

Palm_School_Garcia_Felipe__Red__Foto_Voz_Transcript

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Palm School, Sanchez Elementary, photo documentation, oral history, Felipe Garcia, Eloise Campos, Marine Corps, family history, community involvement, education, integration, childhood memories, mentorship, cultural heritage, Austin Texas., self-esteem, racial injustice, school system, educational change, personal success, military service, family, ambition, learning, University of Texas, Southwest Texas, Mrs. Campos, interview, recording, salary

SPEAKERS

Brittany Mendez, Felipe "Red" Garcia, Speaker 2, Ariannah Lomeli, Speaker 1, Madai Montes

INTERVIEW STARTS AT 15:46

Madai Montes 00:00

Hey, this should go right before that, you're just gonna describe the picture. What is this order? Why is this say one, two and three. Oh, my God. What did I do with my bag? Did I leave it upstairs? No, I had another bag. I think it's in the main room. Let me go

Speaker 1 00:29

get that. Had two pictures in there, some other scholars from home right now.

Madai Montes 00:42

We can just tell him when he comes back. You could

Brittany Mendez 00:45

add them. Could just do like, because it stops at 17, okay, so technically that would be 18 and 19, and then just make a note, okay,

Ariannah Lomeli 00:54

but I didn't like do a take a picture of them or what, because I didn't scan them like he wants to add to tree, yeah.

Madai Montes 01:09

This is Sanchez Elementary School.

Brittany Mendez 01:16

We could just scan them afterwards, really quickly, so you can go over these if you want to. These are documents. So you kind of categorize everything by what they are, so if they're documents or their images. So this would be a document one, document two, document three, document four. But these are a little bit more self explanatory, because usually like articles and stuff. So if anything, I would leave this. If you want to do that, you don't really have to, but I would start here. So these all have numbers on them. It doesn't really you could go in, like, 1234, sort of order, or you could just kind of go along, but just always make sure you say what

Madai Montes 02:04

the mirror is, yeah.

Brittany Mendez 02:10

And then so Ariana is going to be doing the meta data. So before I'm already recording, actually, I just hit record. But essentially, you'll start with the preamble. You'll say all of this. Once you're done saying that, you just take like, a five second pause, just to record the tone of the room. And then once you start on photo one, you're like, Okay, we're on photo one. You're basically going to ask those questions so that Ariana could get the information. Is like, Who's this? When was this taken? Where were you sort of thing. And then after that, that's when you could start asking more of the like questions that would lead to, like, sort of anecdotes and stuff like that based off whatever he tells you. Okay, if that makes sense.

Madai Montes 02:59

Um, do I have double the microphone? Does he hold?

Brittany Mendez 03:03

I'm gonna clip it on him. So yeah, and then Ariana will be hearing the audio and

Madai Montes 03:09

stuff.

Ariannah Lomeli 03:17

And these are pictures he specifically chose out for us to do it for. But he said he might have more. So right now,

Speaker 2 03:26

these are all in school style, if you just want to look at

03:40

them, so that's kind of like what you're working

Felipe "Red" Garcia 03:54

with, good, right? Awesome, yes, okay, okay, okay, I'm gonna figure gonna get paid? So does that sound good? I want to see if I can find two pictures in here that I know my wife gave them to me. They were my cousins that also went to palm and they used to walk us to school. Let me see. Okay, I gave

you, I didn't give you this picture. He went, she went, he went to she went to palm and he went to palm. Okay, so

Madai Montes 04:39

they haven't scanned those yet. I'm not sure

Speaker 2 04:41

which one these the ones that you have. So you want to add this one and what other one? Okay,

Felipe "Red" Garcia 04:46

no, see these two, and then there's two more. Oh, so forth. Yeah, I'm over here. I'm freezing. Man, it was cold up there. Yeah, I'm telling you, it's cold this I have another picture of her maybe. Let's see if I get it. Yeah, let's see. I'll get it, I'll get it. I'll get it on this. That's the picture on the Mi prima. I on the TAM prima, on the Tommy prima. I guess that's gonna be it right there. Okay, who did that? Oh, that's Albert's picture. Yes, not or it serves. That's her, but this is her too.

05:31

So do you want to? Do you want us to scan that as well? Yeah, you

Felipe "Red" Garcia 05:33

can. Okay, this one, he went to palm, she went to palm, back in the 40s. Okay, 50. Okay. So, so. And then, is that

Brittany Mendez 05:47

all that you want scanned, or is there anything else?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 05:49

Where's my phone? Did I lose my phone already? And then these two people here? Oops, I'm sorry. As a matter of fact, there's three other people here. My neighbor and told me to turn this off. This is really orale. Come on, magic.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 06:15

This is my dead brother Mario. Song he left me. I told him to take care of his health. And this is my brother, Tony. I came for him too. They left. They had no business leaving me in this cruel world, and it's slow like me. I was a slow learner. Okay, let me see what's. Oh, tell me it's not gonna come on.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 06:54

I think it froze up

Madai Montes 06:55

there. It got cold, yeah,

Felipe "Red" Garcia 06:56

it was didn't got cold. Estaba frio alla. Yeah. I

Madai Montes 07:03

I don't know why it's not coming on.

07:04

I'll be right. Okay,

Speaker 1 07:06

here, let me turn this booger off and change it on. Or what happened to it? I know it was cold up there.

Madai Montes 07:19

Okay, this will go here. I mean, I It's stuck. Don't tell me this phone is going to break on me too. It better not. I'm going to cry if it does. Okay. I don't know how this burger turns on or turns off for let me turn it off, just like, hold it down.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 07:45

Oh, it's not going to but I do have the main I have a picture that's really important to me. It's around the corner from Palm school, because I stayed there, but it's the house I was born in,

Ariannah Lomeli 07:58

yeah. And if you do find those pictures later on, you can email us.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 08:01

We can give you our cards. Okay, can give me the card. Please call us if anything text, or am I hitting the wrong one? Yeah, I kicked it. Kicked it, kicked. There you go. I think this might do it, or is it going to go off? I is loading. It is my phone. My brother was slow too. You don't see scanning, optimizing ops 100% Hey, what's going on with this phone? What happened to it? Don't tell me. Decided to. I have it on purpose because he died and he has his phone and now on,

Ariannah Lomeli 08:48

I'm gonna put this on you pretty quick over here so that I can test the sound. Okay.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 09:01

Tele, for no. Ta, brother, I told you, my wife, grandmother, and all our uncles and aunts lived in that area, right there by where your father. That excited me that made me honorably. Be honorably, honorably excited with you. When you was telling me where he was from, I said, Oh, he didn't. This is what I like people to come and become a part of my part of town, que paso con esta cosa.

Madai Montes 09:43

Sign in?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 09:48

No, it's something else. Me Now, okay, I keep almost okay, this is gonna go there. And the text, okay, what? The one control watch on the top, palm school, Hyrum. Oh, my day, my day. Madai, You live my

day, my day, but die. I want to make it a Spanish name, okay, It is Madai. Call me como mi senora maddy. How do I kind of help? What happened now?

