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### Natalie Salazar Gomez

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# South Colton Oral History Project

## Interview Summary

**Interviewee:**

Natalie Salazar Gomez

**Interviewer:**

Dr. Tom Rivera

**Interview Date:**

October 23, 2015

**Location:**

Colton, California

**Interview Summary completed by:**

Kimberly Morales, 2020.

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**Topic:**

Natalie Salazar Gomez, a lifelong resident of Colton, California speaks about her parents coming to Colton, musical family, high school experience, husband Tony Gomez, and how she faced housing discrimination because of her ethnicity.

**Keywords:**

- Musicians
- South Colton Community
- Colton (Calif.)
- Housing Discrimination
- Tony Gomez

**Comments:**

Interview contains some Spanish language.

**Interview Index:**

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
Streaming video	Section 1: 00:01:20 Section 3: 00:14:09	La Reserva

Streaming video	Video Section 1: 00:04:36	The 1938 Flood
Streaming video	Video Section 1: 00:09:18, 00:13:05 Video Section 2: 00:12:50, 00:15:14 Video Section 3: 00:06:30, 00:16:57 Video Section 4: 00:01:44	Tony Gomez
Streaming video	Video Section 1: 00:09:38 Video Section 2: 00:14:12 Video Section 3: 00:04:13	Musical Family
Streaming video	Video Section 1: 00:17:30 Video Section 3: 00:05:05	Father Valencia
Streaming video	Video Section 1: 00:02:17, 00:17:49 Video Section 3: 00:12:00, 00:14:43 Video Section 4: 00:02:26	Colton, California
Streaming video	Video Section 1: 00:17:41 Video Section 2: 00:03:10	Housing Discrimination
Streaming video	Video Section 2: 00:05:02, 00:06:43 Video Section 3: 00:10:36	Father Luque
Streaming video	Video Section 2: 00:18:04	Musicians that played with Tony Gomez

**Related Materials:**

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

**Full interview transcript can be found below.**

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**Interviewee:**

Natalie Salazar Gomez

**Interviewer:**

Dr. Tom Rivera

**Interview Date:**

October 23, 2015

**Location:**

Colton, California

**Length:**

01:05:55

**Media format:**

Streaming video

**List of Acronyms:**

NG = Natalie Salazar Gomez

TR = Dr. Tom Rivera

FA = Frank Acosta

HV = Henry Vasquez

**Interview Transcript completed by:**

Kimberly Morales, 2020

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**Start of Interview:**

[00:00:00]

**Video Section 1**

[00:00:00]

TR: Good afternoon and welcome to our South Colton Oral History Project. Today is October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015 and we are videotaping at my house which is 23170 Vista Grande Way. Behind our camera is Mr. Frank Acosta who is one of our committee members and also our historian is Mr. Henry Vasquez who is off to the right of Mr. Acosta.

Our guest this afternoon is Mrs. Natalie Salazar Gomez—

NG: —Salazar Gomez.

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TR: Did I say it right?

NG: [*Nods head and smiles*] Yes.

TR: Natalie Salazar Gomez. Natalie is a lifelong resident of Colton.

NG: Yes.

TR: Born and raised in Colton and not only that but you also attended Garfield Elementary School.

NG: Yes.

TR: You went to Wilson Elementary School and you graduated from Colton High School in 1952.

NG: Right.

TR: Did I get that right?

NG: Yes.

TR: Do I get an A on that?

NG: Yes [*smiles*].

TR: Okay, okay.

NG: I went one year to San Bernardino Valley College.

TR: That was 1953 that you went to Valley College?

NG: Yeah.

TR: Now let me ask you Natalie, being a lifelong resident of Colton, were you always a resident of La Reserva you know that section of Colton—

NG: —Yes, I was [*nods head*]—

TR: —that they called La Reserva—

NG: —yes [*smiles*]—

TR: —so you were there and what was the address of your house in La Reserva?

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NG: 410 West K Street.

TR: 410 West K Street in La Reserva.

NG: [*Nods head*] Mhm.

TR: And Natalie, your brother is Richard.

NG: Yes.

TR: You're the oldest of the family.

NG: Yes I am.

TR: Richard and then after Richard was Albert and then Ram but I don't know Ram's name.

NG: Well, Eddie [*smiles*].

TR: Eddie [*laughs*], nickname is Ram. And your little sister Beatrice.

NG: Yes, yes.

TR: Your dad Nicolas, when I worked at the gas station at Henry's—

NG: —Oh yes—

TR: —he was one of our favorite customers. Tell me about your dad, was he born and raised in Colton or did he come to Colton at an early age?

NG: No, I think he came at an early age.

TR: Okay. And when he got to Colton, que paso? What happened when he came to Colton from Mexico?

NG: Well, I don't know how my mom and dad met so I don't when it happened or—

TR: —But you told me a story about your dad being—

NG: —Yes [*laughs*] —

TR: —Coming to Colton, didn't know where to go and then what happened?

NG: Well, probably one of the men there must have told him to go to that place [*inaudible*]—

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TR: —to go to the office.

NG: Probably was because he got there and they got him and until later you said that he was in the army. He realized he had [*laughs*]—

TR: —Well the office was a recruitment office for the army.

NG: I think so, yes [*nods head*].

TR: Y lo mandaron alli.

NG: Yeah.

TR: And he didn't know.

NG: No, no [*shakes head and smiles*] he didn't know.

TR: So, he registered and became a soldier.

NG: A soldier, yes. And a little joke he would always tell me, "I don't know why they would always keep me peeling potatoes," [*laughs*].

TR: So, he was in the mess hall in the army?

NG: [*Nods head*] He said just peeling potatoes and got tired of them [*laughs*].

TR: And then after the army he settled in Colton. How did he meet your mother, was your mother from Colton?

NG: Well I believe so because I think she came to a lady on Fifth, I think, no, my madrina. My madrina Talamante. My mom said she taught her how to cook so she must have been in the same area there.

TR: So your mom's madrina—

NG: —My madrina.

TR: Your madrina.

NG: Talamante, the last name. I can't remember the first one.

TR: And how did she help your mom?

NG: One time she told me that she was, remember the flood that they had? Was it '38?

TR: 1938? 1938 yeah, a big flood.

NG: Yeah, that one and she said that her house where she was living was swept away. And so then she was with my madrina a lot of time with her. So they must have had the house or there already because I don't remember going to any other place.

TR: Where does she live? Where does she live where the house was that was swept away? Donde vivia?

NG: No, I can't remember. I went there because my dad took me when I was small and even the flood was coasted like Gomez house, Tony's house—

TR: —Yes—

NG: —it was way in, it was like that [*hand gestures*], little down from there—

FA: —just east of [inaudible]—

NG: —donde estaba that store, the PFE.

