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Carido, Camila Interview

Carole Hensley

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Stockton Immigrant Women Oral History Collection

by Sally Miller

Interviewer: Carole Hensley

Interviewee: Camila Carido (Filipina)

Transcriber: Sally Miller, Ignacio Sanchez-Alonso, Amy Eastburg, and James Lyons

Date: August 1980

[TAPE 1, Side A]

[Begin Tape.]

Hensley: Different women in the Stockton area have changed and how their attitudes have changed along with Stockton since you've been here?

Carido: That is one of your assignments, huh?

Hensley: Not really. It's more of a job right now; I'm working with someone doing it.

Carido: My daughter just finished with []

Hensley: OK, um where were you born?

Carido: In the Philippines

Hensley: Where in the Philippines?

Carido: In []

Hensley: []

Carido: Yea

Hensley: Are you spelling it for me?

Carido: Yea,

Hensley: Ok.

Carido: []

Hensley: And, when is your birthday?

Carido: Friday, I'm seventy years old.

Hensley: You'll be seventy years old this Friday, that'll be what the twenty-fifth?

Carido: Umm... what year?

Hensley: Umm 1910?

Carido: Yea

Hensley: (laughs) When did you come to the United States?

Carido: June, twenty-six 1929

Hensley: Nineteen what? Twenty-nine?

Carido: Yea, In San Francisco.

Hensley: You came directly to San Francisco?

Carido: Umm -

Hensley: Did you come directly to the United States or did you stop of at any other countries?

Carido: No.

Hensley: Directly here.

Carido: Well we stopped, our boat pick up something in Hong Kong in the [] base. It so happened that there was some kind of epidemic that we were not allowed to come down, just the people that are responsible to come down and pick up something, but the passengers were not allowed to get off. So I didn't go down.

Hensley: How many brothers and sisters did you have before you came here?

Carido: I just have one sister and two step – sisters.

Hensley: Who did you bring over here with you when you came over here?

Carido: I came with my uncle.

Hensley: With your uncle?

Carido: Mhm.

Hensley: Had he already been here?

Carido: Yea, yea.

Hensley: And why did you come with him?

Carido: Because my father wanted me to come here, my father was here since he was in Hawaii in nineteen...

Hensley: He was where?

Carido: In Hawaii, my father was there in I think in World War II, one World War I he was in Hawaii, the he came to the states you know, he came to United States. And then that's when he wanted us. I was supposed to come with my sister, but my sister was ready to get married, so I just came alone with my uncle.

Hensley: Where was your mother while your father was over here?

Carido: She was there.

Hensley: In the Philippines?

Carido: Yea, I stayed with my mother.

Hensley: They were just separated? Is that common?

Carido: Well you know some people wanna come here to find more opportunities, you know I mean America was advertized that it was the land of opportunity. Of course you wanna improve in your life. Then he stopped in Honolulu, Hawaii. Your work in the plantation for so many years and stuff like that, I think he was one of those people who came to the Hawaiian Island. You know? Imported by the government or something like that. They were being paid even my husband, I think he came to apply to work in the plantation to work for three years and after that you're free. That was your contract.

Hensley: You were contracted to work for three years? What was the pay like? Was it really good? Do you know?

Carido: I don't know. I paid my fair. That's my granddaughter [Cateline] she is []

Hensley: Did you ever go to school when you got over here?

Carido: Yea, a couple of years.

Hensley: Elementary school? High school?

Carido: Elementary school. I went to [] school.

Hensley: Where is that?

Carido: That's where I went for two years.

Hensley: Oh in Hollister. For two years you went there?

Carido: Yea, I have a teacher, they [] I don't understand them. They don't understand me.

Hensley: Really? Were there many other Filipino children there studying?

Carido: No, I was the only one and my brother and my sister.

Hensley: Your brother and your sister. You said that you just brought your sister over. Was your brother here with your father?

Carido: Yea, my father was in Honolulu, my mother and my father were separated and he married someone else in Honolulu or someplace. I have a sister here, my half - sister and half - brother, I came here in 1929, in the Philippines, I was told not to question what happened with my father you know, it happened when we were young.

Hensley: I'm gonna move this so we can hear you better.

Carido: We lived there in San Benito County, that's in Hollister.

Hensley: What about your parent's educational background? Did they go to school at all?

Carido: I don't think so. I don't know if my father went to school. My mother just knew how to read the sign and dialect you know? She could write, but not that much, and just a little bit in English – not too much. I don't think they did, I don't even know. Because I didn't go to school until 1920, over there - there's no kindergarten. The worse thing in there, I don't wanna go because I'm afraid of the vaccination for smallpox. They use like the size of a knife and three stick over there and they just stick you. And it scared me you know.

Hensley: That's how they vaccinated you for smallpox?

Carido: Yea, over there [] and it swelled up and it would just pop out. You know when you're a little kid your like oh the inspector, we call them inspector, we don't know the difference. The inspector is going to come tomorrow. He is going to give you a vaccination for chicken pox. My mother says go to school, well I don't go to the school house – we play hooky.

Hensley: Oh? Did you always play hooky?

- Carido: Yea because they said the inspector is coming to give us vaccination. They said it cut deep and we were ignorant, so we don't go.
- Hensley: What would you do? Where would you go?
- Carido: We went like off the highway in the trees and we sit down there and we watch and just there may be about three or four blocks away from the school ground we look and when the children go out for lunch we go home too, my mother didn't know the difference. She thought I went to school. My teacher was her cousin. The third day she call us, she went to the house we got no telephone there you know. Way back in 1920 you have to use your own feet slipper and wooden shoes, she went over there and asked my mother and she said no! She's been going to school! Anna said, "No she never went to school for three days".
- Hensley: What happened to you?
- Carido: My mother didn't say nothing. The teacher said, "No you have the wrong impression that's good for you, you won't get sick". Because way back there before even I was born, if you don't have the vaccination you have no chance to survive when you were attacked with cholera you know? You died right away that's one of the deadliest just like your heart problem.
- Hensley: Cancer?
- Carido: Yeah. My teacher said you better go tomorrow because the inspector is still living in the some of the homes you know. Like the mayor over here we call that the president of the town, now I learned that it's the mayor of the town and we call that the president of the town. So even there's people that's representing the government, you know from the United States. [] is still under the territory of the United States and so we will house them you know, the inspector would be there because they knew that up to fifty percent of the children were absent – we were ignorant.
- Hensley: It was because of the fear of the shot?
- Carido: Yeah. Because we were told some people said, "Don't go because it really hurt". Sometime they said maybe when your arm swells up maybe there gonna cut it off. O I got no more arm swell, you know.
- Hensley: Were there very many children who did get small pox or cholera?
- Carido: Not in my town, no. It's always an epidemic over there. I never did have an epidemic during my lifetime. My mother used to tell me we used to bury tens and twenties[] bring to the cemetery after the sanitary inspector sprayed them you

know after being contaminated with other people your water has to be boiled and your house has been sprayed with you know like umm some kind of against germ. You are what you call this quarantined. You can't go out to the well and get your water if you do you have to be given a shot or as soon as you arrive in the house you have to boil the water, So that you know all the bacteria. I just remember now here but I never know before over there, I mean I never learned that.

Hensley: Not until you got here

Carido: Yea. When I went to school, because I didn't have too much education. I don't know the Philippines is kind of. Well we were not in a big city it was just a small town and everybody knows everybody, everybody is your cousin like that. I was ignorant of that and well you start to learn. You know when you go to school you learn how to do this, learn how to [] sewing, I know how to make [] making. I used to make [] making you know, those little [] I used to make it with [] [] you know. Then you have a pillow and you have a pattern and you put in all the strip ends and you follow the pattern. Yea they called it [] sewing because we were trained to be a good housewife. That's what we figured.

Hensley: Trained to be a good housewife?

Carido: Mhm a good housewife was to learn how to sew, and make clothes. Plus we have cooking too, we call that domestic science. We cook two days a week.

Hensley: In the school?

Carido: Yea we have the, well that the domestic science building I don't know what kind of building that would be here. The group is being divided like if I was in the fourth grade maybe Thursday ill bring some vegetable and bring this and you bring that. And after we do the cooking. The domestic science teacher is going to teach you how to do this what kind of vegetable, what you get out of that vegetable. And I learned how to cook rice. Of course were not particular you know what we get that's what we eat. Were not like the children here " I don't like" whatever my mother put on the table we eat it, or you starve yourself. Your mother is the law of the house []

Hensley: Did your mother work outside of the home?