10:17

What's going on?

Maybe later. Okay, what happened to this thing?

10:27

Where is, where is this stuff at? Man, it was my text messages, where they send me the picture. Va, most online. I us, yeah, give me tia, no quiere ir, hey, my brother, letting me down. Like, how we What the hell is this? Oh, no, that's tia that's not the one I want. Where did my he give me that he gave me he sent me the picture this morning. I saw it that salva

Felipe "Red" Garcia 11:16

Salvas. I saw it this morning, because, oh, here we go. Do I give it to her? Do you want it here? These are the pictures. Okay, right here. Okay, this one. Or, do you want me to text it to you? I can text it to you, or you text it to somebody. Okay, see this? I

Madai Montes 11:45

I think you could just text it to me and,

Felipe "Red" Garcia 11:46

okay, we'll do that here. You want to send it to yourself? Okay, look this picture. Okay, this picture and this picture. This guy right here went to one year with us. Then he came back and went to junior high with us and stuff. That's my brother, and that's me from, yeah, you want to, you want to text it somewhere, this one and this one, which ones? Okay, this one right here, this one. That's me, and that's my brother, and this is Galvan, verji, Galvan, and she was right there, two doors down for me, and she went to palm, but they're in middle school. They're in junior high. And then this guy right here went to palm, right here, you know? And he was one year, year and a half, then he went on to another school, but he went to palm too. Okay, you don't want to put him in there.

Speaker 2 12:45

No, I'm just thinking about, like, you want to text it to somebody.

Madai Montes 12:53

She's thinking about how we're going to put it in this, yeah,

Felipe "Red" Garcia 12:56

or, like, Okay, we don't have to put this in this. We can just talk this, and then you can put that. I don't know if you're going to use it for use it for the voces or not. We do. We're going to get an archive of okay or not, she's there, virgie's there, but I know that that was from the middle school, junior high school, so we don't have to do that. We don't have to put it there. That's fine. I mean, I don't I just thought I was supposed to bring pictures, and I had other of alumni, alumni.

Madai Montes 13:25

We can definitely, email it to me, and we can still put it, because we're gonna have, yeah, we

Felipe "Red" Garcia 13:28

can do whatever I'm happy with this. Yeah. The only thing I really would like is to the house I was born in, and that's right there, around the corner from, yeah, from, from Palm, yeah, that's,

Madai Montes 13:41

yeah, that's important. You can also email me that one too. Okay, this, we're just going to go through these photos, and yeah, and then we can, of course, take those for preserving,

Felipe "Red" Garcia 13:53

okay, no problem. They don't have to. I mean, I'm just saying that. That was it, you know? I mean, I was just saying,

14:01

Do you have the actual, like, book that

Felipe "Red" Garcia 14:05

those pictures are taken from? Yeah, they're at the History Center. Okay, at the South in History Center, there's a lot of you want to, well, you won't find you won't, yeah, they have your books, but you won't have pound because we didn't have year books in elementary but those pictures are taken from from a year book at the U, J H University junior high. But that's fine. We don't have to. They're fine. I just didn't know. They just said, Bring, bring the alumni. And I was bringing alumni all my family, my cousins and stuff. Thank you so much. Yeah, I think we're just

Madai Montes 14:41

gonna do these for now and then I'm gonna email you to get the other photos. Okay, in your house, photo, which I think would be great. Can you hear I'm okay. It's just

Ariannah Lomeli 14:50

rustling a lot, so I'm trying to find a good place to put this right

Felipe "Red" Garcia 14:54

now, maybe on the shirt. Yeah, this rust. I can take this off because it looks cold. Vehicle. And then he made me take my jacket off because it was wrestling and then I Oh, man, oh, man. I was freezing in there. Jonathan would tell you, boy, it was awful in there. But then I had to put it back on because I couldn't handle the cold. Okay,

Ariannah Lomeli 15:21

I think, oh. Think, okay,

Felipe "Red" Garcia 15:37

they just named one of my great grand nieces. Just named her daughter, Ariana,

INTERVIEW STARTS

Madai Montes 15:46

so we're gonna get started. Hi. Today is Saturday, December 14, 2024 My name is Madai Montes, and I'm conducting a photo voz with Felipe "Red" Garcia 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, Felipe for agreeing to this interview. We will now be taking a five second pause to record room tone. Please do not make any sound during this time. (pause) Okay, we will start with photo number one. Okay, so when was this picture taken?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 16:43

This was taken in who I was. I was nine years old. It would be around, my God, it would be 1960 maybe, okay, and it's a picture of me. I made a presentation of the Gettysberg address. There was my clothes that I have on, my coat, my shirt, my tie, and all that was given to me by a lady, a wonderful lady. There was a big mentor there at Palm Elementary Eloisa Campos, and she helped me memorize this address of Abraham Lincoln. And I didn't understand much of it. It didn't know much. But she also bought that coat for me and the tie and stuff like that in the shirt, you know, because she wanted me to look good up there, and I wasn't going to get it at home, so she provided it enough. It was a memorable moment for me, because of this lady ended up being my mentor until the day she died. Okay, she mentored me, good friends with me and a lot of people at Palm she did a lot of activities. She was a secretary, and she put together a lot of programs. She worked with us kids after school. She took a lot of pride in us, you know, and and we didn't have any Mexicans there. She was it. I guess she was hired because before her, it was an Anglo. They were nothing but Anglos in the office. And then they hired her because was the population was 99% Hispanic, so they had to have people that, somebody that would speak Spanish, and she was wonderful to all of us, too. I mean, she was just a great person. So

Madai Montes 18:52

this was taken at Palm school. At palm school,

Felipe "Red" Garcia 18:55

right there, right when I was given the Gettysburg Address. Okay, Victor and I've been to Gettysburg since then, to visit, you know, to understand, try to understand what it was that she was given me. Do you understand it now? Oh, yeah, I understood it years before that, but I wanted to go see the location of why she knew it was so important I didn't know at that age.

Madai Montes 19:21

Okay, she sounds great. So now we're on photo number two. When was this photo taken? Yes,

Felipe "Red" Garcia 19:27

was taken in sixth grade. Hell, it doesn't even have a grade. Man, I was teaching in sixth grade. It's Sanchez Elementary, oh, 1989 to 1996 grade, okay. Oh, no, 1819, 8919 90 okay, I wasn't in this picture this. Oh, you're not going to get the names from me. You're not going to get any of the names from me, because I'm not going to remember the names. I'm. All I can tell you is this was when I started teaching

