

Interviewees:

Aniceto Gomez

Interviewer:

Robert Gonzalez

Interview Date:

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Interview Location:

Redlands, California

Robert Gonzalez [00:00:00] Today is April 5th, 2002. Robert Gonzalez and interviewing Mr. Aniceto Gomez at his home. 1013 Webster Street in Redlands, California. Mr. Gomez, would you please tell me your full name and when you were born?

Aniceto Gomez [00:00:18] My name is Aniceto Gomez, Aniceto Garcia Gomez. I was born in Mexico, in Juarez. 1918. In fact, this month will be my birthday.

Robert Gonzalez [00:00:32] How old were you?

Aniceto Gomez [00:00:33] 84.

Robert Gonzalez [00:00:35] Could you tell me a little? If you remember. Tell me anything about when you first came with your family. Were you very young when you came to the United States?

Aniceto Gomez [00:00:46] I came here when I was five years old.

Robert Gonzalez [00:00:47] Okay. Do you remember anything about. About the journey with your family? Coming. Coming here to the States. Like what? Anything. Any kinds of details. You're pretty young, but do you remember any kind of details?

Aniceto Gomez [00:00:59] Oh, I can remember everything.

Robert Gonzalez [00:01:00] Tell me about it.

Aniceto Gomez [00:01:02] I came here in 1925. I was five years old. My mother. My mother. The only way my mother went for me is because she had to change her name, last name. Instead of I thought she took Garcia's name. And she went for me to Mexico and brought me to the United States. In those days, you cross a border, you only pay \$0.02 to cross. It was not like like it is today now. And she paid \$0.02, so I can come in here and I was raised here in Redlands since since I was five.

Robert Gonzalez [00:01:50] So you came from from Juarez to Redlands?

Aniceto Gomez [00:01:52] Uh huh, right, I came to Redlands.

Robert Gonzalez [00:01:55] Did you have family here already in Redlands?

Aniceto Gomez [00:01:58] No, just my mother.

Robert Gonzalez [00:01:59] Okay. What? What made your mother decide to come to Redlands?

Aniceto Gomez [00:02:04] Well, because my mother lived here in Redlands.

Robert Gonzalez [00:02:06] Okay. What? Why did she? Did she have family or friends?

Aniceto Gomez [00:02:09] No, she had friends, but not, ahh, no relatives. My only relative she had was in Juarez. Her mother. See the reason that my mother went after me. Is because my grandmother took care of me. And then my grandmother died. So my mother went after me and brought me to the States. She didn't have nobody over here.

Robert Gonzalez [00:02:40] Um. What did your mother do here? Did she do...?

Aniceto Gomez [00:02:44] She was getting welfare. You know? She was getting ah. Oh. How do you call it? You know, the government was helping people.

Robert Gonzalez [00:03:01] Sort of assistance.

Aniceto Gomez [00:03:02] Welfare, yea. Well, the welfare.

Robert Gonzalez [00:03:05] And what was your mother's name? Huh? What was your mother's name?

Aniceto Gomez [00:03:09] Maria. Maria Gomez.

Robert Gonzalez [00:03:14] What are your first do do do you remember anything about your trip from Mexico? How you got here? Did you take a train?

Aniceto Gomez [00:03:21] We came in a train. In a train? Uh huh.

Robert Gonzalez [00:03:23] Okay. Um. Tell me about your earliest memories about Redlands. What what were some of the first things that you can remember? Think back to what you can remember.

Aniceto Gomez [00:03:33] Well, when we first came in 1925. We came from Juarez to San Ti, there used to be a depot, on San Timoteo Canyon. But it's gone now. They took it off. We

stopped there. And umm, friends of my mother picked us up in a Model T Ford, uh, I think a Model T Ford from 1918 and brought us to Redlands. My mother was living on Tribune Street. Oh. You know Tom Manzano? He's my, he's my brother in law. Okay. Okay. And. And Tom Manzano lives on Tribune. My bother-in-law lived on this side in a house where my mother lived. Used to live as it was on this side. There's a greenhouse. That's where we came in first.

Robert Gonzalez [00:04:43] What do you remember about the neighborhood in Tribune? Do any any people what do you remember about Tribune Street, the neighborhood there, the people that you knew? Would you tell me anything about that?

Aniceto Gomez [00:04:53] Oh, they're all dead. They all died.

Robert Gonzalez [00:04:57] What was it like back then?

Aniceto Gomez [00:04:58] You know, like. Like my father in law. My mother in law was really living well when I came. I was married only five. When I. I. We came and worked. The house that I was living in used to belong to my father in law. But in those days, I was only five years old. And on. Um, I'm from there. I went to school. Okay. I went. No way. One of you. I went to school, Lugonia School. 1926. I didn't know how to talk English, but they kept me. So they sent me out. They took me out of Lugonia School and sent me to Franklin School. The Franklin School kicked me out because I couldn't talk English.

Robert Gonzalez [00:06:07] So what did you do?

Aniceto Gomez [00:06:08] So I stopped going to school for two years. Until I learned how to talk a little bit of English. And when I learned how to talk English, I went back to Franklin. So they took me back.

Robert Gonzalez [00:06:24] How. How did you learn to speak English?

Aniceto Gomez [00:06:26] Huh?

Robert Gonzalez [00:06:26] How did you learn to speak English?

Aniceto Gomez [00:06:28] With a, with a gang, with my friends. Okay. Everybody, they were trying to help me, because they kind of liked me. And so. I learned how to talk English.

Robert Gonzalez [00:06:42] Who are some of your friends back then? Huh? Who are some of your friends back then? Oh.

Aniceto Gomez [00:06:48] Like, now, most of them are dead. Like Ted Mendoza. Their brother, his brothers were. There were three brothers, Ted, Alfonso and Albert Mendoza. They're dead. You Albert Mendoza. I never met him, no. And then on Tribune there was my brother in laws. Like uh, his name was Chon. Chon, John. John. Nick. Tom. Mito. And um, Santos. Santos.

Robert Gonzalez [00:07:32] Those were the Manzanos?

Aniceto Gomez [00:07:33] Yeah. Well, I mean Santos was, look, he was crazy. He got crazy because he cut his finger. With a knife. He's cutting grass. And he ripped his finger off.

Robert Gonzalez [00:07:51] Wow, he cut his finger off.

Aniceto Gomez [00:07:52] Those days way back in a 28? Then we moved. We moved to ah to Stewart Street Those days we paid only \$10 for rent. Well, anyway, I went to school until I wore shoes, until I was seven years old. Couldn't afford to buy shoes. And now. I went to school in part a part of school. I wouldn't um. On Saturdays, I'd go pick oranges. One cent a box.

