

8-8-1978

## Interview no. 755

Anonymous

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.utep.edu/interviews>



Part of the [Oral History Commons](#), and the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Interview with Anonymous by Yvonne Gomez Nelson, 1978, "Interview no. 755," Institute of Oral History, University of Texas at El Paso.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Institute of Oral History at DigitalCommons@UTEP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Combined Interviews by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UTEP. For more information, please contact [lweber@utep.edu](mailto:lweber@utep.edu).

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Anonymous (1909- )  
INTERVIEWER: Yvonne Gomez-Nelson  
PROJECT: Class Assignment  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 29, and August 8, 1978  
TERMS OF USE: Unrestricted  
TAPE NO.: 755  
TRANSCRIPT NO.: 755  
TRANSCRIBER: Yvonne Gomez-Nelson

BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Lifelong resident of El Paso and taxicab driver for 40 years.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Childhood in Mexico and in South El Paso; his father's death during the Mexican Revolution; early employment as shoeshine boy, news carrier, and Western Union messenger; dances during teenage years; marriage; and some experiences of 40 years as a taxicab driver in El Paso.

NOTE: Partial transcript only. Two tapes not transcribed.

Tape II - (not transcribed) Effects of prohibition, the Depression, and World War II on his life in El Paso.

Tape III - (not transcribed) Married life, retirement, comments on illegal aliens and additional information on early El Paso.

Length of Interview: 2 hours 50 min. Length of Transcript 19 pages

Anonymous  
July 29 and August 8, 1978  
By Yvonne Gomez-Nelson  
Class Assignment

G: I'm going to start off by asking you questions about your background, okay?

A: All right.

G: When and where were you born?

A: I born in Santa Barbara in 1909, August 23rd.

G: Would you tell me a little bit about your family? For example, what nationality were your parents?

A: Well, my grandmother, she used to be full-blood French. My father was Mexican and Indian. That's why my mother was Miss Flores. See, that's my middle name, Flores. So that's why we got French blood, see? My [great]-grandmother used to be full-blood French when the French were in Mexico. That's why we got French blood.

G: What did your father do for a living?

A: He was in the Army all his life. He went all the way from private to colonel and was the Chief of Police from Parral all the way to Santa Barbara. He was a rural. He was chief of the rurales and he patrolled Santa Barbara and Parral every night with a hundred men. So that's why he was a colonel, full-colonel in the Porfirio Diaz Army.

G: How did he enter the Army?

A: Well, to tell you the truth, he was a talabartero. Talabartero means that he make boots, saddles for the horses and all that. And a fella there when he was young, he start tease him so my father kill him. And during that time Don Porfirio Diaz pick this people that kill somebody and put them in the Army by force. So he have little education there

Anonymous

when he got in the Army, so Porfirio Diaz give him education. That's why he write good, see? That's why he started to be in the Army. That's all to it.

G: Before you came to the United States, where did you live?

A: I live in Parral.

G: And was it only Parral that you lived in?

A: Well, we moved from Parral to Santa Barbara, but like my mother say, because my father move us all the way like that. When we come here we come because Pancho Villa, the troops of Pancho Villa, got in Parral and they burn one of my mother's cousins in the front of my mother. But my mother, during that time my father was already dead, she buried the espada, also the rifle, and the uniform because Pancho's troops was killing all the government men. That's when Pancho Villa went up, you know. That was the fall of Porfirio Diaz. Pancho Villa and also Zapata and Morelos.

So during that, my mother used to cook for some Syrians, árabes. And Pancho Villa got in Parral and he didn't do nothing to the [foreigners], you know. He put a train for all that americanos, Jews, árabes and all that so that they can get out of Parral and into the United States. So my mother, because we look like Americans, the Arab that she used to cook for told her, "Come with us. Go with us." And my mother was looking for that for a long time, to go to the United States because she knew later on somebody gonna squeel on us and kill us, you know. So my mother stick to this people and we come to the United States. We come to live over here in Juarez. When we come and cross that river, during that time you just have to be immigrate, that's all.

G: What do you mean?

