

The Sacramento Movimiento Chicano and Mexican American Education Oral History Project

Eddie Hernandez

Oral History Memoir

Interviewed by Cristina Mora

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Unofficial transcript generated by Panopto captioning services; edited by Savannah Mitchell

California State University, Sacramento Library

[00:00:16]

Mora Hi, Eddie, Ed from Memphis. Thank you for coming and joining our project. This interview will be videotaped. A video with audio recording will form part of the Sacramento Movimiento Chicano and Mexican American Education Project Oral History, which is archived at Donald and Beverly Girth Special Collections and University Archives at California State University, Sacramento. Do you agree to this recording?

[00:00:45]

Eddie Hernandez Yes, I do.

[00:00:46]

Mora Okay. Date of interview is July 28th, 2023. Time of interview is 1:00 p.m. local in Sacramento, California.

[00:01:00]

Hernandez Very good.

[00:01:00]

Mora So, let's start. Okay. Can you please state your full name and spell it, including accents? Please provide your birthdate and where you were born.

[00:01:09]

Hernandez Full name is Edward Hernandez. Did you say spell it?

[00:01:12]

Mora Yes.

[00:01:13]

Hernandez E-D-W-A-R-D, last name Hernandez, H-E-R-N-A-N-D-E Z. I was born September 6th, 1946. And I was born in Albany, California. But I was raised in Richmond, California.

[00:01:28]

Mora Okay. Thank you. Okay. This is about your early life.

[00:01:31]

Hernandez Sure.

[00:01:32]

Mora Were you -- you were -- You said you were raised in Richmond?

[00:01:35]

Hernandez Mm-hmm.

[00:01:36]

Mora What did your parents do for a living?

[00:01:39]

Hernandez My mother, she was a housewife. There were five of us children, so that kept her quite busy. There were four of us writing a row sequentially. So there's four of us one year apart.

[00:01:50]

Mora Oh, wow.

[00:01:50]

Hernandez In fact, I have a brother that's 11 months older than I am. [laughing] And a sister, she's a year behind me. So there's four of us. She's primarily a stay-at-home mother, wife and mother. She took care of the house. My father worked at American Standard as a grinder there in Richmond. He did that for about 20, 25 years until they let him go. I think they let him go. And they shut down part of what he was doing. And so he had to change careers at that point. But he was a grinder, primarily. And it's one of those jobs where it was he would get paid for each part that he put out. And for American Standard, they put out urinals, bathtubs, sinks, all those type of stuff. And as a grinder, he'd be there grinding with a stone to make sure that everything, all the edges were taken off once something came out of the die cast. And as a result of that, he would breathe in all this dust that accumulated in his lungs. And over the years, it took its toll on him till eventually, at the last, maybe 20, 25 years of his life, he was bedridden. And he would have to use the oxygen tank. And his lungs were slowly atropine because of that work. But once he left that place, he went to work for the Concillo, [phonetic] in Richmond. And so he did that for a couple years before his health would not allow him to do that.

[00:03:24]

Mora What did he do at Concillo?

[00:03:28]

Hernandez He drove a methadone van. He drove it for -- to take the clients to get their medicine. And so, surprisingly, there was a couple of cousins on that van. [laughs] But anyway, that's what he did. [Inaudible Speaker] Yes, anyway, that's what he did for a while.

[00:03:47]

Mora Oh, that's nice. Okay. How many -- You said you had five brothers and sisters? What was the primary language growing up [inaudible]?

[00:03:53]

Hernandez English, though my parents were bilingual. But for some reason, they didn't that much around the house. Had a grandmother next door. My paternal grandmother spoke very little English. My grandfather across the street, he was somewhat fluent in English. But primarily, his primary was Spanish. And so primarily just, the interactions were Spanish, but primarily in the house itself, we spoke English.

[00:04:21]

Mora Spanglish.

[00:04:22]

Hernandez Spanglish.

[00:04:23]

Mora Please describe your experience as child and/or you in your family and neighborhood.

[00:04:31]

Hernandez I've been thinking -- I saw that question. I don't think it -- Growing up in Richmond, it's kind of a unique place, and that stigma come -- stigma comes with it because of the area. It's the area that's on one side is the Bay next to -- By the Bay, they had the dump. They had the junkyards, automotive junkyards. And they had Standard Oil. And then, surrounding all that area were railroad tracks, multiple railroad tracks. And so that's what kind of the area in which we grew up. And the area -- You remember Chris Darden? He's from the O.J. trial. Well, he's from Richmond. And in his book, obviously, if you have come from Richmond, you have to buy his book and read it, he talks about North Richmond, the stigma that that has, the problems in that area, as did Coach Carter, the movie. It's about Richmond High School, which I graduated from. He talks about North Richmond also. So it was an area, there was a lot of crime, prostitutes, joints type of places, that place. But it was all surrounded by railroad tracks, kind of. I don't think it was part of the city more than incorporated, but it's still called North Richmond. And so that was the area in which we grew up. But also being surrounded by all the railroad tracks gave us, my friends, my brothers, just a lot of opportunity to be adventurous. And so we would go to the railroad tracks in the back. They had railroad tracks here. Then, just beyond that, they had elevated railroad tracks. Vast area was just -- They'd grow wheat, some would grow wheat. They'd put it in the store, and he takes. But right behind the house, our house was a walnut factory. And they'd bring the

