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Eddie Castorena and Armando "Ray" Sanchez

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South Colton Oral History Project

Interview Summary

Interviewee:

Eddie Castorena, Armando "Ray" Sanchez

Interviewer:

Tom Rivera

Interview Date:

January 16, 2015

Interview Location:

San Bernardino, CA

Length:

01:21:19

Interview Summary completed by:

M. Camacho Nuno, 2024

Description:

Tom Rivera first interviews Eddie Castorena, a native of South Colton. Castorena goes over his parents' marriage in the early 1900s then about his family. For example, he has brothers who served in World War II and the Korean War. Both he and Rivera then discuss the time spent as youth living in South Colton. They reminisce about the games they played as children and about chasing the dump trucks to find food or other items. In the second half of the interview, another interviewee joins, a man by the name of Armando "Ray" Sanchez. He then speaks about his time traveling around the world as an architect. Both Castorena and Sanchez talk about the sports they played as children as well as their journey in education. At the end of the interview, there are discussions of discrimination in the workplace. Particularly, remembering the "Whites Only" signs and being called stereotypical names.

Subject Topic:

- Music and Art
- Orchards
- Brothers in service during WWII and Korea
- Mexican American Community in South Colton
- Cosmetology
- Segregation
- Sports

Spatial Coverage:

Name of Site (if relevant)	General Location/Address
La Paloma	Neighborhood in Colton, CA

La Reserva	Area in South Colton, CA
The Agua Mansa Pioneer Cemetery	2001 Agua Mansa Rd, Colton, CA 92324
Garfield Elementary School	Colton, CA (Defunct Location)
Woodrow Wilson Elementary School	750 S 8th 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
California State University Long Beach	1250 Bellflower Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90840
Pratt Institute School of Architecture	61 St James Pl, Brooklyn, NY 11238
Deming	City in New Mexico

Temporal Coverage:
1898-2015

Key Events:

- Castorena works picking fruit to buy a car.
- Playing baseball in local South Colton teams.
- The fashion of the time and learning how to cut hair.
- Sanchez sees the lack of pushing Latinos to get secondary education.
- Using the lack of support to push as an inspiration for Sanchez's own academic journey into architecture.
- Traveling around the world to work in architecture.
- Discrimination at work and how it has not fully gone away.

Key Organizations:

- Portland Cement Company
- The Pacific Coast League
- Centrales Baseball Team
- The Portland Cement Band
- Kaiser Permanente

Interview Index:

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
Digital Video	00:16:49 - 00:19:08	Castorena's father did artwork for Kaiser, working with cement, and markings for the Agua Mansa cemetery.

Digital Video	00:21:00 - 00:22:39	Splashing in puddles and following the dump trucks as children to find food and other things.
Digital Video	00:33:54 - 00:36:58	Castorena lying about how he got his perm and Rivera starting to cut hair on the weekends.
Digital Video	00:45:44 - 00:47:24	Sanchez discusses the assassination of Malcolm X and working for the Bronx Zoo.
Digital Video	01:10:19 - 01:12:42	Discrimination while working as a Mexican American.

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 afternoon, I'm Dr. Tom Rivera. And today is January the 16th, 2015, and we're in the Pfau Library at Cal State San Bernardino. We're on the fifth floor, and for our project today it's -- the name of our project is the Oral History of South Colton, and the person that's on the committee that's helping with the project is Mr. Frank Acosta. And Frank is a retired teacher that taught for many years for Colton Unified School District. And he's in charge of taping this DVD. Also, this afternoon, is -- our guest this afternoon is Mr. Eddie Castorena, Eddie Carmen Castorena. Eddie was born and raised in Colton. And he and I [00:01:00] were neighbors on O Street, so Eddie, thank you so much for being with us this afternoon. Truly appreciate you taking time off and being with us for this interview. And as you know, the purpose of this project is get a little bit about history, the history of Colton, and especially, some of those experiences that you went through as you were growing up in school. Being raised -- being born in Colton, being raised in Colton, being raised in a particular area of Colton. And then, some of those experiences that you had, not only in the neighborhood in La Paloma, but also in school, and some of the activities that you had when you were, you know, with your friends. And so we'll get started. Why don't we get started, and let's talk about your mom and dad. Tell me about your mom and dad. When did they first come to Colton? Well first of all, [00:02:00] what was your dad's name?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Porfirio Castorena.

TOM RIVERA: And what was your mom's name?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Andrea Ybarra.

TOM RIVERA: Andrea Ybarra Castorena.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Castorena.

TOM RIVERA: Now, Eddie, when did they get married? Do you know, do you have an idea? Was it the early 1900s?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Probably, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And how did they --

EDDIE CASTORENA: No, 1900, no, cause my mom was born in 1900. And my dad was born in 1898, of September the 16th. My mom was born in 1900, November the 30th.

TOM RIVERA: November the 30th. So they were two years apart then?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: And then possibly, they met in 1916, '17, or '18 --

EDDIE CASTORENA: I think my mom was 15, and my dad was 17 when they got married.

TOM RIVERA: Ah, okay, [00:03:00] so they married before 1920. Now how did they meet, Eddie?

EDDIE CASTORENA: I think, well my dad, they had a band, Los Castorenas. And they would go play in East Highland.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, so your dad was a musician.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: What did he play?

EDDIE CASTORENA: He played the clarinet.

TOM RIVERA: He and his brothers.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: How many brothers did he have?

EDDIE CASTORENA: He had, well let me see, Sebastian, [Sal?] [Pio?], and Arturo, four brothers. And there were five altogether.

TOM RIVERA: Five brothers altogether. And did they all play in the band?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Uh, not, I don't think Sal played. Only Sebastian, Arturo, and I don't know about Pio, if he played. And my dad.

TOM RIVERA: So your dad was in East Highland playing, and he met your mom?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, they used to go play for dances over there.

TOM RIVERA: And then they got together, and they married [00:04:00] a few years later?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And did they move to Colton right away?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Well yes, I guess they did come to Colton, yes, yeah. Well, because my mom's from East Highland, and my dad was from Colton. So they came to Colton, and they lived on Fifth Street there, on Fifth and, L is it, on the corner where Arturo lived there too. They had two houses. It was a big house in the corner, and then there was a small house next door. That's where my mom and dad lived.

TOM RIVERA: So Fifth and L in South Colton. And that area of town was called La Reserva.

EDDIE CASTORENA: La Reserva.

TOM RIVERA: And then, when they got married, your dad worked for the Port [Elizabeth?] company?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, Port [Desimand?] Company for, he was a water, I guess a water (inaudible) for the mules, he used to water the [00:05:00] mules there.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, so the early part of mining the cement, they used mules to haul the carts and cement back and forth.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: And your dad's responsibility was what?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Well he used to just water the mules, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: He took care of the mules?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Take care of the mules and water them.

TOM RIVERA: What did your mom's dad do?

EDDIE CASTORENA: My mom's dad used to be an orchard, he used to take care of the orchards in East Highland.

TOM RIVERA: Okay, okay, that was the citrus orchards?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, citrus orchards. And so, at first, I guess they lived in Colton, because they used to go in the Calesa --

TOM RIVERA: Carreta?

EDDIE CASTORENA: -- to and from East Highland to Colton.

TOM RIVERA: Horse-drawn caretas?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Calesa, you know --

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, from East Highland, carts from East Highland to Colton, and from Colton to East Highland?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Wow, that was a long [00:06:00] trip.

EDDIE CASTORENA: And then finally, they moved to East Highland. You know, that was even before I guess my mom got, went there.

TOM RIVERA: Let's see if I have it straight then. Your mom's dad lived in Colton, but he took care of orchards --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Orchards in East Highland.

TOM RIVERA: At East Highland. So he finally went to East Highland, okay.

EDDIE CASTORENA: That's what, when my dad used to go play over there, and that's where --

TOM RIVERA: That's where, and then he brought her back to Colton.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: Now, also your grandfather [Firenzio?], Firenzio was your dad's father?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: Now where did Firenzio, when did he come to Colton? Where did he -- did he come from Mexico?

EDDIE CASTORENA: I think he came from Mexico, yes.

TOM RIVERA: What part of Mexico?

EDDIE CASTORENA: I don't remember.

TOM RIVERA: Was it Aguas Calientes?

EDDIE CASTORENA: No, [00:07:00] I don't know if he was there. But they -- some -- they were already here in Colton.

TOM RIVERA: Okay.

