

The Sacramento Movimiento Chicano and Mexican American Education
Oral History Project

Rosie Gaytan

Oral History Memoir

Interviewed by Amanda Liliedoll and Dharmaris García
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Q Can you state your full name?

[00:00:09]

Gaytan My birth certificate says Rosalie Rojo Pardondo [phonetic]. Now, I
married, so I was Gaytan, okay?

Q Okay.

[00:00:22]

Gaytan For the record. [laughter]

Q Thank you. And your birthday is?

[00:00:25]

Gaytan 8/30/53.

Q Are you married?

[00:00:31]

Gaytan I was. My husband passed away—

Q I'm sorry.

[00:00:34]

Gaytan —about eight years ago, so I'm a widow.

Q How long were you married for?

[00:00:39]

Gaytan Almost twenty-five years.

Q Do you have children?

[00:00:48]

Gaytan Yes, I do, a son that's thirty-four and I have a daughter that's thirty, and then because my husband married prior, I was the second marriage, so I have a stepdaughter, Terri, Teresa, who treats me as a mother, as a *nana* to her boys. But biologically, two, a boy and a girl.

Q Grandchildren?

[00:01:10]

Gaytan Yes. Let's see. Biologically, my daughter gave me three. My son, three as well. But my daughter married and has an adopted daughter, so that's eight. Then Terri, Teresa, my stepdaughter, has a son that calls me Nana, too, so when it comes to Christmas, these are all the grandkids that I'm buying gifts for. [laughter]

Q So where were you born?

[00:01:42]

Gaytan Here in Sacramento.

Q In Sacramento?

[00:01:45]

Gaytan Yes.

Q And you stayed here the entire time?

[00:01:46]

Gaytan Well, I grew up in Sacramento County, but down in the Delta. I'm a daughter of a farmworker, so we grew up on the Delta, on the fields.

Q Did you ever move to the city?

[00:01:59]

Gaytan As soon as I graduated from high school. [laughter] Yeah, because way out there in the Delta, there really is nothing to do. It's farmwork and home, yeah. There was a little theater open, but that shut down, so, yeah, for groceries, for shopping, we had to come in the city or Stockton. We always came into Sacramento.

Q Did your parents stay on the farm the entire time?

[00:02:23]

Gaytan Yes. My dad immigrated from Mexico, and that was how he met my mom. They were working in the farm, in the fields. She was born here. But they continued until they married. Then he wouldn't let her work. However, she would sneak out in the fields with my *tía*, her sister, because there's not a lot of money with one farmworker salary, so she would go out, sneak out. Soon as he'd leave, she'd go work and then make it home in time to clean up, make dinner. So she did that until she passed away when I was eight years old in a car accident with two of my sisters.

Q Oh, I'm sorry.

[00:03:06]

Gaytan So I had a little tragedy, or big tragedy. Then my dad remarried, and then we had two more, a brother and a sister, and then that didn't work out. Then he married a third time, and then we had another sister. Now he's still alive, but he's a single man looking for a fourth wife. [laughter]

Q So you had five sisters and one brother?

[00:03:37]

Gaytan Actually, there was six of us from mother and father, right? So then two died, all right. Then, yes, we had three more. So there's only one son, only one son.

Q So what was it like growing up on a farm?

[00:03:59]

Gaytan Myself not knowing what was really out there, I enjoyed my life. I had a good life growing up down in the fields. Again, like my dad didn't want his wife to work, he didn't want his daughters to work, but then again, we would sneak out. That was one of the first jobs that I had, was picking tomatoes, you know, and then we went into picking pears, cherries, whatever was out there. That's how I made my money in high school. Then when I tried out for cheerleader, my dad, he at first forbade it, "You just cannot." So that's how I made money to go to cheerleading camp, buy my cheerleading stuff, because I was really into cheerleading then, okay? [laughs] And I enjoyed it. I was Homecoming queen. I didn't feel like I faced any kind of discrimination. I was happy.