walnuts in there. They'd press them, and they'd take the oils out of them and use them for product, for beauty product, et cetera, for other purposes. But with that, they would stir the byproducts in 50-gallon drums. And you look out there, back there, and you see these hundreds of 50 drums filled with some kind of byproduct. And because they were there for many years, you get thickness of dirt that was soot and oil on top of those. Anyway, that's all back there. And all that whole area is just a vastness. And we used to call it, me and my buddies -- There was 12 of us who grew up together, my brothers and friends, which I still see today. And we used to call it the Ponderosa. The Ponderosa. So anyway, and we would go up just to look, or we would go out there. And we would take those bales of hay, put some here, maybe about a hundred yards over here, and we'd make these targets. And so one got group right here, one group there, bow and arrows, trying to hit the target. So something you had to stay alert, right, because you had incoming. [laughs] That's what, anyway, that's. And then they had all the rocks there. We'd make these slings like David and Goliath. We had those things, like a lot of rocks, because of the railroad tracks. So it was kind of adventurous kind of group.

[00:07:36]

Mora And all these kids were Chicano?

[00:07:38]

Hernandez Yes. One African American, one Black dude, you know. And I just texted him today. We're still good friends. We see each other often.

[00:07:46]

Mora Oh, nice. So that, now your family, your dad, were your sisters and brothers, they played their [inaudible], your brothers did, but what did your sisters do?

[00:07:57]

Hernandez My sister, because there were so many boys around, my sister pretty much confined to the home like many Latinas at that age, teenagers because my wife -- my wife -- my mother was pretty, I don't want to say strict but kept a close eye on her. Because we'd have, the house was where all the friends would come to visit, could come over all the time. And so my mother was there. Okay. [laughs] Keep an eye on things.

[00:08:27]

Mora Yeah. Did you or your family experience any discrimination growing up?

[00:08:34]

Hernandez You think about it, in the area where we grew up, there was only one school, elementary school. But that wasn't really Richmond. It was more of San Pablo. And everything else, surrounded by railroad tracks. There were no elementary schools, no middle school, no high school. So when we went to those schools, we'd have to go across the railroad tracks to those in different areas. And the school that was there, it was probably like 95% African American students, a couple Latinos who lived in that

area, but in that area. So, you stop and think about it, well, why didn't we have access to those schools, that one school there? And so we had to commute by foot to those schools.

[00:09:23]

Mora And how did -- Were all of your friends, most of your friends pretty successful? Because I know you were very successful.

[00:09:31]

Hernandez Thank you. Most, for the most part, yes. We had the opportunity to, two of them went to Berkeley. One studied math. Another one studied -- I don't know exactly what his degree is, but he became an investigator for well-known attorneys in L.A. And had offices in L.A., Chicago, I think in D.C. And he became an investigator for them. So, yes, I would say they're doing pretty well.

[00:09:57]

Mora Very nice. Your earliest memories, [inaudible] earliest memories of Movimiento. And what are your earliest memories of events that attract you to [inaudible] Movimiento?

[00:10:16]

Hernandez I think back as a kid growing up, you don't think too much about those things. You're so involved in just being a kid. And for me, I was very fortunate because my mother had a first cousin right across the street. And she had about nine, 10 kids. And then I had, her Tia was down the street. And they had a bunch of kids. And around the corner, my mother's aunt also had a bunch of kids. So I had a lot of second, third cousins in our own area. So we really didn't think that much about beyond that, until when I went into the army. When you go to the army or go to service, you meet a lot of interesting people from around the country. And I was fortunate when I was in Europe with NATO forces that I met a group of people who were very liberal in terms of their thinking. One of the guys went on to, I don't know, he went on and got his law degree and ran for public office in one of the states. No, he lost, but that's the kind of guy. And so, but what really caught my eye, we used to get, in Europe, we used to get to what's called the Stars and Stripes. That's a military newspaper. And in there, there was a small little article. This is like '67, '68. And it mentioned about these riots in North Richmond. And at the same time, there was riots in Detroit area. And so I says, okay. And then I would get letters from back home following that and talking about, well, yeah, there's the, they had all the two entrances to North Richmond, they had them blocked off, the police. And to enter, you had to show driver's license to show, yeah, I live in the North area. And so that's what. And so I started thinking about that. Why are people doing this? And one of my friends is from Detroit. And he would go around saying burn, baby, burn, baby. That was his phrase. He was a great, great guy. He was a real good friend. But he always walked [inaudible], and he mouthed it from the [inaudible], burn, baby, burn because he come from Detroit. Yeah, he knew firsthand the problems that existed there. And I kind of equate that with the Richmond area and that area in which I grew up. And thinking

back, there's probably about maybe 70- 80% African American, then a percentage of Mexicanos, and then like a few Portuguese families. So I kind of started thinking about what they were facing in Detroit and some things like I saw in Richmond and the need for assistance for the people there. And I started to kind of understand a little bit what the anger, frustration, what that was all about. And so that was my really first conscious thinking about El Movimiento. I says, wow, this is, there's something here, something's wrong. And there's change has to be made. And that was my first really eye-opener when I saw those things.

[00:13:15]

Mora Had you heard of the Civil Rights Movement at that time? If so, what were your thoughts about it? Could you identify any connections to that Movimiento? Or you talked about, you know, some of the connections.