Carido: No we bring in laundry, and few times she teaches the native dialect to the children. Before you go to school she teaches you know like A,B,C and then like a,A, and b,B and c,C. She teaches those children maybe three or four because that's how I learned what is the A and what's D.

- Hensley: Not only her own children but other children she taught this?
- Carido: Yea other children in the neighborhood. [] She has to iron it with the old iron thing. You make the charcoal the coconut. You make like the I don't know what you call that. But its made from the coconut shell you make out from that, just like over here now, to me it's like your to use for your barbeque
- Hensley: Charcoal.
- Carido: Yea. And we use the old iron you open it and put it there iron your clothes, then when its gone you empty out the ashes and put another one. You sit down on the floor to iron
- Hensley: Lots of work
- Carido: Good heaven we out to the river to wash clothes
- Hensley: With rocks?
- Carido: No my mother has like a [round paddle] and she beat the clothes like that, the colored one then the white one we spread it like over like in a big space by the river then you mix some liquid soap then when they start to dry you don't let it dry too long because they fly away then they will be on the river, When its high tide you have a hard time catching up with the clothes you know. So you get the, like your sprinkling we call that rigador I don't know that's Spanish but it's like a can and then the [] is sticking out and the when you sprinkle it it's like a shower you sprinkle the clothes, they become white.
- Hensley: Like a bleach.
- Carido: Yea it bleaches in the sun, we use the sun to bleach it.
- Hensley: How did you feel when you were leaving the old country, when you were leaving the Philippines? Did you want to come here or would you rather stay there?
- Carido: I didn't have no idea I was coming here. Until 1929 when my father said come over here to [] I used to ask my sister, my oldest sister my real sister that was there with me in the Philippines she snow in [] I used to ask her, "gosh you think were gonna drown in the sea and a big shark is gonna eat us?" because it takes me 26 days, day and night. I came in with the USS President Ulysses Grant. That's the boat that I came in.
- Hensley: USS Grant

- Carido: And I used to say no I don't want to go over there. then my sister would say "No because you know if you arrive over there, there's lots of people who are gonna take you away" you know like kidnap you.
- Hensley: In the United States?
- Carido: Yea she said there's lots of cowboy over there they pick you up and take you to the mountains and you die over there or something. I told my father I'm not going. But then after a while you go to school and you learn, you know we have teachers there like the superintendent of the school. I think his name was Mr. Waters. When I look at him I'm scared he was a real American you know, long nose, I never seen long nose. You know over there. And like that we learn. Then our fear of coming to another country vanished little by little you know, but I just imagine myself riding in that boat supposing something is gonna make a hole in the boat and everybody is gonna die and the ocean is filled with shark and all that.
- Hensley: How about when you first came here in May in June! When you first got on the boat how did you feel? Did your family take you down to the boat to see you off?
- Hensley: No my father was working with [] a company in Hollister. So he asked his good friend to pick me up, meet me in the wharf. I think pier 42 and he pick me up and we stay in their place. They used to have a place over here in San Francisco.
- Hensley: Was your father staying there with them also?
- Carido: No. My father he has a place in Hollister.
- Hensley: So it was just you and your sister that was staying?
- Carido: No I came alone, with my uncle.
- Hensley: Oh, it was just you and your uncle.
- Carido: My sister didn't come until 79. No not 79 it was 72 huh. They didn't wanna come because I said it was ready to get married and they said no I'm not going with you. This time I was brave because there was lots of... there were people two men from the United States that came home and they said America is like this there's lots of money.
- Hensley: What did they say about it?
- Carido: They said this country is like... imaginary in mind they said this place where I send the picture you know. When my father send us Christmas cards with the snow and like that, I could imagine it and I said my god is like that. It's like a legend or something a story that this you know. Like a children story you know it's like it

never exist. So I said I wanna go and see. And he said there's and automobile over there in America and there's electric light and there's phonograph. With the old phonograph before we have to wine it. And you know that big thing here what you call that?

Hensley: That horn

Carido: Yea well it connects to that phonograph you know the phonograph stands this high and this wide and you put the rig on and you crank it. Then you put the speaker out on the window the whole neighborhood would just listen. We can't really get over it how come the voice is singing there, there was nobody there it was in the record. Then he said there's the movie over there and the people is running there and scream like that you know [well because you know we have some name for it] and I said I'd like to go. I was scared; I was only nineteen years old then.

Hensley: What did your mother say about you leaving the Philippines?

Carido: Well she said it's your chance to learn.

Hensley: Oh she wanted you to go?

Hensley: Yea because that was my father. You know he told me to come here with my sister and then [] study here. Because it would be easier instead of him sending us money once in a while you know, and clothes. He only send us clothes, every time our dresses arrive over there it would be on display for a long time everybody would look at it and touch it and the shoes and the stockings, you would wonder those kinds of things you know. And I would say how did they make that. Like people you know older than me they never have those kinds of things, they have no stocking, as I said we just wore a slipper, like this and this is much better, like this over here. [] because she can walk far over there like sometime we go drop and egg in the sun and it will cook.

Hensley: It's that hot?

Carido: [] is very humid. Back then when I was over there I never mind the heat. Like when we feel hot we run down to the ocean and the beach and go swimming at about this time until nine o clock. There was no trouble you know.

Hensley: Where did you and your uncle settle in Stockton, I mean in San Francisco? How long were you two in San Francisco?

Carido: About three days then my father pick me up, and I went to Hollister that's where I went to school. I went to school in [] school. See I arrived in June then by September when I went to school right away.

Hensley: Did your father have his own house there in Hollister?

Carido: Yea we have a little house. Two bedroom house and then little kitchen and dining room. It was furnished by the owner, Walter [] he had a [seed] house. The [] says all your flowers and vegetables. My father was working there and he work in the.....

Hensley: What was it some kind of farm? Or what was it?

Carido: Yea this Walter [] seed house he has, seed all over Hollister and up here by Madera and Fresno. He pick up all the seed and its processed in the machine in Hollister he has [] garlic and onion. You know from that onion that is not processed out of that the seed come out and it goes in the [] and out of that Mr. [] sell it to the you know like your farmers. Because they process flowers different kind of flowers you see all the flowers. Like yellow and pink you know that were the [seed]. They call that the trial garden. If one color is mixed whit the other one you pick it up and make a number that this one was mixed with the other one. And after that when they become a seed then they process it in the seed house, where my father worked. He was paid only twenty-five cents an hour.

Hensley: How many hours a day did he work?

Carido: Eight hours. Then when I came in 1929 he has a 1927 [] high, you know it is the high body. And it's a four door square door you know that square door. And then I learned how to drive it. I ruined the break I ruined the battery and the tire. I ram it into the fence of the school. The fence was ready to be replaced because it sagging already. And I ran into the city spray there and I ram two little trees. Because I learned in two weeks I gotta take that car to the school with my sister and drive it because we were in the place where the bus don't pass by. We were out of the way you know.

Hensley: So you had to drive to school.

Carido: Yea to drive to school about three mile away, to [] and were on San Felipe road. So after a while my father said o you better get some people there in Hollister. We were get a new car, brand new car [civic]. Oh it was pretty good, you know how much it cost? Seven hundred dollars, oh so pretty. And the I learned how to drive then. I used to run fast too, because you well you know when you're young I think. If I had the car like in school days I take my father and uncle he was living with us then he worked with my father. I used to take them to work. I have to get up early in the morning take them to work come back get my brother and sister ready make our lunch and go to school. We would come home at three o clock I cook

then about four thirty I gotta pick them up over there. Then sometime I go straight to the grocery and go shopping.

Hensley: So you were managing the whole household there for your father.

Carido: Of course yea. With my sister, you know you know...

Hensley: How old was you're sister?

Carido: [Betty] was born in 1926, she was barely four years old and my brother was born in 1923 he was six years old. He's an [engineer] now. He is one of the [engineer] in Douglas. You know over the, he is one of those people that make the [], my brother.

Hensley: In your neighborhood when you were living there in Hollister, were there many other Philippines?

Carido: Nope I have a neighbor Italia.

Hensley: Italian? No other Philippines no other immigrants at all?