Anonymous

A: Just put your name and all that, that's all. Immigrate, they call it immigrate.

G: So that's what you did. You didn't, say, cross over the river one night?

A: No, no, no. You just have to immigrate. See? My mother, my brother, and me, we pass here any my mother was looking for my uncle because he was a barber on El Paso Street. So she leave us in an empty room there, me and my brother, without to eat or nothing. Any my mother went looking for my uncle, this [points to a photograph], her brother. She found it and he have two rooms and he took us there about...we cross the bridge in the morning, and about in the afternoon, about six, seven, without to eat, drink water or nothing, he took us over to his home and then we stay there. That's the beginning of our lives in United States.

G: Do you remember anything about your life in Mexico?

A: Well, over in Mexico that I remember a little bit, that I went over to the school there, because I was a boy about, oh, five, six, seven years old. I remember a little bit, 'cause there, I don't remember the name of the school, I believe it was the Twenty-ninth School. That's all I remember from there. And also when we got in the train when we coming here. That's all I remember because I was too young, you know. When we got here, I was seven years and months, almost eight.

G: Can you tell me about the house you lived in? Can you remember that? Was it a nice house, was it poor?

A: No, it was apartment house.

G: In Mexico.

A: In Mexico, in Pannal, and also in Santa Barbara. I remember, just hardly remember, it was two rooms. But my mother used to tell me, we still having food to eat, you know. And that was the main thing in those days,

Anonymous

you know.

G: Were you as poor as some other people in Mexico?

A: Oh, yes. After my father die we were poor. We wear no shoes, no nothing, you know. That's why mother stick to this family. She used to work and come over here.

G: Could you tell me how come your father was murdered?

A: Yes, sure I can tell you that. My father was patrolling the towns. So they have a dance over in Santa Barbara. By that time we used to live in Santa Barbara and my mother used to cook supper for him because he come to eat supper about twelve or one o'clock in the morning. So, he told his boys, his second, to go and patrol that dance over in Santa Barbara, you see. They go and watch the dance because it was looking kind of bad and he told them, his second, that go and patrol, and he told him, "Well, can I go with you, John?" He say, "No, I can go myself. I gonna eat. My wife is waiting for me."

So, he went in the house, you know, big shot and all that. And he went to the house, he eat and everything. And he say to my mother, "Well, I see you in the morning. Goodbye," and all that. Oh, it was about, my mother told me, about 20 or 25 minutes that she heard a shot, see? So, my mother say, "Well, maybe the people drinking there or something." Later, 15 minutes later they bring the body of my father in one of those carretas, you know, two-wheel carretas with one horse? And my mother, of course, was crying. I was little. My brother was a little bigger than me. And they went and got the killer and everything, see? His assistant got the killer and all that. These were brothers that went to the dance and asked, "Who kill my brother?" One of the fellas there told him, "Torres," and they thought it was my father. But it was

Anonymous

another Torres. See what I mean? So, that's why they kill him by mistake. They thought he was Torres because he was taking care of the people, you know, on the horse, patrolling the dance and all that. Later on, even the guy that kill him say, "Well, it was a mistake." "Well, anyway, you have to pay for it."

Oh boy, you should see how they treat the man when they took him to jail. With ropes, you know, like that [motions how the rurales dragged the man with ropes]. Because they used to treat people bad, you know, the rurales? But when Pancho Villa start the war, he went out, they put him out again. That's the way he got killed.

G: Did you ever get to see Pancho Villa?

A: Never did. Uh uh.

G: Did you see the villistas?

A: Oh, yeah. I remember the villistas on horses, and what they do and all that in Parral. Oh boy, you should see what they do. You know, Chinese people over in Parral, they have restaurants. And the Chinese people make big mistake to poison some of the villistas, you know, in the restaurants? So the villistas know about it later on, and they used to go on horses and with ropes in the streets, you know, they just drag them all over in the town. They kill them like that. It was awful. Oh, boy.

G: How do you feel about Porfirio Diaz? Was it right that he was overthrown?