TR: Yeah, where was it Frank?

FA: On M Street, M and 10<sup>th</sup> and then just to the east was where the flood reached. Actually, it reached the house on—

HV: —it went farther but—

NG: —Yeah, Santa Ana—

HV: —but almost everything that was east of 10<sup>th</sup> and M was in the big part of the flood.

TR: Yeah, so your madrina must have had the house in that area.

NG: Yes.

TR: Mrs. Talamante, verdad?

NG: She lived on M Street, we were on K Street.

HV: Now you did say that your mother was from Arizona originally.

NG: Yes, yes, Tucson.

HV: The Tucson area.

NG: She said that they would mine. It was a copper town.



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TR: Oh okay.

NG: Yeah, where she lived. So, I don't know how she got over here.

TR: Oh okay. You don't know whether her parents came to Colton or not?

NG: I think so because my mom says her mom is at Agua Mansa Cemetery and my dad went and made up [inaudible], you know cemetery plots or whatever. So, he made her one but I haven't gone back to see.

TR: So, your grandma is buried at Agua Mansa?

NG: [Nods head] Mhm, yes, she's buried there.

TR: Okay. Salazar.

NG: Acuna.

TR: Oh, Acuna.

NG: Mhm, Manuela Acuna.

TR: Manuela Acuna was your grandma's name and she's buried at Agua Mansa.

NG: Yeah, she's buried there because I think I went to a lot of cemeteries there. I would go way up to the top and look all over [smiles] and cemetery was familiar to me.

TR: That's Agua Mansa Cemetery, you became well-acquainted with.

NG: Yes.

TR: Your dad worked for the cement plant?

NG: Yes, he worked for Kaiser first.

TR: He worked for Kaiser first.

NG: Mhm.

TR: And then he moved?

NG: Then he, well before that he had to go pick oranges at town called, it's in the Anaheim area over there. Olive, a little town Olive and we started going young because I have pictures of when I went to that school. I don't even know what was the name of the school is.

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TR: Okay. So did the family live in that area?

NG: Just for the season of the orange-picking and then we come back.

TR: Okay. Well your dad picked oranges.

NG: Yeah.

TR: And then he came and worked at Kaiser or the cement?

NG: Yeah, no. I think Kaiser and then he got cement.

TR: Oh. Did he retire from the cement plant?

NG: Yes, a lot of years.

TR: How many years do you think you worked the cement plant?

NG: Ever since I've lived there. Might have been more than 10 years. And then my brother Ricky worked there too and Beto.

TR: And Albert worked there to?

NG: He's retired. So that's where he's at now and he [inaudible] here at Colton. I don't see him very much. He doesn't come over but only when my sister passed away.

TR: Beatrice passed away?

NG: Mhm.

TR: When did she pass away?

NG: About three years ago.

TR: Recently then.

NG: Yeah.

TR: Te iba preguntar este, you were married to Tony Gomez.

NG: Yes.

TR: And Tony Gomez is one of the families that settled in Colton in the early part of the century.

NG: Yes, I think so because I didn't know then, you know, I know now yeah.

TR: And that his family was very musical, verdad?

NG: Who?

TR: La familia de Tony.

NG: Oh, yes.

TR: Todos tocaban verdad?

NG: Except no, just Gabby. Gabriel didn't play anything or—

TR: —Yeah, he had [inaudible], he had a brother—

NG: —Horia tam poco, Horia sister, she didn't play nothing either. But the other ones did.

TR: How many brothers and sisters did Tony have? You had Raul, you had—

HV: —My mom Luz, my aunt Charlette, Carleta, Horia, and then Tony, Gabby, Raul, Ernie, Refugio and then Martha.

NG: Martha. Today's her birthday.

HV: Oh, is it today? That's right.

NG: [*Nods and smiles*].

TR: [*Laughs*].

HV: [*Laughs*].

NG: I have to call her [*laughs*].

HV: Yeah.

TR: So, everybody played except—

HV: —Horia and Gabby.

TR: And Gabby. They were not musicians but everybody else was in the musician in the family.

NG: Mine have played something too.

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TR: Your what?

NG: My family, my kids all of them play an instrument too.

TR: All your—

NG: —Like my Steve—

TR: —Your sons and a daughter—

NG: —My son that passed away, he was a drummer. And then I have Mary Ann and she played the flute [inaudible]. Patty played the flute I think and she was in those bands that, marching band. She was in one of those, in front, [*smiles and hand gestures*] walking in the band.

TR: So, the family has always had a tradition of musicians, verdad?

NG: Yes.

TR: And liking music.

NG: Oh yeah. My mom always loved singing and she did it anywhere she could [*laughs and smiles*], she sang.

TR: Your mom was a singer also?

NG: What?

TR: Your mom was a singer?

NG: She said she was, she would play a guitar and my dad played a, was it a mandolin?

HV: Mandolina.

NG: Yeah, he played that one. And they would go to sing when they got together with a [inaudible] and another friend. They would take me but they would drop me in the bed so I would go to sleep [*laughs and smiles*].

TR: [*Laughs*].

HV: Your mom's name was Ernestina and your dad's name was—

NG: —Nicasio.

HV: Ignacio.

TR: Nicasio.

HV: Ignacio.

TR: Nicasio, que no [*looks at NG*]?

NG: Mhm, Nicasio.

TR: Nicasio.

HV: Nicasio, oh okay.

NG: N-i-c, yeah. Yeah, so we had that too and my mom would always—

—One time we went to LA [Los Angeles] I think, at an auditorium and my mom went walking up there and [*gasps*] I thought, *Oh no, I hope my mom doesn't sing.* [*Laughs*].

TR: Y canto?

NG: No [*laughs*]. She requested a song.

TR: Oh okay.

NG: But I felt [*continues laughing*]—

TR: —A little nervous eh [*smiles*]?

NG: Yeah.

TR: Now tell me Natalia, how did you meet Tony?

NG: How did I meet him?

TR: How did you meet Tony?

NG: Well he had a little band too, I think. Oh no, I met him playing at the San Bernardino, I danced there and they played. And then he stood up and played “Stardust” and he played it so nice [*smiles and laughs*]. I liked it and then he just went and came to see me at my house and that’s how we [*hand gestures*] —

TR: —So the song “Stardust”, started in you towards Tony.

NG: [*Laughs and nods*].

TR: What did Tony play?

NG: Who?

TR: What did Tony play, what instrument?

NG: Trumpet.

TR: The trumpet.