Robert Gonzalez [00:08:36] How old were you when you started picking?

Aniceto Gomez [00:08:38] I was eight; I was nine at nine years old when I first are picking oranges. It was between one and \$0.02 a box. So I had to make about 100 boxes to get a dollar. I couldn't make it, I was too young. And now. They wouldn't let me climb the ladder, picking oranges. So I. Pruning. I mean, I picked oranges in the bottom. They used to call us the Ratas. Yeah, the rats that eat the bottom. And then I was, I went to school until I was 15 years old. I quit, I quit school going to fifth quit going to school when I was 15 because I had to support my mother. I didn't get a very much picking oranges because I wasn't an American citizen. I couldn't get a good job. Until, years went by and finally I was 25 years old when I entered the Army. How long in the army? I, I got to. Um

Robert Gonzalez [00:10:09] So you got into the army.

Aniceto Gomez [00:10:13] I hit Normandy. I hit the invasion. I was in the invasion in 1944.

Robert Gonzalez [00:10:23] You were on Omaha Beach?

Aniceto Gomez [00:10:24] June 6th. I went to Normandy. Omaha Beach. D-Day, you know. There was a book right there.

Robert Gonzalez [00:10:40] Why don't you tell me.

Aniceto Gomez [00:10:41] There's the book D-Days.]

Robert Gonzalez [00:10:44] What would you. Would you please tell me a little bit about that? Oh, can you tell me a little about that?

Aniceto Gomez [00:10:49] Oh, I'll tell you. We had D-Day and first shot was in the first wave. Oh. So what we. It took us. Took us two days. From the beach in Omaha Beach to Normandy to get over the hill. Well, we've got over the hill. I was with the first Division? General Brantley. And

so we went up, up the hill and we got lost. Half the [inaudible] left one way and we took another way. We met a lieutenant. And a lieutenant says, "Where are you guys from?" We're from the First Division. We are lost; we can't find our division.. He's only the second. Second division. He said, "you're in the second division now, automatic." So that's how I've become second Infantry. And I, I'd stayed with it until I, I got, until I got Saint Lo, it's right there. So there's a map in there. No weapon and [inaudible].

Robert Gonzalez [00:12:22] Yeah, I've seen some of the pictures in here have the First Division. Yeah, And where?

Aniceto Gomez [00:12:38] Know what, right there. Saint Lo. I marked it down right there. Oh. Okay. I got hit on the shoulder. A shrapnel hit me. I got a shrapnel in my shoulder. And then I was taken to a hospital. But anyway at Normandy, it took us, almost a month from from from Omaha Beach to Saint Lo we walked. We didn't go like they show in the pictures when you ride tanks or you go by plane or you go by truck. Oh no, we walked.

Robert Gonzalez [00:13:31] Walked.

Aniceto Gomez [00:13:33] [00:13:33] We ran and walked, ran and walked, rain or shine. We marched. It took us about a month to get the Saint Loo. Then in Saint Lo is where I got hit. I got hit in the shoulder because I was a... They sent me to an observer post observation. See the enemy. And then me and another fellow by the name of Savage. And Savage says, "Gomez go take a look at them, the windows and see where the bombs are falling." [ADH] they call them. So I went over and sat down on the window, and that's when a bomb hit right in the middle of the street, and I got in the shoulder. I remember one night I got up out of the out of the window. Savage says, "Are you hurt?" I said, "No I don't, I don't think I'm hurt. I don't feel anything." Savage says, "When you get hit, you don't feel it." He said, "Look at your arm." And I look at my arm and the whole blood coming out. And then they start calling medics. Just for a little wound. Who made so much fuss. Well, I was laying in a hospital, 184th Hospital. I stayed there three months. Bandaged, all bandaged. Friends of mine, they were in the hospital. They helped me dress up myself. And they helped me with my foot. You know, you have to carry a tray with you, carry a food, sit on the table. I couldn't make it because it was only one arm. And so they helped me with it. And then in there, I stayed there for a while and I came out. And I had a, I didn't have any shoes. So I asked the commander and say, "I need some shoes, I ain't got no shoes and I can't go out." He says, "okay." So they brought me some shoes, but they brought me some, uh, ski ski shoes. Got a lot of nails in the bottom, you know? Yeah. So I put them on. There was only one thing, I put them on. So we're not in the hospital. I remember the street used to run like this and the hospital was in this side, there was a big gate. I came out and I crossed the gate and they took me back to the hospital, because I slipped with those shoes I fell down and hit my head. So they send me back to hospital for another month. And then from there, I, they sent me to France. I was in France for two years. Two years. I was an MP. My job was train patrol. We used to patrol the trains. Yes and another fellow from, his name was Caroline. And he, he was a, he was from south South Carolina. Me and him used to be together. We use to go on

train patrol at night, weeks. We used to sometimes two or three weeks out all by ourselves.
[217.3s]

Robert Gonzalez [00:17:12] What would you do on that patrol? Were you at the when trains were parked or were you actually on the train? Huh? What did you do? Did you actually ride the train?

Aniceto Gomez [00:17:21] Oh we ride the trains you know, we rode the trains. We were at the top.

Robert Gonzalez [00:17:25] Okay.

Aniceto Gomez [00:17:27] It was my company and my company. It was only two, just me and him. But other companies seemed to, here's a three or four companies, and they sent two of them. There were six of us in the train. On top. Two in a caboose, two in the engine and then the other four in top. Guarding. Anyway, one night we went out, about 6:00. It was a, what do you call it? Anyway, it was a, it was like cigarettes, gum and candy, and food for the front line? Okay. And so we got on the train. I had a pack of cigarettes. I used to smoke Lucky's. No, no, no filters. And we were and I was on the train, and it took us all night to get where we were going. I ran out of cigarettes. I had to take it like a man, I couldn't smoke because they didn't have any. So when we got up to the front lines. The train stopped and a soldier was going back and forth. I asked one of the guys, "hey, how about a cigarette?" "Sure," they threw me a pack and gave me a cigarette. It's not going that he came back. "By the way," he says, "do you know where you're sitting on? And I said, "no." Look, I looked down. Big box about that big. Full of cigarettes, huh? He said, "all you had to do is just take your bayonet, cut the cardboard, and get out cigarettes." And I did. I took about four cartons of cigarettes.

Robert Gonzalez [00:19:34] Could you tell me?

Aniceto Gomez [00:19:36] Yeah.

