

# UC Santa Cruz

## Oral History Collaborations

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Loren Cawaling interviewed by Dr. Steven McKay

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### Authors

Cawaling, Loren

McKay, Steven

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## Loren Cawaling interviewed by Dr. Steve McKay Part 1 of 2

**Speakers:** Loren Cawaling, Steve McKay

**Date:** January 13, 2022

**Scope and Contents:** In part one of the interview, originally recorded in person, Loren Cawaling speaks with Dr. Steve McKay, a member of the Watsonville is in the Heart team. Throughout the interview, Loren and Steve discuss various photographs from the Cawaling Family Collection. In these conversations, Loren shares memories of various members of his family's extended kinship network, including many manong. Loren emphasizes the close, familial relationships he and his family had with many manong. In the interview, Loren also discusses his father and mother, Florencio and Aladina Cawaling's migration from the Philippines as well as their agricultural and cannery labor. He also speaks about his father's and other Filipino men's hobbies including purchasing cars, fishing, cockfighting, cooking, and gardening as well as his family's leisure activities such as going to local beaches, visiting the labor camps, and attending family and social organization gatherings. At the end of the interview, the recording abruptly ends. It begins again in the second interview "Loren Cawaling interviewed by Dr. Steve McKay Part 2 of 2."

**Steve McKay 00:01**

Okay, so um so it's January 12th—or 13th.

**Loren Cawaling 00:06**

13th—

**Steve McKay 00:07**

13th

**Loren Cawaling 00:07**

January 13th

**Steve McKay 00:08**

2021. So, I just want to just read you this basic thing which is about consent. So again, thanks for taking your time to share your story with the Watsonville in the Heart oral history project. So, our ultimate goal is to document, you know, your story, to preserve it, and someday make it accessible to others, right. And so, you know, we really hope that scholars, but also community can rely on your stories to help kind of write a richer history of the Filipino experience, particularly here in the Pajaro Valley. So, I provided you with a consent form to sign. So, let us know if you have any questions, and it just acknowledges that your oral history which is your story is a gift to the to the regional history project of the UC Santa Cruz library.

**Loren Cawaling 00:55**

Okay.

**Steve McKay** 00:56

So, the interview should take, you know, hour to an hour and a half or, you know, we'll see and if we get tired we do [unintelligible], but feel free to, you know, if you want to take breaks or anything. And again, we'll do it over audio, and we won't film it, but—so you can discuss anything that you want, but again, if there's anything you don't want, or any questions you don't want to answer, that's totally fine too.

**Loren Cawaling** 01:22

Okay.

**Steve McKay** 01:23

So, again, you'll have the chance to review the recording, I'll share it with you after this.

**Loren Cawaling** 01:28

Okay.

**Steve McKay** 01:28

And then you can take as long as you need to review it to ensure you're comfortable with the content. So, you can request to delete or remove any portion, and if you choose to withdraw from the project at any point, even after the material is made public, that's fine. You could, you know, the idea is you're in control.

**Loren Cawaling** 01:47

Okay.

**Steve McKay** 01:48

So, can you can ask—also request for confidentiality if you don't want your name attached to certain things.

**Loren Cawaling** 01:55

Oh I see, Okay.

**Steve McKay** 01:57

So, is that all okay?

**Loren Cawaling** 01:59

Yeah, yeah it is.

**Steve McKay** 02:00

Oh, go for it. Okay. Okay, so um, so, you know, basically, what we want to kind of capture is really some of your family's history, just some background. Particularly, you know, your your parents story. We hope you knew it, but we also want to, you know—what did it feel like to grow up in Watsonville, when you're coming up here? And what was it like being part of both the Filipino community, but also just the the wider community here in Watsonville? So, those are the—that's the kind of areas that we'll cover, and then if there's other things, I might ask, you know, a particular photo and there might be something we

could ask about that. I just want to make sure everything's recording. Yes. I think so. Okay. Okay. So, so just for some background information. What's your full name?

**Loren Cawaling** 02:52

It's Loren Torres Cawaling. Yeah, my given name is Florencio, but I changed it when I was like 18 years old to Loren just because it was easier to say back when we were younger.

**Steve McKay** 03:03

Sure, yeah. [unintelligible] Okay. Okay. And when and where were you born?

**Loren Cawaling** 03:09

I was born in Watsonville, California, December 12th, 1958 at the old Watsonville Community Hospital off of Brewington in Watsonville.

**Steve McKay** 03:19

Yeah. I've just a year older than my older sister so that's right in that area, okay. And if you can say what were your parents' full names.

**Loren Cawaling** 03:29

Florencio Toraneva Cawaling, and my mom's name was Aldina Torres Garcia, I think, yeah.

**Steve McKay** 03:44

With so many names, yeah, I have the same issue. And where were each of them born and when?

**Loren Cawaling** 03:50

They were all—they were both born in the Philippines. Makato, Aklan, that area of the Philippines. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 03:59

Okay. And what are some things that they may have told you about their childhood like growing up? Did they ever share stuff about their childhood?

**Loren Cawaling** 04:08

No, I never had a chance to, to actually talk to them about that stuff. w—That's one of the things I've always regretted about growing up, is not being able to, you know, have them share stories with me when I was growing up. Yeah, and I try to do that with my kids now, too, but our history stops with, with w—or starts with me, and and it's—I feel bad because I don't have anything much to share with my kids about their grandparents.

**Steve McKay** 04:33

Mm hmm. Yeah. Did he ever talk about, like, on his trip over or did they talk about any of that stuff.

**Loren Cawaling** 04:40

No, Nothing. Yeah, I—again it's my fault for not asking.

**Steve McKay** 04:44

Yeah, right. Yeah. So so when did they—when did they come to the—I was just looking over from the calendar here, now he came over in—what year did he come into—like 1929?

**Loren Cawaling** 04:59

Yeah, you know, I don't remember Steve to tell you the truth. He came over with my Lolo [Unknown] who was Eliseo Taytayon, and then they they settled here for a while before my dad went back to the Philippines and met my mom, and I don't know what year that was either.

**Steve McKay** 05:03

Okay, so and how did they know that Taytayons? How did they know Eliseo?

**Loren Cawaling** 05:25

Okay, the Taytatons—so my dad and Lolo [Unknown] when they came up from the Philippines, and then when my Lolo [Unknown] met his wife, Rosalinda Taytayon, her mom was my mom's sister. So so so actually, the Taytayon's grandmother was my mom's sister, like I said, and, yeah, now that was when our family started there.

**Steve McKay** 05:51

Okay, so the family connections was in—back in the Philippines through intermarriage already.

**Loren Cawaling** 05:57

I think so. Yeah. I don't know if it was here—No, actually, they got married—The Taytayon's got married here in—well in—they got married in Reno, but they lived here in Watsonville. Yeah, I just remember there's some photos there that were taken of their like wedding, wedding party at one of the homes when we lived on Calabasas, but I remember hearing from them that they got married in Reno when they were, you know, when they first got married. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 06:26

Okay. Oh, yeah. Okay—and, okay, so when did they come to Watsonville? And do you know why they ended up in Watsonville?

**Loren Cawaling** 06:34

No, I don't. Yeah. All I know, is my dad worked, you know, throughout the coast up and down California, and my Lolo [Unknown] as well, but I don't know how they ended up in Watsonville. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 06:47

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 06:48

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 06:48

Um, and what kind of work did your dad do?

**Loren Cawaling** 06:51

It was all farming, all agricultura—agricultural, irrigating, work in uh sprouts, just whatever. And he was also like a mechanic too, because I remember he always worked on on tractors and stuff.

**Steve McKay** 07:04

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 07:05

And I remember spending time with him out in the fields too. Whenever he used to do irrigation, I would drive the tractor so he could load the pipes up on the back of the trailer. Yeah, and I think I was probably like, 10 years old, and all I remember was, you know, he told me how to do it. All you'd have to do is step on the clutch so the truck would stop ,and then when he finished loading the pipes, you ease off the clutch and let the tractor roll a little bit farther.

**Loren Cawaling** 07:28

Yeah, and then he told me stop, push the clutch in again. Yeah, but I remember spending a lot of time out there when I was younger, on the weekends, and whenever I had time, he'd always asked me if I can go help him at the fields. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 07:28

Oh , okay.

**Steve McKay** 07:39

Oh, Okay. All right, at 10 already because—now were you—how many siblings did you have and what was your order?

**Loren Cawaling** 07:46

Okay, so I have three other brothers, George, Larry and Isedro, and I'm the oldest one and then my brother George is the next one, and then Larry, and then Isedro, and we're all one year apart. Yeah, so I'm 63 now, my brother is 62. My brother Larry is 61, and I think my brother Cedral is either 59 or 60 right now.

**Steve McKay** 08:07

Wow. Okay. All right. So so your dad—already so at 10, you're already helping out doing that kind of stuff, and so he at that point, he was where—do you know who is working for?

**Loren Cawaling** 08:20

You know what, I'm not sure. I think he was either working for the Shikuma brothers, or this gentleman named Kenzie Yoshida, who was a farmer, and the farm I remember helping him out with was over off of Riverside.

**Steve McKay** 08:34

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling 08:34**

Yeah.

**Steve McKay 08:35**

And so do you remember learning how to drive the tractor kind of like—

**Loren Cawaling 08:39**

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Also I want to share something with you too. So, driving the tractor—and also my, my dad had a lot of friends that still lived in the the farm labor camps off of San Andreas and they would have long driveways that would start from San Andreas, and go like maybe a half a mile into the field or so. I would always ask my dad if I could drive from there. So, that's actually how I started to learn how to drive, and I even learned how to drive a standard at that time, too.

**Steve McKay 09:04**

Okay. All right. Whose car were you driving?

**Loren Cawaling 09:06**

It was our family car. It was an old 64 Chevy two station wagon.

**Steve McKay 09:10**

Okay. No, no worries of hitting other people.

**Loren Cawaling 09:14**

Exactly, yeah. I remember driving through the fields and then all the brussel sprouts. I remember that, vividly driving through the fields, and then where my dad used to go visit his friends. This was an old farmhouse it was a two story greenhouse, and it was just in the middle of a field. Yeah, and it had chicken coops over there and stuff and my dad used to do, you know, go hang out with those guys and watch the chicken fights and stuff like that.

**Steve McKay 09:42**

Okay. Yeah. Yeah,

**Loren Cawaling 09:43**

That was something a lot of them used to do.

**Steve McKay 09:45**

Yeah. When I did multiple interviews, you know, with the picnics that they would call.

**Loren Cawaling 09:49**

Yes, yes.

**Steve McKay 09:51**

So that—so your dad had a lot of his friends were other kind of Filipinos who also worked in the in the fields, that you would visit?

**Loren Cawaling** 10:01

Yes, yeah, and then we always refer to them as uncle's too, and to this day, and I'm pretty sure you've heard from the other Filipino people that you've, you know, interviewed that because that they live together and maybe they immigrated all together and everything is just that out of respect, you'd always, you know, call everybody uncle or whatever, even though they weren't your real uncles. And then later on, we'd always say was that our real uncle or not, but just because my dad lived with them, and grew up with them, and worked with them and stuff that that's, you know, we refer to everybody as uncle. So, we had a ton of uncles, and a lot of them were actually good men because they lived with us for a while. My mom and dad would have helped some of them out, and they'd live with us for a while, and they'd go to the Philippines, and when they left, they'd leave their cars over at the house, and practically, like abandon them there. And they were like, a bunch of old cars that were there, but you know, they went back to the Philippines and they never came back again.

**Steve McKay** 11:03

Oh, and they never came and they never came back.

**Loren Cawaling** 11:04

And they never came back.

**Steve McKay** 11:05

Did they ended up retiring there? or—

**Loren Cawaling** 11:07

I think they did retire there. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 11:09

Okay. That's interesting.

**Loren Cawaling** 11:11

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 11:11

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 11:12

Yeah like I said, Steve, down the road here on Calabasas road thats where—well when we lived there, that was the house where, you know, when they went to the Philippines, they leave the cars up there just because there's an open field there. Yeah, and there's a photo there somewhere, and you'll be able to see the cars that were left up there.

**Steve McKay** 11:30



Ah, okay. So, how did your parents end up moving there? So, did your dad before live in the labor camps and then met your mom later or what was—how did they meet?

**Loren Cawaling** 11:39

I think that it was—I'm sorry, but I don't know how they exactly met, but I grew up on Calabasas Road, and well, that was where we grew up. I think we spent—myself I think I—we lived there until I was like maybe seven years old, and then we were able to move and my parents purchased the home over on Doring Lane off a Green Valley Road.

**Steve McKay** 12:10

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 12:10

Yeah, but um, yeah, you know what, I don't know how they got the housing there on Calabasas, but that's where we grew up, and then, yeah.

**Steve McKay** 12:21

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 12:21

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 12:22

And so now, so your dad, he was here came like 1929 or so and then worked, and then did he meet your mother—did he go back to the Philippines?

**Loren Cawaling** 12:34

Yes, he did. Yeah. I don't really know any details on that, but he did, he was here. And then he went back and met my mom, and they got married, oh my goodness, and I'm not even sure if they got married here or over in the Philippines. I think it was in the Philippines and then they came back this way.

**Steve McKay** 12:51

Ah, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 12:51

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 12:52

So, was your dad a bit older than your mom?

