

Narrator: Henry Ybarra

Interviewer: Benjamin Treutler

Date and Place: November 14th, 2001 at the Ybarra house at [REDACTED]

Benjamin Treutler: Ok, this is Benjamin Treutler interviewing Henry Ybarra on November 14th at 8pm. Now, you were telling me about how your family came from Mexico to Lincoln Place. Can you tell me about that?

Henry Ybarra: OK, well, my uncle Louie, who's in this picture here, he, he was supposedly some, some girl he, he, he was with that didn't, that was a daughter, a wife or some, of someone that had some, some, someone important in the, in the town where they, somebody in the government there in the, in Santa Fe or Guadalajara. She, she was a daughter of one of the, some, some official back in Mexico and he, he had kept her for a week or something like that, so we heard, you know? But, they were after him, and then, oh, and my uncle Joe was here. He was telling me that, that when he was, he a little boy they went to some kind of circus or a fair or something and that he saw, he saw his brother on a, on a, on a horse being chased and he had a fake mustache on, so. He said it struck him as weird, and he's telling his mom, "Look, that's Louie," you know? [Laughs] And they're all freaking out. And

Treutler: So

Ybarra: Go ahead

Treutler: So, Louie had a daughter, the daughter of somebody and they got chased out of Mexico?

Ybarra: No, no, no, he just, just him, they, he, he was, he was wanted by somebody, they wanted [intelligible] but yeah, he was in some trouble there. And he, and, and he left, he left Mexico and, and he, I don't know how the news reached them of, I think he must of went to Texas first, or something like that, when he first came to the United States, and he somehow heard about American Steel. That was doing - he said a lot of Mexicans around that area knew of American Steel in the St. Louis area. So, he came here and started work and one by one he sent, I think he sent for my, my brother Agostin first - my dad's brother Agostin, and the after that, I think my dad came, and my dad came in 1924.

Treutler: Your brother, your dad's brother was Agostin or your dad's father was Agostin?

Ybarra: My, both.

Treutler: Oh.

Ybarra: My dad's got another brother that was Agostin.

Treutler: Ok.

Ybarra: I'm sorry.

Treutler: That's ok. These names - there's a lot of similar names, so.

Ybarra: Yeah.

Treutler: So you said for

Ybarra: So, so that would be my uncle Agostin. He sent for my uncle Agostin, and he, and he came, and after that my dad came with them. And, he came in 1924, he said. But he only stayed here for a little while and then he went, he went up to Detroit. And he worked in Detroit, Michigan.

Treutler: This was your father?

Ybarra: Yeah, my father. And he worked on Pon-Pontiac, Michigan or something like that. And he, and he said that worked on a car – it was called Whippet or something like that. The car was named Whippet, and that's the one he, he was, I guess that they were making at the time he was there.

Treutler: Oh yeah?

Ybarra: And he said they weren't, they weren't, when he was getting ready to, they were taking, the rubber industry was growing or something, like early at that time, and they were, they were taking Spanish speaking people and trying, trying to take them to South America wherever they've got rubber and then my dad was telling this, this, this real old timer at a bar one night. He said "I'm getting ready to go to South America in a few more days," and, and the man told him, he told him "You won't come back if you go." ...Slave labor or something like that, so my dad, he didn't, he didn't wind up going, but he came back to the St. Louis area working, he worked at American Steel, where he worked all his life – forty, forty-seven years or something.

Treutler: Wow. Now do you know what your father did at the American Steel?

Ybarra: He was a crane man.

Treutler: Ok. We talked about that with your brother. I just wanted to make sure there was no confliction there. Now, when did he meet the first wife, Helen?

Ybarra: See, I'm not all that sure.

Treutler: Was she American, or was she Mexican?

Ybarra: Yes, she's, she was American, German. Part German and Irish, maybe, I don't know.

Treutler: And she was from Granite City?

Ybarra: Granite City or Madison. I think that someone said Madison. She had lived in Madison.

Treutler: Somewhere around, around here though. And then at some point, they got divorced, and he met your mother.

Ybarra: Yeah.

Treutler: How did that work?

Ybarra: Well he to, when he'd go back to Mexico – he'd go back pretty often – his sister, Lola, who lived in Mexico – She, she's not photographed here.

Treutler: Ah.

Ybarra: She stayed in Mexico with my grandfather – they were dairy farmers. And they had a ranch there. And she, she stayed over there, and ended up marrying a politician over there, and, you know, in one of my, one dad's, dad's visits, she met my mom, he met my mom through my dad's other sister, Carmen.

Treutler: Ok.

Ybarra: Who's also, who's also not photographed there. So th-those two sisters, n-never did come to the United States. Lola and Carmen.

Treutler: How many brothers and sisters does your dad, or did your dad have?

Ybarra: Just two more that aren't photographed there? So

Treutler: Three more, right? Agostin, Lola and Carmen?

Ybarra: Oh right, that's right, that's three.

Treutler: So there's, so your dad's family was your dad, Salvador, his brothers Joe, Luis, Cornelio and Agostin and then his sisters were Josefina, Rebecca, Lola and Carmen. Ok.

Ybarra: I have to look at the pictures to think of them all.

Treutler: Yeah. Now, how was, well let's talk about yourself for a minute now. When were you born?

Ybarra: 1961.

Treutler: What, what day?

Ybarra: Hmm?

Treutler: What day?

Ybarra: Oh, February 25th, 1961.

Treutler: Ok. And, so you're the, you're youngest?

Ybarra: I'm the youngest, yeah.

Treutler: You have the, your other brother and your older sister, Luis and Esther?

Ybarra: Yeah.

Treutler: Ok, now, your name is Henry, but everyone calls you Ricky?

Ybarra: Right.

Treutler: How did that happen?

Ybarra: Henry is Enrique in Spanish.

Treutler: Oh.

Ybarra: And it, you know, sounds like Ricky, doesn't it?

Treutler: Yeah, I getcha. Ok. Now, when you were growing up, you went to what school?

Ybarra: I went to St. Joseph's school.

Treutler: Did you, now your brother went to Washington for kindergarten.

Ybarra: He started right.

Treutler: Did you go to Washington?

Ybarra: I went to, no, actually, the community center, where you were at, was where I went to Kindergarten, but it was considered part of Washington school, I think.

Treutler: Ok, so, your brother did the same thing.

Ybarra: I don't know, I think it was probably different for him.

Treutler: Was it?

Ybarra: Yeah.

Treutler: And how, you went to St. Joseph's through eighth grade?

Ybarra: Yes.

Treutler: And then where did you go to high school?

Ybarra: Pardon me?

Treutler: Where did you go for high school?

Ybarra: Oh, ok. Granite City High School.

Treutler: Granite City.

Ybarra: It was called South then.

Treutler: Granite City South or just South?

Ybarra: Just Granite City South, yeah.