EDDIE CASTORENA: And then, they went to Agua Calientes for something, I guess, I don't know. And that's where my dad was born, in Aguas Calientes. And at a ranch called [Pinuelas?] Ranch, there was a Ranch there.

TOM RIVERA: So Ranchito --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Ranchito, Rancho --

TOM RIVERA: Pinuelas?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Pinuelas, that's where my dad was born. And then they came back to Colton, you know, to visit or whatever, you know.

TOM RIVERA: So originally grandpa was from Mexico?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yes, I guess so, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And then he came to California, Colton?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, and then for some reason, he went back, and that's where he was, my dad was born over there.

TOM RIVERA: So that was early 1900s then.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, like I said, my dad was born in 1898, so yeah.

TOM RIVERA: So you have [00:08:00] a lot of history there in Colton. Now, your dad's family, brother and sisters, you said they had 12 brothers and sisters?

EDDIE CASTORENA: No -- well, my dad.

TOM RIVERA: Your dad and your mom, 12 brothers and sisters?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And eight boys?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Eight boys and four girls.

TOM RIVERA: And four girls, but two of your siblings passed away?

EDDIE CASTORENA: When they were young, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: When they were young. And did your brothers, were they in the service, Eddie, during World War II?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yes, I had two in World War II. Pete and Ricky.

TOM RIVERA: Where was Pete stationed?

EDDIE CASTORENA: He was in Germany, and Ricky was in the Philippines, in New Guinea. He was fighting over there, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And Pete got killed in --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, in Luxembourg.

TOM RIVERA: In Luxembourg, Journey.

EDDIE CASTORENA: 1945, I think it was 1945 [00:09:00] when he got shot.

TOM RIVERA: And then your other two brothers, Johnny and Tommy --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Tommy, they were in Korea.

TOM RIVERA: They were in Korea, and Freddy was in Korea too.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Too, but at the time they weren't fighting yet. So I don't know if he got any action there. But as long as I know, it's, Tommy and Johnny were, they fought.

TOM RIVERA: So five of your brothers were World War or Korean Conflict. And then the second-oldest David, David Castorena, he didn't pass the test.

EDDIE CASTORENA: No he didn't.

TOM RIVERA: You know, I remember David. I remember David because when we were little kids, tiny little kids, David would -- I don't know whether he would got a projector.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Oh yes.

TOM RIVERA: He'd get the projector, and then he would bring those big reels, and show us movies in front of your house at night, right in front of the dirt [00:10:00] driveway, yeah. We were there at those (inaudible), yeah, watching those films. So I remember David doing that for us. And then your sister Lena was a cosmetologist.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, she was a beauty operator.

TOM RIVERA: She did the beauty operator, yeah. And she married a baseball player, [Taylor Duarte?], the Duarte family. And so anyway, it's you know, the families in Colton were quite united back then. Because my grandpa, [Sisto?] Rivera and Victoria Rivera were your neighbor, Porfirio and Andrea's neighbors. And they were good neighbors; they were very, very good neighbors.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right, yeah. Well my grandpa from my mom's side, Tomas Ybarra and Isabel, they used to be -- [00:11:00] used to hang around with their grandpa, and Victoria, you know. Then they used to party together, I guess it was.

TOM RIVERA: I'm sure they did.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Even my mom took Victoria as a mom, (inaudible).

TOM RIVERA: That's right, because if --

EDDIE CASTORENA: If she was sick, my mom took care of her for the longest times.

TOM RIVERA: Well you know if, my grandma must have been in her, maybe 18, 20s, 18 or 20, when they moved to be your neighbors on O Street. And yeah, that's Tomas, Ybarra, and your grandmother were neighbors, so yes. By the time your mom was 15 and married, my grandma would have been about 35, 40 years old.

EDDIE CASTORENA: They were real close, you know, real close. [00:12:00]

TOM RIVERA: So that led, I guess, not only good neighbors, but also good community. Because next to your mom and dad, we had the Castros.

EDDIE CASTORENA: The Castros, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: They were there for a long time.

EDDIE CASTORENA: They were there for the longest time too.

TOM RIVERA: So the Castros were on 12th Street, 12th and O.

EDDIE CASTORENA: And then, next, there was Rosales.

TOM RIVERA: Then your house, and then our house, and then the Rosales. And at the end of the corner were the Marques --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Marques (inaudible) next, on the other corner was the Morales. And then in front of -- to the Marques, your tia, (inaudible), all your (inaudible) --

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, that's right, [Mejia?] (inaudible).

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, and then the Fernandez.

TOM RIVERA: Well they keep (inaudible).

EDDIE CASTORENA: (inaudible) the Fernadez.

TOM RIVERA: Remember in front of [00:13:00] our house, we had the empty lot?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, the empty lot.

EDDIE CASTORENA: They were empty, yeah. How about, (inaudible) Antonio Hernandez, (inaudible) -- Castro?

TOM RIVERA: They were Castro, they were Castro. And they had that property across the street. And remember they planted --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Corn, corn.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, tomatoes, cheese. And that was the [Se-Castro?].

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, but Antonio, he was the one that was planting all the veggies there and everything.

TOM RIVERA: So he was the agriculture person for the family?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Let me see, your dad was also a ballplayer.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: A baseball player. What position did he play?

EDDIE CASTORENA: He played first base.

TOM RIVERA: First base?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: He was a big guy, he was a tall guy, he was a pretty tall guy. And what team did he play for?

EDDIE CASTORENA: For the Centrales, [00:14:00] they used to call them the Centrales.

TOM RIVERA: The Centrales, that was part of the team from the --

EDDIE CASTORENA: The Pacific Coast League, that was part of, the league was the Pacific Coast League, and the Centrales, you know. They use to go and play all over.

TOM RIVERA: Well you know, where was a team from Juan Caldera, because Juan Caldera had his baseball field on South Fifth Street, and your dad played for them?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, he played, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: What about your uncle, did they play for the Centrales also? They also played for him?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, they played for him too.

TOM RIVERA: All of them, or just --

EDDIE CASTORENA: All of them, just Arturo, Salvador, and Pio. Yeah, they played for him.

TOM RIVERA: And that was in the 1924, '25, '26, '27. So he was an avid ballplayer, he played all the time?

EDDIE CASTORENA: All the time, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And like you said, they played all over the place.

EDDIE CASTORENA: All over the place, went all over.

TOM RIVERA: Teams from San Bernardino, from East Highland, [00:15:00] teams from Redlands, Cucamonga, yeah, all over the place. And then your dad was also a musician?

EDDIE CASTORENA: A musician too. They had a band, the Castorenas had a band, and then he played.

TOM RIVERA: What did he play?

EDDIE CASTORENA: He played clarinet.

TOM RIVERA: And we talked about, he played on the band and meeting your mom in East Highland, because they were playing there.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Well that's how she met, playing in a band.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, and then your dad was also, not only played for, he also played for the band of the cement plant, you know, the cement plant?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Probably he did, that I think probably he did play for the cement plant, yeah. But that, the boys, Salvador and Arturo played for the team for the cement plant, because they have pictures.

TOM RIVERA: They played for the Centrales, plus the team from the cement plant?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yes, Arturo and Salvador.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah. Let me ask Henry Vásquez. Henry Vásquez just walked in. And Henry is one of our committee members that started this [00:16:00] project. So Henry, good to have you this afternoon. Henry, there was a band, was it the Portland Cement Band that was talked about before, that perhaps Eddie's grandfather played for, do you remember that?

HENRY VÁSQUEZ: Not really. I mean I know that there was a band there, and I know there was a baseball team, cause my dad used to talk about it. But I don't know any details.

TOM RIVERA: Well if you do remember, please interrupt, and it's good to have you here.

HENRY VÁSQUEZ: Yeah, if I remember --

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, and if you have any questions, so are free just to chime in, okay? Not only was your dad a musician, a ballplayer, but he also was an artist.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right.

TOM RIVERA: And you said he used a pencil and he used [00:17:00] paints and watercolor and everything to do his artwork. Is any of that work remaining, Eddie? Did anything --

EDDIE CASTORENA: I think someboy's got pictures (inaudible). Well even when he worked for Kaiser, he used to draw over there in Kaiser. And there was this guy that used to, every time we see this one, he would --

TOM RIVERA: When did your dad work for Kaiser?

EDDIE CASTORENA: From, I don't know. He worked 20 years there.

TOM RIVERA: Cement plant, and then work for Kaiser also?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, in the later years, you know, when he was older, he worked on -- he had a [car?], and he had a place painted I guess where he worked. The guys would tell me, your dad draws women, he would draw, you know, so.

