

Connie McFarland: Well this is her at church and I found this, I don't know, I think this is Father Gravis, he's the one that started St. Mary's. She was married, though, it says here at Sacred Heart Church, it's all in Spanish. Okay, what would this word be? I know that's January but that one, I can't make out what that one is.

Robert Gonzales: I can't read this, January 1st...

Connie McFarland: Was it January 1st?

Robert Gonzales: Well there's more on the first, there's a one, it looks like.

Connie McFarland: And what is...

Robert Gonzales: 1903?

Connie McFarland: Yeah, she was married in 1903.

Robert Gonzales: And this was your grandmother?

Consuelo Cordelia: Yes, my grandmother, and this is my father, Carlos Guzman Sr., this is his mother and his father.

Robert Gonzales: These are such wonderful pictures. I think here we'll go ahead and get started with the interview. And we can talk more about this, I'm really interested in hearing more about this. This is Robert Gonzales, today is June 19th, 1997. I am at Smiley Library interviewing Mrs. Connie McFarland in Redlands, California. And she's brought all sorts of pictures and things we'll be discussing today. But first of all could you go ahead and give me your full name and maiden name and spell it, please?

Connie McFarland: My full name is Consuelo, I'll do it in Spanish, Consuelo Cordelia, or Tordelia Guzman. That's my full name but now I've added McFarland, I married McFarland. And Consuelo is C-O-N-S-U-E-L-O. Cordelia Cordelia, C-O-R-D-E-L-I-A, and Guzman is G-U-Z-M- the slash-A-M, the slash above the A, Guzman. Oh, McFarland, M-C-F-A-R-L-A-N-D.

Robert Gonzales: And you were born in Redlands?

Connie McFarland: Redlands, in the front bedroom of our, of the family home at 1144 Orange Street in Redlands, right in the front bedroom. Mrs. Nims was the, mom said she was the nurse, oh what do you call those ladies that come in?

Robert Gonzales: A midwife?

Connie McFarland: Midwife, right. Midwife.

Robert Gonzales: Tell me about your parents, let's go ahead and start with your mother and what you know about her family and then we'll talk about your dad.

Connie McFarland: Oh, my mother, right. She was born in Florence, Arizona, 1916, October 1st, 1916. And her father Bartolo Rodriguez, he was a stagecoach driver for the Butterfield Stage that ran from Florence and sometimes it came to Colton, but it was more of a mail, delivered mail. And then they did a lot of deliveries to Tucson, the Tucson area. He was a stagecoach driver and then he became a ranch hand, you know taking care of cattle and the field of this man that lived in Florence. And in fact he was lassoing some cattle, and that's how he lost the top of his thumb. And so I always saw the top of his thumb missing because he was lassoing and the lasso got him. He was just a rugged, nice man. And in fact there was a nice story about him. He always had to wear brand new Levi's, and there had to be a clean white shirt, nothing else, just Levi's, white shirt, and a Stetson hat.

Robert Gonzales: And this is your grandfather?

Connie McFarland: My grandfather, this is my mother's father, my grandfather. Bartolo Rodriguez. Rodriguez, uh-huh. What else?

Robert Gonzales: Well tell me, your mother's family came to Redlands when?

Connie McFarland: Okay my mother, my grandparents Bartolo and my grandmother, they divorced, so my mother came to live with her Aunt, Mrs. Josie Andrade. And in those days you know, some of the children, they were raised by family members. So she came out here to live with her, she went to school here in Redlands, she went up to ninth grade, the ninth grade, and I guess she just worked after that.

Robert Gonzales: What sort of work did she do?

Connie McFarland: My mother, she was like a well, a domestic, I guess you call them.

Robert Gonzales: Who did she work for?

Connie McFarland: Around here? I honestly don't know. But I know that back in Florence she used to work for Mrs. Freeman in Florence, Arizona, but out here I don't know who she worked for.

Robert Gonzales: You lived at the time on Orange Street?

Connie McFarland: Yes, I was born right there and lived there ever since, until I got married.

Robert Gonzales: Around 1941. Okay. And tell me a little bit about your father.

Connie McFarland: My dad? My grandmother was born in Magdalena, Mexico. That's where they have the coffin of San Francisco Javier. In Magdalena, she was born there, and when she came over she was a little girl, and she brought a sapling of a tree and that tree, they planted it in front of their house. I think I have the picture of that. And that's why my mom and dad said this type of tree, and in fact those trees are planted would you believe what they called the Catholic Hill at Hillside Cemetery. I forgot the name of that tree but they're there. But my mom and dad said that she brought the sapling over and a lot of these trees grew from that.

Robert Gonzales: Oh, really?

Connie McFarland: Uh-huh. But there in the cemetery is called Catholic Hill, as you go into the cemetery, that's the name they call it, Catholic Hill, and it's the first section on your left. As you make that curve, they call it Catholic Hill.

Robert Gonzales: Oh, Okay. I didn't know, this is really interesting. So she brought this tree, now whereabouts in Mexico was her home town?

Connie McFarland: Magdalena.

Robert Gonzales: Where is it at?

Connie McFarland: It's, well I know you go through, you get through Tucson then Nogales then you go straight down that way from Nogales. So it's not way deep in there, it's pretty close to the Arizona border.

Robert Gonzales: Oh, okay. So it's like desert, northern area of Mexico.

Connie McFarland: I guess you'd say so. Uh-huh.

Robert Gonzales: Yeah, northern part of Mexico.

Connie McFarland: But my mom said that, my dad said, too, that these trees would grow along the creeks and she brought a sapling.

Robert Gonzales: Now what is this a picture of?

Connie McFarland: This is a picture of my dad's house there on Stuart, 536 East Stuart which is now the parking lot of Superior Roofing. That's a picture of the house.

Robert Gonzales: Now let's see, your grandmother, now this is your grandmother and grandfather, right?

