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Manuel Beltran and Stephanie Beltran Hasso

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South Colton Oral History Project

Interview Summary

Interviewee:

Manuel Beltran, Stephanie Beltran Hasso

Interviewer:

Dr. Tom Rivera

Interview Date:

May 2, 2015

Interview Location:

Colton, CA

Length:

00:19:05

Interview Summary completed by:

M. Camacho Nuno, 2024

Description:

Tom Rivera interviewed Manuel Beltran, as well as his daughter Stephanie Beltran Hasso in the Colton Area Museum on May 2, 2015. In this interview Manuel Beltran talked about his life in Colton, particularly South Colton, and how he has served his community as a form of thanks. He and Stephanie discuss the history of his predecessors' arrival to Colton with Rivera as well as what schools they went to in the city. Both the father and daughter focus partly on education and Manuel talked about the importance of achieving a secondary education. Manuel Beltran dives into his role in after-school programs, social work, as a substance abuse counselor, and in child abuse investigations and how that was a result of the community's support in his achievements. Manuel describes his interactions with helping victims of substance abuse, of whom some were his friends, alongside his love of South Colton and baseball. Manuel and Rivera discuss the de facto segregation in the city in their youth and how it has changed. They also discuss the industrialization of Colton but end with a heartfelt reminiscence of the Chicano community's unity and care for one another.

Subject Topic:

- South Colton
- Family
- Mexican/Latinx Heritage
- Community
- De Facto Segregation
- Early Education to College
- Baseball
- Social Work/Substance Abuse Help
- Industrialization of Colton

Spatial Coverage:

Name of Site (if relevant)	General Location/Address
South Colton	California
Colton Area Museum	380 N La Cadena Dr, Colton, CA 92324
Culiacán	Sinaloa, Mexico
Fontana	California
Serrano Court	Colton, CA 92324
Woodrow Wilson Elementary School	750 S 8th St, Colton, CA 92324
Abraham Lincoln Elementary School	444 E Olive St, Colton, CA 92324
Colton Middle School	670 W Laurel St, Colton, CA 92324
Colton High School	777 W Valley Blvd, Colton, CA 92324
San Bernardino Valley College	701 S Mt Vernon Ave, San Bernardino, CA 92410
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall	7285 Quill Dr, Downey, CA 90242

Temporal Coverage:

1900s - 2015

Key Events:

- The Beltran family moved to Colton in the 1900s.
- Manuel Beltran born in 1953.
- Manuel Beltran entered the military in 1971 after high school.
- Manuel Beltran began as a substance abuse counselor in the 1970s.
- Manuel Beltran started a career in social work and child abuse investigations
- Stephanie Beltran and her father went to/discuss the importance of secondary education.
- Dr. Tom Rivera and Manuel Beltran remember Colton and its use of segregation.

Key Organizations:

- Woodrow Wilson Elementary School
- Abraham Lincoln Elementary School
- Colton High School
- Colton Middle School
- San Bernardino Valley College
- Substance Abuse Counseling Program that was mentioned.
- Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
- Community Baseball and Camping Events that were mentioned.

Interview Index:

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
Digital Video	00:00:58 - 00:01:36	Manuel Beltran discusses his family's arrival to Colton around the 1900s from Sinaloa, a state in Mexico.
Digital Video	00:12:17 - 00:13:13	Manuel describes how Colton's familial community influenced his decision to go into social work and the substance abuse counseling field.
Digital Video	hh:mm:ss - hh:mm:ss 00:15:28 - 00:17:02	Both Manuel and Rivera reflect on Colton in the past and the de facto segregation that affected the community.
Digital Video	00:17:37 - 00:17:59	Manuel tells of Coltonites that he knew who succeeded in achieving higher education.
Digital Video	00:17:59 - 00:18:05	A brief mention of Camilo Carreón (1937-1987), a professional baseball player that played in many leagues.

Related Materials

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

Full interview transcript can be found below.

Interview Transcript

Start of Interview:

[00:00:00]

TOM RIVERA: Good morning. My name is Dr. Tom Rivera, and we're here -- today is May the 2nd, 2015, and we're here at the Colton Museum, and we're interviewing two people from Colton. Both have good histories of being raised in South Colton. First of all, we have [Stephanie?]?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes, Stephanie Beltran [Hasso?].

TOM RIVERA: Okay, Stephanie, a little louder. What's your name?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Stephanie Beltran Hasso.

TOM RIVERA: And you are your -- this is your dad.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yes, I'm Manuel Beltran.

