

Palm_School_Medlock_Anna_Foto_Voz_Transcript

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Palm School, oral history, Anna Medlock, sixth grade, end of year assembly, certificates, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Houston, Texas Readers Club, Zilker Park, field day, junior high, community involvement, family, education.

SPEAKERS

Anna Medlock, Sergio Plaza, Speaker 1, Speaker 2

SOUND CHECK

Speaker 1 00:00

Okay, now we're recording before we get started. I think we should probably wait until it come back with a radio.

Anna Medlock 00:11

Okay, I think there's two in there so that we

Sergio Plaza 00:13

don't get ahead of us. Yeah, I'm not seeing this one. Which one, this one? They are all in

Anna Medlock 00:18

there. Oh, I see. Oh, right there it is.

Sergio Plaza 00:23

Probably underneath this one is what's showing, right? Oh, that one's Carmen. This one's, yeah,

Anna Medlock 00:27

that's my sister. It's probably another one, right? Oh, there it is. Yeah.

00:38

Wow. Okay, so

Sergio Plaza 00:46

Okay, which one are you guys starting with the one on the left or the right here?

Anna Medlock 00:57

No, it doesn't work. Try the batteries. I did. That's incredible, right? And I have my

Speaker 1 01:16

photo here as like a backup recording. All

Sergio Plaza 01:23

right, one second, Christina, I'm just going to take a few more pictures.

Speaker 1 01:35

All right, so let's just go ahead and start with on a your your certificate.

Sergio Plaza 01:41

Should I do the preamble? Yes,

01:43

please. All

_INTERVIEW BEGINS _

Sergio Plaza 01:44

right. So Hi. Today is Sunday, December 15, 2024 My name is Sergio Plaza, and I'm conducting a photo voz with Anna Medlock in Austin, Texas for the Travis County palm school oral history project we are recording at the University of Texas at Austin main campus. Thank you, Miss Medlock for agreeing to this interview. We will now be taking a five second pause to record room tone. (pause) So we're going to be starting first research certificate one. Anna, can you tell us when this was issued?

Anna Medlock 02:25

This was presented to the sixth graders at the end of the school year when I was in the sixth grade, and it just certifies that I'm ready to go to the sixth grade, from six grade to the seventh grade.

Sergio Plaza 02:43

Do you remember where you were when, when this was given?

Anna Medlock 02:48

Yes, there's an assembly. There's always an assembly at the end of the school year in the cafeteria, where we're presented with all kinds of end of year certificates for accomplishments that that had been done in the year. And all of the sixth graders got one of these certificates.

Sergio Plaza 03:13

I'm seeing a few names on here. Who, who are these people?

Anna Medlock 03:18

Well, Mr. Moore. Gordon Moore was the principal, and he was the principal for most of the time that I spent at Palm school. Mrs. Houston was my sixth grade teacher.

Sergio Plaza 03:34

What do you remember about them?

Anna Medlock 03:37

I remember Mr. Moore. He was the nicest person. He wanted to know what kids are up to. He greet them, he talked to them, and he was always available to the parents. I remember, my mom would, she spent some time in the schools, you know, she would check with the teachers to make sure we were, you know, we were keeping up with our grades and our school work. So she knew the teachers and she would visit with Mr. Moore, and he was always available to her, and he really wanted to listen to the parents and my mom, any concerns they had or any feedback they had for him. So I always appreciated him. You know, some people are afraid of the principal, and he just made it all so welcoming and a really nice atmosphere.

Sergio Plaza 04:29

And I'll ask about ms Houston right now. But how did that make you feel, how Mr. Moore was with the students, with the teachers?

Anna Medlock 04:38

Well, it made me feel comfortable, because I think sometimes, you know, kids think, well, they're afraid of the principal, because it means discipline, but, and you know, he did his share of discipline, but he was also just a really nice man. He he was always smiling. That's what I remember about him. Was always smiling. And so. Saying hello to the kids like in the morning when we're all arriving for school and leaving for the day. In some cases, he would be telling everybody to have a good evening or a good weekend. So I appreciated that.

Sergio Plaza 05:13

And tell me a little bit about Mrs. Houston?

Anna Medlock 05:17

Well, sixth grade, you know, sixth grade is a it's a significant year. You know, you've been just you've been in Palm school this whole time I was there from first through the sixth grade, and Mrs. Houston was the one that really made an impression on me, because she was really preparing us for seventh grade, not only in our lessons, but our study habits. I remember that about doing well in school and that we would be going to junior high that was totally different than what we were experiencing our small little world at Palm school, that it was going to be a bigger experience with more kids going from classroom to classroom, and she she really helped us, not just with preparing to study and to do well in school, but to deal with the bigger atmosphere than just palm.

Sergio Plaza 06:18

Alright we'll move on to the Next certificate.

Speaker 2 06:22

I just one second

Sergio Plaza 06:41

so far. Moving on to certificate two. Anna, can you tell me when this was issued?

Anna Medlock 06:53

This was also in the sixth grade. It's 1965 for that season. I would volunteer to help the teachers after school. We, I did different things, like help with tidying up the classroom, with running errands for the teacher, like taking things to the office, that kind of thing.

