

**The Eubanks Family:
A Porción of Edinburg**

Discovering the Rio Grande Valley

Reports from the

Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools Program

Report # 1

The Norquest Family: A *Porción* of Edinburg

Report # 2

The Cantu Family: A *Porción* of Edinburg

Report # 3

Atwood Acres: A *Porción* of Edinburg

Report # 4

The Eubanks Family: A *Porción* of Edinburg

Report # 5

Bair Farms: A *Porción* of Edinburg

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The Eubanks Family: A Porción of Edinburg

A report prepared for
The Eubanks Family

And for UTRGV and the CHAPS Program class titled:

Discovering the Rio Grande Valley: The Natural and Cultural History of South Texas

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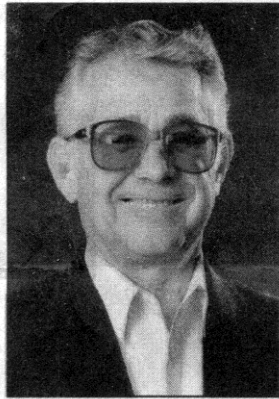
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Dedication

This report is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Kenneth Wayne Eubanks who passed away on January 31, 2016, prior to the publication of this report. He was the patriarch of the Eubanks Family and played an instrumental role in the development of this publication. He and his wife Irene were married for 63 years. He is survived by his wife and two sons, Thomas Mark and Kenneth Scott and many grandchildren.

Dr. Kenneth Wayne Eubanks

EDINBURG — Dr. Kenneth Wayne Eubanks passed away Sunday, January 31, 2016. Dr. Eubanks was born August 8, 1926 in Boonville, Arkansas, graduated Georgia Military Academy and enlisted in the U.S. Army August 29, 1944. Served in the Western Pacific Theater, Luzon Campaign as Private First Class, Automatic Rifleman. Awarded Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct and Combat Infantryman Badges, Honorable Discharge November 28, 1945. Ken was a devoted Husband and Father. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Irene; 2 sons, Thomas Mark and Kenneth Scott; daughter-in-law Lynn; 3 grandsons, Cameron Wayne,



Thomas Alexander and Nicholas Monroe; 3 granddaughters, Michelle, Karen and Crystal Irene; a great-grandson Kellen Chase and a great-granddaughter Fiona Grey. Ken earned Bachelors and Master's Degree, Economics, from Bay-

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lor College, Waco, Texas, earning his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Montana State University in 1960. In his career he served as Full Professor of Economics and Academic Dean with Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado and Associate Professor with Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Later he joined the United States Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of State, first as a contractor starting January 1967 in Monrovia, Liberia, then as a full time employee of USAID. Dr. Eubanks then

served in Pakistan, Ethiopia, Philippines and Kenya retiring a top ranked Foreign Service Officer (USAID) in 1980. At that time Ken and Irene bought citrus properties outside Edinburg, Texas and began to cultivate citrus. He loved history books, Baylor football, Yogi Berra, Alvin and the Chipmunks, westerns, ice cream, chocolate cake, corn bread. Especially he loved to travel, see and experience new places with his family. Ken was and always will be a Son of the American Revolution. Graveside services will be 2:00 PM at the Rio Grande Valley State Veterans Cemetery in Mission, Friday, February 5th, 2016. May he Rest in Peace. kreidlerfuneralhome.com

Sign the guestbook at www.themonitor.com/obituaries.

Dr. Kenneth Wayne Eubanks obituary in The Monitor Newspaper,
February 4, 2016, p. 2B.

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Foreword

The Eubanks Family: A Porción of Edinburg report is the latest testament to the commitment of the Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools (CHAPS) Program to the concepts of engaged scholarship and transdisciplinary collaboration that are central to the mission of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Following previous reports on the Norquest, Cantu, and Atwood families, it is noteworthy that the CHAPS Program's commitment to quality scholarship, community and students in fact predates the existence of UTRGV!

By bringing together anthropologists, archaeologists, biologists, geologists, geographers, and historians, in collaboration with undergraduate and graduate students from a variety of disciplines to address broad questions and issues that are of interest to both scholars and the community, the CHAPS Program continues to lead the way in showing what the academy can and should be and what it can and should do. All too often academics are accused, sometimes rightfully so, of working in an ivory tower. The CHAPS Program shows us how to tear down the tower, and the walls, that separate and isolates the academy from the communities that nourish it.

In this particular case, the CHAPS Program team examines thousands of years of history, prehistory and biology, and millions of years of geology, in one relatively small *porción* (portion) of land belonging to the Eubanks family in Deep South Texas to greatly enrich our understanding of how and why the region has developed along the lines it has taken. In doing so, CHAPS Program researchers have not only produced academic knowledge, they have also provided applied knowledge that communities can, and have, incorporated into their economic development plans. Just as importantly the CHAPS Program effort has also exposed hundreds of students to the value of transdisciplinary and applied research and how they, through their academic work, can directly benefit their communities, as well as enhance their own opportunities for success.

As Dean of the College of Liberal Arts which is the CHAPS Program home college at UTRGV, I am honored to support the work presented in this Report. I can only hope that others follow its lead.

Walter Diaz, Ph.D.
Dean College of Liberal Arts

Preface

Nearly forty years ago in the late 1970s Kenneth and Irene Eubanks purchased 120 acres of land just north of Monte Christo Road in Edinburg, Texas. They joined thousands of other migrants from the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Europe who had transformed the lower Rio Grande into the “Magic Valley” since the opening decade of the twentieth century. Their crop of choice was citrus which they would grow, pack, and ship.

Although the region was known for its salubrious climate, the family arrived at what many would term the end of the best years in the citrus industry. Freezes in 1983 and 1989 destroyed their orchards and those of many others. In its wake their citrus nursery would “blossom” and the family would sell thousands of trees to foreign growers.

Over the course of a few months in 2014 and 2015 the Eubanks family graciously opened their homes and properties to our investigations. The result is this snapshot of the archaeological, biological, geological, and familial history of another “Porción of Edinburg.”

In a world that is constantly changing communities need to recognize remember their founding families. We on the CHAPS Program team are honored to provide primary information on local geology, archaeology, fauna, flora, and history while telling the story of the Eubanks Family and others. Thanks are extended to the Norquest Family, Dr. Lisa Adam and the Museum of South Texas History, Ruby de la Garza and the USDA, the Border Studies Archives at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and our many donors for their on-going support of the CHAPS Program. We hope you will enjoy this “Porción of Edinburg,” and in it find a story which resonates across the disciplines and the decades providing a snapshot of our changing world in south Texas.

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Chapter 1: The Land Beneath Our Feet

Who else walked where we tread now? What lies beneath the soil, and what has come to pass above it? If the property could speak, think of the stories it could give us. Like a critic describing a Monet, we agree to describe for the broad brushstrokes of colorant throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley in southern Texas. Correct appreciation, however, comes with a valid observation of the details. Read on and learn more about one piece of land that has seen ancient Indians hunting, Spanish conquistadors, vaquero ranchers, and mid-western farmers planting citrus. This slice of land is currently the home of the Eubanks family. It lies northwest of the City of Edinburg, Texas, near the former site of the town of Monte Christo, a name that many now recognize only as the name of a street.

The story of The Eubanks property is the focus of the CHAPS (Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools) Program students of Fall 2014 Class. This is an interdisciplinary course specializing in the archeological, biological, anthropological, geological and historical uniqueness of South Texas. CHAPS Program faculty specialize in the fields mentioned: Dr. Russell Skowronek and Professor Bobbie Lovett head our archeological surveys, Dr. Juan Gonzalez teaches the geological chronology, Dr. Kenneth Summy handles remote sensing and biological taxa, and Roseann Bacha-Garza is a local historian and a CHAPS Program Scholar. Class members come from a variety of backgrounds and scholarly disciplines. Students were brought together by the opportunity to learn more about the evolution of the Lower Rio Grande Valley (known simply as the Valley) a region that developed from sparsely populated acreage into the thriving community it is today.

Books about anthropology and history are commonly written in broad platitudes while biology and geology are defined according to developed regions, yet all of these affect us directly as individuals. The way we live is dependent upon what has come before us, just as what we do as individuals, and as a community will affect the future. The CHAPS Program class highlights these remarkable stories and ties them into the broader locality. The Eubanks family is the fourth family studied by the CHAPS class students and faculty. For the past four years the CHAPS Program faculty and students have considered a distinct family and their environs around the city of Edinburg. In 2011, the Norquest family became the first volunteers to participate in our studies, followed by the Cantu family, and then the Atwood-Evans family, and this year in 2014, we were fortunate to work with the Eubanks family. While there are new students to the class every year, there are also returning students. Amongst us, we had a wealth of experience gathered together for the new report. We all learned new stories about this land where we live, and we are happy to share them.

The Eubanks Family: A *Porción* of Edinburg



Figure 1. Ken, Irene, Wayne Cameron (left), Tom (middle), and Kenneth Scott (right) Eubanks, Millington, Tennessee, 1957.

Chapter 2: Meet the Eubanks

Meet the Eubanks Family

The Eubanks family featured in this report moved to Edinburg because of the rich farming possibilities. Ken Eubanks is an agricultural economist who worked in various countries and continents for USAID, studying the agriculture and economics of each region and writing reports that impacted politics and government. He and his family had the world to choose from when looking for a place to do some farming, and eventually retire, and they chose the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Ken and his wife, Irene, and their three sons, Kenneth Scott, Thomas Mark (Tom), and Wayne Cameron (Wayne) came to Edinburg and decided to purchase land in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (the Valley) in 1978. The CHAPS Program students were given the opportunity to interview Irene, their son Tom and his wife, Cristina, their other son Kenneth Scott, and their grandchildren (Tom and Cristina's children) Michelle, Karen, and Thomas Alexander. Tom had purchased land near his parents' home, which became a secondary site of study. The CHAPS Program students conducted field research surveys on the properties owned by Ken and Irene, located on Eubanks Road, referred to in the report as Location 1, and the property owned by Thomas, Mark, and Cristina situated on Hoehn Drive, referred to as Location 2.

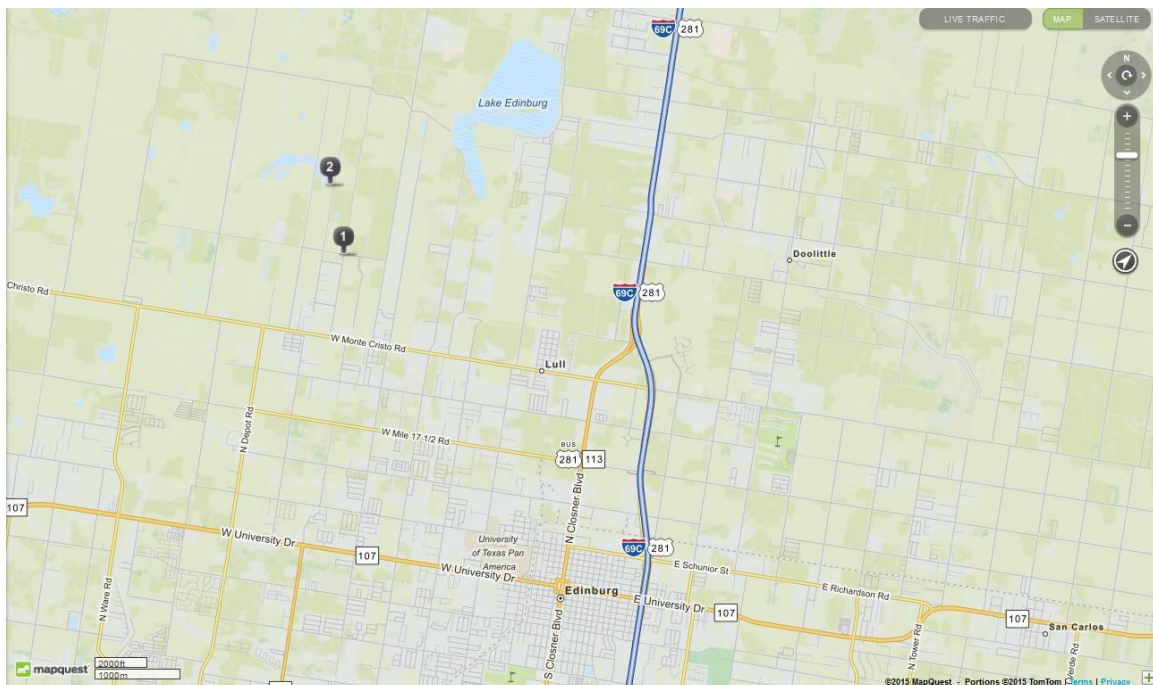


Figure 2. Location 1 (Ken and Irene's house) and Location 2 (Tom and Cristina's house).

Kenneth Eubanks Family

Unfortunately, Ken was unwell during the times of the interviews, but Irene and his children helped tell the story of his life. Ken was born in Booneville, Arkansas in 1926, and grew up in West Memphis, Arkansas. He first learned to cook at his parents' restaurant in West Memphis, a skill that served him well in various jobs until he received his doctorate in economics.



Figure 3. Kenneth Wayne Eubanks in 1943; the year before he enlisted. Joining the army was just the first step in a long career serving our nation.

As soon as he could, Ken joined the Army to fight in World War II. The day before his eighteenth birthday on August 7, 1944, he joined the United States infantry. After basic training, he was first sent to New Guinea, then to the Philippines. Less than a year after he joined, a Japanese bullet struck him in his left shoulder, injuring his shoulder and impacting his arm and body. His buddies carried him out of the mountains in the northern Philippines until they found him transport to San Lazaro, a temporary hospital that was set up on an old racetrack in downtown Manila. He and thousands other wounded allied soldiers awaited treatment lying on stretchers atop rafters in the scorching heat of the South Pacific. Ken was in a body cast for a long time, and initially sent to a hospital in San Francisco, and then sent to the McClosky Hospital near Temple, Texas. In 1945, Kenneth received his honorable discharge and then hitchhiked his way back to his parent's home in West Memphis, Arkansas. After spending time with his family, Ken then joined the Merchant Marines and sailed around the world as an oiler, until the ship's captain discovered that he could cook.

After Ken had enough of working on ships, he returned to the states and started drilling oil wells on land. He found that life did not suit him either, so he decided to obtain a law degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Irene's family had a very different story. Irene was a first generation Canadian, and as an adult she became a naturalized US citizen. Her parents emigrated from the Ukraine to Canada in 1926. Irene's father was born in Snatin, and her mother was born in Yovorow, both in western Ukraine.¹ Irene was born as Irene Kwasniak in 1929, in a little town near Toronto, Canada. She was the oldest of four, with two brothers and a sister. They grew up during the Great Depression in Windsor, Ontario."² After World War II began, the Kwasniak's moved to the Canadian village of Newbury in 1939 or 1940, and three years later when she was in eighth grade, they moved to London, Ontario. Her parents worked very hard. As immigrants with limited English language skills, they took any job they could. Her father chopped wood for a company, and after they had moved to London, he worked at the foundry in a steel mill. Her mother did housework, picked strawberries, chopped vegetables at a restaurant. She eventually got a job at Victoria Hospital, a learning hospital in London, cooking in the kitchen, earned a promotion to head of the meat department. The one job Irene's mother did not get was as a "Rosie the Riveter" during the war, as she was a quarter inch too short. During Irene's first interview, she spoke about her childhood, growing up during The Great Depression in an immigrant family in Canada, the difficulty of learning English, but also the fun of going to the library, playing store, and winning competitions at their local fair. Irene earned a music scholarship to attend Baylor University.

Irene and Ken met at Baylor University through Ken's roommate in 1950, though they did not start dating until the fall of 1951. During the summer of 1951 Ken traveled alone to Alaska where he got a job. He and Irene married in May 1952 in Waco. That summer Ken, Irene, and another couple traveled to Anchorage, Alaska. Anchorage represents the first of their many family travels and is complete with stories of flat tires and bear encounters.³ They stayed in Anchorage for a year and a half with Ken. They returned to Waco in January 1954. Ken continued his education, and in June their oldest boy, Kenneth Scott, was born on June 12, 1954

"Go up, don't go sideways. Don't stack the degrees this way, stack them up to where they do you some good."⁴ Ken took this advice from one of his professors and decided not to continue to law school, but to work instead towards a degree in economics. The young family then moved to Los Angeles where Ken began working toward a doctoral degree in economics at the University of Southern California (USC). Their second son Wayne Cameron was born in Santa Monica, California on October 3, 1955 and passed away on

¹ Modern spelling: Sniatyn and Yavoriv

² Irene Eubanks First Interview, interview by Tomas Perez, Janette Garcia, & Mariana Vazquez, September 23, 2014. Appendix A.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Kenneth Scott Eubanks, interview by Ezgar Chavez, & Tim Hinds, September 30, 2014, Appendix D.

October 3, 2012 in McAllen, Texas. Kenneth and Irene's third son Thomas Mark Eubanks (Tom) was also born in Los Angeles on December 6, 1956. Tom married Maria Cristina



Figure 4. Ken Eubanks and family photographed on the day of his Ph.D. graduation in 1962.

Trevino Guerra on November 19, 1987. Tom and Maria Cristina have three children; Michelle born in 1988, Thomas Alexander born in 1990, and Karen born in 1992.

Tuition was expensive at the University of Southern California, and to help defray costs Ken taught economics at the university and night classes at the associated university college, but within three years he was only able to complete six classes toward his degree. In 1958, Ken obtained a research grant from Montana State University in Bozeman studying marketing for barley. Within four years, he was able to complete his Ph.D. in agricultural economics.⁵ With his newly earned degree, Ken obtained a position as Chairman of the Department of Business at Fort Lewis College, a small liberal arts college in Durango, Colorado.⁶

The Eubanks family lived in Colorado for five years until 1967 when Ken received a call from a professor at Cornell University who told him of an opportunity to become a

⁵ Kenneth Wayne Eubanks, "An Economic-Engineering Study of the Feed Manufacturing Industry in Montana," (PhD dissertation, Montana State University, 1962).

⁶ Megan Raymond, "Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education," <http://wiche.edu/node/11331> (accessed November 23, 2015).

Dean of the Liberal Arts College in Monrovia, Liberia through USAID. Except for a short stint there they returned to Fort Lewis College in Colorado, Ken continued to work for USAID and the family lived in locations of the world, until Ken's retirement in 1980. The stories from their travels enrich our oral histories.



Figure 5. Ken Eubanks holding Wayne's hand with Tom on his shoulder at Hoover Dam, c. 1959.

At the time the CHAPS Program students interviewed the family, there was a major Ebola outbreak in Africa. Different family members remarked on the time they had spent swimming on the beach where ELWA (Eternal Light Winning Africa) missionary station was located, which was a treatment facility for Ebola patients. Irene, who taught at the American School in Monrovia, described the history of Liberia as a settlement of freed slaves. The name of the country related to 'liberty,' and Monrovia, the capital city, was named after U.S. President Monroe. After Liberia, Ken returned to his position at Fort Lewis College in Colorado in 1968 for a brief time, but it was not very long before the family wanted to travel again. Ken found another position through USAID in Lahore, Pakistan, where they lived from 1969 to 1970 before USAID staff was reduced "from about 96 to close to 100 employees down to a little over a dozen."⁷ Kenneth transferred to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where they lived from 1970 to 1976 until another political incident forced them to move again. As Irene recounts it in her second interview:

So anyhow we were there and then the revolution started there in '75 in Ethiopia. It was very bad. Um, the Derg, which is called--the non-commissioned officers just took over the government. And they arrested the emperor, put him in jail, and they arrested just about all the leaders of his cabinet. All the, you know, secretary of agriculture, secretary of Congress, secretary of defense, everybody. And one Saturday night it was in the fall there of ...yeah, it must have been just fall of '75. We heard a lot of shooting. They evidently took all his, all his buddies, you know

⁷ Irene Eubanks Second Interview. Interview by Tomas Perez, Janette Garcia, and Mariana Vazquez. September 26, 2014.

members of the government, and they had the emperor stand--he was just a little, he was barely, he wasn't even five feet tall, he was a little bitty guy. Had the worst tailor in the country 'cause they tried to make him out like he was bigger you know (laughs). The radio of course was turned off. They just started playing military music, and then the next morning they were going to read off the people who were executed and they just read all the names. Ken knew an awful lot of them. The secretary of agriculture and the secretary--he knew all the guys, well what he knew was the Department of Agriculture. In the meantime, we became involved in trying to help some people get out 'cause what happened, the families that were wealthy there, or the foreigners, or even some of the- mainly foreigners, they confiscated all the bank accounts. [They] Nationalized-'cause they turned communist, nationalized all the businesses. People had nothing and you know in a lot of these countries you not only need a visa to come to live there but especially if you're going to work there, you need a permit that usually is Pro-forma, they have a contract from the government to government and they just automatically [qualify]. However, to leave you to have to get an exit visa, or else you cannot leave the airport. So all these people's documents, you know, they could not get out. Moreover, they were going try them for whatever- corruption and you know, whatever they could dream up. However, anyhow, that is what the government in Ethiopia was doing. Moreover, anyhow, so we were given the option to leave, and Ken said, "Yeah we want to leave, we want to leave." So we left, he came home from the office after seeing the ambassador, he came home at seven or eight o'clock, and said, "Well we are leaving out at six o'clock early in the morning." So we had to be in a real big rush as you can imagine, 'cause we had to pack up--and the three boys were visiting us there for the summer. They had a vacation from school, and so we had to pack up and get on the six o'clock morning flight out of there the next morning."⁸

Ken's early international travel to the Philippines during World War II in 1944 also became his last international station before his retirement from USAID thirty-five years later in 1979. Finding the country much more pleasant during this second trip, the family enjoyed living in the Manilla, Philippines, Luzon, although they were already planning their future retirement. In 1978, Ken and Irene purchased 80 acres of land northwest of the city of Edinburg, including the location of their current home.

Ken's responsibilities had grown as he continued to work in USAID. He held a high-level appointment in USAID. He wrote reports on the agricultural productive capacity of the countries he studied, the ability of agriculture to sustain the population, and how it could affect political stability. These reports provided information for high-level political appointees, including Henry Kissinger, and then Secretary of State. He advised on developing agricultural markets, increasing subsistence farming, and commercial farms, and assisting with specific problems, such as improving the procedures of milling rice in the Philippines, which would allow the country to earn more foreign revenue.

Stories told by Irene, Tom, and Kenneth Scott about their travels and the countries they lived varied from fun times at the beach to cultural differences. For example, such as in

⁸ *Ibid.*, 20.

Pakistan, when the Eubanks would invite couples to dinner, but only the men would attend. The heat of Pakistan, at 120 degrees, was a huge contrast to the relatively cool temperatures of Ethiopia, which was closer to the equator, but at a higher elevation. Languages played a recurring role in Irene's life. As the daughter of immigrant Ukrainians, she grew up speaking Ukrainian and only learned English when she enrolled in elementary school. Throughout their travels, she would shop and visit the towns where they lived. Even moving back to the United States, they chose the Rio Grande Valley, where the dominant language is Spanish. In Liberia, the shopkeepers all spoke English, but, "there were about twenty-six different languages because every little area had their own little--because before communications got good, you didn't move ten miles from your little village. So they all had their little dialects."⁹ In Ethiopia, Amharic was the official language, but not spoken throughout the country. Irene recalled learning the basics such as numbers in Ethiopia and the Philippines when they were living there. She also spoke of trying to learn Urdu in Pakistan:

Moreover, the guy that was teaching us, he was a Pakistani. First off, he wanted us to give cigarettes. They did not like their local cigarettes; everybody likes American stuff. So right there, I think there were four women, four of us, or maybe five, I cannot remember. So right away, a couple of them dropped out, because he would always be wanting something. Moreover, then, like the next week, he started asking for liquor, and so then everybody else dropped out, and they were not going to hold the class for just one person, so well, there it went.¹⁰

Moving to Edinburg

When the Eubanks family first settled in Edinburg and started their citrus business, they not only became a part of this region's rich history but a contributor to its future as well. Out of all the places around the globe they could have chosen to settle, they decided to make Edinburg their home. Irene discusses their decision to move to the Valley in her second interview:

We thought an apple orchard in Washington State would be nice, but we did not go there. Moreover, then Ken said, well you know, down in South Texas there's much agriculture down there, and we did not have any more brutal winters down here, you know. So we decided to come down here and visit and the nice thing about--oh first we went to Florida to look, Ken and I, and we kind of didn't like that out there too much 'cause it was just all deep sand, and it was just different. However, here the land was very productive. If you did not want to grow an orchard, you could cultivate, at that time there was a lot of vegetable production here. Much vegetable production and you could grow like a Heinz 57 varieties down here. The land was very productive, and with irrigation you could grow almost anything. And they had

⁹ *Ibid.*,

¹⁰ Irene Eubanks Second Interview, interview by Janette Garcia, Mariana Vazquez, & Tomas Perez, September 26, 2014, Appendix B., 35.

the window of opportunity to grow vegetables down here, that you could sell north when the north was frozen.¹¹

Irene had visited the Valley earlier when she toured the area with the Baylor Symphony during spring break in 1951. It was during a terrible drought, when, “King Ranch looked like a desert” they played in Brownsville and “the wind was blowing, and the dust was flying.” Kids from the Valley talked about how terrible it was in the Valley at the time, and Irene knew that when it rained, with the help of irrigation, that their odds would improve. Irene witnessed the other extremes of our weather when they moved here in 1980. “Edinburg, there was much flooding across from the courthouse, you know the courthouse and the parking lot, there used to be a Penny’s there on the corner. Now it is all law firms; it was all flooded, everything flooded, I thought it looked pretty sad. However, we had high hopes that, you know, things would get better, and boy, have they.”

Ken and Irene purchased 80 acres in 1978 while they lived in the Philippines, and then later bought another 40 acres, for a total of 120 acres. Wayne had recently graduated from Fort Lewis College and had some time before he was scheduled to begin working on another project. Wayne and Kenneth Scott trekked to Edinburg to care for their orchards. Kenneth Scott recounts that trip in his interview:

It’s really amazing because I--when I first got down here in ‘78 and drove down here in a convertible with my brother Wayne, and we drove all the way from Colorado (laughter) we got down here in Edinburg, and it was like two, all right, in the morning, two or three in the morning. We tried knocking on motel doors and no, no couldn’t get a motel, you just couldn’t do it. Wayne and I, we went to a--the square down here in Edinburg right across the courthouse. We put the lid down in my Corolla, cranked the seats back, and (snoring noise) pretty soon a cop stomping his Billy club in my fender, and he shines his flashlight in my face. “What are you boys doing?” Moreover, then I said, “Sleeping sir.” (laughter) He says, “Why don’t you guys get a motel room?” I said, “Sir, we tried, they are all locked up.” He says, “Oh yeah, you’re probably right.” (laughter) “I’m okay guys,” he says, “go back to sleep. I’ll take care of you, get a motel room when the town wakes up.”¹²

Wayne, Kenneth Scott, and later Tom all stayed to help with the land and the orchards. The son’s interviews are also full of stories of the early days, including a close encounter with the tractor and an electrical line. They spent that summer avoiding rattlesnakes, killing weeds, setting up the irrigation system and irrigating the orchards. However, they discovered that the land they had bought needed more work than initially expected. As Tom described it:

¹¹ Irene Eubanks Second Interview, interview by Janette Garcia, Mariana Vazquez, & Tomas Perez, September 26, 2014, Appendix B., 21.

¹² Kenneth Scott Eubanks, interview by Ezgar Chavez, & Tim Hinds, September 30, 2014, Appendix D.,

My dad had 120 acres of citrus, and we were just trying to kill the weeds and make it work. Moreover, within a year or two, after we sold the first crop, we realized that what we had—what my dad had bought—was just, really, purely for speculation and to sell the land. It was a tremendous amount of citrus in the Valley, was just, basically planted with anything, not with production in mind but to sell the property as citrus, but the people really didn't know better, right? Because it would never make money. The density of the trees, the variety of the trees, and the fact that they planted it on unlevelled land made it extremely difficult to irrigate, and the fruit really, really wasn't very much, and it was mixed so that you couldn't get 'em. You couldn't get pickers to go in there. You gotta have an orange grove or a grapefruit grove or maybe y'know, half of the field of one, half of the field the other, right...they just planted whatever they had. It was like, "Well, that's different." And so, when you go to sell that, you can't have a grapefruit bin full of two different kinds of grapefruit.¹³

The Eubanks family successfully ran the citrus and nursery business for several years, building their first greenhouse in 1984, with it fully stocked by 1986. Irene handled much of the business aspect, as Ken still often consulted in foreign countries, including Russia after the fall of the Soviet Union.

In her second interview, Irene talks of why they decided to begin their nursery, and how she took classes from Texas A&I (now A&M) to learn more about citrus:

... we ordered some trees we were going to replant, and so we replanted, was it--in about '82 our trees were ready 'cause at that time you had to wait, you had to order the trees, you had to wait to get your trees. So, in '83 we started to replant this 40 acres, and the trees just got going really nice, and that killing frost came that Christmas. Killed us to the ground, and we didn't have any tree insurance. So we were just--square one. That was real hard, but we just kept plugging, we just kept plugging, and then we started our own. We thought well, we'll just grow our own trees and in the meantime I would--started taking courses at Texas A&I on how to take care of, how to produce citrus 'cause I figured I didn't have to rely on other people all the time. Ken was busy doing consulting work all around the world and he was--my lord he's worked in, I don't know how many different countries. Three month project here and a month project there, four-month project. But that kept us going. It supplemented--because this farm took a lot of money in and there was nothing coming out of it for a long while. So I decided, well what's the big magic about growing trees, let's learn how you know. You talk about stubborn women, there's nothing worse than a stubborn woman, you know (laughs) But anyway in the meantime I started taking courses down there

¹³ Tom Eubanks and Cristina Eubanks, interview by Roland Silva, Jose Barrera, Ezgar Chavez, Tim Hinds, Saida Gonzalez, and Felix Guerra, September 26, 2014, Appendix C.,



Fruit

Loading truck to ship trees to the Bahamas

Small citrus trees

Planting new trees

Figure 6. Irene is posing with produce and managing the business (Edinburg, 1984)

to learn about nutrition, how do you take care of an orchard. You learn about disease, and bugs, and all that kind of stuff....When that frost came, and there was a big search 'cause none of the nurseries had them--Nurseries were pretty well wiped out too, because it was all field nurseries at the time, but I knew about greenhouse nurseries 'cause I had seen that one there at A&I and I had learned quite a bit about that so we decided--well, there's got to be a safer way to grow nursery stock than out in the field at the mercy of nature. Because in the greenhouse you could cover it, you could protect it, you can heat it, you can--but you have to grow it in a different way, you can't grow it in the ground and people here were very stubborn about--they wanted field grown trees, and we started growing container grown trees. We'd built a big old flat house, it's all fallen down by now, a flat house. And we grew container--in containers like this, and about this tall [indicates with her hands shoulder width and knee height] and we grew a lot of real, real pretty trees. We contracted--a lot of the growers contracted with us to grow citrus trees for them. But then we also expanded into field nurseries because--a lot of people wanted field grown trees, so we did that too. Anyhow, we did that for quite a few years.¹⁴

Irene and her sons continued to work hard with their farming and nursery. Irene described how they built and ran their nursery in her second interview:

¹⁴ Irene Eubanks Second Interview, interview by Janette Garcia, Mariana Vazquez, & Tomas Perez, September 26, 2014, Appendix B., 23, 24.



Figure 7. Ken Eubanks photo with the family's first greenhouse in the background, Edinburg Citrus Properties Lot 13, spring 1984.



Figure 8. Ken Eubanks in a fully stocked nursery, Edinburg, 1986.

To grow citrus trees you don't grow them from seed. You grow them--you grow a rootstock first, and then you--everybody probably knows the word 'grafting.' You insert the variety--but with citrus it's budding....And why do you do that? Well, because the varieties that you want, won't grow out of seed here. I mean they'll grow, but they're not going to produce. So what you're budding, you're budding mature wood. So then, you see, the whole orchard is consistent. And you get it, you

get your bud wood from healthy producing trees.... because we have pretty salty soil here compared to where citrus grows, and there are diseases in the ground that will kill the other varieties. So by doing this -- and the orchard, the trees that you have in the nursery, they're all going to produce that one kind of fruit, depending on what you put on there.¹⁵

The Eubanks owned their farm and nursery during a time when small farms started having to compete with large corporations. Like many others, the Eubanks found that their family farm could not provide the large orders requested by the buyers. The land still proved valuable, however; as they were able to sell all but the 10 acres is their home is located on. They sold ten-acre lots to fund their retirement.

The location of Ken and Irene's house and former business is on Eubanks Road. The CHAPS Program students asked her about the naming of the street. Construction of new homes south of their home created a new road; a road with no name. When Irene discovered that the new road was yet to be titled, she did some more research and found that she could petition the Hidalgo County Commissioners to title the road. By this time, they'd already had many difficulties directing truckers to find their place to pick up produce. They would often see trucks traveling down Big Five Road to the east of their house, with no way to catch their attention and get them onto the right road.¹⁶ To the Eubanks, it made perfect sense to name the road Eubanks Road to help truckers find Eubanks Nursery and Citrus Farms. "And so I did what I could, you know, and I waited, I didn't expect anything to happen, you know, because they said those things don't often happen very fast, and there were other factors. But anyhow, lo and behold, one day coming down there, it wasn't paved, it was just a caliche road then, there was a sign on the corner, Eubanks road! Wooowww!"¹⁷

Ken and Irene's grandchildren, (Tom and Cristina's children) Michelle, Thomas Alexander, and Karen, all remember time spent on Eubanks Road. The family first lived in a trailer near Ken and Irene's house, then moved to McAllen for a few years until Tom and Cristina finished building their house on Hoehn Road in 2011. Tom met his wife, Cristina, in front of the library at Pan American University (now The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley) in Edinburg. Cristina grew up in Reynosa, Mexico. Her father was from Saltillo, and her mother from Reynosa. Her parents owned a business in Reynosa, and that is where they are both buried. She has three older brothers and one younger sister. The brothers still live in Reynosa, and the sister lives in Texas with her husband. Cristina graduated with a degree in Mass Communication in 1983 from Pan American University. She now works in schools tutoring, testing, and substitute teaching.¹⁸

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 28.

¹⁶ Big Five Road was named after five partners who named their land Big Five Farms. In 1978, there was a strong possibility that a state prison would be built on Big Five Road.

¹⁷ Irene Eubanks Second Interview, interview by Janette Garcia, Mariana Vazquez, & Tomas Perez, September 26, 2014, Appendix B., 40.

¹⁸ Tom Eubanks and Cristina Eubanks, interview by Roland Silva, Jose Barrera, Ezgar Chavez, Tim Hinds, Saida Gonzalez, and Felix Guerra, September 26, 2014, Appendix C.



Figure 9. Citrus is processing at Ken and Irene's property in 1984

Michelle is the oldest grandchild, born in 1988, Thomas in 1990, and Karen in 1993; all three children were born in McAllen. Michelle attended the University of Texas Austin after she graduated from high school, and then transferred to The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) to finish her degree in accounting. She now works for a firm in Santa Monica, California. Thomas Alexander currently lives in Austin, is interested in biology and chemistry, and is planning to either apply to dentistry or pharmacy school. Karen took after her grandmother in her love for music. She also lives in Austin and is taking advantage of the good arts scene. She recently recorded a studio album.

All three grandchildren remember the time at their parents' and grandparents' houses fondly. Michelle and Karen talked about the fun they had with their father on the farm, the joy that they felt being outdoors, and their experiences with the wide variety of animals, wild and domestic, that they encountered. Thomas Alexander, in particular, recalls that the experiences he had there influenced his decision to study biology; "So basically I had a really good start for biology, a good background. I had plenty of animals that I caught wild and learned about them.... My dad would always point out like, 'Hey what kind of tree is that?'" He was just trying to test me cause he planted so many trees and around the Valley, driving around, he could, just going down the road, he could just tell you, 'I planted those trees, those trees started in our greenhouse.'"¹⁹

¹⁹ Thomas Alexander Eubanks, interview by Serafin Hernandez, September 28, 2014, Appendix F., 80.



Eubanks Nursery & Citrus Farm

5223 Eubanks Rd.
Edinburg, Texas 78539
254 380-1162
Fax: (254) 380-1552
956



Son & Granddaughter with three
year old Orange tree

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Figure 10. Tom Eubanks and Michelle Eubanks out by the orchard, Eubanks Road, Edinburg, 1990.

Chapter 3: Regional History and Land Tenure

Nuevo Santander

The Eubanks purchased land near Edinburg as an investment and for their retirement. In the time that they have lived in Edinburg, they have owned citrus orchards, planted other crops, owned and operated a nursery, eventually selling off all but 10 acres of their property, as the price of land for housing rose higher than the profits of agriculture. Their three sons also moved to the Valley, and Tom and his family purchased a plot northwest of his parent's house. The history of the land, however, goes back much further than the past of the Eubanks family.

Nuevo Santander is an area that incorporates domains from the Panuco River on the southern border of current-day Tamaulipas, Mexico, north to south Texas, to the San Antonio River. Originally colonized by Colonel Don José de Escandón in the mid-eighteenth century, this land would be split 100 years later, when the Rio Grande River, once central to Nuevo Santander, would become the boundary between the United States and Mexico. When Escandón was commissioned in 1746 by the Spanish Crown to explore the region, the area was inhabited by small native Indian tribes, as well as other Native Americans who had moved to escape European domination. The Spanish wanted the area colonized to provide a safe buffer zone against hostile Indians, and to establish a presence in case the French moved in to claim the land for themselves. In January 1747, Escandón organized seven divisions to begin surveying the region, and by October of that year, he had developed a colonization plan. In 1749, he established Camargo (March 5, 1749), and Reynosa (March 14, 1749), the first two settlements along the Rio Grande River.

The land and climate along the Rio Grande was best suited for ranching. There were few reliable sources of water for farming with low annual rainfall, and no running rivers except the Rio Grande itself, which was too wild and unpredictable to easily build irrigation systems. The floodplain, however, was ideally suited for ranching. Early settlers quickly established grazing areas, ranches, and commerce centered around cattle and other livestock. Early census records consistently show that cattle, horses, sheep, and goats greatly outnumbered the human population. Reynosa located across from present day Hidalgo, Texas south of the Rio Grande (Bravo). North and south of the Rio Grande (Bravo), the Spanish Crown, awarded settlers with the uninhabited land. Original land grants or "*porciones*" varied in size, from small to larger land grants. One of the major land grants, the San Salvador del Tule Grant, was drafted in 1794, at the time when George Washington was serving as President of the United States, France was in the midst of the French Revolution, and Eli Whitney had just invented the cotton gin. Over the centuries, ownership of the land would be contested and confirmed, and then subdivided into smaller pieces. This

section will explore ownership of the San Salvador del Tule Grant, and the parcels of land on which the Eubanks would eventually settle upon almost two hundred years later.

San Salvador del Tule Grant and Melado Tract

The story of San Salvador del Tule begins with the first “Cattle Queen of Texas,” Rosa María Hinojosa De Ballí, *La Patrona*. Doña Rosa was one of the largest landholders, and arguably the most influential woman of her time in South Texas. She was born in 1752 to Captain Juan José de Hinojosa and María Antonia Inés Ballí de Benavides, Spanish aristocrats. Doña Rosa was about fifteen years old upon the appointment of her father Mayor of Reynosa (Alcalde). Doña Rosa married Captain José María Ballí, a captain of the militia. The Balli family’s heritage, title, and place in society ensured the family would receive priority land grants. On July 4, 1777, Doña Rosa’s father, and husband jointly applied for the Llano Grande (around the modern towns of Edcouch and Elsa), and La Feria land grants. Unfortunately, both men died before the grants approval in 1790. Doña Rosa inherited twelve leagues of the La Feria grant from her husband, heavily encumbered with debt. By the time of her death in 1803, she was able to turn the debt around and acquire new lands necessary to support her large herds of cattle, horses, sheep, and goats.²⁰ She was a devout Catholic and built family chapels and endowed churches in Reynosa, Camargo, and Matamoros. She acquired other extensive land holdings with, and for family members. With her brother, Vicente, she financed the Las Mesteñas tract. She purchased the Las Casteñas track for her son José María, and eleven leagues in a joint application with her son Padre Nicolás, of what is now Padre Island. Doña Rosa received one of the largest pieces of land in Southern Texas, known as the San Salvador del Tule Grant, for her son, Juan José Ballí.

Land ownership in Nuevo Santander was obtained through three primary procedures. Individuals, of course, could always purchase land. Original settlers and other notable personages gained land to reward their hardships in settling the region. Finally, citizens, primarily wealthy and influential families with large herds of livestock, would occupy a piece of land without permission, and then employ *composiciones*, a process in which individuals would have to comply with terms set by the authorities, usually involving payments to the royal treasury as well as other conditions. The government would then provide the individuals with legal title to the land, mutually benefitting the Crown’s coffers and the livestock owners. The ranch owners would then move herds and servants, and establish *jacals* (huts) and enclosures, thus cementing occupation rights.²¹ The *composition* would review the length of time the claimant had occupied the land and the general quality of the property including access to water. The construction of “*jacals*” and enclosures were a required stipulation, as a promotion of overall community development, and participation in pacifying native Indians in the form of baptisms and religious instruction. Witnesses were

²⁰ Learn More Sources, Women in Texas History, Video, accessed November 23, 2015, <http://www.womenintexashistory.org/audio/balli>.

²¹ Galen D. Greaser, *New Guide to Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in South Texas*, (Austin: Texas General Land Office, 2009), 79.

called to testify to the claims made, and to the contradiction of said claims if any were in suspect.²² San Salvador del Tule, as well as many of the other large land grants in South Texas, were settled through *compositions*.

The San Salvador del Tule Grant, at nearly seventy-two leagues, or 315,391 acres, is located in four counties: Hidalgo (212,310 acres), Brooks (21,768 acres), Kenedy (71, 955 acres) and Willacy (9,358 acres).²³ On June 21, 1794, Juan José Ballí petitioned for the San Salvador del Tule Grant, stating that he needed additional land to accommodate increased livestock he inherited from his father. His uncle Juan José de Ynojosa Jr. [Hinojosa] had been occupying the property but ceded to his nephew by his employ as an officer of the Militia of Provincial and Frontier Cavalry. For his part, Ballí offered to dig wells and assist with the pacification of the Indians. An agreement stated Ballí would give Hinojosa the tract of land known as “*El Melado*,” on which he had already started improvements-several houses and a well.²⁴ Almost two hundred years later, the Eubanks would purchase land in the eastern portion of the El Melado tract.

Although the size alone of the San Salvador del Tule Grant made it highly desirable for ownership, the salt found at *Sal del Rey* and other salt lakes located in the grant was particularly attractive for commerce and trade since prehistoric times. Salt was considered as important in the pre-industrial age as oil is in the post-industrial age. This helps explain the numerous confirmations and rejections of land titles concerning San Salvador del Tule. During the original grant, the first steps of ordering a survey, making an application, and holding an auction had gone according to standard practice. In 1794, the First Alcalde of Reynosa, Captain Juan Antonio Ballí, submitted the application from Captain Juan José Ballí to the governor, who then forwarded the papers to the Intendant at St. Louis Potosi, who ordered the auction sale. Captain Juan José Ballí was the sole bidder, and the land was declared his pending final payment and approval. A new Attorney General, when reviewing the file for final approval, determined that Captain Juan José Ballí not be considered a settler and the handling of the application was incorrect. Florence Johnson Scott described of Captain Juan José Ballí as the son of an Old Settler, and she speculated that perhaps the new Attorney General did not classify the Captain as a Settler through inexperience, that he was not aware an office in the Militia did not bar him, that perhaps he wanted to “make a case” out of the application, or it may simply have been due to envy or jealousy. The new Attorney General sent the case to the Superior Council in the Mexican capital, who then determined that the opinion so controversial that they in turn forwarded it to the Viceroy, Marquise de Brandicourt. The Viceroy upheld the Attorney General and called for a “special auction” sale. Captain Juan José Ballí was again the sole bidder. According to the

²² *Ibid.*, 82.

²³ According to a Texas General Land Office survey in 1879 it was 71 leagues, 9 caballerias, and 15,328 varas.

²⁴ Florence Johnson Scott, *Royal Land Grants North of the Río Grande, 1777-1821 : Early History of Large Grants made by Spain to Families in Jurisdiction of Reynosa which became a part of Texas after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, 1848*. (Río Grande City, Tx.: Distributed by La Retama Press, 1969), 49.

stipulations attached to the auction sale, Ballí was to take immediate possession of the lands, to plant willow trees for permanent markers in his pasture, and “that under no condition was he to sell the property to a church or monastery.”²⁵ Perhaps because of the difficulties with receiving the land grant, the formal transfer of El Melado’s nine leagues of land was postponed and never completed within the lifetimes of either Juan José Ballí or Juan José Hinojosa. Both families acknowledged El Melado belonged to Juan José Hinojosa.

A few months later on August 7, 1794, an inspection of San Salvador del Tule Grant found “two old wells stopped up, a lagoon with a little water in it, limestone of poor quality; thickets of mesquite some fit for sharp implements, and other unfit for any use. Many nopales, and not all of good fruit, some lagoons, salty and dry, and the Royal Salt Lake of Purificación (commonly called La Sal del Rey).” The report continued that the southern part was, “inhabited by many dangerous animals, such as tigers, lions, wolves, and snakes that are, to an extreme, long and thick. Deer, *javelinas*, antelope, hares, rabbits, rats and a nation of heathen Indians, The Nation of the Cotonames who dwell in Northern Mexico.” The survey also describes the northwestern portion as prairie, and the southern and eastern sections as wooded. The southwestern area, the part of the land that is of interest to the Eubanks report, was described as *melado*.²⁶ The word *melado* comes from the Spanish word ‘melar’ (to sugar) and commonly refers to raw sugar or a mixture of sugar and molasses. The reason this land was mentioned as *melado* could not be determined by the authors, although it is possible that it was planted there, as the introduction of sugarcane to the Lower Rio Grande Valley in the early 1800s.²⁷ The San Salvador del Tule Grant was formally recognized three years after the initial inspection on November 18, 1797.

Captain Ballí and his wife, Doña Ignacia María Treviño, lived on the property. To increase his herds and make further improvements to the grounds, Ignacio Ballí negotiated a loan of \$2,000 from Don Antonio Cárdenas of Reynosa. In 1804, Ignacio Balli was arrested on smuggling charges. His arrest caused the forfeiture of the loan. Ballí fell ill while incarcerated and dictated his will leaving his inheritance to his two brothers, Padre Nicolás and Don José Maria. Balli left the San Salvador del Tule land grant to his wife, Doña Ignacia María Treviño. Doña Ignacia had more ambition than business sense, and she and later husbands compounded more debt, with the loan to Cárdenas still outstanding. Due to Indian attacks, the land was abandoned in 1811, although it was later re-occupied. On the larger stage, Mexico fought for and gained her independence from Spain in 1821.²⁸ In 1822, Doña Ignacia attempted to regain possession of the nine leagues of *El Melado* from her husband’s uncle. The judge however, determined the land although never formally

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 51.

²⁶ Harbert Davenport and Joseph J. Wells, “The First Europeans in Texas, 1528-1536, II,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 22, no. 3 (January 1919) 221, <http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph117156/>, accessed February 22, 2015, (University of North Texas Libraries, Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas State Historical Association, Denton, Texas.

²⁷ “Our History,” *Rio Grande Valley, Sugar Growers, Inc.*, <http://www.rgvsugar.com/history>.

²⁸ The leader of Mexican Independence, Padre Miguel y Castillo Hidalgo, is also the namesake of the city and county of Hidalgo, Texas.

transferred to Hinojosa, was not listed by Captain Ballí in any of this wills or papers as an asset. After the death of Doña Ignacia, her third and surviving husband, Don Francisco Aneros, sold San Salvador del Tule in 1829 to a surviving family member of the creditor Cárdenas.

The sale did not include the nine leagues of land of El Melado, initially owned by the Hinojosa family.²⁹ In 1836, Texas declared her independence from Mexico, and in 1845, Texas was the 28th state join the United States of America. From the perspective of the inhabitants between the Rio Grande and the Nueces River near San Antonio, this area would remain Mexican, as it was part of Nuevo Santander under Spanish rule, then recognized as within the state of Tamaulipas under Mexican statute. The United States, however, wished to claim the Rio Grande as the southern boundary of Texas, and sent General Zachary Taylor and troops to the Rio Grande in 1846 to claim it as such. The Mexican War began in 1846, and the dispute over the boundary the implementation the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 designated the Rio Grande as the border between United States (Texas) and Mexico. Part of the treaty included a statement that Mexican landowners could retain their ownership as long as they had complied with contemporary Mexican laws.

In 1852 Texas Governor Bell appointed Commissioners William H. Bourland and James B. Miller to examine all claims of land ownership and then to recommend retention or dismissal of title in Texas. The commissioners recommended granting of a vast number of tracts of lands. Rejections of claims centered on abandonment or contested claims between different parties. The Texas Legislature then decided the final confirmation or denial.

The official recommendation by Bourland concerning the San Salvador del Tule tract was to deny ownership based on noncompliance with conditions, as land was abandoned in 1811 due to Indian attacks. Miller, however, wrote a dissenting opinion stating that although the land was abandoned, it had later been re-occupied and that the number of people and cattle had greatly increased since then. He recognized the great continuity of settlement and stated that rejection would place an excessive hardship on the settlers by depriving them of their homes, “which, for three-quarters of a century have been respected and considered valid.”³⁰ The Legislature agreed with Bourland and rejected the Ballí’s claim to San Salvador del Tule. In 1860, the legislature also stated that any disputes should be heard in the district court of the county where the land was located.³¹ The district court confirmed the claim on August 15, 1870. The state appealed the majority of claims heard in District Court to the

²⁹ Florence John Scott, *Royal Land Grants North of the Rio Grande 1777-1821: Early History of Large Grants Made by Spain to Families in Jurisdiction of Reynosa which Became a Part of Texas After the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, 1848* (La Retama Press, 1969), 54.

³⁰ Armando C. Alonzo, "Mexican-American Land Grant Adjudication," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed April 09, 2015, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/pqmck>.

³¹ Galan D. Greaser, *New Guide Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in South Texas*, (Texas General Land Office: 2009), 138.

Texas Supreme Court, including the case concerning San Salvador del Tule. Judge Stephen Powers from Brownsville was retained by the family to secure land ownership.³²

In 1877, the Texas Supreme Court heard the case of the State of Texas v. Salvador Cardinas [Cárdenas].³³ Arguments against granting the land stated that the petition filed had only been a third generation copy of a *testimonial*, or certified copy, and not an authenticated copy of the original title from Mexican archives. The Supreme Court stated that although long possession of the land was one argument, the proof presented was not sufficient to establish title under the law. Another issue was that the claimants had only petitioned for sixty leagues and a fraction of *sitios*, whereas the original grant had been for seventy-one leagues and a fraction of *sitios*. The sixty leagues represented the majority of San Salvador del Tule. The issue was that there was a “general designation of the locality of two of the leagues disposed of to Manuel de la Garza, but none whatever of the locality of the other nine leagues in any part of the proceedings of the case.”³⁴ Although those nine leagues were not formally identified, it is likely that they are the same nine leagues of land in the Melado Tract. The district court decision was reversed and the cause would be retried if additional information could be supplied.³⁵ The 1901 Confirmation Act allowed for further review of contested claims based on the “preponderance of testimony” without the strict requirements advocated by the Supreme Court.³⁶ All seventy-one and a fraction of *sitios* of the San Salvador del Tule were confirmed by the district court in 1904.³⁷

Because of its size, San Salvador del Tule was often identified in smaller parts or ranches, including El Rucio, La Jara, Santanita, Retama, Matamoros, Coyote Colorado, Valla Hermosa, La Noria Cardeña, Laguna Seca, Altos Colorados, Los Cerritos, Sal del Rey or Real Salina de la Purificación, La Sal Vieja, Mogote, Don Juan, Candelaria Motts, Alto Pitoso, and Paderones.³⁸ El Melado was often separately identified as belonging to the southwest corner of San Salvador del Tule. Records indicate the acknowledged owner of El Melado, Juan Jose Hinojosa II, passed away in either 1801; however land deed records filed in Hidalgo County state that Juan Jose Hinojosa passed away in 1804, leaving El Melado to his heirs, although again no formal administration of his estate was made. Initially, four

³² *Ibid.*,

³³ *State of Texas v. Salvador Cardinas*, 47 Texas Reports 250 (1877).

(<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph28526/> : accessed April 11, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting UNT Libraries, Denton, Texas. Cardenas case begins on page 250.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 283.

³⁵ Galan D. Greaser, *New Guide Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in South Texas*, (Texas General Land Office: 2009), 140.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, 143.

³⁷ Texas General Land Office file San Patricio 1-738 includes a copy of the judgment.

³⁸ Galan D. Greaser, *New Guide Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in South Texas*, (Texas General Land Office: 2009), 197.

heirs were identified: Laureano, Susanna, Isabel, and Antonio Hinojosa. A fifth heir also claimed partial ownership in 1873.³⁹

Judge Stephen Powers, who had argued and won the case for San Salvador del Tule against the State of Texas, acquired the majority of land in the El Melado tract through fees, tax sales, and purchases.⁴⁰ Tracking the land sales is complicated by the fact that Powers acquired the land from multiple heirs of children who owned partial interests in Melado.⁴¹ He acquired six $\frac{3}{4}$ leagues, or 7,472.25 acres from the heirs, and retained that land through his lifetime. After his death, the land passed to his daughter and heir, Frances Powers.

Don Macedonio Vela Zamora and Dona Mercedes Chapa de Vela were the owners of Laguna Seca Ranch along the northern border of El Melado. The Laguna Seca Ranch is north of the land later purchased by the Eubanks, and *Memories of Laguna Seca* written about the family and the ranch by Roberto Vela (born 1893) recounts life there at that time.⁴² Don Macedonio and his wife, Doña Mercedes moved across the river after Macedonio's life had been threatened by the violence occurring in Mexico between two different factions, the *Crinolines*, and the *Rojos*. In 1867, Macedonio made a deal with Doña Salome Ballí and Don Juan McAllen to purchase dry brushland, including a dry watering hole named Charco Seco (dry mudhole). If he could clear and work the land, and in seven years pay \$1,000.00, they would deed the property to him. Macedonio ranched the land so successfully that he was able to make his final payment in three years, a full four years before schedule. Throughout his lifetime, he significantly increased his land holdings to close to 80,000 acres and livestock. The dry mud hole grew because of a big number of cattle trampling renamed Laguna Seca (dry lake). One of Macedonio's purchases was El Melado. In his biography, Roberto Vela recounts how they would eat beans, corn, and occasional goat, cottontail or jackrabbit. As the population on the ranch grew, it was able to sponsor a school, a post office, and a Catholic church. In 1877, the first cattle drive took place from Laguna Seca to Dodge City, Kansas. Laguna Seca was also the site for the first orange trees planted and grown in Hidalgo County. Macedonio's daughter, Eloisa, owned the land that was later to become Edinburg. In 1904, as Don Macedonio was getting older, he started to sell the property, and by 1913 his holdings had been reduced to 16,400 acres, divided among his children.⁴³

Macedonio acquired six $\frac{3}{4}$ leagues from the daughter of Stephen Powers. He also purchased the two $\frac{1}{4}$ leagues that had previously distributed to re-consolidate nine leagues of the Melado Tract. Over a series of years in the first decades of the twentieth century, the

³⁹ Florence John Scott, *Royal Land Grants North of the Rio Grande 1777-1821: Early History of Large Grants Made by Spain to Families in Jurisdiction of Reynosa which Became a Part of Texas After the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, 1848*, (La Retama Press, 1969), 56.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*,

⁶⁰ Hidalgo real estate transactions may be searched online through <https://www.texaslandrecords.com/txlr/TXHID/index.jsp>.

⁴² Roberto Vela, ed. and trans. by Antonio H. Vela and Carlos F. Vela, *Memories of Laguna Seca* (S.l. : s.n., 1978?).

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 194.

Melado Tract passed through several owners. Eventually it was acquired by the Rio Grande Development Company which then subdivided it into blocks and lots, with the land that would eventually be purchased by the Eubanks most likely being Block 28, Lot 3. On October 24, 1950, the Rio Grande Development Company recorded Plat 1051 of their subdivision with the same name. Within just a few years, larger pieces of the Rio Grande Development lands were purchased and sold, including Block 28, Lot 3 owned by Lovers Lane Methodist Church in Dallas, then Texan Care Company, who then sold it within a matter of days to Citrus Properties Inc. It was then re-divided by Citrus Properties, such that it appears that the property on which the Eubanks home stands was designated as Citrus Property Lot 13. Edwin and Ethel Belle Etheredge purchased Lot 13 in 1960, and two years later sold it to Bergerud Care Inc. In 1978, Ken and Irene Eubanks bought the property as part of a larger purchase of Lots 11 through 14 of Citrus Properties and neighboring land in Retama Acres Block C, Lots 20 through 23. (Appendix K)

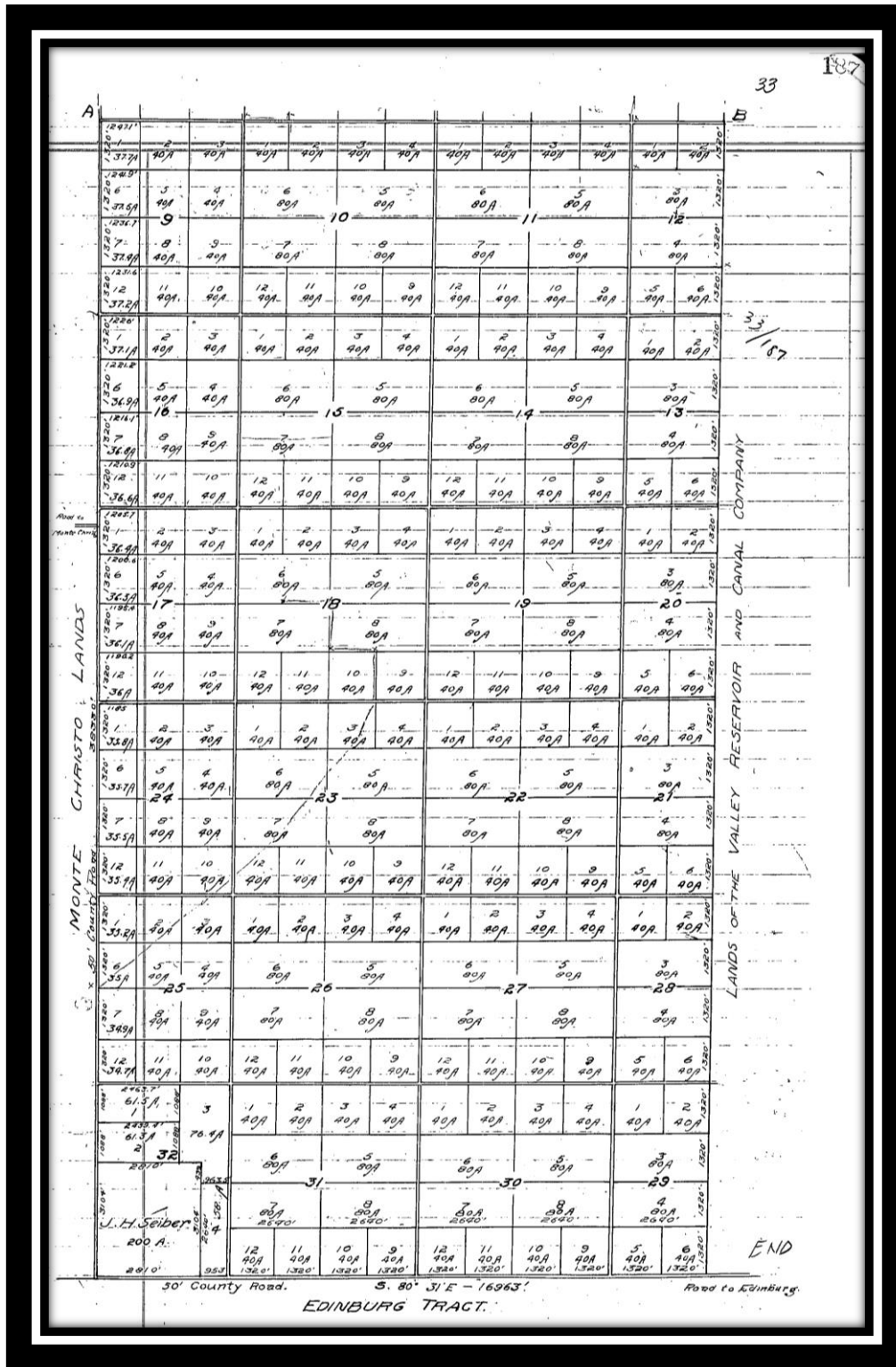
Monte Christo

Monte Christo ('Christ in the brush') was a townsite that developed, flourished, and then vanished so completely that few residents of the region know of its existence. Residents know it only as a street name. Note: the town of Monte Christo is spelled with an 'h,' however the road named Monte Cristo follows the Spanish spelling and is spelled without the 'h'. The Monte Christo townsite developed in the early 1900s west of the Eubanks property, and north of Mission in the Melado Tract. It had the two elements so essential to development in southern Texas, a railroad track, and water. The trajectory of the train traveled from the main track from Harlingen to Sam Fordyce (near the Starr County border) with a northern spur through Mission to Monte Christo. The townsite itself was too far from the river to benefit from river irrigation, but it did boast artesian wells that were used to irrigate the crops planted by ambitious farmers. The reason the town of Monte Christo did not survive was because the water supplied by the wells was very salinated. There were never any bandit or border-related violence in Monte Christo itself, but the inhabitants felt too isolated and unsafe in their relatively remote location, and they fled to the larger cities of Mission, Edinburg, and McAllen.

Railroads and Irrigation

Before rail lines, the Valley was in many ways isolated from the rest of the country. Railroads at the turn of the 20th century provided vital contributions in transforming the region's economy, population, and culture. These rail lines not only connected cities of the area together but linked the Valley to the greater nation. J.L. Allhands in his book *Railroads To The Rio* (1960), referred to the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas in 1899, as "mostly a jungle, peopled only by a few ranchers."⁴⁴ The region's development was very limited based on what the land could support. Cattle ranching was the most productive means of making a living in the dry climate before the introduction of large-scale irrigation. Transporting

⁴⁴ James Lewellyn Allhands, *Railroads to the Rio*, (Salado, Tex.: Anson Jones Press, 1960), 48.



ports along the Gulf Coast to for shipment elsewhere. Only salted or preserved foods could survive the long journey.

Uriah Lott began “a single-handed campaign...to open the Valley to the outside world” in 1899.⁴⁵ Lott employed railroad engineer A.M. French to design and oversee the construction of the rail line that would connect Brownsville to the ports of Corpus Christi and Galveston. He also enticed financier and railroad owner B. F. Yoakum to partner with him in this endeavor. Lott offered Yoakum “a land bonus of more than 100,000 acres, free right of way and terminal grounds, and at least \$75,000 in cash.”⁴⁶ Yoakum accepted the offer and partnered with Lott on what was to become the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexican Railway Company. Yoakum even dreamed of expanding the line to Mexico and “Central America to the Panama Canal.”⁴⁷ The St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico Railway line completed in 1904 and connected Houston south to Corpus Christi and Brownsville, then west along the Rio Grande through Hidalgo County to Sam Fordyce on the Hidalgo and Starr County border. In 1927, Edinburg achieved its dream of becoming the gateway by beginning a northern connection that they hoped would eventually lead through Falfurrias to San Antonio with the construction of the Southern Pacific Railroad. These rail lines were first to provide affordable pathways for both passengers and cargo entering and exiting the Rio Grande Valley.

