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Anthony Victoria [00:00:01] I wanted to ask you, Mr. Raya. So for you, What does the future hold for... for Ybarra's market and this place?"

Raul Raya [00:00:11] Ibarra's market, and I'm pretty sure I will not be able to stay here all my life anymore. But there will be somebody who will run Ibarra's market again, so I do not know yet who it will be. But.

Anthony Victoria [00:00:25] So you're thinking of. Excuse me? You're thinking of handing down the store to someone to take over?

Raul Raya [00:00:31] Hey, I'm already 80 years old—81 years or so. I never spent any time with my... with my daughters anyway. The ones I have, and they pushed me to put it in my mind that I should not be that way with my grandkids now. They like to see me spend some more time with my grandkids. That's the only reason. It's part of me that is making me think that way.

Anthony Victoria [00:01:01] And will that person be a family member? Or can it be anyone who wants to carry on?

Raul Raya [00:01:08] It can be somebody. If none of the members are like my aunt Jenny, who's already 93, that's why she's not here. But she has nine nephews and nieces anyway. But nobody wants—not even her son—to be involved with the store at all. They don't like to be tied up, like I have been here tied up for just ten hours a day. Nobody wants to be tied up.

Anthony Victoria [00:01:37] Are you? And I'm sorry. And you don't have to answer this, by the way. But, so, if you give it to someone else or you hand it, are you thinking of selling it to them? Does that make sense? Or like.

Raul Raya [00:01:48] Yeah, that would be private. That's. No, that's just common sense because I have told her, you know, you cannot have to because she didn't want to close it or sell it out. She wants to keep the store, the family, and the family's name. Anyway, that's why it is so.

Anthony Victoria [00:02:06] So you are hoping that this new person, whoever they are, is family or someone else.

Raul Raya [00:02:13] They stay in that same name Ybarra's market.

Interviewer [00:02:16] That's good.

Raul Raya [00:02:17] It was going to stay at Ybarra's market. I don't think so they're going to anybody they want to change it. I don't think so. They want to go what the city will ask them to do anyway. So.

Anthony Victoria [00:02:30] um, How can the public help in making sure that Ybarra's market stays the Ybarra's market? And I ask that because obviously there's a lot of pride.

Raul Raya [00:02:38] There's a lot of people there still. Well, for the years that the store has been opened, actually, there's another lady, another lady that came just before you

guys came in. I said, she's in the door open. I say, oh, you got it open back again. (laughs) So you know. I just open the doors because I have to be around and I do open the doors when I'm here. [Unclear]. You know, I, I, I had to restore everything back to the store because I have not gone to do any buying at all because it's my sickness.

Anthony Victoria [00:03:18] Yeah.

Raul Raya [00:03:19] And believe it or not, I really. I was sick like a dog. In my first month, I was praying to the Lord. Yes. Give me a chance and let me finish what I have to accomplish or something, because I was really sick and I'm still sick. But I guess now I am already moving; now I'm talking, and I'm (laughs), and I can eat now. At the beginning, I couldn't eat anything. Even the water would just go out. Half of my face was getting paralyzed.

Anthony Victoria [00:03:52] Yeah, so you're better now? You're much better now?

Raul Raya [00:03:54] Oh, yeah. Oh, no. No. Yes, I know. I'm thinking of really going to church now and just thanking the Lord. They gave me another chance at life because I did. I did see myself going that first month; I was a Catholic and everything, but most of my life has been so busy that—not that I forget the Lord because I always thank him every day. But I never really went to church. Where to go to church or church I never had the time. I was just thinking work, that was bad, it was bad

Anthony Victoria [00:04:42] So your, so your daughters, both your daughters want...

Raul Raya [00:04:44] She's the one that raised them up because I was always out to work.

Anthony Victoria [00:04:50] How do you feel, Lydia? About, if you don't mind me asking, how do you feel about, you know, just the store and you know. Mr. Raya all the years that you've been on his side, just helping him out.

Lydia [00:05:04] Oh. (laughs), I didn't like it you know but I had to give you a hand because we together.

Raul Raya [00:05:20] She did raised my girls and my girls-

Lydia [00:05:23] But we're happy. yeah.

Raul Raya [00:05:25] We gave him a good life, I think. But.

Anthony Victoria [00:05:29] Yeah, I mean, because of both of your hard work, I mean, I'm sure they ended up doing okay, and they have their own family.

Raul Raya [00:05:35] She did a lot of sacrifice, you know, to carry the girls, uh to school even when they were growing up already. I put them in the-

Lydia [00:05:49] The R, O, ROTC? And, and, I was taking them back and forth, and, you know, I stay over there and wait for them.

Raul Raya [00:05:58] I want them for them to go in the service and after they, after four years there at the, at the base, they say, you know what? That, No, sorry. We'll wait. (laughs) No.