**Loren Cawaling** 12:54

Yes. Yes. My dad was like, 20 years older than than my mom.

**Steve McKay** 12:59

Was that something that was pretty typical from, you know, what you heard other families?

**Loren Cawaling** 13:04

You know, yes, it was. It's interesting that you say that because you know what my, my other relatives again, like we say our aunts and uncles, they were the— they was the same way too because I remember a couple of my uncles and aunts, and they were like 20 years apart, too. So, back then, I guess it wasn't a, you know, uncommon for them to marry at a, you know, a large gap in their ages.

**Steve McKay** 13:26

Mm hmm. Did a lot of them end up going back, like like your dad, back to the Philippines to meet their their wives or did some meet them here? Or what was the—

**Loren Cawaling** 13:35

Yeah, well with my mom and dad, my dad went back to the Philippines and met my mom.

**Steve McKay** 13:39

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 13:39

And then, like I said, I'm not sure if they got married or they're if they got married here. I think that got married in the Philippines, and then they came back over here and then back again to living on Calabasas road. That was our first home because that was the first home I remember as a child, and I don't know how they got that housing back then. I think it was because my dad worked for the farmer. So, the home that was on the the farm just because my dad worked the property there, he was able to live in that home.

**Steve McKay** 14:09

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 14:10

That's what I think.

**Steve McKay** 14:10

Yeah, cause you were saying there was a main house and then there was a—

**Loren Cawaling** 14:13

like a barn and stuff right there, yeah.

**Steve McKay** 14:15

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 14:15

So, he—but he worked the property that was there.

**Steve McKay** 14:17

Oh, okay, and so then that's where he—okay.

**Steve McKay** 14:21

That—no, that that's really interesting. Um, can you say more, like you said, you know, you know, this the relationship between your dad and the other Filipinos who lived in the labor camps still, do you know, remember specifically stories of like going to particular camp or meeting in a particular uncles and things like that?

**Loren Cawaling** 14:37

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 14:38

Yeah, you know what, I remember that the camp specifically because, you know, what, I'll drive down San Andreas road, and then when I go down the road, I'll mention to my wife or who's here with me in the car. I'd always tell that, yeah, my dad used to visit some men over here, some men over here, and then the one driveway that's off of San Andreas, and then I would say that that's where, you know, I learned how to drive, and then there was some guys up there too, but I remember a lot of them. I mean, but I don't remember their last names. I remember a Lolo Albert and then my Manong Badung, and then a couple of other gentlemen, I don't remember their names, but I remember their faces. But yeah, I used to go visit them, and I remember going into the, w—this one particular labor camp, where it just had this weird smell of plastic because all furniture and the tables had like plastic tablecloths, but you would always see like, there was always food there. There's always decks of cards everywhere, and of course, there's always dogs in the yard, and you can always hear chickens and stuff over there. But I always wondered about those guys, because you know what, they lived in the middle of nowhere, and and those guys just like, it was just everything was so simple for them. Yeah, so yeah, but that's all I remember about that is just my dad going to visit them and stuff, and you know, they would show us how to play solitaire, you know, play cards and stuff like that. Yeah, but that's all they would do is I remember, a deck of cards, and that plastic smell in the— in the labor camp. Yeah, but my dad would make it a habit to go visit them all the time, and then I'm sorry to say I don't remember, there's only a couple of them I remember their names, and yeah, and then you know what? Some of them went to the Philippines. Some of them have passed away cause I remember going to funerals all the time too, and not really knowing exactly who they were. And and it's sad to say because, you know, some of the guys that my dad used to go visit, they had no families, if they had families, you know, they probably send them money to the Philippines and stuff. But you know what? They passed away here. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 14:38

Bachelor's?

**Loren Cawaling** 14:38

Yeah, exactly. Yeah. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 14:44

How did they interact with you? How did they you know, when—were they happy to see kids there? What was it like?

**Loren Cawaling** 15:01

Yeah. Yeah, they, I mean, they were always happy to see somebody. I don't know who else used to go visit them, but you know, whenever we used to go there, I think it was a treat because, you know—they go oh, man, they always bring out something for us to eat cookies, you know, whatever they had and stuff. And then they take us outside and just like, you know, look around, look at the chickens, and then, you know, I always used to like to go in the barns because I used to like to just like explore. Yeah, yeah, and then you know, I'm a car guy. So, now looking back at all that stuff, I remember seeing these old oil cans, and tools, and and whenever that stuff always used to, you know, fascinate me. I mean, even to this day now, I love old stuff.

**Steve McKay** 17:36

Ah, yeah. So did they were they car guys, too?

**Loren Cawaling** 17:40

You know what? I don't know if they were car guys, but I remember a couple times over there, those guys would be working on their cars, too. Yeah, but I think it had a necessity. They had to repair their own cars.

**Steve McKay** 17:52

Right. Okay. Okay. All right, and so did they keep the chickens mainly for for fighting?

**Loren Cawaling** 17:58

Yeah, well, they had some fighting chickens there, and I'm sure that they had chickens there that they used to raise for food. Yeah, cause I mean, I remember a few times we've gone over there, and they always had chicken. Chicken or fish or whatever was there and a lot of vegetables all the time. Yeah, and then—

**Steve McKay** 18:15

Oh, sorry go ahead.

**Loren Cawaling** 18:16

No, it's okay, and then back then, you know, as as being younger, I wasn't very fond of eating fish or or vegetables, but that was always, you know, part of the menu anyway.

**Steve McKay** 18:26

Did they fish a lot?

**Loren Cawaling** 18:28

You know, my dad did, and so did my Lolo [Unknown]. Any of the other gentlemen, I don't remember, but my dad used to go and he used to take us all the time with my Lolo [Unknown]. We'd go down to Palm Beach and go fishing when we were younger.

**Steve McKay** 18:43

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 18:43

Yeah, and that was always a treat for us to go down there because, you know what? We'd say we go fishing, but we'd set up the poles and we'd be running around in the sand playing, and then, you know, Lolo [Unknown] and my dad would be watching the poles while the while the kids are running around.

**Steve McKay** 18:56

Yeah. Right. Okay, was that like, pretty often on the weekends you'd do that?

**Loren Cawaling** 19:01

Probably I want to say probably, you know, twice a month anyway. We would go, yeah. I mean, I don't remember now, but I mean, remember going but yeah, I don't remember the how often we'd go.

**Steve McKay** 19:13

How often would you visit the the other guys, you know—

**Loren Cawaling** 19:16

You know what, I think my dad would take us over there at least once a week. Once a week.

**Steve McKay** 19:21

Okay, so pretty often then?

**Loren Cawaling** 19:21

Yeah, just because they were older too, and I think that, you know what, they needed, you know, some socialization. I mean, I don't know if they used to go out a lot, but it's weird too because, you know, back then my dad was was old and so one of those other guys too. So, I don't know if they used to go out a lot. I think they probably used to go out a lot when they used to have the the gatherings when they were like with the Aklan Civic League, or the Fil Visayan Association. I remember a lot of those like parties slash meetings that they would go to, and then for us, it was a social thing too, because all the cousins everything, all we would do was just play. They would have their meeting but all the kids would be playing outside.

**Steve McKay** 19:22

Ah, yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 19:22

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 19:24

That that's great, and where were those meetings?

**Loren Cawaling 19:26**

Um, you know what? Some of those meetings meetings were held at like other family members. I remember they used to have meetings at the Tejada house. His name was Asuelo Tejada, and Nancy Tejada. They lived over on Bowker, and they had like a little patio area that was able to accommodate, you know, all the people there and stuff. And so, you know, they would have like a little party and stuff, they would have their meetings, like I said, and the kids will be playing. So, as far as the meeting goes, I don't know what they were discussing or anything, but you know, the kids are always having fun playing. They would also have the meetings at—they would have like a special picnic at Sunset Beach. I don't remember what group that would be, it was like the Fil Visayan too or something like that. Yeah, they would have like a picnic at Sunset Beach, and that would be a big one where they would have a party and their meeting. It was like a year end meeting or something. Yeah, but the meetings are always held at somebody, you know, at different houses. They would be held at my my uncle Ted's house. The last name is Cesar. So, they were my brother's godfather, and godmother. Teodoro Caesar and Beatrice Caesar, and they lived up on, Oh my God, I forgot the name of the street, but if anybody hears this, and they recognize this, we always used to call their house "the bukid" which is the—which is the hill because they lived on top of the hill up there. Yeah, and so yeah, they would always have parties up there or meetings. And then I remember going up there, and that one was always a fun place to go to.

**Steve McKay 19:26**

What made it fun? What what would you guys do?

**Loren Cawaling 19:56**

Oh, it was—you know what, Steve, the fun part would be being able to see your cousins again.

**Loren Cawaling 20:31**

Yeah. Yeah. I mean, everybody is always working. So you know, it was always family, you know, you you do what you got to do with your family, whatever and stuff because that's what my dad was atleast. He's always working, my mom was working. She got sick later on, but my dad was always working, and so were the other families. And so like, on the weekend, then everybody would say, oh, man, we're having a party. So, that was a good time where my my parents would actually be able to, you know, see their friends and relatives, and then we would do the same as kids with the other cousins and stuff. Yeah.

**Steve McKay 20:31**

Yeah.

**Steve McKay 22:34**

Were they your real cousins? Or you just call them cousins?

**Loren Cawaling 22:36**

Ah, yeah, you know, again, there we go. You know, what? A few of them were our real cousins. You know, as far as like, you know, what I had mentioned to you about the Taytayons. Okay, so you know, I guess you could say that we're second cousins at that point, but then, you know, of course, there's

other cousins that we said they were, but but they were actually just close friends. Yeah. You know, the way I explained to you earlier about, you know, saying uncles and adds to Yeah, yeah, yeah, exactly.

**Steve McKay** 23:08

Yeah, so that that filtered off to the kids. Right. You know, calling them cousins. Yeah. So, and yeah, what kind of things like what kind of food were at the parties? What kind of games did you play?

**Loren Cawaling** 23:20

Yeah, you know, Filipino food traditional. There was always rice. There was dinuguan. There was chicken. Of course, everybody's favorite was lumpia. There was always pancit there, and of course, there's other dishes that I can't remember, but there was always a lot of food. Yeah, oh, and the games that we played, it's all you know what, the games that we played, was just running around, just running around playing tag, whatever. If there was a dartboard there, we used the dartboard. If there was a ball to kick around, we'd, you know, kick it around. If there was bicycles, or any toys there, of course, we'd be riding those around, too, and just, you know, just having a good time. Yeah, and then of course, you know, you get a little crazy, and then of course, the parents would be yelling at you. Like, get off this, don't do that. Or, yeah.

**Steve McKay** 24:12

Yeah, but those kind of—I remember family parties like that.

**Loren Cawaling** 24:15

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 24:15

The parents are having a good time, so—

**Loren Cawaling** 24:17

Yes.

**Steve McKay** 24:17

They didn't watch the kids so closely.

**Loren Cawaling** 24:19

Exactly, you hit it right on the button. Exactly. Yeah, and then—and the funny part about that is that, you know what, we're all, you know, when everybody was done, you know, we've always wore our nice clothes to go there. By the end of the day, man, we were dirty. We had mud on our shoes, our clothes are all dirty and everything, and then and then our parents will say, man, what were you guys doing? Because, again, these parties were held sometimes at like somebody's home, which is again, it's another house that's in the middle of field. Yeah. So, there's a bunch of dirt and whatever. So, you know, by the end of the day, like I said, we're always dirty. Yeah, just having a good time running around. I mean, you know, jumping up and down a farm equipment too, was another thing. Yeah, playing w—you know what, I used to like to play with tools. I don't know whatever tools are here, but yeah, I'd just go tinkering around with everything and stuff. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 25:09

That's great. No supervision, you know? You can just try all the stuff.

**Loren Cawaling** 25:11

Yeah, just yeah, exactly.

**Steve McKay** 25:12

And what were your parents doing? Do you know what kind of—

**Loren Cawaling** 25:15

When the kids are playing outside? I mean, you know what the, you know, if we'd have to go in the house to go get some more food, we'd always see that everybody was just laughing and stuff. And, you know, they would have their meetings, I'm sure, but then when, when the agenda was all done, that everybody would just kick back and just talk. I mean, you know, everybody likes to drink. You know, I remember my my Uncle Suelo, he'd always asked for VO, Seagram's VO, he's always looking for that VO, yeah. He—because I always remember that, I mean, he was a really nice gentleman, but I remember somebody would always just say, Uncle Suelo, or [unknown] suelo, you know, stop drinking or whatever because he was always asking for liquor all the time. Yeah, and he'd always tell my dad, come on in Encio have something to drink. Or he'd always try to get somebody to drink with him and stuff. Yeah. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 26:04

But yeah, there's, you know, just time to let down—

**Loren Cawaling** 26:06

Yeah, exactly.

**Steve McKay** 26:06

When youre not working.

**Loren Cawaling** 26:07

Yeah, but I know, they would always talk—well, I didn't know what they would talk about, but again, I know that they are having a good time just, you know, talking about everything. Yeah. I mean, I'm sure they're talking about, you know, how work is, you know, how the kids are doing in school and everything. And, yeah, yeah, again, I wish that I knew—I wish I was more, I don't know, I don't even know how to say it. You know, just being able to interact with my parents more, or even my relatives back then, but you know, when you're younger, all you want to do is just play but, but I wish I would have been able to ask more questions—

**Steve McKay** 26:49

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 26:49



with them, yeah.