TOM RIVERA: So he was quite an artist then. Did any of you, any of the boys inherit the art talent?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, Tommy and Mickey [00:18:00]

TOM RIVERA: They're both artists, también? They're both artists, yeah. And let's see, what else did your ad do?

EDDIE CASTORENA: He was a cement finisher. He worked with cement.

TOM RIVERA: He worked with cement and was talented with cement, because he made those benches.

EDDIE CASTORENA: The benches at the park, and those, oh, he did all the markings for the old cemetery in Hermosa, I mean in --

TOM RIVERA: Agua Mansa?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Agua Mansa.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, your dad did the marking for Agua Mansa --

EDDIE CASTORENA: It's all, most of the marking chair. Even in later years, he did -- he was replacing a lot of, with the cross and everything, you know, the hearts and everything that they --

TOM RIVERA: Do you remember what years, Eddie? How old were you? Were you a little kids then?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah I was young; I was young -- he would go there.

TOM RIVERA: But it was actively involved in Hermosa. Trying to put down the markings, replace markings. [00:19:00]

EDDIE CASTORENA: At the -- Agua Mansa. Most of the markings my dad put there.

TOM RIVERA: I'll be darned, Eddie, I'll be darned, yeah. And then your never quit, because the other hobby that he had, he would take pits, huesos de --

EDDIE CASTORENA: De durazno, [chabacano?], anything and make those monkeys.

TOM RIVERA: And make little monkey out of those [pits?]. And I remember my little brother Danny kept one of those little monkeys from your dad, and he kept it for years and years and years, yeah. That was one of his prized possessions.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Everybody used to have his monkeys, I don't know what happened to him. But I saved -- my brother still, and he showed him more or less how to make one. And I learned more or less how to make --

TOM RIVERA: Now, did your mom work, or was she a stay-at-home mom?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Stay-at-home mom. [00:20:00] Your daddy used to get mad at her cause he would -- at four o'clock, she'd be making those tortillas, you know, (inaudible), and she would, Danny would tell, "You wake me up every morning making those tortillas, you know, you should start later!"

TOM RIVERA: So your mom got up early and made tortillas for everybody!

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, right.

TOM RIVERA: We were close enough that my little brother would hear --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, (inaudible) wake him up. Why don't you (inaudible) later, every morning you wake me up with banging that pelote, you know, making the tortillas. (laughter) Yes, he used to get on her all the time.

TOM RIVERA: (laughs) My little brother was very proud, was very close to your mom, very close.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Oh yeah, real close. He was real close to us, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, he was very close to your mom, yeah. So, your dad was always busy. Your dad was a very quiet guy.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, very quiet, yeah, (inaudible) say much. [00:21:00]

TOM RIVERA: And let's see, let's talk about you. You and I grew up in La Paloma (inaudible).

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right.

TOM RIVERA: And at that time, we had O Street that was not paved, between 11th and 12th, was not paved.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right.

TOM RIVERA: And even 10th to 11th Street was not paved. And remember when it rained, we got heavy rains. And then that street got full of water and mud and puddles, yeah. But it was fun --

EDDIE CASTORENA: We would run through it, yeah, we would run through the puddles and everything, you know, was fun (inaudible).

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, and they were little kids, we were tiny. We were what, six, seven, eight, nine years old, yeah. And then when the streets were wet, and we had puddles on them, the dump trucks would show up, Eddie.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Oh yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Remember the dump trucks would show up? Because the city dump was at the end [00:22:00] of our street, at the end of O Street. And what did we do Eddie, when we saw those dump trucks?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Oh, would just go to the dump and follow them around and see what they got. Those orange, they used to throw oranges and all kinds of stuff. We'd go through the trash and, whatsoever, you know, see what we could find to eat. (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: That was a gold mine for us.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, it was gold mine, anything, they threw everything.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, so the dumps were there, they unloaded their haul, and then all of us, all of us in the neighborhood, would there be picking at the -- whatever that was there.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, whatever we could find, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And did we find good things, Eddie?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, oh sure, we did (inaudible) --

TOM RIVERA: What did we find, Eddie?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Well one time, this color guy that used to take care of the --

TOM RIVERA: [Putnam?] --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Putnam, we used to call them [partna?].

TOM RIVERA: Partna.

EDDIE CASTORENA: He had some boots, those jungle boots, you know? He had them out there in front. That's it, [00:23:00] I liked 'em, so I went and grabbed them and started running to the house. (laughs) He goes "Hey," you know. And I fell in the glass and I cut myself. But I ran, you know. And that's one thing my dad would get at, we would get, go and get hurt, he would get mad and hit us.

TOM RIVERA: Spank you.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, so I got home, and he was right there on one of those table, benches. He was doing something, so if I just dropped the jungle boots, you know. And I ran inside to tell my mom I cut myself on my knee, you know? And there he would -- she was over there in the rest-- way back was the restroom, she was (inaudible), and here comes my dad with a broom. He was trying to get me over my mom, you know, trying to hit me, cause I cut myself.

TOM RIVERA: So he's gonna make an honest boy out of you.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right, and so he -- [00:24:00]

TOM RIVERA: And then, well you know, not only boots, but also shoes or anything.

EDDIE CASTORENA: We would find anything, candy.

TOM RIVERA: Remember the comic books?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Oh yeah, the comic books, and all those -- magazines, and everything, we'd find everything there, we got it.

TOM RIVERA: Furniture?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Furniture, it was there for the taking.

TOM RIVERA: So it was a gold mine for us. We looked forward to those dump trucks coming in. And soon as we heard them, we'd run after them, and we'd run after --

EDDIE CASTORENA: The whole neighborhood would run and see what they would get.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, and you went to the oranges, you know?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Oranges from the citrus (inaudible), I guess they used to dump the, I guess -- they were good. The oranges and the grapefruit --

TOM RIVERA: Well you know Eddie -- our area was, lots of citrus, lots of oranges and grapefruits and lemons. Then we had packing houses downtown, two or three of them. [00:25:00] And when they created the oranges, and they didn't pass the test, you know, so they couldn't ship them all over the country, then they would take those oranges that didn't pass the test, put 'em in a big truck, and dump 'em in the neighborhood.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right.

TOM RIVERA: And what did we do?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Run down there and --

TOM RIVERA: Not only did we run down and take 'em home, but we'd get on top of the pile of the oranges, and then we play war --

EDDIE CASTORENA: War, yeah. (laughter) Throw them at each other.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, and well there was another playground. The other playground, Eddie, that we had was the River.

EDDIE CASTORENA: The River, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: The Santa Ana River (inaudible). The Santa Ana River, we'd go there, and what did we do? We'd hide, play soldiers.

EDDIE CASTORENA: And everything.

TOM RIVERA: Played with spears. ¿Qué más, Eddie, qué mas? We'd bathe in the river.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, bathe, and then there was a canal that went to, we called it [Conino?], [00:26:00] Conino Beach. And we used to go over there and swim on the canal there. And then up higher, there was a, [guardito?], they called it a guardito, and then had like a, in the middle it was a stone, you know, up (inaudible), so we'd go up and then someone would dive from the guardito, you know, there was something great, you know, like it was (inaudible) --

TOM RIVERA: And then when we got a little older, Eddie, remember -- what, we had one BB gun among all of us.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Oh yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Then we could stun lizards.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right, and then one time, I got a little, a lizard, and I was holding it like that. And I had my finger, and I said, okay Tommy, shoot the -- poom, he hit the -- then he hit my finger, oh man. Cause I had -- my little finger -- so he got me there, (inaudible).

TOM RIVERA: It's a lizard, we used to get lizards, [00:27:00] with a BB gun. And also, we used to play war at the alfalfa fields, the Cooley alfalfa fields, with our BB guns también, ¿verdad?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right, right, yeah, and go up to Grand Terrace swinging.

TOM RIVERA: And [Jackie?] Hill.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Jackie Hill, Blue Mountain, we used to take, get oranges there in Jackie Hill, and then, you know, hike Blue Mountain, and we would get our oranges up there, you know, so.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, the other thing is that we got older, we got 22s.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right.

TOM RIVERA: Remember we used to go hunt --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Single-shot 22.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, go hunt cottontails there at the river.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right, right.

TOM RIVERA: Did we ever get any -- did we ever hit any rabbits?

EDDIE CASTORENA: No, no. Louis, you know, Louis Rodriguez, he was --

TOM RIVERA: (inaudible).

