

Interview with: Jesus and Carmen Malavé

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Transcriber: Ruth Glasser

Machine: Sanyo Memo-Scriber

Tape 1, Side A

002: They recommend names. Antonio Soto, Edna Negron.

015: Carmen Rodriguez, now Malave. Jesus Malave. "I came in June of 1956 with my mother and father. My father came...in '55 and he went to work for the...tobacco...He worked there for 6 months and at 6 months he got a job...working for Bradley Intl Airport cleaning airplanes...About...a year after we arrived he got laid off from Bradley Intl Airport. He had no job. So he went and tried to get welfare aid but they said that he had to sell his car and he had to sell everything that he owned...He just wanted temporary...he wanted a job...They referred him to the city of Htfd...He started working...right away at the sanitation dept." The brother of the mayor, DeLuco, used to be supervisor. Got him to take the truckdriver and heavy equip test. Passed it and started driving city trucks. Worked there until 1974 or '75, '76 they went back to PR. He had started in 1957 or '58. Got social security and pension from city so went back to PR. They lived and died there. Names Francisco Malave and Julia Malave. Father from Cayey, mother from Humacao, where they lived when children. Juan Fuentes used to say he and they were the only ones from Humacao. He and JM's parents knew each other from there, went to school together.

062: Mother had come here before father, to Washington, DC to live with her sisters, there 2-3 years or more. Sister used to work for Treasury Dept, mother went there to help them out with babysitting. Took JM's smaller sister with her, oldest sister and JM stayed in PR. After family came to CT, older sister didn't want to come, stayed in PR with grandparents. Came to visit but that's it. JM enrolled at Arsenal School, took English at Barnard Brown. "All the schools used to send all the students that needed bilingual to Barnard Brown...from the bilingual class to learn more of the English...It was not like a full day class...I used to go for...a couple of hours and I only went for one or 2 months..." JM came as 6th grader, they put him back to 5th grade because had advanced in PR 2 grades, they said he was too young. He was disappointed to be put back. "I didn't really like it coming here...I was 9 years old, I didn't want to come at all... We wanted

to stay with my grandmother and grandfather [in]...Humacao... They promised me that I would not have to go to school because I was afraid...I didn't understand the language... But then when school started in September...But the summer was nice because I came...almost the end of June."

102: They lived 1654 Main St, first apt, 3rd floor. From there moved to Charter Oak Terrace, 3 Caleb [?] St. Had 2 family duplex houses. Went to New Park Ave School, sister to Mary Hooker. From New Park went to the old Htfd High for 2 yrs, then 2 yrs new Htfd High. At old school was on crutches 2 years, Newington Hosp for summer after 8th grade, in traction. Used to get transportation back and forth to HS. Old hs didn't have elevators so had to go up and down stairs, friends carried books. 3 guys, Jose Garay, Frank Gonzalez and... In 3rd year when went to new Hs decided didn't want crutches. [?] Perthes, hip socket not round or ball isn't round so doesn't rotate, gets hooked and cartilage wears out. Used to go every 3 months to Newington Hosp to get tested. Went with crutches tho they didn't know he wasn't using them. Used to play basketball for Htfd park and rec, not supposed to. Many times had a lot of pain in leg. Didn't complain because didn't want crutches or operation. Finally stopped strenuous exercise, did special exercises and got better. Doctor recommended no replacement surgery till pain unbearable. Didn't get till 1998.

165: Took one course in accounting at U Conn or U Htfd. On Hudson St. Then went to electronic computer pgm institute on New Park Ave, computer pgming. Graduated from there. Right after HS went to wk for Pratt Whitney. Didn't like it so took acting and computer. Went to school 2 yrs. Took post office test and passed with high score. May 1968 when finished courses and passed test. Went to The Htfd Insurance which offered night job computer pgming, also PO had offered job. He was engaged to get married in July. Took PO because secure govt job, didn't want to work at night. But pgming probably would have opened more doors, would have continued education. Got to PO and that was it. Married in July '68. Wanted to go to univ at night, on Hudson St. Went to get info and they made it difficult. Could take acting and get college degree but would take like 20 years. He was only 18 or 19. Full time would be able to do 4-5 yrs. But could work and do pgming at night. Now people who can assist you, make referrals, get second opinion. Mother had grad from HS but still parents didn't offer guidance and support to lead right way, didn't know how to get info either.

225: Had 2 boys, one 31, other will be 28. Oldest married and has 2 little girls. Other one married 5 yrs. Oldest works for Pratt Whitney in acting, mgr and going to law school at night at U Conn. Both graduated from U Conn, big one in math, other in economics. Older one got Master's. Little one went to CA about 4 yrs ago to work for Cigna. Transferred to Pacific Life Insurance. Past month promoted to VP of 3 southern states.

259: When JM grad HS, they moved from Charter Oak Terrace to house father bought in Windsor. Younger sister grad from Windsor HS. Went to U of Htfd and school in PR. Worked at Mt Sinai Hosp, EKG technician, RPN.