Treutler: What, what year did you graduate from high school?

Ybarra: 1980

Treutler: When you were growing up, a lot of people went to the public, went to Washington instead of St. Joseph's, it was

Ybarra: Right, the public school was Washington.

Treutler: Why, why did your family send you to St. Joseph's?

Ybarra: Well, we were all, all the Catholics from, from Lincoln Place went to St. Joseph's, pretty much. But, yeah, it's weird because my brother Joe and, and my brother Kiko, they, I think they all went to Washington School.

Treutler: Now those are your brothers from the

Ybarra: My dad's first marriage,

Treutler: Those are your half-brothers?

Ybarra: Yeah.

Treutler: Well how many family members, or how many brothers and sisters are there from that marriage?

Ybarra: Six.

Treutler: There's Carmen.

Ybarra: No, that'd be five.

Treutler: Carmen, Joe, Kiko

Ybarra: Hmm-mmm.

Treutler: What's that stand for?

Ybarra: Fredrico

Treutler: And Joe is Jose?

Ybarra: Joseph, Joseph

Treutler: Joseph? Ok. And there's two more?

Ybarra: Carmen and Celia.

Treutler: I said Carmen.

Ybarra: Oh, you did Carmen? Ok. Carmen is the oldest, Teresa, my second to youngest, she passed away in 1985, I think. Celia, and then Kiko and then Joe.

Treutler: How do you spell Celia?

Ybarra: Celia. C-E-L-I-A

Treutler: Oh, ok. What's that short for?

Ybarra: I think it's her name's just Celia.

Treutler: Just Celia? Now, how would you describe your life as, when you were growing up, as a kid?

Ybarra: I had a lot of fun. We all, I mean we, in this neighborhood, it's just, we weren't rich kids, that's for sure, you know? And, but I feel, I always feel we had more fun down here.

Treutler: Than, than who?

Ybarra: Than, than other neighborhoods. See, we had confectionaries, we had, you know, pool hall, we had the community center, we all, we called it the club. E-every generation called it the club, except for now. They call it the Rec Center now.

Treutler: Oh.

Ybarra: And, yeah, we'd we had four or five confectionaries at the time, of course there was all kinds of taverns – probably about eleven taverns down there. And, just, all the, at the club where we all went, that's where we had, we had everything we wanted. We had a gym there, play softball out in the yard, we had a jukebox, pool table, TV room, couches. It was a, it was a nice place for us to go as teenagers, you know, just to hang out.

Treutler: How often would you go there?

Ybarra: Everyday.

Treutler: From what age till – when did you stop going there?

Ybarra: Probably like right out of high school, maybe.

Treutler: And when did you start going there?

Ybarra: From the time till I was about 8 or 9.

Treutler: Yeah, so about 10 years, everyday? [laughs]

Ybarra: Yeah, probably.

Treutler: What would you guys would play

Ybarra: We, we'd play, basketball, football, baseball, we used to play a game called chase, sort of like kick the can, but Lincoln Place would be the boundaries.

Treutler: Oh.

Ybarra: And it would usually be the older guys against the younger guys or something like that, you know. Where their, their older buddies would just team up and torture the other guys. But, that was pretty fun. It's like a game of war, where, where, where you get caught, you're, they'll beat you. [laughs] So, if you're a prisoner, you're, you're, you're gonna get beat up. And, you know, there was a lot of, you know, Lincoln Place used to be a pretty rough neighborhood. There'd be, some of the older guys would, would see a couple kids riding by on their bikes, and then they'd say "Get em." [laughs] And then you'd have to, you'd say, you know, you'd sit there and say "No," you know? But then they'd start hitting on you and beating you up and the you had to go over there and take a swing at some innocent kid on a bike. Those kind of things happened a lot over here.

Treutler: Were you ever one of the instigators of that?

Ybarra: Hmm. Maybe later on after I got, yeah, after I got a little older, maybe a few times.

Treutler: Maybe once or twice?

Ybarra: Maybe. [laughs]

Treutler: What else would the, the kids do?

Ybarra: As far as bad things or?

Treutler: Whatever. If you were going out with a group of kids on a summer day, and you were like 13 years old, what would you do?

Ybarra: Well, back then we'd be on our bicycles, and we'd, right here where the viaduct's at, between the Depot and Lincoln Place, there used to, they, before they built the viaduct, there was a, it was called Cedar street, right there along the fence, and there, and there was a, but I don't remember, I only one house ever being there the whole time I was growing up. And they, they kept, they kept wanting to buy that house out, to, to make the highway and they didn't want to sell, and they finally ended up getting screwed. [laughs]

Treutler: [laughs]

Ybarra: Cause they wouldn't sell, and they just, you know, what's that called? Domain?

Treutler: Public domain, I think.

Ybarra: Something like that.

Treutler: They just take your land.

Ybarra: Yeah, or they just

Treutler: Give you some money

Ybarra: Give em the, give em the lowest possible rate they could. Oh they got, yeah they got screwed in the long run. All along there was just trees, and we had bike trails. Yeah, we would hang out there and smoke cigarettes, and just hide out, you know? It was just. Take our little girlfriends there, or something.

Treutler: [laughs] So, what, what all, what sports would you guys play? You were talking a little about it, football, basketball.

Ybarra: Yeah, you know, mainly it was softball. We had this field down on this, on this Chicago Avenue where, where it turns onto Olive – it's, so it'd be on Olive St., actually. But that would, was the "Mexican Diamond," they'd call it because the Mexican Honorary Commission bought that piece of land a long time ago and they built a baseball diamond there. Every morning we'd wake up during the summer, kinda like that "Sandlot" movie, you ever see that?

Treutler: Yeah.

Ybarra: Every morning we'd be out there, and, and playing softball.

Treutler: Who all would be with you?

Ybarra: Seemed like me, my brother, my nephew Mark, Mike – those are my sister Teresa's two brothers, we were all raised together, basically. And Henry Garcia, Richard Fleetwood, maybe Melvin Anderson. So there were, there were, there were a few white guys that hung around, too, you know?

Treutler: Yeah.

Ybarra: It wasn't all Mexicans.

Treutler: So was it only Mexicans that were allowed to play at the diamond, or was it?

Ybarra: No, anybody could play, but there was no racial barriers, you know. We just, we all hung around together, it didn't really matter who was who.

Treutler: Did you find that every time, all the time when you were growing up? That there were really any racial problems?

Ybarra: Yeah. There was never, never. Because there were a lot of kids that grew up down here that, you know, weren't Mexican and then they were always our, you know, our good friends, too. A lot of times, when we were growing up, we had a kind of rivalry between West Granite – which people do consider Lincoln Place West Granite. But we never, we never considered ourselves West Granite because that's on the other side of West 20th St. So there, there were boundaries, I guess, you know? But we'd always get into it with them.

Treutler: How would that work?