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, he shot a couple of those jackrabbits, you know?

So, there was something, you know, [weird?] (inaudible).

TOM RIVERA: And let me see, [00:28:00] and then, as little kids, the games that we played -- what did we play? Canicas?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Canicas.

TOM RIVERA: Marbles.

EDDIE CASTORENA: The tops, trompos.

TOM RIVERA: Trompos.

EDDIE CASTORENA: You know, the horseshoes, the washers.

TOM RIVERA: Washers, like horseshoes.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Baseball.

TOM RIVERA: Baseball, softball.

EDDIE CASTORENA: And Fonso had us running track around the, you know, around the block, remember? Alfonso Campa.

TOM RIVERA: Alfonso, lived on N Street?

EDDIE CASTORENA: On N Street, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Just opposite your house, across the alley.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right, right.

TOM RIVERA: And then, he was in high school, and he used to participate in track and football.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Track, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: So when he came back from high school, he would get all the neighborhood kids, and make us track stars, (inaudible) corriendo. Used to run the --

EDDIE CASTORENA: One hundred.

TOM RIVERA: The fifty-yard dash.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Fifty-yard dash and all that. (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: Broad jump.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Broad jump and everything.

TOM RIVERA: Around the [00:29:00] block. We had a good coach.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Oh yeah, he was, he was. He had us going, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, and then he also taught us the basics of football, remember?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yes, uh-huh, the basics, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: The basics of football.

EDDIE CASTORENA: We used to play there in the park, football and everything, you know. Without no pads or nothing, but we used to tackle, huh?

TOM RIVERA: Well, we got older and left (inaudible), we go to the park, and at the park we did play tackle football, ¿verdad?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right.

TOM RIVERA: We played tackle football, yeah. And then not only that, we form our own softball team.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Oh yes, the Yankees.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, (inaudible).

EDDIE CASTORENA: What was his -- guy, the coach's name, Don Macintosh, was it Don?

TOM RIVERA: Ya ni me acuerdo, pero, but it was the son of the principal, Macintosh. Wally.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Wally, Wally --

TOM RIVERA: Wally Macintosh, Wally Macintosh. But we had our softball team there. And then we played rebote there, we played handball there in the park.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Handball at the park, [00:30:00] yes.

TOM RIVERA: Remember that little pool that was two feet deep?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Oh yeah, the little one.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, maybe 20 feet circumference. We used to swim there too.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right, (inaudible), they never changed the water, huh? (laughs) Summer, the (inaudible) there.

TOM RIVERA: Well it was wonderful thing -- it was wonderful that, we moved away from our area, O Street. We went to the park, and then we got together with all the kids from the projects, ¿verdad?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Oh yeah, right, right, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: We got together with all the kids from the projects, and we had a wonderful baseball --

EDDIE CASTORENA: (inaudible) you know, played football and everything there, you know. Guys from the projects, yeah, all the families that used to live there.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, and then we went to Garfield Elementary School. And then you were -- then we went to Wilson, and you were the last graduating class from Wilson. [00:31:00]

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right, 1953, I think it was.

TOM RIVERA: 1953, you were the last class to graduate.

EDDIE CASTORENA: And you were the first one over there at the --

TOM RIVERA: At the (inaudible) --

EDDIE CASTORENA: -- together, huh, but you got to go together.

TOM RIVERA: They got the north side and the south side together, that was called junior high school. And they just celebrated, what 60 years, Frank?

FRANK ACOSTA: Sixty-one.

TOM RIVERA: Sixty-one years of Colton Junior High School.

FRANK ACOSTA: January 4th.

TOM RIVERA: January?

FRANK ACOSTA: That's the date it opened in 1954.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, so 20 years, yeah.

EDDIE CASTORENA: A long time.

TOM RIVERA: No, 60 years, what am I talking about 20 years? Let's see. We also picked oranges, ¿verdad?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: When did we pick them, during the summer or Saturday?

EDDIE CASTORENA: During the summer, yeah, we used to -- or in summertime, yeah, [00:32:00] picked oranges.

TOM RIVERA: How did you start picking oranges? I started as a (inaudible).

EDDIE CASTORENA: I walked to school in my freshman year, and I said, you know, next year I'm not going to walk to school. So I went to pick oranges; I went to pick apricots. I did everything. And I bought me my first car, my '36 Ford.

TOM RIVERA: So it was your freshman year?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, my freshman year, cause I walked to school my freshman year. But then I said to myself, I'm not gonna walk next year, (inaudible).

TOM RIVERA: So for most -- we walked --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Walked all the way --

TOM RIVERA: -- Colton High School.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Colton High on (inaudible), yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Which was what, at least three miles.

EDDIE CASTORENA: I don't know, [through the?] tracks with my shiny shoes and all that, man, I said no way. (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: So you decided, whatever job I can get --

EDDIE CASTORENA: I'm gonna --

TOM RIVERA: And one of them was picking oranges?

EDDIE CASTORENA: (inaudible) picking oranges.

TOM RIVERA: And everything else, and that gave you enough money to buy you a 1936 -- [00:33:00] yellow Ford (inaudible). How much did you pay for that car?

EDDIE CASTORENA: I think it was a hundred, or 285 or something like that. And I got the money --

TOM RIVERA: And you were only 16 years old or so?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, and I said no way, yeah. So, yeah that's -- I started driving to school, and you know. And I said, that was it, I never walked again. (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: Well, I thoroughly appreciated your car because you used to take my cruising to your car.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: We used to do that, yeah, so I appreciate that. And then, the other thing, Eddie, that, you were always ahead of the group. You're always doing something different, Eddie. You were a different kind of guy. For example, working hard all summer, getting your car. Because I ain't gonna walk anymore. And then the other thing was your sister, you said, was a hair dresser. [00:34:00]

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yes. Yeah one summer, I think in 1956, I got a permanent. And she, well she said that she worked at Long Beach, and there were sailors going in there for permanents, and she said she was talking to me about it, and I said well, I had straight hair, straight like it is. So okay, why don't you make --

permanent? So she did, and then, were you, you just started -- no, before Tommy was -- you were cutting hair before that, right, or --

TOM RIVERA: No, I think you got me started --

EDDIE CASTORENA: I got you started for (inaudible).

TOM RIVERA: (inaudible), Eddie got a permanent in 1956.

F: I remember that.

TOM RIVERA: Remember the permanent?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, and the guys (inaudible) --

F: (inaudible)

EDDIE CASTORENA: -- how did you do it, how did you -- well, you know, those cows, how (inaudible) those big pies, [00:35:00] I put 'em in my hair, and that's how I got -- I told him, I would tell the guys what I did. You know, cause I didn't want to tell 'em that I (inaudible).

TOM RIVERA: So anyway, Eddie -- on Friday had straight hair, then on Monday comes back to school. (laughter) With wavy, curly hair.

F: What happened (inaudible)?

TOM RIVERA: So anyway, I talked -- no he was ahead of the curve. And that's when I got --

EDDIE CASTORENA: You got started, (inaudible).

TOM RIVERA: That's when I got started barbering, because you, I had the instrument, my dad used to cut our hair. And then you knew that I had the instrument, so you would come over, Tom, you know, I want to cut the strands.

Can you cut the strands for me? And I said Eddie, I'm gonna ruin your permanent, I don't want to do it! You were the ones [00:36:00] that got me to cut hair, right, yeah. And then I did that for many, many years.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Many years after that.

TOM RIVERA: On Saturday and Sunday and --

EDDIE CASTORENA: The whole neighborhood, [Nacho Carrera?] had a shop, and then -- he took (inaudible) his clientele and everybody would come to you then.

TOM RIVERA: Well I was only charging 50 cents. (laughs)

EDDIE CASTORENA: Fifty cents, he had it -- except for his brothers, I was asking you, the other day, you know, if they had (inaudible), you said, they never went to you -- the (inaudible).

TOM RIVERA: Oh, the brothers of --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Melo and --

TOM RIVERA: [Nacho Cabrer?] was our partner, you know. And Eddie says, and I didn't know this, that Eddie said that Nacho got angry at me, or was not too happy with me, because I was taking some of this --

EDDIE CASTORENA: All his clientele?

TOM RIVERA: I was lucky because I get all the Paloma kids, and all the project kids.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Projects too, yeah everyone was going to you.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, but you were the one that got me started, with the strands.

EDDIE CASTORENA: (inaudible) strands, yeah, just get me the strand.