Carido: No, no, no, no. because those people that were living there were working for the [] company for a long time. So as my father. So I don't know there were Filipino like every Friday night we go to sometimes Gilroy and go to the movies. My father go [] and then maybe Saturday because they don't work they work only five days a week and then they go to Salinas we to Seventeen drive and get some bologna over there go swimming there, we go Seventeen drive , we go Spanish day. And then maybe the following day I mean the next weekend we go to Watsonville we go to Castro Valley, all that you know my father, you know showed me the place then if his not so tired my uncle said lets go to Monterrey. Right there in Monterrey not in Seventeen drive. Just go over there, we ate in the wharf for about maybe [seventy cents] a plate. [] Then maybe the following week we go to San Francisco and go to [] and go Golden Gate you know we went all over. Then the following week we go to Stockton because she has some good friends you know. We never stayed home on the weekends we always go, but I have to see that like on Friday I have to plan that today I wash clothes. Sometimes it's busy like in the summer time it's busy in the [] house they have to work half a day, that's the time I iron the clothes because there was no polyester in that time. So I have to start my [] coat my dress iron it, of course it was electric no problem. But washing it I have to use the wash board I don't have a washing machine during that time in 1929 or 30. We used the scrub board you know the wash board then we get the big wash tub and that's where you put your water. We just put the whole thing in there. And we don't have the regular bath tub we use the Japanese

style. The bath tub was separated from the house its not to far we have a walk way to go to it. My father has to show me that this is what you do and then you clean the wooden tub and take off the topper there and you know clean it with brush and then when it's all clean let the water go and put the topper there and put about half way of water and put the [wood] underneath over there.

Hensley: Did you enjoy that? Where there ever times when you really wanted to be home but you were doing something here in the United States and you would have said god in the Philippines it would have like this I would like to be back there?

Carido: Well I don't know because as I said you know, this was something new to me. We never have those things in the Philippines you know like umm. Like we never used tub in the Philippines because you go out to the river to bathe yourself. You could take a bath three times a day. We use to watch to high tide, and we jump! You know we used to dive and swim you could see my face all red and my eyes swell up from swimming we used to stay there all day long. My mother used to get mad, we would forget to go home, well when you were kids about six seven years old you forget. We were suppose to pound the rice and cook the rice and gather some wood for fuel to cook. We have to help our mother and we have to gather rice you know, cut the rice. [] rice.

Hensley: When your family first got here did they encounter any problems like discrimination?

Carido: Well sure 1930.

Hensley: Can you tell me about any incidents what so ever?

Carido: In 1930 I think it must be it was like winter time. I think it must be February because I was wearing coat. Because we went to Watsonville. We went through San Juan you know, it's between San Juan and Hollister right there. We pass by, there was no incident yet so we went to Watsonville. Because you pass through San Juan Batista and go to Salinas. Or if we decided when we arrived there my uncle said no the movies is not good, the [showing] is not good. So we said ok and [we ride down] to Watsonville. So we decided before we reached Salinas turn around here because we are going to Watsonville instead. it wasn't [] that was [welcomed] in San Juan that was bombed. You know they threw a bomb in the kitchen of the Filipino there was Filipino boys that was workings you know for farmers over there and their houses in the high way. You know when we pass by we have to detour because the whole house was blown up and in the woods was in the high way.

Hensley: Who blew up their house?

Carido: Nobody knows. I think the people were mad because they say that the Filipinos were taking the work of the American people, the Caucasian people were mad. But you can't point a finger and them. And my father didn't want to get involved because he had a good job. He worked for [] for a long time. See he worked there for twenty years. So he has a steady job, even though he was paid cheap but you have something to depend upon like every fifteen days you payday. And you don't have to pay about water, water and the electric. And the [water] was for you know the bath house but we don't have no electric stove or wood stove. They give us kerosene stove he has three burners you know it's a round thing like this and it stands like that and its maybe wider than this and on top it's the burner you know and over here at the end of the stove you have a gallon of kerosene oil and then you could tell because it is tilt over you know and it has a little what you call this, like oh maybe smaller than this a pipe that goes into the burner you know it goes over here. And so you turn this on and then it [starts] over here too that's where I cook.

Hensley: Did you and your brother and sister ever encounter any problems face to face?

Carido: No we don't.

Hensley: Never?

Carido: Because see we were not with the Filipino group. So my father, there was a big house and maybe there five Filipino boys and it was about a mile and a half from us. It near the [seed] house. [] I think the trouble was between the people that works in the field like picking [] and picking pears and picking tomatoes, but my father and those boys some of the Filipino was working in the [seed] house. They never go out the field in other words they work for a private firm you know a the private company because you [] is a private company. Is similar I don't know maybe if you learn that the if you about the [] seed house in San Juan Batista the people were not y touchy either. Because see you have to inside there and you know that's trespassing you could be shot by the guard there. I know that in [] they were posting guards in the gate because see the whole [compounds] is inside and even the people were working they were for [cabin] you now and if you have a big family they give you a bigger house but the single one has your own cabin. But you gotta go out of the highway you know maybe a half of mile from the highway to the compounds so they were protected. And here in Stockton they have problem. People got shot they didn't even sleep in the house they have to go out in the fields under the [grape vine] to be protected because they were bombed.

Hensley: Did you know any of these people?

- Carido: No not that we know you now they were just the stories that I hear later on.
- Hensley: What kind of stories did you hear what did they tell you?
- Carido: That they were discriminating the Filipinos. But of course your government must protect them too because the Filipinos never have trouble. We didn't make trouble. We just wanna work after work go home and that's it. They didn't have no problem to the government here. We have a building over that uh. Did you see that little building here in San Joaquin? The Filipino federation?
- Hensley: The Filipino Federation, yea.
- Carido: It was an old house over there that was bombed too, they threw a bomb in it. But lucky thing that nobody was you know nobody was hurt or nobody was injured because well maybe before the bomb was not as effective as now you know. You use this bomb now and good bye you and you know all this side now where all the parking lot. This has been remolded all the families were living there I know some of the families, but during the time they were bombing over here I was still in Hollister I didn't come here until 1932 and we get married. So, the problem was easing up a little bit.
- Hensley: Did you and your father and brother and sister have anyone else living in your home besides just your immediate family?
- Carido: No just me and my uncle.
- Hensley: And your uncle was there?
- Carido: Yea we lived there with us.
- Hensley: When did you start working outside of the home was it as soon as you got here into the United States?
- Carido: No. I didn't work I just stayed home in the house. And take care of my, but in summer time like vacation time we used to pick prunes for mister [] that owned the place. He has a orchard too you know like prunes so we worked from part of July until September. First part of September we gotta quit we gotta buy our [clothes] to go to school. What we make is ten cents a bucket for the prunes you know. I don't know if you are familiar with the camp? The prune grows in the trees and when it's ready to uh, you know when it's ready to be picked they drop on the ground so you pick it up put it in the bucket and put it in the, you know in the box. A lot of boxes fifty pounds or more or less fifty forty five pound and then you pile that up in there you put your number you have a record of how much you're paid and sometime we make a dollar and a half a day, that's lots of money! And then

we get paid and I use to tell Philip and Betty, my sister and brother and I said, Oh we will buy this we buy shoes.

Hensley: Did you keep all of your money or did it have to go to the family?

Carido: No.

Hensley: You kept it all?

Carido: Yea what I worked during summer time my father give me. Of course during the school time, when its school time he give us the you know buy clothes and like that. But I didn't have to go out and support myself. My father said you know we got to school.

Hensley: What, if any, customs and practices from the Philippines did you observe at home even when you got here to the United States?

Carido: Oh like uh you know always have a party. And then you have a party, lots of food and you have roasted pig and you know like we always have a town fiesta and always have a dancing you know our cultural dancing, that I was never surprised.

Hensley: Did you have the same kind of food over here as you did back there?

Carido: Not too much no.

Hensley: Not too much?

Carido: We can't afford to have chicken and pork and beef over here. We have fish over there in [] and vegetable in the Philippine [farm].

Hensley: Yea that's good.

Carido: And uh sweet potato and corn we have all the vegetable you want all the fruit you want in the Philippines. But your fruits in the Philippines and your fruits over here are not the same they are different. Because it is according to the climate so your banana here won't grow but over there in the Philippine [island] [] bunch of banana in the street you just pick it up that was in my time but no more now. It's all commercial now. Like if you want vegetable you go out maybe to the farm you know where the people are farming you go there just ask for string beans and sweet potato and all your different kind of like your [] spinach you know you just go over there and ask. Then when we go fishing in a net I use to go but I don't do work I just hang on to the thing when you go over the other side of the river I hung on with life because you know the man has to swim you know. Oh and you see all the shrimp!