[00:13:28]

Hernandez Well, I remember that was '63 or '64, I think it was became law on the land. And I was young then. I was 17, 18. So I really didn't think that much about how that was going to affect me until later in life when things became a little more clear. And you get out of – you get out of the environment, and you start experiencing things firsthand. You go, oh, now I see what they're talking about. I see what they're talking about. You walk by somebody, and they clench their purse. You walk by a car, and they lock the car. Even in my, professionally, I'd walk by somebody, lock the car. That's something that still exists. But those -- I'm sorry, go ahead.

[00:14:13]

Mora No, no, no. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt. So did you -- When was the first experience that you felt discriminated against? Was it in the service that somebody did something to you? Or at what point did you like -- And did they -- was it because you were -- they knew you were Mexican? Or, I don't know, [inaudible]. You know, I don't know what you identified with because of who you are.

[00:14:40]

Hernandez God, that's a tough one because sometimes you try to ignore people rather than confront them as an idiot or they're foolish. I'm going to ignore them. But nothing at moment comes to mind that was stark in my face. I can't think of anything at this second. But I'm sure if I sat and thought about it for a little bit, I'd come up with something, I'm sure.

[00:15:05]

Mora Were you in the Mexican American project?

[00:15:11]

Hernandez No, I was not.

[00:15:13]

Mora Okay. Let's go to the next one: educational and or cultural influences. Did your knowledge of cultural issues influence your involvement and participation in the Movimiento? If yes, please explain how this influenced your participation.

[00:15:26]

Hernandez Well, let me go back a little bit to when I got out of the army and my father was working at the Concillo. And I was working at a place called Wegan [phonetic] and Rose. And they were a – provided instruments for Standard Oil. And the Standard Oil went on strike. And so, what I was doing at Wegan and Rose, they no longer needed us because we supplied things to them. And so my father told me about a program there in Richmond called CEP, C-E-P, Concentrated Employment Program. It was federally funded. And it gave me -- Said, well, we can teach you a trade. Okay. And pay you a stipend at the same time. Oh, even better. And so I signed up for that. And I was accepted into that. And I was waiting to be accepted to go to the school in San Francisco in the interim. So, okay, we'll keep you busy. We have a program where we teach people how to paint. We have some professional painters teach us how to paint houses and stuff like that. I'm afraid of heights, right? And paint houses and whatnot and get your stipend. And then my turn came up. So I started going to school in San Francisco. And it was an intensive course of electronics. It was a all-day class. You go travel to San Francisco in the morning. You study, study, study, and come back. But at the end of that, I was able to take a test. And I didn't realize what this test would do for me in my life. Probably one of the biggest turning points in my life besides getting married and having a family. I took a test in the Federal Building in San Francisco. And I passed the test. And I got what's called a First-Class Radiotelephone Operator's License. And I had no idea at that point the path that it would take me on. It would lead me here to Sacramento. Probably sitting here today if it wasn't for that concentrated employment program, federally funded. Had to do with the Concillo. And I wouldn't be sitting here today if it wasn't for that program.

[00:17:30]

Mora So exactly what was that test, the certificate that you got?

[00:17:36]

Hernandez Yes, and what it allows me to do, still allows me to do, I still have it, is work with certain electronics. And when I graduated, and I received my diploma, I received that test, excuse me, that piece of paper that says. Well, I was offered a job there in San Francisco working with the Coast Guard, being their radio operators, blah, blah, blah. And I says, no, I don't think so. I just I met this young lady, and, you know, that was 50-something years ago. I met this young lady. She just got a full scholarship to EOP at Sac State in Sacramento. I said, well, I think I'm going to go to Sacramento. [Inaudible]. But yes, I said, no, I'm going to go to Sacramento. And that led me here and led me to a conversation with Kevin Ramirez. You know Kevin? [Inaudible] Yes. And we were

talking one day after class. And I was telling him, well, this is my background. I'm from Richmond. I'm here. And I, what I have is this license. He says, oh, really? [Inaudible] you know what? I want you to meet someone if that's okay. Somebody you might be interested in speaking with. I said sure. And he introduced me to Graciela Ramirez. [phonetic] Okay?

[00:18:53]

Mora Oh, wow.

[00:18:54]

Hernandez And so we start -- I met her. Graciela said, you know what? I think you want to introduce you to my son. He's at the university. And they run a radio. He's part of a radio station there with a bunch of other Mexicanos. I says, okay. And so I set up a time, met them at the university. We introduced ourselves. I says, well, this is what I have. He goes, what? I go, yeah. Says okay. Kind of everybody, this is great. I go, why is it great? Because everyone that, I think, pretty much everyone who was on the radio have to have a Third-Class Operator's License in order to take the readings on the transmitter. And I think, and with me in the first-class, I was kind of celebrity status, I guess. Because the only person who had the first-class was the head engineer on the transmitter. Okay. But it -- but it -- I just felt it gives a lot of push to all the men on the radio station. Here, we have something a bit better, something more than what you guys have. I know nothing about radio, saying hello on the radio, or any of that stuff. But these people did. And they saw that this is, we're going to use this to our benefit, which it did. And subsequently we would visit with Olivia Castiano. [phonetic] And she would help us write position papers. And we wanted more hours. At that time, [inaudible] like six or eight, 10 hours. And eventually we ended up with like 50 or 60 hours on air. Well, when the process with that, what that did, it gave us more push as a group, demanding more hours. And we'd have hours like from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m., stuff like that. [Inaudible Speaker] Okay, yeah. And we demanded these hours. And then what we also demanded was an advisor, faculty advisor. And we pushed really hard for a faculty advisor. And they relented, and finally, they gave us -- They hired Jose Camacho as our faculty advisor.