Development of the Rio Grande Valley expanded by the building of irrigation systems provided a reliable source of water to irrigate the various crops in the region. An engineer named Sam Robertson noticed that the flow of the water away from the river and the sloping of the land to the north and west. Robertson observed that the property “instead of sloping toward the Rio Grande...[sloped] in the other direction.”⁴⁸ He dreamed of turning the “desert wilderness into a semitropical garden.”⁴⁹ He was employed to construct the Santa Maria ditch, which was the first leg of the Mercedes canal. He and other investors formed the San Benito Land And Water Company. They established canals by 1908 and became the first development company to bring water to farmers and settlers into that part of the Valley. Others quickly began the construction of irrigation systems further opening the Valley to agricultural and economic development.

The combined introduction of railroads and mechanized irrigation and the development of irrigation companies and districts allowed the region to shift from viable ranching to large-scale agriculture. For the first time, vegetables and produce in this area could be grown at innumerable volume and transported to distant markets before they spoiled. Land companies sprouted, selling blocks and lots of irrigated farmland as soon as they became available. The population surged, and property prices, especially for irrigated properties, increased drastically.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*,

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*,

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 49.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, 71.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, 73.

Chapter 4: Regional Industry and Trade Development

Maquiladoras and NAFTA

In the early 1900s, the railroad and irrigation were a key factor in the growth of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. At the end of the 1900s, maquiladoras and NAFTA made a significant impact on the area. The *maquiladora* program was begun by the Mexican government to increase employment, manufacturing and economic development in the border region. In the 1990s, several more *maquiladoras* were built along the Rio Grande in southern Texas. In 1994, the North American Free Trade Act (NAFTA) was implemented to promote trade between Mexico, the United States, and Canada. Since then the Valley has seen increases in employment, trade, banking, construction, transportation, and educational levels of the area residents. With corresponding decreases in unemployment, Edinburg has styled itself as the “Gateway City,” as the Valley is spread east to west parallel with the river, Edinburg provides the focal point for transportation to travel north, first by rail, then by highways for people and produce. The Eubanks remarked on the impact that the *maquiladoras* and NAFTA have had in the Valley. In her second interview, Irene comments that they have seen tremendous growth in the Valley, which she attributes to a variety of factors, including the University, the development, and expansion of the health industry spurred in part by winter Texans.

Maquiladoras have proven to be a benefit to Mexico and to the United States. Many of the managers live on the Texas side of the border and their children go to school there as well. Tom discussed the impact that NAFTA has had on land prices, and their personal experiences with the value of their land jumping due to NAFTA.

You know we did the same thing, we--the land that we had, my parents as well, we've sold it off, and people have been building houses on there. Back when we got here, the land was, well, depends on where you went. Out towards McCook, it was a couple hundred dollars an acre, getting closer to \$500 we bought land we got here at \$1,200 to \$1,500 an acre. That land right now is \$15 to \$20,000 an acre. Yeah, it just really jumped up and the Valley afterward, after NAFTA came in, it redirected the traffic of the United States through here to the Mexican farms and everyone yells at that. It's American farms in Mexico it's Del Monte you know, it's the big boys down there, you know, using, using their labor but it's our big farms.⁵⁰

Kenneth Scott also spoke about the impact of NAFTA and the growth of the Valley, in general, perhaps influenced by his experiences as a produce broker. He spoke of NAFTA bringing a paradigm shift to the Valley. Before NAFTA, the Valley was the “Winter Garden of American winter produce” such as Kale, Cucumbers, and Cabbage. After NAFTA, the bulk of agricultural production went to Mexico, “but then the other industries have moved here that, you know, flow back and forth with the industrial base.” The Eubanks family has

⁵⁰ Kenneth Scott Eubanks, interview by Ezgar Chavez, & Tim Hinds, September 30, 2014, Appendix D., 56.

seen inordinate growth in the Valley, and they expect that growth and development to continue. As Kenneth Scott put it, “the whole region down here is going to really, really grow you are going to be surprised. I mean you’re going to wake up in ten years and be like, oh my God.”⁵¹

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 71.

Chapter 5: Regional Geology

The geological history of the area adds another dimension to this study. The Eubanks lands are distant from the Rio Grande and far from any other reliable source of drinking water, yet projectile points found on the properties indicate the presence of prehistoric Indians as far back as 6000 B.C. The 1794 inspection of the San Salvador del Tule Grant indicate that at one point, the Cotoname Indians lived around this area. We believe their presence so far from the river may be explained by the presence of temporary water holes formed by geological phenomenon known as deflation troughs.

Deflation Troughs

A combination of clayey and sandy soils, wind, and rain is required for the formation of deflation troughs. Much of Hidalgo County has an underlying layer of caliche covered by poorly consolidated soils of fine sand, silt and clay of the Pliocene Goliad Formation, developed in fluvial sediments and deposited by the Rio Grande during its frequent floods. The semi-arid climate combined with prevailing southeasterly winds are the driving forces shaping the landscape. The wind mobilizes the sand dunes, spreading the sandy soil across this area known as the South Texas Sand Sheet (STSS). When sandy soil lays over a depression of an underlying clayey substrate, usually Rio clay loam and Tiocano clay, wind erosion (deflation) can carve out circular or oval shaped depressions or deflation troughs.⁵²

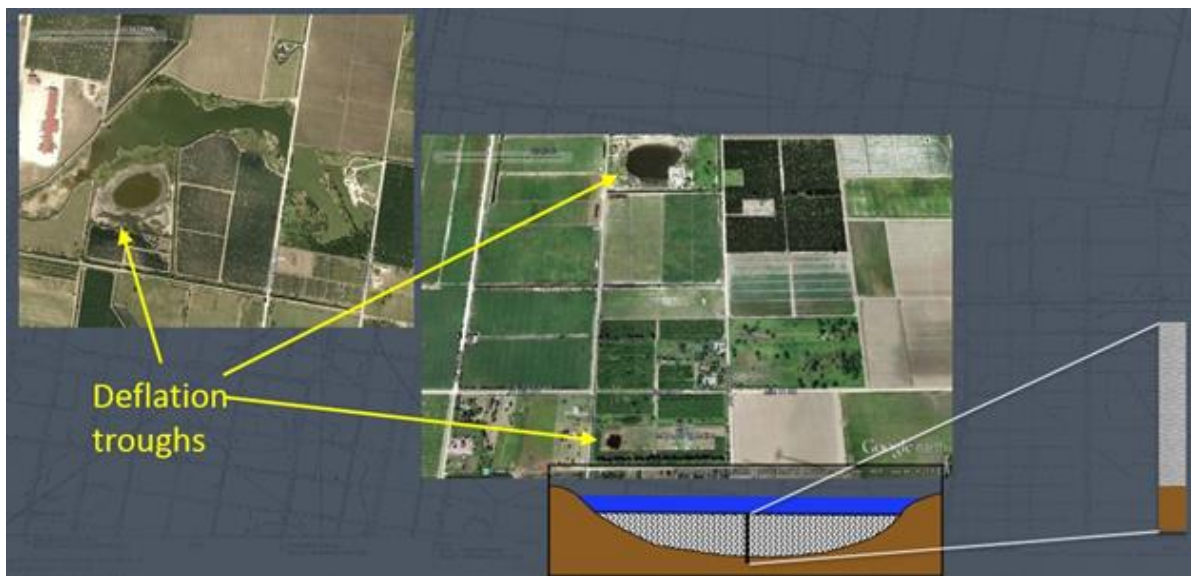


Figure 12. Deflation features near the Eubanks properties. Aerial photographs courtesy of Google Earth.

⁵² Juan L. Gonzalez, et al., “Deflation Troughs, Water, and Prehistoric Occupation on the Margins of the South Texas Sand Sheet”, *Journal of Texas Archaeology and History*, vol. 1 (2014): 70-72.

Deflation over several thousand years has created hundreds of shallow depressions. When it rains, the underlying clayey soil allows the water to pond quickly, then slowly drains. Seasonal rainfall results in alternating periods of extensive dune activity and, with the growth of vegetation, stabilization as well. During droughts many deflation troughs dry up fast, leaving a few that can barely pass the year mark, but during rainy seasons (usually during hurricane season) many pool and stay filled over a year, creating a temporary habitat for many living creatures. Not only would plants, amphibians, and animals take advantage of these “waterholes” but prehistoric people would use them as their water source and take shelter around these areas.

Deflation troughs are permanent geomorphic features showing up as a permanent smudge on soil maps, indicating their existence even when there is no water, covered by deposition once again. A few were identified in Google earth imagery near the Eubanks property and those shown on soil maps by their clay underlining.



Figure 13. Google Earth time series showing the circular deflation trough feature.

Comparing the Properties

The Norquest, Cantu, and Atwood (Figure 14) properties were located mostly in floodplains of the Rio Grande. During floods the river would rise and deposit silt and other

minerals into the soil, facilitating conditions for agriculture. Though the river provided sustainable conditions for farming, the threat of flooding during heavy rains or hurricanes is potentially devastating for agricultural economies. The Eubanks property, however, is located far from any river, and that lack of access to a natural water source is the fundamental key that would distinguish it from the other properties. The Rio Grande seldom flooded so far north with the result that there are few silt deposits to re-mineralize the soils with essential nutrients for agribusiness.

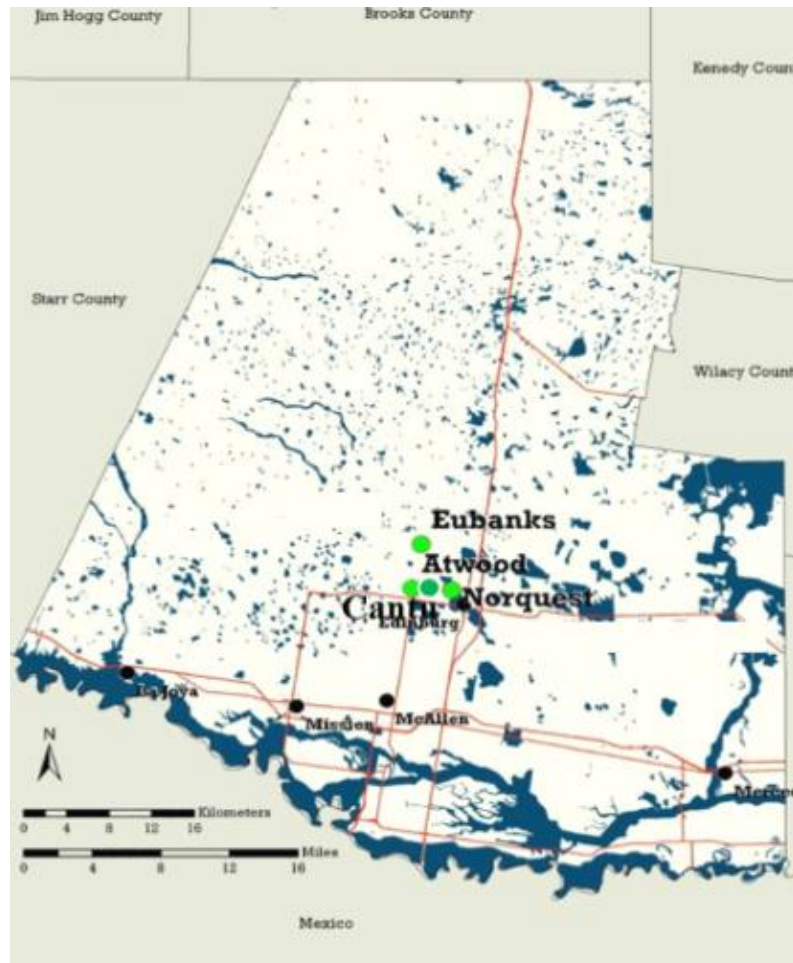


Figure 14. CHAPS Class site study locations showing study sites relative to ponded water (Courtesy of Sarah Hardage)

Soils

The Lower Rio Grande Valley is located on the Coastal Plain of Texas. Exposed formation includes the Beaumont Formation of Pleistocene age and the overlying sediments of the Holocene age. The natural topography in the Lower Rio Grande Valley area is characterized by a flat plain formed as an alluvial delta of the Rio Grande. The landscape is level to gently sloping with slow surface drainage. In this region the soil encompasses about 2.1 million acres and is part of the Hidalgo Series soil, consisting of mostly deep

grayish-brown, neutral to alkaline loams that are well drained, moderately permeable that formed in calcareous loamy sediments. Surface soil information was obtained through The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA, NRCS) Custom Soil Report.



Hidalgo County, Texas (TX215)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
3	Brennan fine sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	13.9	75.1%
28	Hidalgo sandy clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	4.6	24.9%
Totals for Area of Interest		18.5	100.0%

Figure 15. USGS Website Soil Survey of CHAPS survey Location 1, showing citrus orchard, and Ken and Irene’s house located on Eubanks Road. (2015).



Hidalgo County, Texas (TX215)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
3	Brennan fine sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	3.7	9.6%
25	Hidalgo fine sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	3.4	8.8%
46	Pits, caliche	23.7	61.4%
48	Racombes sandy clay loam	5.1	13.3%
51	Randado-Cuevitas complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	0.0	0.0%
60	Rio clay loam	2.7	6.9%
Totals for Area of Interest		38.5	100.0%

Figure 16. USGS Website Soil Survey of CHAPS survey Location 2, showing caliche pit filled with water (map unit symbol 46), and Tom and Cristina’s house located on Hoehn Road. (2015).

Soils studied included the Brennan series fine sandy loam (map unit symbol 3) (Figure 15, 16) which consists of very deep, well drained soils. These are nearly level to gently undulating soils formed in loamy eolian sands and calcareous loamy alluvium on vegetated sand sheets plains.

The United States Geologic Service uses an abbreviation system for categorizing the myriad types of soils found in the US. Following here you will find the types of soils found in the Rio Grande Valley, followed by the depths they are observed, or found, and the layer’s relative thicknesses.

A--0 to 31 cm (0 to 12 in); brown fine sandy loam, dark brown moist; weak fine subangular blocky structure; upper 2 inches is massive; hard, friable, slightly sticky and slightly plastic; common fine roots; neutral; gradual smooth boundary. (20 to 46 cm [8 to 18 in] thick)

Bt--31 to 66 cm (12 to 26 in); yellowish brown sandy clay loam, dark yellowish brown moist; weak fine subangular blocky structure; hard, friable, slightly sticky and slightly plastic; few fine roots; many fine pores; many root channels; few distinct clay films on surfaces of peds and in pores; slightly alkaline; diffuse smooth boundary. (10 to 76 cm [4 to 30 in] thick)

Bk--66 to 102 cm (26 to 40 in); light yellowish brown sandy clay loam, yellowish brown moist; weak fine and medium subangular blocky structure; hard, friable, slightly sticky and slightly plastic; many fine roots; many fine pores; 2 percent fine threads and masses of calcium carbonate; violently effervescent; moderately alkaline; diffuse smooth boundary. (25 to 41 cm [10 to 16 in] thick)

Bck--102 to 203 cm (40 to 80 in); very pale brown sandy clay loam, light yellowish brown moist; weak fine and medium subangular blocky structure; hard, friable, slightly sticky and slightly plastic; few fine pores; 10 percent fine masses and concretions of calcium carbonate; visible calcium carbonate decreases slightly with depth; violently effervescent; moderately alkaline.

Hidalgo series--sand clay loam (map unit symbol 28), consists of deep, well drained, moderately permeable soils that formed in calcareous loamy sediments. These soils are on nearly level to gently sloping uplands.

Ap--0-23cm (0 to 9 inches); dark grayish brown sandy clay loam, very dark grayish brown moist; weak subangular blocky and granular structure; hard, friable; few small fragments of shell; calcareous; moderately alkaline; clear smooth boundary. (5 to 9 inches thick)

A1-- 23- 43cm (9 to 17 inches); dark grayish brown sandy clay loam; very dark grayish brown moist; weak subangular blocky structure; hard, friable; many fine and very fine pores; few earthworm casts; calcareous; moderately alkaline; diffuse smooth boundary. (6 to 10 inches thick)

B2--43-71cm (17 to 28 inches); brown sandy clay loam, dark brown moist; moderate fine subangular blocky structure; hard, friable; many fine and very fine pores; few threads and films of segregated calcium carbonate; few earthworm casts; few fragments of snail shell; calcareous; moderately alkaline; diffuse smooth boundary. (7 to 16 inches thick)

B2ca--71- 97cm (28 to 38 inches); pale brown clay loam, dark brown moist; weak subangular blocky structure; hard, friable; many fine and very fine pores; few fragments of snail shell; about 10 percent by volume of soft bodies of calcium carbonate; calcareous; moderately alkaline; diffuse smooth boundary. (8 to 16 inches thick)

Cca--97-216 cm (38 to 85 inches); very pale brown clay loam, brown moist; massive; hard, friable; many fine and very fine pores; few fragments of snail shell; about 10 percent by volume of soft bodies of calcium carbonate.

CHAPS Borehole Data

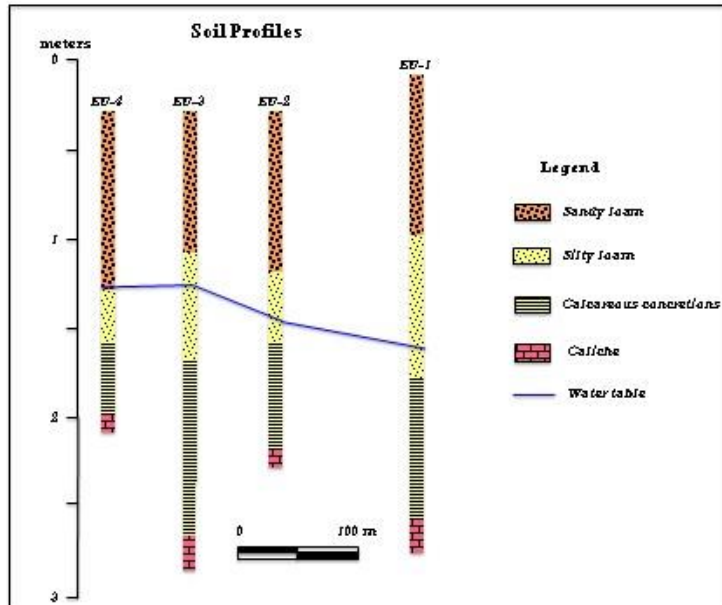


Figure 17. CHAPS class borehole data. Displayed is a combined profile from four boreholes cored at Location 1.

Boreholes drilled

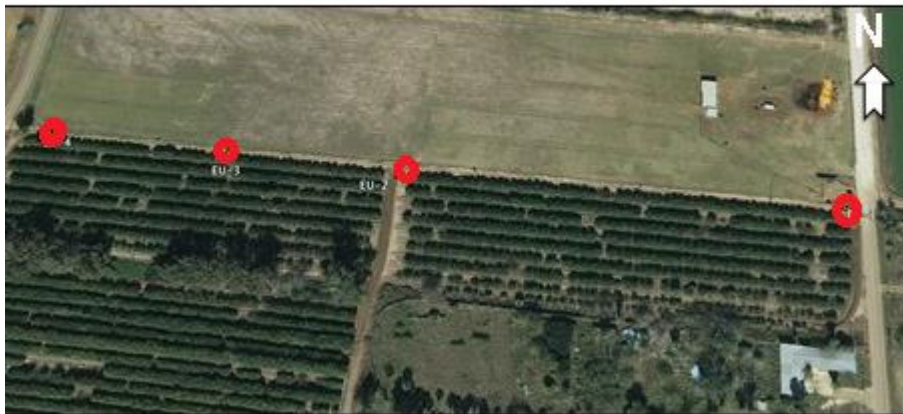


Figure 18. CHAPS 2014 boreholes drilled at Location 1

During the course of the CHAPS 2014 study, the students took turns learning how to use a hand operated auger on site. Dr. Juan Gonzalez officiated the gathering of samples and creation of the sedimentary cross-sections. For the purposes of this particular facet of CHAPS geology, we were interested in tracking the depth of the water table in the area as

part of a larger study. As evidenced by Figure 17, the relative level of the water table is very shallow-roughly between one meter to one meter and a half below the surface. The other purpose for the boreholes was to familiarize CHAPS students with some basic geology. The students dug down to almost three meters at two boreholes before hitting the layer of caliche, used as a marker control to stop digging. Caliche is very hard and we did not wish to damage our equipment digging through it. Of the four studies, we found that the soils in the area are relatively similar in composition, typically a varying amount of silty and sandy loams, or combinations of silts, sands, and clays. It is uncertain whether the water table was artificially raised or if this is a natural system. Figure 18 is an aerial image outlining the location of the boreholes.

Caliche

Caliche is present throughout much of South Texas. In the four studies completed by CHAPS Program class students to date, a caliche layer has been found at depths ranging from 1 ½ to 2 meters deep. Despite its very common usage, the term “caliche” is actually rather ambiguous and sometimes misleading, as it is used differently in geological and soils studies.⁵³ The term *caliche* derives from the Latin *cal*, meaning lime. A report published by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) defined a working definition of caliche as “a pedogenically altered limy material that contains more than 40% calcium carbonate equivalent and has sufficient accumulation of pedogenic carbonates to meet the minimum requirements of a calcic or petrocalcic horizon.” The report continues to explain that the higher levels of organic matter and porosity in the weathered soil materials are important to an understanding of that definition of caliche. Other terms that may include the use of caliche as building materials are “miscellaneous crushed stone” and gravel or concrete aggregates.

Local uses of caliche

Caliche is present in our roads, dams, and buildings, and has been used in southern Texas from the times of the first Spanish settlers. Spanish colonial buildings used chipichil or tipichil, a local term for lime concrete containing pea gravel aggregate. Chipichil was used both as a top layer for flat roof construction that was sloped to drain rain water, often with a tank placed underneath to catch the water.⁵⁴ Chipichil was also sometimes used for flooring.⁵⁵

The rapid development of the Lower Rio Grande Valley after the railroad arrived in 1904, and the expansion of the irrigation system led to an increase in road and building construction. In 1910 for example, the Hidalgo County Commissioners were overseeing the

⁵³ Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) on behalf of the Texas On-Site Wastewater Treatment Research (MC-178), “Caliche Soils as a Filter Medium for Treatment and Disposal of Wastewater” Final Report. June 5, 2001. twri.tamu.edu/reports/2002/2002-003/2002-003.pdf.

⁵⁴ Eugene George, *Historic Architecture of Texas: the Falcón Reservoir*, (Austin: Texas Historical Foundation, 1975) 39.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 47.

construction of the new courthouse in Edinburg (torn down in 1954) and county jail (now part of the Museum of South Texas History) in Edinburg. Between 1908 and 1910 in Hidalgo County there were intensive efforts to clear and prepare new roads in Hidalgo County to accommodate the new towns and increased needs for transportation.⁵⁶ Few roads were paved in southern Texas during the first half of the twentieth century. Caliche was used, and is still being used, to improve dirt roads as caliche allows for better drainage and traction. It is very likely that many of those new roads may have been covered with caliche.

Hidalgo County was the source for crushed stone, building, and paving materials. While it is known that some of those sources came from the Fordyce gravel pits near the Starr County line, and sand sources near the river banks, other specific sites are not easily determined. Between 1955 and 1982 when statistics were no longer recorded, the United States Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook listed Hidalgo County as the source for miscellaneous crushed stone, sand and gravel for building and road surfacing, clay for building brick and heavy clay products, shale from open pits for brick and tile. In 1958, the Texas Highway Department contracted 77,100 tons of paving gravel from Hidalgo County, and beginning in 1962, Hidalgo County was listed as a source for limestone for concrete aggregate and road stone. Hidalgo County continues to serve as a source for active mines and mineral pits, including nearby Garcia Pit and Vela Pit sand and gravel operations located northeast of the Eubanks properties and west of US 281 and north of Edinburg Lake.⁵⁷

Caliche pit by Location 2

A walk along the promontory leading into the lake filling the old caliche pit north of the Tom and Cristina's house at Location 2 reveals caliche stones and outcroppings just below the soil surface. When the Eubanks moved to Edinburg the caliche pit had already been abandoned. The mining and use of the caliche near Location 2 is described in the book *Construction of the McAllen Storm Sewer, 1933-1934* by E.H. Nordmeyer as told to Herb Nordmeyer and in personal communication with Herb Nordmeyer as he described the photograph in Figure 22.⁵⁸

The 1933 "Labor Day Hurricane" was a category 3 hurricane that swept through south Texas and dropped 13 or 14 inches of rain on the first day. As Mr. Nordmeyer related it, when the hurricane was blowing, people could walk around, and even drive. If they ended up in a ditch, it was usually because the dirt roads were slick, not because of the wind. It was

⁵⁶ Hidalgo County, Hidalgo County Commissioners, December 1909 and January 1910, The University of Texas-Pan American Archives.

⁵⁷ Active Mines. Find the Data. <http://active-mines.findthedata.com/compare/2491-6047-6049/Martin-Marietta-Aggregates-vs-Valley-Caliche-Products-Inc-vs-Upper-Valley-Materials-Ltd>. Martin Marietta Aggregates Vela Pit (#773); Valley Caliche Products, Inc. Beck Pit; Upper Valley Materials, Ltd Garcia Pit.

⁵⁸ E.H. Nordmeyer, Herb Nordmeyer, *Construction of the McAllen Storm Sewer, 1933-1934* (Castroville, Tex.: Stone Age Technology, 1998) 6.

better to drive on paved or gravel roads. The extensive rain from the hurricane brought the need for better drainage to the forefront of the city leaders in McAllen.

1933 was also during the height of the Great Depression after the 1929 stock market crash. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created several federally funded agencies, commonly referred to as the “alphabet soup agencies” under the New Deal program to create projects to put people back to work. The Civil Works Administration (CWA) operated during the winter from November 1933 to March 1934. It was tasked specifically with employing a large number of unskilled workers temporarily for short-term projects primarily in construction such as for roads, bridges, and buildings.

The McAllen Storm Sewer project was a CWA project to build a new storm sewer from downtown McAllen to 19 ½ Street and Oakland Avenue where the storm water would then empty into a *resaca* south of town. The storm sewer is about one and a quarter miles in length, and up to five feet in diameter. Approximately two million bricks were made and used during this project. In order to create as many jobs for as many people as possible, work time was limited to 20 hours per week. About 500 people were hired for each shift, and there were probably three shifts per day. This was a time when ten hour work days, and six day work weeks were common. In order to make the most out of the money available, it was decided that the bricks and mortar needed to build the sewer would be made as part of the project, putting more people to work and saving money on purchasing the bricks and mortar separately. The city leased the Valley Brick and Tile Company plant in Madero near the river. The project created the largest demand for brick the plant ever had. Bricks are made through a process of mixing alluvial soil or clay with water and setting into large brick columns. The columns were then cut into individual bricks and stacked by hand on dryer cars. After they were dry they were stacked and fired in large kilns. Each kiln could hold about 60,000 bricks. There needed to be about 34 firings in order to create two million bricks. In order to complete the task in the time allotted, new kilns were built. When the project was over, Valley Brick and Tile was left with a stack of bricks and additional kilns that had been built on site to handle the extra loads. After the bricks were fired and cooled, they were placed on wagons or in trucks and hauled to the worksite. Wagons pulled by horses or mules could haul one or two tons (500 to 1,000 bricks) and the largest trucks could carry up to seven tons, or 3,500 bricks. In modern day perspective, it would be the equivalent of packing an 18 wheeler with a load every day and a half.

Several acres near Location 2 at Tom and Cristina’s house had reportedly been used before for mining caliche and burning lime from at least the time of Spanish colonial settlers. Mr. Nordmeyer was not certain if the lime kilns in use were already there, or if they were constructed for their project. The burned lime was transported to McAllen where it was hydrated and stored in trenches. When mortar was needed, the lime putty was dug out and mixed with sand, and the mortar would be poured into the trench where they were placing the brick for the sewer walls.

The lime-burning area was located in a joint clay area. The calero (lime kiln) pit was about eight feet deep and six feet in diameter and was dug into the banks on three sides of the area (Figure 21). The firebox was dug into the base of the kiln and intersected at the pit. To load a kiln, men would go to the surrounding area and pick up good caliche float (caliche found on the surface of the ground). A man would climb into the kiln and stack large pieces of caliche to bridge over the bottom, and then continue with smaller pieces until the kiln was full. A fire would be started in the fire box and a crew kept the fire going day and night until the kiln load had a red glow, and the slabs of caliche at the bottom of the kiln collapsed, usually after about a week. The caliche rock would collapse when the carbon dioxide present in the rock was burned off, and the remaining rock became weaker. After the collapse, the fires were allowed to die out and the kiln to cool, usually for several days. The proper stacking of the kiln was important. Mr. Nordmeyer recalled that after the first lime kiln manager left, his replacement did not sort the caliche by the high-grade lighter-weight caliche rock slabs and the low-grade heavier-weight caliche slabs with the result that the lime would not react with water when they tried to slake it, it was just plain limestone rock. As Mr. Nordmeyer describes it, “the lightweight caliche was more pure calcium carbonate or limestone, and the heavier caliche was calcium carbonate mixed with clay and other minerals. The heavyweight caliche took longer to burn and required a higher temperature. After we took care of that problem, the heavyweight caliche worked just fine. With the heavyweight caliche, I think that we were making a low grade of cement.”⁵⁹ Mr. Nordmeyer also did not recall how much caliche was burned, but he quotes a San Antonio Express article (February 18, 1934) that they needed 2,340 tons of quick lime (burned lime). He does estimate that they could “put about 10,000 pounds of caliche in a kiln. Since caliche loses about 56 percent of its weight when burned, a kiln load would produce about 2.8 tons of quick lime. That calculates out to more than 800 kiln loads.”⁶⁰

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 19.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 20.

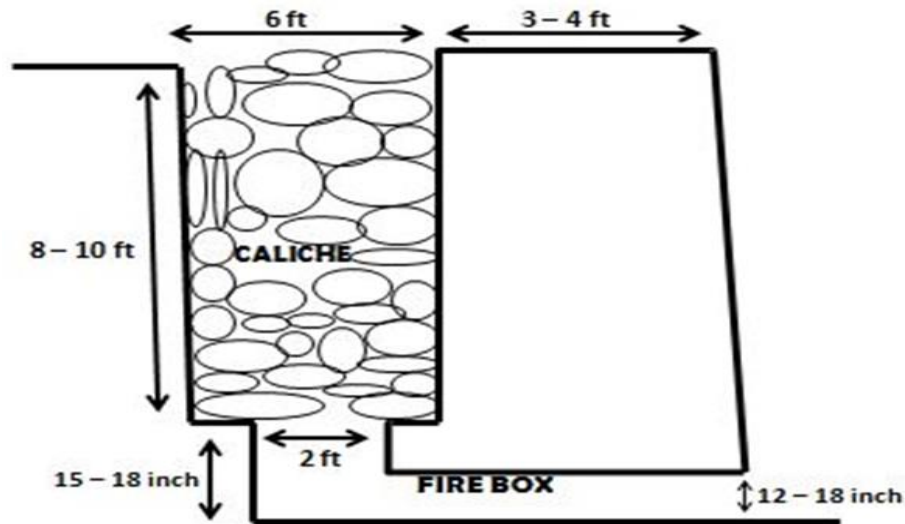


Figure 19. Cross-section of a typical calero. Original drawing by D. H. Nordmeyer. Measurements added by Mariana Vazquez (CHAPS Program student).

The quick lime in the kiln was unloaded and placed in wagons to be taken to McAllen. They had to be careful when handling the quick lime, as it would burn if it got on the skin, especially sweaty skin. The quick limed was dumped from the wagon into a slaking box. When water was added, the water and lime reacted by boiling the water and releasing steam, and chunks of lime would explode. The lime and water was mixed with hoes to create slurry that was then pushed into a trench. Excess water was absorbed back into the ground, and the lime was covered to keep carbon dioxide out. As the lime putty was allowed to set, the particles would be slaked, the longer it set, the more workable the putty became.⁶¹

The photograph (Figure 20) shows the calero pits as the round holes on the upper level. The lower level is approximately 10 feet below the upper level, and shows a firebox or fire hole tunnel for each pit, and a discharge tunnel in the cut back area. The base of the discharge tunnel is level with the floor of the lower tunnel, whereas the fire hole tunnel is slightly below the level of the floor. In this photograph, calero pit 1 to the far left is probably a new pit as indicated by the stone located below the beam indicating that the pit was being filled, with the beam placed over the pit to allow buckets of material to be lowered into the pit. See Appendix L

⁶¹*Ibid.*, p. 24.



Figure 20. Caliche pit, ca. 1934 during mining for the McAllen storm sewer project. Pit later filled with water and is the site of the lake on Tom and Cristina Eubanks' property-Location 2. Photo courtesy of Carroll Norquest.



December 11, 1950



March 23, 1955



February 10, 1962



1968

Figure 21. US Department of Agriculture aerial photographs. Courtesy of The University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley Library Special Collections and Archives.

Aerial photographs available in The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Library Special Collections and Archives were reviewed. Most revealing were a series of aerial photographs taken by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1950, 1955, 1962, and 1968 (Figure 21). It is difficult to locate the caliche pit in the 1950 and 1955 aerial photographs, but it is approximately 7.75 miles east of Moore Airfield and 1.75 miles west of the southern tip of Lake Edinburg. The 1950 and 1955 aerial photographs show typical landscaping in the relevant area. In 1962 the area appears as a white scar on the land, probably due to the lack of water that covered the caliche. The 1968 photograph taken after Hurricane Beulah in 1967 shows the pit as it appears in photographs found on Google Earth from 1995 to present. The curved lake and the promontory leading into the lake make this piece of land very easy to find on aerial and satellite photographs.

Chapter 6: Regional Biology



Figure 22. Monarch butterfly on the Eubanks property. Photograph by Roseann Bacha-Garza, 2014.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley is the native home to a vast variety of flora and fauna seen throughout the four counties of Hidalgo, Starr, Cameron, and Willacy (Figure 22). In the Valley there are “a documented 1,200 plants, 300 butterflies, and approximately 700 vertebrates, of which at least 520 are birds (Figure 22, 23)”⁶²

There were a variety of prehistoric plants and animals not found in today’s South Texas. If one could travel back in time, one could see giant mammoths grazing on grass, mastodons munching on trees, larger bison, the smaller plant eaters deer and camelids, as well as wild turkeys and other birds, rabbits, rats, reptiles, fish, and insects.⁶³

⁶² “Wildlife and Habitat,” *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Lower Rio Grande Valley: National Wildlife Refuge, Texas*, http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Lower_Rio_Grande_Valley/wildlife_habitat.html.

⁶³ Bobbie L. Lovett, J. L. González, Roseann Bacha-Garza, and Russell K. Skowronek, (Eds.). *Native American Peoples of South Texas, Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools Program*, (Edinburg, Tx: The University of Texas, 2014), 23, 29.

The arrival of Spanish colonists and their herds of livestock 265 years ago drastically transformed the biodiversity of the region from low lying forests and savannahs, into farming and ranch lands. Vegetation that has been allowed to grow naturally today, such as the area around Location 2, have been replaced by a variety of grasses and brush, cacti, and low lying hardwood trees such as mesquite. Also present are reptiles such as: bull snakes, western diamondback rattlesnakes, Texas indigo snakes, red-eared sliders, Texas tortoise, brown anole, Texas horned lizard, Mediterranean gecko, and the American alligator. Mammals include: Mexican ground squirrels, white-tailed rabbit, jackrabbits, coyotes, ocelots, and bobcats. Insects are the most diverse with hundreds of subspecies as can be attested to by the CHAPS Program students, despite copious amounts of insect repellent. The most economically significant organism to the Valley is the bird. The Valley is the number two bird watching region in the world, with millions of birds bottlenecking through the region every year as they migrate through the Panama Canal region.



Figure 23. Two birds in flight, an oriole chasing a grackle. Photograph taken at Eubanks location. Photo courtesy of Roseann Bacha Garza, 2014.

At the turn of the last century the introduction of commercial agriculture, in the form of large-scale growth of cotton, sorghum and citrus (such as grown by the Eubanks), and the increased urbanization of the region eventually led to further decline and displacement of the native biotic. Although still present, larger mammals such as white tail deer, antelope, javelinas, coyotes, and bobcats were more common in the early 1900s than they are today in the early 2000s. Some species remain endangered, such as the ocelot, which continues to struggle. Others, like the brown pelican, have rebounded and become widespread again. The horned lizard is an example of a species that has been in flux. Interviews with previous CHAPS Program families, the Norquests, Cantus, and Atwoods, all remarked that horned lizards used to be widespread, but that they seemed to have largely disappeared after Hurricane Beulah in 1967.⁶⁴ All of the Eubanks grandchildren remarked on the number of

⁶⁴ J. Alaniz, et. al., *The Cantu Family: A Porcion of Edinburg. A Report Prepared for the Cantu Family and for the University of Texas-Pan American, Community Archaeology Project with Schools Program.* (Edinburg,

Texas Horned Lizards found on their properties (Figure 24). Thomas talked about horned toads in his interview: “Horny toads I call them right, for years you won’t see them but all of a sudden they’re everywhere you know.”⁶⁵ Michelle recalled that she “had a bunch of horned toads and...put a little fence around them, had them right by an ant hill so they can eat”⁶⁶ One major variation between the Eubanks properties and the other properties studied by CHAPS is that the Eubanks are still in a more rural area, whereas the city of Edinburg has grown toward and around the Norquest, Cantu, and Atwood locations.



Figure 24. Texas Horned Lizard found on Tom Eubanks property. (Location 2). Photograph by Roseann Bacha-Garza, 2014.

While the introduction of agriculture impacted the natural biosphere, so has the introduction of domesticated animals. To protect their homes and lands, ranchers, farmers, and even modern suburban dwellers are willing to clear out the native animals that are viewed as a threat such as Coyotes, Ocelots, Bobcats and crop pests, such as Grackles, although modern practices concentrate on relocating rather than killing the offending animals. The Eubanks and Cantu families have both at different times resorted to the armed protection of their livelihoods from native encroachers. During our interview with Tom Eubanks, he had this to say about grackles in the Valley,

Oh well you got grackles at one time, the grackles were really bad. You had flocks of tens of thousands of them coming in and just, you know just knocking the crap out of stuff and I remember going down and buying as many as ten cases of shotgun shells and guys with two pickups, loads of guys, with four or five guys with shotguns, and

Texas: The University of Texas-Pan American 2012), 140. J. D. Garcia, et. al., *Atwood Acres: A Porcion of Edinburg. A Report Prepared for the Atwood Family and for the University of Texas-Pan American, Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools Program.* (Edinburg, Tx: The University of Texas-Pan American, 2014), 87, 118.

⁶⁵ Thomas Alexander Eubanks, interview by Serafin Hernandez, September 28, 2014, Appendix F.

⁶⁶ Michelle Eubanks, interview by Elisa Mora and Christopher Scott, September 20, 2014, Appendix E.

we would chase them off for miles, and then they'd come back and then and then the fruit was on the trees and they'd knock holes in your fruit you know. So there was a giant grackle war in the 80's.⁶⁷

Tom also discussed the lengths to which the University would go to fight the grackle problem, including shooting 'scare away guns' from carbide cannons to move them off campus. He recalls how at the same time, grackles showed up in McAllen near H-E-B. "... and the USDA guy was going, 'Man it's bad in McAllen now,' he goes, 'Those are your birds aren't they?'"⁶⁸ Locations at both the Eubanks and the Cantu properties, have been allowed to re-vegetate, now housing a multitude of organisms, primarily birds, smaller herbivores, and butterflies. The caliche pit at Tom Eubanks' property has become a private lake since its days as a quarry zone. Filled with several types of introduced fish species, and home to many turtles, the lake has attracted many waterfowl over the years and increased nesting zones on the shores nearby. As Michelle recalled in her interview, "I think our neighbor had it stocked, because I think he wanted to fish in there so--I think he stocked it with stuff, I mean, I don't know what was originally and what was there, but afterwards he added fish to it. But now there's--like carp, it's like what I caught--and tons of tilapia and—catfish (Figure 25)."⁶⁹



Figure 25. Former caliche pit now a lake on Tom Eubanks's property, Location 2. Photograph by Roseann Bacha-Garza, 2014

By the 1940s urban areas in the Valley had expanded, and the remaining agricultural land varied from ranches to citrus orchards. Agricultural industries continued to develop as irrigation canals were improved, and processing, canning, and marketing systems expanded. The Eubanks no longer participate in commercial agricultural activities; a story that is

⁶⁷ Tom Eubanks and Cristina Eubanks, interview by Roland Silva, Jose Barrera, Ezgar Chavez, Tim Hinds, Saida Gonzalez, and Felix Guerra, September 26, 2014, Appendix C, 48.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, 49.

⁶⁹ Michelle Eubanks, interview by Elisa Mora and Christopher Scott, September 20, 2014, Appendix E, 77.

similar for the Cantu, Atwood, and Norquest families. Much of the land used commercially has been left to seed and has subsequently become covered in brush and tall grasses. The nursery was used commercially and had an adequate watering system with irrigation pipes and outlets throughout the area. Currently none of the piping is used with a layer of vegetation literally concealing the pipes from view. It is interesting that even without a constant water supply, many plants continued to grow and flourish. Ken and Irene Eubanks have planted a beautiful garden full of plants and flowers near their home.

The nursery and the land around Tom's house has not been maintained in some time, allowing weeds and grasses to grow. Given that the land has been allowed to re-vegetate at Location 2, the biodiversity found around Tom's house and on the promontory exceeds that found at his parent's house at Location 1, and is similar to the biodiversity found around the Cantu property which was also allowed to grow wild. Before Tom and Cristina built their house at Location 2, the land was used as an illegal dump. The lake may also be an attractant for wildlife, and certainly for the consistent sighting of waterfowl at that location. Tom and Cristina use the land around their house to care for a multitude of animals from chickens to horses.

Farm Life on the Eubanks' Property

Over the years the Eubanks have had many domesticated animals, including horses, chickens, turkeys, and geese (Figure 28). In a private conversation, Tom mentioned that in the past, he has used *Omolene 300*, a horse food product from Purina. Presently however, he has switched to feeding his animals *All Stock*, multipurpose feed for cattle, sheep, goats and horses, and alfalfa. To control pests on their land, Tom also mentioned that he has used a series of pesticides. Herbicides against weeds included *Solicam*, *Dacthal*, and *Herbicide Roundup*. Insecticides used against spiders and mites are: *Kelthane*, *Lorsban*, and *Vydate*. These insecticides were applied to citrus orchards up to three to four times a year. *Super Q*, and *Kocide* were used to control fungus and bacterial problems. In his interview, Tom mentioned that farmers needed to worry about liability, and the necessity of keeping good records of pesticide usage.



**Figure 26. Chickens and Turkey at Location 2, Tom Eubanks property.
Photograph by Roseann Bacha-Garza, 2014**

The list of flora and fauna in Appendix J were seen on the properties during the CHAPS Program class surveys. For comparison, we have included tables from previous reports.⁷⁰ It is important to note that these examples are based on limited observations, and as reported by family members.

Climate and Weather Events

The Lower Rio Grande Valley is located in a semi-arid, semi-tropical region. According to the National Centers for Environmental Information at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) the average annual precipitation is 23.39 inches, and the average annual temperature is 73.8°F, with the highest annual average of 84.7°F (95°F during the summer months), and the lowest average of 63.3°F.⁷¹ These averages are within ideal citrus temperatures which range from 55°F - 100°F during their growing season, and can sustain low temperatures of 35°F - 50°F.⁷² Precipitation has been increasing 0.35 inches per decade, and temperatures have been steadily increasing 0.1°F degrees per decade since 1895 (Figure 27). Although this climate may provide the Valley with suitable conditions for long growing seasons for plants and a long breeding

⁷⁰ No survey was completed for the Norquest report.

⁷¹ "Climate at a Glance," *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: National Centers for Environmental Information*, <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/>. "Edinburg," *U.S. Climate Data*, <http://www.usclimatedata.com/climate/edinburg/texas/united-states/ustx2428>.

⁷² Alfred B. Wagner and Julian W. Sauls, "Texas Citrus: Harvesting And Pre-Pack Handling," *Texas Citrus and Subtropical Fruits*, <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/citrus/12294.htm>.

season for birds, precipitation is a limiting factor.⁷³ The long growing season, and the presence of irrigation to supplement the low average rainfall were two factors the Eubanks considered when moving to the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

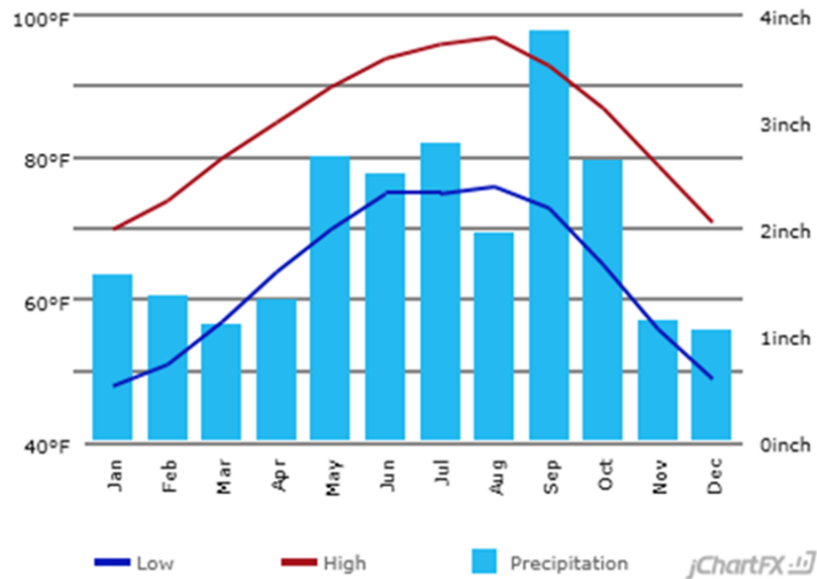


Figure 27. Average weather Edinburg, TX, during 1981-2010 (US Climate Data, 2014).

The Great Freezes of 1983 and 1989

When asked about significant weather events, the Eubanks immediately remarked about the freezes that had a tremendous impact on their citrus and nursery business. All four of the CHAPS families experienced the devastating effects of the “great freezes” of 1983 and 1989.⁷⁴ Citrus trees can survive short periods of freezing temperatures, as have occurred several other years in South Texas without lasting implications. The citrus industry classifies temperatures below -7.8°C (18°F) for 52 hours as a “severe freeze” because citrus with stems up to 5.08 cm diameter are killed.⁷⁵ As Tom remarked in his interview, “they came in Christmas and they were 52 hours at 18 degrees. Non-stop, even during the day it stayed at 18 degrees all day for two or three days it was 52 hours it was identical. And in that case it burned the stuff to the ground. It killed, where-as other stuff damages.”⁷⁶

⁷³ Timothy Brush, *Nesting Birds of a Tropical Frontier the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas*, (College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 2005).

⁷⁴ Designated as a “great freeze” by the United States National Weather Service.

⁷⁵ Robert I. Lonard, and Frank W. Judd, “Comparison Of The Effects Of The Severe Freezes Of 1983 And 1989 On Native Woody Plants In The Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas,” *The Southwestern Naturalist* 36, no. 2 (June 1991): 213-217. doi:10.2307/3671923.

⁷⁶ Tom Eubanks and Cristina Eubanks, interview by Roland Silva, Jose Barrera, Ezgar Chavez, Tim Hinds, Saida Gonzalez, and Felix Guerra, September 26, 2014, Appendix C., 51.

During the 1983 freeze, temperatures dropped to -7.8°C (18°F) between December 24 and 26. This killed many trees and orchards, however the citrus industry was so strong, and freezes occurred so seldom that many growers simply re-planted their orchards. The 1983 freeze came at a particularly difficult time for the Eubanks. They had been struggling with the orchards as the previous owners had planted trees with multiple types of citrus on uneven land, which made irrigation difficult. Tom discussed in his interview how they had just bulldozed and leveled the land and had replanted with new trees. Irene also talked about the killing freeze. “So, in ’83 we started to replant this 40 acres, and the trees just got going really nice and that killing frost came that Christmas. Killed us to the ground, and we didn’t have any tree insurance. So we were just--square one. That was real hard, but we just kept plugging, we just kept plugging, and then we started our own nursery.”⁷⁷

The 1989 freeze was another Christmas surprise. From December 22 to 24 temperatures dropped to a minimum of -7.8°C (18°F).⁷⁸ Two killing frosts so close to each other had a major and lasting impact on Valley citrus, with many orchard owners giving up. This was also a time when urban expansion allowed orchard owners close to the cities to sell their lands, and with new owners turning them into subdivisions and strip malls. The Eubanks had learned their lesson from the 1983 freeze. As Tom put it, “at that point, there was no way we could afford to re-do that, so what we did is, we just built ourselves some green houses, got a bunch of orange seeds, and replanted it all, just in time to get froze out in the ’89 freeze. The only good thing about the ’89 freeze, we had insurance, so that worked. We are, we actually were able to buy a new tractor, get everything replanted.”⁷⁹ Not only were they able to save their business, the 1989 freeze was good for their budding nursery. As Tom recalled, “Instead of selling you know tens of hundreds of plants we’re now selling thousands of plants. We have contracts; we had one contract for 60,000 orange trees.... So all of a sudden we were in business right, in fact so much that the--we’re shipping them to the Bahamas, we’re shipping them to all over the world it turns out.”⁸⁰ (Figure 28)

Hurricanes

Hurricane Allen hit the Valley on August 9, 1980. It had been a category 5 hurricane, although it downgraded to a category 3 just before it landed north of Brownsville. Tom recalls the flooding that occurred from Hurricane Allen, and the forethought of his father who had intentionally purchased elevated land, “It never occurred to me that it was a little bump that he had bought and everything else was like four feet underwater for months. Where we stood in water that one night a couple of my turkeys and chickens

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, 23.

⁷⁸ Leonard, p. 3.

⁷⁹ Tom Eubanks and Cristina Eubanks, interview by Roland Silva, Jose Barrera, Ezgar Chavez, Tim Hinds, Saida Gonzalez, and Felix Guerra, September 26, 2014, Appendix C., 45.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, 52.



Figure 28. Eubanks family and workers loading up 60,000 trees to fly out to Abaco Island, Bahamas. Photograph courtesy of Eubanks family, c. 1995.

The Eubanks did not live in Edinburg when “the big one,” Hurricane Beulah hit. Previous families in CHAPS Program reports have commented on Hurricane Beulah, a category 5 hurricane that occurred in 1967. It was the most impactful hurricane to occur in the Valley, so much so that the NOAA retired her name so that no other hurricane may be named Beulah.

Late Prehistoric: A.D. 1200-700 : *Caracara, Starr, Padre, Fresno*

Early Archaic: 3500-6000 B.C. : *Abasolo, Hidalgo*

Late Archaic: 1000 B.C. : *Catan, Matamoros*

Transitional Archaic: 300 B.C. : *Ensor*



Figure 29. A portion of the projectile points from the Eubanks' collection.

Chapter 7: Regional Archaeology

Texas Indian History

The area surrounding the Lower Rio Grande Valley in southern Texas and northern Mexico has been occupied for approximately 11,000 years. Determining how those early inhabitants lived however can only be seen through archaeological evidence and artifacts and the limited recorded histories written by early Spanish settlers. Information recorded by Spanish settlers was often vague, and primarily related to governmental interests, such as numbers of Indians, information on attacks, and conversion to Christianity. The Native Americans living in this region of Texas and Mexico were known as Coahuiltecans.⁸¹ This is a name given to multiple groups of Native Americans who all spoke similar dialects. This suggests that the Coahuiltecans did not have a unified nation, but were instead made up of multiple groups that were scattered throughout the land between South Texas and North Mexico. The Coahuiltecans survived in this region until other Indian tribes such as the Lipan Apache and Comanches began moving into their territories from the north. The Lipans were being pushed out of their homelands by the Comanches, who in turn were losing their lands to Europeans settling in their homelands near the Great Basin northwest of Lipan Apache lands. Simultaneously, Spaniards were expanding their settlements from the South, colonizing this region in the mid eighteenth century. In addition to dwindling territories, native inhabitants were hounded by disease and war, and eventually through intermarriages and assimilation, lost their native identity. The Lipan Apache arrived in the western parts of Texas around 1100-1600 A.D. from the southwestern area of New Mexico.⁸² The Lipan were a part of a larger group of Indian tribes that migrated from the northwest. Like the Coahuiltecans, the Lipan Apache were a nomadic group. The Lipan Apache carried wooden-framed portable homes, including tepees covered in animal hide, and wickiups constructed with grassy material and covered in animal hides during the winter season. The Lipan Apache's diet was similar to other nomadic peoples. Men hunted for game, and women gathered fruits and plants.

The history of the Indians of the Rio Grande Valley region is categorized by language and group names. The lower Rio Grande Valley area has two formal languages that are now extinct: comecrudo and cotonome.⁸³ According to Spanish observations throughout the 18th Century, the Cotoname Indians were located on both sides of the Rio Grande, however they

⁸¹ Bobbie Lovett, *Native American Peoples of South Texas*, Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools Program, (Edinburg, TX: The University of Texas Pan American, 2014), p.13.

⁸² *Ibid.*, 45.

⁸³ Martin Salinas, *Indians of the Rio Grande Delta: Their role in the History of Southern Texas and Northeastern Mexico* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990), 142.

are primarily located in modern-day Hidalgo County.⁸⁴ Said to be native to northern Tamaulipas, the first record of the Cotonames was in a 1757 survey of the new frontier settlements as these Indians were discovered at Camargo and Revilla (present-day Ciudad Guerrero).⁸⁵ Martin Salinas recalls an event in 1771 at La Sal del Rey (eastern Hidalgo County saline lake) where the Cotonames working the Spanish salineras were captured by San Antonio soldiers and forced into recruitment to stabilize their San Antonio missions up north.⁸⁶ As it was illegal to recruit Indians from another jurisdiction, Spanish guards released the Indians from confinement. Another case in point this record reveals is the instability in Indian populations in San Antonio missions. Other Spanish reports relate census information, whereas there are very few observations of Cotoname behavior recorded by the Europeans. The last recording of the Cotonames was in 1886 by linguist A.S. Gatschet as he recorded 125 words in their language.⁸⁷ The Cotoname language has been recorded for two Indian groups: the Cotonames and Carrizos (Yué).⁸⁸ This connection was made in 1979 where Ives Goddard studied the language of the Indians of Camargo, known as Carrizos (Yué), similar to Gatschet's records. Thus we have two Indian populations in our region who spoke the same language of Cotoname.

Previously Established Archaeology

The location of the Eubanks properties are 20 miles away from the Rio Grande. The presence of Native Americans on their land predates plumbing and irrigation systems by thousands of years. Neither are there any naturally occurring rivers or streams in the area. It is difficult to imagine survival, let alone occupation, in this dry land and hot climate. As previously discussed under the geological section, deflation troughs, are believed to be the key to understanding their survival. Deflation troughs, and their ability to hold water for sustained periods of time, likely provide the explanation for the presence of arrowheads found on the property. Over the span of 35 years a total of 66 projectile points were found throughout the Eubank's property (Appendix H). The exact location of each individual point could not be recalled, given the large span of time in which the points were found, but the majority of the points were said to be found in a 1/8 mile radius from Ken and Irene Eubank's home at Location 1. According to Tom, the orchard fields were the most common area where points were found, especially after heavy rains and windstorms that would wash away the surface dirt.

Variations of at least ten different points from five different eras of American Indian occupation were identified from the Eubanks collection (Figure 29). The earliest of the points found were the Hidalgo and Abasolo style points dating to the Early Archaic period (6000-2500 B.C.). The Tortugas style point was the only of its kind dating to the Middle

⁸⁴ Martin Salinas, *Indians of the Rio Grande Delta: Their role in the History of Southern Texas and Northeastern Mexico* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990), 43.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, 40.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, 41.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, 42.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, 146.

Archaic period (2500-1000 B.C.). The Catan and Matamoros points belong to the Late Archaic period (1000-300 B.C.) while the Transitional Archaic period (300 B.C. to AD 700) is represented by the Ensor point. The most recent points in the timeline were of the Late Prehistoric period (A.D. 700 to A.D. 1600) and consist of the Padre, Starr, Cameron, and Fresno type points.

CHAPS Survey Findings

One goal of the CHAPS Program is to identify evidence for human occupation of the Rio Grande Valley region. This entails photographing, describing and sometimes drawing or casting projectile points and establishing their date within known typologies, identifying the stone or lithic source materials for the points and locating their place of discovery. With the permission of the “finder” and the landowner, we will record sites with the Texas Historical Commission to ensure information on the sites is preserved for future generations.⁸⁹ Information gleaned from these descriptive endeavors will be used for scholarly research purposes.



Figure 30. Projectile point fragment in situ at Location 1, 2014.

⁸⁹ All site locations will be kept confidential per the guidelines established by the State of Texas and the larger code of ethics adhered to by the Register of Professional Archaeologists.

Site Location

In October 2014, the CHAPS Program students made three separate trips to both Eubanks' residences, totaling 45 man hours surveying both properties. However, projectile point artifacts were found only on Ken and Irene Eubanks homestead property (Figure 30, 32). There were also three concrete shards found that looked like points though after closer inspection Dr. Gonzalez concluded that they were not. A 9 mm bullet was also found on Location 1 (Figure 31).

The property is roughly 40 acres with most of it being citrus groves. There are two homes on the property, with some of the area covered in tall grass and the remnants of their old citrus business-green houses and the remains of citrus processing equipment. The discovery of points on this property indicates that this piece of land may have been occupied as early as 6000 BCE.



Figure 31. Projectile points discovered by the CHAPS class from Location 1.

Figure 32. Projectile Points: Location 1– Edinburg, TX – October 2014

Location 1: Kenneth and Irene Eubanks property
 17307 Eubanks Road, Edinburg, TX 78541
 Latitude: 26° 21' 35.21" N
 Longitude 98° 12' 21.10" W
 Elevation 104 Feet above Sea Level

#	Material	Type	Color	Period
1	Chert	Fresno	10YR 7/3 very pale brown	Late-prehistoric 700 – 1200 CE
2	Chert	Pre-form of Catan, too small to be Abasolo	6/8 light brownish grey 10YR	Possibly Late Archaic or Early Archaic?
3	Chert	Flake	7/N GLEY light grey	Undetermined
4	Chert	Flake	7.5YR 6/3 light brown	Undetermined
5	Chert	Preform	7/3 very pale brown	Undetermined
6	Waxy chert	Broken tip	6/3 10YR pale brown	Undetermined
7	Chert	Flake	5/4 1.5YR reddish brown	Undetermined
8	Chert, arch- geological chipped	Flake	7/2 10YR light gray	Undetermined
9	Chert	Flake	GLEY 1 5/N gray	Undetermined
10	Chert	Abasolo	7/1 5Y light gray	Early Archaic 3500 – 6000 BCE

The following definitions describe each point in general detail.

Abasolo (dart point) is a large, unstemmed triangular point that has a distinctive well rounded base. The lateral edges may be beveled or steeply chipped, and the base is sometimes thinned. It is similar to *Catán* but larger in size. Abasolo specimens often have impact fractures reflective of their use as dart points, although microscopic use-wear is sometimes observed on the lateral edges.⁹⁰

Catán (dart point) is a triangular, unstemmed point that has straight to slightly convex lateral edges that are sometimes beveled and a convex, well-rounded base that has been thinned by the removal of one or two broad, arc-shaped flakes. The outline is similar to *Abasolo*, but *Catán* points are smaller.⁹¹

Fresno (arrow point) is an un-stemmed, triangular point that has straight to slightly convex or concave lateral edges and a convex or slightly concave base. It is similar to Cameron but is over 20 mm in length. Some of these specimens may be preforms and not a distinct type. However, on the Texas coast, carefully chipped specimens appear to represent a typological group.⁹²

Tom mentioned that he believed that his parents' house (Location 1) is on higher ground, and although there have been points found at both locations, the majority of points were found at his parents' property (Figure 34).⁹³ According to Thomas Alexander Eubanks memory, he recalls his father finding arrowheads; always reminding him as a child to, "keep an eye out, one of these days you might just see an arrowhead there in the dirt."⁹⁴ Sadly he never did find one. Irene remembers finding arrowheads on the property after it rained. "Stuff would float up," and Tom would collect the arrowheads.⁹⁵ Tom mentions finding over 100 arrowheads, mostly while he was irrigating the fields.⁹⁶

⁹⁰ Ellen Sue Turner, Thomas R Hester, and Richard L McReynolds, *Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians*, Completely rev. 3rd ed. (Lanham, MD: Taylor Trade Publishing, 2011), 56.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, 73.

⁹² *Ibid.*, 191.

⁹³ Tom Eubanks and Cristina Eubanks, interview by Roland Silva, Jose Barrera, Ezgar Chavez, Tim Hinds, Saida Gonzalez, and Felix Guerra, September 26, 2014, Appendix C., 54.

⁹⁴ Thomas Alexander Eubanks, interview by Serafin Hernandez, September 28, 2014, Appendix F., 83.

⁹⁵ Irene Eubanks Second Interview, interview by Tomas Perez, Janette Garcia, & Mariana Vazquez, September 23, 2014, Appendix B., 39.

⁹⁶ Tom Eubanks and Cristina Eubanks, interview by Roland Silva, Jose Barrera, Ezgar Chavez, Tim Hinds, Saida Gonzalez, and Felix Guerra, September 26, 2014, Appendix C., 54.

Chapter 8: Conclusion

It has been an honor and a pleasure working with the Eubanks family. They represent the fourth family and the fourth year the CHAPS Program class has studied this region where we live, work, and study. The other families include the Norquest family studied in Fall 2011, the Cantu family studied in Fall 2012, and the Atwood family studied in Fall 2013. We also wish to thank The University of Texas-Pan American for its support of our studies. This is the last year we can use that name, as the next class will be offered under a new name, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

The Eubanks family represents the first in several aspects of our CHAPS studies. They were the first family in which the students were able to learn first-hand about the decision to move to Edinburg. Ken and Irene Eubanks, and their three sons, Kenneth Scott, Wayne Cameron, and Thomas Mark (Tom) lived around the world when Ken worked for USAID. The family's oral histories are filled with stories about Africa to Pakistan to the Philippines, as well as their daily lives after they settled and lived in Edinburg. As an agricultural economist working for USAID Ken studied the agriculture and economics of regions around the world, and the reports he wrote impacted international politics and government. The family's decision to move to the Valley was reached after a deliberate and careful review of different possibilities from Florida to the state of Washington. The rich alluvial soil, the year-round growing season, and access to irrigation and transportation lured the Eubanks to this region as they considered a place to live after Ken's retirement from USAID. They purchased 80 acres of land in 1978 (later expanded to a total of 120 acres), and their three grown sons helped them establish the Eubanks Nursery and Citrus Farm.

The Eubanks family was also the first family studied by the CHAPS Program students to live north of Monte Cristo Road, an unofficial boundary between urban and rural. The land the Eubanks live on was part of one of the largest Spanish land grants in South Texas, the San Salvador del Tule Grant (315,391 acres); and within that, it was part of what is known as the El Melado Tract. El Melado was home to the town of Monte Cristo that flourished and then disappeared in the first part of the twentieth century. Ownership of San Salvador del Tule was initially challenged by the Spanish government after the original petition in 1794, then later challenged in the Texas legislature and courts, and has been sold, and subdivided multiple times in the two centuries before the Eubanks purchased their 80 acres in the Citrus Properties and Retama Acres subdivisions. Since that time, the land and its inhabitants have seen changes from ranching to farming brought about by irrigation and railroads in the early part of the twentieth century, and more recently to growth and development spurred by *maquiladoras* and NAFTA beginning in the latter part of the twentieth century.