Connie McFarland: Yes, my dad's parents.

Robert Gonzales: Your dad's parents, all right. And let's see, when did your father's family come to the Redlands area?

Connie McFarland: Uh, wait a minute. Did she have it written here? Um, no, I don't think she did. I know that she bought a house, in fact I even have, I was looking through the deeds and stuff. Here it is. The agreement for sale of real estate, they bought their house there in February 1903.

Robert Gonzales: And this is on Stuart Street?

Connie McFarland: Uh-huh, Stuart. But when they came, I honestly don't know that much about that, all I know is that she was a young girl when she came from Magdalena, Mexico.

Robert Gonzales: Well tell me a little bit about, so both sets of grandparents had come to settle in Redlands at this time or did your mom come to the Redlands area at a different time.

Connie McFarland: Okay. My mother came when she was a young girl, I'd say like twelve.

Robert Gonzales: And she came to live with her Aunt.

Connie McFarland: With her Aunt.

Robert Gonzales: Well alright. Well let's see, and your father's parents came to live here in 1903. What were their names, again?

Connie McFarland: Here's Epimenio Guzman and this is Jesusita, used to call her Jessie, Guzman. But now my grandfather, I'm not that clear about where he was born but I hear a lot of them came from Santa Monica, that area. I'm not sure. That's the one I'm gonna see today, I'm gonna see how the water is on his floor.

Robert Gonzales: What did your grandfather do for a living?

Connie McFarland: Oh, he was a blacksmith. Oh yes, he was a blacksmith. He had the most wonderful big forearms, I remember that. And he had a blacksmith shop in the back of the house. And he used to shoe horses I know, for Mr. Sherrod, it was S-H-E-R-R-O-D. It was old family, I don't know if there are any of those family members left here.

Robert Gonzales: Before I get too far from this, how do you spell your grandfather's first name?

Connie McFarland: Oh, Epimenio? E-P-I-M-I-E-N-O, Epimenio, it would be like an enya over the 'N.' And let's see, his name is Epimenio, it's a different name.

Robert Gonzales: Does he have the full name written down here someplace?

Connie McFarland: Oh, let's see. No, he just put down E.R. What is his, is it in this book here?

Robert Gonzales: Do you know anything about your grandmother's family?

Connie McFarland: She came from what is called the Federico family, F-E-D-R-E-I-C-O, Federico, and that's my dad's middle name, Carlos Federico Guzman. Oh, dear, anyways it was Epimenio. I cannot find...

Robert Gonzales: The blacksmith shop?

Connie McFarland: Oh, you want the blacksmith shop? Okay, I have, right. Like I say, I have the original and I don't know where it is. That the band, a picture of his, he was in a musical band, that's the band.

Robert Gonzales: How long did he run the shop, did he have the shop, do you know?

Connie McFarland: As far as I know, a long time. When he died in '58, he still had the shop there.

Robert Gonzales: And so you grew up around the shop?

Connie McFarland: Oh, yes. In fact we used to enjoy going over there and turning that handle that made the bellows grow, you know glow and then all that coal in that great big old round whatever they had full of coal, turn red, red, and then he had this great big old round bucket of water, he would put in the hot metal pokes into there. Oh, yes, we used to watch him but he would let us play with it but it would make a great big old noise. Yeah, where is the, but it was right in his backyard, in fact in back of the yard was the railroad track. Here it is, here's the negative of the original.

Robert Gonzales: Was anyone else in the family, his sons or any of his grandkids involved in the business?

Connie McFarland: No, no. My dad worked for the city. He was a draftsman, city surveyor.

Robert Gonzales: I'd love to have a picture of this, copy that picture, it would be wonderful to get a copy of that.

Connie McFarland: Do you want me to get you a copy of this?

Robert Gonzales: Yeah. Well we can also make a print if you loan us a negative, we'll make a print of it.

Connie McFarland: Oh, sure. Oh, okay. Because like I said I had the original and when my mom passed away I had things put away and you know how, I don't know, if anybody brings it in, it's mine. I'm glad it's on record, that's mine.

Robert Gonzales: Well I'll make sure to keep an eye out for that.

Connie McFarland: Yes, but it's a real nice blacksmith shop there. And there's a, there will be a name back there you can see. That's the original. Then yet, also he was very musically inclined, there's a picture of him in a band and I'll show you his picture. There it is right there, that's my grandpa with the saxophone.

Robert Gonzales: The sax, okay. The sax. Oh, yeah. Wow, where was this taken?

Connie McFarland: Ah yes, it must have been here in Redlands because he said they used to play at the old opera house at the corner of Orange and Colton Avenue. It was called the Hyatt house.

Robert Gonzales: This is a wonderful picture.

Connie McFarland: I believe that's, anyway, he said they used to play there, and in fact Winn's Drugstore used to be there. But now, what is it now?

Robert Gonzales: It's like a grocery store or something like that.

Connie McFarland: Yeah, But they used to have...

Robert Gonzales: Did this band have a name, was it affiliated with any organizations you know of?

Connie McFarland: You know I honestly don't, I wonder if any of the old-timers would know.

Robert Gonzales: Yeah I'd really, maybe your Uncle might know...what this, he might know. I'd really like to identify this photo.

Connie McFarland: Yes. And there's nothing on the back, either, is there?

Robert Gonzales: No, there isn't. There might have been something on the paste-up before, but this is a really thin photo. This is great, I'd really like...

Connie McFarland: Do you think maybe Dr. Burgess would know? Could you find out?

Robert Gonzales: He might. As a matter of fact, let's pause for a second. Yeah, you know I had...

Connie McFarland: I was thinking. Curtis might... He might. But how old is he? I'm trying to think, would he be in his seventies? Curtis? Sixties? I think Curtis is probably in his sixties. Sixties, I wonder if he could find out.

Robert Gonzales: Well yeah, I'll take it to the Heritage Room because I think they could clear it. Now this is really a fantastic photo.

