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**Oral History Project of Colton, CA - 1/9/15**

**Dr. Rivera:** Good afternoon, my name is Dr. Tom Rivera, and we're in the Pfau Library at Cal State San Bernardino – it's 1 o'clock, and it's January the 9th 2015.

Our guest this afternoon is Mr. Bob Carrasco.

Bob, welcome to our interview session and welcome to Cal State, we are delighted that you're with us this afternoon. What I'd like to talk about, Bob, is a little bit about your parents: where they came from. Secondly, mostly about you and your participation in softball and baseball in the South Colton area; and some of the teams that you played with along with some of the activities that you did as a manager in setting up a league that was very functional, back in those days. Then, we'll talk a little bit, also, about what you're doing now. Is that it? Is that okay?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Sounds fine.

**Dr. Rivera:** Why don't we get started: Tell us a little bit about your Mom and Dad, where did they come from?

**Mr. Carrasco:** My Mom came from and was born in Morenci, Arizona.

**Dr. Rivera:** Where?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Morenci, Arizona – it's a mining town, and my Dad was born in (inaudible) Texas. They met at Coachella Valley. My Dad used to work on the farms, and my Mother's parents had a farm with her brothers, and they were truckers. They picked the fruit in the afternoon and in the evening it was in L.A. at the market.

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**Dr. Rivera:** You mentioned that they met in Coachella, how old was your Dad when he met your Mom in Coachella?

**Mr. Carrasco:** I have no idea – I know he was 26 when he got married, and my Mother was 19.

**Dr. Rivera:** You mentioned before that your Dad was 14 years old when he came to the area?

**Mr. Carrasco:** He was about 15, and they brought him from Texas to work at that Colton Ice Plant. His dad (my Grandfather) was a miner. In New Mexico he's the one that put the charges for the mines, and he died at an early age because at that time they didn't have respirators, they didn't have anything.

**Dr. Rivera:** That's your Grandfather?

**Mr. Carrasco:** My Grandfather

**Dr. Rivera:** That's your Grandfather. What mine was he working at, do you remember?

**Mr. Carrasco:** No, he was just in the mines (inaudible) and that's what he did, he just set the charges in the mines. So that's what he died from that dust from the charges.

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**Dr. Rivera:** And then, your Dad traveled to Coachella? And met your Mom there in Coachella?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah... My Grandpa was still here.

**Dr. Rivera:** He was?

**Mr. Carrasco:** [My parents and grandparents,] they came and they settled in Colton.

**Dr. Rivera:** What year did they settle in Colton?

**Mr. Carrasco:** I have no idea.

**Dr. Rivera:** *Mas o menos?*

**Mr. Carrasco:** I would say 1938-39.

**Dr. Rivera:** In the late 30's?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah.

**Dr. Rivera:** Where did they live in Colton, Bob?

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**Mr. Carrasco:** They lived on 'O' Street. I could just barely remember the house. It was about 3 houses [and], stores... Esperanza.

**Dr. Rivera:** Oh, 7<sup>th</sup> and 'O'.

**Mr. Carrasco:** ... Between 7<sup>th</sup> and 'O' – there was a block between there and 7<sup>th</sup> Street... That's where they first lived.

**Dr. Rivera:** Oh, that's where they first lived? How long did they live there?

**Mr. Carrasco:** I have no idea, but then, my Dad bought a house, 675 West 'L' – when they started selling the houses, which were only 1 bedroom, 1 living room, and a kitchen.

**Dr. Rivera:** How old were you when you moved to the new house?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Maybe 5 or 6.

**Dr. Rivera:** Oh you were still a kid, a little kid?

**Mr. Carrasco:** I was still a kid, yes...

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**Dr. Rivera:** Yeah, you were 5 years old, or so, 6 maybe – when you moved over to – was it ‘K’ Street?

**Mr. Carrasco:** To ‘L’

**Dr. Rivera:** ‘L’ Street. That barrio was known as?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Well, everybody asked where you're from – you could tell we didn't have a name, so we said we were from Beverly Hills (inaudible).

**Dr. Rivera:** Why did they call it Beverly Hills?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Because it was on a hill. The hills were up there and then they came down; then you had a lot of (inaudible) – and it comes down some more, and there were the tracks where it's flat. And then, [there's] La Paloma [where it] goes down some more...

**Dr. Rivera:** So, the Cement Mountain was next to you?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Right at the base of it. There's a field in front of it, around it. They used to grow wheat there because they had trucks go up the hill, they had to blast the rocks up there.

**Dr. Rivera:** Again, Cement Mountain, the Portland Cement Company?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Portland Cement Company.

**Dr. Rivera:** You'd go down the hill [and] there was a field there; and then, your neighborhood was in that area – because you had a hill, they called it Beverly Hills. The barrio Beverly Hills.

**Mr. Carrasco:** That's right. Just call it Beverly Hills not barrio, just Beverly Hills...

**Dr. Rivera:** Tell me: why did your Mom and Dad move to Colton?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Well, because my Dad was working at the Pacific Fruit Express (PFE), and that was a time when they used to ice the cars. Of course, the refrigerated trucks took care of that. They used to work like seasonal work...

**Dr. Rivera:** So the ice plant, the Pacific Fruit Express (PFE) that used to ice the boxcars, they would put vegetables and fruit in the boxcars and take them all over the country.

Your Dad got a job with the Pacific Fruit Express?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, he loaded the blocks of ice that was 300 pounds. Big old blocks – guys would handle them with those forks and with some tongs. They knew how to handle them because I couldn't even move one of those...

**Dr. Rivera:** Bob, I asked you about your Dad and Mom coming to Colton. You mentioned it was possibly in the late 30s. Did your Dad immediately start working for the PFE?

**Mr. Carrasco:** He worked for the PFE since he was 15 years old – that's what his dad brought him here for, and it was just seasonal work. Then, when the season was over, they'd be laid off and go work in Coachella.

**Dr. Rivera:** So they would travel back and forth (inaudible) [from] the PFE and back to Coachella, and back to the PFE. He must have done that for a long time?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Let's put it this way, he closed the plant, he was the last guy to close the plant. In fact, he was the only guy that closed it – and I couldn't believe it when they [were going] to move him and another guy. They were going to move to Phoenix – to an ice spot over there. [But] my Dad didn't have to go because he had 1 year to serve; and their guy had 5 years to go. They told that guy, you either go to Phoenix or you lose your seniority. So the guy didn't want to leave Colton, so he lost his seniority. My Dad stayed home.