NG: Yeah, he knew a lot about the trumpet. You could ask his any song and, "Oh yeah." He'll start playing it, he knew a lot—

TR: —How old was he when he started playing the trumpet, do you know?

NG: He was six years older and I was 19, going to be 20. About six years.

TR: Yeah, but when did he start? Cuando estaba chiquito? Started playing—

NG: —Oh, playing the trumpet, he said 12.

TR: 12 [*nods head*].

NG: Ever since, he's been everywhere.

TR: And when he played and he played Stardust and both of you, the chemistry was there?

NG: Well I don't know about him but, maybe he did but I didn't know [*laughs*]. He would stop me and I go, "No" [*shakes head*], I told that [*inaudible*]. "Oh I didn't like your dad at first," [*laughs*].

TR: Why?

NG: I just didn't like him, it just gradually just—

TR: —What won you over?

NG: Hm?

TR: How did he win you over?

NG: I don't know, I guess you just get more [*inaudible*], you know somewhere. And he would take me to the movies and what else. And just the dances sometimes.

TR: So, he courted you and how old were you when you got married?

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NG: 19.

TR: 19. A year after high school?

NG: Yeah [*nods head*].

TR: And did you have a big wedding?

NG: Yes, we had a big wedding. We had it, a reception but we didn't have much money either so my dad built like a head roof. And we had the reception in the back of my house.

TR: Oh, there on—

NG: —K Street—

TR: —K Street, on K Street, yeah.

NG: And then we had a dance at the place called, remember there used to be a bowling alley?

TR: In Colton—

NG: —On that side of the—

TR: —Yeah, on Valley Boulevard—

NG: —Across [*inaudible*] was the one we had a lot of dances in, we went there. But my dance was not there, it was on the opposite street where there was bowling ball, bowling—

TR: —Alley, bowling alley. I remember that bowling alley, I know where that is.

NG: Yeah [*smiles*]. Oh, I remember so many things even when the trains would go by. They had a lot of things in Colton.

TR: Right, right. But it was a nice wedding, right?

NG: Oh yes [*nods head*].

TR: Was it a church wedding?

NG: Yes [*nods head*].

TR: And who was the father or the pastor or the priest?

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NG: The priest was [inaudible] [*laughs*] priest Valencia.

TR: Oh, Father Valencia was the priest. So, Father Valencia los caso eh?

NG: Mhm [*smiles*].

TR: Los caso. And after you got married, where did you live?

NG: Well we lived in a little house; I was just telling him [*looks at HV*], they wouldn't sell us houses down, you know to go buy a house on that side [*hand gestures*]—

TR: —on North Colton, passed the railroad tracks—

NG: —Mhm. We saw several of them and they would tell the realtor that they didn't want any—

**End of Video Section 1:**

[00:17:59]

**Start of Video Section 2:**

[00:00:00]

NG: —Mexicans in their area so finally they showed us a little house where I live now but it was a little house first because that was the only thing we could find.

TR: And what street is that?

NG: Ivy.

TR: Ivy Street?

HV: It's on Mount Vernon.

TR: Where is it?

HV: Off of Mount Vernon.

TR: Okay.

NG: Where the Burrito is, you know that Burrito going—

TR: —Oh, yes, yes, yes—

NG: —In back of there, a second street Ivy—



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TR: —Close to Colton Avenue?

HV: Kind of close?

NG: Which one?

TR: Colton Avenue.

HV: It's close to Colton Avenue.

NG: Oh yeah. You have a school there.

HV: It's close to Washington School.

TR: Oh okay, I know where it is Natalia.

NG: It's across the street there. Yeah, so we bought that and I think for like \$4,500.

TR: What year was that Natalia, when you bought it?

NG: When we got married?

TR: Yeah, you got married in '52, '53—

NG: —'53—

TR: —'53 and then you were looking for a house in North Colton—

NG: —Yeah before, I think it was because I didn't know—

TR: —And then it was hard to buy a house in North Colton.

NG: Yeah, we couldn't even, not even where a rental is [*shrugs shoulders*], so we had to settle for a little house, a one-bedroom house. And we just thought, *well that would be for right now*. There were all Americanos around [*hand gestures*].

TR: And you paid \$4,500 for the house?

NG: Mhm [*nods head*].

TR: That was a bargain back then verdad.

NG: And then we put the house and it was \$10,000 for the house now. But now it's not that price anymore [*laughs*].

TR: Well right now you have a gold mine there.

NG: I know.

TR: Yeah, you have a gold mine there.

NG: Yes, so they went to school there and—

TR: —Oh, this way you had your family—

NG: —Yeah, there—

TR: —the kids there—

NG: —there were kids around there too. Yeah, I remember another family that came after us was the Gonzalez across the street. He died, yeah, he died about five years ago or so.

TR: When did he come to because you were there in '53, when did the Gonzalez family come in? The same year or years later—

NG: —No, no, no. They came around maybe five years after.

TR: Oh okay.

NG: Yeah.

TR: So you were one of the pioneers that settled in the gringo section of Colton.

NG: Mhm, yeah.

TR: Were there any problems or any—

NG: —Oh no. They seemed, only one parent across, but the third house was little of talking too much but my next-door neighbor was nice [*laughs and smiles*]. Yeah, we got to know some others thereafter. It was kind of tough too.

TR: Tough in what respect, Natalia?

NG: Hm?

TR: Why do you say tough?

NG: Well every time even going anywhere, even in the stores and they wouldn't tell you, you know, or to see something or something. No, they were kind of, didn't want to serve—

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TR: —Oh, they wouldn't serve you?

NG: I mean like, when they tell you, "Can I help you?" You know, there wasn't any of those [inaudible] saying "Can I help you?"

TR: Oh, they would ignore you.

NG: [*Nods head*] Mhm.

TR: What stores do you remember going through that experience?

NG: Maybe it was the Harris company.

TR: San Bernardino.

NG: [*Nods head*] Yeah. For school, at Valley I was just surprised that there so many different people that went to Valley College [*smiles*]. So, I've never been to any except our schools.

TR: Yeah, Garfield and Wilson—

NG: —and I said, "Oh my goodness there was old and very young." I thought it would be another high school [*laughs*].

TR: The population was different, verdad? All ages.

NG: Mhm, yeah [*nods head*].

TR: And you had a lot of soldiers that came back—

NG: —oh yeah—

TR: —that came back and were taken advantage of their educational program.

NG: Yes. From my high school, I imagine there were maybe five people that I knew that went after high school there. Mejicanos—

TR: —They went to the service?

NG: No, I don't know—

TR: —Oh, they went to Valley College?

NG: Yeah, they went to Valley College, from high school to Valley College and—

TR: —so five?