A: Well, in one way I like it on account of my father, but in the other way I don't like it. What I like is the United States because my life is right here, and our government help us a lot.

G: Do you have any thoughts on the Mexican Revolution?

A: No, not at all.

Anonymous

G: When you moved to El Paso when you were a child, where did you live?

A: I live right on Seventh and Oregon in apartments, two apartment story. You know, they call them presidios. But during that time, Seventh Street was just dirt street, El Paso and all that you know, way' back.

G: Did you go to school here?

A: Yes, to Sacred Heart.

G: Is that the only school?

A: I went over to Lopez, now is Aoy School. I went there about a year, and then my mother put me in the Sacred Heart.

G: When did you quit school?

A: When I was in fourth grade, because I have to work to live and help my mother. That's why. Otherwise I have better education.

G: I understand that you were so poor that you once wore only a coat to school. Is that right? Would you tell me what happened?

A: That's right. That's when I was going to Lopez School, now is Aoy. And I used to go with this coat even in the snow with no shoes, just the coat only. They call me The Coat Boy, all the boys there at the school. So my teacher got so tired--it was Miss Higgins, that later on she was principal--and she got so tired to see me like that she call Miss Corbert. Corbert used to be the principal of Lopez School. So she sent the porter over there to get me to the office. And the porter there went over and, "Torres, they sent me to take him to the office." Miss Corbert want to see me. So they got me there, but never take that coat off, see?

So they took me over to Miss Corbert, and Miss Corbert ask me, "Why don't you take that overcoat off?" And I was crying. And I said, "Oh no, I can't, I can't!" And I was crying. And then she told him, the porter, "Take his coat off." So he come over and fight with me and took



it off and I was [naked]. And even Miss Corbert cry. Imagine that! Even Miss Corbert cry and the porter see me like that. They didn't believe it. And it was cold, you know. No shoes, no nothing, just with my coat. So Miss Corbert got on the phone and call the Salvation Army and she sent us [to] the Salvation Army, and Salvation Army give everything. That's why I always help Salvation Army. I always give my clothes and everything. I take them down there, also sometimes to the Goodwill.

G: By "everything," what do you mean? Furniture, clothes?

A: Clothes, sometimes an old stuff. I used to take everything to Salvation Army, even when I was working at the Red Cross.

G: But what did they give you?

A: They give me shoes and pants, short pants that we used to wear, and medias de popopet they call it that during that time, all the way here [motions to his knee], and pants that goes right here [motions again], and give me shoes, laced-shoes, all the way right here [motions to his shin], we used to wear those shoes, you know. And [they] give me shirts and couple of sweaters, nice sweaters, and coat, and underwear. Clean, you know, nice. During that time, the Salvation Army used to be on the corner of Utah and Overland, and now is Mesa. Now is over there, is a restaurant there. And they help me a lot. Even they went over to my house and help my mother. They bring us stoves. We used to sleep on the floor, and they bring us beds so that we can sleep. Very nice people, the Salvation Army. People don't know about it, but they really are, during that time. I don't know now.

G: What jobs did you have before you were a taxicab driver?

A: Well, I used to sell papers. I used to shoe-shine. And after shoe-

shine, I go to a corner of a store there on Oregon and Seventh and help, his name was Remijio Flores, he have la miniatura there and have little truck. That's when I start learning to drive. It was a truck, a 1914 truck, those pickups, small ones. I learn by myself. Nobody show me how to drive or nothing. But during that time, it was not traffic at all. So I learn to take the delivers and all that. Also, I sell papers, and go and shoe-shine shoes, down on El Paso Street, boots during that time for a nickel.

I used to hang around Sheldon Hotel, where now is the, I believe is the Plaza. I was there when the Sheldon Hotel burn up. I got pictures there to show it. And I used to go and sell the República, is Mexican paper that used to be here in El Paso, and the Herald-Post. It was a small one, not the way it is now. And I used to sell it over to Del Norte, Del Norte Hotel. And the one we sell on the corner, because they have two places right on the door on the corner. And Gilbert Roland, he used to sell the papers on the door, he have that. Luis Alonzo is his real name. He born here in Juarez.