I grew up, I thought, despite losing my mother, because that was the other thing, was that I lost my mother. And here I go. [cries] I had to learn to become a housewife pretty much, because my dad didn't want to remarry or anything. I was eight, my sisters were six and then five and then two, so I was the oldest, so he sent for my grandma from Mexico to teach me how to be a mother, how to cook, how to clean, and then go to school. [cries]

But these men from Mexico are very, very traditional and very—he would have me make fresh *tortillas* every day—and I still make *tortillas* today—so that he could have fresh *tortillas* for his lunch to go to work. [cries] So I had to get up like at 5:00 o’clock in the morning and make the *tortillas*, and then he’d take them to work. Then I had to get up my sisters and we’d go to school, then come back home, then the same thing, you know, get our clothes ready for school the next day, do our homework, have dinner ready. [cries] And I didn’t know any different, you know? I wasn’t really happy with it, but I knew that things would get better, things would get better, and it did. [cries] But despite that, I was happy. I was happy in high school, I really was, and I was ready to get out of town upon graduation. So, yeah.

The only thing that I would like to point out is that in high school, yeah, I wanted to go on. I wanted more education, so I went in to the counselors there, and the counselor at the school, “Rosie, you don’t really want to go to college. You know what? You get married, have babies, just be happy at home.” [cries] And, you know, at the time, because you look at this official-like woman, she knows what she’s talking about. “Maybe that’s what I want to do.” Because I did have a boyfriend. “Maybe that’s—.” No, I didn’t. I went on.

Yeah, anyway, go ahead. Thank you. [cries]

Q Thank you for sharing that. Were you a Fellow or Felito or were you, like, part of the project or were you just aware?

[00:07:23]

Gaytan I was aware, quite aware, yeah, because after graduating from high school, I was hired by the Sacramento Concilio as a secretary, and it was for the

communications program. That program, through federal funds, produced the first show that aired in the Sacramento area. It was bilingual, bicultural, *Progreso*. *Progreso 71* was the first show. So, yeah, I was involved, calling and scheduling guests, typing up scripts. So we were trying to report whatever news was going on in the community, *raza*, with Chicano/Mexicano, anything. Cesar Chavez comes into town, any protests at universities here, all of this stuff was going on and we were trying to report anything and everything that was happening in our community, because we were the only voice at that time, at that time. So, yeah, that's how I got involved.

Q For how long were you, like, involved?

[00:08:25]

Gaytan Let's see. I started in 1971 and I left the Concilio in—was it '79? No. I got married in '79, so it was in 1980. I started as secretary, then became production assistant, then I became the assistant producer, then I became the producer, then I became the executive producer, then I became the director of the Communications Department that ran everything.

And it wasn't just Channel 13. That's where we started. Channel 10 came knocking on our door, "Hey." Because we were the point, the center for any kind of Chicano/Mexicano services. If they wanted to know what was going on, they'd come to the Concilio, and because we had this TV program, Channel 10 asked us to produce a show for them too. So we did a half-hour Sunday—I think it was in the afternoon—called *Chicano Perspective*.

And soon came Channel 40, and they had us produce—it was a high school-themed show, *IMAGE*, and it came on in the morning, and we brought in high school kids from all the schools and let them behind the camera. They'd be doing the interviews like you guys. So they would produce their own—we would just oversee that. But at that time, yeah, we were moving a lot of information out there.

Q How old were you when you were involved in that?

[00:09:53]

Gaytan I started at seventeen, right out of high school, okay?

Q Wow.

[00:09:57]

Gaytan Yeah. So I got married at twenty-six, so I left *Progreso*, the Concilio, around twenty-six. Then I was hired by Channel 10 to be a reporter, and first thing they told me when I was hired, “Rosie—,” because they knew my history, because, yes, I was a rebel-rouser, I was an activist, I wanted to get points out that needed to be told, and a lot of it was controversial. That’s okay. We get both sides of the story, just like you do in your news department. That’s what we do. We made it all good. No, they were very—you almost had to work harder to produce something that the news stations wouldn’t have to do. But, you know, we stuck with that. Oh, the first thing he told me was, “Okay, Rosie, we’re going to hire you, but you are no longer a Chicano.”

