

People's History of the I.E.: Live from the Frontline Oral History Collection 2024.006

Interview Summary

Item Number: 2024.006.011

File Name: 2024.006.011 Margaret Razo Interview

Interviewees:

Margaret Razo

Rafael Razo

Interviewer:

Anthony Victoria

Interview Date:

May 21, 2024

Interview Location:

Bloomington, CA

Interview Summary completed by:

Ivonne Santiago, 2025

Description:

Margaret Razo is a longtime Bloomington, California resident who moved to the area in 1973 from Riverside. She narrates her family history and experiences in the originally rural area with tight-knit neighbors. She describes her upbringing and community involvement due to her father's emphasis on making everyone feel included. Kessler Park was a staple of her childhood as she mentions get togethers and baseball games there. Over the years, industrialization begins to impact the once peaceful and simple area with an influx of warehouses and infrastructures that begin to displace lifelong residents, forcing them to relocate. Her concerns reveal the effects of warehouse and other industrial growth on well-established communities and the rural environment.

Subject Topic:

- Annexation
- Bloomington
- Childhood
- Community life in Bloomington
- Zimmerman Elementary School
- Development
- I-10 Freeway

Key Organizations:

- Bloomington Municipal Advisory Council (MAC)

Spatial Coverage:

Name of Site (if relevant)	General Location/Address
Kessler Park	18401 Jurupa Ave, Bloomington, CA 92316
Walter Zimmerman Elementary School	11050, Linden Ave, Bloomington, CA 92316
San Bernardino County Museum	2024 Orange Tree Ln, Redlands, CA 92374
Colton High School	777 Valley Blvd, Colton, CA, 92324

Temporal Coverage:

1973 - present

Related Materials:

N/A

Interview Index:

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
Transcript	00:00:31	Margaret Razo introduces moving into Bloomington and her ethnic background

Transcript	00:04:45	Describes the environment and community growing up in Bloomington
Transcript	00:09:00	Points out demographic changes
Transcript	00:10:47	Experience at Zimmerman Elementary School
Transcript	00:12:57	Witnessing the annexation of Bloomington
Transcript	00:16:40	Unsafe effects of industrialization
Transcript	00:19:48	Why the influx of warehouses and other changes are upsetting
Transcript	00:24:14	Description of the broken promises from Municipal Advisory Council meetings
Transcript	00:26:54	Meetings and encounters at the Bloomington Municipal Advisory Council
Transcript	00:30:54	Anthony Victoria points of the topic of buying out the local residents
Transcript	00:37:08	Razo talks about her general life in Bloomington
Transcript	00:44:29	Elaborates on why she has been involved in the community of Bloomington
Transcript	00:48:28	Discussion of the I-10 Freeway
Transcript	00:49:54	The name of Ronald Martin as a potential contributor with detailed images of Bloomington
Transcript	00:51:44	Limited role of residents and family in making changes for the community
Transcript	00:59:33	Conclusion

Full interview transcript can be found below.

Anthony Victoria [00:00:00] Could you start by saying your first and last name or your full name, basically, and spelling out your, your last name and maybe your maiden name if you want to include that as well.

Margaret Razo [00:00:12] My name is Margaret Razo. RAZO. My maiden name is Herrera.

Rafael Razo [00:00:18] I'm Rafael Razo, RAZO.

Anthony Victoria [00:00:21] Thank you so much. So, Margaret, what year did your family move to Bloomington? And, from where exactly did they move from?

Margaret Razo [00:00:31] We moved here in 1973 from Riverside. We lived in East Riverside.

Anthony Victoria [00:00:36] Oh, okay. What part of East Riverside or, like, what area in East Riverside?

Margaret Razo [00:00:40] We lived off of Mulberry right off the, 91 freeway.

Anthony Victoria [00:00:44] Oh, okay. And what brought your family to Bloomington? What was their decision for moving here?

Margaret Razo [00:00:49] My dad worked at Certainteed just over this hill. So, it was convenient to where he worked.

Anthony Victoria [00:00:56] And just for context, what's the name of that place and what, what exactly did they do there?

Margaret Razo [00:01:00] It was, Certainteed pipe company. He was a supervisor there. They made, pipe.

Anthony Victoria [00:01:05] Oh, okay. And that's not too far from here saying, like, or it wasn't too far from here.

Margaret Razo [00:01:09] Yeah, it's just right over this hill. Over Rattlesnake Hill. So it took them, like, maybe five minutes to get to work.

Anthony Victoria [00:01:15] Oh, I see, and how, how old were you when you first moved to Bloomington?

Margaret Razo [00:01:18] I was three.

Anthony Victoria [00:01:20] Oh, wow.

Margaret Razo [00:01:20] Yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:01:21] So basically, your whole life you lived in Bloomington? That's what you're saying.

Margaret Razo [00:01:25] Yes and I remember, the, there was dirt roads when I first moved here. We didn't even have streets yet. So we came in from, Locust, that way. And I remember coming down and, seeing our yard and and all of that. We had no grass. It was so, it was ugly. It was ugly. But, you know, it was fun. And, my parents had just had my, my younger brother. So, we needed a bigger house.

Anthony Victoria [00:01:54] When you say it was ugly, was ugly because there wasn't, like, a lot of infrastructure or what was it?

Margaret Razo [00:01:59] Right. You're just super rural, you know, super rural. None of the houses were really had grass. Like I said, there was no streets. It was just all dirt. So it just looked, it didn't look like a city or anything like that.

Anthony Victoria [00:02:12] I see. And what, what was your family or. I'm sorry, where was your family from originally? Like, were they, because I'm assuming you are Mexican, right. Mexican descent?

Margaret Razo [00:02:23] Mexican, and Native American. Oh. So my mom was actually born on the Morongo rez.

Anthony Victoria [00:02:29] Oh, okay.

Margaret Razo [00:02:30] Yeah. And then my dad, is Mexican-American because, my great grandma came over from Mexico. Her and my grandpa and. Yeah, just Mexican American and, and Native.

Anthony Victoria [00:02:42] Do you know what part of Mexico they came from?

Margaret Razo [00:02:45] Do you remember?

Rafael Razo [00:02:47] No, I don't.

Margaret Razo [00:02:48] Yeah, I can't remember exactly, but I know that Pancho Villa took one of my grandma's sisters.

Anthony Victoria [00:02:53] Oh. Wow.

Margaret Razo [00:02:54] Yeah. They came over on the top of a train.

Rafael Razo [00:02:57] On top of a train.

Margaret Razo [00:02:57] And he took one of her, one of the sisters. But my grandma made it over.

Anthony Victoria [00:03:02] I see.

Margaret Razo [00:03:02] And they settled into Texas and then kind of migrated with, the crops over here.

Anthony Victoria [00:03:08] I see, so maybe northern Mexico? Probably huh?
Especially because it's like Villa, because I know Villa was like, in, I think. Oh, man, I got to remember my Mexican history. I think he was, like, from I know he wasn't necessarily from northern Mexico, but I know his troops were from that northern edge like Sonora.

Rafael Razo [00:03:24] It's a lot, I just saw. An article on him on Facebook. It's a long word that where he was brought up, where he was born.

Margaret Razo [00:03:31] I want to say

Rafael Razo [00:03:31] Starts with a T or something like that

Margaret Razo [00:03:33] Oh.

Rafael Razo [00:03:33] T or C.

Margaret Razo [00:03:34] I don't know what. Guanajuato or something like that was.

Rafael Razo [00:03:36] Really long.

Margaret Razo [00:03:37] In my head, but yeah, there's. Yeah, that's where our family came from. And then when they came here, my grandparents went on to have 16 kids.

Anthony Victoria [00:03:48] Oh, wow.

Margaret Razo [00:03:49] Yeah. And some of them marched with, uh, Cesar Chavez up there with, you know, up in Bakersfield and, they they're from Lindsay. So we have a lot of family up there.

