

# UC Santa Cruz

## Oral History Collaborations

### Title

Daniel "Dan" Kerubin Fallorina interviewed by Meleia Simon-Reynolds

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/40w9t3c4>

### Authors

Fallorina, Daniel

Simon-Reynolds, Meleia

### Publication Date

2022-02-08

### Supplemental Material

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/40w9t3c4#supplemental>

### Data Availability

The data associated with this publication are in the supplemental files.

## Daniel “Dan” Kerubin Fallorina interviewed by Meleia Simon-Reynolds

**Speakers:** Daniel “Dan” Kerubin Fallorina, Anna Kammer Fallorina, Meleia Simon-Reynolds

**Date:** February 8, 2022

**Scope and Contents:** In this interview, originally recorded in-person, Daniel “Dan” Kerubin Fallorina and his wife Anna Kammer Fallorina speak with Watsonville is in the Heart team member Meleia Simon-Reynolds. Dan discusses his father, Mariano Doctor Fallorina Sr.’s early experiences in the Philippines, his migration to the United States in 1927, and his early farm work in Gonzales, Soledad, and other areas in California. He also details Mariano Sr.’s military service in the First Filipino Regiment as well as his mother, Angelina Nicolas Fallorina’s experiences of World War II as a teenager in the Philippines. Dan tells the story of how his parents met while Mariano was on leave during the war and how they both migrated back to the US in 1952. Dan also provides vivid memories of his family’s life, labor, and leisure while sharecropping for Reiter Berries and living in labor camps off San Andreas Road in Watsonville. He also discusses moving into town, his parents’ jobs—Mariano’s continued work for local agricultural companies including Jensen Apples and C&V Farms and Angelina’s night shifts at United Foods and Watsonville Canning. Dan shares memories of fun with friends while growing up in Watsonville and the many jobs he had as a teen, including working in strawberry fields. Finally, Dan discusses his career in the tech industry, how he met Anna, and how he learned about the Watsonville race riots late in life.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 00:01**

This is Meleia Simon Reynolds. It's February 8th. I'm here with Dan Fallorina and what was—

**Anna Fallorina 00:10**

Anna Kammer Fallorina.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 00:13**

And we're in Watsonville. All right, so I'm going to start with some biographical information just for the record. But could you say your full name and your birthdate?

**Dan Fallorina 00:28**

My full?

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 00:29**

Full full name.

**Dan Fallorina** 00:31

Daniel Kerubin Nicolas Fallorina. And it was January 16 1957.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 00:37

And what are your siblings' names?

**Dan Fallorina** 00:39

Mariano Nicolas Fallorina Jr. And then I have a sister. Elizabeth Nicolas Fallorina.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 00:49

And when—what years were they born?

**Dan Fallorina** 00:51

Oh, okay. My brother was born on October 6, 1952. And my sisters [laughs] can't remember that off hand—Oh, oh it's December—

**Anna Fallorina** 01:03

December 22.

**Dan Fallorina** 01:05

Yeah, if I bring my phone.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 01:08

No worries. We can later. Okay. And what were your parents' full names?

**Dan Fallorina** 01:14

My dad's was Mariano Doctor Fallorina. And then my mom's was Angelina Nicolas Fallorina. What was your mom's maiden name? Nicolas. Angelina Nicolas.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 01:27

And you know the years roughly of their births?

**Dan Fallorina** 01:32

Yeah, my dad was—shoot.

**Anna Fallorina** 01:35

October 24th 1906. [Anna and Dan speaking together] Yeah. And your mom was December 26—1926.

**Dan Fallorina** 01:45

December 6 1922.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 01:47

Okay, got it. Yeah. And do you know where your dad was born?

**Dan Fallorina** 01:54

I got all that information. It's on the calendar. [laughing and speaking in the background]. Oh, yeah. It's—Yeah.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 02:11

What about your Mom?

**Dan Fallorina** 02:13

She was born and I believe is Tarlac. Yeah. Anna? No, I can tell you where it's at.

**Anna Fallorina** 02:29

So Mariano Doctor Fallorina was born October 24, 1906 in Villanueva Bautista, Pangasinan, Philippines.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 02:39

Okay.

**Dan Fallorina** 02:40

And then my mom should be in us somewhere to—shoot.

**Anna Fallorina** 02:53

Oh this is where they met though. This isn't where she was born.

**Dan Fallorina** 02:58

I think he was there though. I think she was still born there.

**Anna Fallorina** 03:05

I think it's Guimba, Nueva Ecija, Philippines.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 03:09

Okay. Okay. I see. And so, do you know anything about—Did you ever hear anything about either of their childhoods in the Philippines?

**Dan Fallorina** 03:23

Yeah. So the reason my dad immigrated to the Philippines is, from what I heard, was that my dad had other siblings and stuff and they were all taking turns to go to school. And it was my dad's turn to, you know, do the farm and stuff. So he was taking care of farms and his siblings went to school. And when it was my dad's turn to go to school, that season, he had did really well with the crops and stuff and the crops did very well. And they, I guess, had a good harvest. And my grandparents wanted him to continue farming and they didn't want him to go to school. And he was upset about that and stuff like that. So I think he took part of the proceeds. And him and a friend took off and came to the US.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 04:33

Oh, I see what kind of things did they grow on their farm in the Philippines?

**Dan Fallorina** 04:39

I guess they talked a lot about rice and then and I guess they probably had like you know, mangoes and other fruits but I'm not too sure what was going on. Their farm. You know? But it sounds like they had a lot of fruits and vegetables. You know? Probably bitter melon and things like that.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 05:02

So he decided to come to the US. What—what year was that?

**Dan Fallorina** 05:06

That was 1927.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 05:10

And who was it that he came with?

**Dan Fallorina** 05:13

Oh, actually, it'll be—actually it'll be the 1920s—February 9 1927 tomorrow.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 05:18

Oh, wow. [laughter] That's a coincidence! [laughter] Yeah, that's when he arrived?

**Dan Fallorina** 05:27

Oh, no, that's when he left.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 05:28

That's when he left the Philippines.

**Dan Fallorina** 05:29

Yeah. He arrived in San Francisco on March 9 of the same year.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 05:35

Yeah, takes about a month to travel. Do you know who it was that he came with?

**Dan Fallorina** 05:42

No, I don't, but I was able to sort of figure it out. But I don't have his name off my tongue. But I was able to find the manifest or whatever, and was able to find two people coming from the same area, my dad and then the other person. So what I heard is that his friend had some relatives in Berkeley, and once they landed, he— his friend went to Berkeley and then my dad was on his own. And, and I don't know if they stayed in contact after that or not. Okay.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 06:23

Once he got to San Francisco, where did your dad go first?

**Dan Fallorina** 06:29

So from what I—from what I found out, this is looking at census datas and stuff, he went down to towards Gonzalez. And he was down and in Gonzalez working on a farm. It looked like it was a dairy farm with, I think it was, Al Rodick was the person who owned the land. And I think he was farming in that. And then from there he moved, in the 1940 census, I found him down by Soledad. And but it's really interesting that the person that he worked for, Al Rodick, bought the land from the Salvation Army. And so I did some research and the Salvation Army started three colonies in the US. And one was down there by Gonzalez and Soledad. And then there was a couple of one in the Midwest and there was in [Anna: Pennsylvania]. Yeah, she remembers that. But so what—oh, so he bought the property from the Salvation Army and what the Salvation Army was doing now was trying to bring people from San Francisco down to help them start farming. If they farmed, then they could purchase the land. And I think my dad ended up working for this Rodick guy that bought the land for the Salvation Army. And so there was a town that still—remnants are still there. It's called Fort Romie. And it's close to where the mission is. Mission Soledad. And there's some census data that mentions a route box I think it is. Yeah, and it's still down in that area. And there was a church out there and there was a kind of like a little small town. It would be like a Corralitos or some little town like that.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 08:39

So when he was in Soledad, do you know where you went next after that?

**Dan Fallorina 08:46**

Okay, after he sold that he actually came to Watsonville. But in between all that he was going up and down as a migrant worker up and down California. And, and he, he did end up in Colorado. And I think he didn't stay there that long. From what I heard, he got in a car accident with a few other guys and he, you know, got thrown out of the car and had to hurt his back and stuff like that. And he did have some back problems. But, you know, I mean, not, you know, wasn't too crippled. I mean, you know, he got around but once in a while, you know, his back would bother him.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 09:24**

Did he ever talk about what it was like being a migrant farm worker traveling all around?

**Dan Fallorina 09:30**

And now he didn't. You know, my dad was some somewhat on the quiet side. He he was very talented. When he was in Soledad, he purchased some property, and he built a house in the back. Also, you know, I was able to see it when I was younger and stuff like that. But, you know, I go, where did he learn those skills, you know? You know, so evidently, he learned some of these skills from where he was staying at. So the, where I reviewed the census, when I was looking at the data, the people that were living in that dairy farm there was, it was very diverse, you know. Swiss people, there were, it looked like Japanese and Filipinos and a few other nationalities. And to me, it sounds like it was probably like a melting pot and they probably all worked together and they probably shared each other's skills, and I, I'm assuming that's probably where my dad learned some of these skills. And then I also, you know, I also found out there was one particular friend that he had, that I'm still trying to find out who he was, you know, but I was trying to get information here. That's been hard to find.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 10:58**

It sounds like you've done a lot of, a lot of research on him. When did you start undertaking this census research?

**Dan Fallorina 11:05**

Well, it was after, you know, talking to Roy and getting involved with the Tobera Project and stuff. And then, then Roy, he said, would you like to do something for your, your family and, and then I started. Well, I had already done a little research on that. And then, then I just started digging a little deeper, and trying to put my father's family tree together. You know, I think I could get my mom's information a lot easier. Because I have a cousin and my sister that I could pull from, but there's not a whole lot on my—information about my dad. And I'm trying to also see if I could find out where my cousins are and see if I could, you know, contact them because I don't know. I've never met any of my dad's cousins, my true cousins in the

Philippines, you know. And my mom, just right now, just can't remember names and stuff like that. And, you know, if it was 15-20 years ago, I might have been able to get that information for her. But she's you know, so can't remember all those things. But, you know, every once in a while I, you know, when I talk to her that, you know, I could tell like that. That's real information. [laughter] And you know, so—

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 12:30

So, what year was it when your dad came to Watsonville?

