

10-22-2009

## **Interview with Pat Cariaga**

Pat Cariaga

California State University, Monterey Bay

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Interviewee: Pat Cariaga  
Interviewers: Natalie Strunk and Grecia Garcia  
Date of Interview: October 22, 2009  
Duration of Interview: 57:30

**Natalie Strunk 00:00**

My name is Natalie Strunk, and this is—

**Grecia Garcia 00:03**

Grecia Garcia.

**Natalie Strunk 00:09**

—and we are interviewing Pat Simone Cariaga.

**Pat Cariaga 00:40**

Yes.

**Natalie Strunk 00:40**

And today is October 22, 2009, in her home in Salinas, California. And the interview will be concerning your life—your life stories, memories, and memories in Chinatown. And do we have your permission to record the interview.

**Pat Cariaga 00:40**

Yes.

**Natalie Strunk 00:40**

Okay, thank you. So, let's start out, where were you born?

**Pat Cariaga 00:40**

In Salinas.

**Natalie Strunk 00:40**

Salinas, okay. So, then where were your parents born?

**Pat Cariaga 00:41**

My father was born in the Philippines, and my mother was born in New York.

**Natalie Strunk 00:44**

Okay, so they—when did they come here?

**Pat Cariaga 00:48**

My father came when he was about 18, and my mother about 17.

**Natalie Strunk 00:54**

Did they—so they met here?

**Pat Cariaga 00:57**

Yes.

**Natalie Strunk 00:58**

Yeah. Did they have any special memories or stories about their meeting?

**Pat Cariaga 01:14**

No. They never said anything.

**Natalie Strunk 01:16**

No?

**Pat Cariaga 01:16**

No.

**Natalie Strunk 01:17**

When did they get married?

**Pat Cariaga 01:21**

In 1940, I think it was. 1940.

**Natalie Strunk 01:25**

Where did they get married?

**Pat Cariaga 01:27**

They got married here in Salinas.

**Natalie Strunk 01:29**

Did they have a big wedding?

**Pat Cariaga 01:30**

No.

**Natalie Strunk 01:31**

No?

**Pat Cariaga 01:31**

No, not at all. Not in those days.

**Natalie Strunk 01:32**

Small wedding? Yeah. Were lots of family members there?

**Pat Cariaga 01:37**

Nope. Just them too, and just some friends.

**Natalie Strunk 01:40**

Yeah? So, what was your family like? What—when did they start having a family and—

**Pat Cariaga 01:51**

Well, my father's the one that raised us. My mother and him separated when I was about a year old. So my father's the one that raised us.

**Natalie Strunk 01:58**

Okay. And do you have any other siblings?

**Pat Cariaga 02:02**

Yes, I have a brother.

**Natalie Strunk 02:03**

A brother? What's—

**Pat Cariaga 02:04**

His name is Tom.

**Natalie Strunk 02:06**

His name's Tom. Can you tell us any more about Tom?

**Pat Cariaga 02:12**

Tom and I were raised in Chinatown, basically. We lived at the Green and Gold Hotel for a while. And that was our playground.

**Natalie Strunk 02:19**

Yeah. Did you guys get along? Did—was there any sibling fighting or—

**Pat Cariaga 02:28**

No, not really. We're pretty close. Still are.

**Natalie Strunk 02:31**

Yeah, that's neat. What was your household environment like?

**Pat Cariaga 02:39**

As far as—what do you mean?

**Natalie Strunk 02:42**

What sort of things did you do? What—how was the household put together?

**Pat Cariaga 02:52**

Well, my father worked in the fields as a laborer, and my brother and I basically sort of raised ourselves. He used to work quite a bit.

**Natalie Strunk 03:02**

Uh huh. What did he do in the fields?

**Pat Cariaga 03:06**

He worked in the lettuce and—

**Natalie Strunk 03:08**

Uh huh.

**Pat Cariaga 03:09**

—that's what he did.

**Natalie Strunk 03:10**

Did he like his work? Did he—was it a good experience?

**Pat Cariaga 03:14**

I really don't think he had a choice—

**Natalie Strunk 03:16**

Yeah.

**Pat Cariaga 03:16**

—[laughs] back in them days. Yeah. That's what he did. And then he took care of the Streamline Hotel, which was where they—where the old Filipinos went to play cards. And he did that in the evening.

**Natalie Strunk 03:32**

Did he manage it or what—

**Pat Cariaga 03:33**

He managed it, yes.

**Natalie Strunk 03:34**

Oh, okay, wow. So, you and your brother—what would you do when you came home from school?

**Pat Cariaga 03:46**

Oh, we'd just do our homework and play outside. We didn't have much television in those days. So, that's what we did, yeah.

**Natalie Strunk** 03:53

Yeah. Where—how far apart are you and your brother?

**Pat Cariaga** 03:59

Five years.

**Natalie Strunk** 04:00

Five years? You got along well and—

**Pat Cariaga** 04:02

Very well.

**Natalie Strunk** 04:03

That's nice. Where did you go to school?

**Pat Cariaga** 04:08

I went to Sherwood Elementary School and then El Sausal, and then I went to Salinas High. And he went to Salinas High also. And Gonzales, [unclear] elementary school.

**Natalie Strunk** 04:22

How was your school experience?

**Pat Cariaga** 04:25

I had fun in school. It was a good experience in school—all through school.

**Natalie Strunk** 04:31

Did you have a lot of close friends or—

**Pat Cariaga** 04:35

Yes, I did. And they're still close friends with me today.

**Natalie Strunk** 04:41

Do you remember any of your teachers that stand out?

**Pat Cariaga** 04:45

Oh, just one—Mrs. Mazman—but that was in my, in junior high. Why she stood out, I don't know. I guess she was a gym teacher, and I was very involved in athletics when I was in school.

**Natalie Strunk** 04:58

What did you do?

**Pat Cariaga** 04:59

I played volleyball, softball.

**Natalie Strunk 05:03**

So, did—were you close with your teammates as well?

**Pat Cariaga 05:07**

Yes.

**Natalie Strunk 05:08**

Yeah.

**Pat Cariaga 05:08**

Yes, I was.

**Natalie Strunk 05:13**

Did you ever face any kind of discrimination in school or have any—

**Pat Cariaga 05:24**

You know, I don't think I did as much. I don't remember as much. When I was growing up, I was always involved in sports. And when you're involved in sports, there's like a camaraderie with your teammates, so I don't remember much of it—in school, and I don't remember before then.

**Natalie Strunk 05:46**

What was your favorite subject in school?

**Pat Cariaga 05:50**

Gym. [laughs]

**Natalie Strunk 05:51**

Gym. [laughs]

**Pat Cariaga 05:52**

Obviously. Yeah.

**Natalie Strunk 06:00**

Can you tell me more about your family life in general? Did your dad have time to cook? Or did you do any special things?