Sergio Plaza 07:21

Where were you when you received this?

Anna Medlock 07:24

This is also during our assembly for the end of the year, recognizing different students about the contributions they made during the year. And it was presented by the principal, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Rhodes was a sponsor for the afternoon extra service that we provided to the teachers, and Mrs. Houston was my sixth grade teacher, so she she also signed the certificate and was part of the presentation.

Sergio Plaza 07:54

You remember how you felt when you received this?

Anna Medlock 07:59

Well, I'm always proud of whenever I'm recognized for something special, and it made me feel really good that I had made a contribution to helping the teachers to make sure they had what they needed when, and ran running all those errands for them. It made me feel good, and I really appreciated it. My mom was very proud of me.

Sergio Plaza 08:24

Can you tell me a little bit more about your mom being proud of you? Do you remember that feeling, and do you remember how she expressed that to you?

Anna Medlock 08:36

She always she would give us a hug. I know she gave us a hug and made sure that we knew that this was very, very special. But not everybody got recognized for different things and and I was recognized for this, and that I should be proud that going beyond what's expected of you is always a good thing, and that should be part of what I do from then on.

Sergio Plaza 09:06

How do you, I often hear that palm school is the foundation for a lot of stakeholders. How do you feel like some receiving an award like this really helped set a path for you to do this type of service, I guess throughout middle school, high school, so on, beyond that,

Anna Medlock 09:27

I think what it did was, you know, there's always something besides yourself and your self interest, helping other people, being available, if there's something that you can do, and that's something my mom always told us, you know, if you see something that needs to get done, then maybe you should do it. And to make sure that, you know, we think of others, it's not just me. If somebody needs help, and then you can help, well, then step up and do that.

Sergio Plaza 10:03

We'll go ahead and move on to document three. Can you tell me when this was issued to you

Anna Medlock 10:21

when I was in the sixth grade, I participated in the Texas readers club. There were goals in the number of books you could read, and there was a list that you could choose from. And I am an avid reader. I was then, one of the things that I really wanted to do when I first started in the first grade was to be able to read. That was one of the things I really liked doing, which was reading and writing. And to this day, I'm still an avid reader. Sometimes I read two books at a time, a fiction and a non fiction book, and it's something that I carried with me, and I instilled in my kids as well.

Sergio Plaza 11:11

Do you remember where you were when you received this one?

Anna Medlock 11:15

This is all part of our end of year recognition, to recognize different achievements.

Sergio Plaza 11:25

You mentioned the Texas the readers club, that you're a part of it. Do you remember who led that club and who was also in the club with you?

Anna Medlock 11:36

All my different friends, my best friend, Hortensia Palomares, she was part of the readers club. So is Mary Lee Trevino and Tona Vasquez. She was also part of that. And Christina Gutierrez, she also was a part of it. At some point in time, we were always in the right, in the same classes. So there was always, always that competition about what did you read, and did you finish it? Are you moving on to the next book? So, yeah, we, we did that together,

Sergio Plaza 12:12

and you said that, you know, this helped you as a reader later on, even now that you're reading two books at a time, helped you, you set that foundation for your kids? Do you feel like this was a this was a club that really inspired that type of reading mentality and your peers and your friends as well?

Anna Medlock 12:37

I think it did, because it becomes instinct. I suppose, because it's like, I finish a book and I think I can't just sit here, I better go find me another book. So it becomes routine and a habit that there's always another book to read, another story to learn, another, maybe another culture to learn about. And in

every single book that I've ever read, there's always a new word that I that I can gain and learn about different things. So yes, I'm always learning.

Sergio Plaza 13:20

Alright we'll go ahead and move on to document number four, Anna, if you can tell me when this was,

Anna Medlock 13:36

this was in the Third grade. Mrs. Man was my third grade teacher, and it was always something really special to be recognized that you were not tardy at all for during the second six weeks, is what this certificate is for. And you know, again, I really liked going to school, so it was always something that I really wanted to do, and I tried not to miss any days.

Sergio Plaza 14:04

Was this an assembly as well? Or?

Anna Medlock 14:09

I believe this is in our classroom.

Sergio Plaza 14:12

And can you tell me a little bit about Ms Man?

Anna Medlock 14:17

She was a really nice teacher. You know, I had a lot of really good teachers. She was always encouraging for us to be at school every day, to be there on time, to do our homework. And she was always very encouraging about learning in class, and if we didn't understand something, she wanted to spend the time with us, even if it was just one on one, to help us understand the lesson, for us to be able to move on to the next lesson, so that we are catching up or or stay on top of what the lesson was. It

Sergio Plaza 14:57

sounds like a lot of the teachers and. Adult at Palm school, at least, from what you described so far, really tried to instill those valuable character lessons and skills. Do you feel like that was typical at Palm school?

Anna Medlock 15:16

I think it was. There were. There was such a close knit group, the teachers themselves, that always struck me, even as, you know, as a young, young kid, that they were together. They would spend time together. They were always, you know, updates about how's your lesson going. And, you know, you hear the teachers talking about those things. So that always stuck with me.