TOM RIVERA: Manuel Beltran.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Uh-huh.

TOM RIVERA: Listen, thank you so much for being volunteers this morning. As you know, we're in the process of putting together an oral history of South Colton, and today we thought it was a wonderful opportunity for us to come down, and, lo and behold, you were here, Stephanie. (laughter) Now, Manuel, before we get -- well, why don't we get started? Tell us about [00:01:00] your family, the Beltran family. When did they come to Colton?

MANUEL BELTRAN: God, it's really, really hard to say, because, you know, I was born in 1953, and I know that there was at least one generation of the Beltrons already there. You know, so it's really, really hard to say, but I would venture to say it was somewhere in the early 1900s, when they originated here in South Colton.

TOM RIVERA: Okay.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And what part of Mexico did they come from? Do you know?

MANUEL BELTRAN: Culiacán, Sinaloa.

TOM RIVERA: Culiacán, Sinaloa?

MANUEL BELTRAN: Culiacán, Sinaloa. In fact, we still have quite a few relatives out there, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And tell me: where did your grandpa -- where did he live when he moved to Colton?

MANUEL BELTRAN: Well, it's kinda hard to say. You're talking about [Nicolas?] Beltran, my dad's father, right?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: They lived by San Salvador Preschool. I don't remember the street, though, exactly.

MANUEL BELTRAN: They did? Yeah, yeah, and he went to --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: They grew up there.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- that San Salvador School --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- Agua Mansa. And, see, my grandfather and [00:02:00] my grandmother didn't stay married very long.

TOM RIVERA: I see.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah, and I think they were married less than a year, and he decided to up and leave, and my dad took over the family. And I know they lived, what, on N Street, or O Street?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: I think so. He --

TOM RIVERA: On N Street?

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: He was born here 1927.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah, yeah. But he had to quit school at a very young age to become the main support of that family, and he took care of them as if he was the dad.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: He worked for the railroad.

MANUEL BELTRAN: He worked for the railroad for 46, 47 years.

TOM RIVERA: The railroad? Was that --

MANUEL BELTRAN: Pacific

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Union Pacific? Southern Pacific?

TOM RIVERA: Southern Pacific?

MANUEL BELTRAN: Pacific Fruit Express, PFE.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, the PFE.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: Pacific Fruit Express.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yes, yes.

TOM RIVERA: All right.

MANUEL BELTRAN: And he worked his way up to, you know --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Supervisor.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- supervisor, and foreman, and he retired in 1987.

TOM RIVERA: And, you know, Beltran: are you related to the mayor of Colton, Mayor Abe Beltran, 1972?

MANUEL BELTRAN: You know, I went to school with Abe's kids, and [00:03:00] throughout that whole four years in high school they always said we were related, (laughter) but we never --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Grandpa said distant cousin.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah, everybody said --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- distant cousin, so we weren't really sure, and to this day we're not sure.

TOM RIVERA: And have you always lived here in Colton?

MANUEL BELTRAN: Born and raised, and the only time I left Colton was to do my time in the military, you know, and --

TOM RIVERA: When was that?

MANUEL BELTRAN: That was right out of high school, in 1971, late 1971, I went into the military.

TOM RIVERA: What part of the -- what branch of the service?

MANUEL BELTRAN: The Army.

TOM RIVERA: The Army?

MANUEL BELTRAN: The Army, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And how long were you in the service?

MANUEL BELTRAN: I was in the military for three years, and I was an armored crew man. We drove a tank, and stationed in Aschaffenburg, Germany, and, you know, it was the only time in my life that I left Colton.

TOM RIVERA: And when did you get married?

MANUEL BELTRAN: I got -- well, I've been married twice. (laughter)

TOM RIVERA: All right.

MANUEL BELTRAN: The first time was to my daughter's mom, and [Estelle Aldam?] --

TOM RIVERA: What was her name?

MANUEL BELTRAN: Estelle Aldam, and that's a very famous name in the Colton area. Anybody that --

TOM RIVERA: Also lots of relatives.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Oh, yes.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Oh, lots of relatives.

TOM RIVERA: [00:04:00] The Aldam family.

MANUEL BELTRAN: That is a very famous family, and I'm really surprised that I can't find their name in the history books here in Colton, at least on the level of high school sports and academics, because they were really, really good, you know. But --

TOM RIVERA: So you married Stella?

MANUEL BELTRAN: Uh-huh.

TOM RIVERA: What year?

MANUEL BELTRAN: We were for 12 years. I think I got married in '78.