Anthony Victoria [00:04:00] And, your family that settled here, when they came from Mexico and then, you know, parts of your family from, from the reservation, they decided to basically settle in Riverside initially. Right?. And then to your point, came to Bloomington, right. For more space, basically. Correct?

Margaret Razo [00:04:16] Yes. A lot of my dad's family did stay in Riverside. We were, we were probably the only ones who came here. My dad's sister lived here for a little while, but we're really the only ones that stayed here in Bloomington.

Anthony Victoria [00:04:30] I see, and, so I know you were kind of already doing this, but can you, describe a little bit of what life was like here in Bloomington besides, like, you know, kind of the dirt roads and stuff like that. What else do you remember from growing up here?

Margaret Razo [00:04:45] The horses, you could still see that today. The people riding their horses around here, which I love, very community, oriented. We used to have, um, up at Kessler Park. They used to have big, um, fireworks things for the 4th of July, where they would, have a fireworks show. They have, musical acts. They had just, like a little fair there. You know, they don't do it anymore. They haven't done it in a lot of years.

Rafael Razo [00:05:12] The beauty queen thing too.

Margaret Razo [00:05:13] Yeah, the beauty queen thing. It was very fun. We could ride our bikes over here, you know, all the time. My dad made a, a haunted house every year here. That, was the, I mean, everybody knew about my dad's haunted house cause he. Oh, yeah. I went to

beauty school, and, so I got a bunch of doll heads and stuff that he would use for his graveyard scene, and, it was a big deal, when he was here to have that, because everybody in the neighborhood knew us, my dad was, like the dad to everybody because my parents worked together until my dad, passed away. And most of our friends, I think, came from broken homes. And so, my dad would have us out there every weekend playing ball. He was really big when playing baseball. So we'd play at Zimmerman. We'd play at Kessler. We just get if there wasn't enough family to come, we just get up, pick up games with whoever was out there. But my dad was really big on, keeping us active and, just getting us out. So we were friends with literally everyone in our neighborhood because we all played ball together.

Anthony Victoria [00:06:19] Yeah, that sounds like fun. I mean, I can imagine, like, just like you're saying, right? Maybe kids that don't have that outlet, you know, coming here, finding that space here. And just thinking of Kessler Park. So Kessler Park has been around for a while, it seems like. Right.

Margaret Razo [00:06:34] Oh, yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:06:35] like a very long time.

[00:06:35] Yeah. Ever since I can remember.

Anthony Victoria [00:06:38] And so that park has always been a Little league park, baseball park, I'm assuming, right? Has it looked like that ever since, as far as you remember?

Margaret Razo [00:06:46] Yeah. Pretty much. They've only just started doing improvements to it. They, just redid. We did our the snack bar area and stuff like that.

Rafael Razo [00:06:54] The fencing.

Margaret Razo [00:06:55] The fencing. They did add the skate park some years ago. And they've done little improvements to the playground and stuff like that, but pretty much it's, it's, been like that. My, siblings played Little league there, all stars. And, we worked the snack bar there for them, you know, that sort of thing. That hill right there, it's. They call it Rattlesnake Hill. My dad would, take us up there. We'd have our B-B guns, and he would get balloons, and he would type balloons to the branches out there. And the big balloons that were close, those would be, like, worth five points or something. But then he do small ones in the back that were harder to, to reach. And so we would, just shoot our B-B guns all the way up. We'd make it up there at night, my dad would set up a tent and we'd have flashlights, and he would flash my mom down here. She'd flash us like, okay, yeah, we're good. And then, we'd stay the night up there and

come down in the morning all dirty and messy. And my mom would have a good breakfast for us. But, I mean, we did stuff like that all the time. And my dad would bring other kids from the neighborhood up there with us. So we were just always, my dad was very community oriented. I would say. You know.

Anthony Victoria [00:08:06] And how long did your dad do that for? Like, how many years would you say.

Margaret Razo [00:08:09] Oh, my gosh, our whole life. I mean, until he. Until he died because, then we had, you know, our grandkids and stuff like that. And so my dad would, you know, like, everybody knew my dad, literally everybody. He'd be walking the kids back and forth to the corner store, you know, stuff like that. Yeah. It was really it was really fun. We sold snow cones here. Well tried to until my dad came out. And if the kids didn't have enough money, he'd be like, oh, just give it to them. And then he that word got out. And so then we couldn't sell anymore, because then kids would just come with their sob story and my dad would give them away. So we're like, eh, no more selling snow cones.

Anthony Victoria [00:08:47] That's nice. Would you say that, like the, kind of the racial and ethnic makeup of this community has always been Latino, or has that changed throughout time?

Margaret Razo [00:09:00] I would say that, there a lot more Latinos now. Like, I went to school with a lot of white kids, a lot of white kids. But, and hardly any, black kids, really. I mean, there was a family that lived right here that we're really good friends with. But, for the most part, I think there was a lot of white people here. There's definitely more Mexicans now.

Anthony Victoria [00:09:23] When did you think, or like, when did you see that shift taking place?

Margaret Razo [00:09:27] Probably like, after I graduated. When my kids were growing up, I would say it made that shift. So now there's a lot more, Spanish speaking people everywhere, which was, we don't speak Spanish. I don't. My dad, didn't want to make my mom feel bad because she didn't know how to speak it. So he spoke it, and his family spoke it, but he didn't speak it to us. And, you know, learning it in high school is very different because the Mexican Americans here speak a lot of slang. And so when I tried to speak to my dad in proper Spanish, he was like, I don't know what you're saying.

Anthony Victoria [00:10:06] Yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:10:06] You know.

[00:10:07] The castellano versus like that, like you're saying that Mexicans slang Spanish, right?

Margaret Razo [00:10:10] Yeah, it's very different.

Anthony Victoria [00:10:12] Do you speak it now or?

Margaret Razo [00:10:14] No.

Anthony Victoria [00:10:14] No? Okay.

Margaret Razo [00:10:15] No no, I mean, I could when I worked for, [inaudible]. I could get through a basic haircut in Spanish, but if they didn't, I looked and listened for key words. And if I didn't hear those, I'd be like, oh, man, I'm lost. So I had to ask someone, but yeah, get. I could, get through a haircut.

Anthony Victoria [00:10:32] And when did you graduate from high school?

Margaret Razo [00:10:34] In 88.

Anthony Victoria [00:10:36] Yeah. And you went to Bloomington, right? Bloomington highschool?

Margaret Razo [00:10:37] Yeah. Mhm.

Anthony Victoria [00:10:38] Did you also go to Zimmerman Elementary School?

Margaret Razo [00:10:41] I did, I went to Zimmerman and I went to, Bloomington Junior High School and then to the high school.

Anthony Victoria [00:10:47] And so how was it like going to Zimmerman in those days when you were growing up?

Margaret Razo [00:10:51] Oh, gosh, I love Zimmerman. And I was I've been involved with Zimmerman, many years because, once I graduated from there, I have a sister that I'm 14 years older than her, and she'd never been babysat by anybody but me or my brothers. And so when

she had to go to school and got put with all these strangers that she didn't know, she flipped out. So, I volunteered there every, Wednesday with my sister, to get her acclimated and stuff. And then, I had already. I was already a mother by then. So, wasn't too long after that, you know? Then I had my own kid going there. I have another sister who, 21 years older than her. My mother and I were pregnant at the same time. Me with my first son, her with my last sister. So they're very close in age, six months apart. So, they started school together too. And, so, our kids went to Zimmerman, and, they went to Rutho, though, because they built the new junior high by then. So they went to Rutho Harris. But they, also graduated from Bloomington

Anthony Victoria [00:12:00] Oh, wow. So definitely a product of [Colton unified school district]

Margaret Razo [00:12:03] Oh, for sure, for sure. Five of us went to the schools here and. Yeah. And since we lived in this house the whole time, we all went to the same schools.

