APPENDIX A – EPIFANIA SUMAOANG INTERVIEW

Date: January 27, 2016
Interviewee: Epifania Apolinar Sumaoang
Interviewer: Jeannie (Damon) Magdua
Location: Seattle, Washington
Transcribed by: Jeannie (Damon) Magdua

Start of Video File 1
Jeannie Damon: Ok. This is Jeannie Damon and I'm here in Seattle, Washington on January 27. It's approximately 1:30 in the afternoon, um, January 27 of 2016, and I'm here interviewing Epifania Apolinar Somaoang and, um, I'm going to ask questions of her about her war bride experience and her life in general.

Epifania Somaoang: Ok

JD: Ok. First, I need to ask you if you could please state your name for me for the recording.

ES: My name is Epifania Apolinar Somaoang.

JD: Ok. Thank you and I just want to make sure, is it ok for me to record you and use your recording for my research at the University of Washington.

ES: Yes. You can do that.

JD: Ok. Thank you. Ok. Alright, so, we're gonna go through the questions, um and, you know, just answer the best you can. If there are questions you don't have answers to, just say, "I don't know."

ES: Ok

JD: Alright. So, first, please describe to me the town or city you grew up in in the Philippines.

ES: That's in Palompon, Leyte, Philippines

JD: The island of Leyte. Ok. And what's the name of the town again?

ES: Palompon. Palompon, Leyte

JD: Ok

ES: Philippines

JD: And about what size was this town?

ES: That's in the west side of Leyte, the town of Palompon.

JD: Ok

ES: We are … Tacloban is in the north and Ormoc is in the … ah… maybe it's in the middle, Ormoc, that's in the same Leyte

JD: Ok

ES: And they got different town in there. (1:50) So, I'm cannot remember how I describe you, though Leyte I know is Tacloban. That's where Imelda is, where they … and then Ormoc and then you come to west side, Palompon, Leyte. That's where my hometown is.

JD: Ok. And, um, can you describe to me the house that you grew up in.

ES: Oh. Before the war? Oh my, before the war, it's alright because we are … we are… at that time, before the war [inaudible] though with Japanese, we are eight kids. Uh huh. And it's, uh we just, it's big house, high … we have, I think, eight steps going up. The downstairs, nothing in there, except chickens and pigs. So, it's ok. It's only whole house and then one bedroom where my father and mother stay and the baby, but otherwise, as children we sleep in the floor cause we don't have beds. We just put mat in the floor and it's time we go sleep, we sleep there and early in the morning, we get up and roll up the mat and put away. That's it.

JD: And you said there were eight children?[430]

ES: Yeah.

JD: And where are you in the line-up?

ES: Oh. I'm the oldest.

JD: Oh, you're the oldest?

ES: Uh huh

JD: Ok.

ES: In the family, and then my sister who is passed away already, my brother. So, that time, we are only three girls, but the other died during the war. She's a baby. Uh. She's a baby, guess she got scared or something because we run around for how many years trying to hide when they think the Japanese coming.

JD: That's very sad. Ok. Um. So, you said that there were seven brothers and sisters and your parents. Uh. What language or dialect did you speak at home?

[430] At the time of the war, there were eight children. Fannie's mother had more children after the war for a total of twelve children.

ES: Oh. Visaya

JD: Visayan?

ES: Yeah

JD: And which language do you speak at home now?

ES: English

JD: English

ES: Uh huh

JD: Ok (4:38)

ES: Even when I got married with my husband we speak English because he's Ilocano and I'm Visaya, we don't understand each other [laugh]

JD: Ok. So, you never learned Tagalog?

ES: No. At that time, no.

JD: Ok, and um, when did you first learn English?

ES: Oh, even we are kids we go to school because we are under the Americans. Philippines is under the American. We go to school, we speak English. If you out of the fence of the school, they give us ticket. And so right if we get out we speak our own language.

JD: So, inside the school grounds you had to speak English all the time.

ES: Yes. Uh huh. Otherwise, somebody tried to hear you talking Visaya, they give you ticket and then when you go to school … the school … the teacher will fine us and they will let us work … uh … clean up the room. Yeah. Then when I was first grade, second grade, you know, we are kids, we still do our work. In the yard of the school, we clean it up in there. Nobody will clean it for you. You know, cut the grass all the time.

JD: Did you have American teachers or Filipino teachers?

ES: What do you mean?

JD: Were they American, the teachers, or were they Filipino?

ES: No. Filipino. Filipino teachers, but they are speak English because they are mostly … them, they, during the, uh, American, they speak English, they go to school, too, before they teach us. Yeah.

JD: Ok. Great. Um, so, when you were learning English, was, do you think that was difficult for you, or was that easy?

ES: Well, it was difficult because we don't, we, at that time, we speak English when we go to school, but when we go out, we speak Visaya, my, our own language, so, it's not, it's better to learn little bit, when we do it, it's easy [inaudible] learn the easy way when we are in the lower grade, but when they go higher, they could do better.

JD: Ok. Um, are there any particular lessons that you remember from English? For instance, my mom can remember reciting, "milk, milk, I like milk. Thank you mommy." Do you remember that one?

ES: No. We didn't, we not have milk so much in there, but you know what they teach us? Uh, we're first grade, we teach us count, counting, and then the food like food, banana, apple or something like [inaudible] there is not much apple there, but orange, those kind of fruit. And, they teach us how to work on the animal, like pig, chicken, like that. I remember that, but I was not so smart when I was first grade. I don't, because my parents uh didn't speak English either. It's just maybe say yes or no because they didn't go too much in school. You know, in (8:54) .. in those time, when I was growing, even my parents, they said I don't have to go to school because when I get married, the husband support us, but they believed that, but we still go to school. I still go to school. I just, I didn't go too much in grade, but they still go to school.

JD: Ok.

ES: Like my brother, sister, my sister sit next to me. I don't know how much she speak English, but we do speak English in school, but not at home. Not at home. We don't do it, because my father my mother don't speak too much English, you know. They, I guess, I don't know how old are they when they get married, of course they don't go to school anymore. That's how it goes. So, we speak Visaya. I don't expect to be here in the States [laugh]. But during the war, I learned lots of things, too, because the Americans came there and we mingled with them. I think there was seventeen. I speak English with them when they ask me, "How did you learn how to speak English?" Well, I said, "We got school here." And we are under the American. We don't have independence at that time.

JD: Right.

ES: I could say yes or no. [laugh] (10:43)

JD: Right.

ES: Yeah

JD: Ok, um, so, let's see. So, if you were in Leyte, um, how far was it to the closest military base. Do you know?

ES: The base?

JD: Yeah

ES: It's in my yard.

JD: The military base was in your yard?

ES: Yeah. They were there, because there were batallion came in. America [inaudible] force, uh, the Japanese were our town, Leyte.

End of Video File 1

Start of Video File 2

ES: Leyte area. They go Tacloban, Ormoc, Bongabonga, Palompon. They are the one they force us to come back to town, otherwise you are in the mountain, but when the American arrive, I remember that we are in the mountain hiding from the Japanese. When the Japa .. uh, when the American arrive we are high ... we climb, we walk to the mountain and then we could see the water with ship where my father go fishing, the big boat will come in, you know, and then the barges come in and then we jumping, jumping. We were not thinking of the Japanese next door with the [inaudible] ah in the forest, we just, we could see, we could see to the, from the mountain, you the all the way to the ocean

JD: And you saw American ships?

ES: Uh huh American ships. They are the one who kept on bombing the town. Their planes. And they told us to get out of there, but we didn't. We just jump. When the bomb come, [inaudible] we start running. [laugh]. Yeah my father and mother "come on let's go let's go someplace [inaudible]" because they know where the Japanese is so they drop oh the leaflet drop down.

JD: They dropped leaflets first?

ES: Uh huh. When American arrive, when they put, the American drop leaflet they tell us to move that place because they are start bombing because we are high the Japanese below. See? So, we didn't listen to that. I read, but my mother father didn't listen. So, because we did know that Japanese below us, you know. So, when the bomb come in, American airplane dropping the bomb, we start running away. I remember. Oh boy. I kept my brother my side. I kept my bundle in this side and, you know what, we didn't think of getting hurt. We just get away, but Japanese, you know they went to the mountain forest, the trees where they hiding there, too, because they don't have any supply anymore. They were cut off.

JD: Right.

ES: It was not easy during the war. (2:58)

JD: I know. Ok. Um. Are there any people who worked for or were involved with the U.S. military somehow?

ES: Oh yeah, but they were killed.

JD: They were killed?

ES: My uncle. My uncle. They were in Manila, too, not in Leyte.

JD: Ok

ES: My, my brother. Hit and run they call it. Hit and run. They just go there night time and then they just [inaudible] because they don't have any, any ah supply, no bullet, no gun during that time when Japanese was still in Leyte.

JD: The Filipinos didn't have any weapons. Is that what you mean? (3:45)

ES: Uh huh. No more.

JD: Ok

ES: No. They hide themselves because if they know that they are serviceman, they will kill you. Uh huh. They will kill you.

JD: So your brother was killed by the Japanese?

ES: Uh huh. Yeah. But we don't tell them. I thought my brother is still small so [inaudible], but my uncle, the one –

JD: And your –

ES: And my grandpa, two grandpa, you know they try to be, uh, protect, they did that to help, but they were more like spy from, for the Japanese, so they know where they are, but they were all, they kill them both, two uncle, ah, grandpa, we call them grandpa. They are brothers of my grandpa, you know, my mother's father, the brother who is killed.

JD: They were killed helping the Americans spy on the Japanese?

ES: The Japanese

JD: Ok

ES: But they didn't tell them that they are spy. They just, we call it tu … tu…. tor … tudlok

JD: Tudlok?

ES: Tudluk. They just say [pointing] "that one, that one"

JD: Oh. Does that mean point then?

ES: Uh huh. Yeah.

JD: Ok.

ES: That's what happen.

JD: Ok. So, how old were you, well what year were you born?

ES: 27, 1927 July

JD: Ok. So you were about 17 when the war started?

ES: Uh huh.

JD: Ok (5:41)

ES: Before that we were already hi .. running. We heard about Japanese is coming. They are in Manila already or something. Because they could have, they have the boat.

JD: Right. So, the Japanese were occupying Leyte. Leyte first?

ES: No. Manila first.

JD: Manila first.

ES: And then they come to Leyte, you know because different island. Philippines they got different island. You know that.

JD: Ok. Ok. So, um, you were a teenager when this all started. How old were you when you met your husband?

ES: Almost eighteen.

JD: Ok

ES: Not quite. Almost. They were this, outside our town, and then, you know, the shower for the shower, they put that shower [pause] where my mother's house is and the shower just about twenty five yards away from there and then the water, you know, they, they fence it. They put the, it's not even, uh, we call it now, good place for them, everybody could see the American taking shower in there. Yeah. They do. (7:09)

JD: Ok

ES: Uh huh. And then my father said, "Get out there! Get out there!" Uh huh, but then they have the shower in there, they come to my mother's house and we talk to them. They are surprised my sister and I speak English to them. Yeah.

JD: And then, was your husband, was he a white man or was he Filipino?

ES: Filipino

JD: Filipino. And was he in the U.S. military?

ES: They, they were in the, first the American and then the 77 division and then the Filipino regiment.

JD: Ok

ES: and they are by group, but the first one come, lots of them died, you know, the American. I know a lot of … because our house is just close to the shower, naturally, they come take shower, they come say hello to us and then the next day I heard that he's, they died, you know, it was shot, you know, they are fighting. Yeah. I said, "oh my gosh." You know, it's kind of hard [inaudible] they are older, but they are kinda nice anyway. Yeah. (8:31) They treat us people nice, you know. We don't have nothing to eat, they give us some ration.

JD: Oh, they did.

ES: Uh huh

JD: Ok

ES: But not, not the Japanese. When you are cooking, they are the one who eat the food. I remember, you know, my mother cooking rice because we don't have much food at that time and then two Japanese came, you know, they patrol, and my mother cooking rice. That's for us, was for us. You know who ate that? The Japanese. Because they are cut out of the supply. They cannot, they cut their ship cannot go through anymore because the American lock the place already, you know. It's not easy at that time for us we are growing.

JD: Right. So, when the Japanese were coming, you guys were in the mountains. Is that correct?

ES: No. We are in the mountains. We ran. I was even separated from my father, parents, because I went to my uncle's house, place, that's six kilometers from town because we tried to get some food. I help my mom because she got small babies. We go to my uncle because they got farm, we go get some corn, banana, you know, we got sweet potato because they plant that in the mountain. It's kind of hard because you go to the mountain and then level in the dirt the plant the rice, um no, the corn and the banana, different fruit. Uh huh. We get, but I was separated by myself, but the rest of my brother and my father they were together that I'm, it's about one kilometer from town to my place, where my mother's house is. I was separated, but I thought because the Japanese come, coming, the night time they are sleeping, what they plan to take when the Japanese come, they were not able to take it. They just save their lives, you know. It's uh, they ran to the, they try to hide, but I was not with them.

JD: How long were you separated?

End of Video File 2

Start of Video File 3

ES: I was separated because I was, I supposed to come home the following day, but the Japanese came night time. Yeah.

JD: So, how long were you separated?

ES: Maybe a week, but I hear, somebody told me that they are ok.

JD: So, you did have some information about them. That's good.

ES: Because mostly in our town they relatives. I know everybody. Yeah.

JD: So, you went to the mountains. Did you ever have to come back to the town?

ES: No, we, meet in the mountains, we go to [inaudible] we tried to hide it because the Japanese still there, you know, and the American forcing them to the mountain, so we are going to the Rizal town and we go to the water. We walk even it's deep water, we walk, try to hide from them. We block between the Japanese and the American. That's what my father and mother told us. We hide and we got small hut, you know, actually we sleep together.

JD: Up in the mountains in a small hut.

ES: Uh huh.

JD: This is the way it was for a few years and then you saw the American ships coming and you were celebrating. So, you got to go back to your town after that?

ES: Yeah. We go back, but we go to the ocean. We pass the, you know, because you say the water on high tide, low tide, that's when we walk. We didn't walk in the mountain no more. We go around, round there until where it's our town.

JD: Ok. Is it an easier way? (2:05)

ES: No

JD: No?

ES: Sometimes I don't know what to think. My grandkids they have their own things. They won't listen. Even when I try to talk to Betty. Sometimes they are all busy with their own thing, they go to school, you know. But when I see some of my family, we talk about it, you know. Yeah, right now, I'm the only one left among the war brides.

JD: I know

ES: Some of them, they are gone, cause the young kids, like Betty, they are born here, so they don't know anything about it. Yeah.

JD: Ok. So, the Americans showed up and they were taking showers where you could all see.

ES: No. The American arrived. They were still coming in with the, in the barge, and then we are going to the, as I said we go around to the mountain and then we go to the ocean and go back to – we are happy! We are jumping! Especially they give us candy. [laugh] Oh yeah because they make it, they, they then close to the ocean and the ocean is close to my house, to my mother's house. We could just walk, you know. And, uh, they have there to the uh [inaudible]. We, our house it was surrounded until the American bombed it. The American bombed it because the Japanese, some of them they stayed there. Our house was bombed. We don't have house when we come back. My father built a little hut for us to stay.

JD: When you came back.

ES: Uh huh. Yeah. But lots of American already. Uh, the beach, that uh, we know, full of tent [inaudible], even downtown. (4:32)

JD: Ok. So, um, the Americans were coming kind of in waves. A lot of them were dying, and then you met your husband.

ES: Oh, uh, the American first, and then the seventy seven division. We met those guys yet. They take over the uh, the seventy seven division small company now because the first American come, they forward. They go forward and the seventy-seven division take over. And then after that, the Filipino regiment, they call it Filipino regiment, take over and they are the one at the time. Uh, it take about a month before the American left. They were in Ormoc already, some in Tacloban, some in uh, you know.

JD: Ok and your husband was in the Filipino regiment.

ES: He's Filipino, you know.

JD: Yes. And what is his name?

ES: Federico Sumaoang. Federico Nool Sumaoang.

JD: Ok. So, what year did you meet him? (5:51)

ES: Oh dear. Uh. We were married forty, forty-five. Well, late forty-four.

JD: Nineteen-Forty-Four

ES: But, it, the, we don't have Japanese anymore, but they go to the mountain and, and uh, look for the Japanese because they still kill. They are still killing there. So, it's forty-four, forty-four, forty-five.

JD: Ok

ES: When I meet him, but I didn't think of getting married. I was only a little bit over seventeen, close to, not eighteen yet. See? So, one thing more, their tent is between my town, my, my, my, my barrio and town, and they were have their, they have their tent right there across the [pause] cemetery. So, you know how we go and we go there because, you know, they ask us to do some washing, clothes, their clothes, and lots of us do the job because they pay us pair one pants and shirt one peso, and that's big money for us to give our parents, and my sister and I do that. Uh huh. Yeah.

JD: Ok

ES: And sometimes they give us more, you know, maybe two dollars more, uh dollar, peso more, and we're happy. We are happy. You know how we do it, we wash, we starch and iron. Do that. You don't wash only. You starch the shirt and pants and then we'll iron, too, and they are happy because it's nice and neat for them to wear, and lots of them, when they know we are doing it, lots of them asked if we could do some washing for them. And if, it's good, too, because the water, it's close to the house, my [inaudible]. We have, uh, beside shower that the American people, serviceman, we have our own area to wash the clothes. Uh huh. We do some work for my parents. I really help my parents a lot of things. Uh huh. I remember that. And, uh, when we got the money and we give it to them and they can buy rice or fish. We, not the meat, because just once, maybe once a month, because we used to have lots of chicken and pig, we could have meat once, at least once a week, but during that time, we don't have chicken, we don't have pig. My grandmother's caribou, you know the caribou, they have plenty. I help them bring some meat, but we don't, they don't have, when we come back to town, no more. All gone. (9:30)

JD: Why were they all gone?

ES: Uh huh

JD: Why?

ES: The Japanese take care of themselves. They can't eat because they don't have food themselves, too.

JD: Ok. So, you thought the American soldiers were really good people.

ES: More than really good people. Yeah. They give us some food. They didn't take the food away from us. They give us food. Canned goods, like that, you know and besides that the Filipino are in charge of the kitchen, they sneak out some food for us. It was nice. We were not, when the American, white American came, we are safe than the Japanese that time. We are, we are forced to go downtown when Japanese was occupy the town and we bow even we see there, visit my auntie, my uncle. We have to pass the road. We cannot pass someplace else.

JD: So you had to bow when you saw a Japanese soldier.

ES: Yeah, for the guard and you bow before you go through. Yeah. Hambao. [laugh]

JD: Ok. Alright. So, let's talk about your husband. You met him there.

ES: Well, I meet my husband twice because, first, they will send to [inaudible] the first time they come, they were there, ok? And then

End of Video File 3

Start of Video File 4

ES: [inaudible] that's where the Japanese stay, they hide. They just like big tree, just like here, big tree in the mountain, and I didn't think of that that he will come back, that his company will come back and then when I went to the house, I saw him and then she says "Hi Fannie" and then I turn around. "Oh, hi Sergeant!" Sergeant is a [inaudible]. I call them, we call them sergeant. "Hi Sergeant. Oh, you come back." He said, "Oh, yeah they send us again [inaudible]" he said. Ok. And then he said, "Fannie, could you do something for me?" I said, "What?" He said, "Could you wash my clothes?" [laughs]. Because I used to wash the clothes because they pay us. It's not gratis [laughs]

JD: Right

ES: We pay us we're happy to do the job because there is no work in our town no more. There is hardly anything, no fishing that time. It's hard, and then he said, "Ok." He said, "I'll bring it to your place, to your house, to your mom's house." "Ok." And then we buy some soap, he give me some soap to wash and then he come there. So, I didn't think of that the second time, the second time I saw him. And then we, they, invite us to go to the camp and then we eat in there. They bring us canteen, you know, their plate, and put coffee or tea. We go to their tent with my girlfriend and then we eat with them. Hmm we eat and it's good to eat. They got good food. Oh you know when you are kid that time, you know eat anything they have. You want to eat it. So, they give us some food and then we bring some for my mom. And then, sometimes they ask me, "Do you know how to make this rice and sugar?" I said, "Oh you are talking about suman." "Oh, I don't know." It's good. "Oh, I make some." She said, "You make some. I pay you." [laugh] (2:28) Oh they pay us.