TOM RIVERA: You know the other thing, Eddie, in [00:37:00] dressing, you were a damn good dresser. You dressed very, very well. And then also, your shoes, your shoes were oxblood-colored shoes, with double soles.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Double soles, horseshoe on the -- and taps on the -- I used to walk down the hallway, (inaudible), everybody would hear me coming down the hall, the high school, yeah. And oh, I guess that coach, that's why he didn't like me, yeah. (laughs) Yeah, man, that was something else.

TOM RIVERA: You were ahead of the curve, Eddie, you were ahead of the curve. But I did barbering for four years, four years, yeah.

(break in audio)

TOM RIVERA: Good afternoon. This is our second half of our taping this afternoon. And again, we're at the Pfau Library at Cal State San Bernardino.

[00:38:00] And we are taping with Mr. Eddie Castorena, and also Mr. Rey Armando Sanchez that joined us. And Armando was one of our schoolmates at Colton High school. And Armando, let's get started. What year did you come to Colton?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Well, we came to Colton in 1953 from a small town in New Mexico.

TOM RIVERA: What was the name of the town?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Deming, New Mexico. It was a town of about a couple of thousand people. And very similar to what you were talking to Eddie about, the neighborhoods, you know, we grew up in a neighborhood, the barrio, which was basically mostly relatives, you know? Maybe a couple of square, the small area we were. They were all related, and so that was the extended family.

TOM RIVERA: Did you have any (inaudible) --- like we had --

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: No, I wasn't really, and Amy was just [00:39:00] defined by certain -- bounds of the area, across one part of the time was the white park. And then, down the other side of town was where Chicanos lived, you know?

TOM RIVERA: Now was there a separation? Like we had the railroad tracks; the railroad tracks separated us.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Yeah, there was a separation by railroad tracks on one side. And then on the other side, it was the main boulevard where the city hall would be, and they had a park there. So that City Hall was kind of diagonal area we lived. And there were, horses where we lived, the Army, the 1900s, thy

would use horses in the war, you know? And that I didn't know where they kept the horses. It was a big, they called it un corralón. And we used to go there, it was in of, it was all abandoned by the time that we were starting going up as kids. So we would [00:40:00] go there to sort of play, look around some of the old halls where they had the horses, so it became kind of a little area, we would call our little -- well I guess -- our own little section where the kids would play. We would hunt rabbits from there. And again, it was mostly relatives, you know. My mother's side, my father's side.

TOM RIVERA: And what parts of Mexico are they from?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: My father came from, I think we were talking about Aguas Calientes?

TOM RIVERA: Si.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: That area, and my mother came from Casa Grandes, which was across the border in a little town called Palomas. So that's where she came from. And the year that they went to this little town that, then we just again, talking about (inaudible) growing up. They were earlier in the marriage when they were, you know, just bringing up a family. I wasn't even born in those days. But [00:41:00] that's where they came, and they, my mother was related. Well, my mother remembered the Revolution when Pancho Villa was going through all those areas, mostly around the part of New Mexico and Arizona. Pancho Villa was being chased by the (inaudible) and they would come back and forth across the border to the American side, and that's kind of, she knew about the (inaudible) about the revolution, and people were being chased. And they finally decided to stay on the other side of the border. In those days, there were no borders, because it was just, you know, you just walk across. And they stayed on the side where we live, we grew up in this town called Deming, New Mexico, and it was about 30 miles

north of the border, you know? And that's where we went (inaudible) years of school, when I was, 13, 12 years old, we moved to California. And the whole family, [00:42:00] we were sort of (inaudible) because we came in four or five cars in like a caravan of family, it wasn't just our family, it was my sisters, and all the other brothers with two sisters that were already grown up. And one of them had already relocated in South Colton, which was the area near where the, El Salvador church was. Manuela [Sosa?] lived around there. So my sister was living in an area when she first got married.

TOM RIVERA: So that's L and Seventh Street in there, in that area?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Yeah, I remember that the church was about maybe a block away, from the railroad tracks, you know? The railroad tracks came like that. And we were kind of a box (inaudible) corner of the railroad tracks.

TOM RIVERA: So that was about Seventh and L or --

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Probably Seventh, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: -- Sixth and L, in that area? Near the church?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: And I remember was that, the first few years we arrived here was [00:43:00] 1953, and that's when we [were going to?] Colton High School, and then we started to go into the last few years of school, you know.

TOM RIVERA: And you graduated from Colton High School --

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Graduated from Colton High School, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: -- in 1957, Eddie.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Eddie was there, and some of the other guys that we grew up with, George [Casillos?] [Josi Compar?] and all those people. But again, you know, those were years where we were just kind of hanging around, I mean, we had no real option, or no opportunity (inaudible) or anything, you know? We just, see what was going on.

TOM RIVERA: Well you know, you graduated from -- in '57 with Eddie.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Right.

TOM RIVERA: And then you kind of stayed out of school for a couple of years.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: A couple of years, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And then after, in 59, you went to Valley College. You went to Valley College, and after you graduated from Valley College, you went to Long Beach State, and your degree was what, Ray?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: In, [00:44:00] Long Beach State was a bachelor of science in construction, building construction. In those days, they were just beginning those kind of diplomas, you know, because there wasn't really, initially for construction graduates. But they were just starting those kind of curriculums, you know, so.

TOM RIVERA: And then after Long Beach, graduated from Long Beach, you went to Pratt Institute or Architecture in New York.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: New York, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And how long were you with those studies?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Well, that was a really interesting time, because I was in New York, actually Manhattan, the center of the town, the city, for about six, seven years, you know. And I started to do work, and I was working in Manhattan. And, but my whole idea at the time was just to pursue my work, the work that I was doing and wanted to do, somewhere else besides New York, you know.

TOM RIVERA: And what countries did you work in?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: So, [00:45:00] well, it's a funny situation, because I kind of knew what I wanted to do, you know, even before I went to New York, or before I even came to Colton where, again, when you're small, you're always dreaming about things, thinking about things, you know. People want to be firemen

and policemen. I always thought I wanted to be like my dad, you know, he was in construction. So when I started going through those changes of what I wanted to define myself, that's when I decided to go back east, and I thought that maybe that would be the first stepping stone of where I would be, wanted to go is go abroad and see -- I gain experience and travel and so forth. And that was 19, graduated from Pratt in 1967. And at that time, there was racial disturbances going on and sit-ins. That was Malcolm X, [00:46:00] was around he was one of the main, before Martin Luther King. But Malcolm X was from the Harlem area, and I was living in New York, in Brooklyn side. And, but when he was assassinated, Malcolm X, that was in 1967, I think it was, it was a big -- (inaudible) didn't know what to do, it was kind of like, these things going on, nobody experienced those things before. And I started to see where I could go besides New York, you know. And one of the first opportunities that I had was working, working on some of the designs for the Bronx Zoo. The Bronx Zoo was expanding in those years, extending their exhibition areas. And so I was working for the, one of the these architects was hired by the school, by the [00:47:00] institute to do this expansion. And that's how I got started doing institutional work, you know, working on some plans for universities, two universities in the area, Queens and Borough Queens. And then also up in Kingsborough also. So I did that for about three or four years in New York. And then I decided, I thought, probably might try to go to South America, you know? That's why, because there was a language, I thought, well it's going to be okay there, I know Spanish and all that, I could easily sort of fit into that. And I actually interviewed for a position in Paraguay, that they wanted me to go down there because they were expanding an aquarium for fish, you know, to do. In those days, they were building up these kind of exhibitional facilities. So the offer was made, you know, and so the summer that I was waiting to see [00:48:00] how I was going

to go there, I got another offer, another appointment through an architect from Iran. And that's how I got to Iran. So, but (inaudible) the experiences of working in these places was very different, because it was very unlike anything that I had seen beforehand. Things that you are totally unfamiliar with are sometimes really, it's sort of like being reborn again, you know. And I thought it was kind of interesting, because it was doing something I wanted to do, but something I didn't even know what to do. You were in those areas of sort of discovering something, but you don't know what you're gonna find. And so that's how I got to Iran, and the person that got me there was an architect who was assigned by the Shah of Iran to go to all these different countries, Spain, [00:49:00] France, all these places, and bring back two architects, sort of like Noah's ark kind of thing, two architects from this country, two architects from this other country. But more so than that because they wanted to bring the best architects he could find. So they interviewed these schools, you know, they went to these schools, and they came to the Pratt Institute. And I was very lucky (inaudible) because the thesis that I had won, that I'd done, it won a national prize called the Paris Prize. And it was the only way the guy knew what I could do, because he had studied in the Sorbonne in France, the architect who interviewed me. And when he saw my resume, he wanted to see what I was doing. And so I didn't even know where Iran was. You know, I mean, I knew that it was a country in the Middle East, somewhere in Africa.