NG: That's all I can remember, that I could see. There were, Father Luque was one that I saw, I keep [inaudible] [*laughs*], he was Father Luque.

TR: Well you went to school, tell me about going to Colton High School. You mentioned Father Luque was in your class.

NG: Yes, there were several expect they all took different classes that I didn't take and I didn't see them you know, that often. I was telling, I didn't know that I was taking college classes.

TR: Oh, you were a college prep student.

NG: Mhm.

TR: Okay.

NG: Yeah, there weren't too many of those.

TR: How did you get into the college prep course Natalia? Did a counselor tell you or a teacher tell you or?

NG: Usually the ones in the first time would be teachers from high school or even I'm starting to think even in junior high sometimes. One or two might suggest like math, to go to a different math.

TR: So you were a good student?

NG: Hm?

TR: You were a good student?

NG: Yeah.

TR: Yeah.

NG: Sometimes they would give us a test and from that test it'd ask us things [*nods head*]. Yeah.

TR: So you were top of the list of a good students then?

NG: Yes, I didn't know that myself but I received American Region of awards and Father Luque was the other one from junior high.

TR: Okay.

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NG: And from high school, I received the, the man that got together at the fiestas—

TR: —Manuel Padilla? Peter Luque senior?

NG: It was, maybe they were in the, when they chose somebody.

TR: In the committee.

NG: Mhm [*nods head*]. He had a name, a hundred dollars from there.

TR: So you got a scholarship from them?

NG: Mhm. And \$25 from the school. So, I went to [*inaudible*] classes that I could [*smiles and laughs*].

TR: Well Natalia, seems like you had a good training at Colton High School where they prepared you for college.

NG: Yeah [*nods head*]. We had Mexican Club too.

TR: Well tell me about the Mexican Club.

NG: Well they were all Mexicans in there and we used to, well meet I think and then we'd have a dance you know but everybody was invited. You know, the dance was after school like 3:00 or 3:30. We had them all then—

TR: —Where was the dance held?

NG: In that gym.

TR: Oh, the [*inaudible*] gym.

NG: Yeah, [*inaudible*] gym. And one dance my dad made me a pinata himself, like an octopus [*laughs*], got all of the legs on it and we taped it all together. But I don't remember, I remember one-time putting candy in it but we wouldn't usually put anything in there.

I think one time we did but we didn't do it anymore [*laughs*].

TR: [*Laughs*].

NG: Everybody scramble around, so it was a test [*smiles*].

TR: So you had the Mexican Club, verdad?

NG: Yeah.

TR: Did you have—

NG: —Art Club too.

TR: An Art Club, the Art Club.

NG: [*Nods head*].

TR: Did you have any programs for the rest of the school through the club. You know, it was called the Pan-American Program or—

NG: —Yeah, we had one but I don't remember. I don't remember well—

TR: You also played for the band?

NG: Yes.

TR: Tell me about that experience.

NG: Well, everybody had instruments but me [*smiles*]—

TR: —because you played the piano.

NG: Yeah, so—

TR: —You couldn't [*inaudible*] the piano around in a marching band.

NG: [*Smiles*] no, that's why they put me on the cymbals [*laughs*]. Going like this [*places one hand slightly apart and above the other while clashing them*]. It was fun, anyway.

And the [*inaudible*] in the football games, you know, the band played in all of them. And every football game we had a different thing to do and now I see it, and they only have one and that's it.

TR: Yeah, but a different thing, what was the different thing? What do you mean by a different thing?

NG: Oh, the glockenspiel, the one that goes up here [*hand gestures*]. You hold it, like a piano is right here [*hand gestures*].

TR: Oh okay. So, you attended all and played for all of the parades?

NG: Yeah.

TR: Do you remember all of the parades? Do you remember where you went for the parades?

NG: Oh yeah. We went to Long Beach, we played here in the parade for the Orange Show, oh no, Veterans, I think. Veterans and I remember mostly in Long Beach and we went down to, where did we, we went far to, no that was. I thought maybe down Escondido, Fall Brooke?

TR: Fall Brooke?

NG: Yeah, I think we went one time far. And Long Beach was far too. And other ones were in Riverside, any place they were having, we would be there too.

FA: How about the Fiestas Patrias parade?

NG: What is it?

FA: The Fiestas Patrias parade.

NG: Oh, let me see—

FA: —Don [inaudible] or Eighth Street.

NG: The one—

FA: —to the fiestas—

NG: —I don't remember. I know we played Christmas times [inaudible]. The one you're saying, if they had one in San Bernardino, you know like in, by the, where we go, what's that street called—

FA: —La Placita? Mount Vernon?

NG: Yeah [*laughs and smiles*], Mount Vernon.

HV: I remember that the Colton High School band used to play in Fiesta Patrias parade and they would go—

NG: —Oh yeah, oh that's true [*nods head*] —

HV: —they would pass right there in front of Cervantes Market—

NG: —They did have parades here too.

HV: Do you remember being in the band at that time?

NG: [*Shakes head*] No. Later, where the bridge is now, they had to go down the bridge when they put the bridge, the band had to go down that way. Where it was loud [*laughs*].

TR: Yeah, yeah.

NG: But we went up to Upland or different cities to play.

TR: So, you were busy in high school with the band and taking college prep courses—

NG: —yes—

TR: —and just actively involved in the high school activities.

NG: Yeah.

TR: Let me go back to Tony—

NG: —He was in the band too.

TR: Oh, he was in the band? When you were in the school?

NG: I just knew he was in the band and he would go to; to different, and they had an orchestra also. The band didn't have an orchestra, so he played in the orchestra too.

TR: So he was—

NG: —And he played the bass, you know [*hand gestures*], like that.

TR: Si, si.

NG: He played that and the trumpet. The bass, yeah. He knew other instruments too.

TR: So, he was pretty busy as a musician then, verdad?

NG: Mhm, yeah. I would get tired of picking them up [*laughs and smiles*]. Sometimes when my girls were over in the band too, I had to pick him up real late in the mornings sometimes.

Active in football and baseball and my kids were in baseball too.

TR: So you were a mother that was always busy working and picking up kids all the time and taking them to activities—

NG: —Yes, I did that [*nods head*]—



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TR: —also some music, whatever they did with music.

NG: Mhm.

FA: What instruments did your kids play?

NG: What did he say? I can't hear.

TR: Your kids, what instruments did they play?

NG: Oh, what they played?

FA: Steve was guitar—

HV: —No, Steve was drums—

FA: —drums, right—

NG: —Yeah, drums. Yeah, Steve—

FA: —and then Anthony?

