

INTERVIEW PROCESS RECORD

TAPE No. 1994-a

TRANSCRIBING

NAME OF TRANSCRIBER TIME-DATE STARTED/TIME-DATE FINISHED

- 1) Alice Moreno Friday 11/11/97 2:15^{P.M.}
- 2) _____
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TYPING

Name of typist TIME-DATE START/ TIME-DATE FINISHED

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COMMENTS :

INTERVIEW PROCESS RECORD

TAPE No. _____

TRANSCRIBING

NAME OF TRANSCRIBER TIME-DATE STARTED/TIME-DATE FINISHED

- 1) Julio 8-31-77 ^{REV.} 9-1-77
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
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TYPING

Name of typist TIME-DATE START/ TIME-DATE FINISHED

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COMMENTS :

Int. How old are you?

Sub. Almost 23.

Int. Where do you come from:

Sub. Right now from North Philadelphia but before that my parents came from Aibonito although I was born in San Juan because that is where the hospital was, the Military Hospital.

Int. So your father was in the military?

Sub. Yes, yes he was, that's how we got to the states as a matter of fact. My father was in the army and he was stationed in Germany for a while after which he came over here with the intention of going back to Puerto Rico, making some money and taking the family back, so we opened up a store, a grocery store and we have been here ever since. It has been about 18 years now.

Int. How long has it been since you left Puerto Rico?

Sub. About 18 years.

Int. During that time, what were the conditions in Puerto Rico?

Sub. I couldn't tell you because I was kind of young. My parents tell me, first of all they were from the campo, they came from the countryside and there was no hospital, that is why I was born in San Juan, there was no hospital in Aibonito and my parents tell me stories about walking to school, they tell me the distance was about from here to Camden, and they used to walk everyday from North Phila. to Camden.

Int. The school from North Phila. to Camden, the walking distance?

Sub. Yes, walking distance. They only got to 2nd and 3rd grade because that, because they had to travel so far and then they had to come home for lunch.

Int. You say that you came with the intention of somehow going back to Puerto Rico. Is that becoming a reality?

Sub. Well, in a way it is. My parents throughout the years they have been here they have been paying for a house in Puerto Rico and they finished paying for it I say about 3 years ago, so they do plan to go back. They are shaky about it because they have no means of support over there. They don't think that they can. It is not easy to transport a whole business. That is what they do, my parents own a grocery store and when you start out a new business, it is hard if you go to another community because you have to set up clientele and people who trust you and things like that so they are shaky about that, they have no means of support but they would like to go back.

Int. How do you feel about going back?

Sub. I have been back, let me first say I've been back when I was 14 I went back for two months and then when I was 19 I went back for two months and both times I had a beautiful time. I love the island, but I really felt a bit like a foreigner over there. I got criticized because of my skin color, I'm awfully pale and they teased me about that and they teased me about my poor broken Spanish. I don't know, there is a lot of political things going on in Puerto Rico which I don't understand right now. It is kind of a mess and the cost of living is high. I

don't know if I can survive over there, if I can even find a job, but I would like to live there for a few years at least to try it out and maybe even stay after I tested it out, I am not sure.

Int. How educated are you?

Sub. I went to college. I just graduated last May 1977 with a degree in Psychology, a BA, Bachelor of Arts.

Int. What are your plans for the future?

Sub. My ambition is to be a therapist, a good psychologist and a parent. I come from a big family of 8 kids.

Int. How many brothers and sisters did you say you have?

Sub. I have 4 brothers and 2 sisters, my grandmother lives with us also.

Int. How many of these were born in Puerto Rico?

Sub. The first five were born in Puerto Rico, sixth one was born in Germany, the seventh one in New Jersey and the 8th in Philadelphia.

Int. What type of family do you consider yourself part of, how would you describe it?

Sub. Very beautiful, very close to each other. We lived in a small house when we first came here and all of us kids used to sleep in one room, all of us except the baby.

Int. How do you perceive your family will be?

Sub. Four of them have got married and they live in different parts of the state, when they can get together, they do. I think that when I get married I will be closer to my older brothers that I am right now.

Int. Where do you live?

Sub. I live close to the corner in Lawrence and Norris.

Int. What type of neighborhood is that?

Sub. It is predominantly Puerto Rican, it used to be, when we first came was white people here. They moved out and Puerto Ricans moved in, a few two or three white families are still on the block. After the Puerto Ricans came, four or five black families moved in, so it is mixed, but mostly Puerto Ricans. They are young. there is a lot of children on the block, it is clean and friendly.

Int. The income of these families around you, how would you place them?

Sub. They may be making from \$10,000 to \$5,000, but maybe the family that makes \$5,000 may have one child while the \$10,000 family may have 8. In terms of living I would say low-middle class.

Int. You said that it is a young neighborhood, what do you mean by that?

Sub. There are a lot of kids. The neighborhood is noisy and crowded, but it is peaceful.

Int. How do you like your neighborhood?

Sub. I like it pretty much. They planted trees up the block and it looks pretty. The only trouble we have is that the house across the street, it used to be a drugstore and now is a drug outlet, other people moved in, and it is not good for the kids.

Int. Are you unemployed now?

Sub. Yes.

Int. If you get a job making as much money as your parents would you stay on the neighborhood and live with your parents or do you plan on moving out?

Sub. I definitely plan on moving out because I am used to be on my own. I would not mind having a house in the neighborhood but the only thing that bothers me is that I would be more afraid in this neighborhood than in others. Although I would rather live in a Puerto Rican neighborhood, I am not crazy about living with the white people. They are always complaining.

Int. Is it a big thing with your parents if you bring someone in the house who is not Puerto Rican?

Sub. I am more comfortable with Puerto Ricans, there are more things in common and I don't have to explain a lot of things.