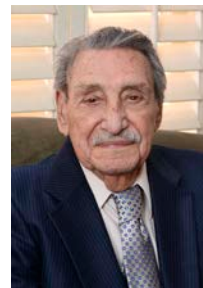




**RAÚL HECTOR CASTRO**  
1916 - 2015

Honored as a Historymaker 2014  
Governor of Arizona &  
United States Ambassador



The following is an oral history interview with Raul Castro (**RC**) conducted by Pam Stevenson (**PS**) for Historical League, Inc. and video-graphed by Bill Stevenson (**BS**) on September 12, 2013 in Nogales, Arizona.

*Transcripts for website edited by members of Historical League, Inc.  
Original tapes are in the collection of the Arizona Heritage Center Archives, an Historical Society Museum, Tempe, Arizona.*

**PS** I'll identify on the tape that today is Thursday, September the 12<sup>th</sup> of 2013. And we're here in Nogales, Arizona to do this Historymaker interview. And I'm Pam Stevenson doing the interview, and Bill Stevenson is running the camera. And I'd like to have you give me your name, and, um,

**RC** My name is Raul H. Castro.

**PS** And, we have to start with the basics of when and where were you born?

**RC** I was born in Cananea, Sonora, Mexico.

**PS** And when?

**RC** June the 12<sup>th</sup>, 1916.

**PS** How long did you live there?

**RC** Well, probably till I was about 10 years of age. And then we went into the United States into Pirtleville, Arizona, just out of Douglas, Arizona.

**PS** Where is Cananea?



**RC** Cananea is about 100 miles east of Nogales on the Mexican side. It's a mining town. And about 30 miles south of Bisbee.

**PS** When did you move into the United States?

**RC** Now, you know we didn't leave voluntarily. And my father was a deep-sea diver in Baja California, and met my mother in, also Baja California. And there were different miners in Arizona, in Cananea.

So, ended up in Cananea. And my father was rather active in the Miners Union. And he declared a strike, and the Mexican government said the strike was an illegal strike. Wildcat strike. And my father was arrested and placed in prison in Hermosillo, the capital of Sonora.

So, in negotiations, it was when they agreed we could leave Mexico and come to the United States. That's how we got here.

**PS** And, how many were in your family when you came over here?

**RC** Well, there was, I think there were about 10 at the time. Ten in the family. One girl.

**PS** You had that many brothers and sisters?

**RC** Yes, not now. I'm the only one, I'm the only survivor.

**PS** Really?

**RC** I'm 97, so I'm the only one, (laughs) only survivor.

**PS** But, but then you had that many brothers and sisters. So, you had a big family.

**RC** It's a big family. Right.

**PS** Okay. And, what did your parents do when they worked? They moved over here, you said, near Douglas. What did they do?

**RC** Well, in Pirtleville, my father worked a job in the smelter in Douglas, Arizona. And, my mother, of course, took care of the children. But at age 10, my father died, and left Mother with all these children in the United States.



We weren't eligible for any type of assistance because we weren't American citizens.

So, Mother was a mid-wife, became a mid-wife, and delivered probably most every Mexican child in Douglas area.

**PS** Wow. So, what about you and your siblings? Did you go to work? Or, what did you do to get your first...

**RC** Yeah, of course, Douglas is a border community, as is Pirtleville. Agua Prieta is on the Mexican side, Douglas on the American side.

I started school in Pirtleville, Arizona. Which is where we went when we left Mexico for the United States.

Pirtleville was a town of about 2,000 people then. And, say, ninety-nine-percent Mexican extraction.

I went to start school in Pirtleville. And then I had to eventually go to school in Douglas.

So, from Douglas to Pirtleville, about four miles apart.

Now the children in Pirtleville, who had to go to school in Douglas, we had to walk. Walk from Pirtleville to Douglas to go to school.

On the peripheral of Pirtleville, right on the very edge, were a lot of families, Anglo families. Not Mexican families. And the school system in Douglas had buses pick up the children. Pick them up and take them to school in Douglas.

We Mexicans walked. And the school bus would pass us, and the kids would wave at us. And that was my first challenge in life. I said to myself, why do they ride, and we walk? And that was my first challenge, facing, that's a choice.

Arizona was different in those days than today.

**PS** So, you had not gone to school in Mexico?

**RC** Well, I had started school in Mexico. Yes. But then, (mumbles), the United States.

**PS** And, so, you went to grade school and then...



**RC** Went to grade school in, Douglas. Pirtleville and then Douglas. And that was just a segregated school. Only Mexican children can go there.

I had friends I'd known in high school who lived a block away from where I was in school, and they weren't allowed to go to school where I was going to school. They had to walk about eleven blocks to another school for Anglo children.

**PS** So, they had segregated schools for...

**RC** Yeah, they had their own school. And we got ours.

And then time came that I had to go from 5<sup>th</sup> grade to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. And the 6<sup>th</sup> grade was in grammar school in Douglas. Now they call it middle school, but in those days, it was grammar school.

And a school which (can't understand), on a campus. But what they did, for instance, I went from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade into 6<sup>th</sup> grade in grammar school in Douglas, and they had 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 6A1, 6A2, 6A3, 6A4.

6A1 were the bright kids, supposedly. 6A2 were not as bright. And 6A3 were average students. And 6A4 were the dummies. Slowpokes. And, of course, if your name was a Latin name, Castro, Gonzales or Rameriz, we all ended up 6A4.

So, 6A4 were all Mexican children. One were Anglo children. So, again, this discrimination existed in those days. Not today.

And then there were about two African-American families. And they had their own school. They could not go to school in (can't understand), go to school. No.

**PS** Were you a good student?

**RC** I beg your pardon?

**PS** Were you a good student?

**RC** Well, (mumbles), is a change of luck, of how things work.

In the 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Douglas grammar school it was called (can't understand) School. There was a teacher from, came from, uh, Mexican. Eileen Wright.



And one day when I was in class, she came over and put her arm (sic) on my shoulder and couldn't pronounce my name. She said Rawl, I think you can be a good student, but you're not being a good student. You're being lazy. You're not doing the job.

And then, took her hand off my shoulder and then walked away.

Well, on the way home that evening I thought to myself, that teacher must be interested in me. She cares for me. I don't want to disappoint her.

From that day on I became a good student. From there and also grammar school, high school, and (can't understand). I was quite competent. Yeah.

**PS** So, when you got to high school in Douglas, was it still segregated?

**RC** No. High School was not segregated at all. No.

In high school, of course, I was rather active in everything. I played basketball, football. And then, I made the National Honor Society.

And as the former name of, uh, our teachers from Phoenix who had gone to Douglas. And, he was my teacher, and one day he says, you know, teaching English.

He said, Raul, I'm going to teach a class on journalism, and I want you to take that course in journalism. It's going to be good for you.

I said, oh, Mr. Wilson, his name was Wilson. We called him Pop Wilson.

I said, I'm a football player. I said, I, journalism is for the birds. It's for the sissies. Oh no, it's good, good for you.

Well, I did take the course and became the editor of the high school paper, called the ***Border Bulldog***. In Douglas High School.

And later on, my senior year, this same Pop Wilson came over to me. He said, Raul, I'm going to teach a class in drama. I want you to take that course.

Oh, Mr. Wilson, I am an athlete. That's for the sissies. For the birds. Oh, no, no. It's good for you.

He convinced me, and I took drama.



Well, as it was, they had a high school play, and I got the leading role in the high school play. So, I got exposed to the public, etc. Or audiences.

And that's, that's, that's sort of the history of my dilemma in going to school. (can't understand)

**PS** So your, your drama training probably came in handy as a politician, huh? (laughs)

**RC** Well, yes, it did. It came in and made me aware of the fact that I could, to converse with other people and not be bashful or shy.

I, uh, ran a half mile and the mile in track. Played quarterback in the football. And played basketball.

And I got, eventually I got a scholarship to go to Flagstaff. In those days it was Arizona State Teachers College in Flagstaff.

And, I, uh, in the summertime when I graduated from high school, I was washing windows at S.S. Kresge Company in Douglas, and a man came over and said, are you Raul Castro? I said, yes, sir. What can I do for you?

He said, I am a professor in Flagstaff, at the Teachers College in Flagstaff. I teach art and etc. All the things that go with the program. And I am looking for students who can play football. And we heard that you're a good quarterback on the football team.

And I'd like to offer you a scholarship to go to Flagstaff and go to school. I said, well, thank you very much, Mr. Olson (?). I'm very proud of it, except, I've got to discuss this with Mother.

Give me a day and I'll talk to Mother and then I'll let you know. Fine.

So, I went home, and, of course, Mother was thrilled. Wonderful, son. By all means, get an education. And that's how I ended up in Flagstaff on a football scholarship.

While on campus in Flagstaff, I was everything. I became captain of the track team, captain of the boxing team and quarterback on the football team. And I joined about everything that they had. So, I was quite active.

**PS** Well, what about your studies? Did you have any time to study?

**RC** Yes, I did. And I was a fairly good student. I was a fairly good student at Teachers College.



**PS** And what was your major?

**RC** Only had one major. Education. To be a teacher. It was Arizona State Teachers College. So, I was going to be a teacher.

So, when I graduated, I was rather cocky. Thought, oh, my God. With all the credentials, being captain and the athletic teams, etc., a good student. Every school system in Arizona will want me to teach in their school system. Was I wrong.

I applied for a teaching job in Arizona, seven (?) schools, and I was told we don't hire students of Mexican descent to be school teachers. I could not get a teaching job in Arizona.

So, I went home and told Mother. Mother, I'm going to leave you. I can't get a teaching job.

So, I had become a hobo. On a freight train and went all over the United States.

Freight train, all over the United States. I had carnivals and they had boxing matches. I, by fighting the boxing matches at carnivals, they'd pay me fifty, seventy-five dollars. Moved on. Worked on the farms in Montana and Idaho. Sugar beet fields, etc.

I remember being in Oklahoma when Oklahoma City had a barber shop. And the barber was clipping, my long nose in the way (??), kept saying about, that's when Kennedy was running for president.

He said, if this fella gets elected the Pope's going to run the country. Blah, blah, blah. Not knowing I was Catholic. I wasn't about to open my mouth cause I, afraid of those scissors.

So, when he finished cutting my hair and I walked out the door, I paid him. I said, sir, where is the nearest Catholic church? He looked at me and said, are you one of those? (laughs) So off I went.