Robert Gonzalez [00:19:37] I'm wondering, what if you can put it into words a little bit for me? What was it like when you hit the beach, Huh? What? What? What was it like when you hit the beach? Can you. Can you describe.

Aniceto Gomez [00:19:49] [00:19:49]When we hit the beach? Yeah. Oh, it's awful. When we hit the beach, it was 6:00 in the morning. And the ocean looked blue, real blue. Less than an hour, looked like somebody threw some cans of paint. Red paint. The ocean was red brick just like this. There was nothing blue in the water, nothing blue no more. The blue was gone and the the sea was, I mean, the sea was red of blood. So many G.I. got killed. So many got wounded. Some got drowned. I almost got drowned. But if it wasn't for my bayonet, I would've drowned because I took my bayonet, and not cut the ropes. It was all in my. My own. I forgot the name of it. Full field pack. And I just got em off. And I went up on top of the ocean and I started swimming. I even lost my rifle. I only had my bayonet and my boot dagger, the Dagger, you

carry in your boots. That's all I had when I got up, out of the beach. I asked a lieutenant if I could get a rifle. Yeah, He says "go ahead, there are a whole mess of rifles. Pick your choice." So I picked one, and we start going. We got the Normandy top of the hill. There's a picture in there. Here. Oh, sure. And then we got up there and, um, it was night. We started at 6:00 in the morning. We got on top of the hill. Almost night. It's only from here. The beach, the beach was here. It was here. As far as the town. [144.5s]

Robert Gonzalez [00:22:15] 12 hours.

Aniceto Gomez [00:22:16] [00:22:16]It took us all night to get up there. Top of the hill. Top of the hill was like this. And the beach was right here. Omaha Beach. From the boat. It took us all night to get up to the top. Then when we got up to the top at night, it started raining. And we had overcoats, and we had a raincoat. In the fatigues, you know. And so. Everybody was tired. I mean, they're tired. So we lay down on a big piece of marble, black marble, square one. And. We're going to get down there and. With our overcoat. Then we put the, our raincoats on top so it wouldn't get wet. And we went to sleep. Now morning we got up and, open our eyes and it was snow. We were covered with snow, but we were happy because nothing happened to us. Then we got up and the first thing we know is they said, "Hey, you guys, you know where we're sleeping?" They said no, "in the cemetery is the marble." And we're setting it up from there. We saw it, so. We got to town. And we were hungry We we lost our food case and C ration. And finally, they gave us something to eat, you know breakfast. We didn't eat all night. 6:00 in the morning till 12, I don't know what time it was. From there. No, no, I said we walked. No, we got on a train. Yeah. We got on a train and. A small train. And there was, man it was cold. You couldn't take your hands out of your pocket because you'd freeze. We got in a boxcar. It was 40 of us, like cows. 40 of us in a boxcar. And the only way you could sleep was standing up. What you had to do was tie yourself with a rope tied to a board over here behind you because if you fall asleep, you fall down. And the only way you fall down is the rope will hold you. You feel like you're falling down. Then you wake up. Cut another rope. Yeah. From there. We. We got to Saint Lo, outskirts at Saint Lo. Now, I remember I was. I was digging in a foxhole. When they called me to, to observe the enemy there was only 300, 300 or 300 yards. You could see that enemy, back and forth they were going. And then there's when I got him the shoulder. All I can remember was going to the hospital in a jeep. And on they, they didn't take the shrapnel out. They just cleaned my wound. They didn't send me back to fight? No. They said you're going home. Home where's that, I said, home. No. They sent me to hospital. I came out of the hospital and I. They send me back to, to England. I was in England for about six months. And then in England they, they took us to a military school. Learn how to become an MP, a military police. And for military police. I was a, I've become an undercover man. You know what's an undercover man? I used to carry a 45 in here. I was in a, then from there. They sent us back to France. And that's when I've become, I've become an MP. Patrolled the streets. We used to have a jeep. Which. Yeah. Eat breakfast, come back, get on the jeep and let's go patrolling the streets. Yeah, those were the days. [302.6s]

Robert Gonzalez [00:27:22] How about at a time when. And you went back, huh? I said you went back as an MP in France. What was it like in France at that time?

Aniceto Gomez [00:27:35] Beautiful day. Beautiful.

Robert Gonzalez [00:27:36] Yeah.

Aniceto Gomez [00:27:37] Yeah. Oh, well, we were. We weren't. We were friends, but we were in town. I'm in the main, main parish now. We're on the outskirts, like little old towns like this. Everything is St. St Norman. Saintly Tom. Saint, Saint, Saint. Oh, everything was saints. They sent us to an old town. Her name was Saint Thomas. No, it's not here. I had a map, but my wife took it away. I had a map of French. It's a bigger bar, but it's big. And I marked all the towns I was before, you know. And. We stationed there for about six months. We were MPs and people started knowing us for eight months. No, we go. Nobody knows. No. And then from there. So it came the day that. Came the day we, we went back to... needed more patrols. But they needed trained patrols, not people to. They send us back to the barracks in Paris. And. And we started going to. Night patrolling trains. One day we came in about earlyt in the morning, but three. 4:00 in the morning? No. By 7:00 in the morning. And we I mean by my friend, we went up and I told him, let's go eat breakfast. And I had to have my coffee. So we went to a. Throw the kitchen and they gave us breakfast, you know. Ham and eggs are bacon and eggs. Toast. Coffee. We came back and taking off our shoes to go to bed because we have to sleep. You know, we needed to, we knew we were up there. Days and days until we couldn't sleep for two or three days. Because you have to watch a train. Because if you if they catch you sleeping they shoot you. Yeah, they shoot you if they caught you sleeping. Where you as we like, say you're a traitor to your own country instead of watching. You'll be sleeping on. You have to watch her came back and. We'll just get a little bit when a sergeant came in. He says, "Gomez and Caroline, you are on duty." "Go to hell, we ain't going to go," we said. We just came in. Well your names in the black board. Bulletin board. Yes sure enough there's your name on there. It was our name because they forgot to erase it after. See the day you go out, they're supposed to take their name off. And put somebody else name in there. And he says, "you guys got to go." I said, "you got to go. We're not going to go." Why say we just came in? We came in. It was 7:00 at breakfast, came here and got to sleep. We have been up there almost two weeks and then you come here and tell us we're going to go and God, no, you're crazy. He said, Well, you've got a goal. I say, Hell, I'm going to go. You want to go see the company? I mean, is. Let's go see the commander. Let's go. I'm willing, if you're willing. He didn't want to go, you know, because I knew then what? You knew it was wrong. He sighs. Okay, let's go. And we're knocking on the door. And Commander Kelly, the name was Kelly. He say, "Who is it, sir?" Private Gomez would like to have permission to talk to you. "Come in." We came in. We salute him. So what can I do for you Gomez? Well, this, commander, sergeants asked him and he said, we have to go. We have to go. Guard trains. Patrol trains. He said, Well, if I said, you've got to go. I said, Yes, but we just came in. What time did you come in? We just came in 7:00. We have proofs. You've got to have proven that before he can give an answer. I'll give you proofs. No. He says, Our name is on the bulletin board. He says, "Sergeant, those two boys, those two. They better go take a nap. Let them take a shower, if they want to and they could go to bed." You go get somebody else. But Sir, no sir. It's. Commander got up and went up to the bulletin board. Take those names off right now. They took them off and we're relieved. That's how I was at the race every day. Just a