Anthony Victoria [00:12:13] Yeah. I'm curious to know because I know, you know, looking through the archives, I've learned quite a bit about all these different annexation efforts from different, cities. Right. Like Rialto being one of them. Fontana being the other. Do you recall? And I know you must have been maybe younger at that time, but do you recall learning about those efforts or just hearing about how different cities have always tried to sort of [inaudible]

Margaret Razo [00:12:40] Oh, yeah, we know that. They've been chipping away at Bloomington. I mean, this whole time. And like, growing up we had, a Christmas tree farm right here, up the hill. And I always assumed that was part of Bloomington, but I found out after the fact that it actually belonged to Fontana.

Anthony Victoria [00:12:57] Oh wow.

Margaret Razo [00:12:57] So when that Christmas tree farm moved, well, it was very disturbing because we would go there to get our Christmas trees all the time. And I had no idea that it wasn't even going back into our community. You know, because going there in your community, you would think that the money is going to your community. But it went somewhere to Fontana, I guess, and then they just decided to pull it. I don't know what they're going to do with that land now. But yeah, it's it's really sad. I never thought about leaving Bloomington until recently, and it feels like by the time the regular lay person knows what's going on, it's already too late to fight because. Yeah, my, the Amazon that's built on Slover, that one. If there's not, I don't even think it's in operation. But my brother lives right on that block behind them. All right. You know. So, yeah. And he used to have a beautiful view up those mountains back there, but they built that thing, and. And. Yeah, if we went to all the city meetings, you know, all the, the

council meetings, the Mac. Meetings, all of that. But it was, fruitless. I mean, it was ridiculous, actually, to go and try and fight for anything, because by the time we knew that it was happening, it was already like a done deal, you know? And the same thing with, Zimmerman, how they, are going to tear down Zimmerman to put a warehouse. It's ridiculous. And, they just started tearing down more houses on Santa Ana. And, at first I was kind of, well, yeah, kind of angry about the people doing that. But then I read somewhere that somebody said, well, if I want my kids to go to college and they're going to give me \$1 million for my house, why wouldn't I do it? And you can't argue with that. They're wanting to do better for their kids, you know?

Anthony Victoria [00:14:49] Yeah. I mean, you bring up a lot of interesting points, especially around, these projects almost feeling rubber stamped in a lot of ways. That's a sentiment that I hear from quite a bit of people. And, your brother lives on [Autilla] right.

Margaret Razo [00:15:02] Yeah. My sister too.

Anthony Victoria [00:15:05] I wonder if they know Tom or they knew Tommy and Kim Rocha.

Margaret Razo [00:15:08] Yeah.

Rafael Razo [00:15:09] Yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:15:09] Yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:15:10] Yeah, they're my brother's good friends.

Anthony Victoria [00:15:11] Yeah. So they left, obviously, after years of fighting. I'm sure, your siblings are the same way, right there. Were fighting along with you and so many others.

Margaret Razo [00:15:20] Yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:15:21] Around this issue. Right. And so, you know, that's, that's sort of what I've heard from Tommy and Kim and then, you know, other people like Anna Carlos, who I know lives like, this.

Margaret Razo [00:15:30] Oh, yeah. She. Yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:15:32] You know, so it's like a lot of them have said over the years that. Yeah, like, it's like we go to these meetings and it's almost like they're not even listening to us and that.

Margaret Razo [00:15:39] Yeah. And it was very frustrating. In fact, Tom Roach, you know, my brother Tom, really well, they were really good friends. He spoke at my brother's funeral, as a matter of fact. So really good friends. But, yeah, it's. And then I heard that not even, shut that door dad. Those dogs across street are horrible. But, yeah. My brother I know got a brand new, and my sister got brand new, air conditioning put in. I guess that was a perk of what they did with those, with that warehouse, but, I heard not everybody got it on the block, which is, you know, messed up. As you know, they're kind of giving side eye to my, you know, my sister and my brother, like, well, why did you guys get it? Or maybe because we were more vocal in, you know, our, fighting that thing. And I think maybe they thought, oh, like, that greasy wheel kind of thing gets, you know, oiled. Because, yeah, I've heard that not everybody got that, which was not fair either.

Anthony Victoria [00:16:40] Right.

Margaret Razo [00:16:40] You know. Yeah. And, and when they made pilot, we went to that meeting and the developers came and said, that we're going to have, say so and what restaurants get put there, this and that, that they were going to come back to us. They never did any of that. And they basically told us what they were putting there, and we didn't get any say so in anything. And so they lied to, the regular person. That's what they do. They lie to the regular person. And that's frustrating, you know? And, I can't believe that they took out a school like that makes no sense to me to remove an elementary school. And then where they're moving it, they're putting it on a block where there's already an elementary school. So how is that going to, I'm glad I don't have elementary school kids, because drop offs and pick ups are going to be awful over there. Awful. And all the kids who live on this side now have to cross Cedar. That's not safe.

Anthony Victoria [00:17:41] Well, it just makes me think that, to your point, there's already a school on there or on that street. You're going to move the school to the other side of Cedar. So you're literally going to make families live on this side of Cedar, go to a school on the other side. So it's like you're actually making parents travel more.

Margaret Razo [00:17:59] Yes.

Anthony Victoria [00:18:00] Wouldn't it be more of a safety risk because they're having maybe there's people that can drive so they have to cross the street or whatever. It's like...

Margaret Razo [00:18:07] Yeah, you know.

Rafael Razo [00:18:07] Let's talk about them putting a bridge over but still there.

Margaret Razo [00:18:11] Yeah. Like they haven't Colton, you know, for Colton High School. Like that would be something that, would be beneficial if they could do that because, I mean, my mom, we would tease. We get teased all the time because we weren't allowed to cross Cedar. I mean, even as adults, we would tease my mom like, oh, could we cross Cedar? Because that's a big deal to cross that street. You know, we had friends that lived on that side, but my mom was always worried we'd get hit and people do get hit on that street a lot, you know.

Rafael Razo [00:18:39] Meridians been there for what? about ten years now.

Margaret Razo [00:18:41] Yeah. I hate that Meridian.

Rafael Razo [00:18:43] Yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:18:43] But I mean it probably.

Rafael Razo [00:18:45] [inaudible] it's just a hassle.

Margaret Razo [00:18:47] Yeah. But I mean people do get hit on that street. So it probably did make people slow down, you know?

Anthony Victoria [00:18:53] What street is it, Cedar right?

Rafael Razo [00:18:54] Cedar.

Margaret Razo [00:18:54] Yeah. Yeah, yeah. That meridian is, a pain in the butt to me, but it probably serves its purpose.

Anthony Victoria [00:19:00] And why do you think people get hit? Is it because of the semi-trucks, is it because of

Margaret Razo [00:19:04] Well, because it's dark, for one thing. It's it's dark area, and you have people to fly through there, you know? I mean, one time, years ago, there was a guy, a, a homeless guy who had one of those, halos, attached to his head walking around with that thing, and he got hit, and he got hit so hard that it popped his head off because of that halo, that that metal thing, it popped his head off. And so, like, yeah, people fly down that street. It's, it's, it's scary.

Anthony Victoria [00:19:37] Yeah, I know. So we're back on Zimmerman, like, and sort of going back to your point about that school moving, like, does that bring some kind of sadness or concern?