NG: Then Mary was, a piccolo—

FA: —Oh yeah, you did mention that—

NG: —and flute too, both played that. Like I said, my daughter Patty played the clarinet but then she was part of what they call the girls that march in front of the band—

FA: —Oh, letter carriers—

NG: —Yes [*smiles*], that one—

FA: —you carry the letters—

NG: —and then my other one Susie, she played clarinet.

HV: How about Anthony?

NG: He tried trumpet but I don't think he liked it as much [*laughs*].

HV: Did he switch to something else?

NG: No, [*shakes head*] no.

FA: And Arlene?

NG: Oh Arlene, she has a flute. Yeah, they were all in something.

TR: Did Tony, you know, he was a very accomplished musician. Did he teach music, did he give music lessons?

NG: He did two, only two people. One was from San Bernardino; one was that I remember one was Mexican and the other one was a white boy. They played with, they learned [*nods head*].

TR: So he taught on a limited basis.

NG: Yeah.

TR: Now being a musician, you know, they're always doing something on the weekends, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday—

NG: —Yes. That was something too because I didn't know how to drive so I stayed home when he went so I had to stay home [*laughs*]. Then later he taught me how to drive, well my dad did. Tony was kind of like, you know, more strict or something [*laughs*] and my dad took me there. Yeah, I'd go with my dad [*laughs and smiles*].

TR: Oh okay [*smiles*].

NG: So I had to learn—

TR: —So your dad taught you how to drive.

NG: Yes.

TR: So being a musician is hard work—

NG: —it's hard, oh yeah—

TR: —hard life on the family.

NG: Mhm. But I guess I knew that was one of the [*inaudible*] that knew I was marrying.

She said, "Oh you're marrying a magician." [*Laughs*]. And she said, "Oh, I don't know [*inaudible*] hard for me," [*laughs*].

But it's hard. Yep, because they have to sleep—

TR: —It was hard for you and it was hard for your family.

NG: Mhm [*nods head*]. And him—

TR: —Besides transportation, what other effects did it have on the family?

NG: Um it seemed okay because I was there probably. Probably because I was going, when I started to drive then I would go. Because he would take me to doctor's appointments, Tony did, any appointments I had and he had to pick me up so I learned how to [inaudible] —

TR: —So it was hard being married to a musician but at the same time, you were there at home to support the family.

NG: Yes.

TR: Do you remember any of the names of the musicians that played with Tony? Who were some of the guys that played with Tony?

NG: Well there's Arredondo.

TR: Manuel Arredondo?

NG: Yes.

TR: Okay.

NG: And Ray Hernandez was a drummer.

TR: Ray Hernandez was a drummer.

NG: Mhm.

TR: And do they—

NG: —One of them was a trumpet player Ramon Carrera.

TR: —Ramon.

NG: [*Nods head*] He passed away.

TR: What's his last name?

NG: Carrera.

TR: Ramon Carrera. Also a Colton boy?

NG: Mhm.

**End of Video Section 2:**

[00:18:37]

**Start of Video Section 3:**

[00:00:00]

NG: And then my brother and Raul.

TR: Your brother Richard Salazar?

NG: Mhm and Raul Gomez.

TR: Quien mas, Natalie?

NG: There was another white guy named Mike Thompson.

TR: I know Mike Thompson.

NG: Yeah.

TR: Yes, he played for [inaudible] also.

NG: Yeah—

TR: —I used to play handball with Mike Thompson.

NG: Oh really? [*Laughs*].

TR: Yes [*smiles*].

NG: Yeah, he was the other one and then Tony was a trumpet. I think that's about it.

TR: Did he ever play with Al Lucero or Joe Lucero?

NG: Oh yes, he played with them first.

TR: They had a little band, verdad? During the 40s.

NG: Oh yeah, I have pictures of two of them and he had [inaudible].

TR: What about with Nick Martinez? Did he play for the Nick Martinez band?

NG: Mhm, oh yeah [*nods head*]. Who else did he play with [inaudible]—

TR: —What about Pascual Oliva, did he play with Pascual?—

NG: —Oh he played in the band [*nods head*]. Not in Tony's but in another band. I think he would help sometimes.

TR: Yeah. As they needed help, he would, they would all come and help each other out.

NG: Yeah, mhm.

TR: So they had that thing going, that "if I need you, I'm going to call you and you better be there" [*laughs*].

NG: Yes [*laughs*], oh yeah. He had other, a lot of—

TR: —I have a band here that's called The Latin Lads. Was that Pascual Oliva's band? The Latin Lads—

NG: Oh yeah, no. I know he had, he probably did because I only knew when I was with Sal Vasquez.

TR: What about, did they all attend high school at the same time, the same years? All these people that played with him.

NG: I think, yeah. Quesada was one of them.

TR: Quesada, what was his first name?

NG: I try to, I see him but I can't remember and he was Quesada, Lucero and a guy from Riverside to play I think another instrument. That was a long time ago too. And another one that used to play, oh Mike with the one, Chicho is the one that's a drummer [*laughs*]—

TR: —Chicho Hernandez?

NG: Ray.

TR: Yeah, Ray Hernandez, he was a drummer.

NG: That's him, yeah.

HV: Is he the one whose nickname was Chicho?

NG: Yes.

TR: No, not Chito, Chicho.

NG: Chicho.

TR: Chito was another person.

HV: Oh okay.

TR: I think it's [inaudible]. Yeah, his kids play the, I think they're involved with the Colton council and things like that.

Cheeto, Cheeto, he played the trumpet or something.

NG: Oh yeah [*nods head*]. But he always played, he was their drum player all the time.

TR: Who was what?

NG: Este, the one we were talking about—

TR: Oh, Cheeto?

NG: Yes. I haven't seen him in months but when I see him, he's very, he has something that he can't speak—

TR: —Oh, so he's sick, throat problems.

NG: Yeah [*nods head*].

HV: Wasn't Tony Bustos in one of those bands?

NG: Oh yeah, one time con Tony, in Tony's band—

HV: —in the Sal Vasquez band or a different one?

TR: Yeah, in the Sal Vasquez so and Tony Bustos is a nephew of Tony, verdad?

NG: Mhm.

TR: Of your husband, Tony.

NG: Yeah.

TR: And then Louie Hernandez also played for Sal Vasquez and Louie was also part of the family.

NG: Oh yeah, I forgot about Louie [*laughs*]—

TR: So, the tremendous Gomez influence was all over the bands in Colton.

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NG: Oh yeah [*smiles*].

TR: And also in the church with you.

NG: Oh yeah, [*inaudible*] and Margarita always played whenever anything. And then one time they couldn't find her so I went and in a little bit she comes and I let her play [*waves hand and laughs*].

TR: But you also played for the church, verdad?

NG: Yes.