Sergio Plaza 15:45

And you said, when we first brought this document out, that it was always special to be recognized for not missing school. Can you tell me a little bit why? More about why it's why you feel like it was very special to be recognized?

Anna Medlock 16:01

You know, like I said before, I really liked going to school, but to be recognized that I was there on time and I was there every day, really made me feel special, and after a while, it made me feel like I stood out. I stood out because I did well, and that always made me proud of myself.

Sergio Plaza 16:24

Move on to document number five.

16:32

So this is actually talking

16:39

about your video.

16:42

I can

Sergio Plaza 16:44

you tell me when you got this radio and when I guess, yeah, just when you got this radio and when you remember it?

Anna Medlock 17:03

when I was in the sixth grade, it was 1965 and the Beatles were big. And I love, love, love the Beatles. I still do. And my friends and I, we all love the Beatles. I remember one time in an afternoon where there was a dance in one of the portables, in one of the classrooms, and we could all attend, and everybody dance with each other, girls, you know, we were always first to dance with each other, and we would, we all wanted to hear the Beatles. And I remember myself and Hortensia and Mary Lou was one, and I forgot who the fourth person was. We were going to pantomime the Beatles. You know, we each took a role. I was Paul McCartney, and my friends took, you know, one of one of the other Beatles, and we pantomime The Beatles, "She loves you". And that was always so much fun. But we all were crazy about the Beatles. And I remember I asked my parents, please, please, please, can I have a transistor so I can listen to the Beatles all the time on the radio? Can you get it for me for my birthday? And I remember my parents telling me, we don't have money for that kind of thing. I don't know if we can buy you one of those. So, you know, you know, I was really discouraged, but on my birthday, they gave me a transistor radio. It was really something, really something special, and I still remember my mother telling me, would you turn that thing off? Because, you know, you can't just listen to the radio all the time. I need you to go do whatever chore. But yeah, it was, it was a really special thing, and I always treasured that radio.

Sergio Plaza 19:09

Do you remember where you were when they gave it to you?

Anna Medlock 19:13

We were at home. We were going to celebrate my birthday, and my my dad handed it to me and said, I guess we found the money to get you something, and gave me the radio. It was really special.

Sergio Plaza 19:30

Who was who was there when you were sitting?

Anna Medlock 19:33

Oh, all of my siblings were there. I think this is just a family celebration. So all of my siblings were there, my brothers and sisters,

Sergio Plaza 19:42

you mentioned some of the dance parties were you? Were you able to do that with the radio more often?

Anna Medlock 19:47

Yes, yes, my sisters and I, we were, yeah, we used to dance all the time.

Sergio Plaza 19:56

And tell me a little bit more about dancing with, with your friends. And you know, pantomiming, I mean, the Beatles, and you said that was in a classroom, right?

Anna Medlock 20:06

It was after school, after school.

Sergio Plaza 20:09

And I guess, what, what? What do you? How do you, what do you remember about how, one, getting the transistor radio make you feel, especially after that initial discouragement, that maybe you were not going to be able to get it?

Anna Medlock 20:29

because, well, I was surprised and I was elated. It was really something special. I knew my parents sacrificed something to get me that radio. And I remember how happy I was to have it, and I carried it with me everywhere I went, except to school. I couldn't take it to school, but yeah, and my my sisters and I would play it all the time.

Sergio Plaza 21:00

And, you know, having those dance parties, do you remember what kind of feelings you had with those dance parties, whether with your sisters or your friends? Well,

Anna Medlock 21:08

you know, that was really special, because, you know, there was American Bandstand starting. So, you know, we would watch that program, and so when we had a party, it was like we were American Bandstand. So it was like being on that show. And I remember we had such a good time, and we were so happy that we would be able to do something like that

Sergio Plaza 21:33

Today do you still dance with the Beatles?

Anna Medlock 21:37

Yes, it, I still love the Beatles. In fact, my kids know all the words too, because, you know, we play it all the time, and so they enjoy the Beatles as well. But I, I have the Beatles station on the Sirius channel in the car. So and yes, we have some we have some albums. I have them on my phone, so, yeah, they stay the part of my life.

Sergio Plaza 22:21

We'll go ahead and move on to the next we got here. I account, or this would be photo one, photo one. So we've got photo number one right here on a if you, can tell me when approximately this photo was taken?

Anna Medlock 22:38

This is at our we had a end of the year for the sixth graders, we had an outing to Zilker Park. That's my sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Houston. She looks frustrated. I'm not really sure why. I think she didn't want her picture taken. She was silly, but she was one of the sponsors. All the six grade teachers were sponsors of our outing to Zilker Park, June of 65, it was the end of the year. School always ended in the first part of June. So we got to go swimming, or if we wanted to, or we played in the park. We were playing softball and different kind of games. So yeah, that was a lot of fun. But she was a very nice teacher. I liked her.

Sergio Plaza 23:35

Who are, who are the folks in the back?

Anna Medlock 23:38

I think it's some of the six great girls. I'm not sure what they were doing, but I know we were playing softball out there, so I think we were breaking up in teams.

Sergio Plaza 23:53

Is anything else you remember about this particular day?