TOM RIVERA: Uh-huh.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah, and --

TOM RIVERA: Did you have a church wedding?

MANUEL BELTRAN: No. (laughter)

TOM RIVERA: Okay.

MANUEL BELTRAN: No, we didn't have a church wedding.

TOM RIVERA: Tell me about your wedding.

MANUEL BELTRAN: You like Vegas? (laughter)

TOM RIVERA: Oh, Vegas, okay.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah, we went out to Vegas and we got married there.

We were married for 12 years. We were very young, in our early twenties. And then I remarried [Cindy McCall?], and -- who's born and raised in Colton herself, you know, one of the few white families who stayed in the Colton area, and she's still here to this day.

TOM RIVERA: And out of that first marriage, we have Stephanie.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

MANUEL BELTRAN: We got Stephanie, and I also have --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Nineteen seventy-nine.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- a stepson, [Michael Cervantes?].

TOM RIVERA: Is she the oldest? Is Stephanie --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: I have -- my mom had a son. His name was Michael Cervantes. He's older, (laughs) yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Well, tell me about you. You grew up [00:05:00] here in Colton?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes, I --

TOM RIVERA: Where were you born?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: I was born in Fontana, but I was -- my first home was over here by Wilson Elementary, actually, and then we moved over by McKinley, on Serrano Court. I attended Lincoln Elementary, Colton Junior High, and then graduated 1997 from Colton High School.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, you're a young one.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah. (laughter)

MANUEL BELTRAN: But she also acquired her AA degree and a bachelor's degree, also, so she's been, you know --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, you went to Valley College, got your AA degree?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes, and I went -- I did online schooling. I went to Ashford University. I have a bachelor's in psychology.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, congratulations.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: That's wonderful. Now, Stephanie, do you have any children?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: I do. I have three daughters. (laughter)

TOM RIVERA: Are they here right now?

MANUEL BELTRAN: They're running around here right now.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah, they're outside right now.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, great, great. How old are they?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Eight, gonna be four, and two and a half. Yes.

TOM RIVERA: And tell me again, when did you graduate from Colton High School?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Nineteen ninety-seven.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, you're also a Yellowjacket.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yes, we're all --

TOM RIVERA: You're a Yellowjacket.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah, yeah.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Like my parents. (laughs)

MANUEL BELTRAN: [00:06:00] Traditional.

TOM RIVERA: And did you marry a local boy?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes. Well, his family came from Texas in the 1960s, actually.

TOM RIVERA: But their roots are established as Hassos here in Colton, yeah.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: The Hasso family, yes. Big family. (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: Big family --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: -- that came from Texas, and... But they had family here in Colton?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes, mm-hmm.

TOM RIVERA: And what is your last name?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Hasso.

TOM RIVERA: Hasso. Hasso. And your husband's first name?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Peter.

TOM RIVERA: Peter Hasso?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Mm-hmm.

TOM RIVERA: And did you meet in high school?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: We did. (laughter) Yes.

TOM RIVERA: And how long have you been married?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: It'll be 12 years this year.

TOM RIVERA: Congratulations.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah, (laughs) thank you.

TOM RIVERA: What month --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: In October.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, it's coming up.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: It's coming up.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: But I -- we've been together for, like, off -- 20 years we've known each other. It's been a long time.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, congratulations.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And Stephanie, what are you doing now? Frank tells me that you're --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: I work at Colton Middle School. (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: Colton Middle School?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: So you --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: I've been --

TOM RIVERA: -- went to school -- you were born here, you went to school here, you graduate from high school here, [00:07:00] you didn't go too far --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: No.

TOM RIVERA: -- you went to Valley College --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: -- you're back in Colton, and you're working here at Colton Middle School.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: What do you do at Colton Middle School?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: I do the attendance. Yes.

TOM RIVERA: What does that involve?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Just, like, clearing the absence of the students, when they come in late, and, you know... It keeps me busy all day long. (laughs) I do a lot with the -- I do a lot with the kids --

MANUEL BELTRAN: But she's not giving herself enough credit. She's the primary secretary there.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: I do a lot.

MANUEL BELTRAN: She's, like, the admin --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- administrative assistant, so to speak --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- and she does more than just attendance.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: No, it's a lot in there. (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: So you're busy all the time.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: All day in there.

MANUEL BELTRAN: She's a wiz on the computer, too.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah. Been there 15 years.