Margaret Razo [00:19:48] Well, absolutely. Because like I said, we've I've got so much history there. I mean, in fact, Zimmerman, Walter Zimmerman, he was the grandpa of a girl I went to highschool with, Ava Zimmerman. So, I mean, yeah, I started there in 1975 and, and have been affiliated with that school in some way, shape or form, like all these years because, you know, kids went there. I was, vice president of the PTA for a while there. You know, I know all the teachers there because we all went there, me and my brothers and sisters, just so much history. And then to how we would go play ball there. My dad broke his ankle there. We were playing ball there, and somebody slid into him, and luckily there was a janitor there. So he opened up the gate so we could get the truck back there and, you know, get my dad because we would just hop the fences and, you know, get in there and play. But yeah, there's, it's going to be really sad when they, take that school away because already all the houses around that school are gone. You know, they took out the boys home. Like, the whole landscape of Bloomington is changing. And Zimmerman has been such, a mainstay, I guess, of of this town. And the only good thing about them doing it is that they keep saying it's going to be state of the art, so I'm sure they're going to have like an upgrade of, like, computers and, and just more, advanced things, you know, for the kids that are going to be going there. But, it's just sad that warehouses that are not even filled or being used are being built. Like, why are they being built if they're not, for someone to actually move into and do it, like, why are they building empty buildings basically.

Anthony Victoria [00:21:35] Right. And that's a question that's a follow up question I have, because I know that's the argument that a lot of people make when building these warehouses. Is that why?

Rafael Razo [00:21:42] You build them if there's nobody that's going to be in them?

Anthony Victoria [00:21:45] Right. And it's not, it seems like it's not a guarantee that they're going to be, occupied. That's right. So it sort of defeats the argument from some folks that this is a moneymaker, that it's bringing an economic outlook to a place like Bloomington. Wouldn't you say?

Margaret Razo [00:21:59] Yeah, exactly. And then, like, say that Christmas tree farm that wasn't even ours, but it's in our community. How do we know that we're even going to get any revenue from these places? You know, if that's not fair, either. They keep saying it's going to bring jobs or this and that, but it doesn't if they're empty, you know, and so many places are staffed by, these temp agencies and stuff like that. And that's another thing that was very upsetting in, fighting for, these warehouses to not be built when we go to the city council meetings at the actual courthouse, they would let workers come and speak, like, in their orange vests and all that. They would have all their Caltrans colors on or whatever, and they would get to go speak and give their opinion on things that weren't happening in their community. Those guys get to come and do a job and then move on to the next community. Why do they get to have a say so in what goes on in our community? They're paid to do a job. They don't have to live here. They don't, they don't care, they just move on to the next job, but for some reason, the city council allows those people to have a say so in what goes on in our lives. And that is very frustrating, very frustrating, because those people come up there with their donuts and their coffee and they're giving, you know, to people and schmoozing and stuff like that, but they have no real stake in this community. They just get paid for their job and move on. I don't understand why they are allowed to do that.

Anthony Victoria [00:23:28] Yeah, that's a great point you bring up because I think, so I've spoken to some folks and mind you, they haven't been as willing to speak to me as you all are, obviously, because they're, I guess, concerned or afraid or whatever. But I've asked them, hey, I, you know, I want to know why you're supporting the industry. Well, you know, I, I understand that there's concerns about the economic output, right? Because this is in the city and it's not incorporated like other places. So I get that argument. But it seems like how an industrial partners, this person that's coming in is setting themselves is sort of like this community supporter or investor.

Margaret Razo [00:24:09] Yeah, and he is directly the one who lied about saying we're going to have say so and then changed it.

Anthony Victoria [00:24:14] Yeah. So if you don't mind like explain a little bit more about that. Like how did he say, like, what kind of promises did he make to you all?

Margaret Razo [00:24:21] Oh, that we were going to have a say so in like the, the the restaurant.

Anthony Victoria [00:24:28] What restaurants are going to go there

Margaret Razo [00:24:29] Yeah. That we would have more of safe jobs.

Rafael Razo [00:24:32] Jobs for this community.

Margaret Razo [00:24:34] Yeah. And we were expecting to see him back at another MAC meeting to discuss, you know, different things that could, you know, different options for stuff. I didn't see him again until they were basically building that, you know, and they put in a Jack in the Box and a Dell Taco. Hello. We have one right there at the very next offramp. There's a Jack in the box by Stater Brothers. There's a Jack in the box over the bridge right there. We have a Dell taco right there and another one over the bridge, as a matter of fact. So, like, we did not need those two particular restaurants. They put an Indian restaurant there, there was never anyone in it. And the food smells gross. I mean, I've never had Indian food, but that place does not make me want it. It's disgusting. And it's always empty.

Anthony Victoria [00:25:18] So which location is this.

Margaret Razo [00:25:19] By the way? On pilot, right here on, on Cedar and, Santa Ana.

Rafael Razo [00:25:25] I think it's called [Chandi] Travel Center or something like that.

Anthony Victoria [00:25:28] It's like corporate Indian food. Maybe that's why.

Margaret Razo [00:25:31] Yeah, maybe because it just doesn't look appealing and since there's nobody ever in there, their food just always looks like it's got a glaze over it, like they have to stir it up a little or something. But yeah, it doesn't look appetizing and..

Anthony Victoria [00:25:43] I love Indian food. So that's why I like, you know.

Margaret Razo [00:25:46] Oh yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:25:46] But if it's like convenient Indian food, fast food, then that's fine. I get it.

Margaret Razo [00:25:50] Yeah, it doesn't.

Anthony Victoria [00:25:52] No disrespect towards them.

Margaret Razo [00:25:52] Yeah, it doesn't look good. And like I said, if it looked good maybe I would want to try it, but you know, it, it doesn't.

Rafael Razo [00:25:59] Look nice.

Margaret Razo [00:26:01] And there's never anybody in there like, I don't know how many Indians of that type we have in this area..

Anthony Victoria [00:26:07] Right.

Margaret Razo [00:26:07] But it doesn't seem like there's a lot, or else it'd be more full.

Anthony Victoria [00:26:10] It could be maybe like, because what I have learned is there are a lot of like Indian truck drivers or some, you know, Sikhs aren't always Indian per se, but I [inaudible].

Margaret Razo [00:26:19] Oh true maybe,

Anthony Victoria [00:26:19] So,

Margaret Razo [00:26:19] and that is a truck stop, so that would make sense.

Anthony Victoria [00:26:22] Yeah, it's Chamoli, so I'm assuming it's like they have Indian descent or like some, you know, some kind of area. Yeah.

Rafael Razo [00:26:28] Yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:26:29] Yeah. Or that, that kind of region. Right.

Margaret Razo [00:26:30] Yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:26:31] But anyway no that's, that's interesting because I think like what I heard a lot from Howard, especially in watching some of the public hearings that he would have over the years on this project is that they did their part in doing, community engagement. Right. But I would always wonder, well, what are they counting as community engagement? Because I hear over and over that they're not really doing their part.

Margaret Razo [00:26:54] They didn't and they only-, they only and, distributing, fliers. They only gave it to a certain amount of people. They didn't go out to like a big square area around that place. They did it like some of the people at the MAC meeting were like, hey, I live like literally around the corner. I didn't get any information on that. So I don't know how they went about choosing who they gave information to, but not everybody got it. Not everybody got it.

Rafael Razo [00:27:20] With two MAC meetings ago and they, they're, they're planning on building a freezer building here.

Margaret Razo [00:27:26] Cold storage.

Rafael Razo [00:27:27] Yeah, cold storage. And they got signatures and then one of the board members was looking at it, and some of those signatures weren't even from here. They weren't from they didn't live in Bloomington.

Margaret Razo [00:27:37] And, like, we didn't get information here, and this is one block away. You know, my sister, gets the mail for this house. She doesn't she didn't get that. Now, the cold storage, I wouldn't be opposed to so much because there's, a food pantry place that's next door to this, corner store. I've never been there, but I see people there all the time, and they would have a designated spot for frozen stuff at that facility that they plan on building.

Rafael Razo [00:28:04] It would alleviate traffic right here, too, because there's always a long line to get in there to traffic.

Margaret Razo [00:28:09] You know. So it would it would help that food bank and also probably the olive branch would benefit from that. And that field has been a field ever since we've lived here. There's never been any improvement or anything on that. That's our bus stop used to be there, you know, when we went to school. So that cold storage place, that one I think would be okay, because it's going to benefit the, the food pantry that's helping people in our community. You know, that one? That one I'm okay with.