“Okay.” I really wasn’t ever a Chicano or a Chicana. No, they were watching me all the time, and they would try to get me to do fluff pieces so I wouldn’t cause a riot, and I fought them. I fought them, because I enjoyed doing fluff pieces, okay, I

don't mind doing a dog show—I love dogs—but I wanted to do what was out there happening in our community, you know, any kind of discrimination, any kind of police brutality, any kind of inequalities. That's what made me thrive and really feel that this voice that we have was being used. So, yeah, yeah.

Q Like, what made you get involved instead of, like, getting married and having kids, like, right after high school?

[00:11:41]

Gaytan I really think it was getting this job at the Concilio. It opened my eyes, you know, that there was a world out there that I wanted to be a part of, and especially with the Concilio, as I mentioned, it was serving the Chicano community, the Latino community, and I saw the services that were lacking, I saw the inequalities that were going on, and I just knew I was too young, I had so much energy to put out and do this, that, yeah, it was really important, I felt.

Q What were your earliest memories of the Movement?

[00:12:19]

Gaytan Wow. Earliest? Of course Cesar Chavez. The Brown Berets and the Chicano Power, the protests, the marches, and being able to be there, to videotape it and be part of opening doors to other people, opening doors here at the university. I mean, when they saw that big increase here with the Mexican American Educational Project, we had a slate of Chicano/Latino students that were running for student body office, whoa! So we came over here and we're doing all this interview and doing all—and then when they won, they thought that there was fraud and people had

cheated and “There’s no way all these Mexicans can be on the school board.” So, I mean, there was just so much out there, yeah.

Q Did you ever interview Cesar Chavez?

[00:13:22]

Gaytan Oh, yeah.

Q Yeah?

[00:13:23]

Gaytan Yeah, yeah. He—wow. Anytime he came into town, because I was on TV and stuff, I was asked to emcee his fundraisers, his rallies and stuff, so, yeah, I covered a lot of his stuff. I covered his funeral. When he was involved with the cancer cluster down by Bakersfield, when nobody else would report the news, I had to fight with my station to send me. Kids are dying out there because of the cancer, so they’re calling a news conference. “There’s no way you’re going to get there and back and put it on the news.”

“Well, if you send me in a chopper, I bet you I could do it.” Because they send you on choppers for all kinds of stuff; go see the damn snow! And here we’re talking about kids’ lives. So they did. And tell me if they didn’t put me on pressure. But it was. I was the only reporter that showed up there in a chopper. [laughter] Put together my story, yeah.

And then after that, they wanted us to do follow-ups. “We need to keep following.”

“Oh, now it’s good, huh? Now it’s real good.” Because then the networks wanted a piece of my story too. So, yeah.

He opened my eyes to a lot, a lot, although I should preface that, because growing up with my dad on the farm and the farmworker, my dad had a very unusual situation, I think, because he was a farmworker, and the rancher, they were good, they gave my dad a home rent-free, where we were raised, okay? And they treated him fine. So when I would start coming home with, “Cesar Chavez coming into town! Man, we’re going to boycott this. Dad, come out. We’re going to do this.”

Oh, he would get *so* mad at me. “You know that Cesar Chavez [unclear].” For him, he didn’t need Chavez. He did not need Chavez, and he led me to believe—you know, I had to fight him. Just the same thing with the *Chicano* work. Anytime he heard me say *Chicano*, “You’re not no Chicano!”

“Yes, I am, Dad.” [laughs] He’s gotten over it now. He knows, he realizes. But at the time, I’m even fighting my own father, who’s a farmworker. “Dad, your long hours. You’re using a short hoe. There’s no shade, there’s no breaks.”