Ybarra: If we see em down here, torture them or something, you know? [laughs] Or if we were to be up there, on their side, but, you know, all that's, all that stopped and, you know, I still see those guys and they're, I consider my friends, you know? We'd hang around – they called it Sim's Place but everyone here, in one of those write-ups they called it Sim's Place, but we all called it Blubby's. [Henry's daughter informs him that the write-up was in the piano bench, but she can't find it] Ok. We called it Blubby's and anyone who grew up down here called it Blubby's. Some people called it Sim's College, but I think that's a

bunch of crap, too. But, you know, they would have all their card games there. These, well these, how can I say it? I wouldn't say they were really corrupt or anything like that, but they were kinda the "gangster" element, I guess. [laughs] But, yeah, they'd have their card games over there and a lot of the times, we'd, you know, I'd be sitting around and wash their car for twenty, thirty dollars, or something like that.

Treutler: Wow.

Ybarra: That was good money back then. [laughs]

Treutler: Still is.

Ybarra: Yeah, yeah.

Treutler: Now when was this? What year would that have been?

Ybarra: Those were in the maybe mid-seventies. Seventy-six.

Treutler: Now when you were growing up, do you have any memories of hol, of holidays, specific memories of holidays in general?

Ybarra: You know, I can really just think of is like the Mexican club would have their Christmas parties. We'd always go to that. And fiestas – every Cinco de Mayo with the fiesta that they, they'd have every year. Those were pretty good memories, you know?

Treutler: How d-does a Mexican Christmas differ than an American Christmas?

Ybarra: Really, not much, other than the occasional piñata. [laughs] Oh, they'd have a nice – and they still do – they have a nice program that they put on for the kids and, and every, every kid from, from I guess one to fifteen gets a nice gift, the club buys them a nice gift – real nice gifts. Some pretty nice gifts. Actually, I'm going to take my girlfriend's niece this time, but I'll have to, I'll have to buy the gift in advance cause this, cause her niece is not a member,

Treutler: Oh

Ybarra: Or she, her mother isn't. But I'll, I'll just give them the money to get her a gift.

Treutler: How would the Cinco de Mayo celebrations be?

Ybarra: It seemed like, you know, a long time ago, they were, they were a lot better our, my uncle Agostin would come in from California and, and we'd all, before the, before the fiesta, we'd have a barbecue and stuff like that and they were all in town. [unintelligible] And, well, the fiesta – they'd put on the program, and the dancing, you know, it was all so good, you know?

Treutler: Lots of traditional music

Ybarra: Yeah.

Treutler: And dances and outfits and stuff?

Ybarra: Yeah, I think I might have a few of those – I have pictures of my daughter in fiesta or something.

Treutler: Well, while you're looking

Ybarra: Yeah?

Treutler: Let's talk about Thanksgiving. Is that - I know that's a purely American holiday, but was that a holiday that was a holiday that was celebrated in your family?

Ybarra: Yes.

Treutler: Now was that, how, how would it work? What would you guys do on Thanksgiving?

Ybarra: Thanks – my mom would just, you know, she'd, the night before she'd make, you know, she'd start on the turkey. We'd be in there smelling her all night, you know? [laughs] And, yeah, yeah my mom would cook everything then at that time. And, you know, we just, we had our, we just go together.

Treutler: Would it be the, would the menu selections be similar with a traditional Thanksgiving dinner? Or would it be different?

Ybarra: No, we'd have turkey and mashed potatoes. Yeah we just had American food.

Treutler: American food.

Ybarra: And, you know, when I was little, that was a treat because we didn't, all, all we really had to eat back then was Mexican food, that's all that my mom made. Everyday she'd make tortillas; roll them fresh for my dad. That was, that was, the, his, the way his meals were prepared.

Treutler: What, what other kinds of foods would she make? Like tradition, or everyday foods that

Ybarra: Everyday food would ma-mainly be like, maybe like steak – strips of steak in like a chilito sauce. I wouldn't, you know, you automatically think chili, right? But it-it's nothing like that it's made, you know, the sauce is made with tomatoes, peppers, and it's, and it's it's not chunky. It's a whole different experience when, when you eat – when someone says pork and chili or beef and chili it's, it's not what you would think it's, it's, you know, Mexican food. I can't really describe the way, it's almost like a soup consistency, you know?

Treutler: Like a spicy tomato soup or a, or a runnier salsa?

Ybarra: Yeah, well it would be like salsa but

Treutler: But, but the same stuff inside, in it, just mashed down really

Ybarra: Yeah it, it was, it was really, it's a thin sauce, but, you know, she makes it with a little bit of garlic, a little bit of tomato, and we'd have, you know, rice we'd call sopa. And beans, beans and tortillas.

Treutler: Everyday?

Ybarra: Pretty much. You know my mom would make tamales once in awhile or enchiladas and albondigas, have you ever heard of albondigas?

Treutler: No.

Ybarra: Albondigas was like, are like a meatball. They're like a meatball with, it has diced tomato, it has onion, and a little bit of spearmint, and it's in a soup and you have it with, with rice and beans or guacamole, or whatever.

Treutler: Your brother said that your mom was probably one of the best cooks in the neighborhood.

Ybarra: Yeah, she, she is [laughs] I think so, too.

Treutler: Did you

Ybarra: But, Mc, McDonald's was a big treat for us [laughs] I don't, I don't think I went to McDonald's until I was about maybe thirteen or fourteen – my brother Joe took me. Man, that was exciting. [laughs]

Treutler: Wow, that's, yeah cause the first one was around in the fifties, so it was around when you were born, so there, they were around.

Ybarra: But, yeah, I don't, I don't, I can't, I couldn't tell you when they built the first one here in Granite, actually. I remember my sister, Teresa, went, you know, it could have, it could have been because they had the Ronald McDonald flying hamburger guy, you know, they had a big old parade one time, you know, I went to that.

Treutler: But you didn't go till the seventies [laugh]

Ybarra: Right, it was in the seventies when I went. It could, you know, it could have been the late sixties because my brother had gotten out of Viet Nam and he'd been taking, he, he started taking us around, I got to, I got to know him more after he got back, he got back from the war.

Treutler: So, how much of an age difference is there between you and

Ybarra: Joe?

Treutler: Well the other, the other, the other siblings?

Ybarra: Yeah. Joe's maybe sixteen, seventeen years older than me. And Kiko, I'd, I'd say maybe more than that cause his oldest daughter is like three years older than me.

Treutler: Oh, wow.

Ybarra: And my sister Carmen's son is probably, he's probably about eight years older than me.

Treutler: So your, your, your half-brothers and sisters are almost, like, the, the same age as – they were like, you were like their kids.

Ybarra: Yeah, I was their kids' age, right. Yeah. My sister Teresa's sons Mark and Mike. Mark was my age and Mike was Louie's age. And yeah, we grew up together that way.

Treutler: How did that, how was that?