Anthony Victoria [00:28:41] But why do you think developers like Howard don't do the kind of engagement that people want them to see? Is it because they just want to rush through these plans? They want to get something?

Margaret Razo [00:28:52] Oh, because they want to do what they want to do. They don't really care what we have to say. They just want to get put up what they want put up. And, we're inconsequential. Is basically how I feel.

Rafael Razo [00:29:02] It feels, it feels like we're being systematically pushed out of this town.

Margaret Razo [00:29:05] And yeah, look what they're doing to us. There's. Yeah.

Rafael Razo [00:29:10] It's basically what it is.

Margaret Razo [00:29:12] All all around Kessler, that whole, the whole blocks around there are, are terrible. And now I've seen that they've, started, getting rid of houses on Santa Ana, like, around the high school. So, I mean, we just noticed today, one of my friend's house is on, Maple gone. You know, I was like, oh, my God, that was Penny's old house. Just gone. The ones on Locust, too, one of my good friends. Childhood home. They're gone. I mean, it's just, everything looks blank. All that. The place with the palm trees, how they're moving all the palm trees. Now, all that stuff is just, blank, our whole. I feel sad for Bloomington. Honestly. I feel sad, you know? And what's going to go up in its place? Nothing pretty, nothing pretty. Just more warehouses. And like the Amazon one, ridiculous. It was open for maybe three months and they closed.

Rafael Razo [00:30:09] At least three months.

Margaret Razo [00:30:10] Three months.

Anthony Victoria [00:30:11] There's nothing there now. It's just.

Margaret Razo [00:30:13] Yeah, it's just empty building.

Rafael Razo [00:30:15] Just a empty building.

Anthony Victoria [00:30:15] Wow.

Margaret Razo [00:30:16] You know, and now, like I said, how my brother used to be able to see the mountains. Now you walk in his backyard. It's just building. Wall.

Rafael Razo [00:30:23] There's wall.

Margaret Razo [00:30:23] Just wall. And it's ugly. And it's for nothing because nobody's in it. No, it's not a functional, you know, place. They just ruined, the beautiful view.

Rafael Razo [00:30:33] That's the whole entire deal.

Margaret Razo [00:30:34] Yeah. Which is why Tom and Kim moved, you know, which, honestly, they were a little bit hasty, I thought, because, you know, if you love Bloomington as much as you say, you should stay and keep fighting. But as soon as they built that, he's like, I'm out.

Anthony Victoria [00:30:48] Yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:30:49] You know, but he did say lovely things about my brother, so I won't be too mad about it.

Anthony Victoria [00:30:54] Yeah. And like you said, it's a little hard sometimes, right? Because, you know, you're faced with like, difficult decisions you mentioned earlier. Like, you know, people saying, well, if this means I can get a couple \$100,000 to pay off debt or to support my kid through college.

Margaret Razo [00:31:09] Yeah, you can't argue.

Anthony Victoria [00:31:10] Right.

Margaret Razo [00:31:11] You can't argue.

Anthony Victoria [00:31:12] And and I'm wondering, do you know anyone in the neighborhood that, like, has done that or that has had that difficult decision and has decided to take the money, I guess.

Margaret Razo [00:31:20] You know, I just asked today, I haven't got a response. But across the street from, one of the houses they just tore down is, a good friend of my son's. And, I asked him once today, if, oh that's William, if they moved or not, or if they're going to planning on moving. But they're the only ones I would know personally. But I did see that they are starting. That's called [Russell's] Mountain up there, that, all the land in front of [Russell's] Mountain is going to be start, you know, raising it. And they have started across the block. So I don't know if Angels dad has done that or not. But also, at a MAC meeting I ran into, the parents of someone I went to high school with and, they were fighting to save their house because it, they live somewhere, at the bottom of Russell's mountain, too. And I don't know if they were able to save their house. And that's concerning because how are they having to fight for something that they own already, and that these conglomerates can just come and, and, push them out and basically force them to sell? I mean, they've probably been here as long as, I've been here, you know, many, many years. A lot of people have been here, a lot of friends that I still, you know,

talk to on Facebook I've gone to school with since kindergarten, you know. So, yeah, it's, it's, it's disturbing what they're doing here. And, I, I hate the way that, this place is changing. And like I said, I never wanted to move here. All my brothers and sisters live here, you know, we still have our, our family home here. But the more and more it changes, the more and more it makes me want to leave, you know? I mean, we just buried my mom and my brother here, it's going to make that, a little harder to leave. But also, you know, we've had problems with cancer here. Bloomington, is toxic, I believe now. We have to deal with the train yard, you know, the freeway missions, all of that. Now we have all this trucking coming here. You know, diesels, I mean, everywhere. And we have to deal with the emissions from that. I've had cancer myself. I had thyroid cancer. My mom had kidney cancer five times. My brother died of kidney cancer. Our dad died of stomach cancer. My other brother also had kidney cancer. It's just a lot of cancer. Even my two dogs had cancer. We just lost our dog last month. Well, a couple weeks ago. Bullet from cancer. So, I mean, how much of that is our environment?

Anthony Victoria [00:34:08] Yeah, I was going to ask, like, if they had cancer or if that was the cause of death. And yeah, you just answer my question.

Margaret Razo [00:34:16] Mhm.

Anthony Victoria [00:34:17] Yeah. I mean I just to share a personal story, my mom died of cancer in 2019. She had she had a mass. Yeah. I'm sorry to you. I mean, but that's kind of, that's the common bond, right? Unfortunately, that a lot of families have in this region now is that there's a lot of people that are, you know, getting sick. And it's probably more than likely because of the environment and what they're breathing in over the time right? What we like to talk about a lot in this project. Right. The, you know, the historians that I'm working with is this concept of a slow violence and would you say that maybe that's sort of what's happened, maybe to your family and others in this community as they've succumb to the slow violence from maybe the industry that's warehousing? Would you say that's maybe the case?

Margaret Razo [00:34:59] Yeah, it could, could be and like say, well, what my dad, like I said, it's just over this hill. When he worked for Certainteed, they worked with asbestos, you know, so that's probably in our air too. And then we have the cement company right here as well, you know, their emissions from that. So, I mean, this area is just for as rural as it is, it's also got a lot of industry, you know, a lot of industry.

Anthony Victoria [00:35:24] Which cement company is that, by the way, the one that you were mentioning.

Margaret Razo [00:35:27] It was Riverside Cement Company.

Anthony Victoria [00:35:29] Oh, okay.

Margaret Razo[00:35:29] They tore it down now.

Anthony Victoria [00:35:30] Because I know there's well there was Cal [Portland]. Right.

Rafael Razo [00:35:32] Yeah.

Rafael Razo [00:35:32] Right. That, that cement company built practically San Bernardino. Colton. Rialto.

Anthony Victoria [00:35:38] Right.

Rafael Razo [00:35:38] That was the that was the cement.

Margaret Razo [00:35:40] Yeah. I mean, and now they're building more warehouses there, you know, that are also empty.

Rafael Razo [00:35:45] Yeah. Exactly.

Anthony Victoria [00:35:46] Right.

Margaret Razo [00:35:46] You know.

Rafael Razo [00:35:47] And they are getting ready to build, build another one right there on Rancho.

Anthony Victoria [00:35:50] Yeah. And well, they just built the Amazon behind the cemetery and stuff too, because even when, my mother was, buying her plot and stuff because, you know, she wanted to have things ready. We ended up moving her because the plot she picked was so beautiful before. But then when you look, it's just allll, Amazon now. Amazon. And, you know, while it wasn't going to matter to my mother anymore, but to for us to go visit her and see, you know, just all that ugly industrial stuff, we're like, oh, no. So we moved her to a different spot.

Anthony Victoria [00:36:26] And where is she at now? What's it called?