**Dan Fallorina** 12:37

So I figure it was somewhere between 1952- 1957. Somewhere in there, I would imagine maybe '55 or so. That I'm trying to pinpoint down. So, you know, I know that my mom came out in 1952 when they got married. She actually flew out. You know, it was funny, because when we were doing the research. You know, I could see what my dad got on the ship. I think he left in October. No, I got down here somewhere. But he left. He left in the Philippines like— I think it was February. No. Okay, he left on I think 1952— Though he made his way back in 1952. In January 1952. They got married. And then he made it back to San Francisco by April 30. And then my mom ended up coming in August of the same year. And what we found out is, is my dad got his ship got out and then he must have paid to have her flown out. Because what we found out was that she had a plane ticket that showed that she went into Honolulu and she came out of Honolulu and ended up flying into San Francisco, you know. But yeah, we were going why is this? This doesn't look like a ship manifest and stuff. And then we figured it finally figured out it was Pan Am. It was a plane ticket. You know, you know.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 14:24

How did, how did they meet?

**Dan Fallorina** 14:27

Oh, so when my dad was in the military, he was on leave. And he went to go visit his sister. And my mom, oh, well, they went to church or whatever. And my mom was singing in the church choir. And my dad goes, who's that woman over there? And my aunt said, oh, that's Angelina Nicolas, you know, would you like to meet her? You know, so she introduced him. And then you know, they, they, you know, got together and they wrote back and forth and stuff like that. And, you know, my dad, you know, came back and he was here. And I guess they wrote back and forth. And I guess, something happened. And they stopped writing to each other for about a year or so. And then my dad started up again. And then he said, you know, I'm coming out to marry you, I'm going to come out. And then he went out in 1952, you know, you know, to ask, and she goes, I don't believe that you didn't come out. And , you know, so she just kept on putting him off. And then he said, no I'm coming, you know, and then, then he

came in, and they got married and then then came, you know. Yeah, and then, so I never knew when they got married and then I found some paperwork that, you know, I still got to verify that, but they were married on my birthday in, in 1952 in the Philippines. So—

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 15:57

Wow. So I suppose your dad must have enlisted and gone into the military? before settling in Watsonville. Yeah?

**Dan Fallorina** 16:09

Yes. Because he was, he was done in Soledad at that time.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 16:14

Okay. Okay. Okay. Do you know what year it was that he enlisted?

**Anna Fallorina** 16:20

Somewhere in 1944.

**Dan Fallorina** 16:22

1942, August 11 1942. And then he was in the Pacific Theater and who made it to New Guinea talked about it. I remember, he talked about how hard it was in New Guinea. You know, they were, you know, he said all night, they were just, you know, loading artillery into cannons. He said he'd never worked so hard, you know. You know, they were just shelling, I guess Japanese at that time and stuff. You know? And, yeah, so—

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 16:55

Did he— he shared memories about the war?

**Dan Fallorina** 16:59

Oh, very little. I mean, that was one story I heard from him. And then he talked about how he was with their platoon and there was a guy in front of them. And a sniper got that guy and killed him. And my dad was the next guy in line. But he was fine. You know, you know, but he did mention that. But I did hear that the Japanese were really, really cruel. You know, there was all sorts of stuff that my mom had said that they would do like, you know.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 17:41

Right. Did your dad ever mention anything about this sword? This souvenir?

**Dan Fallorina** 17:47

The only thing I think he mentioned was that he brought it back when the World War II and that's all I know [laughter].

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 17:54**

That's kind of mysterious.

**Dan Fallorina 17:57**

Yeah, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. He said, yeah, that was my souvenir that he brought back. You know, he had a couple other items from the war, but I don't know where those are now. And it could be a chance they might be at Simon's house, but I don't know.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 18:17**

And so both of your parents have kind of different experiences of World War II.

**Dan Fallorina 18:24**

Oh, yes. Yes. Yeah. My mom. You know, they had to hide from the Japanese, you know. She, she had mentioned, like, you know, they would have scouts out and stuff. And like, at night, they would leave the village or whatever and hide when the Japanese were coming, you know, because the Japanese would just go in and just destroy everything and just take whatever they want. And so they would have to go hide or, you know, and, you know, they would interrogate people and stuff like that. And then, of course, they had the Filipino guerrillas that would come in, and, you know, tell them, hey, the Japanese are coming, you know, you guys need to, you know, get out of here or whatever. But, you know, they would take all the food, you know, like they would, they would like harvest and stuff, and they would have all the rice and stuff put away and stuff and then the Japanese would come in and take it all away. You know? Yeah. So—

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 19:18**

And your mom told you about these stories?

**Dan Fallorina 19:21**

Yeah, yeah. Yeah. She said it was a hard time.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 19:25**

She was like a teenager?

**Dan Fallorina 19:27**

Yes. Yeah. She was a teenager to like college. Well yeah, 18 to 20 around there. Because she was going to school and actually she got sort of separated when the war broke out. She was, I

think in school and then she tried to work her way back home and it took a while to get back home. She said that, you know, the train ride was just packed with people, you know, you know, like some of the things where you see people hanging out of the windows and stuff like that. Yeah, I might have part of that story on— on recorded.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 20:08

That would be really interesting to hear. I, I we haven't heard anything from that perspective in this project but my grandma is from the Philippines and she was little, little during World War Two, but she has some really vivid memories of it also. Yeah, that are really evocative.

**Dan Fallorina** 20:29

Yeah you wonder. Yeah, well, my mom had mentioned like, you know, they would take babies and toss up and, you know, with those. Stuff like that, you know. You know, she said they were pretty, pretty brutal. But I mean, that was the way it was, you know?

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 20:49

I definitely heard some stories about like Filipino guerrilla people coming and like warning people, and then everyone would go hide.

**Dan Fallorina** 20:57

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, exactly. Yeah. Scary times. Yeah.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 21:04

Wow. So your dad met your mom for the first time while he was on leave? Right. Okay. Okay. And then she came back. And they met here. And then is, is that when they came and settled in the Watsonville area?

**Dan Fallorina** 21:23

Yeah. Yeah. So what I hear on that is like, my dad's house that he built was fairly close to railroad tracks. My mom got into Soledad and said, it's too noisy here, you know. And, and it was also really hot in Soledad. Well, we know it gets hot in Soledad, and my dad didn't really like the heat. So, you know, they decided to come to Watsonville. Now, from what I've heard from my mom, is that they heard that there were parcels of land that they were doing sharecropping. And they were, I guess, Reiter Berries at that time, they were looking for, you know, people to come in and plant strawberries, and harvest strawberries. So what my mom was saying there was like a 50/50 thing is like, they would provide the berries or the land. And then I believe my parents had to find the crew to plant the berries. I mean, they actually had to plant the little seedlings and stuff like that. And then they would go ahead and harvest the

berries. And then the growers—the owner of the land would take half and then the other half would be for them. And but then they had to pay the workers out of that too.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 22:48

Right. So can you just describe a bit about like where Reiter Berries was?

**Dan Fallorina** 22:56

So it's interesting now. So it's actually berries right now, again. You know, I mean, but it's been, it went from berries to brussel sprouts and went to—it's just been I'd say probably within the last five to ten years it went to berries. So basically, it was right across from Monterey Bay Academy. Off San Andreas Road. So if you have you been to Monterey Bay Academy?

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 23:27

No, I think I know where it is.

**Dan Fallorina** 23:28

Okay, not too far from the entrance of Monterey Bay Academy. There's a road that—there's a paved road that sort of goes up a hill, and then it goes down. Well, if you went back in the 60s, if you went back up that hill and down, there was a labor camp down there. Okay. And that I think that labor camp was there till the 80s. But it was really remote back there. I mean, it's above the city and the county dump. And that area used to be really beautiful before they made it a dump. But yeah, I remember going out there and playing out there and stuff like that. In fact, I'll show you some pictures like yeah, those pictures that you see of us as a family that was out there that was out on that.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 24:21

Okay, and so, you, you all lived in— can you say where the labor camp was?

**Dan Fallorina** 24:26

Yes, yes. And so what I, I remember it being, I believe it was a two bedroom house that we had it had a carport on it. Actually wasn't too bad from what I remember, you know. You would walk— you walk in and then to the right there was one bedroom. It was kind of like a living room area. And then you walked a little bit and then there was a second bedroom. And then the kitchen was straight ahead and I think there was kind of a counter. I have some pictures of that that I could point out. And I remember the bathroom was in the back and the was a bathtub—a claw type bathtub back there, you know. You sort of step down in it down into that area. And that's what I recall on that. But that was the second place that we were at. But when I was probably when I was born and up till maybe I was two or so we were at another labor camp, but I think it might have been just a few houses or so. And again I have a few pictures of

that, you know, and that was a little bit more on the shabbier side from what I remember. It was more closer towards Beach Road. If you come up Beach Road, you go over the bridge as you're coming towards Manresa. There's a road off to left, I believe it was up that road. I sort of remember going in a little truck drive. You know, up that way.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 25:57

What —were there other families living in the San Andreas labor camp?

**Dan Fallorina** 26:03

Yeah, yeah. The Reyes. Is that one photograph here [refers to a photograph on the Tobera Project calendar. It's that labor camp. Okay, you know, and yeah.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 26:13

I, I remember talking to Joe Reyes. It was cool to talk to you guys both together, because it kind of— I kind of felt like you were like, young kids talking to each other [laughter].

**Dan Fallorina** 26:28

Yeah. Well, I mean, our families were really close and stuff. And they were like, I think a couple houses down and stuff like that. So we played together and stuff like that. I mean, I was probably maybe about three or four there. And, you know, we had a really good time. I mean, some of them, you know, just, you know, from five, when I was younger, there was a lot of stuff I still remember back at the camp, and then I just sort of felt short sighted when we moved into town. I think they're having all the fun, they get to runt, you know, they do all the neat stuff, you know, so—

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 27:02

Can you share a particular memory from playing out there?