“I’m fine. We have the house.” It’s true, but there was a lot of injustices that I felt. Of course Chavez made a lot of improvements, and yet there’s a lot to do still.

Q Did you cover a lot of the farmworker stories—

[00:16:01]

Gaytan A lot.

Q —because of your dad?

[00:16:03]

Gaytan Well, I’d say yes, and basically a lot of—I guess people would come to me, would call me, you know, because I was the only voice at that time for anything that was going on, and so they would call. Again, like I say, when I was

doing the *Progreso* show, we had some liberty to choose the stories we did, and, yeah, we were overseen by the bigshots at the stations, because they would go over the material, “Rosie, this and this and this and that.” And then we would have to edit and make sure that it was—and we had both sides, you know.

But I would say, yeah, I did do a lot of farmworker stuff because of my dad, but, again, it was because people were calling and asking, like stories about kids in school, dropouts, gang problems, you know, just about everything that people would call. I had to go around the producers’ table. We’d all sit down. “Okay, what story ideas do you have?”

“Well, I got this one.”

“Well, okay.” Then they’d bypass me. Then they’d want me to do another. Yeah, so I did what I could.

Q How did you fight for your position in the news station? Because a lot of your higher-ups didn’t want you covering the stories, how did you fight and get those stories on the air?

[00:17:27]

Gaytan It was basically just me fighting, you know. I was very animated. [laughs] And a lot of times the other reporters, who would also sense that “She’s got a good story,” you know, so I would get some backing from the reporters, and then it just depends, because sometimes we would get a—we went through a lot of news directors, okay? One news director liked me and another one didn’t like me, you know, so then sometimes it would be easier with one news director because they liked

my ideas, they liked what I did, and others would rather just not have me there, yeah, because I tended to create a little problem with them, you know. [laughs]

When I was hired at Channel 10, they had me and another Black rookie reporter at night, and I had been on the night shift. I had been working there already a year or two, and an opening came up days. All White men, all White women. I don't believe we even had Asian then. But the thing is that the openings would come up, and I would apply for it, go in for an interview. "Well, Rosie, we like what you're doing at night."

"Well, I can do what I do at night during the day. I mean, give me a chance." And they kept passing me up, passing me up.

So, finally, I went over the news directors and went right into the executive there, because first they told me, "Well, Rosie, we're going to give you the day job, but we're going to have you share it with the Black guy that was on. Okay?"

I go, "What? You're creating this for just the two minorities you have? Doesn't that sound like discrimination to you?"

"What? What?"

"Well, it does to me, you know. No." So I kept fighting. I was threatening to file lawsuits because this is ridiculous.

They finally did, they gave me my day job. They were watching me. And I said, "That's fine. You watch me. I mean, I've been here. What?" You know, they would send me to Mexico to do earthquakes because I spoke Spanish. Oh, I was great for that, but, you know, they—yeah.

So I loved it, I loved it because it was great for us to get our news out, but it was a challenge to survive in that world. They wanted me to use this makeup to make me lighter and do my hair like—no! I know that’s “in” now, but I was proud of my skin, I was proud of who I was, and I did *not* want to look White. “Oh, yeah, but I just want to help you.”

“Yeah, yeah, you want to help me.” [laughs]

Q Was there, like, Chicanas working next to you in the show?

[00:20:19]

Gaytan No! Well, not at Channel 10. Channel 10, I mean, that was basically it. You either had one Mexican, one Black, one Asian, and that’s it. Then if you’re going to hire another one, they don’t hire another Mexican. They don’t need another Mexican. They got one. But when it comes to Whites, they got all the Whites they want. I’m sorry, but it’s the truth, you know? And if I’d gone, then they’d hire a Mexican, which they did when they let me go. That’s another story. [laughs]

Q So how did your involvement change your personality, or did it?