[00:21:07]

Mora Yeah.

[00:21:08]

Hernandez Yeah. And so this started, I think it just gave us an extra push that we needed to get more, demand more, and which we got. And it gave us -- I think it gave us a good standing there.

[00:21:19]

Mora Wonderful. See, I'm learning all this insight. Yeah, because I know a lot of the people.

[00:21:25]

Hernandez Yes.

[00:21:27]

Mora Ernie.

[00:21:28]

Hernandez Ernie is -- Angel, Namita.

[00:21:30]

Mora Yeah, Nigel.

[00:21:32]

Hernandez Botello, Gabriela Vivas.

[00:21:35]

Mora Yeah.

[00:21:35]

Hernandez Elisa Rocha.

[00:21:37]

Mora Yeah.

[00:21:38]

Hernandez So, yes.

[00:21:39]

Mora Wow. Exciting. See, I just, I don't really know stuff.

[00:21:43]

Hernandez No, so.

[00:21:44]

Mora I like to listen to you guys.

[00:21:46]

Hernandez I'm sorry, what's the rest of the part of the question?

[00:21:49]

Mora Pardon?

[00:21:49]

Hernandez The rest of the question, I'm sorry.

[00:21:51]

Mora Oh. Well, how it influenced you in your participation in Movimiento.

[00:21:59]

Hernandez It did, yes, because we did benefit dances. And I says, again, it just gave us more standing, I guess, ability to demand more. We want our equal share of hours. And we're not going to sit here and stand by quietly. We demand more hours, which we got them.

[00:22:22]

Mora Now, what kind – What things did you put on air? Some of it was music, but what kind of -- did you do interviews?

[00:22:28]

Hernandez This is interesting because, this is interesting. Probably didn't know this. When I came to Sacramento, the music that they played, La Voz de San, Los Babies, Los Muercas, Quien Mas, Terminarios, all these bands, Ray Camacho, all these bands, musicians, famous for mixing, I'd never heard of. I never heard of them. I come from the Bay Area. I was mostly listening to jazz, Latin jazz, Caribbean type of music, that kind of style of music. So when I got to Sacramento, I said, okay, I hadn't -- I'd never heard of that music before. But it was fun learning about them.

[00:23:14]

Mora So did you bring in that influence of Latin jazz?

[00:23:18]

Hernandez I think I did, yeah, just also that who loved the Latin jazz was Les Moncada, you know, Les.

[00:23:23]

Mora He was my friend. He did a play in [inaudible].

[00:23:27]

Hernandez Okay. Yeah, so he was – he spent some time in Richmond.

[00:23:29]

Mora Yes.

[00:23:30]

Hernandez And yeah, so he, I would play some like Jokuba, [phonetic] that type of music. And so, but mostly they -- I think the audience wanted Los Babies, Los Muercas, which is fine. But every DJ had their own favorite songs that they would play. They could walk in there. We had a library of music, LPs, but also it was bring their own LPs there, and they'd play the selected music from that, so. But it was a lot of fun.

[00:24:00]

Mora Did you have a name as a DJ?

[00:24:02]

Hernandez Eduardo del Norte.

[00:24:03]

Mora Huh?

[00:24:04]

Hernandez Eduardo del Norte.

[00:24:05]

Mora Oh my gosh.

[00:24:06]

Hernandez From the North -- North Richmond.

[00:24:11]

Mora Did your involvement in the Movimiento change you personally? Please explain.

[00:24:17]

Hernandez Yeah. It helped me grow as a person, just recognizing responsibilities that come with advancement. It does make you think about where you're at, what do you want to do in the future, how you're going to conduct yourself, how you're representing the people that you love, how you represent the people that you work for. Because I worked for Channel 10, as you all know, for many years, retired from there after 35 years. So I was kind of like one of the people on the face of Channel 10. Being Latino, it was interesting because --

[00:24:54]

Mora You were the director, right?

[00:24:56]

Hernandez I was the director when I first started. I was in the production department. There were two Latinos on staff already in the production department, two you probably know. And eventually I went from that to being the crew chief. And then just started directing, directing newscasts. And then once I got full time director, and newscasts would air at 5 p.m. after the newscast or 11 p.m., the credits would come up. The two names would come up. The first one would be the producer, and the second one would be the director, Ed Hernandez. And at that time, I knew just a handful of people here in Sacramento. Because when I moved to Sacramento, primarily, the only person I knew was obviously my future wife, Simona and a handful of her friends and people in the

arts community because she's an artist. And so it took me a while to finally get out more in the community. And I was able to people put a face to the name. So, oh, you're Ed Hernandez? Yeah, I'm Ed Hernandez. Duh. [laughs] But it was kind of embarrassing. I was like, okay. But yeah, Ed Hernandez would come up at the end of the newscast, the main newscast hour, and then evening. And so my name was out there. But I hardly knew any people in the community until I started getting more involved in the community. And then my circle of friends just grew and grew and grew.

[00:26:20]

Mora So when did you -- when you graduated, that was your first job with News 10?

[00:26:25]

Hernandez When I, you know what, before I graduated, of course, I worked. Like everybody, I worked in the cannery. Everybody worked in the cannery.

[00:26:32]

Mora I didn't [inaudible].