274: In PR JM's father was a driver of carro publico. Also drove big buses between SJ and Humacao. In service in Korean War 2-4 yrs. Father didn't have any educ, grew up on his own. Did good as a driver. He was also a boxer, undefeated. Gave up when in one of bouts his

opponent died. He was completely on own since 12 yo, left his home and went to live on his own. Met JM's mother in runabouts as driver. Didn't come to Hfd on official contract. Decided that wanted to leave PR. Time that he came up mother and father were separated, kids living with grandparents and mother. Mother came from DC to Humacao and gave news that father had gone to CT, they wanted to get back together, he wanted whole family to come. JM had not seen his father since he was maybe 6 y.o. When JM in PR was an altar boy in Humacao church for 2 yrs, one of best altar boys because served all Masses. Lived 20 blocks from plaza, used to walk to plaza and church, would hang around the plaza. Would serve Masses in diff towns.

339: "So when I came here we were surprised because...they didn't have any Spanish churches...In 1956 Maria Sanchez in a group...got together with Father Cooney at Sacred Heart Church...A population of PRs...Father Cooney agreed to start Spanish Masses...Consequently right after that Maria Sanchez and the others, they were older, they got together...That's where most of the Puerto Ricans used to congregate to talk about different issues...the conditions...Mostly at Sacred Heart Church where everybody used to just gather in the basement to discuss concerns and problems that they were having in the community...That's where the PR Parade...started, at the church...The SJ Center used to be on Albany Ave and used to be an office of the Commonwealth of PR." [first name] Passmore first secretary of Commonwealth office. Somehow that office got transferred over to Sacred Heart, became part of the church. In 1968 or '70 they incorporated, JM part of the board, Haydee Feliciano and others. Used to work out of basement. Then got first office on corner of Ann and Main St. Carmen's sister became first secretary. Commonwealth office moved to Allen St. Commonwealth and SJ Center became separate after had worked together at Sacred Heart Church.

395: Then Father Las Heras came, in 1961. Was really involved, meetings used to be held at Sacred Heart, he was outspoken person. Right after JM graduated from HS in '66 he got involved in PR parade, helping Maria. How got to meet Carmen, through the church. Used to see her but didn't know her. Got to know her through his sister, not through parade, etc. In 1970 became president of Htfd chapter of PR Parade, thinks there for 2 yrs. Maria and he always together, they had central committee with reps to different towns. They still do. Parade every yr in different towns, even one yr in Meriden. "I'll never forget the hills up in Meriden...pulling the...floats...I'll never forget the one in Wty...because in Wty one year it rained like anything...we were soaking wet...It was good because...the parade was...more of a...getting together...It was not just a parade but getting to the parade we had different activities for...fundraising, dances and all that...It was doing something but it was at the same time socializing with different people and having a good time."

442: Had the Spanish American Club on Park St, thinks #59. They'd have weekend dances. Most of time local musicians. Had theater on Main St. Right in front of Barnard Brown. The Daley Theater, showed movies there, where used to go. Upstairs was Spanish club. Used to go to Loews and other theaters in town. Also dances in basement of church. Young girls that would have parties downstairs, dances for kids. "So Sacred Heart Church, we used to...use the basement for not only gathering and meetings, but also for activities...The kids were always involved...The guys, we formed...a club, the Latin...something...We also used to have...our meetings down in the basement and then we used to have dances there." Spanish American Club was something ongoing, on Park St. From there went to upstairs of Lyric Theater on Park St..

Used to show Spanish movies downstairs, same thing with Daley Theater. On 3rd floor of Lyric where dances held. Used to bring bands from NY. When JM with parade brought bands from NY as part of fundraiser.

498: JM didn't associate too much with PRs as teenager. Became very active just before got married. "When I was in HS I used to hang out at what they used to call...Hearty [?] Beef Burgers on New Park Ave... We had a group there and...with my friends from HS I used to go to Misquamicut Beach on the weekends." Lot of frats and sororities had dances. Would go to dance at The Sands. Had fake I.D.s saying that older, at that time could drink at 18 in RI. Mostly American friends.

522: Carmen's family: "My family was from San Lorenzo and we came here in 1961... The reason we came was... We had a farm and my father used to work for other farmers...He used to help with carpentry or farming...He was up doing...some kind of carpentry and he fell...and broke his back...He had to go to the hospital." The doctor said would have to be there for at least 6 months. "He says, I have a family of .9 children...and he stayed there 2 weeks. He was right back home farming...He used to do tobacco, sesame seeds...beans, tomatoes...rice, corn and then the Puerto Rican roots...Mainly tobacco, that's how he used to make a living. Grow the tobacco and then he would it to get the money to buy whatever... When he broke his back...he could not work doing that, he could not bend like that to do his farming, he could not do the carpentry...So he had a sister that was living here in Htfd and so when she found out she said, why don't you come up here?...So he decided to sell the farm and come up here. So we came...We were staying with my aunt for a little while so we went looking for a job. My father, myself, and I was 15 at the time, and my older brother who was...maybe 18 or 19. So we all started out...walking around Htfd looking for a job...[in] different places, factories, whatever...I spoke English, a little bit because I had been in NY before...My father didn't have the skills, he didn't speak English, neither did my brother. So for them it was difficult...My father...needed something that he could just sit. He could not be bending or lifting and not being skilled he couldn't find anything. My brother not being able to speak the language, not being skilled either, he had a hard time. He really wasn't that enthusiastic maybe about looking for a job...But I was. But then I was 15 so I went to the social security office and...I said I was 18...but then every place I went, they look at me and say, I'm sorry but you look like...you should be in school."