[00:20:53]

Gaytan It did a lot. Like I mentioned, in high school I was a little cheerleader, Homecoming queen, and that’s what I thought was going to be my career. But when I started working at the Concilio, I realized that I’m not a cheerleader. I mean, I will be a cheerleader on TV for my people. Maybe that’s what helped me with my enthusiasm and my energy, but, yeah, it made me realize that there was a lot—nothing against cheerleaders. Like I said, I was one, and they want to make it a sport,

and that's great, but I just felt that I had more important work to do, and that's what helped me open my eyes to that.

Q What are your earliest memories of events that attracted you to the Movimiento Chicano?

[00:21:50]

Gaytan Jeez. I guess it would be, again, the Farmworker Movement, you know. Those were the earliest. There was police brutality I remember early on, a case of the Sacra 7, all Chicano young youths that were beat up by cops, and we followed the whole case through court. There was a lot of injustice, injustice on the streets and then in the fields, that are probably the earliest, yeah.

Q Can you remember, like, the different reactions people had to the word *Chicano*?

[00:22:34]

Gaytan Oh, my dad was one. [laughter] My dad hated to hear that word. And yet there were college-educated, government-employed, because when I'd go do interviews and you would mention Chicano, "Oh, no, no, no. That's, like, a disgusting word."

"Really?" There were people that were offended. And, you know, everyone's entitled to their opinion, but I was really into it and I wouldn't let them change my mind.

Q What is Chicano/Chicana to you?

[00:23:14]

Gaytan To me, it's a movement, right?

Q Mm-hmm.

[00:23:22]

Gaytan But it's like the injustices that we suffered as Mexican Americans, Chicanos, people that were born here, that, to me, is like people born in Mexico, where they really didn't like us because we were *pochos*, and then here they didn't like us either because we're from Mexico. So we were formed and united in this movement where we identified with the word *Chicano*, *Chicana*. Activists, yeah, following, hopefully, improvements and better education, better jobs for our people.

Q Why do you think some Mexicans hated the word *Chicano*?

[00:24:14]

Gaytan I think because our elders always—and we were ourselves raised to respect our elders, respect authority, respect if a cop says this to you, if a school official says this to you, if anyone of authority says something to you and you don't listen, that's what they envisioned Chicanos were all about, protesting, and there was no reason for you to be protesting. They didn't understand.

Q Do you think women had a big role in the Movement?

[00:24:56]

Gaytan I do, just like the men, we all know the men, all the men, but like they say, behind every great man is a greater woman. And we were there. I saw “we” because I was out there videotaping and stuff.

But personally in my life, my husband's family, his grandmother, Manuela Serna, senior, the *abuela*, she was part of the movement of the *abuelas*, *madres*, that would, when Cesar Chavez was coming into town or there was going to be a protest,

they were in the kitchen [demonstrates], they were in there making all the food for everybody, and they were out there with the men. And then her daughter, she came out of this university. I mean, she was one of the hottest civil rights activists, and I knew her before I married into the family, and to be able to witness, I respected both of them. I was just mesmerized by especially Manuela Serna, because she was able to move anyone to any extent. When they'd say "no," she'd open the doors and she would get things done. Yeah, yeah. So to me personally, the women were right there with the men in this Movement.

Q Do you feel like they weren't given, like, credit?

[00:26:24]

Gaytan Yeah. Of course, you know, because it's a lot of *machismo* in our culture, okay? The men would be at the forefront and the women home, and that wasn't always true. Yeah, I believe that hopefully there will be more credit given to women when this documentation is done.

Q So you said you met Cesar Chavez personally.

[00:26:55]

Gaytan Yes.

Q What about Dolores Huerta?

[00:26:56]

Gaytan I met Dolores, yes, yes. Dolores, and I met Rodriguez, "El" [Elvia]. Isn't it El Rodriguez who took [unclear] son-in-law? So, yeah, I met them all. I mean, I covered a lot of their—yeah. And even when Joe Serna, former mayor, he was the organizer here before he became mayor here at Sac State, you know. So, yeah, yeah.

Q How did, like, this whole, like, experience change you, if it did?