Sanchez Elementary was named after a well known professor here at the University of Texas, George E Sanchez. I mean George I Sanchez, and he the school was named after him, but it was the school. When they closed palm school down, they opened, they opened Sanchez Elementary. And in the reason they did that was because of the few people that were saying, hey, you need to open the school. Put it on this side. You're making everybody walk across the highway. And everybody lived on our side of the on the east side. So Sanchez is on the Yeah, aqui estan los nombres, yeah, look at it there. But I don't know if George. I remember George. What aqui estan los nombres, Janice Rodriguez, yeah. Oh yeah. Who was Martinez? Oh Patty Martinez. I remember Castellon. I don't remember his name, Michael, I think. And then this was Monica Salazar and Jennifer Elaine, or something Espinosa. And then katika, oh, Aya forgot her name boy, and I know her brother's names and stuff. And it was katika. I want to say it's not Gloria. I can't remember Patty, Vargas, another patty. Myers, George Myers, Hawthorne. Oh, this kid. Oh, man, I remember him. I can't remember his first name. He was a wonderful kid, and his mother believed in diversity and stuff, and she brought him all the way from West Austin to go to school with Mexicans. And she he was, I didn't do him any justice in school at all because he was such a great reader, and I spent my time working with other kids, and never gave him any time when I wished I had, because he was a wonderful guy. And, oh, he was wonderful boy. He was Jonathan Myers, I think that's what his name was, or Josh myers or something like that. And his mother was a wonderful person there, when she came, and she would, you know, she did good things at the school too. It's not just because she believed in.... Castellana. I forgot her name, I don't know. And then this other girl named Zalar, and then there's been nothing better be all Benavidez. This is this Benevides. Is girl right here on the tele. Girl on tele, girl on tele. Girl, key on the Taya, on the TA la mucha golly, her, there's Benavidez. Girl, where is she? Where is she at? God, darn it. Okay. No, her, she's hidden up there, back, I don't know, but her mother and father, I have a picture of them. Her mother went to palm school, and they grew up in the neighborhood and stuff, and then she married a guy we went to junior high with. Anyway, I'm too old, too weak. Boy is that picture here of their?

Madai Montes 23:21

is that picture here of their? That picture here of their? Picture number 6.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 23:22

Yes, where is she at? Where's the mama and the father at, right here. Okay, that's her father. Fred, hurts. Yeah, it was Fred. Tell us about that. Fred. Fred, then Fred Benavidez. Fred Benavidez, okay, and that's her. That's her father and her mother, and I went to school with with him. She was a little older than me. He was too, but you know how the guys, they get to know each other and stuff like that. And then her, I went to school with her brothers and all of them. She lived down the street from me, and her father was a mechanic and stuff like that, and I come with you my one I'll think of their name in a minute.

Madai Montes 24:07

I will okay. So when was that photo taken? Photo number six?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 24:11

This was taken right there, 1989 1990 we had a sleepover from the school my kids. I did a sleep over with the sixth graders, and I decided to stay up the night with them. And the parents came and they were chaperoning, and we had, I used to do a lot of what I learned from Eloisa Campos, what I learned from Eloise Campos, passed over, passed over to me this making school fun, working with the parents and stuff, stuff they they didn't do with our parents at Palm okay, but which I was fortunate to to pass on something that I did, that I learned from Eloise Campos have activities. Yes, lots of activities. All right.

Madai Montes 25:02

These are great stories. So let's go to this photo number three.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 25:08

These are the teachers. Okay, at Sanchez, okay, and I'm not going to remember all these ladies names, but at this time, these were all teachers, and these were all people. Ay esta mira. Ay esta mira, brown parade, right? That one of them? Yeah, she grew up, you know, from a kid to an adult. Now, in, I didn't want to give credit to any group of the anyway. And then these are all teachers, ninfa, this is this lady's husband, Gus Garcia, esta la Senora Garcia, her husband, was the first school board president that we ever had in Austin, and they were very involved in the community, and not just at work and stuff like that, but they were, she was they were very involved. And then the teachers that the orita imma tell you who was very instrumental here, if I can find him.

Madai Montes 26:10

And then Miss Garcia is in the front row wearing black.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 26:15

Yeah, black. Really wonderful person. They were very involved in the city of Austin and stuff. And then I'm going to find, I'm going to find a lady in here. There was Betty. Betty there, Betty Castro, oh, this lady here, Stevenson. She was the music teacher. She was this lady here in the background, the black shirt right there, Stevensen. Ill remember her first name. She was powerful. She was the music teacher and and what I mean by powerful was it. She taught the she she, she exposed these kids to music like she'd prepare them for the they had a lot of music, you know, classical, not classical, but historic type of music and stuff. And she would really prompt them, prep them. And this was the first time in my whole life, was the stuff that she was doing that when we went to the symphony in the city. We used to go to the symphony when, when I was at Palm and we'd fall asleep, didn't know what the heck was this music was about and stuff, but she prepped these kids. When these kids went at this school, Sanchez, if she had been at Palm, they knew all the music to the symphony. She was pray she would prep them for this type of educational music that it wasn't. You know, she was powerful. Boy, Betty Castro and her used to work her close together and they put on something. Man, they went off to some some some workshop, some conference for doing the operas. And I complained the whole year they were pulling my kids out of class. He asked yesterday, you taking them out of class? I can't teach and I can't do that. And then at the end of the year, they did this opera, fell in love. I was I felt so bad and so guilty because I complained all those times. And then I went on to another school, to another elementary, a few years later, to to to New Braunfels. I was teaching in New Braunfels in the music teacher there somehow came to me one day and said, Mr. Ed, you want to go? Will you go with me? Do you want to learn how to put an opera on at school? This was at Memorial Elementary in New Braunfels, Texas. In jumped on

it and she said, Oh, I'm so glad you're excited about this. Well, what made you and I said, Man, I saw this put on in Austin, and I went with her to Mobile, Alabama, and we learned we went to this conference for nine days. And man, that was one of the best things that I ever picked up from Betty and Barbara Stevens, Barbara Stevens and they that was a way to teach. That's what I want to

Madai Montes 29:28

say. There's a lot of good teachers. Yeah, I'm here. So this is picture number four.

Speaker 1 29:33

This is this is me. Was one of my other students from the class. And there are different people this here, this little girl, she was the granddaughter of our first Mexican city councilman, Johnny Trevino, and then this other guy here, that's, I can't forget his name. I forgot everybody's name. Golly, look at them. Wonderful people, boy and. Okay, but I forgot their names. I'm sorry. And this is all this, and this picture happened. This would have been, this would have been the year before this. This would have been 1989 88 89, 1988 that this one right here? Oh, no, this is his. This is his. His name was, that was this little girl's sister. You see how she had a specific type of disease. This was, I think, the last year I taught in Sanchez. And, yeah, 1991

Madai Montes 30:42

yes. We're talking about photo number five, yeah, and

Felipe "Red" Garcia 30:46

in, but they the brother grew up like a Mexican they were white, but he then yet put those mexicanos friends and stuff, you know, and he was there part of them, and they're all, yeah, this is my last year. Okay, at Sanchez right here.

Madai Montes 31:06

right here. This is 1990 to 91 Yeah, okay.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 31:13

And, but this is a school of these kids were students. I mean, these students of mine were children and grandchildren of people I went to school with and I grew up with, so it was real touch and to be able to do that. And I learned a lot well. I learned a skill there, but I wasn't I was a popular teacher, but I wasn't effective. Then, I hate to say that. You know, you weren't effective. I was popular. There's a different between being popular and being dangerous. I became dangerously effective in the classroom, in in in the in teaching how to read and write.