The Eubanks family was also the first family studied by the CHAPS Program students to have a deflation trough. The Eubanks lands are located 20 miles from the Rio Grande, the only stable source of water. Despite the fact it was too far for prehistoric people to have walked for a water source, there is both archaeological and documentary evidence that prehistoric Indians populated the lands where the Eubanks live. The 1794 inspection for the San Salvador del Tule Grant indicated that Cotoname Indians (part of the Coahuiltecan group) lived in the area. During the time that the Eubanks lived on the property, a total of 66 projectile points have been found on the elevated land surrounding Ken and Irene's property. The earliest projectile points found (Hidalgo and Abasolo style points) may date back as far as 6000 B.C. to the Early Archaic period (6000-2500 B.C.). The more recent Padre, Starr, Cameron, and Fresno type points may date as late as A.D. 1600 to the Late Prehistoric period (A.D. 700 to 1600). The presence of prehistoric Indians in this area may be attributed to the presence of temporary water holes formed in deflation troughs. A deflation trough forms as the sandy surface soils are blown away, driven by the prevailing southeasterly winds, leaving a harder clayey subsurface which allows water to pool after wet seasons. Deflation over several thousand years has created hundreds of shallow depressions. These depressions appear as permanent smudges on soil maps and are visible in aerial and satellite photographs over this area in South Texas.

The Eubanks family was also the first family studied by the CHAPS Program students to live next to an old caliche pit. The pit is now filled with water, and to the average observer may simply look like a nice lake. A long promontory behind Tom's house leads out into the lake, and loose caliche is very much evident on the surface. Much of South Texas has a hard caliche subsurface under the soft soils. All four CHAPS Program classes conducted geological surveys, and found caliche ranging from 1 ½ to 2 meters deep at each location. The caliche pit by the Eubanks family was mined between 1933 and 1934 for a depression-era Civil Works Administration project to build a storm sewer in McAllen. Caliche has been used as construction material since the time of the first Spanish settlers, and it has been used in buildings and roads.

Finally, the Eubanks are the only one of the four families in which the family members talked about seeing horned lizards after their decline post-Hurricane Beulah. The Lower Rio Grande Valley is home to a vast variety of plants and animals, and is especially well-known as a birding location. This area, however, has not been able to escape the loss of wildlife that has become common worldwide. One species that was seen often in the Valley prior to Hurricane Beulah in 1967 was the horned lizard. The other three CHAPS Program families all remarked that they had noticed a sharp decline in horned lizards after the hurricane. The Eubanks family members however remarked that they would see, and even play with the "horny toads." Some CHAPS Program participants spotted a horned lizard during one of the site visits. Other weather events, in particular the great freezes of 1983 and 1989 had a devastating effect on the Eubanks family and their citrus farming. Never a family to let adversity stand in their way, they learned from the freeze, and developed one of the few indoor citrus nurseries in the Valley at the time.

The CHAPS Program students thank the Eubanks family for the stories they shared, and for all of their assistance with helping us learn more about Edinburg and the Lower Rio Grande Valley.



Figure 33. Tom Eubanks in the middle surrounded by CHAPS class professors and students. Pictured (left to right) are Felix Guerra, Jose Barrera, Gerry Salinas, Arnulfo Rodriguez, Serafin Hernandez, Raul Lopez, Santiago “Jimmy” Lopez, Christopher Scott, Mariana Vazquez, Saira Gonzalez, Kassandra Reyes, Elizabeth Garza, Timothy Hinds, Tom Eubanks, Pedro Guajardo, Janette Garcia, Dr. Juan Gonzalez, Nick Morales, Mark Allen, Ezgar Chavez, Alfredo Puente, Tom Perez, Elisa Mora, and Dr. Russell Skowronek (missing Roland Silva, Miriam Silva, Denise Martinez and Jose Aguinaga). Photo courtesy of Roseann Bacha Garza, 2014.

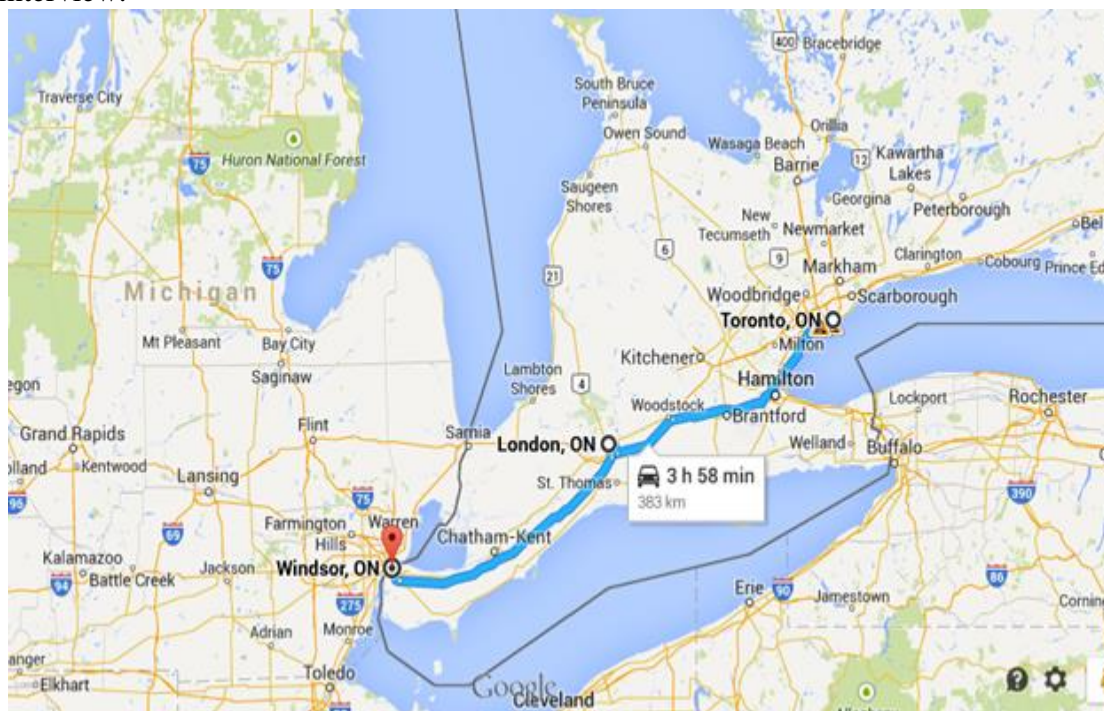
Appendix A

Note: transcripts followed Baylor University, Institute for Oral History
Style Guide: A Quick Reference for Editing Oral History Transcripts
<http://www.baylor.edu/oralhistory/doc.php/14142.pdf>

Irene Eubank's First Interview

Tuesday Sept. 23, 2014, 5:00 PM

CHAPS Program students Janette Garcia, Cassandra Reyes, Mariana Vazquez, and Tomas Perez met at Irene Eubank's home at 17307 Eubanks Road, Edinburg Texas 78541 on Tuesday September 23, 2014 at 5:00 pm. The interview lasted for 56 minutes. Topics included information about Irene's parents who emigrated from the Ukraine, her early life in Canada, her family, meeting her husband Ken, his service in the army during World War II, and getting his PhD in agricultural economics. Irene was given a list of questions prior to the interview.



Tomas Perez: Okay, Mrs. Eubanks, so, where and what year were you born, just to go ahead and start off.

Irene Eubanks: I was born in 1929, a very old lady (laughter). And I was born actually--where was I born? I was born in little town near Toronto, Canada.

Tomas: Toronto, Canada

Irene: My parents didn't stay there long, they moved to Windsor, Ontario.

Tomas: So you were born in Canada?

Irene: Yes, yes, I'm a natural born Canadian, but I'm a naturalized U.S. citizen, have been for a long time. But I grew up in Windsor, Ontario that's right across the river from Detroit. And then after--I got--I guess I was in the eighth grade when we moved to London,

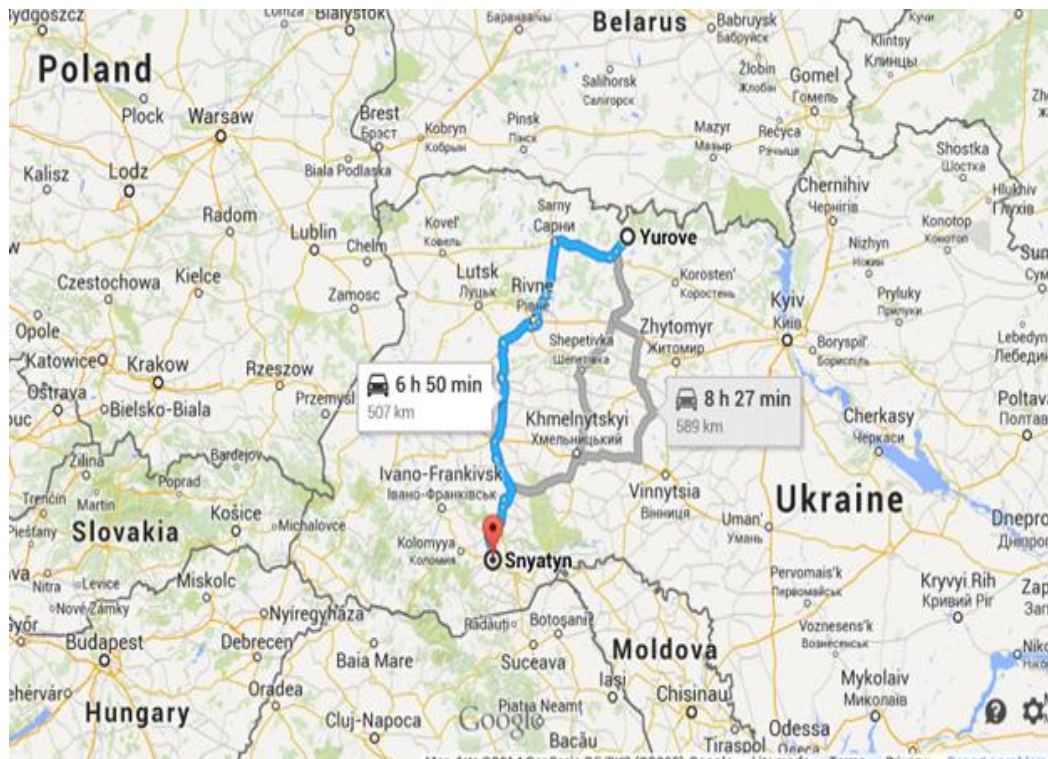
Ontario. That's kind of halfway between Windsor, and--it's down there, if you're familiar with geography, there's a little part of--you know the Great Lakes?-----There's a little peninsula there, that's basically where I grew up, it's really southern Ontario. It's further south than a lot of the states.

Tomas: Oh okay.

Irene: You know it's further south than Minnesota, Wisconsin, Montana, all that stuff, and also the east, you know the east goes way up the coast, you know we were way down there, so, that's kind of where I grew up.

Tomas: OK, uh, how about your parents, where were they born? Were they Canadians?

Irene: My parents, well, they were naturalized Canadian citizens, but they were immigrants. My father was born in 1889 in a little town of Snatin in the Ukraine. You spell that--just very phonetically S-n-a-t-i-n in Ukraine. It's kind of--not quite, a way--you see a lot about Ukraine now in the news - not way in the east, but kind of more, closer to the western side. And my mother was born also in the Ukraine in a town called Yovorow you spell that Y-o-v-o-r-o-w. Now at the time when my parents were born that was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. That was before the First World War, and after the First World War, that became Poland. And after the Second World War, Russia helped itself to that part of the world, and I guess they're trying to take it again now. But that's where they were born. My grandparents, I don't know, you know I never did meet my grandparents, because they were over there, and we were in Canada.



And those were uh--during the thirties when I was a kid, what you hear about the Great Depression. Oh boy, it was bad. I was just old enough to understand what was going on. Everybody was broke, nobody had any money, nobody had a job. It was terrible; it was really, really bad. As a matter of fact, like when I went to my first grade school, there were all eight grades in one room, and it was so bad that first winter that the school district didn't

have money to heat the school, so they just shut the school down for the winter time. School was closed for, I think for maybe four or five months. And then when it got spring, and you could move again, then they re-opened the school. But like I said, there was a real--so it was as bad in Canada as it was here, maybe even worse. I don't know I was just a kid. I was born in 29, and in the 30s, I was in the first grade, I was - it was 1935. So you see, I don't, I was just a little kid with very limited exposure to the outside world, really. I mean we had a radio, and that was about it. Listened to the radio, listened to the news. But uh, it was different than it is now. Now with at the press of a button you can hear news from around the world, you know. So it was pretty isolated that way. We didn't live in town; we lived kind of on the outskirts of town. And my parents had a cow, and a goat, and some chickens, and always grew a big garden. The garden was really important. So those were--what we talked about--that's, I guess, the next question about growing up. But yes, I do have, we have, altogether we had four children. Born in, the oldest boy was born in 1954; the next boy was born in 1955. The next boy was born in '56, that's Tom, I had a baby a year--every year there, and I had another little child in 1959.

Tomas: Oh okay.

Irene: And do you have any brothers and sisters? Yes. I have two brothers and one sister, um. They were born, let's see-- Where and when were they born? My oldest--I was the oldest in the family, and my brother was born in 1930, Harry. Then the next brother was born in thir--I guess it must have been two years later in 32, and then my sister was born in, I think, 1934. And they were all born in Windsor, Ontario, that's where we lived at the time, yeah.

Janette Garcia: What were their--there was Harry--

Irene: Harry, George, Olga, and I was the oldest, Irene. I led that parade you know (laughter).

Tomas: How about your children, where were they born?

Irene: Scott, the oldest boy was born in Waco Texas, and Wayne and Tom were born in Los Angeles. Actually Wayne was born in Santa Monica, and Tom was born in Los Angeles, and then the last child was born in Bozeman, Montana. My husband was doing graduate work then at the University of Montana, or, Montana State University. Yeah, when and where were they born? So we got that. And my sister, my sister lives in Dover, Massachusetts, it's in a loop around Boston, and my next brother, the younger brother George lives in Toronto, and my older brother, Harry, lives in France. He's retired in France. He lived around the world in quite a few places. He lived in Austria, and then London, and then back in England, and then out west in Regina [Saskatchewan, Canada] and then they decided they'd move to a little village in France. Not a fancy city, they can't afford to live in Paris, but they live in a small little village. It's about an hour and a half drive out of Paris. Charbonnier I think is the name of the town, I don't know whether that's important or not, but it's just a little village. They built a house there. I guess finally they just finished the house last spring. You kind of wonder why a guy in his eighties is building a house, but he did. And he did it all by himself. He did get some help in getting the foundation set. But then, I said, "Well, how did you stand the walls up?" He said, "Leverage." He got the--I don't know if you've ever watched a building go up. They put the walls down, they're down, and then you get the whole crew there, and they stand them on end. And I said, "Well, how did you manage that?" And he said, "Well, with the car, and with levers," and he had his wife pull the car back up real slowly until it stood up, and he nailed it all (laughter). It was quite interesting I guess, I haven't been out there, so I have no idea, but I've seen pictures. It's pretty interesting. He's incorporated a lot of passive solar in his house. Some regular solar panels, but mainly a lot of passive stuff. You don't have to

buy equipment, you just take advantage of the way the sun goes. I guess you put the flooring in place so you get the heat sink, I don't know. Very complicated.

Tomas: I was going to - I was about to ask that, do you still get to talk to him?

Irene: Oh yeah, we talk on the telephone quite often. We also communicate a little bit by e-mail.

Tomas: Oh, okay. And, has it always been that way? Have you always kept in pretty good contact with each other?

Irene: Oh, we, kind of lost touch there for many, many years.

Tomas: Oh, okay.

Irene: Many, many years. We had issues in the family. So he was kind of the--off he went. And everybody, some people thought, "Oh, dear, he's gone," but other people said, "Thank God, he's gone." Well, I think every family has issues, and of course we're not an exception to the rule, you know. But, it's very interesting, he's a very interesting man, he's done all kinds of strange stuff. As a matter of fact, one time he was in Nairobi, Kenya building racing cars. Well, we were visiting there, and we didn't even know he was there. It would have been strange to walk down the street in Nairobi and run into your brother. Well, nevermind, but we've re-connected now, so we keep in touch.

Kassandra Reyes: Do you keep in touch with all your siblings?

Irene: Pardon?

Kassandra: Do you keep in touch with all your siblings?

Irene: The siblings? Oh yeah, the siblings, yeah we do. Well, one - yeah I do. I keep up with George's retirement [TV turns on in another room] Oh, that's my husband, he's watching *Gunsmoke*. He loves Westerns.

Janette: My husband does too (laughter).

Irene: Yeah I kind of watch Mr. Dillon [main character in *Gunsmoke*] a lot too. Of all the westerns that seems to be a pretty interesting series, you know, they--of course there's still a lot of shooting, but there's not that much chasing over the countryside and all that good stuff you know. Do you have any other questions about my brothers and sisters?

Mariana Vasquez: Well, one of the questions was what chores did you have, and why did you--what did you do for fun when you were younger?

Irene: Very little. (laughter) Well, I tell you what, life in the thirties, as I said, was pretty simple. We did chores. Well, I sorted a lot of beans when I was a kid, 'cause Mama would buy bulk beans. We would eat a lot of beans like they do here now, you know. We sorted beans, and I helped Mom and Dad with whatever needed to get done in the house like cleaning and washing, shucks, I was ironing clothes by the time I was seven or eight years old, you know. And for fun, well, we used to listen to the radio. We listened to, um, oh, what did we listen to? (laughs) Jack Benny, that's all before your time. They would have night time shows. Jack Benny was a comedian, Charlie McCarthy, he was a dummy, Edgar Bergen, had a--you can imagine a ventriloquist on the radio. (laughter) He had a free run didn't he? But anyhow, oh yeah, Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd, we used to listen to that, and, what else would we listen to? Oh yes, we would listen to Bob Hope, Bob Hope, yup. Oh, and there were a few other shows, oh, and, some spooky ones, you know, like the one - what was that one? It was a --, oh, I can't remember. It was a mystery story, it was always very scary, it was on Sunday night. Of course at that time we lived out in the village, and we had outdoor plumbing, and we also would have to bring in enough wood for the house 'cause we had a wood stove. Boy, we would just try to get that done in the daytime, because we wouldn't want to be going out there behind the house in the dark, there were no

lights; we were pretty scared (laughter). We played checkers, and we read a lot. There was a little public library in that town. It was only open one day a week.

Mariana: What day was that?

Irene: Huh?

Mariana: What day of the week was it open?

Irene: Saturday it was open. All four of us kids, we'd be down there at the library when they opened at nine o'clock. And we coerced my younger sister, she was just a kid, she was just not even grade school yet, we used to get her, we'd get as many book as we could, I think it was only two books each, so with the four of us, we'd get eight books, and then we'd always be back before they closed because we would read them during the day real fast, and then we'd get more to last us for the week, and that's when we would really coerce the two, my younger brother and sister, to get books, that they really weren't interested in reading, they'd get something, and we'd always say, "Get this for me, get this for me." (laughter) So we read a lot. In the winter time we tried to make maple syrup by tapping the trees. That was a, that was worth--hopeless cause, because you put the little tap in the maple tree, and you'd hang a little pail on there, and then it would drip, drip, drip, and we'd think oh, this is, you'd think maple sap would be pretty sweet, but there's hardly and, have you ever chewed any cane? Sugar cane?

Tomas: Uh huh.

Irene: It's not very sweet, barely, there's barely any -

Tomas: You got to really get to it, really get down to it

Irene: Even then, you have to get a lot of that and concentrated, and then we had, we built a fire outside and we picked up a boiler, and we dumped all the sap in there, and got the fire going, we got that boiler I think about half full, a container about this wide [arms about shoulder-width]. It was just a copper boiler, I don't know whether you've seen them in the antique store, it was kind of oval, the shape of a trunk but quite smaller, and they were usually copper and so we started to cook it down. Oh lord, all we got was a smear on the bottom of it. I don't know what the ratio was sugar to water, but it was mainly water, and we were very discouraged, we only did that once, and then we gave up after that.

Mariana: You were like, "This is not for me?"

Irene: We had to burn too much wood for everyone to get just a, I think everyone just got a lick off the bottom of that [motion imitating finger scraping the bottom of the bowl] It was very frustrating for four little kids you know, very frustrating.

Mariana: How old were you guys when you tried this?

Irene: Well, I was probably in the fifth grade or something, my brother then was in the, well one grade below me, well in Canada - well they don't do it now, they've changed. When we went to school, you went first, second, third grade, and then they used fourth grade as a kind of a balancing. Most kids were promoted from third to fifth. Almost everybody, instead of flunking third, they just made you go to fourth grade, so you would get your- you didn't flunk- but you sort of had a, it was kind of a catch up thing. Fourth grade was usually pretty small, you know especially if you had eight, eight--now by, in Newbury already we had two rooms. First through fifth, and then sixth, seventh, and eighth, there were two classrooms, but that was in the village of Newbury, that was between Windsor and London. But anyhow that's what we did. And fun, well, we'd go outside. We did a lot of playing in the snow in the wintertime you know. We would play fox chasing, you would get a yard or something that has fresh snowfall on it, and you'd trample a big circle, and you'd make pie shapes out of it, are you familiar with that?

Janette: Yes I am

Irene: Did you, you grew up north?

Janette: I grew up in Michigan.

Irene: And then home free in the middle.

Janette: Yes [nodding]

Irene: And then you played tag, you have to stay on the pass and if you get tagged you're out, yeah.

Mariana: Ha.

Irene: So we did that, and then of course snowballs and building snow forts. We tried to ice skate; we tried to make us an ice rink in this yard. We flooded it with water but it was hard 'cause we'd had a pump and mother was a little concerned that we'd run the pump dry. So, we only got so far and it was pretty bumpy and we tried to skate but it wasn't very successful. Then of course it rained on us--blah --. We were always busy trying to do something you know. And another thing we'd do, or used to do when we were kids, was play store or play school, play school. I always wanted to--or since I was the oldest I'd always talk them into letting me be the teacher

Janette: Oh okay.

Irene: Because I wanted to be in charge. But we played store and how did we play store? Okay, you saved containers for food like if you had canned peas or canned something or other. We made sure we always volunteered to--we'd open the can upside down, and wash it, take it nice and clean so then we would--in the garage door we would build little shelves and we would have our canned goods and then you would you know, you'd just use your imagination, we'd make goods for the store. And in the summertime of course we could get stuff. We'd get weeds and sell it as produce. In those days there was no self-service, you know you walked into the store kind of like they do on Mr. Hill and you'd give the general--the clerk your list and they'd go get what you want and there were no bags they just used to tie things up. That really is true, you know, how you see them always wrapping things up with paper and string, well that's exactly how it was done. Even in the 30's. And then even in the 40's they were still wrapping things. And I don't remember when the plastic bags came out but that's pretty new stuff. They used to wrap stuff up. I can't remember what we did for other stuff but we--anyhow we managed to play store. And with like plastic bags, no they weren't plastic bags, I was thinking we would just, we'd just--Oh so you'd make your list and then if you were the--if you got to be the storekeeper you could collect all the items, put them down, and you'd have a chance to write a bill, and put the prices down, then add it up. No calculators, nobody had a calculator, you had to add it up. So actually we'd do a lot of math that way, you know. So that's one of things we used to play store and, um, play school and, um, listen to the radio for some comedy shows but a lot of it was just helping Mom in the house doing stuff you know. Cleaning up and bringing in the wood or chopping the wood, just doing stuff. And oh, we used to never, nowadays- "Mom what do we do now I'm bored." Oh lord, we never said that 'cause Mom would give you a job (laughter). We wanted to have the time to go read, or just go hike, do something on our own. We'd never, never ever said, "Well, what do we do now? We're bored." Oh no, that was an unknown, being bored or not knowing what to do was unknown to us. No, never did that. So that's what we did for fun, and then we used to play a lot of word games. We used to play, um, geography match. Okay you would say Africa, and okay you'd take the last letter is A so you'd have to name a place on the map.

Janette: Australia.

Irene: That started with A and you would take the last letter of her word and we'd go around and around like that and you'd be surprised how many places land up in A's and pretty soon you run out of A's you know but anyhow that was one of things. You could just

sit and do that you know. That was fun but it was nothing like fun today where people have organized sports and stuff now. We did have--we used to play on the playground at school, at recess, we used to play tag and play softball and stuff like that. And another thing at school in those days, that was already the early 40s, yeah, um the school ground was big and everybody was allotted a little garden spot. It wasn't very big, it might have been, let's see 5 feet by 10 feet and it was, it had all been worked up, I don't know how they fixed it but they fixed it. So--and we were given seeds that you could plant and that was your summer time project. Honey, [looking at Mariana] you had to keep that garden going. And then that fall, they'd have a fair, so you entered your produce. You had turnips and carrots and corn and green beans and sweet potatoes and stuff like that, no, no sweet potatoes, but turnips. And then also you had a lot of--on that fair, you got the activities, before school was out so during the summer, you had an opportunity, they had a lot of handy craft things you could make. And a lot of the girls were, like in baking--I'd practiced all summer to make a chocolate cake. This must have been in the sixth grade or seventh grade. Now that sounds pretty easy now, but there were no mixes, and no thermostats on ovens. It was a wood burning stove, so you had to finagle with it, Is it hot enough? The first cake flops. So I had practiced all summer to make this chocolate cake and finally I had it down. And the day of fair when I had to--when I turned it up, the damn cake broke. Oh no, and there was no time to start again and make another one, so mother said, "That's okay, put it together and put the icing on it, they're gonna take a slice, they might take a slice where it wasn't broken." (laughter). But lo and behold, I got a second prize. But I was crushed 'cause I just knew I was going to win that solid you know. It was a very delicious devil food cake. (laughter). That's funny, but those were the activities that the school had sort of programmed, although you didn't have to do it. But it was there for you to do because it was the fair--and then along at that fair they had the athletic races. They had, you know, long jump, hop skip and jump, and races, the short races and the longer races, and the high jump. We didn't have anything like pole vaulting. Nobody had any equipment you know. We had a stick to put across for the high jump and that was about it. And--so there were all those sports activities. So that was all part of--you kind of worked all summer to prep yourself for this fair. After school, I guess it must have been October by then. That was part of the--considered fun, but you had to weed that garden. Well it was non-irrigated but it rained enough that you know if it was a dry summer your garden was a disaster.

Janette: How were you at gardening when you were young?

Irene: Well, we all did that because there were prizes, there were cash prizes.

Janette: Oh

Irene: Cash prizes and first prize I think, was 25 cents. Yeah!

Mariana: I want those 25 cents!

Irene: You got those 25 cents. You betcha.

Mariana: Those are mine! (laughing)

Irene: Oh and also there was a weed naming contest. There was a reading contest, a musical; you had to sing a song. There were all kinds of stuff, and between the--all of us kids, I think we came up with--because we had a funny, well Ukrainian, we had *Kwasniak*. It was an unusual name because we were the only foreigners in that little village. They were all English speaking people so they had a tough, tough time with our name 'cause in those days my dad and mom still tried to pronounce it in Ukrainian *Kwasniak* (using Ukrainian accent) which was impossible for the Anglos, let's face it. By the time we got to high school we decided we had to Anglicize our name so that you know, it was recognizable, so we'd--it was spelled K-w-a-s-n-i-a-k. So we said ok, we'll just pronounce it phonetically,

it's gonna be *Kwasniak*. And then somehow then, we were recognizable and they didn't stumble about your name all the time you know?

Janette: So what, what's the correct--what's the original spelling?

Irene: Well again, it's the Cyrillic alphabet.

Janette: Yes, yeah.

Irene: Okay so it was anyhow--you--I can't. I don't know how to spell it right in Cyrillic alphabet. But anyhow it was in English there, but it pronounced different then--but Dad always objected to that. He always said, "It's *Kwasniak*" (*again in Ukrainian accent*). We always said, "Well, yeah you're right Dad." But we didn't challenge the old man too much 'cause it was trouble, you know. He ruled with an iron fist. So anyhow, what else did we do for fun? That was about it. We worked on our projects and um, I learned how to sing a song. It was all unaccompanied, you know. We had a little toy piano at the house, and I plunked out the notes, figured that out. And weed naming, you had to identify weeds. I won that and I won the reading contest. So we, we got together I think about four or five dollars. The whole--all four of us.

Mariana: You were competitive then!

Irene: We had--we got rocks then. We had some money. Because in those days that was money--that was money. People worked for a dollar a day you know.

Mariana: How much, how much would you be able to buy with that amount of money?

Irene: Well, I can't remember just--but I remember before that, I remember pork chops were five cents a pound.

Mariana: Pork chops?

Irene: Yeah, pork chops. That was a delicacy we had back then. But then when you see--when you hear those prices on Gunsmoke, they buy a beer for a nickel. Now ice cream cones, they were double deckers and they were a nickel. And then sometimes some guys would want to sell all his ice cream and he would put three scoops on one of those, not a waffle cone, but just a regular cone - cone you know. And then somebody came out with a double headed cone, you know, it was up and then it had like two cups on it. And that was, that was still a nickel.

Mariana: Oh wow!

Irene: So yeah, a nickel, and--

Mariana: You were like, "I want that nickel, I want those twenty five cents!"

Irene: Oh, that's right. That's right. That was important, that was important—you really counted the pennies. Nowadays, you know, I understand now it costs more--the U.S. lost money on minting pennies. It costs more to make a penny than it's worth, than the monetary value of it. It's amazing isn't it? But that was it that was it. So anyhow, so where are we going now?

Tomas: So I guess--

Irene: What jobs did you and your family have? [looking at the list of questions] Well since my parents were immigrants, and it was the Great Depression, they were learning the language to begin with. You couldn't--you know, Ukrainian--and you had to, you had to learn the language. Nowadays, immigrants come to this country and they're gonna speak their language, and my word to you is, well why didn't you stay where you were? Because everybody learned English. Now in Quebec it was bilingual there. Because, evidently when England lost the United States, they still had Canada. And there was a big push--if you're a historian--the Americans were trying to get Canada to join them. And the sticking point there, England offered the French speaking--they were only in Quebec Province--they

offered them the option that if they stayed with, under British rule, they could keep their language, they didn't have to speak English. And the Americans wanted everybody--there was going to be a one language country. So that was, that was it. Then of course a lot of Empire Loyalists left the U.S. They were loyal to the crown. They went back. Now, most of those people went to Nova Scotia, which is like New Scotland. A lot of them--but they went up there. So there was a flux there. But, so they did kind of just whatever kinds of jobs they could find. Mother did all kinds of things until even--she did housework, she went and picked strawberries, just whatever, it's kind of like, immigrants that come to this country that don't have any special skills. They left there because there was no hope for them back in what we would call the old country. Things are pretty bad over there and they had just survived the Second World War--the First World War there. Everything was in shambles. My mother's mother died when she was like six or seven and her father died. He had been injured in war and then he died shortly after that. So here there were seven kids and they were just farmed out to anybody who would take them. So you know, they were just, they'd just take whatever and they weren't proud. They'd take whatever job was available just to make a buck, you know. And then later on Mom got to where she worked in restaurants. She was--she chopped--she worked in a restaurant back in Yovorow. So she knew how to--she knew some cooking but she had to get her English up. Because back then she said she had a terrible time, when the cook would call and they wanted peas and beans and she was just learning the language and she was having a terrible time. Had to chop everything. It was a vegetarian restaurant. So they had to chop a lot of vegetables. So from that--then she got to where--when we were in London, she got a job at Victoria Hospital where she got cooking in the kitchen. And that was good. Then she got to where she was the head of the meat department. And that was a pretty big hospital. It was part of the learning hospital of the University of Western, Ontario. So they had the medical students there, they had a nursing school too, so they had to prepare the food for the nursing school. So they did a lot of this. I remember I stopped by and went to see her one time and the kitchen must've been twenty feet by twenty feet. Each square was like that. [makes a big square shape with her arms] There were ovens which I'd never--well, they must have been about this big, [makes large box with hands] I don't know. Anyhow she worked there for a long time. Then after she retired from that, then she worked in the children's hospital. There was a special children's hospital there where she'd make sure that the proper trays went out to the kids because they had to be real picky, and my mother was a real detailed girl. Whether diabetic kids or they had allergies and a lot of that so they had different requirements and Mom was the battle axe of that department.

Mariana: She was on it!

Irene: She was on it. Yeah! (laughter) And my dad just--I remember, there in Newbury he would cut wood--cut for a company. They just got paid, I don't know, something for cutting a cord of wood. He'd work all day for--lucky to make a buck. But then things got better as we moved to London. It was a bigger city, it wasn't a little village anymore.

Kassandra: More jobs?

Irene: Yeah, yeah, things--the economy started moving, so by the forties (Irene laughs) there was an airplane factory in London and my mother, she wanted to be Rosie the Riveter, God bless her heart. She was on only 5 foot 3 and 3/4 inches and you had to be 5 foot 4 inches to rivet--cause you couldn't stand on a ladder, you had to be able to stand and rivet those wings, and she was crushed because she wanted to be part of the war effort (laughter). You've all seen commercials of Rosie the Riveter. My mother wanted to be Rosie the

Riveter but she was a quarter inch too short--she said, "I stretched real hard, couldn't make that quarter inch."

Mariana Vazquez: Awww, she should have made herself a bun (laughter)

Irene: No it was on top of the head, girl (laughter), yeah you probably would have made it. [points to Mariana's bun] Like when they measure those kids now on the rides now a days, you have to be so tall to be able to go. So how we doing? [looking at list of questions]

Tomas: When did you move to London? What year was that?

Irene: Let me see. The war broke out in 1939, we were on social assistance then. We went from Windsor to this little village of Newbury. That must have been fall of '39 or maybe it was '40 by then. Well I'll tell you by years. I was in eighth grade, so I was born in '29, and I think I was thirteen or fourteen. So lets add fifteen, fourteen years old, so I must've been what?

Tomas: '43 or so? Around '42 or '43?

Irene: Yeah, must've been '43 when we moved to London, yeah. And that was, for us was a big city, 'cause we just basically grew up in this little bitty burg of 250, 300 people max, you know, that store had--the lady that was the teacher of the lower grade was also the postmaster, so she--the post office wasn't open all day long. There was a store in town, there wasn't any gas station. There might've been a gas station in the next little village but there was just one or two stores and that's it, there was nothing at all. We moved to London and that's when Mom and Dad both got--Dad got the job in the foundry. He worked in the steel mill, so things were looking up for us, things were looking up. They picked up enough--but you know when I went to the first grade, I think I knew only one or two words in English. I only knew hello. And I remember when Mom took me to school the teacher was real upset, she said, "How am I going to teach her." And you know that was not--the translating was not great she said, "How am I going to teach this child when we can't communicate?" There was nobody else. Teacher didn't speak Ukrainian, there was nobody else in that class who spoke Ukrainian--and mother said, "Well, I didn't want her to talk like I do." Because Mom had picked up some English, but it was pretty broken, she said, "I wanted her to learn it the right way." So the teacher said "Well okay, we'll try." And you know by the end of the year--cause we kinda lived, like it was the United Nations--there were a lot of foreign, a lot of immigrants, there were Germans and a lot of Polish people, Syrians you name it, we were out there in this little area--and by the end of that first year which was closed for four months the teacher told Mom she said, "You know Irene speaks English better than anyone else in this class." So little kids are like sponges, they hear it, they learn it. If you are exposed to it you will learn it.

Mariana: Your Mom didn't try teaching you, she just wanted you to learn it?

Irene: Well they just spoke Ukrainian between the two--Dad was very stubborn he was like some of these old timers around here, the men, they only speak Spanish, period. "I'm not speaking English." We had a guy work for us. He was--came over--been here I think 60 years, couldn't speak any English, proud of it, too. It worked for him 'cause you can do that here, everywhere you go, you know, everybody speaks Spanish, you can do that here, but in my situation I couldn't do that. My mother--she just didn't want us--she didn't want us to speak her broken English 'cause she knew she sounded different. She was struggling. She was having--when she came out of the Ukraine she only knew the Cyrillic alphabet. So you had to learn the Latin letters. That's tough. I've tried to learn the Cyrillic alphabet because I thought maybe I'd learn how to read Ukrainian. I can't do it. And yet I took a lot of languages. And another thing was my mother and dad, they both spoke German. See

because my mother's mother was German, and then my dad when he first left Ukraine he went to work in Germany, worked in coal mines there, so he spoke German. So Mom and Dad used German as a sound wall 'cause we lived in a little bitty house and there are a lot of times parents needed to talk without the kids hearing everything, and so they spoke German. Well, pretty soon I was getting to where I could understand what they were saying and so they stopped. So there went my German right out the window. (laughter) But it is amazing how you just pick this stuff up, don't ask me how. Children will just learn a language. Expose them to it, and they will learn. Don't tell them it's hard. Well, to begin with I wanted to talk to the other rest of the kids in the classroom, you know. I wasn't a hermit. I was going to be--I wanted to--and that's the thing about immigrants in those days. They wanted to be part of Canada. And now a days you have communities that come over--and that's not necessarily restrictive to the Valley--but in other areas they will clump together and they wanted--like for instance, there are so many Chinese people in Toronto now. You know, when it looked like Hong Kong was not going to be a British colony anymore, was going to go back to China, England made a deal because, you know, Hong Kong for the longest time was a British island, British colony and then when China was getting built, getting strong muscle, they wanted Hong Kong. They wanted it back, part of China. And so the people, the business people that had money and had property were afraid that they were going to get nationalized. So they took their money and left. [new TV show theme music plays] While it was still a British colony they could go come to Canada because that's a Commonwealth country see. They could come in without having to go through immigration. You had a British passport, you could come to Canada. So they came and they brought their money with them, like Vancouver. All of those big high rise buildings, anyway, they're all owned by Chinese people, and eventually they just moved here. The same thing in Toronto. There were people who had lots of money so they opened up lots of businesses and they had financial wherewithal. And there is one community there in Toronto that's really, really expensive property. Those people are so powerful in the city government that they want their signs, street signs printed in Chinese, in Mandarin. They are not necessarily integrating that much into the community, they're powerful enough with their own strength that they well--and they came here cause the communist just nationalize. They take everything. They just take everything.

After we got through and we were retired, came here and Ken had quite a few jobs, he still did a lot of consulting. He's an agricultural economist, so he still did a lot of consulting and contract jobs. He had a, he was the head of--the chief of a party in Russia where they were trying to help Russia develop private property again. Nobody had a title to the property because the government owned everything. They had no concept of titled land, or ownership of property or anything so that's what this group was doing. They had to try to establish, what they call, privatizing of the farms, the big state farms. The big state farms were like towns of 10 to 15 thousand people. Everybody was involved with that farm, but that was more that the farm--it was farm but it was also everything involved with that. So that's a big job, they said, "Well, who's it going to belong to?" They had to divide it up so that was really a tough, tough project because then they had to--and they had a big legal department too, to try and establish a title company. You can imagine it's--we can't even imagine such a situation. They couldn't imagine owning property because the government owned everything. See, that's what happened in Hong Kong. They figured, well China gets it, they're a communist country then they'll, take it all over, they'd confiscate your bank accounts, they just take everything, help yourself, themselves. So anyhow that got way off track, I'm sorry about that, so where were we? [referring back to papers with questions]

Tomas: The last place you talked about where you lived was in London, right, did you spend your teenage years there?

Irene: Pardon?

Tomas: Your teenage years, were they spent there?

Irene: Yes, Yes.

Tomas: Oh okay.

Irene: Yes, I graduated from London Central Collegiate, yeah.

Tomas: Oh okay.

Irene: And um that's another thing that I noticed that was different when I came here to the U.S., is that they had--the collegiate institutes, were prepping you for college work and then there was a big technical school and that was the biggest school in town, and that's where almost everybody from my high school, from my grade school went 'cause we lived kind of in the poor section of town. There was only one other boy and myself that went to the collegiate institute for the district. Everybody else went to the trade school. Because they learned drafting, they learned stenography, they learned everything. From there--Okay well now you've got all these little technical schools, some of them are private, some of them are state, but there is a lot of choices--that was a big school, they got the biggest auditorium in town for instance. When the community concerts came to town, they were at the tech. So that was a big difference, and also then we went five years of high school, so we still put in the same amount of years, even though you skipped fourth grade, yeah but now a days they've done away with that. They just have four years of high school now.

Janette: Okay, so were there 13 grades?

Irene: Yeah, yeah, 13 grades and boy did they load us up with course work. We just, we all, as a freshman in high school you had to take, first year you started off with Latin, everybody had to take Latin, that was a collegiate institute. The others didn't have to do that at the technical school. Then by the third year you'd be asked to take another language so I took German 'cause I thought, Oh something will come back, I'll make it. (laughter) But we took French and Latin and German, or Greek was an option, and Spanish was an option, but for me in Canada, Spanish was not an option, but I took German. Don't ask me why now, now it seems kind of silly. But we did take a lot of stuff, a lot of credits. We started at nine in the morning and went till like four-thirty in the afternoon. We put in a long day, there were a lot of choices. We took, let me think, we took, algebra, geometry, trig, biology, chemistry, physics. One science a year so we'd take it all. So they exposed us to an awful lot of stuff. High school was really pretty comprehensive.

Mariana: Aside from all your coursework and all of that, how was your social integration in high school?

Irene: Well, I didn't integrate very well 'cause I was a very shy girl. Very shy. And I had another problem: I had this one English teacher who at least every other week she would ask me how old I was when I came to Canada. She just mortified me all the time because I still had a pretty funny accent I guess, like I still talked like a "Russian student" (spoken with a heavy Russian accent). Whatever, you know. So yeah, and so I was kind of a fish out of water, you know in a little way. I came from an area where everybody went to the technical school. I went to a high school where there were more professional people, you know. And they were better off than I was, they dressed better than I did, you know. My mom got my clothes at Woolworths you know, and the others, especially when they were talking about their little sororities and stuff, you know, they had twelve cashmere changes of skirts and sweaters and I didn't have any of that so I--I was just sort of just pretty well put aside. I did not really participate. And between that and having a very strict father

I wasn't allowed to go to any school functions, social functions, so that put a damper, so then pretty soon people figured you didn't want to socialize with them so they pretty much left me alone. So I was alone, you know. That's why I loved it when I came to Texas--I came to Texas in 1950 on a music scholarship for Baylor university everybody was so friendly. Nobody thought my name was funny, you know. I was just one of the crowd. And that was so refreshing for me. I just completely became a different person, instead of this--

Mariana: You got out of your little shell.

Irene: I did! I just--

Mariana: You're like, here I am!

Irene: Yeah, yeah like that egg hatched you know! (laughter)

Irene: It was a whole new world for me!

Mariana: Yeah!

Irene: There, 'cause there was a lot of, there was a lot of Czech and German names in Central Texas and my name wasn't any--I mean there was a lot of Anglo names sure, but I wasn't, I wasn't the only one that was sticking out.

Mariana: Yeah.

Irene: And it all- it all worked, you know so I--I just thought Texas was a wonderful place and all the people here were just wonderful. They just treated me so nicely. I was just accepted, period, for who I was, where I came from and it didn't make any difference, you know, none of the, "Well what does your Daddy do?" You know? "He works at the steel plant," you know. It was none of that. It was really, really nice. Yup, so anyhow, we're out of high school now right?

Tomas: Yeah, do you have any family members who served in the government, in the military?

Irene: Yup. Well my husband was in the Army.

Tomas: Okay.

Irene: Yeah, he was in the US Army.

Mariana: When did you meet your husband? What year?

Irene: I met him at Baylor. I met him in 1950 and we got married in '52 but I didn't date him in '50.

Mariana: So you only knew him for 2 years after you married?

Irene: I didn't, I didn't even date him for that long.

Mariana: What?

Irene: I met him through a guy that asked me for a date and they were roommates but I didn't go out with him. We didn't start to date until I think fall of '51 and then we got married May of '52. We did, and we've been married ever since. 62 years we've been married.

Mariana: Did you guys get to travel before you had kids?

Irene: Well, I'll tell you what. We got married, Ken still had another hour to finish his bachelor's degree at Baylor and I was just a sophomore but he had gone up to work in Alaska the previous summer and had worked two different jobs. He worked two shifts and he made enough money so when he came back to Baylor he could just, you know, just go to school, and, you know, comfortably without having to take jobs in Waco so he can go to school full time. He thought the trip was so interesting he told me, "I got to take you and show you," 'cause a lot of it was driving through Canada, you know. Canada and the Yukon Territory, and he just thought--there was another couple, they had just recently gotten married so we all went up. It was just going to be a summer and come back in the fall and finish school. Well, we got up there and there had been a change in administration and all

the big construction jobs were just, well the government was building the Elmendorf Air Force Base everything came to a screeching halt. Used to, you used to just go to the union hall to get a--labor hall to get a job. There were more jobs than people, that's the reason he worked, he worked at, he worked in construction in the day time and he had a job cooking as a cook and a night club at night. And he had a place to stay there. So he saved all his money and he had plenty of money and when he came back to Baylor that fall so that's why we thought we'd go up there, spend the summer 'cause Baylor was out, you didn't go to summer school those days, and we were going to come back. Well it didn't work out that way, we didn't come back until January of 1954. By that time I was pregnant, and so we came back to Waco. Ken went back to school and I didn't 'cause I was having a baby. And so I, we had our baby in June, that first June back in Waco and then Ken finished, he got his Master's. He did that in one year and then his professor there talked him into getting a PhD in Econ, 'cause he was thinking about going sideways she said, "Why does everybody in Texas--" because he was thinking about going into law school. He said, "Why does everybody have to go to law school in Texas." He said "Go up, don't go sideways. Don't stack the degrees this way, stack them up to where they do you some good." So off we went to Los Angeles and it was summer of '55. And he had two interests, one at UCLA to do research, he was able to get a research grant there, and at University of Southern Cal. He was offered a lectureship to teach economics, principles of economics, so he decided he would do the University of Southern California and so by that time the second baby was born that fall. Those days we didn't know about family planning that's available now- there was none of that. Well there was, but it didn't work for all of us, you know, but that's beside the point. So we were there three years and all he managed to get done was six courses of history of economic thought because tuition was so expensive there. Oh my God, it's a private university so we just couldn't afford it and he wasn't making any progress.

Janette: Was it an expensive place to live?

Irene: Well, we found cheap places. We as graduate students didn't live like students live these days. We lived pretty poor. We didn't have a whole lot to get by on. Ken had his little VA pension which was 50 dollars a week, I mean a month so we had that. And then the teaching in southern California. Boy did they ever take advantage of graduate students. He worked practically for nothing. I guess you do now too but at least you can get by a little bit better if you have a teaching assistantship which he had there. But then he was teaching at 2--he was also teaching at the, what they call a university college. It was night school 'cause you can only teach so many hours or you wouldn't keep your accreditation, to keep your standing as a university, so then they developed a thing what they called a university park or anyhow, so that didn't count as being a Southern Cal staff. So he was teaching at night too, so he was- but somehow we decided no, we had to, if he were to get this PhD we had to get a little more, make a little more progress than that 'cause it would take forever. Fortunately he got a research grant at Montana State University. It was a marketing thing for oats, barley I mean, so that was part federal grant, part state grant, and so he did his research and he finished his PhD there in 1962. And off we went! Almost a fourth of his career was spent in Durango. He started off as chairman of his department that was his first job. It was a liberal arts college. But we're getting ahead of ourselves, we're going this way, we got to go back on track [referring to list of questions]. But he was, Ken was in the Army from 19- yeah 'cause I'm following what family members served in the government or military, he served in the government and then also he was in the military he was in the infantry, well, it was in the Second World War II. He went in right before his eighteenth birthday; he went in on August of '44. He was shot on June 12th of 1945. He was lucky, a

lot of the guys in his platoon thought he was killed but the medic pulled him out. They got him out and he survived. He spent a long time at McCloskey Hospital near Waco, Texas and he was discharged in November of '45 so he was in just a little over a year.

Janette: Where was he?

Irene: In the Philippines? He was in the South Pacific he was out in the islands and then, where he was shot was in the Philippines up in northern, he was up there in the mountains.

Mariana: Was he transferred right away down?

Irene: Pardon?

Mariana: Was he transferred to Waco right away?

Irene: No. First they hauled him--got him moved to--they got him into Manila. There was an old race track, that's where they held all the wounded on stretchers, just on the grandstand, can you believe? 95 degree temperatures, it was hot. Maybe even higher than that.

Mariana: Where were, I'm sorry, if you don't mind me asking, where were you at the time, like, when--

Irene: Oh, I didn't know him at the time, I was still- oh no, I was still in Canada,

Tomas: Yea, 'cause that was in '44 and you didn't come-

Irene: That's right; I didn't come to Texas till 1950 so I didn't know him then. And then from Manila they, I don't know how long they kept him there, they--he was in a body cast. His arm was like this [lifts arm over her head to indicate how he was positioned] he was shot here [points at upper arm] and it came out his shoulder it just shattered his shoulder. He was in a body cast from here with his arm up like this [lifts left arm] for a long time. From there they got him on a plane and went to, what's that place? It was a transfer place. He came into San Francisco Hospital and then they were transferred to McCloskey Hospital in Temple, Texas and he was there I guess for quite a while, he was there quite a while. Then they discharged him in November, so just before Thanksgiving. He was transferred, he was discharged and he--he walked off the base and he hitchhiked his way to Memphis, Arkansas, that's where his mom was living. Just before Thanksgiving. He was just, he was, it was tough. There was no support there, there was no support, but you can imagine, he hitchhiked. So they couldn't have had -- I don't know what they gave him money wise, I don't know, but anyhow that was--and he did other things. But I don't know. We met at Baylor and started dating the fall of '51 and got married the next spring.

Tomas: And you moved a couple of years later to Los Angeles that was the first place you all moved together?

Irene: That's right. Then from, once he got his Master's we moved to Los Angeles in '55 and we left Los Angeles in 1958 and moved to Bozeman, Montana.

Kassandra: And you had two kids by then?

Irene: No, I had three children by then, by the time we got to Bozeman Tom and Wayne were born in down there on the coast, and then I had another baby in Montana. And he started doing his research and taking course work and he got his PhD in '62, four years later.

Tomas: There in Montana?

Irene: Yeah. And now a days they're cranking out PhDs but when he got, he was the first PhD in agriculture, ag econ. There was only one other PhD student, I think it was in chemistry.

Irene's son Tom arrives. Interview part one ends.

Appendix B

Irene Eubank's Second Interview

Friday Sept. 26, 2014, 2:00 PM

CHAPS Program students Janette Garcia, Mariana Vazquez, and Tomas Perez met at Irene Eubank's home at 17307 Eubanks Road, Edinburg Texas 78541 on Friday September 26, 2014 at 2:00 pm. The interview lasted for 1 hour and 33 minutes. Throughout the interview, Irene talks about living with her family in different places including Waco, Texas; Anchorage, Alaska; Los Angeles, California; Bozeman, Montana; Durango Colorado; Monrovia, Liberia; Lahore, Pakistan; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Manila, Philippines; Nairobi, Kenya; and of course, Edinburg, Texas. Topics include her family's service in the military; when she met her husband Ken at Baylor University in Waco, Texas and her early married life as he acquired his PhD in agricultural economics, worked as a department chair and a dean at different universities, then began working for the U.S. Government for USAID. She talks about their travels including her first trip to Brownsville, Texas in 1951; their travels around the world, and their decision to retire in Edinburg because of the rich agricultural opportunities. In Edinburg they purchased 120 acres for citrus and farming. Their first citrus orchard was lost in the freeze of 1983, and afterwards they opened a nursery. Irene discusses the labor required including budding new trees; and the difficulties of working with packing sheds and distributors and selling and shipping their produce. Finally, she discusses finding arrowheads on their property, the plants, animals, and birds around their property, and the naming of Eubanks Road. Irene was given a list of questions prior to the interview.

Talking began before the recording was turned on. Television is playing in another room in the background.

Irene: He was in the South Pacific, they went through those islands, you know he was down there, and I guess--

Tomas: Was this before you all were married?

Irene: Oh yeah!

Tomas: Oh yeah. Before you all were married then.

Irene: Yeah, I didn't know him then. I met him in 1950, '51.

Tomas: Did, did any of, of your family serve in the military?

Irene: Yeah my brother.

Tomas: Your brother--

Irene: My brother was in the Canadian Air Force.

Tomas: Okay, how about your kids? Did any of the boys serve?

Irene: No.

Tomas: No okay.

Irene: They just escaped the Vietnam thing

Tomas: Oh okay.

Irene: That was just. They were, they were um, they had drawn numbers and one of the boys, the middle boy would have been called 'cause he pulled a real early number, but then they just, they just stopped doing all that so nobody came.

Tomas: Okay, so I guess that wraps up that question. So what other places have you lived for and how long? Have you lived in, and for how long?

Irene: Okay, lets see. Well--you mean as a couple, my husband and I or separately?

Tomas: Uh, I guess--

Irene: We got married in 1952

Tomas: Okay.

Irene: And that was in Waco, Texas

Tomas: In Waco, Texas, okay.

Irene: And that summer we went to--drove all the way to Alaska. We lived in Anchorage, Alaska for a year and a half. Then we came back to Waco.

Janette: What type of car did you have?

Irene: We had a Roadmaster Buick.

Janette: Okay.

Irene: Boy, that was flat, flat tire alley going up that gravel highway, oh my gosh. Had more flat tires. And the first time we had a flat, we had tubeless tires. Have you ever tried to blow up a tubeless tire? (laughs) It was almost impossible, and um, there were bears along the highway.

Tomas: Oh wow.

Irene: Ken couldn't fix it once, so he rolled it into town. By the map there should have been some garage or something down there. He came back--we waited a while--there were four of us going all together. He came back and boy there he was--imagine rolling a tire. There were bears along the side of the road in fact and we thought, "Yeah, he's kidding us," 'cause I had been looking at bears and I thought every overturned tree trunk we thought--I thought was a bear. When you think, you're just imagining everything, you know.

Tomas: Yeah.

Irene: But then when we, when we got the tire that he had repaired, 'cause I guess you have to buy inner tubes or something, I don't remember the details. Then we went back to the place where he got that tire fixed, and yeah, and there we were, chatting there, there was a garbage dump not too far, and the place was overrun with bears 'cause they'd go to the dump for food. So he wasn't fibbing. There really were bears. They didn't bother him I guess they figured that tire wasn't good to eat or something, I don't know. But we were there for a year and a half and then we came back to Waco and then, oh yeah we had talked about this. Then we went to Los Angeles and we were there from 1955 till--we were there almost two years. He was a teaching assistant at University of Southern California, and I was a stay at home mom taking care of kids.

Mariana: 1955 to when?

Irene: Pardon?

Mariana: 1955 to when?

Irene: 1958. In 1958, in the fall we moved to Bozeman, Montana. That's where he was working on his PhD for agricultural economics. And he didn't get his degree till 1962. That's when we moved to Durango, Colorado. He was chairman of the department of business. It was a small liberal arts college. And then, I think, 1967 it was, we got a call from a professor at Cornell University. They had a contract with--through USAID [U.S. Agency for International Development]. They had a contract with University of Liberia, in Monrovia and they needed a dean of the liberal arts college. So off we went, for a year and a half to Monrovia. And actually that place where they see, where they show you that hospital on this Ebola thing.

Janette: Yes.

Irene: We used to play on that beach almost every day. It's kind of interesting, now suddenly it's been in the news a lot. But anyhow we were there for a year and a half and that was the end of the contract, that we--We spent that summer just driving and camping all around Europe. As we got off there, it was the fourth of July, I remember, when we flew out to Cologne, Germany. We arranged to buy a car there and um, we picked up our car and bought camping gear and bought a tent and sleeping bags and, oh we had a wonderful time. About a month and a half we just drove all around Europe. So that's what we did then. Then we came, so then we came back to--'cause he just had a leave of absence from Fort Lewis College so he went back to his old job. Only by this time--before we left he was already dean of the college so he took a leave of absence since he wanted to come back to that 'cause, he thought that was too important a job for somebody to hold on to for him. So he went back and just wanted to teach in the econ department but they'd made him chair of the department. So he did that. And in about a year, everybody at home got restless. Because we had such a good time 'cause when we were in Liberia, I was teaching at the American school, and we took a trip to East Africa, we went on a safari at Christmas time. It was so exciting to fly over to Africa, East Africa, we were already living in Africa. But that's the big game countries. The big open, you know, in Nairobi, so we visited Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and went all the way to Mombasa and the Indian Ocean. We just had such a good time and then spending the summer in Europe on the way home. Everybody wanted to do something again, so the kids put the pressure on Dad. The economists have a national convention once a year between Christmas and New Year's and he's an economist, member of that association, and when they have the convention they not only have people presenting papers and stuff, professional papers, but it's really a job market. If you're looking to hire somebody you go there and if you're looking to get a job you go there, and there's just a big, big room and there just, he was offered about 8 different jobs all over the place. So, we accepted, or he accepted, well it was kind of a family deal because by that time--cause it involves the whole family moving, you know, it's not just one man going off somewhere. So in the fall of 1969 we went off to Lahore, Pakistan, and he was working through the--as an ag. economist through the department there, in agriculture there. They were trying to do stuff with marketing, grain marketing. And in one year they--we were transferred to Ethiopia. Its a funny thing that happened--when the U.S. Government had a big air, a big base at Peshawar [Pakistan]. You hear about Peshawar now 'cause its way out there in the northwest territory you know and they had all that problem. They shut--the U.S. Government shut that air force, that air base in Peshawar--actually they used to fly--the U2 flights used to come down from Norway. They'd fly over Russia and that was stopped, because you know they had that problem with what was that pilot that went down? With that U2 pilot you remember? [looking at Janette] Um, Powers.

Janette: Oh yes.

Irene: Yeah that's quite a while ago, that's before your time. [looking at Tomas and Mariana while saying this and laughing]

Irene: And then suddenly USAID decided to really cut that mission from about 96 to close to 100 employees down to a little over a dozen. Which means it really wasn't that humanitarian and an aid mission, it's a payback. Most are. A lot of those USAID projects are paybacks for loans and stuff. That's my, that's my concept that's not--but I could see the relationship you know with military bases being shut down and USAID being moved out pretty much. So anyhow, we were transferred to Ethiopia and there he was an economist to the department of agriculture and we were in Ethiopia from 1970 till '76 I guess, '75 or '76. I'm not sure, and he was working there at the department of--they used to call it the Ministry

of Agriculture. He was the only non-Ethiopian working there. He was advising them on--they were trying to develop ag markets. Trying to get more of the subsistence farming. Trying to get um, big commercial farms going to where they would be able to earn foreign currency. As foreign currency is very important for these countries that are just kind of emerging you know. So we were there for I guess either 5 or 6 years, I'm not sure. All the boys graduated from the American school there and I guess that was a--it was in some ways a very nice place to live 'cause the weather was very nice. We were about almost at an elevation of about 8,000 feet so it was not hot, and although we were very close to the equator, the weather was very nice. There was a rainy season but not like down in Liberia where the sky opened up in June and it didn't stop raining, pouring rain. We'd get 7 to 8 inches of rain a day, every day for like months. In August, it would pour down like it does here sometimes, you know it rains real hard and then it quits and the sun comes right out. I remember it was, when it started raining I rushed out 'cause we had a guy who did the laundry. Very strange in these countries, you have all this, all this step-step stuff you know. This guy does that, this guy does that and I was rushing to get the clothes off and he said, "Oh no madam, no rain long." Sure enough in a few minutes the sun was out. So even if it started raining you didn't bother to get the clothes in off the line, (laughs) just leave it out there, it'll dry.

So anyhow we were there and then the revolution started there in '75 in Ethiopia. It was very bad. Um, the Derg, which is called--the non-commissioned officers just took over the government. And they arrested the emperor, put him in jail, and um, they arrested just about all the leaders of his cabinet. All the, you know, secretary of agriculture, secretary of congress, secretary of defense, everybody. And one Saturday night it was in the fall there of, can't remember now, it was fall of '75 or '76 but anyhow, I can't seem to remember, '76, '75, yeah it must have been just fall of '75. We heard a lot of shooting. They evidently took all his, all his buddies, you know members of government, and they had the emperor stand--he was just a little, he was barely, he wasn't even five feet tall, he was a little bitty guy. Had the worst tailor in the country 'cause they tried to make him out like he was bigger you know (laughs). It was--and the radio of course was turned off, and we heard on Saturday night. They just started playing military music, and then the next morning they were going to read off the people who were executed and they just read all the names. Ken knew an awful lot of them. The secretary of agriculture and the secretary--he knew all the guys, well what he knew was the department of agriculture there and they kept him there in jail for a long time. In the meantime we became involved in trying to help some people get out 'cause what happened, the families that were wealthy there or the foreigners or even some of the, mainly foreigners, they confiscated all the bank accounts. Nationalized--cause they turned communist, nationalized all the businesses. People had nothing--and you know in a lot of these countries you not only need a visa to come to live there, but especially if you're going to work there, you need a permit which usually is pro-forma, they have a contract from government to government and they just automatically. But to leave you have to get an exit visa or else you can't leave the airport. So all these people's documents, you know, they couldn't get out. And they were going try them for whatever corruption and you know whatever they could dream up. But anyhow that's what the government in Ethiopia was doing. And anyhow, so we were given the option to leave and Ken said, "Yeah we want to leave, we want to leave." So we left, he came home from the office after seeing the ambassador, he came home at seven or eight o'clock, and said, "Well we're leaving out at six o'clock early in the morning." So we had to be in real big rush as you can imagine, 'cause we had to pack up--and the three boys were visiting us there for the summer. They

had vacation from school, and so we had to pack up and get on the six o'clock morning flight out of there the next morning.

Janette: And you were living there so that's a lot of packing.

Irene: Oh yes! So we had to pack up what we were going to take with us, what had to go air freight, what had to go surface freight out of there. So we were assigned an administrator for all our stuff. So we left and went back to Washington D.C. We must have been there--and they assigned him to a desk job there in the State Department some place. Because USAID was--became part of the State Department. Okay, so we went there for about half a year and then we were transferred to the Philippines in '76 and we were there until '79. They transferred him to--

Lupita: Hello, how are you? [Lupita passes through the room. Irene waves and laughs]

Irene: They transferred him to Manila, Philippines, and he enjoyed that because he had been there during the war and it was a lot different now. And again there--although he was working through USAID--

Irene: [speaking to Mariana] I like your outfit, but it's a little cold in here, isn't it? I tell you what, you can grab that wrap behind you [on the couch] if you're cold.

Irene: [speaking to group] So he was working there and they were trying to--they were growing a lot of rice but their milling, milling was so inadequate that they couldn't sell that rice on the foreign market. So they were trying to improve a lot of stuff like that in agriculture again to be able to get foreign currency. And then from there, oh yeah, but that's Philippines. But then we were transferred to Nairobi, back to East Africa you know where you had--we were not even like--you know from our house to the national park, we were, I think, maybe seven, eight miles, closer than Edinburg. You'd see elephants and giraffes and um tigers, I mean not tigers, lions and all kinds of zebras, impalas. You name it, they were all there. So that was, that was fun, and then, well see when he was working back in Ethiopia he'd gotten injured, and he had great difficulty with his back. So he was medically retired because he just couldn't, couldn't do the work physically, he just couldn't. It got to where he would just work a half a day but then they said, No they really needed a guy to work full time, so they medically retired him. In the mean time, while we were still living in the Philippines, we bought land here. We bought, um, 80 acres here of orchard, old orchard in 1978 right, and so here we came. This was our home base kind of.

Irene: [to Janette] Go ahead, you wanted to ask a question?

Janette: Yeah. So how did you, how did you come to buy land here?