color that he was always looking for, something for us to do. But we get up early in the morning, go eat breakfast, go put our shoes. Closed and eat breakfast and get out before that Sergeant can come in. Sometime at night, he'd come around. He would check in on us. What the hell you want? Oh, just look and see if you were here. Balances. I know that we. We heard you were after us. Oh, I. He would quit doing that. But there's. Oh, no.

Robert Gonzalez [00:34:26] Would you like to take a little break?

Aniceto Gomez [00:34:30] Then I came back and. I came here in 1945. Came out of the army. 1945. And then the club. Our American Legion wasn't, there was no American Legion then. And. Two. Tony Ortega and Johnny Castillo. Tony Ortega and Johnny Castillo they decided to have a club for the American Legion. In 1949. So they make them make the club. Yeah, I'm a charter member. In 1945. I was. You know, I got married because I got married in 46 and my wife was passed away about four years ago.

Robert Gonzalez [00:35:30] What?

Aniceto Gomez [00:35:33] Heart attack. Right there. She fell. She fell down, hit herself on the head. And she died.

Robert Gonzalez [00:35:50] What? What was her name?

Aniceto Gomez [00:35:52] It was Cruz. Cruz. Cruz. Manzano. She was Thomas Brown's sister. And. So you have been in a. I mean, the legions in 49. I've been going up and down. I became a charter member and. I've been honored so many times. You see right there. His name is Wally.

Robert Gonzalez [00:36:38] I talked to him Yeah. Yeah, I know him. Yeah, I talked to some other people who were charter members.

Aniceto Gomez [00:36:47] Then.

Robert Gonzalez [00:36:48] I spoke with some other men who were charter members of the of the American Legion Post 650. Right. We're talking about you. And I talked to a Oh, they were they they they were younger men than you. And they go Audie Martinez and Felix Sepulveda.

Aniceto Gomez [00:37:07] His brother Norman.

Robert Gonzalez [00:37:09] Norman and I talked to Gilbert Ray. And so some of these men.

Aniceto Gomez [00:37:13] Yeah, well, no Norman, Audie. Tony. Lecho. And uh, Raymond Espinoza. They're dead already.

Robert Gonzalez [00:37:28] All with what now?

Aniceto Gomez [00:37:32] There's only five left in the charter members. I have a picture of. I don't know where he is, but I have a picture that was. There's, I think there's six of us in the picture. And four of those are dead, there's only two left. Me and my my compadre, Ted Mendoza, and only two left. Just me and him. So now, right now we're fighting to see who dies first. Haha.

Robert Gonzalez [00:38:06] So. So why do you why did you guys decide to form the Legion? Was there that you wanted to do? Did you want to have a club for you guys? Why? Why? Why was it decided to form a new legion? Can you remember anything about that?

Aniceto Gomez [00:38:20] [00:38:20] Why they formed an American Legion? Well, because you could. You could have friends, you know, get together. In other words, if you didn't have a, you don't have a club. Nobody would know each other. Nobody will know their stories. Nobody will know they were veterans. And this way everybody knows they have their veterans and know their stories. See most, most of that. Most of the American Legion is made by friends that lived, friends that we knew together. We knew them. We knew all of them since we were young. He. I was. like I said, I was five years old. Until I was seven years old. I started knowing friends. Now if America Legion wasn't formed, you, you could meet God, but you didn't know who they were. [68.0s]

Robert Gonzalez [00:39:29] And it.

Aniceto Gomez [00:39:31] And so they got together twice to get.

Robert Gonzalez [00:39:33] Together.

Aniceto Gomez [00:39:33] And they start making dances and sort of things. And they have a bar. I used to drink a lot. I used to ... Sometimes I wouldn't come home for two, three days. Finally I had to quit. I quit drinking. In 1972. I quit drinking. I haven't had a drink. I quit smoking now because I can't I'm sick. It has been about a month and, and month and two or three days I haven't had a cigarette. I started out the other day, went out and had cigarette and almost choked to death. Coughing, coughing and coughing. No, it was bad.

Robert Gonzalez [00:40:22] I want to I want to go back a little bit before before you went into the service. Could you tell me a little bit about growing up and you picked and went to Franklin School, huh?

Aniceto Gomez [00:40:35] You know.

Robert Gonzalez [00:40:37] You picked when you were a boy, you went to Franklin School when you were a boy. Could you tell me anything more about. About when you were a boy and a young man in Redlands before you went to the service. Tell me maybe. Maybe about about some of the things you did. Some of the things that were around, whether it was it was other clubs or if you were involved in a church or you told me anything about that.

Aniceto Gomez [00:41:01] Oh, yeah. When I first came here, in 25. Well, it was, but I couldn't go in because of too young. We had a. Some kind of a club. A club on Third Street. The corner of Stewart and third, there was a club there. And. No wonder why Franceses French go for princesses. But they talked Mexican and they used to make dances in those days way back.

Robert Gonzalez [00:41:37] Within Jure's Hall? Yeah, that was Jure's.

Aniceto Gomez [00:41:40] Uh huh. And when I was 18, no, 17. I started going to dance. Dance? No, I didn't know how to dance. No, I knew nothing. Tilly? She died already. You know Tilly Garcia?

Robert Gonzalez [00:41:57] I heard her name. Yeah. I never met her anyway.