Connie McFarland: Yeah, because look at the instruments.

Robert Gonzales: Yeah, this is a big band and I'd love to find out more about this.

Connie McFarland: Me, too. Because the other stores, it was just stories that my grandpa would tell us when we would visit him. But see, the type of trees, I wonder if that's familiar to our area, that kind of tree. Is that like an oak tree?

Robert Gonzales: Yeah, it looks like Oaks, it could be from around here. Yeah, it could, I really would like to find out more about this picture.

Connie McFarland: I hope it's from Redlands and not from Santa Monica.

Robert Gonzales: Well we'll find out, hopefully we'll find out. Your grandfather, did he have brothers and sisters that lived around here also, that you recall?

Connie McFarland: Let's see, you know I don't remember, well here's a picture of him grandpa, and my grandmother when they got married. Alejito, let's see.

Robert Gonzales: Who are the people behind them?

Connie McFarland: Oh, dear. I'd have to ask my Uncle. I wonder if Rita would know.

Robert Gonzales: She might. Yeah, whatever identifying information you could get on these pictures, it would really be a big help to us.

Connie McFarland: Because I thought my mom said that sisters married brothers. Now we used to go to what we called, her name was Nena Mariana and Valentino was her husband, they lived over there on Columbia on the Southeast corner of Columbia and Union, it used to be catty-corner to the old Catholic Church, old St. Mary's, right there. And that's where they used to live, I don't know, so they must have, that was her sister. I wonder if that was his brother? Because they said sisters and brothers married each other. I don't know, I'll find out. Oh, my goodness! That's what I said, a lot of my pictures are missing, I can't find them. And this picture of my dad in the football team, he was on the football team, there it is right there. Does it say anything on the back, no it doesn't say anything on the back.

Robert Gonzales: And when was this taken?

Connie McFarland: Now that was high school football, and he graduated in 1924.

Robert Gonzales: Oh, okay. So this was in the twenties, in the early twenties. This is neat.

Connie McFarland: And here's my dad when he was in says here eighth, so it must be eighth grade intermediate school. And here's my dad right here. He was in eighth grade, which they called intermediate school.

Robert Gonzales: Well these are really some very, very fantastic pictures.

Connie McFarland: Well like I say, I have more, I have more.

Robert Gonzales: Well hey, anything we can use anything and everything.

Connie McFarland: Well what I'm really sad about is there is a picture of my dad standing on a chair and he's wearing his baptismal dress.

Robert Gonzales: And you don't know, you can't find that?

Connie McFarland: I can't, there are a lot of pictures, like I say, my mom died and...

Robert Gonzales: They just got all split up? I know how that goes.

Connie McFarland: Yeah, what I wanted to do, I wanted to put this dress in a frame next to the picture.

Robert Gonzales: That's nice to do. Okay. Well let's see, tell me a bit, your grandparents had how many children?

Connie McFarland: They had just two.

Robert Gonzales: Just two?

Connie McFarland: My dad and Uncle Richard, who is still alive. He was born in 1904. And they did an article in the paper, they said, as the oldest, one of the oldest graduates from Redlands High School.

Robert Gonzales: Yeah, there was an article recently about him.

Connie McFarland: But he graduated in 1924, not 19- no. He graduated in 1923, not '24. My dad, Carlos, graduated in 1924. So the paper had it so he's older.

Robert Gonzales: A little older than him? You said that your dad worked for the city, what did he do?

Connie McFarland: The city of Redlands. Well I remember in 1953, when I was in sixth grade, well you know how you have share time? Well my dad made the city map. It had all these, you know, well just a regular city map, of the city. So I took that to share, but it was just a great big map and they had an article on him in the paper and I can't find that, either. A lot of stuff just kind of walked out of my house. But anyway, he made a city map and he was a draftsman for the city of Redlands.

Robert Gonzales: Oh, a draftsman? What sort of training did he have for that job?

Connie McFarland: You know, right from the school he went, he started working, and in fact, yeah. He started working right from school because the city of Redlands had to give my dad back I guess the work time credit from August 1924. Well he graduated in '24, I imagine it was September '24. So he was working right out of high school. And in fact I do have that paper, well yeah, I do have the paper that says they, so there is proof that he saw started working with the city of Redlands since August 1924. And then he used to do a lot of street work. He did a lot of digging and stuff. And one time he was digging a ditch and the ditch fell in on his leg and that's how he hurt his leg. He always had a bad leg, his right leg. He broke it. Then he graduated you know, he just improved and then became a draftsman, he did that through mail, you know these mail schools? Through the mail. So that's a picture of him upstairs, in fact at the old City Hall, the great big old round room they have up there, that's where the office was.

Robert Gonzales: When was this taken?

Connie McFarland: Oh, that had to, you know, I'll bet you in the fifties, it was in the fifties.

Robert Gonzales: And how long did he work for the city?

Connie McFarland: Oh, years. I can find his old retirement papers. Let's say a good what, thirty years? Oh, more than that, I would think. Yes, because when he died there was a good article with the paper which also walked out of my house, article in the paper about how he brought himself up. That's why I'm thoroughly so sad, I'm just so sick.

Robert Gonzales: Well you can always get reproductions but they're not the originals.

Connie McFarland: Yeah, the originals, that's what I want.

Robert Gonzales: It's so much nicer to have. Well did, did anybody in your family work in the citrus industry?

Connie McFarland: The only one I could think of would be me. I tell you what, right after high school, I guess I told you this once before, some of us girls, we wanted to just do something, graduated from high school, we were going, I was going to go to Valley College because I won the Frank Arapaho scholarship. It was just, let's do something to earn some money. So we went to the packing house, it's called Willis Packing House, or

Mr. Willis owned it over there on Sixth Street, it's on the South side of the tracks between the tracks and Shaver Shell. That shopping center right in there, it used to be a packing house and ice house. So I was helping to grade plums and oranges. One day, I mean I give those ladies credit, because that is hard work.