Irene: Well, we knew, well see he had, we both lived in Waco and he knew about Texas and I had actually been here in the Valley back in 1951. I was at Baylor University. I was a music major and I played in the Baylor Symphony. The Baylor Symphony on spring break came down--went on tour. Came down here to Brownsville, played a concert, and that was in the height of that terrible drought. When King Ranch looked like the desert. When the bus driver was driving through there he said that everybody had taken all their cattle off King Ranch. They went to Montana and Canada and wherever else because there wasn't a live thing up there. Everything was dying. The trees were all dead. It was really quite a wasteland and I remember we played that concert down in Brownsville, it must have been at the University of Brownsville, University of Texas Brownsville Southmost Center or whatever they called that university down there, and the wind was blowing and the dust was flying and I thought this is terrible. I didn't take that as a reflection on Texas because I thought Waco was pretty nice, but I thought it was pretty bad down there. And then after, after, we had done a couple of performances in little towns somewhere, I don't remember

'cause I wasn't that familiar with the Valley then. But there were a bunch of kids that were from that Valley. So you know, they were from here, you know, they were all laughing about how terrible it was down here at that time. It was really, really bad. Spring of 1951, it was terrible. But then I guess it finally started to rain and things got better obviously. Also they got the irrigation system in. [Turns to Janette] When was Falcon Lake completed?

Janette: '52 I think.

Irene: '52, must have been, see, right after that.

Janette: Yeah

Irene: Yeah, they started that program and that was a blessing because then they could expand agriculture more because you had irrigation. But how did we get to buy--so we knew, well we wanted to buy, we wanted to buy some place 'cause we knew we were gonna retire, you know let's face it. You can't think of retirement now but the day will come, you will retire you know. (laughing) And we thought it'd be nice to have um, we looked at two different--thought of two different places. We thought an apple orchard in Washington State would be nice but we didn't go there. And then Ken said, well you know, down in South Texas, there's a lot of agriculture down there, and we didn't have any more brutal winters down here, you know. So we decided to come down here and visit and the nice thing about--oh first we went to Florida to look, Ken and I, and we kind of didn't like that out there too much 'cause it was just all deep sand and it was just different. But here the land was very productive. If you didn't want to grow orchard, you could grow, at that time there was a lot of vegetable production here. A lot of vegetable production and you could grow like a Heinz 57 varieties down here. The land was very productive, and with irrigation you could grow almost anything. And they had the window of opportunity to grow vegetables down here, that you could sell north when the north was frozen. That, that was the incentive. So you had a lot of, you had a lot of choice, and another thing at that time we needed a tax incentive. We needed some um, what do you call it? Depreciable assets. Which we didn't have. We had a property in Colorado but we had already sold all that. So that's how we came down here. Plus we had already had this 80 acres here. So then actually we bought another we bought another 40 acres. It was all old orchard. The old plantings weren't as dense like they are now because they didn't have enough water, so there was--and the land wasn't leveled. It was kind of hilly and stuff and they used to put ditches. I don't know whether you have any experience or any interest, but then the old orchard was planted like about, I think 56, let's see, there was about, around 60 trees per acre. Now you know we were planting, um, oranges, 220 trees an acre. So it's a lot of, a lot of difference. So, you had to irrigate it because the land was not level. You had to put like a ditch around every tree. You can imagine, and then you moved water from one block, to another block, to another. And now one son had graduated from Fort Lewis College so he, he was waiting on a fellowship at Utah State 'cause he was a psych major and there were going to work with ah, behavior, behaviors, psychology. The guy there wanted Wayne and Tom to work together on a project. They were working with wolves there, and so--but that project wasn't going to start till the following year so he had like a year off so Dad asked him, "Well would you like to come down here and try to take care of our orchards for me?" Well Wayne just jumped at the chance to do that. So he came down here, with the help of some local farmers and he gathered, he bought, he was trying to buy a tractor and a truck and he lived in an apartment in McAllen. Then we followed--we didn't realize we were going to be retired that early. So he was here in '79 and then lo and behold, here we came in '80, a year and half later we were retired so we came on down and then tried to get things going and stuff. So that's, that's how, that's how we got down here because we purchased that as an

investment and it's turned out very well because since then we've gone out of the citrus business and we sold it as residential ten acre plots and it's our retirement.

Janette: Wow!

Irene: We financed, we financed the sale of those lots and it's worked out very well 'cause that augmented or supplemented the retirement that he had, an annuity from the government but that, that was an extra incentive you know. But when we bought the orchard at that time, he could figure, he could profit 1,000 dollars an acre annually. So we figured, well that'd be pretty good, you know we had 80 acres, you could make, you could show a net profit of a eighty thousand dollars a year. That, we thought that was pretty good. Well that, that all fell apart, because the trees were--well another thing too, we would buy it, tax purposes, 'cause Ken had a good salary at USAID. We could refurbish, or re--what would you call it?--rehabilitate the orchards. So the first thing, with these 40 acres here, we pushed all those trees out. You know bulldozers, you've seen that, they just push all the trees out and burn them and then they root and plow and there is a lot, a lot of work. Then we, through the soil conservation program, they surveyed the 40 acres and decided how, how it should be leveled so it'd be more, um, feasible to irrigate and farm. Because if the land is level you could--it'd be more productive. So we did that on, on this 40 acres and pushed all the trees out and burned them and then we ordered some trees we were going to replant, and so we replanted, was it--in about '82 our trees were ready 'cause at that time you had to wait, you had to order the trees, you had to wait to get your trees. So, in '83 we started to replant this 40 acres, and the trees just got going really nice and that killing frost came that Christmas. Killed us to the ground, and we didn't have any tree insurance. So we were just--square one. That was real hard, but we just kept plugging, we just kept plugging, and then we started our own. We thought well, we'll just grow our own trees and in the meantime I would--started taking courses at Texas A&I on how to take care of, how to produce citrus 'cause I figured I didn't have to rely on other people all the time. Ken was busy doing consulting work all around the world and he was--my lord he's worked in, I don't know how many different countries. Three month project here and a month project there, four month project. But that kept us going. It supplemented--because this farm took a lot of money in and there was nothing coming out of it for a long while. So I decided, well what's the big magic about growing trees, let's learn how you know. You talk about stubborn women, there's nothing worse than a stubborn woman, you know. (laughs) But anyway in the meantime I started taking courses down there to learn about nutrition how do you, how do you take care of an orchard. You learn about diseases, and bugs, and all that kind of stuff. Some of it was continuing education and some of it was for credit through Texas A&I, in Kingsville. Ok so but that was that. Now it's all Texas A&M but at that time A&I was here on the west, on this side of the expressway and A&M was that way towards Weslaco you know. Because I know my directions but you know the highway goes like this and sometimes you get, you think you're facing north when you're facing east. You know I used to--when I was a kid, I used to wonder why farmers always talked about going north and east. I said, "What's north and east? You go a block this way," 'cause you lived in town. Now living out in the country, I knew right away, learned real quick, why they talked that, it's the just only way to figure out where you're going. You know it's the north forty (laughs) or the--you've all heard this in the old westerns, you know, "He's on the north forty, he's on the south forty, you know, whatever." But anyhow so we started to grow our own nursery, and that's when that, that thing--I had already started, well actually where this house sits, this was all a citrus nursery. When that freeze came, and there was a big search 'cause none of the nurseries had them--Nurseries were pretty well wiped out too, because it

was all field nurseries at the time, but I knew about greenhouse nurseries 'cause I had seen that one there at A&I and I had learned quite a bit about that so we decided--well, there's got to be a safer way to grow nursery stock than out in the field at the mercy of nature. Because in the greenhouse you could cover it, you could protect it, you can heat it, you can--but you have to grow it in a different way, you can't grow it in the ground and people here were very stubborn about--they wanted field grown trees, and we started growing container grown trees. We'd built a big ole flat house, it's all fallen down by now, a flat house. And we grew container--in containers like this, and about this tall [indicates with her hands shoulder width and knee height] and we grew a lot of real, real pretty trees. We contracted--a lot of the growers contracted with us to grow citrus trees for them. But then we also expanded into field nurseries because that was--a lot of people wanted field grown trees, so we did that too. Anyhow, we did that for quite a few years. Then we replanted, replanted ourselves, and then in the meantime we pushed out another 40 acres that we had out there. Retama Acres, that 40, we replanted that. We sold that other, other property, it was Citrus Property 25, 28, we sold that off 'cause 120 acres was a little much for us to buy it all you know. So that's how that went on and then, my husband being the economist in the family, we had to vertically integrate, you know, okay we're growing our own trees, we're growing our own fruit. To try to sell the fruit is a rip-off because the sheds, they, they take the fruit from you, and there's no price established. Now there was one buyer, one buyer, name of buyer Donna Fruit, used to be a cash buyer, they would look at your orchard and give you an estimate of--they got an estimate of how much fruit there was on there and they'd give you a cash price, and then they would come and get it all and you'd get paid, you get paid so you knew what you sold your fruit for, but the other sheds, no. They wanted it, basically on consignment, they bought your fruit and then whatever--they charge you to harvest it, and to process it through the shed, they'd charge you for the boxes, everything. And then they'd even charge you a commission on selling it. So when the prices were down, we--by this time we weren't selling to the sheds anymore, some people got bills at the end of the year instead of a check for their fruit, they got a bill for like 30-40 thousand dollars.

Tomas: Wow

Irene: And that's when a lot of these small farms, they just got out of the business. And by that time the Valley was growing a bit, so anybody that was close to a highway, they sold their property for residential or commercial purposes, so the acreage in the Valley really shrunk. When we came here there was about, I think about 130 or 140 thousand acres of citrus, and now-- Well, when we quit the business, I don't think--they were down to about 22 thousand acres of citrus, that's all and so things really changed, things really changed. So while, while we're caught in this middle we decide well, we'll just sell our own fruit, you know we grew our own trees, we can harvest them, we can take care of all of this stuff, and Tom learned all about how to spray and we bought a big sprayer we were killing the bugs, boy those chemicals are awful expensive, oh my gosh. Cost us three thousand dollars just to spray forty acres.

Mariana: Huh!

Irene: That was just for the material itself! That's a lot of bags of oranges. So anyhow, we decided we'd package and sell our own fruit, so we did. And the one boy that was living in Houston at the time was kind of our go-between, between here and Houston. We would ship--send the stuff, we'd pack it up here, send it to Houston and then he'd work there in central market, you know trying to sell it that way. And then we were just selling it direct out of here. And then we had to--our first little thing was a real, really simple little Mickey Mouse deal, but anyhow we packed it--but we worked our butts off, oh Lord, we worked so hard. And had to find a trucker you know. And another thing too, you know,

you had to pass inspection to leave the Valley. Well the big sheds, they'd get--USDA or Texas Department of Agriculture assigns an inspector to each shed so they can overlook the whole process and then they'd sign it. It needs, it needs the grade, because everything had to be packed in a particular way depending on the numbers of fruit. It all has a pattern you know, and it has the regulations about--it's a marketing order, and that was established so that the farmers wouldn't get ripped off on--by the buyers. So, but then it turned out to be actually almost a nightmare for us because we'd, we'd pack our fruit and, and then I used to have to go down here, down to Healds Valley Farms to find an inspector. Everything has to be inspected. It was a big shed down here. Now it's Paramount. A California company bought just about all the sheds in town, so there's just Paramount from California, They were growing a lot of citrus in Mexico too. But anyhow when we get our orders we can't go ahead and inspect it because you don't know where it's gonna go. So you'd wait, and we'd be packing it, and I'd be trying to get it sold and when we'd know where it was going and how many pallets, or how many we'd had, I'd go down there to Heald's and talk to the inspector that was assigned there, and then he'd come down here and inspect us and give up a certificate for each order so you can imagine what a hassle that was. But anyhow, you know all businesses are just getting huge. There's always talk about starting your own business. Well that sounds wonderful, you can have a real mom and pop operation, but a real mom and pop operation--you know, let's, let's look at all new restaurants. Just about every place people go are national chains, there's the Olive Garden, there's Red Lobster, there's all of these different restaurants, and everything, everything is a franchise. They go national, they go international, you know, it started out with--Mr. McDonald started as a hamburger place and then here, Whataburger started in Texas, and then you got Burger King, and you got Jack in the Box, and I don't know what all. But everything gets bigger, and bigger, because they say if you're not growing you're going backwards. And so what was happening with us, we were trying to sell to the--we had separate grocery stores that we'd sell to, they'd buy three or four pallets of this or that once a week. But then, the pressure was on for the big distributors. Well, you're gonna--if you want to buy oranges from us, or lettuce, you have to buy oranges from us too, you know what I mean? They try to get you to buy everything from them. So the big distributor, he wants a whole truck load of grapefruit one size, 36's. Well, on our farm, we could pack a truck a day with our simple little line and everything. You know, we could pack, you know twenty-two pallets of fruit and that's--I don't know fifty-six boxes to a pallet, I don't know, I forgot that. But we couldn't get all one size because you can't go through it--even though they're trying to pick--because you get small ones and you can't sell the small ones. So it got ridiculous. It got just ridiculous because, they wanted--or they'd take even two or three truck loads, oh but they'd want a whole truck load one size, because it goes to their distributing center. And then they'd say, "Okay this is going to Joe's grocery and this is going over to, you know, Jose's, and this is going to H-E-B." And H-E-B was a terrible buyer. They--they, for us here, they would only buy locally.

Janette: Uh-huh.

Irene: And their truck would show up--now maybe it's gotten better, but we've been out of business for almost twenty years, not twenty years, ten years anyhow. And they would come by, and they'd have some watermelons and they'd have cantaloupe and they'd have cucumbers and they'd have cabbage and carrots, and they'd--but they wanted to load the citrus the way they were going to deliver it, so we'd end up off-loading their truck, because that was gonna be--

Janette: Oh no.

Irene: And they'd never tell you the price, they'd just order two pallets of this, three pallets of that. And then they would just set their own price. So you sent them an invoice, but they'd just pay you what they wanted to, what they wanted to. So we sold a couple time to the H-E-B in the Valley and then no, forget it and then because, but the only good thing was when I--when you sell in the Valley you don't have to go through the certification, see, which was good because I didn't have to go chasing around. But anyhow it got so ridiculous that the guy who's buying your fruit is sitting in some tenth floor apartment, office in Kansas city. I can't think of it, but there were a lot of these big distributors and they bought in huge volumes because it goes to their warehouses and then they distribute it within their district. And it just got so silly, that, that we just said forget it, we better just quit. We didn't mind working, but we did mind working and, and just not making really any money. And we were getting on in age, and no let's just quit, and we did. And that's when Tom went back to school, got his masters. And I was glad because he was trying to help us full time to try to make this farm work, and it just wasn't in the works, it just wasn't. We weren't big enough, and you see even now, like Heald's Valley, I think he said between 2,500 to 3,000 acres of Ken Martin and warehouse farms had about that much or maybe more. They had control over it, they maybe didn't own all of it, but they had growers that own twenty acres, ten acre strips within it. But they then divvy it up. But they had control over that much fruit, so yes they could then go out and clean out a field, and they had enough fields, that yes they could sell a truck load or two truckloads of this size, that size. So it just, we couldn't, we couldn't handle that, it was just too much so we just quit. So there (laughs), take that you clowns!

Janette: How do they, how do you determine what is a 36?

Irene: Oh, it's 36 grapefruit to a box.

Janette: Ok, oh.

Irene: You see, so the bigger the number the smaller the fruit. And I liked--cause I stood in line and packed there too. I liked packing the 36 to 32s because, you know it was apparent, you know, three-two-three, three-two-three and it went up four different layers and it came out just right, but when you are packing oranges, oh my god, two hundred and twenty

Mariana: Oh!

Irene: Two hundred and forty, oh my gosh. And another thing that would happen to us 'cause we never had--we usually had mixed load, mixed load of stuff going up to Houston or wherever. We sold a bunch to Louisiana too, they'd come and get us late. And I remember one time, they finally came and picked--because we got it packed and stamped there, and of course Tom was living across the street in the trailer at the time, and everyone had gone home, and the truck was supposed to be here you know, but it didn't come. Shows up and nine thirty, ten o'clock, so Tom would get up, we'd load up the truck, write them their bill of lading, and off they'd go. And then two hours later it comes back, they checked it by the highway, and it was over loaded, because towards the end of the season oranges weigh more than grapefruits. Well, you see the thing is, the bigger the fruit the bigger the holes in between the fruit when you pack them, so a box of like two hundred, two hundred and twenty oranges weighs a lot more than a box of thirty-six grapefruit. And they could only carry so much, and they'd have to come back and they'd have to dump two pallets off, the end of the truck, usually we were loaded last, they'd just take that off, so the guy would have to come back, honk his diesel truck, "honk, honk, honk," and poor Thomas we would get up. That's why Thomas is a popular name because my son and my grandson are Thomas' (laughs) and so here you've got these two pallets. So you'd have to call the buyer, you can't call at eleven o'clock at night, there is nobody in the sales office. You call them in

the morning, and tell 'em they dumped two pallets, we can't get it there till tomorrow. Well they swear--the produce people talk to you terrible, they swear at you something fierce, because they were expecting that fruit to be there in Houston in the morning, and of course it's not there. And they'd promise to deliver, it was coming from their--you know, two guys to this grocery store, five boxes to that grocery store. So I remember one time, I had a whole lot of stuff going, up to Toronto, Canada. It was a Chinese woman, she talked way funny (laughs) and she said they're gonna send their truck. Because usually, either we find a truck and load it, and go, and she said, "No we have a truck in the Valley, they'll go pick it up." They never came. It was the end of the year, that was about the last of the oranges that came. They didn't have a whole lot more shelf life left over, and the truck didn't come--and never heard from him. We thought maybe it will come in the middle of the night, maybe it'll come in the morning--didn't come. So I called that woman in the morning and told her, "Your truck didn't show." "Well put it on the next truck tonight." I said, "Ma'am that fruit--" well, 'cause it's a two-day trip to Toronto. And sometimes those truckers, they don't run the refrigeration, and this, when it does get there, it's all going to be juice. So I said--people came by that morning by the shed, we just sold it. Boy did she let the fur fly (lets out her breath), burned my ear big time. Oh, I thought, oh my gosh, never again. That was about our end of our year, we weren't going to fool with that anymore. It was not a pretty picture.

Okay so when did we buy--why--we've done all that [looking at list of questions]. Tell us about farming the land, what was growing on the land when you first got it? It was orchard. What were the best crops, worst crops of the land? Well I guess you can grow anything here. Growing isn't the problem. Selling it is the problem. [Ken and Lupita pass by the room] So it's, it's selling, you can grow--down here you can grow almost anything. You really can, but if you notice now you don't see the vegetables, [talking to Mariana and Tom], you're too young to notice, but in the last twenty years I imagine, [talking to Janette], how long, are you from the Valley here?

Janette: I moved here about, when, about 93, I moved here--

Irene: Yeah about by that time, the pro--but you'd have fields, like you had three or four hundred acres of lettuce. (clears throat) Now they still they grow some cabbage and carrots here, but precious little--now there's JD farms, they evidently own a series--it's an association, they own a lot of grocery stores, so basically they grow stuff for their own stores. So they are vertically integrated. They are not growing this stuff and then looking like, "Where are we going to sell this cabbage." you know, so they grow very special, they buy stuff, they are growing stuff that is hard to identify, they grow all kinds of peppers, they'll grow a lot of spices, they'll grow dill, they'll grow beets, beets there is a thin market for that, mainly it is an eastern European market. We use a lot of beets, but I'm from Eastern Europe, right, right, but I don't imagine you all eat a lot of beets, oh no. [students shake their heads 'no']. Pickled beets are nice, pickled beets are--like instead of pickles, we use a lot of beets. You can buy them at the store, in a little jar, you can use the whole ones, usually it's the small ones, or you make borscht, it's a beet soup--but it's again, it's a Eastern European market basically. So, but they grow--at one time, I understand that at one time they grew a lot of strawberries here in the Valley too. (clears throat) But by the time we got here they weren't growing strawberries anymore, but a lot of broccoli, and cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, onions. Onions is still a big crop here, but it's very seasonal. Very seasonal, because you only sell year, when you can't buy, because the freight differential is so big, you know, you are gonna buy, like lettuce or carrots for instance, you aren't gonna come all the way, pay freight all the way to south Texas when you can grow

them outside Kansas City you know, or even in Michigan there are truck farmers they grow all the vegetables. So that's that's another reason why they--its gone downhill here. But they--also farmers have moved. And again, it's the big, the big companies moved to Mexico. They're growing their farms down there, but the little guy that's got 50 to 100 acres, he can't move to Mexico, it just doesn't work that way, and tomatoes once in a while you'll still see a field of tomatoes, not that much, not that much, and I've seen many fields of tomatoes get plowed under, because they--you know, they're ripe and they got to go. When you pick them, when they are already red, they are going to be juice by the time they get where they are going.

Tomas: Uh huh.

Irene: It's very difficult

Mariana: Yeah

Irene: Farming, farming is a very time--timely thing, and you have to do it when you can--that's it. Doesn't make any difference if it's Super Bowl Sunday, you know.

[Mariana sneezes. 43:51 to 44:16 conversation diverges off-topic to health and things in the air]

Irene: Okay tell us about the best and the worst crops [reading question from paper]. We tried to grow cucumbers one time, and again we were small and we harvested this stuff and it took--we took them down to a packing shed down in Pharr, and we had, we had a lot of different--we only had one bag of the great big size, and no buyer--they didn't want to buy just one bag. They wanted, you know, a bunch. So we took our smaller ones, the mixed bags, and took that one off, but that one, the nicest one, we only had one bag of--so we went down - we'll just sell them to--there used to be a lot of fruit stands along Highway 281, they're all gone--so we thought we'd stop by and sell the cucumbers that way. And you know, most of the buyers wouldn't buy it. They wouldn't buy it. At any price. And there was one guy that came, a winter Texan family going back, back to up north, and the man said to his wife, "Look at these beautiful cucumbers." And she said, "What are we gonna do with a whole bag of them?" He said, "We'll just take them back home and pass them out to the whole neighborhood." So we sold a great big bag like that for I think two dollars.

Janette and Tomas: Wow.

Irene: So I think--boy, me and Tom went to the store, bought a six pack of beer and came home. There went the cucumber crop. (laughs) It was terrible, it was just terrible, and that's when we decided, no, no--we were still waiting for the trees to be ready, big enough to plant out in the field, yeah you know.

Mariana: Two dollars.

Irene: Yeah it was terrible. You literally couldn't give it away, and that's why--those peddlers along the highways--they just come and steal your fruit, or vegetables whatever you've got. And even now back here--when we were planting this orchard at that time we used to--since we were a nursery we needed budwood. I don't know if that means anything to you. To grow citrus trees you don't grow them from seed. You grow them--you grow a rootstock first, and then you--everybody probably knows the word 'grafting.' You insert the variety--but with citrus it's budding. It's a little bitty--you know, you got your twig, and you got your leaves, and right by the leaf there - there's a little fat spot. That's the makings of a whole new tree. You cut that off, you take the little bitty sliver, and then you take--[uses her finger to imitate a twig] suppose this is the tree. You cut it, and put an X in it and then you slip that in there, not right up - up side right, and you tie it up with plastic, and

you wait ten days to two weeks, and then you open it. If it's not black, it's green, bing, here comes a new little shoot.

Janette: Wow.

Irene: And why do you do that? Well, because the varieties that you want, won't grow out of seed here. I mean they'll grow, but they're not going to produce. So what you're budding, you're budding mature wood. So then, you see, the whole orchard is consistent. And you get it, you get your budwood from healthy producing trees and then it's kind of like--what are they, when they did the baby sheep? They got her in a test tube, you know, it's it's?

Janette: Cloning.

Irene: Cloning, it's not really cloning. You take a little piece of a mature tree and you insert it in the rootstock that will handle the soil here. Cause we have pretty salty soil here compared to where citrus grows, and there are diseases in the ground that will kill the other varieties. So by doing this--and the orchard, the trees that you have in the nursery, they're all going to produce that one kind of fruit, depending on what you put on there. So I needed a good source of budwood, 'cause I used to have to call this farmer and could we come get some orange budwood, or grapefruit or whatever. So, well, we decided to just plant our own varieties back here. So we had kind of a mixed bag back in here, there were several different varieties of tangerines and tangelos and meyer lemons and all variety of stuff. Because I didn't mean that for commercial production of fruit, I planted that for budwood stock. Well, about that time, the university, Ed and I got--the growers, and everybody all decided they needed a budwood certification program. Which is nice, because then you know that your stock, the trees that you are planting are going to be healthy and that it's certified, you know exactly where that tree came from. But then you had to get your budwood from the university station you see. So, so much for having a variety of budwood out there. And really the only thing they were really interested in producing were the commercial varieties. The Rio Red, Mars Oranges, Valencia Oranges and also the N33 Navel. They weren't interested in tangerines, tangelos to begin with. We had a hard time selling the tangelos off those trees because the sheds said, "You can't process, the tangelos are all gonna mush up in the rollers." But they're giving you a crock because we processed them in our shed and we had a standard sizer and washing machine like everybody else, but smaller. And we processed tangerines and tangelos. And even that, then, is a pain in the neck now. Because it is a variety of stuff, one rule for this, one rule for that, and half a rule this. And people just come in there and help themselves. We hardly ever get to sell any of the tangerines or tangelos and meyer lemons because people started stealing them back in August.

Tomas: Wow.

Irene: I can't be out there standing out in the field checking. And if they come on by, I'd tell them, "Ok, so much for a bushel, five dollars a bushel." Let's say they buy two bushels. Well ok, I'd tell them, "Show me how much you picked." Sure, they'd pick two bushels, it's like two buckets. They'd come by and show you, and then they'd pay you the ten dollars and then go back and get a whole lot more. One time, I went back there and they had packed a whole pick-up load, a whole flat.

Mariana and Tomas: Oh! Wow!

Irene: A lot of people are very dishonest. That, that has come to a real shock to me, because I thought that everybody was going to do it right, you know like Dudley Do-Right (laughs). She knows that [looking at Janette]--that's a cartoon. These kids, it's before their

time [looking at Mariana and Tom] Yeah Bullwinkle, and Natasha. (Irene and Janette laughing) All those cartoon characters, never mind. We had our chuckle.

Mariana: We're just here, like, hmm?

Irene: That's right, Boris Badenov (laughter). So, so that's our story on the citrus, but you know it turned out ok, because you know times change. We live in a very dynamic world. Nothing is static. So things, you better get ready for change. And sometimes it's for the worst, but for us it turned out okay, because the price of land went up and it really supplemented our retirement, so that, that was a good thing.

Tomas: So you told us a little about some people, how it was kind of hard, how you couldn't really trust everybody, right? So what about the--I know you said you did a lot of work yourself on the farm itself, right? You did a lot of work in the packing house, you and your boys?

Irene: Yeah, yeah

Tomas: Did you all hire--

Irene: Oh yeah, we had to hire extra people, --because two people can't run all that, so yeah we used to hire people. We did, we did.

Tomas: Oh, and how was working with them, was that ok, was it--

Irene: Yes and no, some people were good, some people were productive and other people were just lazy. Especially Monday. Monday you could always tell the drunks. They never showed up on Monday, they're so hungover Monday morning (laughs), and that evidently, I've found out since then that that's pervasive in the area. Monday morning you know--they couldn't make it, they're sick, the kids are sick, they had to take them to the doctor, there's always some sort--they show up the next day--they just don't make it Monday. But no, it's a mixed bag. We had some that were very good, very faithful, very loyal, and they would come every day. The lady that is working here now [referring to Lupita], she started off working with her husband in the field nursery. Then she decided she needed something that was not seasonal work, because during budding time we had to hire a lot of people and then during harvest, digging the trees, but then for the rest of the year it wasn't so--so then she trained for an LVN. And for twenty years she's been doing that, and lo and behold when I ran into a problem with the lady I had before, things weren't working out, she just happened to call me up out of the blue, and she was looking for work again. And I said, "Oh come on down." And she's just a sweetheart, Lupita is just wonderful! And she's well trained and very conscientious. She's good, so I'm thrilled. Good for her, because she needed to get back to work, she's raising a couple of granddaughters. But no, never mind, I happen to know all of those stories, you just get involved, you can't help it, you know. But it's like anything else, you get some really good workers, and then you get some that don't really care.

Janette: Did you hire mostly local?

Irene: Oh yeah, all local, all local. You know we started off paying them minimum wage and I can't remember what that was, three something, or four something, twenty-five or thirty years ago. But then, especially the ones that were good, that worked hard, they got raises, they did not all work on minimum wage.

Tomas: Ok

Irene: It's just, you know, it's by productivity. So we had a skeleton crew that was really good, they were very good. Well they had to be, or else I wouldn't keep them. They knew what they were doing

Janette: The ones that showed up on Monday.

Irene: That's right, they showed up on Monday. It doesn't make any difference, they came every day.

Tomas: Did you have, like, any families that worked for you together, like brothers, or--

Irene: Well, there was, Manuel, her [Lupita's] ex-husband. He worked, and his, well--they're separated now, but he and his wife worked, and then later on when his kids grew up, well Raul worked, and then--see, they were a family of citrus people. So, Manuel's brother had a nursery. Garcia's Nursery, over here in Edinburg. But they never worked for us, but his kids worked for us, his two daughters and sons. They knew how to bud, because they used to bud for their dad. So during budding season, they would come over here, they could do a thousand trees in a day. And then couldn't walk for the next two days. Especially if you're doing field work, cause you have to stand up, bend over, you know, down at your ankles, bud that tree, tie it up, take one step, up you go, get the next piece of budwood. What they'd do, get a bunch of wood, get a whole mouthful of those buds in their mouth, so they wouldn't have to do--get the stick, and cut it back, one would have to--and they've got a really sharp knife. And so, they would--one would go ahead and cut it, and bud it, and the other would tie the plastic, so they didn't have to--'cause they had a whole roll of plastic with them, and a bag with the budwood, and with a sharp knife. So they would kind of divide it up, one would take turns, one would bud, and the other would tie, or vice-a-versa, yeah. So yes, there were like two families. Then there was another family who worked for us, the Colungas. They were just as good as gold, and their boys worked, but the girls didn't, bless their hearts. They put their kids through college, and now they're school teachers, two of them are school teachers, I don't know what all. The other boy went off, he was interested in computers, a real good thing to be interested in, so he's working in technology someplace. So I guess it was like, almost like three families. Two of them were inter-related, and the one family was separate, but real good people, good people, friendly, always do whatever they needed to do, and a good attitude. Then you'd get some that you had to hire for extra help.

Tomas: Ok, so, just to backtrack a little bit. Are you aware, by any chance on the farm, are you aware of any oil, gas, or minerals?

Irene: No, we don't have any. When we bought the land, we didn't--I think we get 64th out of 120. The Bentsen's own all the--they kept the mineral rights.

Tomas: Oh, okay.

Recorder stopped. The remaining portion was recorded in a separate recording. Some of the in-between conversation was not recorded.

Irene: Yeah, that's a little table that I bought when I lived in Pakistan.

Mariana: Do you have anything that you bought back, like that you had for, like--

Irene: Oh yeah, we would accumulate stuff from all over the place. Well, you know, you're so taken when you're first coming to a place, it's all so different. And another thing that happens to you, your household effects don't catch up with you, all you're doing is living out of a suitcase. You've got this big empty house, you go to market, you see this carving, you see that, so you think, Oh, I'll buy that, 'cause you've got a place to put it.

Mariana: And at the end of the day--

Irene: Well it accumulates over the years, and you say, oh my gosh.

Mariana: You should see our garage

Irene: Oh yeah, yeah

Mariana: We don't even park our cars in the garage anymore

Irene: Oh yeah, I know, it's all full of stuff, yeah. (equipment beeps) Oh, you've got your iPad here.

Janette: Yeah, I finally--there's a---on the side--right by the, right by the power button, there's a button that says hold, so--

Tomas: We had that pressed

Janette: Yeah, so it was a like, I don't know, I guess like a master pause button or something. So, alright, I think we're back in business.

[garbled, multiple people speaking]

Irene: Well I used to even be able to fix wiring in my plugs and stuff, but then as the boys grew up, they wanted to do it. And Tom in particular, "Let me do it, let me do it." And so, I let them do it, 'cause it was a nice--that was okay, "So you want to rewire the iron?" That's fine, go ahead and do that. And then we'd really go over to Pakistan and Africa too, you needed to have something from home with you, so the music was really important, 'cause the local stuff, you know, how would you like to hear that local (imitates sounds) you know (laughter) so we invested heavily into sound systems, and the boys just took over 'cause we had the amplifiers, and the--we had four speakers, and they said, oh no, they bought more amplifiers, well, we had the house wired, we had so we could have music in every room, 'cause you needed to have something from home with you. People would say, did you really get into all this stuff? Not really, because there's a lot of cultural shock going on, even though you're very philosophical about it, um, you want someplace that kind of reminds you who you are, where you're from. You know, I remember that last time we were packing up, we were going to be moved from one house to another house. And so I thought, oh my God, how am I going to put this system together, you know with the receiver and the amplifier, and we had a tape deck, and we had a turntable, so Tom, well he un- he took it apart, and he color-coded all of the little wires, and he put a code on, where this purple one plugs into this purple thing. So when we came back there were all of these boxes in the house, so I managed to put it together. When he came at Christmas, no he didn't come to Christmas that year, he came in the summer time. I didn't have it right, but I had it working. But that was really, that's really scary, because you get left behind. Don't ever let somebody else do something that you may have to do by yourself. Learn how to do it, you've got to do it, you've got to do it Mariana. Or else, you will really be struggling, you know. Okay, where are we on that thing?

Tomas: Let's see here

Irene: Okay, have you found arrowheads or other prehistoric artifacts? Yes, we've found arti- arrowheads. Oh wait a minute, where are we going--what number are you on?

Tomas: Well, what- I know- um, I was going to ask you, okay we talked a little about the house here, I asked you when it was built, things like that, um, were there any other- I know you said something, you had a shed- a what was it?

Janette: Packing shed?

Tomas: The packing shed

Irene: Oh yeah, we had a packing shed, it's standing over there, it's on lot 14

Tomas: Oh, ok, so that's still there

Irene: Yes, but we've sold all the equipment out of it.

Tomas: Oh, ok, what about other buildings?

Irene: There were no buildings on the place, it was just 40 acres of orchard

Tomas: All orchards, ok

Irene: That's correct, no other buildings, no. Then we pushed that out of the way, it was just a piece of land--she's trying to show you something [Janette hands Tomas a printout of an aerial photograph] What you've got there?

Tomas: So, this is a picture of the lot here, right, the um, your land here, and this is your house of course, right?

Irene: Yeah, yeah,

Tomas: And then the--so the packing shed, was--

Irene: Was over here, see, this was taken before the--wait a minute, no wait, that's the packing shed

Tomas: Oh, that's the packing shed?

Irene: That's the packing shed. We're over here, further over [pointing south on the aerial photograph], that's because this is lot 14, This is orchard, and this is the packing shed, this is the packing shed, we're over here. See, because this was a 40 acre block 11, 12, 13, and 14, and we only own lot 13 now, so this must be, this is the yard over here. And see, this is orchard right here behind the house. And that was, we had a citrus nursery, but now it's just overgrown

Tomas: That's where the nursery was at right there?

Irene: Yeah, we had a nursery there at one time, yeah. Yeah right, that's right, ok, there you go [hands the aerial photograph back]

Tomas: Um, so let's see

Irene: Ok, where are we? Oh yes, I see, do we have any pets or dogs? No, I don't have any. And we don't have any livestock, no, we don't. Do you have a home garden? No, I don't. I had a--first year we were here, I had a little home garden, but I don't have a garden now, I just can't do it anymore, and I've tried growing tomatoes, it's just--I know tomatoes are expensive, but it's almost cheaper to buy them than to try to grow them, you can't grow that stuff here in the summertime, it just cooks, it just doesn't do very well at all. What kinds of plants do you have? What wild trees and plants grow on your land? Oh boy, do you want a list of all the plants that grow here? (laughter)

Mariana: You'll be here, all day, talking

Irene: Well, there's a bunch of stuff

Janette: Maybe, maybe what are some of the major ones?

Irene: There are palm trees, palm trees, there's the Washingtonia, and the Mediterranean Fan Cocos Plumosa, Frangipani, that's a tropical plant, that's that bush out there, that has real pretty white flowers, that's what the wives used to thread their leaves, but, okay, and there's the Jacaranda, and a Royal Poinciana out front, and a Live Oak, a lot of ash trees, what else is there around here? Oh, yeah, native here is Texas Mountain Laurel, and, I'm trying to think, what else do I have here? Washingtonia, Mediterranean, Fiddlewood, Hibiscus, Bougainvillea, that's, oh I'm trying to think of, oh, there's a Chinese Fan, and there's a Sabal Texana, there's a lot of local native palm trees here, and that's about it on plants, and then hibiscus and bougainvilleas, and stuff like that, just regular garden plants, flower gardens, I've given up on veggies.

Tomas: Ok, so I'm going to backtrack a little, I know we had talked a little bit about some of the people you had hired, were they usually year round employees, or they were some seasonal, correct?

Irene: Some were year-round, some were seasonal, some of each, yeah.

Tomas: And was there, were there different job duties, or was it all--

Irene: There were different job duties, especially through the budding time, there were different--the jobs would change as the trees went through the different stages.

Tomas: Ok, which you said the workers were paid minimum wage, and um, also, the wages ended up changing over time

Irene: Oh yes, oh yeah, oh yeah

Tomas: Um, how many, let's say how many employees would you have during your peak season, what's the most employees you had?

Irene: Peak season? Maybe twenty.

Tomas: Twenty? Ok

Irene: Well, for instance, when we were transplanting from the seedlings, because we propagated our own seeds, so you took those trays, and you planted them into bags, so we would take--you had to fill the bags with that soilless medium, and then they had to be watered down, and then you had to take them--they had to be planted, and then they had to be watered down, so it was a--you had a lot of workers, but only for a few days there.

Tomas: Oh okay

Irene: Because it was already to go, like today, but you can't do it all today, so you just get more people, and you go--

Tomas: So you said most were local. Did you have migrants working as well here?

Irene: I suspect we had migrants, I suspect, I didn't ask. In those days, nobody was curious. Nowadays, it's a big thing, but it wasn't then. No, many of those people who worked here, lived here, I could tell you where Joe and Manuel Garcia--they lived right over here, they were locals

Tomas: Have you ever seen any--here on the land--any wild animals?

Irene: Oh yeah, we have, we have possum, raccoon, rabbits. Then there's all sorts of wild birds, we've got cardinals, and the green jays, and chachalacas here.

Mariana: I don't know what a chachalaca is.

Irene: It looks like a, it almost looks like a big chicken.

Mariana: I'm googling [gets phone]

Irene: Yeah, get a picture of the chachalaca. This is about as far north as they come. They're here at the birding centers, I've seen, the first ones I saw were off there, off of Business 83, no off 10th Street, you know there's that house over there, casa--

Janette: Oh, Quinta Mazatlan.

Irene, Yes, Quinta Mazatlan. Right, they've got some chachalacas there, yeah, but there are a lot, I've got the green jay, I've got the kiskadee too, green jay's a beautiful bird, and I've got feeders, and of course hummingbirds too, and sparrows. You know sparrows are called an exotic bird, I don't think of sparrows as exotic, they're called exotic because they were not native to North America. They came over on the boats and the freighters, because they would be hauling grain, and I guess they would get on there in France and in England, and would just come across. Sparrow is not a native bird here. That was a big surprise to me, called exotic, I said, What's so exotic about a sparrow? Little brown, funny looking bird, you know they're everywhere. They just thrive all over Canada and I guess the U.S., and they're probably in Mexico too. They're everywhere, yeah.

Tomas: What were the birds ever, and the animals, the rabbits, were there any pests? Were they ever a bother on the land or anything, would they ever damage any of the--

Irene: Well, not real- now, rabbits, rabbits would chew the new little sprigs off the nursery buds. Yeah, they'd go through.

Mariana: I've never seen one

Irene: Chachalaca, it's very phonetic. Ok, next question.

Tomas: Ok--

[Mariana shows picture of chachalaca on the phone to Irene]

Irene: Yeah, that's the bird, that's the bird. They're big, they kind of look like a scrawny chicken, they've got long legs, and they've got this big long tail. You know, just before you came in, one was sitting on this windowsill. In a way, I really hate them because

they make big doo doo. They kind of like to come and sit on the windowsills, drop their goodies, you know. But Lupita is real good, she hoses them down every day, get rid of that stuff. Okay.

Mariana: I guess a question I'm interested in is, as you were moving around, did you guys have any pets or anything?

Irene: Yes, we had two dogs in Ethiopia, we did. Just local dogs we got, we just left them with folks when we left.

Tomas: Anything else that you think we need to--that we missed?

Irene: Changes over time, well, possibly the raccoons, well, I hate them, possums just look like overgrown rats,

Tomas: They are ugly, they're ugly animals

Irene: Oh, I just don't care for them at all, raccoons, like when they come in that slider, you know with their little hands, yeah, I don't like them.

Tomas: Were you going to say something?

Janette: What were your impressions of the Valley when you first moved here?

Irene: Well, you know, my impressions weren't as drastic as for some people, because we'd just come off living in Africa, and Asia, and the Philippines, so I was used to seeing pretty tough places, but I thought that this had a long way to go in development. Yeah, I really did, and at that time, with the flooding in downtown McAllen, I mean Edinburg there was a lot of flooding across from the courthouse, you know the courthouse and the parking lot, there used to be a Penny's there on the corner, now it's all law firms, it was all flooded, everything was flooded, I just thought it was, I thought it looked pretty sad. But we had high hopes that, you know, things would get better, and boy, have they. The Valley has just been really growing, just like everywhere else, you know, but they really, the economy has picked up a lot here. And I think the University had a lot to do with it here, but there's a lot of stuff that's happened. Look at all the hospitals we have now. There used to be that little one there, on Freddy Gonzalez, that's been totally demolished. And then, you've just got a lot of industry. I think the maquiladora program has helped, because a lot of the folks that work as managers over there, live here, they live here, their children go to school here, and then with the medical profession, the medical field, it has grown by leaps and bounds here, and I can't account for that, but I think in a way, it's because the winter Texans come down here, because they, they--and another thing, there's a lot of the foreign medical--there's a tremendous amount of Indians and Pakistani, they like it here because the weather is nice. It's not cold, see, they like, Filipinos love it here because it's not cold, like they like southern California, but they like it here because the weather is much nicer. When it gets a 110, that's nothing, in Lahore, I remember in the summertime it got 116 and 120, I mean it was really, you couldn't touch the door handles, it was so hot.

Janette: And where was that?

Irene: Lahore, Pakistan, it was Pakistan, yeah, it gets really hot there in the summer time. Not as hot, I mean, it doesn't get as hot here as there, but yeah, but I've gotten used to it, but like I said, it wasn't--for a lot of people, the language is the shock, because everywhere they go, people are speaking Spanish, they're not used to that. Well, I lived in so many countries, so when I went to town, I didn't understand anything anybody was saying, you know. Except the shopkeepers, they would, they would speak English, 'cause in Monrovia, Liberia, there were about twenty-six different languages, because every little area had their own little, 'cause before communications got good, you didn't move ten miles from your little village. So they all had their own little dialects, and the thing is, Liberia is a strange country, because the people that were really in charge there now, were not natives. I

can't remember what year, but, when the black people got their freedom, they wanted to come back to Africa, and there was--I've forgotten the name. Monroe was president then, and so President Monroe--and he made it possible for a lot of folks to come back, that's one reason they call it Monrovia, 'cause it was through his assistance they called it Monrovia. They landed first along the Senegalese border, and they always got repelled by the local people, so they just kept moving down the bulge of Africa, they just kept moving down, and finally they got a foothold there in what is now Monrovia. The people there didn't beat them off so they just landed and stayed there, and when we lived there, they had this honor system. If you could claim that you were some of the original people that came from America, they were called the most honorables, and they were the ones that held all of the important positions, they were the most honorables. And they were some of the most pathetic people. They wouldn't pay any of their bills, they wouldn't pay power bills, and they would get on planes, and they would just charge it, and they never paid anything, 'cause they were most honorables. And then there were the honorables, which are a little further down, the social structure, but it's kind of strange how that came about, so that, the English there, that was the language, but not all of the people there in Liberia could speak it, if they came in from the village, they just spoke their little native language, so it was very strange. And in Pakistan they spoke Urdu, you couldn't understand that, and the thing is to try, I was starting to try to, I was in a little class, I wanted to learn something because I had to go to market you know, so I did learn my numbers, so when you go buy oranges, or carrots, or whatever. And the guy that was teaching us, he was a Pakistani. First off, he wanted us to give cigarettes. They didn't like their local cigarettes, everybody likes American stuff. So right there, I think there were four women, four of us, or maybe five, I can't remember. So right away, a couple of them dropped out, 'cause, because he would always be wanting something. And then, like the next week, he started asking for liquor, and so then everybody else dropped out, and they weren't going to hold the class for just one person, so fine, there it went. And the same thing in Ethiopia. Not--there, it's a--Amharic was the official language but not everybody spoke Amharic, Amharic was the language of the highlands. Ethiopia is a very strange place because there are the low lands which are close--lower like the Galla people, they speak one language up in the highlands they're Amharics. Very different. They could hardly understand each other. So that was--wasn't much sense--a lot of people just learned Italian because Italians colonized there for a long time. They moved in during the Second World War. The Italians took Ethiopia and so--when the war was over the Italians--Ethiopians ran them out. A lot of the Italians stayed because they were trades people they were the shoemakers and the mechanics and, you know, the grocers and so they stayed and they tended to intermix a little but more with the local people but the--I didn't learn the language because it was just--so where are you going to speak Ethiopian? (laughter) In--the same thing to learn Tagalog in the Philippines. I just didn't do that, I guess I should have 'cause we were there in the Philippines, and Ethiopia too, a long time. We got to where I learned a lot of the, especially in Ethiopia, I learned a lot of the little words, like I knew my numbers, but we didn't have to shop too much 'cause there was a commissary there. There was a big American, what they called MAAG, Military Assistance Advisory Group there. There was Army and the Air Force. They were training the Ethiopian Army and the Air Force there, teach them how to fly those jets and be a, have an army.

Mariana: Did you have, were you able to make friends like in the different countries?

Irene: Yeah we did, we did. Some, some, but they were very strange. A lot of those people, you would invite them to dinner to your house and they say yes, they're going to come and they won't show. See it's ruder, its very impolite to say no.

Mariana: Oh.

Irene: So you say yes, but that doesn't really mean anything. There was one guy that we worked, my husband worked very close with him. He had a Masters from McGill University, a real nice educated man. And a lot of times we would have groups over and so we would invite him and his wife for dinner and he would always say yes, he's coming. He never came. Four, five years we were there and he never showed up. He would come to the house just to visit but it never, it wasn't a planned thing. The same thing with some of the other ones; they would say yes, they'd come but they wouldn't come. And in Pakistan, it was very strange. You would invite them, the man would come but the wife wouldn't [Lupita and Irene exchange goodbyes] the man would come, but no, the wife wouldn't come. It's this, it's this Islamic thing. No they wouldn't come. They worried about the, well, they would always make excuses, one thing or another, but they would never come. So you'd invite two or three couples and only the men would come. But they, we were invited to their houses and it was very strange--there are two--you'd be invited for dinner, see in the families over there like in Pakistan, when the son marries, the wife comes into the son's home. They all live there. And the poor girl, she is the daughter-in-law, she gets to everything, she's the bottom of the totem pole. But anyhow, they'd have a table, there'd be lots of food. The first the men would go and fix their plates and they would eat and they're kind of standing up 'cause there was no place you're going to seat twenty people. Then, after the men got all through filling their plates, then the women were allowed to go and get some food. But it's very strange, the Muslim culture is, they make it like it's a culture of kindness and--not what I saw, not what I saw. So that to me was--and then the worst part about it is that every little neighborhood has its own mosque. And you know, they pray five times a day, and the imam or whoever, that the guy at the mosque had to call to prayer. Well with modern technology they all have loudspeakers so here at five o'clock in the morning (imitates loudspeakers) and they talk, oh my God, wake you up. We were on the wavelength for two of those mosques and I was in the house. Oh, they'd start that screaming. I didn't like that at all, that was a little rude to me. But they do that. It's like the preacher, they don't have a mosque with loud speakers out front calling everybody to prayer. I don't mind, they can have whatever type of religion you have but, you know, don't foist it on me, you know? But that was a big thing that I didn't really like about Pakistan. The cities are a very crowded city. Same thing with Manila. The cities are very crowded; they're just shoulder to shoulder. And when you're driving in Manila, oh my God, don't ever make eye contact with the next--you're going to land up being--getting into an old lane. So, but people were very friendly in the Philippines. People were very friendly, smiling faces, they're all happy. And the Indians are very happy people. The Pakistanis are kind of dour. They all just look so--but the Indians are all so smiley and laughing and the Indians are always having a good time. We visited a couple of times. We went up to Kashmir stayed in like a trailer, but it was a house boat. And that was nice, it was on a lake full of lotus blossoms and water lilies and all the trades people would come and try to sell you something. They had beautiful stuff. They do a lot of handiwork. That's one thing you see, you get a lot of handiwork. Women with their saris are beautiful, but they would come every day in Peshawar--and baggy pants. Oh yeah, the Pakistani man, oh, he gets turned on by an ankle. He sees an ankle, he'd go crazy, (everyone laughs) or the back of the neck. That's very sexy. So I had some outfits made with baggy pants and very loose kind of a--

nothing too revealing--couldn't show anything you know? I just found it--a lot of people thought it was obnoxious but I, I wouldn't go to town unless I wore local clothes. In Pakistan particularly because they just, well if you wear--and then the mini dresses were in style. Oh my God, they'd think you're a whore.

Janette: Oh!

Irene: Oh, absolutely you're a prostitute, you know, if you wore a short dress. So I got some long baggy pants made with some long tunics, and it was comfortable. I didn't care. I wasn't running for Miss America. (everyone laughs) But the language thing, that was a problem. So coming down here it wasn't that big of a surprise for me because I lived for years, you know, where I never understood the local language, unless it was people that we knew that they spoke English. Okay, next question. I get off on tangents, I'm sorry about that.

Tomas: No its, okay, they're good stories. Umm, okay so I know we talked a little bit about some of the weather events that you said, that when you all first moved here there was a freeze or something that kind of threw everything out?

Irene: A freeze?

Tomas: I think you said there was a freeze-

Irene: Oh yeah, in '83 that killed all the orchards.

Mariana: The frost.

Tomas: Yeah the frost

Irene: Oh yeah, terrible killing frost. It got down to 18 and stayed there for, I don't know, over 50 hours. Killed everything, killed all the citrus trees. Killed all the citrus trees. And a lot of the palm trees went down too. All except, for instance, the Mediterranean Fans didn't get hurt, or the Sabals, but the Cocus and the real pretty palm, they all went down. They go back up real fast. Just got to plant new ones in the ground and they come right up.

Tomas: Oh, okay. Any other weather events that you remember like that, are most memorable?

Irene: No.

Tomas: No?

Irene: No, well there was a snow here a few years back. I remember everybody got excited about it. I didn't get excited about it.

Mariana: I don't think I was here.

Irene: Beause I grew up in snow. Huh?

Mariana: I don't think I was here.

Janette: I think it was 2004.

Tomas: I believe so.

Irene: Was it in '04, I don't remember, but my son, Tom. His kids were all born here, so once during Christmas break there was, you know, big snow storms up north so he--the kids said, "Let's go." He said, "Let's pack up, let's go find snow." (laughter) So they went off--they went out towards New Mexico. They went to Ruidoso. They went tubing on the snow there but there wasn't a lot of snow so they went all the way to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. They said it was real huge because what you see there are these great big icicles--you'll get twenty foot icicles hanging off the eaves of the roof. That was exciting for the kids. And big, big pine trees, big forests. They had seen that, but the big thing--and so snow was kind of fun but like Michelle said, you know, "It's fun to play in but then it's wet and its cold." (laughing) So that one trip up to the north was to see snow. But that was, well I thought it was funny. "We went to go see snow," he said. (laughs) Because he grew up in, lived in Montana and Colorado and, you know, they sledded and in Colorado we skied and so, we did a lot of that kind of stuff. But here, there's not much like that.

You'd go to the beach, the beach is nice. Oh, I loved the beach, but I can't make it now, not possible.

Tomas: In the time you were here, were there any hurricanes or droughts?

Irene: Oh there was a hurricane in 1980. The first, that was the Hurricane Allen, that's the last big one we had. There had been some little ones but nothing that would really affected us at all, no. Some of the areas had more problems but we didn't have any up here, no.

Tomas: Droughts?

Irene: Well, but fortunately we're in the water district so we were able to--but the cost of water went up real high. Like if we first started to have to buy water to irrigate, it cost you, I don't know, four or six dollars an acre foot, that means you get water for an hour running at, I don't know how many gallons, hundreds of thousand gallons per hour. But I don't know what it is now, but when we stopped working--I think it was up to sixteen, seventeen dollars an acre. So the cost of production really ran high. And then they got it--some people got it to where they could put sprinkler systems so it was metered. And then, well you had to flood irrigate, but every once in a while you had to flood irrigate 'cause what happens when--here's your tree. You got this sprinkler right here, so there's water just like, it makes a bowl--well you get salt buildup 'cause the salt content was really high in the water. Now if you get periodic rain it washes the salt out 'cause salt is not a good thing. So that was a problem, so the trees really don't thrive that well when it's like this summer. The fruit didn't size up. When it was real hot like that the fruit was small, but it will size up now that it's a little cooler. And I never thought I'd think that 89 and 90 is cool. (everyone laughs) Believe me, I'm acting like a local now, you know. (everyone laughs) Yeah but I don't mind the weather so much now.

Tomas: Okay, so you said that you had found arrowheads and other--

Irene: Yes

Tomas: Any other artifacts that you thought were interesting?

Irene: Well, I think Tom found some things. He was more into it than I was. We'd go for walks down here just to check what everything would look like, and he'd kick the dirt and everything. As it rains it starts--stuff would float up. And it's very interesting. The areas were always flat. They were never up like this 'cause I think they moved with the water. They'd just sit--I think he found some that might have been scraping tools, I don't really know, but he'd just collected the arrow heads. But we didn't know--there wasn't a--I think those primitive people--I don't think there was much farming going on. I don't think so. It was hunters.

Tomas: Um, let me see here. Okay, so you gave us a legal description of the land, that you said it was lot number-

Irene: Yeah, now we are on lot 13 but we used to own 11 to 14. We owned about 120--then later on we actually owned some more land--we bought some in the Texan Gardens and stuff but now were just down to 10 acres. That's it.

Tomas: Okay.

Janette: Is it all together?

Irene: No, right now its just this little strip between Eubanks road and Citrus.

Janette: Oh, okay.

Irene: Just 10 acres. It starts from here and goes on to the other next road.

Janette: But when you had all the 120 acres--

Irene: Yeah, no they were not next to each other. It was this, then it was over a block--like 20 acres over and north

Janette: Going towards Big Five [Road]?

Irene: Yeah. It was another--Tom had acres, 20 to 23. And then there was another Citrus Property--this subdivision which is Citrus 25 to 28. So those are 10 acre blocks but they were 40 acre chunks. One chunk was 40 acres.

Tomas: When was the road named Eubanks Road?

Irene: I am not too sure exactly what year it was. When Mr. McClelland bought the land south of us, that a way, for Mariana's sake that a way [pointing south, everyone laughs] he decided--they'd been renting it out as farm land but he decided to subdivide it. That's all those houses that are south of us now, that way. Then he had to put a road in and he had to put city water in it. So it was a dedicated road but it was never opened so we just drove across the field to get here. And it was raining a lot back then. We had a tough time because there was high spots, low spots and you had to go that side, line up, it was a catch as catch can type of thing. But when he did that, they were fixing the road out there. I said, "What are you going to call this road?" cause I was always, you know, snoopy me, "Oh you're fixing the road, good. What are you going to call it?" "We don't know." They were just the crew that worked there so we were just--how did they name roads? I mean they--well the county commissioners do that. He said, at that time we already had our packing shed and had a hard time with trucks finding us. They'd go down Big Five. I told them, "Go down one mile, then there's a crossroad that comes this way then come, go west, and then there we are. It's right at the end." The power lines used to go to the end of our property 'cause we brought the power line in. And so, but I could see the trucks going down Big Five, da dee da da da. They called me the next day, "We couldn't find you." So they told me to go see, I guess its Precinct 4 that does the highways? The roads? I'm not sure, but anyhow, I went down there and I told them who I was and what we're about and I said, "They're building a road down there, how could we name it?" I told him why I was interested in naming it, because we had a business down here with our citrus nursery and a packing shed and I needed to be able to direct people, you know. So he said, "Write a letter to the commissioners and tell them why you wanted it named whatever you wanted to name it." And so you had to give one to them and you had to post one at the county courthouse and another one or two at local businesses, why you wanted it named. And I decided to call it Eubanks Road 'cause there was Eubanks Nursery, to me that was an automatic. And they said it'll come up in a commissioner's meeting and they'll decide. And so I did what I could, you know, and I waited, I didn't really expect anything to happen, you know, because they said those things don't often happen very fast and there were other factors. But anyhow lo and behold one day coming down there, it wasn't paved, it was just a caliche road then, there was a sign on the corner, Eubanks Road! Wooowww!

Mariana: You're like, "I did that!"

Irene: That's my road! You know and it's been kind of a bit awkward because people asked me, "Is that named for you?" And I'd say "Yes," and they'd want to know how it happened, they'd say, "Well, what happened?" and I say, "Well, I named it," you know? (laughs) sounds a little egotistical I'm guessing (everyone laughs) Anyhow, that's how that happened, and I'm not sure what year that happened.

Tomas: Okay.

Irene: I'm not sure.

Tomas: It's okay, that's fine.

Irene: Well it's been there, and there's this guy that lives down here. Garza who lives in a little house down there, and he came up here one time, he used to just come up and talk to us, you know, working around the shed and stuff, and he asked about that road, you know, 'cause he knew we were Eubanks. And he said, "Well, I'm a retired vet, maybe we

should call it Garza,” or Garcia, Garza I think it was. Well my husband said, “Well, I’m a retired vet,” he said. Well, he said he got wounded. Ken says, “I was too, I was shot!” (laughs) So you know, he kind of quit bugging us about naming it Garza road, you know, whatever! (everyone laughs) But I think once they name a road, unless we do something terrible, the name is smeared or something, I don’t think, I don’t worry too much about that.

Tomas: So, um, any--what are your plans for the future?

Irene: Plans for the future?

Tomas: Plans for the future.

Irene: Well, I hope I can make it a few more years.

Tomas: There we go! (Irene laughs) Yeah, that’s always helpful!

Irene: Yeah, there are no more development projects as far as I’m concerned. I’m 85, I don’t think I’m, I’m supposed to be enjoying the fruits of my labor you know (laughs)

Tomas: There we go!

Mariana: Kicking back!

Irene: Huh?

Mariana: Kicking back!

Irene: Kicking back yeah, not kicking too hard these days. (everyone laughs) I was doing physical therapy, look at these monsters I have on now [pointing to shoes].

[Interview ends]

Appendix C

Tom Eubanks and Cristina Eubanks Interview

CHAPS Program students Roland Silva, Jose Barrera, Felix and Ezgar Chavez, Tim Hinds, Saida Gonzalez, and Felix Guerra interviewed husband and wife, Tom and Cristina Eubanks. Topics included information about Tom's and Cristina's families, and their children Michelle, Thomas, and Karen; Tom's travels with his family when he was younger, their move to Edinburg, the land, and farming.

Roland Silva: Ok, so I think we're ready to start then. Once you, once you guys hit record, just--raise a finger or something.

Tom Eubanks: You can edit all this out anyway right-it's whatever we got.

Roland: Oh. Right, right. For sure. You got it? Okie dokie, I'd like to start just--once again by stating our names for the record. Um, my name is Rolando Silva. Um, I'll be one of the interviewers.

Esgar Chavez: I'm Ezgar Chavez I'll be assisting in the interviewing. This is--

Tom: My name is Tom Eubanks

Cristina Eubanks: My, my name is Cristina Eubanks.

Roland: Um-hm. You are our interviewees.

Tim Hinds: Tim Hinds, one of the interviewers.

Saida Gonzalez: Saida Gonzalez, one of the interviewers.

Felix Guerra: Felix Guerra, one of the interviewers.

Jose Barrera: Jose Barrera, one of the interviewers.

Roland: Great, this should about cover it for everyone. So, uh, whenever you are ready, please.

Tom: Alright. Well, we can get started here with the top of the list I guess.

Ezgar: Yeah, let's start--

Tom: Alright.

Ezgar: There, it's easy (laughs).

Tom: My parents, my parents--my dad is Kenneth Wayne Eubanks, and he was born in Booneville Arkansas, August 8th, 1926. My mom is Irene Eubanks--was (unintelligible) Irene Kwasniak. She's of Ukrainian descent but she was in Canada and--she was born in Canada. Oh I mean, I hope I got this right, in a little town outside of Toronto, Ontario--on February 15th, 1929. She got a music scholarship to Baylor. She came down here and ran into my dad, in I think 1950, 1951. That's where this story starts--with those two, right? So they're still here, they're doing good. My dad has had a stroke back in 2004, so he's somewhat limited in his ability to relate as well as to walk but, he's still smiling--he's a great guy. And, they were married in Waco, Texas in, I think 1952, yeah. Awhile back. My dad served in World War II. He was infantry in the Philippines. He fought against the Japanese. It was in northern Luzon--he got shot-up there. His buddies carried him out over a couple mountains, kept him alive. They didn't think he would. In fact, in fact when some of his stuff showed up, they go, "Wow! There's a guy to give it to." You know, 'cause he was beat up pretty bad. He spent a year in the hospital in Temple, Texas in a body cast. But he recovered and, you know grew up to be a big strong guy. He was nineteen when that happened. In fact, he first volunteered when the war first started, but he was only fifteen, they told his mom, "No you take him home." Had to be 18. The day he turned eighteen he

joined the army. Was, you know I think, what I think six weeks later he was on a boat-troop ship.

Roland: Wow.

Tom: Yeah. Background of my dad? He is a--amazing guy. Done all kinds of stuff. He, when he got out of the military, he joined the merchant marines and sailed around the world as an oiler and he'd grown up in a restaurant in Memphis--West Memphis, Tennessee--West Memphis Arkansas, excuse me. Tennessee, that's Memphis right? Anyway, so he knew how to cook. Yeah, there's two Memphis' right? There's a bridge right down the middle. Anyway, so he'd learned to cook at his mom and dad's restaurant, and he was working as an oiler at first-but he'd, his arm wouldn't work 'cause he'd just gotten out of y'know, this body cast, and apparently the ship captain found out he could cook. So he got promoted to cook. He got out of the old greasy steamroom downstairs and ended up as a cook for awhile. Then he came back to the states when he heard about the GI bill. Started college and--drilling oil wells. Worked with some unsavory characters. There was a, there was a guy, what was his name? He was a famous swindler, it turns out, that was basically, moving oil from production to dry wells, y'know conning people, and when he'd--my dad found out he took off. I can probably figure out what the guy's name was--but he was a historical figure in Texas history.

Roland: That's fine it's--

Tom: Yeah. We'll figure that one out yeah--

Roland: Sure.

Tom: Yeah. And--then he drilled a couple of successful wells back then before you fracked wells, even, y'know, you just drilled a well and you dropped dynamite down them right? Blast 'em right?

Roland: Um-hm.