JD: Ok

ES: Because, you know, you buy the sticky rice expensive and they hardly have those things no more. Yes, because they cannot find that rice in that time. Yes. So, they pay us. Sometimes they can give us five dollars, uh dollars, pesos. And, who will eat it? Me! My sister, my brother. She just want to taste it, you know when they are kids. So, that's what they do. Uh huh.

JD: Ok and your husband asked you to do these things, too?

ES: Yeah. She did.

JD: Ok. So, um, did he talk to your parents?

ES: Oh [laugh] [inaudible] funny. Before she used to when we are used to [inaudible] come, he used to say, "Let's get married." I said, "Huh? What married?" I said, "Yeah. I'm still kid." And he's old.

JD: Oh. How much older?

ES: Twenty years.

JD: Ok

ES: Uh huh. I said, "No." And then what happened, they were transferred to Ormoc, another town more like city, even you call it there, like city, it's Ormoc, another place. And then, during weekend they have convoy all the servicemen because some of them are married already in our town, so they come, and then one day one day when he was come, come back, they were already in Ormoc, and then they ride with the convoy, and then he stop in my, our place, you know, because they always pass, my, our house is there, he's crossing. He's in the crossing. So, as he ask me, "Hi Fannie!" I said, because I'm always there close, close by, so I, "Oh, hi sergeant!" and so then [laugh] then he said, "Oh, could I see, see you?" I said, "Ok." Can I get my water?

JD: Ok

{break}

ES: And there were lots of them. There were lots of them, and then, anyway, he get out of the convoy while the convoy went downtown because lots of them got married that town and then she ask me, "You wanna go dinner with me?" I said, "Sure! Why not?" I was not scared. [laugh]. Yeah. He's just like my father. [laugh] He's just like my father.

JD: Because he's older?

ES: Yeah. So, we went to eat in there and she, he order good food [laugh]. It's kind of funny to think of it. Yeah, we went to the restaurant because they, some people, open a restaurant already because lots of serviceman was there. So, we got chicken, chicken, fried chicken, you know, so she said, we did this, nothing to see in downtown because all holes, the church is broken, most post office was damaged, no, nothing in there. So, can't go back. And then she said, "I was wondering, where are you gonna sleep?" And then she said, "Oh, I don't know." I said, "You could sleep there in little hut. We sleep down here." Because that little place that my father built, it's bamboo. One down there and up down there. "You could sleep there." And then my sister and I sleep there because my brother he sleep with my grandpa's house, you know, and I said and my mother was sleep there with us, father, I said, and he said, "Ok." So, there's no problem with that. I didn't think of anything. Yeah. So, anyway, the next day they are supposed to go back to Ormoc because that's where they are stationed, but first he hand me a letter. I was scared. You know where I hide it? You know the roof of the nipa? I hide it there so no my sister will cannot see it and my parents.

JD: What was it he handed you?

ES: His letter

JD: Oh a letter!

ES: Yeah. Letter. He hand me a letter so it's for me. So, when I got, I hide it. When I go home, I put it on the roof. I hide it there. And then my sister, my sister is naughty, next to me, oh boy, she's naughty, and she's, when I, when I read it, I see to it's just me I'm reading. So, anyway, I read, he asked me if we could get married. I said, "get married?" So I [inaudible] "No thank you." I'm too young to get married. I don't even know how to cook yet. I cook rice only. So, I send it to my friend because they leave late so she's the one who hand it to him, and then

{break}

ES: and then what they did, he send back to, he come back again, but she was not eat with them because he was on guard, sergeant on guard.

JD: Ok

ES: Uh huh. So, he give letter to my, his friend, and my friend, too. "Fannie, I give letter for you from Sergeant Sumaoang." I said, "Oh?" I said. I said … so, I did get it and, you know, the same thing, he was asking me, I don't know, four letter before I said, four letter he said I meet you in Ormoc, you know, another town. So, my friend, they are going to that place. They are three sisters, and then I go with them, so we are four. You know what? We walk. How many kilometers

JD: To Ormoc?

ES: Uh huh

JD: Oh wow.

ES: Oh. How many kilometers? I don't, I think, hundred. Because from Tac … from my town to … maybe one hundred kilometer. More. Uh huh. We walk. There's no transportation. We cannot ride with the, the uh, jeep or truck with the army. They don't allow. There's no transportation. So, we are go there. We are four. We bring our suman and rice, you know, it take time, but we make it in one day. And then, and then he, my girlfriend got a place, his friend there got a little house, you know, and we stay there, and then, during that evening, they meet us. They have the, the three, three girls they got their boyfriend, uh huh, my friend. I don't have any boyfriend.

End of Video File 4

Start of Video File 5

ES: And then my friend, we call him friend, friend come with them because they came from a wedding. Somebody got married in Ormoc. So, they came, and then, I was in the kitchen. The kitchen is, you know, I don't know if you know, you have the [inaudible], it's not like here. You have the kindling and then the pot in the top. You have to watch the rice, the rice boil. I was alone there because the girls attending their own, their boyfriend. So, I was alone and it was supper time, and I saw somebody behind me. He say, "Hi Fannie." And say, "Oh. Hi Sergeant. How are you?" [laugh] Oh, it's kind of funny. I said, "Oh. What are you doing?" I said, "I'm cooking rice." Yeah. Right. In small clay pot. Do you know the clay pot?

JD: I've' seen those

ES: That's what we all, because four of us have to eat, you know. With song. No fish, no rice, uh, no fish, no meat. Just a little rice with salt, and then it's not cooked yet, it's boiling. He said, "What are you doing?" "Oh, I'm watching the rice. I'm cooking." And then she stay with me, you know. And then very soon she ask me again. You know, they don't believe what I wrote them. I told no thank you. No. And then I said, "Oh, I don't know. I'm still too young to get married." And then my girlfriend came to me, came to the kitchen, one of my friend. She said, "Hi Sergeant." She talk to him sergeant, too. And then she, I don't know what they are talking. They were talking away from me. I guess they tell them if they will talk to Fannie if she will go on and marry me [laugh]. She said, oh and then she go away, and then she come there again, almost time for them to go back to the camp. And then I said, "Oh I don't think so Sergeant." [inaudible]. (2:30) And then before they go, before they left, she asked me again, and then, you know, I said, "Ok!" [laugh] Ok. And then she was happy. She was, she was there going, they were going home already to the camp to get the jeep, they took the jeep, and then, and then I just say, I wave. I walk with them and then I wave. They were maybe twenty-five, um, yards from where we at the house, and then when she come back [inaudible] "Oh, what happened Sergeant?" and then sabi ko "Oh, she just kissed me!" [laugh] He just went. I said ah! Wow! I didn't say nothing. Yeah. That happened that way.

JD: Ok. And did you marry in the Philippines then?

ES: Oh yeah. We get married, uh, and then she wrote me letter he's coming back that week, coming to Palompon, and I go to the church. She write in the number, I don't know. You know what I destroy the letter? I don't [inaudible]. She said that we go to church. She write it there what he have to do, to go post office, something like that. "Oh, I just go alone." I don't know how to get married. Yeah. And then, and then uh, so we went, because he just have Saturday, Sunday he will go back again

JD: Do you want some more water?

ES: Yeah. Because Sunday when he go back again, you know, to Ormoc, you know, and then we was able, I don't know what they was doing. I just walk, go with them all the time, and then, I just signed my name. "Sign it there, sign it there." What is that for? "Oh, you just need to show that you want to get married with me." We sign at the priest. And then we have to go to post

office, we sign again for the paper (5:11). So, I don't know, I sign up [inaudible]. I don't know what happen. Really, I don't know what going on that time, because I never attend a wedding. Uh huh. If only there is a wedding, all I want to go is eat. Uh huh. Yeah. So, I don't know that I'm getting married. And then they said, they give me some money, they said, you buy rice. You buy pig for our wedding. So, I got that money. I got thirty pesos. I got the one pig. Big one. And then one cavan of rice, that's a hundred pounds. That's what, for our wedding. So, the next week nag por [inaudible] they were in Tacloban already. They are not Ormoc. They are Tacloban again. And then she said I'll be coming back there certain day and then we are gonna get married. She, nag, what you call that, bulan, one month. One month. He stay there in [inaudible] and then we get married. He stay in the house, no, the hut. It's not house [laugh]. And then, uh, what they did, I just go with him, what he's doing [laugh]. And then we go, I remember, before Sunday we go and married, but we go confession, confession. You confess in the church, and then, of course I go first. I go there and there was only one couple there get married the next day, Sunday. He is my cousin. I did not know that she is getting married, because they are downtown, we are barrio, not too far from each other, you know. So, she confess, and then she, after I go, I did, she went there, she said, "That priest, he's not shame of me. He asked me if I'm married. Why should I marry you if I'm married already?" I said, "Oh, he want to be sure." [laugh]. Ay ay ay. Yeah. She was upset. Want to get out of the confession area in the church. Of course the church don't have any roof, just side. So, that's what happened, and then the next day, I got my dress, oh no they rent because there's nothing to buy in there in those days. I rent my cousin's Filipina white dress, and then I got white shoes (8:28), which I bought it for two pesos. Yeah. That's what I wear. And then my parents, because it's Sunday, at night time they were killing the pig and they take a [inaudible] for cooking the rice, and then, that's it. We go to church. My father does not even go to church with me. I, I asked my, my godfather to stand for me. My godfather. Uh huh. Because he knows me because I always go there and ask money, one centavo. One centavo. He was nice. He give me one centavo.

JD: One centavo.

ES: Uh huh.

JD: Ok. Um. So, you were married in the Philippines, and your parents, did your mom come to the wedding?

ES: The wedding? Oh yeah.

JD: Your mom came to the wedding, but your dad did not, just your godfather.

ES: Yeah. My cousin, my brother, my auntie, my uncle. They were there.

JD: Ok, and how long did you stay in the Philippines after you got married.

ES: Oh. Almost two years. Two and a half

JD: Ok. So, he was stationed in the Philippines there for two and a half years?

ES: No. They was back here already! (9:48)

JD: Ok

ES: They left me there

JD: He left you there in the Philippines.

ES: Uh huh. And then some people, some young kids, your age, they even, because we are not there, no more serviceman in Palompon, no more serviceman in Ormoc, they are all in Tacloban, few of them, and he, he was one of the, I guess point, he was in back here, States.

JD: He was where?

ES: Yeah. He got points during the war, I guess they have by points?

JD: Ok

ES: He was sent back here first, and uh, when I heard that before that he's coming back, I went to Tacloban and she is gone. We didn't see each other.

JD: Ok. So, how did he get you to the States?

ES: Oh. She apply for me.

JD: Ok

ES: Because they allow the serviceman, American serviceman, they could, those who are, who are married could apply for their bride. So, they send me application to show that I'm married to him, that they have to have somebody to notarize that he's really married, you know, and it takes two years, almost two years and a half, because I didn't come

End of Video File 5

Start of Video File 6

ES: here, uh, see, forty-seven, forty-seven when I come. I take the boat.

JD: You took a military ship?

ES: Uh huh. Ship. I stay in Manila for three months because they give us check-up, you know check-up us if we were TB or something else, you know, before we could come here. They did that in Tacloban and then they stop the ship in Tacloban, so we have to go to Manila, and then in Manila, they have to check us again [inaudible] check-up

JD: Ok

ES: and uh we, we have to go to the Red Cross check-up again, not [inaudible] just you and I will check me up. No, we have to go the American Red Cross.

JD: Ok. Did you also have, um, so you were in Manila for three months you said?

ES: Uh uh (1:09)

JD: Did you also have lessons, like you had to, um, learn how to be an American wife?

ES: No

JD: No? Ok.

ES: No.

JD: Ok.

ES: Because mostly my uncle, my auntie, they live, they stay in Manila, so I stay with my auntie.

JD: I see. Because, um, the reason I ask is because there was a program where Americans were teaching Filipinos kind of the culture of America before they went to America. So, you didn't have that?

ES: Oh, I have that, but they did that two days before we take the ship.

JD: Ok. So, you did have to take a class

ES: Uh huh.

JD: Ok

ES: No. They didn't take us a test, they just explain it there

JD: Right

ES: The American Cross or whatever, they explain it there, you know, because the first wave Filipino, uh war bride, they don't have the money, they didn't notify the husband they were coming already. They were stranded, that's what I hear, in San Diego, I guess, but me, when I have that, we come direct to Seattle because there was no place to dock the ship in San Diego.

JD: Oh. Ok

ES: I came direct to Seattle.

JD: Oh. Ok. I thought you arrived in San Diego, but it was Seattle.

ES: No. No. We were supposed to be there, but they change, and then my husband don't even know that I'm arrive in here.

JD: He was in San Diego.

ES: No.

JD: He was here.

ES: Because the, his friend, Larry, told him you don't have to go there because they will take care of her. Yeah, they take care of her she said. So, they, he listen. He didn't go. Good thing he didn't go because I dock here in Seattle. Oh, we are seventy, seventy-six, including the kids.

JD: Seventy-six war brides? (3:25)

ES: No, including the kids because some of them war bride got kids already, one of each. Uh uh. So, and then, they go by the alphabet, and Sumaoang is in the bottom the alphabet. I was crying already! "My husband didn't meet me!" I cry. I said, "Hmm. I don't care. They send me back." [laugh] "They send me back." And then one of the nurses said, "Oh no. That's ok. We'll take care of you." She said. Yeah, cause my husband, I send him telegram, but did not receive it.

JD: He did not receive the telegram?

ES: [shakes head] When we are in the boat already. When we are three days, I guess, before we dock in Seattle, because we supposed to, and when I write there, San Diego, but we are the, they told us that we are not docking San Diego, we go Seattle. So, naturally, I have to send him another telegram, but they don't receive it. He didn't receive it, but you know how he knows that I'm in Seattle?

JD: How?

ES: My picture was in the paper [laugh]

JD: Oh my. Really?

ES: My picture. It's so funny, but somebody, somebody took picture, I said, oh could I have a copy?

JD: That's my wife.

ES: He was working. He was working because he's a bus boy. He's working for, you know, restaurant in hotel. He showed my picture: "Fred Sumaoang's wife." And then she quit! You know uh [inaudible], his friend though, he got car. He don't have a car. "Could you take us to the piers? He knows where they put the pier, what boat, the this. And I was the last, we are the last few of us only left in there. So, I was crying. "I don't care. I go home." I heard before that some of them, they were not claimed. The first wave of the war bride. They did not claim. They were

detained. That's in San Diego. They were detained in immigration. See? But I hear that already in Manila before we dock, and then my Auntie Rosa, that's my auntie, she said, "See? Nobody claim you. What happen with you there?" "Oh, they could send me back. It's free!" [laugh] I told my auntie, "It's free." I said, "They could send me back." But when I was here and he didn't, oh boy maybe I was one of them they didn't claim. [laugh] (6:43)

JD: But he showed up and you got off –

ES: No. He didn't show up! No. They come there, but they cannot get in the pier because they don't have pass.

JD: Oh. How did you get off the boat?

ES: Oh the nurses, they take us to Fort Lawton. We take the bus. We get out the boat, go ride the bus and take us to Fort Lawton. No. Oh Fort Lawton, yeah, you know, that side of the – it's not there no more.

JD: Fort Lawton? (7:26)

ES: Uh uh. Fort Lawton. You think you heard that?

JD: I think I have. Ok. So, they took you to the fort.

ES: They took – I was sitting down there, because we are quite a few girls that was not meet, but I was met alright, but he was not able to get to the boat. So, it's spring. I said, "What kind of tree is that? They don't have any leaves?" [laugh] Ignorant. He didn't explain it to me when he write. He just think he was lonesome, I want to see you soon, like that. I said, "Gee." You know I was by the door, window of the bus, the bus of the army, not the civilian bus, army, army bus. I said, "Gee." I said to myself, "These tree here don't have any leaves." [laugh]. Because I don't know! That is spring! Still spring. March 27 I arrive here.

JD: March 27, 1947. Ok

ES: So, I was like that just looking. I didn't talk to the girls there. I just look at them. "Gee." Every time I saw a tree what no leaves, maybe it's dead tree.

JD: Maybe it's dead? Ok. Alright, so, um, when you were leaving the Philippines, you were, you know, coming here to be with your husband, how did your family react to all of that? (9:22)

ES: Oh my family, my mother, father, they were in Leyte. My auntie and my uncle, they are the one brought me to the pier we are supposed to go, but they just say wave. I said, uh and said, "Be careful. You write if he don't meet you." I said, "They will send me back."

JD: Ok

ES: Yeah. My auntie Rosa, my uncle, they were there with me in there, and then when they call my name, "Bye bye" I didn't even hug. I just go to there, run to the ship.

JD: Were you excited to come to the States?

ES: No. Not really. You know, when you think of it, it's too far

JD: It's very far.

ES: Yeah. You know, it's far. Cannot, cannot, uh, figure that out. I didn't think like this. No. I don't think. All I think is if my husband didn't meet me, they send me home. Yeah. That's all though.

JD: Ok. (10:34). And what did you think the U.S. was gonna be like before you got here? What were you expecting?

ES: Before? When I arrive? Well, I didn't think anything. The only thing I know is that [laugh] [inaudible]. Yeah. I didn't think of that. Maybe my mind is just look like it's still a kid, you know, because my parents and even, even I was married already, I didn't think about sex. I know I sleep with my husband, but what for? [laugh]

End of Video File 6

Start of Video File 7

JD: Alright. So, you got off the boat, you took an army bus to the fort, and how long were you there?

ES: No. Because they were following the bus because –

JD: They were following the bus? Your husband was?

ES: They don't know that I was in that bus, but one of the guard, the army guard tell them that nobody in there now. They are all in the bus to Fort Lewis, ah Lawton, not Lewis, Lawton. So, what they did, this Toso, the driver, he gots car, follow that bus, and then, we get out there, they cannot get in the, the Fort Lawton, too, because it's the, the guard will not let them, let them in. So, what they did, they is not the one in charge, they said, "Oh. You just live in Seattle. So, we'll just send you to your place, to the house of Genevieve Castellano." That's the address that they give me. "The taxi will drive you there and maybe your husband will be there." But, oh no [inaudible] they ride it the taxi, they were two, two. One was drop someplace else, because I didn't pay attention, and then when we have that steep hill, going down, I said "Oh no. We fall down."

JD: These are the hills in Seattle? In the city of Seattle?

ES: Uh huh. You know where uh Denny Way is? Denny Way and then go down, is that steep hill to my Castellano's house? And then the driver said, because the other girl was drop already someplace, I said, I get out of the taxi already, I got my little bag of clothes because he tell me, he told me not to bring too much things. You know, don't bring it any mat [laugh]. You know how we sleep in back home. We use mat. Don't bring any mat. So, I follow that, what he told me (2:37). I look at that, nobody around there. So, the taxi man said, "Could I help you, ma'am?" "Oh, yes." Could you find out if my husband is there?" [laugh] Oh yeah. "My husband is there." Ok. She went up I stay in taxi cab. He went there. He said, "Oh. Your mom is there." I said, "My mom?" Because they have the – ah, the Mrs. Castellano was inside with her daughter. "Your mom is there." "Mom? How can it be mom? My mom is in Philippines." In my mind. I didn't tell him. So, I climb. "Could you help me going there?" You know because I don't know if it's the right place, you know. So, the driver knock the door. And then is Mary Castellano, the daughter, open the door. "Mom! She is here!" How do they know that I'm coming? So, they told them to let me in and I said thank you to the, um, taxi driver, you know. I don't miss that I say thank you. And then, you know back home, when you go the house, to leave your shoes behind.