So that was the history. I moved all over the country, etc.

**PS** When did you graduate from college?

**RC** 1939. From Teachers College in Flagstaff.



**PS** ...the depression. So that's (**RC** – Yeah.) why you traveled as a hobo?

**RC** That's right.

So then, uh, 1939 I traveled all over the country. Finally I got a call. I had a younger brother, Ernesto.

And he graduated from Teachers College in Flagstaff, and he did get a job at the high school, teaching high school. In Flagstaff.

So, I called him one day, and I said, Ernie, how you doing? He said, well, I'm going to quit school. I say, why? He said, you got a degree to be a teacher and you're a hobo. There's no sense in me going to school to be a hobo. I said, don't do that. I'm going back to Arizona. That thing will work out, so stay in school. He did. He got a teaching job.

I went back to Douglas and they opened an American Consulate in Agua Prieta in Mexico. And they needed someone that spoke Spanish fluently, knew the language. The Counsel and the Vice-Counsel were not fluent in Spanish. Had difficulty. So, I got the job in Mexico working for the U.S. government.

I worked there five years. At the end of five years a fellow by the name of Bill Blacker (??) from El Paso came over. And it was a consulate inspection, and, at the end of five days in Agua Prieta, he called me over and said, Raul, I want to talk to you. So, fine.

We sit down. He said, I've been watching your work for five years now, and you do a very good job. I'm impressed. I think you can do a good job on the outside world.

But as far as the U.S. government is concerned at the Consulate, I think you better quit. I said, why? He said, well, number one, you're born in Mexico, of Mexican parents. That's a no, no for diplomatic service for State Department.

And number two, your degree is a B.A. degree in education from Arizona State Teachers College in Flagstaff. That's not Harvard, that's not Yale, that's not Princeton. It's not an Ivy League school. And diplomatic service caters to diplomatic schools. To Ivy League schools. So that was it.

So, I, felt very badly. Went home and told Mother. Mother, this is the story. I'm, uh, going to quit my job. Why, son? What are you going to do? Mother, I want to be a lawyer. And, uh, I think I want to go to Tucson and go to University of Arizona.





But how you going to pay for it? You don't have any money. Mother, I'll find a way.

So, I did. I quit my job and went to Tucson. University of Arizona. And spoke to the language professors. And, and the language professors I spoke to in Spanish, and their accent was very poor. I thought they were terrible.

Then I went to an office at the University of Arizona for students, for students. And I applied for jobs. And a fellow in charge of the office had been in Flagstaff. Knew me. So, when I was in the office, Hi, Raul. How are you? Fine, Dr. Kelly. He said, what can I do for you? I need your help.

I want to be a lawyer. I need a job. I don't have any money. I need your help.

Oh, he says, Raul, you know better than that. Getting a Mexican a job in Tucson, forget it. It's impossible.

So, he told me, why don't you go see the Mexican Consul. He may be able to help you out. I said to Dr. Kelly, I'm an American citizen now. Why should I go see the Mexican Consul? So, I stormed out of his office.

I went to Liberal Arts, and the dean was, uh, can't think of his name now, he later became president of the university.

By this time, I was fuming high. I saw the dean. I said, Dean, I think I can help this university out. How's that, he said. I spoke to your language people, and they have a horrible job in Spanish. With the accent. And the graduates of the University of Arizona are entitled to learn Spanish with a proper accent. And that (can't understand) do it. So, I could be a lot of help.

He looked at me. He said, you know, well, it's just Friday. It was a Friday. And Dr. Bufford (??) got married and she won't be available for teaching at the university. I've got to have a Spanish teacher by Monday. At the university. And you're it.

So, he reached over and got a contract. I signed it. To be a teacher at, at the University of Arizona. But I didn't go to Tucson to be a university teacher. I wanted to be a lawyer.

So, I walked out of the office. I was walking out. I saw Dr. Kelly from Flagstaff, who told me to go see the Mexican Counsel.

He said, Raul, how are things going? I said, fine, Dr. Kelly. You and I are colleagues. What? Yeah, we're colleagues. I start teaching at this university Monday morning. What? I said, well, you never ask any questions. I am teaching.



So, I walked around and went to law school. And there was a Dean McCormack, then was the dean of law school. By this time, he'd gotten a call from somebody. And he said, well, I heard about you. But let me tell you one thing. In my experience as dean is that, uh, people of Mexican descent don't do well in law school. They all flunk out.

And then secondly, law school requires full time. You cannot have a job on the outside. You've got to devote full time to law school. So, I can't let you go to law school.

So, I stormed out. And he said, (can't understand), before you go, my experience has been that people of Mexican descent don't do well in law school. They flunk out. So, I walked out.

Come to the nearest phone and called the president of the university. I told him my story. So, he called the dean of the law school. He says, young man sounds very aggressive, very eager, very capable or competent. Let him go to law school. If he flunks out, flunk him out. But give him the opportunity. And that's when I got into law school.

I did go to law school, graduated from law school, etc. And, uh. But at the same time, I got a teaching job at the University of Arizona.

Where I'm going to law school, I was, I was given a job to teach Spanish at the University of Arizona. I was teaching Spanish and going to law school at the same time. Full time on both. So, my social life was nil. I was devoted full time to University of Arizona.

Finally, I graduated from law school, and the question arose, what am I going to do? And a fellow by the name of John Favour was my classmate in law school. John Favour's from Prescott, Arizona.

The Favour family was a well-known family in Prescott. The father had a bank, and there, there was a law firm Prescott by one of the Favour brothers. The older brother ran the law firm. And John had just graduated. Well-to-do-family.

So, John looked at me. He says, what are you going to do, Raul? I said, John, I'd like to stay in Tucson, but I don't have the money to front an office. And nobody's going to offer me a job.

He reached into his pocket. Here's 500-dollars. You can rent yourself an office. Pay me when you can. I did. So, I went out in Tucson and rented an office.

I have a paddle in this house on one of the doors. Raul Castro, Attorney-at-Law. It was a fraternity paddle that John got from some fraternity. Cut the handle, and then put R.H. Castro,



Attorney-at-Law. And that was in, on the door to my office in Tucson. My first office.

So that's the history of starting the law practice.

Later on, when I got my degree, I became County Attorney. I became a judge of the Superior Court. And then the President of the United States, Lyndon Johnson, met him in Tucson, appointed me Ambassador of El Salvador. Then I became Ambassador to Bolivia. Then later on Ambassador to Argentina. So, that was my career move, pretty well moving along.

**PS** Back up a minute. Uh. When did you become a citizen? And why did you decide to become a citizen?

**RC** Well, I always wanted to be become an American citizen. I left Cananea, Mexico, to Douglas. And when I lived in Douglas, Douglas was I'd say about thirty-five-percent of Mexican extraction.

And I'd go over to Agua Prieta to the Mexican border, and I, uh, look at the employees on the border, Border Patrol, Immigration, nobody of Mexican descent working in, for the U.S. government.

I'd go to the post office. No Mexicans working in the post office.

Bank, and other banks, etc. But they were doing, pick and shovel, doing the dirty work, working in this manner, etc.

And that offered another challenge. Why? Why should that be? You know, why, why can't people of Mexican descent have some of these jobs?

So that's what spurred me on again to, to move, move on ahead.

And that, made me go to Tucson and go to law school.

But, you know, the most sentimental part of it, the idea, was that when I graduated and had to take the bar, the state bar, to be a lawyer. You just don't graduate and become a lawyer. You have to take a state bar.

And I did. I took the state bar in Phoenix. And law school. And then it takes about two weeks for the examination to be graded. So I had to go to Douglas to stay with Mother.

And, while in Douglas, I had to go to town in Douglas and Mother stayed home. And Mother



was living alone, Father had died, etc. And all my brothers were working.

I said, Mother, I'll be back. Wait for me. So, while I was gone, Western Union delivered a telegram to my mother. And the telegram was in English. In those days, when you received a telegram, either a death in the family, or some, some important (can't understand) Western Union.

Mother couldn't read it because it was in English.

So finally, I came home, and when I was home, Mother was all excited. Son, here's a telegram. I can't read it. What is it? What's happened?

You assumed a catastrophe had happened.

I read it and I said, Mother, the telegram says I passed the state bar examination. And to be in Phoenix on May, a certain day, and be sworn in so I can be, practice law.

She started jumping up and down. My son is a lawyer, my son's a lawyer. My son's an attorney. She was all thrilled.

Then I went to Tucson and opened an office. And from then on, my career started moving on.

**PS** But you became a citizen earlier than that, right?

**RC** Yeah. I became a citizen earlier when I was living in Douglas.

I graduated from Flagstaff in 39, and went to Douglas and worked in Agua Prieta. And then had decided that I couldn't work for the government, etc., until I was a U.S. citizen.

So, I applied for citizenship with the Immigration. I became an American citizen in the courthouse in Bisbee.

I took an examination, like a test, etc., before the judge, and I passed the examination to become an American citizen. Right.

**PS** You already had your college degree.

**RC** Yeah, my class degree, etc.

**PS** So, it shouldn't have been too hard to pass that.



**RC** Except that the difficulty is, even these days, it's all this (can't understand). Whenever I travel, I have difficulty with the Border Patrol.

I used to have a home in San Diego, lived in Tucson. Had a horse farm. And I used to go to San Diego, etc., and on the way back at Yuma there's a station of Border Patrol. And look at me and I don't look Irish or Scandinavian. And it has to be, where were you born? Well, I'm not going to lie. Born in Mexico. Then the query started.

And my daughter is, uh, picture there somewhere. She's blonde and blue-eyed. Uh. She was born in Tokyo, Japan. Uh. During the Korean War.

The, uh, patrolman asked, what about the girl, young lady here? And she would reply, I was born in Tokyo, Japan. But that, uh, Border Patrol thought, (mumbles) you're being smart-alecky. And got a little nasty with us.

In the meantime, another Border Patrol got to the car, and recognized me. He said, good morning, Governor. How are you this morning? And the Patrol says, Governor? I said, yes, Governor. And that was the end of the story. Good-bye.

But, even up here, going back, when you go back to Phoenix, there's that station there. I've had troubles there, too. So. So you can see that it, it isn't over with.

**PS** Now, that was, uh, you graduated from high, from college around the time of World War II. Did you serve in the military?