Robert Gonzales: Really? So you didn't work that long.

Connie McFarland: No, just one day. So that's about all we did. So no, I didn't do any of that real good orange grove work. I mean that is hard work, it's good honest hard work. But that's about it.

Robert Gonzales: Well what are some of your earliest memories of Redlands?

Connie McFarland: Oh, being able to walk downtown and have no fear because I remember we used to go to the show, we would call it the show, at the old Fox Theater and the Grove. We would walk downtown and we did every Sunday, always go to the show and just walk down and have a good time, we were never afraid of people or stray animals or stuff like that. I remember that and then I remember then, too, State Street, the way State Street used to be, I could just cry when I think about it. But State from which is now, where Savon Drug there, in the Redlands Mall. Well State Street used to go from Orange Street all the way out to the Post Office here, well this street here. It had such beautiful buildings, in fact here is a picture of one, the First National Bank of Redlands, California. Look how beautiful those buildings were. And I think that's right there at the corner of, the Southwest corner of Orange and State, I'll bet. Because didn't that become also, the Bank of America, or maybe that's down there on...

Robert Gonzales: No, this does look like that corner.

Connie McFarland: ...or down lower.

Robert Gonzales: I'm looking at this building right here.

Connie McFarland: Uh-huh, right.

Robert Gozales: And I think that that was like a Buick Dealership, I'm almost, because I remember the arch or that building right there. They tore it down just before they put the mall up.

Connie McFarland: Yes, uh-huh.

Robert Gonzales: Some of these buildings over here.

Conie McFarland: Those beautiful buildings.

Robert Gonzales: Yeah, they were neat buildings.

Connie McFarland: And I remember the orange groves, I remember it like when I would be sitting in grammar school, Lugonia School, the old Lugonia School there on Orange Street and I remember when I would be in there sitting and I'd smell this smell of diesel but now you don't smell diesel smell from the trucks going by. I said, I recognize that smell, diesel smell. And I said, "Now where did that come from?" And then my mom said, "Well it was the big trucks going through there." But I remember stuff like that, I just loved, it was so nice, it was just so nice, I remember being able to walk to high school, junior high.

Robert Gonzales: What was your neighborhood like?

Connie McFarland: On Orange Street? Very busy, full of cars and trucks, yeah right there it was the main highway I guess you would say on Orange street. Yes, uh-huh. Between Brockton and Western. It was very busy, we couldn't play in the front yard, only thing we could do in the front yard was sit on the sidewalk against the steps and play jacks or ride our roller skates up and down the sidewalk but we couldn't really play in the front yard but it was nice, a nice town. And I remember right there where the freeway bridge is over there that goes across Orange Street and they had those beautiful homes up there and they had that little gas station we would go in there after school, especially junior high or high school and use a couple of pennies and buy those candy-coated peanuts. Yeah, it was really nice, those old houses, of course they tore them down. But it's not like it was, huh?

Robert Gonzales: You mentioned the freeway so before I get too far on, when the freeway came through, what was that like, what sort of...

Connie McFarland: Sad, because it ruined the Terrace, that terrace was beautiful. And now when I go to pick up a lady to go to choir practice, she lives on Tribune, I look at The Terrace as I come out of Tribune onto Colton, it's just ruined, you don't see the wild berries there, and in fact the dirt's all you know, stepped on, walked on. It was beautiful but when they brought in the freeway it just ruined the town because then also, too, we don't have the old Casa Loma, was it where Stater's was? The girls' old dormitory and then behind that they used to have a log cabin.

Robert Gonzales: Log cabin?

Connie McFarland: Oh yes, behind the girls' dormitory they had an old log cabin and I don't know what that was used for.

Robert Gonzales: I never heard about that.

Connie McFarland: Yeah, there was an old log cabin.

Robert Gonzales: I'll be darned. Who were some of your neighbors, whether they were businesses or neighbors, who were some of your neighbors?

Connie McFarland: Oh, Mr. Leest, Mr. Leonard Leest, he owned Leest Barber Shop. And in fact his daughter still lives there.

Robert Gonzales: Leest?

Connie McFarland: L-E-E-S-T, Leonard Leest. And he owned a barber shop over here, in fact where the old Post Office is and now it's a parking lot at the corner was it right here, Eureka and Citrus on the Southeast corner which is now the parking lot. It was Leest Barber Shop. And then along there they had, was it Langer Rongford Chevrolet had some dealerships in there also but Mr. Leest owned the barber shop, and in fact his son George was featured in the paper a couple months, well before my mother, that's right, '95, before my mother died in November '90. No, wait, sorry, '96. Because my mother died in November '96 and he was featured in the newspaper prior to November '96, George Leest. And in fact Mr. Leest's two daughters Joanna and Jeannette still live next door to my mom and dad's old house.

Robert Gonzales: Okay, and your mom and dad's house is still, there's still a lot of houses there.

Connie McFarland: No, it's still there.

Robert Gonzales: Yeah, there's still several houses in that little area, only most of them have already been converted to businesses and things now, I think, a lot of them have, further up the street.

Connie McFarland: Uh-huh. Yes.

Robert Gonzales: Well tell me a bit about your education here in town.

Connie McFarland: Oh, okay. I went to Lugonia School, the old Lugonia School when it was a brick building, pretty brick building and then I went to Redlands High School, well junior high, Redlands Junior High School and then Redlands High School and then I went on to Valley College and I studied preschool education so then I didn't graduate because I had a job offer at Redlands Day Nursery. I thought, I could use a job. So I thought, well I can always come back. So I went to work there and I eventually did go back to school and ended going to Crafton and Valley and then I earned my Director's Credentials to be a Nursery School Director. And that's what I am, a retired Nursery School Director Teacher.

Robert Gonzales: And you did that for how many years?