JD: Right

ES: So I said in my mind [inaudible] shall I take off my shoes? I said myself, you know, but I said, hmmm, bahala – I said in Visaya, bahala – I bring my shoes with me. So, and then she was sewing there. Oh, she said, "Oh don't worry. Your husband will be coming here soon. They are coming here with his friend." So, I sit down. I keep quiet. I didn't say nothing [laugh]. Well, I don't know, you know, I'm not, you know I was quiet before. I'm not talkative. I'm not the talkative. I was quiet. They ask me question, I answer. If I don't know to answer, if I don't know what they are [inaudible], I said no, I don't know. So, that's all I do. I quiet. Even before when I was here already (5:28) I hardly talk to them, you know I go to Mrs. Pamental's house there in, ah, eleven avenue. That's their place Toso live. I just sit down there, don't say nothing. I go in the back yard. I play with their daughter, Bobbi Pamental, because it's small baby and I'm used to it because my brother, you know, they are small kids. I'm the one always, my mother was tell me, "Take care of the baby." You know. Oh. I have to take care of them. Otherwise, there be whipping [laugh]. Yeah, and when we arrive there, we didn't stay there long. My husband have apartment already, it's in the attic. Two rooms. Kitchen, dining room, and then bedroom. That's all.

JD: Ok

ES: Yeah. Because we don't have much that time

End of Video File 7

Start of Video File 8

JD: Ok. So, we're gonna start now from you being in Seattle, so let's talk about the War Brides Association.

ES: Ok

JD: Ok. So, how did that get started?

ES: Oh. Mr. Mariano Angelie is one of the wife, is war bride, too, they said, what we did, because we don't know nobody yet, she said, "Why don't you, why don't we have a Filipino War Brides in Seattle?" And then, we agree, and our husband, too, agree, and we are only seven then, seven girls, that started the War Brides, and then, what we do, we, you know when, we raise funds, we have, like little dinner, we charge them. We go someplace that we could get some money. It's not much. And then, that's how we, uh, get our funds, you know, and then like the serviceman, they, the new serviceman from the Philippines, in the boat, they come here, and then we treat them with our money in there, you know, and then very soon they heard about more the War Bride here in Seattle, but because we don't know about other, Los Angeles or whatever, they don't have War Bride. So, they ask, they ask us every meeting if some of them they could join, and then, because we are only seven, because the husband just advisor, not War Bride. So, they ask us if they could join, I said, so we said, we don't have meeting because they said, oh this girl, she's a War Bride, she wanna join us, you know So, we have to vote yes because we want to know more people, War Bride from the Philippines, and said ok. That's how we did and how we make the War Bride bigger. We reach to twenty-five people, members. Uh huh. And we have benefit dance. We charge, oh I don't know how much we charge for. Fifty cents in the door. Uh huh. And we meet, uh, that [inaudible] Hall on Yesler. That's where we always have the dance in there (3:22) and the old timer here, they are all single, they want to come and dance with us. Uh huh. Oh, of course, our husbands are there, too. So, we have a little money and what we do, was one time, I said, we deposit it. We have the President, Vice President and Treasurer, we sign the book to withdraw the paper, uh, the money, if we have to spend. So, that's how we raise up, and then we get bigger and bigger (4:08). We have a dance. When we hear that we have a benefit dance, they come, "When? When? When?" And then we are popular. We really do. Uh huh. Yeah. We did that. When we have picnic, we go to Seward Park because we call that Pinoy Hill and then we go there and we invite those people, too, because they spend money for us. So then the door, we invite them when we have picnic. That's how we did it. And then, even, uh, in California, one of my friend, she said, "Can I join with you guys?" And then we said, we have to bring up to the meeting first, and they said yeah, but they said how can you join you gonna do nothing. You are in California. I told them. So, but she said, I could help by mailings, you know, something like that.

JD: So you had members in California?

ES: No.

JD: Ok

ES: No. She just want to help.

JD: I see

ES: Uh huh. Yeah, but mostly, here in Seattle and, uh, Auburn, you know, there was few of them, married to white man. And then, when we have somebody sick, in the members or family, we have, we don't have much money, but we donated twenty-five dollars, like maybe flowers, or

if they want money, we give them money, we have to select whether they wanted money or they wanted flower. That's what we do, you know. Yeah, if somebody died in the family, we, we give them fifty dollars, because we don't have much money yet. Uh uh. (6:21) Yeah. That's how we do it. More like we are helping each other. Uh huh. Yeah.

JD: So, it was a support system for the other war brides?

ES: Uh huh. Yeah. Yeah. And then somebody arrive from the Philippines, we treat them. We give them, uh, more like a picnic, you know, some certain house, in the back yard, not somewhere else. That's what we do. We accomplished lots of things, the war brides. We donated money to Red Cross. There is a typhoon in the Philippines, we send them money to buy rice, you know, something like that. I don't know if Josepha mentioned the last time, I guess we went there, we have the slide in Ormoc.

JD: Oh, a landslide in Ormoc?

ES: Uh huh. And then we give the, my girlfriend, because they went home, we give five hundred dollars to buy rice and distribute to those who are, who don't have money to buy no food

JD: Right

ES: We did a lot of things, but the only thing is, one of the kids, like Betty, they got the, no they don't have small children, they are taking over, supposed to be, and Betty's even the President, but they cannot even have a meeting because she is busy with their own activities, too, watching the kids, you know. Uh huh. So, it's kinda like slow down now, too.

JD: But it was active for how long do you think? Twenty years? (8:40)

ES: Oh more than that. Uh, we start, uh, my husband died thirty five, thirty five years, and the War Brides still strong. Their husband, our husbands still strong because they always help us, like we are doing something, they help us. You know, like, move some things there and we always have the Finnish Hall, you know, or Washington Hall, put away some of the chairs because we are supposed to put away. Uh huh. They help us, the man, uh huh, and table, put away. Even the, you know the Luther King Way, it's supposed to be Rainier Vista Housing Project, we used to have the Christmas party for the children and you have to put tables and chairs and put away. That's our husbands help us put those things. They are heavy, too, you know, because we have complete husband yet that time, but later on our husbands pass away, too, you know, and they get sick, you know, but, it's kinda, it slow down, fundraising slow down, you know. You know, what we accomplish during the consulate, we have, uh, what we call it now. I forget. Filipino Fiesta, used to be, not the one in Seward Park, we have it there in Southcenter, Seattle Center, we put our booth in there, you know. We decorate it Filipino style, and we have, have our booth, nice one, because we got the plaque.

JD: Oh, you got a plaque?

ES: Uh huh, but I don't know the one the President died already. I don't know where it is. Maybe they just destroyed it. She was sick for a long time, you know. They didn't turn it to the next people that, you know, like the Vice President, because she went to Las Vegas, she went to Cali

End of Video File 8

Start of Video File 9

ES: – uh San Francisco and we don't have contact with her, and she sold her house she have in Seattle, you know. So, all the things, we don't know, but, myself, if anything that's small note, I keep it, I put it in the, uh, box, you know, and you know what happened? They robbed my house, they destroyed it. You ask Betty. All gone. All gone those things. But I think Josefa got some.

JD: She does. Yeah, she showed me a few things

ES: Because, but during my time, as a treasurer, and I was secretary also, too, a little bit here and there. I keep it. I keep it until, because I put in box and put in the corner, but Betty said it's all scattered. So, I don't have it. Maybe Josefa got it because she is – I don't know, our secretary. I don't have anything. Linda [inaudible] – She didn't keep her things. She just make a note and put away someplace and no more. I used to, they even ask me, "You mean you keep that again?" I said, "Why not?" You know? Someday we go back with it, but we didn't have a chance to go back with it, you know. (1:45) And we did a lot of things that, uh, we, we dance folk dance. Well, we don't have to worry about the folk dance. The one that don't know how – we go different places. They invite us to –

JD: To perform?

ES: Perform. Yeah (2:04). Uh huh. We go Bremerton. We go Fort Lewis. We go churches. You know. We go, you know, Seattle Center, we did that. I sing, too. [laughs] When the consulate have a show, the consulate, Filipino Consulate, we dance. Yeah. They always ask us, and then, we have Chinatown, the one that used to run the paper, they want us to have a show in the theater, we did that. I usually do. [laughs] Yeah. We have to use – we make our costumes, Filipina dress. We use the style, we all the same, you know, different – uh, during [inaudible] we dance over there, because they, we are well known then at that time, well known, until they have the FYA, different thing, but we go different places. We took our cars, maybe we are two or three cars, to go to that place, including our husbands, they have to go with us. Yeah. We do that. We, oh- when did we go there, what time, but right I can't even remember the performance. Yeah. We went Tacoma. Yeah. They invite us, you know the Filipino group in Tacoma? Because they don't have yet their own folk dance, they invite us. We used to uh at least two dances to do that. For me, I act as a boy sometimes. I act as a woman, you know. Yeah. We do that. They, they love to see us. I don't know why. Uh huh. Yeah. But Betty was still small. She is fun with her own kids, you know, her own group, but we did that before. Yeah. I don't know how many times we dance is Southcenter. When there was a big occasion, I sing there, we dance. We performed a lot. Yeah. In the States and lots of people, too, watching. Yeah. I guess they are, uh, excited with our uniform, you know, costume, because we got the – I used to have pants sometimes. I use Filipina dress, I said Mestiza dress, different we – we use different thing. One

time we use all white. We make it. We make it. I sew it. I sew. I sew a lot. Even my Filipina dresses, I sew them. I still have them.

JD: Do you still have your dresses?

ES: Uh huh.

JD: I'd love to see those.

ES: Except the sequins. I don't sew sequins. I bought that.

JD: Right.

ES: I still have it (6:04) I even send it to the Philippines. I got the girlfriend came here and he went back to the East, and then she open a restaurant. They call us. They wanna borrow our, Corrine and I, they wanna borrow our Filipina dress, at least four. So, two for Corrine and two for me. We send that. It's alright they use it, but I was disappointed when come back and stink. I think kili-kili, you know. I get rid with it. I cannot use that no more. It's green, too, and I design it green and white this way. I, I make my own design, color. Maria Clara. I still have my Maria Clara in there. I still have my Filipina dress, they got black, black and what else, it's in the drawer. I put it there. I didn't get rid– except the one that my cousin in L.A., they visit me and then she said, she– she said, "Mana, could I have this?" "What?" "This one!" The white one. "Ok." "How about this one here, the red one?" I said, "You want everything now?" "No, because nobody is making this one there." "Ok. I'm gonna– we are not doing anything anyway, except few things." Besides that, I'm getting fat [laughs]. I told her, besides- she is small. She is small. She wanna get my shoes. Yeah. She's from L.A. Yeah. So, it's fine that way

JD: Alright. So you set up the War Brides Association to support each other. (8:18)

ES: Uh huh. To meet each other because it's kinda lonesome, too. Usually, Saturday or Sunday, we meet my house, the next week we go to their house. You know, we go different places.

JD: Ok. So, what would you say was the most difficult part about getting used to living here in the U.S.? (8:42)

ES: Well, for me, well, the one that's bad for me, well, I should not say bad because I came from the Philippines we got hard time. We, the first place where I was stay was two rooms apartment and then we, they, they sell that building, so we have to go to, my husband apply, where to, you know the housing, then we go to the housing projects in Delridge Way, and then we, they have two bedrooms, but the stove is charcoal. Hot! It's alright for winter, but for summer, and we have to order the charcoal, and then they demolished that, too, we come here to Rainier Vista, much better because we got it the stove. Uh huh.

JD: And, um, so, it was having to find a place to live, the kind of heat, because it's cold here. Those are the things that were difficult to get used to.

ES: Yeah, well, the difficult for me the first time is to go shopping [laughs]. Yeah

JD: That was difficult?

ES: Uh huh. Because I don't know the money. What I used to do if I go there, here's the truth, you think I'm ignorant, but I told them to get what they want for that price. I just show them my money because I don't know. My husband don't tell me anything. Yeah. That's the truth.

JD: So money exchange was difficult

ES: No. When you buy, when you buy some food in the grocery, ok? They're the one how much. So, I just show them the money, how much it cost. That's what I do. And then one time, one time it's my husband's birthday. He like beer.

End of Video File 9

Start of Video File 10

ES: And then, I went to buy beer. Ok? The six pack, and then I show them I want to buy this, that's in Delridge Way. She said, "Ma'am, you cannot buy this. You are underage." And I'm twenty-one already, but they think I'm underage. I cannot buy beer. They didn't let me buy the beer. Yeah. And I don't have, I don't have, uh, what's call that, I.D. They didn't let me, they didn't let me. I told my husband, you, I cannot get you some beer. He loves beer. You don't have nothing to drink for your birthday. [laughs] And then the poor guy said, "That's ok. That's ok." You know.

JD: Ok. So, you came here as a war bride, and you, um, you had the support of other war brides and the other Filipinos in the community. Um, today, when people come from the Philippines, how do you think it's different? (1:22)

ES: They are lucky

JD: They're lucky now?

ES: They are lucky when they come here because some of the family is here already, some of their relatives, they come here. They come here as student, you know, they could just call and tell that they have family here, so it's easy for them, but sometimes somebody, to show off, they come here, they, they think it's rich in here. You know, they tell us, "Oh, I got, we have servant there. One will cook. One will wash. One will clean the house." And then my, Loreta Pimental, uh, it's not Pimental now, he just living here. I was there I said, "What are you doing here anyway when you are better off there?" You know? Why? Why do you have to show off that they have everything there? And there it's, it's hard. So, why did they come here? For me, it's alright because we are poor. We are big family. [inaudible] We are ten children, plus my mother, father, we are twelve. They call it hand to mouth. Uh huh. But these people show off. There was one couple, one family arrive here. I won't say their last name. The parents, "Oh. I have hand-made suit. In here, it's made from the factory." I said, "Well, if you got hand-made suit, you

should stay there. You are better off than here." You know. My gosh. That's the one I don't like, some of our people, but lately, of course, I don't go no place no more. I didn't hear those comments no more. You know. Some of them come, they ask help. That's what I want, you know, like in the community, because I was a council there for twenty years, even I was not council, I help without pay. If they need help, the President will help to start with, you know, that's what, where to live, for housing, you know, that's supposed to be that way, but don't show off that you are better, you have big house in the Philippines, you know, that's no good, (4:36) but I cannot say that, to myself in here, but somebody want to find out what grade am I, how many degrees I got, because I talk back to them. They ask why did he, you know, my girlfriends ask me, uh these people ask me what degree do I have. I said, "Why did he ask me?" Because I will tell them I just say, I just say yes or no, but why did they ask somebody else? Why didn't they ask me, you know? Tell them to ask me. I don't have to tell you. You know. That's why I said, one time, this was, we work together in the Eddie Bauer before I work in Boeing, show off, she got too many degree, degrees here, degrees here, and she take American people, too. "Fannie," we just say [inaudible], "Why is she working in this power [inaudible] for if she got degree? Why didn't he go get some place that white collar work there?" You know, even in the Boeing when we are, when we work there, I work there, we apply ourselves, you know. I didn't tell them what degree I have, what schooling I get, I tell them I just say yes or no. I told them, but my supervisor will not say that to me [laughs]. That's why the supervisor like me there, give me work all the time, overtime.

JD: Ok, um, so I don't know if you have heard, the U.S. and the Philippines have agreed to rebuild military bases in the Philippines.

ES: I hear that, too, but I don't know for sure

JD: Yeah, um, so that, the agreement happened in 2015, they started rebuilding some bases, um, and so what, let's see, um, how do you feel about that? What do you think about the military being back in the Philippines? (7:09)

ES: Well, I like it because, if they do that, maybe they could control these wild people there, you know this, we have one here [laughs] because they could give these people there a job, too, you know.

JD: So you think it would help the economy.

ES: Uh huh. Yeah. I like that.

JD: Ok.

ES: I heard about that, but I don't know, but not much because I'm just cooped up here, you know. So, I don't, I, I, I go for it. (7:39)

JD: Ok

ES: I don't know if somebody else don't like it, but they should not think for themselves alone. They should think of the people that don't have a job. We don't have much job here still. People here don't have a job, like my, well, of course my grandson was hurt, was got an accident, but he is not working right now, and my other grandson, he's just fixing cars, so they cannot get a nice job. I told them to apply city, but, she is, she is forty years old now, but anyway, I go for that. Why not?

JD: Ok

ES: Uh huh. I go for that. If they want me sign to yes. I will say yes.

JD: Alright

ES: Uh huh. Yeah.

JD: Do you think Duterte will make that a problem?

ES: I don't know. I think sometimes with my, my friend. Sometimes they call me and tell me some, the stories, like this like that, but sometimes I don't agree with the [inaudible]. You know. I said, "If you don't know about it, read your paper." Yeah, I won't argue with them. Read your paper what they do. What happened for the few years because they said, talking about Obama. I said, "You know, you don't know what happen with Obama. What help did he give to the United States?" I said, "If he didn't do any good, he was should not be elected second time." You know. Uh huh. Yeah. I told him because her husband is white. Uh, I don't know your husband.

JD: It's ok

ES: Because he's more like he's prejudiced, his husband. I don't say it, but we observe. (9:57) He's prejudiced, and of course the wife agree with her, I said, I told, I told her the only thing I saw him because we talk on the phone sometimes, you know, talking about Trump and Obama and the rest of the President. I said you read your paper if you have, look at your book because she have like that, read it what's he done. Don't just say he don't do nothing. She said he don't do nothing? I said how can he, if he didn't do nothing why is it that the people elected for second time? That's all I say to her. I don't say, I don't argue, cause the husband is hollering in there they don't do nothing, Obama. I said to, oh I push her [inaudible]. "Linda, tell your husband to read the paper." Oh, you know I just tell them. I don't argue, you know even if sometimes, the son-in-law, oh not son-in-law, they argue that they don't do nothing. I said

End of Video File 10

Start of Video File 11

ES: "You are not reading the paper. You are just looking at the one that you like to see." I said. Uh, yeah, the sports.

JD: Oh. Ok

ES: You have to read the paper, but of course, I cannot read the paper here no more. [laughs] Yeah I don't argue with them. I said, I told them, if you have paper, read. If you look at the TV, what he done, look at it, not only basketball, football and baseball. Because he football, the husband, that's all he do. He don't' help out the wife, and she complain. I said, well, cause he's spoiled because they are rich in the East, I guess. They got servants. I said, "You know, in here, when you are married, you have to help the wife and help the husband." I told him, "Not because you are rich." No way. Uh no. So, I just told, you know, I said, just like when my husband died, after three years, I got boyfriend, ok we sleep, we live, live, we did, we were good, but when he's drunk, he's prejudiced, too. Uh huh. I said, "Why? Why do you ask me then to be with you if you don't like here? I'm Filipina. I'm from the Philippines." Oh, uh, especially when he's drunk. Well, I don't know if he's still alive because long time we didn't, we didn't see, because he drunk too much, you know, and then after we, I get out from him, he was begging me, begging me to come back. I said, "No thank you. You can keep you or not." Because he told their wife, uh, my daughter, that I'm trying to sell his house. I said how could I sell his house? It's not under my name? That's all I told the daughter. I told Leslie, I didn't say nothing about selling the house. She is the one told me to sell my house. Yeah. It's true, that's true. Told me to sell my house.

JD: Ok, um, well, those are all the questions I have for you.

ES: Ok

JD: Yeah. Thank you

ES: I talk too much

JD: No. You talk good. I like it.

END OF INTERVIEW

APPENDIX B – EPIFANIA SUMAOANG SECOND INTERVIEW

Date: July 26, 2019
Interviewee: Epifania Apolinar Sumaoang
Interviewer: Jeannie Magdua
Location: Seattle, Washington
Transcribed by: Jeannie Magdua

START OF VIDEO FILE 1
Jeannie Magdua: So, my name is Jeannie Magdua. Today is July 26. It's approximately 10:15 or so in the morning and we are in Seattle, Washington. I am here interviewing Epifania Apolinar Sumaoang. And, so, Auntie Fannie, can you tell me, is it ok if I use your words and your image in my research at the University of Hawai'i.

Epifania Sumaoang: Ok

JM: Yes?

ES: Yes.

JM: Ok. Thank you. Alright. And I am also here with Betty Ragudos. She's off camera and is it ok if I use your words in my research at the University of Hawai'i?

Betty Ragudos: Absolutely.

JM: Yay. Thank you. Alright. So, I interviewed you about three years ago.

ES: I don't remember.

JM: Yeah. I know. I'm sorry.

ES: That's ok.

JM: So, I have been studying your interview that I did and I have some follow-up questions that I want to do with you. So, you don't have to remember everything you said in the video last time.

