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Authors

Marquez, John

Pagaduan, Katrina

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John and Evelyn Marquez interviewed by Katrina Pagaduan

Speakers: John Marquez, Evelyn Marquez, Katrina Pagaduan

Date: October 20, 2022

Scope and Contents:

In this interview, originally recorded in person, John Marquez and his mother, Evelyn Marquez talk with Watsonville is in the Heart team member Katrina Pagaduan. John primarily speaks about his grandfather, Leon Custodio Ventura, who served in the U.S. military and then immigrated to the United States. Evelyn describes her experience traveling by boat from the Philippines to California as a young child. John speaks about his grandfather's experiences harvesting apples and strawberries for Jenson & Son Company in Watsonville. He recalls his time working in the fields with his grandfather when he was younger. He talks about his family's experiences within the Watsonville Filipino American community and remembers that his grandparents taught other Filipino migrants how to navigate U.S. processes including citizenship, Social Security, and banking.

Katrina Pagaduan 00:01

Okay, my name is Katrina Pagaduan, and I'm here today with—

John Marquez 00:05

John Marquez.

Katrina Pagaduan 00:07

—and the date is August 20th, we are in Watsonville, and the time is approximately 12:50. So, John, do you want to begin the interview with where you were born and the date?

John Marquez 00:22

Okay, I was born in North Kingston, Rhode Island, October 23, 1969. My father was in the Navy, so that's why I was born on the East Coast. And then lived there for two years, then moved to Virginia for two years, and then in '74, we moved to Long Beach, California. My father was stationed there. He was in the Navy. And then we moved to Watsonville in 19— late 1976. That's what brings me here today.

Katrina Pagaduan 00:54

And your mother?

John Marquez 00:55

My mother is Evelyn Marquez. She— where she was born, or—?

Katrina Pagaduan 01:02

Yes, where she was born and her date of birth.

John Marquez 01:05

Okay. My mother was born in Leyte, Philippines. She was born on May 4, 1946, and she'd come over to the United States with my grandparents in 1955 and the family. And she's been here ever since.

Katrina Pagaduan 01:26

Did you mention where your dad was from in the Philippines?

John Marquez 01:29

My father was from Cavite in— near Manila, and he was born in October 20— born on October 25, 1940. Yes.

Katrina Pagaduan 01:45

When it comes to your childhood in Rhode Island, do you recall any of your time there or did you move away?

John Marquez 01:55

The thing I remember about Rhode Island is that it was cold in the winter. I remember the snow, I remember— I was very young though, so— I was only two when we left Rhode Island, but my memories are the cold and then in the summer, the lightning storms. That's what I remember about that place, and even just having the— an actual memory at that age was fascinating to me, like how do I remember that? But it was traumatizing, right, seeing lightning. One story from there is, my, I was missing and my mom was looking all over for me and I was underneath the bed. I don't know if you remember that? I was under the bed and I said, "How old was I?," and I wasn't even two years old, that was my first memory. Yes.

Katrina Pagaduan 02:44

Where did you move to after Rhode Island?

John Marquez 02:46

We moved to Norfolk, Virginia, because my father was stationed. So we went from North Kingston, Rhode Island to Norfolk, Virginia. We were there for about two years, and what I remember about Virginia is also kind of, you know, cold in the winter, but we lived right next to the ocean. So we had like saltwater— saltwater access, so we'd go crabbing, we'd go fishing. My mom and I would go shrimping with my two sisters, catch shrimp, and at— during this time it was during the Vietnam— Vietnam War, so my father was actually overseas in Vietnam most of the time, while my mother took care of all three of us.

Katrina Pagaduan 03:27

What was your father's position in?

Evelyn Marquez 03:31

He was an E-5 in the Navy. Well, during the Vietnam War, it was like I would say combat, you know, whatever necessary type of combat, and he also worked as a dietician cook in-in the mess hall.

Evelyn Marquez 03:51

And your grandfather, you mentioned. Can you tell us a little bit about his immigration to the United States?

John Marquez 03:58

Yes. So my grandfather, Leon Custodio- Custudio Ventura. He was born on May 5, 1909, and he came from Piddig, Ilocos Norte. And he immigrated here to the United States in 1929. And the-the amazing thing was, before my grandfather passed away, I'd ask him like, how did you get here? Like, what was it like coming from the Philippines to the United States and he went on this- on a story that no one's ever heard of where he talked about how he was on a slow boat from the Philippines to South America, and they took the boat all the way up the coast. He mentioned Argentina, Costa Rica. You know that- that whole southern coast- Mexico- he was always talking about how he would catch fish and clams and crab on the shore. And that timeline was roughly six months on a boat, coming from the Philippines, going all the way to South America and then up the coast to San Francisco.

Katrina Pagaduan 04:12

A trip that normally takes people one month-

John Marquez 05:11

Yeah.

Katrina Pagaduan 05:12

-took six months.

John Marquez 05:14

Took-took a lot longer. I mean, I don't know if his perception at the time, if six months was accurate, but from what he told me they would stop at all these docks in several different countries. And he, you know, he was just saying how they would survive and how he would, you know, catch fish or eat clams off the, you know, out of the sand, something that I- no one's ever talked about in our family. I just found out from him prior of maybe a week before he had passed, he had told me this. So he landed in San Francisco. And Grandpa Carmelo, his brother, greeted him there. And he lived with him from 1929- because when he arrived in 1929- till about 1939, and then that's when my grandfather came here to the Pajaro Valley and settled- and settled in Watsonville for the few years that he was here prior to World War II.

Katrina Pagaduan 06:13

What did he do in San Francisco in that time?

John Marquez 06:16

So, my grandfather worked for the University of San Francisco. He was like the maintenance guy, and he- he mentioned that he lived, lived there on board. So, in other words, he was boarded there. So he had a place to live. He had food to eat. He was making \$60 a month at the University of San Francisco. Yeah, \$60 salary. And, of course, his brother was nearby. So I don't know the gist, if he was- if he would stay at Grandpa Carmen's house and then stayed on campus, but I just know that they were- they were pretty close. So, and he was, I can tell a little story they used to, he used to bet the students

there. You know, the students going to San Francisco, that they would bet him I think a nickel or a dime, he would tell the story how he would go and climb the flagpole without any kind of harness or anything and remove the flag and come down safely. So he would make a nickel or a dime doing that. Yeah, he would bet these guys, like kind of a side money thing that he'd do. Just because he had the skills to climb trees or you know, when he would hunt. He talked about how he'd quickly climb a tree. So he— he climbed this pole, remove the flag and come down safely with no safety. It's pretty gutsy. Yeah. Yeah.

Evelyn Marquez 07:41

Do you know what's the age difference between your Grandpa Carmen and your grandfather?

Evelyn Marquez 07:48

I want to say— so my grandfather was born in '09. I remembered hearing something about the year 1890, 1891. I mean, I want to say they were maybe 15 years apart at least, because there was nine kids in the family. And he was one of the— one of the younger ones. And— and Grandpa Carmen was one of the older ones. So maybe 10 years at the most I would say difference.

Evelyn Marquez 08:20

Do you know any memories that your grandfather shared before he immigrated to the United States?

John Marquez 08:27

Yeah actually, he would talk to me about how he'd hunt and how he would go up in a tree. And sometimes he'd be up there for days waiting for a deer to go by. And then he would hunt from the top with like a spear. And he would, you know, I'm sure he'd come down the tree to get water and stuff. But he would hang up on this tree and wait for a deer to come. And then he would throw the spear at the deer. That's how he hunted and then he would butcher it and bring it back to the village. He also had really amazing stories of his family and how he had kind of supernatural experiences. I mean, I know these are kind of Filipino wives tales, or old tales or where or maybe even some superstitions where he would tell me like when one night he went to sleep and saw a light and he followed the light, you know, I'm talking about like he'd follow the light. And for some reason, he'd had no idea he was sleepwalking and he'd wind up in some other village somewhere else. But I don't know what the actual meaning behind that was. Or even seeing characters where their heads were backwards. So he swears by it. That— that these— these— these Philippine— in the Philippines these— these. What- what do I want to call them? They're kind of— maybe there's— they were tales to scare kids to go to sleep. Keep them in the house rather than them wandering around, but just— he always had some kind of story like that. And I also believe that his family were kind of healers of the village, as well as my grandparent— My grandmother's parents were healers because they always had a healing type of touch. But yeah, I think pretty much it was the hunting and the stories that he talked about at night regarding, you know, some superstitions or some old wives tales.

Katrina Pagaduan 10:29

When he immigrated to SF, did he bring his— your grandmother— his wife with him?

John Marquez 10:36

No, he was by himself. Yeah, he was 19 years old when he came. 19, 20 years old. And he came to live with grandpa, his brother, Grandpa Carmelo in San Francisco. And Grandpa Carmelo was a– he was the Postmaster General of San Francisco. I don't know if it was during that time in 1929, but he– he became that. So he was affiliated with the U.S. Postal Service, um, employee. So my grandfather– I would say he sponsored my grandfather coming over and you know, they helped each other out.

Katrina Pagaduan 11:13

Did your grandparents meet in the Philippines?

John Marquez 11:17

Yes. My– my grandma and grandfather. They met in– I want to say in– in Leyte, yes. Yeah, they were married there in August of 19– August 14th, 1945. Yeah. I don't know how they met or, you know, what the story was, but I do know a story, and I can share this, right? That my grandfather was going to marry someone else, but she winded up passing away from pneumonia. So I don't know the name, I don't know who the person was, but I just know that that was a story that was, you know, within the family. But I'm glad he married my grandma, because then we wouldn't be here today.

Katrina Pagaduan 12:02

What do you know about your grandmother's life before she came?