Lydia Raya [00:06:11] They got tired.

Anthony Victoria [00:06:13] If you don't mind me asking how, how old are your daughters?

Raul Raya [00:06:16] The oldest of all of them, I think, is just 50 already.

Lydia [00:06:21] Shes 52 and 51 and, 46.

Anthony Victoria [00:06:27] oh okay, so lots of grandbabies huh? I'm sure.

Lydia Raya [00:06:29] Seven, seven.

Raul Raya [00:06:30] Seven.

Lydia Raya [00:06:31] One boy.

Anthony Victoria [00:06:32] Oh, okay. Well (laughs)

Lydia Raya [00:06:33] Only one boy

Raul Raya [00:06:36] And, and, believe it or not, he's, I'm really proud of him because he- at the beginning, I didn't think so he was going to make it in school because he didn't like to study, but he made it hes uh.

Lydia Raya [00:06:52] He study uh, nursing.

Anthony Victoria [00:06:55] Oh thats good, that's cool.

Lydia Raya [00:06:56] He always working in Santa Clarita and over there, he started working far away.

Raul Raya [00:07:03] He started here in Riverside.

Anthony Victoria [00:07:05] Okay.

Lydia Raya [00:07:07] Now he's in Los Angeles.

Anthony Victoria [00:07:11] Asi somos, yo también estaba asi. Que no quieras estudiar and this and this. But then my mom and my dad where like no you got to, you know and I-

Raul Raya [00:07:19] I should've listened to my aunt says "I don't want you to go to, stay in school. Why you want to be working? Stay in school so you don't have to be like a donkey working for your life". And I'm still working like a donkey (laughs).

Anthony Victoria [00:07:34] Well you've provided so much Mr. Raya. I mean, a lot of people have a lot of love for this store, and that's why we want to do our best to share the life that you have.

Raul Raya [00:07:43] Well see I have old, oldest. We're here the oldest. They're from the clubs, car clubs.

Lydia Raya [00:07:51] The little.

Raul Raya [00:07:51] You can read it right there.

Anthony Victoria [00:07:57] Oh right here? Okay.

Raul Raya [00:07:58] Those were give him for us for the, from the clubs, the car clubs. They, they come. They were coming here for part of the menudo, but they used to sit down in the back and drink, and I was-.

Anthony Victoria [00:08:12] Chelas [beer]

Raul Raya [00:08:14] Yeah so.

Anthony Victoria [00:08:16] That makes sense.

Raul Raya [00:08:18] They used to like the beer here, because it's really, actually I carry the same. Even if I not open, but I still carry though, the- I had to clean up the freezer because I just didn't want it to go bad. Most of the ice cream I gave it out because, like, I just had no use for them to be there for all this time. It's already been for a year, four months anyway. Not for year but four months that we've been closed. So.

Anthony Victoria [00:08:50] yeah, and random question. The sign at the corner at the house. That's your sign, right? You put it up there.

Raul Raya [00:08:57] I did put it up there and the reason I put it up there so that the people could still see that Ybarra's was still open. And the reason is that we lost a lot of the business because of the freeway. And we don't have that much traffic around, but we just the people that know us for so long, that's why the- that's why we still open.

Anthony Victoria [00:09:21] Because they just know. They just know Ybarra's market.

Anthony Victoria [00:09:24] Well, you see, we have people coming from Yucaipa, Banning, Riverside. There's people, they still come just because there-.

Anthony Victoria [00:09:33] That's cool.

Anthony Victoria [00:09:33] You know, and people that have left the-

Anthony Victoria [00:09:37] Santana for the baloney.

Anthony Victoria [00:09:39] From, from Santana?

Lydia Raya [00:09:40] From Santana

Raul Raya [00:09:41] For baloney. The store is known that we're the only ones that carry baloney for many years. And we slice it. Depends what the people want. Thicker or smaller. So we still slice our meat.

Anthony Victoria [00:09:55] And this is fresh, like deli baloney?

Raul Raya [00:09:58] Its a deli, you know, that's what we. There's some people- Well, she works here at the fifth street. The lady that takes 6, 7 pounds and send it to Montana.

Anthony Victoria [00:10:15] Oh, wow.

Raul Raya [00:10:16] I still don't, because she know that, that. We told her, they said "you can freeze the Bologna". You just take it out, you know, as they want it so but she has a daughter over there and for some reason they don't have baloney over there, I guess so, or maybe they do, like.

Anthony Victoria [00:10:33] Yeah.

Raul Raya [00:10:33] Farmer Johnny's always been a good baloney.

Anthony Victoria [00:10:36] Yeah.

[00:10:36] Okay. We do carry still Farmer John under another name now. Farmer John doesn't make no more. They sell out the recipe to, farmland. And farmland is still making the same baloney that farmer John was doing.