**Anna Fallorina** 27:08

I remember—and Joe and I were talking about this too. I remember, there was kind of like, where the camp was, if you headed north, kind of like out towards the railroad tracks, it was kind of like a little dirt road. And it looked like it was that maybe there was a house at the end or something. But it's sort of dead ended. And there was some telephone poles. And, and there was this one telephone pole that a bee's nest was in. And it was a pretty big bees nest. I mean, you could actually see the honeycomb and stuff. And I remember we would throw rocks at it and have to get running from the bees and stuff like that. But I remember that, that was fun. And I remember there was a log—so the strawberry patches were up here, and then it's, the road sort of went down. And so there's like an embankment here and a tree had fallen across. And I remember, you know, dumb kids, like, oh, that's cross in between, you know, the

the embankment and the other embankment. And you know, it's just, you know, tree trunk, and I'm like, three years old or whatever, whatever. And, of course, these guys are, you know, five or six years old or whatever. And, you know, they're going through and I got it, I guess I could do it. And somehow I made it across! I don't know how I did. I remember being really afraid going across that, you know.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 28:47**

Can you describe what it, what it looked like visually around in the landscape?

**Dan Fallorina 28:54**

Okay, so around the labor camp, it was, it's mainly strawberries and stuff, but where I was talking about where we were, we're playing from what I remember there were like pine trees and it was sort of forested in that area. And I think all that's been you know, knocked down and stuff like that. I thought it was a fun place to grow up and do things and stuff like that. I think, yeah, basically, a lot of it was strawberry fields around that but that one area was pine trees and I think there's still some pine trees, like towards Monterey Bay Academy in and around that area. But like where the city dump is that used to be forested and stuff like that. That's been all, you know, no, filled in. And there was a big ravine back in there too. That's that's, that, all that got filled in with the garbage, you know?

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 30:00**

Interesting how it's changed so much. Can you remember your parents working in the field?

**Dan Fallorina 30:10**

Oh yeah. Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah, it was hard work. It was definitely hard work. Watching them work out there and, and myself working out there too. And, and when I was out there picking strawberries, I said, man, there has to be something better than picking strawberries. Because it was hard on your back, on your knees. You're always muddy or, you know, you're always getting up early. It was wet, you know, the leaves of the strawberries were itchy on your arms and stuff you had wear little plastic gloves to pick the strawberries or whatever, or you have really, you know, stained hands from the strawberries and stuff. But yeah, they worked hard out there and stuff like that. Oh, yeah. I remember one story. So, this truck here [refers to photograph]. So, you know, so my parents would be out there working right? In the field. And my brother and I would be left alone to go play and stuff like that. So my brother, you know, he was he was four years older than I and stuff and, and we were playing by the truck. And he goes by the tire. And he takes the little cap off. Or, you know, you know, for the valve stem. And he gets it gets a little stick. And he pushes it, you know, it goes shhhh. And he goes, oh doesn't that sound neat? You know? And I go, yeah that sounds neat. So you know, so he goes, yeah, try this one, you know. So we did that on the tire, Well, we did that tire. We did

other tire and we did the other tire. We did all four tires. [laughter] Yeah. And then my dad and mom working out in the fields all day, and then they come back and the trucks totally flat. [laughter] Well, there wasn't kind words! [laughter] That's for sure. But my dad had, you know, I think he took a couple tires off and had to go down, you know, put them in the back of the car and take them down and, you know, to the gas station and fill up the things, but my dad was not happy with us. Well, he took it out on me. My brother goes, he did it! [laughter] Yeah, but yeah.

**Anna Fallorina 32:31**

In those days, you could take your kids to the fields. So it wasn't—it was different than now. But you can take the little ones to the fields and they would be there and you would be working.

**Dan Fallorina 32:41**

Yeah, I mean, yeah, we, you know, what, before I was old enough. Yeah, we would, you know, be running around the strawberry patches, you know, playing, you know, making rubber band guns and stuff like that, you know. You know, showing her how to make a rubber band gun [laughter]. Actually, I made a little pistol [laughter]. You know, and even like, Monterey Bay Academy used to have strawberries out there, too. I remember playing out there. That was really interesting, because that used to be Fort McQuaid. And when I was growing up in the 60s, you could still see the, the pits for the artillery guns, you know, and they had filled them up with plastic, but you could see where the track of the—for the actual cannons there and stuff like that. I don't know if they're still there. They might be buried, or I don't know. Or if they, you know, broke them up and stuff like that, but they might still be there, buried. And there used to be, there used to be a dairy out there too—Meadowgold Dairy was out there. We used to go out there and feed the cows.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 33:55**

You ever play like military guy like with the artillery things?

**Dan Fallorina 34:01**

Yeah, actually if we go through some of the albums you'll see that I, you know, dressed up, you know, in army camouflage stuff, you know? Yeah, yeah. Yeah. You know, you just play indians and cowboys, and you know, little military stuff like that. I mean, you know, you were influenced with, you know, still the West and stuff. And then the Vietnam war was going on at that same time, too. So, you know?

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 34:30**

What, so it sounds like you and your brother were really having a joyful childhood. And I'm curious if you—if you could describe what a typical day maybe would have been like for your parents when they would wake up early. Go out. What would that have been like for them?

**Dan Fallorina 34:51**

I think it would have been like, they would get up early. My dad was the cook so he would, he would, you know, he used to make up a lot of eggs, he would like you would do pancakes too. He would, he would either make pancakes and eggs, sometimes french toast, I think, french toast was more on the, on the weekends when we had more time. So they make breakfast, while they're making breakfast, they would go ahead and pack up a lunch. So lunch was, you know, like, maybe a sandwich with bologna and stuff like that, or leftover meal from the night before. You know, so that could be fish, you know, bitter melon, or something of that nature. And just remember, back then, you know, they didn't have plastic bags and stuff like that. So we used to wrap the sandwiches in wax paper. So they would, you know, pull the wax paper out and cut it and made it in squares, and you'd fold your sandwich and put it in there. And, you know, they would, you know, put milk in, in a glass jar or whatever, and they would put that in with the sandwich and stuff like that. And so that would be they would be doing that, while we would probably still be sleeping and then they would wake us up. And then they would either like pick me up and put me in the car or we somehow made it into the car or whatever. And then they stuck us in the car. And then we would drive to the fields and stuff. And then they would leave us there in the car. And we'd end up sleeping in the car and wake up the windows would be all fogged up and stuff like that. And then we look out and go okay, well, it's sunny, okay, open up the door, and we'd go out and, and play and stuff like that. And then around, you know, we'd go out and see where they were, you know, because they would park fairly close to where they would be picking strawberries and stuff. And then we'd go out and, and, you know, throw strawberries at each other or something, you know, of that nature. And then they would, you know, pick strawberries, they would, you know, check with the workers and stuff. And, you know, they would be doing that or hoeing, you know, getting the weeds out stuff, irrigating. Back then they didn't have pipes, they had the wooden flumes. So, you know, my dad would go out there. And you know, the flumes were basically old, redwood flumes. And they had these big corks, and there was like a hole drilled in on the side. And they would put, they would run the water through the plumes, and they would pull the corks out, and then the water would go down into the rows and stuff. And then when it was time to, you know, the rows had too much water, they would have to shove that, that cork in there. Yeah, I wish I would have had one of those. They were pretty neat. [laughter] They were— They were pretty big. You know? And so then in the evenings, yeah, they would, by then they were really tired. And you know, they'd, you know, you know, you know, during the day, I think it was like three times a day, I think once in the morning and once around noon, and towards the end of the day, the inspector would come out and inspect all the berries and stuff. And they used to hate this one.

This one inspector, you know, he would come and inspect the berries. And here take a perfect berry and he would look at it. And we keep on turning and stuff like that, then he'd go, oh see it's bruised! And stuff like that. Because well I don't know about that crate, you know, and, you know, and they'd go, well, you were turning the berries so many times! [laughter] And stuff like that, you know, it's funny. I think he just did it on purpose, you know, egg them on and stuff. But you know, yeah, at the end of the day, they're, you know, pretty much tired. We'd go home, probably watch a little TV and stuff like that. I mean, they would go home and they would cook up dinner. You know, regular rice and stuff and rice, probably bitter melon, you know? Chicken or fish or goat or something like that.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 39:26

Yeah. What time would you usually go home at the end of the day?

**Dan Fallorina** 39:31

Probably after five. It was normally was—Yeah, I think they quit them at five o'clock. You know, and maybe they might have got there around six maybe. And start maybe around seven. Yeah, it was a long day.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 39:50

What kinds of things did your parents do for fun when they weren't working?

**Dan Fallorina** 39:56

Oh, my dad used to like to fish, you know, he would go out to you know in Palm Beach and stuff like that. Then he would go out fishing there. Clamming. He really liked the clam a lot. Out on Pajaro Dunes there used to be real dunes out on Pajaro Dunes. You used to have to climb over a few dunes before you'd actually get to the beach and stuff like that. And remember going out there, you know, you would be carrying his pitchfork, which I still have, and and he had a little sack with a little measuring device that would measure the size of the clams and he got there for hours you know, you know, poking the sand and looking for Pismo clams and stuff. And they were—have you ever had a Pismo clam? Oh they are so good. You know? Especially fresh. I mean, you know, we'd you know, get them out there and you know, break them open right there and eat them raw. They were so good. You know? I mean, they would be nice size clams and stuff. Yeah.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 41:06

And he fished too there?

**Dan Fallorina** 41:09

Yeah, he would fish there. He was better at clamming than he was at fishing. We would go out a few times fishing and stuff like that. And I just remember the last time he went fishing, we were right on Moss Landing and he he casted the reel and, and it somehow it didn't stop and it just like spun up and there was a big ball [laughter] of fishing line and he was there for hours trying to untangle it. And that was it. He goes, that's it I'm done fishing [laughter].

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 41:39

Do you think I'm not super familiar with the villages that he was from in the Philippines? But was it by the ocean?

**Anna Fallorina** 41:48

I, I think it wasn't too far. Probably.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 41:53

I wonder if fishing was something that reminded him of being in the Philippines.

