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### Javier Marquez

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# South Colton Oral History Project

## Interview Summary

**Interviewee:**

Javier Marquez

**Interviewer:**

Tom Rivera

**Interview Date:**

May 21, 2016

**Interview Location:**

Grand Terrace, CA

**Length:**

01:20:33

**Interview Summary completed by:**

M. Camacho Nuno, 2014

**Description:**

Tom Rivera interviews Javier Marquez, a local man from Colton. Throughout the interview, Marquez discusses his time in the military during World War II and how he had to see his friend killed and thus killed enemy soldiers. He also discusses de facto segregation in South Colton, usually stemming from verbal harassment but also police misconduct. Rivera also asks him about entertainment during Marquez's youth and all of the local spots that are now defunct and are not known. With the inclusion of his wife's stories, Marquez recollects the 1938 Flood, the couple's first meeting, and the woman's interactions within a segregated school. The interview ends with Marquez telling about the time he experienced racial prejudice during a job interview.

**Subject Topic:**

- Military Service
- World War II
- Battlefield Combat
- De Facto Segregation
- Police Misconduct
- Mexican Revolution
- Swimming
- Grade School

**Spatial Coverage:**

Name of Site (if relevant)	General Location/Address
Camp Roberts	San Miguel, CA 93451
Checkpoint Charlie	Friedrichstraße 43-45, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Prague	Czech Republic
The Plunge	Colton, CA (Defunct Location)
Abraham Lincoln Elementary School	444 E Olive St, Colton, CA 92324
Woodrow Wilson Elementary School	750 S 8th St, Colton, CA 92324
Harding Grammar School	San Bernardino, CA (Defunct Location)
Alessandro Middle School	San Bernardino, CA (Defunct Location)
San Bernardino High School	1850 N E St, San Bernardino, CA 92405
The Cotton Club	Colton, CA (Defunct Location)
The Pago Pago Club	Colton, CA (Defunct Location)
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church	1430 5th St, San Bernardino, CA 92411
El Tivoli	7th and O St, Colton (Defunct Location)

**Temporal Coverage:**

1900s-2016

**Key Events:**

- Javier Marquez's father escapes the Mexican Revolution.
- Javier and Amelia's struggles in school during a De Facto Segregated South Colton.
- Marquez is drafted into the military during WWII.
- Marquez lands a job in the United States Postal Service
- The Marquezs travel as tourists around the world.

**Key Organizations:**

- US Military
- Brown Baggers
- United States Post Office

**Interview Index:**

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
Digital Video	00:01:28 - 00:02:13	Marquez talks about his position and time in the United States military.
Digital Video	00:11:51 - 00:17:14	Smiley's body and Marquez's reaction to it after seeing it in a body bag.

Digital Video	00:21:22 - 00:23:17	Marquez's and Jay East's interactions with the police officers.
Digital Video	00:37:36 - 00:41:10	Checkpoint Charlie and the interactions at Prague.
Digital Video	00:45:32 - 00:47:15	Marquez's dad's terrifying journey from Mexico to the United States.
Digital Video	01:13:04 - 01:16:30	Amelia Marquez's experience in San Bernardino High School.
Digital Video	01:16:53 - 01:19:29	Marquez's job interview for a position in the post office.

### **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. I'm Tom Rivera, and welcome to our oral history of South Colton project. Today is May 21, and it's about eleven o'clock in the morning, and we're filming at 23170 Vista Grande Way in Grand Terrace. And doing the filming behind the camera today is Mr. Henry Vasquez. And Henry Vasquez is in charge of our project in summarizing the research that we have for the project. And today's guest is Mr. Javier Marquez. Javier, welcome to our oral history project, and thank you very much for being with us this morning. We'll get started with the interview, and I'll ask you a few questions. And I know your wife... Your wife's name is...? What's your wife's name?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: [Amelia?].

TOM RIVERA: Amelia Marquez. Amelia, it's good to see you [00:01:00] again. And you know, both of you, I want to congratulate you, because back in '67, '68, your daughter, [Esther?], was in my sixth-grade class. And back then, Javier, you came to my class, and you gave a presentation on Mexico. So again, thank you very much for doing that for us lots and lots of years ago. Thank you so much.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: You're welcome.

TOM RIVERA: Why don't we get started? First of all, let me ask you, Javier: you were in the service; did you join the service, or were you drafted in the service?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I was drafted in the service, 1946.

TOM RIVERA: In 1946. Had you graduated from high school?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, I had not graduated. I stopped in the ninth grade.

TOM RIVERA: You were -- and why did you stop in ninth grade and join the service?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, I didn't stop and join the service. I stopped and went to work. I wanted to get a car, and, [00:02:00] you know, I was really discouraged by what I heard, you know, that Chicanos weren't going to get a job, anyway, you know, so why waste your time? And, you know, over the years, that kind of...

TOM RIVERA: So the communication that you got was I can get a job now, so why continue high school, because I get a job right now?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: What was your first job, Javier?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: My first job was at [Thrifty's?], busboy. And my other friend, [Tony Aranda?], he quit about the same time. He got himself a job as vegetable man. (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: So it was kind of relatively easy in the '40s, to get a job not even having a high school diploma.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah. We had a car, though.

TOM RIVERA: What kind of car did you have?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I had a 1934 Chevrolet. (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: Oh, a nice one.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Was it a coupe, or a four-door sedan?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: It was a coupe. It had rumble seats.

TOM RIVERA: [00:03:00] And when did you meet Amelia? When did you guys meet, and how did you meet?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I met Amelia before I went in the service. Probably 1945 or so. And, you know, when I went into -- occasionally we'd write each other, nothing more than that.

TOM RIVERA: Was she from Colton also? Was she from Colton?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, she was from San Bernardino.

TOM RIVERA: And how did you guys meet?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: How did we meet? I think we met at Thrifty, right?

AMELIA MARQUEZ: No. At the church.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: At the church?

AMELIA MARQUEZ: At Our Lady Guadalupe [Jamaica?].

JAVIER MARQUEZ: At the Jamaica? Well, that she remembered better than I do?

TOM RIVERA: See? (laughter) Was it love at first sight, Javier, or did she have to chase you?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, it was kind of medium, you know, and... No, she never chased me; I chased her. (laughter) [00:04:00]

TOM RIVERA: And when did you guys get married?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: We got married -- what was the year? Nineteen forty...

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Forty-six.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Forty-seven? (pause)

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Oh, yeah, that's right. (laughs)

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Forty-eight? Well --

AMELIA MARQUEZ: No, '47.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Forty... Our oldest daughter is almost 68 years old.

Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: So you had your oldest daughter, [Pat?], and then did you have any other children?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, my oldest daughter [Linda?].

TOM RIVERA: Linda.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: And then Pat, and then Esther.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, that was in my sixth-grade class.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, getting back to being, you know -- joining the service in 1946 or so, after you left high school, what part of the branch of service were you in?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I was in the infantry.

TOM RIVERA: Tell me about the infantry. You mentioned that there's the Army, and then there's the Army, and then there's the Army. Tell me about the different armies.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, the -- [00:05:00] there's the quartermaster corps. You know, that's ones that supply and -- your needs and transportation. You see these pictures of these guys and there's convoys driving the trucks. And at that time, there was no Army Air For-- there was no Air Force; it was all Army. So it was the Army Air Corps. Just like March Field was then. March Field was March Field then. Now it's March Air Force Base. But it was all part of the Army, and there were different parts. There were reconnaissance, and they had meteorology and all that kind of different stuff. They still do. But it was -- there's a lot to the Army, it's just not infantry, you know.

TOM RIVERA: And you were infantry.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I was a lucky one to get into the infantry. (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: Why do you say "lucky"? [00:06:00] Because you were right in the field of -- in the face-to-face with the enemy?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, that's it, that and -- that's not very pleasant, you know? Yeah, no, I got to -- basic training meant that you trudged with a full field pack, 25 pounds, and a rifle that weighed about -- I think the rifle weighted about eight, ten pounds, and a bayonet and raincoat and the whole shebang for 25 miles,



without stopping. Well, the only stops you made was if you passed out on the road.

(laughter) They picked you up and hauled you in.