Margaret Razo [00:36:26] Now she's in front of the, like the Mausoleum area and, yeah, it's a beautiful spot. And we, we bought a family plot there, so we're all going to be buried there.

Anthony Victoria [00:36:37] And that's, that's here, right?

Anthony Victoria [00:36:39] Yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:36:40] Green acres.

Anthony Victoria [00:36:40] Okay. Yeah. To kind of backtrack. I'm sorry, I know.

Margaret Razo [00:36:44] Yeah. No. Go ahead.

Anthony Victoria [00:36:47] What was it like? I know you kind of started explaining about, like, life at Zimmerman and, like, growing up, but what was life like besides here? Like in Bloomington? Maybe like, if you were to go out on the other side of the freeway, for example, or maybe, you know, like walking down Slover or these parts by the high school and maybe by the junior high school, or like, what was it like then, like when you were growing up.

Margaret Razo [00:37:08] To, walk, well the, all the businesses were different, for one thing, you know, we had Mocs mobile down there. We had Thomas Brothers, those were all staples. My mom had a regular meet guy there. Yeah, the vegetable stand. You know, all those. We had a bakery. When I was five, I got to go pick my, my own decorations for the first time up from Fiesta Bakery, you know, and that, I think, was, owned by somebody else. I went to school with, the Hara, the Nehara family. Yeah. You could walk around here and, and not be worried. I think now that's, kind of scary to, like, especially here, the numbered streets, you know, people are scared of the numbered streets. We were never scared because, like I said, my dad was the dad to everybody here. So all the little gangbanger kids and stuff, they were fine with us because they played ball with us. They never bothered us. So as far as, like, that blue monster, that gang problem over here and I had brothers that were the age of all these guys, so we didn't have to worry about that, you know? But, I mean, it wasn't without, problems. Sometimes. My brothers got jumped one time, coming from the high school, you know, but it's very, intermittent. Not a whole bunch of, problems here. You know, like I said, he could still ride horses. People rode their bikes all over the place. People watched out for, you know, everybody else. It was. It was a nice community. It really was.

Margaret Razo [00:38:47] And how was the traffic like? Was it bad?

Margaret Razo [00:38:49] No, not at all. Not at all. Yeah. Know. No. It's horrible, you know, trying to get over Cedar like, you know, we don't even go down Cedar at all anymore. Since they started that project, we always go down to, Sierra, you know? Because, yeah, it's just a pain in the butt. And it was bad before they started, doing that. And now with all the diesels. And the diesels are jerks, man. They're jerks. They don't know, you know, I think rules don't apply to them. Most. For the most part.

Rafael Razo [00:39:20] No courtesy.

Margaret Razo [00:39:20] Yeah. No courtesy. They're just, you know.

Rafael Razo [00:39:22] The diesel truck drivers.

Margaret Razo [00:39:24] The diesel truck drivers, they.

Rafael Razo [00:39:26] Pop out in front of you and you're going in. They they'll go.

Margaret Razo [00:39:29] Yeah, they're bad.

Rafael Razo [00:39:30] And twice.

Margaret Razo [00:39:31] Yeah. It's, there's certain times of the day that you don't want to go anywhere near Cedar. You know, it's bad.

Margaret Razo [00:39:40] And what times are those usually?

Margaret Razo [00:39:42] In the Morning.

Margaret Razo [00:39:43] And afternoon, like from 3:00 to five.

Rafael Razo [00:39:46] Five.

Rafael Razo [00:39:47] It's horrible. You don't want to go anywhere near there.

Rafael Razo [00:39:49] Yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:39:51] But yeah, it was. It's changed a lot for sure. It's changed a lot. Like, I, you don't see kids walking around or like. Like we used to, you know, really riding their bikes,

running up and down, going to the park and this and that. And because people are afraid to have their kids out with all these diesel, somebody's going to get hit. You know, that's the main thing, I think. Like, I probably wouldn't even feel safe having my kids out and about because, it's just changed so much. It's changed so much. And people fly up and down these streets, too.

Rafael Razo [00:40:25] Yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:40:26] You know, I mean, that's been since, we lived here. We've seen stuff happen on this street. I've seen a guy get shot on this street. People died, doing beer runs from that store. You know, but like I said, it's, I don't know how it is now because I don't live here full time in this house, but I think it would be scary to live here right now. You know, being itself, we still have connection to this neighborhood, I guess, because the house is here, but we're all grown up now, so we don't know any of the kids that are hanging around here nowadays. And, yeah, it just feels, probably less safe. And what's all the truckers coming in too, that brings a lot of, strangers to our town. So, I mean, you know, riffraff, like, it'd be more scary because these people could come into our communities, commit crimes, and then just leave, and we'll never know. You know who they were, what you know, or anything. That. That's the scary part, too, about being here, you know?

Anthony Victoria [00:41:33] Yeah. And where do you all live now? What part of, like you said, not too far from here. Right? But like,

Margaret Razo [00:41:37] Yeah, I live, off of Locust.

Rafael Razo [00:41:40] In between Santa Ana and Slover.

Margaret Razo [00:41:42] Yeah. In between Santa Ana and Slover off of Locust, I think so. And then my, my siblings, I have two on [??]. My brother and sister live catty corner from each other, and my other sister, Elena, lives, right behind the, the field on Alder. She lives right behind the, high school. And then my other brother lives a block behind her. So we're all really, all really close, you know?

Rafael Razo [00:42:09] Yeah. I mean, I would love to speak to your siblings if they're willing, just because I know they live on that same street. And I also appreciate Tommy and Kim, but they're not here anymore. And I think, yeah, you get to hear from them, because there's also a connection, because you all have such a like. I mean, you all have deep ties to Bloomington, right?

Margaret Razo [00:42:27] Yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:42:28] And I know Tommy and Kim weren't necessarily that. They were more like transplants right from LA. Yeah, which is fine. But like, you know what I mean? That's like I think, there's a for me, there's a really strong story here in my opinion. Right. I guess that's what I'm getting at.

Margaret Razo [00:42:40] Yeah. And I try to get my sisters, my sister Lina, she's, she was born in 1991, so she.

Anthony Victoria [00:42:48] Oh that's the year I was born.

Rafael Razo [00:42:49] Oh, yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:42:50] So I'm old enough to be your mother. Great. But, yeah, I mean, she could speak from, from that time on, you know? And, my brother Johnny, he's the reason we moved here. So he's been here since 1973. He was born in 73. Yeah. And he's still around here. And, I'm so sad to miss my brother Tom, because, he's the one. I mean, me and him together knew. It was such a a wealth of of knowledge because, there was the three of us growing up me, Tommy and Johnny. But John was always out with his friends doing whatever, with his friends. And me and Tom were always here with my mom. And so as far as history goes, we remember the most, you know, and now my brother's gone. So I feel like just. And he was the one that was more involved in this stuff, too. Tommy Rocha got Tommy involved in all that community stuff. And so Tommy got that fire and he wanted us to be more involved. And so that's how we got involved, you know, and I really like going to all the Mac meetings and kind of being in on the, you know, on things. But even doing that, it's still always too late for development things. You know, I feel like all that's going on behind the scenes and then when they finally bring it to the public, it's already like, this is what we're doing, like it or not.

Rafael Razo [00:44:20] take it or leave it. Yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:44:20] Yeah, take it or leave it.

Rafael Razo [00:44:22] Would you say that you're still involved in a certain way because your brother Tom? Because, you know, you're kind of carrying his legacy of fighting or pushing.