Ybarra: It didn't seem like, it just seemed like my sister was like my mom, you know? It didn't, it didn't really, I always looked up to them like they were parent figures, I guess, you know, all my older brothers and sisters till I reached a certain age, you know?

Treutler: Yeah.

Ybarra: Yeah, they were

Treutler: So, besides your mom's cooking, what other kind of ethnic cooking would you, did you have around the neighborhood that you actually had?

Ybarra: Oh, the Armenians made some good lamb pitas, they were like pitas with lamb and baklava. Our neighbors across the street – Andy Phillips was our neighbor across the street. He was my dad's – did you do any research of Andy Phillips at all?

Treutler: Your brother talked about him. He played for the Celtics.

Ybarra: Yeah. His parents, when I was growing up, they, they would make a sausage called hoorka, hoorka? And it had rice in it, and oh it was great. I can hardly remember what it tastes like, but I don't eat liver and they say it has liver in it. [laughs]

Treutler: Now, when you were going to school, how was, what was that like? Like at the actual school, what would you guys, I mean

Ybarra: St. Joseph's school?

Treutler: Yeah.

Ybarra: St. Joseph's school was, it was all right. The classes were so small that, you know, maybe twelve people in your grade or no more than twenty ever. And they'd put the seventh and eighth graders together or the first and second graders in one classroom, and, and they would, they would, you know, while they had one group studying, they'd teach to the other one. Small little school and, I don't know. I have good memories of it. [picks up a picture] This is my sister Celia. And my cousin Guillermo in Mexico, that's my cousin from Mexico.

Treutler: Now have you ever been to Mexico?

Ybarra: Yes.

Treutler: Did you go a lot, or?

Ybarra: Before my dad retired, we'd go every summer. My mom would go every summer to Mexico.

Treutler: And, just like a family visit?

Ybarra: Yeah, she would stay the whole summer, and then when we were little, and we were like in grade school, we'd stay the whole summer, and then my dad would stay here and then he'd come and get us.

Treutler: What'd you guys do in Mexico?

Ybarra: Just, when I was little we'd stay at my aunt's, her, her and her husband and they were, my, my aunt, she, she, she really, she really, really liked me and my brother and my sister, Esther.

Treutler: Did they have any

Ybarra: She was really, well, she had her, yeah, her kids was, you know, Guillermo and Armando, my cousin. And then Esther, my cousin in Mexico. And the Counseulo, one of my aunt's kids. They're all older than me, but I, you know, actually, their kids I ran around with. [laughs]

Treutler: Did you notice any differences between your moms' cooking and your aunt's cooking in Mexico?

Ybarra: Yeah, yeah there's, there's a lot of difference.

Treutler: Really?

Ybarra: I mean in some things, my, my aunt, in Mexico, she was more, I guess more experienced in different types of things that I never heard of, you know?

Treutler: Like what?

Ybarra: She would mainly, her mom would make posole, but her posole would be different. Posole is like a hominy soup, with hominy in it. [picks up a picture] This is my cousin's house in Mexico.

Treutler: So, is there, did there, does your cousin keep up the cattle business that your grandfather?

Ybarra: Yeah, no, no. Eventually, they, they, they got out of that and one of the

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Treutler: One second.

Ybarra: One of Lola's kids ended up selling the property and, and, no, none of know exactly what happened.

Treutler: So, what does your cousin do in Mexico?

Ybarra: Guillermo? He's a, he's something to do with the telephone company. I don't know if Ameritech bought them or not, but I, I heard that he did work for Ameritech at one time.

Treutler: So your family was pretty well off, in Mexico.

Ybarra: Yeah, they were. My dad's family when, before they came here, yeah.

Treutler: Yeah, cause owning a cattle farm is still a pretty big business in Mexico.

Ybarra: My dad would talk about, you know, taking horse and buggy to, to deliver milk. [laughs]

Treutler: Is that what type of, was it a dairy farm?

Ybarra: Huh? Yeah. [phone rings] A dairy farm. [phone rings]

Treutler: What [phone rings] Was it, so it was dairy? Did they process beef there too? Was it, or was it a dairy farm?

Ybarra: You know, I'm not sure. My dad only talked about, about delivering milk, just a few time. [picks up a picture] You can't see it here, but it's a picture of me and Louie when we were little, but you can hardly see anything.

Treutler: Oh yeah. This is at the house where he lives now, right?

Ybarra: Right, yeah.

Treutler: On Maple? Yeah. You told me your dad told you about delivering milk, did he tell you any other stories about growing up in Mexico?

Ybarra: He said he waited general, or something like that during the revolution. And, when they were having their civil war in Mexico, he said that a general came, came in and he wanted a, my dad was just a young boy, and the general wanted him to weigh him. My dad knew the name of the, the general and stuff. He had it in his, he had a little history book from Mexico.

Treutler: Whatever happened to that book?

Ybarra: I guess my mom would probably have it.

Treutler: Oh. Is she still alive?

Ybarra: My mother?

Treutler: Yeah.

Ybarra: Yes. Yeah, she's at bingo at St. Gregory right now.

Treutler: Does she live in the neighborhood?

Ybarra: Yeah, she lives across the street.

Treutler: Oh! Ok. So everyone's really close. I didn't know she was still in the neighborhood.

Ybarra: Yeah.

Treutler: That's, cause she's 18 years younger than your dad, is that? Ok. So did, where there any stories, cause your dad was in Granite City in 1924, and you weren't born till almost 40 years later, so did he ever, what did he tell you about what happened before you were born in Granite City?

Ybarra: He would, he would just mainly, you know, talk about, you know, like, he would, he'd, he told me a few things about unions and stuff like that when they, when American Steel first got unionized and he said that before that he worked like 16 hours a day.

Treutler: Oh.

Ybarra: And, you know, six days a week, and he said they started the union and he finally got a vacation in 1936 or something like that. [laughs] He never had a vacation from work, you know, until, till they got unionized.

Treutler: Now do you work at the steel

Ybarra: No, I work at Prairie Farms Dairy.

Treutler: Ok. Did, after high school, did you start working at Prairie Farms?

Ybarra: No, I played, I played music for, for a while. Big dreams.

Treutler: Were you in a band?

Ybarra: Yeah. Me and my brother and a few other guys who were – Matt Scanlon, was another, another band member, he's from Lincoln Place. His, his mom is, was married to Andy Phillips, he recently passed away back in the summer.

Treutler: What was your band called?

Ybarra: It was, the name of it was "Atlas."

Treutler: Why was it called Atlas?

Ybarra: I don't know. I don't remember why.

Treutler: So you talked about how you went to the Catholic school because you were Catholic. What church did you go to?

Ybarra: St. Joseph's church. Which is now Holy Family.

Treutler: Now how, I'm not familiar with the Catholic masses very much, so how would that, how would that go? What time would you get to church? What time would you leave?