**Dr. Rivera:** What was the name of your Dad's partner?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Mayor Abe Beltran.

So, he stayed here; him and my Dad were the last 2 people there.



**Dr. Rivera:** Oh, so the PFE was closing...? What year, do you remember? Was it 1958, or so?

**Mr. Carrasco:** I don't know, do you guys remember? (He is looking at and asking the folks off-camera).

**Dr. Rivera:** It was about '58...

**Mr. Carrasco:** Their kids (pointing to the folks off-camera) went over there to the closing, and my Dad showed them around and how they made the ice, and all.

**Dr. Rivera:** You're pointing over there, who is over there that you're pointing to?

That's your daughter, Elena, your oldest daughter.

Welcome Elena, it's good to see you.

But anyway, it was '58 or so when they closed the ice plant?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah... They told him to stay home and he'd get his check every two weeks and from the Pacific Fruit Express for a whole year until he turned 65, then he retired.

**Dr. Rivera:** Okay.

**Mr. Carrasco:** ... I could not believe that sweet deal he got, but it was true... I couldn't believe it, but he got it.

**Dr. Rivera:** But he started working early then, you-know, at 15, and then coming to Colton part-time going back to Coachella part-time coming back to Colton for 15 years until he was hired on a regular basis.

**Mr. Carrasco:** Mmm-hmm. But most of the time he was hired, like, seasonal, and you-know, the longer you stayed the better chance you had of staying on a job.

**Dr. Rivera:** What did he do at the ice plant? What was his specific job?

**Mr. Carrasco:** His job was actually various jobs. Some jobs he would put the ice inside the boxcars. Other jobs that he had, he would make the blocks of ice blocks. Blocks of ice are 300 pounds of dry ice, and he'd put them up in cubes and then he'd put them in a chute – and they'd come down out of a chute, they'd get tongs and put them inside the boxcars.

All of it's a risk – [but] those guys were very good.

**Dr. Rivera:** They were very skilled at being able to operate and handle the chunks of ice and put them in the appropriate place...

Were the boxcars full of fruit or vegetables?

**Mr. Carrasco:** They had vegetables that was picked in the valley, like El Centro... They had to ship it to the market.

**Dr. Rivera:** Oh, so the boxcars had products in them, and then they would come to the PFE, and the PFE would load them with ice so they could travel all over the country.

Now, you mentioned that -- I'm curious because you're a baseball player—and have always been a baseball player. Now, was your Dad a ballplayer?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yes he was.

**Dr. Rivera:** Where did he play?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Back in Texas. But he quit playing when they brought him here to work.

**Dr. Rivera:** What little town was in Texas that he played?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Ysleta, Texas.

**Dr. Rivera:** Where is Ysleta located?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Ysleta is right outside of El Paso. They used to have a big mission there for the Indians. Ysleta is now just a name that exists there because El Paso took it over.

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**Dr. Rivera:** So it became part of the city of El Paso?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, it just ate it up.

**Dr. Rivera:** He was there until he was 15 – then he came and worked California.

He met your Mom in Coachella?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, cuz they had a farm over there.

**Dr. Rivera:** What did they grow on the farm?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Well, I guess tomatoes, chilies, onions – whatever grows in the valley.

Lots of stuff grows in the valley.

**Dr. Rivera:** Oh, of course, of course, yeah. And I guess you wouldn't know because you weren't born yet, *verdad?*

**Mr. Carrasco:** No, I wasn't there yet, but I know what there because my uncles had farms. It'd be ashamed to go see their farm because a lot of times, for example, the onions didn't have a price... it was easier to just put the discs on the property over – the onions would just go to waste... Onions, I would say, were like grapefruits, they were huge; and it was the same way with the watermelons and cantaloupes.

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**Dr. Rivera:** So if they didn't sell for their price, they would plow [them] under?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Plow under.

When we were there, if you wanted some watermelon all you gotta do is throw it on the ground and it would open for you.

**Dr. Rivera:** So you're Dad – when he moved to Colton to start raising a family, how many kids did he have? You were the oldest one.

**Mr. Carrasco:** I'm the oldest.

**Dr. Rivera:** And then?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Pete is 2 years younger; Danny is, I think, 7 years younger.

**Dr. Rivera:** Any sisters?

**Mr. Carrasco:** No, we don't want no sisters.

**(Laughter)**

**Dr. Rivera:** So just 3 brothers—just 3 brothers?

**(Laughter)**

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**Mr. Carrasco:** I remember my Dad when I asked him one time if he was gonna bring us a sister, he said: well, we don't want no sister.

**(Laughter)**

**Mr. Carrasco:** So we didn't have a sister.

**Dr. Rivera:** So it was just the 3 brothers, and all of you were raised there on 'L' Street?

**Mr. Carrasco:** All of us were raised on 'L' Street.

**Dr. Rivera:** Okay, very good.

Now, where did you go to school in Colton?

**Mr. Carrasco:** The first school I went to was Lincoln Elementary School where the City Hall is.

**Dr. Rivera:** What years did you go there? Kindergarten?

**Mr. Carrasco:** I went just for kindergarten, and I went to Grant School where they parked the buses at the high school. They used to have a school there were 4 rooms.

**Dr. Rivera:** Right now, they park the buses there for the school district.

**Mr. Carrasco:** At that time, we used to play 'war' because the 'war' was on... we'd go against the enemy all around the trees... But then from there I moved down a couple of blocks and went to Colton Junior High School.

**Dr. Rivera:** So you went to Grant School, elementary school, and then you went to middle school and Roosevelt School – junior high school.

**Mr. Carrasco:** After my 3 years there I moved across the street to the high school.

**Dr. Rivera:** So you didn't go too far, *verdad?*

**Mr. Carrasco:** For 12 years I went the way.

**(Laughter)**

**Mr. Carrasco:** The thing is – when I was in junior high, Danny was just starting school, and I had to take him to Grant to kindergarten. And you-know, 'I' Street at that time was Highway 99. I was supposed to hold his hand as we crossed 'I' Street; and, you-know, as a junior high in 7<sup>th</sup> grader – you don't want no kid holding your hand.

**(Laughter)**

**Mr. Carrasco:** So he'd get to 'I' Street and reach in to get my hand, and I'd look around to see who the heck was watching me. So, I'd take him across the street and he'd go all the way up to Grant.