**Steve McKay** 26:51

Yeah, well, at the time, you know, you're a kid—

**Loren Cawaling** 26:53

Exactly—

**Steve McKay** 26:53

You're there to just, you know, play and and, you know, for them, it was their chance to hang out with their friends, but also, you know, like your cousins. Yeah, it was kind of what they wanted for you all too. So you know that's great.

**Loren Cawaling** 27:06

Yeah. So, you know, some of the photos we have right here too Steve, you know, I mean, I have some albums as well, too, but you know, you'll see the the parties that they have, and you can see, you know how everybody was having a good time. Yeah, and so pictures, you know, photos speak for themselves. You look at everybody's faces and what everybody's doing, and you know, if it was a party, everybody's always having a good time.

**Steve McKay** 27:26

Yeah, no, that—there was some, there was some interesting ones. I did—this is a picture and I'm showing a picture. Very small format of four men in front of a barn.

**Loren Cawaling** 27:38

Yes.

**Steve McKay** 27:38

Can you say something about this picture?

**Loren Cawaling** 27:40

Yeah. You know what I wish I could, but the photo is, is my dad is in the photo. He's in the middle. He's the one that has the zoot suit on. I mean, it's, it's all— it's always, you know, interesting to see that, you know, back in the old days wearing the zoot suits, they used to pull their pants really high up above their waist, but I don't know where this picture was taken. I mean, I've seen it before, and like I said, I'm a car guy, and whenever I look at pictures like this, I always look at the cars in the background, like I see, like a early 30s car, early 40s cars, but but my dad looks happy in this picture, and yeah, yeah. I wish I knew who these gentlemen were, and then again, it's just I wish I would have asked more questions when I was younger, but but yeah, you could.—that's my dad right there. The second from the left.

**Steve McKay** 27:41

Second from the left. So, this is the dated—

**Loren Cawaling** 27:59

It's 19—

**Steve McKay** 28:01

July, July 28th 1939, and the number on the back is 33, and then it's obscured. Okay, yeah. So that's, yeah. So that's quite early, you know, that that this was taken? So likely in a labor camp?

**Loren Cawaling** 28:46

Yes.

**Steve McKay** 28:47

Who do you think took the picture?

**Loren Cawaling** 28:49

Man, you know what, I really don't know. That's interesting that you bring that up because you know what, even myself, I would have loved to find out who that was.

**Steve McKay** 28:57

Yeah, but they're clearly dressed really nice in tis picture. You know, it's amazing because the picture shows kind of a barn that doesn't look the greatest shape, right, and so you wouldn't imagine that the guys dressed so nicely.

**Loren Cawaling** 29:11

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 29:12

Right in front of this barn, but but there you go. That's pretty amazing. There was another picture I wanted to mention. This is a picture of 406 B on the back, but it shows you know, because you mentioned you're a car guy looks like an extended family kind of leaning against a car, and and the man in the middle holding. It looks like a crate of maybe tomatoes. I don't know. Do you know? Is that?

**Loren Cawaling** 29:41

Oh, that's funny that you say that Steve. Okay, so you know what, I think those are—yeah the those are, it's a crate of strawberries.

**Steve McKay** 29:47

Strawberries, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 29:48

Uh huh, and then I don't know that gentleman. There's my Aunty Lita and my dad.

**Steve McKay** 29:57

And so which one is your dad?

**Loren Cawaling** 29:58

My dad is the one on the far right, and you won't believe this, Steve, but that car that's right there. That's a 1954. Pontiac.

**Steve McKay** 30:06

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 30:06

I'm pretty sure because you know what, that car is in my garage right now

**Steve McKay** 30:10

Really?

**Loren Cawaling** 30:11

It is, it is.

**Steve McKay** 30:12

Okay. Wow.

**Loren Cawaling** 30:12

That's my dad on the far right right there.

**Steve McKay** 30:14

Oh, okay here leaning back here.

**Loren Cawaling** 30:16

Yes, exactly.

**Steve McKay** 30:17

Alright.

**Loren Cawaling** 30:17

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 30:18

So what do you remember about the car and and—

**Loren Cawaling** 30:21

You know what I told you my dad was like a mechanic. He liked to tinker with stuff, and he had all these old cars that he he drove at a, you know—because that was his transportation, but then, you know, he liked to keep them running and stuff. And out of all the cars that he had, he had some really old cool cars that I remember and old pickups, but for some reason, he wanted to keep that Pontiac and that was our family car. until like the early 60s.

**Steve McKay** 30:47

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 30:47

Yeah, and then after that, we ended up buying a station wagon that would accommodate you know, all of us, more comfortably. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 30:55

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 30:55

Yeah, but anyway, that that car—my dad still had that car, and we drove it around when we were younger, we got it running, and it sat for a long time because you know, we're doing things, but you know what, I got that car now in my garage. I'm fixing it up. I actually got another motor and trying to get that in there right now. I put a V8 in and stuff.

**Loren Cawaling** 31:12

Yeah. So, I want to try to restore it. I mean, it's not the same color anymore, but but yeah, I would like to fix it up.

**Steve McKay** 31:12

Oh, thats fantastic.

**Steve McKay** 31:19

What an honor—

**Loren Cawaling** 31:20

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 31:20

to do that.

**Loren Cawaling** 31:21

And that's what I want to do, is I want to share. So, my son Elgin, he knows about that car too. I told him stories about his grandpa, how he, you know, that was his favorite car. And you know, Steve is interesting so, my dad always used to refer to that that old Pontiac as a Packard. I guess Packard was a more of a luxury car back then, but he'd always referred to his Pontiac as the Packard. Oh, and so my son actually, because we were working in the car together—we haven't worked on it for a while, but my son got a tattoo of that car on his arm—

**Steve McKay** 31:53

Oh, really?

**Loren Cawaling** 31:53

And kind of like, for his grandpa. So, as soon as we finish the car, it'll be cool for him to drive the car because he already has that tattooed on his arm.

**Steve McKay** 32:02

Oh, wow, I can just see it in the parade.

**Loren Cawaling** 32:04

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 32:06

With his arm out the window.

**Loren Cawaling** 32:06

Ah, yes.

**Steve McKay** 32:06

That's wonderfu. Do you know how your dad got the car?

**Loren Cawaling** 32:10

You know what, I wish I could, um, I I haven't tried to look in the DMV thing, but but again, Steve, that car sat for a while. So, what had happened is when my dad didn't drive it anymore, the registration expired, and it wasn't registered for a long time. So, what had happened is that, that vehicle was lost out of the the system, so it wasn't in there anymore. And then when I went to go ahead and re-register the car, I had to re-register the car like like, it never existed. Does that make any sense?

**Loren Cawaling** 32:43

There was nothing back in there. So, now it has a different license plate, and you know, all this stuff like that. So, I still got the old license plates, but I would like to figure out—I don't know how to do it, but I don't know there's any way I could look back with old license plate, now that it's not in the DMV thing anymore. I don't know if I can go back and find out where if it was bought in like Stockton or, you know, you know, someplace else in California and then he drove that car for—

**Steve McKay** 32:43

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 33:10

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 33:11

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 33:11

So, you had mentioned—I don't remember if we got this on the recording that, you know, some of the older manongs, had their cars, and then ended up when they went back to the Philippines, whether to retire or for whateve—

**Loren Cawaling** 33:23

Yes.

**Steve McKay** 33:24

They left their cars at your place.

**Loren Cawaling** 33:27

They did.

**Steve McKay** 33:27

Do you know, was this one of those cars or was this something you think your dad bought?

**Loren Cawaling** 33:31

I think this one was one that my dad had purchased himself.

**Steve McKay** 33:34

Okay, yeah. Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 33:35

Yeah, and then so they used to leave those cars over on Calabasas Road, like I said, because that was, you know, there's a field there and then barrn—by the barn. Someone used to leave the cars there and stuff. You know, they'd leave the the keys and everything with my dad, but you know, I don't know whatever happened to those cars after that. When we moved, I think those cars were still there. So, those cars are actually barn finds for whoever was there, like later on in the years. After we moved to Doring Lane, that was the home that my folks purchased, after we left Calabasas, and then up in the mid 60s, when some of the Filipino gentlemen were going back to the Philippines, they would leave the cars at our house over on Doring Lane. And, and it was weird because there was a bunch of—I mean, I used to go sit in the cars and pretend I was driving them because they were just cool cars, three speed and you know, clutch and, and always have that old car smell. And it was a shame because you know what? There was like two or three cars that were there. Not all at the same time, but my dad didn't want them. So, he sold the junkyard for \$25.

**Steve McKay** 33:38

Oh—

**Loren Cawaling** 33:43

You're talking early 50s cars.

**Steve McKay** 34:35

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 34:41

You know, maybe late 40s cars and stuff, and I'll share it with you. So, there was a gentleman, his name is Simeon. T. Tanala. You—again he was one of my dad's friends from the labor camp too. He had a couple of sons. I don't know whatever happened to those guys, but but Simeon, when he went back to the Philippines, he left us a 1955 Chevy pickup, and actually that was—that was my first car.

**Steve McKay** 35:08

Oh, really.

**Loren Cawaling** 35:08

When I was in high school, I fixed up that truck. I was 16 years old, built my first motor. I went ahead and put a V8 in that thing and put a different transmission in it, and I drove that 55 Chevy truck all through high school.

**Steve McKay** 35:20

Oh, wow.

**Loren Cawaling** 35:20

And actually drove it to Colorado when I gradu—graduated from high school because I went to mechanic school over there.

**Steve McKay** 35:27

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 35:28

So, I took the truck. I had a dirt bike, and so I wanted to take that dirt bike with me too. So, I put it in the back of the truck, and Colorado here I came. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 35:38

So, that so that was a pretty large number of men who left their cars. Do remember at Calabasas how many cars that was like, that were there?

**Loren Cawaling** 35:47

I'd have to look at the photo albums, but I mean, I remember seeing like, three or four cars, the back end of some of the cars that were there, and again Steve they were old cars because, you know, the trunk lids were flat. So, they were I would say those early 40s cars.

**Steve McKay** 36:02

Yeah. Interesting.

**Loren Cawaling** 36:04

Yeah, but you know, later on, I'll dig up some of the things, and I—if I could find that photo, you'll see the like an old truck and a couple of the other cars that were there. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 36:11

Okay, alright.

**Loren Cawaling** 36:11

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 36:12

So did—with your truck, so so your uncle had already gone back to the Philippines?

**Loren Cawaling** 36:18

Yes.

**Steve McKay** 36:19

Okay, to retire, do you know? Or did you know him very well?

**Loren Cawaling** 36:21

You know what, I didn't know him very well, again, we were younger, and you know, wish I would have been able to ask questions of everybody that had gone through my life then. Yeah, but I think he went back over there. Again, he had two sons, and I don't know what his situation was. I don't know if he had a younger wife or, or a wife that was in the Philippines, and he brought the boys over here, but I remember meeting them, but it's been it's—you know, you're talking, you know, 50 years now. Yeah, so I don't know where they're at. Yeah, but yeah, his last—his name was Simeon Tanala.

**Steve McKay** 36:53

Yeah, and this was his truck.

**Loren Cawaling** 36:55

And that was his truck. Yeah. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 36:56

That's interesting because so much—you know, we we lose the record of these guys, right, Like, you're saying they lived in the labor camps they didn't have—and that's one of the few things that seems that they left, really some of these cars and that's really interesting.

**Loren Cawaling** 37:09

Yeah, yeah, no, exactly. I mean, you know, what, when they went back to the Philippines, Steve, I'm sure that they brought home with them, like, their life savings. You know, it probably wasn't much, probably just enough to fly back to the Philippines, but I mean, you know, a vehicle back in those old days, that was a major, you know, piece of property, you know.

**Steve McKay** 37:29

Yeah.



**Loren Cawaling** 37:29

It was worth, you know, \$100, 200, or whatever.

**Steve McKay** 37:33

Right. Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 37:33

You know, and for them to just leave it there. They didn't even sell it or anything. They just left it there, and it's like, okay, yeah.

**Steve McKay** 37:39

Yeah, it was interesting I was interviewing Bobby Mariano. He said his dad was a real car guy. You know, and and he was saying, if it wasn't for his mom, they would never bought a house. He would buy nice cars, things like that, you know, and that they were less interested in property at that point, but but you know, cars were, you know, also important for these guys.

**Loren Cawaling** 38:00

Oh, yes.

**Steve McKay** 38:01

You know, one just to get out of that isolation, but two, you know, just as a expression of themselves.

**Loren Cawaling** 38:06

Correct.

**Steve McKay** 38:07

Was your dad into—so, he was a the, like cars as well. Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 38:11

You know what I mean, again, you know, what, he had cars, and then, you know, he had to repair a man of necessity. Yeah, I mean, he wasn't like a hot rod or anything like that, but but yeah, he just loved to tinker. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 38:23

Okay. Um, here's another photo of a woman standing in a field. I didn't notice that.

**Loren Cawaling** 38:28

Oh, that's my mother.

**Loren Cawaling** 38:30

Yeah, and you know, what's Steve this photo is taken in Calabasas.

**Steve McKay** 38:30

Okay.

**Steve McKay** 38:35

Okay.