TR: Now you said that you were a good friend of [*inaudible*].

NG: Yes.

TR: And she helped in the church—

NG: —Yes, she has a singing group. They were girls and you know, she had them—

TR: So it was a choir that sang?

NG: Yeah, kind of like a choir director, yeah. She was good except that she [*inaudible*] clicked with Father Valencia.

TR: Se peleaba con Father Valencia? [*Laughs*].

NG: [*Laughs*] They were, it's cause when we would go to church and one time I was sitting by a window and then he comes, "Oy [*inaudible*], por la ventana" [*laughs*] me dice—

TR: —Father Valencia?—

NG: Yeah, he told me, "Next time I'm going to sit in another place," so Father Valencia won't tell me [*laughs*].

TR: So, he picked on you?

NG: [*Laughs*] He didn't know who I was but then later con Tula, he knew who I was. He wasn't that friendly either because I went with her [*laughs*].

TR: Tula was very dedicated to the church—

NG: —Oh yes—

TR: —And also her sister Maria. They were very dedicated to the church.

NG: They were [*nods head*], she was very nice. I didn't worry about her—

TR: —So you were kind of, you were religious then.

NG: [*Nods head*] Yeah, I was—

TR: You went to church every week?

NG: Every Sunday, yeah. I would tell my mom, "I'm going" [*laughs*] and she would go but I would go every Sunday. Even now, I don't because of my legs, I've been sick, my legs, falling and [*shakes head*].

TR: No, you can't take any chances.

NG: Yeah, now I don't though.

TR: Yeah. I was going to ask you Natalie, you know, Tony was a musician for many years, verdad?

NG: Mhm.

TR: Many, many years. What was the best thing that he liked about being a musician? Que le gustaba de ser músico? What did he like about, because he arranged—

NG: —Yeah—

TR: —Music and songs and you know, do everything that needed to be done to make sure that the band had a good list of songs—

NG: —Oh, everything for each one of them. He made parts for every one of them, it wasn't the same, it's the same song but you know, they have different, what do you call it. Well he would make, for a trumpet he would make—

HV: —Orchestration—

NG: —Yeah, orchestration.

TR: Oh, Tony was the person that made the orchestration for the band.

NG: Mhm.

FA: Arranger.

TR: Arranger for the band.



NG: He made that song for me but—

TR: —What was the song that he made for you? Te acuerdas?

NG: I do but, let me see. Oh my gosh, I can't even remember. Because I was looking for the song and I never found it in any of his papers [*smiles*]. So I think, I guess he threw it away [*laughs*].

TR: Aw, he wouldn't throw it away—

NG: —because I couldn't find it, at the end he was tired and was at home, he would look at all our pictures and then some of them I asked, "where is that one?"

He wouldn't answer but I know he probably took it out and—

TR: —Yeah—

NG: —He threw all his yearbooks and I liked to see all the towns you know, where it was, he threw them away.

TR: But what did he like about being a musician, que le gustaba? Besides arranging—

NG: —Yeah, arranging of that. [*Shakes head*] I don't know because he liked music [*inaudible*].

I have a lot of records to tell you right now, I don't know what I'm going to do with all those records—

TR: —What kind of records do you have Natalia?

NG: The old ones—

TR: —Were they the—

HV: —'78s?

TR: '78s?

NG: Yeah 78s and then he had the smaller ones too.

TR: Oh, that was his collection?

NG: Mhm [*nods head*]. A lot, yes and I tell, but I don't know what they're gonna do with them.

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TR: Oh, what we can do is we can get Frank to help you get them to the Colton museum.

NG: Oh yeah, that would be a good idea.

TR: Yeah, it's an excellent idea.

NG: [*Nods head*] Only now they don't play music, Mariam was the one that played more you know.

TR: Yeah. So you can't remember anything else that he liked about being a musician?

NG: Oh, he would always get mad, he'd say, "I'm quitting."

I don't know how many times—

TR: —[*laughs*] —

NG: —he would tell me he's quitting because of something [*hand gestures*], you know and I just said, oh yeah, that's what he says but he loves playing, that's what he liked, playing.

HV: He liked playing the trumpet the best, probably, don't you think?

NG: Mhm, that's what I think so [*nods head*], he didn't practice too much, well he didn't need to practice but once in a while he would practice at home [*giggles and smiles*].

TR: Was Tony ever in the military? Was he in the service?

NG: No [*shakes head*].

TR: No? He was one of the lucky ones, verdad?

NG: Yeah, I think because of Flexi.

TR: Oh okay, okay. I was going to ask you, now that I have, I want to take advantage of you. Tell me about, you were in the class with Ernie Garcia.

NG: Oh yes, he was. And somebody else—

TR: —Father Luque, you were in the same class as Father Luque—

NG: —Yeah, he was in my—

TR: —Y quien mas?

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NG: Um, let me see who—

HV: —Did you say Raul was in your class?

NG: In my class, I was his partner all the time [*smiles*], in school.

TR: Who was that?

NG: Raul.

TR: Gomez, your brother-in-law?

NG: [*Laughs and smiles*] They always pick him for me when anything couple, you know in school. And they'd say, "Oh, this is Raul," [*laughs*].

TR: [*Laughs*]. Oh, so you planned to marry Tony, you know, taking advantage of your situation with Raul.

NG: But he was too quiet too, Raul, he's always been quiet [*nods head*].

TR: But anyway, do you remember anything about Ernie? Was he also a musician, Ernie Garcia? Did he have a band?

NG: Just the piano. No, it was just him. I don't think, he was in the Marine Band, I saw him one time.

TR: Yeah because Raul and Ernie were very good friends.

NG: Oh yeah [*smiles*], because they lived right across from—

TR: —Around the corner from each other, verdad?

NG: Mhm—

TR: —and then the park was there so they were good friends.

NG: Yes, it was nice. So many things that aren't on here in Colton anymore.

TR: What has changed? You mentioned "they're not there anymore," what has changed in Colton that you can think of.

NG: Um, there's too many people [*smiles*] and like I said, we were the only ones up there—

TR: —in North Colton, yeah—

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NG: —where we bought our house [*laughs*].

TR: Yeah.

NG: And then with places where they didn't used to sell, they sell. Even up the hill on K Street, up the hill they're all white people over there.

TR: Yeah, on Third Street, they were all white people and next to the [*inaudible*] mountain, verdad?

NG: Mhm. And starts selling later, you know and now it's puro mejicanos. There's a lot of mejicanos now.

TR: So being able to buy property, that has changed through your lifetime.

NG: Yes, I see some making the garage into a little house.

TR: What about buying in Colton, buying passed the railroad tracks?

NG: Buying?