TOM RIVERA: And the training camp was what?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Camp Roberts.

TOM RIVERA: And where is that located?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: It's may-- a few miles out of Santa Maria. It's probably 400 miles from here, toward San Francisco, 350.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, okay, so it's in California.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah. Uh-huh.

TOM RIVERA: It's California. Now, what -- [00:07:00] you said you were in the infantry. What was your rank?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, just PFC. That's a --

TOM RIVERA: A private?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, private first class. First class. (laughter)

TOM RIVERA: And also, Javier, you mentioned that you were in the Pacific war zone, the Pacific theater.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Exactly. Yeah. When the war zone was -- well, it was all war zone when we got to New Guinea, but the division we were scheduled for had already departed for Lekki. So we -- day or so at the replacements, that when got back on the ship, and headed for Lekki, I mean we caught up with them on Lekki, and that's where I joined. We got off of the ship on landing boats, and from there they put us on trucks, took us in, join the division where they were, where they were in combat. And for me the combat on Lekki only lasted [00:08:00] maybe a couple weeks, you know. But then we loaded up on LSTs, landing ship tanks -- were big ships with flat bottoms; they go onto land and then they drop the tanks and the troops and everything gets off. And it was a convoy -- I forget

how many of 'em there were; the whole division -- and we headed for Luzon, and on Luzon we landed at a place called Lingayen Gulf.

TOM RIVERA: Was this the Philippines?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: The Phil-- well, it's all the Philippines. There are about 3,000 islands, though, and Luzon is the main island. That's where Manila's located, and Summer Capital Baguio up in the mountains, and... But anyway, where we landed was a little town called Dagupan, and from there we trudged across the mountain, across [00:09:00] the island of Luzon, on the way up the mountains, Caraballo Mountain, all the way to Cagayan Valley. And... No, it was Cagay-- I forget what the other name was; Cagayan Valley was the one we landed on. But anyway, we went across the mountains and wound up that campaign, and then they pulled us up north to go up the mountains, where Baguio is located. Baguio is the Summer Capital of the Philippines. Beautiful place. The camp that was there, already there, existed before the war, was Camp John Hay, and that's where our headquarters was, at Baguio, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Now, Javier, were any of your friends from Colton part of your army group, or do you remember anybody that served with you that was from Colton?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: You know, I can't remember his name, but I picked him up [00:10:00] on Baguio. He was going back to camp. I forget his name. He was from Colton, and I remarked how small world it was, you know. I don't remember his name. But anyway, yeah, he was in the same (inaudible) I was in; I don't know what company he was in. But anyway, the interesting thing about this was that those are the high mountains of the northern part of Luzon, and that's where the -- some people called the Igorots are located. Very interesting people. I remember this one little village, and that -- anyway, this is where they have those terraces, up

the mountain, and they water from the top, and the water drips down the next terrace, to the next terrace. And they're different than the regular Filipino. They're completely different type of people. And I went down there and traded [00:11:00] a can of soup for some of their liquor, and it was really good liquor, (laughter) till I found out that the way they made it was they chewed this rice and grass, and they spit it out and let it ferment, and then they swallowed it. (laughter) But it was good until --

TOM RIVERA: Just like the Native -- the Indians in Peru. They used to do that. They would call it chicha.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, chicha. Is that what they made it...? Well, that's probably what it was. (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: They would call it chicha. But anyway, you mentioned that some of the people that you met at your training camp were one of the [Aranda?] boys. [Tony?] Aranda.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, I didn't meet him in training camp. We got drafted. We went from here on the bus to San Pedro to take the exam and all this kind of stuff. That was [Eddie Conuga?] and Tony Aranda.

TOM RIVERA: Ah, okay. And you mentioned that you also knew the Medal of Honor recipient [00:12:00] from Casa Blanca.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah. Smiley.

TOM RIVERA: What was his name?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Huh?

TOM RIVERA: What was his name?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: [Ismael Viegas?].

TOM RIVERA: Ismael Viegas? Smiley Viegas?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: ¿Cómo?

TOM RIVERA: Smiley Viegas?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, Smiley was a nickname.

TOM RIVERA: Right, right. Now, how did you meet him, or did you know him?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, we -- he lived in Casa Blanca, and I lived in Colton, and we wound up at the same training camp, basic training camp. So I knew him from the very beginning. And as a matter of fact, when I came back from -- got discharged, I went to see his mother, and she really couldn't take it. She couldn't talk, so I just said there and left after a while.

TOM RIVERA: But you mentioned that you saw his body.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Tell us about that.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, he was on a -- for some reason, after the commotion, the killing and everything stopped, somehow I wound up going around to pick up some kind of [00:13:00] supplies or something. And as I went by the medical -- the company medics, there was a stretcher in front of the medic's, and there was Smiley dead. He was already... Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: So you were able to see his body.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, I stopped, and couldn't believe it. But, yeah. So -- but Smiley was a very brave man. He would just walk from one hole to another, and blast away. I guess he did it one time too many. Before that, about maybe a month before, in a different part of those mountains, we had pushed up to a certain point, and the -- we got [00:14:00] kind of stopped, a lot of machine gun fire from the Japanese, you know. So Smiley somehow -- I didn't realize he was gone, he and his -- well, he was a squad leader then. He took his squad and went up the side of the mountain, and after a while I saw him come back with a machine gun on his neck, light machine gun, Japanese. They had gone up there, and his clothes

were all ripped. His canteen was shot -- almost shot off. So he crawled up there and he killed the gunner and got the gun and brought it back with his squad.

(laughs)

TOM RIVERA:       What a story.

JAVIER MARQUEZ:       I didn't know he had gotten decorations for that. I think he got a Silver Star for that. And then the next one is when he got the Medal of Honor, I guess it must have been. I didn't see him. I was there. I couldn't have been more than from here to the wall there, probably, but there was so much brush you couldn't see.

TOM RIVERA:       [00:15:00] About 15 feet, uh-huh.

JAVIER MARQUEZ:       I could hear the Japanese. I could hear them talking sometimes. Matter of fact, we had a guy next to me about, oh, must have been about 10 yards from me, and sitting there, guarding, you know, because, well, the Japs might come out, and I was over on the other side. I could see him, but we couldn't see into the bushes. And then I heard this wham, and I turned around and I saw him go back. He just went... (exhales sharply) Knocked the air out of him. And he killed him, the Jap. Thought I couldn't see the Jap. Then I heard the reloading rifle, because he -- they -- we had semiautomatic rifles. They had loaded -- automatically loaded. And the Japanese had to load them, lock and load, you know? And I heard him loading, and the guy who was with me, (laughs) thought he was going to run away. I said, "Hey," just kind of calmed him down, you know. I said, "Let's wait and see what happens." So I [00:16:00] could hear him walking, walking. We were waiting for him to show his face so we could blast him. He went by our position but we still couldn't see him, and to shoot blindly was suicide. So he went up about maybe 15 yards beyond our point, and he came out. (pause)  
(becoming emotional) (clears throat) Anyway, I couldn't help saying, "There's that

son of a bitch.” (clears throat) And I shot maybe all my rounds. I had about five rounds left, and I shot him. And he fell. I don’t know if I got him or not; I wasn’t about to go up there and find out. (laughter) Yeah, that’s the last time I saw somebody get --

TOM RIVERA: [00:17:00] So you had your share of combat when you were in the service.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Whew. And that wasn’t the worst of it. A lot of guys got the worst of it, all the guys that got killed, you know.

TOM RIVERA: Mm-hmm. Now when did you leave the service? When did you get out the service? What year?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I was only in there for two years.

TOM RIVERA: So ’48 or so?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, had to be before that, you know?

M1: No recuerda (laughs).

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, you were in in ’46.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, it had to be about ’48, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, during that period --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I got my discharge up there [if you want to pull it out?], but nah.

TOM RIVERA: We’ll take your word for it. (laughter)

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Something like that. Anyway, I went to -- after the war -- when the war ended, I was on a machine gun, and the airplane come over. “Don’t [00:18:00] fire, the war is ending,” you know, and then I guess they went around the Japanese then, and so... I don’t even remember how I got on the machine gun squad. I was a gunner on it, when the war ended. And they came up, and they said, “Hey, we need a driver. Anybody know how to drive?” “I know how to drive.”