587: DCF office found out she was 15 and not going to school. Went to place and asked them how living without jobs. Lived on whatever had from selling farm. Person said that office on Atlantic St that helped people when they come here till found job, city welfare dept. Went to office and got temp help, father and brother continued looking for job, CM had to go to school. Father transferred to state welfare dept. Father got really depressed, started drinking. Lost his status, in PR was strong male, family leader. Checks in her mother's name. "I didn't want to go to school because I had lost all dreams. For me school was in Puerto Rico. Because when I was 12 I went to NY and I went to school there and I didn't like it. But when I was in PR...my dream was to go to school...When all the kids were playing recess I would be sitting by the road watching the HS kids that were walking by...saying some day it'll be my turn...But when I was 12 I went to NY with my aunt and I was completely discouraged, I did not like school there...Then I went back to PR, then I go to school 7th or 8th grade." Then came her in 1961 at 15. In Htfd had to go to school. Truant officer would come every week. They came in

September, this was November. One day truant officer came and said tomorrow be ready with your bags. If not in school when he came, would go to a home. New morning she was up early, in school. Wasted her time, wouldn't do a thing. Hartford High. "Then we had this teacher... Mr. Leach... He was Panamanian, he spoke Spanish, and he had a class of all the kids that were from Hartford High that did not speak the language... He would be talking and I would just say nothing. But one day he came to me and he said, you know... the other kids a lot of them I know they do not understand what I'm saying and... they don't know how to do the work so I don't blame them too much for being in this class and not having... any goals... You're different. I know you can do the work, you know it... You just don't want to do it, you're just wasting your time... But the way he said... he touched me... It was true. And then I said all right, so why don't you put me... in the normal classes tomorrow. And then after that... I decided that... I wanted to be nurse... I had good grades... I wanted to be an RN and I was not prepared... the guidance counselors never prepared me... for me to take what I needed, the kind of courses... Then one summer... I said I want to be... a registered nurse. She said, oh you need geometry, you need chemistry and you need algebra... This was in my junior yr." Didn't have geometry, chemistry. Had to take algebra during the summer so could take geometry in senior yr, chemistry. She did fine. Hard to go to nursing school because hadn't been really prepared, was taking general subjects. Did better in academics as senior than when taking general courses. Academic chemistry really difficult, prof said that anyone who had B+ average didn't have to take final, she didn't.

Tape 1, Side B¹

007: Family on welfare while she was in school. Mother never worked. Had a lot of little children. Father did try to go to work picking apples at the orchard. He would go different places but whatever he tried he couldn't do. Had to get disability and social security but wasn't eligible. That's how they did it till everybody got married. First apt they got was in Queen [?] St, 3 bedroom apt and there were parents and 8 children. Then moved into 2-3 bedroom on 9th [?] St. Kept looking around, lived on Atlantic for a long time. Then she got married. Met at church party, sister came with a mutual friend. Then was going to celebrate 16th birthday and CM was invited. Went and met JM, not impressed. But going to same HS, kept visiting his sister, began to go out.

038: JM: When in school in touch with both PR and American community. Used to play basketball with American kids. "I learned the system much faster than some of the others. Learning... the importance of education, the importance of doing different things. That... helped me a lot in getting ahead and trying to do things different from some of the others... Since I was around more the Americans than a lot of Puerto Ricans, I didn't have that accent that some of the others did... I think it also helped that I was lighter than some of the others." Those with darker skin may have experienced more rejection. Being lighter, speaking language and not acting different from anyone else was accepted with everybody. "Everybody knew that I was Puerto Rican but yet I didn't feel like I was discriminated or treated any different... But I kept in contact with the PR community because my mother and father always-- and in 1969... after we got married... I got involved in the community. In '68 I really got involved... with the Htfd Police

¹ For some reason, the taping is not of good quality on this side-- it's hard to hear the voices.

Dept... It was a committee that was formed out of the tension that was happening throughout the nation. And prior to the riots in Htfd... Chief [name?] gave us some identification cards with our picture and signed by him... It was like a badge with a picture on it of that committee. And it was myself and Maria Sanchez... There was only about 4 or 5 of us in that committee and the chief of police and the city managers was in that committee, the asst chief which at the time was Heslin, and a couple of lieutenants... and that was trying to keep the community informed of how the police dept worked and also keep the police dept informed of how the PR community reacted to different things and the things that may trigger some type of trouble... So we used to meet... At the time of the trouble it was like once a week we used to meet at... Htfd police headquarters... " Would talk re different strategies, issues that the community brought up, would bring to police. Policemen that walking the beat that might have said something or mistreated people. Police chief would pass it through to proper channels to address the problem.