Aniceto Gomez [00:42:02] She taught me how to dance. That's how I started going to dances. In those days is not the same like it is now. In those days, they they used to make dances and the girls would get together in the club. And the girls would make lunches. You know, baskets of lunches. Different kind. And when you're going to dance, you pay a dollar. No, you pay \$0.50 to go in and \$0.50 for the basket. But you didn't know which basket you were going to get. So you went by numbers. They give you a number. Then we. We start dancing and I started learning how to dance. I use to just dance around and around like a crazy guy going around. And that's all I knew until she says, you know. You dance alright, she said, but this going around the circle, you get crazy, you get dizzy because look at look at the way the the way the steps they make. Step. And so I watch how they dance at night and learn that way. And then they the buck. While you're dancing, they announce. Oh, they're going to have a basket dinner, or a basket lunch. And they go by numbers. Then they take somebody to number two. "And number two here," he sit down with any girl. You didn't know which girl you'd get. You really don't know which girl you're going to get. You just got the girl. Who? When. I got a girl. I can't remember the number, but I got a girl. I said to myself, I hope I don't get her no more, man. She had tacos de Chile and they was hot I mean hot. I said no more, you know. But the second time I went, I got one that I didn't even want to be with, it was too salty. You couldn't eat the taco because it was too salty, too much salt. I think you remind me of a friend of mine. I work for the city. Remember that? A friend of mine. He was a welder. His wife, his wife never put salt, never put salt on his lunch. On the food never put because his wife didn't have no taste for salt. So he put the salt on the inside of the lunchbox so he could put the salt. He wanted to, but his wife could eat salt like eating sugar. There were no taste in the mouth. Never know. That's the girl he married. When I used to drink they had a Rezalon [?].

Robert Gonzalez [00:45:12] I've heard of.

Aniceto Gomez [00:45:12] That name, the Rezalon [?] on Third Street. All bachelors lived. People that worked there were married, but there were separated. They lived on that street. They did.

Robert Gonzalez [00:45:27] Lived on Stewart Street?

Aniceto Gomez [00:45:28] Live with a. The family that owned those houses were named Tovar. Tovaes. They used to charge \$10 a month. That's cheap.

Robert Gonzalez [00:45:48] And where? Where is that at? On Third Street.

Aniceto Gomez [00:45:49] On Third Street. Uh huh.

Robert Gonzalez [00:45:54] I've heard about that. Hang on just a minute, okay I'm going to twist the tape.

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Aniceto Gomez [00:00:00] And then I um, from there. My leg goes to sleep. Well, that was about 18 - 19, I was too young to get married, too young to go to the army. I volunteered for the army, I volunteered for the Navy, but I can't get it though, they would take no aliens.

Robert Gonzalez [00:00:41] In the Navy they wouldn't take you?

Aniceto Gomez [00:00:42] I was a wetback myself. They didn't take me. And I here they were taking Chinese, and Black, negros y filipinos y todo, and they wouldn't take the Chicanos. They turned it around and the army says, "We don't want, they don't want you so come here." So I went alright. In 1943. I was a, I had training for 17 weeks. I was getting only \$14 a month compared to, now they get. They don't do a damn thing and now they get six, \$700 a month.

Robert Gonzalez [00:01:32] Where did you train at?

Aniceto Gomez [00:01:35] Camp Roberts. I was there for 17 weeks. I was up there, about, three months ago, I went up to see my camping grounds. There we were.

Robert Gonzalez [00:01:53] They're still going to camp.

Aniceto Gomez [00:01:55] At training and one day. Yeah. I never had a furlough. So one day of the communities how about a couple of days. He said, "go ahead, pick four if you want to." So I got up in the morning, had breakfast and the train used to go by \$5. From Camp Roberts to L.A, in five hours. I said, well. I ain't got no car and ain't got no friends that has a car. They have cars, but they're driving you know they got more. So I got on a train that took me all day from Paso Robles to L.A. It took me all day. I got out of the camp, I got off the camp at 7:00 and I was at L.A. at 10:00 at night.

Robert Gonzalez [00:02:49] It still takes that long.

Aniceto Gomez [00:02:50] It kept stopping, and stopping in all the towns. Oh. It's funny and sometimes it's not funny. Anyway, I have a lot of friends here. Sometimes once in a while they come around and see me. Now, once in a while, when I'm All right, I go out. "Hey, where we've been?" they say. "Hell, I've been sick," I say. You guys know that I've been sick. But you ain't got no time to come and see me. When you guys get sick, you want someone to come over and see you. "it's not fair," I said, "let's be equal."

Robert Gonzalez [00:03:41] I have a question. You. I actually I met Tom Manzano a couple of years ago and he gave me a picture that had a marching band name that some of the most Manzano Brothers were in. Do you remember that band? It was back in the twenties or thirties, I don't remember. I guess they were. It was a drummed up drum line and a band. Do you remember anything? Anything about that? That group, the Manzanos, were involved in some sort of a marching band here in town.

Aniceto Gomez [00:04:11] Oh, you mean when we had the 16th of September? Yeah. Yeah. I had a picture, but I couldn't find it. Too bad. We a, made a club. Like the American Legion they got together, but, it was about 12, 15 together. We had, about six, six or seven tamboreros, drums. My brother in law was one of them. And um, and then they had, the rest of them were, they had clarinets and it was a 16th of September, they marched, and they played the drums. And then they had the queen and queen. Six seven of September Queen. I forgot the name of the girl. What they're paid to train up on Tribune Street. Right on the corner of Tribune and Brockton on that corner, there were no houses. There's no need to go. And on this side. Anyway. I mean, Brockton went as far as the Tribune. This a, this corner also was orange grove. And the ranches were the only place that had a fence. Where it hit Brockton. Until. I don't know. I went to the army, when I came back, there were houses. Houses this side, there are, houses for rent, or apartments, I mean, on both sides. I remember I was drunk one day I had a. I know. 43 Plymouth. I was so damn drunk I didn't know there was a damn fence, and I took the fence with me. Yeah, And they used to march there. Right. It was clean. Everybody got together and cleaned up the lots. You know, there's was full, full of brush. Everybody got together and start cleaning, raking and sweeping, you know, let us get our butts. And then. They watered it so it being hard. And then they start. For a couple of weeks. They let it go and then they start marching. Training. And the tambores. You could hear them from far away. Uh huh. And they had the fiesta. And then after that they they had a baseball field on Tribune Street.

Robert Gonzalez [00:07:42] Yea, I heard about that.

Aniceto Gomez [00:07:45] The St. Mary had a Queen. Oh. You know Linda Soto?

Robert Gonzalez [00:07:56] Right?

Aniceto Gomez [00:07:57] It's over here. She was the queen, she was queen for St Mary's. And they made a parade dance and everything because they were going to start a baseball game, a baseball club and then they used to play their. A lot of people from all over came down. A lot of

people from Colton, San Bernardino, and L.A. They used to come up on Spring Break and something happened. It just, well, slowly, slowly fading away. It's funny, just fade away. But um.