**Dan Fallorina** 42:00

Yeah, that I'm not too sure. Yeah. You know, it seemed like a lot of Filipinos did do a lot of fishing, you know?

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 42:09

To get good fish you want to go fishing.

**Dan Fallorina** 42:12

Yeah, because most of the fishing that he did was was out in the ocean. I mean, we didn't really go into the lakes or stuff like that. So yes, mainly surf fishing or off the wharf.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 42:26

I've heard a lot of other people say that their dad enjoyed fishing a lot.

**Dan Fallorina** 42:30

Yeah. Yeah. I think that's probably common. Yeah, you go out there and you know, the line out there and just wait. Wait for the catch.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 42:38

Yeah. Relaxing after being working so hard.

**Dan Fallorina** 42:43

Yeah. And back in the early 60s too, you used to be able to dive out on Palm Beach. And I remember, you know, driving out there with, with our family and going out there clamming and stuff. And I remember one time we got my dad got a little too close to the soft sand and we got stuck in the sand. And I remember we were trying to push the truck out, trying to, trying to get the truck out. And I remember my mom was behind the rear tire. And my dad said give it—no my dad was in the truck trying to, you know, rock it back and forth and my mom stood behind the tire that was the drive tire and she got splat with all the sand. And like she was just like covered with sand. It was sort of funny.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 43:32

What kinds of things did your mom do for fun?

**Dan Fallorina** 43:36

Oh, she did a lot of crochet now like all these doilies and stuff like this. She was really good at doilies. She would make hats. She would knit. She sewed. She did a lot of sewing. She had, she still has it, an old Singer sewing machine. The ones with the pedal. Yeah. So she would use that. And she sewed some of our clothes and stuff. But she did a lot— yeah, yeah, she did a lot of crocheting and she was really good at it too.

**Anna Fallorina** 44:07

[Showing a large white crocheted blanket]. It's spectacular. Just the diversity of the crochet work that she has done over the years.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 44:17

And she just made stuff for your family?

**Dan Fallorina** 44:20

Oh, should we give stuff away. You know, to friends and stuff like that. Up until about five years ago, she was knitting, you know, hats and stuff and, giving hats away to, you know, people and stuff like that. Different church members received their hats and stuff. Yeah. So—

**Anna Fallorina** 44:41

Looks like it's not super close to the ocean, but it might be near a river.

**Dan Fallorina** 44:46

Well, that's it. What's this over here? That's fine. Not too far away.

**Anna Fallorina** 44:52

Yeah. That might not be too far. Yeah. And so they might well, yeah— So that's, that's 20 kilometers here. I saw that. I saw a scale there somewhere. So that's probably about 15 minutes away.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 45:06

So maybe it was a skill that he had growing up there?

**Dan Fallorina** 45:10

Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 45:13

Were they involved in any of the organizations in town?

**Dan Fallorina** 45:20

Oh, just the First Methodist Church? Yeah, my dad was, pretty much he wasn't a gambler, or, you know, or, you know, he didn't like to gamble. He used to say that, you know, he would lend money to his friends and stuff like that, and then they would go gamble it, and then they would pay him back or whatever. And then, you know, so my dad wasn't happy with that, you know, so my, my dad would, you know, made use of what he, he got, you know, he made the dollar stretch or whatever, you know, and he was sending money back. Again, he would send money back home to my grandparents and my aunts and uncles and stuff like that. After my grandparents passed away, you know, my dad never went back until he went to marry my mom. But my grandparents were, I believe, passed away by then. I think, I think they were gone by then. But oh, no, , they might have been around. I'm not too sure when my grandparents passed away. I'll have to look, but they were really upset when my, my dad left, and they were sad that he left. And when they passed away, they gave him all the land to my brother— I mean, to my dad, and my dad held on to it for many years thinking that he might, you know, go back and finally said, you know, this is my home. I'm not, I'm not going back to the Philippines. And so he signed the paperwork off and to give it to all my aunts and uncles, you know. And I don't even know where that land is, or whatever. It'd be interesting to go back and see what's happened to it or whatever. Yeah.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 47:13

So your dad and mom were were not involved with like the Filipino Community or the Woman's Club?

**Dan Fallorina** 47:21

No.

**Anna Fallorina 47:22**

They were as opposed to many, of course, you know, many Filipinos are Catholic. But they, they're Methodist. Yeah. They were very involved in the Methodist Church. His mom is very just involved in the church.

**Dan Fallorina 47:37**

And yeah, she sang in the Christian church choir here also too.

**Anna Fallorina 47:43**

She was like a deaconess or something there in the Philippines.

**Dan Fallorina 47:47**

Yeah. [indistinct conversation]. Her aunt and uncle were also an minister. Yeah. So she grew up under the Methodist Church, and we have a few relatives that were with the Methodist church also, too. And that was sort of interesting, too, when I was doing the research and I was looking at the Fort Romney, Fort Romie—it's Fort Romie. In Gonzalez, well, actually, this was more towards Soledad. It was towards that mission. In Fort Romie, there was a little town there, but there was also a Methodist church there. You know, at one time. We're gonna try to go down into that area and look around, because there are some buildings that are still left there.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 48:46**

I think know where—I think my family lives in, down south. So I always drive. And I'm like, looking around. I think I know where that is.

**Dan Fallorina 48:56**

Yeah it's close to the Soledad Mission..

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 49:00**

Um, what was the name of the Methodist church that they went to around here?

**Dan Fallorina 49:05**

Oh, the First United Methodist Church on Stanford. Yeah, that was the, that was the main one. There used to be one up in Freedom. And it was one out in Corralitos, but the main one was the one that's on Stanford Street. And that was the one that we went to. Yeah.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 49:23**

Do you know if your dad was ever a part of any of the lodges?

**Dan Fallorina 49:28**

No, no, no.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 49:30**

Okay, were there when you were growing up? Do you remember like, many Uncles or manong around in your life?

**Dan Fallorina 49:40**

Oh, yeah. Yeah, there was Uncle Phous that I have pictures of, and that I don't know what happened to him and like my mom said he, he went back to Salinas and stuff. But I, you know, I think my dad and him were close. There was a couple other people that he was close to, you know that, you know, I would like to try to track down and see where or what happened to them and stuff like that. But those are the ones I can really think about. Uncle Phous and there was a couple other people. And another manong was Uncle [Unknown] and he worked at Fort Ord. He was a cook and stuff like that. So he would bring stuff for Thanksgiving. He would bring all the gimlets in the turkey tails, because he goes, the soldiers don't like this, you know? And, you know, so we get like buckets of turkey tails for Thanksgiving and stuff like that, you know, and gimlets and stuff. And so I remember things like that. And we had another uncle that would, he was in the Navy. And he would stop by we got pictures of me and him, you know, before he got married and stuff that would come down and visit and that's actually my cousin's Father. They live up in Vallejo. So, you know, so—

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 51:09**

Did you ever—did your family ever go to any, like, larger events with the extended friend group like picnics or barbecue?

**Dan Fallorina 51:18**

Are you talking "peecnecs"? [laughter] No, my dad, like my dad wasn't into like, you know, the cock fighting or anything like that. Yeah. But you know, we would go to, you know, different, you know, celebrations and weddings, and you know, the funerals and things like that, you know, or, you know, a family gathering, or somebody having a party. Actually, one of the pictures I have is, I think, I think it wasn't put on this one. But there was one where there's few of us and we're at a party and I think that might have been the Cortes' party. That was an of older Filipino couple. They're, they're really, they're really the nicest people, but they couldn't have kids and stuff like that. So they were always really, really nice with all the kids and stuff. They're always, you know, giving us candy and stuff. You know, but they were always good, but they always had some really nice parties and stuff like that. Yeah. Fresh kalding and stuff like that. Yeah. You know, dinuguan, you know, chocolate meat, and stuff like that.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 52:33**

Oh, wow. Um, so when did your family move from the San Andreas camp area to town?

**Dan Fallorina 52:42**

I believe was 1962. '62-'63 I'm pretty sure was '62. You know, and the reason why they moved into town was my, again, my brother. [laughter] So my brother, okay, they used to have to get on the school bus. So my brother got on the school bus. And coming home, okay, after school, he got on school bus and was supposed to come home. Well, the bus driver made all the stops. And she gets back to the school and my brother's still in the car. And, you know, the bus driver goes, where do you live? And then he goes, well I live on San Andreas somewhere and I guess he, you know, they, they had a little tags on them or whatever. And I guess the bus driver took him into the principal's office. And the principal goes, oh, I know where that's at. And the principal drove him home. And my dad and mom said, well, you know, this isn't good. He needs to be able to walk to school, be close to school. So then they moved out here to Freedom out by Freedom School, so we could walk to school. Now Freedom is where the airport is, that used to be a military base also too and there was a bunch of buildings there that were I guess they were donated or the military gave it to the city or whatever, but they were using that as the school. So there was a lot of buildings there. And that's where I went to kindergarten there and stuff. You know, so that was within walking distance from where we lived, you know? So that was the reason why we moved into town. It was because of my brother.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 54:42**

When you moved, when you moved to town, did your parents still continue working at those fields?

**Dan Fallorina 54:49**

I think at that time, I think my dad was done with it. I think he finished up and then he started working in the apples, you know. So he worked for Jensen Apples. And then, then he also worked, you know, picking beans, cucumbers, and then he eventually ended up working in the lettuce. And then that he was a foreman for I think C&V Farms at that time. Yeah.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 55:23**

Okay. And what about your mom after you moved to town?

**Dan Fallorina 55:27**

So she ended up going to work in the canneries. So she worked for, I think United Foods and Watsonville Canning. And no, she didn't work for Del Mar. But yeah, but yeah, so yeah. So what they did too is they, my dad would work in, in during the day, and then my mom would

work—would sort of watch over us during the daytime, and then she would work nights. So like, I remember, on the weekends sometimes— and my mom couldn't drive for a while, took a while to drive. But I remember getting up like, you know, two o'clock in the morning and going out with my dad to go pick her up and, you know, at United Foods, and then sometimes they would, they would get a lot of produce that would come in, and they would work overtime. And then we'd sit out there for another hour longer, you know, so yeah, so I remember that.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 56:25**

I, I recently did an interview where I heard about the women working in the cannery, but do you know, anything? Did your mom ever talk about what it was like to work in there?