**Dr. Rivera:** So you were a little embarrassed holding hands with a little kid, eh?

**(Laughter)**

**Mr. Carrasco:** I didn't want nobody to see a little kid hanging on to me.

**Dr. Rivera:** Can you imagine your friends looking at you? Picking on you?

**Mr. Carrasco:** They probably would have picked on me. Of course, he'd tell my Mom I didn't hold his hand. On the first day, [she said:] Hey, I hear you did not hold his hand, how come? [Well,] there was no excuse, you-know, no excuse that you're gonna do it again anyway.

**Dr. Rivera:** Were you punished when you got home?

**Mr. Carrasco:** No, they just told me not to do it again. Until the next time, or the next day. But I used to have to take him every day; I'd go home for lunch and I'd bring him so he'd go to kindergarten in the afternoon. I think we brought him back home; but he had only 4 blocks because 'I' Street was right there – lots of traffic.

**Dr. Rivera:** Did your Dad participate in any activities in Colton? Like community activities [such as] *La Progresistas*, *Fiestas Patrias*...

**Mr. Carrasco:** At that time when I was in the 5th grade, they came out with a thing, it's hard to say that the Mexicans that were there – could stay there at Grant School. They couldn't accept any more Mexicans there, even though we lived in the district – the district was what 4 blocks away. So, Pete got moved over to Garfield – and my Dad spent all his years going to school board meetings; he took off work to see



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congressmen, councilmen, and [he went] all over... Finally, they let everybody in—back again. Pete comes back, and he's a year behind in school. (Inaudible)

**Dr. Rivera:** What grade were you in?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Probably about the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Dr. Rivera:** The ruling by the school district was that no more...

**Mr. Carrasco:** No more Mexicans here – just the ones that are here to finish; but no we're not gonna admit anymore.

**Dr. Rivera:** They sent the other kids to different schools?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, they went to Woodrow Wilson. And yet, people [came] from Aqua Mansa, and you-know, Aqua Mansa is a long ways from high school – they were coming from there and they could go to the white school. It was 3 times far away... But we had lived 3 blocks away and couldn't go to school that was right there.

**Dr. Rivera:** And your Dad was very active in trying to change that?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Oh yeah. He got it in and they finally changed it; in fact, somebody wrote a book one time about – that had to do with the guys that went to the Anglo schools. Well I went to Anglo schools all my life – I didn't even know I was Hispanic, I was just a kid... I mean, all my friends were White, I'd go to their houses and they'd

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come to my house. There was no discrimination there. Then when I got to junior high, everything changed.

**Dr. Rivera:** How did that change?

**Mr. Carrasco:** It changed because all of a sudden I had lost some friends that were my White friends since kindergarten. Of course, I knew a lot of people from the Wilson School because [of the] recreation. I'd go to recreation they were all there; so I knew a lot of them. In fact, at our reunion they were kidding me – everybody was from Woodrow Wilson and they were calling me a *gabacho*, a *gringo*. We had (inaudible) and they didn't because they didn't have teachers. Over at Wilson you guys had the best of everything and everything there.

Then, I mentioned the fact that I never saw so many Mexicanos come up except when we played basketball against the Wilson.

This little girl, she was a real quiet girl (inaudible) and she goes: My people came to save me. Everybody at the table started laughing...

I brought this up at my 50<sup>th</sup> reunion... I said, you know what? Before you guys came, I didn't have any *piojos*, but as soon as you guys left, I was [scratching] like this (he scratches his head).

**(Laughter)**

**Dr. Rivera:** That's not a nice thing to say, Bob.

**Mr. Carrasco:** That quieted everybody at the table.

**Dr. Rivera:** But there was a difference, a difference of feeling and acceptance because you went to the Grant School on the other side of the tracks, or the 99 Freeway, compared to the kids that were on this side [who] went to Garfield or Wilson. There was that feeling of – you're not part of us, you're part of them.

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, it was because years later somebody brought it up at the Garfield reunion. I couldn't go to it because I didn't go to Wilson, and it's for everybody.

**Dr. Rivera:** How did it affect you?

**Mr. Carrasco:** It didn't affect me, I never went to school over there, so it didn't affect me. I knew everybody there.

**Dr. Rivera:** But in terms of, you-know, being accepted or not accepted?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Well, we had the recreations, so that killed the whole thing, you-know.

**Dr. Rivera:** Where was that held? Where were the recreations?

**Mr. Carrasco:** At the high schools – they had like softball and basketball, and everybody would be mixed together. Actually, it didn't affect them at all. But I know a lot of people from the recreations; in fact, one of our guys that never got recognized is Ray Abril, Sr. He was a one-man recreation: he ran the softball leagues, he ran the Boy

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Scouts, he ran everything – he was the umpire, he was a scheduler, he ran everything as far as I can remember. And, not once has he ever been recognized.

**Frank Acosta (off camera):** Before we get too far along, could we get on the record your Grandparents names, and your parents' names?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Okay, my Grandparents names on my Mother's side: my Grandmother was Maria Jiminez; and my Grandfather on my Mother's side: was José Muñoz. On my Dad's side, I didn't know my Grandfather but I knew my Grandma: she was Albina Gomez. My Grandfather was Pete Carrasco.

**Dr. Rivera:** That was your Grandfather?

**Mr. Carrasco:** My Grandfather, my Dad's dad. I didn't get to know him, I never knew him – but my other Grandpa's I did know.

**Frank Acosta (off camera):** Who were your parents?

**Mr. Carrasco:** My Mother's parents I knew real well cuz they lived a long time afterwards. My Grandma she lived here in Colton.

**Frank Acosta (off camera):** What were your parents' names?

**Mr. Carrasco:** My Dad's name is Roberto Carrasco, and Carmen Muñoz was my Mom's name.

**Dr. Rivera:** Well, apparently then the recreation activity at this high school was a wonderful equalizer for everybody because everybody got together there.

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, that's right. And there was no choice of teams cuz I think Ray was the one that made the teams. He's the one that decided who was gonna win.

**Dr. Rivera:** That was in the 40s wasn't it, Bob?

**Mr. Carrasco:** 40's, early 50's – because I was already in high school, and I was pitching in the recreation program. They still had it in the early 50's cuz I got to pitch against some of the little guys. But it went on for a long time at the high school at the old baseball field.

**Dr. Rivera:** Where was the old baseball field located?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Right where the...

**Dr. Rivera:** Tennis court is?

**Mr. Carrasco:** It would be right where the girls softball field is – on that side, right on the corner. It was across the street from Grant School. That would be the field where the tennis courts would be – that's where the shops were – the shop classes. That's where they were at that time.