Ybarra: Well, we would have to, have to go to church every morning before school, and, and my dad would drop us off there. Or he would go to church sometimes, mainly he'd just drop us off.

Treutler: And then how about on Sundays?

Ybarra: On Sundays, we'd always go with my dad. My mom, my mom never went to church very much here in this country, you know, because she doesn't, she never understood it that well.

Treutler: Yeah.

Ybarra: It'd be aggravating to her.

Treutler: She didn't English?

Ybarra: No, she didn't speak very good. She still really, she can, but she's embarrassed to. She feels her accent's real bad, you know.

Treutler: Oh. Now you talked about some of the different people you played baseball with and were in the band, different friends of yours. Do you have any stories about these, about your friends and you when you were growing up?

Ybarra: Yeah, we all, we always thought we were tough and all that. [laughs] Yeah. The, the funny thing is was we were all really, everyone was really tight, you know? Everyone was just real close to each other. I consider them like my brothers to this day, even though I don't see them everyday. But that's the, that's the thing about this, this neighborhood is that everyone, everyone was real tight. You didn't get to go out with any of the girls that lived down here. [laughs]

Treutler: Why not?

Ybarra: Their parents knew better. [laughs]

Treutler: Oh. What would happen if somebody from West Granite wanted to take out a girl from Lincoln Place?

Ybarra: Well, I'm not saying it wouldn't, it wouldn't happen, I know because I know it has, actually, my, my sister married, her, her husband's name was Hollis and he was from West Granite. But he hung around in this neighborhood all the time.

Treutler: So you got, you got, you were able to trust him after awhile?

Ybarra: Oh yeah. He was, he was a good man. [laughs] Yeah, he was a good man.

Treutler: So after, after band dreams kind of busted

Ybarra: Yeah

Treutler: What, what did you do after that?

Ybarra: Then I started, I realized that I had to get real. I went to school for a while, I didn't stick to that. I just went to community college here in town.

Treutler: What were you going for?

Ybarra: I was, actually, I was studying business, but I just lost interest. I think it was more, to be honest with you, I don't know – I better not say. [laughs] My reason why.

Treutler: You can if you want to.

Ybarra: Yeah, well as long as leave it out.

Treutler: Oh well then I, I'll just, I'll, I'll, I can pause [the tape is paused for a moment] Ok. So then you said that after you went to community college, dropped out and then you went to work at the

Ybarra: Prairie Farms. Yeah, and then I got married at about almost the same time I started, I got married in '84.

Treutler: Ok. And then, how old is your daughter?

Ybarra: She's 16 now, she just turned 16 on October 22nd.

Treutler: And then, have you lived in Granite, or Lincoln Park, Lincoln Place the whole time?

Ybarra: Yeah, pretty much. I, when I, when I first got married, we lived in an apartment up there on Parkside. Parkside Apartments for just maybe a year till I saw this house was for sale. I've been living here ever since.

Treutler: So, what, what made you want to come back to

Ybarra: Oh I couldn't stand being away anyway. I would be bored when I lived out there. Cause I worked evenings and there was never anything to do. I came here to be around everyone.

Treutler: What do you, what did you, or what did you do or do you do at Prairie Farms?

Ybarra: I work in the cooler over there. Stock products.

Treutler: Yeah? Are there any stories – you talked about how your older brothers and sisters were almost like your parents. Did they ever tell you stories about how it was when they were growing up or what?

Ybarra: Yeah, my brother Joe would always, you know, he'd talk about his friends, what they, they, you know, they did their boxing thing, you know.

Treutler: What was that boxing?

Ybarra: They, they I actually don't know what, what it, I don't know if it was just Lincoln Place boxing or, but I don't know. I can't think of that guy's name – Jack Bagosian was the boxing teacher. Which is, Jack Bagosian was Blubby's brother which was the pool hall where we all had pinball or whatever. And, yeah, he was their teacher.

Treutler: What, would they, they would just box each other or what?

Ybarra: Well, they, they boxed, they boxed championship. Joe, Joe was a Golden Glove. He won St. Louis Golden Glove.

Treutler: What year was that, do you know?

Ybarra: Probably early 60s, maybe.

Treutler: How old was he?

Ybarra: Teens, seventeen, eighteen, nine – around there maybe.

Treutler: So, right around the time you were born?

Ybarra: Yeah, yeah.

Treutler: Now, did he ever, did he pursue anything in boxing after he won the Golden Gloves?

Ybarra: No, no, he after, I guess after that he got married and had a, and went to Viet Nam. I think he got out of there in '68 or something like that.

Treutler: How was your brother being in Viet Nam affect your family?

Ybarra: My, my dad was, was worried, you know, the whole time. And Joe would just, he'd, he'd keep in contact with him, write him, send him money or whatever, you know? And then, you know, my mom, she'd talk about she'd always light candles for him and stuff like that. That's the Catholic thing, right?

Treutler: Yeah.

Ybarra: Candles.

Treutler: Did he tell stories about what was going over there when he got back?

Ybarra: What was going over here?

Treutler: Over there. Well, did he, did your brother tell you stories, did Joe tell you stories about what happened in the war when he got back?

Ybarra: You know, he hardly did. Some, some things I don't know if he'd want me talking about it really, you know? I don't know. Not very much. [picks up picture] There's my brother Lou, and my brother Joe, my dad.

Treutler: What year is this picture?

Ybarra: Let me see, let me look at it again. '89 maybe. '88, or something like that. Late '80s.

Treutler: So, what year, what year did your dad die?

Ybarra: '95.

Treutler: How old was he when he

Ybarra: 89.

Treutler: So how many, like how many cousins or how many grandchildren.

Ybarra: Grandchildren? Hmm. I don't know. [laughs] So many. I couldn't even guess.

Treutler: That your dad had?

Ybarra: His grandchildren? Yeah. Yeah, I don't even know, it would go onto great-grandchildren, probably too, wouldn't it?

Treutler: He has great-grandchildren, too?

Ybarra: Oh yeah, and great-great-grandchildren.

Treutler: Really?

Ybarra: Yeah, yeah.

Treutler: So, your mom is a great-grandmother or a great-great-grandmother?

Ybarra: Well, actually, my mom is just – that's her real grandchild there, Stephanie.

Treutler: And then Luis' kids.

Ybarra: Oh, and Luis' two boys, yeah. I'm so used to saying that she's the first grandkid. [laughs] Yeah, his two boys.

Treutler: And then so, ok, so your father had, was a grandfather and a great-grandfather and a great-great-grandfather? So there's a lot of

Ybarra: [picks up picture] So see, Jennifer here would be my father's first great-great-grandchild. She was the first.

Treutler: And how old is she now?

Ybarra: She's like twenty-four or twenty-five.

Treutler: And she was the first great-great-grandchild.

Ybarra: Hmm-mmm.