**Dan Fallorina 56:37**

It sounded like it was hard work. But the machines had to go really quickly by and you had to, you had to trim all the vegetables. And sort of threw it. Apparently it sounded like my mom was pretty good at it. And my mom is somewhat on the vocal side. And so, you know, you know, sometimes she would say that the formen would go, come on faster, faster, and, and then my mom would speak up and go, we're going as fast as we can, you know, you come out here and try it or whatever. Or, you know, or, you know, or, you know, or, you know, there would be safety issues, and she'd bring that up and stuff like that. You know, and I think, I think she might have been kind of like a lead or something. Because, you know, there has been times where their group would be accident free for so long and stuff like that. So, you know, I think she got a few, her group got a few awards for being, you know, safety conscious and stuff like that. But it was hard work, you know, it's definitely, you know, they would come home tired and stuff like that they would have their little plastic aprons and little plastic hats on over their head and things like that. So and it was hard conditions too because you're standing on a cement floor for over eight hours, you know, and it's wet and, and damp and cold, you know, so it's, it's not the greatest. But it's not like you're sitting in a nice place. Yeah. And then you got the machinery going by. So it's really loud. And my mom right now can't really hear well. And I think it was because of the heavy machinery that was around the stuff like that. Yeah. Yeah. Well, well, OSHA was there but you know, then, you know, it depended on, you know, if people brought the issue up or whatever.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 58:38**

It was mostly women working there too.

**Dan Fallorina 58:41**

Yeah. Mostly women. Mostly women were working on the lines. Yeah. And then the men were probably more on the maintenance type staff. You know.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 58:52**

Do you know if she had friends who worked there with her?

**Dan Fallorina 58:55**

Oh Yeah. Yeah. Frankie Madalora's mother worked there. Who else trying to take some of the Baniagas worked there. I think the Ventura— I don't know if the Venturas worked there. She I think maybe she might have—

**Anna Fallorina 59:16**

What about the guy who lives on Holly Drive? His mom?

**Dan Fallorina 59:23**

I know that. Mrs. Krause. She's a Japanese woman. She's still around. She worked with my mom. They actually worked together a lot. I think. Yeah. Olivia. Olivia, your neighbor, worked with my mom and stuff like that. Yeah. So yeah. No, the canneries were a big employer up until I think it was the early 90s. So and then they packed up and closed up. Yeah. Yeah. In fact that the building where Martinellis is was Green Giant, and then it be became Pillsbury, and that was actually they're largest manufacturing plant in the US at one time. Yeah.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 1:00:08**

Yeah. The person I interviewed the other day was talking about working at Green Giant.

**Dan Fallorina 1:00:12**

Who was that?

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 1:00:13**

That was Estelita Tabios. Yeah. Wow. And so she was doing that and your dad was working in various different crops, but first apples. Did what— was that different for him? Like a lot different experience and sharecropping the strawberries?

**Dan Fallorina 1:00:34**

Well, I think he liked it better, because he didn't have to be in charge of all these different people. Because, yeah, I think he didn't really want to have to supervise people and stuff like that. But even when he was at the lettuce, he ended up being kind of like, a lead and stuff like that. And, and, you know, I heard I heard some stories from some other younger Filipinos that would talk about him and, and say, you know, he was like, he did, he was like, a machine out there. He knew what he was doing and he would have to come back and help people and stuff like that, you know, so, he was good at what he did. You know, in fact, when he got the position at the, when the, the foreman had a or, you know, become a lead. My dad was out irrigating

and he, he had, you know, I guess he set the schedule when the crops needed to be watered or whatever. And he had timed it just right, he got all the lettuce you know, watered and harvested. And right after it got picked. They went on strike, you know, and the boss was so happy that they were able to get the crop so they weren't in so impacted by the strike and stuff like that. And, and his boss, he goes, we're gonna, we're gonna move you up. You know, because—

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:02:04

Wow, so Did—did he—did he go on strike?

**Dan Fallorina** 1:02:10

My dad. Well, I don't think he did. Because he felt it was more important to put food on the table than not, you know. So, yeah, so I'm not too sure. I had to go back and look at I'm thinking 70s-80s something around there.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:02:38

I've heard of this one before. This is C&V lettuce. Is that what it is? Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I've heard of that one.

**Dan Fallorina** 1:02:47

Yes, C&V farms I think and they did lettuce.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:02:50

Do remember any kinds of like, tension around the strike?

**Dan Fallorina** 1:03:00

Well, I know they would—they would talk about, you know, that, you know, people would be walking, you know, walking across the strike. I mean, even United Food, they had strikes and stuff like that. And, you know, I think my parents felt that it was more important to put food on the table and I think they, they crossed the lines or whatever I think. You know, I mean, I've been I've felt like you know, you know, when we were growing up it was hard you know, it wasn't, it wasn't easy for us and—[Dan begins to become tearful].

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:03:29

Yeah, yeah. Your parents worked really hard for you guys.

**Dan Fallorina** 1:04:04

Yeah they did. And it was hard for us to know, because we didn't understand it either. We would, um, we would give them a bad time for sending money away. We would go, why are

you sending money to the Philippines when we are struggling here? I know that that was putting a lot of pressure on them because, you know, they know how hard it is in the Philippines. And you know, and then and then they're hearing from the kids, you know, why are you sending money back home? You know, but they worked hard. And you know—You know, I look at what my mom and dad did. It's like they worked hard, I mean, a lot harder than I thought I'd work. But they always said, you know, work hard when you're younger, because as you get older, you're not going to be able to work as hard. And, you know, when you get older, then you can relax and, and take it easy. And enjoy yourself. And, and I've always taken that to heart. You know, I, I got a lot of those values from my parents, you know, how to start a bank account and stuff like that. And, you know, that yeah, it was hard, you know, and yeah. Sorry. But oh, well. You know, I, you know, I wish I was closer to my dad because my dad had a lot of talents that I didn't—I knew he had talents. I always go, wow how did he learn all these things and stuff like that? And, and I wish I would have been able to, you know, spend more time with him. He was really a quiet man. He was very humble, very humble. He, he didn't, you know, he didn't like, you know, he wasn't flashy or anything like that, you know?

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 1:06:36**

And he probably had so many life experiences where he learned so much stuff, just—the Philippines, traveling all around even before he went into the army.

**Dan Fallorina 1:06:47**

Yeah. Thanks. Yeah. I mean, it seemed like he knew a lot of everything, you know, he knew how to do, you know, plumbing. He knew how to do electric, you know, electrical work. And made these things [refers to tools and crafts that Mariano made], you know, that, like, you know, it's like, you know, how do you come up with that idea? I mean—

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 1:07:04**

He super had a lot of ingenuity. Creativity.

**Dan Fallorina 1:07:08**

Yeah. Yeah. You know, probably, you know, my dad I think only had like a fourth grade education. I think if he would have been able to go to school and, and learn something he could have, you know, really done a lot of neat, interesting things. I remember, in the morning, before we go to work, you know, he could barely read, but he would get paper every morning. And he would sit there and he read out aloud. Very slowly. Like, the tree or the president. You know, and he would sit there and read, you know, you know, you know, he had a lot driving them. He definitely had a lot of drive in him. When we purchased our house out in, in, in Watsonville out there in Freedom that used to be strawberry fields out there where my mom lives down. But my brother and my dad and I were putting the lawn in. And you know, we had

to clear all the rocks and stuff like that. And my dad out worked my brother and I. He outworked us. I mean, we were tired and stuff, and he was out there still, you know, you know, tilling the soil and getting it ready and stuff like that. And my brother and I go, how do you do it dad? And he would just sort of sit there and smile or like laugh at us, you know? And I just remember he was just really strong, you know, power to weight ratio, he was, he was a strong man. And he was really, you know, strong willed and stuff like that. And, and he, he didn't let things you know, stop him. He, he would at least, you know, try to do you know, try it. You know, if you can do it, then, then, then he throw the towel in, but very rarely ever saw him throw the towel in for anything, you know? Yeah.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:09:07

It sounds like your mom, too, was super hard working.

**Dan Fallorina** 1:09:10

Yeah, yeah. Yeah. Like, yeah, like she, you know, it took her a long time to get a driver's license. You know, that's why my, my dad had to, you know, go pick her up and stuff like that. And that's where, where you had to learn how to parallel park before you can get your license and stuff. And my mom would always hit— we would put barrels out, you know, the width of a car and then my mom would have to drive back into stuff like that and, and she would always hit them. I think it took her like three or four tries before she actually got a license. And it was because they're parallel parking is because she couldn't get it. And then she goes out and gets this huge car [laughter]. You know, but yeah.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:10:02

I'm curious to kind of switch over to your experience a little bit about like, what was it like to go to school when you were a young kid here? What was your school like?

**Anna Fallorina** 1:10:16

Actually, wait, let me interrupt here. Yeah, I just want you to know that Dan was actually born in Watsonville at the old, old hospital on Montecito Street. So I just wanted to say that.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:10:26

The old, old hospital. I've heard that before. There's like a hospital and there's a third hospital.

**Anna Fallorina** 1:10:34

The one on Montecito Street. Near the Methodist church actually.

**Dan Fallorina** 1:10:38

Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, my brother was born in Salinas. And then I was born in Watsonville. So you were saying, what was it? Actually, it was— the neighborhood that we grew up in was— I would say it was middle class. You know, maybe, yeah, I'll say middle class or maybe slightly above middle class, because it was a really interesting it was, it was, it was a good street to live in. Or grew up on. There was— the kids were varied in ages and stuff like that. There was like several people my age and stuff like that. I'm still good friends with some of them. But we had Japanese living there, we had, you know, Croatians, we had Mexicans, Filipinos.

**Anna Fallorina** 1:11:37

Mexi-pinos.