Connie McFarland: Oh, nursery school teaching? Let's see, I started in '63 and I stopped in '67, my son was born then two years later my daughter was born, '69, then I went back in '76 when my daughter entered first grade. So I did from '63 to '67 and then '79 to 1994, '94.

Robert Gonzales: So you're just pretty recently retired., a few years ago?

Connie McFarland: Yes, oh yes. I just keep working.

Robert Gonzales: What, now let's see, you said that you worked for a day in a packing house? Did you have any other jobs in the area, anything else?

Connie McFarland: Oh, no. That's just about it, just regular baby-sitting like we always did.

Robert Gonzales: Well for who?

Connie McFarland: Oh. Well I remember one, I can't remember all the names but I do remember one, it was my dad's friend, Mr. Billy Burke. He worked also, for the City Department and for the Redlands Street Department, Billy Burke. I don't know if they still live here, this was over there on Eleventh Street where Eleventh goes right into the Terrace, right in there on Eleventh Street. Well you come from Stuart and go up the hill and it's just before you get to The Terrace on Eleventh Street.

Robert Gonzales: Do you recall any kind of racial prejudice, any sort of ethnic kind of problems around here?

Connie McFarland: Okay, the only time I knew of that was when my dad would talk to us. He wasn't trying to cause trouble but we would talk about it. We used to go to the plunge, it's called the Plunge, Sylvan Plunge. And so dad would tell us a story that when he was little all the Anglos would swim first in the Sylvan Plunge and after the Anglos, then the Blacks and the Mexicans could go in and swim. My dad remembered that and I just feel like kind of sad. And I didn't think that stuff like that went on. But that was my first notion of racial prejudice.

Robert Gonzales: Who were some of the people that you knew in high school or friends that you had in high school?

Connie McFarland: Oh. Well one of my best friends from grammar school was Linda Rosarro and she eventually ended up marrying my brother but then they became divorced, they divorced. Now she's married to Ronnie Muñoz. And in fact the Muñoz family, we're related to the Muñoz family through marriage because my Aunt, which is my mother's sister, married Joe Muñoz. And he was a gardener for Mrs. Shirks at Kimberly Crest for years and years. Oh, the Muñoz family, they're a big family.

Robert Gonzales: Tell me a bit about Redlands High School when you went there and the years that you were going, tell me a little bit about that.

Connie McFarland: Right, okay. My sophomore year was 1956 and I graduated in '59.

Robert Gonzales: Does anything stand out in your mind from high school?

Connie McFarland: Oh, you mean good stuff?

Robert Gonzales: Well anything.

Connie McFarland: Oh, yes. In fact I was advertising manager on the Hobachi. And I just loved that work so much, it was so much fun that I thought - well out of high school, maybe I'll want to go into advertising. Because Mr. Robert Bell, he was our teacher. And in my Makio he says in it, he even wrote it down, he says "I have never seen such a responsible student." Because what I would do, I would take these prints made out of cardboard with imprints, I would take them like to Gehr's, Hockridge because they would put advertisements with our paper. And I would take it all around town doing that. And I enjoyed that so bad, so much that I would just think of different things to do. And one thing that stands out in my mind for advertisement, it was Hockridge and it was right before the Prom and I remember getting this quote, it said, "Gather ye posies while ye may, olde time is still flying." And that just sticks in my mind and I was the Advertising Manager at the Hobachi in my Senior year. That was a fun time. I enjoyed high school. I had a lot of fun in high school.

Robert Gonzales: You mentioned that you got a scholarship.

Connie McFarland: Right. The Frank Arapaho Scholarship. Uh-huh.

Robert Gonzales: What was that for?

Connie McFarland: Okay, that was for Mexican-American students. Frank Arapaho, he had been a war hero and so they had scholarships for Mexican-American children. It was 250 dollars, I used it to go to Valley College with.

Robert Gonzales: What was Valley like?

Connie McFarland; Valley? That was lots of fun. Oh yeah, I got into this what do you call it, not the International Club, but it was something with all different races. I forget what they called that. It was the best time, too. I just enjoyed you know, being in school. I really did, I liked it. Lots of friends.

Robert Gonzales: Any teachers that stand out in your mind from that time?

Connie McFarland: Oh, from Valley College? Mr. oh it was, I can't think of his name, he was the Spanish Teacher. He lived here in town. He taught Spanish, he was such a neat Teacher. I can't think of it.

Robert Gonzales: Well what drew you into Early Childhood Education?

Connie McFarland: Pardon me?

Robert Gonzales: What drew you into working with young kids?

Connie McFarland: Oh, well I wanted to be a teacher was what I really wanted to be. I wanted to be a teacher. And then I thought, well I had to take all these Pre-Education classes first. And so then there was this job offer through the Redlands Day Nursery, it came through the student office. Because I thought, well gee, I needed money to keep on going. And I wanted to go to UC Riverside. I wanted to go over there and I thought, well that takes money. And my mom and dad you know, they can't afford to send everybody to school. And of course I was not smart enough to earn all these big, big scholarships. So I thought, I've got to earn some money so I went to the Student Office and they had all these job offers and they were looking for kitchen help at Redlands Day Nursery. And I thought, "Well why not?" So I thought, "Well you know, I'll try that." So then I went over there and I worked for Mrs. Dilthey, Mrs. George Dilthey, she was the director of Redlands Day Nursery. In fact Redlands Day Nursery used to be over there on Pearl, Pearl and Orange on the Southeast corner, it used to be a two-story brick building. It was one of the oldest day-cares in California. Now that has a rich history, a very rich history.

Robert Gonzales: I've got a photo of Redlands Day Nursery in the twenties, actually.

Connie McFarland: Over there on Orange Street?

Robert Gonzales: A whole class full of children.