Madai Montes 31:57

Right? Okay, now we're going to photo number seven.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 32:01

Yeah, that's the devil in there. Boy, that's my cousin Joe. So when was this photo? This was 1969 it was me and my cousin Joe. Garcia Joe Steve Garcia. Joe lived over there by Haskell Street, and he spent two years there at Palm but he didn't go through a whole six years like the majority of us did, and

we both went into the Marine Corps together and went to training together, then went to Vietnam, served in the same area and stuff like that, in different units, but we worked together a couple of times, but Me and Joe, he's one of the alumni with my my Primo, the Primo hermano. His father and my father were brothers,

Madai Montes 32:46

so you both went to the Marines together?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 32:49

Corps together. I was this. I was going to finally do something by myself, without my cousins, because we all live close to each other and stuff like that. And I was going to join the Marine Corps. I went to my cousin. He let here, Joe, Joe, I signed up for the Marine Corps, and I'm going to, I'm gonna go to Marine Corps. I'm gonna go become a hero. Boy. Two weeks later, he comes back to me, and he says, Guess what, I'm signing up. I signed up at the Buddy Program. I'm going to go with you. And I got real mad, but I didn't tell him anything, because he was older than me. But I was mad because I had never been able to do anything without palm school or my neighbors or my relatives. I was finally going to do something by myself. And when I got there, we got there, and I was glad to have him in boot camp. I was always onta mi primo! "onta mi primo! Give me my cousin!"

Madai Montes 33:50

so you said he didn't finish at Palm school?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 33:53

No, he didn't finish at Palm he just went a couple of years. There was a lot of people like that that they didn't. (phone rings) Oh, my God, we'll just let me, let me turn this. Let me get this. Oh, let me get this. Turn this thing off. We'll get this. Never mind, never mind, never mind. Let me turn this booger off. Boy, I shouldn't have turned it on. Okay, let me do this and get this. I'm all silence this thing. Man, okay. Aqui te vamos, okay. And what was I talking about? Joe?

Madai Montes 34:27

I said, when he didn't finish at Palm school,

Felipe "Red" Garcia 34:32

He didn't finish. He went to Zavala. I remember they moved over there with their grandmother. The mother moved in with the grandmother, or somewhere close to the grandmother on his mother's side. He was my cousin from our fathers or brothers, okay, grande hermanos. And so he, that's why he didn't finish there. He they took, they were up at Haskell, and then they moved down. Or two up there on the other side of Fifth Street, transferred over. Yeah, he went up to Zavala. I remember right now

Madai Montes 35:07

photo number eight. When was this photo taken?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 35:10

This was taken, I don't know sometimes, some summer, Albert. These are my cousins. Albert didn't go to palm, okay, but his brother next to him is Ruben Ruben Martinez, says, Albert Martinez but Ruben Martinez went to palm. His brother me primo Al, y mi prima Graciela al Ma, and he went to palm in the 40s. Well, you know, in the 40s they were, they had a business on they grew up right there on on six Street, right by six and I 35 interstate, 35 and they were kids, and that's where their father had, what was called. This is interesting. His father had a business there called two nickels. It was shine powder. It's called a shine parlor, and it had a it had a Mexican, it wasn't a regular. It was like a gypsy taxi service. It was cheaper than the taxi companies, and they had a phone, and people would call him for two nickels, and for two nickels you'd get your taxi drive in his time, when he was young, his father had a shine parlor there and sold bootleg liquor and all kinds of stuff there, you know. And so he's the one on the left, left. He's the one on the left with Ruben Martinez, he's still alive. He's about 86 right now, something like that, you know. And he lives in California. And Albert ya se murio, pero, you know Albert of but he did, you know, my Tia wanted a better life for them, their mother, and she went out and bought a lot over there. And what's North Austin now, is central Austin. It's just up the street on Guadalupe on it's called on on capital courts. Se llama. It's a little street. She bought the lot and she had a house. I don't know how they did it. That lady talked this morning about women being powerful. My aunts, the women in the community, they controlled everything. The women were the power. I've learned that I can see that if you ever want to read a good book to talk about the power of women. It's a sad book, but it's a good it's called The Grapes of Wrath. Okay, you read that and you're going to see how powerful women are. You see your grandmothers and your aunts giving me chills. I didn't I couldn't see it back then. I see it now as a grown man, and I've gotten a lot of respect for my wife, because, you know, if it hadn't been for my wife, my kids would have never had a kind word. I was a Marine Corps mentality, vato del Barrio, and now I'm different. But back then, they were the women. She went out there put that get her kids to go to a white school so that they would be able to have a better life. Eloise Campos used to tell me all the time, Lipe cambia to nombre, pun to nombre gringo Ponte, nombre gringo cambia tu nombre. You get a better job. You're going to have a better opportunity. Change because Blanco tan huero And here, I mean, that's just the way it was back then. You know, that's just the way they had to the women were powerful. I can see it. Nothing very blessed.

Madai Montes 38:47

I loved it. You've learned so much over time. So this is photo number nine. Who is in this

Felipe "Red" Garcia 38:54

This is Jamie Garcia ma prima El Papa, the Papa mio here and her man. They were brothers. My father and her brother in the house they lived in is where I was born. That's the one they were. I was born in that house in Ma Tia Felipe. I mean ma Tia Sarah, one of my aunts. She's the one that delivered me in there it was they had no, no running water inside, the restroom was outside. In that house, they had lenya, tenian que cortar lenya, and we're right here, just down the street from the state capitol. You know the neighborhoods, the streets where your father teaches, where he has they were all dirt streets, none of those streets, none of the streets on the east side, for the Mexicans, was was pavement, except for second street and first street, you know, and stuff. But Jamie and her sister, Emma couldn't find her sister's picture. They both finished high school, okay? And then Jamie started. At UT. She never finished, but she started UT, and she was during the protest marches and stuff. And to this day, I don't forgive myself because I wasn't polite to her one time. I was making some fun and stuff and and I

was a veteran from Vietnam, and she was protesting in the marches and stuff. And her mother, Simona, she was mean. She was a mean lady, strict. There's a firm boy, you know. Well, none of this, no hables. She was she in 1962 I think it was a 61 she took her girls here in Austin, poor as hell, put them on the bus, the Greyhound bus, and took them to San Antonio, to the como se llama, the tower they have there, the the needle, the to the world fair, to the World Fair, just for them to see that. And she did stuff like that with her girls. They grew up with education. In their mind, great readers, great education. Another strong female, poor as hell, but strong boy, you know, and she her girls were going to go to school. They had no choice. You know, that was it, you you're going to do whatever you're going to that was powerful lady. What year was that? This was man? I don't know what this was boy, but that was Jamie's picture. And she this would have been 60. This would have been 70 because I was a back from Vietnam. No, no, no. She was going to school here then. But back then, it would have been in this, in the in about 65, 1965 or something, she went to palm she was already older than me and going to another grade. Yeah, Jamie and she died of cancer, pobre se murio, se fue la otra, you know, your parents give you life, and then they give you bonus prizes. And I tell my son that we're going to give you diabetes, we're going to give you cancer, we're going to give you heart attack. And they for a I swear. Man, I am. It was a hard thing, similar on the cancer muscles, and I don't know what kind of cancer or not in and it's a big thing for for me now with my family members, to tell them that what I just told you, they give you a bonus prize. You better be aware of it. I'm telling my kids that.