084: "One time down on Albany Avenue, as a matter of fact where Maria had the store, they decided to put meters... A lot of PRs used to go there because they used to live there, they didn't have... parking, so they used to park there, and there was a couple of policemen that came there that was ticketing the cars... We requested that those meters be removed because there was no parking for the people that lived in the area... They did remove the meters... I was also involved with the park and recreation dept, I was on that committee too... Through the police dept and the Htfd park and rec we made various changes... keeping the kids busy and doing things. We brought up the idea that there should have been lights installed so that... the kids could stay out in the summer playing in the parks... Lights were installed at Rice Heights... the baseball field... one... down on Albany Ave, where the new... medical center they built there, there used to be a park right there."

103: "We brought up different idea... to try to keep the community at ease and also cooperative with... the police dept... During the riots we were always on call in case the police dept needed us for any assistance or any translation... They depended mostly on Father Las Heras and Maria... It was closer for them because a lot of the tension that evolved... was around that Albany/Main St area where the riots occurred... I... did all this with the American community, I was always involved with PR community at the same time. I never lost my identity as a Puerto Rican and also to help them get ahead and provide them information."

119: Also got involved at that time with the PR Institute for something, for the Hispanic family? Sarah Romany used to head it. Now Hispanic Health Council. Used to meet at Romany's place, apt at Bushnell Towers, luxurious apt. The attorney who used to help with institute was Brian Hollander. JM got invited to other committees that got involved with, felt privileged to be invited to mtgs that were heads of banks, city mgrs, high officials. Even though he was 21, 22 was involved with older people. Learned a lot from them, dialogue and strategy, good to find out how the system worked. In 1972 or early '70s, because associated with other PR friend, used to bring bands from PR, Santo Domingo, NY to play in CT. Shows at Columbia Music Hall in W Htfd. Used to bus people from Bgt, Boston, Htfd-- big assembly hall, state armory. Had show at Sheraton. Community for 2-3 yrs had he and partner bring in big bands. People wanted to see these professionals that had never seen before. In turn JM and partner invited to give presentations to musicians in NY, invited by musicians' agents. Used to go to big clubs in NY and talk to musicians. "I wanted to bring that music because I wanted to bring the best of Puerto

Rico so the people here in CT would be able to experience in here the best of PR even though they couldn't go to PR. So El Gran Combo, La Selecta." Had buses coming in from Boston, place was packed.

195: "We also was involved in a lot of demonstrations during the late '60s and '70s at City Hall. Eugenio Caro and Maria and all them marching down to City Hall. [For] various reasons, housing, discrimination, police dept, ... job opportunities like for instance the fire dept... trying to get them-- La Casa had a lot to do with it... I think they filed a federal suit which they settled... that opened the door for a lot of the Puerto Ricans to be hired as fire personnel. So those demonstrations at that time... opened doors and brought the attention of the vote... The PR Parade was established to bring the attention to the PR people to register and vote. That was their main theme... to register and vote... Maria did a great job in registering... to make sure that they voted and that their vote counted. And that's how... we were able to get... city council persons... and the board of education, Maria was the first board of education elected."

217: He was always at different mtgs. Involved with Spanish Action Coalition, of all the committees' leaders and agencies got together to talk re ideas and strategies and how to proceed in diff areas, with diff depts of the city or state. SAC one of the early groups that had a voice and spoke for the PR community.

233: Carmen's family not involved in community gps. "We used to go to church and then they got me involved. Maria Sanchez got me involved in the PR Parade when I was 17. Then after that we were very much involved in the church activities and the community. But my parents were not too much involved... I had younger brothers and sisters and they were... busy with them." Thinks parade started in '61 or '62. "I was the virgin in the float... That was the first parade that they asked me to be the virgin in the parade... Every time the parades... in Htfd it always came out of Sacred Heart Church. Everything was Sacred Heart Church." Remembers that Pentecostal Church always existed but you didn't hear too much about them, probably started in late '60s. But Sacred Heart was center. "If people needed a job, because I used to work there with Father Las Heras as secretary... and Bishop Rosazza and anybody needed a job, they would go there and Father Las Heras... people that he didn't even know, they used to go there and say, Father, I need... a reference... for this job. Any kind of job. And right away... They'd type a little letter there and I always remember... he always gave him a referral. Always. Never turned anybody down... Factory jobs."... JM: "Any kind of jobs. As long as they were going to work... He says anybody that's coming here that they're looking for a job and they want to go to work, you give them whatever referral they need... They were mostly factory jobs... CM: "Factory and restaurants."

272: Las Heras had good connections with factories, restaurants, and the state. "He had political... connections... He helped a lot of... Puerto Ricans get into state jobs too." CM: "Father Las Heras... let's say a PR... young person got into trouble with the police, he would be the one to go there right to speak for this person because the person didn't know how to defend himself, he'd be the one to speak for them. So Sacred Heart Church was, you name it, everything. The... Cuban refugees used to come here, any refugees... Sacred Heart Church... would find places... some kind of help, always."