**Steve McKay** 38:35

Ah, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 38:35

And so remember what I shared with you before, you know, we started this interview that I would have liked—I'd like to go ahead and go up to the top of the hill, and talk to those people there, and ask them if I could have permission to go up on the property and bring the photo albums and then look at photos and see you know, the background because I know that's a field that's across the way from the house.

**Loren Cawaling** 38:37

Yeah. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 38:38

So, this is a this beautiful photo, black and white, on the back it's seven two three B. Tell me what, you know, looking at the photo, what does it bring to mind? You know, memories or what does it make you think about?

**Loren Cawaling** 39:13

Yeah, you know what, it was a happy time for our family. I mean, I can tell by my mom's face. You know, you get interviewed or somebody has interviewed my my my younger brother is Isedro, and you know, my mom looks really happy in this picture in Calabasas right there. Her health was really good back then. What had happened is after we got a little bit older, and we moved to Doring Lane, my mom got sick and she got a stroke, and she had—she was never the same. She was able to communicate and walk and everything like that, but but yeah, this photo right here is like one of the happier times right there. Yeah, you know when she looked really nice and everything. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 39:13

Can you tell me a little bit about your mom?

**Loren Cawaling** 39:42

My mom. Yeah. Well, um, Of course, I love my mom. She was a caring person, you know, I'm sure it was hard for her to take care of four boys. All of us were like a year apart, and and you know what, and we weren't good boys. I mean, we—my dad would always whenever we meet somebody, and then they they would ask about us, my dad would always tell everybody that my—he goes my son's are rascals, they're rascals. It's like, you know, remember the rascals on TV, he would always refer to us as rascals because we would always get in trouble. And and I feel bad because I think my mom was just like, you know, four boys. All of us running around, and just like, you know, I mean, I had one son, it was hard enough. Elgin, stop it, you know, this and that, but my mom having to take care of four sons. It was probably difficult for her when she was healthy, but after she got sick, I think it was it was it was harder

for her. Yeah, but yeah, I mean, you know, I love this picture. Yeah, she she died at an early age. She died when she was 50. I hate to say—

**Steve McKay** 41:03

I'm sorry.

**Loren Cawaling** 41:03

Yeah, as of complications of her stroke, and and she had some kidney problems.

**Steve McKay** 41:08

Mm hmm. Yeah, but it's it's a beautiful photo, and it looks—

**Loren Cawaling** 41:11

Thank you.

**Steve McKay** 41:12

Looks like it's in in early spring, there's all these beautiful flowers.

**Loren Cawaling** 41:15

And let me share with you too, my mom had a green thumb. I mean, in some of the photo albums, that I got over here Steve, I mean, everybody used to tell us man, you know, your mom's yard this and that. She had beautiful flowers in the front yard. I mean, it was always colorful all the time. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 41:30

Was that whatever her hobbies were?

**Loren Cawaling** 41:32

Oh, she had a green thumb. She loved flowers. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 41:34

Oh, that that's great. Did she—was he also working, was she employed?

**Loren Cawaling** 41:40

You know what, she was—before she got sick, Steve, she was—you know, she did like everybody else. Everybody worked on the canneries back in the old days. Are you familiar with the green giant cannery?

**Steve McKay** 41:48

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 41:49

Remember the first one that was sitting in the corner?

**Steve McKay** 41:50

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 41:51

Yeah, so that original Green Giant cannery sat at the corner of Walker Street and Beach Street, and I want to say, you know, back in the 60s when my mom was working, it employed a lot of people. I mean, there was no OSHA regulations back then and stuff. My mom used to tell me stories of accidents there, where, let's say, no one was wearing a hairnet. I mean, I remember a story that she said that somebody got their hair caught in a piece of machinery. I mean, nobody got killed or anything, but but you know, she was telling me that somebody got hurt. My Manang Rosie used to work there. I think my Auntie Lita, used to work there. Just because that was like one of the first like processing plants in the area, and everybody wanted to get a job there. So, I remember she was working there for a few years before she got sick. You know, I remember her putting a hairnet on, and, you know, my dad would drop her off in front of the factory, you know, before he had to go to work in the fields or whatever. And then yeah, and then come back and pick her up later on. Yeah, yeah, but yeah, she worked at Green Giant for a few years again, before she got sick. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 42:56

Did she tell other stories about that kind of work and things? So, it sounds scary, you know, I —clearly seeing people injured.

**Loren Cawaling** 43:03

I never asked her anything about that. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 43:07

Did she have friends from from that kind of work? Or—were some of the same, you know, cousins and aunts were the same?

**Loren Cawaling** 43:14

Yeah, that's what it was. We had other aunts and and and some uncles that worked in the factory there too. So, as far as friends, I'm sure she had friends at the cannery too, but yeah, I didn't know who they were. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 43:27

Okay. Yeah, that—I definitely had heard that similar stories of men working in the fields and women working in, you know, in the processing. So, other than—so, your mom like to do gardening? What were other things that she was into? I mean, she had to keep track of you guys. Which is hard, I'm sure,

**Loren Cawaling** 43:48

Yeah. I mean, you know what, I just remember her just, you know, taking care of the garden all the time. You know, we always had a good crop of vegetables in the backyard. There was always corn back there, tomatoes—you know what, I just remember the corn. I mean, I could I could dig up a picture, and then you could see the backyard. It was like a forest for corn. There was apple trees back there, but my mom and dad would plant all this corn because everybody loved corn. And whenever they harvested the crop, they would always share that with the neighbors. Everybody would always love corn and

everything and stuff like that. Also, used to raise chickens. Not for fighting but for, you know, for eating. Yeah, cause, you know, we had a bunch of chicken coops in the backyard too. And I got photos of my mum and dad, like, you know, holding chickens, you know, like a pet. Yeah, like that. Yeah. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 44:36

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 44:37

But yeah, raising chickens and, and, you know, working in the yard and stuff. I mean, it was a small piece of property, but there was always something to do.

**Steve McKay** 44:44

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 44:44

Yeah, you know, when you become a homeowner, there's never ending.

**Steve McKay** 44:47

Yeah, that's right.

**Loren Cawaling** 44:49

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 44:50

And was it your dad or your mom who did the cooking?

**Loren Cawaling** 44:54

You know what, actually both. You know, of course you heard the stories too that you know, working in labor camps and stuff, the men would always do their own cooking because, you know, there was no—nobody was married back then. So, my dad would do a lot of cooking, and my mom was actually a pretty respectable cook herself. So, they shared both. Yeah, yeah.

**Steve McKay** 45:12

Yeah, and in my interview with Erlinda Taytayon, she said that her dad was like a really good cook.

**Steve McKay** 45:19

Okay, what do he like to cook?

**Loren Cawaling** 45:19

Yeah, yeah I—Lolo [Unknown] was a good cook. Whenever they had parties over there, he always had—I remember he always have the best pot roast. It was always tender it was really good because, you know, when we used to go there, they go, oh Jr. look, my dad made some some pot roast. I mean, that was my favorite dish at their house. Yeah, but he was a good cook, too. Yeah, he used to like the barbecue. My dad used like the barbecue as well. He had like a makeshift barbecue in the backyard.

You probably heard the same thing too, Steve that, you know, a lot of the older Filipino men they they made barbecue pits out of like old 55 gallon drums or anything that was like a metal frame and they just put like a grate on top of it, and they just took off of that.

**Loren Cawaling** 45:42

My dad would—you know he used to like to go fishing like I told you. So, he'd cooked the fish outside and stuff, and then he'd barbecue a lot of chicken. It was all because you know, we raised chickens, the chickens over there.

**Steve McKay** 46:12

Yeah. Did you guys ever— do have like parties—there was one picture here, I think maybe that's from the Philippines, where they have lechon.

**Loren Cawaling** 46:22

Oh, yeah, you know, I hate to say but we've never actually had one of those as a meal ourselves in our home.

**Steve McKay** 46:28

Yeah, those are free like big parties.

**Loren Cawaling** 46:30

Yes. Yeah, I'm pretty sure there was some of those—you know, there might have been at some of the other parties that we had, but yeah, my family you know, actually never had one like that.

**Steve McKay** 46:40

Yeah, okay. I, you know, because I saw this photo with with another car. Okay, maybe so—

**Loren Cawaling** 46:49

Okay, so this one, this this car right there belongs to my Aunty Lita. Elizabeth—well, Elizabeth Tana, that's her mom's car. Anyway, I remember this car because she bought this one brand new. It was a 1965 Chevy Malibu.

**Steve McKay** 47:07

Okay. Yeah, and the date on the pictures is December 12th 1965. So, it must have been brand new in the photo.

**Loren Cawaling** 47:15

Yeah. Well, you know, it's funny that you mentioned that because I didn't even see that, but December 12th is my birthday. So, maybe maybe they're all at the house because of my birthday.

**Steve McKay** 47:23

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 47:24

Yeah, but all my cousins are there. There's Lucy Tejada, Fretz Tejada, Fred Tejada, Myself, Elizabeth Tana, Jr. Tana, My brother Isedro and looks like Annette Tejada. Oh, and then Josephine Tejada, and then my Aunt Meady Tejada, and then my Aunt Lita Tana.

**Steve McKay** 47:49

Okay, so what—which birthday was this for you?

**Loren Cawaling** 47:52

Okay, 58 [unintelligible]— 7 years old.

**Steve McKay** 47:52

Okay, so your seven?

**Loren Cawaling** 47:56

Seven years old, yeah.

**Steve McKay** 47:58

Oh okay, that's great. Do you know where that's taken?

**Loren Cawaling** 48:00

Yes, I do again—Okay, here's a picture of my mom.

**Steve McKay** 48:05

This one?

**Loren Cawaling** 48:06

Yeah, that one. So, I think—

**Steve McKay** 48:09

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 48:09

This picture is aiming that way. This picture is towards the mountains. See the mountains?

**Steve McKay** 48:13

Yeah. So that's—okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 48:15

That's a mountain range back this way because the driveway came up this way right there.

**Loren Cawaling** 48:19

So that's yeah, that were my mom is that's, that's facing north, and then that one is facing east.

**Steve McKay** 48:19

Oh, so it really is at the top of the hill there. Okay, that's a brilliant, you know that you have those both now. That actually does totally make sense. And you can see—

**Steve McKay** 48:34

Ah, okay, and which one is you in this picture?

**Loren Cawaling** 48:36

Oh, that's me right there.

**Steve McKay** 48:38

Okay. All right. So, wearing the kind of red checker—

**Loren Cawaling** 48:41

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 48:41

shirt. Oh, okay. Alright. Yeah. So they—okay, so that was taken at your at your—in front of your house.

**Loren Cawaling** 48:49

Calabasas road right up the road. Yeah, that's a—see that's why I wanted to go ahead and and see if I could get permission from the people that live in the property now, because I would take this photo with me, and I'd say like, you know what, wherever—and I say that's that this way.

**Steve McKay** 49:06

Right, yeah—

**Loren Cawaling** 49:07

Because you know what, you could probably even—I'm thinking that might be Loma Prieta.

**Steve McKay** 49:10

Oh, yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 49:11

That hill right there, you know, you could see prominently over this way.

**Steve McKay** 49:13

Right. Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 49:14

So yeah, I mean, you know, I just in my mind out, I'd like to just go back up there and just go like this.

**Steve McKay** 49:19

Yeah.



**Loren Cawaling** 49:20

The house would be this way, and then a barn would be right here, and where they're facing all those cars are abandoned behind behind the person that's taking the picture.

**Steve McKay** 49:29

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 49:30

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 49:30

Who do you think take this picture?

**Loren Cawaling** 49:31

I think my mom would have taken the picture on mom used to take quite a few pictures back then.

**Steve McKay** 49:36

That that—and did your cousin's come— were they your real cousins or were they just family friends.

**Steve McKay** 49:36

Oh, thats great.

**Loren Cawaling** 49:36

Yeah, yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 49:43

Just family ones.

**Steve McKay** 49:45

Okay, but did your families get together a lot?

**Loren Cawaling** 49:48

Yes. Yes, we did.

**Steve McKay** 49:51

Is that because your mom was friends with them or just the whole families were friends?

**Steve McKay** 49:55

90th yes.

**Loren Cawaling** 49:55

Yeah, and my Aunty Meady passed away a few years back, and so, you know, her last name was Tejada.

**Loren Cawaling** 49:55

Yeah, the all—the whole families were friends. I mean everybody—I mean, it was close knit. I don't know how—Oh my goodness, yeah. I mean, I know my Aunty Lita was in my life for the longest time, and my Aunty Meady in my life for the longest time, and of course, all my cousins and everything, but but you know, they're both— Aunty Lita, like I was telling you, you know, she just had her 90th.

**Steve McKay** 50:25

Okay, yeah. Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 50:27

Yeah, I don't know if you know, Fred Tejada.

**Steve McKay** 50:30

I know the name but you know—

**Loren Cawaling** 50:31

Yeah, okay. Yeah. Yeah, but that's the whole family right there.

**Steve McKay** 50:34

Alright, and they were just friends from way back with your family.

**Loren Cawaling** 50:37

Yes. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 50:38

Yeah, I definitely have, you know, family that we grew up as cousins. They were just my mom's friends. Yeah, you know, but that's how we still cause—

**Loren Cawaling** 50:48

Exactly, yes.

**Steve McKay** 50:50

That's a great photo .[unintelligible] Any memories of that car? Like riding in or—They bought it new.

**Loren Cawaling** 50:57

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 50:58

So, that was a big deal, buying a new car.