I never drove a truck. I didn't know how to drive. So they took me. I left the machine gun. And they put me on a few quarter-ton, you know, hauling messages for the -- from headquarters back in Baguio back up to there. And I stood out there on the trail one time and watched the Japanese march out of there, surrendering. Thousands of 'em. I didn't realize there was that many. If I had known, I don't know if I would have stayed in one place. (laughter) But anyway, they walked up the trail, and I saw their commanding officer, when he surrendered, back in Baguio, going to the headquarters. [00:19:00] General Yamashita.

TOM RIVERA: ¿Cómo se llamaba?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yamashita. They call him "Yama-SHEET-uh," but it's "Ya-MA-shta." He was the commanding officer of the Japanese forces in the Philippines. They hung him.

TOM RIVERA: Ah. (laughter) You did get your share of...

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, well, we didn't, but they had a trial in Manila later, I heard, and they hang him for -- he was responsible for what happened on the trail, you know, when they captured Bataan.

TOM RIVERA: Yes. Was he part of that experi--

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, no, wasn't -- unh-uh.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah. But tell me, Javier: you came back home, you came back to Colton, and did World War II, your experience in World War II, did that make a difference in your attitude of coming back to Colton?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, you know, I kind of expected things to have changed, but they never did.

TOM RIVERA: What do you mean, [00:20:00] change?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, at --

TOM RIVERA: How was it bef--

JAVIER MARQUEZ: -- segregation, and the -- what happened to us, you know. You know, what happened to me before even I went in the Army, I was only about 15 years old, or maybe 16. (clears throat) Jay [East?] went to that New Colton theater to see a movie, and we came out, and I had a -- my little 1934 car parked out there, and we jumped in, going to go home, and then this pachuco came by. Well, he was a guy dressed in these suit -- not that they were all pachucos; they were just Samoans, or Mexicanos.

TOM RIVERA: Era la moda, ¿verdad? It was --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: It was --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: And he says, "Hey, you know, I'm coming from Texas, and I'm on my way to LA, but I'm kind of lost here." Said, "Well, this is a road right through Colton." I said, "You just..." I got out, and I pointed out -- "You go right through town and go on over." [00:21:00] "Well," he said, "well, thank you." So we got back in the car and headed back home, Jay and I.

TOM RIVERA: You and your friends. Who were you with?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah. Jay East.

TOM RIVERA: Okay.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, era puro gringuillos allí en South Colton, besides the Sierras and us and a couple other families, Mexicanos. (clears throat) Anyway, we headed home, and just before we crossed the tracks there was this big lot, paved lot with a big silo. I think it must have been some kind of a flour silo. They had it there to load off onto the trains, I think. I'm not sure.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, it was a milling --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: -- organization, yeah.



JAVIER MARQUEZ: So anyway, we got there and the police pulled us into the parking lot, and they took Jay up on one side, one cop took Jay on the other side, and another one took me --

TOM RIVERA: Jay, what was Jay's last name?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Jay East.

TOM RIVERA: Jay East?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Okay.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: And one guy on the other side took me on the other side, and they said, "Open the door." And they [00:22:00] started ripping out my upholstery, you know. I said, "Hey, wait a minute! What do you guys want? If you tell me, I'll give it to you, you know?" They were tearing up my car. And one of them came, pulled me up against the wall, and he says, "What are you doing talking to those Mexicans?" I said, "What's wrong with that?" I said, "My mother's Mexican..." That's all I remember. He knocked me out.

TOM RIVERA: He punched you?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: He knocked me out. He hit me so hard, he knocked me out. I didn't even know it. The next thing I knew, he was pulling me up by my shirt. "I didn't hit you that hard, I didn't hit you that hard." [That's all I remember?]. And I read him the Riot Act. I mean, I called him everything I could think of. I could care less whether he shoot me or what. Then they started... He and the other cop came over, "You know, after all, you know, we are better clean-shaven than Mexicans," and kind of stuff like that. And anyway, got in, and [00:23:00] I guess they held Jay on the other side, because Jay, he says, "I don't remember that." (laughs) [Jay East?]. But anyway, that was one of the [greetings?], one of the things I remember when I went in the Army, but when I came back I expected that to be changed. But

then we were going to get married, and I thought, well, you know, GI Bill. At that time, they had these houses right off of Mill Street, just where you go to the railroad tracks to San Bernardino. There's all that housing project. (clears throat) And I went in there, and the guy said, "Sure, we got a house. Pick your house." I picked it out, you know, and gave him the \$300 down. That was -- at that time, that was a lot of money. And so I had a time to go back and sign the papers. So I'm back, and he says, "Oh, hey, your name, is that French or something?" I says, "No, that's Spanish." "Oh," he says, "how come?" I said, "Well, that's my name." He says, "How come?" I said, [00:24:00] "Well, you know, my parents were from Mexico." "Oh, are you Mexican?" "Yeah." "Oh, we can't sell to you."

TOM RIVERA: Oh. (laughs)

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I says, "Oh, come on. What do you mean, you can't sell to me?" I says, "I give you the down payment." Now he can't sell because the lease says no Chinese, no Mexicans, no, no, no, no Blacks, you know? He had a list of things that --

TOM RIVERA: Javier, what year was this?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: This was nine-- had to be 1947 or 8. After the war.

TOM RIVERA: Or the '50s or so? Or --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, when we -- that's when we got -- before we got married, I wanted to buy a house. Yeah, about '47, '48, forty... About '48, I guess. Had to have been about two years, yeah, at least, '48 or '49. And so I says, "What do you mean?" He said, "Well, we're going to give you back your money, then, but not all of it." I says, "What do you mean, not all of it?" "No," he says, "we had some paperwork to do." I said, "Well, that's not my fault. I want to buy the house." "No, we can't do that. Come back and get your money." So I [get down to?] -- so I went to see the DA, [00:25:00] and he said, "What'd you tell him you were Mexican for?"

“Well, what’s wrong with it?” Well, what *is* wrong with it? I never could see anything wrong with it. And he says, “Well, no, well, okay,” he says, “You tell them, you -- give you all your money back, or I’ll -- he’s going to have to talk to me.” So I went back down to pick up the money. They had a check for minus, I think, 100 dollars or so. I said, “This isn’t all the money that I gave you.” “Well,” he says, “that’s all you’re gonna get.” Said, “Well, I don’t know, I went and talked to the district attorney, and he says if you don’t give me my money back he’ll talk to you.” Ooh, he made a big stink, and I just wanted to get my money back.

TOM RIVERA: (laughs) So that was the first incident. No change, huh, Javier? No change.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No. And then even after the kids were born, I think about three, four years later, the 1950s, we were living in -- well, we were living in San Bernardino, I think, or something like that, or -- and I was working at Crestmore, [00:26:00] at the cement plant. That’s where I got my hearing messed up. And I wanted a place closer to work, so there was this so-so subdivision being built close to Crestmore.

TOM RIVERA: That’s in Riverside, right?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, in Riverside, yeah. So we went over there, and Linda was -- my oldest daughter was the only one we had then, at that time. She was sitting in the back seat. And I went in there, and the salesman came out, and he says -- he showed us the places, and then I don’t know how it came out that we were (laughs) Mexican. I guess we must have told him. And then what happened? You were in the car.

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Yeah, he said, “Oh, you have a very nice family, and I don’t have a problem, but it’s the neighbors. Do you have any dark family members that would come to visit you?” (laughter)

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh my God, I'm telling you.

AMELIA MARQUEZ: (overlapping; inaudible) some point in your early twenties.

TOM RIVERA: [00:27:00] Well, Javier, it seems that by your description, because of your skin color, you were able to pass. The initial test was color, so you were able to pass.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh my... Yeah, but, I mean, that was -- I think it might have made it worse for me. Because I never denied it, and I was always, "What was wrong? My parents are great. What...?" You know, but anyway, even after that, we finally bought a house in Fontana, and I was working at Crestmore, and we'd always stop and have a beer, the guys, you know, when we worked in the mine. That's how...