TR: Haciendo compras, shopping.

NG: Oh. Probably the only thing is Rexal and well it's called different now, Larsens and a bank. At least they left the library.

TR: Yes, yes.

NG: They should've left the mail.

TR: The post office?

NG: Yes, very nice.

TR: It was nice a post office, good architecture.

NG: Where there's still the other one that's been there since then, remember? Adel's? That one has been there since far, still there.

TR: Yeah. It's a plain post office, verdad? Not like the one we had before.

NG: [*Shakes head*] There's no more people walking.

TR: So the difference now is you don't have people going back and forth, in the evenings walking and visiting—

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NG: —No [*shakes head*]—

TR: —Yeah. What stores, when you were in South Colton La Reserva, what store did you shop at? What stores did your mom and dad shop at? Where they buy groceries—

NG: —Helman was one.

TR: What about groceries?

NG: Which one?

TR: Grocery stores.

NG: Um, I don't know because usually I just remember the grocery store and the hardware store.

TR: Yeah but grocery stores in barrio. Did you shop—

NG: —Oh, in barrio?

TR: Yeah, that your mom and dad shopped.

NG: I think they would go to, mostly around Colton, yeah.

TR: No te recuerdas de los tiendas? Do you remember the stores?

FA: La Esperanza.

NG: I remember them—

TR: —Cervantes?

NG: Oh, over here, oh yeah—

TR: —In South Colton—

NG: — I used to go get groceries myself there, Cervantes yeah. And across was, what was across? Well now I don't remember, it used to be a little store too.

TR: Across where?

NG: From Cervantes, what was across a little store, you know?

TR: Rodriguez?

NG: [Inaudible] where the shoe repairs, Aguilera?

TR: Oh yes, Aguilera was across from Cervantes. Yeah, that was shoe repair store.

NG: That's as far as I would go. And Tucker's on the other side—

TR: —Tucker's was on Seventh Street. The bakery, Martinez Bakery was there.

NG: Yeah, [*nods head*] that one. It was more nicer, you know.

TR: Yeah, yeah. Were you a good cook Natalie?

NG: A what?

TR: Were you a good cook?

NG: [*Makes a face expression*] No.

TR: Ahh.

NG: I learned from Tony [*smiles*], he was a good cook [*laughs*].

TR: [*Laughs*].

NG: I learned how to cook, yeah [*smiles*].

TR: From Tony.

NG: [*Nods head and smiles*].

TR: What was his favorite dish that he prepared? Que le gustaba a preparar?

NG: Oh, I think it was pork and chile. That one, le gustaba mas.

FA: Chile verde kind of style?

NG: Yeah [*nods head*].

TR: Okay.

FA: Yum-yum.

NG: And he liked everything.

TR: Did you make tortillas?

NG: Yes.

TR: You did make tortillas, eh.

NG: [*Nods head*].

TR: When did you stop making tortillas?

NG: When I was doing them, I thought, *Oh I wish somebody would make tortillas too* [*laughs*]. Yeah, [*inaudible*] started it.

Oh, I also stopped when they started coming, I think la tortillas because I used to do them in the heat and that would make real little ones you know.

He would work at the PFE, remember the PFE over here?

TR: Oh, Tony worked at the PFE?

NG: Mhm [*nods head*].

TR: I didn't know that. I'm glad you reminded me—

NG: —Yeah, [*inaudible*] [*laughs*]. We got married and he worked there and then they stopped it too so he applied at the high school. This way he stayed at the high school.

TR: At Colton High School?

NG: Mhm, worked there, he was like a maintenance.

TR: Until he retired?

NG: [*Nods head*] Yeah, he retired from there.

TR: How many years did he work there?

NG: I keep thinking like 30. He worked—

TR: —A long time—

NG: —Yes.

FA: And then his brother Gabby was a custodian, he also worked for the school district.

NG: Yeah.

TR: He was also a bus driver, que no?

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FA: Gabby?

NG: No, Gabby was.

HV: Gabby was a bus driver.

NG: No, Tony was just doing maintenance, started cleaning until he got to be, they wanted him to be head but he said no because it's a lot of, como se dice, trabajo.

TR: Too many problems.

NG: Yes, [*smiles*], that's why he didn't want to.

TR: I don't blame him.

FA: You worked for the school district.

NG: Yeah [*nods head*], I worked with the high school. 27 years.

TR: Oooooo.

NG: [*Nods head*].

TR: what did you do—

NG: —Attendance. When I started, there were only about 1,500 students and they kept coming—

**End of Video Section 3:**

[00:18:42]

**Start of Video Section 4:**

[00:00:00]

NG: —you know and then they wanted us to do something extra and we did a little some extra but at the end they wanted us to do it more and there were more students. And I had a computer, I've never had a computer before but I learned computer. Then they were asking too much and I don't think I could do it anymore.

TR: So, when did you retire?

NG: I retired 19 [*takes a pause*], gosh I forget—

HV: —Well when did you start working at the—

NG: —What?



HV: When did you start working for the school?

NG: At the school there were just two of us and working with—

TR: —When did you, cuando empesaste? When did you start?

NG: What did I do?

TR: No, when did you start working for the schools?

NG: Oh.

HV: El ano.

NG: Yeah, um it was, all I remember is that I was there for 27 years [*laughs and smiles*].

TR: Okay [*smiles*].

NG: I can't remember. I was there than Tony because he retired first then I did because it was getting too much. There's still, I guess they just add more people or because the last time was like 3,000 kids.

TR: Yeah, the enrollment was growing.

NG: Mhm. I mean, it was just too much, someone else can take over [*laughs*].

TR: Yeah and Natalia, you have pictures there [*looks at NG's lap*]. Can I borrow those pictures so we can scan them and we will give them back to you?

NG: Oh okay.

TR: You have pictures of Tony's band and also—

NG: —they're all his, he's in all of them.

TR: Yes

NG: It's from Nick's, I have Sal Vasquez.

TR: Nick Martinez Band, you have Sal Vasquez. You have the band from the Junior High School—

NG: —Yeah, I have one when I was—

TR: —So if we could borrow them, we'll give them back to you.

NG: Oh sure.

TR: And if we don't give them back to you, you beat up Henry eh.

NG: [*Smiles, laughs and looks at HV*].

HV: [*Laughs*].

TR: [*Laughs*]. Natalia, este, thank you for being with us this afternoon.

NG: Yes.

TR: And let me ask you the last question Natalia and if you can think of another question, you ask me. Let me ask you, what was the best thing or the best memory that you have about growing up in Colton?

NG: Growing up in Colton?

TR: Yeah, what was the best memory you had about growing up in Colton?