**Loren Cawaling** 51:00

Yeah. Oh, yeah. You know, that car was in their family for the last longest time. I mean, this is gonna—this is gonna sound weird, but so she had that car for the for the longest time, you know, like I said, she bought that brand new in 65. Everybody use that car, my cousin, Jr. Tana, he drove that car in

high school. I remember being in that car, we're cruising around in Santa Cruz and stuff like that. Back in the old days in front of the boardwalk and stuff. Let me see what else? Yeah, whoever got a driver's license—In our in our group, whoever got a driver's license would always take all the other cousins that weren't driving license yet, would always take everybody for a drive.

**Steve McKay** 51:43

Oh, yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 51:43

So, we'd always go for drives by the beach, up Mount Madonna and everything. So, I remember my cousin Fred, when he got his license, he got the car and was driving everybody around.

**Steve McKay** 51:53

Okay, so he was a little older than you?

**Loren Cawaling** 51:55

Yes. Yeah. Yeah, and so this car, you know, like I said, it was in the family for a long time. So, okay, so this is—this is another thing, so my mom had passed away, and then my dad went back to the Philippines, and he got remarried. Oh, okay. So yeah, this, you know, so he got remarried, but anyway, so when my stepmom came, she actually started driving that car around to learn how to drive because my Aunty Lita let her borrow that too.

**Steve McKay** 52:28

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 52:29

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 52:30

Oh, that's interesting.

**Loren Cawaling** 52:31

Yeah. So anyway, and then—and then my cousin Alvin, again, he had that car for a while, and he drove it around. And I don't know, whatever happened to it after that, but no, that car was in the family for a long time because like I said, even my stepmom drove that car on for a long time.

**Steve McKay** 52:46

That's a great picture, too, and yeah—wow. So, many great, great photos and memories.

**Loren Cawaling** 52:54

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 52:56

There's—another photo I just want to point out, this one: Season's Greetings. It's a—it's clearly a Christmas card, can you say something with a couple there?

**Loren Cawaling** 53:06

Yeah. Well, this is my mom and dad. I'm not sure what year this was, but I'm pretty sure it's early 60s. It looked like like a little party that they had at the home on Calabasas road. And again, I think it's a it's a good time because my mom and dad are both—look very happy. There's no kids in the in the picture. It's just my mom and dad, and so you know, I'm sure that my brother's and I are around there somewhere. They're probably holding us back, but yeah.

**Steve McKay** 53:33

Okay, so do you think this is—this is not before they had kids, but this is like, during that time?

**Loren Cawaling** 53:40

Yeah, you know, I'd have to look at other pictures and kind of like like look, but yeah I, you know, I want to say that I might have been born already.

**Loren Cawaling** 53:49

And maybe one or two of my other brothers—I think my youngest brother Isedro might not have been born yet.

**Steve McKay** 53:49

Okay.

**Steve McKay** 53:49

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 53:55

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 53:56

Do you remember that that table or that corner or anything?

**Loren Cawaling** 53:59

Yes.

**Steve McKay** 54:00

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 54:00

I do. Again, this is the house on Calabasas road, and if you could tell by the shelf on the back that, background is in a lot of the photos that we had when we were growing up. It's just that there was a sofa right there, and everybody always made themselves comfortable in that corner right there. There's, I know that there's a picture of me with one of my toys, and I'm sitting down underneath that shelf, you

know, with my toys right there, but but yeah, I mean, that's— it's very familiar that that background right there. It's just that the sofa was right there, and that's where everybody always used to sit down and all the pictures always—the photos are always taken, you know, on that wall.

**Steve McKay** 54:38

Uh huh. Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 54:38

Yeah, and I don't know what the occasion was. I mean, I know it's a Christmas card, but it could have been a picture taken at any, you know, happy time then, and then just wanted to make a postcard out of this one.

**Steve McKay** 54:51

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 54:51

Yeah, because if it was Christmas, there was always a white plastic Christmas tree on that shelf right there. If I find that pictures Steve, that same corner, white plastic Christmas tree up there.

**Steve McKay** 55:04

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 55:05

I'm not kidding. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 55:06

Wow. Okay. So this is probably maybe early 60s?

**Loren Cawaling** 55:10

Early 60s, yes.

**Steve McKay** 55:12

You're— they're dressed beautifully, and really nice—sharp. Your dad was he a sharp dresser? Did he often—

**Loren Cawaling** 55:20

You know what, when when he was younger he was. Some of the other photos that you saw Steve, right there. Yeah, he, you know, he wore his zoot suits and everything, but as you know, when he became a family man, he worked in the fields and everything. So typical, old Filipino. I mean, my dad used to wear just jeans, maybe an army shirt or something like that. You know, his old, you know, like a fedora hat. You know, but, you know, out of the fields with that, and he just wears jeans and work boots. Yeah. Yeah, but when he went somewhere, he'd always dress nice, but not with a suit or anything, but yeah. When he was younger, probably before he was married, he was always—he was in that that Zoot Suit—

**Steve McKay 56:00**

Okay, yeah.

**Loren Cawaling 56:01**

Part of his life. Yeah.

**Steve McKay 56:02**

Right, see a lot of older pictures with just with the other—

**Loren Cawaling 56:06**

Yeah.

**Steve McKay 56:07**

Workers and things and his friends.

**Loren Cawaling 56:09**

Yeah. Yeah, and again, I think after he got married with kids and stuff, it was just all, yeah. All casual and just work work attire all the time.

**Steve McKay 56:17**

Mmhmm.

**Loren Cawaling 56:17**

Yeah.

**Steve McKay 56:18**

So your—so the house in that corner, I'm sure evokes a lot of memories. Did a lot of people come over to that house?

**Loren Cawaling 56:25**

Yes. Yes. So, let me share with you. So, like I think I mentioned to you earlier that this home right here was on Calabasas Road, and this home, our cousins the Taytayons, used to live in this one. So, across the field, there was another one that I grew up in, I think let's say the address was—one was 511 Calabasas Road, and I think the other was 516 Calabasas road. I grew up at 511, when The Taytayons bought a house on Marchant Street, we moved over to 516 Calabasas road, because I think the house might have been bigger over there, or in better shape, let's say. So, we ended up moving over there, but I think we were—I don't know what year we moved there, but I think I might have been like in Kindergraden, or maybe I wasn't in school yet, but I think we lived there until like 1965 because I think my my parents bought their home on Green Valley Road in 1966.

**Steve McKay 57:31**

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling 57:32**

Yeah, so I you know, yeah. So yeah, until like, I was seven years—yeah, I was seven years old because on that other photo is showed 1960, that was 65, 65. Okay, maybe I'm—65. Yeah, I think we stayed there till like 65 or 66, and then that was probably one of the last—the last year that we were there because by then we were—Oh, the last year we were yeah here because by then we were in Calabasas all—I mean, Green Valley already.

**Steve McKay 58:04**

Yeah, and so did a lot of your parents friends and your dad's friends come visit that? So, they left their cars there, but did they also come visit or was it mainly your dad going to visit them?

**Loren Cawaling 58:16**

Yeah, no, you know what, we have a lot of visitors back then too. We'd throw some small parties. I mean, I don't know, what they were about, or anything. I think is just like, just gatherings. I know, I got some pictures of my family during Christmas time, or there's some celebrations because, you know, there was always a lot of people at the house as well too. I don't know what the occasions were, but you know, just you know, going over there. And I want to say the you know, there was a few of the old gentlemen from the labor camps that had showed up over there, and then there was other couples too that had been to the house and and I recognize the faces, but I can't put their names together. Like this one right here, Steve. So, I'm not sure if that was on Calabasas Road too but—

**Steve McKay 58:59**

Okay, says a photo—it says on the front, April 1958, and on the back 4 39 B, and so yeah, it looks like a family party. A lot of kids.

**Loren Cawaling 59:13**

Yeah, like some of those right there. I mean, I I I see the face—See, that's Lolo Albert.

**Steve McKay 59:18**

Oh, Albert.

**Loren Cawaling 59:19**

Yeah, and he was one of the gentlemen at the labor camp that my dad used to go visit.

**Steve McKay 59:24**

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling 59:25**

Yeah, and he and he was a big man, big Filipino man. I don't think he was ever married or anything. I know he went back to the Philippines, but he didn't leave a card with my dad, but he went back and, you know what, this was like—Oh, my goodness. Um, a long time ago. I don't I don't even know what ever happened to him. Again, he was probably one of those gentlemen that used to send money to the Philippines to his family.

**Steve McKay** 59:47

Yeah, so he would come over for parties or you just remember him?

**Loren Cawaling** 59:50

Yes. Yeah, yeah. He came over for a parties. There's other photos with him in there all the time, too, and then, you know—and again Steve, I got a lot of pictures and stuff, but there was always like, certain gentlemen that were always there, and I used to see those guys at the labor camps.

**Steve McKay** 1:00:04

I see this man—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:00:05

That's him right there.

**Steve McKay** 1:00:06

Okay, yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:00:07

Lolo Albert, yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:00:08

Yeah, he is really big. So this is—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:00:10

Yeah he is a big man.

**Steve McKay** 1:00:11

June 1961, photo in front of—on the back. It's 134, and is in front of a barn.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:00:18

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:00:18

Do you recognize where that is?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:00:20

Yeah. You know what, I want to say that that's over on Calabasas Road as well.

**Steve McKay** 1:00:25

It could even be the same—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:00:27

Yeah, cause there was two—there was two homes over there. Yeah, I didn't know the people that lived across the other way. Oh, I don't I don't remember them.



**Steve McKay** 1:00:35

Three years later, but yeah, yeah, he's really big. Not just for Filipino guy, but he's definitely the tallest guy there.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:00:42

No, he was a big guy. Yeah. Yeah. I just remembered him. Yeah, he was a he was a big guy.

**Steve McKay** 1:00:47

And what do you remember from him? Or what—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:00:49

You know, I just remembered him. He he always had his his—his hair was still white, and he was darker and everything like that, too and stuff. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:00:57

So, he's just one of the guys? So, your dad's friends who would visit.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:01:00

Yes. Yeah, and I don't—I wish I knew more about him. I yeah—I just remember him. He was one of the guys that used to—you know, it was always a treat for us to go over there. Like I said, to go to labor camps and stuff because they would always feed us everything too, and then, you know what, they didn't have much, but you know, whenever we left, they always gave us money. You know, a dolar, 50 cents, couple of quarters or whatever. And, you know, back then you could buy, you know, like a little candy bar, some sunflower seeds and like five sticks of gum for 25 cents. So you know what, when those guys used to give us 25 cents, 50 cents, or even \$1. Man, that was a treat! Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:01:01

Yeah, I always heard that story.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:01:37

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:01:38

Do they give you like dollar coins sometimes?

**Steve McKay** 1:01:40

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:01:40

You know what? No, I never did. My mom saved some, and she had—well, I'm gonna go off the subject, but she had some really nice silver dollars and stuff. She saved quite a few of them just from her trips going to Reno because my mom used to like to game back in the old days too with my aunt's and stuff. Going to Reno and everything. Anyway, she had some some really nice coins. I remember

seeing a bag full of them, but when my cousin, Lorna Tejada. When she got married, my mom gave her like a bag full of the nice silver dollars. I mean, there's probably some 1800 ones in there, early 1900 ones, and she gave it to her for her aras. Yeah. I don't know how else you say, but an aras is like a gift of money for good luck or something at somebody's marriage. Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:01:44

And I remember she gave them some, but you know what, I—when my mom passed away, you know, she had some stuff and, and I went through and you know, she—I got some of her old coins, but you could tell they're a little bit more used, but there's one or two that were in good shape, and I did save those.

**Steve McKay** 1:02:43

Okay, interesting. Okay, so yeah, but I'd heard other times when especially kids went, you know, with their dads visiting the manongs or the friends.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:02:52

Yeah. Give me—

**Steve McKay** 1:02:53

They would give them coins.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:02:54

Yeah, exactly. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:02:56

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:02:57

Yeah, like I said, I mean, it's—any of the parties and stuff, you know, you see your godfather over there and stuff like that he'd give you a dollar or something. A dollar was a lot of—50 cents, you know, but I remember that, you know, at the labor camp though they'd always give us a couple of cents. Like I said, didn't have anything but 25 cents, 50 cents or something for some candy or something was always, you know, we remember that.

**Steve McKay** 1:03:19

Were the, you know, these older guys, often the godfathers or did they—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:03:26

You know what, now that you brought that up, Steve, yes. Okay. One of them, his name is Salvador Magma, and again, he went back to the Philippines. He was never married, but he had nieces that were there, and he'd always send money back to them and stuff, and he was one that was close to my family because he actually lived with us for a while.

**Steve McKay** 1:03:51

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:03:51

Yeah, and so, um, let me see. Yeah, so he took—yeah, so he he lived with us for a while. No, I got off the subject Steve.

**Steve McKay** 1:04:03

Oh, we're just saying that, you know whether they were God fa—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:04:05

Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. I'm so sorry. Yeah, it's just that I have all this stuff on my mind I want to share with you. Okay, so anyway, he lived this for a while and he became my brother's godfather.