[00:27:39]

Gaytan It made me more vocal. I wasn't afraid to speak out. I'm still not afraid to speak out. Sometimes they tell me, "Rosie, Rosie!" Well, you know, and that's what it's done for me. When I see injustice, you know, something simple at a supermarket, something simple at a school, I will step up and ask for some sort of correction or, "That's not right." And I try in a diplomatic fashion, if you can believe. But, yeah, it's made me want to help our people, yeah.

Q That's good. Can you describe how the Movement changed the Sacramento community?

[00:28:29]

Gaytan Well, it brought more of our people to town. It opened up doors in government. We saw more Latinos, Chicanos, Mexican American, Hispanics—I hate that word—into the state government systems, into the school systems, more jobs, because people were demanding more jobs. Affirmative action brought in that because of the Movement, because we were angry, we were upset, we were tired. We wanted to see something positive come out of what we'd been doing. I think that's part, a major part of it was bringing more people good jobs, good education, yeah.

Q Can you take us back to what the Chicanas did in the Movimiento?

Like, what role did they play?

[00:29:33]

Gaytan Out there picketing, out there protesting, out there going into corporate offices, asking, "How many Latinos do you have hired in this station?" You know,

sitting down with them and asking for changes. The same thing with programming in my particular case, because of what my experiences were, is the Movimiento was asking—they wanted to see more representation on the air. They wanted to see more programming geared to Latinos on the air, and even though it's still lacking, that's what helped, I think.

Q So earlier you said that you covered Cesar Chavez's funeral. Could you describe that more? How did that impact the community? How did that impact the activists?

[00:30:33]

Gaytan It was a big blow, because, I mean, he was a very powerful man, and just covering that funeral, the people, it was just like crowds and crowds, and you could see the impact he had on people that probably never met him, but the idea of what he had done, yeah, it's had an impact on the UFW, their membership. But what he did not only to help the UFW kind of spread out to bring people who would never protest or would never consider any kind of activism, all of a sudden, now they're active in a school or they're active at some job site. It wasn't just farmworking protests. Chavez opened our eyes to you can do peaceful protests. You can peacefully demand progress. You can make changes. And had he continued, we probably would have had more, but I think he still should be credited for those changes, yes.

Q Do you think he was the biggest influence in the Movimiento?

[00:31:55]

Gaytan Yes.

Q Yes?

[00:31:56]

Gaytan Yes. Dolores, she was strong, she was behind him, but, again, he was the one that took front and center stage, okay? And while I would have liked to have seen her more aggressive, she was dynamic in her role and continues now. But, again, I think it was because men are men and—yeah. We're seeing some change, but—
[laughs]

Q What do you see as current or future challenges for the Chicano community?

[00:32:45]

Gaytan Challenges?

Q Mm-hmm.

[00:32:46]

Gaytan Well, I think one of the—jobs, because we have a lot of problems in our low-income communities, and if we could get these folks jobs, and, of course, education, you know, more education, the better your jobs. But, yeah, we need to have better relations with the police situation that's going on all over, and although it's affecting what's reported, Blacks, but Chicanos have been having that problem. We've always been racially profiled, and that, I think, needs to be addressed. Yeah, while there's Blacks that are having these problems, Chicanos are too. Latinos are too. I mean, we have our high numbers in the prisons. And why? Why should—that is a challenge because we need to make sure that our young, beautiful Latino community stays out of prison, you know. Good jobs, good education.

Q Do you see yourself staying involved in solving those challenges?

[00:34:00]

Gaytan I do personally, because I'm going it with my own grandkids. [laughs]
But I do get involved with the community, and I'd like to get more involved. What I'd like to be able to do is what the Concilio had done before, because if you look on all the TV stations, the programming, the brown faces, the work that we did back then, it's like we've taken steps back, okay? And when there's any kind of new Latino show, I'm on the computer, phone, and jamming, just making sure you've got to watch, you've got to watch. If we don't watch, they're going to take that show off the air. Yeah, then putting pressure on the stations, putting pressure on the stations, because as far as brown faces, they just—and again, that comes from where we ourselves need to help our young, beautiful kids go to school. Like I tell my grandbabies, my daughter, “You're so beautiful, you could be on TV.”