Anna Medlock 23:58

I remember we had lots and lots of food. People were bringing food, and there were sodas, and it was the first time I had gotten into Barton Springs Pool those, first time I ever been in it. I remember, you know, at outings, we would go to Zilker park, but we didn't go swimming, but that day we did. That was fun.

Sergio Plaza 24:25

It was fun. What did it feel like getting to get into that pool for the first time?

Anna Medlock 24:32

I didn't realize it was so cold. You know, it's like it really struck you how cold it was, but also it was the clearest water I'd ever seen. I know anybody that's a native of Austin, like myself will talk about how going to the Barton Springs Pool, the water was crystal clear, and it was just something really nice to do. So, yeah, I really enjoyed it.

Sergio Plaza 24:50

I'm seeing here at the bottom of the photo, it says tutors of Texas? What was that?

Anna Medlock 25:10

Studers was a a photography store that would develop pictures. They sold film. They sold cameras. It was really the place to go in in the 60s, because Austin was a very small town. There wasn't a lot everything centered around downtown and Studers was the place to go when you needed your film developed, or if you needed to buy film, and

Sergio Plaza 25:45

were you behind the camera taking this photo?

Anna Medlock 25:48

No, I don't think so. I think it was my sister. She was always taking pictures, my sister Carmen. So it could have been her. We are going

Sergio Plaza 25:58

to go to photo two

Speaker 2 26:02

minutes. Was

Sergio Plaza 26:19

this photo taken? I photo

Speaker 2 26:22

taken?

Anna Medlock 26:26

This was an assembly, the same end of year assembly, and I'm trying to think of who that teacher was, but and everybody would gather in in the cafeteria for the end of season, and the teachers would come up and present any recognition certificates to the children for whatever achievement, achievements they had. And I really cannot remember her name,

Sergio Plaza 27:01

do you remember any of the kids in the photo?

Anna Medlock 27:05

No, those were the younger kids from myself. So no, I don't recognize it. I'm sorry.

Sergio Plaza 27:12

And tell me a little bit about the cafeteria. This is the cafeteria right here.

Anna Medlock 27:17

Yes, yes, it's a cafeteria. And there was a stage where different things happened in some and some programs, like the choir would be on the stage, when there was presentations, maybe different assemblies that we would have, and it would require people being on the stage. So it was like a multi-functional place.

Sergio Plaza 27:50

And I'm seeing that kids in the in the in the photo, they're kind of dressed, not uniform, but you know dressed pretty well is that was that, I guess, typical of that time?

Anna Medlock 28:03

You know, we didn't wear uniforms. You know, I think all of us spent a little extra time making sure that we were dressed nicely. Our parents wanted to make sure that we we projected a good impression, as long as we were neat and clean, and that's really what everybody strove for.

Sergio Plaza 28:31

Do you have, I guess, an idea as to why they strove for that?

Anna Medlock 28:34

I think it was all part of what palm school was trying to teach kids to make a good presentation of themselves, that it reflect good on the community and the school and each other, because that was something that everybody paid attention to.

Sergio Plaza 29:00

I'm seeing here a couple of smirks at the camera. There's the kid in the center smiling right at the camera. Yeah, kid in the right, he's pointing over. Kid on the left is kind of smiling a little bit, yeah, to his right and smiling as well. What were the students like at Palm were they? Were they like to have fun? Were they goofy? What do you remember about the

Anna Medlock 29:21

I remember about the assemblies. You know, there was always some, you know, some chatter going on, and teachers trying to get them to be quiet because there was presentations going to be made and but, you know, it was almost like a release, because you're out of the classroom, you know, there's no real structure, so kids get a little silly, but especially when there's a camera, everybody wants to mug for the camera. But yeah, they were fun.

Sergio Plaza 29:51

How did the teachers react to that?

Anna Medlock 29:54

I think they kind of let people be a little loose, and the students of well they appreciate it. But you know when it was time to be quiet, everybody was quiet.

Sergio Plaza 30:06

We'll go ahead and move on to photo number three.

Anna Medlock 30:17

number, oh goodness. When was this photo that was in the fifth grade? I forgot who was I? Who was my teacher? No, I forgot who my fifth grade teacher is. But it was school day, and, yeah, we had pictures.

Sergio Plaza 30:39

Where did you all take the school pictures?

Anna Medlock 30:45

I think it was in the cafeteria. You know, our whole class as a group would go and have our pictures taken. Now, the teachers had their own time to take it, to take a picture, and they didn't do that with the students, but the students, you know, the photographer, would come in and there was, we formed a line, and we would go up and have our picture taken. So they would run through several classrooms at a time. Oh, that's me in the fifth grade.

Sergio Plaza 31:26

You remember what you were feeling when you had to take this photo?

Anna Medlock 31:30

Yeah, do I really have to take this photo? And I think that was, you know, pretty much what I was thinking that day, and any day after that that we had to take pictures.

Sergio Plaza 31:45

So fifth grade, I guess, when do you Did you always feel like, oh, do I have to take this picture? Or did that? Do you like taking pictures earlier?