John Marquez 12:07

So my– my grandmother was from the Visayan Islands, and pretty much, you know, the same type of thing like my grandfather – his family were farmers. She had only one brother. Compared to my grandfather, who had, you know, a total of nine, there was a total nine kids in his family, so a smaller family. But, you know, they– they also, from what my grandma had told me, that they were healers in the village. And so even here when my– my grandparents lived here in Pajaro Valley, in Watsonville, people would come to her, if they had some kind of pain, like in their arm or leg and my grandmother would fix it. I can't tell you how, like, I guess it was through, you know, by massaging or maybe even some medicinal type of remedies, but I just know that a lot of people would come to her house and line up. I don't know if you've ever heard that before, but that's just something that, you know, the local community, they knew her and they loved her for it.

Katrina Pagaduan 13:14

That's a great skill that she brought to share with the community. Do you know when she came to the United States?

John Marquez 13:23

She came to the United States with my grandfather, married and had three kids already. And that was in 19–, July of 1955, and they settled here in Watsonville. My grandfather was working for Jensen Apples- Jensen and Son Apples, and what my mom described that their first home, they were living in a converted chicken coop that they turned into a living quarters for my grandfather and grandmother and the three kids. So, yeah, I mean, things were rough back then, but they did what they could, and did it the best they could.

Katrina Pagaduan 14:06

So that means that your Grandfather must have returned to the Philippines to live there for some time, and met his wife.

John Marquez 14:12

Mhm. Yes, so after the war, my grandfather met my grandmother. They were married in August of 1945, and they had my mom Evelyn in 1946, my uncle Leon in 1947, and my Auntie Hermenia in 1949. So between that time my grandfather was a farmer, and he had sugar cane, tobacco, and one other— I can't think of the other product but I just know it was tobacco, sugarcane and—

Evelyn Marquez 14:20

Rice.

John Marquez 14:22

—and rice. Rice. That's right. So him and his family— I don't know how many family members— but they had some land. And so they worked the land. And then my grandfather— because he was he— he served in the U.S. Army, he was a U.S. citizen and wanted to come back to the United States, and that was 10 years later in 1955.

Katrina Pagaduan 15:18

And I guess we can now begin with a bit of your mom's immigration as a child. What do you remember, as a child coming to the United States?

Evelyn Marquez 15:32

Oh, that's for me?

Katrina Pagaduan 15:33

For you. Yeah. What do you remember coming to the United States as a child?

Evelyn Marquez 15:42

All I know is we were on this big boat. All I remember was the name was S.S. Wilson— it was huge. And what I remember, we stopped by China. And when we stopped by there, I could see from the top, when we were on top of the boat, that there, um, Chinese family living on the boat, and the boat would throw garbage down in there, and the Chinese would be picking up the garbage. I'm like, "Hmm," and I was, what, six, seven years old and going "what's going on here?" So that's what I remember about the trip. And I really got sick, like a whole week of, you know, the way that— seasickness. They had to drag me out of the— from the bed up the top, so that way, my seasickness will go away. That's all I can remember about the trip coming here. And uh— no, I remember, got off the boat, lived with my uncle for a while, and then moved over here in United States, in Watsonville. Yeah.

Katrina Pagaduan 17:08

Do you recall how long the trip took?

Evelyn Marquez 17:11

I have no clue. It was a long trip. That's for sure.

Katrina Pagaduan 17:16

Long trip for a six or seven year old.

Evelyn Marquez 17:18

Yeah, yeah. It was a long trip. Yeah, that's as far as— and the first song that I heard that to this day I remember: "Unchained Melody". It was beautiful. Oh my god, I was like I love that! And I've even listened to that for the doowop on TV. [laughter] "Unchained Melody", that was wonderful! That's all I remember.

Evelyn Marquez 17:48

Do you want to pass the mic back to John? So your grandfather's immigration— once he settled back in Pajaro, Watsonville, with his wife and children, what did his working life look like?

John Marquez 18:09

His working life? So he came to— and came back to Watsonville to work for Jensen and Son company. So he was actually— he's a farmer. And he worked on farm equipment, so heavy machinery. And he also did some Foreman type of work. So he was basically a farmer here in the Watsonville. area. He also did little jobs here and there with— other other farms, where he pruned trees— I can't, I wouldn't be able to name the other ones, but I just know that he would get off one job and go to the next to go prune trees, which is kind of a skill where you would cut a branch off a certain type of tree and— and infuse it within another tree and you get a different type of fruit, or a converted fruit or maybe even the colors are different a little bit, but he had that pretty good skill of doing that.

John Marquez 19:06

He also worked as an undertaker for a graveyard. Yeah, he— and I want to say— because I first met him from my memories, it was in 1975, and he was doing that, where he would dig the graves for the people who have passed on. And some of the stories he had about that were kind of scary, like ghost stories sort of. They would sometimes follow — follow him home. And that's where I think— where my— both my grandparents have this healing type of background process in their family where even the spiritual world would follow them and seek help from them. But yeah, he did that. He did— he had some fun things that he'd like to do, and that was fishing, which a lot of Filipino families do. And also he had his own garden in his backyard, so he was lucky enough to have a nice home that they purchased in 1969 I believe, and they lived in that house until 2008 when it burned down by a fire that was caused by a— by a wire that my grandfather tripped over from a lamp. And they were lucky enough to get out alive. But that was out there near Mesa Village, off of Melody Lane. So a lot— a lot of memories there.

John Marquez 20:30

But again, my grandpa had a really amazing garden. And he even taught me certain times of the month when you would plant. He'd go out there at two o'clock in the morning and plant his corn during a full moon. And his corn stalks were 20 feet high. I've never seen corn. I mean, it might have been 12, 15 feet, but to me, it was like 20 feet high. It was like something out of a fairy tale where his corn would prosper so, so much, in even just the little space that he had. It wasn't that small. I think he had about a

half acre of land or so. And all of his fruits, all of his vegetables flourished because he just knew how to grow. He also grew opo, which is like a Philippine squash. He grew ampalaya, the bitter melon. He grew sayote, which is that little prickly— we used to call them porcupines. And yeah, he did a lot of —he did a lot of handiwork as well. He did some blacksmithing. I remember him— I guess it's smoldering metal. And he did projects, he was kind of like a handyman for the community. And yeah, he— from what I— from also what I know is he also taught people who come from the Philippines, how to live in the United States, and how to go to a bank and how to go to, you know, the grocery store what to do and how to get things. So he was kind of like a go-to guy in the community for many years. And, you know, found that out later during his funeral that many families have come forward to tell me your grandfather helped our family out. And these are families that I knew, like, you know, many, many years, I just didn't know that my grandfather was the one that showed them around. So—

Evelyn Marquez 22:24

He sounds like the jack of all trades.

John Marquez 22:26

Yeah.

Evelyn Marquez 22:27

And a great caretaker for the community.

John Marquez 22:30

Yes.

Katrina Pagaduan 22:32

There's actually other families who have mentioned, they didn't know until after their family member had passed, that they had helped the community in caretaking for them and navigate— helping them navigate life in America. It's interesting that you also mentioned a lot of gardening that your grandfather did, because I think that's a common hobby that a lot of Filipino farm workers had in that sense.

John Marquez 23:01

Yes.

Katrina Pagaduan 23:02

The hybrid, uh—

John Marquez 23:04

Pruning.

Katrina Pagaduan 23:04

Pruning. And I forget the name for it, but—

Evelyn Marquez 23:07

Grafting

John Marquez 23:08

Grafting.

Katrina Pagaduan 23:09

Yes. That's what it is. Thank you.

John Marquez 23:11

He also showed me how to trap animals. Yeah, he showed me how to like set traps, like bird traps, rabbit traps. Occasionally, there was like a, like some type of animal coming in and digging holes in his garden. So he would trap that animal, whether it was a gopher, or a raccoon or a cat, like a domestic cat. And then he would place them somewhere else. Like he would put them in some, like, in the backyard of his— of his house, there was a big, big, big field and he would put the cat you know, in that field, and then that cat would find its way home. But yeah, and then that way the cat would not come back in and dig holes in, you know, in his yard. But he was never— he was always kind— he would never try to hurt the animal. He also had chickens. And, you know, showed me as a young child how they laid eggs and I didn't even realize the egg would come out really soft, and then they harden up. He showed me that. I raised— when I was about six years old— I raised a rabbit, a duck that I released into Pinto Lake later on. But it was like— you know what I mean— very nourishing, you know, he was always showing me how to, you know, survive, right? Like how would I— if I needed to trap an animal, how would I do it? Or if I needed to catch fish, how would I catch fish? Where would I find bait? You know, digging— digging horse clam or digging sand crab to— you know, for the bait. You know, these survival skills that he had. And, you know— I mean— the years that he was in the war, I mean— I— some of the things that he told me about the war, how to survive, you know, during a massacre. You know, where he played dead in a— in a pool or a pond full of dead bodies and blood and he would just lie there, not move and then as— as the enemy would pass on— but he knew how to survive. And he— I'm glad that he showed me some of the things that he had done. You know, so in case I ever have to catch fish and eat clams and, you know, go crabbing and all that. Which I love to do, because it's, you know, it's— it's very fun and rewarding at the same time.

Katrina Pagaduan 25:29

Sounds like he gained a lot of these skills not just from war but from his life in the Philippines like hunting and trapping.

John Marquez 25:36

Mhm, and farming. And farming, yep.

Katrina Pagaduan 25:42

Do you know what kind of crops he helped grow and tend to here in Pajaro Valley?

John Marquez 25:48

So in Pajaro Valley, it was mainly apples. So apple trees. He also— he— I think he did work with some, you know, like, not lettuce but like brussels, right? Brussel sprouts, beans, strawberries, and even my uncle had strawberry fields as well. But is there any other type of— that you could think of?

John Marquez 26:18

It was mostly apples. And you know, the main source of fruit here in Watsonville is strawberries and apples. But I was maybe five years old when he took me on one of his work days and said, "Okay, here's how you're going to make money". And I would pick up apples off the ground and put them in this box, and I couldn't even lift it. And then he showed me this bin, an apple bin, which is probably six feet by six feet and about three feet deep, maybe four feet deep. And he'd fill that up with apples. And he'd do like maybe four or five of those a day, which he's climbing in a tree. I mean, it was— that was probably the hardest work I ever experienced. That and strawberry picking. And one of the really cool stories— well luckily he survived again— he told me he's been struck twice by lightning while he was on a ladder working on apple trees. Which he did show me a metal pocket watch that he had that had burn holes through it. So he got struck by lightning.