Madai Montes 42:46

So this is photo number 10,

Felipe "Red" Garcia 42:48

Estos son los Three Musketeers. Let me know. This is a three stooges.

Madai Montes 42:52

Who is in this picture?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 42:54

This is me. We're all alumni from this is my brother, right? No, no, this is my little brother, Mario, okay, he's two years younger than me, and then it's me, and then my brother Tony, the one I got the jacket from my brother, Tony, is a year older than me, and he's on the left, he's on the left, and I'm in the middle. These are all your brothers. Those are my my two brothers, yeah, my brothers, they were in we, we, we grew up without our father. I mean, without our mother, we don't we don't know we my mother. We didn't know our mother, but my father. My father's family raised us, you know, we, my father. Mis tias, Mis Primos, the palm school neighborhood, otros, we were known as the huerfanos, you know, the neighborhood, but we were all a product of that. And we, when I talk about being poor, don't pay attention to the poor. Pay attention to the kindness, to the sweetness, to the happiness that we got from that environment at Palm school. I mean, it was it was it was what I didn't learn in reading, writing. I learned in with the friends and the bonding that I had and the people that I made friends with, that my brothers made friends with that. My brother was really loved by everybody. He was a good kid. My brother was hard working. He was a good kid. He always had something good to say, unless, if you were a bad guy, if you were a drunk or something, he'd talk trash about you in a minute. And he do, but he never. He loved the people and they loved him.

Madai Montes 44:42

What year was that photo taken?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 44:44

Oh, this was, I don't know. I don't know where it was. It was a studio. It was the name of the studio, I can't even say, but it was in Austin, Texas, and it was one of the very few times that my father ever worked in his life. I. My father lived off of women, and it was one of the few times that he he he had a job. I don't know why. They probably ran him off, because he always lost every job because he was lazy. He didn't No le gustava trabajar. Y nosotros eramos trabajadores. And I don't say that out of meaning he gave me life. But I learned something from it. Okay, what I learned was from this palm enclave, that enclave right there, there was a lot of love for me. There was a lot of role models for me. Okay, yeah, you kidding, yeah,

Madai Montes 45:34

alright, we're on photo number 11.

Speaker 1 45:36

That's my brother, Tony. Look it up. He's around roly poly, okay. What year was this? This was in 1949

Madai Montes 45:49

Alright, and that's Tony. Do you know where this was taken?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 45:52

Yeah, that was taken in Chicago, Illinois. That's when he was born. He was born there. My father met my mother up there in Illinois, in Chicago. And interesting he, he brought her down here and and, you know, they came back to Texas, and

Madai Montes 46:18

father's family from

Felipe "Red" Garcia 46:20

Austin. They were from Bastrop, Texas, and then they were in Austin. Now they were from Austin, and my brother was, was born over there, and then he brought him back over here. Okay, that was Tony baloney boy. It is my brother. Very cute. I love everybody. Love Tony. Everybody knows Tony from Palm, from people that are my age.

Madai Montes 46:43

That's Tony Garcia, that

Felipe "Red" Garcia 46:44

lady up here that I talked to a while ago, that that Roy Velasquez. So they loved my brother, boy. They, they, he loved them too. And I mean, my brother was loved by everybody. And she'll tell you, he was, oh, he was, he was, he was hard not to like he worked at all. He worked here at the University of Texas

for years. Okay, in maintenance, but he worked at all the carnivals, all the parades, at all the UT games. He would get us in free. We would come in the UT games free. Boy, he just, he knew all the people that worked the doors, the gates, you know? He didn't take the tickets. Even come on and come in. And he's just my brother, my brother. This is my friend. You're his friend, you know. And then he'd go to the other guy here, this my brother. He didn't, they didn't know he was. He was walking in 20 people, you know, and the games were big.

Madai Montes 47:39

Okay, so here we have photo 12.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 47:43

That's me at the top. That's me at the top and middle school, yeah, that would have been in the, that would have been in the in the set in the eighth grade, okay? And that would have been in what 1964 65 somewhere in there in the other photo below it, the other 2, photo 13, that's me on the left, in the seventh grade, and my brother in the seventh grade, we were in the same grades. Okay? He was in the seventh grade. I was in seventh grade, and we went to what was called University junior high. It was down the street here. It's the where, the where the administrators had their classes and stuff like, right here, next next door to the the swim center, the swim center where that's at now, or the old one is where our playground was when we were going to university, junior high. And everybody that went to palm transferred over to so we went to school from first to six at Palm, and then we were in seventh and eighth grade with the same people in ninth grade, because they had ninth grade there. And then the people that went to Austin High, they all went to junior high there, and then to high school. In Austin High School, I didn't make it that far.

Madai Montes 49:17

So Okay, people went from palm to university, junior high and then they went to Austin high.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 49:21

And then they closed University junior high, because they were making all of us walk from way by the river, way past First Street, all the way down everybody we had to walk all the way to 19 to school. Okay? And that's the way it was. And then they closed that school down because of politics, political pressure from the old timers. And then they opened up Martin junior high, and then they opened up Sanchez Elementary. Okay, that's when they did, made the changes. Okay, they were out there. But we that's just just and that was the first year of integration. It when I was in the seventh grade, they integrated. What they did for integration was this, the Mexicans were allowed to go to school with the whites, but the blacks were not. Then they said, Okay, blacks can go to school with the whites, but the parents have to provide the transportation. Okay? And they did, because these the parents that were doing that, they were the doctors and nurses, the school teachers that were black. And I have a friend, David Cerna, that also went to palm school with me, and to this day, he still jokes, all the black kids came to school. They had a chauffeur. They had a chauffeur because the parents were taking them to school. "Hay vienen estos cabrones tienen chauffeur", you know. And we never had any Mexicans taking us to school, you know, in the car. Okay, all right.

Madai Montes 50:55

So now we are in photo number 14.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 50:59

Hey, this is, this is Eloisa Campos teacher. You mentioned no, she was no, she was a secretary, and she was not a teacher. They hired her there because they needed, I guess, a secretary. In those days, they couldn't, they couldn't communicate with the parents, and because you got to remember our first language, all of us kids that came to school, almost all of us, our first language was Spanish, and our dominant language became English school as we learned the academic language. But she era del Valel and her husband came here to go to the university, and she did too. And her husband was very famous, a guy named Lalo Campos. He was famous here in Austin. He was a radio announcer and stuff like that. And he was, he was a hustling dude, a working dude, money making dude, boy. And she was very ambitious also, so she was there, and she's the one that would ramrod everything with us kids. She did program before her time. We we weren't involved with programs or anything like that. And she was a, she got the girls and did all this, you know, with baton stuff, and they did all this girly stuff. And then us too. She got us and did whatever, in any little things she could do. She would, she would work with us on that, and it was outstanding what she did. And she was like a social worker, miny social worker, and she was very she got a degree, and then got a doctorate degree in her lifetime. And she would always joke, you know, Lalo wanted with her husband. Lalo wanted a doctor. He always wanted to go to bed with the doctor. So she became a doctor, a book doctor, you know?