Anna Medlock 31:58

Oh, I think earlier in when I was younger, I did I like to take the pictures you can tell from my, you know, my first, second grade, that it was something I like to do

Sergio Plaza 32:09

were the earlier we saw kids, kind of cheesing in the other photo. Did your friends and peers also like, how did they feel about,

Anna Medlock 32:19

you know, because we were all in a line, right? So we were all together. So whoever, whoever started was to take a picture. There was always somebody there trying to get you to do something so that you know you were either laughing or you weren't, you know, you weren't going to smile. And so they would

start, you know, kind of teasing you and you would end up smiling. So, yeah, that was that was a fun time, as kids do, right? Yeah, all right,

Sergio Plaza 32:50

We'll go ahead and move on to the next photo. I number four.

Anna Medlock 33:16

That's, that's me in the second grade. I still I didn't mind taking a picture when I was younger. What year was it? 1960?

Sergio Plaza 33:31

Do you remember what part of the school year school pictures would usually be taken?

Anna Medlock 33:35

Usually in September. You know, right after we started school, we had our picture taken, and my mom would always curl our hair overnight so we could have curls in our in our picture. And she she tied that bow in my hair, because she always used to tell me that, you know, and I had unruly hair, and she needed to tame it. So, yeah, and with my curls.

Sergio Plaza 34:07

So tell me about this outfit. I know a bow on the shirt.

Anna Medlock 34:11

That was my favorite outfit. I love that outfit. My mom made that bow, and I love that thing I wore. It all the time.

Sergio Plaza 34:26

You remember what color it was? i

Anna Medlock 34:32

It was red. Yes, the shirt that you see is it was red.

Sergio Plaza 34:38

As you mentioned, second grade probably enjoyed taking photos a little bit more. Was this, were you when your mom was doing your hair, doing the bow? Do you remember if you were excited, how you were feeling, maybe nervous?

Anna Medlock 34:53

I was excited. You know, I always loved going to school, and I knew we were going to take pictures that day. So, yeah, I was, I was really excited about getting my picture taken.

Sergio Plaza 35:07

Was, would you usually get more than just one copy of this school photo?

Anna Medlock 35:12

No, my, you know, my family didn't have a lot of money, and we were seven kids, you know, so as each of us went to school, you know, that's that adds up. But we were, they did let us have at least one photo that we could have for the next photo. Photo five. That's me in first grade. You can tell I love going to school. I was always ready to go to school. I'm wearing one of those dresses I had that had flowers in it. And I love that thing because it had flowers, and I thought it was beautiful.

Sergio Plaza 36:05

What kind of do you remember? What kind of followers

Anna Medlock 36:09

they were, red and pink. It had a white background, and it buttoned in the back. My mother curled my hair at night before so I could have curls in the picture.

Sergio Plaza 36:25

You remember where? Because it seems like not just from this photo, but your other school photos and the photos of the other kids. Do you remember where families would typically go shop for children's clothes?

Anna Medlock 36:41

Well, there were some shops downtown, and, you know, some of them were, you know, were thrifted. There were thrift stores that we would go to as well, especially when you have a lot of kids. And we did okay.

Sergio Plaza 36:57

you you said a few times that you loved school at this age? How many? Why did you love school? What is it about school that made you want to go and be there?

Anna Medlock 37:10

Well, I liked it because, you know, I got to meet other kids, and in the classroom we were going to learn, you know, I already knew the alphabet when I went to school, and I could write my name, and I knew that we were going to learn to do more than just, you know, write our names. We were going to start to learn to read, even though I didn't read a book or stories until the second grade, we learned some fundamentals that allowed us to be able to enter second grade so that we could start reading.

Sergio Plaza 37:55

anything more about this school photo? Or some of the other shots?

Anna Medlock 38:00

No, I just think that I really enjoyed going to palm school. It was, it was a good school. There were so many different things to learn and an environment that allowed us to learn and encouraged us to be able to do well in school. This was our end of year classroom out into Zilker Park, and we had played softball. I remember that, and these are the six great girls that were at the field day. I um, third from the top row is me, and just to my right is Hortensia. We were best friends. So if you saw Hortensia, I was

standing right next to her, and you know we were, we were very close. That's my sister on the far right in Carmen. I see Christina on the first row. She's second from the left. And let me see who else I see Mary Lou. She's standing right next to Evelyn Villasana on the far right. She's Evelyn is third and then Mary Lou. And I wish I could remember everybody else's name, but I don't. Know,

Sergio Plaza 40:03

are you still....of the people on this picture? Are you still close with anyone?

Anna Medlock 40:10

Yes, Hortensia and I continue to be really good friends. And Christina, we reconnected. This, this project helped us reconnect with some of the other students, Mary Lou Trevino, I, I've reconnected with her. So we're all we're all still getting together and and really remembering things and reminiscing about what a good time we would have together.

Sergio Plaza 40:42

How does it feel having those reconnections and being able to talk about those old those those times that you shared in the past?

Anna Medlock 40:53

We know most of us are already retired, so reconnecting and renewing our friendships really means a lot to all of us, because, you know, we can reminisce about what it was like growing up together, but also appreciate that we were a close group, that we all did well in school, and that it really helped us to become the the adults that we are, to be able to express how important things are in education to our children. That's something that really stayed with me.