Connie McFarland: Oh, yes. So I went over there and worked for Mrs. Dilthey and then they needed teacher's aides you know, to help a teacher. So I did that after I did the kitchen duty. And then eventually I had enough credits there to be a teacher and so she tried me out. So that's how it came to be. And then I just, that's how it came to be.

Robert Gonzales: What did you like most about your job?

Connie McFarland: At the day nursery? Oh, the kids. And in fact the type of work, in fact the lady I worked there for first, I was a kitchen help there, and it was Mrs. Plumley. And she happened to know my grandparents. So it was just like family working there.

Robert Gonzales: Let's see, and you did that pretty much until your retirement. So how many brothers and sisters did you have?

Connie McFarland: I have three sisters and one brother.

Robert Gonzales: And are they all still alive?

Connie McFarland: Yes, uh-huh.

Robert Gonzales: And where do you fall in order?

Connie McFarland: I'm the middle child. Okay, there's Carlos Jr., he'll be 62 this July, there's Cecelia, I think she must be about, going on 60, maybe she's sixty. Then there's me. There I am in the middle. Then there's Cynthia Derling, she's a little bit younger. I don't know what her age is but she's younger than I am. Then of course there's Cathy Dennison, which is the youngest sister.

Robert Gonzales: You had mentioned in our early talks that you are involved with St. Mary's (Church)? Tell me a bit about that.

Connie McFarland: Oh, I play the organ at church, six o'clock mass.

Robert Gonzales: How long have you done that for?

Connie McFarland: About fifteen, about fifteen years, at least fifteen years I can remember.

Robert Gonzales: How long had you been playing organ before that?

Connie McFarland: I didn't.

Robert Gonzales: You didn't?

Connie McFarland: No. I'll tell you how it came to be, when I was younger, when I was in fifth grade, my dream was to either be a nun or play the organ in a church. Those were the two things that I wanted to be when I was, I remember in fifth grade sitting there in Mrs. Sim's fifth grade class. I said, you know we were thinking about what I want to do. I thought, "Gee, I'd like to be a nun or either play the organ in church." Well so then I told my mom so my mom directed me to music, playing the piano. So this man was giving lessons to my brother, he was giving my brother clarinet lessons, Mr. Campos over there on Herald Street. Campos, uh-huh. I think he lived on the oh, I would say the 900 block of Herald. And the house is still there, it's still there. Anyway, so my mom had been talking to him and he said, "Well, if she wants to play the organ she ought to take piano lessons to know the keyboard." So I took piano lessons, in fact I have my old books from way in the fifties let's see, I started when I was in fourth grade and I stopped in my senior year, that's when I bought my last book, in '59, so about five, six years I took piano lessons. So then of course I get married you know, and that goes out the door. And I didn't have a piano and anything like that. And the piano, it was a family piano and so it stayed there in the house. But my grandmother and my grandfather had that piano in the house and they said if anything should happen to them, that my older sister would get the piano, even though they baptized me, but it would go to my older sister. So she got the piano and the piano was no more, so I never had access to a piano. So anyway, so one day at church, one day at church, we were standing out there and Sister Trinidad Luna, this was in well, say fifteen years ago and she was talking to my mother in front of St. Mary's and she said she was looking for an organist, of course she had talked to my mom and she said, "Do you know of anybody that knows how to play the organ?" And of course mom did, but she said, "But Connie here plays the piano." And I hadn't touched the piano in

years, that was years! “Oh, mother!” You know how mothers are. I thought, “Oh, mom!” “Oh yes, Ija, you can play the piano.” I said, “Mom, I haven’t done it in years.” So anyway, Sister said, “Come on, come on. You try. Come to our choir practice.” So I go to choir practice and I thought, “Oh my gosh,” in fact it was a two-layer Hammond, the old Hammond organ, the type that you could hear like in a merry-go-round, it had that type of sound.

Robert Gonzales: It had full stops on it?

Connie McFarland: Yes. And believe it or not, that organ now is in my house. Well that doesn’t strike ‘til later. So anyway, so I go to choir practice and I try and I thought, “I’ve never worked my left foot for pedals and I haven’t played piano in a long time.” So I was just thumbs I just couldn’t, so I tried, so anyway, sister says, “You come and try.” So I picked out all the songs that were in the key of ‘C’, didn’t have any sharps, didn’t have any flats, just straight white keys. So I played these songs and the first one I played was called Heart of Christ. It was so simple, it was just a simple little song. But I played it without chords and I played it without pedals and I thought, you know I like this. And see, I had always wanted to do that. And so then I liked doing that and so then I took lessons, took lessons from Brett, what was his name? Brett. He died a long time ago, he lived over there on Sonora Street. I took lessons from him and then I went, in fact I went to Sliger’s to find some teachers and they recommended... I can’t think of his last name. Then he passed away and then I took lessons from a lady that lived over there in a mobile home park on what is that street? Well Ford Street, well it’s not called Ford, it’s between Colton and Citrus but then it turns to Ford. Judson. Judson right there is a mobile home park on the east side of the road. I took lessons from her and then she moved up north to be with her family. And so then after that I just self-taught myself along with her help and her aid. So now I’ve been playing, now I don’t mind the key of A, all the sharps, or the key of A, all those flats and stuff. I don’t mind that stuff anymore. But that’s how I got to play the organ, is just by chance. And you know, I really enjoy it. I enjoy playing the organ at church. So anyway, so when Father Sema came there were two organs there at the church, the Hammond and then some lady donated the organ I play now. It’s a real nice organ. And so then Father had this extra organ, he had it up in the office for a long time. And then he was advertising there in the church bulletin if anybody wants this organ. So Nelly, our choir director says, “Hey, here’s your chance. Get the organ.” So I went and talked to the Father, I says how much do you want for it, Father? He says, “For you, nothing.” So now the organ is sitting in my house. And would you believe that organ was used to play at my wedding? And now I play the organ at church.

Robert Gonzales: So you’ve been involved with the church, you were baptized...