**Dr. Rivera:** You mentioned high school, but before that – when did you start playing ball?

**Mr. Carrasco:** I can remember playing ball, bare-in-mind – pitching in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. I don't know how I pitched, but I remember pitching in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, which is when I was 6 or 7 years old. Because everybody grew up with softball because there was no baseball. So I can remember playing baseball since I was a kid. Because in the barrio where we live it was bigger kids and young kids, so we were always playing—always.

**Dr. Rivera:** In the streets?

**Mr. Carrasco:** In the street, until they tell you to come in and wash up – because your Dad is coming home.

**Dr. Rivera:** There was a makeshift of who would play home-plate, and first base.

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, we had actually playing fields. (Inaudible) had a playing field where the three tracks crossed and made like a triangle, and home-base was a burlap sack, first base was a cardboard, second base was another cardboard, third base was maybe another sack, or whatever. That was the bases, and we just played neighborhoods against neighborhoods – and no umpire, no umpires—they just played. We played (inaudible), they guys from 7<sup>th</sup> Street, they guys from 5<sup>th</sup> Street, the guys from around the church, La Paloma.

**Dr. Rivera:** Can you remember some of the members of your team?

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**Mr. Carrasco:** Oh, of my team? Definitely.

**Dr. Rivera:** Who were they?

**Mr. Carrasco:** (Inaudible) Rudy Chavez, Freddie Chavez, Munchie, (inaudible)...

**Dr. Rivera:** Munchie?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Torres, do you remember Munchie Torres?

**Dr. Rivera:** Yes.

**Mr. Carrasco:** He died at an early age... Munchie Torres, the boss, Gonzales...

In La Paloma, I was trying to remember, you-know, (inaudible) Rivera, Pero Saldaña, Charlie Savala, and Max something. We'd play with them, and then we had the guys from 7<sup>th</sup> Street and from the church, there was some guys there. Then, of course, we had 2 teams, we had the Yankees in La Paloma. The Yankees were Bennie Serrano, Danny Gonzalez, Juanito Menges was the pitcher. That was the Yankees, and La Paloma was the other guys. Charlie and (inaudible)... Campa, Alfonso, Sam, and Ramiro – I played with all of them. Yeah, they were all good ballplayers.

**Dr. Rivera:** From your team, your teammates, did any of them have any nick names?

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**Mr. Carrasco:** Well, we had one guy's name as Nika, you know Nika.

**Dr. Rivera:** Nika, I know Nika.

**Mr. Carrasco:** His name was Freddie Chavez, right?

**Dr. Rivera:** Right.

**Mr. Carrasco:** We had Lagoré, who was one of my friends.

**Dr. Rivera:** Frankie?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Frankie Ramirez and (inaudible).

**Dr. Rivera:** What was his name?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Gregory. Then, we had Conca. Remember Oscar Bejerano?

**Dr. Rivera:** Yes, yes...

**Mr. Carrasco:** Rudy Chavez is Freddie's brother – with the boss, I don't know why you got the boss. Almost everybody had a name.



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**Dr. Rivera:** I know, you-know it's amazing that, you-know, everybody had a nickname.

**Mr. Carrasco:** I didn't have one – I might've had one but I don't know.

**(Laughter)**

**Dr. Rivera:** You mentioned the high school. When you went to the high school you had already played a lot of neighborhood ball, *verdad?*

**Mr. Carrasco:** Oh yeah, oh yeah.

**Dr. Rivera:** ...A lot of neighborhood ball – you went to the high school and you tried out for the teams? As a freshman what team did you play for?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Jay-V's

**Dr. Rivera:** Did you play varsity the following year?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yes, I played 3 years in the varsity.

**Dr. Rivera:** When did you letter?

**Mr. Carrasco:** That brings up a sour note. I'm not sure I should bring it up now.

**Dr. Rivera:** Ah, tell me. If not we can erase it from the video.

**Mr. Carrasco:** When I was a sophomore that was a time that Marty Q, he's from Pomona, he went to the Pomona Red Sox, he pitched for them. I was a sophomore playing varsity, and I played more innings and I earned my varsity letter, but they didn't give it to me because – I was gonna be back there next year. They gave it to a senior, Blanco, [who] wasn't gonna be back next year – and he only pitched a couple of games. So instead of being a 3-year letterman, I was a 2. Boy, that hurt – and who am I gonna go cry to? Hey, they won't give me a letter—earned it.

**Dr. Rivera:** There was no regress of any kind?

**Mr. Carrasco:** No.

**Dr. Rivera:** The coach or the principal?

**Mr. Carrasco:** They just said, you're gonna be back next year – and you'll get your letter next year.

**Dr. Rivera:** Who was your coach?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Tom Morrow.

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**Dr. Rivera:** Who was the principal?

**Mr. Carrasco:** McIntosh.

**Dr. Rivera:** Okay, but you did letter the following year, again?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah. For reals – I got a letter.

**Dr. Rivera:** Well, the first one was reals, but you didn't get it.

**(Laughter)**

**Mr. Carrasco:** ... But I didn't get it. Somebody wrote in my annual, sorry about your letter that you didn't get.

**Dr. Rivera:** So people were aware of it then?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah.

**Dr. Rivera:** What position did you play Bob?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Second base.

**Dr. Rivera:** Were you good?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Ah-well, I'll let people tell you.

**Dr. Rivera:** Say yes.

**Mr. Carrasco:** I don't toot my own horn – I never have. I'm not like these guys that say: I played against Camilo Carreon—nobody could hit him, but I came up and I hit five home runs off of him.

**Dr. Rivera:** I didn't know Camilo was a pitcher.

**Mr. Carrasco:** No-but, I'm not one of these guys that says, you-know... Camilo was pitching, I hit seven home runs off of him and he gave up because he couldn't strike me out.

Yeah, you-know, I just – I played ball, let's put it that way. I was always good enough to play on the team, fortunately.

**Dr. Rivera:** What was your batting average?

**Mr. Carrasco:** I didn't hit too good in high school, but when I got done with high school is when I blossomed more like a slugger. Then, of course, we were playing... when I got out of high school I learned how to play softball during the night and baseball on Sundays. I played about 4 or 5 games a week.

**Dr. Rivera:** So you were playing baseball and softball at the same time?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, and I pitched both of them at the same time.

**Dr. Rivera:** Where did you play softball?

**Mr. Carrasco:** I played softball in Riverside, I played softball in Casablanca, and I played softball in San Bernardino: in Colton and in Redlands – all for different teams.

**Dr. Rivera:** All this when you were still in high school?

**Mr. Carrasco:** No, in high school I played for different teams. I still played softball, but I had to be careful because if you played softball during the school year they'd kick you out...