Sergio Plaza 41:39

Is there anything else you noticed about this photo that you would like to share?

Anna Medlock 41:42

I remember we had a really good time. You can tell by the faces we're smiling. We're enjoying each other's company. I remember that we we had a good time together. We teased each other. Some of us could play softball, and some of us could not. I was in the latter. So myself and Hortensia would be outfield, because balls never came to us. So yeah, we still had a good time just

Sergio Plaza 42:12

to sixth grade, end of sixth grade, 1965 Yes. Did you look forward to those end of year field trip?

Anna Medlock 42:21

Oh, yes, we did. We looked forward to it starting, you know, early that that's what we were going to do at the end of the year, and we were going to have a good time, and we're going to be able to play whatever we wanted to play. There was a, you know, we had a volleyball game going too so, yeah, yeah, it's a way to release because we're going on to junior high, and almost all of us were going to university junior high, so we were going to still be together.

Sergio Plaza 42:51

Did you enjoy ...sounds like you enjoyed playing sports? Was that something that you typically was just a hobby, something that you enjoyed doing?

Anna Medlock 43:00

something that you enjoyed doing? I did then because, you know, I wasn't very good at it. Neither was Hortensia. But, you know, we participated. We put in a good effort, and it was fun.

Sergio Plaza 43:14

Was this the same field trip that you all got to go into the pool?

Anna Medlock 43:18

Yes it is

Sergio Plaza 43:22

Now we move on to the next photo. Just

Speaker 1 43:24

one moment, just to clarify who else in the photo. So you said top row, the third from the left is you. And then would you say

Anna Medlock 43:34

this? She's to my right. She's second on the left side, and top row in the

Sergio Plaza 43:40

button down right. And

43:43

then you said your sister Carmen is on the far right

Anna Medlock 43:45

end, yes, on the top

Speaker 1 43:48

row, yes. And then you said

Anna Medlock 43:52

Christina was on the first row, second from the left. No, I'm sorry. She's third on the right. That's Christina with

Sergio Plaza 44:02

her husband. On the

44:13

far right on the

Anna Medlock 44:15

bottom, no on the top, let's see one, 2/3. From the right on the top row is Evelyn Villasana, and next to her is Mary Lou Trevino, to her right, to her left, what was Evelyn's and what was Evelyn Villasana, V, I, L, L, A, S, a, n, a, sorry.

Speaker 1 44:59

Was this history? On the at the top or the bottom top

Anna Medlock 45:03

with the long sleeve white shirt. Now we can move on to seven now,

45:15

Now we can move on to the seven.

Sergio Plaza 45:22

Now look at photo, looking at photo number seven. When was this taken?

Anna Medlock 45:26

This was the end of year assembly in the cafeteria. You know, I'm sorry, I don't know. I don't remember their names that are on either end, but in the middle is myself and Hortensia. Yeah, she's second on the right, and I'm right next to her on the right.

Sergio Plaza 46:02

Well, what was and so this is the end of the year assembly. Why were you all at the front?

Anna Medlock 46:10

What were you all doing? I believe we were all accepting a recognition. But I have to tell you, I don't know what it was. It must have been our promotion certificates.

Sergio Plaza 46:22

I see that the windows were open. Which way is that facing?

Anna Medlock 46:27

That's the back of the school. The windows where they are, that's the back of school.

Sergio Plaza 46:31

So is that North or South? North? Who is that facing? I guess palm Park.

Anna Medlock 46:42

and the parking lot just to the left as you're looking out,

Sergio Plaza 46:46

where the windows typically open.

Anna Medlock 46:49

No only on assemblies, because, you know the school was not air conditioned, so the windows would be open when they had a whole group of people in the cafeteria,

Sergio Plaza 47:02

another at the very front, his head is cut off a little bit, looking right at the camera.

47:08

Oh, yeah,

Sergio Plaza 47:12

Tell me a little bit. Do you remember that outfit that you were in? And

Anna Medlock 47:20

it was a skirt. We weren't allowed to wear pants or shorts. We all the girls were required to wear a dress or a skirt. And I had a here again, a collar like a sailor. I must really like them back then, and Hortensia next to me is just wearing a short sleeve shirt. How

Sergio Plaza 47:53

How did it make you feel that you all had to wear skirts and couldn't do pants?

Anna Medlock 47:58

Yeah, that got a little frustrating sometimes, especially in the winter, the only time we got to wear pants is when it snowed, and that's not very often. Otherwise, we were required to wear a skirt. And you know, when it's 50 degrees outside and in the 40s, you know, it gets pretty chilly.

Sergio Plaza 48:18

Was there ever a day that you can remember where, when you were at Palm its snowing and you got to wear pants?

Anna Medlock 48:24

Oh yeah, yeah, those were very exciting days. Yeah, that was always really special. Because, you know, if they let school out early because it was snowing or getting ready to snow, we were all delighted because we were going to be able to play outside in the snow. So sometimes we would kind of lag behind, waiting for the snow to accumulate so we could throw snow balls at each other. But that was always fun.

Sergio Plaza 48:55

Ever enough snow for a snowman or

Anna Medlock 48:59

Just barely, just barely Not, not, not a lot

Sergio Plaza 49:05

anything else about this photo that you'd like to share?