TOM RIVERA: South Colton.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: South Colton. (laughs) I said well, [00:50:00] where is this place, you know? So I went back to the Pratt Institute and library, and I started going through National Geographics, you know, to find out where Iran was, because you know, what was going on? And it's funny because at that very time in that change of Iran, the Shah of Iran had confiscated all the oil fields that were

belonging to banks by the British and the Americans. So all of a sudden, Iran started getting all this influx of billions and billions of dollars, you know, to the national coffers, you know, to do some things with them. And the Shah decided that he would rebuild the whole infrastructure of the country. And that includes, you know, schools, universities, and that type of thing. And luckily for me, I was just, you know was just some of the things that I had been recognized for in the school. And I got the opportunity to go work with this group, which was directly under [00:51:00] the royal crown of the Shah that signed this.

TOM RIVERA: And how long were you there, Ray?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: I was there about five years. I was in there, I was in there during the Revolution also.

TOM RIVERA: And then you got married there?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: I was married there. I was married, when I first got there, it was right toward the end of the revolution. The revolution was in 1978, and I was there during the -- Soho thing erupted in the streets, and demonstrations. Sort of like what happened in Paris recently. There was many people in the street when the revolution occurred around. And again, it was very bloody, you know, there was tanks in the streets, and there were people being executed and so forth. But again, [things you don't see?], that's how these changes occur.

TOM RIVERA: Well going through your pedigree, you also worked in Hawaii, didn't you?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Right, Hawaii and the Philippines. Was three years in the Philippines, and then in Hawaii, [00:52:00] we relocated from the Philippines in 1967, no 1987, because there was a revolution there also, the revolution of -- they ousted Marcos, President Marcos. He was pushed out of the country, and he was transferred to Hawaii, and then that's where he went. But

anyhow, I was working there for the American Corps of Engineers, for the American side, two big installations that they had, military installations. The Americans were amazing, and it was, again, always, the experiences were all different kinds of things that we see. I was looking to see what else I could find. And that was the motivation I had, you know.

TOM RIVERA: Well you were quite an explorer then.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Well I found that everywhere I went, there was something to be gained.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, and more recently, Ray, you work here at Cal State San Bernardino as one of the architects, and then you transferred to San [00:53:00] Jose State, and you retired from San Jose State.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: That's correct, yeah. But I was telling Ed that, I remember this campus because 1957, when we were just out of high school, they hired a whole bunch of high school kids to build this dike in the back, you know the stone dike. There's a big dike that goes around the campus in the back, (inaudible).

TOM RIVERA: Tell us about it; I'm aware of it.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Well, I'll tell you something about that. It's an embankment that was -- engineers were planning the campus, planned to go around the back side of the campus, because there was canyon, the waters would come rushing down from that side of the mountains, and then we would come through those areas. So they wanted to build this university here. And they built this dike. The summer that we were hired, there was 100 kids (inaudible). We were moving stones covering this dike, you know. The whole summer, we covered this whole dike, which left two miles on the back part of the campus. And I kept wondering, [00:54:00] I said, I wonder what is this for? What are they gonna do with this thing? And nobody knew. And 30 years later, I come here and I see this

dike, you know, that I had done. For the construction that was going on 40 years before, when I came back to campus, 1998, I was hired by the university, out of Hawaii, where I was in Hawaii. And I spent the next, following years, seven years, '98 to '05, that's when I relocated to San Jose State, you know. But that was very interesting, because I was involved in this campus, these campus projects back here, which was the social behavioral science building was one of the big projects that I did. And the other part extension was the biological building, which was another huge extension to the whole area there. And the [corporation?] yard, which was all the trucks in this region for, (inaudible) maintain the campus, operate from. But that [00:55:00] was, the period of the time I was here. And that was a very interesting opportunity for me, again, you know, working very closely with the university, I think you were here too, in those days, I came here, I'm thinking part of the reason I came here was because my sister had come over and talked to you about me trying to relocate back to the States, you know. And I wanted to come back to see what was going on, and that was the opportunity that came up. I was hired by the university to start these areas. So the following four, five years, each project would take three to four years. For example, social/behavioral took three years from the ground up, I mean, to excavate the whole site and then build, the whole building came out of the ground.

TOM RIVERA: Well you know Ray, you point out a very, very important thing, because Eddie and I were talking about, home is where the heart is. Eddie was talking about South Colton, and stayed in South Colton, and [00:56:00] being part of South Colton. And then you were telling us that you were all over the world exploring, and then you finally got back to kind of, adoptive roots from Deming, New Mexico. And before I continue, I know, I forgot to ask you, your full name Ray, is it Armando Ray Sanchez, or --

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: No, no. Ray was a nickname that [McKenna?] gave me.

TOM RIVERA: Okay, so what is your --

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: It's Armandos -- Armando -- my mother's name's [Arredivas?], that's the middle name, I use the A.

TOM RIVERA: So what is it?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Armando [Arredivas?] Sanchez. My father's name was Sanchez, yeah. And again, I said he came from that part of the New Mexico area, you know.

TOM RIVERA: Okay, what was your dad's name?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: His name is Jose, Jose [Orlandes?] Sanchez.

TOM RIVERA: Okay, and your mom's name?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: My mother's name was [Nicolasa Arrenivas?], again. There's certain regions of the country, [00:57:00] migrations occur across the border. Certain families got situated in these areas, you know. I think California being one of the most vigorous migrations that occurred. But some of these other areas, were migrations that occurred very quietly, again for reasons of trying to get out of the way of poverty, out of the way of trouble, what's going on, or lack of anything that was going on on the other side of the border, you know.

TOM RIVERA: You're so right, because the biggest motivation was a better life, a better life for the family, and a better life for the children.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: That's right, yeah. And that's why we came here, because you know, because again as much as we were born and raised in this little town, that's all that was there, one filling station, one stoplight, and you know, that was the extent of the town we knew. But, I remember my mother, we've talked about how mothers go, and making families stay together and all that. My mother

was a real big part of the catalyst of our family, because she was the one that made the tortillas every morning, like [00:58:00] you were saying. And every time that we had visitors, relatives from all over, you know, they would come visit us, she would find room for them to stay, visit with us. So (inaudible) separate from that area of New Mexico, except we were all here. But the reason we were here is because of that, those opportunities that we didn't even know about. We knew they were here.

TOM RIVERA: Now what brought your dad and mom to Colton?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: My sister. My sister saw, (inaudible) being married 17 years old, she came here when she was about that age, you know, in South Colton were near the San Salvador Church, when she (inaudible) had their first child. But she saw something that was nothing where we grew up, you know, in the town we grew up in. Because you know, there was a whole bunch of things going on. Which, we didn't have anything like that in this town, the town we live. But (inaudible) was all these (inaudible) places that were here, like the (inaudible) this whole area here was all full of oranges [00:59:00] and grapes. But my father was in construction building some -- so the first project I remember he worked in was the Guadalupe Church, over here on Fifth Street.

TOM RIVERA: Oh yes, yes, San Bernardino.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: That project, that building was just being made at that time, you know. And my father got employed by the people that were building that church. And a lot of those people came from Mexico, they were working there because this is like a new cathedral, it had all kinds of special decorations and motifs that nobody else knew about how to do these things. So my father was one of the people who was hired to do that part of, that extension of the church. And that's where I went with him, cause I was always with him. Trying to find out what he was doing. And like the experience of growing up around this area was, out of

coming out of Colton High School and working during the summers, and the summers was when I was (inaudible).

TOM RIVERA: Ray, you mentioned one [01:00:00] important thing that I haven't really touched on, and that was religion. Were your parents, Eddie and Ray, were your parents religious?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yes.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Yeah, my mother was, my mother's side. My father was sort of an atheist. He didn't believe in anything like that, you know. All you need was work, he always worked all his life, and that's all he knew, you know. And so my mother was the opposite. She was, the catalyst of the family, as I said earlier. She would bring everybody together for festivities of eating, you know, food. Food was really important around our family, you know.