**Pat Cariaga 06:11**

He didn't have—he did cook for us. He didn't have a lot of time. My brother and I learned to cook for ourselves because he worked early in the morning, and then he would come home and rest and go back to work. And then at night he would manage, you know, the pool hall, the gambling hall at nighttime. So basically, we raised ourselves. So, he did leave food for us most of the time.

**Natalie Strunk 06:31**

Yeah.

**Pat Cariaga** 06:31

But we would do some of the cooking.

**Natalie Strunk** 06:35

What would you make?

**Pat Cariaga** 06:37

Whatever we could, whether it be boiled eggs over toast. Sometimes—he was Filipino, so he would cook, you know, a lot of Filipino food and left for us, or Chinese food.

**Natalie Strunk** 06:50

Did you learn how to make any of the traditional—

**Pat Cariaga** 06:52

Yes, I did. And I still do.

**Natalie Strunk** 06:56

What about your brother?

**Pat Cariaga** 06:57

Yes, he does. He's a very good cook. He still cooks Filipino food.

**Natalie Strunk** 07:05

Let's see. What—did you do any sort of special things? Did your dad take you on any special outings?

**Pat Cariaga** 07:12

Not really. Everybody worked in those days. That's what they did. Parents worked and kids basically raised yourselves back then in the 50s.

**Natalie Strunk** 07:23

Did you have any close neighborhood friends?

**Pat Cariaga** 07:28

Not really close. I mean, I knew some of my neighbors but not really very close. We all knew each other, but not super close.

**Natalie Strunk** 07:38

Do you have any memories of childhood that stand out?

**Pat Cariaga** 07:43

As—then or in Chinatown?

**Natalie Strunk** 07:43

Either one.

**Pat Cariaga 07:47**

Well, basically in Chinatown, we used to stay on so late at night. And we used to have so much fun. It was so clean in those days. And everybody used to watch out for everybody—all the old Filipinos, the Chinese. And they used to all watch out for us. And it was fun growing up there back then in those days. But—places to eat, we could just go and come as we pleased, and nobody would bother us, and ride our bikes. That was our playground, basically. And it was fun. I really enjoyed it, now that I think of it. [unclear] your asking the questions, it was fun. [laughs]

**Natalie Strunk 08:17**

[laughs] Do you have any specific stories that you remember? Any specific times that were especially fun or sad or—

**Pat Cariaga 08:30**

Fun parts—sometimes we, all the kids used to get together and gamble, because that's what they did back in Chinatown in those days. And we used to gamble with each other, take pennies from our fathers' little glass jars and stuff, and eating at the Republic Cafe, which is what everybody did back then. And that was our favorite place to eat. And other than that, we did so many other stuff—just trying to think of other things. I can't think of—probably a lot of them. I can't think of any right now, but that's what we used to do, just gamble and ride our bikes and just go wherever.

**Natalie Strunk 09:09**

Did you have any responsibilities when you were kids growing up that, you know, maybe cleaning or chores?

**Pat Cariaga 09:17**

No, we just were expected to do it. Not that it was told to us. We just grew up knowing that's what we had to do, whether wash the clothes, the dishes, they had to be done. So, my dad never told us to do it. We just knew that we had to do it.

**Natalie Strunk 09:31**

How do you remember your dad?

**Pat Cariaga 09:33**

He was a very quiet man, very stern, you know, and never laid a hand on us, you know, and never had to. We always did what he told us to do. He was a good person. He raised us all on his own, so. He was a good man.

**Natalie Strunk 09:53**

Yeah. Are there any morals or things that you apply to your life now that you learned from him especially, do you think?

**Pat Cariaga** 10:05

Yeah. Be a good mother. He taught us to work hard for what we want, to appreciate for what we work for, and what we have. And taught us about how to handle our money, and a lot of things. No lies, no cheating, all that. He was a very honest man. And that's what he gave to us, honesty.

**Natalie Strunk** 10:33

That's a nice way to remember someone. Okay. Do you remember your grandparents at all? Did you meet them?

**Pat Cariaga** 10:47

No, never met them.

**Natalie Strunk** 10:48

No? What's their story? Do you know anything about them?

**Pat Cariaga** 10:53

No, I don't. I—they're on my mother's side. They're Germans from Montana. And that's all I know. But I recently just met my half-sister, who was from Wyoming.

**Pat Cariaga** 10:54

On my mother's side. Just recently met her. So, we got some information about my mother, but her—the grandparents died really early, at an early age, in the 50s. So, and on my father's side, I've never met them. They're from the Philippines, so I've never met them.

**Natalie Strunk** 10:54

On your father—

**Natalie Strunk** 11:20

Have you ever been to the Philippines?

**Pat Cariaga** 11:21

No, I haven't.

**Natalie Strunk** 11:23

Would you like to go? Have any desire?

**Pat Cariaga** 11:26

No, I don't.

**Natalie Strunk** 11:27

For any reason.

**Pat Cariaga** 11:27

No, I don't. My father's gone now, so there's no reason for me to go. And they're all gone in the Philippines anyhow, so.

**Natalie Strunk** 11:35

What was it like meeting your mother's half-sister?

**Pat Cariaga** 11:40

It was nice. It was good. It was better than what I expected. She was very graceful about giving us information about everything, you know, about her life, and any medical problems and stuff. In fact, we met twice in Las Vegas. We just got back last week. And she's very sweet. Very nice lady.

**Natalie Strunk** 12:04

Who did you meet her with? Was your brother there or—

**Pat Cariaga** 12:07

My brother was there. My husband and her husband.

**Natalie Strunk** 12:11

Okay.

**Pat Cariaga** 12:12

And my daughter and my niece. They wanted to meet her.

**Natalie Strunk** 12:16

That's nice. What else did you talk about? Did you have any nice visits, or was it just—

**Pat Cariaga** 12:28

No, it was a nice visit. We just talked about everything, about my mother's life and how she was raised, and things that she did. And she sent some pictures of her. And just talked in general about what went on within the last—she's 59 years, you know, that we've never known about each other.

**Natalie Strunk** 12:50

Would you mind talking about your mother at all or—

**Pat Cariaga** 12:53

I don't know much about her at all.

**Natalie Strunk** 12:55

What did you learn, though? What did she talk about?

**Pat Cariaga** 12:59

Nothing that she—used to run a gambling parlor in Montana, or in Wyoming, I should say. And that's about it. She didn't tell me, you know, there wasn't much that, you know, she could tell me about her

other than to send pictures and stuff. She didn't say much at all about her. I mean, that would be interesting enough. I mean, nothing much at all.

**Natalie Strunk 13:00**

Nothing interesting?

**Pat Cariaga 13:05**

Nothing really interesting. I mean, other than her likes and dislikes, you know, candies and food and, you know, stuff like that was what we talked about, what she liked to do. And where she liked to—she liked to go to shows, just little things like that, in general.