TOM RIVERA: Fifteen years? That's quite a long time.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah. (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: Yeah.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: And the -- tell me about -- I was gonna ask what you do there, but your dad very nicely described what you did there. (laughter)

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: No, you're -- both of you are native Coltonites.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Oh, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Tell me: what was the best thing that you remember about growing up in Colton? [00:08:00] Think about it for 30 -- for a few seconds.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: You know --

TOM RIVERA: What is the best thing that you remember about growing up in Colton?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: The close community, the unity between everybody, 'cause, like, with my family, we would always go with other families camping. You know, it was just really fun. I remember having parties there. Even today, I have a party, I'm sure a lot of other families will be there, also.

TOM RIVERA: And what families do you remember going camping with you?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: My goodness. There's a [Campa?] family. There's a [Ortiz?] family, a [Calunga?] family, [Ornales?] family. There's -- gosh, so many -- a [Rubio?] family. There's a lot that I remember growing up.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, so there was a wonderful group of families that --

MANUEL BELTRAN: Oh, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: -- you knew that --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: -- went camping with the families.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Mm-hmm.

TOM RIVERA: And where did you go camping?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: We would go to -- down to Rosarito, actually, Mexico.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, in Mexico.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: In Mexico. That must have been per--

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: It was fun.

TOM RIVERA: That would've been fun.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: It was, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah.

MANUEL BELTRAN: You know what I remember [00:09:00] about Colton, what -- my fondest memories after 63 years, are those pictures that I see right there.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: (laughs) Yes, that's really neat to see.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Those pictures that reflect, you know, those Coltonites that I went to school with. And living in South Colton, born and raised, and I remember these families from LA coming in, and bringing in their Dodger uniforms

and Angel caps, and then we'd make these baseball fields out there. We were happy with the basic stuff we had, you know. We didn't need all this modern technology. We were happy, you know? Baseball, sports, you know, checking out friends across the street. It was just -- it was a community network. It was fantastic. Really was. And that's why I don't forget any of this. And this library, we used to get little stars, man, for reading their books, (laughter) you know. Chucky remembers that. Yeah, we used to get little stars, and come in here all excited after reading our books. Yeah, it was just great, man. Yeah. Oh, he's got one. (laughter) [00:10:00] Yeah, this will really blow your mind, though. That is --

TOM RIVERA: Show it to the cam-- show it to --

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah, this is really somethin'.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: My dad and my --

MANUEL BELTRAN: In this picture --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: That's --

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- I am in there --

TOM RIVERA: Oh, you're there.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah, my brother is in there, my wife -- my current wife -
- her two -- her husband-to-be (laughs) and his brothers are in there, you know?

And a lot of the people that I went to high school with. And the strange thing about it is not all of 'em attended Wilson School. This -- they were -- they came from everywhere.

TOM RIVERA: What grade is this?

MANUEL BELTRAN: God, I'd like to say fourth or -- third or fourth grade.

TOM RIVERA: Third or fourth grade?

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah, but not all of 'em attended Wilson School. You got kids here from Lincoln and Grant, you know, and other schools. And it just -- it

was just a wonderful time period. And this library was, like, a special thing. You had to earn this library, you know, in class. So it was great. Thanks, Chucky. Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: [00:11:00] And the future. I think both of you are convinced that this is a good place --

MANUEL BELTRAN: I ain't goin' nowhere.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah, me, neither. (laughter) I don't wanna go nowhere.

MANUEL BELTRAN: No.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: I'm comfortable here.

MANUEL BELTRAN: No.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah.

MANUEL BELTRAN: My wife's family tried to convince me to go to Idaho in a visit. Unh-uh. (laughter) Unh-uh. No, I'm a Coltonite. I -- you know, I had enough of overseas and flying and everything else, and my dad, who was in Colton for, what, eighty --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Eighty-five years.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- 85 years, you know? We just wanna continue that trend.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: He was like our historian.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Oh, he was our everything.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: He knew a lot.

TOM RIVERA: And you mentioned that you had a lot of pictures.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah. I don't know what ended up the -- I don't know. My grandfather passed away a few years ago, and --

MANUEL BELTRAN: My brother has 'em all.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah. Well, if you can let us borrow them --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: -- so we can scan them, and we can add to the broad --

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah, she's got a lot. My brother's got a lot of pictures, too.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah. I didn't know you had some.

TOM RIVERA: (laughs) Well, you know, I -- did I -- is there anything that you would like to share with us regarding being a Coltonite, being a Yellowjacket, (laughter) [00:12:00] growing up and raising kids in Colton? And you have a family, that you're raising your family. Your work schedule is just a very heavy work schedule. Is there anything that I forgot to ask you that you would like to share with us?