**Steve McKay** 1:04:05

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:04:05

Yeah, my brother Larry is his godfather, and I want to say Lolo Albert might have been—okay. Okay, you know, you could be a godfather, you know, as as as a baptism or your First Holy Communion. So, I think that let me see, Lolo Albert was one of my was one of my brothers—I think it's Larry's godfather for baptism, I think or for communion. I'm not sure I think it was baptism, and then Manong Badung was my brother Larry's godfather at baptism, and then my godfather at baptism was Ingillio. Yeah, Disgracios Ingillio.

**Steve McKay** 1:04:05

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:04:11

Yeah, the last name was Ingilio.

**Steve McKay** 1:04:19

And he was a friend of your father's?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:05:13

Yeah. There's pictures of him over here too someplace. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:05:15

Okay. Alright. What do you remember about him?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:05:19

Oh, man. I remember he was outspoken. He—I think I think I mentioned to him he was the one that was always looking for the VO.

**Steve McKay** 1:05:26

Oh, yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:05:28

Really nice man, but you know, he was outspoken. I mean, he was like the life of the party. He was loud. I remember that because like I said, he liked to drink and everybody would always tell him to calm down a little bit. Or, or if he was coming, they would always hide the liquor so that he wouldn't start drinking, but you know what, he was a—he was a really nice man. Yeah, but his last name was Ingillio. I—he had kids too and stuff, but I don't know about that family. The last time he—the last time that I really remember him was that when me and my wife Clara got married, I asked him because he was my godfather to be like sponsor of my wedding.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:06:13

And then my my—we call her Aunty Atring, she was my godmother. She was the one that lived up on the bukid. I asked her if she could be a sponsor because she was my godmother, and then my godfather. So, they were actually in my wedding when Clara and I got married in 82.

**Steve McKay** 1:06:31

Oh.

**Steve McKay** 1:06:32

Oh, okay. That's great.

**Steve McKay** 1:06:34

Yeah, so I noticed in this picture that that is dated June 61. That's Lolo Albert, he's holding a baby. So, do you think that may be a baptism thing? Or he just holding it? I don't know.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:06:34

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:06:48

I don't know if that's my brother, Larry because that's what I'm saying. I'm not sure they

**Steve McKay** 1:06:54

Oh, so it could be.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:06:56

Yeah, cause remember I was just saying that manong [unknown] was my brother George's Godfather at baptism, and I think this is my brother Larry at his baptism, or yeah, I don't know if it's a baptism party, but but I think lolo Albert might have been my brother's godfather.

**Steve McKay** 1:07:15

Ahh.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:07:16

At baptism.

**Steve McKay** 1:07:17

And there's a barn in that picture.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:07:18

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:07:19

Do you know if that's—where that might be?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:07:21

You know what, I want to say that that's an Calabasas up on the road over there too. Yeah. So, but this was—but this one would be at the very first house at 511 Calabasas.

**Steve McKay** 1:07:34

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:07:34

The ones with the pictures with my mom and this photo with the car, that was at 516 Calabasas.

**Steve McKay** 1:07:40

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:07:40

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:07:40

So that's where they—cause this is 61 in the smaller place—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:07:44

Yes.

**Steve McKay** 1:07:44

When your dad was working for likely that—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:07:46

Exactly Right. Exactly, yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:07:48

Farmer. So, that that would make sense—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:07:50

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:07:50

You know, by the barn.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:07:51

Yeah, and then I have other photos, Steve, probably in one of the photo albums too. These were loose photos right here, so I just put those in a plastic bag.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:07:58

But if we look at some of the photo albums, you'd be—Yeah. I mean, if you got time, just zip through there.

**Steve McKay** 1:07:58

Oh, I see.

**Steve McKay** 1:08:03

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:08:04

And if you got a question on a photo, let me know, and I'll answer.

**Steve McKay** 1:08:07

Yeah,

**Loren Cawaling** 1:08:07

But a lot of those—a lot of these photos will have something to do with in here.

**Steve McKay** 1:08:12

Right, yeah

**Loren Cawaling** 1:08:12

You know what I mean? Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:08:13

Yeah, but it does seem that there, you know, a number of the photos you see, older Filipino men, there's no doubt that they were likely uncle's, manongs, who are a part of the family and it seems like, you know, they really got integrated, especially when someone did get married or was married that that kind of—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:08:13

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:08:30

That became the family.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:08:33

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:08:34

It's sort of —

**Loren Cawaling** 1:08:35

Yeah, you know, I'm glad that you you you, you know, asked a question about them being in our family because yeah, it's weird because you know what, again, these these gentlemen, were my dad's friends from the Philippines, or whatever, and then they work together and stuff, but but he—how do you say it, added them to our family, like, you know, like asking them to be, you know, our godfathers and stuff like that. Which was cool, because you know what, yeah, and again, I wish I had more history on their families, like Lolo Albert, we used to see him all the time. He used to come, I remember he was like, a Filipino Santa Claus, cause he'd like ho ho ho. I mean, you can see how big he was, right?

**Steve McKay** 1:08:35

Big, and he's got the white hair.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:08:35

Oh, man, but he was there. He was everywhere all the time, and you know what, I wish I knew his story.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:09:21

You know what I mean, I don't know his story, but it's weird. And then also with my Manong Badung, like I told you, he lived with us for the longest time. He was my brother's— my other brothers godfather. But I know a little bit about his story because he lived with us for a long time. He had two nieces. Oh my goodness. I don't I don't know their names, but they were the Philippines, but they became prof— professionals. I think they were nurses, and then they moved to Canada. I have pictures in the albums too where they came and they visited him, and so they stayed with us in our Doring Lane home for, you know, for a week or whatever visit to come and see their their uncle. Yeah, because you know, he paid for their schooling and all that stuff like that too and stuff. Yeah, and then, you know, he was part of the family so much that when my mom was working—oh, wait a minute—no, when he was—when Manong Badung was working, he actually put my mom as like a beneficiary for for anything, you know, like a death thing or all that stuff like that, whatever pension he had and stuff. So, let me share this with you, too. So, he went to the Philippines, you know, like I say, he lived us for a long time with our family, went to the Philippines, he retired, you know, passed away over there. I don't know what the timeframe was, but a time later, we got a letter from the Philippines. I don't know exactly how we got it, whether it was mailed to somebody else, and then given to my family, but what it was was a letter that was asking for a death certificate for my Manong Badung because he had a pension from the Teamsters, that there was a little bit of money in there. And then, so when they found out that they had—he had a pension, they wanted to get that money, but they didn't have a death certificate to legally say he was passed away, and then these people were getting get the money, but my mom was the one who was a beneficiary. So, technically, my mom was supposed to receive that money from the pension, but you know what it's like, it's like, okay, I told Clara. I go, Mom, this is weird, man because, you know, it's like, I don't know

who these people are. You know, it's just— I wish I kept the letter. I don't know where it is, but it was a written letter on a piece of paper, you know, real simple. They're asking, yeah, you know, you know, your Dinning, you know, these—my mom's and was Aldina, they used to call her Dinning. They go, Dinning, you know, Manong Badung passed away and everything and stuff like that. You are the beneficiary according to whatever paperwork and stuff, you know, could you please send us a death certificate, so we could, you know, whatever. And so then I told Clara, I go, Mom, you know what, I don't know how much money it is, or anything like that, but, you know, they could probably use it more than us. So what—I don't remember what we did, but I went and got a birth certif—a death certificate for him. Got it taken care of, mailed it to them, and so whatever happened after that, because we never heard anything else. They never said thank you, or sent us whatever, it's just whatever, they got it, they got it now. But yeah, but but Manong Badung was such a big part of our family, like I said, that he actually put my mom as a beneficiary for for his things.

**Steve McKay** 1:09:21

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:09:21

Yeah, and they didn't have other family here to add.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:09:33

Exactly.

**Steve McKay** 1:09:46

They were, you know, literally family.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:10:14

Yes. Yes. Yeah. So, I have some pictures of him too, because I would like to show you them because like I said he was like close to our family because he lived with us for a long time, and you know what, and it's funny too. I just want to add he was our barber.

**Steve McKay** 1:11:15

Oh, okay.

**Steve McKay** 1:11:16

Yeah, just getting ready to cut.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:11:18

Yeah, exactly. Yeah, yeah, but Manong Badung I miss I miss him. Yeah, he was one of the ones that was closest to us.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:12:55

So, you know, like, you know, how the old Filipinos used to like to cut hair but Manong Badung was our barber. Whenever it was time for haircuts, he had his, you know, it looked like a bowling bag with the hair clippers, and talcum powder, and—or, you know, a straight blade razor, and that leather stuff. I



don't know what happened to that stuff because it would've been cool to have it, but you know, whenever he pulled that out, we knew it was gonna be time to get a haircut. Yeah, and, uh, you know, back in those days, Steve, you didn't have any choice in what kind of haircut you got. You know, you know, you know, as well as I do when you're, you know, back growing up, you know, back in the 50s or 60s or whatever, you always wanted a long hair, right, but no, they always wanted to cut our hair so short. And then we used to tell my mom, mom I don't want to get a haircut, but Manong Badung was ready with his clippers, and I remember, Steve, when he used to cut our hair. It was just funny because the way he cut hair was with scissors, and then he would cut a little bit here and all I would always hear is this ch ch ch, and then cut. And then you know how you just go with the scissors, ch ch ch, get ready for the next cut. Yeah, right by my ear I always hear that little ch ch ch.

**Steve McKay** 1:13:21

Yeah, that's—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:13:47

And I wish that I could, you know, get hold of his nieces too because they're really—I mean, they treated her uncle really well, and of course, you know, like I said, he always sent money to them, so they could get their education and stuff and, and I'm pretty sure—I mean, I'm 63 years old. They're probably in their 70s now and and last I heard they're living— two of them are living in Canada.

**Steve McKay** 1:14:30

In Canada.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:14:30

This is years, you know, back in the 80s or whatever. So yeah, it would have been nice if I could figure out how to get hold of them just to see how they're doing because yeah, they lived with us and they well— manong [unknown] lived with us, but they stayed with us whenever they came to visit, they always stayed with us.

**Steve McKay** 1:14:38

Yeah. That's a beautiful story.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:14:48

Yeah. It's cool.

**Steve McKay** 1:14:48

And and originally, he was a friend of your dad's that he worked with?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:14:53

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:14:53

Started and worked in the labor camps and then—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:14:55

I'm sure it was, but his name was Salvador T Maagma. Yeah, that was always a cool name, Maagma. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, it was M, A, A, G, M, A.

**Steve McKay** 1:15:08

Oh, okay, and do you know why he originally came to live with you? Or was he older by that time?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:15:15

Yeah. You know what, I don't know. I want to say he's probably the same age as my dad, you know, you know, I don't know what his story was. I don't know how he ended up living with us. You know, at that time too, my mom was sick, and I think that it was one of my dad's closest friends that he the—you know, kind of like maybe been a babysitter for us when we were younger. I really don't know. Yeah, yeah, but he was with us for a long time. Oh, yeah. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:15:47

Was he retired when he was with you guys? Or was he working?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:15:50

No, no, he was retired too.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:15:52

Yeah. I don't know what—I'm sure he did farm work as well, but when I knew him more, I mean, he was already living with us and everything and stuff, and I think he was retired already. I think my dad was working, but back then he wasn't working in the fields anymore. He was working for Green Giant.

**Steve McKay** 1:15:52

Okay.

**Steve McKay** 1:16:12

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:16:13

Yeah, but, you know, I mean, he worked pretty old. I think—I think when my dad retired, he was probably, you know, over 65, you know, maybe 67 or something when he retired.

**Steve McKay** 1:16:23

Which is long given how strenuous his work is.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:16:25

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:16:27

What was he doing at the, toward the—when he was retired, getting close to retirement at Green Giant?

**Loren Cawaling 1:16:32**

Oh, when he was—you know what, my dad, I don't remember how many years he worked there. He was just a general laborer. I think he worked there for like, maybe 10 years. You know, when I was younger, I worked in the cannery for a little while before I, you know, became mechanic and stuff too, but I remember when your entry level at he cannery when you go, you're just a grunt. So you're just like, you know, picking up trays, setting up the lines and all that stuff like that, and and I think that's what my dad did for his career over there. Yeah, just just a laborer, you know, whatever lines were running, you would just go ahead and set up those lines and stuff and just work. Yeah, that was it. And then even towards the end, too, I forgot that he was, uh, he was a custodian for a little while for a place over here off of Freedom Boulevard. Yeah. Yeah. And that's all I remember about that. Yeah.

**Steve McKay 1:16:41**

Yeah, well, I mean, you know, for so many of these guys not having their families and that they get older, you know, like, having people that take care of them or, you know, other family that, you know— So, those who did have families, like your family, you know, when those connections were really important. You know, for both—

**Loren Cawaling 1:17:46**

Oh, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I want to say that, you know, what, a lot of my, let's say uncles. Yeah. I mean, you know, they were close to my family. Yeah. I mean, I think I think if it wasn't for my dad, that they the they wouldn't have had like, a social thing, or whatever, you know, to get from labor camps, and then come over and visit.

**Steve McKay 1:18:06**

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling 1:18:07**

Yeah. Yeah.

**Steve McKay 1:18:07**

Yeah, I mean, that your dad was every week, you know, going to see them, things like that. So that's that's—

**Loren Cawaling 1:18:13**

Yeah, he was a good man. He was a disciplinarian, but yeah, but he was a good man. Yeah.

**Steve McKay 1:18:19**

Well, he did have four rascals.

