

**Re/Collecting Project: An Ethnic Studies Memory Project of California's Central Coast
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo**

**Transcript of interview conducted with
Pauline Bacolot Hernandez
by Rosalie Marquez and Hailee Hansen**

**September 2, 2012
Santa Maria, California**

[00:00:00 WS400028.WMA]

Pauline Hernandez: They sent us a letter explaining it and so then that was just the receipt and then the certification of his death. This is just like his discharge papers.

Rosalie Marquez: From the military? He was in the military?

PH: Uh huh. Uh huh.

RM: Oh good, we can get that.

PH: And this is a letter from Harry Truman. [Item USA-CA-09022012-C0002-08 in Pauline Bacolot Hernandez Collection]

RM: Oh good.

PH: And then this—

RM: This is from your family then?

PH: Well, no, actually that's my mom and I think my brother Tony. I don't know if you know Tony? [Item USA-CA-09022012-C0002-09 in Pauline Bacolot Hernandez Collection]

RM: Yes, I do.

PH: And then that's my Aunt Inez. She was married to Honorio Carlon. And that's Junior Carlon, and then my Aunt Rachel [Bueno Bragado], and I think that's Joanne [Brado].

RM: She can scan that and then these pictures here, too. Let me get you a chair here.

[Group talking/introductions 0:55-01:20]

Hailee Hansen: Ok, so what pictures do you—? Are you going to do all of these?

PH: Well, I have one of my mom and dad and it would've been my oldest brother but he died during World War II of tuberculosis. He was like the first child. [Item USA-CA-09022012-C0002-01 in Pauline Bacolot Hernandez Collection]

HH: Oh, how old was he?

PH: He was eighteen months old.

HH: Can we take it out or do you want me to take it—

PH: Yeah, this one is actually only a scanned copy itself.

HH: Oh, ok. Thank you. Ok so it's your mom, dad, and brother right?

PH: Uh huh.

HH: I'm gonna try and scan it in. What's the spelling of your name?

PH: My name?

HH: Mhmm.

PH: Pauline. P-A-U-L-I-N-E.

HH: And then the last name?

PH: My maiden name is Bacolot, B-A-C-O-L-O-T.

HH: And then your mother, father, and brother's name.

PH: Ok, my father was Baldomero, B-A-L-D-O-M-E-R-O. Lopez Bacolot.

HH: Ok, wow. Ok and your mom?

PH: My mom was Henrietta.

HH: Mhmm. N-R-I?

PH: E-T-T-A. Bueno Bacolot.

HH: Maro?

PH: Bueno. Good, like "good" in Spanish.

HH: Oh, yeah. Ok and your brother's name?

PH: It was Theodore Bueno Bacolot.

HH: Ok and you said he died in World War II.

PH: He died during World War II.

HH: At what age did you say?

PH: He was eighteen months old.

HH: I'm just gonna scan this in here. Do you know the date this picture was taken?

PH: No, I haven't any idea. It might have been 1943, because—

HH: Like 1940s, maybe?

PH: Yeah, well, he was born in '42, so it might—he looks like he was a year old, so it was shortly before he died. He was only alive for eighteen months, so—

HH: Do you know where the picture was taken?

PH: No.

HH: Ok, do you know—maybe in this area? Do you know where your brother was born?

PH: You know it may have been here because he was buried here—

HH: Ok, so maybe like—

PH: But I have my two older siblings were not born in California and they were the only ones, and he wasn't because they migrated. I think my parents married in Payette, Idaho in 1942.

HH: So but he was born here?

PH: He wasn't—I don't think Teddy was born here. He was buried here.

HH: Ok.

PH: And I have two older siblings after him—one was, I don't think they were born in Santa Maria either. Jimmy was born in Idaho? See, Mary would know, she's here—

HH: We can come back to it. If you think of where it could be or Mary knows where it is we can write it down later.

[inaudible discussion WS400028.WMA 00:06:24-00:06:37]

HH: Who was born in Santa Maria?