285: JM: "The park they always used to go to was Colt's Park. And I remember that...everybody used to live down on Main St...60 Main St was always known as...the building where all the PRs...started...So any time you heard 60 Main St, that was it, that was the building that the PRs came to, it was like recognized...So everybody used to go down to Colt's Park...Out of all this...meetings that we had...it brought the needs of the PR community, what they needed...as far as services...or any abuse that they...were confronted with...to bring it to the attention of...the officials." One of mgrs who very helpful was Elijah Freeman, city mgr, and so was Mayor Atherson, Mayor DeLuco, and Mayor Ucello, Anne Ucello. Nick Carbone also helpful. Barbara Kennelly worked closely with Maria Sanchez, who knew her father. So political connection between Maria, Father Las Heras, they were main people. Others like Juan Fuentes, Esther Jimenez, Eugenio Caro afterwards became a force, demonstrations, speaking out for community.

321: Various people came in during that time, an attorney named Perez, first one who came who very active in CT politics, then went back to PR. Worked with Htfd Courant. Luis Collazo also had impact. Also Jose La Luz and Jose Cruz. Cruz very influential, very active, great source. "I became the Hispanic program specialist...for the Htfd post office in CT...I was the first Puerto Rican carrier in Htfd and through that pgm, we had about 16 employees and in about 5 to 10 years we had...over 200...in addition to the supervisors...I used to hold classes every year, every time the exam opened up, whether it be for the carrier, for the clerk, or for mail handlers. I used to hold classes throughout the community in different centers like the San Juan Center, HART...different churches...All the churches, whenever they had a group...I used to send letters out to different organizations of...the Puerto Rican community..., just tell them, whoever's in charge, if they want to hold classes. So what I used to do was go into those community centers and I would hold classes for about a 2 week period, training them...to get ready to be able to pass the postal examination...I came also to New Britain...Spanish Speaking Center...the church here, St. Mary's...Because of that, that opened up the door to a lot of the Puerto Ricans to come in because they were able to score high and they were able to get in."

386: During that time very busy because 2 young kids, as got older he coached little league and midget football in Newington, did that for about 20 years. Also other baseball leagues in Newington and Htfd. Got a PR team through American Legion in Htfd, coached for 2-3 years, in the North End. "I was able to approach a lot of the...Puerto Rican businesses and they were very helpful as far as...lending the economic support that we needed for the children, to open up the avenues for them to be involved in sports...Many of the merchants responded...I went to numerous grammar schools and high schools to make presentations to the PR students...trying to emphasize the importance of their continuing education...and every now and then I have been stopped on Park St...It's amazing how sometimes you...just may touch one person or two...Someone will come...I know you and says, thank you, because...you went to Bulkeley HS and you would talk...I didn't know him but he knew me and he was thankful...because of what I said...he was able to continue his education and went to college and he was doing good."

425: "Even now, I get numerous calls constantly...when somebody's in trouble or need advice...They always call me to see which way to go...Through church and through the community I'm still involved...I haven't stopped even till now to help the people when they're in need...that's what we're doing with Sacred Heart church...opening doors... You see different

groups. Back when... I was growing up we didn't have that many professionals that were here... in the... 70s... that's when they started recruiting the teachers and we started getting more professionals, not only teachers but also attorneys and doctors... Now we have a big segment of very professional people that are very well educated."

453: "The people that came here at first, like my mother and father, they came with the mentality that they were going to come here to work temporarily and then they were going to go back. They didn't come in with the idea to set roots here... But now throughout the years what happened is that they stayed longer than they thought. And their children didn't know PR because a lot of them couldn't afford to travel back and forth. Those that did went for a short period of time, so they didn't know PR as it was... Now when you got the professionals, they were different. They came with another mentality because the way I saw it was that they came prepared. They were educated in PR, they had a college degree... they came here... prepared to make money... So the mentality was, they didn't come thinking they were going to go back, they came here to... establish themselves here professionally... Some of them had to go back because that's what they wanted but a lot of them decided that this was what they wanted to do... they felt that the opportunities were here, and a lot of them set roots, they bought homes... where before the first group of people that came, they never thought about buying a home because you didn't buy a home because you were not going to stay here... If you bought a home then you were going to stay. Now the people that have come, they buy homes because... their mentality is different. It's an investment, and they're thinking about establishing themselves, where the people before didn't."

492: "And also the way they conduct themselves. The professionals now, they know their rights. Where the people that came before... didn't know their rights. They were American citizens, but they didn't know the rights that they had here. So the few that were so-called leaders knew a lot more about the rights for the people."

504: CM: "And also before... we were all like a family... Maria Sanchez was like our mother... for all the young kids... She never had children, so she was like our mother... for all the youth. She used to take us to activities and our parents would let us go with her... If we went to any place we would say... we're going with Maria, okay, it's okay. And she used to take us places and you knew everyone. It was a network, everybody knew their parents... My parents knew my friends, their parents, and vice versa, everybody knew each other, you felt like a family wherever you went... But now, we went to... the concert... and we're from Htfd. I think we saw like maybe 3 people that we recognized."