**Loren Cawaling 1:18:20**

Yeah, yeah. Yeah. Oh, man. Yeah.

**Steve McKay 1:18:25**

There's some photos here. It looks like this might be in downtown Watsonville.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:18:30

Oh, yes. Uh huh. Yeah, I don't know what the occasion was, but it might have been after church because my dad's dressed up pretty good. My mom's dressed up as well. Yeah, and then yeah, it's right at the corner of Beach and Main Street with the Ford's department store in the background. Yeah. Yeah, and then, you know, I was looking at some photos before, there's other angles of this one. You know, just it's just interesting, Steve, because of yeah, because you know, over here, I don't even remember that, but that says Alexander's Menswear.

**Steve McKay** 1:19:00

Yeah. So these are the one with the cannons in front.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:19:05

Yes.

**Steve McKay** 1:19:05

That are still at the square.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:19:07

Yeah, exactly.

**Steve McKay** 1:19:08

Did you guys go down to—so this—theres no years on this. When do you think—about how old are you in the picture? Which one is you?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:19:17

This is me right here.

**Steve McKay** 1:19:18

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:19:22

I'm gonna share to tell you the truth.

**Steve McKay** 1:19:25

Maybe teenager?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:19:27

No. Yeah. No, not high school. I think I'm probably in seventh grade or eighth grade at that time, yeah. And then there's my brother George, and then Isedro. And then again, there's Alvin.

**Steve McKay** 1:19:41

As your youngest—

**Steve McKay** 1:19:42

Oh, your cousin. Oh, yeah. Oh, okay. So you think this was like after church? Which church did you guys go?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:19:42

Tabios.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:19:48

We used to go to St. Patrick's Church, you know, that's a big—it's a church at the at the end of town. You're familiar with that, Steve?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:19:49

Yeah, I'd say it's a it's a landmark. I mean, there's a lot of people that I know personally, that have gotten married in that church and my wife and I got married in the church in 82.

**Steve McKay** 1:19:56

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:20:04

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:20:07

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:20:07

So would you guys go to church most weeks or what? How often?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:20:10

You know what, when we were younger, we used to go to church. I mean, my mom was a devout Catholic. I mean, my dad, you know, of course, he goes to church and everything like that, too, and everything when we were younger, but it was my mom that held—she was the glue, as far as, as, you know, religious and everything like that. She made sure that we went to catechism. She made sure that we had religious release, you know, on Thursdays. When I was at Amesti School, we—they would always have religious release, and then we go for an hour, and do you know, that thing right there. Yeah, you know, study the Bible and all that stuff and on Saturdays, we would have catechism and we'd go to valley church every Saturday. And then you know what, it was—it was hard, because you know what, I mean, my mom meant well, but for us, it was hard because you know, what, you go to school—your going to school, and then you go on Saturdays, which is cartoon day. And then she wants you to go to catechism in the morning when it's, you know, prime time for cartoons.

**Steve McKay** 1:21:08

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:21:09

You know, yeah, but no, but you know, she brought us up and everything. I mean, we all got baptized, of course, and First Communion, and then we got confirmation and all that stuff like that, but yeah, she was the one who always made sure that our religion was there.

**Steve McKay** 1:21:23

Mm hmm.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:21:24

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:21:25

Was she involved in the church? Like—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:21:28

You know, what, not as much I think, as she would have liked to, because you know, what, she got sick. So, you know, back in the early days, she couldn't get around as well, but you know, through the years after that, she started getting better, but she wasn't like, into the church. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:21:45

But she was in—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:21:46

But, yeah, not—

**Steve McKay** 1:21:47

She wanted to make sure you guys—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:21:48

Yeah, exactly. She wasn't involved as far as, you know, whatever is going behind the scenes at church functions, but she always made sure that that we went to church on Sundays. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:21:57

And so that would be a typical Sunday.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:21:59

Yes. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:22:01

So what would you guys do? Would you go to church? What mass would you go to and did you go out afterwards?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:22:06

Yeah. Yeah, you know, we'd always go with the first mass, probably, at like nine or 10, whichever one it was. And then after that, they'd treat us and they take us someplace to go eat, whether it was McDonald's or Taco Bell or something, and we all, you know, have something to eat after that.

**Steve McKay** 1:22:07

Uh huh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:22:07

Yeah, and then—and then I don't know, maybe a couple times, we've gone to like the park, Pinto Lake or something to go play. Yeah, but that was it for Sunday. Yeah, and they'd come home and just do whatever else. But yeah, I mean, you know, I think church was probably like, one of the only things that we used to do out in town. Yeah, but during the week, you know what, we never went anywhere else. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:22:47

So, that was church. Did you see the other other families at church or?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:22:51

No, we didn't, no we didn't, it was just ours. I mean, like I said, my mom was always you know—everybody else did their own thing, but my mom always made sure that we went to church. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:23:01

Okay. Yeah. So and so it was like, you would go—but there would be a meal afterwards.

**Steve McKay** 1:23:07

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:23:07

Yes. Yeah. Just something for a treat, like I said, it'll either be McDonald's or something—no, actually, you know, I don't think McDonald's was there. I think it was Roy's Burgers or Taco Bell.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:23:07

Roy's burgers or Taco Bell. Yeah, yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:23:08

Okay, and that was kind of and the cheap—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:23:21

Yeah, and then you know what, it's funny, because, you know, I think they used to do that to make us go to church. They're like, you guys go to church we'll take you someplace to go eat. Okay, okay. We'll go. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:23:30

Yeah. A little bit of bribery for kids.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:23:32

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:23:34

I grew up going to church every week.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:23:35

Nice, nice.

**Steve McKay** 1:23:37

Same thing, and my mom held it down.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:23:39

Oh, good good. Thank goodness for them, for us.

**Steve McKay** 1:23:44

Yeah, yeah. Well, I mean, there's so many—yeah, great, great, great photos. Just for you, what was it like—you know, we've talked a lot about your parents, and we want to, you know, kind of capture great stories. Yeah, how was it for you growing up in in Watsonville? You know, like, did you—so, you know, a lot of the family time was with the different other families, but when you were in school and things like that, were there also other Filipino families? Or who was your friend group when you—as you were growing?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:24:18

Yeah, you know, what, um, growing up, for me, it was kind of hard. I mean, you know, my family didn't have a lot of money and stuff. So, you know, we're kind of like, on the poorer side and everything, and so it kept me kind of like, reserved and quiet because I didn't want to let people know the financially how we were, and things like that. Does that make any sense?

**Steve McKay** 1:24:41

Oh, totally. No, no, no that makes sense.

**Steve McKay** 1:24:42

And that was Calabasas Elementary?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:24:42

So yeah, but you know, we had a lot of friends. I mean, like I told you, we grew up over on Calabasas Road and everything, so we live like, out of nowhere. So, when when I was going to school—I started going to school in Calabasas when I was in kindergarten and first grade, and so those were the only time that I had interaction with other kids, it was at school and stuff like that. And then so yeah, didn't have any friends coming over because we lived all the way over there and stuff and, you know, just went to school and that was it.



**Loren Cawaling 1:25:17**

Calabasas Elementary, yeah. So, I take that back. I think I went to kindergarten when I was in Freedom School, but then when I got first grade, I went to school in Calabasas. So yeah, and then—so when we moved from there, we moved to Doering Lane back in, like I told you, 66 and so then that was second grade. So I started going to school at Amesti school and so we actually moved into a neighborhood over there, and we moved in next door to my Aunty Lita. So, I think that when my folks found that home, it was because Aunty Lita told my mom and dad, hey, you know, I think this home was for sale. So they bought that home. So it was nice that we live next door to our cousins. So living in the neighborhood right there with them. It was it was nice, because now we had, you know, other kids to play with that we see all the time. We made friends with the other kids in the neighborhood. The the the Ramos's Hawaiian—half Hawaiian, half Filipino, lived down the street. The Hernandez's, Hispanic they lived over there. I forgot there's some other kids that lived in the neighborhood. I mean, they'll—heir names will come to me later on, but but yeah, the [Unknown] used to live up the street, Portuguese kids, but then we'd all go ahead and play together. And then we all went to school together too. Yeah, and school was fun. I mean, you know, my, you know, you've probably heard from all the other interviews too, that, you know, my parents always wanted to make sure that, you know, we went to school, you know, study because, you know, they're trying to encourage, you to get a good education so that you wouldn't have to go through a hard life like they did, which makes sense. Of course, they're gonna like that. So, and that was another thing too because you know what, my parents were strict. I don't know how my other cousins were, but they would always tell you—tell us, you know what, you make sure you get good grades. And, you know, they'd always say, look at, you know, the Taytayan's. Their kids are getting good grades, you know what, to step up and be good. And, you know, we were good through—you know, during grade school in high school and stuff like that. I mean, everybody did well, everybody got respectable jobs now and stuff like that.

**Loren Cawaling 1:27:23**

Yeah, but, but, yeah know, it was—growing up was was difficult at times, and fun at times too, but back to the difficult times is because my mom got sick. She had a stroke when—I don't know, you know, exactly what year that was, but she passed away in like, 1980, at the at the age of 50, with a stroke, and then that was like, a kind of an eye opening thing for us because, you know, my dad was 60 years old. [unintelligible] No, he was 20 years older than my mom. So, you know what—and then for my mom to pass away, my dad was still, you know, young, and, you know, whatever, and stuff like that. And so I could see with him, he was kind of sad and everything, and even from my brothers and I, growing up, we weren't—we weren't that young, but I know it affected my little brother Isedro more because he was in grade school, and you know, with my mom being sick and stuff, she had to have like special care because of the stroke. And I think that back in—back then in the early 60s, or, or maybe in the early 70s, when this happened to her. There wasn't that medical care wasn't provided at Watsonville community. So she was in a hospital in San Francisco.

**Steve McKay 1:28:40**

Oh, wow.

**Loren Cawaling 1:28:41**

General Hospital in San Francisco. So, it was kind of weird thing too because we'd drive there every Sunday to go visit her and everything. Yeah, every week, my dad would make that that trek the San Francisco every d—every week, and we'd go visit her and stuff. And you know, I remember seeing her, her head was shaved, and she had a big scar on her head. She couldn't walk. She couldn't talk back then, and I don't know for how long she was there, but, you know, eventually she got better, and and she was able to move back with this. But, you know, being kids and everything, we were taking care of her. We were just like helping her out, and I think that's probably where my manong [unknown] came in. I don't remember the timeframe, but I think that, you know, my dad was working—I'm pretty sure he took time off from work too, and everything to help take care, but with him working and the only breadwinner, he had to keep on working. And and like I said with my mom being sick, it was kind of like a shock for for us brothers and everything, you know, because we're doing it. And then, you know, of course we helped with her, but I think my Manong Badung was there as a caretaker for her, and maybe a babysitter for us kids back then. Yeah, yeah. But yeah, that was hard. And then you know, like I said, my mom started getting a little bit better and stuff and she was able to to get around on her own. There's some other pictures that are in here that you'll see with her that in her later years, like this might be one of them, where she's a little bit better, but she had a limp when she was walking because of the stroke and everything, but there's other photos where she looked a little bit nicer. Where she was, you know, taking care of herself, but then, towards the end, you know, she had to get dialysis, she was having problems with the kidneys and stuff like that, and then she passed away suddenly. So again, with us, you know, I was probably 20 or 21 I'm not sure how—you know what happened, but then, you know, I just started working over here and and then, yeah, when my mom passed away. I think I was at work when they said, hey, you know what, mom's in the hospital, you know, come over. And same thing with my brothers and everything. And, you know what, the Dominican Hospital is where she was getting treatment for for her dialysis, and I think she—something happened with her when she was there, and she passed away at the hospital. So, I think she got sick, something happened a day or two later, she was in intensive care, and then and then she passed away because of complications, but yeah, you know, Steve, that was—that that was a hard time with us. I mean, I don't really remember any details of what what had happened. I know we had a funeral for her and and all that stuff, but but that time of our life when she passed away, and she was sick, was a—was a hard a hard one for us.

**Steve McKay** 1:31:30

Of course.

**Loren Cawaling** 1:31:31

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I mean, you know, my mom was 50 years old, and it's yeah, and then. Yeah, and again, I wish that I could have spent time with her talking about you know, I—you know, yeah.

**Steve McKay** 1:31:45

Yeah. So that's, you know, that's—it's never easy, even if you see it coming and things like that, and there's such beautiful pictures and memories of her. So, after she passed sort of your your family you know, this w—where was your main support from, each other or?

**Loren Cawaling** 1:32:10

Yeah, I want to say probably it was from each other. Again, you know, I don't even remember that part. Yeah. Yeah. Hang on a second, Steve.

**Steve McKay** 1:32:19

Yeah, no. I—

**Loren Cawaling** 1:32:27

Yeah, I mean, everybody helped us all by aunts and uncles and stuff. Yeah, yeah. I remember my Aunty Meady used to come and visit us, Aunty Lita alot.

**Steve McKay** 1:32:39

Yeah, that's nice that they were next door, and that you moved to that place—that neighborhood. You know, we can we can take a break. Let's do that. Let's pause this real quick.