NG: It has always been nice like someone like close friends I still remember and getting in touch sometimes, you know—

TR: —Oh, so the close friends that you have, that you still keep in contact with them.

NG: Mhm [*nods head*]. And being in the band still, we went so many places, that too. So, when I remember, I remember some things of going different like that Orange Show too you know.

I worked with, I used to play for Alex Rodriguez. He liked to sing and I would be his piano player—

TR: —Really?

NG: I would go with him, that's one part that I always went with mainly [*inaudible*].

TR: Oh, yes, okay.

NG: Her, I used to go play for her when she sang. And there was one that used to sing when I graduated, I played for one of that girls, I can't remember quite now but I played different—

TR: —So your friends and then playing for people—

NG: —[*Nods head*] if they wanted—

TR: —You still play?

NG: No, you know why? I don't know, I have the piano there but the kids always start banging on it and they better not start [*laughs*].

TR: [*Laughs*].

NG: And then at my house, there's always somebody in there and when I play and practice, I like to be by myself [*smiles*] so I try whenever I can and I go practice a little bit [*laughs*].

TR: Yeah.

FA: Now the kids you mentioned, those are grandkids, right? Banging on the piano.

NG: What? [*Looks at TR*].

FA: Grandkids?

NG: Grandkids?

FA: Nietos. They play the piano?

NG: No, they want to but I don't let them [*laughs*]. They go to something else, you know, I started with one of my grandkids and just the notes, a little scale and they started then they stopped. Then they want go [*imitates playing a piano*]—

TR: —[*Laughs*]—

NG: —You know, something else, they don't want to after all [*laughs*].

TR: So playing the piano was the best, one of the good things that you remember.

NG: Yes [*smiles*].

TR: What about your friends, do you remember any of your friends? Can you name any of your friends?

NG: Oh yeah, well right now I get in contact with Grace Zendejas.

TR: Okay, yes, I know Gracie.

NG: You know her?

TR: Yes, I know Gracie.

NG: And I play with Josie.

TR: What's her last name?

NG: Aguilera.

TR: Okay.

NG: Yeah Jessie, I mean Josie [*smiles*].

TR: Yes, she's married to Ruben.

NG: Yes, her.

TR: Okay.

NG: Her and some I go to the Hutton Center, sometimes—

TR: —I saw you there! Last time—

NG: —Oh yeah, that's right [*smiles*], yeah. But ever since I started games, I went to one dance it was Veterans Dance I think at the Cotton Center and I was dancing with this man but you know, sometimes they let them so long you know and when it stops and sit down.

Well I went too long and when I was going to my seat, I got a [*hand gestures*] really big whirl in my head—

TR: —Si, si—

NG: —And I fell down on the cement floor so I thought I was okay. I didn't break nothing or anything.

TR: Oh, you were lucky.

NG: Yes [*nods head*]. So since then I have things coming up that I try to remember what one it was but it took me forever. I've fallen, even cut my finger and I have back pains [*laughs*].

TR: Forget it [*laughs*].

And Natalie, any other friends that you remember?

NG: Oh yeah, sometimes I see, I see some and then I remember them. I'm trying to see, I know Grace and then Josie and oh, my sisters-in-law.

TR: Who are your sisters-in-law? – Who are they?

NG: Oh, Horaria and Martha and—

HV: —Carlota—

NG: —Carlota. Just [inaudible] very sick, you know that I haven't been able even to go see her cause I don't have anybody to take me to see her.

TR: Oh, that's too bad.

NG: Yeah, either one's gone or well they work and maybe on vacation they might but I still have to. Maybe I'll tell him [*looks at Henry Vasquez*] to take me to see her [*laughs and smiles*].

HV: [Inaudible].

TR: Well you know, but again, friends and playing the piano were some of the best things that you remember about growing up in Colton, yeah.

Natalie did I forget anything, any questions that you want to—Did I forget anything that you want to add to our interview?

NG: I was just telling you about that when the army and the big truck with soldiers would come through the town and everybody, "Oh, here comes the soldiers!" [Smiles] And we go and watch all of them go down under the bridge.

TR: Yeah, La Cadena—

NG: —Yeah, no aqui, aqui, the one that we would go to the school, esta—

TR: —Oh, the Passover, the bridge, yeah, the bridge—

NG: —The old one from the school—

TR: —Yes.

NG: There we would see them all pass by and I would go to school and I would say, "Uh oh, here comes the train." It was all soldiers so they all started yelling all the way and I'm here [*laughs*] walking by the train [*hand gestures*]. You know, so I would walk to school all the time and that was kind of something different too, that I remember.

TR: So you remember the soldiers that were off to war, World War II—

NG: —Yeah—

TR: — and they would pass by Colton.

NG: Yeah, they would [*nods head*].

TR: Either by truck or by train.

NG: Yes, that's right. There was kind of and we also went during this time, my [*inaudible*] dad and my family, went to go to [*inaudible*] in cars, you know the cars and they would give rations for gas so families could go over there.

TR: Yes, yes.

NG: And it took us like two or three days, I think. It was far and we picked prunes, blooms, [*shakes head*] no—

TR: —Plums?—

NG: —We picked grapes and we picked I forgot the other one, the main one—

TR: —Chabacanes, apricots?

NG: Plums [*smiles*], cirhuelas.

TR: Plums, cirhuelas, okay.

NG: Yeah, we picked that. We see how good they are but then we got sick [*laughs*]. We got too sick off of them.

TR: [*Laughs*].

HV: Ate too many?

NG: [*Nods head and laughs*] Yeah. Oh, and then we went to the walnuts too.

TR: Yeah.

NG: Let's get money—

TR: —Oh, so the family went to and picked during the summer.

NG: Mhm [*nods head*], yes. And then I would come late to school and we didn't know when the war had ended but we hoped, we heard a lot of noise going down to town. And then we come, "Oh, the war's over!" and it's written [*hand gestures*] all over the windows [*smiles*].

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You know, it's a surprise.

TR: That must have been exciting [*smiles*].

NG: Yeah, yeah. Everybody was just so, honking, the trains and so that was exciting.

TR: Yeah.

NG: Two of the other families came down and but we stayed to finish [*laughs*].

TR: [*Laughs*]. So, you were the ones that picked after everybody—

NG: —Oh yeah, yeah.

TR: Yeah. Well Natalie, [*smiles*] thank you so much for being with us this afternoon. Thoroughly enjoyed our conversation—

NG: —I know [*smiles*], me too—

TR: —So thank you, thank you.

NG: Okay, thank you. It was nice, hopefully I didn't say no different things [*laughs*].

**End of Video Section 4:**

[00:11:17]

**End of Interview:**

[01:05:55]