Anna Medlock 49:08

No, it was, you know, those end of school assemblies were always a lot of fun. It was like a lot of relief that school was over. We were really excited about it going to junior high, because that was going to, you know, mean that it's a bigger thing to be able to do that, and going to be completely different with different kinds of students and a more diverse student body, because University of Junior High was integrated.

Sergio Plaza 49:47

And I know it's we're reaching to that point. But do you what do you remember about University of junior high? Did the what you it? Experience, did that meet your expectations that you felt in this here, in this photo?

Anna Medlock 50:05

Yes, yes, it did. You know, palm school was primarily Mexican American. We did have a few white families that had students that went to palm but not many, not many at all. So, you know, there was some apprehension about going to school, you know, in a mixed student body, because we would be the first time we went to school with a lot of white kids, black kids. It was going to be different, in a different atmosphere, we knew that. And sometimes we talked about, you know, we got to stick together, because we know each other, you know, and whatever challenges there are, at least we can help each other with dealing with it and adjusting to it. So, yeah, it was, I liked going to u, j, h, it was, it was an experience I'll never forget. I mean, the building was, it's a beautiful building, you know that I can appreciate it as an adult. It was a beautiful building. It had really tall windows that we opened in the summer and the spring, because, you know that school wasn't air conditioned either. And I remember because I was in the band and the band hall was up these really steep stairs at the very top, where that was where the band room was and it was different. And a very big band room that where we would go for class, but it was a really nice school. Very, very nice.

Speaker 2 52:02

Move on to the next photo. When was this photo taken?

Anna Medlock 52:08

I believe it was at the Zilka Park end of year picnic. And that's our one of the teachers, Mrs. Rhodes, she taught, I believe, fourth grade. She went with us as one of the chaperones. So she was with us as we were playing softball. There's somebody swinging a bat right there, and other people waiting to their turn.

Sergio Plaza 52:39

Do you recognize any of the other folks in the picture?

Anna Medlock 52:43

No, I don't. I think that's Evelyn Yes. Ana, right there. She had the head band,

Sergio Plaza 52:50

yeah, the one sitting down, yeah. And do you remember much about Mrs Rhodes?

Anna Medlock 53:04

No, not really, because she was, she was not a teacher. I had but, and I don't, I don't think my siblings had her for for any classes, but I never heard anything bad about her. I think she was a nice person.

Sergio Plaza 53:20

Do you remember what the weather was like that day? You can't, you can't tell what, whether or not it's sunny.

Anna Medlock 53:27

Oh, it was sunny. It was sunny and hot because it was June and it's Austin, so yeah, it was hot, but there was, there was lots to drink. You know, we stayed hydrated. The teachers made sure that we were having something to drink and have something to eat, you know, so to be able to, you know, anyone, any kids painting?

Sergio Plaza 53:51

Do you remember an Austin icon? How? How popular was Zilker park back then?

Anna Medlock 54:01

Oh, it was, it was central to a lot of celebrations. I remember it was a big deal for families to go to Zilker Park on Easter. People would camp out at the picnic tables to make sure that their family had one of the picnic tables. And there was, they would grill. They had barbecues. And, you know, all the relatives would come with grandparents and aunts and uncles and all the kids. And that was a really big thing in Austin, at least for Mexican American community. That's where it was really a big deal.

54:40

Did your family get to do that?

Anna Medlock 54:45

Yes, we did that too.

Sergio Plaza 54:53

How do you about that experience? How do you remember it? How do you remember. Are you feeling during those get togethers at so good Park, not just here at school for the end of your celebration, but from family get together?

Anna Medlock 55:08

It was always a special place to go, because it was always so pretty there. I remember that there, you know, you could do anything you want to, there's always somebody with a baseball game that's going to start, and you didn't even have to know the people if they needed a first baseman, and they knew

who you were, and they knew you could, you could catch, you know they'd come and ask you to come play with them. But my brothers, my brothers, were big baseball players, so they always found a game to play somewhere. So it was really special. Everybody really liked it. So pretty down there.

Sergio Plaza 55:47

You said you had seven there were seven of you, right? How many brothers? How many sisters?

Anna Medlock 55:53

I had, four sisters, two brothers.

Sergio Plaza 56:00

Where do you fall on the line? As far as old is on third, third. We'll move on to the next one. Sorry, you mentioned one name, Evelyn?

Anna Medlock 56:15

Evelyn in the headband, you see her? She's sitting or squatting, I think one of those, oh, one of those posts, yeah, maybe she's sitting on the wall.

56:32

That's the only one that you can recognize.

Anna Medlock 56:34

Uh huh. Other than the Teacher.

Sergio Plaza 57:00

Our next photo. When was this one taken?

Anna Medlock 57:05

It's at the the end of the year assembly. We were all waiting for, I think, recognition. I can't remember that what it was, but we were sixth graders. So there was always something for the sixth graders to to be recognized for. And so we always, we stuck together when we went up to the stages.

Sergio Plaza 57:36

This is the stage in the cafeteria. You I see that? I think it's you in the middle?