[00:26:33]

Hernandez Okay. In Michigan, I worked in the cannery also, and here in Sacramento, Wegan and Rose. In fact, my wife and I worked one summer at the cannery. And she'd be on the belt of the tomatoes. And they'd pull off the old tomatoes, and they had somebody have to take them and discard them. And she'd kind of snap her finger boy, boy. I think, [inaudible]. [laughing] And so it's kind of a -- it's kind of a running joke with us. But yes, that was hard work, but it paid well. We already had a family, so we needed that extra money in the summer. Instead of taking a vacation, we worked because we had a son at that point.

[00:27:14]

Mora [Inaudible]. What role do you believe that Chicanas played in the Movimiento?

[00:27:28]

Hernandez Yeah. We're talking, if I understand correctly, we're talking the '60s and '70s, right?

[00:27:37]

Mora Yes, the period that we're looking at is from 1960 to 1980.

[00:27:42]

Hernandez Okay. I saw a lot of women stepping forward, taking charge. Obviously, the most important one comes to mind is Dolores Huerta. I had a great opportunity to meet her at the Galeria Posada. But you see, at Tilton, you see women coming in, Mexicanas, and being interviewed on set, being interviewed for public affairs programs. And they're well spoken, educated, represented the community well, representing themselves well, and

very strong role models. And so I saw a lot of that. And then on air, we had at that time, I think, probably the strongest one we had at that point, Yolanda Nava.

[00:28:33]

Mora Nava?

[00:28:34]

Hernandez Yes, she's on [inaudible]. And she wrote a book, something about beans or something. I forget what it's called, but I read it. It's about her life story growing up in the L.A. area. So I would see a lot of that from there. And, of course, my interaction in the community, you see a lot of Latinas there, president, vice president, organizations. I remember I went to a conference with my wife. And she was showing some art. And it was a conference of Latina attorneys. And so it was just good to see, just see all these women there, just professionals had gone to law school. And they were having a conference here in Sacramento. It was really, really nice to see that. Especially for me, I have six granddaughters. So I see that, and I go, okay, they could be one of them someday.

[00:29:25]

Mora Well, talked earlier about, you know, like the people that reached out to you, or that you got introduced, like Graciela, you know, all of them, Bolivia, [phonetic] at the university, that were very influential.

[00:29:38]

Hernandez Very. [Inaudible]

[00:29:47]

Mora What did you personally initiate to help -- initiate to help the Movimiento? What were some of the organizations in which you were involved, and how did these organizations or activities contribute to the Movimiento?

[00:30:02]

Hernandez Well, because of my work schedule -- I was working three to midnight. And if you work that kind of schedule and then you end your day on a high note versus, okay, the last half hour or hour you're going to cruise on into it's time to clock out. Well, my job was different in that at 11 p.m., that's when the 11 p.m. newscast started, it ran for a half hour. So I'm on a very high energy level directing the newscast. And so once that's over, it's not something, you don't drive home and go to bed, right? So you may go now and have a couple of adult refreshments or read a book and you get to bed at 2, 3 o'clock. And then next thing you know, it's 9, 10 o'clock in the morning. The wife is going to work, kids at school. So I got to get ready to go to work. And so that was pretty much my cycle for many years. So I really didn't have time to do those kinds of -- be a part of organizations until a little bit later on. I joined the Sacramento Chapter of the -- what was it called -- Sacramento Chapter of the California Chicano News Organization. Okay? And I was involved with many people in television and journalism, newspapers. And

we'd meet occasionally, and we'd have fundraisers and give out scholarships. So I'm involved with them. I was involved with the Galeria Posada. And my wife and I, we charged volunteers when they were at the Heilbron Mansion. And we -- what we did one time, we had a volunteer fundraiser -- no, excuse me -- a volunteer appreciation day. We had a barbecue. And what we did, we put out a book with all these categories for volunteerism [inaudible]. And we had maintenance, gardening. So, if you wanted to help in that area, sign up here. If you wanted inside the building dusting, wiping, doing that kind of thing, sign up on here. If you want to do this here, with the newsletter, sign up here. And so we accumulated a nice book -- a book of volunteers and coordinated that with the, at that time, the director. And so we spent quite a bit of time working with the director, developing that, and working with the volunteers. And then also later years, I worked with the Festival de la Familia. A good friend of ours got me involved. And I was the publicity chair of the committee for about six years, I think. And so that's kind of my involvement. But we're primarily working nights and then when I started working days, again, weird hours. And that was kind of weird because I would get up at - I had to be working at 4 a.m. And at 5 a.m., we started a two-hour newscast. So it took me about 45 minutes to prepare for a two-hour newscast. And then after that, you know, then do the midday show. And then after that, you go home and fall asleep. Yeah. And so that's, my schedule was kind of -- kind of different. Plus we had my family life, my kids. And that wasn't -- there wasn't a whole lot of time to outside organizations because of that.

[00:33:19]

Mora But you guys managed.

[00:33:20]

Hernandez We managed, thank you.

[00:33:21]

Mora I think that's where I met you.

[00:33:22]

Hernandez I think we, that's, yeah.

[00:33:24]

Mora Yeah, because that was a membership-coordinated drawing.

[00:33:28]

Hernandez We put together a, I remember, we put the fundraiser together. A dance, I remember that.

[00:33:35]

Mora Yeah. Changes in your thinking and action as a result of involvement in the Movimiento. Did the Movimiento raise your consciousness regarding social, cultural, political issues? If so, please

describe how. And how did these changes affect your personal relationships with family, peers, and significant others? If you could describe those.