PH: Most of us were born in—I mean I know from the eighth one down, we were all born in Santa Maria.

HH: Oh, ok. Do you know who gave you this picture or where this picture's from? Because you scanned it right?

PH: I scanned it from a small picture—my sister may have had it. My sister **Mary** may have had the original.

HH: Ok, and it was originally black and white, do you know?

PH: Mhmm.

HH: What's the next one you would like to do?

PH: Oh, ok, because I didn't bring—we don't have any old pictures of my parents. This is, these are—[Item USA-CA-09022012-C0002-02 in Pauline Bacolot Hernandez Collection]

Unidentified: She was born here.

HH: Was Teddy maybe then? Oh no, Teddy wasn't, huh?

PH: I don't know where he was born. She might know though.

Unidentified: Do you want me to ask her again?

PH: Yeah. Have her come over here.

Grace Yeh: Hailee, are you ok typing everything up?

HH: Yeah.

GY: Anything that's not David or Rosalie's is pretty much ours. If you could just put everything in your car?

HH: Sure.

GY: Thank you so much.

PH: Do you want this out? I didn't know if it fits.

HH: If you can't, we can actually take a picture of it if that's easier for you.

PH: Yeah, cause I don't know if it'll fit on your scanner.

HH: David [Gillette], can you take a picture of this one for her?

David Gillette: Yeah, what size?

HH: We have an easel right here so he can set it up on there and he can just take a picture of it. Do you know, is that just a family portrait?

Unidentified: Only Uncle Jimmy was born in Idaho.

PH: Ok, so Teddy was born in Santa Maria. Oh that means I could probably get his birth certificate.

HH: So do you think that picture was taken in Santa Maria?

PH: Yes. She might have been visiting when she had Jimmy, she might have gone to visit wherever the rest of her family was.

HH: Can you name everyone, do you think, in that picture?

PH: Yes.

HH: Maybe from top row—

PH: Oh the top row? Ok, Leonard.

HH: Leonard who?

PH: Bueno Bacolot. The next one is Rosita—

HH: Bueno—?

PH: Bueno, uh huh.

[WS400028.WMA 00:10:00]

HH: And then....

PH: And then Larry.

HH: Same last name?

PH: His middle name was Anthony.

HH: Ok. And then is he Bueno or no Bueno?

PH: No Bueno. The rest are all Bacolot.

HH: No Bueno?

PH: Just Larry. No Bueno. And then the next one on the top row is Tony and he's Bueno Bacolot.

Unidentified: And then Frank.

HH: Frank?

PH: Uh huh.

Unidentified: Frank David.

HH: And he's still in the top row?

PH: Uh huh.

HH: Did you say Frank David?

PH: Uh huh.

HH: Ok.

PH: Bacolot. And then Mary. I think hers was Mary Inez Bueno Bacolot. Then I don't know how you want to do that, in the middle or just go up?

HH: Is it just—oh, we'll just do bottom row I guess. We'll stick him between the two ladies.

PH: It'll be Sally.

HH: Sally who?

PH: It's Dolores Bacolot. And then Henrietta Bueno Bacolot.

HH: Is that your?—

PH: My mom. And Jimmy Bueno Bacolot.

HH: Ok.

PH: And Pauline Angela Bacolot.

HH: Is that you?

PH: Mhmm.

HH: Oh! And do you know when this was taken?

PH: It was taken, I believe in 19—it may have been in 1982 or '83.

HH: Ok. And do you know where?

PH: Yes, at St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church.

HH: In Santa Maria?

PH: Uh huh.

HH: Do you know who took it?

PH: No, they had somebody that was taking family portraits so we don't know—

HH: Ok, so somebody like a professional photographer. Ok, and that's an actual photograph right? It's not a—

PH: Actually it's a copy of one.

HH: Oh, is it a scanned one?

PH: No.

HH: No but it's like—Ok. Perfect. Is there anything else to say about it, other than family portrait?

PH: It's the only family portrait that we have I think.

HH: Oh it is?

