

Palm_School_Quintanilla_Anita_Foto_Voz_Tra nscript

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Travis County, oral history, photo voice, Anita Quintanilla, Linda Quintanilla, Austin Texas, 1950s, Mexican American Culture Center, Palm School, family photos, activism, UFW, New York City, gentrification, family history.

SPEAKERS

Anita Quintanilla, Linda Quintanilla

Linda Quintanilla 00:00

Hello. Today is Saturday, December 14, 2024 My name is Linda Quintanilla, and I am conducting a photo voz with my sister, Anita Quintanilla in Austin, Texas for the Travis County Palmer school oral history project. We are recording at the University of Texas at Austin, its main campus. Thank you, Anita, for agreeing to this interview. We will now take a five minute five second pause to record room tone. Please do not, do not make any sounds during this time, we will now start with photo one. Can you tell me something about this photo? When? When was it taken? Or what it what do we see? Go ahead.

Anita Quintanilla 01:00

Okay, wow. So this was after my father built, added on to the house, because it was back in the 40s. It was one bedroom. This was taken in 1956, when I was six. And, yeah, we had all these chickens that would wander over from the slaughter house on river. That's where the the Mexican American Culture Center is right now. But yeah, we always had chickens, and my father would kill them, and mom would make fried chicken.

Linda Quintanilla 01:32

So the address of the house, 51 Rainey.

Anita Quintanilla 01:35

Yes.

Linda Quintanilla 01:38

Thank you. Now, what's in photo two, who's there?

Anita Quintanilla 01:43

Oh, so cute. Well, this is how we cooled off in the summer on rainy street. There's my brother Ralph on the left, me in the middle, and my older sister Linda on the right. In 1952 so I was two years old. And back those back in the 40s and 50s, these barrels were popular. I don't know if they kept wine or whatever in them, but yeah, there was a lot of those around.

Linda Quintanilla 02:15

Thank you. Now, this is photo three. What is this we're looking at.

Anita Quintanilla 02:21

Okay, this is my palm school photo that they took in 19. I don't know if they took in 57 or 58 but I was in the I was in the second grade and missing teeth. And of course, I had to give this big smile with my mouth open, to show all my teeth missing. But yeah, I still remember that dress that was very popular back in, back then.

Linda Quintanilla 02:44

So yeah, and that was at Palm school. Oh yeah,

Anita Quintanilla 02:47

palm school photo. School photo, yes, no, no, no, no, uniforms.

Linda Quintanilla 02:55

Okay. Now we have photo four. When was this?

Anita Quintanilla 02:59

Okay, In 1956 and there we are, starting on the left, Kathy, me, Ralph and Linda. And probably my father took this. He was somewhat of a shutter, Shutter Bug then. And in the back you could see our slide. And the way in the back was that was a rest home, and sometimes we would hear the patient say, water, water. Yeah, that was kind of sad. So

Linda Quintanilla 03:30

yes, the rest home was facing East Avenue

Anita Quintanilla 03:36

River, and East Avenue

Linda Quintanilla 03:39

was roughly behind our house. Okay, now we're at photo five. And okay, okay, what? Who was in this? When was this? Where?

Anita Quintanilla 03:48

Okay, taken in 1957 right in front of palm the palm building, starting on the left, Linda, Ralph, me, our cousin Nancy, and then in front of her is Kathy.

Linda Quintanilla 04:06

Nancy's last name was, what?

Anita Quintanilla 04:08

Benavidez? That was my mother's maiden name Benavidez, yes, she was our cousin.

Linda Quintanilla 04:13

She is our cousin. Great. Okay, now we're at photo six. What do we have here?

Anita Quintanilla 04:24

Okay, well, this was taken in 1956 when when Kathy was two years old. And of course, there's those chickens that wandered over so that we can, my father made all these cages for the chickens, and later we would have fried chicken. So this is in the front yard facing west,

Linda Quintanilla 04:48

okay, yes, now we're at photo seven. What do we have here?