**RC** No, I served in the National Guard. When I was in Flagstaff, I joined the National Guard my first year. I was with the National Guard four years. With the National Guard.

Then I had the, uh, I applied for citizenship in, in...and it says you can't do it cause you're, you're in the Guard, etc. Uh. Till you get out.

So, then I, uh, trained in Fort Huachuca with the National Guard for four years, too. And that was the extent of my, uh, my military service.

I was working in Agua Prieta with the U.S. government. So, uh, I had, uh, my job was, uh, sort of a CIA deal. I, uh, did a lot of intelligence work. I interviewed the Mexican military, etc. Information about what was going on. So, uh, no. Never, uh, never, never served the military.

I was never called in that sense. Of course, I, my job was...



**PS** I wondered how your daughter was born in Korea. (laughs)

**RC** Yeah, the Korean War. Yeah, cause I was in, I went to Korea, uh, as a, as a, uh, a government official.

See, when the Congress sent me to China and then Korea, with the Korean situation, so my daughter was there in Japan, in Tokyo (mumbles) at the time.

And, in Korea, of course, I was there for, oh, quite, quite a while. I was trying to, on a committee, trying to get South and North Korea to make peace with each other. And I used to go to China and Russia, etc. So., I covered the whole world really.

**PS** Yeah. (laughs) You have. So, what, when did you first run for office? What was the first office that you actually had to be (**RC** – Well.)

**RC** My first office was County Attorney in Tucson. To this day I'm the only person of Mexican descent to be elected County Attorney in Tucson.

And the reason I ran for County Attorney in Tucson was, I was in the barber shop in Tucson, (can't understand) in Congress. And there were about 12 or 13 Mexican kids, um, 12, 13, 14 years of age, complaining about discrimination, etc.

And, uh, I said, what are you guys doing about it? All you yap, yap. What do you do about it? Well, what's the use when, uh, ... I said, look. I'm going to run for County Attorney. Oh, you're crazy. Who's going to vote for you? You were born in Mexico of Mexican parents. Who's going to vote for you for County Attorney? In Tucson?

Well, (can't understand) tried it? You know. No. I'm trying it.

I run for County Attorney, and was elected County Attorney. To this date there has never been another County Attorney.

So that, uh, prompted me to stay active in the community.

Then I run for judge of Superior Court, and got elected judge of Superior Court. That's when I met the President of the United States, Lyndon Johnson. And appointed me, uh, Ambassador to El Salvador.

**PS** How long were you a judge?



**RC** A judge for about seven or eight years. Yeah. Yeah. Also, Juvenile Court judge. To deal with kids. Yeah. And everything...

**PS** That's hard work. (laughs)

**RC** Yeah. So, any, it's, uh, it motivated me in that sense, as it were.

Then, uh, the President of the United States, his wife, and Lyn, uh, Lynda, one of their daughters, went to Salvador, spent a week at the embassy in Salvador where the wife and I were, were, uh, living.

And, uh, one day we were in the limousine, and he looked at me and he says, Mr. Ambassador, you've been here long enough. The time has come to change. I said, well, what do you think, Mr. President? He says, I'm having troubles in Bolivia. Che Guevera is raising hell there. Be, before being killed and shot. I need somebody that, uh, knows the language. Somebody that's got political experience. And you have that. And I think I'd like to send you to Bolivia.

Bolivia is the hell-hole of creation. Very, very difficult country.

I said, well, you, maybe you don't think much of what I'm doing in Salvador. He said, no. Because I need you in Bolivia. You can do the job.

A day before I arrived in Bolivia, Che Guevera was killed, but I didn't know that. So, I was sworn in by Congress, etc. And stayed in Bolivia two and a half years as, uh, as Ambassador (can't understand) My wife and I were there, etc.

And then, uh, from Bolivia, I came, uh, home. That's when I ran for governor. Coming from Bolivia to Arizona again, ran for governor. And, uh...

**PS** So, how did you first meet Lyndon Johnson?

**RC** I was judge of Superior Court, and Lyndon Johnson was campaigning for president because, uh, Kennedy had been killed and Lyndon Johnson was temporary president.

And he happened to be in Tucson when I went to the courthouse, campaigning, and met me as judge of Superior Court.

We had a little armory (??) park, to give a speech as I was campaigning for judge, too. I had a, uh, I had another term come up.



So, I gave my little speech, and then he spoke. And that's how we met. Hmm, hm. Lyndon Johnson. Yeah.

**PS** Did you stay in touch with him for years later?

**RC** Yeah. So, I, uh, got to know him quite well. His wife and my wife got along very well, etc.

Later on, I stayed in Bolivia. Che Guevara was killed, and I stayed there in Bolivia. And that's when I came back to...

In, uh, in Bolivia I had difficulty with, uh, Rockefeller was then vice president of the United States. Rockefeller was sent by Nixon, Nixon was then president. Nixon sent him to El Salvador. Not Salvador. To, uh, Valenzuela.

While in Venezuela, uh, he was booed. He wasn't well-received. Because he typified Standard Oil Company. And Venezuela, of course, is an oil country. And, uh, certainly the family, Rockefeller, was not well accepted.

So, uh, he sent me a letter, or cable, saying, I'd like to visit La Paz, Bolivia. I sent a cable back. Under no circumstances will I allow you to visit La Paz, Bolivia. As an American Ambassador, and an (can't understand) American, in Bolivia, I'm the one that calls the shots. The only one that can overcome me is the President of the United States. But other than that, I am the boss. So, I said, no. That you're not coming. (??)

And then a cable come in again. Uh. Insisting, he was the vice president of the United States. I sent it back. You're not coming.

Third cable come in. I said, well, tell you what I'll do. I'll allow you to come in to a little town, uh, on the Brazilian border in Bolivia. And that's it. No, he wouldn't accept that.

So, uh, finally then, uh, he kept insisting.

So, I said, look, let's do this. I will allow you to come to Bolivia, to the airport. You come, land at the airport. You can stay one hour. Because your plane cannot stay more than an hour because La Paz is 12,000 feet up in the air. And altitudes in airplanes won't, engine quits, can't start it again. So, you can't get out of there.

So, you come in to La Paz (can't understand). At the airport, bring your wife, etc., one hour. I'll have the president of Un, uh, Bolivia there, the Cabinet, lot of people in the airport meeting you.





And then in one hour you get back in the plane, go to Peru.

So, he finally agreed. He came to the airport, one hour, back. Out he goes.

Well, he was very unhappy.

So, a week after he left South America, I received a letter from Nixon. Republican. Democrat. Saying I accept your resignation with regrets. (laughs) I never signed (sic). (burps) He was firing me. That's when I came back to Arizona and ran for governor.

**PS** Now, why did you decide to run for governor?

**RC** Well, I assumed that I, I could do it. I figured that, uh, I had run for County Attorney and judge of Superior Court, and people received me well. Everywhere I went I was well, well received. I felt that, that I had the appeal to people to support me.

And, then, uh, a lot of, uh, Latin American population in, in Arizona, and I, I, I could do it. And I did. Ran for governor, and, and, uh...

Remember, I lost the first time. By five-thousand votes.

**PS** And that was 1970.

**RC** Yeah. No. 1970. That's right. And then in 74 I got elected. Ran again, uh, was elected.

**PS** 1970, was that a...

**RC** 74.

**PS** But the first time, the first time was...

**RC** 70. Yeah. And so, in 74 I got elected.

**PS** But, the first time, in 1970, was that a difficult race?

**RC** Yes, it was. It, uh, it was a difficult race because I was a neophyte. I had been out of the country. I'd been out, I'd been out of the country about seven or eight years. And I assumed people had forgotten me. So, it was very difficult in that sense of the word, to reviving you.

So, once I came back, I got active and people recognized me. Start to. Yeah.



**PS** So, that four years then from, between 70 and 74, you got more active?

**RC** Yeah. First, I was active in the community. I was everywhere. Sure. Yeah. Well, I was very active in that sense.

**PS** What were you doing to earn a living?

**RC** to make a living? Yeah.

Well, don't forget, I had been to law school already. I was a lawyer. And I had been judge of Superior Court, etc. So, I practiced law. So, I practiced law.

And, just judge of Superior Court, I was a visiting judge in every county in Arizona. Being Superior Court judge in Tucson, I would be asked to go to Flagstaff. To be judge of Superior Court. I'd go to Morenci. I'd, I'd go to Kingman, uh, often. Yuma, constantly in Yuma. Judge of Superior Court. And then Florence. So, kind of the whole state. And met jurors, etc. So, most of them knew me in that sense of the word. I had good connections.

**PS** And were, you were still one of the, were you one of the few Hispanic, uh, judges?

**RC** Yeah. The only one. The only one in that sense of the word. Yeah.

**PS** So, sometimes when people lose an election like in 1970, they get discouraged and don't want to run again. But, sounds like that...

**RC** No, I didn't get discouraged because I felt that I had, uh, that I could do it. I felt I could, uh, (struggles for word) expose myself to the Latin community, to the Anglo community. And, etc. And the judges of Superior Court, visiting all the counties.

And I had a good record, too. Good background record in the sense of the word. So.

**PS** And who were you running against?

**RC** What's that?

**PS** Who was your opponent?

**RC** Well, my opponent, I forgot the, uh. What was that? Judge of the Superior Court for many years. (**PS** – But...) And I beat him.



**PS** When you ran for governor...

**RC** Ran for gov...

**PS** Who was your opponent?

**RC** Oh, my, for governor it was, uh, oh, I probably think who the, uh, I, I can't, I don't remember who the governor was.

**PS** Jack Williams?

**RC** Jack Williams. You're right. You have a better memory than mine.

Jack Williams was then governor. Yeah, right. And I beat Jack Williams. Right. Yeah.

**PS** He beat you in 1970 though?

**RC** in 1970 it was somebody else. I've forgotten who it was. Yeah. And I got elected.

No, I was never a defeated as judge, a judge of Superior Court. Yeah, so.

**PS** So, in 1974 it was Jack Williams? He had been, he had already been governor, hadn't he?

**RC** Jack Williams was governor before me.

**PS** Right.

**RC** Yeah. Yeah, he was, had been governor for quite a while. Yeah. Yeah.

And then, uh, Rose Mofford, of course. But she came afterwards.