PH: Yeah.

HH: Ok.

PH: Yeah, that we're aware of.

HH: Wow.

PH: With all of us anyway.

HH: Ok, and then what's the third thing you have.

PH: The only other thing that I have are documents, I don't know if you wanted them?

HH: Yeah.

Unidentified: Show her that Harry Truman letter! [Item USA-CA-09022012-C0002-08 from Pauline Bacolot Hernandez Collection]

PH: I have my—

HH: Ok, so Harry Truman letter? Is that what it is?

PH: Well, I have my Dad's—it wasn't a birth certificate—because they said they couldn't find where his records were, it was destroyed in World War I, so the church sent us a letter and then they just certified that. So this is what we got in place of his birth certificate from the church. [Item USA-CA-09022012-C0002-05 from Pauline Bacolot Hernandez Collection]

HH: Is it a copy too?

PH: Yeah.

HH: Ok, can I scan it? That one's really neat, too.

PH: This is the letter from the—I just actually have the photograph, I scanned the original. That's the letter they sent saying that the records were destroyed.

HH: So it's a letter from who?

PH: From the—I think it's the diocese, I'm not sure.

HH: Who is it to?

PH: It was sent to us with a copy of the receipt and what they gave as his birth certificate, just certifying his birth because—[Item USA-CA-09022012-C0002-04 from Pauline Bacolot Hernandez Collection]

HH: Is it to his children though?

PH: No, he had requested a copy so it was to him.

HH: I'm trying to decide what to title it. Do you know what we would call it?

PH: Um—[to unidentified] are you going to be alone, too? Your sister—where's your sister?

Unidentified: She said **Marta** [?] would take care of it.

PH: [to unidentified] Oh ok I know, that's what my sisters are telling me too. So shall we dance? Shall we dance ladies? [to HH] Sorry, we used to dance together, the three of us.

HH: Oh, how neat.

PH: Uh, let me see what it would be. It was 'letter in response to request for birth certificate'? [Item USA-CA-09022012-C0002-03 from Pauline Bacolot Hernandez Collection]

HH: Ok. Letter in—

PH: To request for a birth certificate.

HH: Ok, so it was your father right?

PH: Yeah.

HH: Ok, what was his name again?

PH: Baldomero. And when we got—I don't know where the name change came in. When he migrated to the United States he went by Baldomero. And I knew about the other name, he went by Ubaldo too so the birth, the records—

HH: And it was lost right? His original was lost?

PH: Mhmm.

HH: And it was lost during World War II?

PH: The letter says—the letter explains it that the records were destroyed during the last World War. It references 'the War', so I'm assuming that since this was in the 70s and they're saying 'last World War,' it was World War II.

HH: I guess maybe—it would have a date on the letter right? Or do you know—

PH: The stamp has a date, it was 1970.

HH: Where was he living at the time, do you know?

PH: The address? Where he lived at? When he requested it? Is 500 Northwestern in Santa Maria.

HH: Mount Western?

PH: Northwestern Avenue.

HH: Santa Maria. Ok. I'm just going to scan it in and then we can talk a little bit about that one. Here's this one, and then can we scan that copy too?

PH: Ok, and this is just a copy of the receipt for the birth certificate. This is a copy of the receipt that they sent. [Item USA-CA-09022012-C0002-04 from Pauline Bacolot Hernandez Collection]

HH: I don't think—there's no different information, right? That would go to this picture? This document versus the other one? It's going to be same address, same year data?

PH: Yes, the three of the documents were together.

HH: Ok so all I have to do is just scan these and then—ok and this one's the actual like fake—

PH: This is what was issued, yeah—

HH: Issued—so it's not a birth certificate? It's just like a—

PH: It's from the parish, I guess where he was baptized and then there were the documents, I guess from the church. The letter explains why.

[WS400028.WMA 00:20:00]

HH: Yeah. Ok, so it's like an issued birth certificate from the Parish. But it's not really a birth certificate?

PH: Actually, it's just certifying his birth.