Evelyn Marquez 26:18

It's mostly apples—

John Marquez 26:55

He survived lightning twice,—

John Marquez 27:22

Twice.

Katrina Pagaduan 27:23

—And fire and three tours.

John Marquez 27:25

Yeah, three tours in World War II.

Katrina Pagaduan 27:27

Oh my goodness.

John Marquez 27:28

I'm telling you, he's like the happy-go-lucky— [laughter] It's amazing, isn't it? Yeah. Struck twice by lightning.

Katrina Pagaduan 27:41

He didn't have any health complications from that?

John Marquez 27:43

No.

Katrina Pagaduan 27:44

Oh my goodness.

John Marquez 27:44

I know. Yeah. He actually– when he did pass, I mean, he was 100– he was almost 102. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer, but that– that's what happens when you become old– older, especially at that age, something will get you. And it– for him it was, you know, prostate cancer, but he died of natural causes. And until his last day he had pretty much everything upstairs. He was still able to comprehend. And my last conversation with him was– it was actually the day before he passed– I was with my mother-in-law and father-in-law and my wife, where he whispered in my ear. Like he said to me, "Don't be sad for me". He goes, "I've had a good life". He goes, "Be happy and always be happy. It's easier to smile than it is the frown. It takes effort to frown. Right? It's effortless to smile". So that's what I got from that. Yeah.

Katrina Pagaduan 28:49

Do you remember as a child if you recall being five and picking strawberries and apples with him? Are there any memories you have with him? After that?

John Marquez 29:04

You mean after? Like–

Katrina Pagaduan 29:06

At age five as you go–

John Marquez 29:08

Oh, yeah! Oh my gosh. Oh, my grandfather– I would– from age six through sixteen I would go fishing with him pretty much every weekend. So we shared adventures with fishing and driving. And when I say that, just learning how– at three o'clock in the morning how to– I wasn't driving but he was driving and how to– how to maneuver through fog. And where the road was– becomes– all of a sudden was not a road. Yeah, he just showed he just showed me being patient. He showed me how like, say for instance, what would be good to bring on– like say when we're doing a fishing trip, what would you bring from the previous day's food with you to the beach? And he would take– I would just remember this being so– this is so memorable to me because he would take hamburger and, you know, when you get hamburger, and it's greasy and cold, and you put it in foil, and you would bring it to the beach and it's like, this thing is cold and greasy! But no, you let it sit in the sun and it would warm up. Yeah, he had a way of like– like making things– even though you would not– I would not eat that because it's cold hamburger, you know, of course, cooked cold hamburger– but once it's, you know, you can properly eat it is because, you know, put it in the sun, you know, put it on some plastic, the plastic heats up the foil for some reason. So he taught me things like that. You know, and he would just tell me stories like about his life, which, you know, I have everything in my head, you know, regarding his hunting, some of the things about the war, about survival, because I would ask these questions. Like "Grandpa, how did you do this? Grandpa, what's your most memorable Thanksgiving or your most memorable Christmas?" You know, and in this story with "Oh, World War III", and I knew something was, you know, like the story where he said that his most memorable Christmas was when they were being attacked by the Japanese on one of the islands in New Guinea. And he– his whole infantry got taken over, and they were running, and there was people dead everywhere. And he had jumped into this pond. And he played dead. And I said, "Grandpa, why is that the most memorable?" and he said, "Because if I didn't

do that, none of you would be here today". So that kind of stuff. But he was always— he seemed always very happy and always wanting to help, you know, he always encouraged helping one another. And, you know, money is not important to him. You know, he could care less about money. It's about how you make your day every day, where it's— you're having fun, and you're able to survive and have food in your stomach. That's all he cared about. And I mean— I— one of the stories, you know, my grandfather, he used to save his money and put it in his mattress. Well, when the house burned down— we don't know how much he had saved up, because he never really went to the bank. You know, he never had a credit card. You know, he was just— he was just one of those guys. He always dealt with cash. And so, you know, we looked around. He'd bury— he'd bury money in cans, coffee cans, you know. He was old school. This is like an old school type of mindset. But yeah, he was always—he was more of a like a teacher too, like, he would give you life lessons and make sense out of certain situations. So I know, um, every time I see his picture, I just remember him. You know, he had that— he had a certain laugh and he had this certain way of being every day. And you would never guess if he was in pain or if he— and when I say that is because he had a hernia one time and he never complained. And then one day he was just like, "I got this bump on my side", and he had to have surgery. "How long have you been like this?" "Oh, about a year." So he had a very high tolerance for pain. Oh and I wanted to mention, another thing about the healing was there were certain plants that he had grown in his garden that, for instance, if you had— in his case, he chopped his pinky off by accident with a machete. And he was able to glue it back by chewing a leaf. Yeah, so he had clean— and here's the funny thing in my family, my grandfather— see my finger. This is an injury from softball, crooked finger, broken finger. My grandfather chopped his finger off, glued it back. So his finger was like this.

John Marquez 34:04

My father had his pinky finger kicked during karate and broke his finger. So there's three of us in a row with this left hand pinky just like this.

Katrina Pagaduan 34:14

Do you have any sons?

John Marquez 34:15

No, I have no children.

Katrina Pagaduan 34:17

Okay, I was gonna say—

John Marquez 34:17

So I'm going to break that chain.

Katrina Pagaduan 34:19

—Broken the generational chain of broken pinkies.

John Marquez 34:22

I mean, my grandfather clearly chopped his pinky off and he does— he showed me his garden. "This is the leaf. If you ever chop off anything in your— off your body, you chew this leaf, and you put vinegar

and salt on whatever is chopped off, and then you put this in between— this gooey stuff off the leaf and you put it back". And it was functional. Yeah, he never went to the doctor for it, but he had cleanly sliced it off with the bone and everything and he glued it back.

Katrina Pagaduan 34:49

Do you know what the—

John Marquez 34:49

I don't know. It was these little tiny green leaves. They look like a teardrop.

Katrina Pagaduan 34:54

I'd love to find that out.

John Marquez 34:56

But yeah, I couldn't— like what happened? And even with me, I'm going "wait a minute!". This is a generation— like it's past— been passed down. Same hand, same finger. How else do you explain that?

Katrina Pagaduan 35:10

He's very resourceful. But I do love that him and his wife were very in tune with medicinal plants and healing for the community. Speaking of which, your grandmother. Do you want to share any memories you have about her? Or specifically like her— uh I guess— occupation with medicinal healing?

John Marquez 35:38

So my grandmother was pretty much— most of her life that I've known her, she was a housekeeper or she, you know, stayed home. She was homekeep— homekeeper. And even when we were kids, even though her kids were grown up, she would take care of us. And she would cook. And she would always, you know, grandma's fried chicken or grandma's, you know, pinakbet, or any of that other Filipino-style food. She was always making sure we were— our stomachs were full. She also knitted. She loved to knit. She would knit for months, you know, a blanket.

Evelyn Marquez 36:16

Crocheting.

John Marquez 36:17

Crocheting. Yeah, she did a very difficult crocheting where it's circular-type or square, and then she would connect everything. But she did have some— some jobs. She also worked for Jensen's Apples, I don't know what she did there. But she worked for them for a while she worked in a cannery. Local cannery, I want to say, was the Green Giant here in this area. But for the most part, she was a homemaker. And, yeah, she didn't work very long. As in, she didn't, she wasn't, it wasn't like consecutive years, she'd be working, it would just be once in a while. But pretty much for her, I mean, it was just taking care of us or, you know, taking care of family. And I know she loved to play bingo. I don't know how often she did that. Because I was just a kid where I kept hearing "bingo, bingo", you know.

John Marquez 37:10

She always had, you know, a certain recipe or certain types of foods that we would always try and get the recipe and she would never give out the secret. And she never wrote them down. So I— everything was just like, "Okay, use this much sugar, half of this, half— half of a mango or—", you know, whatever it was, um, "Ah, you know, do— add this, a pinch of that!" That— that's how pretty much, you know, these recipes would— if you tried to ask, but yeah, we always— she always brought us around, like say after school we'd go to get McDonald's or something like that, or Carl's Jr. And then later on she would come over to my mom's house, you know, later on in life when she was older, and I would take her to the grocery store. And her and I actually had this bond, kind of like, um, when I was about 16 through 25 or so, where she would say, "John, can you take me to go buy the salmon collars?"— which are the heads of the salmon— to the deluxe food— or sometimes we would go down to Monterey area and go— go to a certain fish market there or in Marina, the Filipino store there. So I would take her and it was always strange. It was always one little thing that would hold us back. Like, say for instance, we were leaving here, my mom's house here. And "Oh, I need to use the restroom!" or "Oh, I forgot something. I need to go grab— grab it". And then on our way down to Monterey, there was always a car accident. And I always felt like if we for— didn't forget something or we didn't use the bathroom, it could have been us in that accident. So there was always this— I can't even tell you how many times that's happened. But my grandma and I were always kind of like, buddy-buddy, it was just her and I. We would go and, you know, I was— you know, she would always say "Oh, you're my favorite!" and I would say "Grandma! Don't say that. And especially in front of the other kids." You know, she would call always call me the favorite, but it's just like "Grandma no, just— I'm just me, John".