Margaret Razo [00:44:29] Oh, yeah. Yeah. And, and I do like being involved in that. That's a thing where, I felt like, man, why weren't we more involved our whole life? Because we've been

here our whole lives, you know? And that's something that my dad, I think, wanted us to always be more involved in. But I think we were young and dumb and just weren't into that at that point. But now, you know, we're we're grown up and we care about where we live in our community. And so I think my dad would be really proud of the fact that, you know, we are more, involved in even, my younger sister Elaina, she'd come in, and go to the meetings with us and stuff, too. And even though she hasn't technically, lived here as long as the rest of us because she wasn't alive, you know, she's still really involved, with stuff and. Yeah, my brother Johnny's probably the only one who's not. Not as. And like yeah, he's one that he's a little different. Like we're over here fighting the, the, diesels and stuff. And he's letting his neighbor who owns Diesel's rent space in his backyard to park his diesels. And we're like, dude, what are you doing? What are you doing? We're like, trying to fight against that. And my brother's like "I don't care" you know, so there's that one. But, you know, I feel like we do have a lot at stake here, and, and, and this has been our home, our kids. I raised all my kids here. We raised our kids here. You know, we're invested in this town, and I don't want to see it swallowed up by, everybody else because I think Fontana, even this, project that they're doing here on, on Valley Way or Locust, whatever this is, what does it turn into? Valley way? How far up is it Locust?

Rafael Razo [00:46:18] It changes right when you get up to the hill, where the hills are at it.

Anthony Victoria [00:46:22] When you hit Armstrong or something like right?

Rafael Razo [00:46:24] Yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:46:24] Yeah. So all that, I think is not even part of Bloomington. Yeah. That's going to be Fontana's revenue. So what does Bloomington get. You know, and we don't even have enough to have our own like mayor or anything, you know, like to be part of the county. But if we don't, if we don't generate enough revenue, which we never do because anything that's big here doesn't even belong to us. It belongs to some other community.

Rafael Razo [00:46:54] In the county.

Margaret Razo [00:46:54] In the county, but it doesn't benefit Bloomington at all. So how are we ever going to become a city and get, and get benefits for us if we're not ever getting the, the money? You know.

Anthony Victoria [00:47:09] So this annexation stuff has always been a thing as far as you all remember then

Margaret Razo [00:47:13] Oh, yeah. Bloomington used to be much bigger when, you know, when we first moved here. But they do keep chipping away at it, like.

Rafael Razo [00:47:20] They used to be as far as, the, by the foothills. They wouldn't. They called it [inaudible] and then they changed. Yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:47:27] Ohhh interesting. Where is [inaudible] now?

Rafael Razo [00:47:28] At the Foothills still. There's a street called [inaudible], but they used to call it [inaudible] from by the Foothills, down by Summit.

Anthony Victoria [00:47:35] I see.

Rafael Razo [00:47:36] Down this way. And then they changed the name.

Anthony Victoria [00:47:38] Wow. Wow.

Margaret Razo [00:47:39] But yeah. You know, it's, it's, it's so different now. Bloomington and hardly has any, it used to be like a home town feel, you know? Just a rural, nice community. And, now there's just warehouses everywhere, and it's just so industrialized that, and it's pushing everyone out. And now, like, I feel so sad. Like I said, for all the kids that live on this side of Cedar, who are going to have to make the trek over there, to, because who knows? I don't even know about busses anymore. Do you ever see school busses? Really?

Rafael Razo [00:48:14] The only time we see school busses for me, high school. That's it.

Anthony Victoria [00:48:18] Yeah, good point.

Margaret Razo [00:48:19] But, you know.

Rafael Razo [00:48:20] But I've never.

Margaret Razo [00:48:21] Yeah. I just feel really sad that they are, they took away our, our elementary school and they're moving it.

Anthony Victoria [00:48:28] So. Yeah, I think you all have actually answer them on my questions. Thank you so much. What was the impact? And maybe this is, like too early on, but what do you think the impacts of that ten freeway are? Because like, I know that was already

around right when you all moved here. Do you think that had any kind of impact on development here? You know, because it is a major corridor, right?

Rafael Razo [00:48:56] I, I think, well, it never used to be because that used to be the 99.

Margaret Razo [00:49:01] Well.

Rafael Razo [00:49:01] And, now with progress.

Margaret Razo [00:49:04] I think it was always kind of that way because we're, we are situated right in between the 60 and the ten.

Anthony Victoria [00:49:11] Yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:49:11] So Locust became a main thoroughfare. Cedar became a main thoroughfare because those are both things you get off of that in [??]. You know, you could get on the, from the 60, from both of these streets right here and then go all the way through to the ten. So I think that's it's always been sort of, an industrial corridor, but not, not like it is now though.

Rafael Razo [00:49:36] There was even a barracks right here on Cedar and Slover for the Army Air Corps. Oh, wow. That was part of March airfield.

Anthony Victoria [00:49:45] Oh, wow. Okay.

Anthony Victoria [00:49:46] So they did training there on the corner, right?

Margaret Razo [00:49:47] Years and years and years ago.

Rafael Razo [00:49:49] For World War one.

Anthony Victoria [00:49:50] That's good to know.

Rafael Razo [00:49:51] Yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:49:51] That's really good to know.

Rafael Razo [00:49:52] Yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:49:53] No.

Anthony Victoria [00:49:53] Yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:49:54] There's a lot, there's a site on, Facebook, that, Ronald Martin runs. Yeah. And he's got a lot of good old pictures. Like a lot of old pictures of Bloomington.

Anthony Victoria [00:50:03] Is he someone that might be willing to speak to us is, maybe, or no? Do you know him personally?

Margaret Razo [00:50:07] He might. I've talked to him a couple times. He, has a consignment shop in Redlands that I bought a Barbie from him before. He's a really nice guy.

Anthony Victoria [00:50:16] Where's the shop at?

Rafael Razo [00:50:18] Is it the one in Redlands?

Margaret Razo [00:50:19] Yeah, at that, big antique store. Almost by Pet boys.

Rafael Razo [00:50:23] Yeah. It's like by Alabama, next to the Pet boys.

Anthony Victoria [00:50:25] Okay.

Margaret Razo [00:50:26] Yeah.

Rafael Razo [00:50:27] Just can't miss. It's. It's antiques and a big old [inaudible].

Anthony Victoria [00:50:28] I think I know which one it is.

Rafael Razo [00:50:29] Yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:50:29] Yeah, it's a big old thing.

Rafael Razo [00:50:32] [inaudible].

Anthony Victoria [00:50:32] I might visit him then and see he might be willing to give me a few minutes of his time or something.

Margaret Razo [00:50:37] Oh, yeah. He'd be great. He's, he's a great one. And, also, Gary Gossage has been here for quite a while. I don't know if you've, talked to him, but he runs the Nickelodeon pizza.

Anthony Victoria [00:50:46] Yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:50:47] Yeah, he's another one. But also kind of sketch with him, cause.

Anthony Victoria [00:50:53] Yeah, yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:50:53] He's a little sneaky.

Anthony Victoria [00:50:54] Well he's on the MAC, right?

Margaret Razo [00:50:55] Yeah, he's on the MAC board. But, yeah, he's very vocal on, on, on stuff. But also, I think recently I've come kind of not to trust him either. It's really hard. The MAC, the MACS, the MAC people get a lot of, flack, I guess. And, some of. It is justified, it works or whatever. But I think a lot of it is unwarranted too, because they're just civil servants up there.

Rafael Razo [00:51:23] I'm going to turn this light on to be able to see.

Margaret Razo [00:51:26] Okay.

Anthony Victoria [00:51:27] Yeah. So back back on the MAC, because they are civil servants. I know they're, I know they're not technically not able to make decision. I know it comes down to the supervisor.

Margaret Razo [00:51:37] Yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:51:37] But do you think even in their limited role, they can do more to support people like you and your family and other residents?

Margaret Razo [00:51:44] Oh, sure. Because they don't give us the whole information either. They, they're kind of shady. You know, they have their little, information that they get first hand, and then they pick and choose what to actually filter out to us. You know? So we

Rafael Razo [00:51:58] It's a paper, when they know and when we're going to get explained.