HH: Oh, ok. Does it have—who are the—who is his father and mother? Can you tell what those are?

PH: Yes. It was Valerino, V-A-L-E-R-I-N-O Bacolot.

HH: Is that his dad?

PH: Yeah, that's his dad.

HH: And then the mother?

PH: Maria Lopez.

HH: Ok. Does it have his birth date on it? I'm guessing—

PH: May 16, 1907. He was baptized on June—on May 18, 1907. So it's a certificate of baptism I guess, maybe.

HH: You said May 18th right? Same year he was born?

PH: Yes, 1907.

HH: 1907. Ok, so let me scan that one now. Here's this one. So does your sister have all the original copies of these?

PH: You know I have the originals of these, I just scanned them last night real quick. I didn't know to bring the originals or not?

HH: Oh no, it's fine, it works. They're good scans of them, They look good.

PH: Yeah, because it's really, I mean they were pretty damaged. This is like that old glossy paper and they've been folded in threes—

HH: Oh, so it's about to rip, huh?

PH: Yeah.

HH: What's the next thing—

PH: These are his military records. A copy of his DD 214. [Item USA-CA-09022012-C0002-06 from Pauline Bacolot Hernandez Collection]

HH: DD-what fourteen?

PH: DD 214, it's his discharge. Then the next one—

HH: Here, let me scan that one. Oh, you need this one back. And so this is his discharge?

PH: Yeah that's a copy of his discharge paper.

HH: Do you know why he was discharged?

PH: It was an honorable discharge—

HH: Ok.

PH: His service time was up.

HH: I'm sure it says on here, but do you know when it was?

PH: Yeah, it's on there, I'd have to look at it. I think it was 1945 but—oh right here, December 22nd—

Unidentified: Honorable discharge, December 22, 1945.

HH: December 22nd?

PH: Uh huh.

HH: Ok. Wait so how come, ok so his name is Baldomero and then your mom's name is—

PH: Henrietta.

HH: Bueno—

PH: Bueno Bac—well they carry, like how they hyphenate their names? So—

HH: But his name never had Bal—

PH: Ubaldo?

HH: Or—he was never Baco—

PH: We always knew him as Baldomero. It wasn't until later on that we knew his other name was Ubaldo—or that his birth-given name was Ubaldo so we don't know—

HH: Ok.

PH: Now everybody, all his friends that we knew and stuff knew him just as Baldo, and he went by Baldomero, so it's like an AKA almost. So I don't know, I'd have to do some research on why—you know how people had changed their names or went by different names.

HH: Here's this one. And then this is like a certificate of it or—

PH: Yeah, that's just a letter of his honorable discharge.

HH: Ok. Where was he based? Where was the base that he—

PH: It looks like he, well it depends—where he was in combat or where? When he first went in—

HH: He was—did he fight in World War II?

PH: Yes, and he was stationed—I mean he was sent to New Guinea.

HH: Was he stationed there?

PH: During his combat or—

HH: Anytime, I guess. At one time he was in New Guinea, right?

PH: Uh huh. I don't know where his training was, where he was sent, where he came back when he was—the separation was at Center Fort Lewis, Washington.

HH: Ok.

PH: Oh, he was stationed in Fort Douglas, it says. Fort Douglas, Utah, originally. And they separated in—

HH: Fort Douglas, Washington?

PH: Uh huh, was his original station, then he was sent to New Guinea and then he was discharged and sent to Center Fort Lewis, Washington.

HH: Ok, so first, second—ok. Cool. Let me give you this one back. Ok, and then what's after this?

PH: This is just, I guess, just like a letter of acknowledgement from Harry Truman, from President Truman in recognition of their service. [Item USA-CA-09022012-C0002-08 from Pauline Bacolot Hernandez Collection]

HH: That's neat. It's just recognition of his service?

PH: Uh huh.

HH: Was he living in Santa Maria when he received this letter?

PH: Um, 1945? He might have been—yeah, because Mary—because they were already here. Teddy died in '44 and Mary was born here. He probably was. I'm not sure, but he probably was here.