**PS** Yeah. But I'm sure, you knew Rose, didn't you?

**RC** Pardon?

**PS** Did, you knew Rose when you were governor.

**RC** Oh, yeah. Quite well. Yeah. Yeah, Rose was Secretary of State. Yeah.



**PS** Well, she worked with the Secretary of State.

**RC** Yeah. Sure, sure.

**PS** I heard everybody knew Rose. (laughs)

**RC** Yeah. Yeah.

**PS** So, uh, your, your campaign for governor in 1974, did you have a slogan? Tell, why did you tell people they should...

**RC** Did I have what?

**PS** A slogan. A, a campaign slogan.

**RC** I don't recall if I did.

**PS** I heard, somebody said that your slogan was "A Choice for Change."

**RC** Yeah, probably. Yes. I don't remember. Probably. "Time for Change," huh?

**PS** Yeah. And, what, what were the, the campaign, do you remember what the issues were? At that time?

**RC** Well, education was very much of an issue. And I, I had a degree in education. And I'd been a teacher at the University of Arizona. So, I (can't understand)

And I said, furthermore, I lived on the border most of my life. I'm quite familiar with the difficulties between both countries. And I (can't understand) know it. And I can help. I can revive this situation.

And, of course, I knew the whole state very well, because I had covered the state very well. So.

**PS** And, do you remember what any of your accomplishments were as governor?

**RC** the biggest disappointment (can't understand) was, uh, the field of education. I was very interested in education. And I was disappointed that I didn't do enough. Especially from an educator, I felt I didn't do enough.

We had a depression in those days and, uh, the funds, there weren't any money available. And I



couldn't...

Teachers' pay was very poor, and etc. So, I had difficulty in the field of education. I could not do what I wanted to do. So, I, I...that was one of my biggest disappointments was the field of education.

**PS** I did read that you started the Office of Tourism?

**RC** Yes.

**PS** Why?

**RC** Well, because I felt tourism was, uh, would build the economy. People coming in, spend their money on motels, motels, etc. And, uh, it's a good way to lift the economy. And I did. Yeah, it did. It, it helped out.

**PS** and I also heard you started the Office of Affirmative Action.

**RC** Yes, uh. Yeah. And, of course, in those days, uh, you know, the racial situation was rather tense. It (can't understand) what it is today. It's, uh, it was very, very difficult.

So, that's when I started that situation. Meetings all over the state of, of Arizona, and etc. And, uh, try to make people realize that, uh, people were entitled to an opportunity to sell, to do the best they can. Either employment or otherwise. And that was, that was my slogan. Yeah.

**PS** And another thing I saw was that you started the Arizona Commission for the Status of Women?

**RC** Arizona Commission of what?

**PS** Status of Women.

**RC** Status of Women?

Yeah, because in, in those days, when I was governor, the women were looked upon as something inferior. As far as employment was concerned in state and government, they, they weren't willing to give women the employment opportunity that men had.

So, I felt that no, what's wrong, wrong is this? Women are entitled to the same opportunity. They have the same background, education. Why not? Let women come in and participate in government. And they did. It worked out very nicely.



**PS** and I think that was also the time of the Equal Rights Amendment?

**RC** Equal Rights Amendment. Right.

**PS** So that was a big issue at that time.

**RC** Sure, sure.

**PS** Something else I saw was that, uh, you started the, uh, Arizona's National and International Trade Commission?

**RC** Right.

**PS** Well, tell me about it.

**RC** Yeah. Because number one, I, I still feel, living on the border, that trade with Latin America is very valuable, very important. It's a tremendous lift for our economy here in Nogales.

Nogales survives on people coming in from Mexico, buying and spending their money at (can't understand). Now you got a Wal-Mart, you got Safeway. You got everything in the world here. And they come in and spend their money here. And we spend money there. So, it, it's a two-way street. So, we do.

And then, just for a moment (??), in fact, uh, next week there's a meeting from the Chamber of Commerce in Tucson here in Nogales on trade with Mexico, etc. So, and I'm one of the speakers. The impetus is there.

**PS** What are you going to tell them?

**RC** Pardon?

**PS** What will, are you going to tell them?

**RC** Well, I'm going to tell them that, number one, that, uh, the vital, the Mexico is very dependent on our trade and our business, and etc. Our support. We are also quite dependent on a trade from Mexico. People coming over here, spending their money in the United States. So, it's a two-way street. We've got to respect each other, and help each other out in that sense of the word. And we do. Yeah.



**PS** And, of course, you were the, you were the first Mexican-American, uh, governor in Arizona.

**RC** Right.

**PS** What was important about that?

**RC** What's the what?

**PS** Was that an important, uh, issue?

**RC** Yeah. It's an important issue because, number one, the feeling for many years had been in this country that, uh, people of Mexican descent are one step below everybody else. And, uh, well, I went through it as a, as a young man. Discrimination in every sense of the word.

I couldn't join a country club. I couldn't join the Elks. Uh. They turned me down. They turned me down. Uh. Forget about it.

So, when the time came when I was elected governor, that everybody wanted me to join them. The Elks says, we want you to join the country club. Be part of us. Hypocrisy. But it's changed. It's much better. And that's, that's the objective of it.

**PS** Did you think that there would be more Mexican-American governors after you?

**RC** Oh, yes. I, I thought some (can't understand) more in public office.

And, uh, right now, I retired as a lawyer about four or five years ago. And my pastime is going to public schools, middle schools, talking to kids and my lectures are, go to school, participate, be active, etc. And then, especially border towns like Nogales.

Nogales, I'd say, 95-percent of Mexican descent.

I said, look at me. I used to go, I went to Harvard and Stanford University to speak to the students, and everyone assumed that, uh, I came from a wealthy Mexican family. They asked me. Mr. Castro, you must come from a wealthy family in Mexico. I said, no. To the contrary.

I come, my family placed a lot of credibility on education. And you must go to school. Get an education. Participate. Be active. If you do that, no problem. That's why you're here in Harvard. So, that's, that's been done. (can't understand)

I spend my time in the state of Arizona.



You know that there's a school in Phoenix, uh, Raul Castro School in Phoenix that I go to. There's a junior college I, Phoenix College, Raul Castro Institute. There's a building in, out at Teachers College in Flagstaff, the Raul Castro Building. There's another one in the University of Arizona. Etc. You know that's, that type of thing.

**PS** So, you're not going to be forgotten, that's for sure. (laughter)

**RC** I hope not.

**PS** Well, I know I was working in news in the 70s, and...

**RC** Working where?

**PS** I worked at Channel 10. In Phoenix. (**RC** – Yeah.) And, uh, I remember you being elected. And, uh, I remember our reporter, Jesus Hernandez, covering your thing. Uh. But I also remember people being very surprised and disappointed when you resigned. (**RC** – Yeah.) Tell me how that happened.

**RC** That I resigned? (**PS** – Yeah.)

Well, you know again, I'm a product of the, uh, Mexican border. Cananea, Mexico, Douglas, Phoenix, Tucson. Etc. And, uh, I have great respect for relations between Latin America and the United States.

And I felt things were wobbly between Latin America and the United States. I felt that I could do some good as an Ambassador in Latin America.

And, uh, for instance, in Argentina. I got Argentina.

Their (can't understand) was, why do they send a Mexican to be the American Ambassador in Argentina?

Well, that opened the door for me. I says, look. The United States of American welcomes everyone. In the United States I'm an American. Uh. Participate in everything that they have. I am one of the citizens. I have a big office in the United States. And that, that's the reason I...

And I felt badly because the Latin people in Arizona when I left felt that I had abandoned them. Here you struggle to get elected, and then you resign and go to Latin America. But that's the way it is because I still (can't understand)





They ask, why Nogales? Why am I in Nogales? I'm in Phoenix, I come to Nogales right on the border. Fifty miles from, fifty yards from Mexico.

**PS** What did you tell those people that felt like you abandoned them?

**RC** Yes.

**PS** What did you tell them?

**RC** I tell them, look, I, I'm interested because, number one, I am impro, interested in improving relations between the United States and Mexico. And by being on the border, I'm active and participate...I'm active in the American side, I'm active on the Mexican side. And we help each other out.

**PS** But, couldn't you have waited another year after, till after your term as governor was over?

**RC** Yeah. (laughs) I was, that shows how interested I am in re, relations with Latin America.

**PS** And, uh...

**RC** I'm in Phoenix. Where, where am I here? You know.

**PS** But, Jimmy Carter was the president that appointed you. How well did you know Jimmy Carter?

**RC** Well, Jimmy Carter... (**PS** – Yeah.) to Argentina?

**PS** Yeah.

**RC** Well, let me tell you the story.

I was governor at the time, and I, uh, (swallows) was staying at the, uh...

Governors don't have a home in Phoenix. You know, you have to own (??) your home. And my home was not Phoenix, it's Tucson. So, I'm live in a motel.

I lived in a motel, uh, corner of, uh, I think, uh, I forgot the (can't understand) street. I forgot the name of the street now. But I lived, lived in a motel there.

And one day I got a call from, uh, Jimmy Carter. And he said, uh, governor. I wasn't (can't



understand) governor yet. This is Jimmy Carter. And I'm running for president.

Well, to me Jimmy Carter was nothing. Who's Jimmy Carter? I was living in that motel.

So, um, said, I just talked to you. Could I see you? I said, well, yeah, but I'm busy. Uh. Why don't you come in about 4:30. Uh. On Thomas. On Thomas, it was a motel on Thomas. (can't understand). Come in and sit down. I'll, I'll be glad to talk to you.

So, he came in with somebody else. And, uh, rapped on the door. I'm Jimmy Carter.

He said, I know what you're going through, and I appreciate it. Cause I used to be governor of Georgia.

I didn't know any, I mean, I had no idea who Jimmy Carter was. I wasn't very nice to him.

Spent about 15, 20 minutes with him. I was anxious to get rid of him.

I said, I have a commitment to speak at the Rotary Club somewhere, and, uh, I've got to be there. So, I'm late. So, I got up and opened the door and pushed him out. I don't think he spent half an hour in my room.

I felt bad, badly afterwards. But he kept calling me. You know, I'm, I want you to campaign for me. Go to Phoenix, Tucson. Uh. Go to Chicago, New York. Etc. I think you can do some good for me.

So finally, I agreed. And I did. I traveled all over the United States campaigning for Jimmy Carter. Yeah.

Yeah, a very nice guy. Very pleasant. Very courteous. Uh. Also, his, his wife.