## Loren Cawaling interviewed by Dr. Steve McKay Part 2 of 2

**Speakers:** Loren Cawaling, Dr. Steve McKay

**Date:** January 13, 2022

**Scope and Contents:** In part two of the interview, originally recorded in person, Loren Cawaling speaks with Dr. Steve McKay, a member of the Watsonville is in the Heart team. Loren and Steve pick up their conversation from “Loren Cawaling interviewed by Dr. Steve McKay Part 1 of 2.” Loren shares memories that are elicited by photographs of his family from the Cawaling Family Collection. He speaks about his manong “uncles,” Disgracias Inguillio and Salvador Maagma. He also discusses his mother, Aladina Cawaling’s love of gardening as well as his parents’ labor in agricultural fields.

**Steve McKay 00:00**

Okay, just continuing the interview with Loren Cawaling. So, there are a couple more photos that we are just looking through. Wow, stack about four or five different photo albums and, and they were wonderful. Maybe you could just tell me—there's a photo of gentleman singing here, in this black and white one, seems to be a party. Can you tell me a little bit about what's going on?

**Loren Cawaling 00:28**

Yeah, that was my my fa—my godfather. His name was—his last name was Inguillio, and his first name was Disgracias, Inguillio. Yeah, but he was always the life of the party and everything. I remember, when I was younger. I know he liked to drink, and I don't know if I had mentioned this before, but but yeah, he always used to like to drink Seagrams VO, and so, whenever he went to a party, everybody always hide the liquor for hi so that way, he wouldn't get carried away, but yeah, he was always a really nice man and just outspoken. He used to like to sing and have a good time, like the life of the party.

**Steve McKay 01:05**

Mm hmm, and he was a friend of your father's who was also—

**Loren Cawaling 01:09**

Yes, yes. Yeah. He must have been a good friend in order for him to be my godfather. I mean, I don't know, my dad's relationship with him. I mean, I don't know how they met or, you know, for the labor camp, or, you know, things like that, but yeah, yeah. I mean, if he was my godfather, I'm sure that, you know, he was a special friend of my dad's.

**Steve McKay** 01:30

Mm hmm, and so how did he treat you? Or what was your relationship like with him?

**Loren Cawaling** 01:34

Oh, with him? Yeah. You know what, it was good. I mean, as I mentioned before, you know, we used to go visit everybody at the labor camps and stuff, and then you know, we'd always get a little bit of money. Whenever I saw him, he would always give me money. Yeah, I mean, that's what I remember about him all the time. You know, him being the life of a party, and then always given me a few dollars here and there.

**Steve McKay** 01:54

So you would visit him at the labor camp?

**Loren Cawaling** 01:56

Yes, and then, of course, he was always visiting us at our house too.

**Steve McKay** 02:00

And which labor camp on San Andreas?

**Loren Cawaling** 02:03

That one, it was one of the ones on San Andreas—actually on Beach Road, on Beach Road.

**Steve McKay** 02:10

Mm Hmm. So, there two two photos of him in the back of one is 2B, it's a square, black and white photo of him singing, wearing a leather jacket. And then in another one that on the back is 176 A—or 476? A. It shows him clearly at the same party, same format, dancing with a with a woman who's twirling so it's a great action shot of those of those two.

**Loren Cawaling** 02:47

Yeah, I'm not sure I don't see her face, but that could be his wife.

**Steve McKay** 02:51

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 02:52

Yeah. Or I don't even know if they're married yet, but her name was Aurora. I don't know what her maiden name was, but they have a story, you know, of them themselves.

**Steve McKay** 03:03

Uh huh.

**Loren Cawaling** 03:03

Yeah, because we went to a this was years ago, but they celebrated a wedding anniversary. I'm just gonna guess it was a 50, or maybe a later wedding anniversary, but they had a party over in Salinas, and I remember one of their kids, you know, gave a story about how they they met.

**Loren Cawaling** 03:25

And and it was like, it was just funny, because, you know, I never knew the story of them, but the way they met was that I guess she lived someplace in a apartment or a house or something, and he would go by in front of the house and sing to her out the window, to you know, courting her or whatever.

**Steve McKay** 03:25

Oh, yeah.

**Steve McKay** 03:43

Uh huh, right.

**Loren Cawaling** 03:44

Yeah. So, that's where this comes. This photo of him, you know, singing—

**Loren Cawaling** 03:48

Because he used to like to do it, but the story I heard about when he was courting her was that he would walk ba—past is her window, and he would stand outside the house and sing.

**Steve McKay** 03:48

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 03:58

Really? So, when when he became your godfather, was he already married?

**Loren Cawaling** 04:03

You know what, I don't know. I think so. I think he was.

**Steve McKay** 04:06

Oh, okay, but when you visited him at the labor camp, he was—Was he married then?

**Loren Cawaling** 04:13

No, I don't think he was married at that time. Yeah, I don't know. My timeframe might be—

**Steve McKay** 04:17

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 04:17

Kind of mixed up, Steve, but yeah.

**Steve McKay** 04:19

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 04:19

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 04:20

And and I can't tell from this photo, Do you know if his wife was white? Aurora.

**Loren Cawaling** 04:27

You know, she was light, but I don't know what nationality she was.

**Steve McKay** 04:31

Okay, yeah. Just wondering from the picture.

**Loren Cawaling** 04:34

Yeah, exactly. I mean, you know what, there are some other pictures some place, but you know what, when we were looking maybe I didn't see, but there should be another picture of her when you can clearly see her face.

**Steve McKay** 04:43

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 04:43

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 04:44

Oh, man.

**Steve McKay** 04:44

I was just wondering.

**Steve McKay** 04:46

So—

**Loren Cawaling** 04:46

I should have pointed that out to you.

**Steve McKay** 04:48

Yeah. No, I was just curious because, you know, that's a great story of how they met, but if you had visited him in the labor camps, likely it was before he got married. Always wondering of those who did get married here like, you didn't go back to the Philippines.

**Loren Cawaling** 05:04

Oh, yeah.

**Steve McKay** 05:04

Who did they end up getting married to?

**Loren Cawaling** 05:06

I see.

**Steve McKay** 05:06

And how do they meet? So, that's interesting. So, that must have been in town here somewhere, right when he was courting her?

**Loren Cawaling** 05:12

I think it was in Salinas someplace.

**Steve McKay** 05:13

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 05:15

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 05:15

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 05:16

So yeah, again, my timeframe might be kind of mixed up, but that's the story I've heard from them.

**Loren Cawaling** 05:21



Yeah—Or have them actually.

**Steve McKay** 05:21

Okay.

**Steve McKay** 05:24

No, that that's a great a great story. And, you know, in so many of these pictures, you see your parents with so many other people, and there's so many older gentlemen in the in the in the pictures, and it clearly friends of your father—

**Steve McKay** 05:40

And your parents.

**Loren Cawaling** 05:40

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 05:41

Yeah. I mean, there was so many of them, Steve, that it's hard to remember exactly how they fit into the the story.

**Steve McKay** 05:49

Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling** 05:49

I mean, I mean, I just know them they were—they were in in our lives somehow, but yeah, the timeframe of of how we met them or where they were at, I get confused sometimes, but—

**Steve McKay** 05:59

Sure.

**Loren Cawaling** 05:59

But yeah, you know.

**Steve McKay** 06:00

Yeah, that that's great. So, another picture that maybe you could comment on, Is this one, it says—It says three one, but no year and then father birthday. It's a small black and white square photo.

**Loren Cawaling** 06:19

Let's see, yeah you know what, Steve, I don't remember it says father's birthday. I don't know, maybe it was my dad's birthday, and then they just took a picture of I think it might be my brother George and then Manong Badung because our Manong Badung, Salvador Magma, was my brother's godfather.

**Steve McKay** 06:48

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 06:48

Okay. Yeah. So again, this photo, it's dated three one with no date. I mean, with no year, but yeah. So, when it says father's birthday, I want to—I'm assuming that it could have been my dad's birthday, and this was just a picture taken of my brother and his godfather.

**Steve McKay** 07:06

Mm Hmm.

**Loren Cawaling** 07:06

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 07:07

And so he's the one who moved in with you.

**Loren Cawaling** 07:09

Yes, that's correct.

**Steve McKay** 07:10

Okay, and was your dad's good friend?

**Loren Cawaling** 07:13

Yes. Mom and dad both.

**Steve McKay** 07:15

Right, and then helped take care of you and—

**Loren Cawaling** 07:17

I think so. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 07:19

Okay. Yeah.

**Loren Cawaling 07:20**

Yeah, It's a nice photo. Yeah. It's just because of when he came into our life, you know, he's he was there for a while, but I just remember him more at that time. During the time my mom was sick. Yeah. Yeah, but yeah, no, he was a good man.

**Steve McKay 07:34**

Yeah, that's sweet, but a friend from the— and before he moved in with you, Did he live in labor camps?

**Loren Cawaling 07:40**

I think he lived in the labor camp, yeah. I think he lived at the one on San Andreas.

**Steve McKay 07:45**

Oh, okay.

**Loren Cawaling 07:45**

Yeah.

**Steve McKay 07:46**

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling 07:47**

Yeah.

**Steve McKay 07:48**

And then there's a series of photos here. They also square black and white one, and I think they're all of your mom.

**Loren Cawaling 07:59**

Yeah.

**Steve McKay 08:00**

And your mom, you had mentioned was really into into gardening. So, there's there's a few there. Where—so, there's one picture with her standing with looks like a hoe in front of a house.

**Loren Cawaling 08:15**

Yeah, I'm not sure what that is right there, but I know that's our home over on Calabasas road. You know, she used to you know, as as well, she used to help my dad. I don't know if I

mentioned this before, but you know, before she got sick, she used to help my dad out in the field too.

**Steve McKay** 08:28

Oh.

**Loren Cawaling** 08:29

With like irrigating and stuff. So, back in the old days, with the irrigating, they used to have just the pipe and then you would open the the water to flow out and it'd be row irrigation. It wouldn't be irrigation with the sprinklers. So, my mom would stand at one end of the furl, and my mom would be, my mom would be at one end, and then my dad would be the other end. And my mom, I remember because I would have to do this too, that my mom would signal my dad to turn up the water by raising the shovel a certain way or telling him to turn the water down. Just because the water wasn't—wouldn't flow evenly around the furrows. So, she'd walked the end and then wait till my dad turn more water on this one or turn off the water on this one. Yeah, so that's why she would have the shovel. So, she must have just come back helping my dad out on the field. The other photo with my mom by the tree. I think she was just probably just out there just—I don't know who took the photo, but it's a nice photo. She's out in the field by the apple tree. And then there's another photo of my mom with some flowers and I don't know if those are in her garden but but she has a bouquet of flowers that she's kneeling down with, but again, you know, my mom was a—she had a green thumb. She's like to take uh take care of flowers and grow flowers. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 09:51

Yeah, they're lovely photos.

**Loren Cawaling** 09:54

Yeah, this is a good time because my mom wasn't sick then. So, she looked—she looked happy.

**Steve McKay** 09:59

Yeah, she looks very happy in all those photos.

**Loren Cawaling** 10:01

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 10:01

Yeah, just being out, you know, in your element, it seems—Yeah. That's pretty good.

**Loren Cawaling** 10:07

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 10:09

Who would have taken those do you think?

**Loren Cawaling** 10:11

You know what, Steve, I do not know. I mean, I want to say it might have been my father because, you know, this is at Calabasas Road, and there was nobody up there except us kids and my mom and dad. And so if my mom was in the picture, then I assumed that it was my dad that took the photo.

**Steve McKay** 10:26

Yeah, you're saying your mom liked to take a lot of photos?

**Loren Cawaling** 10:30

Yeah. Well, you know, she took a lot of photos too. Yeah, I mean, the photos and the stuff that we have in the album's I want to say that a lot of those photos are photos that she had taken. Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 10:43

She probably wanted a couple of herself too.

**Loren Cawaling** 10:45

Yeah of course. Uh huh.

**Steve McKay** 10:46

Had your dad take some photos. Yeah, that's a really—all really wonderful.

**Loren Cawaling** 10:56

Yeah, I still remember that camera that my mom used to use. Had a little flashbulb in there and stuff.

**Steve McKay** 11:10

Yeah, there's—this is a real treasure trove of memories and things like that.

**Loren Cawaling** 11:15

Yeah.

**Steve McKay** 11:17

Is there anything—So, you know, just trying to wrap up. It's, it's fantastic, and maybe we'll have a chance to chat more, as you find other photos, but yeah, anything else that do you wanted to share about, you know, sort of having gone through some of this stuff, and you know, I guess for the archives, or, you know, just for yourself, like, things that we didn't get a chance to talk about?

**Loren Cawaling** 11:43

You know, the only thing I would add with this in general is that, you know, if you have a family and then—ask questions about about things, you know, what I mean is like, I regret not having spent time with my mom and dad and sitting down and and hearing stories from them. And then you know, what, if this helps anybody else, ask your folks, you know, what's going on? You know, ask a lot of questions, because you know what, all this—all these memories will get lost. Yeah. So, that that's all I say, but yeah, I mean, I love my family. I wish I would have spent more time talking to them, you know about things that happened in our lives. Yeah, but yeah.

**Steve McKay** 12:25

Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 12:25

That's it.

**Steve McKay** 12:27

Loren, thank you so much for sharing that, and that, you know, this project is really to help do that, really preserve all the nice things.

**Loren Cawaling** 12:34

Thank you for having me do this. Yeah, I appreciate it. I love sharing all this stuff.

**Steve McKay** 12:39

Yeah, this is great. Okay.

**Loren Cawaling** 12:40

Thank you very much. Thanks.