- Hensley: What groups did you belong to while you were growing up? In the Philippines?
- Carido: What? What?
- Hensley: Did you belong to any groups when you were in the Philippines at all?
- Carido: No. School that's all we have [] school but that's it.
- Hensley: How about once you got here where your friends all of the same background? Did you make a lot of friends?
- Carido: Oh yeah. The people here are friendly especially when you come from the Philippines you give something. Like the first day I come here everybody came to this lady's house and they gave me dress they gave me money to buy shoes and then I didn't sleep inside the bed I didn't know where the bed was. I sleep on top of it I almost [] the date because that was June. Because I slept on top of the bed spread I just covered myself on the bed spread. That's how ignorant I was.
- Hensley: There were no beds in the Philippines when you were growing up?
- Carido: We have bed we call that the [] it's not a [carpet] it's a big bed it's made with uh [] it's a weed you know. And then you have boards running that way and that way and they a whole it cuts the []. The mat is too hot so it has to be you know we have blankets. Like the [] I know that and we could make blanket out of some plant we that [bulipuran]. You shred up and you know. I know how to use the [] and my great grandmother has the she knows how to make the mat and clothes you know and like your pine apple material its very delicate you gotta do it that then it has a spindle to go in the you know like your thing to put in your.. For sewing you know.
- Hensley: The spool
- Carido: Oh yeah you put it like that but you press one thing and this is all the strand of fiber you know and its connected to the other side its big maybe thirty six inches because that's how [high] you could go like that you know and so it's there and its rolled in a big log you know they roll it. So you put a spindle you know it's a big one and you put it through there and this one goes up like that. Ok when it arrives over there you hold that before it falls to the floor because you know the thread will be unraveled. [] this one that is on top go up and so you press the thing there to make it tight when you are weaving and then if you want to make a color then you stop it and [do it] with another color. I learned that in the Philippine Island. I used to tell my grandma let me do it now with my sister. You know like the old, they call that the spindle. Even before here you have the weaving too, I used to say even in

your history you use the spindle. Before you have your you know industry to make clothing and like that of course you have to do the best you could I think include clothing we were pretty good I think we did it pretty good.

Hensley: When you started to go to school here what kind of problems did you have with English and how did you overcome it?

Carido: Good heaven I got lots of friends. I have a Spanish friend, the Italian neighbor I have [Gladys and Bobby] you know they were younger than me. I have five in the car I drive there, Bobby, Gladys, my brother Philip and Billy so we go there. Well when I communicate with [Gladys]...

[End of Tape 1, Side A]

[Tape 1, Side B]

[Begin Tape.]

Carido: [Tape side 2 begins] the big school two classes so I was with the seventh and eighth I think. I don't understand here for the 8th grade is [lesson this and lesson that] I try to touch up with everything you know after a while Mrs. Thompson said [she needs to speak with my father] my real name was Camila. So she said I think [Mr. Leroy] you better tell Camila to come once in a while early so I could more like tutor me first you know so I could explain. Then we go around you know I have a good friend [Gladys] that's Italian then I have Manuela is Spanish we were you know I even have the picture we took the picture and they said come on Camila what is this and what's that. Because I dressed like you know I wear shorts and the stocking was all the color stocking you know and up here and the long torso that's 1929 you know. I said come on over I don't understand so what I do, after a while I said o yea I takes me a little time takes me about three months to understand it after a while, but they were kind they were kind you know..

Hensley: So your teachers were good?

Carido: O yeah Mrs. Thompson they were really good you know.

Hensley: Did your brother and sister have the same problem?

Carido: No! Because they were born here, Phillip was born here in Stockton in 1926 and Billy I mean 1923 and Billy was born in 1926. They understand the dialect already him even them between me and them we have a little you know hardship you

know but of course we speak a little English but we still have the accent you know well I can't help it. Because we took English already you know when I attended school there up to the sixth grade.

Hensley: In the Philippines?

Carido: Yeah. Is English already.

HENSELY: So you were learning English? You knew some English?

Carido: Oh yeah I know how to write English I know how to speak English [spelling] of course you know only the history is different here than over there. As far as book is concerned you let me read book I understand. But when my teacher explained in English you know personally I just look over there. and I tell Misses Thompson, and I say what you say? You know I write you know, I don't know what to do? And she said ok this and that so after a while I catch on. Then later on the following year I have another Filipino he was a school boy for the you know the big that own the [seed] house [Warner] from Sacramento he was my classmate too we understand, but you know he was with the boys I go with the girls. But I didn't have hard time they were very kind to me Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Mexican. Not very many Mexican because they were migratory workers. But those like the Italian and the Spanish and the Portuguese they were farmers in Hollister, see Hollister is a flat land there's lots of farmers over there. The [] that's Gladys, Mr. [] was working for [Walter Warner]. He was the driver of the truck that delivers to where ever seed is wanted. Go to Santa Rosa down to [] here, down to here maybe Manteca where ever the farmer ordered seed and he travels you know. So after while I've go no problem.

Hensley: How long did it take you to learn English completely to be able to speak well?

Carido: I can't remember because [] even said how come I couldn't speak English? Because we took English over there, after the United States took over the Philippines they start teaching English. We took English there, we were very strict in the Philippines Carol. You can't speak the dialect in the school yard if you are heard speaking the dialect even for one word you are suspended for one week and take out all your privileges take out five percent of your grade so you have to careful that you don't say. Because they want... I think the teacher wants you to speak English so you know how to do it because when like the superintendent of the school and we have a representative from the United States you know to see if everything is going ok you know so you would have to understand them and they have to understand us. So that's why we were always warned not to speak the dialect outside even inside the school yard outside the school yard you could

speaking. But sometime you forget you know. How many time I got caught. Well I got to be grounded. You gotta go school and clean the school garden. See in the Philippine its different Carol. You have home garden you have to report what you growing and you have to have school garden all the school children have to take turn like if you are assigned four of us is assigned to clean Monday you clean it be sure it's all clean, the [] are clean and its water. And you gotta get the water from the well or the [] you know you have to carry a bucket and pour over on top of that we have to do we call that industrial as I said clean [] see. And we have to clean our room we never have janitors over there.

Hensley: Oh. All the kids got together and did it?

Carido: Yeah. You take turns every moth so many people have to clean the floor we have to wax it with the candle and coconut husk. Oh it shine good. That is being graded on your homework and your I don't know what they call it when your industrial they call that see. Yeah we have to clean the desk Carole. We have all this like that now. There's two in one desk and then we have like the drawer over here you put your books over there. And then you have to clean the chalk here and the, well you have a schedule to follow you look at the bulletin board

Hensley: A list of chores

Carido: Yeah a list, oh this and so forth and so on this. An you are with the group you do it, or else you don't wanna be suspended if you are grounded you can't go to school your suspended you lose so much school already and you behind school you know.

Hensley: What was your father's attitude towards school?

Carido: He likes it because he never sees us grow because he was here in Hawaii and in [] to the United States. In other words we were raised by my mother you know, but we have contact with him we always as I said he always send letter and Christmas time he send us clothes and shoes. Whatever we ask if he can afford he will send us you know some money sometime.

Hensley: Did your father ever try to help you with your English problem at school?

Carido: [No my father could teach me English too]I don't think he has enough education. But in school you know if I have homework I just walk over, we don't have the telephone here in Hollister 1929, just like this is my house and maybe my daughters place is like Gladys [] you know I run down there and I say oh Gladys what is this and what is that and they said oh this is the way Camila like this and like that. So I mean you know but the spelling I have no problem. In English I don't understand it was kind of [hard up] my favorite subject was arithmetic. My

multiplication table for ever I can memorize it. I was good in spelling I always have a you know before they gave us a gold star. Like first report on how many star I have there and your geography I like that because you now I don't know. But you sometime my arithmetic

Hensley: Oh, I know. Did you belong to any groups or activities at the school over here?

Carido: No. Because it was like a country school but in the Philippines we have society you know.

Hensley: What's your religion?

Carido: Catholic.

Hensley: In the Philippines?

Carido: Yeah we were raised as Catholic.

Hensley: How far did you go in school? Did you graduate from high school here?