John Marquez 39:15

And later on in life she winded up having Alzheimer's and she lived with my mom. This is after the fire. So about— what was that? 19— 1998 to 2000 because she passed away in 2013. She lived with my mom for five or six years or so, seven years, and then she was in a nursing home because her Alzheimer's got really bad. So during my lunch breaks from work, I would go visit her at the nursing home and sometimes she knew who I was and sometimes— sometimes she didn't. And you know, I would probably see her once or twice a week, sometimes three times if I was working locally here in Watsonville area. And I— her— the last time it was Christmas of 2012 or 2013 that I went to see her and there's a guy playing guitar and we were singing Christmas carols and so I said "Grandma, do you remember this song?" And she started singing, it was almost like— it was so strange because she remembered the words. And she would look at me and say, "Oh, it's you, it's you!" And she would sing and sing. And I think that was kind of her Christmas present to me before she passed, she— to remember. You know, that was a really, I don't know, kind of lifting type of experience, because she'd been so, you know, she was gone, you know, like her mind. She didn't know who anybody was but she would, every time she saw me, it was like, "Oh, it's you". So I knew deep down, she knew who I was. And then to have her sing Christmas songs word for word, that last time that I got to see her was, you know, the last great memory, you know, that she would give me as a present. Like, "I remember this, so I'm gonna sing it for you". But yeah, my grandma and I were kind of like, I'd take her to the store or to the market, wherever— whatever she wanted. Whenever she needed money I would give her money. You know. So it was nice, you know, lots of good memories.

Katrina Pagaduan 41:24

The bond that you two shared seemed like it went very deep. You mentioned she worked at the canneries, and it's not– it's actually very common amongst the manong of the– manang of the generation that they worked in canneries, if not the fields, are also like you said home, um–

John Marquez 41:44

Homemaker.

Katrina Pagaduan 41:45

Homemakers. Yeah, they were very much– I don't know if this is the case for your grandmother, but there's some other manang of the project who– they assisted the community in a way your grandfather kind of did, showing people how to apply for different documentation, and work, going to the bank, stuff like that. Did she partake in any of that?

John Marquez 42:11

You know, she did. And she– she always had friends, like, my grandmother had so many friends. And, you know, she would help them. And if she didn't know how she would kind of point them in the right direction, you know. And I mean, even for me, I remember, like, when I was in my late 20s or so, or early 30s, she would say, "Oh, you know what, so-and-so needs this, you know, Social Security card", I go "I'll go get it", you know, like, because I know where the Social Security places are– or even with the DMV, so it wasn't like, things that, you know, like, say, for instance, like immigration type of stuff, you know, like som– like back in the day, like if they needed certain papers to, you know, to migrate, or, you know, to have someone come over from the Philippines or have some kind of sponsorship, they weren't those kinds of questions. They were just little things like, Social Security, DMV– I mean, "Who- who should I contact if I want to add something to my house?", you know, something like that. You know, you would, you would have to get the permission from the County first, right? That type of stuff. But she was always willing to help. And she was always willing to help heal somebody. I mentioned that earlier. She had a healing touch. And it almost became kind of– at one point, I mean, 10 people lined up at her door, and my grandpa would tell them to go away. Because my grandma was tired, you know? Yeah, she– you know, they would– they would come to the house. And from what I know, is they would donate money, or they would put money in a little can, and my grandfather took care of all that but it was like, "No, she's tired today, you know, come back tomorrow or something". But yeah, she was very– you know, she was active, but she was also very grounded at home. She loved her home. And you know, the whole thing about, you know, when somebody came over, "I got to feed them". "What do you– what do you want to eat? Are you hungry?" And it's like, "I've already ate." "No, no, you need to eat more". She always tried to force feed people. Yeah.

Katrina Pagaduan 44:23

Remind me of the year that your grandparents came to the United States.

John Marquez 44:27

In 1955. Together. Yeah.

Katrina Pagaduan 44:30

So do you know— like what might have pushed them from the Philippines and pulled them into America?

John Marquez 44:37

You know, that— that's a good question. I mean, I just know from my— my grandfather that coming here in the 20s, late 20s was just something to see the new world. You know, they call it— they called it a new world, right. And so, I think my grandfather liked— you know, because he was living with Grandpa Carmen in San Francisco— you know, he liked the world here. And when he— when he came down to— I don't even know what— what drew him down to Pajaro Valley was there something— a friend?

Evelyn Marquez 45:10

Children. The children was most important to him. He wanted a better life for the children. Because we were three. That's why he had to sell— since he was an American citizen, he had to sell the lands to bring all of us back here. So the children will have a better life.

John Marquez 45:35

Yes.

Evelyn Marquez 45:36

That was the goal. Yeah.

John Marquez 45:38

And he— and he liked this area, and it was pretty much— I mean, as we know Watsonville today versus in the 1930s— I mean, imagine how much land and how much availability there was. And there was a growing population of Filipinos here. So, I mean, what— where else to better settle in a place like this, where you have fertile grounds, you know, fertile fields, you have the ocean, right. And now everybody wants to live here, right? If you think about it, like Santa Cruz is very desirable. You know, Watsonville is a very desirable area. So, yeah, I don't think maybe the pursuit of a better life, from the Philippines to here. And you know, to start his own family and have his family have, you know, all the benefits of a better life living here.

Katrina Pagaduan 46:31

Did he know anyone in the Pajaro Valley? Is that why he came to settle here or was it on his own decision?

John Marquez 46:39

I— there was a few, right? Like—

Evelyn Marquez 46:42

I don't know, but um—

Evelyn Marquez 46:43

I remember— I remember the Serafica's.

Evelyn Marquez 46:47

They didn't come till later.

Evelyn Marquez 46:49

No, I thought Nixon said something about when they came here, he showed them how to go to the post office.

Evelyn Marquez 46:56

This is before—

John Marquez 46:57

Oh even before that?

Evelyn Marquez 46:58

—before this, probably because of the employment with the Jensens. He didn't know anybody, I don't think. Yeah. All he knows was the employment with the Jensens. And that's why he wanted to bring the family down here. For a better life with the children. Yeah, they work hard in the fields. I was able to go college, even got me a little car to go to college.

John Marquez 47:28

I mean—

Evelyn Marquez 47:29

That was hard for them to be— for— you know— for me to go.

John Marquez 47:34

You know, like the whole thing about the Jensen family. I mean, it's very generous of them to hire my grandfather and treat him very nicely, you know, especially during the time when there was a lot of racism, you know, and they took him in, gave him a place to live, you know, was able to get his family here. I don't know if that— if there was a part of that was, you know, they helped out bringing them over. But I just know, I do have the affidavit of my grandfather saying they wanted to come here and settle here in, in the Pajaro Valley. And he did mention on the affidavit that the Jensen & Son company is who he's working for. And so it was like he had a job. He had an opportunity here, so he made the most of it. And I'm— I mean, we're just so glad that it happened here. You know.

Evelyn Marquez 48:27

Cuz he was here before—

John Marquez 48:29

Yeah.

Evelyn Marquez 48:29

—Before he went to war. So that's why he knows the employment was here. When he stayed in the Philippines for a while, when he got married and got kids, he knew there was employment here.

John Marquez 48:44

That was between 1939 and 1942 that he was here in the Pajaro Valley after being 10 years up in San Francisco.

Katrina Pagaduan 48:53

It sounds like that time he spent in the Philippines, I'm sure things must have changed in Watsonville. But the employment stayed the same for him to come back. I'm curious— although he didn't move to Pajaro Valley to be with family or because of family, did he create community and like, a chosen family over the years living here?

John Marquez 49:20

A chosen family as —?

John Marquez 49:22

Like, did he create like, extended family?

John Marquez 49:26

Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. I mean— so other Filipino families have come and they've— they bonded. I mean, as far as I know. I mean, there's the Fallorina's, Serafica's, and even some of the families in Salinas. They were very close to the Radok's. And they're all farmers, you know. So— Carbonell family— so they've kind of had this— this little community of Filipino families, and they kind of helped each other, right? They— and to get better— get better, you know, have homes, you know, have property, you know, sending their kids to school. So, you know, as I remember from the— from his funeral, Nick was saying how my grandfather was a pioneer. He was the one that helped pave the way for other Filipinos to live here. And when someone else came, he would show them. So, you know, imagine one family came and then another family and then multiply, multiply, multiply, right? So then they, the other families, were able to show these newer families coming in. And so my grandfather was just doing his thing. So he was kinda like, one of the first, you know, I would say, from his village, right, from Ilocos Norte to, you know, to help set— you know, settle here and help others settle here. And I know, there were other Filipinos even before that, like in the 20's and 30's, you know, further— further back, but, you know, as from what I know and my family knows that, in here specifically in Watsonville, there are a group of families that I know my grandfather— grandfather had an impact on them, to help them live over here. And, you know, become what we are today, with, you know, many kids, many, you know, students who became, you know, lawyers and doctors, and, you know, whatever, you know, whatever, businessmen, business women, you know, so it's— it's a very sat— I mean, it's almost like lifting, satisfying, and, you know, I'm just proud that my grandfather did what he did. And he never complained, you know, everything was always— no matter how bad things got, he always came out on top.

John Marquez 49:57

Sounds like a very humble person in how you describe him. Did he ever sponsor his own family members from Ilocos Norte to come here?

Evelyn Marquez 52:04

One of them— one of them wanted to come over, but I don't know— maybe Auntie Angela's family. I have no idea.

John Marquez 52:15

Yeah. So—

Evelyn Marquez 52:16

The cousins, maybe?

John Marquez 52:19

There was— I know Grandpa Carmello, Auntie Angela, which is his sister—

Evelyn Marquez 52:25

Yeah.

John Marquez 52:25

They had other families—

John Marquez 52:27

The sister's daughter?

John Marquez 52:31

Oh, yeah. Yeah. Aunty— I can't think of her name. Teresa?

Evelyn Marquez 52:38

No. I forgot the name.

John Marquez 52:42

So basically there were other families that came, but it wasn't directly with my grandfather, staying at their house, or my grandfather was supporting them. It was through the other family members, like the— the sister's daughter, and then another family coming in. So basically, her cousin, they were— they were sponsoring or their parents sponsored them, and so forth. Yeah. There wasn't a direct sponsorship that I know of, you know. And it sounds like grandpa didn't have any other direct family coming this way. I think they all wanted to go to the city. Like a big city. You know, like the other part of the family is in Southern California, in Los Angeles. And then Grandpa Carmelo's family was up in San Francisco.