ES: No.

JM: But I just want to get some things clearer from the last time, if that is ok. I have some pictures now and some lists, but I want to know, you said that there were seven original war brides with the war brides association.

ES: It was before.

JM: Right. So, can you remember their names?

ES: What the name? Puring Sabado.

BR: Yes. Auntie Puring Sabado. And what was her real name?

ES: Purificacion

BR: Purificacion

JM: Ok

ES: And then

BR: And I have a picture of her as well.

JM: Wonderful

BR: And Auntie Flora Divina.

ES: Yeah. But she moved to Wapato. And then Josephine Caliente.

BR: There were seven.

ES: Coring Zapata

BR: Auntie Ying

ES: Ying. Yeah.

BR: And Corales

ES: Toning Corales

BR: Now, were these originals? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Here we go.

JM: Ok. Yeah. I'll take a picture of that.

BR: Lucille Torres

ES: Torres. Yeah.

BR: That's the original.

ES: Yeah. Uh huh.

JM: Ok. So, we're looking at a photograph. A black and white photograph with the seven original war brides and getting their names.

ES: Our organization.

BR: From 1949. No. Yeah. From 1949. June 1949. That's when it started.

JM: Ok. So, do you know what has happened to their families, since … any idea where they …

ES: Some of them passed away, I think.

BR: Yeah. The mothers have passed away.

ES: Coring. Cadiente.

JM: Are their families still in Seattle?

BR: Some of them are. The second generation kids, my age, the daughters, the original ones that remain from 1949, all the daughters are still together.

ES: They take over.

BR: Yeah, but there's some that have moved away and haven't had any contact with.

ES: Divina

BR: Yeah. Teddy is still alive, but they're not originals.

ES: They're not?

BR: Oh no. Flora Divina and Teddy.

ES: Flora Divina! She's original.

BR: Her son here in Seattle

JM: Oh ok.

ES: Where they were living before they move to Wapato. Cadiente was President.

BR: I don't know where she is anymore.

ES: I don't know where the kids. I don't have any idea. They are only two, one girl one boy. Cadiente. I don't have any contact with them.

BR: But the daughters, the four that remained from '49 until their deaths, mom is the only original left, but the daughters and we are still in contact, but we've been together … one was born in '73 and there are three of them that are two years older than me. Over seventy years

we've been … uh … we still stay in contact and we get together and we still support the war brides.

JM: That's wonderful. Ok. There was a hall on Yesler where you would have dances. Do you remember the name of that hall on Yesler?

BR: There were two that were very close to each other. There was Finnish Hall and Washington Hall.

ES: Oh yeah. Dances. We raise money. They are two floors.

BR: The dances were held upstairs.

ES: We could have dances downstairs.

BR: They refurbished the Washington Hall. It's a historical site now and it's beautiful. We're having … FANHS is having an event there in October. So, it's, I mean, it's remained the same, but they just refurbished it and brought it up to code and it's really cool cause we walk in there and it just brings back a lot of memories. It had a balcony and a stage where the old … I remember this as a kid cause mom used to take us there for Christmas parties and dances and then when I got older we had to participate and run for Community Queen and all that stuff.

ES: Yeah. I was queen of Filipino community. [motions to picture on the dresser]

BR: Back in the day. Oh that picture there. That's my dad and her.

JM: Ok. That's good. Thank you very much for that. You said that, in the last interview, you said that you welcomed servicemen on the boat to Seattle.

ES: Yeah.

JM: Were these Filipino servicemen or all of the servicemen?

ES: Mostly American. I didn't see any. Because they … Filipino stay in Philippines, but when we come here, mostly majority of them servicemen.

JM: Ok. And what did you do to welcome them?

ES: We have some dinner. Everybody will have so many, maybe two or three, they tour them around because they are not here. You know.

BR: Mom are you talking about in the Philippines or are you talking about the States.

ES: Here.

BR: How did you greet them?

ES: We meet them. Because they came here at …

BR: Yeah, but you came after Daddy. Daddy was already here. So, how could you greet American soldiers when you went directly to Auntie Bibing's house. You didn't know your way around?
JM: Was it the war bride's association that greeted the soldiers?

ES: Afterwards.

BR: But they weren't even … cause she came here in 1947, so the War Bride's Association didn't start until 1949.

ES: No, I'm talking about the Philippine servicemen that they come around here. I'm not talking about the American. There was. Yeah. Filipino.

BR: But how far after you came here. I mean, when you first came here you didn't know anybody or didn't know where to go

ES: No. Afterwards.

BR: After the War Brides were …

ES: Organized.

JM: So, the War Brides members would greet the servicemen that came to Seattle?

ES: Uh huh. We took them, we have dinner, we plan to our house, or somebody's house, and then, yeah, we did that. We go to Josephine Cadiete's house and we bring some food and treat them. The American, they Filipino servicemen, because they come here.

BR: The Filipino or American?

ES: No. Filipino.

JM: The Filipino servicemen?

ES: Uh huh. Because they come here, too.

BR: Well, you were talking about the American ….

ES: The American? You're talking about …

JM: Both. So, my question is was it Filipino servicemen or was it American servicemen?

ES: The one that came from Philippines: Filipino. Because they don't come here before. Your daddy was here already, but we are treating the Filipino servicemen.

JM: So, the new Filipinos to the United States and you would greet …

ES: Yeah, give them lunch or dinner and then we [inaudible] to stay

JM: So you showed them Seattle.

ES: Uh huh. Yeah. And then, when they stay here two or three days … stay Josephine. I have two of the guides, but I forgot the name.

BR: Yeah, but this was well after World War II.

ES: Yeah. That's what I'm talking.

BR: Yeah, but after World War II, you know, Daddy was already here, you were here

ES: Yeah. I know. The Filipino servicemen, they come here, too

JM: The new servicemen.

ES: The new ones.

BR: Were these ones from the Korean war?

ES: No. they are …

BR: Or were these the guerillas?

ES: Guerillas. Guerillas from the Philippines

BR: That migrated to the United States. The ones that served in the Philippine Army probably and migrated to the United States.

JM: That's interesting. Ok. So, they somehow connected with the Filipinos here and you knew they were coming so you would

ES: Yeah.

BR: But that was like Uncle Pinante. Although he served in the Philippines in the U.S. Army, then …

ES: yeah. They come here.

BR: It was well after World War II. They came in the 60s when they brought their families over. And that's when our mom got involved in welcoming the newcomers, the new immigrants to the …

ES: Because they don't know, you know. We bring them to the Southcenter [struggles to remember the name of the location]

JM: Seattle Center?

ES: Seattle Center.

BR: But that was not until the 60s.

JM: Right. Cause the Space Needle was built in '65, no, '62

BR: When the World's Fair was there.

ES: like the Consulate, from the Philippines, we treat them. Because our organization, War Bride, they are well-known.

JM: Right. So, any new Filipinos that came to Seattle, not just servicemen, but all of the Filipino immigrants

ES: Yeah. Like the Consulate, whatever, the popular name in the Philippines, they come here for vacation, you know. They come here we treat them.

JM: So, the War Brides Association greeted them

ES: Cause the new one, they're more like active when we meet them, you know. Mmmhmm. That time. That's quite a while now.

JM: Alright. I didn't get to the date of your wedding.

ES: Oh. What's the time?

BR: October 14. I have their marriage license right here.

ES: I don't even know that I got married.

BR: She was only seventeen when she got married. So, it was October 14. Right after the War, I think.

ES: Just after the war, when the Filipino American take over the American. The Filipino that stay here, they went in to help the Philippine … uh … Army and they show them how to do it. Of course, at the time, I was still … green. [laughs]. Yeah. I don't know nothing, but we treat them. Because our house, my mother's house, it's close to the water pump, you know, and they have a

shower in there. They take a bath there, then after they take a bath, they come to my mother's house. And I was a kid, we go around [laughs]. Before I come here.

JM: Did your husband have to request permission to marry you. Do you remember?

ES: Go to my mom. To my daddy.

JM: To you family? Yes, he had to ask for your family's blessing. Did he have to ask his commanding officer?

ES: I guess so because I went to the camp.

JM: You had to go to the camp.

ES: And with him.

JM: With him.
END OF VIDEO FILE ONE

START OF VIDEO FILE TWO
ES: And then, with his company, his general, we go to the tent, then he said, "Are you sure marry her? [inaudible] a baby!" Huh? [laughs] Have a baby?

BR: Seventeen. I can't even imagine.

JM: I can't either. Wow. Ok. So, he did have to ask his commanding officer.

ES: No. He didn't ask because, you see, my family, cannot speak good English. So, he talked to my uncle, Serio, to ask my parents. See, my husband, well he's not my husband yet, my boyfriend talked to my uncle to tell my, to ask my father and mother that he is going to marry me. That's how they do it

BR: But after you got grandma and grandpa's blessing, when you went to the camp, did daddy have to request from his commanding officer if he could marry you?

ES: Oh yeah. Because he have to sign. We go to the camp, oh what was that, not tent, oh what you call

BR: The camp. In Palompon. Cause they were stationed there. My mom used to wash dad's uniforms and clothes

JM: And iron them really well

ES: I iron at night. Clean.

BR: Mom was telling me a story the other day, that my dad, you know, he gave her dad a pipe, cause he smoked.

ES: [laughs] He was so happy.

BR: bribing your dad, so he'd like him, so he gave a pipe to him.

JM: Whatever it takes. So, his commanding officer had to sign a paper that it's ok to marry you.

ES: Oh yeah. Yeah.

JM: I ask that question because I went to Washington, DC last week and I was looking at the archives and some of the archives was requests for permission to marry. So, there were formal papers, a whole file for each soldier that requested permission to marry. So, I wanted … I did not find hers. I was looking.

BR: She didn't find your papers.

ES: But they ask if they could bring me here.

BR: To marry.

ES: To marry, but after that if he could bring me here. My father, you know him, Filipino custom, "You have to stay here and build your house here!"

JM: Oh. He didn't want you to go to the United States.

ES: He don't want me to go there. And you know who convince him? My neighbor because you know house in the Philippines, one there, one there, one there … So, said, "No. She's married. You cannot stop her now." Yeah. Because my father would not let me come here, you know.

BR: And mom was the oldest. You know how it is with the oldest.

JM: The first child. So, you said that he did not come to your wedding.

ES: No.

JM: Why didn't he come to your wedding?

ES: Because he don't want me to marry him because I'm still young. Yeah. That's how Filipino is, but my Auntie and my neighbor convince him.

BR: How about your mom?

ES: My mother will not say nothing. You know, in the Philippines those days, my mother, the wife just listen when they have conversation.

BR: She didn't have any input?

ES: [shakes her head no]

JM: But she came to your wedding

ES: Oh yeah. But my father, no.

JM: So, did your mom think it was ok for you to marry?

ES: Well, he didn't say nothing, but you know my Auntie, oh she's a teacher, told him that you better marry her because you don't have nothing to do with it no more. She will go to States. Cause my Uncle Serio … is he alive?

BR: No, mom.

ES: I don't remember no more. He will be interpreting with my mother and father. Cause my father and mother could just speak a little English, you know. And then they spoke in Visaya and then my parents will talk to him and he talk to my husband. That's how it goes at that time. And I don't know how to speak good English either. Only little bit [laughs]. It's true. I'm not kidding.

JM: But your husband did not speak Visayan.

ES: No.

JM: So, you spoke English with your husband.

ES: Yeah. Cause he's Ilocano.

JM: Right.

BR: And that's the way it was with all the members, in the War Brides initially. Visayan wives …

ES: Ilocano husbands.

BR: All of them, the original four, and after the fact there would be interracial marriages as well. But yeah, in the beginning, the men were all Ilocanos, the wives were all Visayan.

ES: Uh huh. They did.

BR: That's because they were stationed in

ES: Leyte

BR: … the central Philippines

JM: Ok. And were they, so they were all members of the Filipino Regiment?

BR: The first four.

JM: Ok. So, your husband came to the United States first.

ES: He was here before, before the war.

JM: But after you got married, he had to come to the United States.

ES: Because before we get married, the commander officer, we were in the tent, you cannot go with your husband when he's moving out, you know, go someplace else, and he's sailing to the United States, no, you cannot. Do you agree … the commander said, "Do you agree to that?" Sure. Why? I stay with my mom. My parents. You know.

JM: So, you got married in October of 1945. So, you got married before the War Brides Act. The War Brides Act was in December of 1945, so the transport wasn't available to you until after that.

ES: Can you imagine that? I'm free to come here. We are free. We didn't pay because they ask

BR: Well these are soldiers that defended the United States, so they had to give them the privilege, even though they took away a lot of their …

JM: The benefits

BR: The benefits, right. At least dad was a naturalized citizen, you know, cause he was here in the 20s.

ES: It's good, too, because I got money, fifty pesos.

JM: Why did you get fifty pesos?

ES: Because I'm married to serviceman.

BR: Yeah. They got money. A little bit of income from … while they were waiting around.

ES: I guess they get half of his salary in service and give it to me.

JM: So, that was a military benefit.

ES: Yeah.

JM: Not the Red Cross.

ES: No. No no. From his salary. I just get three months only because he get out from the service. He come here ahead of me and then he get out of service. He didn't want to go in the service no more. He said too much work.

BR: He got his wife. He was happy.

JM: Right. Ok. So, your husband was staying … first, he was in Palompon, and then he got sent, what, to Ormoc?

ES: No no no. The Regiment, the whole Regiment, land in Palompon, and part of them to Ormoc, part of them to Tacloban, and part of them, Samar, the Filipino Regiment. The Army divided because the Japanese was still there.

JM: Right. So, how much time did you spend together, husband and wife, in Palompon?

ES: No, the first time he come to Palompon, the … what do you call that … they move out, to no more servicemen in Palompon. They go to Dulag, I mean, another barrio, but he come back. He comeo back again, the platoon to Palompon because the boat could get in our place because they got a … what you call …

BR: A port

ES: Yeah, and they stay there for a while. That's the time he asked my parents to … my uncle, told him to ask my parents that he will marry me. He didn't ask me direct, but we go out and eat downtown.

BR: Yes. They'd go out to Sunday breakfast and he'd take her to eat hotcakes. When they were in Palompon. They'd go to the camp and then they'd

ES: Because the camp is in our place, across the cemetery.

BR: Before you got married, but she was asking after you got married, how long were you together and were able to stay together before daddy had to come to the States?

ES: Oh, we got married. We stayed two weeks in the Palompon and then he was transferred to Ormoc and then from Ormoc, Tacloban. So, the … what the word? Captain? They come to Palompon with the truck, all the brides go to Ormoc, and then they move out again we go to Tacloban.

BR: So, they followed them.

ES: We followed them and the … our husband see to it that he got place for us outside of the camp, we rent a place. We got four. Four war bride in one camp and then when they come there, they say (pointing), "You sit down there, you sit down there, you sit …" [laughs]

BR: You didn't have much time to consummate your marriage, did you?

ES: No. This is true, because they are grouping all the time, they are moving.

BR: They finally landed up in Manila. After dad left, mom had to stay in Manila for months before she got to go on the ship.

ES: But I'm receiving fifty pesos already. Money [holds up her hand]. Because they have to support us, their wives, you know. So, the money that they get from him come direct to me. And you know what? What I did? I give to my mom. Because that's how, if I living with them, living with them house.

JM: So, you didn't get to be husband and wife for very long and he had to go. So, let's see. Federico applied for your transport to the United States. Do you remember like paperwork or interviews before you got on the ship, to come to the United States? Do you remember what you had to do?

ES: Oh, I don't know. I wrote that thing there, but I don't know what happened.

BR: Interview, mom, did somebody talk to you before you got on the ship to come here? Did anybody before your transportation to the United States?

ES: Oh no because he got his paper sent to the company

BR: So, just paperwork? Nobody talked to you about it? They just said …

ES: They will tell you only, when I was in Manila, your husband want you to go to the United States. I said, "That's too far." [laughs] "Where is United States?" I talked to my Auntie. Auntie Rosa. I said, "Is that ok?" "Oh, yeah. Your husband is there already. You better go follow him."

BR: She had no idea

ES: I don't have any idea. I don't know United States.

BR: Being the oldest of twelve brothers and sisters and then the war and then she couldn't go to school after the fourth grade.

ES: I didn't go much in schooling. I could say yes or no. But you know what? I got my paper for the company that we are married.

BR: All your paperwork was prepared.

ES: All I could say yes. I go.

JM: So, you didn't know where the United States was?

ES: No way. I didn't hear. Where is the place? Before we come to … we are seventy-five.

JM: Seventy-five war brides? On the ship?

ES: Uh huh. Yeah. With the kids.

JM: Oh. Including the children

ES: They are only three kids. Two years old and one year old. I don't have any yet.

BR: Yeah. Just Coring, Purificacion Sabado, mom and her, they were both war brides in the organization, but Auntie had her daughter, Jamie, in the Philippines. So, mom was part babysitter for Jamie.

JM: They came on the same ship?

ES: David C. Shank. What's that called?

BR: I couldn't understand her and it sounded like "sunk." I said, "Oh, that didn't sound good." Sunk on a ship.

JM: That's not good. Yeah. I found your ship list with your name on it

ES: Oh, is it?
END OF VIDEO FILE TWO

START OF VIDEO FILE THREE
BR: She sent it to me. I was going through all of it and I found and I found a name of another one of the war brides. Marina. Auntie Marina.

ES: Oh yeah. Marina Gerosaga.

Br: And her daughter. I didn't know Betty Jane was born in the Philippines.

ES: Oh, in the Philippines!!

BR: And her name was on the manifest as well.

JM: That's exciting! Oh, that's great!

BR: And Betty Jane, she's moved. I think she's in Denver. I gotta try to get a hold of her and send her that.

ES: Lots of them they have children, but me I'm single.

BR: You were so young.

JM: you were married, but you didn't have a baby. You were by yourself.

ES: Good thing though, the boat, I meet somebody, Mary's boyfriend, he is working in the boat, so I was ok.

BR: Your auntie

ES: My auntie Mary, he was working in that boat, so I was safe.

BR: Yeah. He was taking care of her. She's got a relative …

ES: He bring my food into the room and then they found out, "No more that food in there. You go to the dining room." Because, I don't go out. I stay in the room, on that bunk, what they call it? Because we are four in this one room. Two bunks up and down, but we are up, because they want the one they got kids, so they got below.

BR: so they were bunk beds in your cabin. There were four wives, plus a child, whoever had a child.

ES: It is kinda hard for us to come here.

JM: Why was it hard?

ES: Because we don't know where we are going!

BR: Mom never even traveled in the Philippines.

JM: You stayed in Palompon your whole life, so Manila was the first travel you did.

ES: No. Tacloban.

JM: On the other island, just across the …

ES: No. It is not.

BR: Leyte is the island, but Ormoc Palompon, Tacloban…

ES: I didn't even go to Ormoc. My parents too strict. But my sister can go anywhere! But not me.

JM: Cause you were the oldest.

ES: I'm the oldest. Watch my mama's babies. [laughs] It's true

JM: Ok. When you think about World War II and when you think about immigrating to the United States, how does that make you feel?

ES: Well, the only thing I could think, where is United States? Am I safe over there? You know. Because I never travel. The only … I travel when they told us the first time they took us to Tacloban, to take the boat from Tacloban and they change the order. You have to take the boat to Manila to the United States. I said, "Oh boy. I don't have money. I give it to my mother." Because I don't know, those days, we don't keep money, the kids, to parents. We give it to parents, the one who take care of us. So, I don't have money. What I did, I go back to Palompon. I ask my money from my mother at that time. I need money to go to Manila. That's the way it goes. But I'm glad that I met some of the war brides in the boat already … the one that got kids. I don't feel very lonesome because I play with them.

BR: Were you excited or were you afraid or …

ES: I was worried where I'm going! Where am … where is Manila? You know. Because I never travel. Some of them they say they travel already, but me, no. My parents is very strict on me. I cook. I wash the dishes. You know. I'm the one to take care of them because my mother, we got how many?

BR: Twelve

ES: I'm the oldest. Eight years old I start cooking. But I did it very good.

JM: I believe you. Ok. So, imagine you didn't marry a U.S. soldier and you stayed in the Philippines. How is your life different?