Carido: No almost graduate. Up to the eight I got. Almost graduating I quit I was [missing] nineteen, twenty, twenty-one I was []. But I know already how to speak English, I mean I cut some corner really you know. Aside from going to San Francisco, Salinas, [], and Stockton I have friends who you know they taught me like that and I cut some corner. You know which is [] and I have no problem .

Hensley: Did school here and the teachers and the friends you made did it help you about life in general in the United States?

Carido: Yeah. Very much Carole, I learn a lot [to be here]. I learn about life here than over there in the Philippine you know.

Hensley: Oh, really?

Carido: Yeah because over there we were... I don't know to me my own opinion we go to school to learn how to cook how to sew how to take care of the house you are prepared because they say that the female people has to be prepared. Because my mother used to tell me them they were not even given a higher education as far as, the only thing that they were told is if the know how to read the dialect then they were good enough to take care of [married].you know because they didn't believe that girls should have a higher education because they said after you get married that's it. Because it's not like here that your gonna have a babysitter. When you are married that's it, it's you responsibility to take care of your children the house and your husband. No going like no I'm gonna work and have a babysitter.

Hensley: What do you think of that?

Carido: Huh?

Hensley: What do you think of that? Of being raised just to have a family and children and to be able to go out and work?

Carido: Well if you know you're not hard off it's a good thing because your children [] in a way you know and it's the mothers love I believe in that sometime I even... because as far as myself I don't have no babysitter with my children. Because like when they were small after we were married I go to the camp and cook because my children are with me. During work time how many [] ladies come over here and beg to for me to work a couple of hours and I say I can't my children, because Gloria was born in 1941 December, and then Carmen was born 1936 August and then [] oh excuse me Carole.

Hensley: Sure.

Carido: And then Carmen is born in 1936 has six children. And then [Pat] gonna be [40] in September is not married.

Hensley: [That's so young.]

Carido: [She's] the assistant bank manager over there in the square uh... [] square Bank of America by Benjamin Holt.

Hensley: Yeah I know where that is.

Carido: And then my youngest girl Gloria is a senior high school teacher here at Edison. And then my youngest boy he just came back here about a year ago he's the coach of the football team in Saint Mary's High School. [] boys. And then I lose one girl in 1943 my fourth girl she from Carmen, Pat, and Gloria and then [Lourdes] she died about five months old in 1943. She has that baby sickness and then you know.

Hensley: What kind of baby sickness?

Carido: [] I think and we can't have a room because the solider were coming back from overseas and all the [corridor] of the hospital was packed with people you know people coming and coming. We always believe Carole when someone is taken from you it's the will of god. There's always a reason you know. My mother was a very devout catholic.

Hensley: Are you a devout catholic?

Carido: Well I'm a good catholic I don't know if you call me a devout catholic but I help out like say tomorrow we have a rosary I always go them. And then like last Sunday I go to a prayer here in Lathrop for one year anniversary you know. I did the rosary I did the [novena]. When people call me as far as I'm ok to do it, I do it because my mother used to tell me that it's not only going to church and you know go to the cemetery when someone is being buried but prayer is always good for the soul Carole. Prayer is always good you pray to god like your problem you know you pray to god we don't know if we are being herd or our prayer is really genuine to me I pray that help us in good health because my husband has been operated with open heart surgery last August the twenty-six in 1977 he got three bypass, doctor [] we thought he was just gonna go like that. He's been with hypertension for seventeen years. But he's alright now he's seventy-five years old.

Hensley: Yeah he looks good.

Carido: He's seventy-five years old. See that's what sometime you know. My mother used to sing in the choir in the church we used to go out about ten miles Carole walk because somebody died and we say the [novena] and we say the rosary you know over here I say my [novena] in English and in the dialect. Even one time we have a prayer over there in uh North Stockton Street and there was girl from uh... she was a teacher there in UOP you know and we sing and then after the chanting they said Mrs. Cardio that's the most beautiful prayer I ever herd. But I said it in [] but the English is like in Latin you know. [] I'm not bragging Carole that makes me feel good inside that at least I make somebody you know.

Hensley: Feel good inside.

Carido: Yeah just like just like [] they don't understand my dialect because I'm [] so tell them what you want me to in English or []. But when it's like this lady's [] we do the [] because just like people say when I said the [] it touches their heart if I do it the English I gotta be careful that I say the right word, well anyway sometime I can't pronounce good but god knows Carole, you know he should know what we are doing. And then over here now we have fiesta like in the Philippine you know we have fiesta of the Santo Nino the infant Jesus the [antipolo] lady of good [] and then we have the novena of the sacred heart of Jesus [] and to be strong from being tempted and against temptation and all that every sin that's something look my altar over there. That's why when my boy died Carole I was kind of shocked. It in a car accident instantaneous.

Hensley: When did this happen?

Carido: Last August the fifteen 1965 his wife and two another couple they were to be married in Reno. [Jack] and Karen were suppose to be married well they were going to for a long time but the broke off and on and then the last time that night the father said that you're not going out [she became twenty-one] so the following day they went to Reno to get married they don't get married because they got that car that got hit on []. So , I just oh I would feel bad. [] his more like a [canon] lawyer, I don't know whats a [canon] lawyer, father McCoy he used to come over and I say father McCoy how come they have to take my son and my daughter in law? They been only married for seven years. My son went to Korea for [twelve months]. He just have the [] they never died. And I said there lots of old people down there you know, I don't know you were not here yet they used to have that Washington Park where the you know the highway the overpass now. In front of Saint Mary's Washington and Lafayette in between there was park and the old man there they just lay down day and night. And I told father McCoy how come those people god don't take them? And you know I was kinda bitter. I was bitter to god, that how come they take my son and my daughter in law. So father McCoy said "I know how you feel Mrs. Carido, but if you are a good catholic you must resign to the will of god" there's always a reason for dying. So maybe god just like if you plant, you have a garden and then, you have a beautiful garden you want to pick the best flower and put it in your table to show people maybe your children was you know is good enough to be with god, so there all happy and you should be thankful that maybe one in a million that the wife and husband die together [they were together he said]. So you should be thankful that your son was not live, live you know living and then he won't be happy because his wife died and you don't want your daughter in law to be living and your son died because she might say if not for you my son would be alive you know because you would be blaming. This way god take them all and there happy together where ever they are. Right know I'm getting old, I think it's good. Once in a while I read the bible because every time I go to church you know father said "How many of have read your bible?" one! "How many of you read playboy?" and "How many of you have memorized all the [song] in the war of David and all that?" I have a [] once in a while I read it. But know that I'm old you know I just tell god forgive me because I like just to watch TV you know. In other word Carole I'm just enjoying my retirement. I tell my children we are poor but we are not [] in other word. We could eat if you want a steak you can have a steak, if you want this you could have it as long as you eat it that's our policy you know, that's what I feel. That's why I say when you were small and we were [] and work hard. I worked twenty-two years in the cannery.

Hensley: Here in Stockton?

- Carido: Yeah right here in [] on top of that I work I work in the [camp] 13 years. With my children. Yea in the camp I have forty-three boys cook for them.
- Hensley: What kind of a camp was this?
- Carido: Pick pears in July we pick pears for about, like now. And then we have a break of about two weeks and [pretty soon] picking tomatoes. I have to get up three o'clock in the morning. I have my children in []
- Hensley: You lived there?
- Carido: I bring my children that's what I said. We bought this house in 1938 but we just leave it here you know like once a week I come here to pick up the [] and water and [] you know we walk there was no problem. Now no more [I got no more [] everything is here. You know how it is now. But then I have them over there Leo and Carmen and [Pat] was the school over there, that's stop on top the [levee] we lived below you know the levee were the I learned [] what you call that [] river over there then you go up you walk up there with the bus and I see to it that [] rides the bus when the afternoon come so they help me in the night time after everybody eat. I tell him hurry up because we go to the [] were gonna line up two hours there's only one movies in [walnut grove] you know the good movies before. So we hurry up and I wash the dishes and put away the things somebody wipe it. Everything's clean you see and then in the morning we have to get up early Carole and toast the bread and then set the table. Plus I tell him you have to learn because to me my husband and me feel that you gotta teach your children the hard way because if you just let them do it without doing nothing money is not no value to them, you gotta work for your money I said I don't have that money to just give you I want this work for that money first I like my children [] everything Carole I said if I was raised boy whatever you ask maybe I could get this [] I give you. But don't forget I work in the camp raising the children too. Franklin was born 1947 see I started working there 1939 see we go there the children [] there. I have understanding with the teacher there and here that I have to move them all I can't leave them here. We stop brining the children in 1951 because Leo and Carmen were going to high school they start going to high school in Edison High. To me there education is more important you know so I didn't quit the camp because I made money Carole my husband was making only thirty-five cents an hour. How you gonna support your family of course everything was cheap but you have lunch money for Leo lunch money for Carmen lunch money for Gloria and [Pat]. First they use bicycle and after they went out to junior college before that's not Delta so Leo has to get the little car his gonna transfer his sister they ride together then somebody ride with him too maybe give fifty cent a week because the gas was only twenty-five cent. See it was cheap but it still you know so I we