TOM RIVERA: That's how you lost your hearing?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, with all that noise, you know. Anyway, we'd leave, you know, a certain time, and like I said, highway patrol was watching us. So I took off. (clears throat) And about a mile [00:28:00] down the s-- road, they pulled me over. I knew he was following me. And he says, "How much have you had to drink?" I said, "I had a couple of beers." Well, he says, "Oh, any more than that?" I said, "No." So he gave me some kind of a test, you know. I was okay. "What are you doing going four, five miles over the speed limit?" He just wanted to stop me. I said, "Well," I said, "my wife is expecting, and I stopped, and I need to get over there. She may need me to go to the hospital now." Oh, he got a big laugh. He said, "Oh, man, I..." And it was true. And he says, "I've heard everything already." He says, "You know I can take you out to the dump and beat the hell out of you and nobody will know the difference, pull all your clothes away and make you home naked." I said, "Yeah, you've probably done it before, and you'll probably do it

again, and when they get me up, if I'm able to talk, that's how I'm going to tell them." Anyway, he got back on the radio and [00:29:00] did a -- he had somebody with him. He got on the radio and he had me sit up there by my car. And he finally came back out and he, "Well, so, I'm going to let you go." I said, "Well, gee, thanks." I says, "Now that you're going to let me go, why don't you follow me to find out if it's true what I told you?" "No, that's okay, we believe you." And she was expecting. That's my next daughter. I took her to the hospital that night.

TOM RIVERA: (laughs)

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Hijo de la fregada.

TOM RIVERA: That was a close one.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Anyway, to tell you the truth, after I got -- oh, right after I got back from the army, I was -- I don't know -- here in Colton, you came over the tracks on -- is it calle ocho?

TOM RIVERA: Sí.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: On the right was -- I don't know if it was -- off to the left -- the left was Willis, and that --

TOM RIVERA: Right, right.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: -- on the right it was kind of like, at that time it was -- I don't know if it was a pharmacy, a tobacco, or what, but I stopped there to get something. And there was a policeman ahead of me, [00:30:00] on the way on the counter. He kinda looked at me, smiled, and kept on standing, and I was standing there, too, waiting for him. And then this guy came in that I was -- had gotten discharged with, a Mexican guy. I said, "Hey, ¿cómo estás? (inaudible) que no te veo." And then the cop turned around and looked at me. "Get the hell out of here. Go on, get out of town. I don't want to see you. Get out! Out!" At that moment, you know, so what the hell did I fight that war for? No, this thought came into my...

I was on the wrong side. (laughter) Really, I thought that. Man, I was shooting at the wrong side. Anyway, that's the way it was.

TOM RIVERA: So things didn't change drastically.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I didn't -- I got in my car and went. I didn't go out of town like he told me. But no, no change.

TOM RIVERA: What about the, you know -- those were incidents that happened because of (overlapping; inaudible) --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: You think there's change now? Forget it. The only thing that keeps the change is the law. My [00:31:00] doctor had the temerity, the guts to tell me, "This is -- we don't need these laws. There's no such thing as discrimination." I says, "The hell there isn't! The only thing that keeps it is the law. If it wasn't for that it'd be right back where it was." And it's true. Listen to Trump. (laughter) And he got a lot of reaction, a lot of positive reaction, so you know it's still alive and ready to go.

TOM RIVERA: Well, people that feel that way are very good supporters of Trump.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, and hey, look where he is. That tell you something. Anyway.

TOM RIVERA: Anyway, Javier, when you got back to Colton, you found out that those attitudes had not changed. Were you able to participate in the American GI -- no, not the American, but the Fidel Hernandez Post, and some of those veterans' organizations that were in the -- that were part of our cities?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, I -- [00:32:00] like I -- it was... The American Legion, I was in it for a little while, but not very much, you know. I didn't. I joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and I'm a life member for that now. But not really.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, yeah.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Just trying to make a living.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah. And making a living, you said that you went through various jobs, you know.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, gee whiz.

TOM RIVERA: You worked at -- in the -- at the cement plant. You worked at the --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: First, I worked at [Kaiser's?]. And when I went in there, the personnel, he says, "Oh, I got a good job for you." Sent me to the lab. And (clears throat) [00:33:00] the -- we used to take samples of the ingots, and material that came into the steel mill, and sample it to see what grade it was and all that stuff. It was a really good job, until they found out que era mexicano, obviously, and then he came in with another guy and he says, "You know, this man is older than you. He has a family. We're going to have to give him your job. You know, you can understand how that is." Well, what could I understand, you know? They stuck me in a mill, with the dust, you know, so thick that if I had stayed there I would have had my lungs all eaten up. So I was in there for about a week and I quit, you know. Anyway.

TOM RIVERA: But that was, again, one of those things that happened just because --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: This was just before I went in the Army. Yeah. But when I came back, I went to the... Well, I tried several other places. I had been at [00:34:00] -- experiences assistant electrician at [Norton?], before it was Norton. It was some kind of a depot at the old [Chevy Ford?], Norton Air Force Base, or Norton Field. But anyway, they didn't have any opportunities, so I went to Crestmore, and they didn't have anything for me except in a crew cleaning up: puro

mexicanos. And the foreman was this -- I think it was [Ralph Velasquez?]. You know Ralph Velasquez?

TOM RIVERA: No.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, la familia lived right on the end of Congress, by the railroad tracks, and -- next to the railroad tracks. He had -- [00:35:00] a uno de él le decía la (inaudible), [Willy?] Velasquez. Yes, Ralph, the oldest one, and... And I forget what (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

TOM RIVERA: Were they related to the -- to Tommy Velasquez, who owned the gas station?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, uh-huh.

TOM RIVERA: That family.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: That's one of them, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Okay, that's the family, yeah.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Uh-huh. And anyway, ¿qué te iba a decir? Oh, yeah, the Crestmore.

TOM RIVERA: Crestmore, uh-huh.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, but I wound up sucking more dust (inaudible) those kilns, you know. So I thought, well, you know, the next best thing -- I see these guys coming out of the mine all cleaned up, but I didn't know that they were cleaned up after the mess they were in, you know. So I went to work for the mine. I worked there for about five years, I guess. And I could never get out to do anything and los mexicano were all really getting just --

TOM RIVERA: Labor --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Dirty job, yeah. [00:36:00] So I finally got disgusted and quit. I hurt my back, is what it was. And they put me out on a kiln on the outside, just mining it, you know. That was a good job, but I didn't have it permanently. And



the superintendent come out, he says, "Well," he says, "I'm going to tell them that you do a good job and that you're a hard worker." "Well, I hope you tell them that, because that's what I do." Anyway, I really got disgusted, so I quit. (laughter) And I think it took me about three, four days to get a job at the post office. And I went up there and I got to the office, and the postmaster's secretary interviewed me, and he -- she gave me the job. I guess she liked what I -- the way I talked.

TOM RIVERA: What year was that?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: You know, I got something here. (unfolds paper)  
(inaudible) here at the post office.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, okay. Okay. Oh, [00:37:00] you were a handsome guy.  
(laughter) No wonder Amelia fell for you.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I can't remember that stuff.

TOM RIVERA: Nineteen fifty-one, 1951, you started at the post office.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, and I think --

TOM RIVERA: Nineteen fifty-one.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, 1951, I went to...

TOM RIVERA: Yes.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: That's a whole thing. (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: That's wonderful. Congratula-- when did you retire?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I retired 1980. I was...

TOM RIVERA: Uh-huh. Were you...? You retired young, then.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I was 55, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Uh-huh, you retired young.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Got a good retirement, so...

TOM RIVERA: And both of you traveled quite a bit.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, we went to Hawaii. (laughs) I went to Japan, and she went to Spain with my daughter, because she didn't want to go to Japan. I don't know why not. You missed a good one. And she went to -- with my daughter to Spain and Morocco. [00:38:00] And then we came back, and then went on another trip. We went to... [This was when?] half of Europe was occupied by the Communists, and we went to England, and then went across the Channel on a ferry to Belgium, remember? In Belgium, we went to West Germany. (clears throat) And then we crossed the border into East Germany and went across East Germany all the way to Berlin. And then Berlin, we did tour the city, West Berlin, and then we decided we wanted to go to East Berlin. So the tour company arranged our passes. Got on a bus and we passed through Checkpoint Charlie. Remember Checkpoint Charlie? And when we passed through, the Communists came around with these [00:39:00] mirrors, you know, under the bus, and all that time, this big, heavy, broad -- looked like a Nazi.