MANUEL BELTRAN: Only the fact that a combination of the community and the networking of, you know... 'Cause I've been dealing with children all my life, you know, and I got into social work and child abuse investigation as a result of the Colton community, as a result of the networking with families and stuff, and my own kids. So I owe Colton a lot, especially.

TOM RIVERA: Well, you know, I didn't ask you what you did.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: What was your profession? What did you do?

MANUEL BELTRAN: Well, I started in South Colton as a substance abuse counselor, working with the community there, with, you know, people under the influence of heroin and other drugs, and that was back in the '70s, so you could imagine. And I knew all these guys, (laughs) 'cause I went to school with them.

And I was just telling Chucky there how I [00:13:00] managed to be on the outside lookin' in, 'cause I never got into any of that stuff, thanks to upbringing, but it helped me achieve what I wanted to achieve. I -- along the same lines as my daughter, I got my AA and my bachelor's, and got into social work, and I --

TOM RIVERA: Well, where did you go to school?

MANUEL BELTRAN: I went to school at Pacific Western University.

TOM RIVERA: Okay, okay.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah, but --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: And Valley.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah, and Valley. But more than that is that it got me into child abuse investigation, and protecting kids, and it's just --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: He worked for the City of Colton, and our school dis--

MANUEL BELTRAN: Oh, yeah, I worked for their...

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: He used to be at all the school sites.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Oh, yeah, I was at all those schools, too --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- you know, doing counseling with the kids, and --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- setting up after school programs. Yeah. But that led to my child abuse investigation work.

TOM RIVERA: So you were quite busy during that period.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Oh, yeah. (laughter) I'm retired now and I'm enjoying it. A lot of people can't handle retirement.

TOM RIVERA: When did you retire?

MANUEL BELTRAN: I retired eight years ago. Yeah, eight years ago, which would've been, what, 2008?

TOM RIVERA: Yes.

MANUEL BELTRAN: [It would've been?]?

TOM RIVERA: Well, you know, there's a family that -- they belong to [00:14:00] (inaudible) Outreach, and they're -- the boys that run the operation were here from Colton.

MANUEL BELTRAN: We used to work with them when I worked out here, but I'm sure that they've kind of changed, you know, directors and stuff.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah.

MANUEL BELTRAN: I used to work for Los Padrinos, too.

TOM RIVERA: You did?

MANUEL BELTRAN: Oh, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: With [Gil Lada?].

MANUEL BELTRAN: And Tim [Gurgen?] --

TOM RIVERA: Tim Gurgen.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- and [Tony Diaz?], and we did that whole thing. We did the runaway hotline. We did all that.

TOM RIVERA: So that's where we know each other from.

MANUEL BELTRAN: That...! (laughter) So you used to be on the board, I take it. You were on the board, right? Yeah, yeah. And I was working there with [Gene Milhous?] and all those guys, and we used to go out and talk to the kids at the schools and stuff. Yeah, so you were on that board.

TOM RIVERA: I was.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Okay!

TOM RIVERA: I was very active.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Okay.

TOM RIVERA: We set that up with Joe, the probation officer.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah. Oh, Joe --

TOM RIVERA: I forget --

MANUEL BELTRAN: Not Joe [Baca?], was it?

TOM RIVERA: No, Joe, the probation officer [from Bailey?].

MANUEL BELTRAN: Acosta, Acosta.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, Joe Acosta. We did that.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah. Yeah, we were very active. And, you know, Los Padrinos did a lot of things for the community.

TOM RIVERA: They did.

MANUEL BELTRAN: They really did. I mean, they didn't really have a positive image because of the [00:15:00] things that had happened in the past, but when I was there, it was a lot of good stuff. Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: A lot of dedication to the community --

MANUEL BELTRAN: A lot.

TOM RIVERA: -- and also to the kids.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah, and we used to have private fundraisers, and doing a lot of stuff to try to generate some moneys to have some, you know, programs to buy some vans and transport the kids. Yeah, we had a good time. It was good.

TOM RIVERA: How about you, Steph? (laughter) Anything that I forgot about you?

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: No. No. Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: You know, Colton has changed tremendously.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: In the old days, when I was raised in Colton, we had de facto segregation, that Mexicans lived on the south part of Colton, and we couldn't cross the railroad.