522: JM: "Back then... when I was young and going through HS... there was no drugs... You didn't do any drugs... It started like in the mid- 60s... '65 and on, that's when... we started hearing about that. But before, even in '65, '66, you didn't hear... Within the PR community there was no such thing as drugs at that time... If there was one... you would be like an outcast. [CM: thinks applies to all ethnic groups]" There was a lot of respect for other people, for society as a whole." Now, thinks holds true for everybody, respect for authority or adults as a whole is not there. Before everybody respected the adults. "Yet being involved in the community, it depends on how you conduct yourself because... I'm always talking to teenagers and kids... It's kind of funny that if you talk to the kids, they may be bad... but yet they will respect you... Once they... know

you, and they know who you are, they have the utmost respect...the PRs do. The others I'm not sure... Even though it's been separated a little bit, that family unity's still there to do things together and you see it more. Like from all the other churches that I've been to...and talking to different people throughout the community, Sacred Heart still has that kind of family...helping one another and trying to stay together and helping the children...to grow up, and they example they give... That's why I continue to go to Sacred Heart." Could bring to hundreds of white and black Americans that he has also helped along the way. "I don't look at it as black or white or Puerto Rican... If somebody's in need and that person is being honest... I just go and help him."

598: Has friends from all groups. One of good friends, father was mayor of Newington, well known family in Newington. Could ask him for any reference because they have worked together, helped each other. "So I have learned the system and my kids in turn have done too... My wife and I, we wanted to make sure that they didn't lose their identity... They were raised in Newington but yet they kept in touch with the PR community in Htfd through her family and my family and also in PR because when they were young we used to send them various summers with my sister in PR."

625: CM: "Our children were not raised like... the typical Puerto Rican... They were raised... in Newington with all their friends... the normal American family... But... because we felt so good about ourselves, who we were, and also like he said, the family in PR, they learned to identify with the PRs... in Puerto Rico... I think for them that helped a lot, that they didn't feel... to identify with the very poor... What you'd hear about the PRs in Htfd sometimes was not very nice."

646: JM: "Because of that... my oldest son, he's still on the board of directors of the SJ Center... He tutored... He's been there about 8, 10 years as a tutor and in the board of directors of the SJ Center here at Sacred Heart Church. And our youngest son, he was on the board of directors of Hogar Crea, as a treasurer... So it's like, they were raised in Newington... but yet they... never lost their identity as a Puerto Rican and also they have worked and helped the PR community. So we're kind of proud... of our kids that they've done that."

669: CM didn't become a nurse but has always worked in health field. Health and nutrition education. Still working.

679: [How feel to be part of community where generations unfold, so rooted] JM: "I feel very proud... as a Puerto Rican that I was able to experience all of that... You still are able to help those who need, and it's amazing how... once people know you, they come and ask you for help so I feel like I don't ask for anything in return, and you give, and... I feel real good that the PR community has grown educationally and also economically... You see it throughout the greater Htfd area." Antonio and Mariano Marrero came in late 50s, early 60s, Mariano works at DOT, an engineer, in Newington, another family that has done real good. Antonio in charge of admissions at Eastern CT State College. "To see... all these Puerto Ricans get ahead, and moving ahead, economically and politically... it's like... that's so great. And that you were part of it... a small part... I feel real good."

Tape 2, Side A

001: CM: "You're part of it, you belong, you feel at home. On the other hand it's kind of sad because you see that a lot of the people are gone. And then I begin to understand why the older people sometimes they're so...depressed. You see so many changes...All the landmarks, everything that you knew, it's gone... You see Htfd, it's totally different from what used to be...The buildings. The Civic Center was not there...when we first came in. We had G. Fox, we had all those stores...the theaters...The places that you used to go, they're not there any more...It's all...new buildings, new development, and a lot of the people are gone, the people that you...went to school with."

012: JM: "And the clubs are not there...The Spanish Club...that used to be on Park St...It's no longer there...We used to...get together as a community, it's kind of lost, it's not there any more...What they have now is...what they call dominoes club where just a small segment of Puerto Ricans get together...[not like] clubs where different leaders would get together and talk about strategy, talk about the advances or things that are not being done...We lost that...We lost that unity of sharing and socializing together...Even the PR Parade where it brings the PRs together..."

031: CM: "I think that there's so many PRs here now...before it was like a family because there were not that many...You knew each other. But now...it's like people are integrated, it's not the same any more. And they're being integrated and there are so many that you cannot keep track of--"

034: JM: "In a way it's good...before, when we first came...we were here temporarily and going back. You were not part. Now, the people who are here are permanent...and they're contributing...economically, through the jobs that they work, the taxes...by buying homes and all that...I think they're probably contributing in other ways more than they did before."

042: CM: Before here temporarily "People did not really get involved that much because you'd feel, why bother, because you know you're going to go back, this is not your community. But now...the new thing is now we're here to stay, we're not going anywhere. And since you're here to stay you build, you invest, and you get involved in whatever is there, you integrate...I think that was the difference between the Puerto Ricans and the people from other countries when they came here. From other countries because...usually sometimes because of the govt in their countries...they came and...they made a life, they integrated, intermarried...The PRs were not intermarrying too much at the beginning...because we were here just temporary, we didn't think we were going to stay. But now that it's different people are beginning to integrate and move around...There's PRs all over the nation...It's not like before you used to say mainly NY, CT, and now you name...where you least expect it in the West, they're there."