Anita Quintanilla 04:55

Okay, this is me in Palm Park in sixth grade in 1962 and Waller Creek is right behind me. And also one of our activities at Palm was but at Palm school was baton twirling, so that was fun, and that was our uniform, all white. What grade did you say you were in? Sixth grade, sixth grade. Sixth grade. In 1962 Yes. What other extracurriculars we also have sports, which I was the fastest runner in the school and did the most chin ups. I was very, very athletic. I went as a pre teen, I was a top athlete.

Linda Quintanilla 05:36

It's a nice picture. Okay, now photo eight okay, so who's in this is, where is it?

Anita Quintanilla 05:43

Okay? This is in our driveway, on Rainey facing north west. And there's my brother Ralph, my father and mother and their dog at the time, Holly st San st, Bernard st, Bernard Holly, oh, precious, yeah, my father, San V Quintanilla and Minnie Benevides Quintanilla,

Linda Quintanilla 06:15

How do you spell that?

Anita Quintanilla 06:20

Mini M, I N? N i e, oh, boy.

06:27

And what was your dog's name,

Anita Quintanilla 06:30

Holly? Because I think my father found him on Holly Street.

Linda Quintanilla 06:35

Okay, now we're at photo nine. Who are there?

Anita Quintanilla 06:39

Well on the left is me, and on the right is you. Linda Quintanilla, in 1969 and I was starting to grow my hair. So after that, my hair was long. The rest of my Well, up until today, the rest of my life, my hair has been long down to my waist. But yeah, there we are. We're wearing red, which, which is not showing up

Linda Quintanilla 07:03

that photo no,

Anita Quintanilla 07:06

okay, or maybe it was just we made those. We made these dresses. Oh, I don't remember that. Remember we made our clothes.

Linda Quintanilla 07:15

Yeah, I still sew.

Anita Quintanilla 07:17

She still sews. Well, not regular every day, but I made a few. Made a few outfits, dresses. Yeah.

Linda Quintanilla 07:29

Okay, now we're at photo 10. This is a very interesting photo. Tell us about it. Yes,

Anita Quintanilla 07:33

we're really moving far beyond palm school in this 1960 Wait a minute. This is Oh. 919, okay, I've been an activist since 1969 starting at UT. So I continued in Austin, and then when I was in New York City, I heard a fire, fiery speech by Dolores Huerta, and I got me active with the UFW again. So this photo is helping lead a U, F, W march in New York City on May 5, 1975

Linda Quintanilla 08:09

Can you what else can you remember about this March?

Anita Quintanilla 08:12

Well, I remember that photographer, who was, I found out later, was a very famous photographer. He was kind of bugging because he was taking pictures, taking pictures, taking pictures, taking like, Who is this person? I'm busy leading this March.

08:30

But yeah, so what started your activist work

Anita Quintanilla 08:33

in UT, at UT with when mile, the Mexican youth organization, Mexican American youth organization, MAYO

Linda Quintanilla 08:42

and so that and so you were in different countries, on different cities, doing dragged Yes, with Cesar Chavez and others. What led you to NYC?

Anita Quintanilla 08:49

Went to New York. Well, I hitch the ride with a student at UT. She was going to drive to Boston to visit her boyfriend's parents, and then I kind of got stuck in New York City because I met this guy. That's another story.

Linda Quintanilla 09:13

So how long were you there? Do you remember how long

Anita Quintanilla 09:16

two and a half years? Well, that's a good experience. Yeah. Of New York City. Wow, from the gutter, from the ground, from the street.

9:27

How much more different is New York to compared to Texas?

Anita Quintanilla 9:30

When I was in New York, it blew my mind. The Black people speak in Spanish, and Jewish little Jewish women talking like gangsters, because they were talking the New York San accent from the movies, I would hear that accent and they were talking and like, wow, they're talking like they're in the mafia. Anyway.

Linda Quintanilla 09:55

Okay, that's now. We're at photo 11, and this is. Yes, this is very interesting. Could you tell us what you what did we see here?

Anita Quintanilla 10:04

Okay, I took this photo, I believe, in 1981 facing the other direction. There's our driveway, and the house is hidden by trees. And of course, the road is dirt and wood. It was very woodsy.