have to help. Carole it is impossible for five kids to go to school and thank goodness they have all there degree Gloria and Franklin has there BA Pat is the only one who don't go high school he just went up to finish high school he don't have AA Carmen has the AA. Carmen has the AA and the two has the bachelor of art. You gotta help Carole I don't care if everything is cheap you can just one working plus us too, you know you have to feed. In other words we have to feed five, five of them plus us that's seven of course everything was cheap but still you have money. So I have to help in fifty-one I tell my sister, my sister [Betty] I said [Beth] I have leave Carmen and Leo here because they are in high school I don't want them to move from place to place because then they said to me that, you know maybe the.. Because they have to take the bus from where we live in [] up to going to maybe [Rio Vista] or someplace else for high school because the school that [] was only grammar school so I feel that, the less I could give them Carole is education I don't have enough money to [give them]. But education I tell them, education is the most important one because nobody could take it away from you that's all my gift to you. I used to tell my boy if you fool around too much lots of contractor in the camp that [] wants young people to work in the [] to be [] boy because he used to watch [] you know and his god father. And he said " Mama that's hard work " I said I know it's hard work that's why if you fool around and you don't enough education to work in the town or whatever you wanna you know out there. You are forced to work in the camp even graduate high school is not now, nothing now you gotta at least have the competition of your people over here is too big, too big [] Carole. I said there's lots of graduate now that has no work see you have to strive that's what I tell him. I used to tell him were poor but I don't care I sacrifice for you.

Hensley: How did you meet your husband Mrs. Carido?

Carido: When we use to go here to Stockton from Hollister, one time my father's good friend. We call that the... The owner of that place was my father's uh... Second son was my father's god son. And you know [] and your [compadre] or [comadre] is your sister in the eyes of god. You have responsibility. You become a sister like adopted sister brother in the church, we use to come over here and one time I think went there and this lady he said then my nickname is [Lila] you know and he said [Lila] you go serve those people over there so I went over there and Papa was there sitting in the [] that's what they told me I don't remember that was in 1929 and I said yes I wanna order steak and to him I you know when you're a waitress you call out the to the [cook] and I said "Hey somebody order steak" and I start to laugh and you know he thought I was insulting him and I said "That girl I'm gonna get that..." [laughs] [from that on] he said I got to stop but I didn't really remember him though. I mean you know you see lots of boys but to me marriage was not like

that because [Betty] and [Phillip] was only six years old and [Betty] was still young that's why my father said two things that he wants me to come here is to you know stay with him take care of his two you know my brother and sister [] because his second wife died and uhh... my uncle I mean you know as I said I do the laundry and everything because I was, I was raised in that I learned how to [] and how to cook as far as cooking.. yeah. To me over here when I arrived it wasn't bad because [] all joy you know and I said oh I don't have to get all that coconut husk and [] it when its ready to be [] you [] it to you know you set up the fire and then it would be turn into [] and I said oh I don't have to clean that and its hot Carole you know [but this are electric like that] and then of course washing is not so bad because you got tap water you got soap just use the washboard. To me it was very convenient to run the household.

Hensley: So... Did your father influence you to marry your husband?

Carido: He don't like to me to get married.

Hensley: He didn't want you to?

Carido: Because he don't know that, he said that I don't like that man because he is always wearing a [neck tie] his a lazy bum.

Hensley: He was always wearing a necktie?

Carido: Yea you know why because he was a [] over there in [] hotel. [] Hotel before was a very exclusive hotel. You know market street but now where all the people live. All that was exclusive you can hardly go there.

Hensley: And what was he doing?

Carido: He was a [porter]. Every time my father saw him you know he has his necktie and he said I don't like you to marry him because he's a lazy bum. 1932 I said I'm gonna get married.

Hensley: 1932 you got married... How long were you dating him?

Carido: Well off and on.

Hensley: From 1929?

Carido: Yeah well off and on. But he said the first time he saw me he said I'm not gonna give that girl up he didn't even know my name. And then as soon as we go home he ask this lady and he said Mrs.[] what was the name of that girl? She said oh that's my [compadres] daughter that's Lila oh when is she coming I don't know. I didn't I was not you know like eager to come back here because like my father said

oh next you better clean and wash between Saturday and now because maybe we go to Monterey because we have good friends over there and we go as I said we go [abalone] hunting you know. We 17 drive we go Spanish you know I was happy Carole in other words I was enjoying my life. And then after a while they said Mrs. [] in San Francisco we go over there because we go to [] spot and we go swimming over there over there you know and all that you know next time they said oh my good friend were going to Watsonville, we gonna go on a picnic so I was not thinking of getting married why should I was happy. I went to school...

Hensley: You were living in Hollister all the time that you were seeing your husband?

Carido: Yeah

Hensley: When you got married did you move to Stockton?

Carido: Oh yeah, soon as I get married I moved to Stockton. Yea we moved over here. We married in the first we would be married forty-eight years and a half. Yea in 1932 January thirty-first, we get married you know after that married six children eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren is one of the spoiled brats here.

Hensley: Are you spoiled? Yeah "laughs"

Carido: You know who [] be set for here my husband has to retire from McClellan he worked there for he worked in the government for eight-teen years he has...

Hensley: Your husband did?

Carido: As a civilian worker. He worked there.

Hensley: What kind of jobs did he do throughout your whole marriage? He was a porter and then what?

Carido: Farm. We work in the farm. We used to, when we would get married we use to get use to work in the [] processing asparagus. Carole I work in the packing [] celery packing celery I work sorting onion I work in the cherries I work in the potatoes. Any kind of work Carole as long as I could tackle it.

Hensley: Did you work before or after you had all your children?

Carido: After. I was raising my family Gloria was only... I stop working 1939 I have only three then. And then because in forty-three I give birth to Lourdes and then she died. Even when I have my children I bring my children to the camp as I said when I have Lourdes have here in, I leave her in you know like day care. I let stay with some people because they said too much for me to bring because Gloria was only about two years old and Leo and Carmen and Pat went to school. And so when

she died I didn't have Gloria until 41. I mean [Franklin] 47 the street was a little bit farther see I have my children every two years and something see. I have thirty-three, thirty-six, thirty-eight, and then forty-one, forty-three and forty-seven. See I have two boys. [Franklin] I used to bring into the camp.

Hensley: So you having kids didn't stop you from working?

Carido: I tell you Carole the time I... Nine o'clock I hit the bed goodbye I don't care if the [] come over you were so tired Carole. You gotta cook at the same time I gotta wash.

Hensley: Did you make your kids have chores around the house to help you?

Carido: Oh yeah! When they come from school Carmen has to see to it that the table is set, that all the utensils is ready over there. That all like your [] is ready there. And then after everybody eats then everybody has to help bring the dishes. Like you put the pot there and you put, even if the pot is there they put it in the ice box, we don't have no fridge at the time yet when I used to work at the camp so we put it in the ice box. You gotta empty out the... I have [] problem when we get married. I rented an apartment for eleven dollars a month. And my [stove] Carole was just three [burners], dollar and a half I bought over there in the second hand store here that belonged this [Joe] [Jewish] people. You know I have no [] there. I have just an ice box I think it was seventy-five cent, wooden ice box. And you buy the ice ten cent, so before you could [] I got you know like this. But I dint complain Carole because I said I was poor in the Philippine Island, this was to me it was good enough for me. I have a [rope] over my hair we don't get cold we don't hungry as far as food we are always I think were [] [] we eat plenty.

Hensley: Who made most of the decisions between you and your husband, did you or did he?