Connie McFarland: Oh, yes. In fact I really honestly cannot remember a time that I did not go to church. When I was in high school I was in a group called the Sodality Group. We used to meet up at the top of the old YMCA. In fact Linda Rosaro, the Muñozes, we were all into that, a bunch of us girls from St. Mary’s were in the Sodality Group.

Robert Gonzales: What was that group, what did you do?

Connie McFarland: Well it was just like a social, fun group and we would, just keep us off the street, I guess. I guess it was just like the first Girl and Boy's Club. We would put on parties and then we would go up the sister's old convent house, there's the Burrage house now, go up there and just go up and have a good time. It was more of a social club.

Robert Gonzales: Who organized it?

Connie McFarland: The Sodality? I guess the priest at that time was Father Lynch. It was Father Lynch, he had the Sodality Group, and then I imagine the sisters.

Robert Gonzales: How do you spell that?

Connie McFarland: Lynch, Father Lynch?

Robert Gonzales: No, the name of the group.

Connie McFarland: Oh, Sodality?

Robert Gonzales: Yeah. Sodality?

Connie McFarland: S-O-D-I-A-L-T-Y, or D-A-L-I-T-Y, sodality.

Robert Gonzales: And so anyway, you were involved with this group in high school?

Connie McFarland: In high school.

Robert Gonzales: And you mentioned choir also, you were involved with the choir.

Connie McFarland: Yes.

Robert Gonzales: How long have you done that for?

Connie McFarland: For fifteen, about fifteen or so years, yeah. Because this is '97 and I know I did it in '84 because my dad died in '84. Oh, I did it before '84. Oh, yeah. Well, say fifteen years or so.

Robert Gonzales: What are some of the things that stand out in your mind about St. Mary's?

Connie McFarland: St. Mary's?

Robert Gonzales: Yeah from your childhood, anything that comes to mind.

Connie McFarland: Oh, all the friendliness, the people were so friendly. Oh, I know what stands out. I remember years ago we would go to Sunday Mass and to and behold they

would have a wedding. In those days they'd have weddings there during mass time, regular mass time on Sunday!

Robert Gonzales: And so there were two things going on there.

Connie McFarland: At once. Well I guess the bride and groom had all these other people there at their wedding. I remember that.

Robert Gonzales: Now the church was originally located on Columbia?

Connie McFarland: On Calhoun.

Robert Gonzales: Calhoun and Union I think, wasn't it?

Connie McFarland: Someplace right in there. Union, right. It was behind, right behind the St. Mary's on Union and Columbia, so it was on Calhoun.

Robert Gonzales: And then it moved to...

Connie McFarland: Right now it's on Columbia and Western.

Robert Gonzales: When did that move take place?

Connie McFarland: Oh, that was, they moved that when Father Tom Bonacom was here, he and Father Phil, or he's now Monsignor Phil, Monsignor Phil Beham, he's up in Hesperia. They say he has a million dollar church up there he built. That's what they say, I haven't seen it. They say it's really nice looking. But that was after my dad, it was after '84, I would say maybe '85, '86.

Robert Gonzales: St. Mary's used to have festivals, I guess they were annual or...

Connie McFarland: Right, they just had one a weekend ago.

Robert Gonzales: And they were called Jamaicas?

Connie McFarland: Jamaicas.

Robert Gonzales: Yeah, tell me a little bit about that.

Connie McFarland: Oh Jamaicas, well let's see, all I know is there are booths, food and games and just get together.

Robert Gonzales: Is this a fund-raiser?

Connie McFarland: Fund-raising for the church, uh-huh.

Robert Gonzales: Okay. And they still do these, are they annual or what?

Connie McFarland: Annual. Well I think they combine the Jamaica with their annual picnic. That's what they did this year and last year. But instead of going to the park they kept it right there on the church grounds.

Robert Gonzales: You had mentioned the one club that you were involved in, were there any other clubs or organizations that you have been involved with in town?

Connie McFarland: No.

Robert Gonzales: Was anyone in your family, parents, grandparents involved in any clubs, political organizations, anything of that...

Connie McFarland: Oh, my Uncle Richard, he's in the oh dear, Kiwanis? What's another club, he's not in the Elks? They meet on Thursday afternoon.

Robert Gonzales: The Optimists?

Connie McFarland: The Optimists, that's it, Optimist, he's been in that for years.

Robert Gonzales: Okay, and you had how many children?

Connie McFarland: Two.

Robert Gonzales: You have two children. And what are their names?

Connie McFarland: Roger, Jr. and Rosemary.

Robert Gonzales: And tell me something about Mr. McFarland if you would.

Connie McFarland: Oh, Roger? Um, he's just a hard-working person.

Robert Gonzales: Where does he work?

Connie McFarland: Right now he's working at Dealer Parts Depot in Anaheim.

Robert Gonzales: How did you meet?

Connie McFarland: Oh, we were race fans and we didn't know that, anyway we didn't know that until we met. Anyway, I went one day with our friends to the races at Riverside and then from there we went to the friend's house and so then he showed up collecting twenty dollars from my, which is now my brother-in-law at the house. That's how I met him, after the auto race at Riverside, which is now more.

Robert Gonzales: And you've been, you got married when?

Connie McFarland: In November, '63.

Robert Gonzales: '63, okay. Well let's see, what are some of the things you enjoy about living in Redlands, or you don't like about living in Redlands, either way.

Connie McFarland: Oh, don't like? I like everything, I mean it's nice. I mean this library has been here since I was in grammar school, and I remember going to the Lincoln Shrine, we used to go there and throw pennies in the water. You weren't supposed to do that, we used it for a wishing well. Yeah, but I liked it, and the bowl. I loved the bowl, in fact when I was in high school, that's another thing I did. I was one of those people that would go and collect, they called us the, did they call us the Rockettes then? A bunch of us girls from the Sodelity Group got into that. And we used to do that, collect money during the summer. You know we'd pass out the little baskets at the bowl.