**Dan Fallorina** 1:11:39

It was, yeah, it was really, really mixed. We all got along really well. We've played baseball and stuff like that, of course, we, you know, did our racial slurs [laughs] with each other, and stuff like that. But you know, back then it was new, it was for fun and stuff like that. And it wasn't, you know, being derogatory or just being kids and stuff. But, you know, I wasn't really good at sports, because my dad really didn't play any sports, from what I gather, so I wasn't good at sports and stuff like that. But all the neighbor kids were good at it, you know, so I wasn't too good at that I was good at riding my bike. So I'm still good at that. But growing up as kid in Watsonville in that neighborhood, it was really nice there. Where we used to live, the road ended about four houses down, and that was all fields and stuff. So like down on Home Road, out where the trailer park is out there, there used to be an old farm out there, there used to be an old farmhouse out there, and we go out there and there would be eucalyptus trees out there, we'd go out there and play out there. And there was a creek that ran along Home Road. And we used to go in creek and go frog hunting and stuff like that. So we'd catch frogs and stuff like that. And, and where all those houses are, that used to be a field. And there was there's a lot of birds and things like that out there. Because there was this one guy, Mexican guy that was really good at catching things, he would catch birds and you'd find like, you know, little quails and stuff like that. Yeah, he's really interesting. He'd have rabbits and stuff like that. There was rabbits out there. Airport Road that was, it was just a really small, narrow road and we'd walk along there, the road looking for coke bottles and stuff. And then you know, we get the coke bottles and stuff and there was a little store. Actually, it's where Fidel's is. That used to be a little grocery store and we would go in there with our little coke bottles and we you know, get like a nickel for them and we could get candy and stuff like that. You know, but the roads like Airport Road, I don't know if you've been down Larkin Valley Road down by, just right if you pass down the airport there that one section of Larkin Valley Road, that's how Airport Road used to be like and that is to go all the way and connect to Roche Road, which comes out, you know, Airport goes out like this after that. But the original road was where Roche Road

is. Yeah, connected with Freedom. And Green Valley Road here, between Green Valley and Main Street that used to be called Green Valley extension. And that's where the kids used to drag race. Yeah, down there. Yeah. Yeah. Because there was hardly anybody around, you know, you could go there. I have some experiences there [laughs]

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 1:15:12**

Like, what kind of cars did they drag race?

**Dan Fallorina 1:15:16**

Well, you know, just whatever they had back in there. Yeah, yeah. I remember—wow—I was, well, I was racing [laughter]. I was with, I was with a few friends. And, of course, I was in my mom's car, and he was in his mom's car and in my mom's car had more power than his. And we knew it or whatever. And, and we went out on Green Valley, we're coming up from Green Valley Road out towards Main Street, and the only road out there was [Unknown] that came out there. And, you know, he punched it, I punched in, and we were going in and, you know, I past him, no problem, you know. And I looked at the speedometer and, you know, you go down Green Valley starts to go down and starts to come up and [Unknown] Road on the right. I just backed off at 90 miles per hour, just just at 90 miles per hour. And a car pulled out of [Unknown]. And it was a Volkswagen Karmann Ghia he was and he was, he pulled out he was going slow. And I'm at 90 miles per hour. And I'm like going, I'm going to hit this guy. You know, and I, I had talked to a friend like, a couple nights before, and he said he was going really fast and, and he had to stop quick or whatever. And he said, what he did is he slammed on the brakes and just cranked the wheel really hard. So the Karmann Ghia went across I, I swerved to the right. And then the car started fishtailing, to the left, and then to the right. And I was going across, back and forth. And I just remembered seeing the yellow line going like this, you know, as I'm going. And then in my mind, I just remembered to slam on my brakes and crank the wheel. And I slammed on the brakes, and cranked the wheel. And the car's going straight for the embankment. And all of a sudden whoosh. Everything stopped. And I was facing the lane I was in going the opposite direction. And my friends coming down the road. And I like shaking. He goes, you okay?! He goes, you almost got killed! [laughter] So many crazy things were used to do [laughs].

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 1:17:49**

There was like, so much more space for doing it. There was less people around.

**Dan Fallorina 1:17:54**

Yeah, yeah, no, there. There was definitely less people around. It was definitely more rural. I mean, I mean, Freedom Boulevard, there was only one stoplight. You could go like 60 miles per hour down Freedom Boulevard. And it was and that was county back there. You know, and

then downtown Watsonville, At midnight, around midnight, around 11 o'clock or so it was flashing lights and you can just like barrel right down Main Street and yeah. [laughter] Yeah, no, no growing up in Watsonville, that was interesting. You know, being a kid and stuff. There was lots of things to do. It's not like it is now, you know. I mean, you know, parents go, okay, you know, go out and play, you know, go out and have fun and you know, come back when it's night when you're hungry. You know?

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 1:18:48**

Do you remember the Fourth of July parades?

**Dan Fallorina 1:18:51**

Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Yeah, downtown Fourth of July parades. We used to go to that. We used to go down to Salinas to watch the rodeo. The rodeo parade there. My dad used to love taking us there for the rodeo parade. And then the fly-in was a big thing. The fly-in? In Watsonville? You didn't know about that? So up until I think it was maybe the mid 90s, you?

**Anna Fallorina 1:19:25**

No it was later than that.

**Dan Fallorina 1:19:27**

I think like— they used to have an antique fly-in at the airport. All these antique airplanes would fly in from all over the US on Memorial Day. It was tied in with Memorial Day weekend and with the lumberjack feud down in Corralitos. And all these old planes would fly all over. Like the 10 Goose, the Ford Motor, 10 Goose would come in. Sometimes we'd get up, the Goodyear Blimp would come in, we get a lot about old biplanes would come in, you know, the, you know, the old crop duster looking planes, it used to be crop duster planes outside of the airport that would, I don't know, if you've, you've probably seen one of the photographs where he's going underneath the, the telephone lines and a semis coming. Yeah, that crop duster was based out of Watsonville. Yeah, that was taken out on Beach Road. But yeah, the fly-in was a big draw. And it's, it's sad that the city doesn't have it anymore. But I used to go there every year. And you know, like, I'll go over there and I go, Oh, that's Orion. That's, that's experimental plane. And she saw how you know that, you know, because I, every year when I was a kid, I would go out there and for the fly-in, and, and even when I was younger, they— the place— yeah, I'm just rattling off I know, where I think it's a Uhaul storage is right there. And then one spot. That used to be an open field. And during the fly-in, and they also sort of like had that carnival back then. Not back in the 90s, but more towards the 70s. So and, and I remember they, they had a greased pig thing. So they had greased a pig up. And, you know, you, they'd send the kids out there to go grab him, and then you go get a prize. And I remember running out there trying to grab this greased pig. [laughter] I mean, they literally

greased a pig with lard, I mean you couldn't grab on to this pig, you know? That was fun. There was also there was a toy factory that was about, you know, where the Beer Mule is? Right there? There was some buildings there. And there was an a couple other buildings just like there where the Beer Mule—what the Beer Mule looks like or used to look like. And there was some water towers there. And there was a little, we called it the toy factory, but they made toys and stuff like that. And we go over there and look in the garbage cans. So, you know, because, you know, they would, you know, have the rejects and stuff like that, you know, then maybe, you know, something's broken or whatever. And I remember we'd, you know, pick up some of the pieces and then, you know, we could make it work, you know. We'd fix them up in I think there was one like a little helicopter that you'd pull on and it'd take off and stuff like that, you know? And then these, they used to be out on the airport— Yeah. Forgot about the airport. We used to go over there a lot. There used to be a a watch tower, a tower up there. And we used to get up in it. I mean, it was open. I mean, you know, we would climb up and get up at the top look around and stuff like that. There was some water towers out there. We'd climb up in the water towers look around. There was all sorts of fun stuff. Yeah, fun stuff that when you think about it you go, you could have killed yourself.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:23:23

Did you ever have a job when you were like a teenager in town?

**Dan Fallorina** 1:23:28

Okay, so yeah [laughter] jobs in the Watsonville! Yeah, yeah. Okay. I remember when McDonald's opened up in Watsonville in fact it, on Freedom. Like I have a notebook that the owner before he put it in, had stopped off at the gas station over there. We're gonna—Yeah, so I did have several jobs. And lots of all but there was no fast food places around I mean, the nearest fast food place was in Santa Cruz. That was McDonald's until they put the one in Freedom. But I worked in the fields when I was a teenager. I picked strawberries and then I picked beans, cucumbers, and like I said, that was hard work and I said I got to do something better than this.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:24:28

What was it? Like? Can you share a memory of working in the fields?

**Dan Fallorina** 1:24:34

Okay, like strawberries, you know, I was really not that good at it. You know? Because it, you know, and cracks me up we'll go to the farmers market. You know, I'm looking to the strawberries, I got those like terrible, you know, they don't even know how to pack the strawberries! You know? Because it's like when you— when you do the strawberries [laughter] strawberries, you know, it's like, you have to pick them, you know, it's a quick snap of the wrist

to break the berry off the bush and stuff like that. And then, you know, you put it in the baskets and stuff. And you got, you have to pick the berry and you don't, you can't pull off the leaves on it. It has to be quick snap of wrist so it breaks off. Then you put in the baskets, and then you fill up the crate and then once you get it all filled up, then you have to pack it. So you got to do it just right. You know? It's a jigsaw puzzle. You're finding this berry, this berry. So you need to make it look nice and flat along the top, you know, so that way when you put the next crate on top it's not going to get smashed. And it used to drive me nuts because I also went to go work in a grocery store or later on. And first thing they would do, they would get the strawberries and that would be perfectly packed. They would get the strawberries out. They would take them off the top. They would shake them around to make the baskets look bigger and then they would get like another you know half a crate out of a crate, you know? And then they would sell it by the basket and like— I worked so hard to make that crate and you're bruising all the berries and you know so by time, you know, you get the berries at the grocery store they were all mangled and bruised, you know?

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 1:26:23**

Oh man, strawberries are like so delicate.