Treutler: So, of all the Ybarras growing up in the area, do you guys have like family reunions or anything?

Ybarra: Yeah, every Christmas we, we have, we all gather, we go to the Mexican club and have a Christmas party there, where all my brothers and sisters are. But my uncle's family only here recently in the last maybe five, ten years, maybe, that they'd been coming also. But it, it always used to be before just my dad's kids and his grandchildren.

Treutler: So how many people are at the Christmas party?

Ybarra: Seems like there'd be close to 100 maybe.

Treutler: Wow.

Ybarra: Maybe not that many.

Treutler: Well, with all of the grandchildren, too many to count.

Ybarra: Yeah. [picks up a picture] There's my brother Kiko's son, who, he was killed in a car accident. Well, before that he was left like a paraplegic when he was in a gun accident. He was shot through the, right through the neck. That left him paralyzed, and for the last 10 years, or so, of his life, he, he was in a wheelchair. And then he died in a car accident and I don't know if you released any, put any picture like that, I don't know that my brother would want his ex-wife in there. [laughs] I might have another one.

Treutler: I can.

Ybarra: Well, if you want, you can crop it out if you'd want.

Treutler: Ok, well let's look at some pictures and you can tell me about the pictures. In this first one?

Ybarra: Ok, yeah this is my cousin, Jesse - Javier is his real name. And there's my father, and his brother, Junior.

Treutler: Jesse's brother?

Ybarra: Agostin Junior, yeah, Jesse's brother, yeah.

Treutler: Ok.

Ybarra: Jesse was a, he's a good ball player, and actually he was going to be drafted by the Cleveland Indians back in probably the late '50s and him and another guy from, that owned Branding's gas station – his name was Richard Branding, and he, and those two were the only ones, when they had try-outs here in St. Louis, or something like that, they were the only two picked to, to be, I guess to be drafted or something like that. And he, it fell through for both of them, I don't know, I don't know how it happened to Richard Branding, but for Jesse, he was supposedly just chasing his woman around, I don't know. Just didn't make it, I guess.

Treutler: Jesse lived in Lincoln Place?

Ybarra: Yeah, he lived in, he grew up in Lincoln Place. He was a, he was a big good slugger.

Treutler: [laughs] Now, here's a picture of your mom's niece

Ybarra: Yeah, Consuelo.

Treutler: In her wedding dress.

Ybarra: In her wedding, yeah that's on the day of her wedding, I guess. And her cousin, her sister, Esther, who was named after my mother, Esther.

Treutler: Do you know when this picture was taken? Because your mom's

Ybarra: Yeah, that's probably about 1967 or '68 maybe? It had to be in '68 because I was there in '67 and they, Consuelo and Paco were still dating when I was there, I remember that. Cause I was real, I was real close to her, I remember that. She was my favorite, Consuelo was, and I remember when they got married, so it had to be like '68 or '69.

Treutler: And that was in Mexico?

Ybarra: Yeah, that was in Mexico.

Treutler: You didn't, you didn't go that year?

Ybarra: No, I didn't go that year.

Treutler: Here's a picture, of a picture of your?

Ybarra: I guess that would be my, my father's grandmother? Maybe, I don't know. I'm not sure who it is.

Treutler: You said that it might be your dad's great-aunt, too.

Ybarra: Great-aunt, ok.

Treutler: Is that your father's grandmother's sister?

Ybarra: Could be.

Treutler: Someone like that? Where was this picture, the picture of the picture, taken?

Ybarra: I don't, I don't know who, I don't even know how I got it, actually. [laughs]

Treutler: Ok. Alright, now you said this picture was of Louie's kindergarten.

Ybarra: Louie's kindergarten picture, yeah. And some, some of the other Lincoln Place boys that were in there too. Ok, one of them's Joey Balsi who lives on Maple St., maybe across the street and a few doors down from Louie. This is Tino Valencia.

Treutler: Is that Johnny Valencia's son?

Ybarra: That's Johnny's brother's son. That's Tony, Tony's son. Tony Valencia's son. Another guy, Mike Isham, his grandmother lives maybe three doors down from Louie on Maple St. And then Mike Kettle, he lives on Maple St., he still does down on the 1700 block of Maple. There's Lou, and then my nephew Mike, that's my sister Teresa's son, he's Louie's age.

Treutler: And then all the girls are after that.

Ybarra: The girls, I don't think I know any of them.

Treutler: They've probably all changed.

Ybarra: But, see, these were Washington school kids so that, most likely a lot of them aren't from Lincoln Place.

Treutler: They're from West Granite

Ybarra: Probably, yeah.

Treutler: And other areas. Ok, now, I have some questions about this picture of your cousin's house in Mexico.

Ybarra: Yeah.

Treutler: Which one, is that his front door, right there?

Ybarra: It's, ok, there would be the, the fence would be, let me see that, yeah, that would be the front gate. All of them, they called them, like on cell, they call them the like the gates.

Treutler: And that's the front door?

Ybarra: Hmm-mmm.

Treutler: So the house goes this whole thing right here?

Ybarra: Right, and then it goes into a big patio. All back here is open, and you can see all down there where, where the garden is at and then all surrounding are the rooms that are surrounding the garden. Most houses in Mexico are built like that, where they'd have the big garden in the middle and the rooms are to each side or

Treutler: Yeah, we learned about that in Spanish class, actually, in high school.

Ybarra: Oh yeah.

Treutler: Now, is that a dog on the roof?

Ybarra: [laughs] Probably, yeah. Yeah, it sure is.

Treutler: Is that your cousin's dog?

Ybarra: It has, it'd have to be, it would have to be. [laughs]

Treutler: Now, this picture is of your brothers Joe and Louie and your father

Ybarra: My father, yeah.

Treutler: It says it was taken in 1989.

Ybarra: Probably around that time, that, that had to have been a family Christmas party.

Treutler: At the

Ybarra: The Mexican club.

Treutler: This is you in your band days.

Ybarra: Oh, well, actually, this is me on my wedding night.

Treutler: Oh, on your wedding night.

Ybarra: Yeah.

Treutler: What were you singing?

Ybarra: I don't remember, probably "Twist and Shout," or something like that. [laughs]

Treutler: What would you guys sing in your band?

Ybarra: We'd do a lot of Beatle's songs. We, we did a lot, a lot of Beatle's songs. Just, and anything that was coming on the radio in the early '80s and late '70s.

Treutler: Now this is a picture, maybe you can fill in the blanks. It looks like it's in the, it's taken in Mexico, and looks like it was probably in the early '80s, middle '80s? That's your father in the middle.

Ybarra: Yeah, I would say

Treutler: That's Louie

Ybarra: Late '80s, probably, no, could be early '80s, I'm sorry.

Treutler: And then next to your father that's Cel

Ybarra: Celia.

Treutler: Celia. That's Louie.