**Natalie Strunk 13:43**

What did she like to do?

**Pat Cariaga 13:44**

She really didn't like to do much, what I found out [laughs]. She didn't do much at all. She didn't entertain hardly at all, and she wasn't very sociable, so that's what I did find out. So—

**Natalie Strunk 13:59**

Did you find any similarities between you and her at all?

**Pat Cariaga 14:03**

Between—she found similarities between my brother and our mother, and my niece and my daughter, but not too much with me, as far as personalities wise. My brother's more like my mother than I would be. I'm a little bit more outgoing, and he's a little bit more reserved, I guess like she was.

**Natalie Strunk 14:25**

What do you like to do now? You say that your brother is a little more reserved, but—

**Pat Cariaga 14:33**

Yeah, well, we like to entertain here at the house, and we love football. We have season tickets to the raiders, and we watch, you know, a lot of sports and like to go on vacations.

**Natalie Strunk 14:48**

Was your dad like that?

**Pat Cariaga 14:50**

No, not at all. He was more like my mother, I suppose. Yeah. Never went anyplace, never liked to do anything. All he did was work.

**Natalie Strunk 14:59**

Did he have any friends at work or—

**Pat Cariaga 15:02**

My dad?

**Pat Cariaga 15:03**

He had a lot of friends that worked in the fields like he did. But they all knew each other. They all lived in one time, probably in camps, and they just traveled all over the different states, and they ended up here in Salinas.

**Natalie Strunk 15:03**

Uh huh.

**Natalie Strunk 15:22**

Why do you think he ended up here?

**Pat Cariaga 15:25**

I don't have a clue. [laughs] I don't know. I don't know why he ended up here. Well, probably because our—Salinas is so rich with the fields and, you know, everything. So yeah, it's agricultural. So that's probably why they ended up here.

**Natalie Strunk 15:42**

Did he ever talk about, like, a typical day at work, what that was like?

**Pat Cariaga 15:47**

No, never did. No. I went to work with him a couple of times. And he just worked really hard then. Very, very hard. But it was just work, like I guess what they do now. And that was it. But he never really discussed his day at work. He wasn't much of a talker.

**Natalie Strunk 16:07**

What was it like when you went with him to work?

**Pat Cariaga 16:09**

It was fun. We just played in the fields. So that's—we didn't really work. It was just to tag along and ride in the back of the trucks. That was it.

**Natalie Strunk 16:19**

Did your brother go with you too?

**Pat Cariaga 16:20**

Yes, he did.

**Natalie Strunk 16:22**

How old were you when you did that?

**Pat Cariaga 16:24**  
Probably about nine.

**Natalie Strunk 16:27**  
So you enjoyed it? It was—

**Pat Cariaga 16:29**  
Yeah, I mean, you're a kid, nine years old. You enjoy getting back into the truck and fooling around and playing and eating. So—

**Natalie Strunk 16:40**  
Did you ever help out with work when you went?

**Pat Cariaga 16:44**  
No.

**Natalie Strunk 16:45**  
No? How about your—back to your household again, what was, say, on a weekend, what would a day be like on the weekend?

**Pat Cariaga 17:01**  
On the weekend, we—when we were kids, we'd just go swimming at the municipal pool, and maybe once in a while go to a show. And just stay at home basically. And just play. It was a typical weekend back in those days.

**Natalie Strunk 17:16**  
A show like a movie or—

**Pat Cariaga 17:18**  
Yeah, a movie, like at the Fox Theater, they used to have movies.

**Natalie Strunk 17:24**  
What about during weekday? Would you—when you did your homework, would you do any other activities?

**Pat Cariaga 17:35**  
I mean, as far as home was concerned, or—just playing. There wasn't much to do back then like it is now, like video games and stuff. There wasn't anything to do, so you just made do with just playing outside with the other kids in the neighborhood. That's all you really did after you did your homework. And we just went outside and played, and, I mean, we could out till dark and nobody bothered you. Not much to do back then.

**Natalie Strunk 18:04**  
What kind of games would you play?

**Pat Cariaga** 18:07

Whatever we could find. Either just ride our bikes or hide and seek or whatever there was to do, and just go exploring.

**Natalie Strunk** 18:14

So, you—did you feel safe? Or was it just sort of—no?

**Pat Cariaga** 18:20

No, I felt safe. Yeah, I [unclear] felt very, very safe.

**Natalie Strunk** 18:25

Never any problems?

**Pat Cariaga** 18:26

None. None whatsoever.

**Natalie Strunk** 18:30

Do you think that your neighbors watched out for the kids?

**Pat Cariaga** 18:37

Absolutely. They always did. If we were hungry, we can always go to the neighbor's house, and they would feed us or vice versa. They always watched out. We watched out for everybody, or the parents did watch out for all the kids.

**Natalie Strunk** 18:50

Do you remember going over to a certain neighbor's house in particular?

**Pat Cariaga** 18:54

Yes, I did. Yeah, they're all gone now.

**Natalie Strunk** 18:59

What was that like?

**Pat Cariaga** 19:00

It was nice. They—we'd go over there, and we would just eat [unclear] dinner and that was it. And then we'd just play again and—but—

**Natalie Strunk** 19:10

What would they make you for dinner?

**Pat Cariaga** 19:12

Usually [unclear] rice and eggs. [laughs] A lot of rice. We Filipinos eat rice quite a bit, practically every day.

**Natalie Strunk 19:24**

So, do you want to go into Chinatown?

**Grecia Garcia 19:28**

Okay. So, I would like to talk about a little bit more, concentrate a little bit more on Chinatown about the smells that you remember, sounds, all that sort of stuff. So, can you tell us a little bit of what—

**Pat Cariaga 19:40**

Yeah, the sounds were music coming from some of the bars that were there. We'd listen to, you know, music. The smells—Filipino food, there used to be restaurants in Chinatown that they would cook and, of course, the Republic Cafe. Just the smells of Chinese food and Filipino food up and down the street.

**Grecia Garcia 20:07**

Were you—I was aware that there was dances on the weekend over by Chinatown. Did you attend any of that?

**Pat Cariaga 20:16**

No, I did not. Maybe at Leon's—that was a bar, there was dances in there, but I was too young to [laughs] go in there then.

**Grecia Garcia 20:23**

Can you tell us about your life growing up in Chinatown?

**Pat Cariaga 20:29**

It was great. I even lived for a while at the Green and Gold Hotel. And we used to have just these little rooms. And my dad used to gamble downstairs, and we'd stay up in the room until they were finished and came on up, or if we were hungry, we'd just go down and get something to eat and go back up to the room. And, like I said, we used to just play. It was our little playground, riding bikes and playing with the other kids who were—that would come and visit in Chinatown during the day. If they had people—well, they're mostly, they were of Filipino descent because their parents or uncles or aunts, they would gamble there in, you know, like the Streamline, where my father managed the place.