Evelyn Marquez 53:30

Carmelo probably sponsored but I don't think my dad ever sponsored other relatives, I had no idea.

John Marquez 53:38

I mean, we would have known, you know, like, you know, if they wanted, because if they wanted to do— to do farm work, then this would be the place to be. And I don't— Yeah, we don't have any memory of anybody else coming in, directly from my grandfather's side of the family. We had a lot of friends, I'll tell you that. A lot of friends. We used to have these part— Well, my grandfather used to throw parties and

even when it was my, I remember my seventh birthday at his house, um, people I've never met before, but it was like a very, very fun party and you know, even having the lechon— live lechon— you know, having all the, you know, everyone brought presents, it was just such a— it was a fun time, you know, and everybody like it'd be one weekend here at someone's house, and another weekend we'd be in Salinas at a party, or be somewhere— Yeah, party all over the place!

Katrina Pagaduan 53:49

I love family gatherings.

John Marquez 54:36

Yeah. Pancit, lumpia, diniguan, and then bibingka—ah— cassava bibingka.

Evelyn Marquez 54:47

Yummy.

John Marquez 54:48

Yep.

Katrina Pagaduan 54:51

Did your grandfather or grandmother ever cook a lot?

John Marquez 54:53

Oh, all the time. Yeah, my— Well, my grandmother especially she always, you know, lot of I want to say both Visayan and Ilocano type foods right?

Evelyn Marquez 55:04

Yeah, grandpa would barbecue.

John Marquez 55:05

Yeah, grandpa would barbecue, grandpa did like the meat stuff. Yeah. And even like the fish stuff. But my grandma did all the veggies. And you know, I— it's funny to me because I would never know where they went shopping for those types of foods. I think they just got them from friends. Like they network like, "I'll trade you some fish for some, you know, ampalaya leaves or something."

Katrina Pagaduan 55:27

They bartered.

John Marquez 55:28

They bartered, yeah. And plus my grandfather grew a lot of his vegetables in his garden, which I think, you know—

Evelyn Marquez 55:34

Tomatoes.

John Marquez 55:36

Yeah, beans, corn.

Evelyn Marquez 55:37

Beans, corn, it's all there.

John Marquez 55:39

But I think that also is a reason why he lived so long. Because he, you know, he— he did his— his work. And he enjoyed his— the fruits of his labor, right. His vegetables, and— and even his fishing. He wasn't very big on like steaks and, you know, heavy kinds of meats. But, you know, he was mostly, I would say a seafood type diet. Vegetables. Yeah, pretty much like, you know, typical Filipino-types foods. Yeah. Chicken, right. Manok. Yeah.

Katrina Pagaduan 56:10

You mentioned he raised chickens. Were these just like egg-laying chickens or any of them—?

John Marquez 56:15

No, they would be— It'd be a little bit of both. Right? A little bit of both, then the chicken would be eaten, you know, but this is how you survive. And he taught me this. You know, he taught me like, "This is what you got to do. This is how you get the eggs. And then when the chicken is ready for eating, then this is what you do". You know? That's tough. But yeah, I mean, it's pretty amazing.

Katrina Pagaduan 56:43

Are there any other pastimes that you recall of your grandfather or your grandmother? Besides fishing or clamming ?

John Marquez 56:52

So grandfather—

Evelyn Marquez 56:53

Probably gardening, no?

John Marquez 56:54

He did gardening, but he loved to blacksmith. You know, he loved to mess with metals and heat up metals and bend them and curve them. And so when I say that he would make like, say fishing pole stands or he would— he had this barbecue crank thing in the backyard where he had this big brick barbecue and he would lower it in and he's the one who created the metal on that. He made that metal. He made the grill by— with his own hands. Yeah, so he would— I don't— I mean, we're talking, the metal was orange. You know where it was lit up and you can move it and he would hit it with a hammer. And an anvil. Yeah. Yeah. Like you see it in the shows today. You know, where they're making swords, like he made— he can make stuff like that. Yeah. So that, and you know, he just loved to lay in his hammock and listen to the birds. He had a hammock in the backyard. And he would just lay there and he just loved nature. So I think just for him being outdoors was his greatest hobby, you know, being out in the

world. And, you know, he liked peace and quiet. Yeah, it wasn't like he was antisocial. He was just, he just loved— like my mom, she just loves everything quiet.

Evelyn Marquez 57:00

Peace and quiet. Believe me. When I go to lunch at work, I wanna make sure it's just me on the table. I'm not kidding. They wonder "Why is Evelyn there by herself?" Hmm, wonder why.

John Marquez 58:26

She's still working. She doesn't need to work anymore. But she still wants to work. I think that's the mother hen in her.

Katrina Pagaduan 58:37

What about your grandfather and grandmother's community involvement? Were they a part of any Filipino clubs?

John Marquez 58:44

They were part of the Filipino Community of Watsonville, which is located off of Freedom. And I remember having some type of, you know, like going to, like parties or a birthday or some kind of— maybe a wedding reception. But I don't know what their actual titles— what their titles were.

Evelyn Marquez 59:05

They were a member of the Filipino thing but they weren't active. They would sell the— what do you call—

John Marquez 59:12

The tickets?

Evelyn Marquez 59:12

The tickets. That's about it.

John Marquez 59:15

Yeah.

Katrina Pagaduan 59:16

Were you ever a part of like social box dances?

Evelyn Marquez 59:20

What?

John Marquez 59:21

Okay, I remember there being like, tinikling type things happening, but what's the box dance?

Katrina Pagaduan 59:27

I believe— don't quote me on this. But I believe it was like a dime-a-dance type of thing where young Filipinas get to dance as like the community—

Evelyn Marquez 59:40

I betcha grandpa did that.

John Marquez 59:41

I'm sure.

Katrina Pagaduan 59:42

It's a community-based thing where like, you pay a dime to dance with one of the Filipinas. It's like a pageantry sort of setting. It was just a way for people to meet—

John Marquez 59:53

To meet and like, like perhaps you might start dating somebody right?

Katrina Pagaduan 59:57

Maybe.

John Marquez 59:58

Yeah.

John Marquez 59:59

People got to like show off their dresses and like the men show off their tuxedos and suits.

John Marquez 1:00:01

Yeah. Yeah, I just know that, that like for my grandparents, it was like, they wanted to go early and they wanted to leave early. They weren't— they weren't late bodies, you know, they— they love to— like the early bird special, "I want to go when it's early, and then I want to go home". Yeah, then, you know, they— like I said they had lots of friends and, you know, just— I think being around in this community for 50 years, you know, especially this not being their homeland, you know, and then making it their home. And they just— they were very comfortable. You know, and, you know, they're the— the friends that we— that, you know, that are still around today, you know, they always respect— "Oh, your grandpa", "I knew your grandfather". I was at the pharmacy in CVS here in Watsonville and somebody came up to me— I can't remember his name. But he said, "I knew your grandfather". Old, really old guy. And he's like, "I knew your grandfather. He was a great man". I'm like, "Oh, thank you". You know, the— "Oh, I used to fish with him". And you know, sometimes you go to the beach and every person there— Filipino, Filipino, Filipino. And it's like, "I know your uncle. I know your grandpa!" you know, everyone knows each other. So, "What are you using for bait? How come you always catch and I catch nothing?" I said, "Well, you gotta use this".

Katrina Pagaduan 1:00:14

You have to go dig your own clams.

John Marquez 1:00:59

Yeah you gotta go dig your own clams!

Evelyn Marquez 1:01:25

Oh man, that's one of the things that one day– I guess I came home from work or something.

John Marquez 1:01:32

Oh, yeah.

Evelyn Marquez 1:01:33

And he– you're limited to ten clams per person, right? So he comes up to me. "Evelyn come with me."

John Marquez 1:01:41

So he can get 20.

Evelyn Marquez 1:01:42

Moss Landing. Oh, my God, I was–

John Marquez 1:01:44

Super low tide.

Evelyn Marquez 1:01:45

Rocks in there. And like 10 for me and 10 for him and then we go home.

John Marquez 1:01:50

Yeah. He'd be digging so– because they're called horse clam, right geoduck, they would go down so fast in the sand. You couldn't even catch up to them. But my grandfather was so fast at digging. You know, I guess that when he was digging those graves, but he would dig and then pull that guy out of there. And then there's one and then two, and he would drag me along. And I'd be like, "how are you doing that?" But now it's illegal to do that. You can't go there and do that anymore. Because I guess when the tide comes in, you can get stuck in the– your boots can get stuck. And you know, so I guess somebody drowned or something? Yeah, he was a brave man. And he was very muscular. Even when his last days. He still had lots of muscles. Yeah.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:02:35

That's how I recall my great grandfather as well,

John Marquez 1:02:37

Good shape.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:02:38

Small stature. But he even in old age he had a lot of muscle. I think that's just from like working in the fields constantly, always doing some type of labor.

John Marquez 1:02:48

Yeah. And even though it was labor, it was still a simple life. Right? It wasn't very complicated. You know.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:02:53

And a good diet.

John Marquez 1:02:54

Good diet. Yeah. He— my grandfather drove until he was about 99. Right. So he passed— he passed his license. 100% driving test, 100% written test. But they— we took his license away because he drove on the wrong side of the road to get to the gas station. Because he didn't want to wait. He said there was too much traffic. So he just decided, "I'm going to go on the opposite side, opposite direction". Luckily, nobody came and the police saw him and said, "Mr. Ventura, you— you're not supposed to drive on the other side of the road". "Oh, but I didn't want to wait". So then— I don't think he gave him a ticket though. Right?

Evelyn Marquez 1:03:33

No but—

Katrina Pagaduan 1:03:34

I couldn't imagine giving a 99-year-old man a ticket!

Evelyn Marquez 1:03:37

I remember we went to the garbage dump over there one time. So we're taking his garbage, right. So we come— coming back, you know, up there, you know, up the hill right there. And the strawberry fields on the side.

John Marquez 1:03:52

Yeah.

Evelyn Marquez 1:03:53

You make a left turn. He was going in the field. I said, "Dad, I don't think we want to go into the strawberry field!"