Tom: And he had a real good well that they thought could make more. And, the dynamite ruined it. So at that point he and my mom--they had just got married--they took off, went to Alaska. That's where my oldest, no--my, my oldest brother, Ken, was born in Waco, and then they went to Alaska. I could have that backwards. Anyway, so to make a long story short, my dad was in and out of Texas, and around the world--for most of his life. He ended up getting a degree in agricultural economics at the University of, of Montana in Bozeman. And that's--I was born in Los Angeles, 1956. Lived there a year or two and then we went to Montana. That's where some of my earliest memories were, Montana. Then from there we got, my dad got a job in, in Durango Colorado, and he worked in the Fort Lewis College. And we were there for, I don't know, four or five years and then he got a job working for--Cornell University--with a contract through USAID to be the Dean of Faculty at the University of Liberia in Monrovia, Liberia—which is in all of the news today in fact. In fact the hospital where they're treating all these people for Ebola--we used to go swimming there on the weekends. Yeah there's a ELWA, [Eternal Love Winning Africa Ministry] There's an ELWA at that hospital. Anyway so we were there for a year and a half. And then we came back to the United States, for like six months and then we shipped off to Pakistan. We lived in Lahore, Pakistan for a year and a half. Then from Pakistan we went to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and my dad again was an agriculture advisor in all these places, and I ended up graduating from high school in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. And, yeah, so, at, at some point, y'know, I came back to go to college, my dad continued around to the Philippines and Bolivia, and Russia, and back to Pakistan, and he's, finally retired and we all ended down here in the Valley. Um, when was I born? That was 1956, December 5th in Los Angeles California. I grew up all over the place. A couple years there, a few more in

Montana, Colorado, and then altogether like eight years in Africa. And. When I turned seventeen, I graduated from high school, moved back to Durango, Colorado, first went to, [the] same school my dad taught at back when I was a kid. I didn't know any other place in the states, so we just went back, well I went back to Durango. And so that's where I ended up going to College for the first couple a years. My brothers? My siblings? I've got, my oldest brother is Kenneth Scott Eubanks. He's still, he lives here in The Valley. He's a, a vegetable broker.

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Tom: He was born in 1954, and, he got a degree in Ag Marketing, followed my dad around in some of the jobs-that he did and ended up--I think he spent the last twenty or so years here working for various vegetable brokers--all kinds of stuff right? Wayne, my, well the second son, Wayne Cameron Eubanks, 1955--October 3rd, and he died, Janu--December 6th, 2012, here in McAllen.

Roland: Wow.

Tom: Yeah that wasn't, that wasn't any fun. That's about it as far as my siblings. Order, date, living, well yeah, one of 'em. I guess I can get you photos of all of us later on. How were tasks assigned? Well, when we got here in the Valley, in the middle of 1979, my brother actually got, Wayne got down here first. And I was in Florida at the time, and I came over here. My dad had 120 acres of citrus, and we were just tryin' to kill the weeds and keep the trees growing, pour on the water and make it work. And within a year or two, after we sold the first crop, we realized that what we had--what my dad had bought--was just, really, purely for speculation and to sell the land. There was a tremendous amount of citrus in the Valley that was just basically planted with anything, not with production in mind but to sell the property as citrus cause the people really didn't know better, right? Because it would never make money. The density of the trees, the variety of the trees, and the fact that they planted it on unlevelled land made it extremely difficult to irrigate, and the fruit really, really wasn't very good, and it was mixed, so you couldn't get pick it efficiently. You couldn't get pickers to go in there. You gotta have an orange grove or a grapefruit grove or maybe y'know, half of the field of one, half of the field the other, right.

Rolando: They just throw seeds in there?

Tom: They just planted whatever they had. And so, when you go to sell that, you can't have a grapefruit bin full of two different kinds of grapefruit.

Roland: Right.

Tom: The sheds won't buy that. You might be able to sell it in bags by the side of the road, but, that becomes very difficult. And you also cannot inspect it. In the Valley we have orange police, that's what I call 'em. The citrus industry got together and decided, for the good of everybody, they would tax everybody fifty cents a box, and create a bunch of rules in which, you would have to follow if you wanted to sell, under penalty of law. I mean, we're talking DPS with fines and all that good stuff, yeah. And so, you can't just sell an orange. No, the orange at first of course has to be tested, which is, I think, realistic. Tested that its y'know, it's ripe and the, the acid levels. But then they say, of course, it has to be de-greened-which is like pre-rotting. They put it in a tank, big room full of ethylene gas and by the end of the week they taste kind of alcoholic, y'know, they're nasty, and then they have about a three day shelf life between they rot, when they rot (unintelligible), where as I mean, watermelons are green, everyone knows those--aren't green inside. They say you can't sell, y'know, (laughs) green oranges because no one would buy them. Anyway, so to sell fruit you have to have it inspected, and you have to, in order to have to be inspected it has to be sized, it has to be the right, you can't have mixed sizes, you can't have a little one next to a big one. So you have to have a sizing machine. And then, they have to be packed

on a specific pattern in a box, and if it's off they'll knock down your whole load. And, we built this packing shed to try to sell our stuff, but then we found out that well, you had to get an inspector and they only gave--assigned inspectors to the big sheds. So if someone came to our place to buy citrus, we had to tell them, "Wait a minute, we have to get a guy." And we'd get on the phone and we'd call somebody else and maybe we can get 'em over there this afternoon, but if you were coming to buy citrus from me, how's that gonna work for you? (everyone laughs)

Tom: Right? So it's a big handicap to the little guy (unintelligible) yeah? It's like, y'know, whatever. But we, we played that game for, awhile. Finally gave up I think, it was '99 when we, just decided that was not gonna work anymore. But in the meantime, we went through two freezes here. Once we realized that what we had wasn't gonna work we bulldozed 'em all. We leveled the land. So that you could flood irrigate several acres at a time and made it a lot quicker, a lot--better deal. We got that goin' and then the '83 freeze came and burned it all up, right? And we had bought small trees. We had grown some, part of them ourselves. And at that point, there was no way we could afford to re-do that, so we just built ourselves some green houses, got a bunch of orange seeds, and replanted it all, just in time to get froze out in the '89 freeze. The only good thing about the '89 freeze, we had insurance, so that worked. We made enough to actually able to, buy a new tractor, get everything replanted. And at that time I also had a lot of trees that were--I was growing for other people. That, y'know, doubled in value, so that was a good thing. And--but even, but even so, the margins are so small in the citrus business. I really expect the citrus industry here to disappear. It's, it's going down now, there's one that bought 'em all. Paramount came in last year, and they bought out Donna Fruit, they bought out Mission Shippers, hmm, Rio Queen. Who was the other guy? Heald's Valley, they bought everybody. There's, I think there's a handful of little guys still out there, but they've all been bought out by one big guy. And I think they're probably just hoping there's a big disaster because nobody makes money if everybody has it. The only way it works is if something happens to California crops, something happens up in California, Florida crop, then for about three weeks, early in the season, there's money.

Roland: Sounds pretty cutthroat.

Tom: Oh, it is, it is, because to pick the stuff, to wash, and wax, and box it, and to get it inspected, pay for the inspection, is about four dollars, four dollars and twenty-five cents a forty pound box. You go to the store, you buy one, for like a dollar (laughs). The citrus farmer is getting paid two cents for a grapefruit, a penny for an orange. But by the time it gets through the, y'know all the, all the salesmen and everybody who claim they just make a little it's 79 cents a pound. So um, that's the deal with the citrus business.

Roland: It hasn't really changed with the, with the small scale farming, they still sorta, they push you out?

Tom: Yeah, it's, it's almost impossible if it's a hobby. Y'know, if you wanna grow you some nice trees and everything another thing is, you have to keep herbicide and pesticide records for thirty years. And then there's the liability of it all. So let's say you're spraying an orchard, someone drives by, or doesn't even drive by and they call up and wanna know your lawyer's name, 'cause they drove by with the windows down, and their kids are sneezing. Y'know? So, the whole thing with the, the, pesticides and herbicides, that's a real liability for the farmer. Yeah, even if they're handled correctly there's all kinds of people out to getcha (laughs)

Roland: Yeah, it does seem that--

Tom: Whether you did it or not. Right?

Roland: Got it.

Tom: So I don't know if you guys wanna jump in here?

Ezgar: Well do we want to break away? And just back and ask Ms., Mrs. Eubanks here some of the--

Tom: Oh, yeah.

Ezgar: A little bit? We can go back and forth?

Tom: Oh yeah that's fine.

Cristina: Ok, we will be a lot shorter. (laughter) My parents were born in Mexico. They're both gone now. My father is, was from Saltillo, and then my mom from Reynosa. My father moved when they were very young, and started a business and became business owners.

Tom: It was Trevino's, a nice bar and gift shop right across the bridge.

Ezgar: Ok, it was, that was the business that they had, ok.

Tom: Yeah.

Cristina: That was Agustin Trevino and Cristina Guerra, they were buried in Reynosa. Date and place? They married in Reynosa too. That's where they met. Military service? No. Just business owners. I have four siblings--four, three brothers, older brothers and one sister, younger sister. And they are all into, well one is a doctor is--also in Reynosa, they all live in Reynosa. Well, my sister is here because she got married, and she's been living here for a, for a--I don't know five years or something. And, but my brothers are in Reynosa--they, they work, one works for one of the *maquiladoras* there. He's a computer system person and the other one is a doctor, works for clinics and hospitals. And the older one is also in business. He's a salesman. He has his own business deal.

Cristina: Yeah. (laughs) Yes. What else? Oh, my sister. She, she's raised a little baby, and, so that's it. Growing up (unintelligible) agriculture? No, no background in agriculture. Um, where was I born?--Oh I was born in Reynosa and I grew up there, and I went to school in Monterrey, since high school and then--

Tom: I met her right out in front of the library here--

Cristina: Yeah right here.

Ezgar: The library right here?

Roland: Wow.

Cristina: Yeah, I started college in Monterrey, But I transferred here because it was closer. My parents never saw me, so they thought, "Oh you should come now." Since they opened the university here. And so in '79 I transferred to Pan American and graduated in with a degree in mass communication in '83, something like that and then we met, in '85.

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Tom: Well, we got married in '87.

Cristina: Um-hm.

Tom: And I'd only known you, known you like, 2 years, right?

Cristina: Yeah.

Roland: Just please, keep--

Cristina: Okay. Hmm. What else? I don't have any background in agriculture or anything.

Tom: Your house is still there, down there.

Cristina: Oh yeah. My house, yes, in Reynosa. My parents' house--

Tom: When did you, when did they build that?

Cristina: Hmm, I don't know, I mean I don't even know when they--when was it, the year when they came to Reynosa--

Tom: You were a little girl. You were, you were there when they built that house right?

Cristina: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

Tom: It was probably in the 60s?

Cristina: Um-hm. It had to.

Tom: Yeah they built a big, cement block house-giant walls, y'know like, Reynosa style right? (Cristina laughs)

Roland: Right.

Tom: They had big gates. Stuff like that. It's still there. Right. Her brother, her oldest brother still, still lives there.

Cristina: Um-hm. Yeah it's there. I came here and graduated, and then, got married. And I have been working for the schools, because of the kids. At the beginning I started just volunteering because my kids were there. I started as a substitute teacher, tutoring and testing kids since then, since 1999.

Roland: A while to work as an educator.

Tom and Cristina: Yeah. Um-hm.

Roland: Ten years? Give or take?

Tom: Yeah.

Cristina: Mm, yeah.

Roland: When the average turnover is about five?

Cristina: Um-hm. Yes. I know.

Roland: More or less.

Cristina: Yeah.

Roland: So, that's pretty tough.

Cristina: (laughs) Yeah.

Tom: So anyways on the housing, thing here, as far as still standing. When we got married I had a mobile home out there. Which yeah, it's gone. I sold that thing a long time ago, and we moved out of there and moved into an apartment in McAllen. We were there for ten years in an apartment, and then in the mean time I bought a piece of land where the house is now. And we built that starting in 2008 and we moved in, in 2010. Took us a while to build it. But the old, the old packing shed is still there. I sold the equipment out of it.

Roland: Oh really?

Tom: Yeah, to a guy, a, his brother I think they're over on North Seminary Road, so that equipment is like 150 foot metal monster right. You had a big dumper where you can dump the fruit, went through a washing machine you know and brushes cleaned it all up and it dried it and it waxed it and sorted it and all that good stuff. And finally, in fact when I sold it we got part money and then for the rest of it the guy came and insulated my house, he had one of those companies that sprayed foam insulation. That was a good deal, to tell you the truth, with the industry, as it was, I thought I'd never sell that stuff you know.

Roland: Right.

Tom: It was, we had been trying to sell it for years and finally these guys stepped up and actually wanted it. Like yay.

Ezgar: I know, yeah.

Roland: Very awesome.

Tom: The greenhouses, well there are still a few of them standing. The first greenhouses we built were the old style 4 x 4 with the 2 x 4's every 10 foot squares probably--

Ezgar: Right right, I've seen those.

Tom: Seen them around right, but the problem with those is covering them in the winter time with plastic and if a storm blows it off it's a lot of labor, and then they get hot so after we, when in the second or third year in the business we started buying those big cave green houses. Which you can put the plastic on if the wind is not blowing too hard probably in 15 or 20 minutes and you can close them and protect them from the weather, which we were sensitized to after two freezes right.

Ezgar: So were there, what specifically did you grow inside those greenhouses? I'm assuming since it was more controlled?

Tom: Yeah well, we started all the seedlings--we had one greenhouse that just had trays and racks to hold the seedlings trays.

Ezgar: Okay.

Tom: So we can plant 128 citrus in a box and get them in where you can close them in so the rats don't eat them. Because between the rats and the birds if you just put seeds out--bam, it's gone. You get hit real bad and even with the enclosed area it's difficult to get seedlings up without getting a lot of them lost to all kinds of critters out there.

Ezgar: Really? What kind of animals did you have--or birds?

Tom: Oh well you got grackles at one time, the grackles were really bad. You had flocks of tens of thousands of them coming in and just, you know just knocking the crap out of stuff and, I remember going down and buying as many as ten cases of shotgun shells and guys with two pickups, loads of guys, with four or five guys with shotguns, and we would chase them off for miles, but then they'd come back and then ruin the fruit that was on the trees. So there was a giant grackle war in the 80's. So also kind of relates to this place here because in Pan Am, you know they used to have live fire, uh gun range here on campus. Yeah, they used to actually shoot rifles and stuff over there by the ROTC thing right out there.

Roland: Yeah, wow.

Ezgar: Right, right okay yeah.

Tom: And then as the grackles would come in, guys from ROTC and some of the field guys would come in here and start blasting them with 12 gauge shotguns, right. (Ezgar laughs)

Tom: So we didn't have a bird problem, until well, somebody got stupid and shot some birds in front of some young ladies.

Ezgar: Ooh.

Tom: Oh that was the end of that, no more shooting you know, and of course it became part of Edinburg, and you can't shoot guns and all this stuff.

Roland: Um-hm right.

Tom: So then starting somewhere I think in the mid, I'm not sure on the date but I'm sure some of the old timers can probably put a date on this, but at some point this area became a rookery, it became so bad in terms of the, the cycles of birds that were hatched and returned here that they actually had a crew of men, that used to pressure wash the sidewalks at Pan Am. That's all they did, it was really, it was really rude because they would just blow it off the sidewalks and it would stay wet and fermenting in the gardens along the side. And I can remember walking from the science building over to the cafeteria losing my appetite entirely. (Ezgar: laughs). This was really rude right (someone clears their throat) because I had experience in the grackle wars, I tried to get the administration to do something about it. It was tough to get anyone to listen. Finally I said, "Guys, look it's a health hazard, we gotta do something." So the vice president or somebody over there said, "Oh well, we'll put up some plastic owls," and someone goes, "Yeah," we did that see--they're covered with crap.

Roland: I remember those things um-hm (laughs)

Tom: We had them all over and they don't work, and so I went down and I got a hold of some friends of mine at the USDA who had what they called 'scare away guns,' they're old time carbide cannons. I had some leftover from the grackle wars so we got out there and we chased them off. It worked, I can't remember but I could look back and find out exactly when but when we broke the rookery, the birds all showed up down in McAllen, down at, at H-E-B, I mean it was terrible down there right. And all these guys where these come from and the USDA guy was going, "Man it's bad in McAllen now." He goes, "Those are your birds aren't they?" (group laughs) Whatever, but we ran them out of UTPA. We got a few back now but nothing like it was, but we broke the cycle of about twenty years where we were just, just overrun by black birds.

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Roland: You could walk in front of the engineering building, between engineering and science actually and feel the humidity (Tom inhales deeply) of the area, of the (unintelligible)

Ezgar: Yeah.

Tom: Right.

Roland: And then you know, you breathe it all in and it's, it's horrible.

Tom: Yeah, right and so you know, Oscar Villarreal [UTPA Director, Facilities Management], he got onboard, he thought that was great. So they actually, Pan Am actually bought their own, because I was using mine, we had borrowed some from the USDA, (someone laughs) they were gonna make an annual thing out of it and they actually, on the weekends they would send out an email to people, "Don't worry, no one is shooting at you we're gonna run the birds away," and they put up little signs so no one, (Ezgar laughs) so no one would get upset about the whole thing. And it was kind of hilarious because it turns out that these run on a butane cylinder right? And in the excitement of chasing these birds around the, butane bottles would get tipped over. And then instead of the gas going in there, the liquid butane would flow in the carbide cannons right, so (laughs) they'd turn them off and apparently--I didn't witness this myself, but I know the guys that were doing it. They were taking them back to the shop and putting them in a closet, they carried them into a room, a small little room, put two down there and they, they both went off sounding like dynamite.

Roland: Oh man.

Tom: Because the liquid continued to expand after they turned them off. If you just turned them off they'd stop then, but if they had been tipped over, there is liquid in the expansion chamber, then it'd go off unexpectedly. They thought they were dangerous. I was like, "No, no guys you just gotta make sure your bottles are tied up, don't tip them over," but I don't think they've used them now for years because we broke the cycle of all the birds returning that were hatched here. Then big wipe out was the hail. Right, we hadn't had hail, in how many years? It was rare, right, but was it two years ago, or was it last year?

Cristina: Two years.

Roland: Two years, before that.

Tom: About two years ago, there was a hail and it killed tons, almost all the grackles, it wiped out the birds. In fact over at H-E-B a buddy of mine was working there and he was horrified because he saw these people, the people working at H-E-B were bagging the birds. And he said, "Oh they're diseased." Come on, they're not diseased you know what killed 'em, they got hit in the head.

Ezgar: Um-hm right (laughter)

Tom: Dead birds ya know, but that's what really knocked the grackle population back. Unfortunately the parrots and some of the other nice birds got hit too. By the way, you know we got a white parrot on campus, yeah an albino white one, he is out there somewhere.

Ezgar: Really? Wow.

Tom: Yeah. (Cristina laughs, someone says 'cool') Yeah, oh another related story about the birds. When I got here, about the same time, there was the Pan Am cat lady. Right, she went around I dunno if you heard this one, but she used to go around and, and trap the cats and give them to nice homes.

Ezgar: Okay.

Tom: And, because cats have been a problem you know because cats, they will get defensive or something and scratch or bite a student. The cat lady, uh, was here for a long time right. And then, then when she died, they found out no, she was drowning them. (Ezgar and Roland laugh). She was taking them out to the lake and drowning them. She was really a bird lady and she was doing that to protect the birds. 'Cuz birds will knock the nests off the--everything. So the cat lady of Pan Am (someone laughs) turned out to be a bird lady.

Ezgar: A bird lady.

Tom: Right, after all that--

Roland: Wow (laughs).

Tom: Yeah that's the story of the birds at Pan Am right.

Ezgar: Wow.

Tom: Yeah, so as far as animals go, course when I got down here I've always had horses, I've always had dogs, and I've had chickens and you know, geese and all those guys and the, as far as wild animals, the coyote population sort of goes up and down. A lot of these insects and animals seem to cycle, like for years you won't see a horned toad. Horny toads I call them right, for years you won't see them but all of a sudden they're everywhere.

Roland: I ran into one on campus.

Tom: Right, right and for years you didn't see any coyotes, one thing that's down in the cycle right now are jackrabbits. I dunno about you guys, but I mean when I first got here the jackrabbits were everywhere. You running down you see them on 107, they were everywhere right. I mean it's rare, I don't think I've seen any jackrabbits this year, and I live in the sticks. And but now we got cottontails everywhere, little bitty, you know better tasting. (Roland and Ezgar laugh). You know, well I don't eat them but you know.

Roland: Sure.

Tom: So over the years I've noticed that there seems to be a, a flux or oscillation of the densities of these critters right.

Roland: Right.

Tom: Plants, domesticated. Well I've grown a lot of avocados, and, and back in the greenhouse we grew primarily citrus but once you're in the niche nursery business, people come by looking for all kinds of stuff. So we, within a couple years started with just citrus we started growing everything from cutting plants, tulipans which are hibiscus to laurel, hey I know all the Spanish names for the plants, see the hibiscus.

Roland: Laurel.

Tom: What's it called, come on what's that stuff called, oleander. Lorial--

Roland: Um-hm.

Tom: Right. Anyways, so we grew a whole bunch of, of plants you know, whatever the flea market was buying. You know we grew a lot of cutting plants like, what's

that stuff called, bougainvillea? ‘Cuz you know you can just cut off a piece stick it in a pot, you know month later you got a plant to sell.

Roland: Trimming?

Tom: Yeah, right so that worked pretty well, we actually had a pretty good you know ma and pa business going on, where every day these guys would come by with their little trucks, you know they’d stack stuff up in there, you know and we made a couple hundred bucks a day off of selling little plants. But now see that’s all stopped, the government stepped up and said, “No, no you can’t do that.” It has to be now a licensed nursery, you have to have provenance and everything, for example if you were to grow some oak trees like everybody used to do in their backyard, you know in old tin cans for kids wanted to make or raise some money to go to, I dunno, Fiesta Texas or something. (Roland laughs). They could grow some oaks or little plants and get some trees and sell ‘em. You can’t do that anymore (someone laughs). No, because we have inspectors that come by, and you gotta have a nursery license. You can’t just put them in a can, it has to be a registered official container and you have to have all the records of, yeah, it’s like I used to take plants down to Valley Garden Center and these other nurseries. I used to sell avocados like that. I found out that I can’t do that anymore you know because the--well I could if I got the nursery license, then yeah, have the inspections and the paperwork and it’s like, oh wow, it’s become a lot more difficult.

Ezgar: Right. To back then starting off in the agriculture industry, then it was just sat them out. You would just see everyone selling everything there was really no structure back when it was--

Tom: Right, right you know.

Ezgar: --just starting.

Tom: And occasionally you’ll see people pop up by the side of the road, and they’ll have a few plants out there but it’s not long before they get run off because the USDA has people in brand new shiny pickup trucks with your money (laughs) shutting these people down. Which I don’t think is fair. I don’t think it’s protecting American agriculture any more than the citrus police protected the citrus.

Ezgar: You know, I mean you can still ship rotten fruit you know so whatever.

Roland: Right, uh you still get a fair amount of contaminated products. I still remember them not too long ago picking up a bag of spinach from Walmart that had moths inside of it.

Tom: Oh yeah.

Roland: I mean—

Tom: Oh yeah.

Roland: It happens.

Tom: Well I know that at the border they go in here and they open the trucks up and they, you know, they’re pushing stuff around, if anything flutters out boom--truck shut down. You know it’s tough to get across, you gotta have the brokers and the thing and the--any delay at all can destroy a crop, and with like tomatoes and the perishable crops. Oh my god, the buyers are brutal you know they’re getting eight bucks a box, you want \$7.50 and well, “Ok call me next week.” Well you know next week they’re gonna be rotten. So what you gotta do is sell them for \$6, costs you \$5.95 (someone laughs), yeah. We grew tomatoes for a while but it’s just, there is no shelf life. You know, and that really kills ya. Changes through time, yeah, we’ve had a few snows right--

Roland: Yeah.

Tom: Remember that? It was Christmas 2004 we actually made a snowman right?

Roland: Yeah. We made a slush man.

Tom: Yeah. (someone laughs) We, over there in McAllen, we got like 4 inches. Man the kids got--they woke me up, in fact I said wake me up when you can get a snowball and they came back with a snowball. (Ezgar laughs). So you know then I went out with them and we made a snowman, and--

Roland: Yeah that devastated crops everywhere.

Tom: Oh yeah, well you know I found that it's, it's, we can have these light freezes. You can go down in the 20s, high 20s, and you'll burn maybe these years crop and burn some leaves off but the two freezes that we had in '83 and '89 were identical. They came in Christmas and they were 52 hours at 18 degrees. Non-stop, even during the day it stayed at 18 degrees all day for two or three days it was 52 hours it was identical. And in that case it burned the stuff to the ground. It killed, where-as other stuff damages. This just knocked them out and since then we've had them, it's been a long time, it's been a long time since we've had a hard freeze down here which you're starting to see some more tropical stuff picked up that you know otherwise would have been knocked back.

Roland: Right.

Tom: Education, well I, you know, went to grade school in lots of different places and ended up here. Actually I first went to college in Fort Lewis College, Colorado. Started in 1974 and came down here, went a couple years there and came down here and finished my, I graduated with my undergraduate degree here in 1983, because while I was farming out there my parents wanted me go to school. You know so I did, and then the--actually I was probably gonna go on and, and you know [continue] my education. When the big freeze came it basically really put us in business because everything got knocked out. Instead of selling you know tens of hundreds of plants we're now selling thousands of plants. We have contracts, we had one contract for 60,000 orange trees. We had like you know, guys like Donald Thompson and, and uh what was his name Martin from--Rio Queen. They're ordering tens of thousands of trees from us. So all of a sudden we were in business right, in fact so much that the--we're shipping them to the Bahamas, we're shipping them to all over the world it turns out. The guys from the Dallas Cowboys came down here right.

Roland: Really?

Tom: Yeah right, Darrel Johnson, big giant guy right—

Ezgar: Yeah, yeah.

Tom: And going price back then was 5 dollars a tree right? He offered me \$3.50. I go, "Why would I do that?" I got all I can sell at this, you know and I was actually under cutting and everyone else was mad at me 'cause everyone else was getting \$6 but when I when, when people say you gonna buy 60,000 you know I cut them some slack but you should give me money up front you know so I can get—

Roland: Well yeah.

Tom: Started. He went over to Florida and at that time there's a canker thing going on right. Florida was, quarantined. He went over there and bought a bunch of stuff and shipped them on a boat and they caught him. They caught him as he landed there, right. And so they were nice enough about it. "Ok put your stuff back on the boat and go away." He sailed around the island and unloaded. This time they watched him and once they unloaded it all--they put the diesel in tires and burned them all. (Tom laughs, someone sighs) These rich guys you know just trying to get [one] over on people I can't believe that.

Ezgar: Yeah, I mean (laughs) wow.

Tom: Yeah that was crazy, that was a crazy time. Yeah so workers, we had you know, for a long time we hired ten people every day. Between the packing shed, the nursery, cleaning the orchards, driving the tractors, we had ten people a day--ran payroll on

Friday. The guys were making about 180 to 200 dollars a week. They all lived pretty close, most of them within probably five miles of the house, showed up in all kinds of beat up cars you know and, and--but they seemed to make them run by in large they were all real good guys. You know, we I was really that [was] where I learned a lot of, *español*. You know because these guys--a lot of these guys didn't speak English.

Roland: Right.

Tom: Right. (laughs) I remember the guys, you'd pay them on Friday, some of them were from Reynosa or somewhere down there and I said, "Oh no you can't go I need you Monday," that's okay. You know, and the way they got back, these guys didn't have a driver's license or anything right. Well I said, "Well how do you cross the border?" Well the guy at the border, the border guard would ask, "Well where did you go to school?" And they go. "Edinburg." If you can say Edinburg, back in the 80s anyway. (Roland and Ezgar laugh) If you could say Edinburg like you, like you were from here, boom. That was it, you'd cross and that's how you used to cross the border. It's just with their accent right. Obviously times have changed there—

Ezgar: Yeah.

Tom: Huh?

Roland: It's still, it's still hilarious.

Tom: Yeah. Yeah right (laughs) and so the wages they never really went up that much uh, from that period of about 18 years that we did it. I just basically always paid minimum wage you know something like that, is the minimum wage, we paid them a little more but you know--there were women [too]. We had women working for us. There were not as many women that were looking for jobs but the ones that were, were good. Some of the women were the ones, the skilled the ones that would bud and take the plastic off and tie the trees, you know and I still run into them once in a while.

Ezgar: So they just come, show up to you looking for work or (unintelligible)?

Tom: Yeah, yeah, oh yeah exactly and I could remember a couple times where people show up and I go, "I got guys," and they come back the next day and they come back the next day and finally you know someone didn't show up and, "Ok, you're in." (Roland and Ezgar laugh) Just really persistent, yeah.

Roland: Just like a word of mouth thing?

Tom: Yeah, right. Plus I had a big sign down on Monte Christo (Ezgar and Roland laugh) and you know they, they knew what was going on and, and, so how old were they? They were young women, 20s and 30s. Yolanda and her sisters were young and strong.

Tom: Well on the artifacts, yeah. I found like over 100 arrowheads and basically it was waiting to irrigate right because when you irrigate the field, you, you cut it up in sections and you put a ditch on one side you turn on the water and when, you know, you let the--you open up what they call a bocia or whatever it's just like a hole in the canal you just flood that field. Well it could be an hour or two, maybe longer, depends on the field. So you're sitting there waiting. You have to walk back and forth to make sure the ditches didn't break and the water is not going the wrong way, but after you learn how to make a decent ditch and you got a little experience with it that's not so much of a hassle, but you got extra--what they call lonas or basically, uh, like a 16 foot 2x4 with a big piece of plastic on it. So instead of trying to shove in a, you know, a ditch that's blowing out you can just drop in this plastic sheet, jump in the canal on top of it, get some mud on top of it and stop the leak. Right so but in-between this, you're walking around back and forth and there they were right there on the road--

Time Stamp 43:19

Roland: They just floated there?

Tom: Right and so after I found a few, then I started to, you know, I was searching for them you know, every time I was waiting I'd walk up and down and along the road after a big wind a lot of times you know when you when you find them and--

Roland: Um well just on a sort of related subject since we're talking about irrigation--did you ever have any problem with soil saltation or y'know depleting the minerals and the nutrients--

Tom: Well that's one thing I really didn't know much about when I got here, but I learned real quick there is stuff called lowland, (Tom and Roland laugh) and we didn't--I think the hurricane Allen hit in '80 right after we got down here—

Roland: Oh wow.

Tom: --and wow, like I my dad was here I called him up we were talking I go, "Dad you bought high land." He goes, "Yeah that's why I bought it." It never occurred to me that it was a little bump that he had bought and everything else was like four feet under water for months. Where we stood in water that one night and couple of my turkeys and chickens drowned, but man after that the there were wild--a lot of escaped hog, pig, a lot of escaped animals that got loose right. And my turkeys actually learned to ride my horses. (Roland and Ezgar laugh) It was hilarious, too bad I don't have any video of it, but they would get on the horses because they were, they were safe there, from you know dogs and everything. I remember one night they were mosquitoes, really thick you know, and the horses were galloping. The weeds were like ten feet tall because there was no way you could, it kept raining and raining and you couldn't chop the weeds down in fact I probably had the weeds ahead of me anyways when it rained so and they were running through to keep the mosquitoes off them and here these turkeys were riding them. (Ezgar and Roland laugh) It was hilarious, yeah. (laughter, Tom sighs) Yeah.

Ezgar: That's great, sounds like a cartoon.

Tom: (strumming fingers on table) So, as far as wetlands go, most of the production ag [agriculture] land in the United States is what they call tile (unintelligible), in the Rio Grande Valley is tile drained. What that means is, on a field they'll go through about every hundred feet, maybe two hundred, it depends on how bad it is and they'll dig down like seven or eight feet and they'll put in a four inch pipe, that has holes in it with, like a nylon stocking over it, and they hook them all together into the drainage canals, so when the water goes through it, it washes through, picks up the old salt and washes out. If you don't have that, within a, a couple, maybe two or three years, your production, productivity just collapses. In fact, when we first got our first stuff we didn't have it tile drained, and we, we went ahead and did that.

Roland: So that's what it called though when they, when they put that pipe in? It's, it's a tile.

Tom: It's called tile drainage.

Roland: ok

Tom: I don't know where, I guess they used to use tiles or maybe ceramic pipe or the old-time clay pipes, now it's, you know, rolled plastic pipe with--in fact we're putting in one, you know our green house over here?

Roland: Um-hm.

Tom: They put it, they have a little--I call farmville over there, right?

Roland: Um-hm.

Tom: They didn't think about that. They put a concrete barrier around the whole thing and its hardpan underneath it, if it rains--we can skate on it if it freezes, you know, but (smacks lips). I went out there last week and said, "Guys you need to drain this." Drainage

is really important in the Valley and especially in lowlands like over there toward, what's it--Delta Lake. That's actually below sea level. That's with ten feet below sea level over there, because I was doing some research out there with a GPS, I thought the thing was wrong (slaps hand over palm), I was going, "What? Minus eight, minus twelve?" And I drove up on the hill, "Okay we're up to ten now back to--" yeah.

Roland: I didn't know that, that's actually pretty interesting.

Tom: It is. The delta lake area, over there is, is real low, and when it, when it rains, it stays wet for a long time. That's why there is still land over there for sale (laughter). The only stuff you can buy relatively cheap in small lots is in Delta Lake for a reason.

Roland: (laughs) I would not want to live there.

Tom: Right--

Roland: Swamp lands.

Tom: So, I started, in fact the first arrowhead I found a, a buddy that was with me found it, and he said, "Well this is your land," so he says, "Here, it's yours." (laughter)

Tom: Yeah, well yeah, good man Dan, and it was maybe about ten years later in that same (taps table with fingers) place, I picked up the other half, because it was, it was just broken and I fit them together, yeah, so maybe ten or fifteen years passed before I found the next piece, that arrow in that picture with the poster (shuffles papers).

Roland: Awesome.

Tom: Yeah. As far as the land being wet where we were, not really too bad because my dad had bought (taps fingers on table) decent land, but there, there were places around us that, yeah, it, it was not right. You could grow palm trees, and you could grow grass, but (laughs) You could tell right away if, after a good rain, if you don't get the broad leaf green forest, (taps fingers on table), yeah you could tell right way, the salt picks up.

Roland: Yeah.

Tom: The Rio Grande River goes between 800 hundred and as high as 1,200 parts per million of salt. Right, now if you actually do the numbers on that, you'd say, Okay, an acre foot of water is 360--360,000 gallons, something like that. If you take 360,000 (slaps fist into palm) and you multiply 9 lbs per gallon, you get a big number, that's how much that stuff weighs, right? And then if you figure out at 1,000 parts, you know, per million, or what's that, one part per, 10,000 or something like that. You divide it out you still actually, when you irrigate a field with the water coming out of the river you're putting like a 1,000 pounds of salt per acre on it. So how many times does it take to irrigate before you got 3 to 4,000 pounds of salt down there. (taps fingers on table) So without adequate drainage, without some way to get that stuff out of there it picks up real bad, real, real quick, and with that rain then you're really hurt. Lately we've been real dry. Yeah. Except the last couple weeks or so. (shuffles papers)

Ezgar: Yeah.

Tom: Nine inches.

Ezgar: Nine inches of water?

Tom: Nine inches at our place.

Ezgar: Wow! Since this last month, since the rain started, right. As far as land and changes, everybody is growing houses now.

Tom: You know we did the same thing, we--the land that we had, my parents as well, we've sold it off and people have built houses on there. Back when we got here, land was, well, depends where you went. Out towards McCook it was a couple hundred dollars an acre, getting closer to \$500 we bought land we got here at \$1,200 to \$1,500 an acre. That land right now is \$15 to \$20,000 an acre. Yeah, it just really jumped up and the Valley

afterward, after NAFTA came in, it redirected the traffic of the United States through here to the Mexican farms and everyone yells at that. Actually its American farms in Mexico (taps fingers on table), its Del Monte you know, it's the big boys down there, you know, using, using their labor but it's our big farms basically.

Ezgar: Hmm.

Tom: Yeah, exactly. As far as keeping up farming, I don't think so guys, it's, farming has become an industrial thing now. To make it work you need big equipment, costs a lot of money, and to make it work you need to have thousands (taps table) of acres, you got, either that or you have to be what they call vertically integrated, if you have your own stores up north--you have your own chain, there is one farmer up next to my parent's house and they're doing real well, but they grow for their own stores, they're not putting that out there on the market for \$6 a box, no they're selling it a dollar a pound in their stores. So they're growing you know, tomatoes, and tomatillos and chilies and cilantro and you know, everything. And, doing real well like that, because they cut out the middle man.

Time Stamp 50:52

Ezgar: Right. It's a growing empire now, it's that--

Tom: Yeah, it's working real well for them, and as far as changes go, now, we can check this out but what I'm thinking from what I understand the p--potato business is gone away, because when we were down here, when we first for down here I remember going over to--on Wallace Road there is a big potato shed and apparently we have some diseases here (taps table) that are knocking the potatoes out and we have to check that out but I'm thinking that was one change that's occurred big, as in big agricultural changes. There are no more potatoes here.

Ezgar: Right, hm, so potatoes back then were one of the main--

Tom: Oh yeah.

Ezgar: Besides the citrus.

Tom: Yeah it was big, they were up there, north of Monte Cristo, there were thousands of acres. There were a couple big sheds that produced, potatoes for potato chips (shuffles papers). And I go out, I think two weeks ago for dove hunting over, west on Monte Cristo, and that shed is not there anymore, and someone else had told me last year that No, you can't grow potatoes. What do you mean you can't grow potatoes? I used to see it. But I think you're right, I think we got some bug, like in the citrus industry right now we got this bacteria (taps table) right? That [has] come in and, and there is this little psyllid, it's a psyllid, it's a little tiny thing, it's a bug that carries a bacteria, so when the psyllid bites the citrus the bacteria gets in the tree and kills the tree. It wipes it out, like 70-80 percent of the Florida groves are infected, right? And it's just come up this last week I was talking to a lady and--at the biology department, and she's onto something that never occurred to me. Back when we got here, the spacing on citrus was like, twenty feet apart and thirty feet, you know each tree in a row was twenty feet apart and there was thirty feet in between them, because to irrigate them you had to, you actually had to make a ditch around each one, you made little squares with a ditching blade and what's called a checking machine and fill in the gaps that your tires made right. So you basically made this giant checkerboard and you turn on the water and you actually had to physically, with a hoe, wait 'till it filled around one tree, and you break a little hole there and go to the next tree and you walked it, tree to tree. That's the way you did it, because you had to drive a truck between all four sides, but then when people start leveling land they thought well, I'm only making five tons an acre and I've got a hundred trees per acre, wow, we can put two hundred trees per acre, we'll put them on ten by twenties, right? So, they crammed them all together and they've been blaming this psyllid on--the new greening disease but they may in fact be root graft. In

other words the trees now are closer, close together and if--because you look at it, when you see infections of this yellow dragon or whatever they call it, wala-mong-dong thing, I don't know what they call it. (laughter) I call it yellow dragon, I remember that. Ok, you see infections go down rows. There'll be a row and it'll skip then there'll be--but they don't seem to jump across this way (drags finger along table), because this was--is far along (knocks table twice) they don't root graft, and it may be the spread of the citrus greening di--disease may be because the trees are now planted closer together than they were ever before, and I think that we always had that here. You know it was just one (taps table) or two, but now that the trees, some of these guys have gone to have three or four hundred trees per acre, and anytime you start cramming stuff in close, yeah! Mother nature gets revenge on you. (laughter) So it may be a new thing to study. You know what we could do, you could find a grove where you find it down-row that's infected and not across it, what we can do is get a pump truck and a vacuum truck and a, and a pump truck out there and what we do is put the vacuum truck in the hole and we can start blasting it and sucking out the mud and we can basically wash all the dirt away from the roots and we can see if they're grafted down there, right? And then if there is a break where you've got a row where you've got a bunch that's infected and you've got one that's not, you go down there and see if there's, see if--there's grafting there or not, but we might be able to get on something new about our cultural practice--has, has changed the, the dynamic as far as insect control.

Roland: I would love a chance to look at those, at the root systems, and sorts of things. Maybe for our biological survey, and also for the geological one, because we are actually going to be taking a radar out there and I'm actually--

Tom: Oh that ground penetrating radar?

Roland: Yeah. (laughs)

Tom: Yeah that's great.

Roland: I'm really interested in imaging possible root systems or getting those sorts of profiles as well, so (laughs, taps table) sounds like a lot of fun.

Tom: Yeah, and, and it may be there is some magic space that if you've got them twenty-five or thirty feet apart, they don't root graft, you got them down to ten (taps table), and, I've seen it in avocados, I've tried to kill this avocado once that was next to a real nice one, he was on the sun side and it always had rotten fruit that fell off, so I tried to kill it. I took a chainsaw to it and I, you know, went real deep in it, twice around the tree, I even branded it, you know. I wrote the date, 2001, on it, right? Okay now you're dead, you know, and I thought later on I'd cut the crap down, this is a big tree you know. For now at least I'll get sunshine on my good tree--that tree never died! And so I was talking to a good friend of mine, he goes, "Yeah, that's got root grafts." It's, 'cause it was so close. It was only like eight feet away from this other big tree, so it was shaking hands down there where you could see it, and that's how it stayed alive. Where usually you girdle a tree like that, you kill it.

Roland: I would love to be able to see that (shuffles papers), we might be able to, we put enough energy into the radar to see the, the root systems and how they interlock, (taps table)

Tom: That's great, I'll tell Erin there is a better way than washing them out, we can actually look with a ground radar, right?! (laughter)

Rolando: Maybe, maybe sir. I mean, if we could, yeah I would love--

Tom: And, and another thing we need to find through the citrus association, some of the old timers, they're, you know, like functionally fixated. They're not going to do anything different, they're still some (taps table), some groves that were planted new after the freeze,

they were on the big spacing. No we ain't gonna do it. You know they say, You guys go on with your ten by twenties, and they stayed with their twenties by thirties.

Roland: Cool, that's a control manager.

Tom: Yeah exactly. I know, I know where there is a naval orange, uh, field close to my place that's like that. In fact the trees are a lot bigger too. You know, they, they grew into their space. You put them in tight and you got a trunk like this in fifteen years, these guys got big trunks. I actually think the production is probably even better. You don't read--it's a what do they call diminishing returns?

Roland: Right.

Tom: You start cramming stuff in, you don't get so much out.

Roland: Um-hm.

Tom: Right.

Roland: That sounds very interesting.

Tom: Yeah. So who does the farming now? We leased it out (taps table). The citrus--that remains--is being leased out to a guy that his name is Fred Carley. He does probably (taps table) I don't know, at least a 1,000 acres. So he has the economy of scale where he can go around and takes good care of the trees and he just come by in June, July of every year and gives my parents--(hiccup), excuse me, some money. Which the way we look at it is, we'd had to sell a whole lot of fruit to make any money. We don't do anything, we get some money. He keeps it looking nice, he keeps the weeds killed and, and then we got all the fruit we can eat so, it's fine. (Roland laughs) And, that's a young man's sport. Farming is heavy equipment, its seven days a week, and man you get old quick farming. I guarantee you.

Roland: I believe it. I've seen it. (laughs) It's tough work. It's about as difficult as it gets.

Tom: Yeah, oil and gas, most of the Valley was, was land that was (taps table) developed and was sold--that was the Bentsens, the McAllens there's, the old time families here in the Valley bought huge tracks of land, they held all the mineral rights and sold the surface so, (snaps fingers) so the majority, in my experience, the majority of the land I've seen does not have the mineral rights.

Roland: A lot of folks don't even know what mineral right are.

Tom: Right, right.

Roland: And they don't own them, for example.

Tom: Right, exactly. Yeah, and I've found this just recently, you could put up a pole two hundred feet, we, without a permit, you can only go to about two hundred feet. You can put up a camera or something, over two hundred feet you need a license.

Roland: Huh, wow!

Time Stamp 58:24

Tom: On the tax parcel number I can get that for you, uh, that's what you need if you need to look it up, this, (taps table) where we originally (taps table) moved out there was citrus properties 11 to 14 was the, (taps table) that's the, that's the name of it but there's actually a bar number with about 13 or 14 numbers that you'll look for in a computer and it will spit out, the, the stuff on it. (exhales, taps table and shuffles papers) My, my wife and I, (taps table) we lived down there, from 11 to 14 for a long time, and then we bought another piece of land just north about a mile there at the old caliche pit, bought that in '95, and at the time it was a junkyard. It was a disaster, and we got, we got excavators out there, hauled off tons and tons of trash, fenced it, it was you know wild times out there. People came out and chained sawed, just tore down the fences you know, it, it was rough, but a neighbor came in and bought the other side and, once he moved in there his wife, was not

going to stay without guards. So, she paid for 24 hour guards for like a year, and they had guys you know, private guys I guess, whatever, maybe retired sheriff guys that sitting around, so when someone pulled up they'd call the law and things changed. You know, (taps table, laughs), there is no more gun fire there is no more dumping. (Roland laughs) Things real--really turned around from what was a disaster out there to a real pretty place now, and at the time nobody else could see it. I'm going, "I want that." Because I realized once you took all the crap away, it would be beautiful out there you know.

Roland: Right.

Tom: And, what else about the place, the--on the south shore, (taps table twice) of that lake where we live now the beer bottles were four feet thick, four feet, can you imagine beer bottles four feet thick? (Roland laughs) Right and down at the bottom there were the old bottle from the '40s and '50s, the colored ones where they actually, the glass was printed, rather than the labels you know. There was some cool stuff there, a-amongst all the, the, you know, the bed springs and (clears throat). There's some you know, there is still some crap out there, you know that I didn't get, I got most of it but it, it became after a while, it's like, wow, that was, you know, actually what we did at the end, it didn't occur to me. I was hauling stuff off and this old timer--Why don't you dig some holes and push it in? (laughter) That's what we did with it you know, I just covered it up you know, and so now it's real pretty out there and, it's, it's real nice, we got, we got stock, there's bass in there, there's--blue tilapia, the African tilapia, (taps table) in there, there's Rio Grande cichlid, there's, there's blue gill, there's blue cat, there's, there's--what do they call it? *Catan, en español*, alligator gar, yeah there in, because--

Roland: *Catan*.

Tom: *Catan*, yeah, because we don't, I don't shoot, because you know, stuff like that now, no, I mean, so we got lots of birds in fact we got some big owls that have moved in around our place and the big--

Cristina: Scary! (laughter)

Tom: You can hear them screech. It's a big barn owl you know, big boy, beautiful.

Roland: Huge!

Tom: In fact I'm going to build him some like little dog houses you know. Put them up on a stilt out there, "Okay go over there, you know."

Roland: That would be great you know, with, with keeping pests down.

Tom: Oh yeah, and it's, it's really crazy because as soon as it starts to-- (makes screech sound) screech real loud--whoa! (laughs) But they're beautiful, beautiful birds and this weekend we had nine whistling tree ducks, came sat on our canoe out there, it's like, yeah.

Roland: Um-hm.

Tom: Got a picture of them.

Roland: Awesome!

Tom: Yeah!

Roland: We'd like the picture. (laughs)

Tom: Oh, oh yeah, we can do that, yeah!

Roland: The more the merrier!

Tom: You bet, you bet!

Roland: Beautiful, we'd love them! (laughter)

Tom: Yeah so, all, all three of my children, were born here--in McAllen Medical Center. Michelle was born in '88, Thomas was born in '90 and Karen was born in '93, they

all went to school in the Valley and--Michelle--Thomas went to Sci-Tech [Science Academy].

Roland: Oh cool!

Tom: Down there.

Roland: Me too.

Tom: Yeah? And, when it was still good according to them!

Roland: Yeah! (laughter) I say the same thing.

Tom: And, and then--my youngest because they didn't have the drama or the--any of that stuff down there, she stayed she went to Memorial, she wanted to be part of the, the drama club and the choir. Stuff that they didn't have down there, you know, so that was the deal with them. Now, my youngest--Thomas and Karen are in Austin. And my oldest is uh, Michelle, she's in Santa Monica, she, she graduated up here, what was it, when did she graduate--

Cristina: Umm--

Tom: 2009?!

Cristina: Yeah I think so.

Tom: Yeah, don't know, awhile back, anyway she graduated from here and--tried out law school she decided she didn't want to do that and then--

Cristina: She stayed one year.

Tom: Yeah, she stayed a year there and she, she, ended up going to California where she works with uh, a company that manages rich people's money. Couldn't be all bad.

Roland: It's not.

Tom: But the kids are all happy and healthy and that's the big thing.

Roland: Right. Definitely.

Tom: Although they are a long way away. You know I--least Austin is only five hours, it's not too bad, yeah.

Roland: Um-hm. Or as far away as a phone call?

Tom: Yeah. (laughter)

Interview Ends

Appendix D

Kenneth Scott Eubanks Interview

September 30, 2014

CHAPS Program students Ezgar Chavez, and Tim Hinds interviewed Scott Eubanks on September 30, 2014 at his home. Topics included information about Scott's family, their travels throughout the world with the family when he was younger, and moving to Edinburg and farming the land.

Tim Hinds: There we go.

Ezgar Chavez: Good awesome.

Kenneth Scott Eubanks: I do like to be mentioned, I will be mentioned?

Tim: Oh yeah.

Kenneth: And brother Tom?

Tim: He was interviewed what, last week?

Ezgar: Last Monday right? Yeah.

Tim: We basically just take the interviews, transcribe them, and they all get put together for our report.

Ezgar: Right. Here's actually a copy, a rough copy just of the questions we will be asking or you can just refer to them. Tom just kind of went down the list.

Kenneth: Okay.

Ezgar: But this is pretty much your story, life story, you can just talk if you like there's really no structure to it.

Kenneth: Mom and dad.

Ezgar: Well is it on?

Tim: Yes, I have it turned on.

Kenneth: Mom and dad, mother was born in uh, Oshowa, Canada. And uh she's uh I believe 86 years old now so you can figure the date. Uh, her parents came from um, the Ukraine. During and just after World War I. Running from the uh Bolsheviks. Grandmother, my mother's mother Stephañia Cherba, was the only one left alive from her village. She went from uh, steerage I believe. From a Baltic port I can't remember and went to uh, Canada. I have a picture if you'd like.

Ezgar: Yeah.

Kenneth: She married uh, she married John Kwasniak. He was uh Polish, Ukrainian, Austrian cross. Anyway there it is.

Ezgar: Yeah.

Kenneth: Baba and John are buried in London, Canada. My father's family, Eubanks, they came to the United States in I believe 1648, as indentured servants and came across a gap with Boone and you'll find them all the way through Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri down here in Texas and California. Mad Anthony Wayne is a relative of ours, so is um, hm, Weeb Ewbanks of the Jets (laughs). Bob Eubanks of the Newlywed Game they're all related. And there's, there's some down here in southern Texas in Cameron County. Daddy knows that they're related I never have met them.

Ezgar: Oh okay.

Kenneth: Uh, dad was born in Boonville Arkansas 1926, uh his father was uh, in the, uh (clears throat) cavalry, the United State Cavalry during World War I, and we were very fond of Pancho Villa because, uh under Blackjack Pershing Grandpa Eubanks chased

Pancho Villa up and down the Texas border. (laughter) Kept him out of, kept him out of World War I and you could see Zapata and (unintelligible) and so forth, so we're kind of fond of Pancho. I know.

Ezgar: Wow.

Kenneth: It may not be, whatever. Dad, uh, Father graduated from the uh, military uh, Georgia Military Academy, right before World War II and lied about his age and joined the uh, United States infantry, the U.S. Army. They had many campaigns in the Pacific theatre, most notably, the Philippines [shows medals] and he was a marksman, purple heart, I believe uh, he had a gold leaf cluster. The gold uh, he had the oak leaf cluster there anyway I don't have that medal but I believe he was awarded that.

Ezgar: Wow. How old was he when he, when he entered the army?

Kenneth: Uh, he lied about his age (laughing).

Ezgar: He was real young then.

Kenneth: A lot of people did that in those days.

Tim: My father was seventeen and he--

Kenneth: --probably.

Tim: --and he uh, got in.

Kenneth: Couple of my cousins died in the Philippines with Dad.

Ezgar: Oh wow.

Kenneth: Anyway that was it uh, let's see. After World War II Dad, he spent some time in some VA hospitals here in um, Texas. He went to Baylor and was majoring in law, where I guess he met my mother. Uh Mother was here on uh, violin she was on a music scholarship. She was playing second chair of violin behind the professor at Baylor and she met Pops, and I guess they hit it off, and here I am. (Ezgar laughs) I was born in 1954 in Waco Texas. Uh, I guess Dad kind of had a roving eye and he moved over to California. Was an associate professor I believe at USC. Uh, my brothers Wayne and Tom were born in Los Angeles. I'm the oldest of course and Wayne's the middle boy and he's dead. Tom of course still, you know him.

Ezgar: Right.

Kenneth: After that we moved to Bozeman Montana. In the late, I believe the late '50s, 59--60, where Father completed his PhD in agriculture economics, and uh, then we moved down to um, Durango Colorado. Where he was associate professor, and we were there for a year or so, but uh, Dad accepted a position, at uh, with Cornell University. With the USAID contract uh to help bolster the academic abilities of the University of Liberia in Monrovia and we moved there, I believe in, I think the contract was awarded '67, we were probably there in early January '68. Dad of course was very big in the uh, American Legion being a decorated hero and such. Here's a photograph of Pops and uh, you can see that here he is carrying that rifle. Dad was probably the color guard and again that's Dad a long time ago. That universe doesn't exist anymore. (Ezgar laughs) Honor used to mean some things in those days. Anyway uh, that's Pops.

Ezgar: It was a lot of moving around.

Kenneth: And then um, I guess he was uh, started with the Department of State. Um, and uh, later on we moved to uh, we came back after two years in Monrovia and then moved to lower Pakistan, and he was a member of the USAID United States Agency for International Development, which started by John Kennedy and uh, I can't find my first passport I don't know where it is. It should be around here somewhere but, I have, I looked for it today.

Ezgar: Oh (laughs).

Kenneth: Before you came I can't find it. Um, Dad we, we went all over. I'll show you some photographs in a little bit here if you like.

Ezgar: Yeah, yeah definitely.

Kenneth: And uh, I've always had a passport. (laughter) Never leave home without it.

Tim: That thing's full, geez!

Ezgar: Wow.

Kenneth: You know, and uh, so after Lahore, Pakistan the, the first um, well actually the second Indo-Pak war started, and that's when the United States betrayed Pakistan for the second time. I'd hate to say that about my country but it's true. We betrayed them once before but that's prior to mine and my father's existence.

Ezgar: Right.

Kenneth: Uh, after the um, during the Indo-Pak war just before the Indo-Pak war started, uh USAID, transferred us to uh, the whole family of course, to uh Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and we were there for five years from 1970 through '75. Come on where is that baby. No, that's not it. Oh yeah, no. You don't wanna see my hot tub do ya?

Ezgar: (laughs) Hot tub?

Kenneth: Well actually its uh, it's a redneck project what can I tell ya. Anyway Dad took us all over the world, man I been, one, two, three, one two three, uh four--three high schools on three continents in the United--uh, the world.

Ezgar: Wow.

Kenneth: Uh, I've seen stuff that doesn't exist anymore. Here, come over here boys. Come look at this stuff. [Ezgar and Tim walk over to computer] This is Monrovia Liberia.

Ezgar: Wow.

Kenneth: In 19—1966, 1967. These are real photographs.

Ezgar: Wow.

Kenneth: Taken by either me or my dad, and this is the way Liberia, you know in Monrovia with the Ebola--

Ezgar: Right, right.

Kenneth: It's in the--

Ezgar: Right

Kenneth: It's in the news, okay. Here you go guys this is the real stuff. Okay this is the market place where they're buying and selling meat, potatoes and whatever (unintelligible). All right now unfortunately this child is suffering from extreme protein deficiency. That's called the--that's the distended belly.

Ezgar: Right

Kenneth: Unfortunately that still exists in Africa today. It's very sad and, [mouse clicks] eh, come on baby. This is a typical little street in West Africa now in Liberia I swear to God. I, it doesn't look much different than this today. I swear by all that's Holy.

Ezgar: No kidding.

Kenneth: All right, Club Beer. (everyone laughs)

Ezgar: There you go.

Kenneth: Club Beer was made by some Germans, they had run, they had run out of Nazi Germany after World War II and then started the beer refinery. I have some dentistry that was made by one of those (unintelligible) Yes. Uh huh, yeah. Well it was in those days. (Unintelligible). [continues through pictures on computer] This is down a, local and here a clothes store see the--you can buy a coat, you know cloth, you know shirt made. It's

called Waterside it was down by the port. It was just um, I don't know who that is, Dad took it, you know. (Ezgar laughs) But there was some girls um, this was a like a native folk bunka bunka

Ezgar: Okay.

Kenneth: You know.

Ezgar: Oh yeah (unintelligible).

Kenneth: People didn't really go dressed up like that, that--

Ezgar: Right.

Kenneth: Was like a folklore dance sort of thing.

Ezgar: Okay.

Kenneth: Right

Kenneth: You go further, further into the bush in those days, you'll probably see that.

Ezgar: Right.

Kenneth: All right. Mm, yeah there's a local lovely, that's all deep in the bush.

Tim: Is that all scarring on the face?

Kenneth: Yeah well that's a lot of mud.

Tim: Oh.

Kenneth: Scarification there's some of it but that's mostly mud. Alright so downtown Liberia 1966--'67. That's what it was like. These are some soldiers. [mouse click] This was the presidential palace.

Ezgar: Oh wow.

Kenneth: Right, right on Tubman. He lived, he had literally gold plated toilets. We lived up the beach about six, eight miles. Uh, he died of natural causes. His predecessor, or his the guy that came after him (sighs) was beheaded, murdered, stuck on a stick in the beach right down here [points to picture on computer] by um, Samuel Doe if you remember Samuel Doe in those days.

Tim: Name rings a bell.

Kenneth: Yeah, Tolbert [William Tolbert, president of Liberia until assassinated in 1980], we lived, I went to school with Tolbert's son, all right. [mouse clicks] That's the palace, that's the palace, palace, palace. [Kenneth sneezes] excuse me, that's gold plated--

Ezgar: Gold plated chandelier?

Kenneth: Oh, the whole, the whole nine yards I mean I, I--these are photographs my father took.

Ezgar: Uh huh.

Kenneth: I was not, I mean I was only like thirteen years old, okay guys.

Ezgar: Right, okay.

Kenneth: As you see over here the photographs. I've been just processing them now.

Tim: Yeah.

Kenneth: Well what do we got here what do we got here?

Tim: All slides (unintelligible). [Pointing to table with picture slides] That's before the world of digital, it's slides and pictures, and film strips.

Kenneth: I'm working on it guys. (laughs)

Ezgar: Oh, alright, wow. (everyone laughs)

Tim: The quality is actually much better.

Ezgar: I'd, I'd imagine honestly.

Kenneth: Oh now here's an interesting, this is on uh, basically a commercial street in Monrovia Liberia 1968.

Tim: Is that a still?

Kenneth: Yes sir. (everyone laughs) That's a still.

Tim: I recognize that.

Kenneth: (Unintelligible) that's a still.

Ezgar: Wow.

Tim: Downtown, huh. (laughter)

Kenneth: Yeah, here's a local warrior boy. Now again this is not--

Ezgar: Typical (laughs)

Kenneth: This is like at a, dance or a pageant or--but if you go deep in the bush, in those days.

Ezgar: Just like that.

Kenneth: Just like that. In fact if you go a couple hundred miles in the bush today, yeah. That's what you got. And this is a witch doctor and I have a--I'll show you if you wanna, but these things are real spooky and these people really believe in it. There's a guy in here, with a, or a tall guy, and he's got a thing on his head. Here let me show you. [Kenneth walks over to another room] The dogs are in the bathroom so don't open the door.

Ezgar: All right. (laughing)

Kenneth: My girlfriend doesn't like this. Come on.

Ezgar: Sure.

Kenneth: My girlfriend doesn't like this so, she puts her, she puts her Walmart hat on this shit.

Ezgar: Oh she covers it (laughing).

Kenneth: Oh yeah, 'cause its spooky crap man. Now this is the real thing guys.

Ezgar: Oh wow.

Kenneth: This is the real thing. Its not tourist right, its not made for tourists this is used in the village. These are on top of those devil dancers, all right. (Tim laughs)

Ezgar: So that was their hat? Wow.

Kenneth: And what they'll do, is they'll, they'll put them way down here, and then crouch down, and then they'll jump up and they'll hold them way up here.

Ezgar: Wow.

Kenneth: And they'll scare the hell out of--now there's, there's a lot of grass, okay.

Ezgar: Okay, what's the top part?

Kenneth: And then, then they'll do like flips and spins and stuff.

Ezgar: Wow.

Kenneth: And uh this is the real thing this is not, this is not uh, for tourists.

Ezgar: Wow, this is, what is this?

Kenneth: This is the real thing. (Tim laughs)

Ezgar: Wow. Yeah there it is.

Kenneth: Yeah my girlfriend doesn't like it.

Ezgar: She covers it up. (laughing)

Kenneth: She, she keeps it covered up. (laughing) But that's, well that, now that's West Africa guys.

Ezgar: Okay.

Kenneth: The real spooky stuff makes Haiti and Jamaica look pretty tame.

Ezgar: Right.

Kenneth: Now I got some more stuff here for ya.

Ezgar: Okay awesome.

Kenneth: Um, anyways Dad took us all over the world, and uh, he wrote reports, Dad's an agricultural economist and he helped stabilize--well now here's some local lovelies there for you. (Ezgar laughs)

Kenneth: Alright, again this is not typical, even in '67 or '68.

Ezgar: Right.

Kenneth: Right this is uh, a pageant or this is what tribal life was like upon a time, but if you go two hundred miles into the bush, this is what you gonna see guys, what you gonna see; and there's another local lovely. [mouse clicks] That's a house, that's a village, and this is where we went to blow off steam--Coopers Beach, that's an Atlantic roller.

Ezgar: Wow.

Kenneth: Same stuff here. This is where those people are dying of Ebola by the way--Eternal Light Winning Africa.

Ezgar: Oh okay.

Kenneth: That's the beach it's ELWA. Alright downtown Liberia

Ezgar: Oh.

Kenneth: That's Waterside Wasa one time, one time. Uh, here you go. Don't have a clue who that is. (Ezgar laughs) They're big rollers, there's me and Daddy and my bros. on the beach. (sighs) We're the same. Anyways Pops took us all over the place, and uh, he worked for the United States Department of State. He was a really smart guy he used to-- (laughing) I know he wrote parts of speeches for Kissinger I know that, uh--

Ezgar: Wow.

Kenneth: He wrote reports on the productive capacity agricultural-wise of the various countries we lived in Pakistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Philippines; and he also traveled to Rwanda, Burundi, various other places I have all the photographs.

Ezgar: Wow.

Kenneth: To see how the agricultural capacity of the country would sustain the population would--and then the political stability of the area. That's what he and a cast of thousands did, all that all those reports that all got fed up to Washington. Then, that's what he did that's my Daddy. And uh, I guess it's by '78 he had enough and he--it was time for him to come back to Texas. He was born in Boonville, Arkansas. He said the best thing Arkansas you ever saw was (laughs) Arkansas in the rearview mirror going to Texas. (everyone laughs) So you know and uhh, so Daddy bought the property off--from the Bentsen Estate uh, off of Monte Christo. He convinced a number of his friends to buy some of--along, along with him.

Ezgar: Oh really wow.

Kenneth: And uh, we convinced the farming, now I, I--hell, I never farmed in my whole life. (Ezgar laughs) I didn't know what a tractor was you know.

Ezgar: Yeah.