**Grecia Garcia 21:13**

How long did you live in Chinatown?

**Pat Cariaga 21:16**

Well, we were practically there every day, but I lived there probably for maybe a summer, sometimes during the summer. But basically, every day or during the weekends, we would go afterwards to—my dad would pick us up and he'd take us back over there to Chinatown.

**Grecia Garcia 21:40**

I heard there was a lot of prostitution, all that sort of stuff.

**Pat Cariaga 21:44**

[laughs] There was but, you know, they ask me about that now, and I never knew that they were prostitutes. They were just nice ladies [all laugh]. They were. They were all—they knew our names, and they knew our parents' names, and they were very nice to us. I mean, in fact they would give us candy every once in a while, but I had no clue then what a prostitute was [laughs]. I thought they were just nice ladies.

**Grecia Garcia 22:10**

Can you tell us a little bit about your family now, about your husband and your children and—

**Pat Cariaga 22:17**

How many children I have? I have—well, my husband and I have three children, a daughter, and two sons. You need their ages?

**Grecia Garcia 22:25**

No.

**Pat Cariaga 22:25**

Okay. And that's about it. And we lived in this house for about 34 years and kids are all grown and gone. They have their own families now. We have four grandchildren.

**Grecia Garcia 22:41**

Can you tell us about your achievements and what you did after high school?

**Pat Cariaga 22:47**

After high school I just went to about two years of college, and then I just got married, raised my family, and that's about it. And then I work at an elementary school. I have for about 25, 26 years.

**Grecia Garcia 23:02**

What Elementary School?

**Pat Cariaga 23:03**

At University Park.

**Grecia Garcia 23:04**

Oh, okay. Close by.

**Pat Cariaga 23:07**

Yeah. And I've just worked in offices all my life until I started working at the school.

**Grecia Garcia 23:12**

What does your husband do for a living?

**Pat Cariaga 23:13**

He has retired. He used to work for AT&T for 38 years. Just recently retired about three years ago.

**Pat Cariaga 23:14**

And your children?

**Pat Cariaga 23:23**

My daughter is a teacher, lives in Fresno. My son is an accountant, lives in Santa Cruz, and my other son drives for UPS, and he lives here in Salinas.

**Grecia Garcia 23:33**

And going back to Chinatown, do you feel like Chinatown shaped you in some way, somehow, or—

**Pat Cariaga 23:39**

It did. It—there's a camaraderie. It showed me what family was supposed to be about. And I think that's what we learned from, that you're supposed to take care of your family and that's the way it was back then. That's what it shaped my life for today, because I remember back then that we all used to watch out for each other. And I think that's what it did for me. And I do the same thing now with my family and my extended family also.

**Grecia Garcia 24:14**

How do you feel about Chinatown now?

**Pat Cariaga 24:17**

I feel it's gone to pot, I guess [laughs]. I wish it were the way it was before, but I wish we can get it back the way it was before, or semi get it back the way it was before. Really disappointed what's going on now in Chinatown.

**Grecia Garcia 24:35**

Do you visit often?

**Pat Cariaga 24:36**

No, not at all. We used to serve, once in a while we serve at Dorothy's Kitchen. And I kind of look around, like, this isn't the place where I kind of grew up at.

**Grecia Garcia 24:51**

Okay. Do you plan on—do you try to—do you have any plans to help out with Chinatown, when it's new—

**Pat Cariaga 25:01**

I hadn't thought about it.

**Grecia Garcia 25:02**

No?

**Pat Cariaga 25:03**

I hadn't thought about it.

**Grecia Garcia 25:07**

Okay, let's see here. Do you remember any stories from Chinatown, specific story or anything like that?

**Pat Cariaga 25:16**

Well other than maybe—we used to stand over the bridge and throw water balloons down at the cars. All the kids used to do that. I can't think of too many other stories other than just playing, other than us kids just getting together and gambling. I don't remember any fights or anything like that in Chinatown like it is now, or any homeless people back then. Can't remember anything like that. Other than in the morning, sometimes my dad would just give us a dollar, and we would go down and buy tea and toast, so we could use the rest of the money for gambling. That was [all laugh] that's all we did. [unclear] about that now, but yeah, that's what we used to do, and just kind of save our money, my brother and I, and just gambling with the other kids.

**Natalie Strunk 26:12**

You brought up living there for a summer? Why did your family do that and—

**Pat Cariaga 26:19**

You know, because they, we probably didn't—I don't remember. Obviously, we probably just didn't have a place to live at that time. So, we had to live with my dad because he lived there till 19—in the 90s, I think. Yeah, he lived there until they just—Dorothy's Kitchen took over, forgot when it was, until we moved him out to my brother's house. But he lived there for a long, long time. And then after that, and—we stayed at the house every once in a while, but my dad was basically there all the time. So, for that summer, we probably just didn't have a place to stay, so that's why we had to stay there.

**Natalie Strunk 27:00**

But did you like staying there or—

**Pat Cariaga 27:02**

Yeah, it was. It was fun. And as a kid, you think it's fun. Yeah. Now that I think about it as an adult, I don't think I like it [laughs], but as a kid, yeah, it was fun.

**Natalie Strunk 27:13**

Did you guys ever have any celebrations that you remember there, like birthdays or holidays?

**Pat Cariaga 27:21**

No, not really. All the old Filipinos—used to be rooms in the back, and they all used to cook back there. And they would just have their little celebrations back there. I don't remember celebrating birthdays back there or anything like that. But every day was—somebody would cook and have, you know, a big feast back there. Anytime you just wanted to go back there and eat, they used to cook in the back rooms.

**Grecia Garcia 27:41**

And everybody would come over?

**Pat Cariaga 27:42**

And everybody would come over. Basically, it was like family, and everybody would come over and eat.

**Grecia Garcia 27:47**

Can you tell us a little bit about where you lived, your actual home and anything—

**Pat Cariaga 27:54**

I lived in—the east side was on San Benito Street, and it was just a little apartment above a garage, and it was one bedroom. My brother and I shared the bedroom. And my father slept in the living room. And that's all it was, yeah, all through—I think through high school except for that summer. And then when I went off to college and then got married, so—

**Grecia Garcia 28:20**

There was no confrontation with your brother sharing a room or—

**Pat Cariaga 28:24**

No, he was older than—no, well, yeah, he used to tease me and tell me there were snakes under the bed and stuff like that [Grecia and Natalie laugh], typical sibling stuff. He used to tease me quite a bit, but no, not really. He had his bed, and I had mine. That's all we could afford back then.

**Natalie Strunk 28:42**

Do you remember what the house looked like?

**Pat Cariaga 28:44**

Yeah, I think that whole house I could fit in this family room. And that's about the truth. The whole little place could fit, the bathroom and all would fit in this family room.