John Marquez 1:03:59

He was cutting—making his own shortcut.

Evelyn Marquez 1:04:01

Oh my God.

John Marquez 1:04:03

"Oh, I don't need to wait. I don't need to wait." So it's like "Grandpa!", and you know, he loved fishing and he would go every day. But it was just, you know, he was— it was getting dangerous, you know.

Evelyn Marquez 1:04:12

He was very independent.

John Marquez 1:04:13

Yeah.

Evelyn Marquez 1:04:14

Needed his car.

John Marquez 1:04:15

Yeah. So it was '99 when we took— we actually took his license away so he wouldn't drive. And he knew, so when he wanted to go I would take him fishing. And it wasn't as much as he wanted to because I was working, you know, it'd be like on the weekend and so, you know, but he knew. He wasn't— he was a little upset, but he wasn't like, you know, it wasn't one of those things where he was like, wouldn't talk to me. But, yeah, um, what else question? Yeah.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:04:47

We had mentioned earlier, I think before we put the recording on, that your grandfather spoke a little bit about Fermin Tobera and some of the Watsonville Race Riots?

Evelyn Marquez 1:04:59

That's all I remember. He just mentioned about Fermin being killed. That was about it. He didn't go into detail. But it was like a— a talk about races. What—what I gathered from what he said, Watsonville was, um, you had your own, you know, brown people had their own bathrooms. White people got their own bathroom. You couldn't go date a white woman. That's all was mentioned. But there was that situation with Fermin but he didn't go into detail. He just mentioned it.

John Marquez 1:05:46

What year was that again, when he was killed?

Katrina Pagaduan 1:05:48

I'm not sure.

John Marquez 1:05:49

Because my grandfather was here in 1939. But I think it was one of those— '39 here in Pajaro Valley— I think it was one of those, like, everybody knew it. Everybody heard about, you know, in the Philippine community, they knew it. But no one ever mentioned it to us. Yeah, like why? Like, why would they—

Evelyn Marquez 1:06:11

I never knew!

John Marquez 1:06:12

—not mention that.

Evelyn Marquez 1:06:12

I never knew there was that was that racist thing that was going on at that time.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:06:17

Did your grandfather ever mentioned like, racist experiences that happened to him? Did he ever share something of that nature?

John Marquez 1:06:23

Um, you know, he would mention certain things about like, being blamed for something like, "Oh, must have been that Filipino guy that did that or stole that" or— and even, goodness,

Evelyn Marquez 1:06:38

Even in employment.

John Marquez 1:06:39

Oh, yeah.

Evelyn Marquez 1:06:40

He was blamed.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:06:42

How so?

Evelyn Marquez 1:06:44

Um, one of the younger Jensen, he was working over by Riverside, on the apple trees. And there were some tools were stolen—

John Marquez 1:06:58

—Or missing.

Evelyn Marquez 1:07:00

Yeah, missing. And um, they kind of blamed my dad.

John Marquez 1:07:04

Yeah. And my grandpa was the one who's working for them and—

Evelyn Marquez 1:07:08

Yeah, all those years. Why blame my dad? So you know what I did? They even didn't pay him \$200 that he was owed for how many years? Maybe 20 years or more. So, you know, I was talking to this guy that used to work with the Jensens at one time. And I said, "You know, my dad got billed from some hours that they didn't pay him". And I, I forgot who this guy was I was talking to. So I told him about that situation. I guess the guy went and talked to the Jetsons. And, finally, they— they— my mom receive a check for \$200. But that was like 20 years. I said "20 years of \$200. You should be more than that".

Katrina Pagaduan 1:08:09

The interest.

Evelyn Marquez 1:08:10

Yeah!

John Marquez 1:08:10

Yeah. I mean—

Evelyn Marquez 1:08:12

So that— there's racist right there.

John Marquez 1:08:14

Yeah.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:08:15

Do you think that they withheld his money because of that incident with the tools?

Evelyn Marquez 1:08:20

Yeah! Probably.

John Marquez 1:08:22

And it was a younger person

Evelyn Marquez 1:08:24

And they found out who it was—

John Marquez 1:08:25

Oh—

Evelyn Marquez 1:08:26

It was a Mexican.

John Marquez 1:08:29

But they blame grandpa.

Evelyn Marquez 1:08:30

Yeah. So there was that racist thing that was going on in there.

John Marquez 1:08:36

I mean, you know, it's always like kind of bittersweet. Like, my— it was like, they gave him an opportunity to work. And then I mean, I know that that little incident, you know, doesn't seem like much, but I mean, it could have hurt— hurt some feelings, you know, but—

Evelyn Marquez 1:08:53

It was the younger Jensen. It wasn't the older Jensen.

John Marquez 1:08:56

Yeah. I don't know. Maybe they were— Who knows? I don't know. I don't know the actual story behind it all. But I just know that, you know, things were smoothed out later on. That took some time, though. I mean, 20 years is a long time.

Evelyn Marquez 1:09:10

I didn't see him at the funeral.

John Marquez 1:09:14

The younger one?

Evelyn Marquez 1:09:16

The younger one.

John Marquez 1:09:18

Yeah. Well, I mean, that's— you know, I'm sure these kinds of things come up, right. But—

Evelyn Marquez 1:09:28

Don't put that on the—

John Marquez 1:09:28

Yeah.

Evelyn Marquez 1:09:32

Wipe that out.

John Marquez 1:09:33

Or, you know, you could— you could just elaborate on, you know, like, cut out a certain part. But, you know, I think it's nice to know that, you know, he got blamed for something that he didn't do, you know, you could say that. Yeah, I'm fine with that. You know. So,

Katrina Pagaduan 1:09:49

What about labor strikes? Do you know if he was ever a part of—

John Marquez 1:09:55

No.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:09:55

—or what was like his standpoint— his opinion on it?

John Marquez 1:10:01

I don't think he ever had anything like that. I just know when there wasn't work he had another farmer to go work for. Like he worked for Reeder's for a little bit right? Reeder Apples. Some— what's another big— I don't think he worked for Silva. But they knew him— my gramp— they knew my grandfather because my friend Bobby— Yeah, my friend Bobby would say, "Hey, your grandpa was really good at, you know, fixing trees", you know, but they knew him. They knew of him. So he, my grandpa, always had work and when he didn't have work he would go fish, you know. So it was very simple for him— it was a very simple type of life. And he didn't. He didn't even gripe, like he never— like we would complain for him if something happened. Like, for instance, my grandfather was sitting eating his lunch in his truck, and some guy in a Jaguar—

Evelyn Marquez 1:10:54

Although he wasn't eating. No—

John Marquez 1:10:57

What?

Evelyn Marquez 1:10:57

—No, no, no, no, it was um—

John Marquez 1:11:00

It was over in Moss Landing.

Evelyn Marquez 1:11:02

He was gonna go fishing, right? So my, my dad's making a left turn to turn around, you know where the— the PGE thing right there, he was going to make a left turn. So this jaguar in the back. Hit him from, let's see, hit him from the—

John Marquez 1:11:31

He hit him from the right rear—

Evelyn Marquez 1:11:32

The right rear and made the car go.

John Marquez 1:11:36

It went [flying sound]

Evelyn Marquez 1:11:38

So you had a hernia with that. But you know, the guy who hit him, you know, the—

John Marquez 1:11:44

He was a rich guy. And he—

Evelyn Marquez 1:11:45

No— no.

John Marquez 1:11:46

I thought he was a rich guy and my grandfather–

Evelyn Marquez 1:11:49

He was a gigolo with a woman.

John Marquez 1:11:51

Oh, no.

Evelyn Marquez 1:11:52

[laughter] Don't put this in this, don't–

John Marquez 1:11:54

No, no, put it in there! I want you to put it in there.

Evelyn Marquez 1:11:58

This gigolo was driving. What do you call it, the car?

John Marquez 1:12:01

Jaguar,

Evelyn Marquez 1:12:02

Jaguar. And then the woman was on the side. So a year passed almost to that day. They sued my dad.

John Marquez 1:12:12

So in other words, my grandfather said "Don't worry about it. This is a bump on my car". But my grandfather winded up having a hernia. The guy, they– I guess they exchanged information. On the 364th day after the initial hit, the guy– my grandfather gets a thing saying you're being sued for mental distress by this guy in the Jaguar, because he thought my grandfather was going to sue him for everything he had. So my– this guy decides to sue my grandfather. So my mom gets a hold of this and says, "I'm getting a lawyer."

Evelyn Marquez 1:12:13

Oh yeah, we did.

John Marquez 1:12:21

Yeah. So we– they countersued and they won \$35,000.

Evelyn Marquez 1:12:47

Somewhere around there.

John Marquez 1:12:48

Yeah. And my grandfather wasn't gonna say a thing!

Evelyn Marquez 1:12:50

Yeah, he was gonna— I said "You're gonna lose"— I warn my dad and I go, "You are gonna lose the house, if you don't countersue". So I went and got a lawyer in Monterey. But then I asked the lawyer in Monterey to get one closer here, so that way, we wouldn't be going back and forth in Monterey. So we got Mr. Timon and down here, a lawyer. And we won.

John Marquez 1:13:16

They won the case.

Evelyn Marquez 1:13:17

He wouldn't even come to the deposition.

John Marquez 1:13:19

So the guy basically did it because he didn't want to lose a bigger amount of money. So he was thinking that my grandfather was gonna sue him for everything when 30,000 for this guy was nothing. He was still a pretty wealthy guy. I didn't know about the girl in the car. He was a gigolo?

Katrina Pagaduan 1:13:37

If you drive a Jaguar you have to have some type of money.

John Marquez 1:13:41

Yeah, I—

Evelyn Marquez 1:13:42

Anyway the gigolo died! That's what my lawyer told me. [laughter]

John Marquez 1:13:50

Mom! [laughter]

Evelyn Marquez 1:13:50

Oh, don't put this in the story!