[00:30:00 WS400028.WMA]

HH: Ok. Is there a date for this somewhere, or do you know when he got it maybe?

PH: It came probably—I don't know, it would have been in 1945. It was after his service. Either that or at the time that he was discharged. They spelt his name wrong too. In those days they didn't have like—you know, everything was hand-typed.

HH: So was he Baldomero Bacolot?

PH: Uh huh.

HH: Ok. So what's the next thing?

PH: Um, that's all I have. I have this photo. [Item USA-CA-09022012-C0002-09 from Pauline Bacolot Hernandez Collection]

HH: Oh, that's nice.

PH: But—we don't know. I mean I have a list of the ones I know that are in there.

HH: Do you know the names?

PH: Mhmm.

HH: Ok, we can—can I scan it then? Thank you. Do you mind if I take it out or do you want it left in?

PH: Oh no, take it—

HH: Ok. I'm guessing you can't name everyone.

PH: I only have a—I have a list actually because I have a picture that I had put numbers on to try to—

HH: Do you know what year it was taken? Is this a family portrait, just different?—

PH: No, no. It was a gathering of the Filipinos. I know that some of them—two of my mom's sisters are in there, and two of my cousins who are also married to Filipinos and then there's—I know my brother's godmother is in there. I can only identify probably eight people.

HH: And then you don't know when it was taken or you do?

PH: No.

HH: Do you have an idea maybe?

PH: Well, let me see, I have an idea. Junior was born in 19—let's see, Leonard was born in 1950—

HH: So who do you know from the top row?

PH: From the top row? Ok, one, two, three. The third person from the left is Virginia Plaza.

HH: Virginia Plaza?

PH: Uh huh. And then fourth from left is my mom, Henrietta Bacolot.

HH: Ok.

PH: And then fifth from left, or the baby, would be Tony Bacolot.

HH: Who is that one?

PH: Tony Bacolot.

HH: Ok. And it's just a 'Y' right?

PH: Mhmm. And then from the bottom row, one-two-three. Do you want to do the babies as a row?

HH: Yeah, we'll say the babies are—so we'll say, second row.

PH: Yeah, one, two, three, fourth from the left—

HH: Mhmm.

PH:Is Inez Bueno Carlon. Uh huh. And then fifth from the left is Rachel Bueno Bragado.

HH: Rigado?

PH: No, Bragado, B-R-A-G-A-D-O. And then Martha might know, I think this is Martha's aunt. The one that's been interviewed, how funny, huh? And then the babies on the bottom row, second from the left—

HH: Ok.

PH:Is Honario.

HH: H-O-N-O-R-I-O?

PH: Uh huh. Carlon, Junior. And then third from the left would be Joanne Bragado. [to unidentified] Is that Karina?

Unidentified: That's Karina.

PH: It is Karina?

Unidentified: Mhmm. She's married to [inaudible WS400028.WMA 35:56]

HH: So she's sixth, Karina who?

Unidentified: I believe her last name was—

PH: Campo—is it Campo? Campoamor?

Unidentified: Campoamor, you're right, Campoamor.

PH: C-A-M-P-O-A-M-O-R

HH: A-O-R? CAMPOAOR?

PH: No, No, it's CAMP-O-AMOR, like Campoamor. A-M-O-R. And I don't know if there's an E on the end of it. You know who would know is Martha. [to Martha] Oh Martha, is this your Aunt Karina?

Martha: That's Auntie Karina, yeah.

PH: Oh ok, so who's this? Who do you think that is?

Martha: I think that's probably Raymond. Raymond Ramon. Let's see, is that William here? No. That's my mom.

PH: No, that's my mom.

Martha: Oh that's your mom?

PH: Yeah.

Martha: I thought that was my mom [laughing]. Oh ok, then my mom's not in this picture. But my Auntie Karina, that's my Auntie Karina and I think the boy would have—her first boy was Raymond, Ramon.