TOM RIVERA: What about the birth, the baptisms, the confirmations?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Those I don't remember too much about. It's mostly that I remember going to church when I was a boy of 12, 13 years old. Prior to that, cause we were in New Mexico, I remember those areas that we grew up in, we used to go to those rosarios, you know, in the evenings for the church. Our church was right [01:01:00] around back neighborhood here. But when we came here, we were a different kind of -- we were looking to (inaudible) trying to find out what to do, what kind of opportunities we could find. And even as young as we were, I was 13, 14 years old, when I was at Colton High School, I was already trying to figure out what I was gonna do, you know. So, but not too much I think the religious part, no.

TOM RIVERA: What about your family, Eddie?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yes, my mom was real religious.

TOM RIVERA: And she observed all the holidays?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, all the holidays, yes.

TOM RIVERA: You know, in the Catholic families, the kids that are born on a certain day, they're named after that saint that belongs to that date. Did your family --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, well my mom was real sick at one time, and like, I think -- and that's why she named me Carmen, la virgen del Carmen, that's why. My real name is Carmen, yeah.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: (inaudible) saint, or something like that --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, both. La virgen del Carmen [01:02:00] Carmen.

TOM RIVERA: So Edward -- Eddie Carmen Castorena?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, pero era Carmen -- I don't know where I got Eddie. When I started school, they changed it.

TOM RIVERA: But still, your mom was very religious --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, she was.

TOM RIVERA: -- and made sure that she passed on those feelings to the family, ¿verdad? Yeah, a few minutes ago, Eddie, we were talking about Colton High School and your experience at Colton High School. And let me regress a little bit, let me regress a little bit. Eddie, when you were an eighth grader, they called you the mambo king. Why did you call you the mambo king?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Well, cause I could dance the mambo.

TOM RIVERA: You were a good mambo dancer then?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right, yeah. And there was one guy that came from Mexico, and was teaching your cousin, [Aste Poli Rivera?], they're -- Carlos [Huetas?], you know, they had a jukebox and everything.

TOM RIVERA: Yes, on the corner of [01:03:00] La Cadena and O Street.

EDDIE CASTORENA: And O Street. So they would practice in there, and me and Carlos [Avuetis?] would watch them, you know. So after they would leave, we put on the jukebox, and me and him would practice all the dance steps and everything. (laughter)

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: No chicks around there?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Not at that time, no. But then, yeah, that's how we learned. From this guy from Mexico that taught your cousin, your -- [Poli Rivera?] how to dance. So that's how, you now --

TOM RIVERA: Even your partner was my cousin, Stella, Stella (inaudible) was also -- your cousin. Both of you did a great job at Wilson School.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, we danced away all night.

TOM RIVERA: And then both of you played football at Colton High School?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: We tried to play football. (laughter) We were beaten up by the coach, you know? We were talking earlier about how these separations occur. And even in our [01:04:00] football -- sport activities, there was separation there. The Chicanos and the whites, you know.

TOM RIVERA: Well tell me about that. I played B football, freshman and B football. And anyway, you said you experienced these --

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: (inaudible) separation was, we, the Chicanos, there (inaudible) what they called the backup teams, you know? So we would be the ones that they'd smash around to practice on.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Knock us around.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: To practice on, so that the white team would go over and play the games, you know? And they had all the -- (inaudible) quarterback and all that. And Eddie and I were just you know, kind of like leftovers, you know. And that's what we were, I mean that's how, and we would get all the scolding from

the coach and everything because we weren't being banged around enough, you know. And it was there.

TOM RIVERA: So you were the meatballs for the team?

EDDIE CASTORENA: The team, yeah.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: We had -- the (inaudible) you know, they would put us in. And we hardly ever played games, [01:05:00] I mean (inaudible) --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, they would put us in --

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: They would put him in for a couple -- five minutes (inaudible).

EDDIE CASTORENA: Well, (inaudible)

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: The last minutes of the game, when he was (inaudible) up, he would say, all right, Castorena, go in there. All right, Sanchez, and that's how we were. And you know, these things (inaudible), they were there.

TOM RIVERA: And this was back in '56?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: '56, '57, yeah.

EDDIE CASTORENA: All the (inaudible), since '53, four years, I played football, with freshman team, then the Bs. And then I was JV, and then the varsity. I could play varsity and JVs and Bs. One time we were playing Pomona, and went to play with, you guys were B, [Housley and Kenny Hops?] and I was playing defensive halfback, you were playing linebacker, and I told you, hey Tommy, just get the interference and I'll get the guy. But he was getting pounded because of -- [01:06:00] so they you out cause you were getting pounded bigtime. You know, and he was only a -- he was --

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Yeah, Tom was a little guy.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Then, I was only 125 pounds too, but I could play with the Bs, JVs, and the varsity. And so yeah, so I went there. There was, Pomona was tough, so you know.

TOM RIVERA: So what happened? You guys seem to not get into the real games, you know, Friday night.

EDDIE CASTORENA: No.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Not really.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Not really, no. We'd practice all week, 'till you know. I said, until finally, my last year that I just said, gee I wouldn't go practice -- but then come Friday, they were looking for me. Were you gonna go play, and all that, giving you high hopes.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: You know, Tom, the only (inaudible) sport that I recall, (inaudible) school, was where you could really kind of be noticeable, or do your own, was track. Because track is basically a sport, [01:07:00] you know, one person, one doing something, you know?

TOM RIVERA: Individual.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Right, running the mile, or doing the javelin or something. Where in football, even basketball, but football mostly is a game of team, you know? There's teams, there's sides, good sides and bad sides. So that's how the separation occur in sports, you know. It was more noticeable in the football areas.

EDDIE CASTORENA: And they would play all the white guys, you know.

TOM RIVERA: Do you remember any of the team members?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Oh yeah, [Ray Hobbs?] and Norm, [Norm Sentiri?]. I was playing halfback on one side, and they would, I would have to go all the way to tackle the guy, cause they were scared to tackle. And yet they played every game.

But it's like everything, the more you play, the better you get in whatever you do, right? Whatever you get better. And they got -- Norm [Sentiri?] was [01:08:00] quarterback for Valley College. And then Ray Hobbs too, he went up there too. (inaudible)

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Until he got killed in the airplane crash, you know.

EDDIE CASTORENA: No, Kenny.

TOM RIVERA: That was Kenny. But anyway, did you stick it out, your last year, Eddie?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, I did.

TOM RIVERA: What did you find? Did you get together with the coach, or --

EDDIE CASTORENA: No, the coach didn't like me. Cause I was, you know, well that, you remember I said, Balboa, you know, the long hair on the side, flat top on top? And he would tell -- get a haircut or you're not gonna play. So I just, I turned in my uniform. Get a haircut, or you know.

TOM RIVERA: So you said well, here's your gear.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Here's your uniform. I'm not gonna get a haircut.

(laughter) And that's, he didn't like me. He didn't like me, but you know.

TOM RIVERA: So anyway, that was the experience playing football. Well you also, you were also part of the [01:09:00] band, Eddie, you were a band member.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Oh yeah, right.

TOM RIVERA: And you, as part of the class, you wanted to make sure that all the kids that were band members knew their music.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right.

TOM RIVERA: And so you asked the teacher, can I borrow the music scores, so we can practice at my house during the week, and we'll be ready for whatever presentation we have to make. (inaudible) Eddie, what'd he tell you?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Well he told me that, well, I'm sorry but I can't, because when something gets lost here, where do they go? South Colton, don't they? And he just come back -- come from Chicago, you know, over here. How did he know that, you know, all this -- if something's lost, where do they go, South Colton, you know? So he didn't lend me them.

TOM RIVERA: So that was the attitude on and off the field?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right, yeah. And he was just -- how did he know that? He just come from Chicago. [01:10:00]

TOM RIVERA: So he was brand new to the district?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right, so I guess the other teachers would tell him, (inaudible) the way it was here in South Colton. So yeah.

TOM RIVERA: So those were times that were a little different, eh?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, so that's, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And then, like Ray, you know, Ray graduated '57, you graduated 1957, and you were off, you were with your brothers as a [lathrate?], as a [lath?] for a couple of years. And then you got a job at the Colton cement plant.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right.

TOM RIVERA: And you started 1962.

EDDIE CASTORENA: 1962.

TOM RIVERA: And when you went there to get started, what impressed you the most?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Oh, well, I walked through --

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Job. (laughs) Job.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Job, but then I'm going into, there's a little hall, like a, [01:11:00] what do you call it?

TOM RIVERA: A hallway.

EDDIE CASTORENA: A hallway, and going up to the steps to punch it. And it was going in there, I looked to the right, and it said "Whites Only" on one door.