Carido: Well we have to agree with it []. When we were married in 1934 Carole, umm he has to work out there in Golden Island [celery] and there was no housing facility for them. We bought a tent for five dollars. And then during Christmas up to January while all the celery was slowing down because you know the people don't use celery no more because after the Holidays. When he came back over there somebody stolen, have stolen the tent for five dollar he bought it. He make ten cent an hour Carole you know how much he make a day? Seventy-five cent because you have to pay board and, board and room. That's how much I have to sacrifice but you know how much is my water bill? Fifty cent a month. How much my electric maybe a dollar, dollar quarter. But I paid my bill last month this month thirty dollars for gas and electric... I look at that air condition I don't have that

Carole. My uh, when we move into town, forty-five west Lafayette Street we stay there after we get married eleven dollars a month and I have the three burner gas stove of course you have the... you have two bedroom and a living room of course the bathroom like that it was electric already so it was ok you know. And you buy a [] for dollar and a half it last you about two days. The real [stick] the [] they hardly carry. The bread is two for twenty-five cents Carole I think fifty-cents, six uh, six like your dinner rolls you know that bakery over there except there expensive. My very first years Carole was [too] in [love] with that was two dollars. Real [leather] and my coat I bought it and there was no credit before. No body credit it has to be cash the children's t-shirt and undershirt is ten cent a piece. My [slip] my dress is dollar and a half where you get it know?

Hensley: Twenty dollars.

Carido: My grandsons the... Carmen's single boy just to buy shoes for uh, the tennis shoes cost him thirty-five dollars. [nah uh, grandma forty] this house Carole we live here for thirty-eight years now. 1938 no it will be forty-two we live here 1938 when I give birth to Pat and we were discriminated even when we were looking for a house.

Hensley: What happened?

Carido: We went there. There was a house for sale over there in Stanislaus street across the park there by Hazelton. So we use to have a, we befriended an English man Mr. uh, [uncle Brown] during the depression you when I give birth to Leo he use to take [papa] to the hospital to visit me. He has an old what you call this car! No open car 1932 I think you know

Hensley: Convertible.

Carido: Uh huh, you know and he used to take papa to the hospital to visit me and then after I come out he stay in some place over there in the hotel we come to the house and eat with us. I don't know all of a sudden he liked us and we liked him just like we trust him, because there was lots of hobos before you know, and they used to line up in Lafayette street from [] up to Lincoln street that how long the line because there was a big house here on Lafayette and Lincoln street that were [giving the food] for those bread line 1932 we just get married and so we [] uncle brown and we said [don't] line up Uncle Brown stay with us we eat you know he learned how to eat [] and like that. And so finally we have this and that and he still you know working the camp. Still live in the apartment that we live [from another apartment] finally 1938 I have Carmen. I have Leo, Carmen and I was ready to give [birth] you know give birth. So I said we have this place over there,

my husband went down it was September, September the sixth I think or the fifth. I was big already Carole it was so hot. And our ford was 1932 you know we have our car [right in that time]. It's a ford and there is no air conditioning Carole you know [that before] with the big uh what you call that [board] over here where you stand now when you open in there, the [board] in the [] you step on the [board] before you go inside the car. So I came down with my husband and then the lady said is this for sale and she said yes and then [I] said ok, well that was the neighbor. Well I call the owner that you wanna come tomorrow because it was dinner time and they said I'll tell the owner to come here tomorrow afternoon so you could [talk] over with the terms see how much we gonna pay down how much a month. Ok and then finally I came out I wanna [see] your house too, he was [] it was not fun she just, she just good enough I think the time it was in [1930]. So I came down and then the lady look at me kind of funny you know, so I didn't pay attention Carole I have, before we don't have that you know that [fashion] we have that [] with big pocket. I wear slippers []. Ok then the [lady] said don't let Uncle Brown, oh tomorrow we will come back over because the owner will meet us and uncle Brown said "oh don't worry [Lilly] because well come here and look at the wiring and you know the foundation, she knows more we don't care we don't know yet. Ok as soon as I come down he look at me and then [papa] said "Oh this is my wife" []. [] a type you know his picture is like a []. He said ok I'll see you tomorrow and then I said "I go to the car now I'm tired" really because the [] weren't, uh... September twelve and that was about the [payment] another couple days three days more. And so he said, and then before [papa] came to the car and then the lady said "oh I remember there was already some people that wanna buy this house. See because if I didn't come down I tell you he was gonna get that house because he thought my husband was Mexican. You know him he..."

Unknown Male: You wanna drink something?

Hensley: Sure, sure, thank you.

Carido: So he... he thought [I get it grandpa] she thought that he was Mexican but when I come down there I think my hair []. You know I didn't [fix] my hair, why you [fix] your hair for ready to give birth. So he said I'm sorry because I remember there was one, one party that was ahead of you to get this house. You know that uncle Brown poor thing he died now long time ago, you know what he said never mind...

Hensley: Thank you.

Carido: He said never mind Leo and he said this place is not good for you. I know that they were []. Well I said no but then this one we have [] there was two there was a doctor that was working in the county hospital you know but he was just late five

minutes we put fifty dollars in there and Ms. [] that was the same thing Robert [Wagner] and they said no. Because you told him you know what the incident that we have [incurred] we have the incident that occurred the week before you know he told Ms. [] the... [] and he said oh no Mr. [] you were first, first come first serve we don't care who the people. And then when we met the doctor [] said of this is doctor somebody [] because we come here and look at the place and it was a nice place. But it was not like this because of the [] and we just [improve] it a little bit here. And he said this is the people that is gonna buy the house and he was glad, he was interested in this place because it's near the county hospital, then he said well I'm glad because your wife needs a place because were living in the apartment. Yeah we were being prejudice. But you know Carole I tell my husband let's just, just [] about it you don't wanna, I don't wanna create problems between other people now []. But nowadays sometime I put my foot down you gotta fight for your right because they step all over it.

Hensley: Be strong. Yeah. Are customs celebrated, are the customs celebrated in your home in the Philippines celebrated in your children's home? Do your children still carry out Filipino tradition?

Carido: Yeah. Christmas Carole is here in my house. In uh... on thanksgiving we have to pick up like the last thanksgiving because my boy just moved last July, so we have the Thanksgiving in his place he live over there by [] about three blocks from uh... oh from Hammer Lane North Stockton. And then before, and before we have a, you know like my daughter here someplace here you know but our tradition is being carried here. Even like our fiestas I said Santo Nino in January and [] in May and then the sacred heart and the Lady of Fatima, we celebrate it here I go from house to house I said its beautiful all in the north side see our [novena] is spread out Carole it's not in one place. Like if you are interested you [up roots] the chairman of the [festival] you know and you said can I have one day every night for nine nights we have prayer in different home. And you see all the food Carole. Lumpia, [], I don't care how poor you are we still brought out. I don't know because they say that...

[End of Tape 1, Side B]

[TAPE 2, Side A]

[Begin Tape.]

Hensley: Were you strict with your kids when they were growing up?

Carido: Carmen was. The oldest one and then after a while after you know two or three I had no problem with that. He was in the service for three years. He was in the Air Force. He was assigned over there at Huntington Field as a coding and decoding messages, so I did not have no problem. To me I have no problem with my children. But, there are times [Carmen] to say “No!” to your children. I don’t care if they did this – it’s with their life! When I say no that means no! There are those times when your children are like – ooo I hate my mother for not letting me go! That’s just a regular upraising your children. You don’t expect them to love you all the time. They have to have some kind of like their mother [] but like I want to buy clothes. I say I don’t like the clothes on you! [] I don’t like my mother. [] your heart. There’s the time that your children will be mad at you a little bit, but that’s part of life! Yes, yes all the time. []

Hensley: Do you think you will ever live with your children again?

Carido: I don’t know about now days, it’s hard now. All my children are different. As far as my children [] They like Papa...they say Mama, strict! You know, speak of the mother huh – Carmen? You know if Papa say, “Okay!” and then I say, “How come Papa say yes and Mama say no?” [laughs]

Hensley: When you look at your kids and how they are living now, what do you think is the best part of their lives?

Carido: Yeah, I think I’m happy now because as far as my children are concerned, you know [] they have their own life, they got good job. My oldest girl is working for [] a lawyer’s office as a receptionist or a typist or something like that. I mean...Zuckerman, Tom Zuckerman, he has an office over by Commerce I think. To me, like maybe [] seeing your children, Carole, God has given your share of raising your family. I did my share, you know? I brought up six kids and they’re married and they have their own children. I still like too – my children are still close to me.