**Dr. Rivera:** Okay, okay. Now, do you remember some of your teammates that you played with in high school?

**Mr. Carrasco:** You met some of them at my 60th reunion.

**Dr. Rivera:** Well, you have your annual here – and on page 109, what year was this, Bob?

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**Mr. Carrasco:** 1953.

**Dr. Rivera:** Did you graduate in 1954?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yes. This is the year before. (He is looking at the book) Now, all these guys were sophomores and seniors – we were the only sophomores, and the freshmen are on this side.

**Dr. Rivera:** There's three of you, there's you and Sam Gardner, and who else?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Jim Bergman. I met him the other day – I hadn't seen him since our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. They sure look different now – all these guys were seniors (he points to the page of pictures in the book).

**Dr. Rivera:** So this was a 1953 team?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Uh-huh.

**Dr. Rivera:** And you graduated in '54?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah.

**Dr. Rivera:** After '54, did you continue playing ball?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yes, I sure did... My dream when I grew up (inaudible) in my annuals [they wrote:] I wish you luck with the Mercuries. I wanted to play for the Mercuries because that's all I ever saw.

**Dr. Rivera:** Tell me about the Mercuries – how did they influence you?

**Mr. Carrasco:** I've got the story someplace in one of the books. It actually started with some girls who called themselves Señoritas Mercuries – they started with the softball players during the war. So when the guys had come back from the war, they took the name the Mercuries, and that started about 1945-46; and then, they had a place to play. Then (inaudible) took them over; flooded the field with lights; and they played [baseball] every Sunday, and during the week they would play softball.

**Dr. Rivera:** So, right after the war Gaby Castorena took over as manager, and he was able to put together a team – a very good team.

How did that influence you because you were...?

**Mr. Carrasco:** I would go see those guys play. I wanted to go play with those guys. They weren't Yankees or Dodgers, but they were like... They were not my local heroes. I wanted to go play for the Mercuries... I wanted to be that guy. I played with them for about a year.

**Dr. Rivera:** When did you play for the Mercuries? Right after high school?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Right after high school in '54. I only played for about a year with them. I missed all the pictures they had. I don't know why, but I should be in the pictures – when I saw the pictures.

Then, I went to play for San Bernardino. San Bernardino, at that time, was all the older guys who were retiring – so all of a sudden all the guys who were going to high school with me decided to come and play with San Bernardino. San Bernardino was getting all the young guys, and the Mercuries were getting the old guys.

At first we used to play against them and they would bang us around. Then we got bigger and older, and started playing some good ball with them. That was THE game—that was our game.

**Dr. Rivera:** So when you were 18 – was it 18? You started playing for the Mercuries?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah.

**Dr. Rivera:** And you played with them for 1 year. Was Gaby Castorena still the coach?

**Mr. Carrasco:** No, Gaby Castorena was not the coach, my father-in-law was the coach then.

**Dr. Rivera:** Oh, tell me about that because your wife also comes from a long tradition of baseball players. So tell me about your father-in-law...



**Mr. Carrasco:** My father-in-law was a baseball player and my wife's brothers were baseball players. The came from El Paso. He took over the Mercuries (inaudible)... lumber. But they were the Mercuries all the time. He won lots of championships with them.

One year he even helped coach us. But when we would play against the Mercuries, my father-in-law would not talk to me. Especially if we beat them, he wouldn't talk to me. I'd go to the house and (he makes a grunting sound) – that's how I was greeted at my father-in-law's house.

**(Laughter)**

**Mr. Carrasco:** I don't know how my wife got through it – she had her father and 2 brothers on one team, and 2 brothers and me on another team – against her father's team.

**Dr. Rivera:** Well listen, I went to school with one of your brother-in-law's. I can't remember – [it was] one of the youngest...

**Mr. Carrasco:** Felix.

**Dr. Rivera:** Felix. What were the names of the other brothers?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Well, to start there is Eduardo, he was called Lalo. Then, Willie Gomez, they called him Richie; you got Felix; then you've got David Gomez; and then you've got Danny Gomez. There were 5 brothers and 5 sisters.

**Dr. Rivera:** Yeah, but the oldest brother was the one who played ball.

**Mr. Carrasco:** The first three played baseball, the other ones didn't: Joe, Willie, and Felix. We played on the same, and I played against Felix on a lot of teams – the same way with Willie – with him and against him. But everybody knows it was sport, it wasn't like nowadays all they want to do is fight after the game, or whatever.

**Dr. Rivera:** With both families pretty much involved with baseball, were your kids also ballplayers?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, my kids—all my girls played softball. My boys went into wrestling, but the other 2 went into volleyball, and they were soccer players and swimmers.

**Frank Acosta (off camera):** What was your father-in-law's name, the coach?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Joe Gomez...

**Dr. Rivera:** I think you have a picture of your grandson the 14U -- can you show us that picture?

**Mr. Carrasco:** (He goes through the pictures and he holds up one...) This was 6 years ago. The kids were coming out of (inaudible) league, and I wanted to have a team because my wife said I was always criticizing the coach, so she said, why don't you

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coach instead of criticizing them – so I said, okay. So I went and asked this guy if he wanted to coach...

(He holds up a picture of a baseball team) I had a coach for the team, but all he did was score-keep. I said, you're one of my coaches, not my scorekeeper.

He had a son, so his kid and my grandson were on the team – they were all 14 years old. (He holds up the picture of the baseball team, again) And this style of uniform is the one that the Mercuries had back in the late 50's or late 40's. Do you see that trim?

Well, they don't have trim now. These things were made in Los Angeles; and when I saw these uniforms – I thought the guy didn't know what he was doing because [when] you look at the numbers, [they're] European numbers – they're soccer numbers.

**Dr. Rivera:** Ah! Okay.

**Mr. Carrasco:** You look at some of these other numbers—and they're a little bit different. At first I said, well, that guy sure did a job with the numbers...

It was more or less like a travel team... but there was no restrictions, no restrictions on what you did. You want to be on the team, you practice and you played. My moto is: you're on the team everybody plays every game, every game. I don't have 15 guys who sit 15. I have 15 guys who play 15.

**Dr. Rivera:** So because you were complaining about the coaches, your wife said, well, do something about it.

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, but I had already been coaching before I was sort-of semi-retired, between my boy and the grandson.

**Dr. Rivera:** Well, tell me about your previous coaching?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Well, I used to have a baseball team – like Manny’s team that you saw.

**Dr. Rivera:** (Looking at the pictures on the table). You have a picture here, there it is.

**Mr. Carrasco:** That was my team, I made that team. I always had teams [with] kids, and I always got games for them, and got guys together to just play – we played ball. And I always let every single player play. There's nobody... I think there's only one guy [who was] an oversight that didn't play a game in all the games we played.

Then, some guy said: Coach, why do you let him play? He's no good.

Well, he paid his money, he comes to practice, he can play... I always bring this up -- all these little league coaches, and you go to these little league parks, and you don't know who the coach is because of the shirt he's got: it says coach in neon lights; and then his assistant coach is prancing up and down the stands – and they want to talk to everybody else because they think [the people] come to see them – they come to see the kids. To me, you come to see your kid play—he's gonna play. I mean, it's only fair he's here, why shouldn't he play?

**Dr. Rivera:** So Bob, how many years did you devote to being a coach, and a mentor?

And are you doing anything in that vein now?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yes, well right now I'm helping to coach (inaudible) high school varsity. This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> year with them. But the attitudes are a heck of a lot different. We mentioned the attitudes of coaches between here (he holds up a picture of a baseball team) and the high schools. Here (he holds up the picture of a baseball team, again) is because they wanted to be here, for the high schools – it was something to do... They don't really work at it – let's put it that way

**Dr. Rivera:** So it's not a burning desire to be a baseball player?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Maybe 1 or 2, maybe, but the rest couldn't care less.

**Dr. Rivera:** But how do you handle something like that as a coach?

**Mr. Carrasco:** As a coach, well I tell them you-know-what this is like school, you miss a class you missed what I taught yesterday and you're behind. So we'll play and it's going to show you what you missed yesterday. All this time, I'd tell these kids about college... [I'd say:] "Hey, you see these guys – 2 years ago they started getting job."

I have pictures of bigger guys... they started getting jobs (he reaches for more pics). (Inaudible) why do you want to get a job? Why you gotta work nights? You can't play ball – you gotta work at (inaudible) at 9 o'clock at night and get off at 4 in the morning – and you can't play ball. That's the job you're gonna be doing 20 years from now. You're gonna be sweeping and picking up the garbage, and putting parts together. Go to school or everybody's going to pass you. (He points at a picture) And this team here, everybody but 1 went to college...

**Dr. Rivera:** Very good.

**Mr. Carrasco:** Go to school, go to school, take anything just go to school. You never know when you're gonna need it. That's one thing they can't take away from you. So I always tell them to look ahead; this is just a phase that we're going through, this is gonna be over; then, your real life's gonna start.

**Dr. Rivera:** Yeah, but Bob, being a coach takes so much time.

**Mr. Carrasco:** It does, but I'll tell you -- my wife asked me why do you do this? You're not getting nothing out of it -- it costs you money. I said, the reason I do this [is] I'd rather have a kid with me for 2 hours, twice a week, or three times a week [than to have him going] 2 or 3 times to the 7-eleven and coming home with a bag of potato chips and running off in a car. I'd rather have him be with me...

**Frank Acosta (off camera):** In order for your players to go to college, they have to graduate from high school?

**Mr. Carrasco:** That's right.

**Frank Acosta (off camera):** So, what is the record of your players in terms of graduating from high school?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Well, of this original team we've already had... about 5 out of this team went. But then 3 or 4 years ago I had another team, and almost all of them went -- all 10 of them went.

**Frank Acosta (off camera):** They all graduated from high school?

**Mr. Carrasco:** All these guys graduated from high school – every single one.

The reason they're on this team is because I showed them how to play ball. There's no politics involved, you come to practice, you play, if you have a bad game – nothing is said, if you have lousy game – nothing is said, if you have a good game – you might get an 'atta-boy' because that's what you expect, results. So, I keep telling them: you guys gotta do this... These guys are living for today, not 3 weeks from now. I keep telling them this is just a phase you're gonna go through, and pretty soon nobody is gonna care about you.

**Frank Acosta (off camera):** So you're teaching them discipline, you're teaching them to stay with it, and you're teaching them to take things seriously?

**Mr. Carrasco:** I'll tell you one thing (he is looking at someone off camera), would you tell Frank what my grandson Jacob calls me?

**Someone off camera:** Coachie.

**Mr. Carrasco:** I don't think he knows my name because ever since he's been alive I've been coaching. So that's what he calls me a 'Coachie' – I don't even know if he knows my name.

But he goes out there and I try to instill discipline, I don't kid with them. I'm the coach, to you I'm coach Bob Carrasco or coach, that's the only 2 names I have. I'm not Albert, hey shorty, hey Jack... I don't cuss – I don't believe in that. I just tell you the way it is... I

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don't come barging at you or yell at you. The things you hear at a ballgame with a kid playing right field is somebody shouting: "Hey get your head out of your butt." Don't tell me you don't hear that. Well, what game are you watching? I'd tell my kids that are daydreaming out there: "Hey Albert move in 2 inches." Now what's 2 inches gonna do at 300 feet? Nothing, right? But move right 3 feet—nothing, but I got his attention and I didn't embarrass him... I tell my kids, you know what? I don't care if you make errors, I don't care if you strike out swinging at the high pitch you can't reach; I'd rather have you swing a high pitch because you might hit it. If you don't swing you're not gonna hit anything; so I'd rather you try to hit it... (inaudible). Whatever you see—hit it... (inaudible). Any pitch is your pitch to me – if you can reach it you can hit it.

And, I'd teach them responsibility... It's not your mother's responsibility, you put your glove away, you know where your stuff is, you wash it. So the lightest guys, you-know, their uniform—by the end of 2 weeks it looks kind of dirty. When I had my teams, even my soccer teams, I bought them bags. We chipped in for bags, and I should have brought one—a team bag. They all had their own bag and they all had their own ball; and they got to take care of their own ball and their own bag. And their suit goes in there – when they take it off [they] put it in there. When you're getting ready you don't go look underneath the bed or go outside the yard – you just pick up your bag and [everything] is supposed to be there. It's not your mother's responsibility, it's yours. So, I don't kid with them... when I'm there, they only get a ten-minute break and a water break. I take a break and I go sit down and just look at the cars, and they can do all the BS they want to do. When I come back, now it's my time... I don't butt into what they're doing here. I go there, I'll sit over there and just talk to the other coach—nothing about what was happening over here. I come back, okay guys it's time to go to work... the BS is over.