G: You say he was born in Juarez?

A: That what he told me. Even about, let me see, the last time I saw him over in Los Angeles, I went and look for him with another friend I have there. And we talk there in Spanish and all that and I call him by Luis, and he turn around and look me like that [motions with face]. "Oh, you." Yeah, we used to sell papers?" "Oh yeah?" But he was a beggar. He still lives. Very nice man. He make his career very nice, over at Franklin School. Oh, boy.

G: Were most of the newspaperboys Mexican-American?

A: Right.

Anonymous

G: Very few Anglo newspaperboys?

A: Just few, just few. But most all Mexican-Americans. Also, Elias Mora, the owner of the Harris jewelry, used to sell papers with us. He died already.

G: What did you have after the newspaper?

A: Newspaper job? Well, I got me a route, Herald-Post, in the morning. And the Herald-Post building used to be right on the corner of Santa Fe and San Francisco. But now is the center there. And, when I got the route, I had the route all the way to Courchesne, way out on the other side of Smelter. I used to roll papers in the Smelter in the top and cross to the other side, go down.

G: What's the name of the place?

A: Courchesne. The school still stay there. Is closed, but it still stay there, way out, north of El Paso Del Norte pass. Used to be El Paso Del Norte pass. Now, is Guay Pass. Because the Courchesne is the one that sell the rocks to the cement plant and all those rocks, see? Used to be Del Norte Pass. Just hardly you can make it with two cars to go.

G: What is it called now?

A: The North Pass. Is still the same name. And I used to go there, snowing, raining and everything in bicycle, and you don't feel it when you young. Now they got cars, motorcycles and all that, and still cry. This new generation don't know what it was during those days, when United States start building theirselves up. In other words, I call myself pioneer of the United States like every old people like me, they say the same thing.

G: After that job, what did you have?

A: After that job of papers, paper route I have, I have a friend over in

Anonymous

where I live, in Canal Street, that used to work for the Western Union. And then I asked, "Hey, can you show me how to work there?" "Yep. But that bicycle is all mess up. I don't think you can make it." I say, "I can fix it." That's when you wanna work. He say, "Well, if you fix it, just hang around with me and I show you how it is." During that time, the Western Union have about 150, 200 messengers. Now they don't have any. [Snickers.] So, even all they boys of Western Union, they used to call me Cola. Cola means tail because I always go with them, behind them, you know? And, well, I stay about a month like that, learning, you know, the ropes of the work and all that. By that time, was building the fifteen pisos, you know that building?

G: Which one?

A: The First National Bank Building. So, the Western Union move right in the corner there and the messengers used to go to the basement, and I... And the chief messenger, Carlos, I don't remember his last name, he ask me, "Did you learn already?" I say, "Yes." "OK. I gonna put you in. You wanna work?" "Yeah." And we used to wear uniforms and all that. So, I work there in bicycle about three months. After that, I buy a motorcycle. They have Indian Chiefs and Scouts. So I buy Scout, one of the small ones, and started learning with the boy's motorcycles. I was about the second that we have motorcycles there, you know.

G: How old were you at this time?

A: Oh, I was about, yeah, fourteen. And we start learning tricks, all the motorcycle. I got with the gangs of motorcycles. And we used to put up shows on Santa Fe Street. During that time, is not the way it is. It used to be bricks all the way in the street, from Second Street all the way to the bridge. We go also, now is the Mesa Motel. It used to be a

Anonymous

big hill. We used to go hill-climbing. Urrrrrrr, Pa' arriba. And the people go see us in Sundays. Very nice.