Linda Quintanilla 10:18

Well, what house do you see there? That's 51 rainy. You could barely see the roof. How hard to tell through the trees at that at this point, they were not many houses on rainy.

Anita Quintanilla 10:29

On our block, the second block, okay, on our block next to the river, there was maybe three or four other houses, that's no wait a minute, and 81 maybe two other houses.

Linda Quintanilla 10:39

And so dad was still living in that house, yeah,

Anita Quintanilla 10:41

we were all living there. And I believe that's cat's little bug car,

Linda Quintanilla 10:49

yeah, that's before the whole block was taken over. Oh, you were gentrification.

Anita Quintanilla 10:55

Mowed down completely. Okay, oh, boy.

Linda Quintanilla 11:00

This is a very odd level photo. And so tell us, who, who do we?

Anita Quintanilla 11:05

Well this photo is taking us back before we were born, taken, I believe, in 1920 and my father standing on the chair looking side ways. And that's his older sister. No younger, younger sister. Oh, okay, she must have just been born. Anyway, our grandparents, Braulio Quintanilla and Maria Quintanilla says,

Linda Quintanilla 11:29

Braulio junior, and then Consuelo. Consuelo, our father.

Anita Quintanilla 11:37

Okay, starting on the left, Braulio was the oldest,

Linda Quintanilla 11:42

B, r, a, U, L, i, o. The father was Braulio senior, first born with Braulio Junior and then Consuelo,

Anita Quintanilla 11:52

Consuelo in the middle, and then my father is on the right, standing sideways.

Linda Quintanilla 11:58

But he, when he was born, the name had given was Manuel, and he later switched to Samuel. Well, I don't know why it was first Manuel. Yeah, that was his name, the name given to him, but he decided to change it later in life. I'm not well, you know, an adult,

Anita Quintanilla 12:18

and on our mother side, there was Manuel, Manuel, Manuels, and I ended up with a Samuel,

Linda Quintanilla 12:27

so, but this is taken in Mexico, don't you think?

Anita Quintanilla 12:30

No, in Austin, really, they didn't go back over the border. This is in Austin, I think, I think. And I'll double check on that later, but, but I always thought it was in Austin. Always

Linda Quintanilla 12:46

Always thought I was main

Anita Quintanilla 12:48

maybe, okay, maybe, before they crossed over that question,

12:55

what was your grandparents name?

Anita Quintanilla 13:01

Oh, Maria, Maria and Braulio Quintanilla, but grandma was Vergas. I mean, Vargas,

Linda Quintanilla 13:06

that was her apellido. So my father was Sam Vargas Quintanilla

Anita Quintanilla 13:12

and both, oh, okay, both our grandparents had a mother that was called had the same name. I'll forget it. Sorry. Never mind. Okay.

Linda Quintanilla 13:21

Now we're at another photo. It's 13. And who do we have here?

Anita Quintanilla 13:26

Well, there's my father and I standing right in front of his office on East Sixth Street in 1998

Linda Quintanilla 13:34

what kind of business did he have?

Anita Quintanilla 13:35

Well, you can see the sign behind him, auto insurance. But he also did notary, repub, notary, Republican taxes and yeah, okay, accounting.

Linda Quintanilla 13:47

He always worked on East Sixth Street at several locations, different location, different locations where the shoe shop was.

Anita Quintanilla 13:54

Yeah. Before this, he was in this green house on the corner of Attayak and the Quintanillas has lived there since maybe the early 40s or earlier. But yeah, Uncle B lived there, and then his new wife. They had, what, several kids, but yeah, that was his first and I remember going, there was a shoe shop. It was a shoe shop. That's how my father's father came over because he was an art artisan, a shoe maker, and I think both sides of the war down there wanted him, so they had to leave, and he must have been a good shoe maker for them to Both want him.

Linda Quintanilla 14:39

Well, these are very nice photos. Thank you for bringing them, and thank you, Anita, I'm going to stop the recording now, as this is the end of our auto interview. Hi.