Anthony Victoria [00:10:55] I didn't know that. That's interesting, because I don't eat baloney I eat turkey. Yeah.

Raul Raya [00:11:00] Well, that's why it is. And a lot of people, they have gone and they just don't like the other baloneys. And we were lucky they would. They still supply us with that type of baloney, because I buy 50 pounds of baloneys just through the week, you know, so we sell quite a few baloneys.

Anthony Victoria [00:11:22] Yeah.

Raul Raya [00:11:23] Cheeses, longhorn cheese. I don't know why they don't. They cannot find it someplace else.

Anthony Victoria [00:11:30] Well, I mean, it's that's what makes this place special. Mr. Raya I mean, it's like.

Raul Raya [00:11:35] You could use it for a, you know, for everything. You slice it, enchiladas, you slice it for taco, you shred it up for all the Longhorn cheese. It is a good flavor on it.

Anthony Victoria [00:11:47] Yeah.

Raul Raya [00:11:47] And its a cheddar cheese. Well, myself, I have tried other cheeses and, yeah, I, I, not the same as, Longhorn. The Longhorn has a a really touchy flavor on it. Real cheesy, real good that maybe that's what they look for. And then like, then we sell, we sell half pounders. We sell, you know, anything that people wants. Maybe that's part of the reason also they-

Lydia Raya [00:12:18] They look for us.

Raul Raya [00:12:19] They don't, they don't, you don't have to buy the whole pound. You don't have to buy. But you can buy, you know, different. There's people that buy up to 5 pounds as well.

Anthony Victoria [00:12:27] Yeah I so I was asking about that sign because I noticed it's in front of someone's house and I wondered if-

Raul Raya [00:12:35] That's my aunt, that's the lady there. Oh, it's right here and the bulletin board there.

Anthony Victoria [00:12:42] Okay.

Raul Raya [00:12:42] And I will show you, I didn't have a picture of her here someplace.

Anthony Victoria [00:12:45] So she still lives there?

Raul Raya [00:12:47] 93 years.

Anthony Victoria [00:12:48] Ohhh.

Anthony Victoria [00:12:50] That's the reason, she cannot be at the store.

Anthony Victoria [00:12:53] So her. Yeah, because I always notice there's folks. There's, like a gentleman that's always in the front. So that's your relative then?

Raul Raya [00:12:59] That's a, the one sometimes sitting there on the porch is my uncle, that's her husband.

Anthony Victoria [00:13:06] Oh okay.

Raul Raya [00:13:07] But I put it there because this is, is Carlos also my cousin.

Anthony Victoria [00:13:12] Is he the one that lives there?

Raul Raya [00:13:14] She's a, no. He passed away already.

Anthony Victoria [00:13:18] Oh okay.

Raul Raya [00:13:18] She pass- he passed away. He passed away very young. But he was only 58 when he pass away, cancer. Cancer in the stomach.

Raul Raya [00:13:30] And, this is, this is right here huh?, by the store?

Raul Raya [00:13:32] This is him in the side.

Lydia Raya [00:13:34] Yeah, yeah, we don't have a picture, but this she's in the newspaper right here. Look it.

Anthony Victoria [00:13:40] Oh Okay. Yeah.

Raul Raya [00:13:40] That's that's her. The one that lives there. They're like, she doesn't look like that anymore.

Anthony Victoria [00:13:46] This is, 19, 1996 huh?

Raul Raya [00:13:48] Yeah. Well, you see, this is her right here.

Anthony Victoria [00:13:50] Oh wow.

Raul Raya [00:13:55] Yeah.

Raul Raya [00:13:56] Whos this little guy right here?

Raul Raya [00:13:58] Alex Orjan?. And this is my, my my uncle, anyway. This is the one that was sitting, and he was sitting down there in the water.

Anthony Victoria [00:14:09] Still with the train. Still with the trains.

Raul Raya [00:14:10] Yeah.

Anthony Victoria [00:14:14] Yeah. Well, thank you. Mr. Raya. I mean, for for your time, for your willingness to allow us to document your life and to share the story of your family. I mean it means a lot to us, means a lot to me personally.

Raul Raya [00:14:26] Well, for for me. Well, I'm glad that, you know, somebody really still thinking for the little stuff.

Anthony Victoria [00:14:32] Oh no, this is, I mean, this is an important story because, I mean, I think a lot of things are, you know.

Lydia Raya [00:14:38] This history is going to help us, the next generation, you know.

Anthony Victoria [00:14:44] And for you, what's the next generation? Just curious.

Lydia Raya [00:14:47] I mean, any person that takes over, you know.

Anthony Victoria [00:14:51] Yeah. And what would you want that person to do? Or whoever it is to carry on the next one?