Anna Medlock 57:44

I'm wearing a ribbon.

57:47

Do you remember what the ribbon was for?

Anna Medlock 57:52

No, but the only time we got ribbons was like, field day, you know, for track and field, it was some kind of ribbon for that. Who else is in the photo? Hortensia is right next to me on the right. The guy, see, he's Joe Sing.

Sergio Plaza 58:24

the one with the watch,

Anna Medlock 58:26

yes and glasses, yes. Joe sing, yes. He's very tall.

Sergio Plaza 58:38

Was he also a six figure?

58:40

Do you

Sergio Plaza 58:42

Do you recognize any other kids in the photo?

Anna Medlock 58:47

No, I don't. I'm sorry.

Sergio Plaza 58:54

Anything else that you have to say about the photo?

Anna Medlock 58:57

No, we were all very proud of sixth graders that we were going to junior high. And so whenever we got either, like a ribbon, like I had, or a certificate for one reason or another, you know, we were all very proud that we would be able to to leave palm school in sixth grade knowing we had done well and that we were ready to move on. I remember how excited we were about going to junior high.

Speaker 1 59:31

We'll move on to the next photo. Was it Joe? And then you don't know the girl next to him. When was this taken?

Anna Medlock 59:49

It's at the field day that we had outside in the park and we are standing. That's I 35. Yes, and that's the access road. We're standing on the edge of the park. I don't know what we were doing there, but it's real close to the let me see the the red building that's behind there that had, it's a pavilion, and we're standing real close to it. I'm not sure why we were standing there alone. This is palm Park. Yes, palm Park, and it was during our our field day.

Sergio Plaza 1:00:50

What events and activities did you do at the field day? And was the field day out also at the park?

Anna Medlock 1:00:56

Yes, at Palm Park, we could, I know we were playing softball, and we were having, you know, different games. It was like a free for all, you know, we were going to all get a release from school that it was ending, you know, at the end of the year. And it's still that way, where, you know, you've already put up your books. You've already finished your lessons, and there's still a day left for you to have to go to school. That's really what that day was about.

Sergio Plaza 1:01:31

You have I 35 right behind you? Do you remember what it felt like having that right next to your school?

Anna Medlock 1:01:46

Well, it was noisy. I remember that you could hear the traffic. And since, you know, there wasn't that much traffic on there, it was, you could hear some at night that there really, you know, the most of the traffic was during the day. But, I mean, it wasn't intimidating. I remember when they were building, I 35 we were very, very young, and I remember my uncle malo. He took the seven of us to go watch them build the interstate, because he wanted us to know that this is going to be a major highway and they're building it.

Sergio Plaza 1:02:28

What do you remember about that?

Anna Medlock 1:02:32

How massive it looked? We know we were little kids, and I remember how big it looked, and I just could not think about how big it was going to be, you know, like, how many cars are going to be up on that thing? And, you know, what's it, what's this going to bring to our neighborhood that? So we got to watch it being built, because we lived right there on East, First Street, right across the street from school. So, you know, it's very close to us, and it was, you know, it was sometimes a little intimidating, but you know, you get used to it once it's it opened and cars were on it. Then we just got used to having it there.

Sergio Plaza 1:03:19

Do you remember what it was like before?

Anna Medlock 1:03:23

It was just a road, just a plain road.

Sergio Plaza 1:03:29

Anything else about this photo that you'd like to share?

Anna Medlock 1:03:35

No other than because we lived on Driscoll and when we had to move from Driscoll, we moved on Second Street, just on the other side of I 35 on the 900 block. I mean, it was like a block from I 35 so it was always central to where we lived.

Sergio Plaza 1:03:59

Did you have to cross the street or across under the highway, over the highway?

Anna Medlock 1:04:03

Under, under the highway. What was that like? Well, we had safety patrols because I was, I was a safety patrol too, but we didn't. They encouraged the kids to, you know, use the sidewalks not to get on the street, and there was also a traffic light, so that way you knew when to cross, and it wasn't that dangerous. But you know, the school encouraged all the kids to obey the stop light, and don't, you know, don't go against the light. You

Sergio Plaza 1:04:43

Just one more question. Sure about this, what can you tell me about your memories of Palm Park?

Anna Medlock 1:04:53

You know Palm Park was so important to the Mexican American community because it was. Was, it was a huge park. There was a swimming pool. I learned to swim in that pool. It brought the community together. Families looked forward to palm school in the summer. There were movie nights. Every Friday there was a movie night. Families would come, you know, they'd spread their blankets bring their picnic food. There was also a stand where they sold Raspa, snow cones, and you can buy popcorn. And there was they would show a movie. In fact, the Parks and Recreation sponsored some of that they incur. They provided the movies the projector, and at the time, in the summer, we had Park leaders that coordinated everything. The refreshment stands, what time the movie started, and they made sure families knew when and what movie was going to be shown. So it was it was very central. It was something that everybody in the community looked forward to, and it brought everybody together. So it was very exciting.

Sergio Plaza 1:06:21

Thank you, Miss Medlock, I'm going to stop the recording now, if this is the end of our audio interview,

Anna Medlock 1:06:27

Thank you for having me.