ES: Like after I got married?

JM: Just imagine you didn't marry Federico. How do you think your life would be different in the Philippines.

ES: Oh. I'll work in the farm. My auntie's farm planting rice. Really. You know back home, when you're kid you learn how to take care of yourself. When you are six years old, you know how to wash dishes, cook dinner and then when you are big enough, go to your auntie, you help them plant rice.

BR: But if you hadn't married daddy.

ES: I'm dead now.

BR: Yeah. I mean, it's the same. It would be the same because, even now with the relatives that are still alive there and she's lost quite a few of her siblings, but the life is hard, and they're always asking support and my mom, my grandma. You know. My mom was probably sending money to my mom. I mean, if she wasn't here she couldn't help them. And if she wasn't here, I wouldn't be here. My brothers wouldn't be here. And my mom was able to, she … for not

having the education in the Philippines, this woman, you know, she went up, she was a woman before her time cause she took advantage of every opportunity of work. She didn't even tell my dad that she got her first job. Remember? She had a friend here that worked at Sportcaster, sewing, and she told my mom, "Do you want to work?" And my mom said of course, but my dad wanted her to stay home and take care of the kids.

ES: My husband said, "I can support you. You stay home."

BR: Yeah, but mom was, she was bullheaded.

ES: You know what I do? When my husband goes to work, take the bus, cause we don't have car. He take the bus, because we are close to the bus line. He take the bus. I take the next bus. [laughs]

BR: She went to her job

ES: He was, he don't know that I'm working

BR: He was the one, you know how, when they were sewing at Sportcaster, which later became Eddie Bauer, but anyway, they cut the materials and mom would be the cleanup woman and she'd clean and clean. She'd get on the bus. She'd be all dirty and one day my dad got off early and they were on the same bus.

ES: I sit down in front of the bus. I don't know that they was in the back. Because I been doing that for a month. You know I got money I don't know what to do

BR: She'd beat my dad home and get cleaned up and our neighbor took care of me and my brother by that time when she got her job but he didn't know but she got caught. You know, it catches up with you. And what did daddy tell you on the bus?

ES: How could you … you are dirty?

BR: You're so dirty. Because she was covered with, you know

ES: Because you know factory is got dust.

BR: Cleaning and assembling all the boxes and materials and then one of the Filipino women, Bobby Pastores, and she was a war bride. That, on her lunch time, "I'm gonna teach you how to sew." On the machines. So, on her lunch time, mom was practicing.

ES: Break time. And then when I know how to sew, they talk to the boss, "Fannie could sew now. They don't have to clean the floor."

BR: So, she did that and went up from there. And she brought material home and made us coats and jackets. I had so many homemade dresses. You know?

ES: Well, why not? It cost too much to buy it ready made. I could sew. I cut them.

BR: She worked at Eddie Bauer, and then after Eddie Bauer, another one of her friends worked at Boeing, told my mom, she went to Boeing and spent twenty-five years there and the last job she had, mom was one of the only sewers … she went from sewing the upholstery for the airplanes to doing aerospace doing the installation for the space craft.

ES: I make money in Boeing. Cause if I know how to do it, why not show it to them? Cause if you just wait for somebody to talk to you … blah. Don't do any good. I cut all the time. When they give me good clearance for my paper and I be the one to teach the new one in Renton Avenue and then I go Everett and then come to Plant Two and then back to Kent.

BR: And you went and worked in Everett, too.

ES: Uh huh. I work in Everett.

BR: you know, she shared her wealth, with her knowledge and other Filipinos came in, got them jobs as well, you know, what they need to bring them in.

ES: That's why they said, "Fannie, where did you learn?" [points to her head] Use your head! You learn how.

BR: you have to be open. And then when she had the money, she'd save it up. My dad didn't want a car. He was very frugal. Mom bought our first car. Cash. She didn't want to live in the projects anymore.

ES: It's only $3,000.

BR: She said, we're buying a house.

ES: My husband said, "No. We'll stay here in housing projects." "Oh. We sign that house there the one …" "Oh no. It's too much." I told him, "If you don't come with me, I sign it myself."

BR: Well, you know, daddy lived through the Depression, you know, and it was really really hard. He was tight. Ilocano tight.

ES: Yeah. If I'm not stubborn, we don't have much money then if I didn't do my way.

BR: And a lot of the women, they're strong, you know. The Filipino women. A lot of the war brides did the same thing and they shared amongst themselves, you know, jobs and …

ES: When somebody got better job, we want to get a better job, too, we follow, and then, when I go Boeing, ah! Come on!

JM: So, you supported each other with jobs and information

ES: We have to find a way that we could go up, you know

BR: The opportunities, they got the opportunities and they go for it

ES: That's what we do, but now I'm retired

BR: A long time, she's been retired since 1962

ES: Yeah. I hide money. My mother and father don't know anything. I hide money.

BR: But you sent money home, too.

ES: Yeah. I send my money to my mother, you, because they have hard time in Philippines

BR: So, that's really, that's the difference. It would have been the same in the Philippines and when she took me there, and I was already thirty-five years old. It was after my dad passed away, three years after my dad passed away, and I visited for the first time, nothing changed. There was no electricity. There was no, you know, plumbing. Oh my God, the bathrooms were a hole in the ground, and the cockroaches were on the ground.

ES: [laughs] she was scared!

BR: I was scared.

ES: I said, "They will not bite you."

BR: And then now, when you see little ants or a little spider, mom is going, "Kill it! Kill it!" In here! But the cockroaches, you know, their bodies are so big over there. I was screaming. "You have to come to the bathroom with me! I'm scared!" [laughs] But yeah, and the last time we were there, in Palompon, there were still, my cousins were still living in nipa huts, even her youngest sister.

ES: but my house, I built, when they were still alive, I built house for them.

BR: Yeah, but it was a small house

ES: It's small, but nice.

BR: Yeah. That's where we stayed, but, the bathroom facilities, oh my God. And you had to pump your own water.

ES: But not now though. Nice now. The last time I went, but of course, my mother father died already.

BR: Her mom died 98 right? She was ninety-eight years old.

ES: But my brother's house, they are nice now. They are … they learn to improve themselves, you know, but the one that cannot afford, they are the same, you know.

BR: The ones who didn't seek out work from the ships

ES: Because my brother work on the ship, better

BR: Rafael lost his arms, so he got a good pension, so he built a house in Palompon

ES: Even now, when I went home, cause the children married somebody outside of Palompon, so they built their house nice. Yeah. They are improving.

BR: It's just Manila that's really, you the sections of it … whoo! The rich rich rich and the poor poor poor.

END OF VIDEO FILE THREE

START OF VIDEO FILE FOUR

BR: Have you been there?

JM: Not yet.

BR: My goodness. It's quite a shock.

JM: I plan to go to Samar.

ES: Samar?

JM: Yeah. That's where my mom is from.

BR: That's where Auntie Turing was from. Marlen's mom was from Samar.

ES: But Samar pa Leyte, little bangka can goes, you know.

JM: Yeah. Now there's a bridge.

BR: yeah, to Cebu also, on the ferry.

ES: but it's a half hour … ah … day

BR: Yeah. Half day on the

ES: But you could see the land. By Palompon across.

BR: I love the Visayas, compared to the northern part. I haven't been down to the south ever, but … everybody always say oh don't go to Mindanao because of the Muslims.

JM: I have professors from Mindanao and they say the dangerous parts are really just very small. It's a giant island. So, almost all of the island is safe, but there are just really small places that …

BR: you stay away from.

JM: Yeah.

ES: Leyte is improved, because a lot of the war brides, they built houses in there.

BR: And some of them go back there, when it's winter here they go to the Philippines and it's summer, it's nicer, it's cooler, but warm and May to June, that's the worst time to go to the Philippines, but if they go October, November, December, it's summer like here, a little bit more humid.

ES: Yeah. It's improving Leyte, but I don't know Cebu.

BR: Cebu is beautiful, too. We went there. Remember?

ES: But you don't go on the outside, you just in the city. You know, city is different than outside, just like ba Leyte. Downtown it's ok, where we live, but in the outskirts they are still living in the huts, nipa hut. You know. Just like here. So, those people that come here and the husband work hard, they'd rather stay in the Philippines, they got beautiful house. Oh my God.

BR: Yeah, well the cost of living is not as high.

ES: They got social security here and they go there. They got a beautiful house. That's why they asked me to settle down in Leyte, Palompon. I said, oh no. I got too many brothers there and they [holds out her hand] "we don't have nothing to cook." It's true, you know.

BR: Yeah. They lean on her to support and all that stuff.

ES: You cannot support. I got too many brother, of course my sister, my … next to me, but some of my brother, it's kinda hard, you know. Especially those they think life is just alright. They don't go to school. Oh boy! The kids! When I went home, that's how I feel. Because, you know, back home, you pay for the schooling. You pay. From first grade up. Good in here, you don't pay for …

BR: Public school Private school you pay.

ES: Oh yeah. I know. It's kinda hard. When I go to school, my mother, she save little money here. She bake *bibingka*, you know, cake, and sell it so I could continue my schooling, but the war stopped me. You know I didn't go to school much. That's all I could speak English. That's why they said, when I come here, said, "How did you learn how to speak English?" "I go to school." "Here?" I said, "No. Philippines." Because when my husband work in the hotel, I meet him there with her [pointing to Betty], we pass to the kitchen and we sit down there.

BR: Go down the alley and you go to the kitchen and see all the workers there. Daddy was a busboy at the … it's called the …

ES: Gowman Hotel

BR: Gowman Hotel. It became the Stewart Hotel. He was a busboy, you know. Very menial job, still, he supported the family. And then with his military, you know, a job opened up at the federal building and dad was a custodian there until he died. He got cancer and I blame it on asbestos, probably.

ES: You know, before, too, even you are the Filipino here educated, they cannot get the job.

BR: Yeah, the professionals that come over, all the standards of teaching and all that, they plummet, once you get here. They say, oh you're not qualified. You don't have this this and this, and they can't get, you know, the doctor jobs or whatever, they have to start at the bottom of the totem pole.

JM: So, when you go back to Leyte, last time you went back to Leyte, you felt like everything was different.

ES: Yes. Different. Well, I didn't do too much going around because I have only the short time. I try to spend time with my family, you know. My mother was still alive, then my brother.

BR: The ones who still live in Palomopon. She's got a couple of them in Mindanao. In Davao.

ES: Mostly there now. They are in Davao. They are not Palompon.

BR: That's where all of the jobs are.

ES: And some of them they work in the ship. So, they got good job and the wife take care of the kids at home. Just like here, too.

BR: Unlike here. The wives have to work.

JM: Ok. So, the young Filipinos here, the young Filipinos in the Philippines, do you feel like they know about World War II and the Filipino experience

ES: Well, it depends how the parents tell them, you know, but for me, I was still twelve, thirteen years old. I know about the war because we run around with my brother here [points to side], my bundle here [points to head], we run to the mountain even it's muddy or whatever. See. I cut myself here.

BR: Yeah, she's got a big cut from running and, what was that a nail or something?

ES: No, not nail. It's a grass got thorn and it hit me right here and it got infected because I don't take care of. We don't know how to take care of it. Infected. Boy, I could hardly walk. But, you

know what? I think of the Philippines during war, I think we are very lucky because my mother, brother, father, we are alive, but my other sister, you know, the whole family was killed by Japanese. Bayonet. They kill even the baby. They kill it. Because somebody was able to escape. He was not killed. So, they told them who was killed in that family. Because we are on the other side, the western side of Leyte. The family. Lots of them killed by Japanese. They are mean. Even the baby. What can the baby do? But if they kill the parents, they cannot take care of the baby. Nobody. Because it's not like the American they take care of the kids, but the Japanese, baby, they will just kill. Because I remember my Auntie, cousin, Lourdes, you know the sister of Mark [to Betty] the whole family. Only one of the sister was slip because she is in the other side with us, but the whole family was killed. They bayonet them. To think of it, it's too bad because we are closer in there. You know the whole barrio in our area, we are all related: Omega, Apolinar, *mga* all the last name, they are all related. So, we know each other.

JM: So, the families helped each other.

ES: One cup of rice, make it porridge so they can have, the kids, because during the war, oh boy, we don't have much to eat.

JM: But the families helped each other. You would run to the houses.

ES: Especially the babies. The one that … I take care of my brother and sister. I'm cooking the lugaw, porridge, and when it's cooked, we feed them. You know. Never mind me. I eat guava, fruit, I'm fine. Yeah. We don't have much to eat during the war.

JM: Do you think that the young Filipinos understand that?

ES: Well, the young Filipino, I don't know if they teach them, but if the parents tell them how hard it is, they will know, but if they will just close their eyes, their brain about the war, World War II, they won't know.

BR: Even for me, you know, I couldn't conceive, I just knew there was a war, but I didn't know the ravages of it, you know, until the war brides, you know when you get older, then we look … and my dad never hardly talked about the war. He got wounded and he carried the bullet in his leg until he died, but mom got, she got a little pension from that. Daddy hardly ever talked about that. Through the war brides, you know, we got, here's Uncle Mariano, the one who created the war brides. This is a short history, here, of how it came about. Yeah. We made books for all the … me and Evie put the books together.

ES: You know what, during the war, because the Japanese come stay in Palompon, we have to come down to town, because otherwise, if you stay in the mountains, they cannot see us, they will kill everybody, even babies, so everybody come downtown. I remember that.

BR: Even when the Japanese were there?

ES: Yeah.

BR: Was this after the war?

ES: Before, during the war.

BR: Yeah, but if you came down from the mountain, wouldn't they kill you?

ES: Because we hide. They want the Japanese that they will come down to work with them?

BR: I'd be scared.

ES: But it's better to come down than they hunt you in there because they hunt you, they see you, they will kill you right there. But if you come down, it's ok.

BR: So, you had to cater to their needs?

ES: Yes. It's true.

BR: I guess that's what war is about.

ES: They are kinda mean, the Japanese. But when I hear the American is coming, oh we are so happy. We are in the mountain, high and then we could see the ocean and the big ship are coming. We are jumping and here the plane, American plane, dropping bomb in there. I said, "We supposed to get out from the place." I know that because I was there. They drop leaflet get out there because we are bombing the place. We are stubborn because we are safe in the high mountain, but they start bombing we run to Rizal, go to the water. Oh my God. And, here I'm carrying my brother and my bundle. Well, if there is only camera those days, I have something to show, but we do not. You know we walk close to the big street. We walk in the plane area, so the Japanese cannot see me. Can you imagine how many brothers I got? They are following me. They have a mud. Because we don't walk in the road. We go to the muddy area because the Japanese will not go there. Yeah. Oh, I could just imagine now, you know. But there's not camera those days.

BR: Yes there were, you know, the news people. They have footage of the war and World War II, just not for individuals.

END OF VIDEO FILE FOUR

START OF VIDEO FILE FIVE

ES: Even the one have camera before the war, they cannot carry it.

BR: Leave it behind. You just carry your essentials.

ES: All you do is carry kids and then the food, the important things because even we have little food, it's good enough for us, you share, you know.

BR: And the rice goes a long way

ES: Yeah. I don't forget that. I was the oldest in the family and sometimes my mother is pregnant.

JM: She had twelve children. Ok. That's all of the questions that I have. Do you want to say anything else about your immigration to the United States, your experience?

ES: Oh, coming here. Ok. I was married already with my husband. They write me that when your paper arrive, be sure to fill it up and get it notarized and the only thing I know to notarize it, my uncle. He filled up the paper, notarized it and I have to send it to him, here in the United States and then he will be the one to apply for me and then when I got the paper from him, I go to my uncle, "What shall I do with this?" Because I don't know what's going on? He said, "Oh, your husband wants you to go to the United States." Go to the United States? [laughs] Well, you go to the American Embassy and show them your paper and they will help you right there. It's true they help me. And then they approve. Was in Tacloban, Leyte, but they cut it off the immigration there. You have to go to Manila to continue. So, I did. Well, it's alright to Manila because my Auntie Rosa was there, you know, working in there. So, they help me where to go and then if I know the place already I go myself and the American is the one take care of us. "Oh, your paper is complete. All you do is ask your husband …" They send you money. Two hundred dollars because some of them, you don't have money when arrive here, the husband didn't meet them because some of them they are someplace else, you know. They don't have money to buy food. So, they have to go to … Red Cross to get food. For me, I was lucky because I was in the second group the war brides to come here and they told us already that you have to have some money because in case your husband is not right there, you could buy some food for yourself. So, I wrote your daddy, "I need two hundred dollars before I could come there." So, they send me right … to the Red Cross. They didn't send it direct me. To the Red Cross. I was in Manila.

JM: So, the money got sent to the Red Cross and you got the money from the Red Cross?

BR: When you landed here?

ES: Uh huh. Yeah. So, I was good. I was alright, but I didn't spend wildly the money, like some of them they blew it out, but me, oh no. I just get the money because we take the ship coming here and supposed to be one month, but seventeen days only cause we got the big ship.

BR: Seventeen days. I thought it was a month. But they were diverted from San Francisco. They were supposed to land in San Francisco because they changed the route she ended up in Seattle and there was kind of a mix-up because my dad wasn't able to meet mom in Seattle. He couldn't enter.

JM: I remember that story. I tell it a lot. I tell it to my military dad. He finds it very funny. Ok. I really think that's it.

BR: Ok. Do you want to take a picture of these.

JM: I do. Maraming salamat po.

ES: Walang anuman. Tagalog. That's ok. I don't much Tagalog either. When I come here I don't know how to speak Tagalog.

BR: I just get a few words from Visayan, Ilocano, Tagalog. I took a Tagalog class once, nobody to practice with.

JM: It's a very difficult language to learn.

BR: So, I pick up words through a lifetime and I put them together, they're all mixed up and I just get laughed at. I said forget it.

END OF INTERVIEW

APPENDIX C – LUCY HAYNES MCCANTS INTERVIEW

Date: July 24, 2019
Interviewee: Luciana Haynes McCants
Interviewer: Jeannie Magdua
Location: Seattle, Washington
Transcribed by: Jeannie Magdua

Start of Video File 1

Jeannie Magdua: So my name is Jeannie Magdua. I'm a student at the University of Hawai'i in the Asian Studies program. I'm doing a research on Filipina War Brides, and today is July 24. We're in Seattle, Washington and I am recording Lucy Haynes McCants

Lucy McCants: Lucy McCants. Yeah.

JM: Ok. So, what I need to know is, is it ok with you if I use your image and your words in my research?

LM: Ok.

JM: That is ok with you?

LM: Yeah.

JM: Ok. Good. And so if you could please restate your name for me. What is your name?

LM: Luciana Haynes McCants. Because I was … when I came here I was Haynes and I was married twice.

JM: Ok. Great. So, I'm going to start with some questions. If you don't remember, that's ok. If you, you know, if you remember other things that I don't ask about, you can tell me those, too.

LM: Ok.

JM: So, I know you have some things prepared that you want to, um, say, and so we will just go as …

LM: I'm just trying in terms to in terms of years where I lived when I left the Philippines and when I arrived here.

JM: Ok.

LM: When I stayed in Chattanooga, when I stayed in Fort Bliss, and then my husband went to Korea, and I stayed in California [inaudible] instead of going to Chattanooga. And then I stayed

in California and then when he came back from Korea, I, we moved here, he was assigned in Washington, Fort Lawton. We stayed there for, well say, a couple of years. Couple, three years. And then, they are, we were shipped to, we went to Europe and we stayed in Europe for four years, from fifty-four to fifty-eight. We enjoyed that thoroughly. And then he came back here and then we [inaudible] in the military while I continued to work in the government. I had a job. I find little jobs here before I went to Europe, but when we got to Europe, I went into the civil service, and so I worked for the government, too. So, from there, we moved here to Washington, I continued working and I worked for the attorneys for the Internal Revenue Service, District Counsel, and stayed there for twenty years until I retired, and I retired from the government, so I also had a pension there.

JM: What year did you retire?

LM: I was the secretary there for the District Counsel, and uh, and then, I had the [inaudible] award from my work with the Treasury Department see cause I [inaudible] Treasury and then when I retired from the government, I went into travel business cause everybody didn't want me to quit [inaudible] and my job was so nice. It was so easy for me. Because they were all lawyers you know, all professional and I was their Wonder Woman really. I took care of all of them, their secretaries, I was the, more or less, administrator. So, I was, I was happy in my job. And I went into the travel industry. I traveled a lot. I did cruises and tours.