**Dr. Rivera:** How did you develop [your] method of coaching, Bob?



**Mr. Carrasco:** Well, I'll tell you about coaching. I was a commissioner of a soccer league at one time—I ran a soccer league, and one year I had up to 20 teams; and they gave us a seminar at the Disney Hotel, and they told us about coaching – all of these coaches that yell—they scream at you all the time. The coach that screamed at you, he'll get you up here (he holds his hand at a level). The coach that says, well, good work—you did really good, but you could have done it that way, he's getting up here (he lifts both hands at a level). This guy that you don't tell anything is suppose to stay the same because you don't say anything to him, but this shows you what you do to kids. You do it as adults, you do it in your house, maybe the kids get... (inaudible) he's the butt of all jokes at his house. He goes to school and a teacher picks on him; he goes to the playground and the kids pick on him; he comes back to school there's a teacher again; he goes home—there's a dad, there's a big brother. Then you come along and you're just adding added to it. So what are you doing to this guy's self-esteem?

I always tell these kids, you know what? You did this, but there are ways to do everything, there's a right way, the easy way, and it's easier to do it right—then you won't have to do it over. But, do it right the first time. Like my Mom used to tell us, *los huevones trabajan doble*. First, to do what you didn't do, then, do what you gotta do.

**(Laughter)**

**Dr. Rivera:** So lazy people work twice as hard – is what your mom said?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, first because you didn't do it, and second, because you gotta do it over.

**Dr. Rivera:** Now, Bob, you also were not only a ball player, a baseball player, a softball player and a coach, but you were also involved in other sports—you coached other sports, you mentioned soccer.

**Mr. Carrasco:** I've coached soccer and I refereed soccer, and I umpired baseball – all levels up to college. In fact, soccer I like best to coach because soccer there's no slack time.

In baseball, the coaches coach – but I learned over the years the less you handle the ball the more your kids learn. Because you're not going to do anything in a game, right? I'm just doing your job for you and you're not doing anything. How can you progress if you've got the ball on the island... You know what, why don't you let these kids pitch? They're the ones pitching the game you're not going to pitch. They don't believe me but, it's hands-on. So a guy can't throw strikes but he will throw strikes if you let him. But coaches, you-know, they want to get it the hard way and do it right the first time and throw it hard, and like everything's got a base...

Also, I don't know if I told you but I also retired from the National Guard after 28 years.

**Dr. Rivera:** I had no idea that you were in the service, tell me about that.

**Mr. Carrasco:** I was in the National Guard for 28 years. When I was a senior in high school some guy told me: Hey man, you want to make \$3 a night? Just join the guard and they pay you \$3 every Monday. [I said:] "Wow"! Well, so I joined the [National] Guard in January of 1954 – to get my \$3, and the pay stayed like that for a long time. Then I finally had to quit because I had back surgery, and I couldn't pick up anything so I had to retire from the [National] Guard. But I put in 28 years with the National Guard; and I also retired from the post office about 5 years ago I put in 49 years and 4 months.

**Dr. Rivera:** With the post office?

**Mr. Carrasco:** With the post office. Now, I can't even wake up in the morning. All my time at the post office was at 3 o'clock in the morning, 4 o'clock, 5, 6 – never the late shifts, always early.

**Dr. Rivera:** So how old were you when you started with the post office.

**Mr. Carrasco:** 22.

**Dr. Rivera:** You were very young then?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, pretty young, yeah. But I would have started at 20 but I wanted to be real cool because they gave a test for a carrier and I took it and I passed it. Then, they gave the test for the clerk and it passed – and so that canceled the first one out because you couldn't do both. So, I had to wait for the next register to come out. In fact, I would have probably been a letter carrier if I had of taken it a second time. But you couldn't do both. Now they give you a choice of what you want to be.

**Dr. Rivera:** How was it working for the post office for 49 years?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Well, enjoyable because every time that I'd go for something positive, even when I go to a seminar or anything – I was given some advice that even the dumbest person knows something you don't know. So, I was gonna hear even though I know the stuff, maybe I'll pick up something from him, or maybe I'll get an idea from there. Always listened to what they're saying – you can't put anybody down because you don't know everything. You think you might know everything but you don't.

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The [National] Guard wasn't that hard... The same thing in teaching school except you got little commands, and a little bit more punishment.

**Dr. Rivera:** Was your unit ever sent overseas?

**Mr. Carrasco:** We only had 3 [places] that we were sent. We got sent to Watts for the first riot.

**Dr. Rivera:** That was 1964?

**Mr. Carrasco:** '69 I believe. The first riot [we were there]. Then we had a flood in Upland; and we had a fire at Mt. Baldy. The first one was in August, and it was just like midnight when we got there – it was just like a carnival, everybody's out there. It was like a big gigantic party – people, you-know, starting fires running around drinking in the streets... The fire was up here and that's the first time they told me to drive a truck, I had never driven a truck, and they told me to move this truck up there, and I didn't even know how to drive it. So, I moved the truck up the hill, and they said don't go so far up those hills because there's no more roads. Here's my first time in a truck—driving a big truck and having to back up down a hill, man, I thought I was gonna go off the hill. There was a flood and there was a damn that was gonna break up... and they declared martial law; so if you were in there you were subject to arrest—you couldn't go in there. So, they put Guardsmen like on every middle the block... and the only one's who could go in were cops or Guardsman.

They told us on one of those nights that the damn was about ready to break, and we were up about halfway up the hill, so what do we do? They said run like hell. I mean, how are you gonna run downhill, you can't run up hill because of the water.

They gave us hamburgers to eat and it's raining cats and dogs.

**Dr. Rivera:** So you kinda lucked out you didn't go overseas, you worked with disasters or emergencies that happened locally.

**Mr. Carrasco:** We were fortunate.

**Dr. Rivera:** Yeah, you were very, very fortunate, especially after 28 years; and you were with the post office for 49 years. And like you said that was a good duty, you enjoyed being there working for the post office.

**Mr. Carrasco:** Oh yeah, I'll tell you guys that I worked with said, Bob, I stood at the casement and we got 79 holes, here we got 49... how can you stand being here?

I said, you know what? I played games, I'm playing tic-tac-toe right now... Sometimes the guys bet on who [would] get the full case. I just made a game out of it [because] time goes faster. No sense getting mad the days gonna longer...

**Dr. Rivera:** So, you had ways of being able to cope with whatever confronted you?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, everything that confronted me, yep.

**Dr. Rivera:** You mentioned you had 2 brothers: Pete is one of your brothers, and Danny. Tell me about your brothers?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Well I'm 2 years older than Pete and I think I'm 5 years older than Danny. We grew up in the same house there on 'L' Street; and we all grew up playing

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ball. Danny got the benefit of the doubt because we were bigger than him, and our Mother was always out there looking out for him. [She'd say,] don't throw the ball so hard, you're gonna hurt him. [We'd tell her,] but he's got to learn how to catch. [She'd tell us,] leave him alone, he's just a little boy.