TOM RIVERA: Storm trooper, eh? (laughs)

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah. Storm trooper, right, but it was the Communists. Anyway, we toured East Berlin. It was very, very interesting. We went to a museum, went to this -- looked like they stole half of the ancient Egyptian library there. And went -- of course they took us to see the big monument to Mother Russia. And so then from there we went all the way across East Germany, down into Czechoslovakia. (clears throat) And Czechoslovakia -- incidentally, most of the people with us were Brits, from Britain, and I think one from Canada. And when we got to a certain part in Czechoslovakia, there was a place there that General Patton and his troops [00:40:00] [first point?] took, and it was a really bad area. And I just happened to say -- I recognized the town. I says -- I jumped up, I said, "Hey, there's where the Americans got -- were in nineteen forty-whatever. The war

ended.” And all the Brits said, “Oh, boo! Boo! Boo! Yeah, baloney. It didn’t happen.”

TOM RIVERA: They want to take the credit, eh?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, yeah. Anyway, the tour guide, the -- from Czechoslovakia, got up and says, “No, that’s true.” And boy, you should have heard the sighing, it’s just, “boo.” (laughter) From that point on, the poor girl took the brunt of the hate from the Brits. I’m not kidding, all the tour of Czechoslovakia. They just hated her. And, anyway, she validated my statement. And we toured the Czech Republic and the capital, ¿cómo se llamaba?

AMELIA MARQUEZ: (inaudible).

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Qué la fregada.

TOM RIVERA: [00:41:00] I can’t think of the capital either.

HENRY VASQUEZ: It’s Prague. It’s Prague.

TOM RIVERA: Prague?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Prague, huh? Prague, yeah. Praha is what they called it.

HENRY VASQUEZ: Yeah, Praha in their language.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Right. There you go. (laughter) We went across a bridge, you know, that -- across that river, and we -- they took us to -- was it an opera, there? Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: So you guys did quite an extensive travel --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, that’s not all. Then we went across the border into Vienna, to -- into Austria. In Austria and Vienna, we went to -- of course we toured the city, you know. The interesting part for me was when we went up to the Emperor’s castle, and walked into Maximiliano’s childhood days room, you know. And we --

TOM RIVERA: What's important about Maximiliano? And Mexico?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Emperador de México.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Tell us about that. [00:42:00] Eighteen fifty --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I don't know.

TOM RIVERA: -- 1860?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I don't know what year it was.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah.

HENRY VASQUEZ: Eighteen sixty-one, something around there.

TOM RIVERA: Eighteen sixty-one, Napoleon -- was it Napoleon?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Napoleon, yeah, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Put him into power, Henry?

HENRY VASQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And he was supposed to be the ruler, dictator of Mexico. But this little guy, the little Indian guy, Juanito, este...

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, Este...

TOM RIVERA: Porfi--

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Benito Juarez.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Benito Juarez.

TOM RIVERA: Benito Juarez said, "No, you're not taking our country." So he fought Maximiliano --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Right.

TOM RIVERA: -- and won, and I think they executed him --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well --

TOM RIVERA: -- in 1862. That's when the Battle of Puebla took place, and is why we celebrate Cinco de Mayo. But let me get back to --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well --

TOM RIVERA: -- military, your military experience. Were you -- did you ever take advantage of the GI Bill?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, not really. I went to (inaudible) Business College for... [00:43:00] But, no, I should have taken more advantage of it. I finally got my diploma, you know. I got my -- I went to night school at Rialto, and -- daily, or nightly, and got my diploma, not the certificate but the actual diploma, high school diploma.

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Yeah.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, so you continued --

AMELIA MARQUEZ: And (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) where he was the valedictorian.

TOM RIVERA: You were the valedictorian of the...?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. (laughter)

TOM RIVERA: See? What he didn't do at Colton High School, he continued afterwards.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: He continued... Javier, este -- Tom Brokaw, do you know Tom Brokaw, the newscaster?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: He wrote a book, and call it the -- title of the book was *The Greatest Generation*, and that was you guys, World War II veterans. What did you think of his book, or were you ever familiar with his book?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, I read -- I heard of it, but I haven't read it yet.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah. Because he [00:44:00] does talk about the Greatest Generation, that was the World War II veterans and fighters. When you came back to Colton, did you get involved with any -- getting people elected to offices, the council or mayorship, or were there any of the leaders in Colton that were actively involved in politics, and did you support any of these activities?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, none that I would support at that time. The same old gang ruled Colton, you know, as when I left. So I don't -- after I left is when people started getting more aware, and more involved, and taking over positions of power, you know. So that's after I left. And as far as organizations, when I was in the [00:45:00] post office, we were involved in -- there was the brown-baggers. I don't know if you ever heard of them.

TOM RIVERA: Yes, uh-huh.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: We used to meet with different organizations, and if they had problems, we'd try to iron them out, you know. But that was it.

TOM RIVERA: So you were in an advocacy group for people that had -- were they social, or job-related problems, or...?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Mostly job-related problems.

TOM RIVERA: Okay, okay. Now, Javier, tell me about your dad. We mentioned -- you mentioned your dad. Was he born and raised in Colton, or did he move to Colton from...?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: My dad was born and raised in San Julián, Jalisco, Los Altos de Jalisco. Not too far from Guadalajara.

TOM RIVERA: Right, right.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: And his mother -- they were pretty well-to-do people. Anyway, [00:46:00] his -- the revolution was going on really bad. And to put in

prospect how bad it was, the population of Mexico then was ten million people, of Mexico, and there were one million casualties, okay. That's how bad it was. Anyway, they moved out. They had to leave all their belongings and everything, and they wound up in Mexico City, my dad and his two sisters and my grandfather and my grandmother. And he caught [typhus?], whatever that -- typhus, whatever that was, but that's what they called it. And he died. So they emigrated to the United States. Anyway, I remember my dad telling that the railroad track -- they took a train from Mexico City [00:47:00] to Texas someplace. Every telephone pole had a man hanging from it. A body. Every telephone pole all the way from Mexico City to the border.

TOM RIVERA: That was during the Revolutionary War.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, the Revolutionary War, yeah. Anyway, they went from there to Arizona, and they lived in Arizona for a while. My dad worked in the mine there. And then he came back to... My mother -- my grandmother moved to San Gabriel. He went back to Mexico. I don't know how that -- how the story goes after that, but anyway, he went back to Mexico, and he married my mother after the Revolution. Se casaron en Aguascalientes, in a church called El Encino. I've been there. And [00:48:00] came back, and I was born in Los Angeles, but we were living in San Gabriel. And the... I don't remember that too well, because I was too young. And from there, we moved to Riverside, and that's when my other sister was born. From Riverside, that's when we moved to Colton. That's the only thing I remember. I was about five, six years old. [This part?] of the woods that they were building the houses. But my dad, he did his business by buying wholesale goods, you know, and he sold them out of a car, a van, whatever he had. Y las comunidades mexicanas así se usaba porque people had the same trouble we did,

you know, even worse, with discrimination and getting [attended?], so he had a good business. And --

TOM RIVERA: So he provided a [00:49:00] need that was --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Right.

TOM RIVERA: -- that was there, because of the attitude and situation that happened in the area.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Right. And he made a good living out of it. So he had that house built there in Colton. I think that's the only one standing now, on Jefferson Lane. That's down close to the [Cotton?] Club, (inaudible), he has the Cotton Club there, or the... What was the other name for that place?

TOM RIVERA: The [Pago Pago?]?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: The Pago Pago, yeah. Yeah, the Cotton Club was a little further west of the Pago Pago, but the Pago Pago was right on the... Yeah. Well, that was there about the same time, too, yeah, right, and that's where Jay East and all that gang lived, and I lived right up the street, maybe a block, on Jefferson Lane. Jefferson Lane ran right into --

TOM RIVERA: Congress?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Valley Boulevard, I think is what it used to be known. It used to be the highway to Riverside. It was the only highway at that time.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah. Yeah, [00:50:00] yeah, right.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah. But anyway, (clears throat) my dad had a good business, and that's all he ever had until --

TOM RIVERA: Well, what kind of products did he sell?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: ¿Cómo?