MANUEL BELTRAN: I remember that, yeah. My dad used to tell me about that, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Uh-huh.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: What did your dad say about that?

MANUEL BELTRAN: Well, every time we drove down La Cadena south, towards, like, let's say, Grand Terrace --

TOM RIVERA: Yes.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- he always pointed to a section where there was a swimming pool --

TOM RIVERA: Yes.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- and he said that was a [00:16:00] segregated pool out there, that that's where the Mexicans --

TOM RIVERA: Right.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- (laughs) would, you know, have their activities, or out, you know... They couldn't come to the other side.

TOM RIVERA: Right.

MANUEL BELTRAN: And, whoa, I was surprised to hear that.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah.

MANUEL BELTRAN: And I remember all our theaters here, too. Didn't we have, like, three or four theaters, movie theaters?

TOM RIVERA: Yes.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah, and --

TOM RIVERA: The Hub City, and the New Colton.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah, and I don't really quite remember if it was a mixed theater or not. I was only, like, five or six years old --

TOM RIVERA: Yeah.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- and my grandmother and my mother used to go, but my dad told me at one time Mexicans were restricted to a certain theater, so I don't know.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, both theaters had a section for Mexicans. Yeah, both theaters had a... But that was back then, you know. When I was growing up, we had that de facto segregation. But now, you know, I see that tremendous change in Colton now.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Oh, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: South Colton is not the South Colton that I grew up in. It almost seems like --

MANUEL BELTRAN: It's scary to me.

TOM RIVERA: -- it's [00:17:00] deserted now.

MANUEL BELTRAN: It's becoming industrialized. My uncle and my dad's homes on Jefferson Avenue, towards Griffin Wheel there --

TOM RIVERA: Yes.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- are the only two remaining homes --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: On that side, yeah.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- on that side, and at one time there was a lot of households out there.

TOM RIVERA: Yes.

MANUEL BELTRAN: But now it's becoming industrialized. They're buying a lot of properties. And it's kinda scary to see all of that go away, yeah. It has changed. Colton has changed.

TOM RIVERA: It has, tremendously.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yep, yep.

TOM RIVERA: Well, listen, thank you so much for --

MANUEL BELTRAN: Sure.

TOM RIVERA: -- helping us with the project --

MANUEL BELTRAN: Appreciate it.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: No problem.

TOM RIVERA: -- and volunteering to be our first guinea pigs today.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: It's fun to talk about.

TOM RIVERA: Thank you so much.

MANUEL BELTRAN: But there is one more thing I want to mention about South Colton.

TOM RIVERA: Okay.

MANUEL BELTRAN: A lot of people that I went to school with reached that higher level of education. The Garcia family, right here by Navarro's store, you know... I don't know how far Chucky -- Chucky was an excellent student over there, too, (laughter) but there's a lot of people with a higher level of education in South Colton that went on to do some great things. I also read those articles [00:18:00] about Camilo Carreón and all these, you know, guys that went on to play professional ball.

TOM RIVERA: Yes.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Fantastic.

TOM RIVERA: No, we had a wonderful community.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Oh, we did.

TOM RIVERA: Even though the community was small --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yep.

TOM RIVERA: -- we did have a lot of support.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Like you said, we had that family support --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: -- and we had the neighbors' support, and the community's support, in general --

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: -- where they all helped us, raised us.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And if we got outta line, (laughter) they would immediately --

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Oh, yes.

TOM RIVERA: -- call our parents and tell them that we were out of line.

MANUEL BELTRAN: But that's always been the Chicano strength. I mean --

TOM RIVERA: Yes.

MANUEL BELTRAN: -- Chicano strength is the family network, man. And that'll go on for hundreds of years. And you interview any non-Hispanic person, and they'll tell you that. If they have any familiarity with the Hispanic culture, they're gonna say it's the family, that's the strength. So, yeah. But thanks. Thank you very much. (laughter)

TOM RIVERA: Well, thank you --

MANUEL BELTRAN: Appreciate it. Sure enough.

TOM RIVERA: -- for being with us this morning, and...

MANUEL BELTRAN: You guys got to be interviewing more folks, all right?

TOM RIVERA: Can you go recruit some?

MANUEL BELTRAN: Sure, I can. (laughter) Chucky's one of 'em, right there.

TOM RIVERA: [00:19:00] Well, thank you again.

MANUEL BELTRAN: Okay.

STEPHANIE BELTRAN HASSO: Thank you.

MANUEL BELTRAN: All right, thank you.

End of Interview:

[00:19:04]