[00:33:59]

Hernandez Yeah. Growing up where I grew up and seeing those type of things I see, because, in Richmond, I was thinking about it. And I said, gosh, I started counting. And there are 14 people that I know directly or indirectly who died violently. And that's kind of the, Richmond, that's the kind of environment was there. And so I think about that. And I think about coming to Sacramento. And it was a whole different ballgame, different, just a whole different area, just something just. It took me a while to get used to Sacramento, quite frankly, because number one is the heat, you know. And then, too, I just, I didn't know anybody. And I think when I moved here, when I moved, I think I had like \$300 in my pocket. But I had faith. I had a significant other to be, so we would be okay. Here we are. But it does change you when you see where you come from, what you've achieved, and it gives you a whole different outlook. You look, it gives you purpose. Well, I've been lucky. I've gone down a path I could never dream of. And I feel very, very fortunate. And so it's, I feel, really, a responsibility to share that good fortune. Volunteering, doing something, or if we need to write a check, we can afford it, write a check for a purpose. Or just helping out somehow and sharing our stories. My wife, she's been interviewed, and she has her story. I have my story. We have our combined story. And it feels good just to share and watch people grow and say, oh, I didn't know this is your life's story. But when I see you're here, a lot of times people assume because we have a nice home. We drive a nice car, and we've been very, very lucky, very fortunate. And people assume a lot of things -- a lot of things. But they don't know our backstory. And so you got to say, okay, that's okay. You don't need to know my backstory. But I'm here to offer a helping hand, and in that way, you respect people. Okay. You don't judge them because they're judging you. You don't judge them, and you share. You share what you've learned. You share a little bit of your story. And you help them grow, and it helps you grow.

[00:36:30]

Mora Yeah. I remember meeting you guys and, you know, I think I didn't know, I'm not, you know, we're not best friends. But every time I got involved, you guys were pretty much involved, also. But I remember when you started building your house.

[00:36:42]

Hernandez We built our house.

[00:36:43]

Mora And I don't know where, you know, and you reminded me of a construction worker, I guess. Because [inaudible], yeah, we're building our house. I thought you were literally building it. And she, every time I'd say, oh yeah, we did this [inaudible]. And we did this. Oh, wow, you're really good. Between the two of them, they actually built their house.

[00:37:04]

Hernandez [Laughs] I wish.

[00:37:05]

Mora But it's beautiful.

[00:37:06]

Hernandez Thank you. Real quickly, someone has some architecture background. I have some mechanical drawing background. And one of our brother-in-laws, former brother-in-laws, he's building a 5,000-square-foot home in Roseville by the Roseville Auction. So we go there and help him, and we learned a lot from that. So we just said, well, hey, we can do this. So we went out -- we went out We had a -- we had a rental we sold. Used it for seed money. We bought the land. We worked on a drawing. The kids were there, said, well, make my bedroom larger. I want more space, that kind of thing. Eventually, we came up with our plan. It was pretty solid. We worked with a young guy. He was an engineer slash architect, starting out, so. And so we worked with him, and he laid it out so the city could review it. And he laid out everything on. And it passed right away. It passed, so. And then we went out. We did -- got all the bids for every phase.

[00:38:04]

Mora [Inaudible] the general contractor.

[00:38:06]

Hernandez The general contractor. Yes.

[00:38:08]

Mora Oh, wow. Should have you come to my house. So you talked a little bit about -- describe how the Movimiento impacted community life here in Sacramento or where you lived.

[00:38:19]

Hernandez I'm sorry, I couldn't hear that.

[00:38:21]

Mora Describe how the Movimiento impacted community life here in Sacramento or where you lived.

[00:38:27]

Hernandez My community life?

[00:38:29]

Mora Yeah. Or impacted, what you saw impacted community life here in Sacramento or where you grew up.

[00:38:36]

Hernandez I'm not -- I don't -- I'm not quite understanding the question.

[00:38:40]

Mora The effects of the Movimiento life in Sacramento or where you have lived. So describe how the Movimiento impacted community life. I think you already touched [inaudible].

[00:38:49]

Hernandez I think a little bit, yeah.

[00:38:50]

Mora You touched it, right? Want to add anything?

[00:38:54]

Hernandez Well, just and the volunteering, just my wife and I, we volunteer. I mentioned we volunteer for the Galeria Posada. But one of the things that I also did with them was to then Executive Director Luis Chavoya. [phonetic] He was there, and we decided to put together a newsletter. It was called Gazeta Posada, I think it was called, I forget. And it was myself. Like Simone wrote some in it. Luis Chavoya [inaudible]. The four of us we put that together. And then he would, we'd get some of the volunteers come and collate. And they'd put it and send it off. And so that's one of the things, something else we did.

[00:39:38]

Mora Recognition of Movimiento artistas who have -- activists who have passed on. Many of them have passed on. Can you identify any individual or individuals that you feel had an impact on the Movimiento? And please explain their significance.

[00:39:55]

Hernandez Well, obviously, the one that comes to mind is Cesar Chavez. And the way he approached the Movimiento, nonviolent. He sacrificed a lot of himself. His family sacrificed a lot of themselves because they believed in what he was doing. And you have to admire someone who's put that much on the line for the betterment of all of us. And so you keep that in mind when you try to -- when you have to make your decisions, what you want to do in life. And he's someone that you would -- most people would stop and think about, what would he do? What would he do? And you know what the right answer is. Deep down in here, you know. And say okay. I know what to do. And so yeah, he had a great influence. Of course, there's other people in my life that I admire. I wish they were here, but unfortunately, they're passed. And so one of the smartest people, my older brother who passed away, and brilliant, brilliant guy, well read. Unfortunately, his health didn't hold up. And he was on the operating table for the second time. And he didn't make it. That was a shock to all of us, of course. But he taught ballet for [inaudible]. He's very personable, well-liked. He could go there. You can see my, you can see my brother Paul there. I can see him. And everybody is around him.