**Grecia Garcia 28:54**

Did you like the living situation or—

**Pat Cariaga 28:57**

Well, back then I didn't really know any better because that's just the way it was. Now that I think about it, no. But back then, that's the way it was, so that's what we did, and that's where we grew up.

**Natalie Strunk 29:10**

Did it seem small to you or—

**Pat Cariaga 29:12**

Now it does. [laughs]

**Natalie Strunk 29:14**

But back then—

**Pat Cariaga 29:15**

Back then, no. I'd never thought about it. It didn't seem that—you know, we lived there, and that was our home.

**Grecia Garcia 29:22**

Did your father ever remarry or—

**Pat Cariaga 29:25**

No, he never did. Never remarried.

**Grecia Garcia 29:28**

Just, okay. Why do you think he stayed in Chinatown for so long?

**Pat Cariaga 29:35**

Probably because of his friends, and probably because of the gambling. He was a gambler. That's what he did, and he managed the gambling hall there, and that's why he did. I think he was probably very comfortable there. He spent half of his life there. I mean, he was hardly, you know, he'd sleep at home sometimes. Well, he'd always sleep at home, basically. But he would be there most of the time after his job, you know, on the fields, and he would go to Chinatown so—

**Grecia Garcia 29:59**

How was Chinatown in the 90s? Was it—did you slowly see—

**Pat Cariaga 30:04**

Yeah, it started to get—yeah. Then I realized there were prostitutes and people that were drunk, and most of the Filipinos moved out, the Chinese moved out, and it just started changing. The bars started coming in. So yeah, it started changing in the 90s.

**Natalie Strunk 30:23**

How was your interaction when you were in Chinatown with Chinese or Japanese?

**Pat Cariaga 30:30**

They were great. They were our friends and got along well with them. Very well.

**Grecia Garcia 30:37**

You didn't see any of the—I knew at a period of time Mexicans came in and lived in Chinatown. Did you ever—were you there—

**Pat Cariaga 30:45**

After I left—there was some there at the time. Like I told you [unclear] music was probably Mexican music coming out of the bars. But it wasn't as many as there was, like, Chinese and Japanese and Filipinos. I think it was later on after I got older, then that's when the Mexicans started coming in. Yeah.

**Natalie Strunk 31:06**

Did you ever participate in any of Chinese or Japanese celebrations or—

**Pat Cariaga 31:13**

Well, they used to—

**Natalie Strunk 31:14**

—parties?

**Pat Cariaga 31:14**

Yeah, well, they—at the Republic, they used to have parties, and we used to all go there. Basically, that was the main part. My brother had his first birthday there, and he's 68 now. Yeah, he's 68. He had his first birthday there. And that was the place to be at the time was—that was, like, because they had an upstairs to there. And like a little ball—not a ballroom—but an upstairs part. And that's where the parties used to be at. And that's where we used to go to parties was there.

**Natalie Strunk 31:45**

What did it look like upstairs?

**Pat Cariaga 31:47**

It was just a place with just tables and chairs. And it had—that was it. It wasn't very, anything fancy at all. And downstairs wasn't anything fancy at all, and you used to have to ring a bell in order to—a little buzzer thing on the side—in order for them to come and get your order. But she knew—the Ahtyes were the owners of that. And she used to know everybody that came in by name. And sometimes you'd see judges and lawyers and doctors in there eating because that was the best Chinese food in town to go to. You couldn't order any coffee because they did not serve coffee. It was only tea [Natalie and Grecia chuckle]. I remember one time we were in there and some tourists came. I guess they told it was a good place to eat and they ordered coffee, and she says, "We don't serve coffee here. We only serve tea. This is a Chinese place." She goes, "Oh." [Natalie and Grecia chuckle].

**Natalie Strunk 32:41**

Let's see here. Do you have any other stories of Chinatown that you can—

**Pat Cariaga 32:50**

Not really. It's just—I mean that was, you know, I was just a kid in them days. It was some—other than just, you know, picking up my dad and going to eat and just meeting him down there. And that was it. It wasn't much of a lot of stories other than—after a while, we kind of didn't want to go down there because there was so many prostitutes and people were starting to—pretty violent down there after a while. So, we kind of stopped, especially after—well, we stopped right after the Republic Cafe closed

down, and they closed for business, and I think everybody stopped going in that used to eat there. But we still kept going until they were open, until the last day that they closed.

**Grecia Garcia 33:36**

When was that?

**Pat Cariaga 33:37**

I don't remember when they closed [chuckles]. I thought you were going to ask me that. I don't remember when they closed at all. But it was a while back. I don't remember the exact date or even the year, but probably somewhere—I don't know if it was in the 80s or the 90s. No, it must have been the 90s that they had closed down. They got too old and couldn't run the place anymore, the ladies that used to own it.

**Grecia Garcia 34:04**

Do you have any family, any other extended family who lives here in Salinas?

**Pat Cariaga 34:09**

On my side?

**Grecia Garcia 34:10**

Mm-hmm.

**Pat Cariaga 34:11**

Not on my side. No, it's just my brother and I.

**Grecia Garcia 34:17**

Do you plan to get, to keep in contact with your sister, your stepsister?

**Pat Cariaga 34:21**

Yes, I am. I do. We email each other all the time. Definitely.

**Grecia Garcia 34:29**

How did you come about—how did you know about your stepsister?

**Pat Cariaga 34:33**

My son was doing genealogy and—one of my—my older son was doing genealogy, and he came across a death certificate of my mother, who died I think in—forgot how long ago. And he saw that she had a, you know, a daughter. So, I contacted her.

**Grecia Garcia 34:53**

Wow.

**Pat Cariaga 34:53**

Yeah, it was—kind of rocked her world [laughs] [unclear] what? But, like I said, she was very gracious about it. And at first it was really kind of hard because she had an aunt who was still living, and she was—had dementia, but she was in and out. So that day she happened to talk to her. She was doing fine that day. And if it wasn't for her, she would probably—she would have not believed it at all, she said. But she's the one that said, let's, she said, just let sleeping dogs lie. So, then she knew it was true, because I had sent her birth certificates and then still she's, well, those could have been forged. Why would I lie? But yeah, so it's—we've had it all straightened out, but her aunt kind of verified it. Because everybody's gone that, you know, that could have verified it. They had passed away.

**Natalie Strunk 35:44**

That's a neat story. Were you nervous to meet her, or—

**Pat Cariaga 35:50**

I think she was more nervous to meet me because the funny thing about it is that my mother named her Pat after me. And that—it's a weird story [laughs]. That's what she was shocked about. You know, she named her after I did. And I—maybe it was guilty conscience, you know, because she had left when I was about a year old. And never any contact with [unclear]. But yeah, that was the strangest thing that I found out. Her name was Pat also. So, I thought it was a mistake on—but she says, no, that was on her—So when she start remembering back, she start remembering different things that, okay, that's why she said this, and that's why—so now it starts coming back to her. You know, she was getting the two confused about our birth certificates and stuff.

