... let me get back to your Dad and South Colton and the young men that went to World War II. It's estimated that the number of young men that participated from Colton in World War II was about 400: um-yeah about 3 females and the rest were male. And you mentioned the attitude that they came back feeling proud of who they were in serving their country... and-um, did they develop any organizations that-ah they belonged to or that-ah helped them with educational opportunities, or buying houses?

Ms. Constant: Not that I'm aware of. What I do know is that probably around that time or a few years later, some families started buying homes in North Colton. It was primarily where the orange groves used to be, Rancho... and-uh, I do remember that. It's funny how people are: *mira los... para ya...* (inaudible) you-know, that kind of attitude.

(Laughter)

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Mr. Henry Vasquez: I remember hearing that.

Ms. Constant: Yeah-so, it was not an easy transition for those people that chose to move over there.

I know some of your family (looking at Mr. Vasquez) they moved out of the area, and I'm sure it wasn't easy for them to do that.

Dr. Rivera: But it was, again, another... it was an opportunity, it was a change of attitude, it was kind-of-ah: I can do it because I have a good job, because I'm able to pay for a good home in Colton.

Ms. Constant: Some of those attitudes still exist today. It's not easy to forget the hurts and things that people have experienced while going to school. My Father, he – I don't think he ever forgave that discrimination.

Dr. Rivera: Was that discrimination from...?

Ms. Constant: In school and also in the community.

Dr. Rivera: And work?

Ms. Constant: ...um, and work. You-know, my Mom used to tell us that when they went to the new Colton theatre there was a separation of seating even when they were growing up. So the hurt was deep-seeded for my Dad—and he used to speak about it all the time he-um... When Caesar Chavez started his activism, you-know with the grapes and things like that—my Dad was older. And I think when he was... a few years before he passed, he would sit down and reflect on the fact that he couldn't help cause he just wasn't able to physically get involved, at that point in time. So I think he missed the activism and the fact that he-um... he was able to do what he did but he no longer could do that.

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Mr. Henry Vasquez: He really put in his time, though, he really helped so many people.

Ms. Constant: He did, he did. When Kennedy died, he also wrote a song and he had it copyrighted, and I have the actual music that he wrote down.

Mr. Henry Vasquez: Did he sing it into a tape recorder or anything maybe?

Ms. Constant: Uh, no, no—I don't think so. He sang it to me one time but I don't think he ever recorded it. If he did I don't know, but-um, it is copyrighted and he's got all the verses that he wrote.

Mr. Henry Vasquez: Is it in English?

Ms. Constant: No, it's in Spanish.

Mr. Henry Vasquez: I'd like to hear it someday.

Ms. Constant: Well you can read it and hopefully put it together.

Dr. Rivera: You-know I truly appreciate you being with us this afternoon. Is there anything else about you that we can talk about or about your Dad that we've forgotten to mention?

Ms. Constant: Well there were so many sides to him, you-know, that I don't know about or that probably other people don't know about either.

It was a hard life for him, and it was a hard life for the family.

One of the things that I remember very vividly, cause I'm the one that experienced it, if you can call it an experience. I must've been about maybe 12 years old, and it was Christmas and-um... we received a gift basket, you-know, a food basket cause people knew that we weren't doing very well. But one evening, I think I was home alone and I

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heard a knock at the door (pause)... I went to answer the door and it was the owner of Miller-Honey. Do you remember what his name was?

Dr. Rivera: Oh, I can't remember.

Mr. Frank Acosta: Woodrow...

Dr. Rivera: Woodrow Miller, uh-huh.

Ms. Constant: It was a huge guy... And he said, "Is your Dad home" and I said, "No he's not" – he goes, "Well I have a little gift for him" – and it was a box of his honey. So he said "Merry Christmas" and I said "Thank you" and he left.

And I, you-know, not until later did I realize who it was and what was happening. So-uh, that kind-of gave me an idea of his involvement with the community. You-know you try to put little snip-its together here and there and you come up with a caricature or whatever of a person. And so, over the years I've learned what he-uh... what he meant to the community and what he did for the community. And it's amazing, if I had heard this about anybody else, I would have said, "Wow," he led a good life. But you-know, it's different knowing both sides of a person. And in time, hopefully, I can come to appreciate both sides.