Except that I didn't care for his staff when he got elected. The staff he had with him. I didn't care for them. So. Yeah.

**PS** So you did get to know him then?

**RC** Pardon?

**PS** You got to know him pretty well then.

**RC** Yeah. Yeah, I did. Yes. I did.



**PS** But that was an interesting time when we had a, Arizona had a Democratic governor and a Democratic president. Um. Haven't had that for a while. (laughs)

**RC** Yeah.

**PS** So, uh, how are we doing on time? (hear **BS** saying there's six minutes left)

**RC** Jimmy Carter. Yeah. Lyndon Johnson was a toughie. Oh.

**PS** Very different. (laughs)

**RC** He wanted me to go work for him in the White House. He went to El Salvador, spent a weekend at our house with, uh, his wife and, and Lynda. The daughter.

And we were in the limousine. He said, I want you to spend, well, for me in the White House. I said, thank you, Mr. President, but I it overseas. I think as a, I can do better for my country being abroad, overseas, then by being in the White House. I just didn't want any part of it.

He was tough. He, uh, had a function at one of the hotels in Salvador, and I had to send the invitations out, etc.

And of course, I was number one standing in line, then the president, then Mrs. Johnson, then my wife. And, uh, people are coming in, and I had to introduce them to the president. Cause I knew everybody in El Salvador. Small country.

And, uh, they would chat with me because they knew me. And, uh, I would chat with the people coming in, and I would introduce the president and Mrs. But he kicked me. He said, what the hell you doing? They're supposed to chat with me not with you. You know. (laughs)

**PS** He was quite a personality.

**RC** Oh, God. He was, he was a toughie, I'll tell you.

**PS** Very different than Jimmy Carter.

**RC** Oh, completely.

**PS** Well, he fact that Arizona didn't have...



**RC** You know, I just, you know, he wanted to, me to change my name.

**PS** Change it to?

**RC** I, uh, after he left, uh, Tucson, when he met me at the courthouse.

I received a phone call saying, how would you like to be the U.S. Attorney for the state of Arizona? Yeah.

I said, well, thank you very much except I've been County Attorney for over ten years now. And I've been prosecuting for many, many years. And I had, I had enough prosecution. Up to here. I'd rather not, I'm not interested in being a prosecutor anymore.

Well, what would you like to be, he asked? Well, I don't...

So then, that's when Carl Hayden was senator. He called Carl Hayden. And Carl Hayden called me.

Well, what would you like to be? Said I'd like to be ambassador. Cause I worked at Agua Prieta at the Consulate, as a little background on it.

So, he called me up and he said, well, let me call the President and tell him you'd like to be ambassador. Called Lyndon Johnson. He said, he'd like to be an ambassador. He said, oh, my God. He said, I am running for President of the United States. And, uh, number one, you have to consider the situation.

We got Fidel Castro and Raul Castro in Cuba. Raul Castro, same name as the governor. And if I appoint him, any job at this point right now, then they'll say I'm appointing a communist to be U.S. Ambassador. He said, I can't do that.

Why don't you ask him if he will change his name and see, to his mother's name. My mother's name was Acosta. And, instead of a Castro, use the name Acosta, and then we'll take care of it.

I said, no way, Jose. I love my name. My name, Castro, stays. I will not change my name. So, he gave me, appointed me anyway. So. That's the story. That's Lyndon Johnson. Very tough.

**PS** I'm sure having that name had, has led to some confusion though, hasn't it?

**RC** Oh, yeah. And Raul Castro's now president. Yeah. (can't understand) Fidel Castro.



**PS** But you still have confusion.

**RC** Yeah. And Raul is the president.

**PS** Yeah. Now he is.

**RC** So it's a, (swallows) it's a...

And you know, I always, uh, when I was, uh, ambassador, of course I had free entrance to the White House. Coming in and out. And we had functions at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York, with presidents of other countries, etc. All the hoi-polloi were there. And I think to myself, if people in Arizona only saw me, (laughs) rubbing elbows with all these people, you know. (laughs) After being nothing. You know, to being at the Waldorf-Astoria.

**BS** (warns tape is almost out)

**PS** Okay. We've got to change tape. I've got a few more questions.

**PS** ...your relationship with the Indians. When did you first start getting to know the Indians?

**RC** In Flagstaff? In school?

When I was going to Flagstaff in 1930, 35 through 39. I, uh, used to go, being an athlete. Go to the Navajo Reservation and the Hopi Reservation. And they had some students in the college there.

And, Peter McDonald got to be a good friend of mine. Peter McDonald was Chairman of the Navajo for many years. So.

He used to invite me to go there, and spend some time with him. Yeah.

**PS** So, when you were running for governor did you visit them?

**RC** Oh, yeah, absolutely. Not only them, also up here in, by Tucson, on the Nava, not them, the Hopis.

**PS** They were the Papago then.

**RC** The Papago. Here. The Papago. Yeah.



**PS** Now they're...

**RC** I used to spend a lot of time in there.

And it was kind of (can't understand) when I was County Attorney in Tucson, you have to go through Tucson, and the, and the pueblo or reservation. So, I would stop there and have dealings with them. And chatter. Yeah. So, I got to, got to know them quite well.

**PS** And, of course, there were the water issues with the, (**RC** – Oh, yeah.) people (**RC** – Yeah.). Did you get involved with some of those?

**RC** Yeah. Yeah. Sure.

So, its', uh, you know, it's, it's a question of moving around and get, get to know people in that sense of the word.

Kingman, I used to, used to go to court in Kingman quite often. Uh. I used to go to Kingman there and spend weeks at a time holding court. Yeah. And that's part of the area there.

Also, for Yuma. I used to go to Yuma quite often. Spent a lot of time in Yuma.

**PS** And, when you were campaigning for governor, did you visit the reservations?

**RC** Oh, yes. Oh, of course. Absolutely. Yeah. And, they, they knew me. Yeah.

Yeah, Peter McDonald was a good friend of mine. Oh, he was Republican if I remember. Yeah. Even though he supported me fully. (can't understand)

**PS** And, were they, were they surprised to see you come up there?

**RC** Yes. And, of course, the fact I was a Mexican-American, sort of they linked themselves with me in that sense of the word. By our heritage. (laughs)

So, it's, uh, it's a small world, isn't it? In that sense of the word.

I was always surprised when I was in school in Flagstaff, there were very few Indian students. Very few. Despite the fact that the Hopi Reservation, and the Navajo, is right there. There were very few. Yeah.

**PS** I think that's changed today.



- RC** Yeah. Probably. I'm sure it's...
- PS** All right. Um. So, uh, so do you think that helped you get elected?
- RC** Oh, sure. There's no doubt about it. Yeah. Every bit, every bit counts. Yeah. Uh. Yeah.
- PS** What about some of the other, um, Democrats at that time? Were there any particular ones you remember that supported you?
- RC** Well, the Democrats at that point, they ran for office all right, but didn't get elected. That's, that's (can't understand)
- PS** Well, now, Sam Goddard had been elected.
- RC** Yes, Sam Goddard, uh, yeah, he got elected once, didn't he?
- PS** Right. In the 60s.
- RC** Then his son run twice, I think. Yeah. Yeah, Sam Goddard. Yeah.
- PS** But Sam had been elected in the 60s. And he was from Tucson. So, did you know Sam Goddard?
- RC** Sam Goddard run, has run several times. Yeah. I thought he would win. He, he came to Nogales. He didn't. It's a little...
- The personalities are different, you know. He's not as out-going as... (**PS** – But...) Yeah.
- PS** Of course, the other...
- RC** (can't understand)
- PS** (can't understand over **RC**) ...the other Democrat, of course, that we are, that, the time you're talking about...
- RC** Isn't that the fellow at the gas stations? Now living in California. Ran against me.
- PS** Oh, DeConcini? (**RC** – Huh?) DeConcini? No. Deconcini?
- RC** No, no, no, no. No, Dennis worked for me. He was part of my cabinet. No.



No, it was, uh, (**BS** – In California?) And he had a girlfriend who had been a movie star or something. He married her. Uh. Hmmf. Even for governor twice. Never, never got elected. Yeah.

And, he had, uh, two or three gas stations in the Phoenix area. Yeah. Yeah.

**PS** Well, what about Carl Hayden? He was certainly a governor, a senator for many years.

**RC** Yeah.

**PS** Did you know him?

**RC** Yes.

**PS** And how, (**RC** – Yeah.) how well...

**RC** Yeah. He was, uh...

**PS** Were you friends?

**RC** He was in the Senate. Yeah. Absolutely. Yeah.

Every time I'd get sworn in...in Congress, of course...I would see him. He was a powerhouse. Yeah. Yeah, he, he was well respected as a senator. Yeah.

**PS** Did he help you?

**RC** Yeah. He did. Yeah.

**PS** And, what about Barry Goldwater?

**RC** Barry Goldwater, who was my neighbor in Phoenix. You know I live in, uh, Paradise...uh...I forget the name. (**PS** – Paradise Valley?) Huh? (**PS** – Paradise Valley?) Paradise Valley. Yeah. Right next door. Barry lived right next door. Or I lived... (**PS** – On a hill there.) Yeah. And that's where I lived for years. In Paradise Valley. Yeah.

Yeah, and Barry was a good friend of mine. Yeah. In fact, I, every time I go to Washington.... Barry would...he was chairman of the, uh, Armed Services Committee. And I represent the National Guard. So, I'd go before Barry.

And every time I'd get confirmed as an ambassador, Barry would come up and put in a good





word for me. Yeah. We were real good friends.

**PS** Well then, people have said that politics were different then. That, the...Democrats and Republicans like Barry Goldwater and Carl Hayden worked together (**RC** – Yeah.) for Arizona. (**RC** – Yeah.) Do you remember that? How things were different?

**RC** Yeah, (can't understand) Very much so. Yeah.

**PS** Well, what do you think about politics today?

**RC** Well, it's in a, in a (can't understand). I can't put my finger on it. You know. Yeah.

The, uh, country is upside down in essence... (can't understand). I don't know. It's going to tear the whole thing to pieces.

And, I, uh, feel sorry for Obama. He's in the middle of it.

He writes letters every day of the week. I get them in the mail. From Obama, yeah. Yeah.

**PS** Things are different now.

**RC** Yeah.

**PS** Of course, now we've had a lot of women governors. Did you ever think we'd have so many women governors?

**RC** No. (**PS** laughs) You know I never, I'm surprised I never met Brewer before. And I've been in public office in Arizona all over the place. So, I assume I would know her.