Kenneth: I was a college student. (Ezgar laughs) You know. But Dad said, "Okay here we are." I said, "All right." Now lets see here's Haile Selassie, now Daddy was a fairly high-ranking member of the United States Diplomatic Corps. And he did meet Haile Selassie on a number of occasions. And here are some photographs. Uh that's Haile Selassie. And that's uh, I guess they were in a--I wasn't there, I mean I was probably already in college. I graduated from American Community school in Addis Ababa in '72, and we moved there in '71, so--most of the time I was here in Colorado or Utah. But, you know here are the photographs.

Ezgar: Right.

Kenneth: And that's the diplomatic community giving a tour of the grounds. Uh, here's Haile Selassie right there, and it's the date-- [computer monitor shuts off] God bless,

come on, oh no. You guys, Time Warner came out and moved my stuff around the other day and screwed it all up. (Ezgar laughs) Oh man, you do that, oh. Anyways gentlemen.

Ezgar: Is it just the power button? On the side.

Kenneth: Thank you!

Ezgar: Yeah.

Kenneth: There you go, thank you, thank you, thank you. And then more diplomatic community, and the uh, political climate in Ethiopia. In '75 that was very poor and uh, the communist movement was very big. And uh, Red Chinese and the Soviet Union were pushing very hard against Haile Selassie. I'm not making any excuses for Haile Selassie and his, the Coptic Christian Church in the hierarchy; they pretty much were screwing the people. And they didn't, lets put it this way, they didn't have a modern philosophy of managing a good nation state as we know it, and that's best I can put it. And so the communist diktat appealed to the people and especially of the, the mid-level members of the military unfortunately most of what--we trained in Alabama and Georgia. (laughter) Uh, and so they had [pointing at photo on computer] there's a--so they had a uh, coup d'etat, and the Diugre D-I-U-G-R-E uh took over and they imprisoned Haile Selassie and they took over with a--at first it was a, a council generals, and then the colonel shot the generals, and then the, the major shot the generals (laughter) And then a guy named Haile Mariam Mengistu, was major in charge of the, yahoo communisties, and they took the country back into the stone age. And that's unfortunate but that's the way it is. And oh yeah there's Konchita. Its unfortunate that things took the turn that they did and I'm sorry for it, I really am, but there's, there's only a certain amount that American influence can do. Uh, you know I mean it's like in Shah of Iran. Everybody knew that Shah had to transition to a democratic Iran, but he wouldn't do it. Instead, Jimmy Carter threw him under the bus and so you got, this Ayatollah Khomeini who was about to die in France anyway, and they shipped him back to Iran and now as they say, the balls still bouncing and now we're dealing with that. Again we could go back to Iran, back after World War II where, with Mosaddegh, and he was a popular leader of Iran we all know it, but he was going to nationalize, uh shell, uh shell British oil and so the CIA and the MI5 they killed him. (laughs) I think they brought the Shah the Shahanshah back out of God knows where they found him, probably Geneva. They stuck him back in power. You guys ever see Charlie's Wars? Saw Charlie's Wars? Right, well I served in Pakistan with my father, from 1983 until 1992. And I helped spend a lot of that money, so did my father and (laughing) cash of thousands. (Ezgar laughs) Alright. We all know who Bin Laden was, he was just a bit player he was, two bit warlord, he was nothing, but what he did tell the Afghans and all the Pakistani's is the Americans are gonna betray you. Just wait when they've got what they want from the Soviets, they'll betray you. And then Billy Clinton became president and instead of going into Afghanistan and rebuilding the country, Billy Clinton pulled all the money out, he pulled the plug on the whole God damn thing, sent us all home. Fired my twenty-five Afghans, and a bunch of others (laughing) eh, you're all on you own. (Ezgar laughs) Yeah, that's Billy Clinton for you, and now you're still paying for Billy Clinton, you're still paying for Jimmy Carter. Anyway, Pops is a real great guy, he took me all around the world and he showed me stuff, and he bought the property down here, and we grew grapefruits and oranges, and sold 'em into Houston, we sold 'em California, sold 'em into Minnesota, we sold 'em all over the United States. But somehow we just didn't get big enough fast enough and that was it. So Pop, turned it off, Pops turned it off and sold off the property in little ten acre rancheros. Whopty dopty. I'm out of a job (laughing) I'm still doing it, I'm still selling produce.

Ezgar: Oh okay you're still.

Kenneth: Yeah, uh.

Tim: How long did you, well you said you, you know you handled well you didn't know anything about tractors and stuff. How long did you work up there in the orchards or-
-?

Kenneth: Oh my God, well, I was the guy that (laughing) I drove the first tractor home, well, to the farm from Kent Johnson's of Amigo Implements. It was uh, fifty-fifty, I forget there was a Massey Ferguson I think and we, we bought a Kent Johnson down there, a amigo, and I drove it. They checked me out on it, and I drove it back to the farm uh, back in I guess '79, and Gene (unintelligible) had a machinery operation Gene (unintelligible) was still farming up there, you know, across the street from uh, oh Jesus, uh El Pueblito Lounge, that's where the Texas Soil Lodge is eh, soil (unintelligible) That El Pueblito it's gonna be there forever. Well, two hookers and uh (all laughing) and a pinball machine, you know a pool table. Anyway we're up there with Gene Houts he had a machinery barn there. So we started driving tracts up there, me and my brother Wayne, and we, oh geez I--in those days there wasn't machine (unintelligible). So we had to, like box it all up, and like pans or boxes, like four trees here or you know, however it was leveled out, I mean you could get five or ten trees here, whatever it was, I mean, and then of course you had to drive the tractor around it. Burn it up, and then Wayne and I couldn't do it, well I mean, we couldn't just do the labor. So we hired we hired local Hispanics, and they knew what to do. They'd bring in the, (unintelligible) and shovels and then you know, Wayne and I learned from them. Quite honestly, we didn't know, we weren't farmers, hell, I got a masters degree in economics, I mean-- (laughing) I don't know how to drive a tractor. Anyway we did that that summer and we, you know, we'd spend three to four weeks killing all the weeds, then spend another two weeks forming up the irrigation system, spend another week or two irrigating it, and then Wayne and I, we'd go down to Padre Island, got a Hilton Hotel. First we'd go to Reynosa and get a bunch of Cordon Negro in those days hell, it was like two dollars, three dollars a bottle and we'd go down to the Hilton Hotel get a room, and hang out in the beach come back do it all over again. That's what we did and I'd go back. Wayne stayed down here, and he did it 'cause he wasn't in college in those days. Mom and Dad were still over-seas. I was still trying to get a fancy degree in economics, which I got. Uh, I guess Tom floated back down here, I forget you know. (laughing) I can't remember what Tom did, but finally Tommy got down here and I do remember Eubanks Road. We (clears throat) must've been '98, I guess and uh, we drove a mobile home up there to the uh, property, plopped it down in the dirt, and Dad bought a mile of electric line out to the mobile home, hooked it up. We put three big cisterns in the ground, we used to pump water out of the canal and put it in those cisterns then flush the toilets, take showers. Every day after the work was done I used to take the tractor and I run this one side of the road. Well hell, in those days it was just track in the pig weed (laughing) and then bring it back and then once a week I dropped the disc and hook up the blade, crowned off, flattened out, so when it rained, you know, you mean you could straddle the crown and (laughter) and make it out there. I remember one time, oh Lord, it was hard. I love, I love disking guys, you disk the weeds you know, you go to the fields and start disking weeds out and pretty soon we used to call it the Luftwaffe, the hawks would start circling and the eagles would start circling alright because you know, you know, you start cutting, cutting a pattern with the disk and the pig weed, careless grass, or whatever the hell that is. And all the creators would start, you know, going and pretty soon it would skinnies down you know, and the hawks would come in, and bang, the bang, the rats and the rabbits. What I read like was uh, those fancy Mexican eagles--what do you call them, caracara? Yeah those fancy Mexican eagles

with the really thin wing with white and everything man those guys are fantastic. I have seen them spin down and pick up a rattler take it way up in the air and drop it and it bounces and they come down and pick it up and it bounces too, oh and oh, oh they drop it two or three times just to make sure. You know those are fantastic we used to do that. One afternoon, oh man I was tired, and uh, I couldn't wait to get cleaned up to go get some beer because you know in those days Dad used to give us ten dollars Friday afternoon. Uh we would get up, ten dollars, man that was a lot of money in those days man, and we would get cleaned up and we would go out in Reynosa and raise hell, you know ten dollars woohoo! (laughing) I haven't gone to Reynosa in twenty years right, I was on my way home with that tractor and I had, I had a disc, and I was just ripping the shit out of that on the way home on the Eubanks Road. I guess its long enough I can admit to this now, well, all of a sudden I realized, you know, as an offset disc its right now during the ditch, you know, and I'm up here on the road and right here is the ditch all of a sudden I realize I'm gonna hook that telephone, I'm gonna hook that uh, that electric line, with the disc and I'm ugh, oh God, I'm gonna die, because you know, if you hook up with that tool bar you're gonna die out that tractor you know, no seat belt, no nothing, you gonna die. So I stomped on the brake and spun the wheel, 'cause you know you had ugh brakes not like a car but you know one wheel and the other I stomped out the brake to spin that uh son-of-a-bitch, and I spun that wheel and I was like, please God don't let me get killed now and (makes sound) and uh, well scared across the road and (makes sound) that last blade, the last blade of that disc hit, hit that (laughter) power pole and it took out a chunk like a nice just chunked out of it, and a whole mile of that power pole going wobble, wobble and I was going fuck me (laughter) but it didn't go down, and I didn't get killed so I just, you know, took out the throttle, took it home put in a barn and then weeds grew up and I didn't say nobody to nothing till now. (group laughs) Well otherwise all that whole mile of power pole go wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble, I would've died, oh man, I know that one time we were irrigating that one 40 acres north of us and uh, brother Wayne, he's doing most work by then and uh, I was uh, screw--I hurt my back in college. Wayne was doing most work and uh, he was irrigating with uh, the Hispanics you know, little boys and went down El Pato, El Pato's down here Before the Burkleo almost bought them out. What a screw up that place (unintelligible) anyway El Pato, that little place down here (unintelligible) and I bought a bunch of patos and I went to, to Papa Tot and I got a bunch of beer (laughs) and I come back up and (unintelligible) I was gonna give uh, you know patos and beer to all the boys and my bro., and Wayne is standing there or sitting in the dirt in the mud shaking and I go, "What's the matter?" And he said this, and he held out this big ass six foot rattle snake. (laughs) What happened was you know, you don't always see gallons you know, there empty when you fill them full of water stuff comes up. I've seen turtles come out of there, I've seen beer cans, I've seen (unintelligible), this time a big rattle snake come up and Wayne, Wayne cloth it with the irrigating hoe, it was a 6 foot rattler. And I said uh, well you got him didn't you? And he was like, "Yeah." (laughs) And uh, as Pops, he brought us down here and uh, I guess you know that's it. He's a 1926 baby, he's 88 years old, he's had 2 strokes, he has most of his marbles together most of the time uh, I'll say he's done pretty good for two strokes at 88. He's been a great Dad to me. Showed me the world—I, I've seen stuff. Even if you had a million dollars you couldn't see it now because it don't exist anymore. I've been places that may shock the hell--he gave me opportunities in my life no one else could do. He's a tremendous man, he's a hero. He probably saved a lot of American lives. The things I don't know, I could speculate about but I won't. There is a lot of talent down here boys, I could tell you that want to see more photographs? I got more photographs.

Ezgar: Yeah, what kind of uh, actually, I was gonna ask what kind of uh, you ran into a lot wild life out there, what else was out there?

Kenneth: What?

Ezgar Chavez: You said there was a lot of eagles and rattle snakes. What else was out there?

Kenneth: Oh rattle snakes, oh coyote, mostly coyotes.

Ezgar: Is all there was?

Kenneth: And rattle snakes, rabbits, south Texas produce you know. (laughter) It's nothing really fancy, I've seen some interesting birds you know, you know but the Harris hawks, big red tail hawks, that Mexican eagle is a fantastic specimen you could see them all the time if you go look for them but you know. What else would you guys like to know? I probably ran a lot more than I should.

Ezgar: No that's--the more the better. So you said you still you still sell produce right to Reynosa?

Kenneth: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

Ezgar: How does the game change from back then compare to now? I know there was uh. Yeah.

Kenneth: Oh yeah, that is a really excellent point prior to NAFTA the Rio Grande Valley was the winter garden of American winter produce, I mean other than Florida or California this is where it was. Kale, cucumber, tomatoes, they uh--tomatoes never did a great thing down here because of the sand, because they would scar them up right. It was tough, but cucumber, kale, also cabbage where a big, big pulls Teddy Pertuca was here, Don Deck and uh, down here, I used to work for Don Deck for a while you, you know and the other guys uh, but when NAFTA came in. NAFTA shifted the whole paradigm. In other words, all the--not all of it, but uh a great deal the bulk of the production went to Mexico because of the labor del rancho and because honestly, I don't know about today, but in those days they could use chemicals that were bad in the United States so all though Exxon would make the chemicals in Houston and ship them to Mexico (unintelligible) there it is, so the whole paradigm shifted but you know NAFTA shafta. Excuse me.

[Kenneth steps out to speak with friend] 51:00-51:50

Kenneth: So NAFTA shafta okay. It moved a lot of production down to Mexico which is okay 'cause you know, we wanted more prosperous Mexico, is more prosperous is that, you know, I think free trade is a good thing. The other thing is, you know the labor union is up in uh, you know Ohio, Michigan, and Minnesota, they screwed the pooch; they weren't willing to negotiate with the auto people. They were willing to this out, and the other, so the automobile industry moved down here to the maquilas. So now down here from Reynosa to Matamoros you have (laughing) everything uh, the dashboard, the steering wheel, the auto bags, they make the panels, they make everything, they make everything. The only thing they don't make down here right now, and is what we don't have is uh, an auto assembly plant, is they don't have a casting facilities for uh, axels and transfer cases and differential, but that's gonna change because Space X is coming down here. And Space X is going to drag all that down here, and of course they don't, and of course we have fans field over here, which is aluminum casting plant, but they do mud mostly. But I was close, but if we, we will have in the next five to six years you will see an automobile assembly facility down here, that would be fantastic. So what you see is a mix is uh, the basic agricultural cucumbers and whatever peppers moved down south, but then the other industries have moved here that you know flow back and forth with the industrial base, so is really good NAFTA shafta okay. Some people hurt, some people get wealthy, but that's economics right? I think it's been pretty good for the Valley, and I think that you're gonna

see great things down here in the next five, eight, ten years. They're going to be launching rockets, they're going to be making rockets, they are going to be assembling automobiles, they are going to be assembling heavy equipment. The uh, the, what do they call it? Shale formation. I forget the name of it, the shell formation here is in the north of Mexico and goes all the way down to Matamoros and into the Gulf. North of Mexico is going to experience an oil boom, a natural gas boom, electricity, gas, energy. The whole region down here is going to really, really, you're going to be surprised. I mean you're going to wake up in ten years and be like, oh my God, you know I mean. It's really amazing because I--when I first got down here in '78 and drove down here in a convertible with my brother Wayne, and we drove all the way from Colorado (laughter) we got down here in Edinburg, and it was like two, alright, in the morning, two or three in the morning. We tried knocking on motel doors and no, no couldn't get a motel, you just couldn't do it. Wayne and I, we went to a--the square down here in Edinburg right across the court house. We put the lid down in my Corolla, cranked the seats back, and (snoring noise) pretty soon a cop stomping his Billy club in my fender, and he shines his flashlight in my face. "What are you boys doing?" And then I said, "Sleeping sir." (laughter) He says, "Why don't you guys get a motel room?" I said, "Sir, we tried, they are all locked up." He says, "Oh yeah, you're probably right." (laughter) "That's okay guys," he says, "Go back to sleep. I'll take care of you, go get a motel room when the town wakes up." (laughing) So we did you know, but that was then. You know, I don't know if you could do that now or not, I don't know you know uh, uh, it's different. You know in those days you would go to Reynosa you know, and have some drinks, and have some food, go dancing with the girls. Yeah, when's the last time you have been to Reynosa? Uh uh, and you?

Ezgar: Oh no.

Kenneth: Not a chance, and it's sad, and--but I think the whole NAFTA has been really good for the Valley on balance, I think it has contributed for the growth, I think that uh, we have to make the whole Latin America, Central America, it has to go all the way down. I mean, we have to trade without partners to the south like we trade with the Canadians. We got to have this pipeline, we got to have the oil coming down to the uh, uh refineries. We got to talk to our neighbors to the south 'cause either way, we all are going to make money. We are going to have, well I'm too old, but you're going to have children, you're going to have--how we are going to get better and everybody have a better life? It's uh, you know, just trade, make business.

Ezgar: Yeah.

Kenneth: I can look back in the past. I can show you photographs the way it used to be.

Ezgar and Tim: Yeah, that would be great.

Kenneth: I can't show you photographs the way it's going to be--aint that smart! (laughing) If I was, I would be in Las Vegas. I wouldn't be here, but uh, what else do you guys want to know?

Tim: I don't know, I think you have given us a lot of information we can use, might contact you again to get some clarification on a few things.

Ezgar: Yeah, yeah

Tim: You've done well.

Kenneth: Thank you boys.

Tim: And it's, you know, even from your brother, Tom it's like we traveled the world, we did all and then we came here.

Kenneth: Daddy, I mean, I've been to Moscow, I've been on Leningrad, I've went through Check Point Charlie. [Berlin, Germany] I mean, I've seen stuff like I said, even if it were worth a million dollar you couldn't go see anymore.

Kenneth: I'm going to charge you for the photographs, all right like I said.

Tim: We'll see what we can do.

Kenneth: Don't worry, I'm not going to bend you over too bad, you know

Tim: Thank you very much sir

Kenneth: I'm a produce broker you know? **End of interview**

Appendix E

Michelle Eubanks Interview

September 20, 2014

CHAPS Program students Elisa Mora and Christopher Scott interviewed Michelle Eubanks on September 20, 2014 at 2:30pm at the Library Border Studies Archive through Skype. Topics included information about her family, growing up in Edinburg, the places they lived, and living on the land.

Christopher Scott: Okay, go ahead.

Michelle Eubanks: December 5, 1956 and my mom was born February 24, 1959.

Christopher: Where did they grow up? Where did you all grow up?

Michelle: My dad was born in L.A., grew up kind of all over the world. My mom was born in Reynosa and grew up there. I was born in McAllen hospital and grew up in Edinburg until I was 11.

Christopher: By any chance, when you were growing up, did you interact with animals such as cats, dogs, or livestock?

Michelle: Yes, we always had a dog when I was living in Edinburg. We moved to McAllen to more of city area when I was eleven, so, I'll be talking from when I was born to when I was eleven. We always had dogs, a couple of cats who were around sometimes, we would name them but they weren't ours. My dad rented land to people to pasture their cows. I think we got a cow at one point named Calvin, and I think he died and then we ate him. (laughter) And it was a whole thing, but we didn't know that until after.

Elisa Mora: So, you lived somewhere else before the residence there off of Hoehn, correct?

Michelle: Yes. From when I was born to when I was eleven we lived off Eubanks Road, across the street from where my grandparents currently live, in a mobile home, that's the 1700 address you have there for Eubanks Road. It's no longer there, that land has been sold too. I was there until eleven when we moved to McAllen, into an apartment, and I was there until 2011, May of 2011, then we moved to the Edinburg address on Hoehn. And then I only lived there for six months before moving to California.

Christopher: Okay, so as far as education, did your grandparents connect in any way to Edinburg College? I know your dad did, but did your grandparents?

Michelle: No, I don't believe so.

Christopher: When you grew up, what kind of plants did you have? Domesticated? Did you grow crops? Orchards or wild trees or any types of bushes you can recall?

Michelle: Yeah, my grandparents and dad ran a citrus farm, I'm not sure when it died out, not sure when that happened but it was my early childhood on a citrus farm. They had grapefruits, oranges, tangerines everything. I grew up in orange fields. There was always oranges around, grew a bunch of pecan trees, avocados just for him, though. But they sold oranges. There was a packing shed, a lot of greenhouses we used to play in.

Elisa: So on the property is that what you're saying?

Michelle: Yes, on the property just north of my grandmother's house. It's no longer their property; there may be remnants of the shed still there, but it's no longer there in working order.

Elisa: I see--

Christopher: To this very day, do your grandparents or dad do the farming? Or do they do it every once in a while? The farming part?

Michelle: Since the business went under, they only do it for fun. My dad loved growing, so he has his own thing going on all the time, but it's not a business anymore. He does water his plants like every day; he always has some avocados going on. I don't know what stage they are right now. They've gotten stolen, died, the heat or something. He probably has some avocados and if he does, he waters them every day and takes very good care of them. They're like his pets. He also has like probably a 100 chickens. Just for himself, he just has chickens; he isn't doing anything with them. He just likes feeding them and taking care of them, building them little houses.

Christopher: Did you have any military background from your grandparents? Did they serve WWI, WWII, and if yes, what branch?

Michelle: Yes, my grandfather was in WWII, in the army. He got a purple heart because he was shot in the back but is still with us. But no one else, no one else in the military.

Elisa: So, what year was that, do you know?

Michelle: He signed up on his 18th birthday, so he was born in 1926, plus 18, that would be '42, 1942 he must have signed up, and does that make sense?

Elisa: Yeah. I think it's '44 because you said '36 minus--

Michele: Oh, eighteen yeah, so, alright yes '44. And then I think he was shot at nineteen. So he wasn't there very long.

Christopher: Okay, when your father was growing up and you were growing up, does the house still stand? Is there any construction or is still in good condition?

Michelle: The houses I grew up in?

Christopher: And your grandparents, is the property still standing and properly constructed?

Michelle: I don't think so. My grandmother grew up in Canada, so maybe. I don't know anything about where the house is, or how it is. I don't know if it's still there. If it is, she doesn't know anything about it. My grandfather grew up in Arkansas; also don't know if it's still around. I grew up in that mobile home until I was eleven and that's no longer there. The houses that are still there is my grandparent's house that my dad helped them build, I guess the late 80s, early 90s. That's still there; they are still living there. And the house my dad recently built in 2007 to 2011, so that was like a long process. I remember I had gone away to college and he had always talked about the house he wanted to build. And he sent me these plans for this house, and he said, "This is the one." I was like, "Yes, do it!" So from that day in summer 2007 to summer 2011 the house was going up, that he was building on Hoehn.

Christopher: While growing up, did your grandfather and grandmother ever talk about having workers work for them on the property?

Michelle: Like as part of the nursery? Or just around the house?

Christopher: Like the nursery, actually like the nursery or even outside in the fields, near the property--

Elisa: In the orchards--

Christopher: In the orchards, any workers--

Michelle: Well, when they had the nursery, they didn't have workers. They did not live on the property. There were only a couple of them that I remember by name. I was really young so I didn't have a lot of interaction with them. I think they knew me more than I knew them. I was very young so I don't remember very clearly. I don't think they had a lot of employees.

Elisa: So, you moved away when you were eighteen, am I correct, you went away to college?

Michelle: No, well I moved away, I went to UT Austin three days after I graduated high school when I was eighteen. And then moved back to Edinburg in January, 2008 to finish at UTPA. I was there I guess living in McAllen with them until I moved to the Hoehn house in May of 2011 which was around the time I graduated from UTPA; so I was there during like--

Elisa: So, like you said six months, and then you left again, so, you really don't have too many memories from the properties. Well maybe your grandparent's property, right? Mostly, but not the property that your parents live on?

Michelle: I mean we had some memories but I didn't live as long as--

Elisa: I guess we are looking for memories. Mostly like--What would you guys do when you were at your grandparent's house? What did your day consist of? What would you do for fun as a child?

Michelle: I remember very clearly when my dad would go irrigating. I don't really know what that consisted of, but he would come back muddy. I wasn't really aware of what was going on, I was pretty young so I was like okay, he is watering ALL the plants.

Elisa: And you didn't go and follow. (laughs) I'll just let you go and do that--

Michelle: Kind of, at the time, that's what I thought was happening. Sometimes we would go with him and just play in the mud, in the water, because there was just a lot of water, we were just playing in the mud, while my dad was irrigating. It was a lot of fun. Running around, the time I was like, not right now I wouldn't run around those fields, because I'd be like scared of bugs, or whatever, I don't know now but at the time I was like, "Yay," running around in the mud I don't care--

Elisa: Would you see a lot of animals at that time? Like--

Michelle: Well yes, there were a lot of insects. We would like, catch lizards, and little snakes, and uh, a lot of horny toads we would catch--

Elisa: Yes, that's what he did mention that there were some of those--what do you call them, horned lizards? (laughter) Yeah, he did mention that, that's why we were asking, I don't know if we, he mentioned like lizards um, or snakes, kinda--

Michelle: Well, just gardener snakes.

Elisa: Those are like the black ones right--

Michelle: I think they come in different colors; they can be like green or brown, just like little grass snakes that don't do anything--

Elisa: Yeah. And also, he had mentioned that there were a lot of um--like arrowheads? Did you find any, or did; you weren't there at the time, when they found any of them?

Michelle: No, I definitely dug around in the ground and stuff and found rocks but I never found an arrowhead. I wasn't particularly looking for them. I remember, I think my brother found some, I'm not sure, I think he might have. My dad definitely found a lot. I think he found a lot, when, 'cause he was always outside when he working on the farm, and when they were like building at my grandparent's house. When they first moved out there it had been largely untouched for a long time. I think that's when he found them. But I'm not sure though.

Elisa: So the orchards were there when your parent, your grandparents did buy the property? Or were they the ones that planted them?

Michelle: Oh, they were there. They bought, they had that property, and--when they weren't even living there. I think he bought the property out in the middle of Texas,

just without seeing it. And then they ended up moving there. And they were like, “Hey, we should make this our new farm and do this farm thing!”

Elisa: Yeah, because we spoke with him, he came to our class, to visit our class last week.

Michelle: Oh good.

Elisa: Yeah, he talked for about forty minutes, interesting things. (laughter) Okay, what’s the next question?

Christopher: Okay, the next question we have is--do your grandparents own the property that could possibly be a land grant, and if it is, do they get oil or gas rights with it?

Michelle: I, I don’t know anything about that, I don’t know, I haven’t heard them talk about anything like that. They own the property, but I don’t know about mineral rights.

Christopher: Ok, what were their professions, you know, your grandparent’s professions. They lived here, like what did they do besides farming, was there any other jobs they did. Like a big business?

Michelle: I think my grandmother, once she was here, I think she worked as a librarian for a little bit--but not that I remember, she told me that not too long ago, because I don’t remember that at all. Because I was pretty young, but they were retired for much of my, you know conscious life, you know. (laughter) So she was a librarian for a little while, I think she maybe taught music too. My grandfather worked for um, USDA, or agriculture--he would travel a lot you know, he would take off to Moscow, and come back with all this stuff, that was until my grandfather retired, that was mostly, but I don’t have a vague idea of what he did.

Christopher: Ok, let’s see. Have you ever seen any changes to the property while you were living here and visiting your grandparents, like any changes in weather, such as any freezes, snow, droughts, or experienced any hurricanes while you were here with them?

Michelle: There were always droughts I felt like there was always a drought, always pretty much what it was, and it was always a big deal, I remember with the farming, like, oh God, is it gonna rain. Yeah, that was always a thing. You know, if it rains it will be ok, so that was something to look forward to, hurricanes. I felt like that there were always people talking about hurricanes on the news, and we would like, get ready for it. And like H-E-B would like start selling a lot flashlights and water and stuff, we would like get prepared for it, and then it would get downgraded to a tropical storm or something. I think the only big one, I remember I guess--maybe Dolly? But I think that was when I was in college, that was like the only one that oh, ok, it’s actually; it’s actually a big one.

Elisa: Yeah, I remember Dolly as well. It was just a lot of rain right? Not too much damages or anything, okay--

Christopher: Do you have anything to ask Michelle?

Elisa: No, not at this time.

Christopher: Okay. Well, do, by any chance, do you have any photos, because, you know, like you said, the house looked a certain way and now it’s changed and whatever could remember, do your parents and grandparents have any pictures of what so ever of what the property looked like even to this day?

Michelle: I’m sure they do, I can ask my parents. They have all those, I don’t have those photos. But, my mom has a bunch somewhere, I’m sure they can take out for you. I’ll ask them about that. So, she can show them to you, I remember seeing photos, I just don’t know where they are.

Christopher: Alright, and with one last question. Do you remember, by any chance, your grandparents sharing any type of stories of the land, just any, that you can remember?

Michelle: Stories of the land--

Christopher: Yes stories about the land you know, as they were working it, you know. Before your dad grew up, you know, as they were here they start their family, and what was it like for them. Have there been any exact changes throughout the land, throughout the time period.

Michelle: Mostly what I heard about was just like, like, you know I was a kid. I'd hear about, like aw, you know I saw, like we were chased by bees today, or um, I caught a little snake, or I brought you a little horny toad, a toad, you know. He would bring me like little critters or something and then. I remember we had a bunch of horned toads and like, kind of like, put a little fence around them, had them right by an ant hill so they can eat, like the ants (laughter) but I mean, I felt like my interaction with the land, like based on, like stuff my dad would catch and like animals and stuff. I remember, also--one year there was--storm or something--and my grandmothers pool it's the one at 1700 Eubanks, we found, like four baby owl's, in the skimmer baskets, maybe like one or two in the skimmer baskets and couple other in the yard. We think they got blown out of their nest or something, and we didn't know where their mom was, so, we tried to raise them, for awhile. (laughs) And we named them after the Harry Potter owls--

Elisa: Did they survive?

Michelle: Huh?

Elisa: Did they survive?

Michelle: I mean, not for that long, but they wouldn't have survived in the pool either, so, there wasn't much we could do for them--

Elisa: But try to help them. Okay, I mean there's, not much questions, more questions to ask; um, you were pretty much--not really there. (laughter)

Michelle: Yeah, well no when I was a kid, that's was what I was telling you about it was mostly like animals based, I don't remember digging around, I was a little kid so--

Elisa: So yes, your siblings. Are you the youngest, or the oldest, or in the mi--

Michelle: I'm the oldest,

Elisa: You're the oldest?

Michelle: I'm the oldest; I think they might have similar recollections. But my brother definitely was more adventurous so, I think he would like have more--the inside on the actual land. So, at my parents' house the one they have now on Hoehn, I mean, we'd go fishing on the lake, ya know pretty often, I caught my first fish there, a lot of fun. That's what we'd do.

Elisa: There were already fi--

Michelle: And a horse--

Elisa: There were already fish inside the pond?

Michelle: Yeah.

Elisa: Before you got there, were they big? Do you remember the kind that were in there or--

Michelle: I think that--I'm not sure what was there originally, but I think our neighbor had it stocked, because I think he wanted to fish in there so--I think he stocked it with stuff, I mean, I don't know what was originally and what was there, but afterwards he added fish to it. But now there's--like carp, it's like what I caught--and tons of tilapia and--catfish.

Elisa: Oh, wow. Did you eat them too? (laughs)

Michelle: Yeah, caught the carp, I mean we ate the carp that I caught and, and the tilapia too. It was funny 'cause, like, when you're--I think they go around in schools, like

the carp, you catch off a fishing pole. Tilapia, I don't know exactly how you're supposed to catch them, but we end up fanning out. What we did was, just like have our canoe in the water, and all of a sudden you'll see like a dark spot in the water, and like just a huge school of tilapia, and we'd like, just like, put our net over the side and like, keep going with the boat, and just like (laughter) and go into our net, and like falling, or--don't know the word, but just like dragging a net and that's essentially how we would catch tilapia.

Elisa: Was there a lot?

Michelle: But I mean--

Elisa: Did you catch a lot in the net? Or it is just like--

Michelle: Well like yeah, I think I caught like three.

Elisa: Oh wow--

Michelle: And then like tilapia.

Elisa: So it's like pretty big pond then, is it?

Michelle: Yeah, it's pretty big, I don't know but I think in terms of Edinburg, definitely.

Elisa: Yeah, I have a visual, just like a little round, but it isn't--

Michelle: Oh no, did you, did, you get to see pictures like the aerial?

Elisa: I did see one picture, but I guess my, I don't how you would say it but, it doesn't give me justice to how big it is, I guess.

Michelle: Oh, okay.

Christopher: It, yeah, it shows like the whole area without actually pin-pointing the exact location, so that's way it was kind of hard to tell.

Elisa: Yeah, I know, that's what I'm saying. The visual is like aw, okay it's a little pond but, if you're catching tilapia and there are schools in there, then, (laughs) it's obviously a decent size.

Michelle: Yeah, it's, it's--

Elisa: Is there turtles and birds and everything else?

Michelle: Yeah! Absolutely! Turtles can be a problem, because like they'll mess with the line and fishing. I think my brother caught one, and actually cooked it. I'm not sure how that actually went down. But he was into that. But it's a problem because they'll take your, your line and just like go under and start burrowing, you just lose your line and you'll have to put another hook back on so, yeah it's a problem, you just pull really hard. What else, birds? I mean, I, I know there's rare birds, because my dad would mention it. But I don't know a lot about birds, my grandmother--at her house, she always had like, bird feeders, so like, all the pretty birds and you know, she'll have them like right outside the window, she's feeding them. She gets a lot of cardinals--which are really pretty and a ton of humming birds--maybe like a sort of rare jay and some I don't remember what it called. But yeah, there are definitely some rare birds that I got to ask my grandmother and dad about.

Elisa: Um-hm, there is a lot of birds in the area, they're seasonal, because it's in the, between the North and the South. How they migrate north and south. So, yeah I noticed there are a lot of birds that travel through this area.

Christopher: Ok, as growing up as a little kid 'cause, I know you're about my age. I was born '88 so, we're born--

Michelle: Oh yeah, me too--

Christopher: So we were born about the same time. What chores did you do when you were with your parents and grandparents? What type of chores did they have you do?

Michelle: Um, I, I don't think I did a whole bunch around the house, not sure why, but we didn't have like, set chores. They'd just be like okay, do that. It wasn't like regular chores that we had. Uh, we'd like mow the lawn, uh, that was always a thing, because it

was a lot of lawn. It was a big thing; it's still is a big thing. My brother eventually took over that. I, I remember mowing it for a while, it was just so hot, you'd just get so dirty, um, but I think my brother eventually took over after that and I think he mowed my grandparents lawn. So, like through college even.

Christopher: Anything else?

Elisa: No.

Interview ends

Appendix F

Thomas Alexander Eubanks Interview

September 28, 2014

CHAPS Program students Serafin Hernandez, Denise Martinez (not present), and Gerry Salinas (not present) interviewed Thomas Alexander Eubanks on Sunday, September 28, 2014 via Skype to inquire about his personal history, his family and what it was like growing up on the Eubanks Farm.

Serafin Hernandez: Your full name

Thomas Eubanks: Uh, Thomas Alexander Eubanks.

Serafin: Okay. Age and when you were born?

Thomas: I'm 23, I was born December 6th 1990.

Serafin: Your current residence?

Thomas: 2406 Braxton Cove Austin, Texas.

Serafin: Schools you attended?

Thomas: Um, started out Lynn Flowers Preschool, then I went to De La Vina, then I went to Canterbury Elementary, uh, Gonzalez Elementary in McAllen. So I went from Edinburg to McAllen. Then I went to Kathy Middle School in McAllen. Then I went to Science Academy of South Texas in Mercedes and then I went to Pan Am.

Serafin: And what were you majoring at Pan American?

Thomas: Biology and minoring in Chemistry.

Serafin: Oh, okay. Cool. How was it like growing up on the Eubanks Farm?

Thomas: Um, it was very different than my friends, you know (my) childhood. A lot of kids they didn't have to like, even like, think about certain things that like, we would. Um, I guess, I could say I probably had more like, more, I got more experience, growing up in that setting then like a normal kid in the city would have. I guess I would have to do things outside. Whether it was taking care of plants, taking care of your yard. Just general knowledge about plants and animals. I would say that's the biggest thing. I learned a lot about my animals and plants. So basically I had a really good start for biology, a good background. I had plenty of (wild) animals that I caught, and learned about them. I had little pocket manuals that showed me all kinds of information about different bugs, insects, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and birds that I would find. We'd go back and look in the book and who is that? Oh, it's that one and I learned a lot through that. Growing up, people always thought that I was like an encyclopedia. I knew, what like, what this certain animal ate, you know, where it lived, how old and how big it could be and stuff like that. I knew a bunch of facts about plants and animals. Something with plants, my dad would always point out like, "Hey what kind of tree is that?" (laughter) He was just trying to test me cause he planted so many trees and around the Valley, driving around, he could, just going down the road he could just tell you, "I planted those trees, those trees started in our greenhouse." I think that is something that, made me different because of that experience, growing up in that setting, he gave me a good working knowledge of like the world, as it is. I wasn't in a bubble. We're just out there. We lived in a trailer, we didn't have, I didn't have a whole lot. What we did have was our animals and our plants, and our family and that was, majority of our time when I think about it. That's what we did.

Serafin: I drove up to your farm this Friday, because-

Thomas: Oh, did ya-

Serafin: Yes, we're gonna this Monday, and I never really paid attention, but it said Eubanks Road. How many acres did you guys have?

Thomas: My dad knows more about the specifics of that. I want to say it was like a hundred acres total. Between that and the orchards and also just land that they owned around that area. I want to say, it had to be somewhere between, I would say seventy and a hundred acres. If not, just somewhere around that neighborhood. I'm not quite sure. Like I said I was only there till I was nine. I didn't really understand (laughs and coughs) quite everything and but, they were the first ones out there and there was nothing there so that's why they got to name the road and they actually named the road Michelle that's intersecting.

Serafin: Wow.

Thomas: So it's like they were the first ones there so they got to do things like that. Stuff really changed over time, it's come a long way. I mean all the Valley has, especially like McAllen and Edinburg. Things are really growing. I was just gone, for four months, I hadn't visited. I went and visited two weeks ago, visit my parents and just in that time period, four months, so much had changed.

Serafin: Wow.

Thomas: It's growing very fast.

Serafin: Yeah, I was gonna ask you, how many siblings and birth order by date.

Thomas: I got my (coughs) older sister Michelle Eubanks she's born December 17th 1988 and, uh, my little sister, Karen Eubanks, she's born December 24th 1993.

Serafin: I was gonna ask you and of the three, who do you think enjoyed the farm more?

Thomas: Me, uh, because being outside and getting dirty and helping and working with my dad was something that I was more interested in, then say my sisters, especially like my little sister. She, I do know that they kept her out of school a little bit longer than both my older sister and I, just because my dad wanted to have her around, around the farm for maybe another year before she went out to school. Not because she wasn't ready for school, it's just, he wasn't ready quite yet, he's like "You just hang out with me for another year," or whatever. I would say that I enjoy it the most, I always have, when I think about it, now that we live out in the country I think I appreciate it the most because I'm the one who really has a good background like being outside and working outside. I enjoy nature and animals and plants and everything. Not just enjoy the idea of them, I like being around them, I'm an outside person. And my dad is an outside person. That translated more to me than it did to my sisters, that's for sure. Even now, we live out in the country, I enjoy that, I make the most out of that. I ride the horse, I go fishing, I mess around, campfires, we go camping. I mess with the chickens with my dad, with the dog but my sisters, they're not into that as much as I am. They're more indoor people. (laughs)

Serafin: Oh, okay. I was gonna ask you, in your childhood what animal stands out the most? Or insect?

Thomas: Oh, I would say as far as what animals--

Serafin: Animals, insects, anything that comes to mind. Like my childhood, I remember the horny toad.

Thomas: Yeah.

Serafin: I use to see it everywhere.

Thomas: Yeah me too, that's it. The horny toad for as far as the animal that sticks out the most. They're endangered now. Those and the indigo snake are really big out there, and they're still there, we see them all the time. People think they're not around anymore but they are. I would say those two, the indigo snake and the horny toad, the horned lizard. Those are really iconic Texas critters that are both protected and or endangered but they still exist out there. You know, I see them often and that was something, those are animals I like

catching, they were fun to play with. I really liked horny toad those are great. Outside of that, you have to keep in mind that my dad was always catching me snakes, lizards, frogs, toads, (coughing) mammals like little rabbits, whatever, I mean anything. As far as which ones stand out the most, definitely horny toad and indigo snake.

Serafin: Wow. I was gonna ask you, and the animals, the domesticated ones like cats, dogs, livestock, what type of animals did you have on the farm?

Thomas: We had a couple of cows for a time, I want to say. We didn't like milk them, they weren't like milk cows, we just had them (laughs) in a pen. We had lots of greyhounds, we had lots of dogs, all racing greyhounds. Well that's because my parents, they also raised racing greyhounds on the side, that's another thing that they did but, and breed them (coughing) we also had lots of ducks, we had some chickens. We had, but before I was born my dad had lots of horses out there. So yeah, we had many animals. We didn't have any goats or anything. It was mostly chickens, ducks, dogs, or horses and cows.

Serafin: And how about the chickens, did you eat the eggs?

Thomas: Yeah, yeah, that was something, uh, we have more chickens now I think but back then I remember I definitely had real chickens, I'm not saying other animals aren't really but just straight from a chicken, I didn't buy them from a store. (laughs)

Serafin: Yeah. (laughs)

Thomas: I was making eggs for my friend at my house and I was using eggs that I just got outside, five minutes ago and he's like, "Is it safe to eat?" Of course it's safe to eat it's from a chicken. There's nothing, it just came out of a chicken of course it's safe it's an egg. It freaks people out, that's what separated the farm, farm life separate me from other people because a simple thing like that people kind of freak out, wait can we do that? Well yeah. That how people did it for like hundreds of years, you just had chicken, they lay eggs and you just eat the eggs. You don't have to go through like some crazy process to make it okay. It's fine, just like that.

Serafin: Wow. On the greyhounds you said your dad raced greyhounds. Where did he race them?

Thomas: There was a race park in Harlingen. I think it's called, is it called Valley Race Park? I don't know. But it's in Harlingen, it still exists. I don't know if they race very often still, but they race them there. I know they drove them up to New York and race there too. They went, they drove across America I think a couple of times to race them in different spots in different parks.

Serafin: Oh, okay. Wow.

Thomas: But a lot, for a while they had the track record in Harlingen for a dog we had called Agent 99 she was a good dog.

Serafin: Oh, also on the, getting back to the property, was there a change, do you remember any particular freezes, droughts that come to mind?

Thomas: Yeah, um. I want to say, I wasn't born yet but my dad always talked about the freeze of 83 or 89 somewhere, I know there was a freeze right there and that really messed things up. But he always just talked about, and because of that we'd always prepared a little bit extra when it came to getting cold again cause he (coughing) didn't want what happened to happen again. And lose a bunch of plants and considerably a lot of money over it and that's something that, I remember like my dad always said something like, "You know the citrus business is good, or it's okay, but it's even better if Florida freezes, or California freezes, then we can sell a lot," you know and that's the main thing. If it wasn't like for Florida we could get a lot more business. You know. Cause there's more competition, that's all.

Serafin: Okay. So the majority of the business was what?

Thomas: I would say, I mean, oranges, uh navel oranges, uh grapefruit, uh and I think that's the major ones.

Serafin: And the workers, how many workers worked on the farm? What was their living arrangement?

Thomas: Well, there was no one that actually, the workers, there were no workers that lived on the farm, like at the farm. They lived, near, I'm sure in Edinburg somewhere at the time I had no idea or concept of where everyone lived, in relation to the farm. But no one lived at the farm.

Serafin: Oh, okay.

Thomas: Okay, we didn't have like living quarters or anything for people that stayed there all night. Just people showed there, up there early in the morning I think and just would load boxes of fruit and pick fruit. My dad's workers they'd be working late at night doing irrigation. So, I know that, that's something that happened, I mean as far as, like I said they didn't live at the farm. They were local people though.

Serafin: Have you ever found any prehistoric artifacts?

Thomas: No, um. I'm trying to think. As far as, I would remember if I did but my dad is the one who found all the arrow heads and stuff because he spent a lot of time out there and yeah, I always looked around, I was always on the hunt for uh, critters and arrow heads and stuff like that because my dad always says, keep an eye out, one of these days you might just see an arrow head there in the dirt. But I never did. But that's not to say that there's still not an arrow head out there.

Serafin: I was gonna ask you, do you think that you all will go back to settle there, to settle that territory?

Thomas: Well, we do, we live really close to there. We live a little, about a mile north of that place on Hoehn drive.

Serafin: Okay.

Thomas: And we got beautiful property up there and yeah I'm sure that, that property will stay in our family forever.

Serafin: So you do plan yourself literally go there and stay there?

Thomas: Yeah, eventually someday, someday my parents won't be around anymore and I'll just be an old man, and like that'll be ours. That's, it was my dad's, that's our family's property and yeah, we're not getting rid of that, that's home.

Serafin: Anything, I was gonna ask you, you're in Austin right now do you plan to continue your studies in Biology and--

Thomas: Yeah. Yeah, the present time I'm just taking some time off to work and gain some experience in life outside of living at home and everything. But yeah, I do plan to continue, I'm almost done.

Serafin: Okay. That's what I was gonna ask you next because, so once you're done with your bachelors do you plan to stay here in the valley or do you plan there in Austin?

Thomas: Well, I mean after I finish, because, if I were to finish, chances are I'd finish at Pan Am, and then after that, I'll probably apply to either dental school or pharmacy school but there is no dental or pharmacy school in the Valley so I'd probably end up in Houston or, I'm not even sure if there's one here in Austin, I'll have to look that up but it's possible. I just know that there's not a dental school in Austin, sorry in the Valley. So, yeah it's something, because I did lab work in my undergrad. I just, I don't see myself working in a laboratory. I did it for a few years, I liked it but it's just not something that I'd like to pursue as a career. I do love the sciences, I really do. I just think that, I want to try something different with it, with those skills and that background.

Serafin: Okay. Well Thomas that's about it. Thanks a lot for your time.

Thomas: That's it?

Serafin: Well, unless you could think of something specific, story you might have that contributes to the history of your family?

Thomas: I mean, I'm sure you got more pieces from my dad and my grandpa. Have you interviewed my grandpa yet?

Serafin: No, that'll be later, but right now, I want to know about you, Thomas. Like your current situation you grew up there, you went to school in the valley.

Thomas: Yeah.

Serafin: Your relationship with workers.

Thomas: Okay. Well, something I did, something I experienced anyways. I'm a white kid, okay and in the Valley there's not too many white people, and so growing up, going to school in Edinburg I was almost always the only white kid in all my classes. Not only that, but I was different because I grew up on a farm. So I was, I was kind of an odd ball for that reason and I knew a lot about, like I told you, I had lots of, I guess a fact bank, full of all kinds of information on plants and animals, that I'd acquired through my dad working on the farm and, just being outside and that, just those kinds of things set me apart from most people that I knew and so as far as growing up and my experiences with workers. I mean, people liked me, no one was mean to me or anything like that and I helped out, I'm sure whenever I could, I helped my dad out with small tasks and as I got older and stronger I was able to help him with more things like moving plants, watering plants, planting seeds, helping him fix things, things like that. Just stuff to help get the job done, whether it was like. We had to deliver plants, we had to load plants in the back of a truck, make deliveries to people houses or whatever, for landscaping jobs. I know that, because I lived out in the country I was able to do things that other kids couldn't, like drive a car. Well I mean, it's not necessarily legal. Out there nobody cares, it's just dirt road. I'm like a ten year old learning how to drive a car. Because it's like, I started doing that. I used to sit on my dad's lap while he was driving the tractor, and he'd let me drive, and so I got a good start on that. I could drive a car like ten, eleven years old, or maybe even younger, I want to say, I was driving a truck before then because I was still on the farm. I remember and my dad would be like, "Hey can you back the truck up over here so we can load this." Just to have practice, 'cause he understood, that like, you know, I'm gonna grow up and I'm gonna drive a car. I can practice out there with his truck. He didn't care if I did that, it's not like he was gonna let anything bad happen to me. But experiences like that were, 'cause we were so isolated, and we were out in the country I could do things, I could try stuff that wasn't necessarily safe, or, I guess accepted by what other people would think be okay. If we lived out on Trenton, like next to H-E-B like we used, like we did after we moved out. Yeah, I couldn't do that there, there's police, there's kids running around, but out there, there was nobody, there was nobody. I could learn how to shoot a gun. (laughs) At a young age because nobody cared, you could go outside and shoot a gun and the cops wouldn't show up.

Serafin: So what type of gun would you shoot, in case you remember.

Thomas: Well first, first gun I got to play with was a pellet gun that my dad had, he got it in Africa, it's a single shot pellet gun. I first, he first taught me with, that to show me how to be safe with a gun, it's a very small gun and so I did that and I think is was on my tenth, or ninth or tenth birthday. My grandfather just showed up at our place and he gave me my first shot gun. A 4 10 shot gun.

Serafin: At what age?

Thomas: Ten.

Serafin: Oh, wow.

Thomas: And it was too big for me, it was too long, I wasn't, my arms weren't big enough to hold it quite right but nonetheless I learned to shoot it, and stuff like that. Not a lot of my friend had the same kind of experience, they had to wait till they got in Boy Scouts to learn things like that. My dad wouldn't let me join Boy Scouts because he said that I didn't need that. He's like, you don't need to be a part of that, you got what you need. I just, I think I had a better working knowledge of the natural world than most kids my age, at the time and that's, I think that's something that growing up on the farm generally teaches you, teaches you not only as just knowledge, but also your mentality when you work. When people have me work, do manual labor on the job, people are usually impressed with the way I work and how hard I work, it's because I'm used to that. Since I was twelve on, every Saturday I'd wake up early and do yard work all day, clean the pool, I'd mow, I'd mow like three acres of yard and weed, and other stuff, help my dad with plants. Even after we moved out, he still sold exotic plants and native plants to landscapers. And so I'd be helping him with that kind of stuff. And so, I have a pretty good work ethic I think because of that background. Seeing how, cause we had lots of local workers and they're very, very hard workers, and so when you work with people like that, you'll find yourself becoming a hard worker too. And you learn from them. Like one of the guys, he was a little boy, working for my dad. He was like fifteen working for my dad in the packing shed. And I grew up, when I was twelve, thirteen, I was working with him on the yard at the farm. And he'd remember when I was a little boy, so that's like, to me that something really interesting. He knew, as far as the story, he knew me when I was a baby and he saw me grow up and I was working with him, and he was working for my dad when he was like fourteen, fifteen years old in the packing shed with his mom, I think. So, just seeing how it all came together I got to like meet him, I become really good friends with him over the years and I learned a lot about working hard, cause honestly I've never met a guy who could worker harder than that guy.

Serafin: What was his name?

Thomas: His name is Manuel Garcia. He-

Serafin: Okay, I was barely gonna ask you, sorry to interrupt, but, then, would you be, so you speak Spanish then?

Thomas: I understand Spanish and I could get by, and I could say a little bit, but I can't hold a conversation for too long in Spanish. I can ask people for things and I can help people that can speak Spanish and can't speak English, and they need to get a point across or they need something, I can help them, I could usually (coughing) interact with them. Like right now, I work construction up here, and I work with a lot of guys who don't speak any English, and I can get by. I can work with someone who can't speak English.

Serafin: So you think that working with your dad at your guys, at the Eubank's farm, you think that helped you in your current situation right now?

Thomas: Of course, of course! That's what I'm saying, that background has given me an advantage over a lot of people I know. I've got the practice. I've got the background, to learn, I guess, to learn how to do new things that are related to that so. Just because something is hard to do, doesn't mean I can't learn how to do it, if you show me how to do something I can do and get really go at it. I've always found that, that there's nothing really I can't do, it just, you just have to show me. I think that's something. I've noticed over the last, let's say year I've been here, is I've become really useful to other people because I have such a wide variety of skills that I can help out, and a wide variety of jobs, situations, because of my background, because of the way I grew up. If I would've grown up in the suburbs and just went outside, like walk the dog and ride my bicycle around the front street, I wouldn't

have learned half as much, about hard work, making a living, and what it takes to support yourself. I learned more about that because of my background. If I hadn't grown up on the farm, my life would be very different. My whole attitude and my work ethic, I'd say my attitude towards life, in general and other people would be very different.

Serafin: Okay. So, just to get a little timeline. So, on the property of 1707 Eubanks Road, you say you lived there till you were nine years of age?

Thomas: That's right.

Serafin: And then you moved to the current address of your father's address, is it 18460 Hoehn?

Thomas: No. We moved to 721 Sand Piper, that was, it's on Tenth, it's on the corner on Tenth and Trenton behind H-E-B.

Serafin: Okay so, you're nine, you move there. So, how often would you go to the farm?

Thomas: Every weekend.

Serafin: Oh, okay.

Thomas: Every weekend, that's when I started doing yard work out there, man and that's how I started building my, work ethic. I was making my own money cause my parents didn't give me an allowance. So every weekend I'd go work and make my own money. So, yeah for a kid my age I always had money in my pocket because I worked every weekend, manual labor.

Serafin: So your grandfather would pay you then? It would be your grandfather?

Thomas: Yeah.

Serafin: Oh.

Thomas: Yes. Or my dad depending on what was needed, but more often than not, it was my grandparents that were paying me cause it was such a large property and needed to be maintained, and that's what I did.

Serafin: Any particular memory of your grandfather?

Thomas: Oh, yeah.

Serafin: Growing up, because right now, well you told me the hunting part. You told me your dad always worked there. Any particular, thing he did, he liked to do on Saturdays with you or Sundays?

Thomas: Well, I mean. I'm trying to think. I knew that, of course I would go in, I'd work outside and I'd come inside and I'd just talk to them and learn about their lives and they'd tell me all kinds of stories. That's why I have the biggest, I think the biggest connection than both my siblings to the farm because I'm the closest to my grandparents. I know all the stories that they have told and I know what happened and their views towards everything because I was there every weekend for a decade and so that really, that really made me connected to the whole thing and just being out there. I love, I love living out there, I love our place on 18460. It's just, I love being there. To me that's home. As far as memories of my grandpa, I'd come inside and we'd just talk, eat lunch together every Saturday. When he could walk, he'd go walk their guard dog, he'd go walk the dog down Eubanks road, way up north. He'd walk with a cool walking stick he had, he had a stroke and that kind of slowed him down but he got to walking again and yeah he's still doing well, he just doesn't get around as easy as he use to because of that. He has heart issues but as far as things he'd like to do, he just liked spending time and talking to me. Me, my grandma, and him would just sit around and talk while I was, when I would come in sweaty from working outside. It could have been for lunch or a drink of water and I'd talk to them. That's what I did every weekend and so he'd be walking the dog. He got me my first gun and I still have it, I actually have it here. (laughs) Yeah, I learned a lot about life and about

my family history through him and my grandma because of all that time I spent on the farm after I had moved away. So after I was living in McAllen, on Sand Piper, on Tenth and Trenton, I would go every weekend to the farm, and I'd be working there, usually Saturday, most of Saturday and maybe, sometimes Sunday depending on how much needed to be done and I spent a lot of time out there.

Serafin: How about your grandma?

Thomas: What?

Serafin: How about your grandma, did she have any special duties she did there on the farm?

Thomas: Yeah, she actually, I think she did payroll.

Serafin: Wow.

Thomas: She was the boss. She was the boss. She was the head of it. My dad kind of directed traffic and did all the, like the leg work but when it came to doing payroll and anything like that my grandma was the one that was in charge of that.

Serafin: Okay and how about your mom? Because I get a good idea that your grandpa played a big part on the Eubanks Farm, your grandma is doing the payroll, your dad is doing a lot of the physical work. How about your mom, what did your mom, did she have any special duties on the farm?

Thomas: Honestly, okay if I'd rewind before we were born as far as what she'd be doing, I don't know, I don't really know what she, as far as duties on the farm. I know that as soon as they got married they started having kids and so we were there. So, it was taking care of us (laughing).

Serafin: Yeah, it's a job (laughs)

Thomas: Three kids wanted to go outside, go with Dad. Cause Dad was the one who'd wake up in the morning and go work on the farm and we'd just be there. We'd use to call it, go daddy. He would pick one of us to go with him, cause he couldn't take all of us. So he'd take me or my older sister, cause of course we were the older ones and yeah okay we'd get to go. We would spend the day with him while he worked, helping him, riding in the tractor, riding in the truck. Running around doing stuff for him. That's really it, as far as duties, it was more of just helping my dad with whatever he needed. Whether that was holding a hose and watering hundreds of plants, making sure every plant got watered, or pushing seeds in with your finger on these trays with hundred little squares on them and you have to get them all started and do stuff like that, or like pot plants, feed the animals, stuff like that, those are the kinds of things that we did. Just being kids, just accompanying my dad on the farm on a regular day.

Serafin: So, it's not like today's generation, watching TV?

Thomas: No, not at all and that's why--even kids that were my age at the time, they were doing that already. I didn't watch the show Rugrats on Nickelodeon till I was nine. The only time I saw those shows was when I was in a hotel room 'cause we only had local broadcast, we didn't have cable television. So, all I ever saw was the news, the Simpsons, and that was it. That was TV growing up and when I would come to school, people would be talking about shows and stuff, I'd be like, "What are you talking about?" I didn't know. So, yeah I definitely didn't spend half the time watching cartoons and TV, and movies as other kids did. I had a lot of catching up to do on that kind of stuff once I lived in McAllen. Once I lived in McAllen, we're in an apartment and we got Time Warner Cable. It was like, Oh my gosh, look at all channels we got. I wasn't use to that. It was very different time. Like I remember things that I would do, instead of watching TV, I had a hole in the backyard. I was digging a hole, where? I don't know. I was just digging a hole, just to dig

a hole. Sometimes I would fill it with water, it sounds kind of silly but, those were the kinds of things I do to occupy myself. I had a little fenced off area where I'd catch the horny toads that I would have. I'd put ants in there and feed them, have them there. I would play with the dogs a lot. My dad, we really liked model rockets. You know what I'm talking about right?

Serafin: Yes

Thomas: The model, so yeah I learned how to do those kinds of things. A kid from the city would have to go out in the country to do something like that, but for me, I did that on my front yard. So it's very different. It's very different and little things like that made me appreciate more about, just life and people in general. How hard people worked to make a dollar, make a living, take care of their family. When it comes to living in the suburbs and going to Gonzalez Elementary where everyone's parents have fancy careers and stuff. They just see their parents leave every morning but they don't come home sweaty or dirty or bloody or anything. But with me, growing up my dad would come home dirty, muddy, tired, smelling bad, cut on his arm, because that's what it took to survive. It's a different lifestyle. Like you said, seeing all those workers in the packing shed, you see how hard those people would work for an hourly wage, no salary. It's an hourly wage and they're working their butt off every day, coming out and picking fruit all day, that's hard. That's hard work and people would work super hard to support their family. Cause they had kids too and that's how I met Manuel. He was one of those kids and he was already working on the farm at fifteen, getting paid hourly. Because he grew up in that kind of family where it's like you had to start working that early to help the family.

Serafin: So, he got to graduate the same high school as you or –

Thomas: Who?

Serafin: Manuel

Thomas: Manuel, no he--Manuel is thirty years old. He's ten or fifteen years older than me. He's a grown man now.

Serafin: Oh, okay.

Thomas: I bet you he's like thirty. I'd have to ask my dad. He's has to be like thirty-five.

Serafin: Oh, okay.

Thomas: I have to ask my dad, he's a grown man. When I was a baby he was fifteen.

Serafin: Oh, okay. Now I get it. I was gonna ask you, so you said the workers had their own families. Do you know, do you recall if they also went to the same schools as you or, they didn't go?

Thomas: They may have went to De La Vina but the thing is that I didn't know their kids.

Serafin: Okay

Thomas: I just know that the people that worked there, they had families to provide for and they worked really hard. That's the kind of stuff that they had to do. They weren't educated, these people that were working at the farm they didn't have college degrees, maybe not even high school degrees. They're just trying to find work and that's what they do.

Serafin: Do you know where they came from? What country? Were they from here, from the U.S. or--

Thomas: A lot of them were from Mexico.

Serafin: Oh, Mexico.

Thomas: A lot from Reynosa. A lot of them just from here, from Edinburg, just from Edinburg.

Serafin: Oh, okay. Well thanks a lot Thomas, I mean you gave me a lot of information and if I have any questions or whatever I'll call you.

Thomas: Yeah, feel free to call me, if there's any little thing, I'll be happy to rehash over anything, or further explain, if the timeline isn't right I'd be happy to clear that up for you.

Serafin: That's real good and like I said I'm gonna send you some paperwork that when I do the transcription that it gets your approval before I submit it.

Thomas: Okay.

Serafin: Okay, thank you. I really appreciate it, thanks a lot for being easy, accessible, for being very positive, it really has helped me. So thanks a lot. Have a great night.

Thomas: Hey you too man, I'll hear from you soon okay.

Serafin: Okay, bye.

Thomas: Have a good night man.

Serafin: Good night.

(End of Interview)

Appendix G

Karen Eubanks

October 11th and 15th, 2014

CHAPS Program students Mark Allen, Elizabeth Garza, and Pedro Guajardo interviewed Karen Eubanks October 11th and 15th and 2014 through Skype. Topics included information about her family, growing up in Edinburg, the places they lived, her interest in music, and living in Austin, Texas

Mark: What was it like growing up and, and your first memory?

Karen: Alright, ah well, it was just my Dad really just teaching me how to do stuff. I guess I think he taught me how to make a sandwich and he taught me how to put a whole cracker in my mouth and it sounds like super red neck kind of stuff, but that's what we were, and it was cool and I did not think about it or anything. But I was just learning southern things like picking oranges and getting lost and my dad's dog, or our dog Max knowing where I was then my Dad would be Oh God, where's Karen? Like Max would know where I was and take him to me where ever I was. So it was--I remember. I don't really remember the first house, uh, as much as I remember the trailer, but I vaguely remember the first house we lived in. It was not really a house, it was more of a little shack thing that he built out by my Grandma's house.

Mark: Okay.

Karen: So yeah, I don't remember the--I remember the bees. I remember the bees.

Mark: The bees?! What, what kind of bees were they?

Karen: They were by the first shack, I think that's why we moved--I don't know. I really don't have a memory of--but I kind of remember the bees, and I kind of remember it being a thing. And then we had to move across the street to the trailer and then after that we finally moved to the apartment. We lived there for a very long time in North McAllen, and then we moved back to the property where my parents now reside in on Hoehn Drive.

Mark: Okay great, did anyone have or get a run-in with the bees or get stung or anything?

Karen: Probably, my sister is definitely allergic to bees. Like not only are bees bad to get stung by, but she is also like allergic, so it was just a whole thing. So yeah, it was definitely a thing. But, I don't really remember it I, I remember it because, I like vaguely remember seeing bees from looking outside the house and my dad like was, I don't know, I think he was burning them? I don't know because I kind of remember it being in flames. I kind of have this violent memory, but I also had quite a imagination as a kid so I may have created a lot of what happened and convinced myself that that was what happened and so yeah, I had problems (unintelligible).

Mark: Well so, as far as other special memories growing up, ah was there a special place that ya'll would play as, as kids or--?

Karen: Yeah, um, the backyard. I remember we played a lot. Because my dad, we, or he was always working with little puppies, we always had little puppies. And I remember just like playing you know, what ever, we would marry the little puppies and have little weddings for them. I remember that so we would play a lot with the animals, we would play--I was fearless with dirt and, and I think that a lot of what my Dad taught me as a kid, like it was you know, was teaching me like, not to be afraid of like, the elements because for thousands of years people have gone and survived and not to get grossed out by dirt, because we are dirt. You know. And now there is not a vegetable I will not eat, there is not a thing

that I am all, I don't like tomatoes'. I eat everything, my dad taught me that food is important and you should eat it and don't be picky because whatever.

Mark: Right.