TOM RIVERA: What kind of products did he sell?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: He sold blankets and clothes and stuff like that.



TOM RIVERA: Ah, okay. Yeah.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah. So, and... He -- the neighbors were just east -- just north of us, where -- (inaudible) al pobre hombre. (laughter)

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Ramirez?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Huh?

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Ramirez?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, los Ramirez were on the south side of us. They were the first ones there before us.

TOM RIVERA: [00:51:00] [Sierra?]?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, the Sierras came later. Este -- [Rosendo?] was the name of their son. He was older than I. He... Ay, ay, ay.

AMELIA MARQUEZ: [Luna?]?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, don't confuse me with those... (laughter) Anyway.

TOM RIVERA: Well, you know, Jefferson, I --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Allí estaban también el... one of the original settlers of the area. Viejitos todavía estaba allí. Don Fabrizio Velarde.

TOM RIVERA: Velarde was there, eh?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: He was Agua Mansa person.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, yeah, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: He was the Agua Mansa person.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, right. He lived right next door to where the Sierras lived. That was an adobe house, and that was his. But then he moved out. I don't know what happened to him, but -- [00:52:00] and then his son, I forget who - - he lived up on Congress, and his grandson, la mamá era mexicana... [Stanley?] Velarde. You ever hear of Stanley Velarde?

TOM RIVERA: No, no.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, my, that was a character. He had a sister, [Dorothy?]. Anyway. He used to -- course, he wasn't segregated. You know, he used to go to -- uptown, to the other schools. And I remember one time we cornered him and just made him enraged, you know, and he says, "Oh, you Mexicans! You Mexicans! You Mexicans!" (laughter)

TOM RIVERA: Well, you know, Jefferson was a curious kind of a neighborhood, because I had no idea that we had gringos that lived in that area.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: [00:53:00] Oh, yeah. You know, and I never felt any resentment from them, you know. I used to go to the house. Jay East used to come over to our house. And my mother and my dad would take him to Azteca Theater. He said he watched a movie. I don't know how he understood what happened, but he did, you know. (laughter) And his brother, [Joey?], he used to pull this little wagon all around town everywhere, and he was a wonderful little guy, you know? He was probably... Oh, anyway. And his sisters también la mamá y papá were, mm, really not -- you didn't feel any resentment, that --

TOM RIVERA: They were just neighbors, good neighbors.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: When I got to the other part of town, though, he -- I remember one time we went to the plunge. And I didn't think anything about it, with Jay and I and [Kenny Cooper?], you know. We walked in, paid for (overlapping; inaudible) --

TOM RIVERA: You and your gringo friends, eh?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Huh?

TOM RIVERA: You and your gringo friends went to the pool.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Okay.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: And... Yeah, and [00:54:00] went in, jumped in swimming. Then this guy from high school recognized me. "Whoa! How many of these people are here? What is this!" These kind of things, you know. And then they cornered him, and I didn't hear another peep from him. So we left.

TOM RIVERA: But you know, again --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, I never went to the plunge again.

TOM RIVERA: And then those gringo kids went to Lincoln. Didn't they go to Lincoln School, or Roosevelt School?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, they went to Lincoln, yeah, right.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, they didn't go to Wilson.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, no.

TOM RIVERA: Garfield or Wilson. They were bussed to the other schools.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, that's right. And as a matter of fact, Jay used to always complain about -- he was going to school, night school to learn Spanish, porque le gustaba mucho ir para México para allá, para Baja California. He had a boat. He'd take it down, all the way down to La Paz. And he was trying to learn. I said, "Well, see, what they did to you, they segregated you, and bus you to the other side of town. If you had gone to school with me, you'd be speaking Spanish now." (laughter) [00:55:00] "Yeah, I guess so, yeah." But anyway.

TOM RIVERA: What was your dad's name, Javier?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: My dad?

TOM RIVERA: Your dad.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Refugio.

TOM RIVERA: And his -- and your mom?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: [Esther?].

TOM RIVERA: Esther?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Y era Alatorre and my dad Márquez. He was Márquez Márquez. Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And she was...? Est--

JAVIER MARQUEZ: ¿Cómo?

TOM RIVERA: Esther...? What was --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Esther Alatorre.

TOM RIVERA: Alatorre, Alatorre. Now, your dad was quite a businessperson.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, yeah, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Quite a businessperson. I understand that he also raised a lot of cocks, fighting cocks.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, my God, he had roosters.

TOM RIVERA: Tell me about those roosters.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, as a matter of fact, the place that we moved to later, after -- he had that little house that he rented out, built another house. Built it out of -- had it built out of just lumber from el PFE. Anyway. Yeah, he had -- he was great bruiser, [00:56:00] a fighter, you know. He had las navajas, and the whole shebang. And --

TOM RIVERA: How many roosters did he have?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: He must have had about 30 or 40.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah. [What was the?] --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: [Alas?] all around the back, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Ah, okay.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: And then some of those roosters -- I remember Filipinos from up north used to come down and buy them, at least 300 bucks at that time, you know, and up to five, six hundred dollars for just a rooster.

TOM RIVERA: So your dad had a good flock of fighting roosters.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, yeah, yeah. And I remember I had -- used to have to -- before I went to school, I had to change the water, make sure they had water. And they had the puertas, high. I had to jump up -- it was my chest -- and reach down and get the water trough, and bring it up, and fill it up, put it down before I went to school. (laughter)

TOM RIVERA: That -- so that was daily, eh?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: For how many years [00:57:00] did you do that?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I don't know. Couple, three years. Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Now, where were the fights conducted?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: In obscurity. (laughter) They usually had a designated place, you know. You'd go maybe up to Cucamonga, or sometimes up Escondido, but, you know, different places.

TOM RIVERA: Different places. And was your dad ever raided by the police?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, yeah. Yeah. I don't think he ever got caught, but yeah, they were raided, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And what happened when the --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: It's funny. The cock fighters were not only Mexicanos, gringos también. Usually, they were from Arkansas, or someplace like that, you know, where they did this, also, yeah. So it was not a unique sport.

TOM RIVERA: So it was a universal sport. (laughs)

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, right, at [00:58:00] that time, yeah, but still, it was against the law.

TOM RIVERA: What happened after your dad got raided? Did they take away the --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: He didn't get raided at home, no. No, he -- I don't think he ever got caught. Do you remember ever get -- my dad ever being in jail for fighting roosters? (laughter) I don't remember that. But I know that they caught some and it was a pretty stiff fine, 500 bucks, something like that. That was a lot of money at that time, you know.

TOM RIVERA: It was, it was.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: And they confiscated all the roosters. And what they did was they'd confiscated them, and I think they cooked them up for jailhouse folks.

TOM RIVERA: But anyway, that was one of the enterprises that he had, along with his merchant retail business, the rooster business --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, the cockfighting was simply a sport for him. It was not [00:59:00] a all-encompassing job, you know. No, his clothing... Yeah, I remember he didn't trust the banks, because I guess the banks broken --

TOM RIVERA: Oh, in the '30s, yes.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: -- lost a lot of money, yeah. So he used to keep it all under the bed. And I remember that lump under the bed, you know. (laughter) And every so often he'd bring that lump out and count it out on the bed. (laughter)

TOM RIVERA: Yeah.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, you know, he...

TOM RIVERA: Kind of a -- one question that I always ask people: do you remember the 1938 flood?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: The 1930s?

TOM RIVERA: The 1938 flood.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, sure.

TOM RIVERA: The big flood.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah, matter of fact... Yeah, Jay [01:00:00] East had bought a little -- an old truck. He was quite a mechanic, you know. He was a kid, but anyway -- and he had fixed it. I remember what it -- he had -- it had what is called a Ruckstell, you know, like a shift stick, but it shifted the truck into lower gears, something like this. And we were -- or he was -- I used to go along with him sometimes -- pulling cars out of mud for a fee, you know, or pulling cars away. And I remember the -- and the river, Santa Ana River, there were houses that had floated down from someplace up by the base of the mountains. Yeah. With clothes and dishes and everything in them, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, they were right by your neighborhood.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, they floated down the creek, yeah. [01:01:00] Oh, yeah, we used to go fishing down there, before all the floods, and all the fishing -- now, there was fish in the river. And I remember también esas ranas. Some people go down and fish for those, you know.