So, I stay there, in the motorcycle, oh I work in Western Union about year and a half, I think. And then, I broke my leg. But it was my fault because I wasn't driving my motorcycle. I was with a friend of mine, Alfredo Lopez, that he was part owner of the bank pharmacy, now at the bank, you know, now. He retire now. We were going to see the girls over in [Snickers] Bowie School, because they just open it. And during that time, that they start paving the Seventh Street, but they have the tracks' pavement already, and you go on the motorcycle on the tracks, you know? So we were going on Florence. So we saw this fella with a horse that cross the alley, the other side of Ochoa Street, and he always have a lot of dogs. And, well, we saw it from a block on that all the dogs pass by. So, we use to call it Raton, Alfredo Lopez. So, he just keep on going, and when we got to the alley, another dog was coming, running, the last one, and he hit it 'em and I broke my leg. Nothing happened to him, but I was riding in the back and I broke my leg. And I stay in the Providence Hospital nine months. Providence Hospital used to be on corner of Prospect and Upson, used to be a building of two stories, hotel or private house used to be there. It was nice. Insurance pay for that.

G: This insurance, was it Western Union?

A: Western Union.

G: This job that you had with Western Union, you said there were about 150 to 200 workers? Did this job have any Anglos in it?

A: Just few, mija. Just all, I think they all Mexicans.

G: I'm going to start asking you about your teenage life, now.

A: When I was dancing and all that? I used to work and dance.

Anonymous

G: When did you start dating? How old were you? You had mentioned that you were 14 and going to see the girls at Bowie.

A: I was, let me see, about 16 or 14 years old. I was going with the girls and that was the age during that time that you start looking for girls. And my mother was all rude with me. She grow me up the way it should be. And, well, anyway, I used to go out dances and all that. That's when I started dancing. And also, I used to work. I work nights, you know.

G: You worked nights?

A: Yeah, I work nights for about 30 years.

G: Tell me more about your dating. You would go to dances?

A: Well, yeah. During that time, they have tardeadas, you know, in the afternoons? From three to six. And was beautiful.

G: Where were these held?

A: Well, in the Cardinal, the Blue Bird. The Blue Bird used to be on the top of the Newberry's, over on Texas and Stanton, second floor. Very nice. They have elevator and everything. But during that time, you have to go and ask the mother of the girls, "Can you please let me dance with your girl?" "Yes." Nowadays, is a lot of different, see? Even the boys that drink, I didn't used to drink during that time--yeah, later on I start drinking, everybody does--but they go to the bathroom and they drink there. They don't want nobody to know about it. Now they even do it in the front of you. Looks bad. That's it.

Oh, well, I was so good to learn to dance and then I got my nickname that is still call me, a lot of people call me Melco. Melco means Melcocha, because I used to be a good dancer. I used to get dresses from Jarvis Store over here in El Paso Street and San Antonio free because I

Anonymous

always dance waltz. During that time come those rumbas, "Manisero Se Va," and I learn it very good. And I have a lot of girls that dance good. Sunday, they give me a suit and next Sunday they give me shirt and pants, ties, because I always come on the top. See what I mean? And all the girls, you know what that means when you go dancing and all the girls behind you. They want you because you good dancer and they know I win all that stuff, you know. I have good time when I was young. Everybody, I think they do the same thing, you know. Now that you old, you just remember all that good deals you have. [Laughs]

G: How did you meet your wife?

A: Oh, my god. I meet my wife on the dances first. And she was beautiful. She have the red hair all they way here to the shoulders. White, blue eyes. Beautiful girl. I used to go with the most beautiful girls in the dance, on account that I was used to be a good dancer, because they after me. And she used to go there and I see her and I see her, and I used to go out with another girl, good-looking. But I like better her and I say I gonna try, you see, if she dance with me.

[PAUSE]

So, I went over and dance with her and she dancing beautiful. Also I understand myself that she like the way I dance. Since that time, we used to dance together and all that, and was very nice. I was very respectable to her. So is her. And I like her, the way, see? So, next after the dance, she disappear. And then I read in the paper that she was at the marathon dance, over in 1800 Magoffin. So we have a group that used to sing, you know, and play. We used to sing even in the radio, KTSM. KTSM used to be on the top of the Del Norte Hotel, that I believe is when it start. And, it was a day that Curl, we used to call it Curl

Brown and his Four Stevadores, and Curl went over [to] talk to this man of the marathon, you know, if we can play there. And I was so bored that I cut all my hair, you know, I was pelon.