JM: You did what? Cruises and tours?

LM: Yeah.

JM: Ok.

LM: So, I went into the Orient, Southeast Asia, so I had the tours, for seven years I went to, from here, I went to Bangkok, to Singapore, and Malaysia, and Hong Kong. Hong Kong, you know. And then, I did that seven times because everybody loved the tour. But anyways, I continued until I was, oh, about, almost, I'm ninety-nine now, so eighty-nine or ninety, and I didn't want to work anymore, but Lester still continues with his son, my husband.

JM: And that is your current husband?

LM: Yeah.

JM: Ok.

LM: Still … [inaudible], not much, but he loves to go on cruises all the time, so we still have to go, so we just, cause he loves the … all the nice ships, but I said I don't want to fly anymore. I don't want to fly over ten hours anymore, so that's limiting. So, here is where we stay. We've been here for ten years. We moved from, well I had a home in Bellevue when I was married my first husband, I had a home in Bellevue, and when he died in 1999, 1997, when I continued to do travel, and then Lester was a friend of his. He was helping me around, so then in about two years we went to the Philippines. Everybody was questioning this relationship.

Carlotta Luna: So, they got married.

LM: So then we got married over there.

JM: Ok.

LM: So, we got married. So, I'm McCants, so we came back here, and he had oh, um, three, two apartments, here in Seattle, which is about three blocks from here. They're right down there, and uh, so we moved from my house to here in 2006. And, that's a long time we stay here, but I sold my house to my daughter, to Lucy and her son so that we can keep it in place but still in the family, so I can go there anytime I need to sleep there, stay there [inaudible] we're all … that's the Filipino way, you know. That's not great sometimes. [laughs]

JM: Let's pause the video while they do this.
END OF VIDEO FILE 1

START OF VIDEO FILE 2
JM: Ok. And what is your name:

Lucille Ramos: My name is Lucille Ramos

JM: Lucile Ramos? Ok.

LR: I'm Lucy's daughter.

JM: You're Lucy's daughter. Ok. Are you the first daughter?

LR: No. I'm the youngest daughter.

JM: You're the youngest daughter. Ok.

CL: I'm Carlotta Luna and I am mom's oldest daughter. We got three kids and three grandkids. They are beautiful.

JM: I bet they are. Ok. We're gonna go back to Tita Lucy. Alright. So, I'm going to ask you some questions that I've prepared and just answer the best you can. Ok. So, can you describe to me the town that you grew up in in the Philippines.

LM: Oh. I grew up in a place called Balamban. It was in the western side of Cebu. This is Cebu (holding hands up). We are on the western side. Samar is on this side and I'm on the other side. I was born in a place called Balamban. (spell: B A L A M B A N)

JM: Thank you.

LM: And, um, when I was, oh in that house that I grew up, my father had built this house, it was supported by coral. Half of it was in the sea, the other was in land. When it's high tide, we go jump out our window so go swimming in the ocean [inaudible]. I move from that place, from Balamban, when I was in the fifth grade [inaudible] until I finished school and I went to Silliman University, a Presbyterian university in Dumaguete in other island, but after war … no … during the war because I had my, I married my boyfriend, my childhood boyfriend, he was their father (pointing to daughters at the table).

CL: Which we never, I never saw, because I was too young when he died

LM: Yeah. He was in the military when the Japanese were there. We married because of the war. He need to go to the military and I was running around all over the place with my family. And so, he uh …

CL: Never remember him. I never remember

LM: … before, let's see, maybe after four years, four years, I think, um, my youngest son was still in my … and he was drowned, with uh, he was on a mission on Bantayan Island to go to Cebu City, and the ship was, the boat …

CL: … capsized

LM: … collapsed, I guess. They never found him, but they found a survivor.

CL: He wasn't a good swimmer? He doesn't know how to swim? Does he swim? My dad? That's why I, I don't swim. We can't swim. She's a very good swimmer …

LM: Yeah, I swim a lot, when I was a young girl, but anyway

JM: What was his name.

LM: Carlos. My husband? Carlos

CL: So, I'm the junior, Carlotta. Lucille is mom's junior, Lucille.

JM: I see. And your son's name?

LM: Carlos.

CL: Carlos.

JM: Ok. Carlos. Named after his father. Ok. And what year was it that he died?

LM: In 1944. He died in 1944. Because Carlotto, my youngest son was not born yet and he was … I think he was … in February or something [inaudible] on a sailboat. And so that was strange.

I had sort of, I don't know, a premonition or somebody and I thought that he was coming. He was there. He came [inaudible]. But anyway …

[pause for arrival of food]

JM: How old were you when you married your first husband? (7:01)

LM: I must be 18, 19. I was born in 1920

JM: And you married in …

LM: Huh?

JM: And what year did you marry?

LM: In October

JM: In 1940?

LM: In 1939. Before the war… before the Japanese started. I try to … a little bit more about the date.

LM: Anyway, during the war, I stay with my in-laws, they had, we had sugar plantation in Bogo

JM: In where?

CL: In Bogo. B O G O

JM: Thank you.

LM: The southern part.

JM: The southern part of Cebu?

CL: No. Northern part.

JM: Of Cebu?

CL: Northern part.

LM: Close to Leyte and Samar.

JM: Close to Leyte and Samar?

LM: You can go maybe by boat.

LR: Close to Polompon. You know Polompon?

JM: I know where that is (9:06). So, it's close?

LM: [inaudible] if you see the map, you know.

JM: Ok. So, I just want to make sure I have it straight. So, you grew up in Balamban?

LM: Hmm?

JM: You grew up in Balamban.

LM: Yes.

JM: And your dad had built your house. Half of it was in the water. Ok. Um. You went to school and … so, what language did you speak at home? When you were growing up. What language did you speak?

CL: Visayan

LM: Visayan

JM: Ok. And, um, did you learn English in school?

LM: Yes. In first grade.

JM: In first grade.

LM: So, by the time you're in second grade you have to speak English. Because in my school, you must speak English anywhere on the ground because if you didn't, if somebody caught you not speaking English, you have to wear a dunce, not the cap, like a little

JM: like a lei?

LM: Like a necklace. It says "speak English."

JM: Ok.

LM: That's how we, we really learn. I don't know how quickly we learn, but by the third grade, second grade, they taught us in English. (10:42)

JM: Do you remember any of your lessons? Like, I know there were some songs.

LM: [holds up her hands and sings] – I have two hands, the left and the right, hold them up high, clean and bright [humming]. Oh, you know that.

JM: My mom used to sing it to me when I was a little girl.

CL: How you learn that?

JM: My mom used to sing it to me. Yes.

LM: And then, outside our house is a fisherman thing. Every day, he go out fishing, and uh, when they come back, we go out and we buy the fresh fish, right there where we come back. When I was two or three years old. It's very clear in my mind. When they line their net [inaudible] when they would take care of their nets, we would dance. There was a little sister. Not my little sister. She was a daughter from my father's … [nods her head]

JM: Other woman.

LM: Yes. She lived with us, and so, we go out there in front of the, of the fisherman, we would sing the song from the [inaudible singing] we just made it up from the words as we hear it from the movie those songs and we dance and they give us money.

JM: The sailors gave you money?

LM: Yeah. A penny or something.

JM: How old were you?

LM: Maybe two or three. Three years old maybe. I think. And uh, she was about my age. We were just two months apart. She was born November. I was born in January.

JM: Ok. So, are there other childhood memories from the town?

CL: [asks about the sister]

LM: Bibing? My other sister in the Philippines. We have never contacted each other.

JM: Ok. So, um, when did you learn Tagalog?

LM: In Manila. Everybody speak different dialect and we learn a few words. I learned a little bit when I went to Manila after the war. And these kids were already [inaudible]. I went to continue my studies. Cause I was there first year in … when war broke

JM: So, you finished college after the war?

LM: Sort of finished, but I didn't graduate because I got married. The day that my [inaudible] I had to go back to [inaudible]. We got married the day that I'm supposed to have my graduation. So, I forgot about that and got married [inaudible]. I had to go to another province from Manila where I was going to school. We had to go to Pampanga.

END OF VIDEO FILE 2

START OF VIDEO FILE 3
LM: … town and where the Clark Air Force Base was. That's where we were married.

JM: You married at Clark Air Force Base?

LM: Clark. Yeah, Clark.

JM: Ok.

LM: We married at Clark Air Force Base and the person at that time was, yeah the person at that time died, too, same day. We were married April 15, 1948. Who was that? I don't know

[side conversation with the daughters]

JM: Ok. So you were married first to Carlos, well first to Carlos and he died in 1944.

LM: Oh you mean my first husband.

JM: Your first husband. When he died, did you stay in Balamban with your children?

LM: Yeah, I stayed with my … we stayed in Bogo. That's where they (pointing to her daughters) they are. They have a hacienda, a sugar plantation, so they have a big place there and they have a house downtown. And so, we stayed there at that house for a while and then the Japanese started coming, coming around so we had to go, we decided to go move somewhere because they come with their bayonets.

JM: Right. So, talk about that a little bit more, about the Japanese coming. Um, do you remember when that was?

LM: First we stayed in that house.

LR: What year?

LM: It was, uh, 44 then. It started 1940? 41?

JM: So, after Pearl Harbor? Do you remember that?

LM: Mmhmm. (nodding in agreement)

JM: So, after Pearl Harbor they came to the Philippines.

LM: Pear Harbor was

JM: December 41

LM: It was before that

JM: It was before that? So, did they come to your town?

LM: Yeah, some of, you know, what they was, not every time, twice they came, but the first time they came, they were looking for guns. First they ask "where are the men?" [shrugging] "There are no men here." They were all in the military you know. They join the [inaudible]. So, that's ok. He look for bullets, guns, those things, you know. And the Japanese had Filipino people with them, to help them, you know, interpreting, and so fortunately, this man he came with these Japanese people because there was one time they came I was pregnant and he said, "Where's the man? Where's your husband?" "Well, he go in the military [inaudible] and this time, this man, the Filipino person with the Japanese, found a diary that I had that said what we were doing and where our friends were. They were little things that you, I don't know, they may be of some help you know. So, but anyway, we got [inaudible] and then they go away. You see he help me. He withheld all the information that they found in my whatever, in my home, and he didn't tell the Japanese. He just, he just [inaudible]. So that was very nice. Another time they came when we were playing mahjong. We were playing mahjong you know?

JM: Who was playing mahjong?

LM: Yeah, I do. They do. We play mahjong. Do you?

JM: Oh yeah.

CL: You do?

LM: Oh we should play mahjong someday.

CL: You play for money?

JM: Oh no. [laughter] So, a Filipino was helping the Japanese and he found your diary? But then he hid it from the Japanese soldiers, so he didn't show it to them. Ok. And you said you played mahjong. You played mahjong with this man?

LM: The time they came we were playing mahjong

JM: Oh. Ok.

CL: We have a lot of vices, you know? Filipinos, we play mahjong, we are good singers, good dancers, good eaters, and good cook.

JM: That's all true. No, I agree. Ok. So,

LM: In that time he came, we decided we would pack up and go cause they come from town and go to our place right away. So, we decided to go away, you know. To go far away from …

JM: where did you go?

LM: We go somewhere, next barrio and town and find a place to stay. People were right, they will help us. They will help us. I don't care how small a space they had. They will help. They were nice neighbors.

CL: They said that during the Japanese occupation, it was fun. That's what my Auntie said because we are running from one place to the other, hide

LM: in a way. Young people always make things more pleasant wherever they go [inaudible]

JM: So, Tita Josie and Tita Fannie, they lived on Leyte and they described running into the mountains to hide.

LM: Yeah. Well, it's really more like we were going to the mountains, in that side. We can see the boats, the Japanese boats and then we can see the fight (pointing to the air). Oh we like to see the dog fight. And we see the one that when they are bombing the ships. And there were Japanese people that were … go to the shore and they hide someplace.

CL: So, how old were we during that time, two or three?

LM: You were just one. You were just one in 1940. [inaudible] a town, a barrio, a fiesta or something you know, bring their wares, you know, to sell, their little products, so we go and she (pointing to daughter Carlota) will be on the shoulder, and I will be carrying this one (pointing to daughter Lucy) and we go and go to the market.

JM: So, at the end of the war, your husband was already gone and the end of the war came, do you remember the end of the war? What was that like for you?

LM: We were happy. (9:24) And then after the war, in 44, I make plans to go back to school. Very difficult because I had these kids, you know, but they were cared for. My, my in-laws, they really, they don't want these kids to be taken away somewhere. They were always in their care. And at that time they help take care of them.

JM: So, they took care of your children when you went to school?

LM: I went back to school in Manila, to Far Eastern

JM: Oh, Far Eastern University. So, you did not know your husband yet at the end of the war.

LM: I didn't see him until 1946. I was in Manila. I'm almost finished. I was going to school. I had some Filipino friends from Cebu. They were living there, working some place, a restaurant or something like that. So, I stayed with them and work, wherever I can find work and I found a job at a restaurant (11:24). I didn't do much.

CL: It was probably difficult for her because our dad died, with the three children by herself.

LM: So, any, I just continue, and then one Friday, oh, I had a friend. How did I meet her? Is it school? Oh, somebody in my school. You know the black family, but this lady's name was Virginia and she asked me to come and play mahjong. I didn't have any money, so I said, "to play." And she said, "Oh, just come." So, she and her brother were entertainers in a club. I didn't go to the club, but sometimes, I go with them, that's all my, my entertainment. And working over there at the Chinese restaurant as a waitress. I didn't wash dishes, but I carried a lot of dishes. Then, I finally met Fred in person through my black friends. He came there. We're playing Mahjong (14:01) with them and he was there and he was introduced to me. I didn't think anything. He was a friend of that family.

JM: So your friend introduced Lester to you.

LM: Fred. Fred was his name.

JM: Fred. I'm sorry.

LM: This one, my husband now is Lester.

JM: Ok.

LM: So, he started asking me to go out with him, but I didn't, but Virginia, the family, I forget the family name, but anyway, they were in the musical entertaining thing. They just said, "Oh, come on, just come and watch." And they were singing and they were doing the music, Virginia and her sister, and the two of them would sing, you know. I guess at that time, they were entertainment, they were trained [inaudible] cause there weren't too many black people in Philippines, but they were entertainers. A lot of entertainment parties. Well, anyway, that's how I met my, my Fred, my late husband. So, this was '46, and now and then I'd go, but then he
END OF VIDEO FILE 3

START OF VIDEO FILE 4
LM: he didn't forget. He said in his mind, that was the one. It was gonna be me. He concentrated. So, he tried to invite me to his place, the military place for Thanksgiving. He said, "I will come to Manila and pick you up." And so he was, he was, captured, held up, by [inaudible]. You know, the little Filipino, um

LR: Bandits

LM: Bandits. They took the car away from his and his driver and he and his driver had to go in the cornfield and that's where they were hiding, they are running to, because they took the car and those things and whatever he had and then I thought [inaudible] on that day he was supposed to come and pick me up, you know, they were on the way to come over to Manila to pick me up, but they never showed up. I said, oh, that's ok. Maybe that's the thing, you know. He didn't really care then. So, I ignore. I didn't want to be bothered with him and Virginia would call me to play mahjong or something. I said no, I don't really want to be with them. So, finally there was this gal. She was a stenographer in Manila who was a friend of the Reynolds, that's the

family name, but she was a white gal, but she worked too, so, at the, at Pampanga, but she was a court reporter, and she brought his letter. She said that she wanted to see me. I said, "I don't know her." But she finally came and met me, and she said, she told me that she had a letter to give to me. I said, "From whom?" So, it was from Fred, but I didn't want to be bothered with him. So, I said, "That's ok. I don't want his letter." But they said [inaudible] I read in the newspaper about these people that were held up on the way from Pampanga to the city, to Manila, and, but they spelled the name was HAINES. So, that's Haines, but my name, cause I know it's HAYNES. So, I said, "I don't think that's the same one." So, finally, the girl that brought the one letter, that I said to return the letter, I didn't want to talk to him. She said, "Lucy, you have to read this because he had an accident." And she told me about the holdup, that they were held up. So, I said, "Oh." So, we become friends again, because he nearly died because he said he nearly died, they got the guns and everything, you know, and that's why they run to the cornfield, and so that was the story, and then 1946, 47, 48, so by then, you know, 1948, he decided, "Would you like to go with me to …" We were little closer friends now. "… go to the Chief?" You know, the head of the military in Manila. The chief of, he was the, um, but he was a colonel and he wanted me to go with him and ask him about something about maybe getting married. I said, "What?" He said, "Well, we'll just ask." Because, at that time, it was difficult for, to get married with a soldier, with an officer, because the lady that, the judge, in Manila, really did not want the girls to marry soldiers. (5:40)

JM: Ok. Talk about that some more. So, there was a woman officer, or was she working for the Philippine government?

LM: The judge?

JM: the judge was part of the Philippine government?

LM: Yeah, the judge was a Filipino judge. Wait. Wait a minute because I want to go back. Fred asked me to go to the Chief of Chapman. It was the headquarters.
END OF VIDEO FILE 4

START OF VIDEO FILE 5
LM: The Chief of Champan asked all kinds of questions. Where are you from? Where I was born. Does your family agree about marriage with [inaudible] or something, especially with black or something? And I said, I didn't say anything. I didn't know. They sort of look at me like I say yes or something. I didn't say I don't know, when I couldn't, I was forced to say something. I just say I don't know. I said, well [inaudible] he was looking for if we would be a good couple. So, he said, "You can go and get your license at the justice of the peace downtown. She is very strict. She doesn't want anybody, any gals to get married, you know, to anybody." So, we went down there and I said, "I'm not doing anything today." I don't know, he suggest something. I said, "No. I'm not ready." So, we went to the judge. We go first to the judge. And we went there. She was very, sort of stern looking you know. Fred went and sat down. He talked with her very cordial. If you met my, my Fred, you will be impressed, too. But anyway, that judge was so impressed with him. She just turned real nice. (2:42) So, she arranged to help him, sort of, you know. So, I didn't have time to think really. That was just the same day that he asked

me to go Chief of Chaplain to ask about something and then we end up getting married, getting a license. But anyway

JM: So, you went to the Chief of Chaplains that morning and then the same day you went to the Filipino judge and that day you got your license?

LM: And the Filipino judge, she was a, you know, pay your two dollars somewhere and sit, but she talked to Fred for a long time, and she said, I mean to me in our language, she said, "He's a reliable person and you're lucky." But he was a first lieutenant only you know (3:58) but he was a, a good person. He was older than me, much older, but, almost ten years older, about nine I think, nine, but anyway, I thought he should at least be married or something and I said, that's why I was kind of [inaudible] but no he wasn't married at all, had not been married, not divorced. At that time, you know where Morehouse is. He went to Morehouse College in the South.

JM: In Tennessee

LM: So, he was, he was a nice person. And we were married and it was almost our fiftieth wedding anniversary he died. I mean the next year will be our fiftieth.

JM: Ok. He was a nice man.

LM: 1997 he died.

LR: We came here in 1968

JM: You came to the United States in 1968?

LR: Yeah, and stayed with then for, for a while. He was very nice.

CL: And gentleman

LR: Gentleman. When he go out he say, that's my daughter. Very nice.

JM: Ok. So, you got married. Which year was that? What year did you get married?

LM: 1948

JM: Ok. So, when was his tour of duty in the Philippines done? When did he have to leave the Philippines? (6:07)

LM: In April. That's because his ship was leaving early April.

JM: In 1948?

LM: Uh huh. So what he did, he tried to arrange everything, very, she was in a hurry because he did not fly. He had to go by ship, too, so anyway, he arranged everything, all the papers any [inaudible] information or anything, and this is the lady, the person that you contact, the name and the address, and telephone number. So, after that, I waited.

JM: So, he came to the United States first. [interruption] So, he had to leave the Philippines in 1948.

LM: Yeah

JM: He came back to the States without you.

LM: Oh yeah. And I came back by myself. I came by ship, too.

JM: So, he arranged military transport for you.