Robert Gonzalez [00:08:39] And this was all before the war, right?

Aniceto Gomez [00:08:42] Uh huh.

Robert Gonzalez [00:08:43] Okay. Okay

Aniceto Gomez [00:08:44] See, this is England right there. Hey. There were someplace. I can't see myself getting cigarettes. They gave you cigarettes. Yeah. Restaurant says one guy went over and got the sergeant. No, he was in line to get cigarettes. And he says, "I don't smoke." You better take cigarettes because you will. And he did. He started smoking. Yeah, he.

Robert Gonzalez [00:09:19] When you got back from the war from Europe. What did you do when you start?

Robert Gonzalez [00:09:26] When I came back from the war. I um, I used to know my wife when I was young and. I got drunk. And now. The only way to ask her if she would marry me I had to have guts enough to tell her. So I got drunk. And that's the only way I had guts enough. I met her on a tribune and in between Tribune and Herald, there used to be a store. On the corner of Tribune. We were on the corner of Tribune and Sun. Sun. Where do you live, on Sun? No, no. Union. Around the corner and I met her there, and I asked her. We were, we were going together. I mean, you know, and I asked her if she would marry me. And she said, "Yeah." So we got married in 1946, on Mother's Day. Had a good life with her only the [inaudible] she had a vein. You see the vain. That's what plugged it up. Got plugged up. I had my girls and I have twin girls. And Pauline. She was a baby, 50 and the other ones are 50 something. So, I used to be an orange picker. All my life was since I was. Since I was six, no, seven years old. All I did was pick oranges. Once in a while I used to go out and on Saturdays, I'd get tired of picking oranges and I'd go out and mow lawns. \$0.25 a house, those days they don't pay like they pay now. And sometimes. The. The housing. Well, come on. Say, Oh, you did a good job. Give me my \$0.25. So here's \$0.10 more. \$0.35. I started like that. And then one day. I told my wife that, you know what? I want to try and see if I can get a job with the city. I couldn't get a job before, before I went to the army. And the reason I quit to quit the school is because I had to support my mother. I was the only man in the house. That's how I. That's how I came out of the army. On um, How do you call it? Dependence. I was the only dependent. My mother was my only dependent. I asked the sergeant if there was any chance for me to get out of the army on dependence. Yeah. I mean, yeah, he says, well not everybody's getting out, I'll fix the papers for you. He did, so I got out in 46, I got, you know, yea, 46. Then, I came back and I. I could have got a job any place. But. I'm so used to working outside. I'm no working inside, you know. It's like a friend of mine that died how many years ago, you know, Manuel Iglesias? He used to live on this street, way up on the corner of Western and Webster. He used to live there. He died of cancer. Uh oh. We were young, me and him. What he always remembered. I get drunk forever one day. We were up at San Timoteo Canyon where the train goes by. When the train was going slow. And

me and him and his brother. Salome Iglesias, Yes. We went up there and Salome says, "I bet you guys can't can get hold of that train." Hell we can't. We got on top of the train. The train is going faster and faster, and we couldn't get off. By the time it stopped, we stopped in Brawley.

Robert Gonzalez [00:14:12] That's a bit of a ride. That's a long ride. Yeah.

Aniceto Gomez [00:14:17] So, that's what we get we were trying to get a ride, right? We have to stay up there at night. Next morning, come hitchhiking. Anyway, I got a job with the city. I came down on. Went up in the morning. Everybody that was working I knew them, puros Chicanos. And I asked one of the guys, "How do you get a job here?" You know, well, you got to ask Frank. Maybe he'll give you. I was standing on top. I was standing, leaning against the fence when he came out. Okay, you guys to get on the bus. I mean, the in a truck. Everybody get in the truck except me. He looked around, and said, "What the hell you waiting for? Get on the truck." So I got in the truck. And. They were working up, diggin a ditch for the water department. In the evening the supervisor came and. he said, "Hey, your name's not here. You're new?" I said, "Yeah, I think I got a job." He said, "Well, you worked all day, so you got a job." So, I started working, without asking. Well, I got a job. Everybody used to make fun of me, I got a job without asking. Well, then I worked for the city for 33 years.

Robert Gonzalez [00:16:03] What did you do with the city?

Aniceto Gomez [00:16:04] I was a street sweeper.

Robert Gonzalez [00:16:06] Okay.

Aniceto Gomez [00:16:08] That is why I'm sleeping too much now. I didn't sleep. I used to get up at 2:00 in the morning, go to work at 2 o'clock. I get up at one and go to work at two. At first I couldn't make it. So I quit drinking because I was getting too "desvelado", you know. You know. My wife said, "you better stop drinking like this, by the time you go up there, you're drunk already." And still working and I worked when I was drunk. So anyway, I didn't quit drinking. The first day I got up. Went up early. Went to a. Uh, liquor store. Bought a bottle of wine. What? I took it with me to work. It's cold in the night man, it's colder than in hell. Carried that bottle with me on one side of the strip. With coffee. One day I was sitting on freeway bridge right there, on Colton Avenue and here comes the boss. He said, "What are you doing?" Oh, I just stopped to have a cup of coffee and I'd forgotten. And I said, "Would you like to have a cup? Would you like to have a drink?" The good thing is he said "No, I just had some." He would have caught me. He finally caught me one day. Anyway. That's why I got a job. Until, finally one day. I was up on Cypress and I was drunk. I couldn't, I couldn't drive. He came by and he looked at me and said, "Get outta that sweeper. Leave it there. You go home. You're drunk." "What the hell, I'm not drunk," I said. "The hell you're not. It's the way you talk." So he took me home. "You're off for a week. Without pay," he said. It hurts, and I had my kids so young, so I took it like a man. A week later, I came back. He said, "Are you okay?" I said, "oh I'm alright now." Yeah. In fact, the. I don't know, but I got a letter someplace out of here where he wrote. He made a letter, telling me that.

If I didn't quit drinking on the third time, I would get it, he'd can my ass. I'd lose my job. And I know I quit. I worked for 33 years. 33 years.

Robert Gonzalez [00:19:19] Well, you must have cleaned just about every street in Redlands in that 33 years.