Ybarra: Louie, he's holding my cousin Esther's daughter, Paula.

Treutler: Which one's Esther?

Ybarra: I think that she's right here.

Treutler: On the end? And who's on this side?

Ybarra: Ok, that's Christian, the little boy there, and that's my cousin Hector, which is Consuelo's brother, his son Christian and his daughter Selena and Bianca, and I think that's his wife Leti, and I think that's her sister Lourdes.

Treutler: Ok. Is that a picture of a piñata?

Ybarra: Yeah. [laughs] I think that's my daughter's, my daughter's first birthday.

Treutler: Who's that at the, with the blindfold?

Ybarra: Oh that's my sister's best friend's son.

Treutler: Oh. Now what's this a picture?

Ybarra: This one?

Treutler: Yeah.

Ybarra: That's my cousin Guillermo, same guy, yeah, there, and his, his wife, well that's, they're no longer married. And that's probably mid-'60s.

Treutler: Now where did Guillermo, that's the one that owns the house in Mexico who worked, that we saw a picture of.

Ybarra: No that would be Consuelo's house, this one in the picture.

Treutler: Oh, ok, ok. That's Consuelo's house. Where did Guillermo live in Mexico?

Ybarra: Yeah, he, he lives like right, now he lives, like right on the border of Guadalajara and San Pedro. It's like right, you know, you where you can walk across the street and you're in San Pedro.

Treutler: Oh. Where does Consuelo?

Ybarra: She lives in Guadalajara

Treutler: Ok.

Ybarra: Just like a little subdivision there, kind of.

Treutler: Now, here's a picture of your parents. It looks like it was taken at a wedding, probably in the late '70s or early '80s.

Ybarra: Yeah, that was my wedding.

Treutler: Oh is it? Ok.

Ybarra: 1984.

Treutler: Ok. Where were you married?

Ybarra: At St. Joseph's church. [laughs]

Treutler: And there's your wedding picture.

Ybarra: [laughs] Yeah. I'm divorced now, but.

Treutler: Yeah. Ok, this is a little picture of your dad and your brother Kiko, you said

Ybarra: Yeah.

Treutler: It says on the back that it was taken in 1942. Where was this taken?

Ybarra: It was on the front porch at 1607 where Louie lives now.

Treutler: Ok. What, what was the occasion for this picture?

Ybarra: That I don't know. [laughs] You know there, I did, there's another picture about that same time where, where Kiko's about that age and my dad was wearing that jacket and they were on the Admiral, so maybe they were going to the Admiral.

Treutler: What's that?

Ybarra: The Admiral's like a riverboat.

Treutler: Oh, ok.

Ybarra: Now, it's now a casino, now, but

Treutler: Ok. That's what I was thinking. I'm like, "I knew the casino wasn't around back then."

Ybarra: Here's a picture of my dad and my tia Lola, that's my dad's sister. And that would, that would be Rebecca and then Josephine, and my uncle Joe and his brother Cornelio.

Treutler: Where was this taken?

Ybarra: That was right at 1607.

Treutler: At 1607. Do you know when this was taken?

Ybarra: No, I couldn't tell you that one.

Treutler: It looks like it's the '50s or the '40s. Let's see, compared to this picture of your dad in 1942, Well, it looks about the same time, I don't know.

Ybarra: Here's a picture of my, my niece, my sister Teresa's daughter. She's, I think she's the oldest grandchild of my dad's. So, that had to have been maybe '55 or '56, somewhere around there. Here's a picture of my tio Agostin. My dad's, he the brother right under him in age, and they have this house in California. I guess he's a little horses back there, and his garden, and he was real comfortable out there. He, he, he moved prob, from Granite, probably real late '60s, so I can, can't remember him living in Granite at all. But when I did see him, though, I mean, he was a real, real good, smart man. He was, he was a lot more quiet than my dad, it seemed like. Little more stern than my dad was.

Treutler: Did, did you ever visit your uncle in California?

Ybarra: I never did go visit him, but, you know, he'd come to town to visit my dad, and when his son had a stroke, probably, Jesse who we were just talking about, the ball player. He had a stroke probably in the early '80s, and I would take him to the, I got to know him that way when I was, when I was taking him back and forth to the hospital. So I got to know more of him then. But other than that, that's really all I knew. He passed away, maybe a little bit before my dad, probably '94, '93. And he really enjoyed bullfights and rodeos and stuff like that, that's why he wore Stetsons and stuff like that.

Treutler: Was he, how was he involved in those?

Ybarra: He had horses and some cattle and stuff like that.

Treutler: Did he ever

Ybarra: See, they were really interested in that sort of thing, like rodeo stuff, those were his interests, you know?

Treutler: Who's the, the boy?

Ybarra: I think that's my cousin Mark's son, or something like that, I'm not, I'm not really sure.

Treutler: Did anybody ever participate in the rodeo? Like ride

Ybarra: I think Junior would just do the horses, the rope stuff, you know? I remember him coming down here and doing the, all that rope stuff, you know? [laughs] Real impressive. [laughs]

Treutler: Yeah.

Ybarra: I mean that's just the...coming through. This is my mom's, some of my mom's family in Mexico.

Treutler: Did they, did your mom's family and your dad's family live real close?

Ybarra: My mom's family? Well you know my mom met my dad through one of, one of his aunts. My mom knew his aunt, and that's how they met.

Treutler: Who is this in this picture? Who is everybody in this picture?

Ybarra: Ok, this is my mother, and her nephew Ernesto, which is my aunt Renalda, is my mother's sister, and that's her son and then that's my aunt Chelo's daughter, Esther, we've seen her already, and her daughter. And then that, her back, that's Consuelo, we've seen her house. And that's Consuelo's son, there, and

Treutler: What year is this picture taken? Do you know?

Ybarra: Probably early '80s.

Treutler: That's what it looks like.

[BEGIN TAPE 2]

Treutler: Ok. Are there any other pictures in here? Is this a picture from Mexico?

Ybarra: Yeah. That's, this is my friend, my sister's friend, Carol, that she took to Mexico that year and that's, that's I can't see. Oh, that's just my cousin Ernesto and his wife, and then Celia and their, and their, their daughter. And that's my cousin's Counselo, no, not Conseulo but my cousin Esther's youngest daughter Stephanie.

Treutler: Ok.

Ybarra: Here's a, I guess a bigger picture of that little, they're in Santa Fe in that picture where my dad was born.

Treutler: This is a picture of, oh, ok.

Ybarra: Like the town square right there, or whatever.

Treutler: Like a little gazebo up there.

Ybarra: Yeah.

Treutler: Where that picture was taken.

Ybarra: There's my dad and my sister there.

Treutler: When's the last time you were, you went to Mexico?

Ybarra: Mmm. It's been like I think three years, three years now.

Treutler: How long did you stay last time you went?