TOM RIVERA: But the flood was a quite a --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: It was. It was 1938. Yeah, I remember vividly, yeah. Just 'cause --

TOM RIVERA: Did it --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: It didn't reach our area.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, okay.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: The river was further on down. And it had pretty wide space, and a lot -- unencumbered path, so it really went pretty fast into Riverside and out that way.

TOM RIVERA: But you remember the storm? You know, 10 or 15 days of rain and --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, yeah. Yeah, it was quite a time. I didn't think too much about it. You know, you're kids. There was a ditch in front of our [01:02:00] house that had dead fish in it, too. (laughter) Yeah. Right -- not more than 40, 50 feet from the house. (laughs) Yeah, so...

TOM RIVERA: Javier, you mentioned the Pago Pago and the Cotton Club. I remember the Pago Pago Club. It was there on the corner of, oh --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: It was where the curve was.

TOM RIVERA: Where Congress curved into Eighth Street, or Seventh Street.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I guess that's what you would call it, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah. But I never heard of the Cotton Club.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, the Cotton Club was -- it was before the -- there was another one. Okay, you know where Congress goes?

TOM RIVERA: Yes.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: The Pago Pago's to the left. You make the curve. The Cotton Club was on the first corner that went south. I think it was -- I can't remember the name of that street.

TOM RIVERA: It wasn't Jefferson either? Extension of Jefferson?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, it was Jeffers-- no, [01:03:00] Jefferson Street went straight. Yeah, you made a right turn, and the next block on the left, on the north, northeast corner of that street -- I forget what the name of that street was. But anyway, it's first one to the right. It's still there, and that was the Cotton Club, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Was it a dance...?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: It was dance and whiskey and all that stuff, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: What about Caldera Hall? Caldera Center?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, Caldera, that was a -- of course, you know (inaudible), la tienda? No, this is before that. El plunge allá en...



TOM RIVERA: Yes, yes, yes.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: And to get to it, you take -- you would go down Jefferson Lane, [01:04:00] to -- that would be Valley Boulevard. That's what they used to call straight across, what is -- the street that they have now is a highway, wasn't -- that wasn't existing then. Just a railroad tracks. Down the two railroad tracks, across, and to Caldera.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: [Plange?] on the right.

TOM RIVERA: La Calle Cinco. La Calle Cinco.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, Fifth Street.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: So, anyway, it was ice cold water. (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: Yes. Did you ever visit there, or...?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, I was in there all the time, yes.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, were you?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Not all the time, but quite a bit of times, yes. Swimming, yes.

TOM RIVERA: You swam there?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: What about the baseball...?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: You know, I rem-- the baseball?

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, the baseball --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: The Colton... ¿cómo se llama?

TOM RIVERA: The Cubs?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No. I forget what the name of it...

TOM RIVERA: Me, too. But anyway, they did have a baseball team.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, they had a good baseball team. [01:05:00]

(inaudible) No me acuerdo. Los... anyway, this was up north of Pago Pago, the field was, up about -- next -- that was on Congress, off of Congress, off to the north of that. It's -- I think it's still there, ¿que no? --

TOM RIVERA: No, there's nothing anymore.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: -- there's a park around there, housing -- stuff like that.

TOM RIVERA: Right, Henry? There's nothing there anymore.

HENRY VASQUEZ: You mean up where the Caldera (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)?

TOM RIVERA: Right.

HENRY VASQUEZ: Well, it's all bought by that carnival outfit.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah.

HENRY VASQUEZ: They just put in all of their carnival stuff there.

TOM RIVERA: So it doesn't exist anymore. But I was just wondering -- but [I must say?] -- (laughs) I just wanted to ask you if you ever -- were ever there, swam there. I guess you did.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh yeah, oh yeah. Yeah, and I remember they had a 30-foot diving board. No me acuerdo como se llamaba el muchacho that used to go up and dive off the diving [01:06:00] board.

TOM RIVERA: That was Henry's uncle.

HENRY VASQUEZ: Well, one of them. My uncle Mon Vasquez used to do that.

TOM RIVERA: ¿Cómo?

HENRY VASQUEZ: Mon. His real name was Ramon. Vasquez.

TOM RIVERA: Vasquez.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, he --

HENRY VASQUEZ: But, you know, we called him Mon. But he wasn't the only one. There were a lot of other people that --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Not too many that would go up on that one, (laughs) but there were some, yeah.

HENRY VASQUEZ: A few.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, and how -- is he still around?

HENRY VASQUEZ: No, he died last year.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, how old would he be?

HENRY VASQUEZ: He would have been, I think, 92.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, about my age.

HENRY VASQUEZ: Yeah.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, I probably saw him, yeah. But there was another one, [Guari Yuel?], or maybe that was him, his... Ay, ay, ay. Que mal la memoria que tengo ya. Bueno, pues, for my age. (laughter) Anyway, yeah, we did a lot of swimming there, yeah. [01:07:00] It was great. Y también (inaudible) las casitas they had all along -- all the way around for --

TOM RIVERA: Yes.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: -- para cambiarse.

TOM RIVERA: Yes, the dressing room. Now, you said that you met Amelia at church.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: At La-- met her at the --

AMELIA MARQUEZ: At Jamaica there.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: At the Jamaica at the Guadalupe Church in San Bernardino?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: San Bernardino, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, yeah. And Amelia, your family's from San Bernardino, then?

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Yes.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, okay.

AMELIA MARQUEZ: And I remember that flood, because in San Bernardino we got infected with the water. You know, that's big source here, here. [I got that?].

TOM RIVERA: So that flood --

AMELIA MARQUEZ: We had to boil the water, and my mother had to sterilize the sheets, the towels.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah. Now, where did you --

AMELIA MARQUEZ: I was little, but I remember.

TOM RIVERA: Where did you live, Amelia, in San [01:08:00] Bernardino? There on the west --

AMELIA MARQUEZ: On Seventh -- West Seventh.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, okay, okay. So you got the Lytle Creek flooding in that area.

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah.

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Oh, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Yeah. And then you got the Santa Ana, plus the Lytle Creek water.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah. Your address was 939 West Seventh Street, wasn't it?

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Mm-hmm.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Right across from the tracks. (laughs)

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Oh, yeah, we were on the --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, I remember that. (laughs)

AMELIA MARQUEZ: -- on the wrong side of the tracks.

TOM RIVERA: Uh-huh, uh-huh, yeah. Well, let me ask you, both of you: what were the -- one of your best memories or best experience that you remember about growing up or living in Colton?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: The best?

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, one of the best memories that you had growing up or living in Colton. You too, Amelia. I'm going to ask you that question too.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, I think [01:09:00] there were a lot of good moments, and Colton -- the people, you know. Really. They -- los Mexicanos, we really had a going -- stuck together. They were good to each other. Most of them, you know. Once in a while, you know, me acuerdo de Chamano. There was, no sé, un (inaudible) in the middle of town.

TOM RIVERA: Who was that?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Chamano, he's called. (laughter) Chamano. Anyway, but we had [El Tivoli?]. They used to put these plays on, you know. Matter of fact, one of my sisters was in it. Esta...

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Rachel. Rachel.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Who? Rach? No, not... I think it was [Rosie?] -- [Rosa?], my -- the next one after me, bailaban allí en el... Uno de los muchachos Delgadillo. Remember Delgadillo? [01:10:00] The old man used to be a music teacher. No, he wasn't actually a teacher. They hired him as a teacher for los Mexicanos to play music. He taught violin and clarinet and all this kind of... Did you know --?

HENRY VASQUEZ: Emilio? Yes. I mean, I didn't know him personally, but my grandmother was a music teacher also, and they knew of each other, and...

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: ¿Cómo se llamaba, Henry?

HENRY VASQUEZ: Emilio Delgadillo.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Emilio del Delgadillo, yeah, right.

HENRY VASQUEZ: Yeah. And remember he also did the band over at Wilson?