**Grecia Garcia 36:33**

Why do you think she named her Pat?

**Pat Cariaga 36:36**

We—to this day, we don't know why she would name her the same name.

**Grecia Garcia 36:39**

Do you think the loss of not having—

**Pat Cariaga 36:42**

Maybe. You know, the guilt? I don't know. We—that's—we'll always wonder that, why she would name her the same name. Different middle name. But she named her Patricia, yeah.

**Natalie Strunk 36:56**

So how long were your parents together after they married, before your mother left?

**Pat Cariaga 37:02**

Well, they were five years apart? So, 40s—and I was born in '46. So, '47. So, is that, six years, something like that? Six, seven years. Yeah.

**Natalie Strunk 37:16**

What did they do? What sort of life did they live when they were together?

**Pat Cariaga 37:23**

That I don't know. I don't know anything at all about that. Like I said, my dad wasn't a talker. He would never say anything at all. Nothing.

**Grecia Garcia 37:33**

Why do you think you ended up with your father and not with your mother?

**Pat Cariaga 37:36**

That we'll never know either. I don't know. You know why—

**Grecia Garcia 37:40**

You never talked about it?

**Pat Cariaga 37:41**

He would never—we've asked him that. He was really closed mouth about it. He would never say anything. Just wouldn't say nothing. So, we'll always wonder that, I suppose. And so, does the other Pat [laughs]. She'll wonder that also, you know, because that's not the mother she knew, basically, you know. But I don't know. I don't know at all.

**Grecia Garcia 38:04**

Does she have any children? Did she marry—Pat, your sister, Pat?

**Pat Cariaga 38:09**

She has one son.

**Grecia Garcia 38:10**

One son? She's not married?

**Pat Cariaga 38:12**

No, she's married. She has a son. Yeah.

**Grecia Garcia 38:14**

Do you see any resemblance—

**Pat Cariaga 38:17**

I've never met Michael because we just started getting in contact with each other, and he doesn't live in Wyoming. He lives in Montana. I've seen pictures of him. No, I don't see any resemblance between my kids or him. Well, he had his—I couldn't really tell. He had sunglasses on. But between my sister and I, there's no resemblance at all.

**Natalie Strunk 38:37**

Do you remember any discrimination among other groups, such as Chinese or Japanese?

**Pat Cariaga 38:55**

There was against Filipinos back then. There was a lot of discrimination. Or maybe that was part of the reason—my mother's German. And they weren't supposed to marry back in those days. And maybe that was one of the reasons they came to California, because I think California, in certain towns, that you could marry. And some of the other states you could not, and maybe that's why a lot of them ended up here in Salinas. And because a lot of my friends, their fathers are Filipinos and their mothers were, you know, from Oklahoma or from, you know, Montana, wherever. And that's probably why. But there was discrimination back then, really bad. I don't remember a lot of it for me growing up here in Salinas back then, because—I don't know, I just never did. Now I can see it, but back then I don't remember a lot of it, between me and my brother and I.

**Grecia Garcia 39:49**

Do you think it was because you're half German and it was harder for—

**Pat Cariaga 39:58**

No, not really.

**Grecia Garcia 39:59**

No?

**Pat Cariaga 39:59**

Mm-mm.

**Natalie Strunk 40:02**

Were there any specific instances of discrimination that you remember?

**Pat Cariaga 40:06**

No. I don't remember any at all.

**Natalie Strunk 40:10**

Did your father ever tell you about anything?

**Pat Cariaga 40:13**

No, not at all. I just remember reading—we had a video one time about Filipinos back then. And we were watching the video, and that's when we found out about all the discrimination. It was just like blacks. You couldn't go into a certain bathroom and stuff like that. So, it was really bad back then. That was about it. Not that he told me. It's just that we found out on our own. And maybe that's a reason why she left. I don't know, because her parents were very prejudiced, because they're from the old country, from Germany. They hardly spoke any English, from what I found out from my half-sister, so.

**Natalie Strunk** 40:52

How did your father's parents feel about your mother, do you know?

**Pat Cariaga** 40:56

No, they—he left. He never went back. I mean, he went back to the Philippines, but that was about it. He never mentioned anything. I don't know anything about my grandparents on his side at all.

**Natalie Strunk** 41:09

But they knew he got married?

**Pat Cariaga** 41:11

You know, I don't know whether they knew or not. He never did say. Strange. [laughs]

**Grecia Garcia** 41:20

Did you guys ever try to get any stories out, or is it just kind of—

**Pat Cariaga** 41:24

Of who? Of my dad?

**Grecia Garcia** 41:25

Right.

**Pat Cariaga** 41:26

Yeah, we tried. My brother and I tried for years to try to get information from him, but—

**Grecia Garcia** 41:31

He refused?

**Pat Cariaga** 41:31

—nothing. Nothing at all. And I don't know if it's just a Filipino thing, but a lot of the other ones that would never say anything either. And I don't know why. So, we just thought that's just the way it was. Never asked, you know, a lot of questions anymore after that.

**Grecia Garcia** 41:51

Can you tell us a little bit about your culture, as far as—

**Grecia Garcia** 41:56

The Filipino culture.

**Pat Cariaga** 41:56

Very proud culture. Very family [unclear] culture. They like to entertain. They like to overfeed people when they come to the house. It's, yeah, like I say, it's a very, very, very proud—Filipinos are very proud people. As far as the German side, I don't know anything, because I was basically raised Filipino.

**Pat Cariaga 41:56**  
The Filipino culture?

**Natalie Strunk 42:31**

Are you involved, or were you involved in any religious activities when—maybe when you were younger?

**Pat Cariaga 42:40**

Mm-mm. My dad never forced us to go to church, or he never really went to church. I started going to church on my own when I got older, you know, when I was a teenager. And I started going on my own—we're Catholic. I mean, I was baptized Catholic. He did baptize us both Catholic. But no, not at all.

**Natalie Strunk 42:58**

Did you go with friends or other families?

**Pat Cariaga 43:03**

No, just friends or sometimes by myself. My brother never went. It was just me.

**Natalie Strunk 43:11**

What would you—did your church have any groups that you were a part of, or—

**Pat Cariaga 43:17**

No. Mm-mm. At Sacred Heart, that's where I used to go. And no, they never did, or that I knew about.

**Grecia Garcia 43:29**

So, there were no festivals or parades in Chinatown, any of that sort of big festivity that you remember?