Robert Gonzales: How long did you do that?

Connie McFarland: It was just that one summer.

Robert Gonzales: What do you, it sounds like you were active, what other sort of social activities were there to do around here?

Connie McFarland: To do around here?

Robert Gonzales: When you were in high school.

Connie McFarland: Oh, in high school, mainly the Grove and the Fox Theater, the movie theaters and of course we used to go down to the Sally Shop over there on State Street which is no more and the old Woolworth, going to Woolworth, and Newberry's, I used to love to go into Newberry's because you'd walk up from the sidewalk up to the wooden floor.

Robert Gonzales: Where was that at?

Connie McFarland: Over there on State Street between Orange and what is that First Street, is it Fifth? It must be Fifth Street.

Robert Gonzales: Let's see, were you familiar with any sort of political or social activity in the sixties or seventies around here?

Connie McFarland: No.

Robert Gonzales: Because I'm trying to get a handle on that, there were a few organizations that were working politically for a variety of reasons.

Connie McFarland: Like the ACLU, stuff like that?

Robert Gonzales: Well there were several groups based in the Northside like the Sunday Concerns Group and a few others that were politically active. I'm trying to get more information on that.

Connie McFarland: I'm trying to think who was in that but I can't think of anybody. I know Crafton had what was called the MECHA Group.

Robert Gonzales: I'm trying to track down people that were actually involved with this.

Connie McFarland: Oh, how about Gilberto Gil? I bet you he would know. And maybe he was in stuff like that.

Robert Gonzales: Let's see, you've been here now, pretty much all your life. What is it, what changes stand out the most in your mind?

Connie McFarland: The changes? The tearing down of the old buildings like Orange Street and the freeway going over and taking away the old buildings, like over on Colton and Orange where the girls' dormitory was. It was so pretty. I guess they did it for fire safety, I don't know.

Robert Gonzales: Yeah, sometimes they just get...

Connie McFarland: They tear out all these old buildings.

Robert Gonzales: Is there anything that you'd like to add that we haven't covered, I'm through with my questions. If there's anything that we haven't talked about that you'd like to mention, please do that.

Connie McFarland: I can't think of anything.

Robert Gonzales: Well one other thing I wanted to, if you know anyone that's in their eighties or nineties, I'm gonna talk to your Uncle Richard, if anybody else, friends or other relatives that are older and have been here a long time.

Connie McFarland: You know where you could find out would be through the church, St. Mary's, I bet you we have a lot of you know, orange grove workers there, a lot of them.

Robert Gonzales: I've think I've spoken to about five people that went to St. Mary's.

Connie McFarland: Oh, good.

Robert Gonzales: But I don't know anybody, I have yet to get any names actually through the church, I found them all through other sources.

Connie McFarland: You know, what about the Ruiz family, there's a street named after the Ruiz, the Ruiz family is an old family, what about the Cabral?

Robert Gonzales: I have not spoken to any Cabrals yet.

Connie McFarland: Oh, I would. Yeah.

Robert Gonzales: I have spoken to one of the Ruizes. But Cabral?

Connie McFarland: Because I know that they named a street after the Cabrals, I mean after the Ruizes. The Madrid, that's an old family, too. The Roques, that's a big family in town, the Roques, and the Muñozes.

Robert Gonzales: Well as I was gonna say, if you know anyone from these families you might mention this to them and you can pass on my number, let them know that I'm looking to interview more people, I'd appreciate that.

Connie McFarland: Oh, because one of these ladies, she used to be a Ruiz, Helen Ruiz, but now she's a Helen Cabral, she lives over there on Cypress. I don't know if I have her number, but I have her friend's number, Cecelia Roque, that's an old family, too, Cecelia Roque.

Robert Gonzales: Well however you could help me out, I would appreciate that.

Connie McFarland: Well how about the packinghouses, they don't have some names of the old people that used to work there?

Robert Gonzales: We have names and I've got boxes full of stuff, although there's very little information in general. But there's old pay records and things like that.

Connie McFarland: There you go.

Robert Gonzales: But that, looking at the old pay records, I had people who were in their seventies and eighties look over those for me and they looked at them and they told me who's still around, who's not, whose family has been here.

Connie McFarland: Right.

Robert Gonzales: And the biggest problem is that with many of them, their memory stops with the people that they knew back in the thirties or the twenties and those people are gone and they didn't know their children. They might know a family name but they might not know how to get ahold of anybody. And so what I'm trying through is through young children, third generation children, to get back with like aunts, uncles and mothers and fathers who are in their seventies, eighties and nineties. And so that's where most of the interviews came from, is through people that I...

Connie McFarland: Another one, too, this lady, Father was saying, he announced it at church, this lady was a hundred and some years old.

Robert Gonzales: Really? She's at church?

Connie McFarland: Right. She lives right at, she goes to St. Mary's, Ramirez is her last name, she lives on Columbia.

Robert Gonzales: Who could I speak to at the church that might be able to help me out?

Connie McFarland: Wouldn't Father Cima help?

Robert Gonzales: Okay, as a matter of fact, I may even have his name in my book. See, I started this project several years ago and I've talked to a few people over the fyears. I talked to someone at St. Mary's when it first started and we weren't, I think I've gotten some more information.

Connie McFarland: Oh! Or was that lady's last name Lozano? It's either Lozano or Ramirez, she's a hundred and some years old, I can't remmeber.

Robert Gonzales: Well if there's nothing else...

Connie McFarland: What about your, do you want copies?

Robert Gonzales: Oh, the negatives? We'll get that in a few minutes but we'll go ahead and end this right now. Thank you very, very much for your time, the interview. And we'll both sort through this and talk to the people at the library.

Connie McFarland: Oh, okay.

Robert Gonzales: Thanks a lot.

Connie McFarland: You're welcome.