John Marquez 1:13:51

No, put it in there. Yeah. So in other words, he, my grandfather, was the one who got hit. And my grandfather was the one who won because the other guys were suing him for something that he was feeling like this mental stress that he was going to lose more money than he thought he was. So—

Katrina Pagaduan 1:14:08

It sounds like your grandfather just didn't want any trouble.

John Marquez 1:14:11

No trouble!

Evelyn Marquez 1:14:11

No he didn't want trouble!

Katrina Pagaduan 1:14:12

But luckily, he had family to kinda–

John Marquez 1:14:14

Yeah, he had a hernia surgery.

Evelyn Marquez 1:14:18

A whole year that I had to take off, a year back and forth while I work at the same time, I'm going to these lawyers meeting and stuff like that. Oh my god. I'm like, I was stressed out big time.

John Marquez 1:14:29

Yeah, that was a very stressful time.

Evelyn Marquez 1:14:31

A whole year of that. And then when the thing, we had the deposition and all that stuff, the guy didn't show up. So that's it.

John Marquez 1:14:42

Yeah, he lost.

Evelyn Marquez 1:14:43

He lost.

John Marquez 1:14:44

So, well, luckily, grandpa – Grandpa got fixed from his surgery. And then he had extra money, which we think burned down in the house. Because it was right before that time. You know, it was like in the mid '90s right, 1992, '93. And then–

Evelyn Marquez 1:15:02

I bet you don't get this kind of story. Do you?

John Marquez 1:15:06

This is her first one!

Katrina Pagaduan 1:15:08

No, this is my first interview.

John Marquez 1:15:11

I hope this has been fun.

Evelyn Marquez 1:15:12

Don't put that story– don't put that story in there.

John Marquez 1:15:15

So yeah, a very humble man. He didn't want any trouble. Nobody really wants any trouble.

Evelyn Marquez 1:15:20

No, he's one that don't cause any trouble.

John Marquez 1:15:22

But I can tell you if it was the other way around, it'd be, you know, all hells would– all hell would break loose. You know.

Evelyn Marquez 1:15:28

If it wasn't for me, they would have been sued real good.

John Marquez 1:15:33

Gosh,

Evelyn Marquez 1:15:33

Oh my gosh.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:15:35

What about your grandmother? With her relationship with your grandfather? Sounds like he was a very peaceful man. Very humble. What was their dynamic?

John Marquez 1:15:46

They were just– they were just like, they were–

Evelyn Marquez 1:15:47

They weren't real happy at times. There was trouble sometimes. But they get back together.

John Marquez 1:15:56

Yeah, they were– It was like they were just buddies. Like, they were like best friends. You know, they– you know, she always took care of grandpa and grandpa always took care of grandma, there was always this really good understanding. They, I don't remember how long, but they didn't sleep in the same bed. They had their own beds, because they wanted their own peace and quiet. Does that make sense?

Katrina Pagaduan 1:16:20

Your family loves their peace and quiet.

John Marquez 1:16:21

Yeah, they just want their peace and quiet. Like my grandfather goes to bed earlier, earlier than my grandma. Because he would wake up at three in the morning to go to plant his food – his corn and go

fishing. And my grandmother, you know, she stayed up a little later. And then she would wake up, you know, later, but they had like this partnership, you know, and they would always— I'd come over surprise them. Sometimes they're both sitting there watching the TV, you know? Or, "Hey, there's some stuff in the fridge, go eat it", you know, or, "Oh, yeah, let me show you this— this". My grandpa would put his glasses on and show me how to do the hook on the fish. And, you know, he always very, you know, just— it was just Grandma and Grandpa, you know, like they're— It was very warm and, you know, I always felt that they were, you know, happy. And you know, there would be— they would snicker about stuff, but it's nothing— it was nothing big, you know. And then when the house burned down— so you know how the garage opens up. Like, you know, the door would open up like this. So my grandfather, the way he would lock the garage, you know, he didn't— they didn't have an electric garage door opener. It was like, pull it up yourself. He didn't want that. Actually, my— I think one of my uncles bought it for him and they took it down. They didn't want the electric garage door opener— the manual, he wanted to do a manual. And so my grandfather drilled a hole in the two by four. And drilled a hole in the wall where he would stick a screwdriver to lock it. So when you try to open it, you can't because it's big, huge screwdriver was holding it shut. So when the fire happened, and my grandmother was dragging my grandfather out of the house, they had to be down low because of the smoke. She somehow got them out through the kitchen out to the garage and they were trying to open the garage and the neighbor was trying to open the garage, but that screwdriver was stuck in there. And then my grandmother somehow yanked it out and saved them. Yeah, she knew exactly where to go. And it was dark. And it was some black smoke. I actually showed up right before they got pulled out of that garage. And I couldn't believe that house and you could see it from the freeway. You could see like this huge— looked like a volcano of smoke or of fire going straight up in the air for miles. So from Highway One, if you look towards the left in Watsonville like off of Airport Boulevard, you could see the fire. Yeah, I couldn't believe it. Yeah, amazing. And they came out somehow.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:16:21

Your grandmother, you mentioned that she worked in the cannery. Do you know anything about her experience working in the canneries?

John Marquez 1:19:00

I just know that it was— I don't think she liked it. She hated it.

Evelyn Marquez 1:19:06

She didn't work too long in that

Katrina Pagaduan 1:19:09

Were they night shifts?

John Marquez 1:19:11

I want to say she was —I want to say she was a night shift. Yeah. Because, and then, you know, her friends were still wor— Wasn't Grandma— Grandma Fallorina worked there? Yeah, so they were both like, buddy-buddy, you know? But I don't think she liked it. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, there was never, I mean, I never, ever heard them complain about money. They didn't they didn't have money issues. I mean, later on in life, you know, my grandma say, "Oh, I want to go to Nob Hill". "Oh, here's 20". You know, or, you

know, "Here's some money", you know, because it's— it's our turn to take care of them. Right? But I don't think they ever had any problems, right? Yeah.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:19:56

What about your experience working in agricultural work as a child?

John Marquez 1:20:01

That was very hard. And you know—

Evelyn Marquez 1:20:03

He was good at packing.

John Marquez 1:20:04

What was I, like 13— 13 years old? Yeah, putting the strawberries in the box and apples. That was just something that when— when I saw these other workers doing it because they had to do it, I didn't have to do this. And it just made me realize that this, this is hard work. And do I want to do this? No, but I enjoyed the experience, you know, so I actually, I— I didn't mind it. I actually liked— I liked the, the lesson I guess I learned from it. And, you know, I admire when I see— when I drive by the field, and I see these people bent over and, you know, how their backs must feel. I mean, I was a young kid, and my back was hurting. Imagine if you're 50, something 60, 70 years old, and your, your back's gotta be killing you. But they do what they have to do. I'm glad I had the experience, but it was, you know, it was tough. But I always made fun out of— you know, I always had a good time doing whatever I've done.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:20:04

Could you describe like a day in your life working then?

John Marquez 1:21:13

Describe the day? Okay.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:21:15

Describe a normal day for you when you were a teenager.

John Marquez 1:21:18

Oh, okay. So I— oh, yeah, I'd wake up at 5:30 in the morning. I would spend the night at my uncle's house, because then that way, you wouldn't have to come pick me up here. And so I would spend the night, multiple nights, and then 5:30 in the morning, then we would get to the field by about six. It was before the sun came up. And we would already have figured out which row to pick. And then we would start and go, and then we'd have this little tiny, tiny little cart, and we'd be on our hands and knees. And you know, we'd be picking, you had to pick it where you didn't bruise the fruit, or you know, squish it a little bit where you're— it'd be like a fingerprint, you had to be very gentle. And you had to do this over and over. And I think my, my biggest day was like 21 crates or 21 big things of— boxes of strawberries, not the little ones, I'm talking like the big ones like this, I would— I would have 20— 21 like that. And these guys would have 60— 70. And I was getting \$1 per crate. So there was no hourly wage, it was just \$1 for a crate. So I make \$20 at the most in one day. And that was until about 3:30, 4 o'clock in the

afternoon. Then I would come home and I'd have dirt all over my face and my hands would be all dirty, and then I had my newspaper route. So then I had to roll my newspapers and ride my bike over to Airport Boulevard and do my newspaper route. And I did that, you know for the summer, pretty much the whole summer. And I don't know where all that money went. [laughter] But well, I bought, I bought bikes and stereos and stuff like that— candy. But it was hard. It was hard work. But I made the most of it and enjoyed it.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:23:03

You mentioned going to your uncle's house in the morning. What other manong besides your grandfather were agricultural workers?

John Marquez 1:23:15

So it was my — well— it was Grandpa, Uncle Leon. In my immediate family there was— it was just them. Yeah, it was just them. I mean, there were— they had friends that had — had fields. But yeah, Uncle Leon and Grandpa.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:23:35

Did your father ever do agriculture?

John Marquez 1:23:37

No. My dad. He, well, he was in the Navy. And then he was the dietician cook here at Watsonville Hospital. Yeah, for many years, and then he— he actually got sick, he had a heart— He had an enlarged heart. And then, he loved my— My dad loves to play music and he just pretty much played music and he taught karate too. So he had— he had a he was one of the teachers at the dojo with Fred—

Evelyn Marquez 1:24:07

Castillo.

John Marquez 1:24:08

Castillo, yes. Ah, blanking on the name. So he was one of the teachers there. So he had taught so many kids, you know, karate, and to be a better kid, right? And even when my dad— my dad's funeral, it was— there were so many people there. I want to say there was like a thousand people there because of all the kids and all the people that he— that he taught. You know, all the relatives and friends and— And he— my father passed away 2001. My grandfather was 2011. My grandma was 2013. So, yeah, he went— he went young. My father passed away young. But yeah, everything was— they always said it— my father and my grandfather— "Whatever you do, always do a good job and be happy", you know. So even though my dad wasn't happy all the times from the hospital, he's like, "Always be happy". But it was like, "Why you coming home so grumpy"? [laughter]

Katrina Pagaduan 1:24:08

Practice what you preach.