**Pat Cariaga 43:36**

No, just back then they used to have the parades for Big Week is where everybody used to go. They used to have parades all the time when we were growing up. In fact, I hear they're bringing one back this year for the—for next year, for the 100th year. Yeah, the parade here in Salinas. But that was it. Other than, like I said, we used to go to the Republic if they had anything. It's mostly—you know, it's really funny now that I think about it—it had a lot to do with food. I mean, that's all I ever did was eat [laughs]. But in Chinatown, no, they never—I don't remember them having parades. If they did I don't remember any. Even for Chinese New Year's—maybe for Chinese New Year's they did. But it wasn't as big as it is now like they can have, like, in, you know, San Francisco. And even—they used to have some—where they used to have the dragon come through and stuff like that, but it wasn't very big. It was small.

**Grecia Garcia 44:30**

Did you see any mixtures of cuisine when you were in Chinatown?

**Pat Cariaga 44:35**

It had different—well, it was basically Chinese, Filipino, and, of course, you had American food and that was about it. I don't remember any Mexican food then when I was growing up until later.

**Natalie Strunk 44:51**

Were there any other stores or markets or anything else that you remember?

**Pat Cariaga 44:54**

Not in Chinatown there wasn't any markets. It was mostly little cafes and gambling places, couple of bars, and the Chinese Benevolent Society, you know, places like that. And the Japanese Buddhist on California Street. That was about it. No, I don't remember any markets. It was just little—

**Grecia Garcia 45:16**

Were the Confucius Church where they had—I believe they had, like, dances on the weekend and all that sort of stuff.

**Pat Cariaga 45:24**

I don't remember that. [unclear] the Confucius Church. No, now they do. But back then I don't remember if they did. But we never—I don't think we ever attended it. When they had food there, of course we would go [Grecia and Natalie laugh]. Back with the food again. [Grecia and Natalie laugh].

**Grecia Garcia 45:39**

Okay, let's see here. Your family name? Do you know any history on your family last name?

**Pat Cariaga 45:47**

On my dad's side?

**Grecia Garcia 45:48**

Mm-hmm.

**Pat Cariaga 45:48**

None.

**Grecia Garcia 45:49**

None whatsoever?

**Pat Cariaga 45:50**

No, my son is into genealogy, and he travels all over the world. So, he went to the Philippines a couple of times, and he tried to find some information on the Simone side, and he couldn't find anything. The records were either burned or anything. So, he did try but he didn't find anything back on them. He even went back on my German side and couldn't find much either, so.

**Natalie Strunk 46:12**

What was his experience like there? Did he tell you a lot about it?

**Pat Cariaga 46:16**

Yeah, he, well, he didn't like Manila, say it was kind of dirty, he said. But the other parts he liked. It was just an experience, he said, going to the same province where both my husband and our fathers grew up, and he tried to find some information. He said it was a great experience. In fact, he said he was getting off the airplane and he—they gave him a ride to this one place. And he says he saw this cab come by that said Cariaga on it, you know. And he thought, this is strange, so he's waving him down, stop, stop. You know, he's asking all kinds of questions and stuff, but no relation. [Grecia and Natalie laugh]

**Grecia Garcia 47:02**

Why do you think your son went through—decided to go through that career path? And do you think it's just the fact that he doesn't know part of your family, or why do you think he's just—

**Pat Cariaga 47:15**

To go—to travel or just go to the Philippines?

**Grecia Garcia 47:18**

Just the urge to want to do all that, why do you think?

**Pat Cariaga 47:22**

That's just the way he is. He's just really deep. You know, he likes to learn about things. That's why he did a whole thing with genealogy and DNA testing, you know, that's just the way he is. And he's really interested in the world, basically. And that's what he wanted to do, just travel and find out about our heritage. Travel all the rest of the world.

**Natalie Strunk 47:42**

Did you have any desire to go with him, you and your husband?

**Pat Cariaga 47:47**

Not really. I thought about it, but to keep—knowing my son, to keep up with his pace, I don't think we could do it at this age [all laugh], you know. I mean, he's been probably around the world a couple of times already in the—he's starting back again, you know. [unclear] you know, he wanted to travel to five continents, you know, before he got too old, he said. And he's done that. So, now he's starting back all over again and going places that he hasn't gone yet.

**Natalie Strunk 48:16**

Did he learn anything that was interesting when he was in the Philippines that might relate to your family or your values?

**Pat Cariaga 48:25**

No. He didn't, other than the same values. He found the same values over there as far as being very proud people. That was about it. Everything—he said when he tried to find something, they had—the place had burned down, so, it put a hold on it, so he couldn't find anything at all about our heritage.

**Natalie Strunk** 48:47

Did your dad ever—did he ever go back to the Philippines?

**Pat Cariaga** 48:52

Yeah, he did. He used to go back every year for about 16 years. He'd go back and visit. But he would never say anything.

**Natalie Strunk** 49:02

And you and your brother never went with him?

**Pat Cariaga** 49:04

No, I never did. Never had the desire to go. So, my son went. [laughs]

**Grecia Garcia** 49:12

That's interesting that he went back every year.

**Pat Cariaga** 49:15

Yeah, he did. That's—

**Grecia Garcia** 49:16

He never wanted to take you guys with him?

**Pat Cariaga** 49:19

Oh, yeah, he wanted to take us, but we just never went. Our kids were little at the time and, you know, he would go for months at a time. And then we couldn't take off for that long. You know, my kids were small at the time. And he used to go.

**Natalie Strunk** 49:34

Would he tell you about his trips?

**Pat Cariaga** 49:36

Not really. He would just visit, basically. But that was about it. No, he wouldn't say much about it. I tell you my dad was not a talker, you know, we had to, like, pulling teeth trying to find, you know, anything at all about him.

**Natalie Strunk** 49:51

Would he visit anyone in particular?

**Pat Cariaga** 49:55

He was married before in the Philippines when he was really young, and he would go back and visit his daughters. I think he had two daughters back then in the Philippines, but I've talked to them, but I've never met them at all. No. One daughter, one daughter is still living. So, when they came over here, and I don't know what happened, but a lot of Filipinos were married back in those days, back in the

Philippines. Because they were about 17 or 18 when they came over, and promised to go back and never did go back.

**Natalie Strunk 50:26**

What made him stay? Do you think just work or—

**Pat Cariaga 50:30**

Probably the work, and better life like everybody else thought about. And he never did go back, but he'd go back to visit, you know, periodically, but never to stay, he said. We asked him if he would just like to stay there. And, you know, that would be fine with us if he was—he said, no, he'd rather stay here.

**Natalie Strunk 50:48**

Why do you think that was?

**Pat Cariaga 50:50**

I don't know. I don't know why he would rather stay here. Never did say.

**Grecia Garcia 50:56**

Do you guys know about his previous marriage and children from—

**Pat Cariaga 51:00**

Not much other than, you know, he has two daughters, one passed away. And he has that one daughter, she's passed away now. He has grandchildren, but I've never—I've only met one. I've never met the mother. I've talked to the mother, but she speaks Filipino, and I don't speak Filipino, so I couldn't really communicate with her.