And one day I was up in, uh, Phoenix. The, uh, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce had a, uh, a banquet. And she was there sitting at a table.

And here comes this lady, hugged me, kissed me. She said, may I have a picture taken with you? I said, oh, absolutely. Had no idea who the woman was. I thought she was ugly as sin, but you know. (someone laughs off camera)

So, uh, left. And she got on the stage. And said a few words, etc. (an't understand) speech. Then the president of the Chamber of Commerce got up and said, Governor...that's when I learned she was the governor...uh, we want you to know, uh, that we are utterly opposed to your bills that you're printing (?). Completely opposed to it.



And then on Monday she signed the bill, 1040 (??). Yeah. (can't understand)

But I didn't know her. I was surprised that she, she was active in politics. I didn't know her.

**PS** But did you know Rose Mofford?

**RC** Oh, Rose. Who doesn't know Rose? (laughs) Yeah, Rose. All over the place. Yeah. I know Rose quite well, yeah.

She was from Globe. Softball pitcher. Yeah.

**PS** Yep. And she, she's also a former Historymaker, and she usually comes to the Historymaker dinner. So, you'll probably see her there.

**RC** Yeah. (**PS** laughs) Yeah.

**PS** She's been very active at the Historymakers (**RC** – Yeah.).

**RC** the one that I can't place, what happened to him, was from Kingman. A judge of Superior Court. And he was in the Supreme Court of Arizona. But I...

You know, as we get older your memory begins to slip. (**PS** – Yeah.) (laughs) And how well I know, yeah.

**PS** Well, uh, tell me about what you're doing these days.

**RC** I tell you, I'm on every (can't understand) of Arizona, I'm talking to people, etc. Mostly on education. Encouragement. Go to school. Etc. Uh. American.

And then, tell them, realize I live on the Mexican border if you're interested in improving relations with both countries. Etc.

People say why would you move to Nogales? (laughs) You know, that's...it's never been one of my favorite towns. Out of Douglas, no? But, Pat liked, saw this house, liked it and bought it, moved in here. My wife, yeah.

**PS** So, it wasn't your idea. (laughs)

**RC** It wasn't my idea, no. No. Yup.



**PS** Well, it is a nice...

**RC** And, uh, (swallows) the reason we moved was, uh, one day she said, you know, Phoenix is getting terrible. The traffic is terrible.

I'd go to the office, I was angry at the world because of the traffic, you know.

And she said, let's get out of here. My God, let's go somewhere. So, she started on her own looking for a house. Found this house enroute. (laughs)

**PS** Wasn't it your idea to come to Nogales?

**RC** Of course, I'd lived in Tucson for many years. (**PS** – Yeah.)

You know, I had a horse farm in Tucson. (**PS** – Oh.) I was a horseman. I had all kinds of, uh, Shetland ponies, (can't understand), thoroughbreds. And, you name it. You know. And I planted, uh, all kinds of vegetables for the horses and the animals. And ourselves.

I enjoyed Tucson. I thought it was good.

**PS** We need to get some pictures of that. (**RC** – Yeah.) I have seen a picture of you on a horse, I think when you were younger.

**RC** (can't understand) Yeah. Yeah.

**PS** And then I see you also raised dogs? Were they like these dogs? (laughs)

**RC** (laughs) Yeah. It's, uh, it's amazing. Yeah.

**PS** You don't have any dogs now?

**RC** We had one dog. My wife took it to the vet to put to sleep. Because he was beginning to be a nuisance. And the vet liked the dog. Instead of putting it to sleep, took it to his house. Still around. Still alive. But we had a dog, yes.

We had a dog in Argentina and Bolivia. Had dogs everywhere we've been.

**PS** No dog now.

**RC** Yeah. I like dogs. We like animals really. In that sense of the word. Yeah. Yeah.



**PS** So, well, tell me a little bit about your wife. How did you meet?

**RC** How did I meet her?

I, uh, was in law school, of course, and graduated from law school. And, uh, her mother, from Milwaukee, uh, had emphysema, etc. Asthma. So, they told her, you better go to Arizona.

So, she went to Phoenix, and Phoenix was a little too damp for her. Came to Tucson and stayed. Bought a house in Tucson. So, she came in to visit her mother. In Tucson.

Liked Tucson, stayed. Got a job as a, an assistant U.S. Attorney, uh, assistant, uh, Marshall. U.S. Marshall

She was a U.S. Marshall for a couple of years. Then she got a job as a detective in the Sheriff's Office. I was County Attorney. So, she would arrest them, I would prosecute. (laughs)

And that's how we met, right? In every sense of the word.

And the funny part of it is, my mother would always tell me, my father died (can't understand). She said, Son, whatever you do, I don't want you ever to marry an American girl. I says, why, Mother? She says, look. American girls don't take care of their children, they walk in the street with a cigarette in their hand, they go to bars and saloons, etc. They just, uh, don't make a good wife.

Don't say that, Mother. It's not true.

So, one day we, Pat, courted her for five years. Courtship. Finally, I said, Pat, five years is too long. And you haven't met my family. You better meet my family.

Borrowed a police car, the Sheriff (can't understand), one of the Sheriff's cars. We're going to go to Douglas. When we get to our home, put on the siren, turn on the red lights. The neighbors will come out and say, the Castros are at it again. And Mother will come out and you'll meet my mother.

That's the way we did it. (hear someone in background) Got in there. (can't understand) little green eyes. Looked at me and smiled, and kissed me. I said, Mother, I want you to meet my fiancée.

And she said in Spanish, muchacho Cabron. You...not very good to translate because it wasn't



very pleasant. But she smiled. Gotta smile, she didn't want to be rude.

So, went in the house, etc.

Then the, uh, I made it a point to see that we stayed overnight. So, I, she put me in the front bedroom, and my wife in the back bedroom so there'd be no touching.

And the following day I made it a point to leave Douglas late. At noon. I had to go to Flagstaff.

And I says, Mother, I'm going to Flagstaff. And, uh, we have a, I had a brother, Ernesto, who was a teacher in Flagstaff. And maybe you want to see him. Oh, yes, of course. But I didn't tell her I wanted to take Pat with me.

So, next morning we came in, picked her up, went to Tucson. Her mother's house. Where Pat was. And I said, uh, when I got to Tucson that afternoon, I said, uh, Mother, it's late. I don't drive late at night. I'm going to go to my apartment, and you and Pat stay with her mother here in Tucson. Overnight.

So, I made it a point that they'd stay overnight. Either a fistfight or something, but... (laughter)

When I come in next day to go to Flagstaff, peaches and cream. Very, very friendly and smiling, etc. From that day on, (laughs) Pat was always right and I was wrong. She really got along. Absolutely.

Went to Flagstaff to the, uh, Pow Wow. Sold (??) supplies and etc. It was nice, and it worked out very, very fine.

**PS** So your mother changed her mind about American girls.

**RC** Completely, (said over **PS** talking) yeah. Completely.

Goes to show, you change by meeting people.

**PS** But, it sounds like she had quite a career before you married. (**RC** – Yeah.) Yeah, that's unusual that long ago to be a detective. (**RC** – Yeah.) For a woman to be a detective, there weren't many women detectives I don't think.

**RC** No. And she was, uh, a detective and a U.S. Marshall, of course. Which took prisoners to, back East somewhere, you know.



**PS** So, after you married, then, how long before you had children?

**RC** No, then, that's not the end of the story.

My wife had married somebody, uh, in, uh, Japan. A sergeant (??) (can't understand) That's where Korea comes in. And, uh, he got killed in Korea. Her husband. They were both in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

So, uh, and killed in Korea. And had two children. Two girls. Beth and Marybeth (??). They were two and three years of age. They never met their father. They didn't know what their father looked like. Because he got killed.

And, again, the youngest was born in Tokyo.

So, when that made, and, I became their father. Two and three years of age, that's the only father they ever knew.

One's in San Diego, the other one in, uh, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**PS** That's why she's blonde. (laughs)

**RC** Yeah. (laughs)

**PS** Do you have grandchildren also?

**RC** No.

**PS** No?

**RC** Yeah. (mumbles) I shouldn't say no. Grandchildren in San Diego. I have a grandson in San, San Diego. And a granddaughter in San Diego. Three children, uh, grandchildren, in San Diego. And two in, uh, Texas. Yeah.

**PS** But you yourself didn't have any children.

**RC** No. No.

**PS** You just raised them. (laughs)

**RC** Yeah.



**PS** That makes them yours. (laughs)

**RC** I had a load already.

**PS** Yeah. Okay. Well, uh...

**RC** These are, these are the girls there, there and there. Those pictures there.

**PS** I know you've gotten a lot of awards over the years. Uh. But...

**RC** Let me tell, before we get to the awards.

Coming out of San Diego. We had a home in San Diego. And we'd go there in the summertime. And come back Monday to go to work.

And, I'm coming back from San Diego one day in Yuma. And there was this station of Border Patrol. And I was driving. Typical. Looked at me. I don't look German or etc. And the Border says, where were you born?

Well, I don't lie. Mexico. So, he started quibbling (sic) me, you know.

What about the young lady. That's Beth, the youngest one. She's blonde, blue-eyed. You know. She said, Tokyo, Japan.

Well, he assumed we were giving him the business, or being smart aleck. She was born in Tokyo. Her, her father was in Tokyo and she was born in Tokyo, Japan while he was there. (laughs)

So, I, when I travel, of course, same story with Border Patrol. Look at me. (laughter)

**PS** Well, we all have to take our passports everywhere now.

**RC** Yeah.

You were starting to tell me something.

**PS** Well, I was going to ask you about the awards. I know you have a long list of awards that you've received over the years. But I always like to ask, is there any particular award that you're particularly proud of?



**RC** Well, I think I'm proud of all the awards that I got in Latin America. At different embassies, you know. Because that, that would have been my motto(??) trying to get the United States and Latin America to, together and work as a team.

And, uh, my being there as an ambassador, they knew I was of Mexican descent, so that may have opened the door for me to, to prove. So, when they sent me to Argentina, why would they send a Mexican to be the American Ambassador? That opened the door for me to explain it. And that's kind of, we accept everybody. We know everybody, we accept them as our own. And that's why we (can't understand) an ambassador there.