059: When they were growing up didn't expect to stay. JM: "I was going to go to Puerto Rico, when I don't know, but I was going to go back and every yr it's like...it's going to happen...but

yet, we're a little different because we knew that we needed to establish our kids and we needed...consistency in their life because they needed an education. So that we knew we had to do...But at the same time in the back of your mind is...yeah, we're going to do that but...we're not going to...stay here...Even now,...I can't wait, I've got a year and a half before I retire and we're going back."

070: CM: "He has a strong feeling of going back. Me, the way I look at it, since I was there as a teenager in Htfd I feel that's my home...I love CT, I think CT was good to me, I don't have any regrets... When I went back to PR after I was married for a while, I didn't like it. Because I wanted the Puerto Rico that I left. See when I was 12 I went to NY, then when I was 15 I came here...But when I went back when I was 23 that's not the PR I left and I didn't like it as much...I love it, it's a beautiful island and...that's where I was born and all that, but it's not the same, I don't feel at home as much as I used to. I feel more at home here in CT." Her parents never went back to PR, both buried in Bloomfield. They did not want to go back except to visit. Mother had no desire to go back even to visit. She wasn't very healthy, felt here children were here. "When she first came...when I die...I want to be buried in PR. She used to say that. My father didn't care...After that she changed, she says, no, why would I be buried in PR, all my children are here. So she's buried in Bloomfield."

088: JM: "Now me, I want to go back...My plans have always been since I left...that I was going to go back... Whether we stay there, depending upon the political and the crime and so on... We have planned right now, we don't know if it'll work, to go back and stay there for 10 years and then as we get older we may want to...settle down in Florida...That's where we'll probably end up...but right now my thing is to go back to PR to enjoy--- somehow I never got to enjoy...PR and I always wanted to go back so I want to at least enjoy something."

100: CM: "If you're born and raised there, why would you leave it?...If I was raised and got myself educated in PR, why would I come here?... You've got everything there, but when you're young and they bring you here it's different...Because his sister never wanted to come here and her children...she had 3 daughters... They come here to visit...they go right back...It's the very poor that used to come up because they couldn't make it down there, like my parents."

107: JM: "Or professionals that are looking for...advancement...a future, whether it be political or in their company that they work for...But...I'll never forget when I got on that plane, I still remember it very clearly the day I got on that plane, it was a propeller plane...and I always said from that day that I left that I was going to the airport...that I would be back...I've gone back on vacation, a month, 2 months, 3 months...because we go back every year, my sisters are there, and my mother and father were there before they died...It's my Puerto Rico and I want to enjoy it. Everything that it has to offer...and it's special...To me, PR doesn't offer so much more than any other place...because I know it...and I know what I can have...so that's what I want...Whether I live there for the rest of my life I don't know...but I am going back, that's for sure."

129: CM: Sure there was discrimination but at time didn't know if was or not, young and naïve. Later you realize that something happened. "The fact that you move here from PR and...you are uprooted...it's like you lose all...sense of identity...you don't feel at home at school, your

dreams are shattered, you just don't care. And I think maybe that's why... a lot of the kids don't even bother in school... Unless the parents are really into the education... and they work with the child."

148: JM: Probably an educated person prepares the children more than the uneducated. Poor people who don't prepare children, that's a big problem. "I can speak for myself... Wanting to go back... that I didn't want to come here in the first place. I was forced by my parents to come here, and I'm here in a place that I really don't want to be and you have no choice... and then after you're here, you're here, and that's it. You can't go back." But like any place else you have good and bad, like in any race, he tries to look at good, believes that more good than bad. Have to deal with bad but try to concentrate on good.

165: "Overall... it's progress but it hasn't been easy, it's been because of people that have sacrificed and... given their time and their efforts to make life better for the other people behind them... Like Maria and... Jose Cruz and some of the others... A lot of these people that have given their time, they didn't have to. Myself... I didn't have to give any time." Just like any other race, people who sacrifice for other people.

176: CM: "When I got married and we had... the family, I always said, I don't want my children to go through what I went through. They're going to master the language, they're going to learn it... fluently... We made sure that they got themselves educated so that they could make it... And I made a mistake because I didn't know-- he always spoke English because... his friends were mainly American... I spoke Spanish with my parents... We always spoke English with the children at home... The Spanish they learned it... but not fluently. I didn't know that... let's say if you only spoke English to them since little and I spoke in Spanish, they wouldn't have gotten confused, because they learn both languages and they're not confused but I didn't know that... But they took it in high school and in college, thank God... If they want to they can go back, but if they... we had not made that... that... their English had to be fluent, they wouldn't have made it as well as they did now... I said if we're going to live in this country they have to master the language, there's no other way."

200: JM: When they used to go to PR they picked it up. They may not be fluent but they know how to speak, they understand it. When younger son was with Hogar Crea he communicated okay, and most of the people didn't speak English. Older one said after he finishes law school will go back to school just for Spanish. Children are Jesus Junior and Jose, call them JJ and Joey.