Lydia Raya [00:14:56] Just to keep going?

Raul Raya [00:14:58] I will wish family will really want to because, ten, ten hours for myself now I, you know, maybe because I've been sick. Maybe that's why I'm saying this or else I wouldn't even think about it. But maybe because I have lived most of my life in this little business here. This is, this wall here, It's part of the house. But, you know, that house is right here, right next to it. And so my room ends up being, right on top of this one, because that house has four rooms. So it was one for me and one for my cousin Carlos. The upstairs rooms. That's what we. Well, myself, most of he was always out. But as I said, being a younger kid. I used to feel lonely sometimes because we had no one else.

Anthony Victoria [00:16:01] Right.

Raul Raya [00:16:02] So there's a window right here on top of it. That I can see the, the trains. And I used to just stand there and the windows and count the cars, because that's all I could do. By that much the, the machines in those years, that was up there, there were different machines. Different, different the machine only alone there was different than the one we got now. There was still the old kinds, and they still had a guy, in the outside of the train, laying down. Went to hear him because this is the first, the first rail track is here. That's the one they they would change the cars up, so they could pull them and break them down or whatever. That's what. That's what it was. All the streets used to run across so people could go across it, but sometimes they would stand there because the train is there. And I did happen to see a couple of people running over there.

Anthony Victoria [00:17:11] Yeah, they told me that last time.

Raul Raya [00:17:13] So yeah, that's a, that's the only thing that. But it was not. It was just people didn't want to wait, I guess. So.

Anthony Victoria [00:17:22] yeah. Rodney, did you have any questions you want to ask boss? I want to give you the chance.

Rodney [00:17:25] I'll let you do your thing.

Anthony Victoria [00:17:27] Okay.

Rodney [00:17:27] I don't want to interrupt you though hearing your story. You say it brings up so many I've heard from my grandfather. Him and his family lived over here on sixth Street, and. Yeah, you know, going back to the railroad. My great grandfather, I know he was Santa Fe, all the way through his life, you know, and, I'm sorry. I don't want to take it away from you, but.

Anthony Victoria [00:17:46] Nah, it's important.

Rodney [00:17:47] I'll listen back to this. So many, so many different parts in the story, you know, brought up stories from my grandfather. And I'll definitely add to that. You know.

Raul Raya [00:17:54] Most of, most of the people here in the West side, they did work for the Santa Fe. A lot of them, they were changed. Now, the ones they-

Lydia Raya [00:18:03] You know Marie and Janae.

Rodney [00:18:06] Yes. Yeah. You know, the story, my my father, you know, best friends growing up with Rodney, you know, and, you know, again, sadly passed. And I still have that connection, though, you know, I'm. Yeah. I'm sorry. Getting emotional.

Anthony Victoria [00:18:21] Yeah. You live here, man. I mean, you're much as part of this as you know, so don't feel like you can't speak.

Lydia Raya [00:18:27] The daughter of Rodney. She- what she celebrated?

Lydia Raya [00:18:33] Shes 24 right?

Rodney [00:18:34] Likewise, 24 too.

Raul Raya [00:18:37] She did good, she became a good. Shes a good worker. But she studies, and she's going to be, I think this year, this year. They call them, well its just like. For people that have, mental. Oh. That's what you study.

Lydia Raya [00:19:01] It was that, when they go and, do a crime scene and study all the bodies and everything.

Anthony Victoria [00:19:08] So like a coroner?

Raul Raya [00:19:09] Yeah.

Lydia Raya [00:19:10] Shes gonna-

Rodney [00:19:12] Wow. I did not know that. Wow. Yeah.

Raul Raya [00:19:15] See we're finished-

Lydia Raya [00:19:18] In a in a year and a half, I think.

Anthony Victoria [00:19:20] Oh wow.

Rodney [00:19:22] oh yeah, congrats on that. Wow.

Lydia Raya [00:19:23] And she is working right there, in In n Out.

Raul Raya [00:19:25] In n Out .

Lydia Raya [00:19:26] In n out.

Rodney [00:19:27] In n Out. Oh, wow. I did not know that. Wow. Oh my gosh.

Raul Raya [00:19:33] I mean, she's been a good worker because she does keep her job and they keep her going like crazy.

Anthony Victoria [00:19:43] They're busy there.

Rodney [00:19:45] Hustle, that's for sure. Yeah. You see the line? You know, the drive through.

Anthony Victoria [00:19:52] Yeah.

Lydia Raya [00:19:53] I see that. I say, oh, no nevermind.

Rodney [00:19:55] Yeah, you got a chef at home. He can make you better, then In n Out.

Anthony Victoria [00:20:00] Yeah. Well, thank you, Mr Raya, I appreciate it.

Raul Raya [00:20:02] I really appreciate it .