**PS** And plus you knew the language which made it easier.

**RC** Yeah. And the language, of course. Yeah. So, it's, uh...

**PS** Well, what about any awards that you've gotten in Arizona?

**RC** God, I, I forgot...I've got a trunkful of awards, but you know. I, uh, I don't recall any...

I became an, an American citizen and that was the biggest award I've ever gotten. I think. In my opinion. As an American.

I, uh, received the award in Bisbee. I went, uh, there was an examination. Pass the exam. It was full of people of foreign extraction in Bisbee in the courthouse. Mostly Yugoslavians, Serbians, etc. Had a horrible accent.

And I, uh, I didn't have any trouble with the language. I don't... So, they, uh, immigration was really nice with me. The judge, etc. They gave me the award. And, I said certain things. Yeah. That's when I...

In 1930, 39, I become an American citizen. So that's the day, best award ever. (can't understand) I feel that. As an American, in every sense of the word. Yeah. Yeah.

**PS** So all the schools that have been named for you and things like that, that's...

**RC** Yeah, the schools, lot of schools have been named after me. And buildings. You know the University of Arizona has the building named after me. Flagstaff's another building. And one coming (??), supposed to on the window, etc., big photograph of mine (sic) on the window, and script, and that type of thing. Yeah. Etc.

And there's a school in Phoenix, Raul Castro. Phoenix is a Raul Castro Institute in Phoenix





College. And down there (can't understand)

**PS** Well, how do you see the, the future of Arizona?

**RC** I think Arizona has a good future really. And that's in every sense of the word. I think, uh...

Arizona will absolutely be the gateway to Latin America. I think...enough effort is being made now to open the gates and the doors to try to, and I am working with, and so's my wife.

If you go to Mexico, it takes you two hours to get back. You know. The delay is awful. And then, that doesn't sit well with the Mexicans, etc.

So, they're having a meeting I think next week, here, uh, I'll be talking to them, to try and improve this thing to shorten the time. You know.

And that's, that's the main objective, my main objective. At this point it's living in a border town to help out.

**PS** What about the, the overall immigration issues?

**RC** Yeah, it's, uh, you know, and it's, uh...

There's got to be great respect between both countries, in every sense of the word. Yeah. And it's improved. It's gotten better, really. Sense of the word.

In my younger days it was terrible. It got...you know...you were afraid to go across the border. And, uh, be shot and killed and etc. Not as bad now. It's not perfect, but it's, it's an improvement.

**PS** Of course it was a lot easier to go across the border before. I remember even in the 70s, I did a documentary on the border towns. And there was no fence in a lot of places, or if there was, it was a couple strands of barbed wire. So...

**RC** Now it takes you a couple hours to get back. In Nogales. (**PS** – Right.) And that's, uh, that's the thing, that's where people are fighting at this moment to improve it. To allow people to come through in one, you know...

**PS** But you've seen it change where now they're building these huge fences.

**RC** Yeah.



**PS** What do you think about that? (**RC** – The, the what, now?) The big tall fences that they’re building all along the border.

**RC** Oh, yeah. Yeah.

And it’s going to be more. More. An effort’s being made to bring business to Nogales, and also to the Mexican side. So, it is. It’s, it’s an improvement coming in there.

They got what they call the *maquiladoras*, American factories. (**PS** – Right.) Yeah, there...

**PS** I filmed one in the 70s.

**RC** Gosh, there must be twenty of those over there.

**PS** I filmed one in the 1970s. They were making Sears garage door openers (**RC** – Yeah.) down there.

**RC** Yeah.

And over in Guaymas, you know they, they’re, they’re manufacturing cars now. Automobiles in Guaymas, etc. Hermosillo is a car factory, too. So. So there, it’s, it’s getting there.

**PS** But what do you think about the, the tall fences they’re building all along?

**RC** The tall fences? (**PS** – Hmm, hm.)

Yeah. And that’s not the worst part of it. The worst part is that the, the Border Patrol is getting out of hand. They’re shooting people in Mexico. You know, about 16-year-old boy was killed in Mexico because they threw rocks at Border Patrol. For throwing rocks. Not they’re throwing a gun. They killed the boy. And the Mexicans got all excited about it. So.

**PS** It looks so different to see those big fences where you used to be able to just look across. (**RC** – Yeah.) And even walk across.

**RC** That’s right, yeah.

**PS** So, you think it’s going to stay that way, with the big fences?

**RC** Yeah. You’ve got to, you know you, uh, have to respect, like, uh, you know just, uh, a year ago,



it was my birthday, and I was going to Tucson to a dinner at the Mountain Oyster Club. One of our neighbors was driving me. My wife was already there making the arrangements.

And when I got to the, uh, Patagonia. Not Patagonia, Tubac, station. Get off the car. Put me in the sun in the middle of, my birthday's June.

And they said, you took, what have you got? They assumed I was, uh, had, uh, drugs or something. You know. And the lady turned to me and says, this is the former Ambassador of Arizona. He's a retired America, uh, American Ambassador. Former governor, etc. Former judge. And the (can't understand)

The meantime the people in Phoe, Tucson, are waiting for me there. For my birthday. And messes up (can't understand) everything, and creates a dilemma, you know.

And, when I was, uh, here, well, I'm still here. I was active in the Chamber of Commerce. My daughter, young one, was the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce. We'd have meetings, and I would tell the Border Patrol, you don't ask the question, where were you born?

We have thousands of soldiers abroad now who take their wives. Children are being born abroad. They're American. The law provides if you're born abroad of American parents and register the child at the embassies, the consulates, they're American.

John McCain was born in Panama. Yeah. (can't understand)

And this is the law. Let's, let's respect it. We're not doing that. We're being abusive. That's a...

**PS** Yeah. Good, good point.

**RC** Pardon?

**BS** It's a good point.

**RC** Yeah. Sure.

**PS** So, do you see, how do you see Arizona's future?

**RC** I think Arizona has a very good future. I think there is a movement at hand to improve things all the way around. Really. Uh. Tucson, Phoenix, etc. There's a (can't understand) that they're interested. They're aware of it. And it's, let's change things.



There was a setback I would say two or three years back. When I first came to Nogales it was terrible. Things are beginning to shape up pretty well.

Committees, the Chamber of Commerce, etc. New homes are being built. Schools are being built, etc.

**PS** And what advice do you give to the young people today? Um. If, if...

**RC** Well, you know, I am interested in young people because as a young person in Douglas, with segregated schools, uh, we couldn't learn the English language very well cause it's all Spanish, etc. We weren't allowed to participate. To be active.

Now we find in Nogales and everywhere else, schools are mixed, etc. and they have. They're, they're emphasizing learning the English language well. Etc. So there's a (can't understand). I see quite an improvement.

**PS** And what about, if young people were trying to decide what they want to do with their life, what, what do you tell them?

**RC** Especially living in a, in a border community, that's pretty hard to, to make up your mind. You know, to leave the border to go ask for, to find another job. There's, that's almost, almost impossible.

When people here have a, a (can't understand) mind, it's all Spanish. The language is Spanish in Nogales, Arizona. All the way through.

And, it's, trying to get them to motivate and learn the English language well, participate, be active, etc. Go to school at the University of Arizona. It's close by. Cochise College is close by. And that.

And they had a, uh, junior college up here. It's closed, it's gone. But a lot of the kids are going to Tucson university. And the University of Arizona has a campus here in Nogales. Uh. They have a school where people can enroll and participate. Cochise College has a campus here.

So, there's a lot of improvement in that sense.

**PS** And, as far as for what they want to do as careers or where their lives, what, what do you tell your grandchildren?

**RC** What do I think of what?



**PS** What do you tell your grandchildren if they wanted to know what to do with their lives?

**RC** Well, you know that's, well, I tell them (can't understand) in schools. I mean, you must get an education. And participate. You must be active. You must respect the elderly. Learn the English language well. Be proud of the community. But, be active. Join the Chamber of Commerce. Join something. Be proud of...just don't sit there loafing, do nothing. You gotta be part of the (can't understand)

That's one thing I learned, you know, when I went to Tucson from Douglas. (swallows) And I was in law school. I got out of law school.

I joined the Rotary Club. Uh. Blue Cross, Blue Shield. The, uh, Boy Scouts. Even the Girl Scouts. YMCA. WCA. Joined everything I could join. To participate and be active. Etc.

And the first thing you know I, I became president of all this. I was part of the (can't understand). And that's the way you can do it. Be, be part of the team.

**PS** Of course, that shows your, your leadership talents that...

**RC** Sure. She put...and it kills me now when I learn that the Elks club in Douglas wouldn't allow, if you're of Mexican descent, or Tucson or in Phoenix. Uh. Or, you know. Or lodges they want to, want to join. It's, it's awful.

**PS** They don't let them join now?

**RC** No. (talking over **PS**) Can't join.

**PS** You're kidding.

**RC** No. (**PS** – Really?) You have to be Caucasian.

**PS** Really? I would have thought today...

**RC** But, uh....

You know, one way or the other I am...

For instance, in Douglas, uh, they got the, uh, park, 10<sup>th</sup> Street Park, in Douglas. (stumbles on name a little) George W.P. Hunt, first governor of Arizona. Living in Pirtleville with all the Mexican families.



And one day there was an announcement made in the paper, the Douglas Dispatch (hear train in background), that the first governor of Arizona would visit Douglas, Arizona, and give a speech at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Park. 10<sup>th</sup> Street Park. It's the name of the park.

There'll be free hot dogs and hamburgers. The governor didn't appeal to me, but the free hot dogs and hamburgers did.

So, three or four Mexican kids made it a point to go to Douglas, walked to Douglas, go to the park and participate in eating hot dogs and hamburgers. Free on the governor.

Well, after a while then somebody in the bandstand made the announcement, blew a bugle, and said the governor of Arizona is arriving. Please come to the bandstand and listen to the governor.

So, three kids, Mexicans, moved into, into the bandstand. I remember putting my hand on the bandstand, on the steps as they go up.

So, the governor comes in. George W.P. Hunt. Wearing a pith helmet. Sort of an African pith helmet. Very thick glasses. Uh. A white linen suit. And very heavy, heavysset. And a moustache.

Got up and sat down. And they called on him, and he got up to give his speech. And he looked around, said nice things about the people of Douglas. Being in a border community which, gateway to opportunity and etc.