PH: Do you know who that is?

HH: Ok, so the fourth baby, or I guess that's first, second—

Martha: I have to go see my sister for a minute.

HH: So this is Honorio?

PH: No this ones Honorio, the second.

HH: And this is—

PH: Joanne.

HH: And this is—Ramon?

PH: Ramon. Mhmm.

Unidentified: Are you Mestizo? Is she Mestizo?

PH: I don't know. Are you Filipino?

HH: Am I? No, I'm Hispanic. And what's Ramon's last name?

PH: It would be Campoamor.

Unidentified: Did she talk to you already and everything?

PH: No, I'm—they're doing—

HH: Are you getting interviewed, too? Are you going to go over there and get interviewed?

PH: Yeah, if there's still time.

HH: Ok and do you know where this was?

PH: No, I have no idea. [to unidentified/Martha] Do you know anybody else in here?

Unidentified: No, just Helen.

PH: Is that Helen or Virginia?

Unidentified: Let me see.

PH: I think it's Virginia.

Unidentified: Yeah, it's Virginia.

HH: Ok, we have her then.

PH: And he looks real familiar but I don't know who that is.

Unidentified: Yeah.

HH: So it's just a gathering somewhere at some—oh did you think of a date maybe, based on the babies age?

PH: Ok, this is Tony. And he looks like he's about 22?

Unidentified: Are you sure? Our brother? Where was I at?

PH: Well, I don't know Mary. Because this is Junior and that's Joanne and Tony was a little bit older so it couldn't be Leonard cause Leonard's a little closer to—

Unidentified: I'm 68, Jimmy's 67, Tony's 66.

PH: What year was Tony born?

Unidentified: Tony would have to be born—

HH: Is Tony 66 now?

Unidentified: He should be 65.

PH: Today?

Unidentified: He'll be 65 today or tomorrow.

PH: Today.

HH: So it's 2012.

PH: And he looks like he's about one or two.

HH: Well, here, let's see. 2012 minus sixty-five. Oh geez, ok.

PH: And then we add a year, because he looks like he's about near two. Oh, so probably 1950—

HH: Could it be '47?

PH: '47. I would think 1947.

[00:40:00 WS400028.WMA]

Unidentified: Yeah cause I was forty-four—

HH: Oh no wait, well that would've been if he was just born so maybe would it be '49, so add two years to it maybe?

PH: Oh, '49. Yeah.

HH: Ok, cool. And then do you have anymore or is that it?

PH: That's—um we brought—

HH: Those letter's are neat, the documents. Oh now I'm waiting for them and so are you now.

PH: Oh ok, you're waiting for them too?

HH: Yeah. [to unidentified] Did you get started yet over there? Oh ok.

PH: They'll ask, they'll ask questions... [inaudible 40:55-40:58 WS400028.WMA] ...that's the dialect that he spoke and I think a lot of the community that is here today is from the same part of the islands, Solano[? 41:00 WS400028.WMA].

HH: And then did he know Spanish?

PH: Yes.

HH: Because he had to talk to your mom. How did your mom's family feel about—

PH: I don't think that was real—it wasn't accepted even though my Mom's two younger siblings, they also married Filipinos. Because my mom lost her mom when she was twelve years old and there were still young ones and so she raised the younger siblings and so when she got married—it looks like she got married when she was about sixteen—and she took those two.

Those are the two in the picture, my aunts. They also married Filipinos. But my father, at the time that my mom; they met because my father was like a foreman in the fields and they used to follow the crops and so forth. Well, my dad would hire my grandpa and their family and so that's how my mom and him met and so he would always know where they were.

Unidentified: Do you have your meal tickets?

PH: My meal tickets?

Unidentified: The green ones?

PH: No, I got Jeremiah a plate.

Unidentified: No, they gave you back half of the ticket.

PH: Oh, I threw it away

HH: I have my halves, Do you want them?

Unidentified: Oh, they called your name twice.

PH: They did?

Unidentified: They called your number twice.

HH: For the raffle?