Hensley: Do you see anything in your kids’ lives that you don’t like?

Carido: Ahhh, sometimes the way they - you know the kids... sometimes I don’t like the way – Sometimes it’s like Mama we go here and why not there? [] Our children can go up to somebody’s house and you know stay overnight, but what you gonna do if they [] I can’t do that. [] There’s always improvements, you know? This is their life now, it was different from when I was raising them. How many years ago was it? Forty-seven years ago, my oldest boy will be forty-seven last april. You can’t go back of course there is some things that I don’t like, I tell my husband, I say nothing, we’re only grandparents.

Hensley: Did your children all marry Filipinos? The ones who are married.

Carido: No. None.

Hensley: Did any of them?

Carido: No.

Hensley: Did they marry Caucasians or?

Carido: Yeah, my boy married a Russian-German, Carmen married an English and Scotch, and this one married a Japanese, American born, see.

Hensley: Is this your favorite?

Carido: My youngest girl. My youngest boy Sam. Well he's been away since they were married she was teaching in Los Angeles School District, you know first they were in Long Beach and then and then moved to Newberry Farms.

Hensley: Newberry?

Carido: Newberry farm – Newberry, and then he came here to Stockton. I was happy you know? [] every two months they make an effort to come and visit us, you know, and now especially now that we are old, you know, because they really care to check. They were started here for breakfast. Papa get up at 7 o'clock, they were not here until almost a quarter till nine and I don't get up early now that I'm not working. I used to get up at 3 o'clock, 4 o'clock when I was working, so when my friend called I said "Don't call before 9:30" unless I am going to a funeral then I will, that's a must for us.

Hensley: Funerals?

Carido: Yeah like funerals, close friends. That's what we are [] because you know they say that going to a funeral for a good friend is like you paying your last respect and tribute to a person that can pay you back no more, the least you can do is go to his or her funeral, make the family happy, you know, even though they are sad because they lose somebody but when you're friends, persons are there during the funeral and what not your feeling is up a little bit because when your friend comes, you know, you kind of feel elevated, your soul is being taken, that's what we were raised on the Filipino custom is like that. When it's good friend we even go there and offer like, even if its not our relative, it's close friend, like we grow up together, we were married like almost the same year and our children grew up together, when this lady died my children has to go there, maybe clean the house, bring something, and then our tradition Carole, when somebody died you come to

the house and pay your respects so you have to be prepared with refreshments, coffee, and whatnot, that's what we are. And when you visit you bring something, they didn't tell you to bring, but out of the goodness of your heart you go there to show that you feel too that by doing that, as I said, maybe they feel a little bit good inside, at least somebody is sharing with their soul. That's what we do in the Philippines. So we carried that over here too, just like my Carmen now, she grow up, she asked if this lady, who we used to call Apah, but her last real name is really Josefa [] is a good friend of ours, so that's a must for us, at least when emergencies come, tomorrow

Hensley: Huh?

Carido: When it's emergency, that's an emergency, when they've just going to lunch or some place or something. That's for my, we're going to lunch and then the funeral, because I said that's the last time you pay your respect and you know, show your affection for the one you know for long time. You learn the Filipinos tongue now, you learn lots of things.

Hensley: Yes. Considering your own life now, now that you're 70, going to be 70?

Carido: Yeah, on Friday, a couple days more.

Hensley: Are you having a birthday party?

Carido: No.

Hensley: Ah.

Carmen C: Yes we are.

Carido: Ah, I hear my youngest daughter, you know, we get together here today. They say they call up my youngest boy. See if we could barbeque up some chicken over there and Papa is going to get hot dog.

Carmen C: And go swimming.

Carido: She has a swimming pool, and we go swimming over there, well I don't go swimming

Hensley: Well you should.

Carido: No, he can't go swimming because he has a big cut over here now.

Carmen C: What, my daddy?

Carido: He started to get treated last November. Triple bypass.

Carmen C: He's done that before?

Carido: Yeah that's only three months before. We are lucky now that science has created a lot of things now to help our doctors now, see, you never heard before of a open heart surgery. Even the in the Philippine Islands I never hear if there's an open heart surgery because we know in fact this is one the government men and he has to go and fix this to be treated on his bypass. We don't have the facilities there over in the Philippines, we're only a little bit behind. I mean, that's why you see a lot of Filipinos here, lots of Filipino doctors want to stay here because see they are doctor in the Philippine Islands...

Hensley: You have more opportunities.

Carido: Yeah, you have more opportunities and you have the modern equipment. Over there, it's just like, Carole, if you want to, even to [], if you don't have the proper equipment how can you prosper in your business? Because you need a lot of this and a lot of that, but to be here, you have modern tools, that's why a lot of doctors come over here for observation and, you know, because it makes them more experiences too, if you have the proper tools to use like if you have your operation nowadays and that go the Filipino islands, not too much, maybe in Manilla, in big cities, but in little towns if you got say a sickness you don't have the means to pay for your transportation, by the time you reach the city you're already half dead. It's just too late.

Hensley: You and your husband got married in 1932? 1933?

Carido: 1932.

Hensley: How did the Great Depression affect you, it was right about that time that the Depression...

Carido: Really Carole, we didn't have a hard time. As I tell you. We live in the apartment, eleven dollars a month. We worked a little at first but when we were married [] make 10 cents an hour but we never get hungry.

Hensley: You never felt the depression at all?

Carido: No, we never have breadline. I don't know I didn't feel hard on that, lots of people were, you know, like on welfare and like that. That's honest to goodness we never asked for welfare.

Hensley: Are there any government programs that you've ever taken part in? Are there any, even now, like senior citizens programs maybe, or anything at all?

Carido: Well I used to, I volunteered for the Service Agency, I serve like you know. I served like that, and like now that's our steady place over there in the coordinator Michelle and she say "You come over here and help in the kitchen" and I help prepare the corn and give it to the people, and Friday and Thursday we have bingo, but you know. When there are activities like last spring, I was in charge of the bus for the senior citizens to go in town. I was the boss, in other words, I was the boss in charge of the senior citizens. See to it that they get good time. Like, before time, before departure, you gotta tell everybody and said "Well now 10 minutes more you go outside because the bus is there" you know, I like to help. I like to volunteer, I volunteer in lots of things here like during more time I used to volunteer for the community sewing the skirt and the blouse to send back to the Philippines, and I volunteer there making it. Of course I was not working then, my children were small, but I volunteer like I work for the mental, ah what you call that, Jerry Lewis ah...

Hensley: Walk-a-thon?

Carido: Well I go around and collect something, but like everybody call me up and I say I can't go now, I'm tired, too old.

Hensley: What about the women's movement here in the United States, the Women's Liberation Movement, what do you think about that?

Carido: Ah I don't, to me I don't care for that. We already have our freedom here. We can't do certain thing as men can do, you know, in terms of working because that was the, women have to like, especially if you are already a senior, they ask you to drive and to lift [] they just don't show it, but you know you can't compete with the strength of a man, cause maybe in the office ladies has more ah you know, if you have the ability to work in the office and compete with the man well that's different because you're just sitting down but as far as working out, driving truck, and all that I don't believe in that because you still have limitations as a woman, there are certain things you can't do as a women as a man can do, we are very delicate in other words. You are not as strong as we are. Like if you are truck driver and something happens, what are you going to do? Stand up and start to cry? We are feminine you know, that's part of us. As I said in the office you can do that maybe, but that's like that, no. I don't believe in that, maybe I'm too old fashioned but that's the way I think. Plus we already have our freedom?

Timestamps to Specific Topics

Discrimination / Prejudice:

- **31:32 – 33:24, Tape 1, Side A**, Someone blew up a Filipino person's home, they were never caught.

Great Depression:

- **10:38 – 11:22, Tape 2, Side A**, Mrs. Carido never felt as if the Great Depression affected her or her family, because they had food and a place to live.

Labor:

Maintaining Customs:

- **39:46 – 41:50, Tape 1, Side A**, Carido on party and food culture.
- **48:22 – 50:00, Tape 1, Side B**, Carido on the customs her children celebrate
- **5:30 – 7:54, Tape 2, Side A**, Giving final respects at funerals, both to the deceased and their families, is a big part of Filipino culture.

Home Life:

Community relations:

- **11:21 – 13:03, Tape 2, Side A**, Carido talks about volunteering for the community, participating in walk-a-thons, and sewing cloths for children in the Philippines.

Living in Stockton: