

Interview with: Juan Roman

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### Side A

002: Juan Roman (Crespo). Born in Añasco, 9/7/28, 71 years old. "My father was a farmer...sugar cane, coffee, cattle...horses... There were 11 of us and I was the oldest one... My daughter was asking me a couple of weeks ago, how did you all manage... to live in that little house, because the little house is what she saw when my daughter was little. But back when I was a kid, it was a big house... with, not many rooms, but we all slept in a little bed, big beds and that's the way we used to live..."

036: "My father had 2 schools at the time. See, in the old days, if you lived in the country, you had to go to a rural school. And my father used to rent two schools to the government. So I was fortunate to say I'm going to my own school. And then when I went up to 7<sup>th</sup> grade in one school and then I went to the other one until the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and then I went to high school in Añasco."

042: Family lived outside town, in area near Rincon. Still have some property there. "It was 2 houses, built on stilts with all the necessary things, and they had a comedior, lunch place... It was so good because all the kids thought that I was the man, or the person back then, because here he's going to his own school."

054: "The beautiful memories was the ideal living... Even marijuana, never heard of it until I got in the service, and this is 1950-some, and I'm going back from '28 to '39... There was nothing, no crime. People used to fight back then with the knives, they used to get drunk and this and that. But in my family, I don't know how my father did it, but all of us used to... go to school and come home and work. And I remember when I started to work for my father, he used to pay me. So he used to give me something like 11 dollars a week, of which I had to give my mother some, because you didn't keep your money, you just worked for other people and the other people back then was your mom and dad... So she used to get a little money, and then I'd buy my little things. He used to buy all my stuff, of course, but this is work that I had to do to get paid."

070: "Usually helping people with the sugar cane, I was medio jefe tambien... Because my father being the boss... I was there at least, and for that I got a little money. But then when the coffee season came, I used to go and pick the coffee that fell on the ground... When the coffee ripens, if you don't pick it at the right time, it falls to the

ground, and the pickers are there, he's got 15, 20 people picking coffee. The pickers weren't going to bend down and pick up the coffee that fell on the ground, so he would send us to pick the coffee that fell on the ground, and we used to collect pails of coffee, and he used to pay us, for each pail maybe a buck or something like that."

081: "But you were out there on your own with the mangoes, with the mameyes, eating coconuts from the coconut trees, and all those good things. It was a beautiful life... Even today, when I go to Puerto Rico, I go there, because we still have some farms there, and I just go and sometimes I like to just sit and think, bring me back to my days when I was a kid."

89: Mother didn't work outside the house, with eleven children. "Just having them was a job in itself... As a little kid I remember my mother every year was delivering a kid, so that was a big job in itself."

094: Went to HS in Añasco. "Just before I finished high school there, I remember I was going to finish my high school... in June, and I came with the migrant workers to work here, just before I graduated. I went to Niles, Michigan. I remember I used to go to night school to learn English, so I knew a few words... I finished my high school at nights, going to Niles, Michigan, then I had to learn English so that I could finish my high school."

104: "My uncle had come here to the United States a year before, to pick potatoes in Long Island. And he came back home, he couldn't take it... He was saying, oh those gringos, it's too much, it's 'pick tomatoes, and pick potatoes,' that's all they can say, 'pick potato, pick potato, pick potato.' And I said, 'it's gotta be good, it's gotta be good. Next year I'll go.' And as soon as they had the announcement on the radios... that they were recruiting people to come to the United States to pick tomatoes and potatoes, I went and signed up. And I wasn't even 18... You had to be 18. So I had to give the paper to somebody to make sure that I was 18, and then I was 18."

117: "First, I came to Long Island of all places, too, like my uncle had, and I couldn't take it either... I had a cousin who was living in Manhattan... and I said, 'listen, I gotta get out of here.' " Other cousin was living in NY and going to Niles, Michigan, and it was only within a month that JR came and left [the farm]. Around '45. "I went to Niles, Michigan with this other guy, and we started working in mushroom farms. With a light on your head and a battery on your back, and you go through the beds and pick up the mushrooms and then cut them and put them in a basket." Continued going to school nights, became one of supervisors.

137: "Became the supervisor, I used to take all the farmworkers, they were all Puerto Ricans, they had about 120, 130,... and they used to go to the motor vehicle dept to get driver's licenses. And I was the interpreter already... Police dept and the motor vehicle dept was one of the same, same building... cops used to do the interviewing and giving the exams... I continued being the supervisor of the people working on the farm, but I was helping all these people also. When it came time for me to get my own license, the guy

that was giving the exams figured that I had a license right along... So he just gave me the license... I bought a car about 25, 30 dollars, and I started backing up without looking back and I went into a ditch."

156: "And at the time we used to go to a restaurant with a limited ability to ask for variations... So you'd eat ham and eggs in the morning, ham and eggs at noon, ham and eggs in the afternoon, and then you learn how to say chicken or something, then you vary a little... until I learned my menu pretty good... I think everyone that has come here in those days without knowledge, that's what we had to do to survive."

164: After Michigan went to Milwaukee, maybe 1948. Worked there 2-3 years as truck driver. Then Korean War, went to Marine Corps, probably only PR being trained there. Wrote to family every week in Puerto Rico, but didn't see them. When went to Michigan brought brother Pablo over, sent money to come up. He spent a couple of years with JR there.

183: "And from there he came to Hartford. As a matter of fact he came to Hartford before I did. He came to Hartford before 1950, because I spent two years in the Marine Corps, and I came to Hartford in 1952, and I came to live with him." [why brother came] "My sister was living here, and when he left Niles, Michigan he came here, and I went to Waukesha, Wisconsin... We left the farm see, because farmwork was farmwork was farmwork. So I wanted to get a little something better, industry or something that we could make at least 25 cents an hour, 40 cents an hour I think it was. So he came to Hartford, with my sister who had been here, married, with a family, she had been here maybe a year or 2, too."

202: "She was the first one of my family to come here... She retired from the state of Connecticut and went to Inverness [Florida]." Brother who came to Hartford also retired to Florida. Less than a year ago he was killed in auto accident. He married American girl who still around, East Hartford, then divorce and married someone else.

221: [his sister] "Her husband came to work in Long Island. Same program. And from Long Island, he made it up here, I don't know how... He was the first one to come up, then he sent for her, then my brother came up, and then myself... [impressions of Htfd]. "It was nice and quiet... It impressed me so much... that the tracks were still on Main St, partially buried. Apparently there was a train [trolley] that went to Main Street back when... You know where the tunnel is. Not the new tunnel, but the old tunnel, where the Firestone used to be. Ann St, Main St, Albany Avenue. Right in the center of that big intersection, they had a policeman up in a tower sort of. And this policeman used to direct traffic from there... This is 1952, when I first came in. I was on Ann St, going north on Main St, and I see this guy way up there telling me to go..."

248: "God has been good to me, right along. Never any problems. Some discrimination, yes, because the firstcomers went through that. But I survived... I remember having gone to... Russ St, and seeing some signs there that they didn't want Puerto Ricans... We have space available, we have rooms for rent, all I wanted was a little room, but they didn't

want Puerto Ricans. So I said, they don't want Puerto Ricans, I'll have to stay with my brother. But then I got a little apartment over on Sigourney St later on. And it was... tough to get the apts because people blatantly will tell you... outright, 'we don't want you.'..."

269: Lived with brother at 78 Chadwick Ave, Parkville. "The first job I did was Asylum Avenue and Woodland Street, in the northwest corner, that building that is there. If you look northwest, one is the college, one used to be a bank, the other one is a hospital. The other corner they were breaking ground to build a building. And I remember I got a job there, 75 cents an hour. That was a lot of money... And I was just fresh out of the Marine Corps, you come home, you're ready to go. Two days later I wanted to leave the job... Then I went to work at the Underwood on Capitol Avenue... Then I started going to night school also here... So I took an exam to be the first policeman."

291: "I wanted to be a cop since I was a kid in Puerto Rico, because a neighbor of ours was a cop, and he used to come home, big, husky... I think it was a good decision, I had been in Marine Corps, I had a little background, and I was in a city... I got in the police, I didn't have any problems. If there was prejudice... then, it was not getting in a job. Maybe once you were in, there was little tricks here, tricks there, maybe today there still are. Even in the locker room they used to call me a spic, and this and that. But... again, I used to say, that's your problem... First of all, who was I to fight all these people, I can't fight them all, they're too many and too big, and I'm only one. And there were 2 things that I was looking at. Number one, I wanted to be a cop and I wanted to be a darned good cop. And number 2, I wanted to lay the path for others that would be behind me. And if I were to start a fight in the police dept I'd go out. Because here comes this little kid, the first one, and they fight out there with knives, so this guy comes in and fights. No, I couldn't do that. I couldn't damage myself, my family, my co- Puerto Ricans... So I took it. All kinds of things they used to call me. Every now and then today when I meet the old timers that were there... especially the blacks that... had just gone through it, and we talk about it, because they went through the same thing."

324: Joined police in 1955, there till '65. 9 1/2 years. Didn't know that if you work with govt for 10 years you're vested. So took the money and went to Puerto Rico. "Four years as a police officer in uniform, and the rest in plainclothes as a detective assigned to homicides and all kinds of things."

338: "In the meantime, with all this prejudice and all those encounters that I was going through... I was learning. I was learning because the old timers, whenever there was a crime committed by a Hispanic, they had no way to investigate but to call me. And number one, I was learning from the different techniques from every one of them, and I knew who was on the ball and who was not, and I could tell who was the bluffer and who was the knowledgeable person... Of course, I kept it to myself... And then the FBI used to call me to help them out. Even Interpol used to call me to help them out, investigate things that happened, people from Italy, Spain... I used to go to the state police, polygraph tests that they used to give all those guys. I was there to interpret. So by then I was fairly familiar with how the system worked. And besides, the cops that were really

against me when I was there as a rookie... that was even a bigger motive for them to hate me a little bit more, because some people are jealous, and here comes this guy and with accent and all he still gets ahead, and what's wrong with us, and you get that resentment. But again, that was their problem, not mine."

368: [other PRs joining force] Another police officer came in about 5 years after him, Juan Roman Torres. "About 2 months out of he got out of the academy, he was walking on Sheldon St, not far from here... Then, like today, cops used to get in problems... So he had a girlfriend who was a Polish girl, and she went with someone else... He pulled a gun, his service revolver, and wanted to shoot that guy because he took his girlfriend. And the call came to the police, of course... When there's one Puerto Rican involved, one Juan Roman, who do you think they're going to call? And I get the directive from the chief and I think he was... Chief Carrigan... investigate, report, with recommendations. So I investigated, and I reported, and I recommended they fire him because that's the only thing you can do. The law is the law is the law, you can't do anything else... You can't be shooting people. So they let him go. That was the second... Puerto Rican police officer. Then it was Joshua Rivera... Joshua came in just before I left the police dept... As a matter of fact he came in the job and I said, you probably will take my job. Because he was fluent in English. But he didn't know Spanish. But he was good, though. He was a nice kid, he retired from the job. He never made it to the Bureau... it used to be called the Bureau of Investigative Affairs... He never made it as a detective but he worked and he was a motorcycle cop for many years and he retired with 20 years in the service. He was the 3<sup>rd</sup> one. And of all people I think the 4<sup>th</sup> one you probably know, Eugenio Caro... and he came in... '66, 67. Because I was out of the job already, and I got out in 1965... And I remember meeting with him in Puerto Rico after I was in Puerto Rico, and talking about the police dept. He was happy being a cop... He didn't stay there too long, maybe a couple of years."

425: "On Sigourney St I found... an apt, I was a cop already... I'm going to 1959, September 20<sup>th</sup> 1959 I met... my first wife. My first wife died, and my second wife is the lady I have today. [first wife] She was a social worker working for the Diocesan Bureau, Albany Ave, San Juan Center, back when. And the person in charge of that San Juan Center, social service agency was Father Cooney, of Sacred Heart. The person that married us. So here I am the cop and she's a social worker, and she comes from Puerto Rico, the guy in charge says Juan, there's a beautiful girl I want you to meet. So I drove my cruiser to Albany Ave, went in and met her, and her birthday was Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, and they asked me to come in to her birthday party. And that's when I got to know the lady. Of course back when you knew the lady that was it until you married her... I met her... September 20<sup>th</sup> for the first time. I went to her house to see her, she was living in an apt on the corner of-- Farmington and Asylum comes to an angle at the very end. In that corner used to be a hotel many years ago. Behind the hotel there were some apt houses. On... Forest Street I believe it is... And I went there for her birthday party Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, and I said, well, not many Puerto Rican girls, and I wanted to marry a Puerto Rican girl... So not long after we got married... January 16<sup>th</sup>, so 3 or 4 months later. And she continued working, I continued in the police dept, going to school... She had a degree

already. She stayed working with the San Juan Center, and then she went to work for the State of Ct, Dept of Children and Youth Services." Her name was Milagros, Millie.

484: "We had our first kid in 1961, Juan Roman, the detective in Hartford... The second [was born in] '62, and she works for The Hartford Insurance... The first one was Juan, the second one was Angela. In 1965... my wife was expecting the 3<sup>rd</sup> child, and as a cop I was being threatened by people out there in the community. And my wife used to get calls at home telling her that they were going to kill me, they were going to kill my kid... the first baby... And it got to a point that she was so fed up with the police that she said, listen, you're going to have to make a choice, it's your family or the police dept. I remember having gone to a... movie with my wife. You know where the Chase Bldg is? Used to be a theater there? Across the st from G. Fox... used to be a theater there. Many times, at least 3 times that I can remember I was there with my wife, and they would put in the screen, Detective Roman, you're wanted by the Hartford PD. Right there, so no life... In the retirement party, somebody gets killed, involving a Hispanic, they will... call me. I remember I was in South Windsor in a retirement party for the chief of police... 1963 or 4... and they called me. A policeman had killed a Hispanic on Chestnut St... So they didn't know what to do, so they called me... We were dancing, we're having a good time, cops also have the right to live. So my wife, I remember like today, that she was crying from the moment I left that place until I dropped her off at the house... [on] Wilson St, that's near Hillside Ave... And then she got fed up... I was working like 18 hours a day... All detectives used to call me, or cops had a problem, they used to call me, so not only did I have to work my 8 hours, but after that, I had to go and investigate, and if something was going on when it was time to go home, I just stayed. And many times I worked 24 hours straight."

549: "I loved the police dept... It didn't bother me. I used to go... and sleep for 5, 6 hours or 4 hours and come back in... but the poor lady was really going through hell at home... So finally she said, you've got to make a decision because I can't take it. And the doctor had said that she was so depressed that they would have to give her shock treatments. There was not such a thing as Valium or things like that... I went to see Father Cooney. So Father Cooney says well, yes you do have to make a decision, because this is killing Millie..."

566: "At the same time, the Shade Tobacco Growers were looking for a representative in Puerto Rico. And I went to see them, and they gave me the job. So they paid me to move back to PR, and the family, they gave me a good salary... So we went back... around March 1965 because she was expecting the 3<sup>rd</sup> child, and that girl's birthday was the 21<sup>st</sup> of April... I started working with those people and I worked with them for 10 years."

586: "I'll tell you what we did. We contracted labor from Puerto Rico. Most of the Puerto Ricans that you see around... in 10 years I brought in near 96,000 Puerto Ricans to this community under a contract. They came in to plant tobacco, to harvest, from March to September... And then later on I used to bring them to the apple season, pick apples... I used to contract with the... Department of Labor [of Puerto Rico], federal govt,

our lawyers, lawyers from Puerto Rico. I used to negotiate all those contracts. I used to charter flights, a whole 747...I had a credit line of maybe \$20,000 or \$30,000. That was a lot of money back then. So you chartered a flight for \$4000 and my job was to get the labor here so that they would do the job. And never forgetting my roots, because I came in the same way myself...I knew I was going to lose some, the same way they lost me, so many of them used to come in and take off... We used to bring them to Windsor, shade tobacco camps. Even though we thought we were giving them a good deal, it was no good deal. Because they had to live...2, 300 men living together in one place, or sheds, and they had a cafeteria. They used to go to the field, come back, eat, shower, and get ready for the next day, same thing, in the hot sun, and it was no good. It was hard labor."

631: "The contract read something like this: 'We'll give you a job for seven or eight months,' whatever the contract was, 6 months...8 months... We'll give you a contract, you go there, you work. You don't have to give me money to get in there. If you have money, fine, if not, as soon as you get there we'll take the money out of your pay for the transportation. When you finish your contract we'll give that money back plus we'll pay your transportation back home. So if people stayed the whole length of the contract, they would be reimbursed back and forth for the transportation. But if they didn't stay, they would pay only 1 way. If they went the following day, we got the business, because they pay nothing... So those people that had relatives in Hartford, they just came into Windsor free, they went to Hartford. So that's part of the business..."

658: "So I did that for 10 years, and it came a time when food stamps came to be. This is before food stamps that I was bringing all these people. So food stamps came in and then I got into a bind with the Secretary of Labor in Puerto Rico. He wouldn't sign a contract with me. I was offering X amount of dollars... a \$1.20 I think it was, an hour, and he wanted something like a \$1.25 an hour, and he said, well, I don't have to send the people there now because food stamps are here, so they won't starve. So because of the fact that I couldn't reach an agreement with the Secretary of Labor, and I brought people from Washington, I brought people from Connecticut, and...there was so much unemployment around here locally as well, that we decided, me looking as a corporate executive, we the Shade Tobacco Growers decided not to sign a contract with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to bring labor into the Tobacco Valley... Little did I know, we all learn, that not signing the contract with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico would have meant that I probably would be out of a job myself...I stayed there that summer, no labor coming in. So finally, no labor coming in, I had to go and recruit the labor, the job needs to be done anyway, so they called me in to recruit people here. So...I was going to Glassboro, New Jersey, Manhattan, to Boston, to recruit labor."

701: "People used to come here and show me their hands, they had all kind of calluses--shooting pool, not from working, because that was the way of saying, I'm a good worker, look at my calluses. Yeah, calluses in one hand, not on the other. But I used to get in the labor force somehow, and they survived, and they're still surviving today because they still got tobacco today."

## Side B

012: 1975 when first came in from PR. Didn't go to specific towns himself. "I had a representative in San Juan area, I had one in Mayaguez, one in Aguadilla, one in Ponce. And one in Caguas, [who] covered Caguas, Humacao. And I used to supervise the program... I'm going to the Labor Department because it's a legitimate business, it's not recruiting people in the dark. It's recruiting people approved by the govt. And the govt of Puerto Rico used to have their own staff process these people, they had the contracts. We used to sign a master contract in San Juan, of which... they would send copies to all the island, and they would have all these contracts, they would sign them individually to all those people as they came into the offices, when I was there to tell them what we were offering at the particular time. And we used to compete with [Glassboro, NJ] Green Giant and asparagus, beans and other recruiters from this area, that used to go there, like me. I remember going to a place like this, for instance, 130, 140 people, or more, and each of us... getting up on a chair, and sell our product. And you tell them what you offer, and of course Green Giant would say, don't go to tobacco, because... tobacco kills people... if you smoke tobacco-- And then I used to say, well if you want to pick asparagus, go ahead and do it, because you've got to keep on going all day, up and down, up and down, up and down, your back is like [swollen?]. We used to make fun... and then the people-- they knew exactly where to go anyways. They wanted to... go wherever they had relatives."

041: "The guy that was doing asparagus used to come and interview and explain his product, I would do mine, and then the... office manager would say, those that are going to tobacco, go to that place, those that are going to the other parts, go to that place. And then I used to interview them, because you wanted to get people that could do the job also... And you got all kinds of them. You got people that were from NY that never saw a tobacco leaf... nothing, they just went to Puerto Rico to visit their relatives and they wanted to get a free trip to CT. So you have to sort of judge who was doing what... In the meantime you really got the good workers. I see some of them here today. Some of them, they say hello to me."

054: [complaints, contract violations]. "There's always complaints... the day you stop complaining, you stop looking forward. You have to look and try to get better, of course they're going to complain. That's when Chavez came to be, over in CA, and they spread down here, and it was Johnny Rodriguez<sup>1</sup> I believe it was, he works for OSHA now, and he was in charge of El Gallo.<sup>2</sup> That's when El Gallo was created back then. And they sue us. There were all kinds of suits because... the contract wasn't right, because the people, they weren't getting the money they were offered, they would leave and they would want... Let's say what happens is that they would come in, they would leave but they wanted to get the partial payment that they had made towards the transportation back, but they didn't fulfill their promise, so they wouldn't get it back...."

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<sup>1</sup> He may mean Johnny Irrizarry.

<sup>2</sup> 'La Oficina del Gallo' was the nickname for the New England Farmworkers Council.

068: "And then later on, during my time as a recruiter and a representative of the Shade Growers there, there was a time that I brought some ladies also [from Puerto Rico]...And I used to bring them to hang tobacco, and they were good, and they did that back home too, in Cayey, Comerio. We had tobacco in Puerto Rico as well, we had one in Cayey... and one in Comerio... So those same ladies that were working in our factories there wanted to experience the life here. So they would sign a contract with us to come here. And we were also sued by them, because they wanted to live with the guys... and we put them in a hotel, we had them at the Koala Inn near the airport... But because they were being discriminated... where the... guys were in barracks, it wasn't fair... I don't know to whom, but they were complaining. So we settled those things."

087: Knew players in the suits, churches, Puerto Rican Socialist Party. Remembers Father Geckler, good man, with JR when his wife died. "But that was his role, and he believed in that, and you can't chastise people for their beliefs, so he was doing whatever he thought... was right. And I was doing... what I was being paid to do... I have been in a union, involvements of the unions, because... my propaganda was, in Puerto Rico, when we had cases with the Labor Board in Puerto Rico... in San Juan, and I used to have a plain piece of paper... like this, and I remember telling the people, see this is what you're going to get if you get into the unions... and give them the... blank paper. But that was my part-- they had to do theirs. And life goes on."

101: Came here in 1975, did a little work with American Airlines. Has 4 kids, 2 born in Puerto Rico. One is Teresa Elena Roman, a schoolteacher for 12 years now, at Naylor [?]. Youngest one Alberto, in NC. an executive with Sisco [?] Systems, teaches executives that come to work. JR's wife died in 1983. "And she had done a great job. And I say she had done it because I was working all over the place." Was with American Airlines, went to Texas to do training, stayed with them a short time. Then State of CT, marriage counselor for the court system, Family Relations Officer. Worked in Hartford from time came in 1977 to '79 or '80, '81. Was promoted, supervising the Waterbury... county [sic] all those Bury's. The youngest one maybe less than 13. Needed to be near kids, requested transfer back to Hartford. They gave him Hartford County, and also Tolland. So JR assigned supervisor to Tolland, supervised from here. Did that till 1991 when retired.

142: Had put in some service time in the Marine Corps. Had a golden handshake. State during Weicker administration came in with that. Had bought service time with 2 years, 14 plus years in the job. Gave him 4 years for 20, and retired. Felt that good to be retired, took a year off. Got tired, had to go back to work so could rest. Likes working, to stay busy. More he works the better he feels. When he came to the Housing Authority, been with them over 7 years.

161: "We were Catholics... back when we used to go to Sacred Heart Church..." In PR very active with Exchange Clubs, national organizations. When came here got involved with the Lions, in community wife involved with insurance companies, had some kind of minority-- used to give loans to minority students, she involved with that and church, and he was involved as much time as he had was doing something with the community.

"Especially the old timers, they know me, because I've been here since 1952... and when I was those 10 years in PR, I used to come in every week because whenever I brought an airplane, if I felt like flying up here, I just got up in the plane... and stayed in a hotel." Some days went to meetings in NY or Boston and went home the same day. "So I... never left Hartford... to the point that I never gave up... my driver's license... So I consider myself, if anyone, that I've been here all my life. Just recently I moved to Wethersfield, but it's just over the line."

188: In early 50s, not recognizable PR community in Htfd. "There were very few. They were living on Windsor St, Pleasant St... State St... And there weren't that many. I remember Manuel Rodriguez... We used to call him The Mayor, El Alcalde. Because Manuel Rodriguez was the person... If you come to him and you said, I'm sick, I want to go to the hospital, he would take you to the hospital... McCook [?] Hospital on Vine St. He used to go there, talk Spanish to the people, no one spoke English... and they had a big problem there... But it was a guy that really gave himself--- a well-known Republican, by the way. He was about the only PR Republican in those whole place." Doubts he's still living. "He was a guy that said someday I'll be working in the Hill, in the Capitol... When I came back from PR in 1975, he was working there, during the Meskill administration... He was an elevator operator, okay, but he was working in the Capitol, and he had a bow tie."

215: "Then there was Julian Vargas... Julian Vargas came in the 50s also, had the restaurants at the Tunnel, and then came... Miguel Zayas is the Assistant Executive Director for the Hartford Housing Authority, he's been here forever too. Sometimes we meet and we start talking about... all those people... Back then they used to be on Pleasant St... Windsor St, and few on Albany Ave... near Main St... And then they started going to Main St, around the Tunnel, to Sims St... But none in the Frog Hollow... you couldn't go there. Because it was the elite people lived there... Mostly French... As a cop I used to go, they were nice to me."

236: [the riots] "Late 60s... that's when all those buildings that have been torn down, and windows broken. I remember coming from PR and I went with... Deputy Chief Keller... He called me he says Juan, our city is going to the dogs, let's take a ride down the North End so you see what's going on. I went in the cruiser with him and felt so bad... And then after that people started moving... to Park St, moving to Franklin Avenue. And then I came... back in '75... and I bought a house on Franklin Ave, which I sold recently."

253: [early people] "They were farmworkers, but they were farmworkers mostly illegal... Illegal meaning that they came in without a contract. They came in to work, if they felt like staying, they stayed, if they felt like going back they would go back. And some of them would come into the city and stay in the city. And I remember on Front St., Columbus Blvd... where the Gas Company is, where Adrian's Landing is going to be. There used to be all apts there, and tobacco factories. And I had a couple of incidents there, where PRs used to fight with one another... in the workplace, use knives and whatnot. And that's when I first started finding out, oh, there's more of us here... Windsor

St., Pleasant St., Albany Ave, North Main St, but around Barnard Brown School, that area there, that's where most of them were."

275: "When I was a cop, also, by that time, in 1960, I think, Maria Sanchez came around... I remember meeting Maria Sanchez on Winthrop St, by Sacred Heart Church. And she got involved... with the Board of Education, and then when she was elected to be a representative, but she was always with the Board. And... by then, the vast [majority] of the PRs had come into the city. Some of them--residue of the people that I had sent. Obviously you needed professionals, because you had all of these people. So she, very smart, decided to recruit teachers in PR. She went to Puerto Rico to UPR<sup>3</sup> and recruited teachers. Some of them are my friends today. And some of them tell me jokingly, I owe my job to you... But that's how come the professionals started coming... because... first you create the need and then you have to fulfill the need... And she was there at the time to do that... I was... being informed of what was going on because I was going back and forth, but I was in Puerto Rico."

301: "Amado Cruz was the principal of Hartford High, I think he's still there... he's in charge of some special projects now. But he was the principal... Albany and Edwards, Quirk Middle School... from there he was... transferred to be a principal at Hartford High. And Amado Cruz and that family came in from Caguas, and they came in around 1950 or so... He was very young at the time, but that's a family that has been here for a long time too... And George Cruz, who is the guy that runs the San Juan Sports Center... So the people that have been here a long time, I remember a lot of them."

328: Might interview Mike Zayas. Felipe [?] who has a church on Oliver St. Can't remember last name. "I remember as a rookie cop I used to bring the people arrested, and he was the "lawyer." In other words, he was the pastor of a church, and in those days you used to arrest women for-- there used to be a charge, lascivious carriage, which meant that somebody would sleep with someone, and then someone would call the police, the police would go there, and if they were not married, they would arrest the two people. That was the law, and that was a felony, it was not... a misdemeanor. So what happens-- in PR, many people didn't get married. So they lived together, they do it today again, all over the world, but back when... common law was very common. And they used to come here. If somebody next door like this lady, and they knew that they weren't married, he would call the cops on them, have this guy arrested, so he would start... trying to get on the good side with the lady. And that happened quite often... And the cop had no choice because, with the complaint, and being a felony, used to go there and arrest the people. Now Felipe... used to be the guy there talking to the judge, well, I think they're going to get married. And by the time the case would go to court they'd be married. So there was always a way out... We got some married people today, I have a very close friend of mine who I arrested that way, and he was one of these guys... and he tells me, I used to go with a girl every other night... But today he's married, he's happy, he has a family, and he thanks me for it because otherwise he would have never married her."

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<sup>3</sup> University of Puerto Rico

375: Felipe has been here dealing with the community for so many years. On Oliver St has a Christian Church adjacent to the bigger church. Used to have a church on Amity and Park St. "He was good, because he used to get these people to get married. Fine, they got married, but then don't forget who got you out of jail and go to my church... I did my job, he did his, he got his people."

394: "When I was a cop-- in the police academy they teach you how to deliver children. If you go to a house and the lady's about to have a baby-- so you help her out, do what you have to do. So I went to Kennedy St, North End, and there's a lady having a baby... I said, okay, so I do this, do that, put the baby on her stomach, and then the ambulance would be here, and then all of a sudden I see another baby coming I said, oop... So this was the most shocking story in my career as a police officer, because I was never trained to have to deliver 2 kids, and then the next day in the newspaper comes, not one but two." Used to be a show on TV, Car 354, and that was his badge number.

419: Will try to find out about old farmworkers. Will go to the senior citizens center on 80 Charter Oak Ave. Housing Authority seniors, there may be some there. Doesn't know re women tobacco workers, but Juan Colon could tell us. He works for Hartford Housing Authority. May be able to tell if any of the women under contract stayed behind. At the time he was representing the Commonwealth of PR but here, Migration Division. Joe Monserrat was head of organization in the US, had people here, in Chicago... Monserrat still living, brilliant person. He was in NY. Must be about 80. First director of the Migration Division in US. Gilberto Camacho went back to PR, thinks he died. Was close friend of JR. GC used to live in SJ. Nice guy. Used to send JR some confidential letters. A son of Julian Vargas still around, JR may be able to find out about that.

505: "Julian Vargas was involved in everything... in politics. I remember once we went to help the mayor, Pete Kinsella... This is in 1965, when I met with Kinsella and I told Pete, I have to go to PR but he'll be in charge, don't worry, you'll win. And he won the election." Vargas was a Democrat, but back then you could switch. "I wish they would do that today. To go with the force, and do this... well this year we're going to... vote for so and so, so let's all switch over. Then there would be a unity, then there would be power. But as it is now we are fighting with one another."

530: [change over time in community] "When they used to call a meeting for the Hispanic Police Officers Association, I was there alone, and if I call a meeting, I call a meeting to myself because there was no one. Today there is a Hispanic Association. There is an attorney's association, there's a medical association... Hector Torres, the [Hispanic] Yellow Pages [Executive Director], he knows all these people, because he's got all the addresses and this and that. But you have so many doctors who are Puerto Ricans, locally. And again because of the fact that they are Puerto Ricans, they have those professionals said, well, let's go there. Not that they couldn't do as good in Puerto Rico, but if you're going to serve humanity and you're going to make a few bucks extra... and if you feel good about it do it that way... They're serving and they're getting richer and richer... nothing wrong with that."

562: Sid Schulman, lawyer, brought action because of kid they killed on Enfield St, was with Legal Aid Services in the early 70s. Another key person who knows about Hispanics. Married to a Puerto Rican, Elba [Cruz] Schulman. "And he has been helping, because the legal aid system...that was about the only lawyer that you can afford...And Sid used to be very much involved in organizing and helping organize when La Casa de Puerto Rico was organized... And before that was La Parada de Puerto Rico, that was Maria Sanchez, Esther Jimenez." Not sure if Edna [Negrón] involved in beginning, but maybe her father was. Mariano Cortez one of first businesspeople in the community, jewelry store on Park St, just sold it. Mike Zayas-- "Every now and then he says, Juan I remember being in my apt and watching you at 2 o'clock in the morning walking on the beat freezing on High Street. I said, thank you."

627: JR involved in many community activities now, churches, selective service, just resigned from La Casa de Puerto Rico, with the Lions. Also with SJ Center, pageant that they run once a year. Doesn't know how to get in touch with Antonio Soto, may be able to find him, would have a lot re early days.

661: Has pictures of kids, may have early pictures. Picture as cop, daughter has one at home. Shows picture that has carried.