Karen: And now I like, there is not, I am like picky about coconut in some things, and sometimes I am like, yeah bring on the coconuts and then, don't put coconut on that I don't want it. And then ice cream I don't get, because uh, I don't really want to brush my teeth right now, I want to eat ice cream.

Mark: Oh, getting the two mixed.

Karen: Yeah, yeah, and then I have some exceptions to that. I enjoy the chocolate that they give out at the, the Olive Garden. Give me the mint chocolate thing okay. I cannot tell you what the point of that is, that I was growing up in that setting, well we just kind of like appreciate everything. Like you know ah, life is important and animals are important, and the earth is important, I don't know.

Mark: Oh great. So did you notice any changes in insects, plants, or animals, or critters from one year to the next?

Karen: A lot of critters you said?

Mark: Well yeah, were there any changes in numbers of certain birds or lizards, or something that you would notice a lot of them one year and then the next year there are hardly any of them around.

Karen: I mean, yeah I remember playing with horny toads a lot, because they were around. I don't really know, I don't know to be honest. I don't remember when, hey where did they go? I have no idea.

Mark: Okay then. Just, just, just wanted to pry into that a little bit. Um alright, as far as transportation did you notice any changes in the roads being paved and caliche roads, the road going out to the--ya'll were staying at?

Karen: Oh yeah, things got developed more in Edinburg / McAllen, I mean the whole Valley. Every time I visit it's growing so fast and even growing up I noticed that. Suddenly like the road going to where Grandma lived, which is where we lived all the time. When we lived back in north McAllen and going back like the roads [leading to Grandma Eubank's home] were always smoother and whatever. It wasn't as like in the middle of nowhere anymore. It's like, Monte Cristo, there still are not a lot of stores or anything. It's not um, very city, or whatever.

Mark: Yeah, it's still in the country.

Karen: Yeah, it's so very country over there. Every time I go over there, they are building more stores you know and it's getting more, whatever, and the roads have definitely gotten a lot better. But there are still roads like, there is Hoehn Drive like it's continuing, I don't know if ya'll have been in that area. The part of Hoehn Drive that we live on, there is another Hoehn Drive continuing on the other side of Monte Cristo only just a little bit to the left of it and it's a totally different road. When I am giving directions to that house people are always getting lost. Every time, everybody gets lost (laughter).

Karen: Because they're like, "Wait, do I keep going down this road?" "Yes, keep going down this road all the way, just keep going." And they're like, "Do I go past this?" "Yes you go past that" (laughter).

Karen: Because all the roads connect to Monte Cristo. All the major roads like Ware Road, 10th Street, 2nd Street, McColl, all of them connect to that area of town. It's not hard getting to our place or anything, but it's like the directions are always the same. It's like get on any major road and go north for like 30 minutes.

Mark: Right, well it must have been nice.

Karen: Well I don't know?

Mark: So when did you start driving and what vehicles you have--did you start driving?

Karen: I personally drove, or my family drove.

Mark: That, that you drove.

Karen: Well, like the first--I started practicing driving on the Suburban that my parents got in I think 2001? And I didn't start practice driving or anything in 2001. I was in first grade, but like that's when we had it, or whatever. I remember at the time that car being like so futuristic, so amazing, and so like crazy different from the car that we were having. I think it was a Taurus. I think, I don't know. Being in that Suburban was like so cool and now I am like, can we not get in the Suburban! It's still alive, I don't know why, (laughter) because there was the five of us, and we'd not all fit inside our cars. So my grandparents are wonderful and they decided when--that they would get us all cars um, ah when we were all driving age or whatever. So and my sister both have Yaris's. I have a 2012, she has a--2009? I don't know.

Mark: Oh, great!

Karen: And my brother has a Honda Fit and--

Mark: So all ya'll have the, the little, little micro cars?

Karen: Yeah, yeah. I thought it was really great that my grandparents--like my family is not from money, but like my parents always wanted us, the kids, to have the best. We had to work hard for what we wanted and whatever. There were a lot of things that I knew I was never going to get but I was just like over it. I never really asked for anything like expensive growing up other than music equipment or something like that and even then I never really asked for anything. It was usually like, Hey it's your birthday. That's another thing all of our birthdays are in the same month and it's a nightmare.

Mark: Oh my gosh.

Karen: Except for my Mom's.

Mark: So how does that unfold? Is there chaos or what?

Karen: Well I mean it's totally awesome because it's an excuse for all of us to just take a week off of life and just scream at each other for a week (laughter)

Karen: There is always cake. All of us get like--gain fifteen pounds because there is just cake and we all have to get inside the Suburban. There is always a lot of high tension, ah it's great but, ah I don't know.

Mark: That sounds fun. And ah, so you mentioned music stuff, so what is your favorite band or type of music--

Karen: My favorite band?

Mark: Yeah, what is your favorite band, music, and TV show and all that?

Karen: Ah well, I don't know. That's a good question. 'Cause I mean I don't know if I have an all-time favorite anything--but ah, I mean I grew up with my parents who were really into music. My dad is a good guitar player himself and was in a band. Rock and roll was a huge deal growing up, Dad was listening to AC/DC and Def Leppard. The Beatles were huge! We didn't, I didn't listen to anything else while I was growing up. Until I got into school and started hanging out with other girls and we would watch the Disney Channel and all, and I was all, What's that! Then I would watch it. I did not know about the Disney Channel until later in elementary school. Which is I mean, my parents didn't shelter me away from it, it was more like my sister was a rebel and was not into that kind of stuff. So whatever Michelle did, I did, because I wanted to be more like her. It was kind of like they were always making fun of me because I was doing things that other girls, like regular girls do watching Disney Channel and stuff like that. And my sister being like,

What are you doing watching that? I don't know, so I liked watching that kind of stuff. I really got into pop music whatever at an early age, um I really got into that. Everything was kind of like that, but I grew a wide appreciation for music and it remains true to this day. I listen to everything and appreciate everything in its own way. There is not any music I turn down and that sounds like I don't have music tastes or anything but I have my favorites or have my opinions on it, but I listen to everything. I don't know it's kind of like food!
(laughter)

Mark: Yeah I was making the connection in my head right now. So pre-Disney channel what kind of things did you two do together?

Karen: Well, together. I don't really know how--when she was getting older she was like not into it. But would still do it with me because I was younger. I never really grew up. Like playing pretend and whatever. Like this year I went to the beach with my boyfriend and I, we played charades for two hours, like that's what I did at the beach. I don't know, as kids we, you know, had the outdoors and I wasn't really glued to the television at the time or anything, or a phone. So we had to be each other's entertainment. I really enjoy word games and playing with people, and looking at people. My sister and I would play dress up and run around crazy. I don't know, playing singing and dancing and making songs and I don't know, doing shows. I used to put on a lot of little shows I almost forgot, its actually really embarrassing I used to like make a program and do stuff for these weekly shows and I did not keep up with it, but it was for a while the show went strong. I would make a program or whatever for my family and I invited them to the show and I would practice and like I would just dance around like to whatever CD my Mom was playing in the car that week. And like it wasn't good. I would make everybody come and I would like put a table cloth on the table and everyone was like we have to be here. My brother and sister were annoyed. Because when Michelle was growing up she was into it or whatever, but then she was like, Shut up already!

Mark: So you are the youngest of the siblings?

Karen: Yes, I am the baby.

Mark: Yes, the baby. Once always right? You mentioned earlier that you stayed in your parent's room. Was there a point when you got your own room?

Karen: Oh my God. Ok, so at the house the little shack that we lived all in one room. And in the trailer I slept in with my parents because my brother and my sister like, shared a room and I was with my parents. And then there was the apartment and I cannot really tell you what the arrangement was because it always changed. It was a three bedroom apartment, 2 bath rooms. My parents were of course in the master bedroom. One of them, the rooms, for a long time was the computer room. That was like the office or whatever. The other room was where all three of us would stay in there. As my sister got older she was like, Screw this, put me in my own room. The computer room is now my room and then they [parents] were like, No we need that everybody does homework, and she's [Michelle] like, "Fine I will live in the closet." And Michelle lived in the closet. She insisted on sleeping in the closet for a long time and Harry Potter was huge in my family. It was just really creepy. So she was in the closet. I never had my own room until we moved to the house in Edinburg now, and I only lived there for a year of--my last year in high school. I didn't have my own room until my last year of high school.

Mark: Oh wow.

Karen: Yeah and I don't even remember being upset about it. Like what I said earlier, I didn't really see the option as like you know, I was just, oh whatever, there was nothing I could really do.

Mark: So you were just chill about it?

Karen: Yeah I mean, I don't know. When we finally went over there it was really weird because we all had our own room.

Mark: Was there as much quality interaction between you and your siblings after everybody kind of got their own room?

Karen: When we moved into the bigger house?

Mark: Right.

Karen: It was kind of funny, we all laughed about it because it was such a large house, of course my dad always relates things to puppies and dogs and everything. When you put puppies together in a small box they kind of huddle together because there is no room, and then all of a sudden you put them in a big place a big yard and they're like, "What?" And they like stay in their little corner. We would all stay up stairs and pass out on the couch and my parents, because like, are you going to go to your room down stairs? Like I don't even know, seriously you don't even know if someone is home in that house, it's so creepy. Well no, it's great, in that sense. I come home and I have to check every room. It takes a while, is anybody here? But I don't know where I am going with that but yeah, even now when I go to visit I love the mattress in my room. I am trying to get my mom to switch it with me, because like Mom, I have a job and I need to sleep better and the mattress that I bought on discount from Sam's is so--my mom wants me to be comfortable here I am like, No! So uh, I always want to sleep in that bed. But like my mom when I am up stairs when we're watching, so see don't you want to stay up here in your room and just camp out here? It's because she wants us to be close together, we are a tight knit family, because of the way we grew up and everything in the very small little box.

Mark: Right. So are you just really close with your direct family or do you have family get together's or things like that?

Karen: I mean you know, It's kind of strange because my mother is Hispanic and my dad is ah, White, I don't know, he's Ukrainian so I don't know what to call him correctly, I don't care anyway. It's strange because I grew up with friends that were really close with their cousins, and I don't really know my cousins. I knew my grandparents and I knew my one cousin on my mom's side of the family we would visit occasionally, well we used to visit more often in Mexico and my cousins and I would like hang out and whatever and we would get along really nice. Like it's a different culture as far as family goes. Everyone is really close because we have to be and my dad's side of the family is like, Hey you're on the other side of the country and we'll see ya when somebody gets married or occasionally a Christmas we will spend here. As far as, we really stay in our immediate family, I would say. Michelle lives out in L.A., my brother lives here in Austin now. But the one time of year that all of us get together is Christmas and it's our birthdays.

Mark: Right. So you mentioned trips to Mexico. Do you remember where in Mexico you would go?

Karen: Yeah, um, in Reynosa. That's where my mom grew up and we would go visit her parents. My mom's father passed away right before I was born and her mother passed away when I was four. I only knew my grandmother for a little bit, she was very nice and I have good memories of us playing together. It was really sad when she passed away and hard for my mom because she was really close with her parents. After that she really put all of her love into our family. We also visited my mom's sister at her house in Reynosa, she now lives in Mission. So we would all go visit her at her house. I do not remember going anywhere else besides her house. We would just hang out. It was when I saw the Wizard of Oz for the first time. And that was the coolest thing ever! That moment

in Mexico in my Aunt's house watched the Wizard of Oz, and now I am a musician, that the reason.

Mark: Wow, so that was a definitive moment?!

Karen: Yeah totally! After seeing Judy Garland I said, Ok yup that's it, that's what I want to be. I wanted to be an actress for a long time it's not that I don't want to be an actress or whatever and it's the reason I am in entertainment period. I still have Wizard of Oz on VHS.

Mark: Nice! Do you still have that VHS player?

Karen: Yeah! It's like the only thing to watch things on. Because like DVDs, if you scratch it once it's over. VHS, I could throw that over my balcony right now and it would be fine.

Mark: That durability!

Karen: Yeah, it will last. There's a few things that will last in like a zombie apocalypse, roaches, Twinkies, and VHS tapes. (laughter)

Mark: Got to have it! And so ah, the next question coming up. Chores! What kind of chores did you have and did they change as you got older an allowance involved did you share chores with your siblings?

Karen: We all just had to cooperate. I was closest with my mom. Growing up I spent a lot of time with my dad, but when I started to go to school my mom drove me, so we spent a lot of time together. My mom, I would always help her out. I think I was the coolest as far as helping out my mom because my brothers and sister was all, "I don't care." Whatever, I am being mean, just I don't know, I really don't know. We were never formal about it, we weren't like, I don't know. Being Hispanic I can say that it is not Hispanic to be like, "Alright Johnny its time for you to do the dishes three times a week or whatever." No its like, "You're going to clean up your plate, you better go freakin' wash it." Yeah get it together. We cooperate all the time we never had a set schedule, my dad was just like, "Listen to your mother!"

Mark: So when asking for permission to do stuff would you ask Dad and get around Mom or how was that interaction? Did it depend on what it was?

Karen: It depends. It depends. If it was like, "Hey can I go to the movies with a friend?" then go to Mom. If she was mad and would say no, then go to Dad because he has no idea.

Mark: Okay great (laughter)

Karen: And then he knows, and says, "Go ask your mother." And he was good at it, because he knew. The first time we asked him he was all, "Yeah you can go." But then he would say, "It doesn't matter if I say yes or not, go ask your Mother, she's the boss. Go ask your Mom she's in charge."

Mark: Nice. So what are some similarities and differences between where you grew up to where you are living now up in Austin?

Karen: Well, McAllen there is a lot of land. When you ask someone where they live you ask them what large stretch of road do you live on? Oh okay, which intersecting road? Gotcha. And traffic is not even a thing in McAllen, sure at certain times in a school zone or near the University yes, but when it's being late for the rest of your life like--

Karen: But as far as like being late for the rest of your life, like being stuck in traffic for like four hours, like that was just boring to me. But living in Austin, Austin wasn't built for this many people to live here but like, at all. Like this city on average 170 people moving here a day.

Elizabeth: Wow.

Karen: So it's ridiculous because just people keep moving here. I work at Starbucks.

Mark: Okay, great.

Karen: It's down the street, and I walk there, and I've had a lot of jobs here, I've lived here for like three and a half--this is my third year or past my third year because I turn 21 in December. So, I've had a lot of different jobs and I've had a delivery drive job and from what I remember I said, "I'm not driving for work." And I don't want to live in my car anymore, it is insane out here driving. The way people drive here is very different from the way they drive in McAllen. I mean you know there's some areas where it's kinda shady and like people like you know, run into your car and speed off because they don't have insurance. But in Austin like people are just drive crazy, are harsh and it's you know (unintelligible).

Mark: Right, yeah it's a big change when people complain about traffic in the Valley they have no idea.

Karen: So ok, it's a big difference of like of moving to Austin where there's so much to be done and so it's, it's overwhelming for somebody like me who's really been doing their thing, lived here for a while but still it's a lot to get used to for living in McAllen where--I mean, I hate when people say that there's nothing to do because it's like, "Yeah there is." Go see your friends, there's nothing really else to do with life anyway, like I don't know, go talk to people, finding something to do. But like you know you go whenever, and I'm used to like going to a place and talking to people but in Austin they're like things to do, like go to the Green Belt dude, it's like a nature walk. The Spartan Springs, it's like a thing with swimming and down on Congress, all this different stuff with any sort of cuisine here.

Mark: Okay. You can say it you know, it's alright. (laughter).

Karen: Actually I--

Mark: I wanna know where it is.

Karen: Well, I don't wanna say because now I don't have a nice thing to say.

Mark: Oh, okay. Well, you'll have to tell us off the record so we know to stay away.

Karen: It's called Red Chili's something it's on, it's on south Ware.

Mark: Oh! I know which one you're talking about, I think they've closed actually. It was a--

Karen: No. It is so new.

Mark: I think yeah, I think last time that my girlfriend and I stopped by there it was closed or they were on vacation. Like, permanent vacation or something.

Karen: Well, it's really nice. Like on the inside it's really nice, it's really decorated.

Mark: Yeah.

Karen: (unintelligible) It's noodles, how do you mess that up? So anyways point is, we got Mexican food a lot but I mean as far as like, like exploring different cuisines, there's a lot of things to do here in Austin like you know, people are like, "Oh my God! You must have fun every day!" like if I was on vacation living here. (Mark laughs) Like it's funny. No, like I live here, I have a million jobs (unintelligible).

Mark: So, so what was uh, what was your motivation to move to Austin?

Karen: Um, it just kind of happened. Um, I was going to, I was going to um, musical school because I had gotten into Southwestern in Georgetown.

Mark: Right.

Karen: But I didn't because it was really expensive, it's a private school. Like it's outrageous like something like over 20,000 dollars a semester.

Mark: Wow.

Karen: For tuition alone and I was like, “I’m gonna be in music/theater major.” Even if it would’ve worked out, it would take years for that to happen and it would be ridiculous. I really started picking up my guitar that I got for my birthday for my grandparents when I was ten and I started you know, playing some songs whatever, whatever. I was in theater, I was just kind of, guitar and singing was just like a hobby to me it wasn’t like, “I have a talent.” Thinking of it like, “I have a talent.” I didn’t care! I didn’t even know what I was doing and I should be honest, I still don’t (laughter).

Karen: Beside the point, I would just you know, my mom was like, hearing me in my room, I knew so many songs, she was like, “You should perform somewhere.” Then she like told my brother, he was in a little band it was like, “Take your sister to a coffee shop and tell them that she has to play there (unintelligible).” And so I did and it was really fun and I fell in love with it and I brought a whole bunch of people and they were like, “Can you play here every month?” And I was like, “Yeah!” And then so I just looked at it as an opportunity too, just own the stage and bring all my friends and play a whole bunch of my favorite songs. I didn’t play original song for the longest time I was just playing all my favorite songs. I made Perry songs, I took the tune of a song and wrote of how I’m gonna fail my biology test which is why my whole family is obsessed with it. My dad is a scientist and I’m just failing biology because it just (blows air) it just missed me. Like, “What? What?” My sister and my brother are so good in academics and it’s not because I wasn’t trying, I was, it just flew over my head. So I did that a lot, so I really fell in love with that and I didn’t really think of that like, “Oh I wanna do this to look weird.” It’s just something I like to do and then in theater I was really getting into that like wanting to go for that and then it didn’t work out as far as academically going to school for it. So then my dad, “That would be a rock star and your sister is going to you know, law school in Austin so go move in with Michelle and Austin has music right?” I was like, “I don’t know!” And so then I moved here.

Mark: So you, you’re currently living with your sister in Austin?

Karen: I used to live with my sister.

Mark: Okay.

Karen: She lived here um, from 2012 to 2013, I always thought it was 2013 because she lived here for a year. She decided that she didn’t want to do law school anymore and she did her first year and um, moved back to L.A. but now has a very fabulous accountant job so--

Mark: Oh great. (laughter)

Karen: Yeah, so she’s doing great so (unintelligible). But it was very sudden because I kind of went from living at home in high school to living with my sister which I was still paying bills and doing like the house stuff but I was with my sister and like if anything happened like, I didn’t have any money or whatever that I would be okay. Because of my sister and my parents occasionally I still get help from my parents, the way it works it’s just kind of like, you know I’m on my own but like, we’re not going to abandon you if you need help or something like that you know. So, I’m not going to school or anything, I’m just gonna go on with my stuff 'cause, why not? And so when my sister moved out I had to get my own place, I have my own place now and it’s like, went from living with my family still living with family, to living alone.

Mark: In Austin (laughter)

Karen: In Austin.

Mark: Wow.

Karen: So, and living alone is funny, you do stupid things because nobody's there. I don't know if that's a good idea to microwave your eyeliner.

Mark: Well I've, I've never really tried that but um-- (laughs)

Karen: You know sometimes when the eyeliner dry out.

Elizabeth: Yeah.

Karen: You have to heat up the tube. In my head I was like, "Microwave." But no one was there to be like, "No, just get your hair dryer." So that's what I'm saying, don't put it in the microwave. It exploded.

Mark: So where do you think that curiosity came from?

Karen: What?

Mark: Where did that curiosity come from?

Karen: My what?

Mark: Your curiosity to, to do things, like sticking your mascara inside the microwave.

Karen: I think I, I don't know if I'm a curious person. I don't know, I try not to think about it, I just do stuff.

Mark: Okay. Already then. Well um kind of taking a step back here but uh, the schools that you attended growing up?

Karen: What?

Mark: Um what, what schools did you attend growing up?

Karen: I attended kindergarten one year at Canterbury Elementary in Edinburg.

Mark: Okay.

Karen: And that's when we moved to north McAllen and I attended Gonzalez Elementary from 1st grade to 5th grade, And then I went to Cathy Middle School and then I moved to Memorial High School. Michelle and Thomas went to the same, no Michelle went to different elementary school and that's because we were living in Edinburg and she was in that age or whatever. Then me and my sister and my brother all went to Cathy Middle School but Michelle decided she wanted to go somewhere else where all these people, she wanted to go to a different high school. So she found Science Academy and my dad was like, "Science Academy? Yeah! That sounds like something cool." And it's a great school but it didn't have any extra curriculum activities and I was looking at a play, I was in UIL in poetry I was like in writing, reading, and writing. I mean I was into that like, extracurricular stuff and Science Academy or Med High didn't have any of that and I didn't want go there. I was starting my own drama like, "No! No!" I'm like, "I'm gonna stink so hard in school, I'm gonna suck and that's okay." (unintelligible) I don't know what made them not want me going to public school. I don't know why. I don't know what the deal was because I don't remember. But I remember asking my dad at Home Depot when I was like in the 7th grade because I was already panicking. I was like, "Daddy do I have to go to Sci-Tech?" "Yeah you're not going to Memorial." "Yes I am, I'm going to Memorial!" And my dad was like, "It doesn't matter." And I was like, "Yes it does." (laughter)

Karen: I think maybe because I raged to get good grades and I didn't (unintelligible). And I tried, I swear and like, I remember in high school I would have like one-on-ones with my teachers and I was like, "I don't get it!" "You're awake in class and you're asking questions and you turn in your homework and you seem to get it and then you take a test and it's like you never heard of any of these materials." (laughter)

Karen: And in the essays I'm like, "Boom!" Multiple choice? You don't give me that! I don't get it, I know the answer, give me fill in the blank because I'll fill in the blank but don't give me five things that's confusing me (unintelligible). Because I'm like, "These three things sound pretty good (unintelligible)."

Mark: Right, I'm the exact same way.

Karen: I hate it, I can't do it. You can't judge my intelligence because I didn't pick the right sentence. I didn't, I've had so many jobs here in Austin but I've survived and down the road. And I've been in emergency situations like I you know, chased by homeless people in the middle of nowhere. And I know people that have graduated like Valedictorian that would never survive a day in my shoes like with like the stuff that I've dealt with (unintelligible) just getting by. It's like, you can't judge intelligence like that, like standardized testing; it's stupid, I don't know, I never fit in with that aspect, expectation grades and that kind of stuff. And not because I don't think I'm smart, it's just like I can't do tests and that's what school is.

Mark: Yeah.

[Interview stopped October 16, 2014. Interview Resumed October 18, 2014]

Karen: I was in the um, fine arts or whatever. I was in orchestra, I played the cello for seven years.

Mark: Oh wow.

Karen: But it's—yeah, and I really valued that and I valued theater. That's really what I cared about, I didn't get into choir until the two last years of high school because I don't know, I chose orchestra because my brother was in it. Thomas was, he played the bass and my parents were like, "Oh, join orchestra too, it makes you smarter." (unintelligible) I was, I was really good for a while, I was really good in the cello but started getting in to more choir and theater and then I just had, I didn't like the music that they were choosing anymore so I got really bad.

Mark: What kind of music did you enjoy playing on the cello?

Karen: I mean, you know actually really good classical music like from Tchaikovsky and stuff, it was my favorite. I don't know, really good like sonatas or some like, sometimes we would do some really interesting songs from opera and ballets and stuff like that. They were really moving because they actually told the story. Music that symphonies actually play because after a while it's already getting into um, themes from old movies and really cheesy stuff or it was intermediate stuff that I didn't really like anymore so I was like, "I don't want to do this." And I mean, that's all, I mean that's just to say like I got really distracted with other things and maybe I just got lazy but whatever.

Mark: Right. Shoot! Oh my God, I goofed again.

[Skype cut off and resumed after a minute.]

Mark: Alright, so we're good so we can continue.

Karen: I don't know what we were talking about. Oh I was saying that if I had to pick a core subject, it would be English.

Mark: English? Ok, alright cool. And uh, did you have, did you have a favorite English teacher or is English an inspiration of yours?

Karen: Wait, I'm sorry?

Mark: Did, did you have a favorite teacher that, that inspired you to uh, for English to be you favorite subject or--?

Karen: Well I don't remember a lot of my teachers. Maybe I don't know. I think they were all, I mean I really liked my teachers in high school or middle school. My English teachers, so every single one of them have been really wonderful in their own way. I remember 8th grade I had a teacher, Mrs. Allen that was really wonderful and I also had Mrs. Grace in high school from Memorial and she was really, really cool. I don't know if she ever liked me she was always my favorite. She got the teacher of the year, she was very mysterious since she was really smart or whatever. I don't, I couldn't, it was hard to keep

up in her class 'cause I really started dropping the ball senior year and I just really could not keep up with the kind of stuff we were doing. I don't know stuff like that. I don't know. I guess Mrs. Allen from 8th grade thought I had potential.

Mark: Ok, cool. Which grade was Mrs. Allen in?

Karen: My 8th grade teacher.

Mark: 8th grade.

Karen: I think she sent a letter home to my parents after 'cause that was her last year at Cathy and then she moved into a different middle school and she sent a letter to my parents saying like, "I really enjoyed being your kid's teacher." Or something about that, I had a very promising future or something like that. Well.

Mark: Well, good. (laughter)

Karen: Right. I was like, I mean I literally never saw her again. So--

Mark: It happens. (laughter) Well uh, you mentioned that you played the guitar and the cello. Uh, do you play any other musical instruments?

Karen: Yeah I play the piano, I can-- (laughs) Do you play the piano?

Elizabeth: Yeah. (laughter)

Karen: Oh piano time!

Elizabeth: Piano and flute.

Karen: You what?

Elizabeth: The piano and the flute.

Karen: Oh wow! Nice.

Elizabeth: Yeah.

Karen: Yeah, I play piano and I play the--I guess I could play the, I guess I play the synth too. Synthesizer stuff, I don't really know a lot about you know, recording music. I'm getting into that but then it's not just like picking up like you know, something that you had. You have to get the right equipment and it's really expensive but that's just the fun fact.

Mark: Right.

Karen: But, actually I have it over here that I keep on my coffee table because I'm insane (unintelligible). I got it at Good Will for like six dollars.

Mark: Oh!

Elizabeth: Oh, that's cool!

Mark: You know what? I had the first version of that when I was a little boy.

Karen: Aww.

Mark: Yeah.

Karen: And then you can go-- (plays instrument)

Mark: It can play the little, "Dudoo dudutoo tudooo dudoo dudoo!" Yeah all the drum machines, yeah! (continues playing the instrument)

Karen: There you go. (laughs)

Mark: Nice.

Karen: I use it as a pop and/or live um, tool in my new music video that is coming out soon.

Mark: Oh, cool!

Karen: Yeah! So yeah. But I mean I don't think it's fair enough to say that I play the cello because I don't own a cello and I played it and I was good at it for a while but I don't play any more. Look if I, if you gave me a cello now maybe I'll still be able to play it because I'm still playing strings but probably I would really suck because it's not like riding a bike.

Mark: Right. Yeah I, I play the cello actually.

Karen: Oh, nice!

Mark: Yeah, so I need to get new strings for it but its holding on.

Karen: Did you go to high school in McAllen?

Mark: No. I didn't play cello for many, many years. It wasn't until I came in to college that I started picking it up again.

Karen: Oh, that's cool. Cello!

Mark: Yeah cello! (Elizabeth laughs) I played trombone in high school though.

Elizabeth: Oh, that's awesome!

Karen: Oh, like me!

Mark: Yeah!

Karen: The cello is serious. The cello is awesome; I really, really enjoyed it. I was really good. I was like first chair, like doing well in competitions doing regional orchestra. I don't know, I don't even remember if I was on it, I don't remember what chair I was just there and I played songs so that was cool. It was an accomplishment, I don't know whatever.

Mark: Oh, good. Which year was that in?

Karen: I have no idea. (laughter)

Mark: Sometime.

Karen: I think I was in, I think I made regional high school, in high school. But I definitely made it in middle school, I don't. I think I made it in high school too, I don't. I have no idea, I made it twice, I think I made it twice--and then they were like, and then after I was just so over it. Because honestly you just get free pizza for showing up and then like, you play a concert and you practice a couple, it's like a lot of time (unintelligible) and there was pizza so that's cool. And, the concert was really cool but I always felt really rushed and it didn't seem like it was really going anywhere, "Yeah, I know the pieces." (unintelligible) And there was this particular circle and I didn't want to be in that circle (unintelligible). So that was great. I don't what else I was saying. Oh, and piano I was like, I was never classically trained on anything for more than a year. I wasn't, I was never taught guitar but it's probably something I'm most familiar with. Piano I was classically trained for a little bit, but I was throwing fits in piano class because I hated all my teachers. Every single one of them because they were all lunatics and my mom owns up to it.

Mark: That is true.

Karen: There was a lady that was eating a hot dog in our piano lesson, okay. How was I supposed to learn from this lady was eating a veggie hot dog? I didn't learn about keeping my wrist off the piano, I learned that you can have a veggie hot dog and your husband gives it to you with mustard on it but, "You didn't want the mustard." [mimics teacher] Get away from me!

Mark: That's pretty good. So how, when, when about, was that high school, middle school or elementary?

Karen: Oh that was when I was very small. I was like I think I was in the ages of six to ten that I was doing a lot of different piano teachers, in and out. Um that was yeah, I was in and out of piano for a while and then afterwards I was just like, "Forget it." And then I was just playing guitar, I taught myself how to play guitar. And then I went back, I started playing piano on my own and googling stuff, I don't know.

Mark: Cool. So when you starting picking up the guitar was that soon after the piano that you got started or--?

Karen: Well soon after the piano ended, I stopped going to piano lesson and I picked up the guitar then picked up the piano again when I was like 13 or 14, something like that.

Mark: And so, your first guitar was given to you by your grandparents?

Karen: Yeah um, for Christmas.

Mark: Pretty cool.

Karen: But I started playing, my dad was teaching me and then because my dad is like a really, really good guitarist. Like, he was trained by one of like the greatest guitar players and I don't remember his name, but he'll tell you.

Mark: Okay, I'll ask.

Karen: Oh yeah totally ask him if he played the guitar and he'll play something for you. And he tried teaching me but my dad isn't much of a teacher. I mean he'll, and I can tell you and say that to him if you want me to. He's not a teacher, my dad is too smart. My dad like it's like he can't teach, he just does and if you can't do it, sorry. Like he gets frustrated because you're not doing it, immediately he got frustrated with me because I was ten years old and I was just like, "Hillary Duff!" I don't know, and he's like, "Ugh, you don't get it you don't care, play scales! Just stop!" So him and my brother really got along and my brother played the whole scales thing and I was just upset that I wanted to play all my favorite songs, I didn't care about scales. I did enough of that in orchestra. So my brother got really, really good in guitar and um then I just kind of taught myself. Thomas, he got guitar lessons, I did not. Boo. (laughs)

Mark: So who is the better guitar player, Tom or you?

Karen: Thomas.

Mark: Okay.

Karen: Thomas is definitely the better guitar player, I don't--we play different guitars. I mean now I picked up the electric guitar because I play back-up in the band, one of the bands I'm in. But he played--

Mark: What's your all band's name?

Karen: Franic and the fixers, I'm the backup singer. I'm not in a band with Thomas, he does his own thing but I am in a band with a whole bunch of older gentlemen. Um, it's funny I'm twenty and the rest of them are either in their--one of them, the drummers started, both of the other two are like (in their) forties. And it's funny because it's kind of like a dad band but none of them are dads.

Mark: Right. So what venues have you played at? And ah, have they all been in Austin, have you all gone to different cities?

Karen: Only in Austin, only in Austin. We played Red Eyed Fly like quite a few times before it closed down but good riddance, that place is a dump. But--

Mark: The, the Red Fly?

Karen: The Red Eyed Fly

Mark: The Red Eye Fly.

Karen: Actually, somebody told me it closed down forever and I was walking past to go to Red 70 the other day and it's open or maybe it's something else now. I don't know but it looked totally different from then, for sure. So, I don't know, there's those dudes. I mean we played there. We also played at this place called the Saharan lounge on the East side. We played I don't know, I forget. We played in those for sure though.

Mark: Okay.

Karen: We recorded a studio album this year. We made a music video. We made an album last year and we're making another album late this year. So, we make a lot of

music but we don't play out--that's the best of Austin. We make music but, the local? Why would you play out? We're not doing an open mic--you got a show, why? (laughs)

Mark: Pretty cool.

Karen: Like really. Like, it's so--it's not what you'd expect here, but whatever. Um, so we do that, um-- (unintelligible)

Mark: Cool.

Karen: It's really cool, you should check it out.

Mark: Alright um, will do. Um we'll definitely try to include some (unintelligible) like a logo or any band art or anything like that you all can send us.

Karen: Um yeah, I think. I mean if you just go in our band camp we got something there.

Mark: Okay.

Karen: But we're gonna, I been meaning to get some, to tell the band dude that we need a distinct logo stuff 'cause we do but I don't like it. In other words, I don't like it, can we change it?

Mark: Okay.

Karen: I don't like the font. Okay, but anyway--

Mark: That is going on the record. (laughs)

Karen: That's off the record, Karen doesn't want it on the record.

Mark: Off the record, Okay. (laughter)

Mark: And so um, so when you were growing up um, did you, did you always wanted to be a musician?

Karen: No!

Mark: Or what was your dream job?

Karen: It's funny, I've been remembering when I was growing up, like now my mom saying since you were little, you didn't want to be a singer or whatever and its funny because I know in my little baby heart that I always wanted to be a singer. Have been singing for a long time and nobody knew about until I was fifteen because I didn't tell anybody.

Mark: So where did you sing? In the orchard or-- (laughter)

Karen: Yes! No one would leave me alone and I would watch Ashley Simpson and cry, "I'm Ashley Simpson," and so I do that but um, I was really, really, really into acting so I mean if you asked me what I wanted to be when I was a little girl I would have said an actress or a writer. I was always writing little poems and stuff. I mean it sounds so stupid but I am a performer and I do several things. Acting was my priority for a long time I occasionally do a short film here but um, I, it's not necessary that I want one more than the other but I find a lot of liberty of creating my own music and doing my own stuff there instead of just going around begging for a script that somebody else wrote.

Mark: Right. Have you written any scripts or stories?

Karen: I did a directing project in high school of One Eyed Cobra / Coro and one that I wrote myself then um, I program a theater program in Memorial High School with Carmen and Diana Garza they created a thing called Student Directing Play Festivals where they had um, they led students who applied with scripts and ideas and the plan to direct their own play, hold the audition, and have their fellow classmates be in the play, hold rehearsals, and perform, and um, that was one of the coolest thing, I did three, two with friends of mine that wrote one, she wrote one of the scripts but we just directed together. The second one we wrote together, directed together. The third one I did by myself, wrote it and directed it and it was awesome. I mean it was it was really a goof, ridiculous, terrible, slightly

offensive and drug related and wonderful but I got into trouble but it was like OMG but it was funny because my director and teacher came up to me afterwards saying, "My kids are in the audience and you are referring to drugs and all that stuff," and I was like but it's like hard to. But it wasn't like a sad thing or anything but it was funny or whatever. Later she said, "It was funny." And he decided it was really, really good and whatever and I had a great time putting it together. I had a great time with my cast and we were just high school kids so it was just fun.

Mark: Cool. Well now we're kind of getting into some more specific questions about the family farm um, do you have a more specific name for the orchard or do you always call it the orchard farm or--?

Karen: Oh God, I don't know. Yeah it was called something, oh God yes there's an answer to that question, ask my dad? I have, I remember the box it was white with orange letters and a picture of an orange I don't, it's oh God, wow! They are going to kill me for not knowing the answer to that question!

Mark: It's okay. I'll just ask your dad all nonchalant and he will be, oh yeah, and he will probably pull out a box and show us.

Karen: Yup there's that.

Mark: We definitely need that for the actual book though um, and uh--so how long has your family had had the property there?

Karen: Okay so my grandfather had this property for a very long time and had it, and moved here by accident--oh hold on I got to go grab my charger it's dying.

Mark: Okay no problem.

Karen: One second.

Mark: So when they started developing the farm or selling parts off, uh, were you aware of that growing up?

Karen: Yeah, yeah my parents always kept us like, even as kids really, really into what was going on, like it was always everybody knew if you were in trouble financially, everybody knew if we were getting a lot of money because we were selling part of the land and even when I was younger and now it's something that I looked back upon and think that it wasn't the best idea because they put stress on me as a kid thinking that you know whatever, it was my fault, or that there some things that I don't, that I did or whatever asking for ten dollars for the movies, thinking it was my fault or something like that or whatever, you know as a kid you think of those things. It stressed out my brother and sister way more than it did me because I didn't understand and they knew that and they can tell that I wasn't going to try and understand so I just kind of became cool every time they mentioned it. Since my dad moved here, I don't know since he went back to school at Pan Am he graduated there from Pan Am. He was there for a while. He went back to school to Pan Am to get his Master's degree and he was a farmer and was working with my grandparents picking oranges and every. Every time I was frustrated he was like saying, "Fine. You don't have to do your homework, you can always pick oranges like I did and realized that you have to go back to school." (laughter)

Mark: So, what kind of effect did that have on you and your siblings?

Karen: Really, really stressful. With that kind of pressure we could always go back to picking oranges if you want or whatever and it's funny because that actually didn't sound so bad to me-- (laughter)

Karen: Like anything is better than finding x, I don't care, I rather pick the oranges, guess what I can probably do it a lot better than I could find x, I don't know, I don't care, I care about oranges I do, I would definitely care more about oranges because I can see it, touch it, I can eat it, I can feed other people with it, I don't know but I always kind of

thought things like that and of course that wasn't very nice and I was grounded for saying things like that (laughter).

Karen: I don't know, so it's been a very long time I can't tell you the year.

Mark: Ok, no problem at all, I think we got in the other interviews I was just asking that just for getting your input, and so let me see we actually--you have been really awesome and your answers and already kind of answered some of the questions we had about the farm anyway. So I'm just kind of scanning through, and yeah how about this one. So did you help out on the family farm, did you, did your dad ever drive a tractor or ever had a job driving a tractor, or boxed stuff up, and what were your ages when you help out with that?

Karen: Well when I was around like, around four, Dad said, "Karen can stay here and help me and do stuff," and I was like, "Okay I'll go Daddy," and I would drive around the tractor with him, he let me drive and--

Mark: Steering the tractor? (laughter)

Karen: I picked oranges, I would wander around, I never really did anything rigorous, Why didn't you play with the dog and I wanted to keep my dad company and he was just watching me because that's what I did all day and I just hang out with my dad and I remember breaking out from my grandma, I remember doing something's but never really a lot and I really don't know I was an outdoorsy person ever I just really didn't like being outside, I just like to be inside playing a game or games but if I was outside I had a reason it wasn't just for, "Oh look at these trees." Can we please go and rehearse a dance that I have been practicing for weeks and the show is tomorrow? "What show?" "The one that I am putting together." There are several home videos of me like having a specific outfit and massage. It was like okay cut the video that's the end Mom. (laughter)

Karen: That's the end of the show like so and I remember playing a lot of computer games because of my dad and I wasn't in pre-K but he already started me on his home computer games about math and puzzles and stuff like that. It was really, really cool. I loved the computer and the computer games that he and my dad would also invent stuff. I don't if that's what you want as a part of the interview? My dad invented that thing he had patented, I mean I don't know the technical term for it, but I mean it was something that he invented for the radio so basically it was an early Pandora but this was before Pandora, before Spotify, it was something that let you teach the radio what you liked or didn't like so you wouldn't miss your favorite songs if they were on another channel.

Mark: Wow!

Karen: It would save it so if you were ever on a different station and um, if Jessie's Girl was on the other station it would switch it automatically.

Mark: Wow that's awesome.

Karen: Yeah he made that in the early stages of it, and I remember him telling me to come over here asking a question or whatever and I'm like, and I was like I don't remember, "What's two plus five and then the machine would say seven," or he would, I don't know, I remember him experimenting on stuff and he made that and it took several years for him to sell the patent but he did and that idea of like was sold to another company from that company and that company made 60 million and that like thing technically was my dad. The idea of liking something is Thomas Eubanks.

Mark: That is tight.

Karen: If you traced it back to company, to company who bought it from someone who bought it from someone who stole from someone, it all goes back to my dad and that idea.

Mark: Wow! That is really, really neat we're definitely are going to include that.

Karen: He can definitely give you more, you should really talk to him about it because I probably said 90% incorrect.

Mark: Okay Karen we will get it from him, we did a little run down and the entire class went, and your dad kind of gave us a yard by yard tour of your property on the old caliche pit and so um, and we got to see the homemade bird, scare away cannon thing that he made, and uh-Karen. My dad told me, "I got this to scare away people." And well okay you know what I'm a total liar, people have totally stolen stuff from our property, (laughter) our mailbox, a chainsaw, a lawnmower--

Mark: What? That's crazy.

Karen: But nothing like I go into your home, slap me in the face and sold the coffee table, but nothing like that, but my dad takes drastic measures that he loves and he has this button by his bed where he can press and start off the gunshot sound thing.

Mark: Oh God (laughter) Yeah that was, it was super innovated I like that.

Karen: Yeah he does it.

Mark: And so, did he ever scare off any of your dates with that kind of stuff?

Karen: No, I don't bring home dates, I was never that person, I never had time, and I never had any boyfriends, the boys were mean to me and I had a but yeah, no I do have a boyfriend now and he lives in McAllen and I live here and um, I see him a lot because he comes and visits a lot because his sister lives here, but no I really never had dates. My brother and sister did, they always were in relationships and their boyfriends and girlfriends were always at our house and that was a good thing and I just didn't have time and I didn't care about anybody there you go. (laughter)

Mark: There it is. (laughter) And so let me see--any special memories of with your grandparents and you can um, on your mother side, I know that your grandparents weren't around much on your mother side but if there are special memories on that side of the family and special memories on your dad's side of the family

Karen: Um, so my mom's side of the family I always got along with and I knew my grandmother when she was around, I never met my grandfather but on my mom's side I really thought that she was really cool she always had her hair like but she was not well but she did her hair and she was always dressed, she was really cool, we would always play and whatever and talking to her a lot and she smoked a lot, her mom wouldn't like for to say that but it's the truth she died because she smoked. I have very vague memories of it but I do remember being in that house in Reynosa when she brought my mom's sister which my aunt now lives in Mission now when she used to live in Reynosa which they bought that house that they had, everywhere being there I loved it because we would just play, watch the Wizard of Oz, and I would just run around. I mean I have really weird vague memories of it but I really loved being there, that's all I remember how it felt to be there, it was a good place. My dad's side of the family, I mean I was close but I wasn't as close as my brother and sister were because when they were growing up things were different, I don't know I am close to my grandparents, I love them and we get along and also my grandma's mom so my great grandmother Bubba was really actually she visited a couple of times because she was like the Ukrainian or whatever in the family, so that mixes Ukrainian with the follow up, she was really cool, and I was always scared that I was going to offend Bubba and I always did because I left my shoe somewhere and she got mad at me and I said, "Sorry," and um one time we drove up to see her, she lived in Canada, in Toronto and we as a family me, my dad, my siblings, drove all the way to Canada just to go see her

Mark: Oh wow.

Karen: I mean it was a two week road trip and I had to take off two weeks off from school, I remember my teachers saying, "Where are you going for two weeks and you are

going to get behind.” But my dad wants to see her and the next year she passed away and that was the last year we saw her and so that was really cool and that was really memorable and we didn’t tell her that we were coming either.

Mark: You just showed up.

Karen: We just showed up at her retirement home she was so happy and it was hilarious, when we got there we went to a spaghetti factory and that was cool and driving up there was cool and my dad and we went on these random long family vacations and it wasn’t like we had any special events planned like I remember, “Dad where are we going?” And he said, “To find snow.” And I was like, with my friends, “Where are you going?” “We’re going on a winter vacation.” But I don’t know were just going to drive until my dad finds snow, and my teachers were like, “Oh God, what does that mean?” So when our family would just drive up north, we would end up maybe in New Mexico because there was snow but the snow was weird so we kept driving and so then we went to the Grand Canyon and there was snow there, and we went tubing and whatever, see this family member, you are going to get dressed in this thing, it was just like lets go and we just had this freezer in the back of our suburban and we can make sandwiches and that’s what we do and looking back at it was kind of hippie but like we would just listen to the oh, and that’s how my parents really got us into really appreciation the oldies and that’s why we have such an extensive knowledge of that era of music because we had these long road trips where our parent’s played the music and we listen to it but I had my Mary Kate and Ashley CD player with me so I got to play my own stuff. So when the batteries died off I would listen to the Beatles but that wasn’t a bad thing.

Mark: Okay cool, so you all went to Canada and any other road trips that you would like to mention?

Karen: We played hockey my brother and I and my sister for a little bit, so we drove to Virginia to play hockey that sucked because they told me I was playing right? But they told me, “Karen you get to play in Virginia,” and I’m all like, “What that is awesome.” I sucked and I didn’t know why I was playing in this tournament and I was like, “Okay.” And when we went I was a benchwarmer and they never put me in and never told me why I was a benchwarmer and I had no idea.

Mark: Oh no.

Karen: Um-hm and here’s the cooler part I’m really good at raffles right? So, and I mean like, I don’t know, I just that I don’t know if I can control the raffles when I win but I just know when I am going to win as a kid they were raffling off a hockey stick and I am going to win because I am not even playing or whatever so I put my name in and I won the stick but my mom made me gave it to my brother.

Mark: Is that the stick that is in the garage right now?

Karen: Probably.

Mark: If I go back I’ll take a picture and send it to you.

Karen: There’s no way that, no stick is probably long gone by now but the stick that is in the garage now is probably Thomas’s from the past like five years ago but this is when I was nine or ten years old.

Mark: Okay.

Karen: I played roller hockey and my brother was good and he was the star player or whatever but I played for a little bit. My dad couldn’t handle me playing because whenever he was the parent coach thing for the day or whatever he would never put me in because he was terrified.

Mark: Oh all the other kids could get beat up.

Karen: Yeah not me, and we were in these ridiculous padded things and all whatever so it was annoying.

Mark: Did you all play any other sports?

Karen: I played soccer for a little bit but I wasn't very good I wasn't very good at any sports ever and all I cared about was the snacks and I remember one day my dad told me, "I can give you twenty bucks if you score a goal in hockey or got into the penalty box." So I was going to score a goal and yeah twenty bucks, twenty bags of Doritos, so I'm going towards the goal and I'm like, oh no, but this stupid guy called Tony took the puck away from me and I was like, but I was about to seize my other opportunity, so I hooked him around his ankle and held him and boom! Penalty box. I was in there. Also this is an important family fact. I found out that Santa Claus, I didn't know Santa Claus wasn't real until ten years old.

Mark: We got to do that.

Karen: My family thought that it was funny that I still didn't know and it was funny to creep around and my family loves secrets and surprises and so they were having another baby and I was like No!. It was like another year and let's just keep telling that Santa is real and I was the freak in school because all my friends were like telling me, "Did you guys know that Santa wasn't real?" We've known for years but it confused us as to why you were talking about Santa Claus isn't real. It was embarrassing like straight up I was a lunatic. "He is real, so is the Tooth Fairy." And all that stuff really gone back to the person I am now, like I'm just always making stuff up and really believing in this spooks and weird things because I found out in a very unreasonable lame age that I'm one of the biggest and very present entity in my life was just uh, with parents at Walmart at one AM the night before.

Mark: So did they dress up in Santa Claus stuff?

Karen: No they would leave notes and traces and they were extensive about it they would do little chi-ching and I would be like Oh my God let me sleep Santa. Yeah anyway one of the coaches told me that while I was in the penalty box and still believe in Santa Claus and they were like hey you know the coach told me, he was like you are getting coal for Christmas because you tripped that guy and that was real shit for me and that's it and I cried I ran outside and some kid threw a rock to my face and broke my glasses.

Mark: Wow!

Karen: Yeah that was one of the biggest days for me as a ten year old.

Mark: Dang. Did your father give you your twenty dollars afterwards?

Karen: I don't remember the twenty dollars. I don't have the memory, I think I was too distracted with the broken glasses and I might've gotten a lot of comfort food that day, but he probably came through. (laughter)

Mark: Okay good.

Karen: Yeah.

Mark: Alright. So do you or any of your siblings find any arrowheads on the property or any artifacts or bones or skeletons or I don't know?

Karen: I think as a child we found a few things such as fossils or something maybe I don't know like, I think my dad was the one who found, I never went out exploring really kind of sometimes as a kid but after I discovered that you don't have to go outside because there is an indoor place, I didn't go, I didn't go, I never gotten anything but there was things found.

Mark: Right and so were there any stories about the land that you were told growing up or any special things like grandparents told you about it?

Karen: Well, I know that it was, my grandparents were the first people on that property so that's why it's called Eubanks Road, and one of the intersecting streets is named Michelle and I thought that Michelle was the first born grandkid but much to my surprise it was actually a weird coincidence.

Mark: Oh! (laughs)

Karen: Yes Michelle, off Eubanks Street

Mark: Alright and let me see any memorable weather events or storms or hurricanes, or tornadoes any of that?

Karen: I don't have any memorable but I remember one time that the hail storm that happened that was terrifying where we lived on that big house on Hoehn drive, the way the windows are with all the stairs are with the view of the lake going nuts because there's like a huge storm coming and it looks like it is the end of the world. Then the hail storm happened and that was really scary because it was like really, really loud where we were and it broke and cracked our windshields and dented our cars but I don't have any other memorable weather storms memories.

Mark: Okay no problem, um let me see any, uh, I think yeah, you answered that question about the plants and animal and things and if you saw any flux actions in them you said that you used to play with horny toads and there used to be a lot of horny toads on the property?

Karen: Yeah I remember that they used to be everywhere, as a kid in elementary school in the fourth grade it was in our books that horny toads had poisonous gunk that would squirt, it's not poisonous I played with them as a kid and my dad let me and it is not poison and I remember reading that and I was like its not poison it's just red liquid or whatever and everybody in class is like, "Who is going to listen to you, Karen?" and I was just like, "Okay everybody is just mean about it." I just don't really care much about horny toads but that's not true my dad was like, "Why are they lying to you in school?" And my being a scientist came in through to school because I asked him for help for homework and he would spend an hour proving the book that I was reading or taking the notes from class were wrong but, "No that's not photosynthesis at all, I'll tell you what photosynthesis is." And then he gets all worked up, and I get confused, and I failed the test, that's what happens because I put the wrong answer and that's the real answer.

Mark: Golly so did that happen with just science or did it happened with history or any of the other subjects?

Karen: I never asked for helped for those things because those were a lost cause. Because the science, oh Dad you want to help me, never mind you are getting really sweaty now so never mind now.

Mark: Well I think that we had gone through all of our questions that we had for you if we, we are going to transcribe these and uh, I have any further questions or any little details that we would like would you be happy to help us out?

Karen: Totally let me know.

Mark: Awesome well Karen it is been great uh, you have given us a lot to work with, a lot to contribute with to this project and uh, I would like to thank you for your time and uh, keep in touch.

Karen: Yeah, thank you so much, I had a good time guys.

Mark: Alright no problem, alright we will see you around, Alright thanks bye.

Karen: Bye.

End of Interview

Tom's Patent

<https://www.google.com/patents/US6704553>

System and method for providing automatic tuning of a radio receiver and for providing automatic control of a CD/tape player

Publication number US6704553 B1

Publication type Grant

Application number US 09/460,131

Publication date Mar 9, 2004

Filing date Dec 13, 1999

Priority date Oct 8, 1997

Fee status Paid

Also published as US7565122, 5 More »

Inventors Thomas M. Eubanks

Original Assignee Thomas M. Eubanks

Appendix H

Eubanks Collection
Arrow, Dart and Fragmented Projectile Points
Found Within the Lower Rio Grande Valley Region

Report prepared by:
Roseann Bacha-Garza

Report prepared under the supervision of:

Dr. Russell K. Skowronek,
Principal Investigator and Professor of Anthropology and History

Dr. Juan Gonzalez – Professor of Geology and Geomorphologist

Bobbie Lovett – Anthropology Lecturer and Field Archaeologist

Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools
University of Texas – Pan American
Edinburg, TX
Special Report No. 3
April 2015



OUR GOAL

Our goal at the CHAPS Program is to identify evidence of human occupation for the past 10,000 years of the Rio Grande Valley region. This entails photographing, describing and sometimes drawing or casting projectile points and establishing their date within known typologies, identifying the stone or lithic source materials for the points and locating their place of discovery. With the permission of the “finder” and the landowner, we will record sites with the Texas Historical Commission to ensure information on the sites is preserved for future generations. Information gleaned from these descriptive endeavors will be used for scholarly research purposes. All site locations will be kept confidential per the guidelines established by the State of Texas and the larger code of ethics adhered to by the Register of Professional Archaeologists.

SITE LOCATIONS

There are two site locations for this project. One is found at the Kenneth and Irene Eubanks homestead on Eubanks Road in Edinburg, Texas. The other site is owned by the Eubanks' son, Thomas Eubanks, and is located at 18460 Hoehn Road in Edinburg, Texas. According to Thomas Eubanks, most of the points in his collection were found within a 1/8 mile radius in front of his parents' home (center point being the mailbox in front of the house). While we are uncertain about the exact location for each point found and from which site they were found, we are certain that they are prehistoric and historic archaeological artifacts that date back to the Early Archaic period between 5,500 and 8,000 years ago.

LOCATION COORDINATES

**Kenneth and Irene Eubanks property
at 17307 Eubanks Road, Edinburg, TX 78541**

Latitude: 26° 21' 35.21" N

Longitude 98° 12' 21.10" W

Elevation 32 Meters (104 Feet) above Sea Level



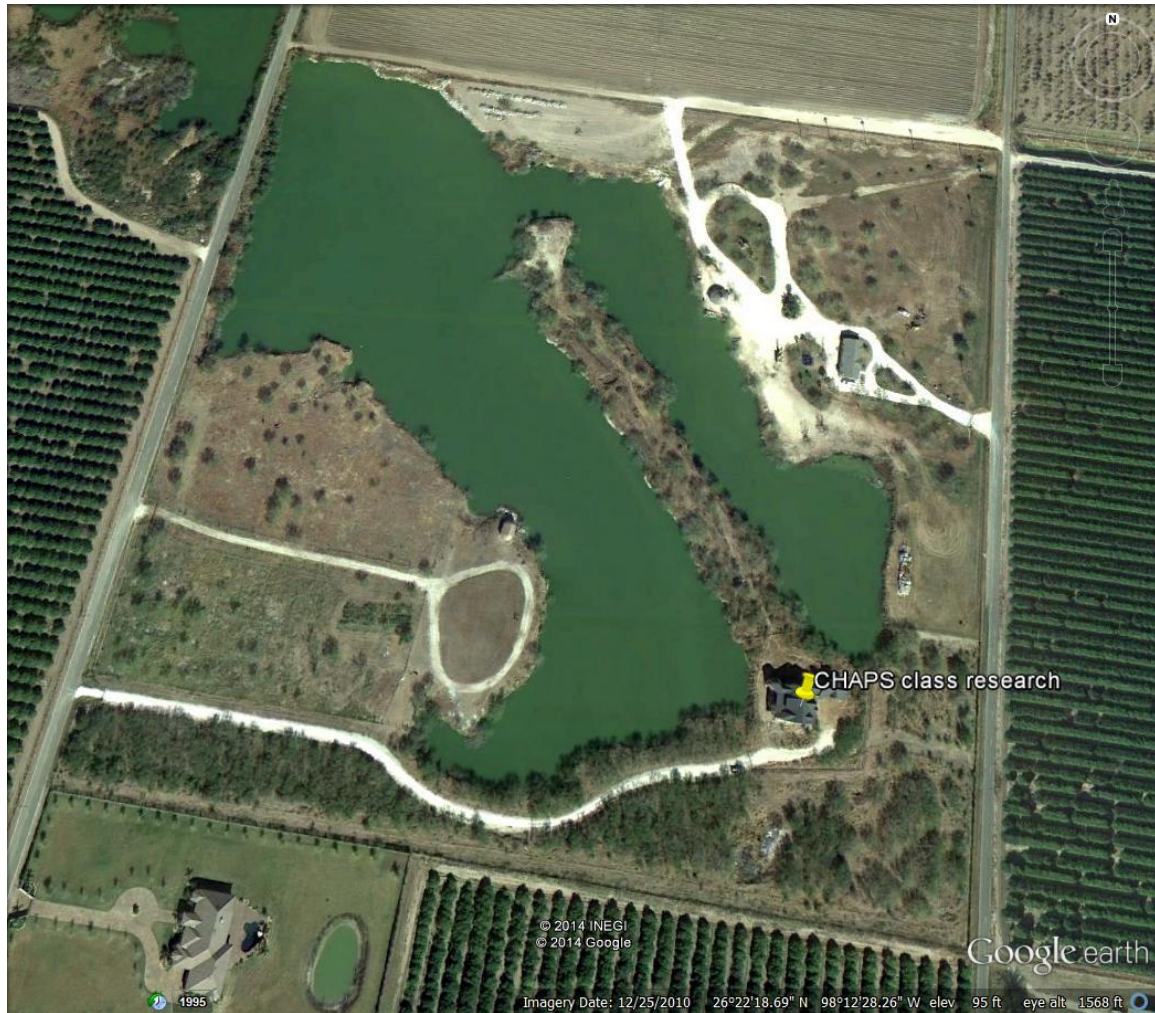
Google Earth image of Kenneth and Irene Eubanks' property at 17307 Eubanks Road, Edinburg, TX

Thomas Eubanks property at 18460 Hoehn Road, Edinburg, TX 78541

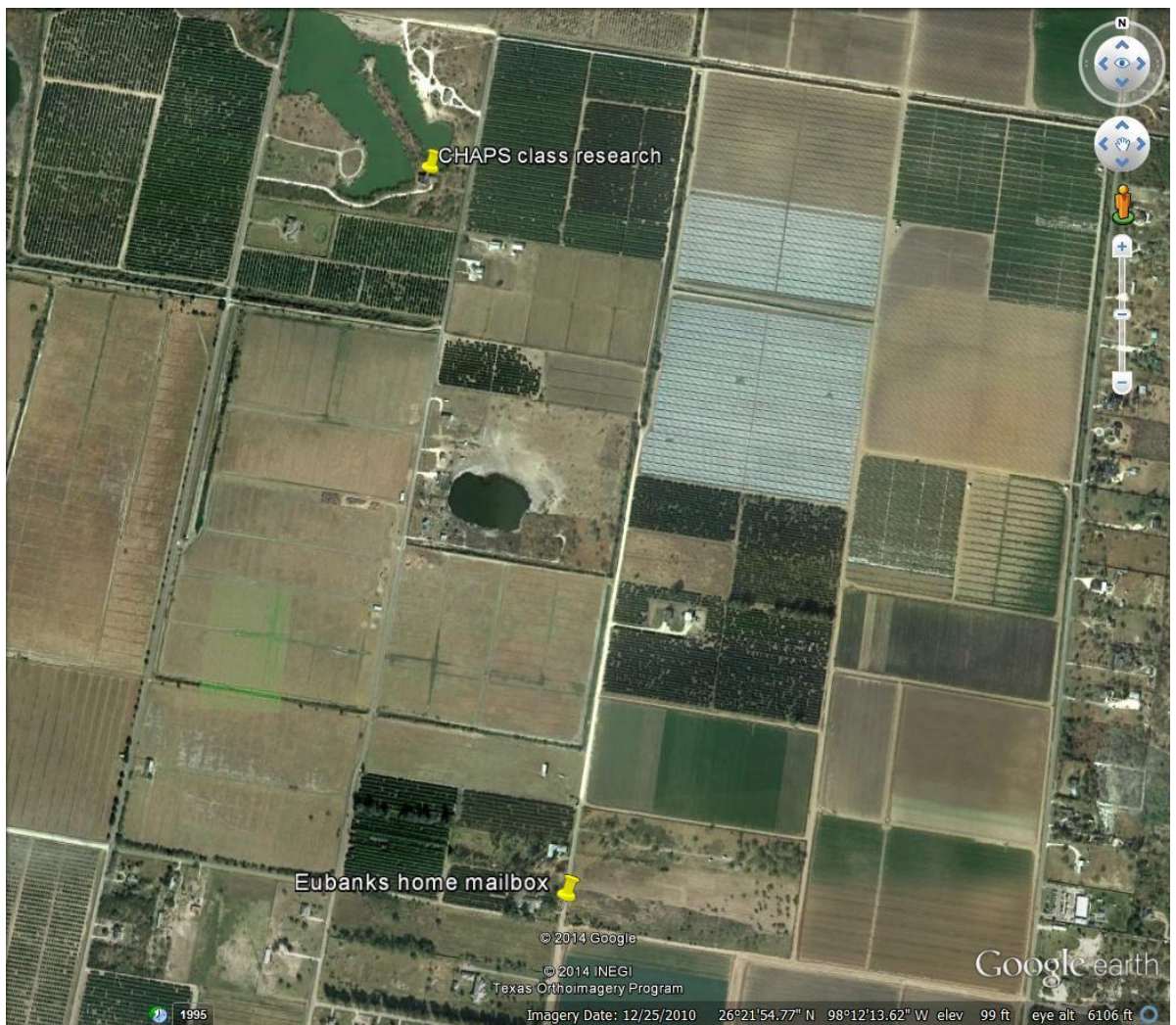
Latitude: 26° 22'18.47" N

Longitude: 98° 12'32.67" W

Elevation 31 Meters (102 Feet) above sea level



**Google Earth image of Tom Eubanks' property at 18460 Hoehn Road,
Edinburg, TX**



Proximity of Kenneth Eubanks' home on Eubanks Road and Thomas Eubanks' home on Hoehn Road