He's talking to everyone. Very personable individual. And so I miss him dearly, of course. But these -- all those people that I'm glad I knew.

[00:41:39]

Mora Mm-hmm. Looking back at your experiences in the Movimiento, are there any issues that were left unfinished?

[00:41:49]

Hernandez For me, personally, there's always, I guess, there's always that you think, you stop and think about it; there's always something. I could have done more. For example, I occasionally go to a school. And I talk a little bit about my work and the steps they should possibly take to get a job in broadcasting. So I do some here. Sometimes, we go to Modesto. Sometimes, we go, and Stockton. I have some compadres there that are both teachers. Go to their schools and talk a little bit about work at Channel 10. But there's always, you go, gosh, I could have done more. But you -- life happens, and you try to find the time, and sometimes it doesn't allow it. But I think, back in your mind, everybody says, well, I wish I'd done more. I wish I'd done more.

[00:42:40]

Mora Do you see yourself as staying involved in meeting these challenges? Well, I'm sorry, I missed something. What do you see as current or future challenges for the Chicano community?

[00:42:56]

Hernandez I think identity. Identity is, that'll be a challenge in the future because the children today. For example, in my own family, I have one son is married to a beautiful woman. Her father is African American. Her mother is Anglo. And now they have my grandkids. So they have a combination of those things, plus our Indigenous blood. And so I try to instill that in them, but not too hard, about our cultural things. And if they want to learn more about the African American background, then so be it. Go ahead and reach that out. But I'm not in a position to teach them about that. But I see that more and more and more. And I think, well, how are they going to identify in 10, 15, 20 years from now? What's going to be the push? I don't know. Is it Chicanismo going to be not as strong because they're being pulled in different directions or different cultures? I don't know. And so -- I'm sorry. Go ahead.

[00:44:08]

Mora No, no, no. Go ahead.

[00:44:08]

Hernandez Oh, I thought you were going to say something. And I think about that, and I see that in our own neighborhood, that my kids' friends are next door. They're Japanese and African American. Another one is a Persian, a good friend. Another one is my son's, his best man at his wedding. He's Chinese. And he married a Filipino girl. So you know, so

you know what I'm saying. So you get these marriages. And you think about how the kids are going to identify. And so hopefully they see the best of both worlds, or three worlds, and embrace all three of them, and go forward with that, and be a part of all three worlds. That's the hope. But I don't know.

[00:44:54]

Mora So do you see yourself as staying involved in meeting any of these challenges, or if you can help with meeting this challenge of identification for our young people, your kids, your grandkids?

[00:45:06]

Hernandez Well, obviously, our family, of course, but beyond that, I don't want someone to think that I'm interfering. Let me give you an example about interference. This comes to mind. We were, my wife and I, we were attending an event at the Galeria Posada. And there's a lot of people there. And there's people serving refreshments and stuff like this here. And one of my granddaughters went up to ask for a beverage. And the woman spoke to my granddaughter. And my granddaughter asked her in English, well, would you like a punch or something? And the woman starts speaking to her in Spanish. And my granddaughter didn't quite understand what she was telling. And she says, oh, mi hija, you should learn Spanish. And I, like, I really had to bite my tongue because you're interfering. That was rude. You're interfering. You're making her feel bad. I didn't ask for your input. Please don't, unless you're asked for input, don't because, you know, you're going to hurt someone's feelings. And at that young age and, she just kind of looked up at me. And I was, at the minute, I was angry that she interfered in that fashion. And I don't want to be in that position where unless I'm asked directly by the parent or the adults that are responsible for the child. I just, I don't want to be in that position because I know what it feels like.

[00:46:41]

Mora Yeah, I'm sorry to hear that, yeah. Wow. I don't say anything. I have friends that speak fluent Spanish --

[00:46:48]

Hernandez Mm-hmm.

[00:46:48]

Mora -- and English, and friends that, you know, Spanglish, and friends are just, you know, English.

[00:46:55]

Hernandez Yes.

[00:46:55]

Mora A couple of friends [inaudible], Mexicanos who only spoke Spanish. And they still haven't learned anything. And I, and when the person's spouse and I talk, we speak in Spanish.

[00:47:06]

Hernandez Okay.

[00:47:06]

Mora And, well, you guys talking about me? It's like, we weren't, but --

[00:47:11]

Hernandez We are now. We are now.

[00:47:13]

Mora And, but he teases her that she hasn't learned, you know, to speak Spanish or understand it. I used to -- we used to go out. And they'd always have me interpret for Michael [inaudible].

[00:47:25]

Hernandez Yeah.

[00:47:25]

Mora And I'd make -- one day, I just made up stuff because I was tired. So I didn't think they remembered this. And one of them, she goes, yeah, she goes, they saw me and my frog. We were at the Matador [inaudible].

[00:47:37]

Hernandez Okay.

[00:47:38]

Mora And I remember, me and my dog were sitting on a log, and they were just like [inaudible].

[00:47:44]

Hernandez Yeah.

[00:47:44]

Mora That's not true. That's not the song.

[00:47:47]

Hernandez Funny.