**Natalie Strunk 51:20**

Did your son meet any of them?

**Pat Cariaga 51:23**

No. He never did.

**Natalie Strunk 51:24**

Did he want to or—

**Pat Cariaga 51:27**

You know, I don't know whether he thought about it or not, because I'm sure she's passed away by now. She's quite old. And I don't—I think the kids are all spread around somewhere in Canada. The grandkids are his cousins, basically. And they're all spread around. We don't know where they're at. The only one we know of was in Canada. That's about it. And I met her—we all did. He was little at the time when we met her. But other than that, no, he didn't go. He didn't meet any of them.

**Grecia Garcia 51:57**

Was your husband a part of Chinatown or any—

**Pat Cariaga** 52:00

Yes, he was. He was not as early as I was. He was there later on. Not in the 50s, probably a little bit later. But he used to just, you know—they would come probably every Sunday. He lived in Soledad at the time. And just every Sunday, they would go to the Republic and eat. And that was their daily weekend thing was going there and eating. And that was it, sort of like a little meeting place. You'd see all of the families there.

**Natalie Strunk** 52:26

Did you know him then?

**Pat Cariaga** 52:27

No, I didn't [laughs]. Not at all. No, I didn't.

**Grecia Garcia** 52:30

It seems like the Republic Cafe kind of shaped or was a key for the—

**Pat Cariaga** 52:37

It is. I think to a lot of people it was, because that was basically like a meeting place. Everybody that we knew ate there in town. Like, I think judges—everybody ate there because it was the best food in town. They didn't have I don't think that many Chinese places around at that time.

**Grecia Garcia** 52:54

It's also, like, a social place.

**Pat Cariaga** 52:56

Yeah, it was also a social place.

**Natalie Strunk** 53:02

Did your dad—he would work on the farms in the fields, and would he take that money to go gamble?

**Pat Cariaga** 53:12

No, he made sure—that's what he taught us. He made sure that, you know, he always said just make sure, you know, your rent is paid, you know, your bills are paid, you have food in the house. And then after that, that's fun money. There were times like during—my brother would get a bike during summer, because that's when they used to work a lot. And during the winter, which is my birthday, you know, because it's like, yeah, nothing at the time, you know. But when it was summertime, they used to work a lot, or when he was—if he would win big in gambling, then of course we get a little extra stuff, you know, but—

**Natalie Strunk** 53:45

What would he get you with—

**Pat Cariaga** 53:47

A bike. Just sometimes, you know, I got a bike. Yeah.

**Grecia Garcia 53:52**

You said you enjoyed gambling as well?

**Pat Cariaga 53:54**

Yeah, I did. Not anymore, but I did. Yeah. But then, I mean, that's the life that we knew, because that's what he did. And everybody around us, that's what they did. So, that's what we grew up knowing and doing.

**Natalie Strunk 54:07**

Were you good at it?

**Pat Cariaga 54:08**

Yeah, I was [all laugh], so was he. Very good at it. Yeah, we were. In fact, we used to kind of cheat sometimes. Take the other kids' money [all laugh]. But yeah, we were pretty good at it.

**Natalie Strunk 54:21**

What would you do with that money?

**Pat Cariaga 54:23**

Go just buy toys or go to a show, do whatever we want with it.

**Grecia Garcia 54:28**

It was okay for kids to gamble at the time?

**Pat Cariaga 54:31**

Yeah.

**Grecia Garcia 54:31**

Yeah? Just everybody did it, so—

**Pat Cariaga 54:34**

Yeah, well, we used to take money out of the, like, a milk bottle, and then we would count how much we would take out, and we would win the money and then we would put it back. And that extra money, that would be our money. [laughs]

**Natalie Strunk 54:47**

Would your brother gamble with you?

**Pat Cariaga 54:49**

Oh, yeah, absolutely. Yeah.

**Natalie Strunk 54:52**

Was he good too?

**Pat Cariaga 54:53**

He's very good.

**Grecia Garcia 54:55**

You make it seem like he still does.

**Pat Cariaga 54:56**

No, he doesn't do it anymore. But no, he was pretty good at it.

**Natalie Strunk 55:01**

Runs in the family?

**Pat Cariaga 55:02**

Yeah, it does. It does.

**Natalie Strunk 55:10**

Is there anything you'd like to add about Chinatown?

**Pat Cariaga 55:14**

No, other than I wished it could be cleaned up a little bit, or a lot, I suppose. It's kind of a shame to see it the way it is now. You've been down there?

**Grecia Garcia and Natalie Strunk 55:24**

[speaking at same time] Yes.

**Pat Cariaga 55:24**

Yeah.

**Natalie Strunk 55:25**

You visited?

**Pat Cariaga 55:26**

Yeah. It's kind of a shame, isn't it? I mean, the way that I remember it, the streets were clean. Everything was so nice. And, but then there's so many homeless, and where do you put them? It's kind of hard to say.

**Grecia Garcia 55:39**

They put up the new Chop Suey sign.

**Pat Cariaga 55:41**

I saw that in the paper. Yeah, it's great.

**Grecia Garcia 55:46**

And they're trying to create a—did you hear about the museum that they're trying to—

**Pat Cariaga 55:50**

I read about that in the paper. I did.

**Grecia Garcia 55:53**

How do you feel about that? Do you want to be a part—

**Pat Cariaga 55:56**

I think it's great, you know. I'd really be interested in something like that.

**Natalie Strunk 56:03**

So, you agree with the renewal project?

**Pat Cariaga 56:06**

I do. I hope it can be done. I know it's a big, big job. But the city's got to get more involved in order to help clean it up. And as far as manpower, you know, as far as policemen and stuff, it's kind of hard, because they can't just set somebody there patrolling constantly all the time, because what else is going on in this town. Gangs and stuff. So that's what we heard. That's why it's kind of hard just to put, you know, somebody down there to help clean it up, unless the city comes in and helps, but I think they have other priorities, obviously.

**Natalie Strunk 56:45**

If it was cleaned up, would you go and visit?

**Pat Cariaga 56:48**

Oh, yeah, absolutely. Yeah, all my kids, we ate at, you know, the Republic, you know, until they closed. They all had, you know, [unclear] of going down to Chinatown and being there at the time. We didn't let them play over there because it started getting a little bit different after my kids were born. But my brother's kids, my kids, they know Chinatown like the way it was.

**Grecia Garcia 57:14**

It would be nice to see it—

**Pat Cariaga 57:16**

Yes, it would.

**Grecia Garcia 57:16**

—come back.

**Natalie Strunk 57:20**

Well, is that it?

**Grecia Garcia 57:21**

I think that's about it. Thank you so much.

**Pat Cariaga** 57:23  
Thank you.

**Natalie Strunk** 57:26  
Thank you.