TOM RIVERA: In '62?

EDDIE CASTORENA: 1962, and I said to myself, here we go again folks.
(laughs) You know.

TOM RIVERA: And you were only 22, 23?

EDDIE CASTORENA: I was only 21, yeah. Not even 20-- I think I was 20.

FRANK ACOSTA: What was on the other side of that door?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Huh?

FRANK ACOSTA: What was on the other side of that door?

EDDIE CASTORENA: "Whites Only," well shower, it was a shower.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Bathrooms.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Bathrooms.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: You didn't go to the bathroom, go to your own side.

EDDIE CASTORENA: The other side didn't have nothing on there, but we knew it was for -- Mexicans and Blacks or anybody else that wanted to use that. So I said to myself, man, here we go again.

TOM RIVERA: And did you -- besides what you saw on the wall, right on the wall, [01:12:00] did you experience any behavior --

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yes, my first day when I started working, this guy called me "Pancho." This man, older man called me Pancho. "Hey Pancho."

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Pancho yourself, my friend.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Hey, I cussed him out and everything, and I told him, next time I'm gonna, you know, beat you up. And you know whose dad that was, Ron -- Ronnie [Crooks?] dad.

TOM RIVERA: High school friend.

EDDIE CASTORENA: My high school friend. And he was my friend, Ronnie Crooks was my friend, and that was his dad calling me Pancho. (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: And then, you lasted from '62, and how long did you work with the cement plant?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Thirty-three years, thirty-three.

TOM RIVERA: That's a long time.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, I retired in 1995. But [01:13:00] those were --

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Is it still open? Place is still working?

EDDIE CASTORENA: They have a crew there now that unloads those boxcars. They bring the cement in there, and they load up in silos. And then they come and pick up the cement there. There's about four or five guys working, only.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Because remember, that was for Colton, South Colton, that was a big employee. That was where everybody worked, everybody went there. Kind of like Kaiser. And then the [roundhouse?] (inaudible) [Mount Vernon?].

TOM RIVERA: In San Bernardino.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Yeah, there were little places that were open for jobs, shall we say, for the minorities, you know. They were dirty jobs.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, labor.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Labor.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Yeah labor and you know, stuff like that, so that's how it was. And that's why it makes you kind of go on with things, you know?

TOM RIVERA: And we were considered lucky if we got the job.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Well lucky if you got the job, and lucky if [01:14:00] you were able to get anything to go in there.

TOM RIVERA: But you're absolutely right, Ray. The Portland Cement Company was a big employer in the area, along with the --

EDDIE CASTORENA: PFE.

TOM RIVERA: -- the railroad, the PFE, and also the orange groves.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Cause remember, most of the supervisors, I understood, inside the Colton plant, the supervisors were all white. I mean we're talking about, you know, the guys who were (inaudible), and all the other guys there, they're all from South Colton. The laborers, the ones who were digging out stuff and loading up things. And those were the guys, the families that grew up in those toxic environments, and now, some of these families -- even now, there's still, grandfather still sick from that stuff, you know?

EDDIE CASTORENA: The asbestos.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Yeah, if you get in law you might be able to get some money out of it. But anyhow.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Most of them, the whites, they came from back east. Alabama, Philadelphia, they were all masons, [01:15:00] masons. You know, that's --

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: It's a white club, you know?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah, masonry (inaudible). (inaudible) Masons, they were from back east, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Alabama. They were all from back east, the majority (inaudible).

TOM RIVERA: (inaudible)

EDDIE CASTORENA: (inaudible) [static]

[break in video]

TOM RIVERA: We've been busy for over an hour now, Ray. Let me ask you our last question. What is the best memory, or the best experience that you had

while you were growing up in Colton? You mentioned graduating from high school -
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ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Well for me, finishing that part of our schooling, should I say, (inaudible) we weren't planning to go anywhere, as far as our continuing education. (inaudible) I was given the opportunity to start thinking about something. Even -- because most of the [01:16:00] white kids were already school-orientated, you know? I mean they went to a rich high school, they were being -- taking courses for college and all that kind of stuff. But we were never interested to have that, you know? Hispanic people were not taking biology, or algebra, or any of those college preparation courses. So for us, it was, you know, not very eventful, you know. Just finishing up, that was it. But for some of the other ones, they had plans. I mean, there were opportunities that they were going to pursue. So for me, it was just like that. It was just, go on my own, you know.

TOM RIVERA: So was it a good memory or a bad memory?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: I think it was a good memory, because I think that it [woke?] me up. It got me into my own -- pursue my own dreams, you know, which I wanted to. I always thought about going on with things, like I did. On a fantasy level, because there wasn't any -- no real opportunities for me, at least, until I started looking beyond Colton, [01:17:00] and I started doing that, and I started seeing (inaudible) scholarships and other schools, you know, that was (inaudible) and that was it. That's why I went back east. Because I got a scholarship over at the two schools, you know. And that was something I never thought of.

TOM RIVERA: So it was a different world then?

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: It was a whole different world, Tom. Because I mean, for me, it was not even imaginable opportunity, (inaudible) stay here or do whatever (inaudible) here. But when I saw that, that was it, I took off. And sure

enough, I mean. You'd think that going to places like that, how can you get there? What do you do when you do go? What are you gonna do? Well, what you're gonna do, you're gonna start. You start something, and you begin to find out what it is. And when I left here, I didn't have money to take a Greyhound bus to go where I was gonna go to, that's how it was. I was offered a scholarship at the institute where I went. But [01:18:00] I didn't know how to get there. Because (inaudible) forget it, airline tickets, things like that. But I remember going to the Greyhound depot, and there was \$78 for a ticket to go cross-country, you know. And I didn't have seven-- that money. I hitchhiked, go across.

TOM RIVERA: And this was 1960 (inaudible) --

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: 1960 -- well 1960 -- no, before that. Right after Long Beach, (inaudible), 1960 -- it was 1960. And you know, it was something you see you wanted to do, and you had to do it. I, now I think about it is, how am I gonna do that? How can I possibly think to do that? I didn't, I don't know. And I got there.

TOM RIVERA: So the best memory you have is the challenge.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: The challenge.

TOM RIVERA: Of trying to survive and follow your dream.

ARMANDO "RAY" SANCHEZ: Right, [01:19:00] right. To me, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: What about you, Eddie?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Well, I guess I'm just a South Colton boy, cause I was born there, in the back house --

TOM RIVERA: On O Street?

EDDIE CASTORENA: On O Street. I wish someday, I'll die there too. And I'm just a South Colton boy.

TOM RIVERA: To you, is, Colton is South Colton?

EDDIE CASTORENA: South Colton to me.

TOM RIVERA: And what is it, home is where the heart is.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right.

TOM RIVERA: And your heart is in South Colton?

EDDIE CASTORENA: In South Colton, yes.

TOM RIVERA: And even now, you still live in South Colton.

EDDIE CASTORENA: Yeah. Well I was living -- eventually I'll be back, hopefully. But I mean, I'm just a South Colton boy.

TOM RIVERA: And not only are you a South Colton boy, but you're very generous with your money. You give money to scholarships, the Wilson scholarship, you gave some money to give [01:20:00] to Colton High School. And also you gave some money to Dr. [Manuela Sosa?] scholarship, to give money to poor kids that wanted to pursue their education after high school. So you've been kind of a benefactor to many of the kids in South Colton.

EDDIE CASTORENA: The kids, yeah, that want to get ahead.

TOM RIVERA: And now you also mention that you want to stay in South Colton, so you can provide some type of mentorship or role model for the kids that are growing up, that say, life is tough, life is tough. And then you can say, well, it is pero, you know.

EDDIE CASTORENA: You can make it.

TOM RIVERA: You can do it.

EDDIE CASTORENA: You can do it.

TOM RIVERA: El dicho.

EDDIE CASTORENA: El dicho.

TOM RIVERA: La vida es un [granito?], pero (inaudible) aguanta. Life is tough, but (inaudible) is tougher.

EDDIE CASTORENA: It's tougher, yeah. You can make it.

TOM RIVERA: Well listen, Eddie, Armando. Thank you so much for being with us this afternoon and sharing [01:21:00] your life experiences as you grew up in Colton. It was a wonderful adventure, and it seemed that it went by so quickly, ¿verdad?

EDDIE CASTORENA: Right. Y La Paloma lives. (laughter) [La Paloma lives?]

End of Interview:

[01:21:19]