He says, one of these days, one of these barefooted Mexican kids, he pointed right at me, will be governor of Arizona. Believe it or not.

Didn't mean much to me. (burps) But, 20, 30, 40 years later I did pick, become governor of Arizona.

I went to the tomb in, out of Phoenix. There's a tomb there. Between Phoenix and Tempe, for Governor Hunt, etc.

So, it's, uh, you know, it's, uh, it's a small world in that sense of the word.

And, uh, I became very attached to participating in this type of activity. You know.

**PS** He had quite an insight to...

**RC** Well, you have to be a participate. You can't just...you can't be a follower. And my idea is,



you've got to participate. You gotta to be active. You gotta to be motivated. You've got to move. You know.

Can't always win, but at least you give it a try. Yeah.

**PS** Too bad he didn't live long enough to see you become governor.

**RC** Yeah. And you know the funny part, every time I travel and I pass a school, that gets my attention. I get motivated. I see a school, and that catches my eye. A school or a church. That's why (can't understand)

Because I believe in them, you know. And that's the thing that's important. Yeah. You know.

**PS** Well, I think you're doing very well for your age. And you're still active, and (laughs)

**RC** 97. Yeah. God.

**PS** I'm sure you knew Polly Rosenbaum?

**RC** What?

**PS** Polly Rosenbaum. You knew her? Did you know Polly Rosenbaum?

**RC** Oh, sure. Quite well.

**PS** Yeah. And you know...I remember we, videotaping one of her speeches when she was a 102. (laughs) So you think you'll still be...

**RC** I, I never dreamt I'd be this old. But but you know, getting older is not easy. My wife is to be 90 before long. And, of course, (can't understand) the knees, or the eyes, etc. Or the ears. Don't hear well. Or something. But you keep on, you know.

I still move. I still go to Phoenix, Flagstaff. They're having some function in Flagstaff on homecoming. They want me to be there, you know. Ha! I have no business mov, moving around, but, still. You gotta do it.

**PS** As long as you can, I think.

**RC** Yeah. Stay with it. Yeah.



**PS** Yeah. You're doing quite well.  
Was there anything that I should have asked you that I didn't?

**RC** No, I think you did pretty well (laughs) I think you've done really well, really. Considering...

**PS** I think I've gotten through my questions, but is there anything else you wanted to tell us?

**RC** No. I think it's, uh, pretty well...

No, I, when I travel the United States, I see it all in, see different people. And, uh, what's made me change, the fact that, on discrimination, I used to feel very badly that I, well, what I went through as a young child.

But, in my travels, I find this is not the only problem. The other people got the same face (sic). And, let's face it. Quit crying. Let's do something about it.

I remember being, as I told you, in Pennsylvania. Yeah. In a boxing match. I was boxing in Pennsylvania.

Got in the ring and, as good boxers do, and, uh, one voice, "Kill that dago. Kill that wop." I was the dago and the wop.

In those days on the East Coast, there were no Latins, no, no Mexicans. A lot of Italians. So, everyone assumed I was Italian. I was a dago and a wop. I didn't like it.

But it made me feel better. Somebody's always been picked on. So, yeah.

And the next fight I got into the ring, yeah, was a big Yugoslavian. And the same thing. "Kill that, kill that bohunk." The bohunk is for the, you know. I heard...the word in Bisbee. Used bohunk.

So, it gave me an uplift. Get a chip on your shoulder. Everybody's got a problem.

I was in (can't understand), Minnesota, going through some apartments. And saw a sign, (swallows) We Do Not Rent to Finns. To Finnish. Finns are blonde, you know, blue-eyed. But the Norwegians and the Swedes want no part of a Finn. They hate 'em. So that (can't understand) worried about the rent, an apartment to a Finn. (laughs) So that made me a new man, really.

That's when I came back to Arizona. (laughs) (can't understand) You know, things happen.





**PS** And I've heard some people today, talk, they refer to Latinos, Hispanic. And, they say Mexican-American is not the right term. We should call them Latinos. What do you feel? What would you like to...?

**RC** Oh, I don't think those terms are disastrous. A, a Latino covers all the...Latin America. Anybody that speaks Spanish is a Latino. Even the Spaniards from Spain. Latinos. Spanish, Spanish is their language there. So, there's not, not a dilemma. Although in this part of the world, Latino is used to symbolize and point at a Mexican. Latino. But I don't use that for other nationalities. Used for Mexicans. And that's where the, the problem comes in. Latino.

**PS** I had a friend that said he wanted to be called Mexican. That means Mexican-American, but he didn't want to be called Latino. He wanted to be, he was proud of his Mexican heritage.

**RC** That's right.

**PS** But what do you prefer?

**RC** It doesn't bother me really. It doesn't. It did when I was younger, but not anymore.

And the reason being, of course, is that this, at this stage of my life, I, uh, I'm pretty much respected by the community, in that sense of the word. (can't understand), so whether you call me Latino or Mexican, it doesn't make any difference. You know. They're friends, etc. I'm invited to, to their parties, whatever that may be. So. I'm one of them in that sense of the word. (**PS** – Okay.) And that, that makes a difference, (can't understand) different people.

**PS** Things change over the years. (laughs)

**RC** Yeah. Sure.

**PS** All right. I think...

**RC** But, you know, the word, the kids, two daughters, granddaughter. Beth and Marybeth (?). They're about (can't understand) They're gringos from the word go. But they prefer that, that I be called a, a Mexican. Yeah. They prefer, (can't understand). I guess they, it's a rebound, it's a defense mechanism. They prefer to be considered Mexican as it were.

And none of them are Mexican than this rug. (laughter)



**PS** Well, it also distinguishes you from the Cubans. In Florida a lot of the Latinos are Cubans. (**RC** – Yeah.) So, you know, I’m sure it makes a difference.

**RC** Fidel and Raul Castro.

When I got married, my honeymoon. We left Tucson, stayed in Nogales overnight. Got a plane in...Mexican side of Nogales. Mexican. Flew to Mexico City. Stayed at the (can’t understand) Hotel. Not knowing that Raul Castro and Fidel Castro were staying at the same hotel. That’s my honeymoon.

So here are people rapping at the door with sidearms, from Fidel and Raul Castro’s gang. Telephone calls. They were preparing to take over Cuba, so all kinds of... (laughs) And that’s, that’s life in the...yeah.

**PS** Did you meet them?

**RC** No, I never met them. I never met them except at the...caused you a lot of problems. I was in, uh, (swallows) Europe, and, uh, I was on a mission in Europe to try to, uh, (swallows) get the bodies out of Vietnam and etc. Soldiers. It was a government mission.

And when I got to Vietnam, the President of North Vietnam was in France. So, I went to France and got an appointment with the Ambassador, or the President of, of Vietnam, who was in France. So, From Paris I flew 35 miles north where the President was. When I got there, soldiers all over the place.

I took my passport, sent it in, and said, I have an appointment with the President of North Vietnam at, at 10:30 this morning. An hour later I’m still waiting. And waiting and waiting. Finally, I said, look. Called a soldier. I sent my passport in. I have an appointment with the President at 10:30. What’s happened?

My passport came back, signed by the President (??). The President assumed he was having a meeting with the Cuban Raul Castro. He will not meet with an American Raul Castro. (can’t understand) So my mission failed. I went back to Paris and came back home. (laughs)

**PS** You’ve had some confusion over the years.

**RC** Yeah, that’s right. So that’s, uh...

**PS** And now that he’s the president of Cuba, that... (laughs)



**RC** Yeah. Now, now, Raul is the President now. (can't understand) Fidel. Now with Raul, so we have the same name. Raul Castro.

And it gives me problems with the U.S. government who don't know me. Immigration, you know. Passport, etc. Raul Castro. He said, what?

**PS** Even though it's an American passport. (laughs)

**RC** I tell them I'm a former ambassador, former governor. Oh, yeah. Eventually it catches on. So. That's, uh, that's...

**PS** Well, I appreciate you taking so much time with us today.

**RC** Oh, it's a pleasure.

**PS** We will be putting together a video, (**RC** –Yeah.) so we will need to get some (**RC** – Sure.) older photos and things like that. (**RC** – Yeah.) I'm sure that some of the Historymaker people (**RC** – Sure.) have already talked to you about that.

**RC** Yeah, I have a lot of people coming in from, you know, from different parts. I've got somebody from Prescott came in last week. I didn't know Prescott had a, a university. He's a professor of a university at the airport. He's writing a book on Bolivia. You know, I was ambassador in Bolivia. (**PS** – Right.)

Made two trips. He wants, uh, information about Bolivia, etc. He's writing a book on it.

**PS** That made me think, uh, I interviewed Bruce Babbitt. Uh. And when he was in school, he was majoring in geology. Or geography. Geology? And, uh, was in Bolivia as a grad student. And he said it was when he was in Bolivia as a student studying geology, he saw the poverty and the people suffering and thought, I don't want to study rocks. I want to help these people. And went back and decided to get...

**RC** People, mostly, uh, (**PS** -- ...to help people.) you know, the Indian population of Bolivia must be ninety-percent. Women wore big long dresses. Adobe hat. Very hot. And if you go by the street, they throw the urine out at the street. Etc.

And, uh, being American Ambassador, you're invited to receptions to (can't understand). And I was told by the Bolivian government, you don't invite those people. I said, well, they're Bolivians and we're the, we're the American Embassy. And that's it. And, kept inviting them. Bolivia's a very tou, very difficult country.



And this fellow is writing a book, uh, Prescott. And, uh, small world.

One day I was with my dog in Bolivian, at about 7:30, 8 o'clock in the morning. And, uh, a very attractive young blonde American girl came up the hill, looked at me, and said, good morning, Judge. How are you this morning, Judge?

I said, young lady, you've called me Judge. You must be from Arizona. Yes, I'm from Nogales.

She had married a Bolivian diplomat. And was living in Bolivia. Walking the dog. (laughs)

**PS** Small world.

**RC** Yes, small world. And the girl was a very good singer, played the guitar. So, every time we had a reception, we'd invite her to sing and play the guitar.

**PS** That's great. Wonder what she's doing now. (laughter) Maybe she's back in, in Nogales.

**RC** It's a small world, you know. I don't know. Yeah.

**PS** Thank you for your time.

**RC** It's a pleasure.

**PS** And we will be in touch to get some more photos. (**RC** – Okay.) I'll try to find some of the old KOOL-TV news film from...