213: CM will have to look for the pictures. Get parade pix from Juan Fuentes. She doesn't have many from PR because they didn't have a camera. [JM shows police id "citizen volunteer", 1972.] Thomas Vaughn was chief of police. Have Miss Universe pix with JM and sister. Shows pix of him and sister in Groton. There are some early pix of him in apt in Htfd. CM's brother in law used to be asst to Grasso. Very much involved in community. Might be good to talk to, but going to Florida next month. Miss Universe pictures were early '70s, when PR was Miss Universe. They had a committee and brought here here, Hotel Sonesta then, now closed down, had big banquet there for her, have pix with JM, sister's daughter. Pix of mother when working in DC babysitting for sisters, Eisenhower was pres, have pix of going to Easter egg hunt on

White House lawn, "unknown" in photo was cousin who sneaked under fence. Had picture of city hall with Miss Universe.

293: JM's father: "When he came from PR he became official chauffeur for the farmworkers... that lived in the camps... There was one in Windsor Locks and one at Bradley Field... So what he used to do was he used to transport them from the camps into Htfd to either buy some things... and then transport them back. Or he would take them from the farm, from the campamento they used to call it, into the airport... I used to go with him when I was small, when I first came. So sometimes they were hiring him like 2 or 3 to take them to Kennedy, because they used to fly out of Kennedy... or we used to go and pick up somebody that's coming from PR to bring them here. So... he used to do that like part time as a... chofer publico... because that's what he used to do. So he did that when he came here... Even after he left to work at Bradley Field and he worked for the city of Htfd, he would still go back. I remember we used to go there... campamento... they didn't allow too many kids but I used to go with him all the time... All guys... drinking and smoking and playing dominoes... They'd see my father, oh let's go, take me into Htfd... So that was a really good experience as far as... the few people that used to be able to drive back and forth because there weren't that many at that time."

323: Didn't take people out of camp permanently, would take them to airport at the end of their term. "He had a 1950 Ford and... there would be like 3 guys in the back... and I'd be right in the middle... They were all packed in... And they could only take so much luggage... so many clothes... or they would share one luggage so... everything would fit. And then they would go back and then the following year... they would contract my father and my father would go pick them up at the airport... A couple of times we got... lost in New York City... That's how I learned the route to go back and forth to NY, and I got good experience as far as... getting around and traveling, because I was always going back and forth with my father... If they wanted to go drinking, come into Htfd and go to a bar and drink for a while and dance... he would pick them up and then he would bring them back."

353: JM knew all of the small group of men that used to offer that driving service. "I think I was the only kid... that used to go to campamento... They didn't allow women or kids in the campamento. But somehow my father always used to get me in there and I was the only kid in that campamento, everybody knew me, and... they had... barracks... the bunk beds... There wasn't that much privacy in those barracks either... and then they had the big... cafeteria..." May have picture of father and mother by car.

379: CM: "When we were teenagers... the main entertainment we had was from town to town there were public dances, and all the... people used to go from town to town to the dances... on weekends... Puerto Rican dances... Waterbury... The leaders of the town, like in Htfd, okay, let's say this weekend, it would be announced on the radio. They'd say, big dance coming up, let's say in Wty, such and such a place, Saturday, 10 dollars entrance or whatever... and that's how we used to do that... With us, we used to go... with Maria Sanchez... So all the kids used to say, oh, you're going to go to the dance over there? The young people are invited to go... Then next weekend... There's a dance in Meriden, in Bgt, and every weekend there would be a dance in a different town... The young people used to go and dance and have fun and come back home."

397: JM: One of first disk jockeys in Windsor, Pedro Garcia. Still works for WRYM. CM: Dances main source of entertainment for young people at the time. JM: Local bands, Luis Rentas, Cheito goes way back, plays typical PR music.

430: JM: People respond when he asks them to do something with the church because he's upfront and honest. Hit them at the heart and they'll give you.

441: Didn't know discrimination in PR. "So when I found out here that they didn't like the blacks or the blacks were against the whites and all that, and I'm saying to myself...everybody's the same... Why are you against that person because they're black... or because they're white... That was very hard for me to really try to understand that there was discrimination... I saw people as a person, I didn't see them as black and white... That didn't register me for a long time... the difference between the black and the white and the Puerto Rican and all that, it took me a long time to really understand... the discrimination part." So didn't think had been discriminated against, was one of the hardest things to understand when he came up."

459: CM: Also went to school with people mainly of her color. But a few families that black, redheads, blonds, but didn't even see difference of color till she got here. Puerto Rico is more divided into class rather than color.

470: Her sister told her recently "When I first came to Connecticut-- it was November--and she said, I look up at the trees and I see no leaves. And then she says... and she was about 5... where in the world am I in a place where the trees have no leaves?... Another shock is... because in PR they taught us that the Americans are all white and blond and blue-eyed... So then when you first come... let's say we went to North Main St in Htfd... well most of the people there were African-Americans. The same thing happened to my sister, my sister said but... they said that they would all be blond and blue eyes." A woman from the Dominican Republic made CM laugh because a lot of Dominicans come here thinking life will be so much better, it's not, she says, look at my hands, when left there had nice nails, now working 2 jobs and barely making it. Swears that when people go back they borrow all kinds of jewelry so go back and say that making a lot of money, buying all this gold, say that money all over the streets. She says, I'm still waiting to find a quarter, that came here and was mugged twice in NY. She discourages people from coming, says, it's not what they say.