[00:47:47]

Mora Because I learned Spanish.

[00:47:49]

Hernandez But, yeah, but you hear that often.

[00:47:52]

Mora We were [inaudible].

[00:47:53]

Hernandez Yeah, but you hear that often. And sometimes they don't realize how hurtful that is or embarrassing.

[00:48:00]

Mora Well, I don't say anything unless, like you, [inaudible].

[00:48:03]

Hernandez Yeah. If I'm asked something, okay. But because of that experience, I'm real careful in that area.

[00:48:10]

Mora Yeah. And none of my nieces, nephews -- Just one nephew speaks Spanish.

[00:48:14]

Hernandez Mm-hmm.

[00:48:15]

Mora But the rest of them.

[00:48:17]

Hernandez Oh, that's okay. They'll learn.

[00:48:18]

Mora But the grandchildren are learning Spanish. Their, my nieces and nephews, their kids are learning Spanish.

[00:48:26]

Hernandez Mm-hmm. Yeah, because I'm not fluent. But growing up, because we had, my grandmother next door is fluent in Spanish. My grandfather across the street is fluent in Spanish. My Tia is. My [inaudible] mother's cousins. And it's all Spanish. My parents are Spanish and went to church. The lessons, the main sermon, was in Spanish. That's like, I know it a lot, but I'm not as fluent as I should be.

[00:48:54]

Mora But you understand it.

[00:48:55]

Hernandez But I understand.

[00:48:57]

Mora Well, and we were in that generation. I don't know if you were. But my dad didn't want to speak Spanish with my mother because they used to get hit. My mother used to get hit for speaking Spanish.

[00:49:07]

Hernandez I've heard that story many, many times.

[00:49:09]

Mora And my dad was from Mexico. And he wanted to learn English. So he wanted us to talk to him.

[00:49:15]

Hernandez Of course. So it's kind of 22?

[00:49:17]

Mora Yeah. But we all, we understood it.

[00:49:20]

Hernandez Right. I know you're talking about me. I know you're talking about me.

[00:49:23]

Mora I know, we're like, what did they say? Anyway, well, thank you so much. That concludes the interview. Is there anything that you want to add, or you think we left out?

[00:49:33]

Hernandez I think just the, I think a little bit more about my years with Channel 10, what kind of afforded me the opportunity to meet a lot of people in the community. I made a lot of friends in the community working with Channel 10. Also put me in position at one point in time, they asked me to do all the interviews for production, new production systems. So, okay, I'll do that. And, of course, my wife, she kind of -- And it's I search all the applicants. And I was looking for names that end with a Z, you know. Lopez, Hernandez, that type of stuff. And I put -- I'm looking for strong candidates. And I found some strong candidates. And I invited them for an interview. And I developed a three-phase process for the interviews. And so two of them turned out beautiful, just beautiful hires. One of them went eventually went to Channel 2 in Oakland. Another one just I told him, just, you know what? He was so good at editing and whatnot. I said, I'll tell you what, man. If I had the money, I'd send you to film school. And that's how good he is. And he's still producing stuff today. And but yeah, I would recommend the hires, and they would say okay, okay. But yeah, that was a lot of fun. And then I, all the stuff that I did there was the telethons and produced the telethons for the station. And then there might be Ed Hernandez from North Richmond, California, in charge here. He's the one. Who's the guy in charge here? Oh, the man with the clipboard and the tie. Oh, okay. That's him, Eddie, Eddie Hernandez. Okay? But yeah, it was a great experience. Kind of the face of the station at that moment. Who's in charge? Oh, that guy over there. Oh, Mr. Hernandez. Okay. He's in charge. So that's good. And it showed people that, yes, we can

do this or something was primarily now the society is handling it. Now we're here. We're trained. The station has given me this responsibility. Figured you can handle this job, and you do. And people see this. Okay. It's not bad.

[00:51:50]

Mora Do you still help in hiring or anything?

[00:51:52]

Hernandez Oh, no, no, no. I've been retired now 15 years. And so, no. But I do, I'm on Facebook with many, many, many of my former coworkers.

[00:52:03]

Mora Yeah. Well, we went to Tony's party. And a lot of them were there.

[00:52:06]

Hernandez Yes.

[00:52:07]

Mora You guys were all socializing. I was like, oh, I know that guy. Because I knew, you know --

[00:52:13]

Hernandez Yes, yes.

[00:52:14]

Mora [Inaudible] people there, but I didn't know them personally.

[00:52:17]

Hernandez Yeah. But those were good years. They were good years. I'm glad that that little piece of paper that I got from, that Sep helped me get. It just took me down a path I had no idea what, where it would lead me. But I thanked him.

[00:52:32]

Mora Well, I thank you very, very much.

[00:52:34]

Hernandez Thank you for the invitation, I appreciate it.

[00:52:36]

Mora Yeah, no, I couldn't -- We had to get you in here, but I'm really glad that you said yes.

[00:52:42]

Hernandez Oh, thank you.

[00:52:42]

Mora I'm going to try to reschedule Leacha. [phonetic]

[00:52:45]

Hernandez Oh, okay.

[00:52:45]

Mora We'll try to reschedule her.

[00:52:46]

Hernandez I remember her.

[00:52:47]

Mora Thank you for taking --

[00:52:49]

Hernandez Okay.

[00:52:49]

Mora Okay. Well, thank you.

[00:52:51]

Hernandez Well, thank you very much. Tomas, thank you.

[00:52:53]

Mora Thank you.