Dr. Rivera: Well, you have a lot to be proud of... I'm sorry, go ahead.

Ms. Constant: Well, he liked to party-hardy, and we had a piano—it's the piano that I learned how to play on, and he would play it often—quite often. And-so, I guess he and his friends got together one day over at the Van Aken's house...

Dr. Rivera: Oh-yes, yes, yes, yes, Fred Van Aken and Sarah...

Ms. Constant: ... and so they must have been having a really good time because all of a sudden he was at the house and they were packing the piano into the truck. And my

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Mom, she is just shaking her head and we're all looking at him and thinking: well alright, he's having one of his good days, right. So-um, they had a good time with the piano, and then they brought it home, but what happened is that when... by the time they were getting it home, they had been partying all day long and into the evening, and the guy who was driving the truck took a turn too fast and the piano ended up on the road. It was all gone... it was all gone. My Mom was so upset... I mean he tried to make up for it—he bought a new one, but you-know, it was never the same again. But-um, you-know, you have these experiences...

Dr. Rivera: Well, you-know, he was quite a person, as I mentioned before. And-um, you-know, he experienced many, many things and was never afraid to...um... new experiences. Even the fact of going out on a limb helping other people, and also with his union activism, which-um, people were not too pleased with that—he probably suffered the consequences. And like you said, on weekends and almost everyday of the week, people would come to your house to ask for some help in one form or another. A group of boys [from] 2 clubs: the *Conquistadores* and *Los Soteris*, they both have mentioned your Dad that when they were organizing when they were in high school, he was able to form their constitution and also attend many of their meetings. With him and Tony, um... Tony Martinez I think, they would be the advisors to those clubs and would tell them how to run a meeting, and how to take minutes, and how to help the community by doing volunteer activities. So again, with those people our age, Terry, they still remember your Dad and his participation in their club. So I think, as a community, we were very, very lucky to have your Dad as one of the leaders of our community.

Ms. Constant: Yeah, it's always been um... I don't recall people ever saying—as recognizing that publically for him. That's one thing that I know I never experienced and I know had never happened. So it hurt, but I don't think that he ever wanted that—I don't think that ever even entered his mind that he should be recognized. And so I think he was happy with what he did and how he helped people—he was proud of that, and he could walk with his head high.

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Dr. Rivera: I knew him because of my Dad, they were good friends. Again, when we started this project with Henry and Frank, I said we have to interview and we have to get some more information about Manuel, your Dad, because we don't have it, so thank you very much. Did we miss anything from your notes – you have a whole bunch of notes there.

Ms. Constant: I have a whole bunch of notes and I'm sure I didn't go over everything, so-you-know, I'm gonna give them to you.

Dr. Rivera: Thank you. Can we also get together and maybe you can loan us your pictures and we'll scan them and also put them as part of the tribute?

Ms. Constant: Oh-yeah, I had to go through everything and it was interesting that it was in order – like everything that he did.

Dr. Rivera: Henry, you wanted to say something?

Mr. Henry Vasquez: Oh-no, just, I'm thankful that your family, I mean your Dad in particular, but your Aunts and even the extended, you-know your other Aunts are the people that lived in East Highlands, I mean, they were well known. I have friends who talk about the help that they gave everywhere they were—so...

Ms. Constant: And they still do.

Mr. Henry Vasquez: You come from a very helping family, a very beautiful heritage, and I think Colton in particular, but East Highlands and San Bernardino are very lucky to have had your family.

Dr. Rivera: And now, Terry, you retired a few years ago. How is it?
(Laughter)

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Ms. Constant: Well retirement is a... it's different. You-know, I've been retired now, what—this is going on my third year? I just ended a long-term relationship so I'm by myself and I'm living in my home – and it's a 4 bedroom home, and I live there with my 3 dogs and I'm very comfortable. I've never lived alone so I'm enjoying that part of it. You-know, I don't get up very early in the morning—only when my little children wake up early cause they have to go out. But I'm enjoying... you-know I have the 2 choirs: I have a choir at Our Lady of the Dessert and I have the choir in Colton, and I continue my involvement in the church, in Colton especially. And I'm satisfied and I'm happy with where I'm at right now in my life. I'm enjoying the retirement aspect of it tremendously. It's not that I can do whatever I want, it's just that I can choose to either do or not. It was hard at first because I didn't have a set schedule, you-know, I didn't have to work from 9 to 5. So I started thinking, I said: well you-know what Terry, you have to get a life; you have to kind-of find things to do. But I'm finding that things are coming to me. I'm happy right now where I'm at.