TOM RIVERA: Ah!

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Right, that's --

TOM RIVERA: Thirty-eight, '39.

HENRY VASQUEZ: Yes.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah. And era compadre de mi mamá. Y el hermano de la señora Delgadillo. Y el Padre Flores (inaudible). Remember Padre [Flores?]?

HENRY VASQUEZ: [01:11:00] No.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: En San Salvador?

HENRY VASQUEZ: No. The first --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, well, that's -- he died, I think, before you were born.

HENRY VASQUEZ: Yeah, before me. Yeah. I remember Father Valencia.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, well he came later, yeah. But, no, Padre Valencia -- yeah, yeah, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Javier, you mentioned El Tivoli. I've heard about it, but --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, that was right on the -- you know where the first store, the --

TOM RIVERA: [Navarro?]?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: ¿Cómo?

TOM RIVERA: Navarro?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: The Navarro, right around the corner there?

TOM RIVERA: Yes.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Okay, Tivoli was right across the street, on that corner there. And it was, like -- it was just like an -- it was an opera house, is what it was. Yeah. Course, you know, me being so young and small, things kind of magnified, but I remember going in there, and a big stage on the north side of it, and inside. And they had the band, and singers, and [01:12:00] dancers, and all that kind of thing in there. It was really a very, very social thing. and I think you had a lot of culture, también, you know? So it was some good experiences. I really enjoyed that, yeah. That's only one. I can remember a lot of -- as we go along, I remember other things, you know, peripheral things, but --

TOM RIVERA: Javier, also, they talk about a theater, a movie theater in that area. Did you ever experience or see or visit it?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: A theater?

TOM RIVERA: Yeah, a movie theater in that area.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No, I never --

TOM RIVERA: No?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Not in the area.

HENRY VASQUEZ: There was one -- something called El Teatro Hidalgo. Do you happen to remember about that?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: No.

HENRY VASQUEZ: Is that the one, Tom, where --

TOM RIVERA: Yes.

HENRY VASQUEZ: -- it was...? I think somebody said it was where they built El Sombrero.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, see, it may have been. I don't know, yeah. Yeah, it may have been, yeah, but [01:13:00] I was probably too --

TOM RIVERA: Right.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Amelia, your best experience about growing up in the areas?

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Well, I was very lucky that I lived one block west of the tracks, because from there forward, we went to [Harding?] Grammar School, and the people west of that went to Alsan... What was it?

HENRY VASQUEZ: [Alessandro?]

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Alessandro, yeah.

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Alessandro, yeah. And my cousins went there, because they lived further down, toward Mount Vernon. And so I was very lucky, those of us that lived right there in that little area. So we got to go to Harding, and, well, we weren't allowed to speak Spanish. They would wash your mouth out if [01:14:00] you spoke Spanish. And I guess it -- in a way, it was it very extreme, because (laughs) we didn't speak, you know, with this decided accent. When I went to high school, and the people came from Alessandro on that school over there, [La Ramona?] and Alessandro, and they -- pobres, they had such a thick accent. Y les hacía burla.

TOM RIVERA: Now -- oh. They made fun of them?

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Oh, yeah. They made fun of them, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Now, this is San Bernardino High School?

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Yeah, in San Bernardino High School. It was awful.

TOM RIVERA: Okay. What year would that have been?

AMELIA MARQUEZ: It was segregated. Very segregated.

TOM RIVERA: What year was this, Amelia?



AMELIA MARQUEZ: I graduated in '46.

TOM RIVERA: Okay, okay.

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Yeah. So, oh, yeah. It was -- we had our -- I was not allowed to take mathematics, which is what I wanted. I had to take typing and shorthand, [01:15:00] and I hated it. I told my counselor, "I hate that class. And she's, "Oh, no, but that's your way you're going to be able to have a job. Because you're not going to be going to college." And so... Yeah, and we had our own recess. We had our own lunch hour, (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

TOM RIVERA: What do you mean, "we?"

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Los Latinos.

TOM RIVERA: Oh, they had separate --

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Mexicanos, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: They had separate lunches, and separate --

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Oh, yeah! And so -- and I know, because I had two friends, and -- [Liselle Lockwood?], she was my good friend. We had taken classes, the same classes. And all of a sudden, I never saw her anymore. And I asked her, "Where do you go?" She said, "To lunch. But we -- I go at blah, blah," whatever time. Yeah. So it took me a while, and I thought, wait a minute, [01:16:00] I'm segregated here at school. (laughter) Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Well, you know, I guess that was those times, ¿verdad, Javier?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Mm-hmm.

TOM RIVERA: That was those times. That was that attitude.

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: And it was de facto segregation. And we, as -- my grandparents and my parents just adjusted to it, and just survived.

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Just survived.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, yeah.

TOM RIVERA: They were just tough. You guys were just tough. You guys were just tough.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: (laughs)

TOM RIVERA: So I guess you were the Greatest Generation.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well...

TOM RIVERA: Because you lived through it, and you were tough.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah.

TOM RIVERA: Anything -- did I forget anything, any questions, Javier, that...?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I don't know --

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Well, the movie theater on Third Street, the temple, that was still -- we had a chain across.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Well, you know -- and my employment, my recent employment, because of the postal service. [01:17:00] I was superintendent of postal operations at Yucaipa. And so the job -- that's second to the -- used to be assistant postmaster, but they changed it. So anyway, the postmaster retired, and he asked me to apply for a job, so I did. And also, two friends of mine -- [Juan Egby Peters?], real nice guy -- he was manager of the station out in Del Rosa -- and another one. Anyway, we both three got selected for -- to interview. So they flew us up to San Bruno, and went into the interview. You went with me, didn't you?

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Where?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: You went with me to San Bruno for the interview?

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Oh, yeah.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Anyway.

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Sure.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: They took them two first, one at a time, you know. They came out laughing, "Man, that was the easiest interview I ever had. All they talk about was my golf, and [01:18:00] how did I do, and how many -- how -- what was my score," and all this. Both of them. So I thought, "Man, it's going to be easy." I sat down, and boy, did they slam me with, "Okay, what is going to be your next year's projected budget for -- broken down for carriers, for clerks, and miscellaneous work that you might have? And how many cents or dollars, and how much of that is going to be allotted towards next year's budget." I was aghast! (laughter) You know? I knew where I -- what was happening. Anyway, I says -- well, I kind of halfway answered it, you know, so broke it up and teeter-tottered and all that. But anyway, I finally got to the point where we were (inaudible), the interviewer and myself. And he says, "Well, why did you -- what -- why do you [01:19:00] suppose the people in Yacaipa are not going to resent you?" Pues, ya digo -- What's the point, you know? Anyway, I got up and I said, "Well, thank you very much. I know you're going to select the best one." And I left. I mean, that was so disgusting.

AMELIA MARQUEZ: And that was in, what, in the '70s?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, that was in the '70s. And this is the Postal Service, a federal job. It's a wonder I got as fast as I -- as far as I could.

TOM RIVERA: Or as long as you stayed there. (laughs)

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, well, I didn't stay there. I got another job, different job. (inaudible). (laughter)

TOM RIVERA: Well, just... I was going to say, anything else that I forgot to mention during our interview?

JAVIER MARQUEZ: I don't know. There's so much stuff, maybe, it's just we don't talk about it. (laughter) Ay, ay, ay.

TOM RIVERA: Well, Amelia, thank you [01:20:00] so much. Javier, thank you so much for --

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Oh, you're so welcome.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Yeah, you're welcome.

TOM RIVERA: -- taking your time off this morning, and driving all the way from Rialto --

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Oh, it was kind of fun.

TOM RIVERA: -- and being -- and being with us this morning. Thank you so much.

AMELIA MARQUEZ: Well, we got acquainted with the --

F1: Grand Terrace.

AMELIA MARQUEZ: -- Grand Terrace. (laughter) No, go -- turn here, turn left.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: Here's a little bit more of my...

TOM RIVERA: Thank you.

JAVIER MARQUEZ: But anyway, the end of that is I retired. I was acting postmaster in Fontana, was officer in charge, they called it, OIC, in 1980. This is the in between.

TOM RIVERA: Cut it.

**End of Interview:**

[01:20:33]