LM: Yeah

JM: He made that request. Ok. And when did you come to the United States?

LM: In April. We were married in April and I came here, I left the Philippines in October. So, I was came in November of '48.

JM: And you landed in San Francisco?

LM: Mmhmm

JM: And do you remember the name of the ship?

LM: General Hase. General H A S E. The name of the General

JM: Ok. I'll look for that. So, you didn't bring your daughter with you.

LM: No! I couldn't. They wouldn't let me bring them.

JM: Who would not let you?

LM: My father-in-law

CL: Very strict. So, when his son died in the war, my grandfather took care of the children. So, my mother, when she married in 1948, when she came, I was seven. She was six, and my younger brother was five, but my grandparents were the ones that raised us.

JM: And they would not let you leave with your mother? Ok. Thank you. Ok. So, you came to the United States in November 1948. You were here, you arrived on military transport. You

landed in San Francisco. What about your family in the Philippines? So, your parents, were they still alive?

LM: Yeah. They were still alive. They were my only family. You know my other family after the war, we didn't know where they evacuated on my side, you know. They were in the southern part of Cebu and we were in the northern part of Cebu. It was somewhat difficult, but they were evacuating. I was evacuated with my kids, you see, with my other family, with my husband's family. I had contact with my other family, the [inaudible] my brother after the war, after I got married. As a matter of fact, after I got married, I didn't tell anybody, I was afraid they would say no, so I

CL: You didn't tell anybody what?

LM: That I was going to get married. When I decided that, ok, ok with Fred, you know, yeah I was afraid to tell anyone. I know the [inaudible] will say no. What he said, we have to obey, so it's better for me not to tell them so I wouldn't have to disobey anybody.

JM: So, you would need your father-in-law's permission?

LM: Yes

JM: And not your own parents?

LM: But my own parents were, they were in another place I didn't see them. I think my father was in Bohol and my mother was with my

CL: So, how long did you stay here in the States before you went back? So, you stay here how many years?

LM: Eleven

CL: Eleven. So, we never recognize her because we had never seen mom because she was away, so we were kind of ashamed, you know, to face her because we don't know how to react after ten years.

JM: So, how old were you when she came back to visit? Do you remember?

LR: She was in high school already.

CL: You came here in '48, right? So, you went back in '59. Ten years after. So, I was in my high school. I was graduating. So, we were so excited when my cousin say like, "My mom is coming." "Oh, really?" I say. We don't know how to react, whether we get excited or we're scared, or we're just, you know, so we went to the airport, and then the plane landed, and then the passengers went down, so we wanted to hide [laughs]. And she said, "Where's mom?" The last passenger that she came with a lot of suitcases. "Oh, mom is pretty!" You know? [laughs].

LR: We went to hide in the bathroom.

CL: We were hiding, you know, and we were just crying, and so, when she came, and we stayed that day [inaudible] and she was sitting with us and hugging us, looking at us and [crying sounds], and then we were just like [makes shy expression].

JM: So, your first thought, when you saw your mother was "she is pretty"?

LR: Yeah. She is!

CL: Yeah.

JM: Ok. That's sweet. So, thank you. That's a part of the story I don't usually get. So, I appreciate that very much. Um, ok, so he came to the United States. He went to Tennessee when he came back and then he arranged for transport for you?

LM: No he wasn't, when he came back, he was in another, another fort, you know, another military place. It was Fort Bliss, Texas, but his parents lived in Tennessee. So, that when he picked me up from San Francisco, we went directly to his parents' in Tennessee and that's where I stayed for about three months because we didn't have any quarters. We have to wait for quarters, for place to stay in El Paso, in Texas. In El Paso, that's right, and then, but anyway, I learned, when I was in Tennessee, I learned everything. I learned to cook food, you know, southern food, I learned to clean house. I have to do the kitchen and the beds and everything, just learned the American way (14:55) you know. When I was in the Philippines, I didn't do anything.

JM: So, who taught you those things?

LM: My mother-in-law.

JM: What is her name?

LM: Edna

JM: Edna Haynes?

LM: Yeah. Haynes.

CL: Edna and John?

LM: Yeah. John. The father. You know, it's so funny, when we are on the way from San Francisco, we stop in Chicago. We were on the, I don't know anything. When we were at the station, everybody start coming, they looking at me, so, I said, "Well, if we were in the Philippines, everybody probably would curious to looking at the same when they are there." So, I just said, "Well." And I smiled and then I waved, so that was ok! So, it was ok. I was ok. From that time

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LM: I said, well, they're people just like us and they are friendly and so I have no no no nothing in here [points to heart], no fear, no what you call. So, when we went to Chattanooga from Chicago, we had to go on the plane, and so we were together, but we went on a single gate, we were on separate plane or, coach, or something, we were sitting together with the black people, and I said, that's what I said, I don't care where he sits. Where he goes, that's where I go. Yeah, I had no problem at all. So, it was a short flight. So, when we got to Chattanooga, there were three people from his family: the father, the mother, and the sister. And I said, "My God, they're all big people!" They're all tall, big. And I'm just little and they look at me so pitifully. I said, they said they didn't know that [inaudible] married a child. [laughs] They thought I was a child and then from then on, they called me baby. That was my name.

JM: You were "baby" to his family?

LM: Yes Baby or Sugar. Sugar or Baby.

JM: Ok. I want to go back just a little bit. Because I was looking at, I went to Washington, DC last week and I was looking at some files. They were requests for permission to marry. So, soldiers were making requests to their Chaplains to marry these Filipinas, but the Filipinos had to have letters of permission from their parents. You did not get those.

LM: No. I did not. I did not tell anybody because I know they'll say no and you don't disobey, you know.

JM: Right. So, did you get permission from the judge?

LM: Yeah. The judge, Lopez was the last name.

JM: Lopez was the last name. I'm going to look for that.

LM: She was a mean judge.

JM: Was she? Ok.

LM: According to everybody.

JM: Well, I'm impressed that it was a female.

LM: Yeah. A female judge.

JM: That's impressive.

LM: She was very, very watchful, to make sure that the girls went to the right person or something, I guess.

JM: Good for her. And your husband was in the Clark Air Force Base?

LM: Yeah.

JM: So, he came in 1948. You came in 1948. First, went through Chicago and then to Chattanooga. You waited there for three months because you needed quarters. They weren't ready, and then you went to El Paso.

LM: Yeah. And while I was in Chattanooga, I was able to visit in Washington, DC and Baltimore because my sister-in-law worked in Baltimore and my other friend from the Philippines, you know, a military that knew us and so invited me to Washington, DC for a dance, an important event. So, I visited those before I went to El Paso.

JM: Very nice. I was just there last week. Yeah. It was very nice. Ok. So, in Chattanooga, were you the only Filipina?

LM: Yeah, the only. The very only. I was curious. I really, and then I, I read the papers, and I listened to the radio, and I didn't watch too much people. My in-laws did not allow me to just go. I mean, they watch me, they just really watch me like a kid, you know, and so I did not have much social life in Chattanooga. Fred had cousins who wanted to take me out, you know, to have fun, but my in-laws were no, they didn't allow her to take me somewhere. So, I went to church. I went to the grocery store, and I went to church and, you know, I went to a Baptist church and they were all doing everything. They sing. It was very different from the church I was born in, something, but it was, and they [inaudible] and one time I went there and we were all dressed, you know, my first hat. I never wore a hat. I had a picture of my first hat and gloves and everything. I was just, everybody was dressed up to go to church and then somebody screamed, you know, and I was really [inaudible] or something and my mother-in-law [hugging herself], "She was just happy." I said, "Happy?" I thought she was going out of her mind or something cause she screamed and she just, she was just, happy.

JM: So, you grew up Catholic?

LM: I grow up Catholic, but I went to Stillman and I said, "Oh, there's another way of praying that's really closer to my heart." You know? The Catholic memorize everything, by praying, we pray, like the rosary, but there, over there I went to Seneman (sp?). they were Presbyterian. So, I can pray for myself, you know, and there's no confession, and it was just different and it felt really alive like I'm, I'm communicating with my God, you know, directly. That's it. I had a hard time, cause my mother was a Catholic. They were all Catholic. Explaining this to them, to my parents, to become a Presbyterian, would be a long, long time, a hard time. So, I went home on vacation. I have to tell them because I know I want to join the church, I said, somehow, my father was the one who really was [inaudible] that was more open minded (8:30) and uh, in the end my mother crying. I know. I know. I know I feel it deeply in my heart to the Catholic. Even now, I genuflect when I have to pray. You know, it's there. So, when I went back, my father now, when they say something, that's the law. He said we all go to heaven, you know. "If you're

sincere with your prayers with God, then He will accept you." So, my mother couldn't say anything, so I joined the church. I became a Protestant.

JM: But Presbyterian is very different from Baptist.

LM: Oh, yes!

JM: So, you had a different experience in the South, in a Southern Baptist Church.

LM: And they sang a long time. You have the long Sunday because they would talk one after another, you know. One priest after another and they say, you know, long prayers. (10:01) So, anyway, I survived that. It was,

JM: So, then you went to El Paso after

LM: Yeah. I get there and we have to wait still. We still did not have the, I had to stay in a, it was a house, I mean, an Inn, where we are waiting, those who are waiting for their quarters, but there's nobody, there's only one, we are the only one really ended up with one, one big quarters, one big house. It was a three bedroom, big hall, big kitchen, big living room, and big dining room. It was big. There were three officers that stayed there before, but somebody take care of there, I guess. So, but anyway, that's the house they gave us. We finally got a house. So, whenever anybody wanted to entertain and they come to the base, they come over to our house. We had everything, you know, and we had a big yard, big mulberry tree. (12:20) And, you know, by the highway.

JM: Were there other Filipinos there on the base?

LM: No.

JM: Again, you were the only Filipino?

LM: There were, uh, there were Mexicans, help, you know, so I was ok. And then I started working on the PX and somebody said oh no no, it's ok. All they had to show me was how to do the cash register. You know, how to get the money [inaudible]. So, that small PX that I stayed, every day looked over my sales. They said, "How come it's always even? Not a cent, you know, less or more? You're exact." You know. I said, I just, you know. I just do it, did it what I'm supposed to do. And so, they treat me good over there. So, they said, "We'll move you to the big PX." To the main PX, you know. So, at the small PX, I know the count for all the product they have. I don't have to look and worry about what [audible], but over there, I just went to every place I could take care of it. And I just love everybody, you know, I'm not, I'm very pleasant to everyone. I'm happy and so they're happy, too, when they see me happy you know. So, they get letters about me and how I help them. The only thing working in a place like that, you have to stand up. There's not place to sit down and then I look forward to the break, you know, at 9:00 for thirty minutes or something break for coffee. I didn't drink coffee before, and I just go, oh, it's so good to sit down someplace, but I stayed there. I worked there the whole time that I was there. (15:04)

JM: How long was that?

LM: Oh, I was there from 1949, 50 and then 51 Fred has orders to go to Korea. Now we had to be separated again. He said, no you're not going to the South. You're not going back to Chattanooga. You're going to stay in California. In California, we had a friend. They were all three of them had H and they were together when they were being shipped somewhere. They were almost together. When the wife of one of the friends, he was in San Pablo, California, said I could stay with her. So, she had nice house
END OF VIDEO FILE 6

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LM: Also, I was learning to drive. I was driving every day. I had a new Chevrolet. He taught me to drive, but oh, I was not interested because he had to open the engine and say this and that and I said, "Oh, I have to learn that? No. No." I just want to learn to drive. I said you go ahead, but I know how to stop and brake and all that. So, I gave up. When he went to Korea, that's when I started really learning to drive. I went to, I was doing something. I went to a business, uh, school, where they had typing, shorthand, all this um business school things. I said I might go there. It was a junior college. I said I can do some. So, they had a, oh that everything, all that business thing that you learn. They also had other, you know, like, other subjects. I went to a, what you call this thing? I go to, it's a meeting that we discuss world affairs. World affairs. Oo. I go to world affairs. I was enrolled. I attended those everywhere I go. I learned about the world, what's going on, cause I kept up with, you know, local happenings. So, I really was, I just stayed kind of in tune, you know. Tried to learn something more. And I tried to, oh, teach in California. Said they will have, they said you have to take these two courses. It was very plain, little courses, to teach. But then, one of my girlfriends was telling me about the school in California, the way they do things (3:01). I said, "Discipline is very difficult." You cannot spank the children, cause you'll end up in jail, and they will talk back to you. Yeah, in Philippines you can spank them, in the Philippines, if you want to sometimes. I said, "No. That's not for me. I may be not able to do that." But I could probably still, I also could relate, maybe, with kids, you know, but I said no, I'm not ready yet. So, I just took all this, uh, business courses, then I was in the court reporter thing, and then that's when Fred came back from Korea, 18 months, and I had to write every day, just like a diary, every day what I was doing. I send it to him. He received letter from me every week, and letters to me too from him, but that was our communication. So, he was so happy cause he knew what I was doing every day [laughs]. And I saved all the money that he send me. When he got back we bought a house in Berkeley. And he was so happy. He said, "Gee whiz. You really took care of things." I didn't. I go to the commissary and I adopted a family, an Australian family, a boy and girl. I took them out, when I learned to drive, I took them everywhere on weekends. That's something for me to do. I felt good doing that for them.

JM: Ok. So, you were staying with a friend while you were doing this, while he was in Korea?

LM: A friend whose husband was also in the military.

JM: Ok. That was going to be my next question.

LM: It was a long time my husband's in Korea.

JM: Ok. So, the woman you stayed with, was she white or Filipino?

LM: No. She was, um, black.

JM: Black? Ok. And what town was that?

LM: That was in 1950, 50, 51, let's see, 51, 52.

JM: Was that in Berkeley or LA?

LM: No. I stayed in San Pablo.

LM: Yeah, but I live around there and I drive and I knew, finally, I just drove everywhere, and you know, the way they drive in California. Yeah. My husband, he came back from Korea, he was afraid. He couldn't drive, so I had to drive for a while, and they were all scared. Because my in-laws came over to California (6:01) and they finally ended up here in Washington.

JM: So, was there a Filipino community in San Pablo?

LM: Yeah. I guess there was, but I hadn't been in any Filipino community at all anywhere since, only here, I got a Filipino community, and everywhere else I, all those years, no. I thought I forget my dialect. Only now that they're here [points to daughters] I can speak fluent my dialect.

JM: Your Visayan dialect.

LM: Yeah.

JM: When did you move to Seattle? What year was that?

LM: Oh, we moved to Seattle after, let's see, we were 1954, 58, after 1958 we came back here cause from El Paso, he went to Korea, when he came back, Seattle, he was assigned to Europe, so I went with him, oh not with him, but later on. So, he was in Heidelberg, the, the headquarters of the military, the army, in uh, in Europe, in Heidelberg. So, I stayed in Heidelberg for four years, 44 to 48.

JM: Did you learn German?

LM: Oh yeah. I spoke German. When I got there, the first thing, I had this little Berlitz book. I learned those little, *guten tag*. Finally, I said I'm going to learn this thing while I'm here and the University of Heidelberg is right there. So, I went to a summer course. The university was open. So, I talked German there for that summer, learned some conversational, and then we had some students, German students who were interested in learning English also. We go out for our break. We have learn in German and they tell us how to say it in German, but anyway, by the time I finished there, I was able to get along in Germany, and I, you know, I, every day, from where we

live, we were in the encampment. So, we go to the university, we have to go on the tram, you know the train, the little thing, and I supposed to go to the old folks [bows] "good morning." It was my only word first. Then, I increased my vocabulary, so I speak a little bit more. So, by the time I finished the course, oh they were loving me [laughs]. They loved me, they even brought me flowers, you know. I said I got the wrong idea of these Germans. They are not bad. You know you got the wrong attitude in the brain and you get to see, oh they're friendly people. And so, they're very nice (9:43). And so, I have a good time wherever I live. So, then later on, whenever I belong to all these women's clubs in the base and I attend all these meetings, went on all the tours and trips, pretty soon I said, listen I got to do something more than this. So, I thought I'd go, I try to go to work, so I applied to work, work again, find job. So, I did, but whenever I had a vacation and Fred was on duty, I bought a little… but when you buy the car there, you don't buy like that car [pointing outside]. No. You have to wait. They will build it when you buy. You give your money and everything and then they build the car and they give it to you later on when they build it, finished. I have to wait. I can't have the car right away.

JM: Where was this?

LM: In Germany. From 54 to 58.

JM: So, you learned to drive in Germany?

LM: Oh, I drove in Germany like crazy because there was no speed limit on the Audubon. You go fast as you can and when you're near the base, you slow down to fifty miles and fifty miles is crawling. Generally, on the Audubon, everybody they'll go as fast as they can, where ninety miles is ok, with my little Karmann Ghia. It was a little sports car [inaudible]. I drove all over Europe (11:48). We go to France and we go to Amsterdam, you know, for the tulips, we go to Zurich. And on weekends we go to Munich, Busch Gardens and stuff like that. The officers' clubs were very nice. You can hardly spend ten dollars you got dinner and entertainment, music for dancing. I enjoyed being in the military and work. I worked there. I found a job. I worked, it was for, for a colonel, but there was a civilian temporary counterpart for this major who was hired me, cause he had a problem. Nobody like him. Nobody could work with him. So, I said why did you give me to him. So, anyway, I work with him. I know he was, he throw the phone away when he didn't get the number. I said, but every day, I said good morning to her, to him and I try to, when he makes his telephone call, I said let me call the number for you, I know, cause I memorize all the numbers he could possibly call and I know it, but I told him, I said I'll call them for you, just wait. You see we had military attaches, we were connected to all the military attaches in Europe. So, I also made friends from different countries. So, when we go to different countries, we got place to stay somewhere for five dollars. (13:51) A hotel. It was entertainment.

JM: So, at some point, he got assigned to Fort Lawton. Correct?

LM: Fort Lawton? Oh, he came back. When he came to Fort Lawton, he was from Korea. From Korea he was assigned to Fort Lawton and then we stayed, oh before we went to Europe.

JM: Oh that was before you went to Europe.

LM: Yeah. Korea. Next assignment was Fort Lawton and we went back here to Washington and he went to Fort Lawton. Fort Lawton's a park now, but anyway, [inaudible] down there, Sand Point. That was another nice club there. So we went to all these clubs every Saturday. I really enjoyed it, really, but he retired. Yeah he retired when he came back here from Europe and we went to Fort Lewis. So, after 21, 22, 22 years, he retired. So, I retired shortly after that. I retired when I was 62 and I did not have a social security, but I had retirement from the office of personnel management. I have retirement. It will be until I die I have a retirement, you know. So, I was covered, but when he died, my first husband, he left something for me. He said make sure that I had something

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LM: supplements, you know, then I got the [inaudible] the supplements from him. I got the social security, and he also worked for after he retired, he went back to Office of Personnel Management, he was a long time in there. So, he had a retirement from there and from the military and his social security. I got those plus my pension. So, I'm really ok by myself, you know, but he was a major, you know, in the military, but now I'm married to this colonel, this oh, lieutenant colonel. He was [inaudible] more than me cause he also worked for the government back after he retired. He worked with HUD. He was in housing management.

JM: Ok. So, when you came to Seattle, somehow you got connected with the War Brides Association. So, how did you connect with these ladies?

LM: Then that's the first time I learned about, oh, there was a movie star that came here from the Philippines, Natty Ruby, and she married an American [inaudible] and these kids were going to hula, Hawaiian dancing. I was learning to do hula in early, it was about in the 60s and, let's see. When did I join? I think it was around the 60s I joined the Philippine war brides and we, we tried to make money. We were always doing making money, and actually, we have more money now in the treasury. I don't know because it's, it might, I think it's in the city or some kind. Last time I know it was twelve thousand dollars and that was many, many years ago. So, it should be more than that because we didn't, we just spend it for little things, so I don't know. I hope we give it to some charity, or just leave it. I don't know, but we're dying off. They' all, I don't know who, I'm the oldest person, I think. Ninety-nine and a half.

JM: And a half? [laughs]

LM: Yeah, cause it's already July.

JM: Yeah. So, in Seattle you had a Filipino community. You had the War Brides Association.

LM: Yes.