Aniceto Gomez [00:19:23] Yeah. I've been, I've been well, I've been having a good life and then I finally, I got sick. I've been getting sick, since I came out of the army. Being sick the first time I. No, I got married when my wife was 46. In 46, between 46 and 47 I got sick, I had sinus. It went through my nose. They took me to the hospital in Narco. They went through my nose, they opened up my nose like a dollar, like a silver dollar. Both They were in surgery and took out the sinus out, and ever since I've been sick. My sister, my sister. I have a sister. She lives up on Clay Street. And um, she used to say, "Everybody comes out of there sick when they come back. Malos." And I was sick in 1993, I had surgery in the stomach. I have a piece of plastic pipe inside. Aneurism... Underneath your stomach. So your stomachs are like this to your stomach right here. You got to go underneath here. They cut you and they had to turn the stomach around like this, so it can get in where the main vein is. And mine was going like this. And it was going to bust right there. So they cut it off and they put up tubing. I don't feel anything.

Robert Gonzalez [00:21:28] Oh, I was going to ask, you know, you were a member of the American League. You're a member of the American League. You're a member of the American Legion. Were you involved in any other clubs?

Aniceto Gomez [00:21:38] No, no, no. I'm still involved, but. I belong to the Disabled American Veterans. I belong to the VFW and I belong to the American Legion. When they first first met the American Legion. I was the first chaplain. They. And then. Some guy who lives over here, Ralph Serrano, he kept pushing me. Why don't you read, read the, once your praises, I want to read them. Get it out your memory. Don't read the book. And I told him, "Who the hell is the preist, you or me?" And he said, "You." Okay. I do what I want. The reason was he wanted my job. He got it. He got it. He went after my ass for quite a while. And I kept telling this guy, "This guy keeps bothering me." "Oh, never mind him," they said, "he's, he's crazy." Crazy hell, he already got my job. And that's the only way he got it. But I was a chaplain for about two years. And um, those were the days. They used to have a club right here on, um, Redland Boulevard was where there were garages where they sell. No. No wait. Wait. No one sees it, says Rose. So on this side, they used to have a club. They made a club and they were trying to make money. Make money in. Right. I, I got involved with a woman not long ago, about four years ago. And every time I get the scrap paper or. The effects. Pictures of old times to cut them. I cut them up, see? And. I got where I. When the American Legion was born. And then over there, my daughter won't go for them. I've been asking my daughter to get Go get them for me. They wouldn't do it. I told her the other day, today. I got I got mad and I said, "If you don't want to do it, I'm going to get up, put my clothes in. I'm going to go." "But you can drive," they said. Well, if you guys don't pay attention to me, I'm going to drive. I don't care if I hit a car. Well, I got to go get my stuff. And they won't do it. Anyway. The American Legion was big on our kitchen. On. I

love the street. It used to be Lincoln School on the corner of Lincoln and Colt. And finally, Lincoln School went down. And then American Legion went up. American Legion was looking for a club. It cost a lot of money to buy lumber in Ontario. So, there was news on the papers that the Lincoln school was on sale. No. The Cafeteria, the cafeteria was on sale and the Kitchen. American Legion bought it. And with the help of big societies, out here in Redlands, big man. They pulled it, they didn't charge the Legion very much money, but to pull it from. [Sneeze, Sneeze.] From London Street up to Church street there. Right. I couldn't help them because I'm on the road working, you know. In those days I had to go work, picking oranges, but the rest of the fellas, they worked, they helped the American Legion grow, so they start putting buildings. And then they start making dances and they started selling food and finally, the legend grew up. So right now they, our thing is \$100 to go and get 300 to get the Pledge of Allegiance. Oh, don't get it. But. If you're a charter member, don't charge you. Yeah. If you are a charter member, they only charge a \$50. And that's what they charged me \$50. One of my granddaughters is getting married, but she doesn't want to have a dance there, it's too small. She wants a big dance. She's going to marry a Gabacho. He's got a good job working for the computers, in San Bernardino County. Many. They moved it. They start growing up, growing up. When we first, when they first made the American Legion. Yeah, we had to rent, rent an apartment. It's in the corner of Citrus and Olive. Do you know that corner? Olive and citrus hits together. That's where we had our first club. I used to belong to VFW. Then my, my brother in law died less than two years ago. Nick, Nick Manzano, my brother in law's brother and we got together. We got in VFW. And. We used to go to main together. He was ten years older than I am, we used to drink together. I want. He died. He was 92 when he died. Cancer. The Legion, then they figured of making the club. So we got together and they made a dinner with Tamales and Chiles and all that stuff and a dance. They would nominate the names of, you know, brand names over. Right. Like he was a British commander. And after he was Norman. But everybody became a commander accept me. I know me. I haven't even been an officer yet. And I used to go to Legion every day, every night I was up there. They never nominated me. The hell were you guys? As long as I've paid my dues, that's all. Some guys don't even pay their dues and they're up there. I pay them every every year. I use to pay 25. They only cut down \$2, I pay 23 now. The nominee for. I found out this last year why they don't want me to become a life member. Because they're making money. See, if I become a member like member, I only pay one thing, and I don't have to pay. But. This way. You got to pay them every year. Every year. So they're making money on me, see?. I told him once, "I hear you guys robbing me." How come you let me become an American life member? I've been a member for life, member? Oh, because we like you. Yeah. Like me. My money is what you like.

Robert Gonzalez [00:30:52] Hahaha.

Aniceto Gomez [00:30:55] Yeah.

Robert Gonzalez [00:30:56] About doing what it was, like, working for the city. What? What? What, what? What was it like working for the city? Um. How. What sort of. And you were you? You were?

Aniceto Gomez [00:31:10] Well, when I worked with the city. I got a job digging ditches. I got a business for three years. Every day. I ain't got no muscles no more. Yeah. I didn't have to get up until 3:00. I'd be there seven or 6:30. Get ready to go. And. Once in a while you can, once in a while, on the apartment need help. So they called me. I like the work, though. I usewd to work in the park, you know. There's only one. One mind goes pruning trees. Never went there. Then they used. They used to make their meters, water meters. I mean a box of meters. Their lids. And, they gave me a job.

Aniceto Gomez [00:32:20] To make moldings. Oh, okay.

Aniceto Gomez [00:32:24] They gave me work for what, three or four months? They on their. They called me back. And this. One day I was in the morning. I came in the morning. My boss got sick. Somebody had to take over, you know? And. The superintendent came by. He used to live right there behind me. Pete his name was Pete. He came one morning, "Good morning Cheto" "So Cheto we want you to become a former. You will take care of these boys. You got to drive a truck. You know how to drive a truck?" I said, "Yeah." You got, like, get. That truck over there is yours from now on. So I. Probably that came on. I didn't have to worry about, I mean, picks or shovels. No more. So I got in the truck. Right. Right. We come out at 7:00 from the yard. It used to take us almost 5 hours to get to where it is home. The hills we used to carry pipes, 6 inch pipes, in the trailer. I mean. You have to go slow going up the hill. And. Right now. We were up on the first one where. I don't know if you ever been to forest home. There's a you can see it. There's a water line, that starts from here up to the shrine of Safety. Santana River is sending out and we were running like this, the pipes go right the top like this.