Ybarra: I just stayed two weeks. Seen my mom's sister, Chelo, and my sister Celia and Esther, my cousin Esther.

Treutler: A lot of Esthers and

Ybarra: [laughs] Yeah, yeah.

Treutler: Lots of the same names.

Ybarra: That's just a picture of the Halloween party at the Mexican club where the kids do their

Treutler: This is when your daughter was in it?

Ybarra: Yeah.

Treutler: What kind of Halloween party do they have?

Ybarra: What?

Treutler: What kind of Halloween party do they, does the Mexican club have?

Ybarra: They, they have a, you know, just a dinner for the adults and then just the costumes, you know, they judge the costumes.

Treutler: Piñatas?

Ybarra: Yeah. This is my niece, Lisa, and that's, and her daughter, Jennifer. Like I said that was my, my father's first great-great-grandchild.

Treutler: Ok. When you were growing up, did your family take any vacations besides to Mexico?

Ybarra: No, that was about it. [laughs] That was, that was just about it.

Treutler: Would you guys fly there or drive there?

Ybarra: No, no, we'd take, yeah that's another thing – we'd take train. A home train, you know, Pullman trains, you know?

Treutler: Where would you guys, you guys would pick it up in

Ybarra: St. Louis, at the Union Station. And

Treutler: How long?

Ybarra: It's like a 3-day trip.

Treutler: Wow.

Ybarra: Last time I went was '67 on a train, but I can still remember it because they, you know, they had the beds and everything, the way they'd fold down, and then the toilet was right there, it was open. And I can remember I went with my mom and my sister, and then my brother [phone rings] Louie, he stayed behind [phone rings]. My brother Louie, he stayed behind and stayed with my dad. And I can remember pull, I, I'd always constantly look out the window and then we were pulled into a station, there was, I can remember seeing a bunch of poor people just out there and on the side of the train station, you know? And I pulled up the shades while my mom was undressing. [laughs]

Treutler: How were the train rides, like?

Ybarra: I, I, they always seemed classy to me. I can, I can only have memories of them being real classy. You know, the dining areas and all that.

Treutler: Lots of fun?

Ybarra: Yeah, for me cause I, I'd run all over the place, you know?

Treutler: And then.

Ybarra: Do you remember the, the, we were in San Antonio, Texas or something like that, or on our way back. And we were in San Antonio on our way back from Mexico, and this time me an Louie and one of my cousins were on the train, were all coming back at the same, my dad's brother's kids. And, we, you wouldn't believe who we ran into. Do you remember the "My Three Sons" TV show?

Treutler: Yeah.

Ybarra: Do you remember Ernie and Chip?

Treutler: Well, I never saw

Ybarra: On that show? They were, they were on the train, playing. [laughs] They were, I forget their names, though...It was weird. I can remember that because I can remember seeing them, you know? That, that was pretty exciting.

Treutler: So, when did you guys stop taking the train?

Ybarra: Probably in the, during the '70s, when we started taking the Greyhound bus, which was still three days.

Treutler: Yeah?

Ybarra: I don't think we, any of us flew until the late '70s or early '80s. Yeah, yeah, I flew in 19, in 19, in 1980, 1980 was the first time I flew.

Treutler: Down to Mexico was the first time?

Ybarra: What?

Treutler: Was it down to Mexico?

Ybarra: Yeah, and it seemed so funny cause I left, we left here in the morning and had lunch over there. [laughs] Where before, we had a big journey.

Treutler: Now, who's this, is this

Ybarra: Oh yeah, that's my mom

Treutler: I think she's sneezing

Ybarra: Sneezing or something

Treutler: Coughing?

Ybarra: Picking her nose? [laughs] That's Stephanie there, that's one of the pictures of me and Stephanie. I don't recognize anybody here.

Treutler: [laughs]

Ybarra: He's wearing Aztec clothes.

Treutler: Oh, is this in Mexico?

Ybarra: Yeah, I think so, yeah. Oh, must have been one of Louie's trips there.

Treutler: This says it was in '85, on the back, I think.

Ybarra: Yeah, there's my cousin's daughters, Bianca and Selena.

Treutler: Ok, do you have any, any other stories that you want to talk about?

Ybarra: Did I tell you about Jose Picharra? His name was Jose de la Luz Picharra.

Treutler: Ok.

Ybarra: And supposedly, you know, him and my dad played music when they, when they were younger – and I had pictures of that, I don't know where they're at. But, Pichara was a supposed real, well, bad ass. [laughs] When he was younger, you know, what they say, they say that, maybe I shouldn't say

Treutler: Oh, he, he's dead, right?

Ybarra: Yeah, yeah, he's dead. I don't know if he's got a family around here that might – I don't think he does, but supposedly he slit somebody's throat. [laughs] I don't know if that's for sure, but they say he'd walk down the alleys so no one would see him. [laughs]

Treutler: This was in Mexico?

Ybarra: No, this was here.

Treutler: Oh! [laughs] What kind of music did your dad play?

Ybarra: My dad played violin, and my dad could play anything, really. He could play guitar, a lot of wind instruments, piano, yeah he'd play, he played every, just about everything.

Treutler: Did you guys have a, I know you have a piano in this house now, did you have a piano when you were growing up?

Ybarra: Yeah, my sister was a really good piano player, too.

Treutler: Would your dad play piano a lot?

Ybarra: Yeah. He'd, I can still his little songs that he'd play all the time, I can still hear them.

Treutler: Now, did you, you talked about watching "My Three Sons," did you have a TV when you were growing up, the whole time?

Ybarra: Yeah.

Treutler: And then for entertainment, you'd just listen to your dad play the piano? And watch TV?

Ybarra: And watch TV, but, you know, he'd, he'd be playing piano a lot, you know? And the tunes he'd play all the time.

Treutler: Do you have any other memories of your dad?

Ybarra: My dad always liked to, when he retired, he retired in '68 or '69, but he'd get, he bought the property next door to our house at 1607, and then it was a two story house, and he wanted to tear off the top story, just make it a one story, so he'd keep me and my brother pretty busy on weekends in the morning, "Come on! Let's go!" [laughs] Yeah, he'd start, he'd keep us working.

Treutler: Now would you say that your dad was one of the "gangster card players?"

Ybarra: No. I'd say, I don't know. Maybe I shouldn't say.

Treutler: Well, if you don't want to.

Ybarra: Yeah, maybe I shouldn't say.

Treutler: Ok.

Ybarra: Not my father, anyway, you know?

Treutler: Are there any other stories or anything else that you want to talk about? Anything that happened in your life or any aspect that we didn't cover, or that we didn't cover well enough?

Ybarra: I can't think of anything.

Treutler: Any stories that your father told you that, that you were part of that you didn't talk about?

Ybarra: I'm going, I'm going blank on all these.

Treutler: Well, that's ok. Alright, well I appreciate this time very much. Thank you very much.

Ybarra: Ok.