Madai Montes 52:53

And this was taken January, 26 1927?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 52:57

No that was no that was when she was born. Oh, okay. And then this was, this would have been, she died in 1031 1998 Okay, so this would have been during her period when she was working with the state of Texas. She she went on, and she kept going to college and going to school and going to school, and then she ended up, I think this would have been the time when she was working for Big Brothers Big Sisters. She was a regional director for Big Brothers and Big Sisters in this area and New Mexico and Colorado and some other people she became. She she did good for herself. Okay, they were, she was a hard working woman, and her husband was a hard working man. And, you know, she came from a small town, and she had been exposed to Mexicans doing good, okay? She had been exposed to it in The Valley. I mean, over Alice Trevino, because she was popular at school. He was popular her husband. And they came where, you know, Mexicanos, they graduated, they did things so, you know, she had, that's why she would always say, lipe Lipe, you need to cambiate el nombre, cambiate el nombre, aqui no te van a dar trabajo, gonna get a better name, al trabajo. You get a better job. You know, that's the way it was back then.

Madai Montes 54:23

Sounds like a great woman, yeah, all the stories this is so this is photo number 15,

Felipe "Red" Garcia 54:29

that my brother. That was my brother started school here at Rosedale. Which Brothers is it? My son, Tony. Tony, my oldest brother. And then the he went to Rosedale, and then later on, we all went to

palm because we were living in North Austin up there, where my aunt had bought, had bought that lot and built a house for her kids to take them to this school. And this is where her younger children went to Rosedale, but the older ones went to Palm. Okay, you. Tony. This is 1957 Okay, okay, so this is what this was Tony then, but he 57, 58 and all that we were at Palm we were, we were Palm people to the max.

Madai Montes 55:18

Okay, this is photo number 16, who is in this photo.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 55:23

This is on the right side. Is my cousin Joe Garcia. Okay, we're out of boot camp already, but now we're in training. We're in combat training. And this is me, and this is my cousin. We're both together in the Marine Corps. Oh, yeah, this 1969 and by this time, I was no longer mad at him, you know, I forgot for going in the Marine Corps. I was happy to have him there. And very friendly, yeah, yeah. We love each other. We still deal with each other. This guy is his father was everybody's favorite uncle. He was his uncle, Steve. He was, he was a character, the wonderful character. And there he came out moreno porque su mama era morena, su papa era güero como yo. You know, he was my cousin Joe. I was mad at him, boy, until we got in the car, until we were there. But, you know, this has worked out really well, because we have the same marine friends from boot camp training Vietnam, all of the it's worked out we're now, we, you know and his kids are? He married a girl from Alice, Texas, Tambien. He's got, I think it's like 60 now, his wife has a powerful woman. Now, another woman. His wife was como eran como Huerfano Tambien como nosotros y se la trajo una, se le murio la mama, she was like a young teenager, and then la prima se la trajo de alla pa Austin. Porque she had moved over here to Austin, and she was como huerfana. They split up the brothers. There was two brothers in her and they all got split up, split up amongst family members, and she was brought to Austin, so she met my cousin in Como ella como nunca tuvo. She didn't grow up with her brother. That was she on when she passed away. She had cancer. Another bonus prize, you know, she had cancer when she passed away, she had 54 children and grandchildren and stuff. And now there's like, 62, 63 she wanted a lot of kids. She had a lot of kids. And now all of her family, all her daughters and sons, are all rabbits. Boy, they have kids all over the place. There it's, I have a lot of love, okay, this is what I want to say about this. I have she gave me a lot of the women. You when you do genealogy, you got to look at you got a genealogy, you got to look at the women. You look at the eggs, not the sperm, not the man, look at the women, and you find wonderful things.

Madai Montes 58:23

Sounds like y'all came from, you know, huerfanos, and then you all created, like, family. Well,

Felipe "Red" Garcia 58:30

yeah, we, we, we created family. Okay, our family just wasn't my relatives. My family was also, you know, like, palm school, yeah, was we? Were they all? We knew them all, everybody. So we had, the way I explained it is my wife had a cousin that grew up on Rainey street. They went to palm went to palm school too, but one time we were visiting and and he was explaining to my wife, she, you know, like you remember, over there on galwood Street by Prado, he said, you know, we were at grandma. We only knew grandma and the uncles and the cousins, just a clan, a small or clan. And he said, but

when I went to palm school to rainy street, he said the world opened up for me. He said I had hundreds of friends overnight. I had hundreds of friends. It was east and and when we visited with him, I'm getting chills in my head. He had a wonderful time. He lived in Colorado there toward the end before he passed away. But when we visited with him, he got the best. He got to talk to my wife about their cousins and relatives and all that. And then with me, he got to talk about all the childhood friends, you know, palm school, the Salvation Army, the east side, right there. So you know he had, he explained it to my wife like that, that this is, you know, had lots of friends when once I left grandma's house, I had lots of friends over here. He was never lonely.

Madai Montes 1:00:15

So this is photo number 17. When was this photo taken?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:00:20

This photo. I'm not even one years old. Maybe one years old. That'd be 1950 I would say. And this is a photo of me, the one picture I wanted to bring with our yo, y MI prima, where I was a baby, and she was esta prima aqui, and she was grown boy. She was a teenager. That's a good segue. Yeah, they are. Photo 18, This is, these are Gracie, the girl on the right at the top. Okay, I'm just going to talk about Okay. She is me. Is me, prima hermana, okay, and she went to palm school in the 40s and 50s. Okay, then you went there. Now you go to the top row. You go over two people, and the guy with the goatee, the one in the middle and with glasses, her it's her brother, you know one of her older brothers just above her, and the other brother, Ruben Martinez. And this was Alfonso Al Martinez. He went to palm in the 40s. Okay, these people all they grew up on sixth Street, right there in La meta Mata, and between the police department at sixth street on Seventh Street and and they were right there in the alleyway, small little shot gun houses.