Robert Gonzalez [00:34:43] Yeah, I think...

Aniceto Gomez [00:34:45] But those pillars are made out of rock, we made those by hand.

Robert Gonzalez [00:34:49] Oh, really?

Aniceto Gomez [00:34:51] Yeah. By hand. We make those buildings like this. Reason. Well. Mix it with cement and they have three or four guys, old men. They knew how to work the cement, they start building up pillars. And then when they got dry, they put the pipe on top. And it was like that every day. Then one day. One day I was the boss. One of the bosses. There was Woody. Hey, Wood. Any chance of getting into sweepers. He said, "well, Chety ... Since you know how to drive everything around here is your wheel. But I'm waiting for a guy because I got, I got my eyes on you. Something wrong with him? You come tomorrow. Tomorrow. Okay, so next morning, what time took like, Oh, too early is too damn early for me. Well, if you want the job, you got to. So I wouldn't know. In the morning there was another fellow by the name of John de Reid. An old man when he was a street sweeper. And he took me on. Took me out for a ride in his sweeper. Teach me how to drive it. How to handle it, you know? And then I got the, I got the habit. And the idea how to drive it. So. I drove that sweeper. Yeah, well, you're doing fine. So next morning, I came back and. This sweeper is yours. From now on it is yours. So we got up on the sweeper and I asked "where are we going to go?" There's a street named Buena Vista.

There's some gravel that we've got to pick up. The sweepers who will pick it up. And sure enough. Back and forth. Back and forth, all night. We got rolled out by the people because we didn't let them go to sleep. Yeah, we just going back and forth, back and forth. Well, we were sweeping gravel.

Robert Gonzalez [00:37:30] Mm hmm. Where the gravel from What?

Aniceto Gomez [00:37:33] Gravel from the rock. Okay. That's my brother in law. He tells us, "What are you guys doing?" We're picking up gravel. He said, "bring me a load." So I brought him a load in front of his side of the house. Well, my brother in law lived in the house where we used to live. His father gave him the house, see?. Okay. And I... 46-45. I thought I put down 47, then I quit. I know, I quit in 46. When I quit 46. But. I get a pension now. Hey, I am um 1600. I only get \$100. I told her I earned three. That's all they give me. They only have a 10% disability. Will I get the VA hospital? I don't like the VA no more. According to the. American Legion magazine, it came out that you got to pay for the VA disability service connected. You don't pay, but your insurance pays. And so based so much in government means so much. Because when you go to the V.A. hospital, the first thing they ask if you've got insurance. So they can help you.

Robert Gonzalez [00:39:34] And I'm curious if you where did you live when we first got married? Where did you live when you first got married?

Aniceto Gomez [00:39:41] Where I live? Yeah. I live on. When I got married, I lived on Stewart Street. You know, Danny Vasquez? He's a warren for the San Quentin.

Robert Gonzalez [00:39:59] Okay. The name sounds familiar, though.

Aniceto Gomez [00:40:03] A warren for San Quintin. I don't know if he is retired. But I used to live behind his house. He used to live in front of. He's just a young kid. Don't. We used to pay \$10 a month. \$5 for his room.

Aniceto Gomez [00:40:23] Only two rooms.

Aniceto Gomez [00:40:24] Kitchen and a bedroom. I paid \$10. My wife didn't like it because they like to stay by herself because everybody living on, there were singles, married, old mans, you know. You know how men, old men look at a woman like they have seen her naked or something. Anything like that. Because you had to go out in the toilet outside. Finally we decided to my. I had an uncle named Basilio, Flores. He used to live in Wellington. And one day he came over. And he says. After five. After I was married? No, No. What happened after I married my wife, my, my brother in law gave me a job. In the ranch have been told by people. \$0.95 an hour.

Aniceto Gomez [00:41:37] And.

Aniceto Gomez [00:41:40] When I used to work in the city I used to get \$0.83 an hour. Eighty three. So every time I get a vacation, two weeks, I go pick oranges. Well, I made more money picking oranges, than I did in the city \$0.83 an hour anyway. Hmm. After we were, I decided we'd go and look for a house, you know. So we got to. We got to. To there for a while. My, my uncle came one day and he says I rent up also, he said, "I'll charge you \$10." It had a living room, kitchen, and a bedroom. I said, "okay." Well I moved up Ohio Street. Right there. And. At night when it was freezing, that thing was like a nice box. Cracks. Cracks on the... Wall on the side, you know? When you're right, there are cracks and cold weather. So one day. I went up to a dump, in an apartment, a whole bunch of cardboard already cut. Somebody threw them. So I took him home and my wife nailed them. All around. When the, she put wallpaper. To stop the wind from coming in. Then one day my, my uncle came down, he needed money. My elbow is almost 200 and. Oh, well, I don't really pay rent for almost five years, because he loaned that money. He told my uncle from now on, my uncle says, you don't have to pay rent, because I can't afford to pay you back. Well, that's all right. As long as you are in the family. I used to, used to have a room in the back where I used to work once in a while. And then one day my. We were up for a new crop we want a sack of. And those days. You have to buy beans by the sack because it was too expensive to buy a buy an approach. Cost a \$16 100 pounds. It had rocks and gravel, you had to clean them. Oh. So I put the sack in the room in the back. And then one day. A friend of ours. Uh. He was old already. He needed a place to stay, him and his wife. Well, you can forget about the sack, you know, a little. Hiding or even chucking red. Yeah. Have every room up there. Yeah, they were there for quite a while. Every time I went up there to look at the sack, the sack keep going down. The woman was taking beans out. to make, so she wouldn't buy beans, hell she had the sack. Yeah. I ain't say nothing. Yeah. They were old people, they died already. Like I tell my my daughters, you know, everyone is dying except me. My friends are going. Just like that. My daughter says, "Maybe God doesn't want you yet." When God wants you, he'll, he'll take you. I know that, but, my own sister is 91 now. We're the only ones left. Me and her. My mother and my Tia Petra, and my Tia Juana; they're all gone. Not long ago, my, I have a cousin in L.A., I had to. Three cousin that used to live in, no wait, yeah three cousins that used to live in El Paso; they're gone. Now he, he called up.