So the boys that used to play with us, the group, they told me, "Come on. Let's go play over there where they marathon." By that time, I remember that she was there, you see. I say, "OK, but like this? The way...?" [Motions to his head] "Yeah, like that." OK, so we went out there. And during the marathon, all the orchestras from Juarez and all over, full people, immigration officers and everybody go there nights to see the marathon, walkathons, and also dance. So, we play there a few songs and she see me and I see her. She didn't believe it that I was me because was pelon, you know, baldy. And, since that time, I start going to see the marathon, walkathon, dance whatever it was. And, but she stay two months, day and night. She was the winner, with Charlie Loeb [Mrs. Torres' winning partner]. Boy, I don't think anybody can stay that long these days, because she have the vitamins, I think. After she come out of there, all the people, "Sign your name." You know, and all that, all the people behind her. And I say, maybe I have a chance again to talk to her and dance. And then she start going to the dances and I start dancing with her. Since that time, we start our life. And later on, we got married, we have kid, granddaughter.

G: Tell me how you got your job as a taxicab driver.

A: Well, that's when I broke my leg. I start hanging around with the taxi and I had a friend there. Then Ramon Telles, not the young, the old man, used to be a bricklayer and blaster and all that, him and McKee. He die already, die multi-millionaire. He was the father of Richard Telles, is in the courthouse now. And I was 16 years old, but I was tall and I used



Anonymous

to hang around there with a cane. During that time, the 1010 taxi used to be Overland and Kansas, also he have Ramon's Transit. Is still running, his son run 'em. So, he say, "Why don't you drive for me?" I say, "No, I can't. I have no license and I'm too young to drive." And he say, "Well, I can fix you that," Because he have kind of a little pull in the courthouse see? So he say, "Soon as you get a little better, I gonna fix your license and you drive for me." I say OK, but I used to go every day to pass the time because can't work, you know, on account of my leg. And when I was a little better, he say, "Well, I think you can drive now." But I was scared because I was young. During that time, those have no examination at all. You just get your license, that's all to it.

So he took me to Ernest Green, judge. The judge used to be there. Now his nephew is Ernest Green, Jr. or something. He's the federal judge, his nephew. And Ramon talk to the judge and told him and all that and he say OK. So, they give me a little card with his name, and I come over and got my license. I still got one from 1928 over there, some place. That's the time I start driving cab, see what I mean? I was sixteen years old. It was about the end of 1924. And my first car that I drive was a Ford, 1914. It have a radiator, you know, where you put the water and all that, it was a brass color. You have to keep it shine. It look nice, you know, Tek, tek, tek. [Simulation of car noise.] Boy, you should see it. No heaters, no air conditioners, no radio, no nothing. And you have to crank it. Even sometimes, you have to put the jack on the tire to start it during the cold weather, it was so cold, you know. We have continas on the side, you know. That's my start when I start driving cab. Since that time I drive a cab for about 45 years.

Anonymous

G: Were most of the cab drivers Mexican-American at that time?

A: Right.

G: Were you ever treated in a bad way by any passengers because you were a Mexican-American in those early years?

A: No, no. They treat me good. I have a lot of hold-ups. They even leave me, you know, when I was there.

G: When you started driving a taxi, who were your passengers, say, the first 20 years that you drove a taxi?

A: The first 20 years that I drive? Well, the passenger was the Anglo people, Mexican people, Mexican-Americans, even colored.

G: What did you usually drive?

A: Well, I drive a Ford.

G: Where?

A: Oh, I drive all El Paso. I used to know all El Paso, but it was small. Not the bigger it is now. I used to know every street.

G: And later, did you drive all over El Paso or did you have any set route?

A: No, always drive all EL Paso, even when they put the radios in the cars, and the meters. You know, we getting connections with the radio and I start learning the new streets, because the old ones I know every alley, every street, just like the palm of my hand.

G: So, you really got to see El Paso grow.

A: Right, right. Correcto, right.

G: Are there any changes that happened over the years, over those 40 years? Any changes?