**Anna Fallorina 1:26:27**

Yeah, yeah. So yeah, so you know, I picked strawberries. Raspberries, that was hard too because you're picking all these little berries and you're picking for, you know, hours and you maybe get like half a crate? [laughter] You know? At least strawberries were a little bit bigger and then with raspberries you get stuck with the stickers and stuff, you know. Cucumbers that was hard too because they were heavy, you know. When you pick them up and you put them in a little container then you would stick them in a bigger bin and stuff like that. But yeah, I remember working out there, out on Paulson Road picking cucumbers, you know. And, you know, picking strawberries, listening to music on a transistor radio and stuff like that. You know? We'd have strawberry fights out there. [laughter] Yeah, it'd be, you know, people would look for the, you know, the most moldy strawberry to throw. They would hit you and they would splatter and they would make them nice strawberry stain. But, you know, you'd, you know, be picking strawberries and, you know, you'd be kneeling and and stuff like that. Your hands would you know have all these marks and all these strawberry marks from all the cannery strawberries—moldy strawberries. Oh, that's why I don't eat strawberry jam. [Laughter] He eats strawberries, but not strawberry jam.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds 1:27:58**

I heard from someone else who worked in strawberries when she was—picked strawberries and she said she has hated them for so long. Now she likes them again.

**Anna Fallorina 1:28:08**

Okay, well with strawberry jam or—Okay, so they we call it the canneries. So the—so you had the regular, you know, the— again the crates of fresh strawberries. Those crates used to be bigger. The baskets used to be square and, and so they made them the smaller now so they're not as— but anyway, you had those were for regular markets. And then you had the cannery berries. And that was in wooden boxes. And basically you put everything in there that you could find [laughter]. Moldy strawberries! Smashed strawberries, this strawberries! And you just put everything in there and that was going for jam and juice. [laughter] And that's why I don't eat strawberry jam. But most young people worked in the fields. Most people our age worked in the fields if they lived in this area. Yeah. And those were the jobs but then you worked at the gas station.

**Dan Fallorina 1:29:24**

Yeah, well, so then I got smarter and I said well, you know, I gotta get out of the strawberries and again by then, you know, that was mainly in junior high. And younger is when I went to the strawberries probably. I probably started working in the strawberries probably 12 to 14. Probably 12 to 14 underneath the table. Then I think 15, I guess you got a work permit or whatever. That's when I was doing the cannery berries [laughter]. And then, then when I got into high school, then I got my license, my brother worked at a gas station on—out on East Lake. It was Calhoun's Texaco Station. It is right across from Ace Hardware. It's, I think it's sort of a vacant lot right now. And there's a, I think some office buildings in the back. That used to be a carwash, and I started working there in the carwash, so I was, I was kind of like a little attendant there. There was kind of like a little room there. And it was one of the old fashioned car washes, where you drove your car in, and it had the big old brushes that went around and stuff like that. And of course, it didn't do that well cleaning the cars. So we have to go in there and do like a pre-wash and, you know, get underneath and get it going before we actually ran the car through. But that was a fun job, because that was a summer job, you know. It was fun because every once a while, you got to drive some nice cars. You know, I remember driving a Rolls Royce, you know, and a Corvette and some, some really nice cars going in there. You know. And so I worked there in the summer I think in my sophomore year or so. And then I got a job at a gas station out on Freedom Boulevard near where Speedy Oil Change is. That used to be a gas station then I worked there for about a year or so. And then I worked out on the gas station out here on 129 where Chevron station is out there. That used to be a full service gas station. That's where—of course the gas stations I'm talking about—you did the full service . You know, you know, change tires, you fix tires, you go in, somebody comes in you know you fill up the tank, you clean the windows, you check the tire pressure, you know? You'd check underneath the hood if they wanted, you know, if they need a quart of oil, check the oil and stuff like that. So it was the full service. It was pretty neat. Then after I did that, one of my friends, when I was working in the strawberries, wanted a job really bad and we got him— he

wanted to pick strawberries, he came out and picked, that was Dave Mangan, he came out and picked strawberries for a couple days. And he couldn't do it or whatever. And so he threw the towel in but, you know, a couple years, two, three years later, so he was working in a grocery store. And he told me, hey, you know, they're looking for a courtesy clerk, you know, by then I was—Yeah, I was, I think I was like, going to Cabrillo at that time. And I and I was like, hey, that sounds like that'd be a good thing. These grocery stores paid good money back then, you know. So then I worked at Freedom Food Center that is now a body shop off Freedom Boulevard. And so, I worked there for a couple years there. That was a good job, you know? Yeah, I mean, nothing was as hard as working in the fields. You know. So, so, you know, working at the gas station or working you know, you know, they were nothing compared to working out in the fields. And then after that I, you know, when I was going to college, I went to Cabrillo, got a couple degrees in electronics, technology and electrical servicing in technology. Working on TVs and stuff like that and fixing TVs and stereos. And then I went to work for National Cash Register and a company called Quantum working on repairing large computer systems that were taking, basically back then, information off magnetic tape and putting it in the microfiche. And so that's what our company did. And then after that, I worked there for a couple years and go, you know, I want to be an engineer. So I decided to go back to school and went back. I quit work cold turkey and went back to school full time. So I went to San Jose State for a semester, full time, and then I decided to do temporary work during the break, you know, so I could make a little extra money before I would go back to school. And then I landed this temporary job at a company called is called Cirrus Systems. And then it became Victor Technologies, but it was one of the first PCs, you know, and it, it was more powerful than the IBM PC that came out. In fact, we're, I think we're out just before them. And it was, it was way ahead of its time. It had high resolution. It had a hard disk drive. It at two floppy disk drives. It had adjustable monitor. It had voice capabilities and stuff. And we got our marketed by IBM, but, but it was a fantastic system and stuff like that. So anyway, I saw that the company was, was way ahead of its time, and it looked like that would be a good place to work. So I ended up going on board with them. They, they actually made me a permanent employee, and I was working, it was in the burnin area where they basically took all the computers that were built up, and then we just ran a tests on it until they you know, you know, for like a 24 hour period, and if they passed they would ship them. So I worked in that area. And the company was just starting out, the the CEO that started the company was Chuck Peddle, that worked at Commodore, that developed the Commodore 64. It was the first little PC was like this big. It was like 16k of memory or whatever. But he branched off and started this company. And then and with a few other engineers, and it looked like a great job opportunity. So that's why I decided to you know, go on board with them. And when I was working there, and the burnin, the systems would fail. And then they had people just randomly replacing things and stuff like that. And I was telling one of the guys there, you know, one of the other engineers, I go, you know, you need some technicians in there, understand how the computer works and stuff like

that, to debug the systems and stuff. So, you know, I talked to this one guy, and he had, he had some ins with the other engineers and stuff like that, and after, you know, talking several months to this guy, and he said, you know, we're gonna get a department started and stuff like that. And then all sudden, one day, one of the managers comes down, he goes, you, you, and you. And you. There was three of us, they picked us three, and they said, we're going to train you guys how to fix the computers and stuff like that, you know? So then I helped start that department. And so we were fixing, debugging computers and stuff like that. And then and then, then we trained in other field service engineers and stuff like that and stuff. So did that that. And then am I supposed to be talking? [laughter] So, while I was doing that, you know, I helped start that department stuff. And there was another guy, a physics guy from that was going to UCSC. And he was working in the Quality Engineering Department. And he was helping out this one engineer. Well, he had to quit school and go back to back East. I guess his father wasn't doing well. So he recommended me for his position. And then I started working with a quality test engineer, I was working in a testing engineering department and stuff. So I was going down to vendors, like down in Chatsworth, you know, so this way, I really got to do business trips, you know, which was pretty neat. And you know, a little expense account, you know. So I got to do a little traveling. So we'd go down to Simi Valley, well, Chatsworth down there, that's where they made the disk drives and we had some problems with disk drives out there. And we'd go down there and you know, work with them, trying to solve the problems there and then go up to Washington to a company called Keytronics where they made keyboards and stuff and you know, did stuff like that. Then the company started having problems. We well, Cirrus Systems and there was a company called Victor business machines. You probably see their calculators around, but they had exclusive, Victor business machines had exclusive rights to sell the computers in, in the US, and then we were selling the Cirrus brand in, in Europe. It really took off in Europe. It was doing really well in Europe, but the computers here in the states, the sales reps didn't know what to do with a PC, and they were buying the computers, but they were storing them, and they weren't really selling them. And all of a sudden the bottom dropped out. IBM started doing the marketing scheme. And then and we lost the market in the US and stuff. And then the company started having some financial difficulties. And there, we didn't get paid for a few times, a few few months, and I had just purchased a house, also. And I'm like, how am I gonna make these house payments and stuff? And there was this, when I was working in a test in the quality engineering department, I would qualify, or, you know, test stations to make sure that they were, they're of a higher standard. And so when they would test product, there would be okay, so I do audits on the, on the test equipment. And I would find these problems with in, during my audit, and I would give the test engineer a bad time and go, hey, you know, you know, clams breaking and this and that, you know, this, this is falling apart, you know. You guys got to, you know, get this looking good. I mean, we can't be rejecting disk drives because, you know, the equipment's faulty, and stuff. And, you know, they're not gonna want to take these drives back up, they see that the