Margaret Razo [00:52:00] Yeah. We don't we don't get 100% of the story, that's for sure. That's for sure. And I'm pretty good friends with, a couple of them, you know. And even then, like, I, I know for sure one of the times we went to go, to the courthouse and I thought, we are all on the same page, but then she goes and speaks up for, for the project, and I'm like, hey, I thought this was happening. Oh, well, no, this and that's going on. And I was like, oh, well, thanks for telling us that you had changed it because, you know, we're on this path and we're thinking everybody's on that path. And then somebody from the MAC is like, oh, we're actually doing this. So, so, I mean, a couple of times the MAC meetings had to get stopped because the general public was so ticked off that they were telling the MAC people off, and the Mac people are like, okay, yeah, we got to stop. And we're just going to shut the meeting down because people got so, upset about it. You know.

Rafael Razo [00:53:00] People were crying. That one member. [inaudible]

Margaret Razo [00:53:01] Literally people were crying. People get really, upset and agitated and, but like I said, you know, the MAC people, they're just kind of like a go between, between, the powers that be and us. So they don't. I know that the Mac doesn't have any real power. They could just relay messages basically, you know, but yeah, when the relay gets back to us, I know that we don't get the full picture. And that makes me. Want to actually probably be on the MAC board someday, because I want to be in the know, and I want to know the little tricks that they have so that, I can make it more accessible to, to the layperson, you know, the concerned, concerned members for Bloomington that those people, so nice. There's a guy, Joaquin who, who worked with them. He translates for us because we've gone to a couple meetings that we didn't know were just in Spanish. And so we're like the basically the only English speakers there, but Joaquin would, translate for us so that we could, you know, be involved with that. So, I mean, even though language was a barrier, we would still go to those other meetings to, try and, you know, just do better things for our community. They do a lot of, of, action work or, that I really. Yeah, that I really admire for them and then and, lady, she's, another one that's really, instrumental in fighting for stuff and. Yeah, they were at every single meeting that I remember trying to fight this, you know, I really liked those people, a lot.

Anthony Victoria [00:54:52] Yeah, they're good people. And, you know, I've known them over the years, especially Ana, and, you know, because I met them through, Tommy and Kim, and then Joaquin, I recently met him, and I know his family's also lived in Bloomington for quite a while, and.

Margaret Razo [00:55:06] Yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:55:06] He has an invested interest in, you know, protecting his neighborhood. Right?

Margaret Razo [00:55:10] Yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:55:11] It's like the area where he grew up too.

Margaret Razo [00:55:12] Exactly. These are people we just met along the way, too.

Rafael Razo [00:55:16] Absolutely. Yeah. So that's my last question because, you know, I want to make sure because this is important, I think. Are there any memories, lasting memories that you have of attending Zimmerman or any of the schools here or something that, you know, you want people to, you know, know in, in the future when they listen to these histories of what life was like before?

Margaret Razo [00:55:37] Oh my gosh. Well, I know in junior high school, we were I think we only did it one year where Zimmerman, we went up to the fifth grade, and then the sixth graders went to the junior high school. So I went to junior high for sixth, seventh and eighth grade. And I was in the Gate program there, and I don't know, I don't think the Gate program is as good as it was back then because literally they took us everywhere. We were the only, class that got to go on field trips, the Gate class. So they took us to, and every time we went somewhere, they took us to the San Bernardino County Museum first, to go, like, learn about where we were going to go. So we had an idea of what we were going to do. So we had funding to go to that museum all the time. And then they took us to, like the Getty Museum. Oh my gosh. They took us lots of places. That I, I hold dear. Like, I still love that Getty Museum so much, you know, just different places. They took us to the gate program. I used to love in high school that they had the home EC class. I took home EC. I, we just had dinner the other night, soy sauce chicken that I learned how to make when I was, like, 16 and in high school, you know? We had, a sewing class. I learned how to sew. I mean, not that good. I made a pencil skirt and a little corduroy duck or something stupid like that, but, I mean, they don't offer those in, in school anymore. I learned how to drive in high school. And, when I started, just by chance, my glasses broke and I had to wear, wear, I didn't want to wear tape, you know? To my first day of high school. And I thought, oh, well, they're not probably going to make us drive, you know, the first day I'll be down. But they made us drive the first day. And I'm over there like, you know, with no glasses and stuff, but I mean, they don't have that either. You know, I got to learn how to, to drive and use the simulators at high school and all that. I mean, gosh, even when I first went to that high school, they had a smoking area, if you could believe that, like a smoking area, you

know? But they they got rid of that, which, you know, rightfully so. We don't need a smoking area in high school.

Anthony Victoria [00:57:53] Right.

Margaret Razo [00:57:54] But yeah, that makes me sad that there's no more Home ec, you know, no sewing, no, no driving, because these are all things that kids need today. You know, even my own kid, like, I don't think he'd know how to write a check out or anything because they don't teach that.

Rafael Razo [00:58:10] They don't offer it.

Margaret Razo [00:58:12] I mean, I took a consumer math class, because I hated algebra, and that's where I learned how to, like, find, if I wanted to paint a room to the circumference, how much paint would I need, all of that stuff. And, I don't think they, that's necessarily important anymore, but it is because these kids today don't know how to do a damn thing.

Anthony Victoria [00:58:33] Yeah, yeah. I mean, now they're teaching, you know, things on logistics and warehousing. You know, there's a lot of. I don't know about Bloomington or Colton [inaudible] unified, per se, but I know, like, in San Bernardino City Unified, that's what they're teaching. There's like a pipeline to.

Rafael Razo [00:58:48] I'm taking the GED right now and that's part of the curriculum.

Anthony Victoria [00:58:52] Oh, wow.

Rafael Razo [00:58:53] And it's. And, I, I've already passed two test. But I'm leaving math for last because. Yeah, it's it's hard.

Anthony Victoria [00:59:00] Yeah.

Rafael Razo [00:59:01] It's hard.

Margaret Razo [00:59:02] I wouldn't be able to pass math today, probably not.

Rafael Razo [00:59:04] It's hard.

Anthony Victoria [00:59:04] That's interesting that even in, like, you know, like adult school curriculums and just curriculums over on public schools, that's the thing now, it's like they're preparing people for these industries.

Rafael Razo [00:59:15] It is.

Margaret Razo [00:59:15] Yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:59:16] Yeah.

Margaret Razo [00:59:16] But that's so like, I don't know. I don't know, all these warehouses going up. How's anybody going to advance unless you're on the actual engineering side of that, you're just going to be a low level worker.

Anthony Victoria [00:59:31] Absolutely.

Margaret Razo [00:59:32] You know.

Anthony Victoria [00:59:33] Yeah. Any last thoughts? You are. Yeah. Anything you want to share before we end the interview?

Rafael Razo [00:59:42] I remember. 1984. That's the same thing that they're doing here with all the warehouses. They were going to do that to my old neighborhood, and they were going to do it from the back of Valley College, all the way to the base, and they were going to put nothing but warehouses and it fell through.

Anthony Victoria [01:00:05] So this when? What year?

Rafael Razo [01:00:05] 84, I believe it was, 83 in 83, 84. Wow. When I was still living in the neighborhood. Yeah.

Margaret Razo [01:00:12] See, I wish that could happen for us. That's all. I don't even know what's going to happen to Bloomington. Honestly, there's just so many warehouses going up, literally everywhere. And once they tear down that school.

Rafael Razo [01:00:25] That's it.

Margaret Razo [01:00:27] Yeah. I wonder what our town is going to look like.

Rafael Razo [01:00:30] Yeah.

Margaret Razo [01:00:31] It's not going to be pretty, though.

Rafael Razo [01:00:33] I worry about our neighborhood because all it's going to take is one person, and they're all going to fall like dominoes.

Margaret Razo [01:00:39] Yeah. I mean, yeah.

Rafael Razo [01:00:43] It's, it's sad.

Anthony Victoria [01:00:47] Yeah. Well, thank you both. I really appreciate it.

Margaret Razo [01:00:49] Thank you.