Dr. Rivera: And you're actually enjoying what you do, and-um, enjoying your music, and at the same time being with your congregations that you help out, and continue your relationships, especially with the folks in Colton.

Ms. Constant: You-know, that's been a very interesting, I guess, phenomenon for me. I'm always getting asked because I spend a lot of time in Colton. I go down sometimes 3 or 4 times a week in the evenings.

Dr. Rivera: You live in Victorville?

Ms. Constant: In Apple Valley, so it takes a good hour to get back and forth. So people are always asking me: Why don't you move back to Colton? So I've been thinking about that. In Colton, I have memories that I don't want to remember. I have relationships that I've wanted to have and never could have. People know me—sometimes they don't look at me favorably, sometimes they do. There's a lot of

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emotion, and it's emotion that I'm facing, you-know, now. But living in Apple Valley, in Victorville people know me for who I am, they don't know me because of my family. They know me because they know Terry. They know Terry's involved here, she has these relationships. There's no old history there, and for me, right now at this point in my life it's important for me. To be able to have a group of people that I know that know me for who I am and not for who my family was, not that that's a bad thing because that's where I come from. I am who I am because of my family: my Dad, my Aunts, all my relatives on both sides, that's a good thing. Maybe, eventually, I will move back to Colton, but for now, it's like living two separate lives. Do you know what I mean?

Mr. Henry Vasquez: Yeah, and if you're comfortable...

Ms. Constant: And I am comfortable, and I love driving—people think I'm crazy.

Dr. Rivera: It's a beautiful drive.

Ms. Constant: I was talking to (inaudible) from the choir last night cause she was saying: "Terry I'm getting old, I'm getting old, and I don't know how much I'm gonna last..." cause she has a beautiful voice even at... she's 80-some years old. And I was telling her: you know what I probably will never quit until I can't push that gas pedal any longer...

(Laughter)

Ms. Constant: ...because I do, I like driving. I've taken some trips, and I've done some traveling. I've been to Italy, I just came back from Italy, I've been to Japan, I've been to China, I've been down to South America through the-uh canal. What do you call it?

Dr. Rivera & Mr. Henry Vasquez: Panama Canal.

Ms. Constant: I even went zip-lining in Costa Rica. Do you know what zip-lining is?

Dr. Rivera: Yes, yes... you're brave.

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Ms. Constant: It was very exciting. I thought I would die but it was so enjoyable at the same time. And-uh, people thought I was crazy but, you-know, this is one of my bucket list things.

(Laughter)

And I also went to Tikal, which is one of the oldest Mayan, most important discoveries that they've made. So I'm getting to do a lot of the things I had dreamed of doing. My retirement is good as well as I do the retirement from Cal State, it's a good one. So I plan on doing some more traveling, I'm just wondering who I can take with me because, you-know, not everybody can do the travel. But I went to Italy with a group of choir directors and it was very, very inspiring. I saw the Pope not more than 10 feet away from me—that was quite an experience. Seeing the Great Wall of China was awesome. So I'm getting things done.

Dr. Rivera: Well I'm delighted that you're enjoying your retirement and it's working out well for you. And like you said: you're comfortable and you have flexible time, so things are working well for you.

Ms. Constant: Yeah, they are—it's good.

Dr. Rivera: Well Terry, thank you so much for sharing your family's life history with us—truly appreciate it, especially [when] I kept repeating myself because I did want you to talk about your Dad and his contributions to our community of South Colton. So thank you very much.

Ms. Constant: And thank you for asking me Tom.

Dr. Rivera: And Henry, thank you for being with us.

Mr. Henry Vasquez: Thank you.

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Ms. Constant: Thank you Henry.

Transcribed by Pat Ricé-Daniels, Library Services Specialist-1, Special Collections