Madai Montes 1:01:45

You know, you know when this photo was taken?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:01:49

Oh, this one right here would have been with Al and tia lipa at this age. This would have been, this is Ma Tia. They were having a gatherin. It would have been a church at one of the churches that when we went to church, this would have been about 19, okay, that's Michael. That's her boy. So this would have been Michael was already about 19. No, the about 1973 somewhere in there. That's what I would say about 1973

Madai Montes 1:02:21

and this is the cousin that you walk to palm school with,

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:02:26

No, no, no, no. My other cousins, I can't find their pictures. I got them that they will take me to palm street walking. That was my cousin Marcos and Mo, okay, yeah, they were, I can't believe I don't have their pictures here. And they went to palm too. They were in the older grades. And they, no, they didn't what they were already up in in north Austin was down the road here that all the ones that walked me to school, they were only, like, four, three or four years older than me, you know. And they were, yeah,

they were, they were, we were all close. I was named after their mother, after my cousin, grace and alfonso. So I was named after their mother. Their mother's name was Felipa, named after her uncle, and then they made me Felipe, the male version of Felipe, you know, and I was, you know, she was loving, we love. She made the best tortillas. And

Madai Montes 1:03:29

she's in this picture. She's the lady in the first row with the white?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:03:33

She's the one that raised all them kids, put that out, and their husband was out there running the streets, boy. And she was a powerful lady, boy, and she made, when we went to her house, she made tortillas as soon as you walked in the door and gave you a tortilla with butter and stuff like that. And my goal in life at home is, when people come, I give them a tortilla with butter. And that's because of her, you know, she I can't make tortillas because, like her, I'm still trying to make a good flour tortilla. But I do give people tortillas because it passed me down. It's a good memory. Yeah, she was they loved me. They they love my brothers. They love me.

Madai Montes 1:04:16

So this is photo 19.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:04:17

This is crazy. That's the one I say, my cousin Gracie. That's the one that went to palm the right there. Photo 19, right there, on the right, in the far right. Yeah, there. And this would be because there's, there's the there's, oh no. This is Albert, oh no. Hold on, hold on. Oh no, this is, this is, I want to say, this is sunny and them so and there's Linda and there's Gloria. She's still a baby, and I would have been, I'm like, two years older than Gloria. And this is Sonny and Albert. I mean, I mean Sonny and Alfred. And then this would have been, oh no. This is Oh boy. This is Grace. This would have been Gloria. This has been Linda. Is older. Oh no, she this would have been like, these guys were still in elementary at Rosedale. So this would have been like 19 Tony's thing, 57 this would have been, oh, about 1957 57 No, this would be after that, 57, 58 somewhere in there, 57 because these guys are all older than me. This is my age, and she's year or two younger than me and Linda,

Madai Montes 1:05:48

okay, and Linda is the one sitting on the floor.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:05:51

And she Yeah, Linda. And where does he? Moreno? Mother. Her mother was light complected. The father was dark, complected, and took after father and father. Mother, you know, Linda, after five, I haven't really, I had forgot. I had these pictures. I haven't seen them in a long time. I'm getting real long nostalgic.

Madai Montes 1:06:17

Yeah, all these memories. Yeah, that was it. Boy, those are all the photos when we have some documents too. Yeah, those are all so we're gonna go through, I think there's like, we're gonna go

through the documents too and do the same thing. So this is document number one. What? When was this?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:06:40

This was, would have been 19. I was in the third grade. Or, yeah, third grade in this one, I went to a sunshine camp. They had, they still have sunshine camp, see Felipe Garcia nine, and I had won just a award, and I got best camper of the summer, and they, and it's a sunshine camp that they have at Zilker Park at Barton Springs. And this camp was for people that were, you know, like myself, poor people, you know, that that came out of the neighborhoods and stuff. And they brought not just us Mexican they brought no blacks though, but whites, white kids from throughout the city, and Mexican kids from different elementaries, and Anglo kids from and so that was the first time that I had been exposed to white kids or white people like that. You know, you saw white people and stuff, but you never interacted with with because we didn't have any Anglo kids or black kids at my school, at any of the minority Mexican schools. Okay? So they were there, and I had won this blanket and had my name put on this plaque, Sunshine camper of the year. I had this plaque. I went back to get this plaque from somebody. I found some people from this agency, and got it years later, but it was from the plaque and the blanket, I wore that blanket out, I was covered up with that my whole two or three years winter time I wore that blanket out. It was warm. It was made out of wool. And

Madai Montes 1:08:21

this is like a daytime camp?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:08:23

No, it was a summer camp. You went for a whole week. You went for a whole week to Zilker Park. They had a place there where everybody was in a bunk and stuff like that. They fed us every day. The girls were on one side, the guys were on the other side of the of the barracks or whatever, you know, with the screen type of building, you know what screened in, and we went swimming every day, to to Sunshine camp, I mean, to Zilker Park. We didn't stand there we did other things. And also had my mouth washed out. I think they disliked me. One I looked white The other one was, I was, I was in need of a lot of attention. They're the first time in my life before I I was always cussing in the the mouth. They washed my mouth out with soap. I'll never forget the first time they washed it out with soap. The second time they then they made me, let me come back a second week for Sunshine camp, and I had to choose the soap that time. I'm sorry. I had a habit of a foul mouth, okay, not in a bad way. Whenever it was not even being cool, it was just that was a language, you know, with my cousins and stuff like that that I learned, you know, and for that adults were not around, you know, and the adults weren't around, it was all just white folks boy and, you know, telling us, and I made life time friends at this camp. You. People that were going, they lived all over, the Mexicans and I made lifetime friends, yeah, and stuff, and this,

Madai Montes 1:10:09

this is item number two,

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:10:15

yeah. Campos, yeah. Eloise. Campos, Eloisa Campos. She was a majorette. This article written this was, she came to Austin in 1946 it says here, but see this article would have been back here. We'll see it in the front. It will be, it'll be in the front life and art that's going up Mexican American, September the 16, 1996. Two years before she she passed away, yeah, and she was, I talked about that. And wasn't until we got to Austin that it was terrible. There were only we got to Austin in you know, 1940 it was terrible. There were only two high schools, Austin High and old Anderson High School, that was the black school, and only one Mexican, one school. Okay, she said that, you know, and they were, they had gone to high school her and her husband, stuff, you know, in their little in their little, small town. And they said in in Austin High and in old Anderson High School, Austin didn't have one Hispanic football player or basketball player, and that's the way it was. We UT? We never paid attention. We never realized they didn't have blacks or Mexicans on the football team or the basketball team or track or anything like that. But it got so where you saw these things, and it became very you get acclimated to it. Let me put it that way. You don't, you know, you just, this is my team, and we don't get, ain't got, and it wasn't until years later, then I realized, oh well, we don't have black players. We don't have Mexican players, you know, and stuff like that, you know, so. But she and her husband did a lot for the community. She did a lot of, lot of people didn't. He was kind of rough, you know, with his language and stuff like that. Y mucha gente no le pone, Know that they were from San Diego and now and she, they were hard working. They came here to work and progress, and they stayed, like a lot of people that came to Austin through the university, and they stayed and and we were fortunate for that, okay, I noticed that later on in life, we were very fortunate because they became role models. They did stuff, they were educated, they joined they were very involved politically, and they were very helpful, okay? And they were involved mostly with the progressive groups. They were more into, no, they need to get educated. We need to find them jobs. It wasn't just this, you know, working the barrio it was, we want to open doors. And there were people that came here and and a lot of them, and they stayed. And thank God, they became involved. You know, thank God that can. And I know there was a time in my life I was real jealous of them, too. No, estos cabrones vienen and they take our jobs. They take our women. They take no we were lucky, but they weren't taking our women. They were marrying each other from college. You know that they were but I was just whatever, you know, I'm going to make up any kind of story against these guys. They were good people. We were fortunate to have these people. There's tons of them, a ton from Laredo, from The Valley, all from Laredo, The Valley, and San Antonio and all of that. They and they stuck. They stuck here, and they became involved. Thank God. You know,