John Marquez 1:24:14

I know. He's like,—I go, "What, did you have a bad day at work?" But yeah, my— you know, it's funny, we played basketball together. We were in the Filipino League. I don't know if you've heard about it, the Filipino League, but it used to be all Filipinos. And every once in a while, there'd be like, say, you know, like a Caucasian player or a Black player. And then they would call them "import", "Oh, we have one import, you get one import per team". It's like, what do you mean? That's what they say.

Evelyn Marquez 1:25:40

They don't have the gym anymore?

John Marquez 1:25:41

No.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:25:42

What's the age range for the—

John Marquez 1:25:44

Oh, gosh, you can be a teenager to 50, 60 —like my dad was playing 50— over age 50. And he was on it. He was a starting guy on a team. You know, like me. I mean, we had , like, young teenager kids. And then we had, you know, most of most of the players were older guys like in their 20s, late 20s, 30s, 40s. But you can have anybody's age range.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:26:08

Yeah. Is it still ongoing?

John Marquez 1:26:10

They don't have tha— I mean, I think they play outdoors. Over there at— behind Target. There's a school out there. Because one of the guys invited me to play and then I hurt my knee. Yeah. Ohlone, right there off Ohlone. But we used to play Ramsey Park outdoors. And we used to play at St. Francis church, right there by the—

Evelyn Marquez 1:26:30

St. Francis School.

John Marquez 1:26:32

Oh, St. Francis School, but it was Valley church. They used to have a gym there. And then we'd play—

Katrina Pagaduan 1:26:36

That's where you got married.

Evelyn Marquez 1:26:37

Yeah.

John Marquez 1:26:38

Yeah. And downtown Watsonville High. They had a gym there in the building across the street. I can't even think of the name of that. But yeah, I've played a lot of CV Leagues. But Filipino Leagues specifically in this case.

John Marquez 1:26:57

There was one thing I wanted to circle back to and that was— you mentioned, you found out this recent information of your grandfather and his military history. Do you want to share a little bit about that?

John Marquez 1:27:07

Oh, yeah. So I know my grandfather had three tours. I just didn't know exactly what— where the tours were. And so the, the information we have are from the military, there was release papers. So when the house burned down all the medals that he had, we wanted to get those medals back. And so we had to reapply for them. And then they sent the original document copies of the original documents. One of the tours the first tour was in Ardennes— A - R - D - E - N - N - E - S— France, where we had no idea grandpa went to Europe. We didn't know he did a European campaign. We just thought it was all South Pacific, Pacific tours. He was also in New Guinea. I know there was a lot of hand-to-hand combat battling in New Guinea. He had shown— he has this machete. And he would tell me, "You see this machete? I killed 20 soldiers in hand-to-hand combat with this at one time". One time he— you know, during one battle. "I killed 20 guys with this", I'm like "Grandpa!", and he's just like this— this guy right here just— I'm just— you know, he's a soldier right? And this. This is what he had to do to survive. And then he was also part of the Philippine campaign, which I guess, I don't know if it was the Bataan Death March. But because according to the papers, it was 1940— '42, '43 in Europe, and then '44 in New Guinea. And I think that the Death March happened earlier. I want to say in 1941—

Katrina Pagaduan 1:28:52

It was in the early 40's

John Marquez 1:28:54

Yeah. '40, '41. So he wasn't part of that. But I know that he finished his campaign in the Philippines. And then he had stayed in the Philippines and met my grandmother, and they were there for about 10 years before moving here to United States. But my grandfather was a sniper— sharp— sharp shooter and machine gun— uh, machine gunner. Yeah, he was the guy on the frontlines. And, you know, the stories that he's told me— told us they were just so amazing how he— how did he even get out of these situations? You know, I think some people just have a knack of survival and he did whatever he had to do. I mean, he had— I think he's been shot three times. He had bullet holes— he had bullet wounds in his back, his leg —Someone's coming— His back his leg, his um, and I think the back of one of his thighs. But he had— yeah, he definitely had bullet holes, even grandma had a bullet hole in her leg. My grandmother was shot.

Evelyn Marquez 1:30:03

From the World War Two.

John Marquez 1:30:05

Yeah.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:30:06

Was this happened– Did this happen in the Philippines?

John Marquez 1:30:08

Mhmm. Yeah. So he's just a survivor. Both of them.

John Marquez 1:30:16

Yeah. Yeah. So I mean, all the stories are just amazing to me. He's, he's done. You know, he did what he had to do. And he's very, you know, he just very grateful even, I couldn't tell you what the count was for him. But I could just tell you from the battles that he had, they were– there was a lot, you know. And, again, he had to do what he had to do to survive.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:30:36

To say the least.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:30:43

There was one last topic I wanted to cover, before letting you add anything you'd like. I'm curious, your grandfather, even with your mom and your father, and your grandmother, what kind of ideals did they raise you with in terms of your Filipino identity as a Filipino American here in Watsonville, were they formative to you in that–

John Marquez 1:30:43

Just to be proud, you know, to be proud of who you are, and not to forget where you came from. You know, even though there's a lot of, you know, there's always this kind of a little battle of, if you're born in the Philippines, you know, like, say, for instance, if someone born from the Philippines sees you, and they say, "Were you born in the Philippines?" And then you say no, "Oh, you're born here." You know, like, you hear that a lot. And it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. You're Filipino, identify with it and be proud, you know, and so I, you know, growing up, I would hear that a lot. Oh, I was different because I was born here? No, I'm not different. I just– I couldn't help where I was born. But like my grandfather, even my dad, just always, you know, be proud of what you are and who you are and where you came from. And always be generous and nice to others. And treat people how they would want to be treated, even though sometimes we're not treated very nice. [laughter] No. But I think, yeah, that and just being happy overall. Yeah.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:32:16

Sounds wonderful. Is there anything else that you'd like to add? Before we sign off?

John Marquez 1:32:24

I just think that their goals that they had, you know, this kind of old-school type of, you know, moving– coming over being a pioneer. Their goals have been met. I think we have better lives now, for sure. I mean, I don't think we're struggling, right. We have a good life. We eat meat when we want. You know, and I don't have children. But, you know, there's– you know, we try to help each other. And we tried to always be thankful for what we have, you know. I drive by the ocean, because I live by the ocean. And I

think every day like, "Gosh, how lucky are we to be here?" You know, it could have been somewhere else. But now I don't want to leave. I want to stay here and live the rest of my life out in this area. Just because it's, it's so nice. And because of grandpa, he's the one that brought us all here. Yeah, pretty much.

Evelyn Marquez 1:33:19

That was his goal. The children was more important than staying in the Philippines. That's what he tells me.

John Marquez 1:33:28

And the sacrifices that they had. So this picture is on my refrigerator all the time. I took it down just because I wanted— I didn't know if you were going to scan these today or you know.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:33:41

I definitely will —

John Marquez 1:33:43

Okay. But yeah, this is— this is what we have now. So, yeah, she got her wonderful home here, so—

Evelyn Marquez 1:33:53

Oh, yeah. We're so lucky. I mean, let's see. 19— what's it 1976, '75. I got the house here 1975. It was like 100 homes. And they were only selling what, 49 thousand?

John Marquez 1:34:13

39.

Evelyn Marquez 1:34:14

Anyways, um those days I was making \$3 an hour. So 400 dollars a month. Just the bottom, the upstairs I'm still paying for, you added up there. Anyways. Yeah, we're pretty lucky to have a home those days. I mean, it was— It was kind of like a struggle, you know, trying to get a home because I didn't want to go with him in Bremerton anymore. I mean—

John Marquez 1:34:49

My dad got stationed in Seattle for the last two years. So we stayed here, Washington.

Evelyn Marquez 1:34:54

I told him "buy me a house", you know. So we got this house. And lucky the military gave us a half of the payment of the house. Plus, we got another mortgage with total 49 or 39,000. So—

John Marquez 1:35:18

They put \$1 down. Right? It was a \$1 loan.

Evelyn Marquez 1:35:22

Yeah.

John Marquez 1:35:22

Or \$1 down loan. Yeah. Yeah. 1976, when we moved in here on your birthday in 1977.

Evelyn Marquez 1:35:31

Yeah. Big time. So we're just lucky we have the house. These days I don't know if he's gonna be able to buy a house, 500,000 there. It's 549,000. The Filipino lady that our grandma lives out there and sold the house for 549. That's—

John Marquez 1:35:51

That's actually really good.

Evelyn Marquez 1:35:53

Yeah, it's very expensive. I mean, 49 thousand to 39 thousand to 549.

John Marquez 1:36:04

You know, we were talking— we're speaking of birthdays, so my grandfather's birthday is May 5. My mom was born on May 5, same exact day. But in the Philippines, there's a superstition about being born in the same day. So she actually moved her birthday back one day.

Evelyn Marquez 1:36:20

Yeah, that would make me mad.

John Marquez 1:36:21

And then when the Social Security thing came around, she had to explain why her birthday is one day off. Because she has been paying Social Security all these years, but with the wrong birthday. So—

Evelyn Marquez 1:36:35

Good thing they told me 20 years later. I'm like, my god!

John Marquez 1:36:40

We had a lot of— I mean, I'm sure everybody has an interesting story. And, you know, I'm— I love our story. I mean, it's kind of funny, you know, like some of the things that has happened, but then, at the same time—

Evelyn Marquez 1:36:52

I bet you don't have those kinds of stories!

John Marquez 1:36:54

—like finding out that my grandfather was part owner of this house. Oh, my God.

Evelyn Marquez 1:36:58

I'm like, I didn't know about that one. I'm not kidding. Yeah.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:37:02

These stories have been so memorable. Thank you for sharing.

John Marquez 1:37:05

You're welcome.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:37:06

and meeting with me today.

John Marquez 1:37:07

Yeah. When did you— when would be? I don't know, because you would interview my mom separately.

Katrina Pagaduan 1:37:15

Yes. Is it okay if I go ahead and stop the recording?

John Marquez 1:37:16

Yeah, go ahead. Thank you. So I'm going to be working in Hawai'i—