When he was 8 years old, he could play with the adults because he was that good.

Yeah, we grew up together there in Colton, and we still live in the area, all 3 of us.

**Dr. Rivera:** Pete also played a lot of ball with a lot of teams.

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, in fact, I only played against him 1 time, and it was a softball game. We were mostly on the same team, 3 of us were on the same team. At one time, I was on a different team, and we played them and I remember we had beaten them. Pete was mad and he said, why did he have to come to this game?

Anyway, one time I had to get on the field and my Mother told us to behave... because I was the coach... [she said] what's wrong with you boys? Settle down.

**Dr. Rivera:** Your younger brother, Danny, he was on the little league team that went to the World Series in 1954?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Right. He's someplace in there. He was 11 years old when he went [to the World Series].

And now the guys on that team played professional ball or played college ball – almost all of them. There's only maybe 6 or 7, there's not so many left now. But they had a real good team. In fact, I'm helping coach one of John Dody's son's – their coaches and he's the coach over at San Bernardino High School. He said, do you know my brother? Do you know my dad? [I said,] yeah, I know your dad, I knew your grandpa, and your

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grandma and your uncles... He looked at some of these pictures and said, oh, that's nice. It's something for him to see and to look back on.

But like I say, I enjoyed coaching. I told my wife, the day I start cussing at you is the day I quit because it's not fun anymore.

**Dr. Rivera:** Well, you-know it seems that you and your family including your Dad were kind of legends as far as baseball and softball is concerned because all of you played and all you gave a lot of time into coaching and mentoring kids as they were growing up and playing on the ball field. So, I guess your contribution to Colton has been being a mentor and a coach for many of the kids that grew up in Colton.

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, in San Bernardino also.

**Dr. Rivera:** And you're still doing it in San Bernardino.

**Mr. Carrasco:** Like these guys here they don't understand when you go out there it's just like being in a classroom – to learn how to write you've got to do a lot of 'I's and 'W's – and this-and-that, they [need to] understand to do this you've got to do that over-and-over. I'd tell them, guys, I admit practice is a boring thing in life, but I try to make it interesting because (inaudible). I'd break [them] up into groups of 4 or 5 so they won't they won't have any free time – I have them doing different things. So I have them doing all these little things – it's just like you come out here and play and everybody does his part... by game time we put it all together, and if we did it right it works, if you didn't do it right it's not going to work.

**Dr. Rivera:** So it becomes a team?

**Mr. Carrasco:** It comes a team.

**Dr. Rivera:** It becomes a team when you need to go out there in the field and represent one team against another team.

**Mr. Carrasco:** It's individuals but you're down with your team and everybody's doing their little part...

**Dr. Rivera:** Bob, you say you still live in Colton and your brothers still live in Colton? How has Colton changed over the last, uh, I guess almost 60 years?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Well, I think Colton all has changed so much that the people – well there's so many new people. Before I could go to a (inaudible) I knew where everybody lived. I could talk to everybody: *Buenas tardes, Buenas noches*... and now you don't even know who lives two houses down from you. People aren't as friendly as they used to be... [Before TV], there was a radio playing, and the ladies were usually outside and they knew whose kid was out there –

**Dr. Rivera:** So everybody took care of you in the neighborhood?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, yeah... and the people were a lot more friendlier then than they are now, I think; and they're more caring. (Inaudible)

I have a thing right now... I'm gonna call my cousins before I die and talk to them because I don't want to go see him on the day he's got his hands crossed. My wife



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says: Why do you do this? Why do you call them and they don't call you back? [I tell her,] so they don't call me back, at least I'm (inaudible).

**Dr. Rivera:** So the difference is that back then people were more friendly, they were more neighborly, they would kinda watch out for the kids, and they would take care of the community.

**Mr. Carrasco:** Well, you just go look at the high school and how it was taken care of – the kids don't care. At San Bernardino High School their ball field right after lunch is like the wind hit the garbage cans

**Dr. Rivera:** So the attitude is just a very, very different from back then?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Oh yeah.

**Dr. Rivera:** Bob, let me ask you my last question. My last question is, what was the best thing that you remember growing up in Colton? What is the best memory, the best thing that you remember growing up in Colton?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Well, I got a lot of good memories. I think that one of the best memories was when we beat the Colton Mercuries. I hit a home run and we beat them...

**Dr. Rivera:** Where were you playing?

**Mr. Carrasco:** In San Bernardino.

**Dr. Rivera:** What team were you playing for?

**Mr. Carrasco:** I was playing for 709. There were so many good things, a lot of good memories. I think that stands out the most – and I still have the ball someplace in the house.

**Dr. Rivera:** So always the baseball player?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Always the baseball—I got baseballs all over the house. The girls played too, and my grandson plays but he doesn't have an attention span. He says well, if I touch the ball that means I gotta work, but if I don't touch it I don't have to do anything.

**Dr. Rivera:** Your best memory was beating the Colton Mercuries – what was the score?

**Mr. Carrasco:** I think it was 8 to 7

**Dr. Rivera:** Oh, just barely.

**Mr. Carrasco:** Yeah, in fact, Joe Casteños was probably the best catcher next to Juan Martinez's (inaudible) to reproduce Camilo... the 2 twins came up...

**Dr. Rivera:** The Abril twins?

**Mr. Carrasco:** The coach put them on base, and then Ivory Gal came up, and we walked him. Now we got 2 away and the bases loaded, and my brother-in-law came up and he was a saucy hitter, and so we pitched to him he hits a smash to right field that same game and my right fielder just back hands the ball – he just caught it. Can you imagine 3 of the top hitters to get to one. You don't walk 3 guys in a row, and he wasn't such a bad hitter either... that's when I got the ball and it felt so good.

**Dr. Rivera:** How old were you?

**Mr. Carrasco:** Well, I must have been about maybe 30. Yeah, it was a great feeling to finally beat the Mercuries here.

**Dr. Rivera:** Well, Bob, that's one of your best memories, eh?

**Mr. Carrasco:** That's one of my best memories hitting a home run.

**Dr. Rivera:** Well Bob, thank you for being with us. I surely enjoyed meeting together -- it's about time because we've been talking about this for a long, long time. I do appreciate you coming down today, and also bringing many of your pictures to show us some of the experiences that you had not only as a ballplayer but as a coach. So thank you very much.