Madai Montes 1:14:19

Sounds like they did a lot for representation. Yes. Okay, so this is item number three. What is, who is in this photo?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:14:30

Okay, in this photo, I don't know who this other young man is. Okay, this little fella over here on the right, but in the middle, it's my brother, Tony and me, in front of front. And this is a staged picture, because they were starting a program. It in in, in the at the PAM American Center for tutoring and stuff like that. And they just staged us to take the picture. We know. Came back after that picture, but we were state, but they were trying to start a program. Guess who was trying to start this? Miss Campos. Miss Campos, not the school district. Mrs. Campos, we're gonna because she was on the school board. I mean, she was on the board of this pen American Recreation Center, okay? And she wanted,

she was real academic stuff, you know, and she wanted to so she knew me and Tony, so she took us for the picture, you know. Come on, Tony, we'll take a picture. But she was pushing this program. And this lady says she's from Travis, because her son and children went to Travis. She got the lady there to take a picture, and she was RAM riding stuff like this. She was real.

Madai Montes 1:15:49

And this is an article from the American statesman taken in march 7, 1963 okay,

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:15:59

now look and read at what it says they're doing. A the program is a tutorial type of program, you know. And that's what she was doing. That was her MO, we're going to do this. We're going to make this better. We're going to she was real heavy into because she came from an area where you had Hispanics were on the school board. Hispanics were, even though it was in small towns and stuff, they were Hispanics that were, you know, it was important to go to high school. You had high school and stuff. And she was, like, on the board. She was on the board of the Pan Am I know that now, because I read the article, I forgot I had this picture, and so that's where we're at with that,

Madai Montes 1:16:43

you know. So this is item number four.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:16:48

This my tia moved now my brother, my cousin Ruben, is here. Ruben Martinez again, and he's one of the few, I think they was only two families at this point when they were in high school at McCallum High School, it was another high school that opened up, up in that neighborhood where my Tia, where my aunt went and built her house, which was there McCallum High School, still here. Very good school, very good high school. But anyway, there were only two family, two Mexican or three Mexican kids going to school here at that time. Okay, now my Tia, I don't know, bless her heart, whatever it was what she did, but what she did Ruben was the oldest of her children, and then Alfonso, and then Gloria, I mean, and then Grace, what she had the habit of doing. I found out later Ruben, when they moved to North Austin, where the white folks were at, she put them. She made one stay at school, stay at home for a year, and then he went to school with the other kid at the same grade, and Ruben and Al were in the same classes because they were going to white schools, and she didn't want them to be feel out of place or alone. Then they went to school. Okay? Grace didn't have the luxury she had to go by herself, you know, she was by herself, and then vino Alfred and I mean Martin and Albert. She made Martin stay at home, which was real good for him, because he got a year older and and him and Albert went to school together in the same class all the way through high school and junior high, and then Alfred and son Aleric, Aleric and Alfred, she kept Aleric at home, and then sitting them together with Alfred. And they had that way. They had another they had their sibling in school, but they were there together, okay? And I have a story about Ruben. Ruben was on the football team. I remember because Albert over here, you saw Albert's picture with him. Albert was telling me one time that one time when he was in, he went to school, he was right behind them a couple of years, and he said, this white guy just because he was walking by when they were practicing football, and the white guy threw that football at him real hard and hit him in the head, in the back, and he said, Ruben de wa la, Hey, that's my kid brother. Don't you be and that's what my Tia was trying to prevent, you know, the racism stuff there that

was going on, you know, because they were, you know, they were los unicos mexicanos, the entire and she was trying to do the best she could to get them to, you know, learn the academics.

Madai Montes 1:19:52

So Ruben is the second guy on the

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:19:55

Yes, the second guy on the front from the left to the right. Yes. And that's this would have been, no this is, I had. I have another copy of this, and I can't find it because this roster this there. The the other part of this is on this side, on the left side, and it tells you who these people are. These people here are from another thing, the and this was over here, you know, and

Madai Montes 1:20:23

And this is him being a part of a club?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:20:24

McCallum High School. They did something. I can't remember what it was, a club. It was some kind of club over here. These guys have another club. And I have the other part of the picture, but I can't find it. I didn't find it. And this picture didn't copy well. When I made this at the history center center, it didn't copy well, but he and they, hijo whey. They assimilated because of where their mother put them. We didn't, we didn't assimilate, nor did we acculturate. And these guys, their mother took them to church every Sunday, every Sunday, they grew up in church and stuff like that. They didn't do like, like some of us, that kind of slipped away.

Madai Montes 1:21:20

All right, so that's all the items that we have here. Is there any last words you want to say?

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:21:25

No, I'm just, you know, just so thankful that this enclave is recognized. And this enclave was small, but this environment right there, whether we were successful in school like me, I was telling people I went to school to palm for six years. I never learned to read at Palm, never I went through six years. I never missed a day of school, and I never learned to read, but I loved going to palm school because everybody was there. Hay estaba todo. There's things that I understand now and understand how the system is. I don't have a lot of good stuff to say about the education system, and the one thing I will say strongly is I've lived long, done now, I've lived long, long enough to know that we had a lot of successes in Austin, successful people, hard working people, not all of us went to jail. And I don't say that there wasn't, there was a bunch of Mexicans that went to jail, and it was on. It was very racial. I know very well how the system worked and stuff like that, and how they put in a lot of innocent people in jail and stuff. But what I want to say is I've lived long enough to see a lot of people be successful. They didn't finish high school, they didn't finish school, but they were very successful. They were great. You know, they raised families, they bought, they paid their taxes, the you know, and this is what palm gave us, was a great self esteem. Okay, we picked up. The one thing we did pick up is, Thank God, I guess told porque eramos todos mexicanos, because we picked up a everybody had a good self. And when you talk to these people, you'll see that they had great self esteem and and I learned later on, I dropped out

of school. I went to the ninth grade for two weeks and dropped out and got married by 16. I was married, had a family, then I went to the military, but and my wife, too, had to drop out. But now I've got a degree from here, University of Texas. My wife has a degree from Southwest Texas, and we never stopped. We were ambitious. We were hungry to learn and thanks to people like Mrs. Campos, that instilled that's where that was instilled. And there's some changes have to be made with the school system. That has to change. It's, it's, it's, it's still run like it was run 50 my I went to school and I didn't learn anything. My kids went to school, didn't learn much. My relatives went and schools have to change. That's what I want to say. I want to finish off with there, and we have to change the way we teach not I got a good story of why quit almost just pero aqui estamos talking about the pictures. I'm just done.

1:24:42

Okay, Madai,

Madai Montes 1:24:43

so, thank you so much. Felipe, red Garcia, right, I'm going to stop the recording now. Thank you. The end of our audio interview.

Felipe "Red" Garcia 1:24:53

Well, where's my salary? I.