1



6



2



7



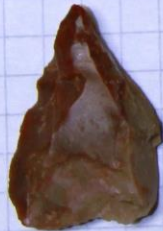
3



8



4



9

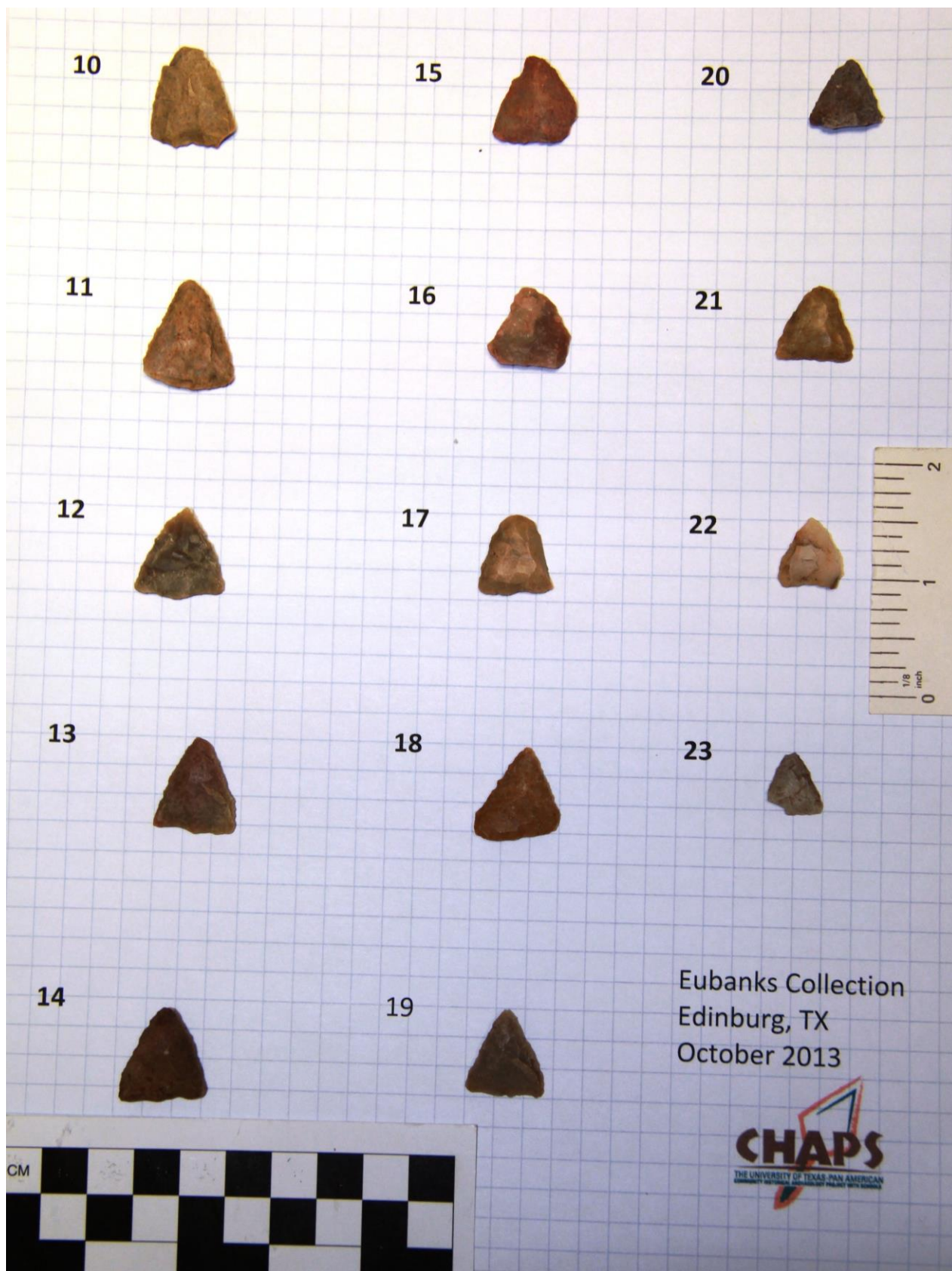


5



Tom Eubanks Collection
October 2013
Edinburg, TX





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Eubanks Collection
Edinburg, TX
October 2013



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27



32



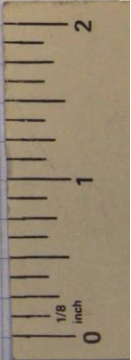
37



28

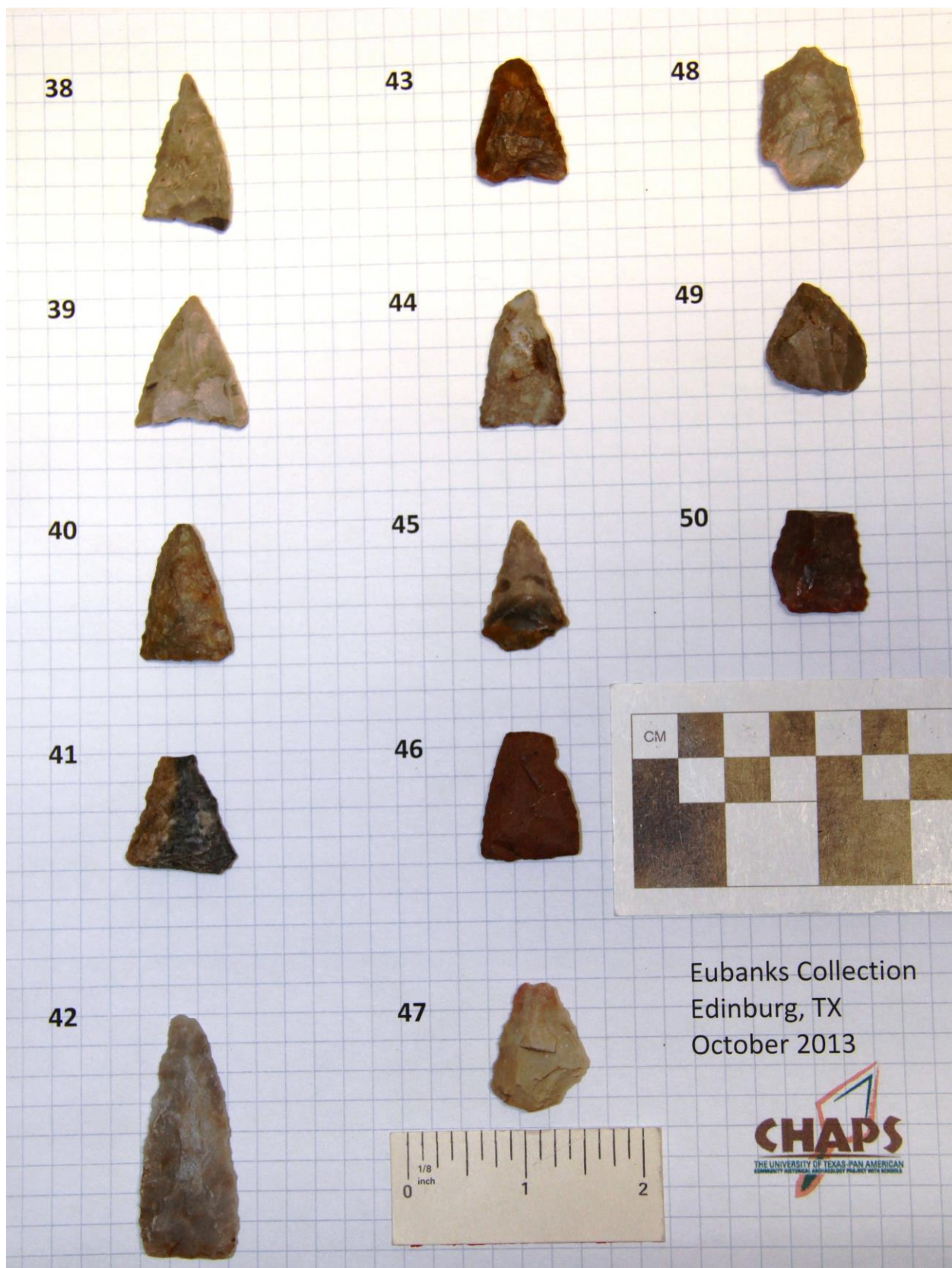


33



Eubanks Collection
Edinburg, TX
October 2013





51



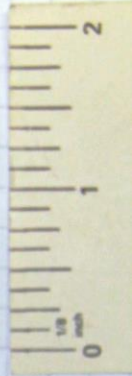
55



52



56



53



57

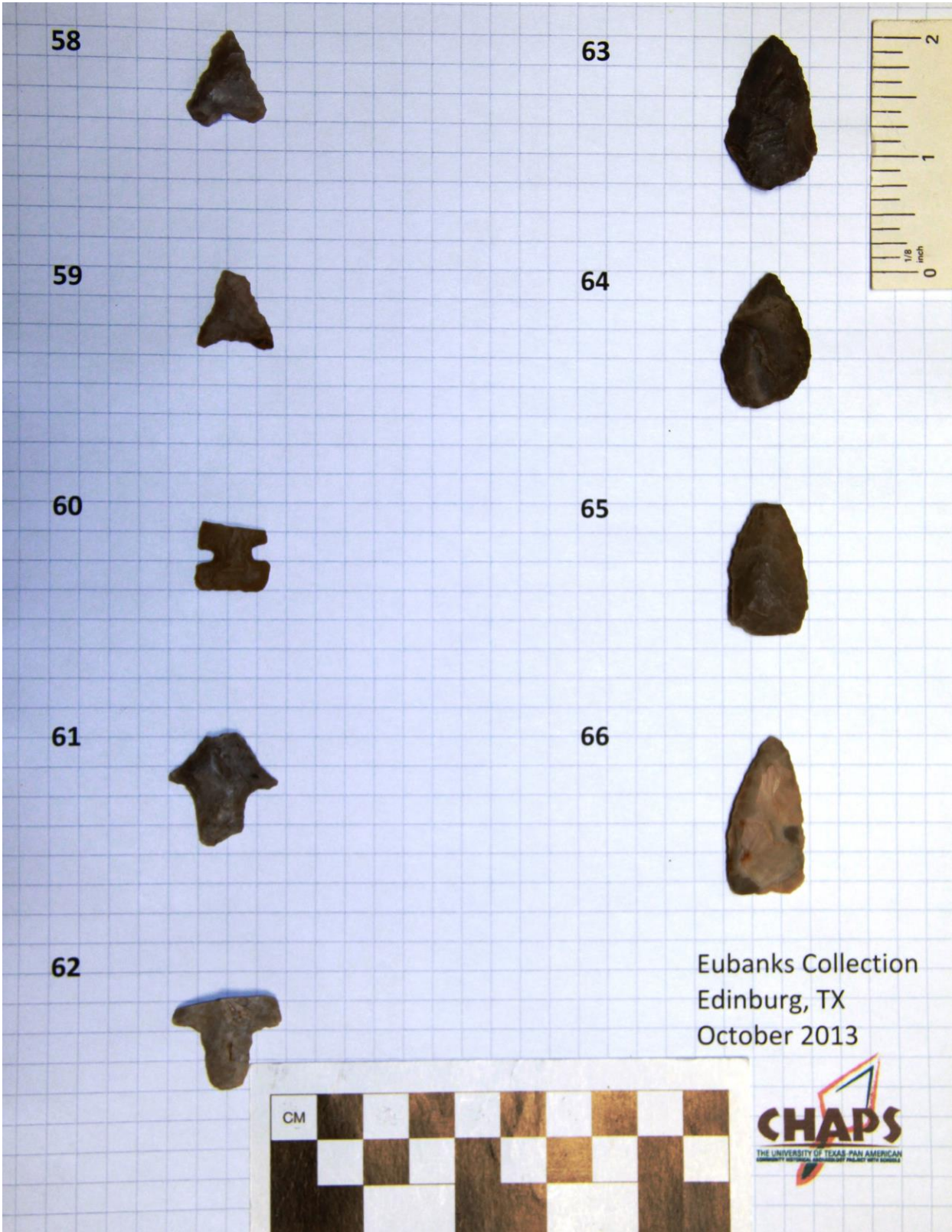


54



Eubanks Collection
Edinburg, TX
October 2013





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66



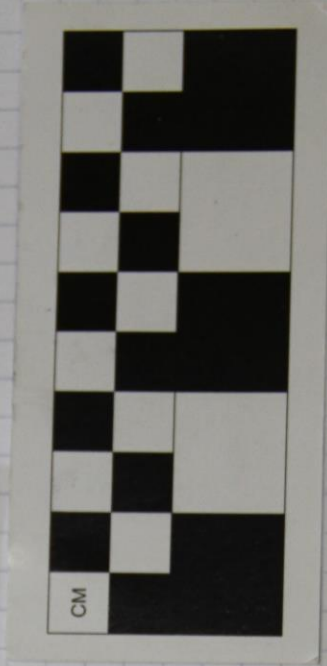
62



Eubanks Collection
Edinburg, TX
October 2013



67



Eubanks Collection

Eubanks Road

Edinburg, TX



Projectile Points: Tom Eubanks – Edinburg, TX – October 2013

#	Material	Type	Color	Period
1	Weathered, light color, fine grained chert	Catan	10YR 7/1 Light Gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
2	Fine grained chert	Catan	10YR 6/2 Light Brownish Gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
3	Chert with a grain of chert running through it	Tortugas	10YR 5/2 Grayish Brown	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
4	Waxy Chert	Flake tool, perforator or drill	2.5YR 5/2 Weak Red	
5	Fine grained, light chert	Hidalgo	10YR 6/1 Gray	Early Archaic 3500 – 6000 B.C.
6	Weathered surface; cannot identify	Tortugas	2.5YR 4/2 Weak Red	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
7	Red chert, coarse grained	Ensor	5R 4/3 Weak Red	Transitional Archaic 300 B.C.
8	Fine grained chert	Abasolo	10YR 7/1 Light Gray	Early Archaic 3500 – 6000 B.C.
9	Weathered chert with inclusions of quartz or fine grained silica	Abasolo	10YR 6/3 Pale Brown	Early Archaic 3500 – 6000 B.C.

#	Material	Type	Color	Period
10	Chert	Cameron	2.5Y 7/2 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
11	Chert with weathered surface	Cameron	10YR 6/3 Pale brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
12	Chert with light colored inclusions	Cameron	10YR 5/2 Grayish brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
13	Chert – heat treated with interesting colors	Cameron	7.5YR 6/2 Pinkish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
14	Chert – coarse grained, highly weathered surface	Cameron	7.5YR 5/3 Brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
15	Chert – weathered surface, coarse grained	Cameron	5YR 6/4 Light red-dish brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
16	Chert with light colored inclusions	Cameron	5YR 6/2 Pinkish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
17	Chert	Cameron	10YR 6/3 Pinkish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
18	Chert	Cameron	7.5YR 6/3 Light brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
19	Chert	Cameron	7.5YR 6/1 Gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700

#	Material	Type	Color	Period
20	Grey chert	Cameron	5YR 6/1 Gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
21	Chert- surface weath- ered	Cameron	10YR 6/3 Pale brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
22	Chert	Cameron	10YR 8/1 White	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
23	Chert	Cameron	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
24	Chert – coarse grained	Fresno	2.5Y 8/1 White	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
25	Chert – coarse grained	Fresno	10YR 5/3 Brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
26	Chert – weathered sur- face, coarse grained	Fresno	5YR 5/4 Reddish brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
27	Chert with some black inclusions, unique, very weathered surface	Fresno	10YR 7/3 Very pale brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
28	Chert with black inclu- sions, very weathered	Fresno	10YR 7/3 Very pale brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
29	Chert – coarse grained	Fresno	2.5Y 7/1 Light Gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
30	Chert	Fresno	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 – 700

#	Material	Type	Color	Period
31	Chert – very waxy, luster surface	Fresno	10YR 5/3 4/2 Brown-dark grayish brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
32	Chert – coarse grained	Fresno	10YR 7/3 Very pale brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
33	Chert	Fresno	10YR 7/2 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
34	Chert	Fresno	10YR 4/1 Dark gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
35	Chert - very rough surface on one side	Fresno	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
36	Chert	Fresno	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
37	Gray chert with coarse grained and weathered surface	Fresno	10YR 5/1 Gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
38	Chert – coarse grained, weathered	Matamoros	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
39	Chert – fine grained, light colored	Matamoros	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
40	Chert – shiny, fine grained	Matamoros	2.5Y 5/2 Grayish brown	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
41	Bi-color Chert	Matamoros	10YR 6/3 GLE Y1 4/N	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
42	Chert – fine grained with waxy surface	Matamoros	10YR 6/1 Gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.

#	Material	Type	Color	Period
43	Moss Chert	Matamoros	10YR 3/4 Dark yellowish brown	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
44	Chert – coarse grained with inclusion of opal	Matamoros	2.5Y 6/2 Light grayish brown	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
45	Chert – fine grained with waxy surface	Matamoros	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
46	Chert – highly weathered	Matamoros	5YR 4/2 Dark reddish gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
47	Chert	Matamoros	10YR 7/2 Light gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
48	Chert	Matamoros	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
49	chert	Matamoros	10YR 5/2 Grayish brown	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
50	Chert – fine grained, waxy	Matamoros	2.5YR 4/1 Dark reddish gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
51	Volcanic rock?	Padre	7.5YR 4/3 Brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
52	Waxy Chert El Sauz	Padre	10YR 7/3 Very pale brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
53	Waxy chert El Sauz	Padre	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700

#	Material	Type	Color	Period
54	Quartz	Padre	2.5Y 8/1 White	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
55	Chert	Padre	10R 5/3 Weak red	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
56	Chert	Padre	10YR 7/2 Light Gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
57	Waxy chert El Sauz	Padre?	10YR 7/2 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
58	Chert – fine grained	Starr pre- form	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
59	Chert – dull, fine grained	Starr	10YR 6/3 Pale brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
60	Chert	Caracara Base	10YR 5/3 Brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 1200 - 700
61	Chert	Cannot identify	10YR 5/2 Grayish brown	
62	Chert – very homogeneous	Arenosa Base	10YR 7/1 Light gray	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
63	Chert – fine grained with weathering	Young	10YR 4/1 Dark gray	
64	Chert – dark with weathered surface	Catan	10YR 5/2 Grayish brown	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
65	Chert – fine grained with waxy surface	Catan	10YR 5/3 Brown	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.

66	Very fine grained, weathered chert with metallic inclusions	Cannot identify	10YR 7/1 Light gray	
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Abasolo (dart point) is a large, unstemmed triangular point that has a distinctive well rounded base. The lateral edges may be beveled or steeply chipped, and the base is sometimes thinned. It is similar to *Catán* but larger in size. Abasolo specimens often have impact fractures reflective of their use as dart points, although microscopic use-wear is sometimes observed on the lateral edges. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 56)

Arenosa (dart point) is distinguished from a wide range of other Middle Archaic contracting stem styles on the basis of stem termination, which is pointed to slightly rounded. Short barbs are common. It is similar to and contemporary with both Langtry and Vale Verde points. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 60)

Cameron (arrow point) is tiny, usually equilateral, triangular point with straight to slightly convex edges. A few are unifacially chipped, and some are made of glass. It is similar to the Fresno type but smaller (less than 20mm in length) and generally much thicker. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 182)

Caracara (arrow point) is side notched, small with convex to nearly straight lateral edges. Flaking is random but usually well executed. The rounded or squared ends of the basal “ears” usually extend slightly beyond with of the shoulders. Bases are normally straight but may be slightly concave or slightly convex. (Turner and Hester 1999: 205)

Catán (dart point) is a triangular, unstemmed point that has straight to slightly convex lateral edges that are sometimes beveled and a convex, well-rounded base that has been thinned by the removal of one or two broad, arc-shaped flakes. The outline is similar to *Abasolo*, but *Catan* points are smaller. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 73)

Ensor (dart point) is a point that varies considerably in all dimensions, but broad expanding stems, shallow side or corner notches and generally straight bases tend to identify the type. Specimens with a V-shaped basal notch are sometimes called “Ensor-Frio.” Ensor is a key marker of the Transitional Archaic, mainly in campsites, but also in burials and cemeteries. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 94)

Fresno (arrow point) is an unstemmed, triangular point that has straight to slightly convex or concave lateral edges and a convex or slightly concave base. It is similar to Cameron but is over 20 mm in length. Some of these specimens may be preforms and not a distinct type. However, on the Texas coast, carefully chipped specimens appear to represent a typological group. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 191)

Hidalgo (dart point) is a sturdy point, usually with an expanding stem and more or less bulbous base. It is usually biconvex in cross section and few are less than 10 mm thick. They range from narrow lanceolate to broadly ovate in outline. The shoulders are generally rounded; others strongly shouldered, verging on barbed. The stem outline is variable, and basal corners are usually rounded. They may be reworked so that one or both lateral edges angle abruptly to a newly placed tip. (Turner and Hester 2011: 113)

Matamoros (dart point) is a small, often thick, triangular or sub triangular, unstemmed point that is similar to *Tortugas*, but markedly smaller. Average length of *Tortugas* is 4.9 mm – 6.7 mm and *Matamoros* ranges from 3.2 mm to 4.7 mm in length.

Padre (arrow point) is a small, triangular, unstemmed point that has convex lateral edges and a rounded base. It exhibits characteristics of both Cameron and Fresno points. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 205)

Starr (arrow point) is a triangular point that is distinguished by slightly concave lateral edges and a pronounced basal concavity. These points are highly restricted in their geographic distribution and should not be used as a “niche” for similar points found great distances from their distribution. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 210)

Young (arrow point) is a subtriangular point made from a thin flake that has been crudely knapped around the edges, the faces showing little or no sign of work. The bases and lateral edges are convex. In practically all (if not all) cases, these specimens are preforms. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 216)

Tortugas (dart point) are large, unstemmed, triangular points that have an approximately straight to concave base and alternately beveled edges. It is often thick and crudely flaked in the midsection and well-thinned basally. (Turner and Hester 1999: 188)

Reference for definitions:

Turner, Ellen Sue and Thomas R. Hester

1999 A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians. Gulf Publishing, New York.

Turner, Ellen Sue, Thomas R. Hester and Richard McReynolds

2011 Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians. Taylor Trade Publishing, New York.

SPECIAL COMMENTS

Mr. Thomas Eubanks (Tom) provided the CHAPS team with a number of points that he found on his parent’s property on Eubanks Road and mentioned that many of the points he found were within a 1/8-mile radius of his parent’s home. In particular, the Abasolo point (Early Archaic 3,500-6,000 B.C.) was found by the mailbox before it was paved. When his parents bought the house on Eubanks Road, the road was a dirt road, then they covered it with caliche and now it is paved up to a point just beyond the citrus grove north of the house. There is a broken point (i.e., two pieces that appear to fit together) which he found one half of it very close to the location where he found the Abasolo point - the other half was found in the same vicinity approximately 20 years later (see point #'s 9 and 67).

We asked Tom why he believed there were so many points to be found at his parents’ property. He feels that the location where his parents’ home stands was the site of an ancient hunting camp or a settlement camp since there were so many projectile point artifacts found on the property. He said that this particular plot of land sits on a high spot for quite a distance. There are 60 (or so) different elevations on this property – great variations in land levels.

Tom notes that his home at 18460 Hoehn Road might have been a location of an ancient river or water source. As the crow flies, the two properties are approximately ½ mile apart (see aerial image page 5).

Tom used to be in possession of a projectile point type of what he recognizes to be an Early Triangular point that somehow went missing. He used to keep the points in a basket at his house and for some reason that point disappeared. He says it is similar in color to the one

pictured in our CHAPS projectile point poster. He noted that the point that he found was a unique color and was beautiful.

Tom said that he would find a lot of points on the inclines within the orchards. Rain would wash the surface dirt making them easier to find. They used to have wicked wind storms where winds would reach 20-30 mph and the wind (erosion) would expose the points as well. Many times he found points on 1-3% graded land. In between the grades, there would be a transition piece between pieces of land. Rain storms would push points into these transition areas.

Tom informed us that there were 85 different soil types in the RGV from Padre Island out to Rio Grande City (disregarding grade) and that there are 7 types of soils on his property on 18460 Hoehn Road.

Tom recalls that he may have found a few of the points in his collection out on Western Road. His family used to have a grove out on Western Road where you would take Monte Cristo Road out to Moorefield Road and turn right toward McCook. They planted a 10-acre orchard out on Western Road property and some of the points were found out there but mostly looked similar to the 'Fresno' type points in the collection (similar to a 'standard type' point as #31 in the collection).

The CHAPS team has reproduced the Eubank's Abasolo point (#9) and included them as replica artifacts in the *Native American Peoples of South Texas: Travelling Trunk for K-12 Education*. There were 26 total (15 + 11) replica points made of the Eubank's Abasolo (#9) point. The material used to make these replicas was a high grade urethane epoxy.

SOURCES

Munsell Color

2009 Munsell Soil-Color Charts. Munsell Color, Grand Rapids, MI.

Turner, Ellen Sue and Thomas R. Hester

1999 A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians. Gulf Publishing, New York.

Turner, Ellen Sue, Thomas R. Hester and Richard McReynolds

2011 Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians. Taylor Trade Publishing, New York.

Appendix I

Plants Collected from Eubanks Properties - Identified by K. R. Summy – Fall, 2014

Location 1:

Climbing milkweed – *Funastrum cyanchoides*
Vervain sp.
Texas ebony – *Chloroleucon ebano*
Hackberry – *Celtis laevigata*
Prunus sp. (mulberry?)
Norfolk Island pine
Crepe myrtle
Tangerine (Citrus)
Texas mountain laurel – *Sophora secundiflora*
Guinea grass
Pecan – *Carya illinoniensis*
Wireweed – *Symphyotrichum subulatum*
Huisache – *Acacia farnesiana*
Live oak – *Quercus virginiana*
Duranta erecta
Prunus (mulberry?)
Aster sp.
Land snails
Feather – mockingbird?
Several spider species

Location 2:

Old man's beard – *Clematis drummondii*
Mesquite – *Prosopis glandulosa*
West Indian lantana - *Lantana camara*
Purple tube morningglory - *Ipomea* sp.
Black willow - *Salix nigra*
Common sunflower - *Helianthus annuus*
Hackberry - *Celtis laevigata*
Possum grapes - *Cissus incisa*
Wireweed – *Symphyotrichum subulatum*
Feather – unidentified bird

Location 3:

Silverleaf nightshade - *Solanum eleagnifolium*
Western ragweed – *Ambrosia* sp.
Engelmann's daisy – *Engelmannia peristenia*
Possum grape – *Cissus incisa*
Old man's beard – *Clematis drummondii*
Citrus sp. – orange
Mesquite – *Prosopis glandulosa*
Climbing milkweed – *Sarcosema* sp.
Huisache – *Acacia farnesiana*
Texas vervain - *Verbena halei*
Woolly bear (arctiid moth)
Orb weaver spider

Appendix J

The list of flora and fauna below were seen on the properties during the CHAPS Program class surveys, or reported by family members. For comparison, we have included tables from previous reports. It is important to note that these examples are based on limited observations, and do not present an exhaustive survey. No survey was completed for the Norquest family.

*Reported by family members

Animals



Common Name, <i>Spanish Name</i>	Scientific Name	Eubanks Location 1	Eubanks Location 2	Atwood	Cantu
Land snails	Gastropoda/ <i>Achatina fulica</i>	Y			
Texas horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>		Y		
Black snakes, Indigo snakes*				Y	

Birds



Common Name, <i>Spanish Name</i>	Scientific Name	Eubanks Location 1	Eubanks Location 2	Atwood	Cantu
Cardinal*		Y			
Chacalaca*		Y			
Green jay*		Y			
American coot	Fulica Ameri- cana				Y
Belted kingfisher	Ceryle alcyon				Y
Buff bellied hummingbird	Amazilia yuca- tanensis			Y	
Golden fronted woodpecker	Melanerpes aurifrons			Y	
Great egret	Ardea Alba				Y
Great kingfisher	Chloroceryle americana				Y
House sparrows	Passer domes- ticus				Y
Mockingbird, northern mock- ingbird	Mimus poly- glottos	Y		Y	Y

Mourning dove	Zenaida macroura				Y
Marsh hawk, North harrier	Circus cyaneus				Y
White-winged dove	Zenaida asiatica			Y	Y
Whitetail hawk	Buteo albicaudatus			Y	

Insects and Arachnids



Common Name, Spanish Name	Scientific Name	Eubanks Location 1	Eubanks Location 2	Atwood	Cantu
American snout	Libytheana carinenta				Y
Brown lacewings	Hemerobiidae			Y	
Brown longtail	Urbanus procne				Y
Ceraunus blue	Hemiargus ceraunus				Y
Checkered white	Pontia protodice				Y
Dainty sulphur	Nathalis iole				Y

Great southern white	<i>Ascia monuste</i>				Y
Gulf fritillary	<i>Agrulis vanilla</i>				Y
Harvester ants	<i>Pogonomyrmex barbatus</i>			Y	
Jumping spider	<i>Pyrrharctia isabella</i>		Y		
Little yellow sulphur	<i>Pyristia lisa</i>				Y
Lyside sulphur	<i>Kricogonia lyside</i>				Y
Mallow scrub-hairstreak	<i>Strymon istapa</i>				Y
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>			Y	
Painted lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>				Y
Phaon crescent	<i>Phyciodes phaon</i>				Y
Red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				Y
Fire ants, Red ants	<i>Solenopsis invicta</i>			Y	
Rounded metalmark	<i>Calephelis perditalis</i>				Y
Snout butterfly	<i>Libytheana bachmanii</i>			Y	
Swallow tail butterfly	<i>Palilio polyxenes</i>			Y	
Tropical checkered-skipper	<i>Pyrgus oileus</i>				Y
Western pygmy-blue	<i>Brephidium exilis</i>				Y
White peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>				Y

Wooly bear	Salticidae		Y		
Yellow sulphur butterfly	Pieridae			Y	
Pantropical Jumper	Plexippus paykulli				
Bold Jumping Spider	Phidippus audax				
Giant Wolf Spider	Hogna carolinensis				
Spiny-backed Orb-weaver Spider	Gasteracantha cancriformis				

Plants



Common Name, <i>Spanish Name</i>	Scientific Name	Eubanks Location 1	Eubanks Location 2	Atwood	Cantu
Aloe vera	Aloe vera			Y	
Sand-paper tree, <i>Anacua</i>	Ehretia anacua			Y	Y
Angel hair fern				Y	

Angel's trumpets	Datura wrightii			Y	
Aster	Asteraceae	Y			
Bougainvillea*		Y			
Bermuda grass	Cynadon dactylon				Y
Black willow	Salix nigra	Y			
Bow tree, Bois'arc (bow wood), Osage	Maclura pomifera			Y	
Brasil tree, Blue-wood condalia, Capul negro	Condalia hookeri			Y	
Buffalo bur	Solanum rostratum			Y	
Buffalo grass, foxtail	Buchloe dactyloides			Y	
Buffel grass	Cenchrus ciliaris				Y
Careless weed, Palmers's pigweed	Amaranthus palmeri			Y	Y
Cedar elm, Olmo	Ulmus crassifolia			Y	
Chinese Fan*		Y			
Chile pequin	Capsicum annum				Y
Climbing milkweed	Funastrum cynanchoides	Y			
Climbing milkweed	Cynanchum laeve		Y		Y
Cocos Plumosa*		Y			
Confederate jasmine	Trachelospermum jasminoides			Y	

Corona de cristo	Euphorbia milii				Y
Cow pen daisy	Verbesina encelioides				Y
Crepe myrtle	Lagerstroemia	Y			
Crowfootg grass	Dactyloctenium aegyptium			Y	
Crucita, Blue mist flower	Chromolaena odorata				Y
Date palm	Phoenix dactylifera			Y	
Depression weed	Baccharis neglecta				Y
Durano berry				Y	
Duranta	Duranta erecta	Y			
Engelmann's daisy	Engelmannia peristenia		Y		
Erect spiderling	Boerhavia diffusa				Y
False ragweed	Parthenium hysterophorus L.				Y
Fiddlewood*		Y			
Frangipani*		Y			
Fringed hair fern				Y	
Gardenia				Y	
Giant reed	Arundo donax				Y
Ash, Spiny hackberry, Granjeno	Celtis pallida			Y	Y
Greenweed amaranth, Cadillos	Amaranthus viridis			Y	

Ground cherry	<i>Physalis lobata</i>			Y	
Guinea grass	<i>Megathyrus maximus</i>	Y			
Hibiscus*		Y			
Huisache	<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y
Humingbird bush	<i>Hemelia patens</i>			Y	
Indian carnation				Y	
Jacaranda*		Y			
Jetoba				Y	
Johnson grass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>				Y
Lantana	<i>Lantana urticoides</i>			Y	
Least snout bean	<i>Rhynchosia minima</i>				Y
Live Oak, Encino	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Y		Y	Y
Lote bush	<i>Ziziphus obtusifolia</i>			Y	Y
Malva loca	<i>Malvastrum americanum</i>				Y
Mediterranean Fan*		Y			
Mesquite	<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mexican bird of paradise	<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i>			Y	
Mexican flame vine				Y	
Mexican hat	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>				Y

Mexican honey-suckle				Y	
Mother-in-law's tongue, Snake plant, Lengua de suerga	Sansevieria trifasciata			Y	
Norfolk Island pine	Araucaria heterophylla	Y			
Old man's beard	Clematis drummondii	Y	Y		Y
Pecan	Carya illinoensis	Y			
Pigeon berry	Rivina humilis				Y
Pigweed	Amaranthus retroflexus			Y	
Leadwort, Plumbago	Plumbago scandens			Y	
Ponciana				Y	
Possum grape	Cissus incisa	Y	Y		Y
Prickly pear cactus	Opuntia lindheimeri			Y	
Mulberry	Prunus (mulberry)	Y			
Purple tube morningglory	Ipomea sp.	Y			
Purslane	Portulaca oleracea			Y	
Queen palm	Syagrus romanzoffiana			Y	
Retama	Parkinsonia aculeate			Y	Y
Mexican ash, Rio Grande ash	Fraxinus berlandieriana			Y	

Rocket mustard	Barbarea vul- garia				Y
Royal Poinciana*		Y			
Sabal Texana*		Y			
Salt cedar	Tamarix			Y	
San Pedro cactus				Y	
Sandbur	Cenchrus echi- natus			Y	
Scorpion's tail	Heliotropium angiospermum				Y
Shelf fungus				Y	
Silver leaf night- shade	Solanum elaegnifolium		Y		Y
Slim milkweed	Asclepias line- aris			Y	
Slopebush				Y	
Smooth prickly pear	Opuntia humi- fusa			Y	
Spineless cactus				Y	
Spiny sow thistle	Sonchus asper				Y
Straggler daisy	Calypocarpus vialis				Y
Hackberry, Sugar hackberry, Palo blanco	Celtis laevigata	Y		Y	Y
Sunflower	Helianthus an- nuus	Y		Y	Y
Tangerine	Citrus tange- rina	Y			
Tepeguaje	Leucaena liveruienta				Y

Texas border weed				Y	
Texas ebony, ebano	Ebenopsis ebano	Y		Y	Y
Texas mountain laurel*	Sophora secundiflora	Y			
Texas nightshade	Solanum triquetrum			Y	
Texas prickly pear	Opuntia lindheimeri				Y
Texas vervain	Verbena halei		Y		
Thicket threadvine	Cynanchum barbigerum				Y
Three furrowed Indian mallow, amantillo	Abutilon trilobatum				Y
Tie vine, Morning glory	Ipomoea cordatotriloba				Y
Trumpet flower, Esperanza	Tecoma stans			Y	
Tulipan				Y	
Heart leaf hibiscus, Tulipan del monte	Hibiscus martianus			Y	
Verbena	Verbenaceae	Y			
Washingtonia*		Y			
West Indian lantana	Lantana camara	Y			Y
Western ragweed	Ambrosia sp.		Y		
White mulberry	Morus alba				Y
Wild grape				Y	
Wireweed	Symphy-	Y			

	<i>otrichum subu- latum</i>				
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Appendix K

CHAIN OF TITLE

Historical Land Ownership of Citrus Properties Lot 13

(Location of Ken and Irene Eubanks' home)

Land deed information acquired from Hidalgo County Real Property Search
<https://www.texaslandrecords.com/txlr/TXHID/index.jsp>

CITRUS PROPERTY LOT 13, 10 acres (lot on which Ken and Irene Eubanks' home is located)

Citrus Properties Subdivision was a resubdivision Rio Grande Development Company Subdivision (revised plat) of lands out of the San Salvador del Tule Grant from Block 20. All of Lot 5 NS 33.25 acres of Lot 6: Block 21 Lots 1-6: Block 28 Lots 1-6: and Block 29 Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, the West ½ of Lot 5 and the Southwest 10.0 acres of Lot 6.

December 28, 1978 - KEN AND IRENE EUBANKS purchased 2 tracts of land including Citrus Properties Lots 11-14 and Retama Acres Block C Lots 20-23 from BERGERUD CARE INC. Bergerud retained the rights to the 1978-1979 fruit crop and 1/8th of 1/8th of oil, gas, and mineral rights (Deed 42675)

January 9, 1962 - BERGERUD CARE INC purchased Citrus Properties Lots 11-13 from EDWIN AND ETHEL BELLE ETHEREDGE. Citrus Property Lot 13 is identified as having 10 acres (Warranty Deed 496).

January 21, 1960 - EDWIN AND ETHEL BELLE ETHEREDGE purchased Citrus Property Lot 13 from CITRUS PROPERTIES INC. (Warranty Deed 2899)

Citrus Property Lot 13 appears to be the same as Rio Grande Development Co. Block 28 Lot 3

RIO GRANDE DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY IN THE MELADO TRACT, 544 acres including BLOCK 28, LOT 3

Plat 1051 recorded October 24, 1950 by RIO GRANDE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY for their subdivision with the same name. Land deeds for the Melado Tract identify it as part of the larger tract or grant of land comprising more or less 72 leagues of land of the "San Salvador del Tule" grant from the Spanish Government to Juan Jose Balli.

October 1, 1959 CITRUS PROPERTIES INC. purchased 544.25 acres out of Rio Grande Development Property including Block 28, Lot 3 as well as other lands in Blocks 20, 21, 28, and 29 from TEXAN CARE CO (Warranty Deed 20283)

September 28, 1959 (3 days earlier) TEXAN CARE CO. purchased Block 28, Lot 3 as well as other lands out of the Rio Grande Development Property Blocks 20, 21, 28, and 29 from LOVERS LANE METHODIST CHURCH (Trustees B.B. Henegar, John L. Baskin, John L. Askin, Ben [i.e., Dan] Lane).

Resolution 20166 on same date (September 28, 1959) LOVERS LANE METHODIST CHURCH of Dallas Special Meeting accepted proposition by TEXAN CARE to purchase 544.25 acres out of the Rio Grande Development Property Block 28, Lot 3 as well as other lands out of the Rio Grande Development Property Blocks 20, 21, 28 and 29. Mineral rights were not included.

January 2, 1956 - Trustees for LOVERS LANE METHODIST CHURCH (Trustees: A.B. Elmore, Loren Brintnall, David McCord) purchased 54.25 acres from Block 28, Lot 3 as well as other lands out of the Rio Grande Development Property Blocks 20, 21, 28, and 29 from WILLIAM MORRISS (Warranty Deed 1054).

RIO DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OUT OF THE MELADO TRACT, 1,020 ACRES
Including BLOCK 28, LOT 3

Note: name difference between Rio Development Company (1946-1947) and Rio Grande Development Property (1950-1959)

May 1, 1947 – WILLIAM MORRIS purchased 1,020 acres including Block 28, Lot 3 out of the Melado Tract as well as land in Blocks 20, 21, 28, and 29 from RIO DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (President Lloyd Bentsen and Secretary G.F. Dohrn) (Warranty Deed 26401)

MELADO TRACT – 13,789.8 acres

Including Block 28, Lot 3 out of Blocks 1-32 of the Melado Tract, part of the larger grant from the Spanish Government to Juan Jose Balli known as the San Salvador del Tule grant

March 1, 1946 – RIO DEVELOPMENT COMPANY purchased multiple pieces of land (23 pages of land descriptions) including Block 28, Lot 3 out of the Melado Tract. Total acreage purchased from Melado Tract included 13,789.8 acres from Blocks 1-32 of the Melado (part of the larger grant from the Spanish Government to Juan Jose Balli known as the San Salvador del Tule Grant conveyed to John Shary by Fount Ray by deed in Hidalgo County records volume 142, page 230 recorded in volume 33, pages 185-187. Other lands purchased included lands in Sharyland, the West Addition to Sharyland, and Sharyland Orrchards. Lands purchased from MARY O'BRIEN SHARY, EXECUTRIX FOR JOHN SHARY (DECEASED) (Warranty Deed 5907)

September 14, 1922 – JOHN H SHARY purchased land including Melado Tract Block 28, Lot 3 within 13,789.8 acres out of the 14,945.8 acres from lands conveyed by R.S. Dilworth and Chas. M. Armstrong to S.H. Jackson by deed dated April 16, 1910 volume 8, page 195 “of what is known as always called the “Melado” part of the larger tract or grant of land comprising 72 leagues of land more or less granted by the Spanish Government in America to Juan Jose Balli and more particularly and specially known as, call and being the “San Salvador del Tule” grant. Lands purchased from RAY FOUNT (Deed 1420230)

MELADO TRACT – 14,945.8 acres

Including BLCOK 28, LOT 3

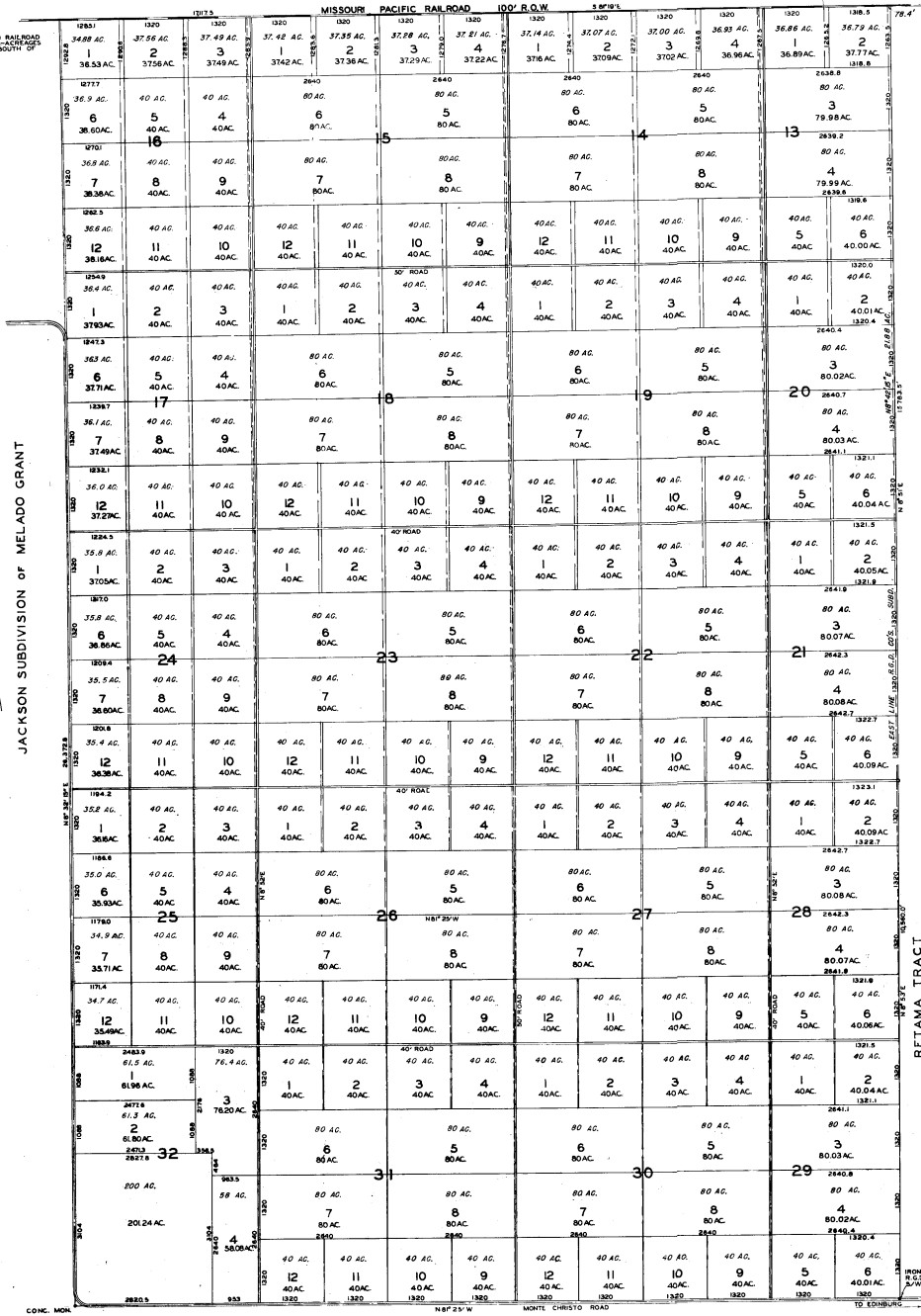
November 1, 1917 - RAY FOUNT purchased lands including Melado Tract Block 28, Lot 3 as part of the 14,945.8 acres of the “Melado” part of the larger tract or grant of land comprising 72 leagues of land of the “San Salvador del Tule” grant. Land purchased from BRITT E. CRANFILLE (General Warranty Deed 640296).

January 1, 1915 – BRITT CRANFILLE purchased land including Melado Tract Block 28, Lot 3 as part of the 14945.8 acres of the “Melado” part of the larger tract or grant of land comprising 72 leagues of land of the “San Salvador del Tule” grant. Deed referenced Outstanding Vendors Liens by Jackson payable to Dilworth and Armstrong. Lands purchased from RIO GRANDE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY. (Warranty Deed 500349).

Prior to 1915, there are multiple land transactions concerning the Melado Tract, some with inexact descriptions, and many with partial interests. Buyers and sellers names include S.H. Jackson, R.S. Dilworth, Charles M. Armstrong, Gus J. Groos, Macedonio Vela to each of his surviving children, and the heirs of his deceased son. Annette Hicks, Francis Powers, and Stephen Powers.

10-33

NOTE: DIMENSIONS OF LOTS ADJACENT TO RAILROAD ARE TO CENTERLINE OF TRACKS. DIMENSIONS OF LOTS ADJACENT TO CENTRAL LINE OF TRACKS ARE TO SOUTH EDGM. LINE 50' SOUTH OF CENTRAL LINE OF TRACKS.



JACKSON SUBDIVISION OF MELADO GRANT

RETAMA TRACT

NOTE: BLACK LINES ARE REVISED SUBDIVISION LINES.

RED LINES ARE ORIGINAL SUBDIVISION LINES AS SHOWN ON PLAT RECORDED IN VOLUME 33 PAGE 80 OF THE OLD RECORDS OF HIDALGO COUNTY TEXAS.

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED REVISED LOT LINES BEAR EAST 89° 25' 12" N 142.25' W.

NOTE: RED LINES ON ORIGINAL TRACING ARE SHOWN AS DASHED LINES.

ACREAGES IN RED ON ORIGINAL ARE SHOWN BY SLANT FIGURES.

REVISED PLAT
OF
SECTION 16 TO 32
RIO GRANDE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY SUBDIVISION
HIDALGO COUNTY TEXAS
SCALE 1"=100'

I, CHARLES L. MELDEN, CIVIL ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR DO HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING PLAT TO BE A TRUE AND ACCURATE REPRESENTATION OF SURVEY AND SUBDIVISION AS MADE BY ME.

Charles L. Melden
CHARLES L. MELDEN
CIVIL ENGINEER

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED OWNERS OF THE PROPERTY HEREON DESCRIBED DO HEREBY ADOPT DEDICATE AND CONFIRM THE FOREGOING PLAT AND DO HEREBY DEDICATE TO THE PUBLIC THE ROADS SHOWN THEREON.

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 21ST DAY OF JANUARY A.D. 1950
NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
HIDALGO COUNTY TEXAS

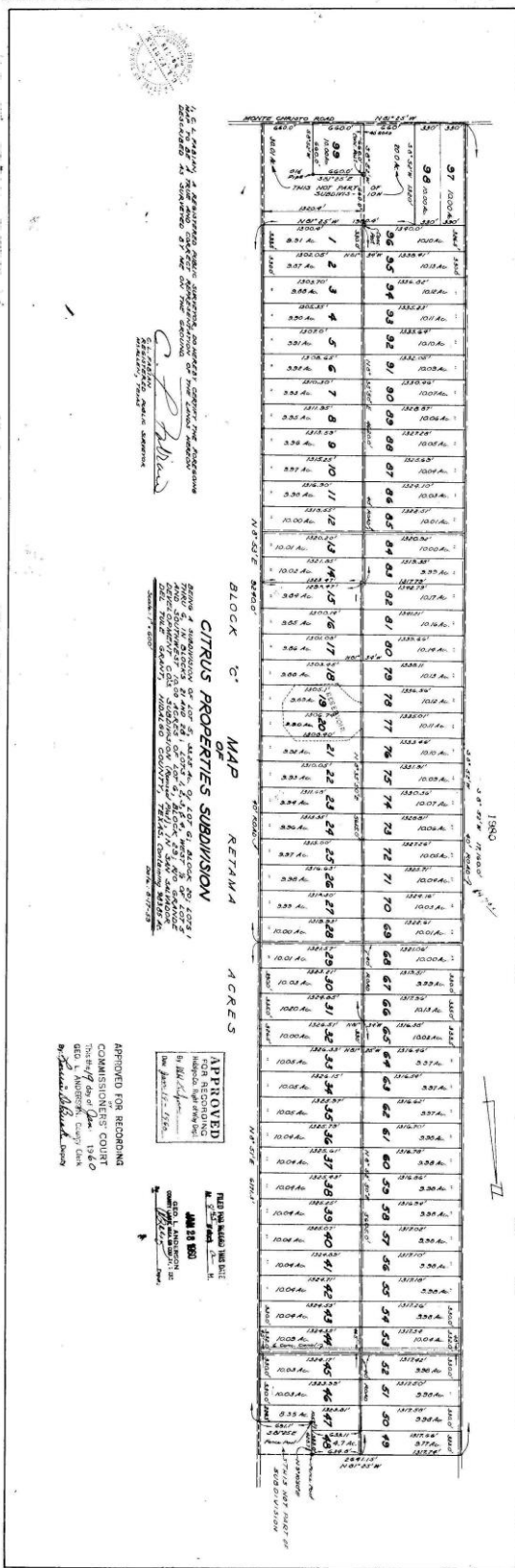
18570

FILED FOR RECORD THIS DATE
OCT 24 1950

George H. ...
...
...
...

Recorded: November 4, 1950

VOLUME 10 - PAGE 33



STATE OF TEXAS
 COUNTY OF HIDALGO

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

THAT, Citrus Properties, Inc., a Corporation domiciled in the County of Cook, State of Illinois, owner of the land herein mapped and platted, does hereby declare the attached map or plat together with the certificate of C. L. Fokim, Registered Public Surveyor, Dallas, Texas, therein attached, and does hereby designate and describe the lands shown therein and embraced therein to be known as CITRUS PROPERTIES SUBDIVISION of lands in Hidalgo County, Texas, being a recombination of Lot 3, 33.25 acres of Lot 6 out of Block 20; Lots 1 through 6, both inclusive, out of Block 21; Lots 1 through 6, both inclusive, out of Block 28; Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, the West 1/2 of Lot 5 and the Southwest 1/4 of Lot 8, out of Block 29 of the San Salvador del Tula Grant, in Hidalgo County, Texas, and does hereby grant and dedicate the streets and roads as shown thereon to the use of the public and of Hidalgo County, Texas, so long as it shall accept, maintain and protect the same to the use and benefit of the public, reserving and retaining, however, unto said Owners, their successors, assigns and licensees, in all things, the right to any and all oil, gas and minerals not heretofore reserved and conveyed, underlying or that may be recovered from the land underlying that portion of the property dedicated as streets and roads, and also the right to construct, maintain and operate from time to time, and as often and during such periods of time as it may deem proper, over, upon, across and along said streets and roads either all or any of the following: (a) irrigation canals, gates, waters, bridges, pipes, siphons or other structures, pipelines or appurtenances used in connection with or for conveying or distributing water, oil, gas or other commodities.

The acreage embraced within each of the lots delineated within the attached map is calculated to the center of the road or street and is subject to the easement in favor of Hidalgo County and the State of Texas for the use of such portion thereof as roadways, hereinafter provided.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused these presents to be executed this 1st day of October, A. D. 1979.

ATTEST:
 CITRUS PROPERTIES, INC.
 [Signature]
 Daniel Peterson, Jr., President

STATE OF ILLINOIS
 COUNTY OF COOK

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this day personally appeared DANIEL PETERSON, Jr., President of CITRUS PROPERTIES, INC., a corporation, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and who acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed as the act and deed of said corporation, and in the capacity as therein stated.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this 1st day of OCTOBER, 1979.

[Signature]
 Notary Public in and for Cook County, Illinois

My Commission Expires: 9/1/80

Appendix L



Notes from Herb Nordmeyer
Concerning Calero Pits Photo
July 3, 2004

The photo shows 4 Caleros and 11 people. For purposes of discussion the Caleros are numbered from one through four starting with the pit on the left. The people in the photo are identified from left to right first on the upper area and then left to right on the lower level. Comments should not be taken as fact by someone who has seen a calero in operation but as opinions by someone who has heard about the caleros used to burn lime for the McAllen Storm Sewer over a period of years.

Calero Terminology

Most of these terms are self explanatory & are my terms, not historic terms.

Upper level

Lower level – In this photo it appears that the lower level is about 10 feet below the level of the upper level.

Cut back area -- An area that is mined to provide access to the fire hole and tunnel and the discharge tunnel. As pits collapse, the area is mined out and a new pit is dug.

Open pit -- The pit that is open at the upper level. The pit is dug with straight sides to the depth of the lower level.

Discharge tunnel -- Tunnel with normally mined sides and top whose base is level with the floor of the lower level.

Fire hole and tunnel – Tunnel that is dug below the level of the floor of the lower level.

Spalling clean-up -- To prevent spalling from contaminating quick lime as the quick lime is being removed from the pit, unstable earth is mined back to solid earth.

Location of the Photographer

It appears that the photographer is standing in a wagon that is on the left side of the cut out. It is probable that there are calero pits located opposite Calero 3 and Calero 4. The earth in the lower left corner of the photo may indicate that a calero had collapsed.

Calero 1

This is a relatively new pit. This pit is being filled. This comment is based on the small amount of stone located below the beam. Material is placed by hand in the pit, starting around the fire pit and working upward from there. The beam is placed over the pit to allow easier access out of the pit and to allow buckets of material to be lowered into the pit without damaging the sides of the pit. Note bucket between Man No. 2 and Man No. 3. The bucket appears to be lying on a ladder. The fire pit and tunnel are not shown on this calero. The discharge tunnel is shown. The smoke marks on the bank indicate that the pit has been used. The lack of spalling clean-up on the bank face indicates that the calero is relatively new. Man No 1 is holding a tool that appears to be a shovel. The tools that are leaning against the face of the bank appear to have handles that are 12 feet long. For some reason a cloth is placed on the upper end of several of these tools. There is a piece of sheet metal leaning against the bank between clean-out tunnel for Calero 1 and the fire pit and tunnel for Calero 2. This may be used to pull the quick lime out onto so it can be picked up with a shovel without digging into the existing ground. Since non-needed items have been removed, the piece of sheet metal has a definite purpose.

Calero 2

This pit is a slight enigma in that there is considerable mining for spalling clean-up, but the edges of the pit are sharp. The calero has been used since the spalling clean-up because smoke stain is seen in the clean-up area. It had been used a number of times prior to the digging out of the spalling clean-up because smoke staining above the clean-up area is much stronger. The fire pit and tunnel can be seen for this calero. Smoke staining is normally not seen around the fire pit since the fire is built back in the tunnel and the draft keeps the smoke going up. Most of heat and smoke go up, but some of it is discharged out the clean-out tunnel. Man No. 10 is holding a tool that has a 10 foot handle. It appears to be a hoe for pulling quick lime from the pit. The end of the hoe appears to be very close to the hat of Man No. 11. The pole in front of this calero is used for poking and stirring the fire. Note the blackened end. Quick lime is pulled to the entrance of the clean-out tunnel and then

shoveled into wheel barrows. The wheel barrows deliver it to a stock pile or to a wagon for transportation to the job site. Based on the distance from the front of the pit to the face of the embankment and comparing that with the amount of mining for spalling clean-up, this pit has a limited life remaining. The apparent width of the earth by looking at the clean-out tunnel is misleading since it is towards the edge of the pit not at the center of the pit.

Calero 3

This pit shows less mining for spalling clean-up but more erosion around the top of the pit. Man No. 11 is standing in front of the clean-out tunnel so it cannot be observed clearly. It appears that there are rock of some type in the tunnel. This is an indication that this calero has been burned and the quick lime has collapsed. There are strong smoke stains on the spalling clean-up area and on the face of the bank above the clean-up. There is a small pile of stone by Man No. 9. As a calero burns there is settling of the stone as it reaches the temperature where the calcium carbonate in the stone disintegrates and gives off carbon dioxide. This causes the level of the stone in the calero to drop so it no longer remains "brim" full. Since the interface between the stone and the air will be the coolest place in the calero except for a portion of the bottom, one would expect that some of the stone might not be well burned. Fishing those stone out from the top would keep them from mixing with the quick lime as the calero is unloaded from the bottom.

Calero 4

Only a little of the pit can be seen. There is what appears to be a light weight wooden ladder in front of the fire pit and tunnel. This ladder is much lighter weight than the one behind Men No. 2 & 3. A shirt or jacket appears to be hanging on the light weight ladder. There are two other pieces of lumber and part of a tool handle near this area. One piece of lumber appears to have a bird's mouth cut in it for use as a rafter with a moderately long eave and a notch for a ridge pole. Does this mean that roofs were built over caleros during in-climate weather? No smoke stains are noted on the lumber. Was lumber salvaged from existing buildings for use for various purposes around the caleros?

Men

Most of the men are wearing long sleeved shirts. Man No. 11 is wearing a jacket. Man No. 5 is wearing short sleeves and carrying a sledge. Man No. 8 is wearing elbow length sleeves. When emptying a calero, jackets were probably worn at all times of the year to keep the quick lime dust from reacting with sweat. Long sleeves were common among people who worked out of doors to protect against the burning of the sun. Man No. 7 is wearing khakis and possibly the leader of the group. E. F. Nordmeyer was the engineer for the McAllen Storm Sewer project and oversaw this operation. Man No. 7 dresses and stands like E. F. Nordmeyer and appears to be about the right age. Other than those clues, there is nothing in the photo to indicate whether he is or is not E. F. Nordmeyer.

Vegetation

Much of the vegetation is fully leafed out, but there are shrubs that could be mesquite that are not leafed out. This would indicate that the photo may have been taken in March.

Stockpiled Caliche

Then the caleros were placed in operation for the McAllen storm sewer project the manager of the caleros carefully sorted the caliche that was used. (See page 19 of Construction of the McAllen Storm Sewer 1933 – 1934). He considered the lighter weight caliche was of a better quality. As a result heavier weight caliche that was brought in was discarded. The stockpiled caliche may be the discards, or it may simply be caliche that was brought in and stockpiled for future burning. I am concerned about the amount of fines that are in these piles since fines burn poorly in a calero. Note the stone between the two piles. It has been separated from the fines. Note the stockpile behind Man No. 9. The straight line near the top of the pile may indicate that there is a wagon load of caliche waiting to be unloaded behind that stockpile.

Safety

This operation would not be allowed under current state and federal safety regulations. There are no guard rails to prevent persons from falling from the upper level to the lower level, nor are there guard rails around each calero. Personnel do not have gloves or safety glasses, although Man No. 10 appears to have a rag or a mitt in his right hand. Man No. 8 is standing in an area with a drop off on both sides. Note that trip hazards have been removed. For the era, this appears to be a safe work place.

Appendix M



Eubanks Family Crest

Eubanks Coat of Arms / Eubanks Family Crest

The following excerpt is derived exactly from “Ancestry.com” with regard to the Eubanks Family history:

“The dweller at the yew-bank” is where the Eubanks name originates as it refers to those who live along the river where the yew-trees grew.⁹⁷ Eubank, Ewebank, and Ubanck are all different spellings of this surname. We have traced our lineage as early as 1258 to English descent as it was first recorded in County Cumberland, England under the name of Waldef Yuebanc. Our Eubanks story begins with our 9th great-grandfather Thomas Eubank (Ubanck) who was born around 1610. Records indicate that he married a Margaret Walker in 1635 at Penrith, Cumbria, England. It is believed they had five offspring until Thomas Ubanck’s life ended sometime in the 17th Century. His sons, Thomas and Richard Eubank (Ubanck) are credited as the progenitors of the Eubanks family in America. In 1675, they migrated to America as indentured servants seeking Quaker religious freedom and a new life. Once they completed their servitude, they purchased property from Simon and Rebecca Wilmer on January 1, 1685 formerly known as “Poplar Hill” located on the Chester River in Talbot County, Maryland. We believe we are descendants from Richard Eubank and his wife Naomy of Talbot County. In 1697, they conceived one child, William Eubank, only to have Richard Eubank pass away the following year. By 1699, it is assumed that William was raised under the household of William Swift, Naomy’s new husband. William Eubank

⁹⁷ Ancestry.com

married a native of Talbot County, Mary (?) around 1728, where they conceived five children between 1730 and 1744. In 1739, William purchased 140 acres of land in Queen Anne's County, Maryland known as "Ratcliffe". At the age of 52, William died on December 1750. In his will, he declared his oldest son John as beneficiary of the plantation if his wife Mary were to die or re-marry.

We have traced our Eubanks lineage through our 6th great-grandfather John Eubanks Sr. Born in Queen Anne's County in 1735, he married Sarah Vanderford (Vandiford) around the age of 22 years. According to *History of Lower Scioto Valley, Ohio* (1884), they had eight children between 1757 and 1779. Added to this list is James, born in 1771, as he was either a nephew or an orphan raised as a son. After the death of his mother, John Eubanks Sr. inherited "Ratcliffe". In 1778 he purchased land from the Choptank Hundred and took the Maryland "Oath of Fidelity and Support". On April 18, 1797 his son, John Hewbanks, sold "Ratcliffe" to Henry Council for 535 pounds and 5 shillings. Soon afterwards the families of John, John Jr. and George removed themselves to Fleming County, Kentucky ca. 1798. Unfortunately for John Sr., he purchased 500 acres of land deemed as a "work title" considered illegal and lost the land. On November 9, 1799, John Jr., Richard, and George Hughbanks purchased land in Fleming County from a John Edwards. John Jr. acquired 200 acres of land on Fleming Creek beside George's 100 acres. Land records of 1802 indicate various property transactions between the two brothers. Due to loss of land in title disputes George Eubanks in 1804, he and his father John Eubanks Sr. moved to Mifflin Township, Ross County, Ohio (now Perry Township, Pike County). It was here that John Eubanks Sr. passed away at the age of 71. He was buried at the Cynthiana Cemetery, in Perry Township, Pike County, Ohio.

Richard Eubanks, John and Sarah's second son is our 5th great-grandfather. Born around 1764 in Talbot County, Maryland; Richard represented Talbot County as he served in the American Revolution in the 5th Maryland Regiment of Continental Line for only two months before he deserted his post. Once again he served as a Marine in the Maryland Navy Barge "Fearnought". Richard married Jane Davis of Maryland in 1794 and produced four children. It is most probable that he accompanied his father on the 1798 migration to Fleming County, Kentucky as he is listed in the 1790 U.S. Census as living in Caroline County, Maryland and the Fleming County, Kentucky Tax list of 1800. In 1802, he married again to Alice Peachee of Mason County, where he conceived three children in Fleming County between 1803 and 1809; he had three daughters named Anna, Absalom, Sarah "Sally" Eubanks. We believe Richard Eubanks died around 1810. (?) Afterwards, our lineage continues as his widowed wife marries Richard's nephew, Henry H. Eubanks, and conceived six more Eubanks between 1816 and 1827.

The eldest of Anna Eubanks was born in 1803 most likely in Fleming County, Kentucky. She accompanied her parents Richard and Alice Eubanks when they moved to Ross County, Ohio, settling near present-day Cynthiana. The site of the original homestead

is along Ohio Route 41 in Perry Township. The town's name changed to Cynthiana due to David Eubanks, Anna's first cousin, who he named the town in honor of his wife and daughter Cynthia. Anna married in 1821 to James Ross in nearby Highland County, Ohio. They conceived eight children between 1823 and 1842. In 1842, at the age of 38 years, Anna Eubanks passed away in Ross County, Ohio. We continue to trace our heritage through Anna's daughter Elizabeth Ross (c. 1824). Most recent ancestors have been tracked to have traveled through Tennessee and Kentucky following Daniel Boone's trail.

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