“Oh, Nana.”

“Yeah, you will!.” [laughs]

So, personally, that's where I would love to see more representation, because a lot of times you don't cover that community, you know, and it's basically just when there's a killing or when there's a drug bust. All right, then Chicanos are in the news. But how about doing something where we're positively making changes and doing just better work? But, you know, hopefully, hopefully, we'll continue.

Q Do you have any ideas of how you can excite the youth about their culture?

[00:35:45]

Gaytan I guess speaking, going out speaking to them, yeah. Yeah, I mean, oh, there are a lot of events, a lot of organizations that are trying. Like out at the Capitol when they do the Chicano, Latino Youth Leadership, I've been to speak to them, the kids who are coming out of high school and going on to college. So just trying to get involved and spreading the word, because I am a very animated speaker. [laughs]

Q Can you identify an individual that wasn't given credit for, like, was part of the Movimiento, but wasn't given credit?

[00:36:35]

Gaytan Wasn't given credit?

Q Or is not well-known as much?

[00:36:45]

Gaytan Well, of course, you know our mayor, Joe Serna, he died too early for us, but he was involved. I think that he may have not been given enough credit. I mentioned Manuela Serna.

Lorenzo Patiño, our judge that took it upon himself, too, to try to make changes, because a lot of us in our community were getting drunk, DUIs, you know, and these were causing fatalities, and this judge would send these drunk drivers to the morgue so that he could see the dead bodies. You know, there's just things that he took to send the word straight to our people, because it's a fact that we do, it's part of our culture. I remember as a little kid, "Here, take a drink, take a drink." And now it's, oh, no, you can't do that. Can you imagine?

I can't think of others right now.

Q That's okay. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

[00:37:59]

Gaytan No, I'd better be—I'm good. [laughs] What can I add, though? See, when I left Channel 10, I fought for my—well, first I fought, right? I was threatening to file a lawsuit and do all of that stuff. Well, my husband got sick when I was at Channel 10. So I don't know if this is all part of the Movimiento or the history, but after sixteen years on the job and I was the senior reporter, I was top scale, but my husband got sick and I was spending a lot of time in the hospital. This was shortly after the Family Emergency Leave Act had been passed, so I had a right to be there with him. But the station felt that if I wasn't sick and I called in again, I was going to be let go. Well, it just so happened that I had to take my husband to emergency. I was in emergency with him. They wanted to know if there was anybody else that could go with him. Really? I'm his wife.

Q Yeah.

[00:39:17]

Gaytan I had sick leave, I had vacation, but you can't use it because it's not you that's sick. Well, I could, but I didn't have all of the facts. I just knew that I had to be with my husband at the hospital. He was literally on death's bed. So they let me go. Yeah, I had to do what I do, and I fought them. I took them to court. I took them to court. So even though I gave all those years to them—well, the promotion that they do, "We're all family. We all want to help the community." Yeah. So I left with very bitter feelings towards the newsroom, not Channel 10, because I do watch Cristela [phonetic]. [laughter]

Q Did you win?

[00:40:09]

Gaytan We settled, yes, yes. I wish I could have taken them to Supreme Court.

[laughter]

Q Do you have any advice for us, like, on what we could do to solve the unsolved issues to the Movimiento?

[00:40:26]

Gaytan Well, I believe this is good. Getting this together, it's amazing to see all the faces and all the history that's here. The only sad part about it is all of the videos that we did at the time were recorded over, because at that time we were using this videotape. So there was no documentation. We didn't realize just who we were and what we were doing. A seventeen-, eighteen-year-old, well, they were older people, too, but we were part of history right there. We had, like, the first show. But I'd like to see more documentation, more video of what we've done, and that's a challenge.

[End of interview]