Unidentified: Yeah.

HH: Oh, the raffle tickets are different right?

Unidentified: No, your green one, they're called door prizes so they're calling numbers but she was right behind us.

HH: Oh, we're not even paying attention.

PH: Oh well, let me see, I think I have—oh well—I thought I had it but no, I think I left it on the table. No. I didn't even know there were numbers on it. Oh that's funny. No my grandfather, he was from Mexico; my mom's mom was from Mexico. And see we weren't accepted very well because we were Filipino. So we grew up like—did you ever watch the movie "Selena"?

HH: Oh, I've seen part of it.

PH: Ok well in "Selena" there's an area, and it's like I could totally relate because the father was raised in America so he was always like you know, back-slashed by Mexicans for not knowing Spanish and he would try to teach his kids to speak Spanish but they would go to the Spanish bars and try to promote her and they were neglected there and they would go to the English bars and try to promote her and they were neglected there. So that was like, that was the way that I grew up. Because it was like Hispanic community, they would shame us for not knowing Spanish.

HH: How come your mom didn't want you, how come she didn't teach you guys Spanish?

PH: That's what I was getting to is that I couldn't understand, why didn't we learn either Filipino or Spanish. I think at the time, what the society wanted, it was leaning toward assimilating into the American culture. They wanted you to just leave that, you know, behind. You're American now so this is what you practice, is Americanism.

HH: There a lot of Filipino American students that were in my class and none of them knew—they only knew English. They said because of that—their parents were assimilated and so they never even learned, it was just their grandparents.

PH: So now it's like the Filipinos that come over now, or their generation, or you mean the generations behind us later on down the line—there's kind of some conflict there because it's a younger generation and they're fully, you know, they're coming over to the United States, they're having to earn their citizenships or be released from the Philippines and it's like they kind of look down on us for not speaking the Filipino language and stuff. But it's kind of different and you just kind of watch like, ok, well what's really happening?

HH: Are you not too close with your mom's family then?

PH: Oh yeah, yeah, we're all very, very close. It was mostly my grandfather because he was very, he's like an old—and I mean I only had my dad eighteen years but I can remember him like yesterday. I can remember him as a child like yesterday because they were very—my father was like a very father father: caring, loving.

We were very poor, I didn't realize we were poor, we just, we had a lot of love. Anytime anyone came over to the house we always offered them something to eat, it was, you know: *Eat, eat. Come sit down and eat.* And so food was always like a big thing but very, very humble man. Very funny.

He died when I was eighteen so we didn't have him a long time and his dream was to return to the Philippines. That was his dream, his only desire was to return to his homeland. He used to always tell us, continue to write your cousins. And at that time it used to take like six weeks to get a letter back and forth, a few months. So I do have like a couple of letters from—I think I have like three letters. One from my aunt from when we wrote her and talked to her and told her my dad had passed away. She wrote back a letter but it sounded like she was just excited to hear from somebody and so then my mom wrote her a letter again saying you know, he died. Because she wrote back in Filipino so we had to have it translated but then they had, she had a daughter that wrote a couple of letters before we lost track of her.

HH: Have you been to the Philippines?

PH: No, no.

HH: No? Are you going to go?

PH: We have a dream of going—and we did find a cousin. Actually my dad came over with his brother. He only had one sister and one brother that we're aware of and it was my aunt's children that he told us to keep in touch with. Well, I found my uncle—I was named after my uncle, my uncle's name was **Pablo**—and he had a son in the Philippines and we found his son. So it would have been my uncle's grandson is there, is still there.

HH: Oh wow.

PH: So I found him on Facebook and stuff.

HH: That'd be really neat to go there.

PH: But it's beautiful. I mean it's like, wow, it's colorful and green and life is very simple and people—people, just lots and lots of people.

HH: Who would you go with? Would you go with your siblings?

PH: Probably my sister, yeah.

HH: Yeah, that would be fun.

PH: My sister, my younger sister.

[END WS400028.WMA 00:48:42]