equipment is not functioning like it should be, you know, so I used to give this guy a bad time. And he'd be like AH , you know, and so you, he'd fix them and stuff like that. Well, he left the company and went to Plantronics. And he actually became the test manager over there. And he, he got a hold of me and said, hey, Dan, you know, I'm looking for, you know, a test engineer to come work for me, I go, why would I go work for you? I go, you know, you have all this equipment that's falling apart and stuff like that. And, you know, I'd always be giving you a bad time. He goes, yes, exactly. He goes, that's why I want you to come and work for me, because I know that you, you're efficient. You're looking for high quality and high standards and stuff. He goes, I want you to come over and work for me, you know. So now, you know, I hemmed and hawed and stuff like that. And after missing a few paychecks and stuff like that, and, and, and just this again, this was Plantronics was, was there in Santa Cruz, and they, they I don't know if you know, what surface mount technology is? Well, that's what all the electronics is now then it's little chips that are put onto your circuit boards. Plantronics was one of the first companies in the US to use that technology. You know, that's because they have it for the headsets and make it a smaller headset. So you would have a big box. So anyway, they had that technology and stuff. And he said he wanted me to work with that surface mount technology, and, and also work in the test department and also, you know, working with the quality. So I ended up going over there and working for them. And then that was a good job. I learned a lot of stuff there. And then, of course, then they had decided, well, then I was head of the surface mount technology line. So that's where they were using the pick and place equipment. So we would place the devices on the circuit boards, and then we would test them. So I was responsible for both having the components put onto the printed circuit boards and having them tested. Well, what happened was that we had designed a whole line to, you know, streamline it and to make it more efficient and to, you know, produce more boards and stuff. Well, then management decided, you know, we did this whole presentation for management and stuff like that. And they decided to move the operations to Mexico. You know, and we had done all that work and stuff. And then when they decided that, they decided that they were going to reduce their workforce here in Santa Cruz. So, so I got laid off, and then I got laid off and then didn't know what I was gonna do. And then in Watsonville, Tandem Computers, is where Fox is right now, had their manufacturing they had started the manufacturing there and that was the world headquarters for the manufacturing. And before I left Victor Technologies when I was starting with that one department, before I left, I was training this one young guy that just got out of school and stuff. And I was showing him the ropes and how to fix computers and stuff. Well, he left there, you know, I hadn't seen him for a while. And he went to work for Tandem Computers. And I was walking through during the interview process and stuff, and he saw me and he goes, hey, Dan, what are you doing? I go, well looking for a job and stuff like that. And, and he—so, you know, we talked a little bit and stuff. And he told his supervisor, he goes, you should hire this guy. He knows what he's doing and stuff like that, you know, so they ended up hiring me. And then I went in and started working for Tandem. And then I worked in

the Watsonville facility until they closed that down. And then when they closed that down, I didn't know if I would have a job or not. And then they, because they sold the plant to a company called SEI. And then, but they had first dibs on all the employees. Well they skipped over me. And then I was able to be picked up by a Tandem up in Cupertino. And then so I went up there and started working for them. And then, I mean, it was the same company, but then I was interfacing with the Watsonville facility. And then, then Tandem became Compaq. And then Compaq became HP. And so I ended up working with HP. So for the total period, I was with them for 25 years. And then I, then I retired in 2010. Yeah.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:46:58

Were you living in Watsonville this whole time?

**Dan Fallorina** 1:47:01

Yeah, well except for when I went up to San Jose State. When I went up, when I got my first job, and when I worked up in Mountain View, I was working in Mountain View, and then I moved up to San Jose for a couple years. So two, three years I was up in San Jose, and when I was going to school and and then when I started working in Scotts Valley at Victor Technologies, that's when I purchased the house in Watsonville. And then I've been here ever since.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:47:31

Yeah. Wow. When did you guys meet?

**Anna Fallorina** 1:47:34

In '98 on a bicycle.

**Dan Fallorina** 1:47:37

On a bicycle through a mutual friend. Yeah, yeah. So yeah.

**Anna Fallorina** 1:47:44

I had a flat tire. He helped me fix it.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:47:49

That's a meet cute.

**Anna Fallorina** 1:47:51

Is that what they call that?

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:47:52

Yeah it's like a cute— like a rom-com.

**Anna Fallorina** 1:47:55

Yeah, it's totally like a rom-com. You followed me for the next 75 miles right?

**Dan Fallorina** 1:47:55

Yeah, it was a 100 mile ride. Well, well, I was supposed to meet a friend. And my friend had invited me to go down the night before. And I said, no, I'll just drive down the next morning. You know, and I got there a little late, well I was like, 10 minutes late. But, you know, you know, I should have remembered Jody's always— She's always late, you know. So I take off on this ride trying to catch these guys. You know. And luckily, the ride was a figure eight. And I started on the second loop. And I saw these two people on the side of the road. And one person was, you know, trying to fix a flat tire and the other one was looking on and I rode by and I go, you guys need any help? And, and she goes, no, we're fine, you know. And so I, you know, started pedaling away, the girl that was down fixing the flat looks up and goes, oh Dan, and it was my friend Jody, you know, so I stopped, you know, turned around and stopped and helped them in there. They couldn't get the tire back onto the rim. And that was, you know, that was that was a problem. And then I got the tire back on. It took me a while to get done. And then and then then I was supposed to ride with them anyway, so it wasn't following you [laughter]. So, so at the end of the ride and stuff like that, you know, I met her whole family that day. Except for her father. Yeah, well, your brother— Yeah, yeah. Yeah, so I met her whole family, except for her dad that same day. I didn't know what I was getting into. No, I was going, should I ask her for number? I go, uh, nah. But he didn't. And then Jody wouldn't give it to him for like three weeks? Because she's like, No, I haven't asked Anna. I can't give her phone number without asking her. Yeah. But since that. It was a month later and then we've been together ever since. I was living in Santa Barbara and he was living here. But we went back and forth for the first year. And finally it's like, okay, I'm moving up there. This is ridiculous. So yeah, the first date you tell her about the first date, right? Which, oh, the first date? Oh, yeah. He had done—we met in Paso Robles again.

**Dan Fallorina** 1:50:30

And yeah, so yeah, the ride we met at was in a little town called Crespin just outside of Paso Robles.

**Anna Fallorina** 1:50:37

And then there was another ride that started out of Paso. Yeah it was called the Central Coast Double. So it's a 200 mile bike ride. 200 miles, and I drove up to meet him for dinner [laughter] and he still had energy to you know, have a conversation at dinner. And this was not— the Central Coast Double is not an easy 200 mile bike ride. So basically, the course is you start at

Paso Robles, you go over this one road called Santa Rosa Creek Road out to Cambria, then you go up the coast, and up Highway One, up over Nacimiento Road, down into Hunter Liggett. And then you work your way down, out towards Paso Robles. But that year, there was a storm and had washed out Highway One. So they had us start in Paso Robles. We had to go up. I forget. I think it was. What's it like out there? Like Nacimiento? Nacimiento? like San Antonio, you? Yeah, and then we go out to our Hunter Liggett. Over, down, up and over, down to Highway One. Turn around and go back up Nacimiento Road and come back down. And then back to Paso Robles. And that was a super hard ride. And I'm thinking, I go we started at I think it was five in the morning. And, and I told her I was gonna meet you, eight or 8:30 or eight o'clock. And I'm going, this is a hard ride. I go, I got to be back before eight o'clock so I can shower and be ready for the first date, you know? Yeah, because I had a—I go oh, can you come up? I should be done with this ride. Yeah, I was pedaling fast that day. As fast as I could. Anyway, yeah. Yeah. Do you have any kids? No, we met later in life.

**Dan Fallorina** 1:53:05

She's just, she was a schoolteacher.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:53:12

Wonderful. Well, I do have another question. It's not super related to the topics at hand. I think we can probably wrap it up. I wanted to ask, I know your dad wasn't living in Watsonville during the race riots or anything like that, but since it's one of the focuses of this project, I wanted to ask if you ever heard about those, or if you learned about them later in life?

**Dan Fallorina** 1:53:40

Okay. I, my dad did always caution us about, you know, if there was a fight or anything, turn around and go the other way. Because apparently one of his friends was watching it or whether maybe at one of these riots or, or at a fight or something like that, and got hit over the head with a pipe and was killed. So, yeah, so he mentioned he, he didn't like, you know, fights or anything like that. And he said, You know, if there's trouble, just leave. Don't, don't stick around or don't be involved in, in these things. So he must have seen some of those things. And and I wouldn't doubt if he was working up in this area, because like I said, when, you know, he did the strawberries and stuff like that. And then he worked, he went right over into the apples that and you know, they were thinning and picking apples and he knew what he was doing. So you know, so I think that, you know, probably after the season ended down there. He probably came up here and worked in apples and stuff like that. So he could have been in this area during that time. You know, I mean, it's it's right about time that he was here, you know, when he first came up, you know?

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:55:04

When did you hear about the riots? That like, that they happened? When did you learn that?

**Anna Fallorina** 1:55:09

Not until a few years ago. Yeah.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:55:12

Were you surprised?

**Dan Fallorina** 1:55:13

Yeah, yeah. But I was, I was surprised. But then I sort of wasn't. I knew that there was some, you know, racial tensions and stuff like that. I mean, even when I was a kid, I remember a kid throwing a rock at my mom and I and it hitting my mom in the back, you know? And, you know, my mom always said, you know, just, you know, just, you know, walk away, don't don't, don't try to, you know, be a hero. Because, you know, you don't want to get hurt, you know, these people could hurt you, you know. So I think that was part of the fear is like, you know, you know, you know, these things happen. And so—

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:55:57

yeah. It's interesting, a lot of people that we've interviewed, like, it's the same thing they didn't know about it, you know, like until really recently, yeah, really, really recently.

**Anna Fallorina** 1:56:11

Which is why it's good that they're doing this project, because it's important to know the history.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:56:15

It's important to know it. But I think the cool thing about the project is that it's just so much more, the actual life in history is just so much more expansive than that one thing that happened. Like, people were doing so much more stuff that is important to know about. Working, starting families and having fun, and being, you know, just living. So I think that's the cool thing about the interviews too. Yeah. I think when we first started, especially, you know, because Roy has the Tobera Project, he was like, you want to find out about the riots, because nobody really knows that much about it.

**Dan Fallorina** 1:56:59

Yeah. And all the people are gone.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:57:01

But then when you actually interview people, there's like, a lot more topics to talk about. Yeah, yeah. It's hard to find out about the riots. But—

**Dan Fallorina** 1:57:16

Yeah, but you find out a lot about a lot, a lot of stuff. Yeah.

**Anna Fallorina** 1:57:21

You also probably find out about this undercurrent of like, like you were talking about where you just, if it happens, you just keep going. And don't— you just keep going. Because you have to ignore it. Or it could just—

**Dan Fallorina** 1:57:39

It could be it could be your survival.

**Anna Fallorina** 1:57:41

Yeah. There is that element of survival. And also, you know, when you're trying to put food on the table, like you talked about with your parents, you know, those larger political issues don't play in your regular life.

**Meleia Simon-Reynolds** 1:57:57

Yeah, that's how it is. Well, I'm going to stop the recording. That was really wonderful.