A: Well, the changes is that is big. Now they have the freeway. Is lot of difference. I saw when they build those big buildings and they have hotel. They have the station for G. H. Railroad over behind the Herald-

Anonymous

Post now. Then they build the Union Depot for all the trains that used to come there.

G: I mean mainly as a taxicab driver, changes as a taxicab driver?

A: How?

G: Well, for example, you had said earlier that you began using meters, and when you started driving a taxi you didn't have meters, you didn't have a radio to hook in with the dispatcher.

A: No, no we didn't have that. No, no during that time we just charge penny a block, 10 cents, quarter, or you can come all the way to this side for 15 cents. Where I live right now, we used to charge 20, 25 cents, right here all the way from town. Now they charge you almost five dollars.

G: Could you give any highlights of your taxicab career? For example, what famous people did you meet or did you ever have any accidents or were you ever robbed?

A: Well, I never have an accident yet, thanks God. I never been in a wreck. I have tickets, of course, because always I was on the street. I meet lot of people that have money and all that, very nice Anglo people that treat me nice, even give me a big tips. There was a young lady that I took over to the airport, and she start talking to me about driving here in El Paso. And I said, "Well, all right. I get my living and I got my family and all that." And when we got close to the airport she say, "Well, my father drive cab in New York." And I got so glad cause she was the daughter of a driver, you know. And when I got to the airport, I put his bags and put it right in. And she say, "Thank you. Here for the meter." We used to charge a \$1.60. "And here's ten dollar tip."

G: Golly! That was very nice.

A: Right. And I have a lot of people like that. And I have Lucille Ball,

Anonymous

you know. And I pick her up over in the Depot. And she talk to me and she say, "You know Juarez very good?" And I say, "Yes, ma'am." "Can you take me to places there and show me? I go with you." And she grabbed me by the arm. Very nice, I still like her. So we went to Juarez and she, "Take me to this bar." And I took her and I told the guys who she was and all, you know, they were glad. And then she went over to buy some souvenirs for the family and all that. And she suppose to take the train inside an hour, you know. And she say, "Well, since I know your name, Mr. Torres, take me back because I have to take the train." "OK." When we come right back she pay the meter. Then she put the purse like that, you know, and put all the change, dollars dimes and nickels. "That's all yours, Mr. Torres."

G: Was the tip more than the fare?

A: Oh, twice as more.

G: How much did you say?

A: Well I got, in the fare, it was three hours. During that time, I believe we charge 75 cents an hour. She was young during that time, you know, when she started. And she have money. She pay me the fare, I believe it was three or four hours, you see. And she give me more money on the tip. That what she pay me. She was glad that she nearly kiss me. "Goodbye, Mr. Torres. Maybe next time I come and look for you. Give me your card," and all that. I was so glad, you know.

Later, it was a year after, I got Rogers. You know that guy that got...[motions to his eyes], is a cowboy.

G: Roy Rogers.

A: Roy Rogers. I got him at the airport. And he come over and say, "I'm Roy," but I recognize him.

Anonymous

G: What year would this have been, do you think?

A: I don't remember the year, but I got him.

G: OK, can you say, was this the '50s, '40s, '30s?

A: Oh, I believe it was the '50s. He was a big shot already. And he say, "You know places in Juarez you can take me?" I say, "Yes, sir." "OK, let's go." I took him over, he was kind of different with me, you know. Not like Lucille Ball. Well, I see that and I respect him. So, I hold it about two hours there and then said, "Take me back to the airport." When I took him back to the airport, he just pay me the meter and pay me a quarter tip.

G: That was a quarter tip on how much?

A: On the meter was two hours, and \$1.50 plus the trip. It was about four dollar sixty cents. He didn't even give me the percent he suppose to give, like I do, you know. And since that time I still got that in my head.

G: So you think he's muy codo?

A: Oh, he's muy tight. No wonder he get what he got now. But Lucille Ball, she got more than he got, but she's nice to everybody. I believe that she still the same. I like her.

NOTE: PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT ONLY. TWO TAPES NOT TRANSCRIBED.