JM: How was that different for you? (3:29)

LM: I was so busy with them. Everybody has a ticket to sell to you for a weekend thing, a dance, a, you know, ballroom dance, and all that, and we go and have picnics and we go things for children things, and we go to casinos. I arranged casino trips for that, for us, most of the time. And then, there were many activities. And the consulate was pretty busy here. They were here, not in San Francisco. They're in San Francisco anymore, but they were busy. We participated in most of the holidays they have and they come to our meetings. Mrs. Soledad used to come to our meetings, and uh, it was fun.

JM: It was fun?

LM: But we're old now. We don't meet anymore. Once in a great while. We meet, what, Christmas?

LR: No. We had one time that dinner

LM: At the casino.

LR: Casino, yes.

LR: That was a Christmas thing. They retire. They had us children, be in the War Brides.

LM: Yeah. All our children will become the War Bride members.

JM: So, now you take care of the Association?

LR: Yeah. Betty is the President and I'm the Vice President. They said, "Do something!" I said, "I don't even know. I just joined this. You know?" they elected me as a Vice-President. I was not even there. I was surprised, but it's ok. Whatever they want, we help though. Every meeting they have, we have to go, the younger ones.

JM: So, what do you think your, um, your purpose is for the War Brides?

LR: We just have to continue what our parents are doing. Every time our kids are graduating high school or elementary, we have to give them incentive. Give them some money in order to do walk through, birthday or something like that. It was a community thing, too. It was a part of the community.

JM: So, I'm gonna go backwards in time a little bit. So, do you give scholarships?

LR: Yeah. We give scholarships.

JM: So, the scholarships stay within the families of the war brides?

LR: Yes.

JM: Ok. That's good. That makes sense.

LR: We have to help the Filipino community. So,

JM: So, are there still events? Because I remember Tita Fannie talking about events that the whole Filipino community would come to. Do you still have those?

LR: Well, it's very

JM: Cause that's big, right? That's a big thing to do.

LR: Yeah cause we're getting older, too, you know. We're old. Cause our kids, they don't do it anymore. They have different things that they want to do. So, they are so busy. So, I don't know. We don't even have meetings anymore.

LM: Yeah. Cause Betty is taking care of her mother. Then, also, she doesn't have a regular job anymore. She has a daycare taking care of children, you know, what they're doing, but anyway, she told me that she just took her mom to Las Vegas a few days ago or something. I said why don't we all go to Las Vegas, you know, us old folks, just take us with you because we got some money in the treasury why don't we just go, go someplace and we will have fun. We all love to gamble, so.

JM: Ok. I want to ask you to compare. So, think back before you came to the United States. What was your last day like in the Philippines? The day that you came to the United States, what was that like? Can you describe that?

LM: Oh, it was nothing. I was, uh, when I was trying to work, when I was in Manila, because I didn't go back to Cebu. That would be hard flying over there, to flying back. It's a lot of money and I have to, and I was so sad, and I said if I have to leave a lot of people, you think, oh then we'll all be crying, you know, naturally. Yeah. I'm sad and I think about all of them, you know, but I also think about coming, you know, what's going to be in the future.

LR: Were you happy or were you sad? Cause she left the three of us over there.

LM: [laughs] Yeah. I was really sad. Well, I'm not … I'm sad in a way that we are not together. We don't have a closeness, but in a way, it would have been difficult for me to leave, [inaudible] small kids now. All I know is that, is that they are loved and they are doing good things and that's a, what do you call, a blessing

CL: Consolation

LM: So, just have to think of the future now. What I really wanted to do to begin with when I went to Manila, is I want to be a foreign, you know …

JM: Foreign services?

LM: Yeah. Foreign services, and oh see the world, but I've seen the world now, or just about, our travel, we've been everywhere.

JM: So, what did you expect for the United States?

LM: Oh, I expect more because, that everything, but it's chaotic now. It's chaos right now. It's not like it was before. When I came, I thought that this was the best country in the world, you know. They have lots of opportunities, and lots of love and, you know, and everything, and I was lucky that I came, but then…

LR: Was it kind of hard to adjust?

LM: Oh, I learned, what I learned was invaluable because it turned my life this way. When I have, it separate, you cannot separate from your culture. (12:07) Impossible. That's my problem, my husband, he doesn't understand, the way we do, the way we relate to each other. I said that's hard. I understand, too, because the way he treats his family is different from the way we do. Now he's got a daughter and a granddaughter. Now, he cannot stand the granddaughter. I said how can you feel that way. He said I don't have anything with her, but she wants to be a doctor. She's been trying to be a doctor for the longest time, but they don't do… but he's in the military. That's another thing. He wants to be in control, you know.

JM: This is Fred or Lester? Lester? Ok.

LM: So, I just, we're together. He still, I think he still cares for me. He takes care of me now. I don't have any caregiver, you know. He helps me. And so, at our age, I should have one. Everybody here has one, seems like, caregiver, somebody to help the dress themselves, or whatever. I said we should do our own thing

JM: Ok. So, what was the most difficult thing to get used to in the U.S.?

LM: Well, let's see

CL: She just blended, just go with the flow. She doesn't have any, she just adapted right away.

JM: Is that true? Did you adapt to the United States easily?

LM: Yeah, well, it seems like I, well, I don't have an enemy, you know. It seems like they just take me. Right away I'm Lucy. Wherever I go, anywhere I go, any job I went, they all just really loved me, for some reason, but I didn't have any animosity. I'm not jealous. When I was working over there at the administrator, secretary, you know, where my job, I share my, my everything, my knowledge, for travel kind of jobs. I shared with them. I don't go all the time. I have to go to set up court, you know, for court trials, I said I teach you. I show them what to do and I teach them how to deal with everything so that they can do it if I tell them to go. I'm not greedy. I'm generous. I like to share.

JM: It's a Filipino thing, right?

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JM: So, when you remember World War II, immigrating to the United States, how do you feel about your experience, your memories? What do you

LM: Oh, I love those memories. Everything. You know, I was writing my thing, I could feel like crying, you know. Even though it's difficult to move from one place to another. We have fun. We enjoyed anyway, singing. We're afraid from Japanese, hiding from Japanese, but we get there or here [pointing]. We here, they go somewhere else and we don't know. We go sing and love. It's just the relation, the, uh … it's different. We loved differently. [wiping tears]

LR: My grandparents they were [singeros?]. They were sugar cane planters. The people around us will help us. So, when she said the Japanese are here [pointing] the people that were helping us were part of our sugar plantation, they will move [pointing other direction] all the things for them. So, what they do is just they follow, where they are. So, everything was easy for them to move. There's somebody that will lead them to go there. They said, "Ok. It's ready for you. It's there."

CL: Because we had a Japanese soldier friend, that whenever the soldiers are coming he would say he's [inaudible] he's a Japanese soldier. We are coming this way, so you guys we want you to move that way, or you go this way because the soldiers are coming this way. So, he was our, our, you know, savior, or something like that. (2:17)

JM: So, this was someone married to an auntie?

LR: Yeah. He was married to one of our aunties.

LM: Where there were lots of centipedes. We got bitten.

LR: This is just hearsay because we didn't know

JM: Ok. So, when times were very hard with the war, you felt a lot of love from the people in your community.

LM: Yes.

JM: And that's what makes you cry.

LM: Yes. [smiles]

JM: What do you want the young Filipinos here, in the United States, to know about that?

LM: They are different. You know here, in Skyline, we have a lot of Filipinos. They are everywhere. Lots of them here in the dining room, but there are also people on staff, and um, we're happy, you know. I ask them, there's a woman in the bistro, who gives me my breakfast

every day. He knows what I want. One day he wants to know everything what goes in my oatmeal. When I say I want the scrambled eggs, she knows what goes in my scrambled eggs, and, you know, toast, or whatever, but she works there and her mother works upstairs, but I met her and she, she came down, and I said you look so young. She doesn't look like someone's mother. You know, she's ok with that.

JM: So, you know a lot of Filipinos here. They don't know very much about the war, the Philippines and the Japanese and the war. What do you want them to know? What is your message to them?

LM: Well, try to learn as much as you can about what there is around you and be, oh I'm just thinking about love all the time. Be loving. There's no problem, if you love everybody, the world will be ok. You can't be the same. I say to Lester all the time [your granddaughter] is just another person. She's got her own thoughts and everything about life and probably doesn't think the way you do. You think way back and you think you want them to do what you want, but not always. And he said, "She lacks respect." He wants his granddaughter to respect him. I said, "Well she does. I'm sure she loves you, but we have different ways now than they do." And they talk back. He doesn't want anybody to talk back to him. I said, "Well, she's got her own mind."

CL: That's the modern times.

LR: Yeah and that's the difference between the filipinas. In the Philippines we are so different. When my grandfather say "You're gonna be a …" whatever

CL: Yeah, that's it. You don't say anything, even though you don't really want to go that course. My grandfather said, "You're gonna be a concert pianist." Just because I was studying piano. He thought that I was really awesome and so he enrolled me before [inaudible] and yes I had a hard time for the first year, but then I, you know, second year, and then I graduated, but we don't have any say. If you have sisters, all the sisters will be nurses. If you have a guy that wants to be a whatever profession, you know, it's their say. It's not ours. You cannot say, "Grandpa, I want to be a …" No. This is what you're gonna be. Actually, I wanted to be in the medical field. Right? My grandpa says, no, you're gonna be a concert pianist

LR: And then, when you're in college, you're over.

CL: No boyfriends.

LR: Then he will say, "Ok. After college you can have boyfriend." But still when in college, no boyfriend.

CL: It's all like you are hiding. Hiding love letters in your shoes. You don't want that to be seen. When you don't want your grandpa to know, holding hands in the dark. Everything was just like, oh my God. And when I came back, when I went back to the Philippines I saw all these young kids kissing right in the park. I said, "Oh my God, that's not the way were." Just to touch our boyfriend is just like, you know, make us sweet, you know. That's the difference between now

and before. It was more exciting before because it was like a stolen kiss, a stolen hand-holding or whatever, you know, away from everybody. (8:42)

LR: [inaudible] This time he came and everybody was there, so grandpa entertain him. He said, "Oh, I'm [inaudible] Ramos. I'm a student." And he said, "What are you taking?" "I'm going to school. I'm taking medicine." And then my grandpa said, "Ok. You go to school and when you're done you come back." [laughs]

CL: He's interviewing all our boyfriends. "So, what's your name?" "Manny, sir." "Ok. So, you're in school?" "Yes sir." "What are you taking?" "Medicine." "Oh, that's good. So, you finish your medicine, and then when you're done, you come back." That's how strict our grandparents was.

JM: So, did he come back?

LR: Yeah, he came back. He came here. I married him here.

JM: Then your grandpa was right?

LR: Yeah. Of course. I never had a boyfriend. When I was in college, no, no, no.

JM: Well, that's the end of my questions. Is there anything else you want us to know. I'm going to give you a copy of the video so that your grandchildren can see. What do you want them to know?

LR: Her grandkids and her kids

LM: I want them to know that they have to be loving to each other and be kind to each other. Be kind to people and don't try to manipulate. Just be yourself and let them be, you know. You can't be, oh I don't know.

LR: She is loved. They love her a lot.

LM: And try to help when you can. Don't be so greedy, you know. Try to share your things. And if you can help, help. And when you give, don't that, that … you're giving it for love, you know, to help. My husband and I don't agree. When I try to help my little kids, my little babies, even my great-grandkids, I try to provide a little something. Share. So that, when they go to school, they won't have a problem. So, I put them in a 529 thing, so it will grow and it's like that would help them. It's little, but it'll help them. I mean, it might not be anything, but it's something that you feel good about doing, you know. I do, I, when I die, I hope I will be able to accomplish what I have in my mind, be able to provide somebody with what I have. Whatever I have, they can have. I don't care about being wealthy or smoething, you know. There's a lot of things here, the kids that work here, you pay, you don't give them tips here. No tipping. They serve you just as loving as they can. Really kind and everything, and so, they deserve something, and I always try at the end of the year put my money to help them. [inaudible] will raise like every year, to give like, well, over $200,000. People here have lots of money. (14:12) They previously are,

previously important people. You know, they are retired here, but they got lots of everything. Here, everything is very expensive. Well, you cannot live here without buying. You have to buy your apartment. You pay a whole lot. For, like, for instance, for a one bedroom apartment, you're probably not less than $150,000. Oh, more than that, I'm sure because we paid $800,000 for our two bedroom apartment on the thirteenth floor, and then, but, every month we have to pay maintenance for all this help and all the [inaudible] and everything, like $6,000 a month, but, well, if we want to live here, if you got sick here, they move you to, you go around, there's another apartment there for when you got sick. You are cared for. You don't pay anymore, but [inaudible] they require it, and different, you know, things, but that's better than sending you to another room, you know, nursing home, than the one that you have here, because they are close. You can go there. They can come here, for the caregivers, you know. But I think, I'm certain that I'm

END OF VIDEO FILE 9

START OF VIDEO FILE 10

LM: cared for over there. Cause you know, when you think about money, that's when the problem begins, when you think about money all the time. I'm ok with just a little. I don't need a whole lot.

JM: Ok

LR: The end?

JM: The end

APPENDIX D – JOSEFA PARILLA SANGALANG INTERVIEW

Date: October 15, 2016
Interviewee: Josefa Parilla Sangalang
Interviewer: Jeannie Damon
Location: Seattle, Washington
Transcribed by: Jeannie (Damon) Magdua

START OF VIDEO FILE 1
Jeannie Damon: Ok. First thing I'm gonna have you do is state your full name, if you could, for me please.

Josie Sangalang: My name is Josefa Parilla Sangalang.

JD: Thank you. And do I have your permission to use your words and image in my research?

JS: Yes ma'am

JD: Thank you very much. Ok. So I'm gonna go through a series of questions, um, because you've told me that you're not the actual World War II bride, I'm going to kind of modify my questions so it might take me a little bit to try and change things.

JS: sure

JD: Great. Alright. So, you grew up in the Philippines. Correct?

JS: Yes. Until I was 15.

JD: Ok. So can you tell me what it was like growing up in the Philippines?

JS: Well, at that time, World War II came in 1940. I was 7 years old then, and, before that, to me as a kid, I had a good life, mean that we're not rich or anything like that, but, compared to others, we ate a bit more [laugh]

JD: Ok

JS: Ok. And my grandmother was really an influence in my life and most of the time we either stay, my mother and I would stay in another barrio. I'm from Ormoc City, Leyte.

JD: Leyte

JS: Yes.

JD: Ok

JS: Yes and I enjoyed my childhood, simple pleasures, climbing trees, fruit trees, that type of thing and, uh, World War II came and that all began to disappear. Uh huh, and then we have to adjust our lives to a new situation in the Philippines. And, as I said, I was seven years old and then our town occupied, you know, Japanese and, somehow we were still good when the first occupation of the Japanese we're ok. They were very good to us, the first occupiers, and then the second wave of Japanese occupiers, they were not very gentle to the civilians anymore. Ok? And then, Pearl Harbor came, was a Sunday bombing. So, we were at church, first we run to the mountains, and of course, we run to the mountains. Luckily we were together, the family. And it was the beginning of our evacuation from our town. Ok? So we went to the mountains. And then after that, the Japanese said that if you have children that are school aged, you must come back to town because people are not there anymore. Hardly any people in town. So the Japanese are looking for people that will live in that town. So we have to come back because of me. See? Because I have to go to school. So, ok. We went back. Well, I went to school and then, let's see, oh because the Japanese occupied our military school. So, we were attending the Catholic school, the St. Peter and Paul, but we were not taught by the nuns, but the civilians, regular teachers, but because it's so small, there are so many students, they divided us, morning session and afternoon.

JD: Ok

JS: Yes and then it was like that until the War got worse, so we have to leave town, we have to evacuate again, run again to town and that was my childhood. But, they go back and when we're in town we're like prisoners there because we cannot go out of town. We're not permitted by the Japanese to go out of town. However, they were good enough to escort adults that will go out of town to pick vegetables, harvest rice, they're to guard because the guerillas also in the mountains, they see civilians with Japanese and then they always think, they think we are also in favor of the Japanese and as kid I have to help, like harvesting rice. And then one time there was shooting and we have to run and cross the river and on the river they put barbed wire and I had this slice of my leg here and, uh …

JD: Who put the barbed wire, the guerillas or the Japanese?

JS: The Japanese, uh well, the Japanese and the guerillas, Filipino guerillas in the mountains, yeah, they were shooting, because there were less civilians that were harvesting rice. They were hungry, too.

JD: Right

JS: So, we were with my folks, because they another hand could get a little more rice. See? So, anyway, we scrambled from anywhere and then we happened to be crossing the river and then there were barbed wire embedded under the water. So, I scratched myself here and, you know was bleeding, but we were lucky, that was about the only thing, but there were some that hit the bullets, especially the men. There was also somewhere between the Japanese and the guerillas and so from then on we never did that again. Yeah, it was too scary. So, we were there and, uh, in our town, as I said, like a prisoner, but the Japanese, I have to give them also credit, they were good to us because they knw that we cannot go out and get food because they could not

understand why the guerillas, these Filipino guerillas were shooting at us, also civilians, but see the guerillas, but also because we were also prisoners, the Japanese won't let us go out. So, we were caught in between.

JD: yes

JS: But we were able to practice our religion, go to church and everything. I was still going to school and then, uh, the war just got worse. So, we have to abandon our house, everything, move again. That was part of my childhood. World War II.

JD: Where did you move to?

JS: Oh. to the mountains. I have my grandmother there, but is more land, little bit, and we evacuated there, but we could not stay there very long, because the Japanese was getting really worse. Yeah. But the Americans were really beginning to bombard our town in the Philippines.

JD: When you say it was getting worse, how was it getting worse, in what ways?

JS: Well, uh, the Americans were coming in, they were having a dog fight already when the Japanese could still do it and the civilians, of course, we have to hide. And then, we keep moving, moving toward the jungle already. Yeah. And then, slowly and slowly we're losing our food, clothes, but it's a good thing that Philippines is warm [laugh], and it's warm we don't need a coat. But as far as food, we got to the point where our food we hide it at night when some kids of my age, because we are small, so they use us, adults. So, we hide at night and then we would retrieve it very early in the morning. Well, one time, we were trying to put our stuff there with these other kids like my age and there were some Japanese walking around. Ah! Oh it scared me and I'm telling you I was … So, it's a good thing that we didn't run. We just keep still and then when they all left, we took off also. See, what the Japanese does is they go up the coconut tree and they look around, see they look around, and also there were snipers. See? Oh yeah. And, so, it got worse as far as food is concerned and, uh, in fact some Japanese would get some kids my age, but there is, of course, but I was, my parents of course they were afraid that they would take me also. So, dig yams, that type, you know, the boys would climb the coconut, but some of them they don't come back. See? So, we were there in the mountains and to make a long story short, uh, cause we were desperate for food. In fact we were started to chew on the guava, you know what guava is? On the young leaves, very young leaves, because there is no more fruit. Because, when there is a little fruit, they pick it and they eat it because they're hungry. So, that's what they were doing and then we decided, my parents decided, my grandmother decided, that my mother [inaudible] because my father got separated. Yeah. They were in another area of Ormoc, our town. So, but there were some civilians that came along with us. So, um, we would try to stay in caves where they would allow us to sleep, just maybe a day or two like that and then we would move again to another place, but one time we were already, my … especially my mother, she was already determined that we have to leave. We have to go to town, because we were hearing already people, civilians who already going to town, the Americans were already coming in to town. See? So, we did that and what we did, we traveled by night. Yeah, but there were kids, there were some small kids that were with us and when we traveled by night we have to, we traveled by the river because that way we don't meet Japanese. Because one thing also, the

Americans were already bombing Leyte cause they did that first because there were so many Japanese there.

JD: Right

JS: Well, stop me if it is too long.

JD: No, you're fine. You're doing fine.

JS: Well, anyway, and then, uh, so we … oh. Let me just give you something that is very, very, to me, it's important because one time we were able to get some yams. Ok?

JD: Ok

JS: Because there were some civilians and other people that were with us and they were able to dig some yams and we were in this hut that collapsed and so we build fire and they found a big pot, clay pot, and they put the yams in there, cook it, when I hear some Japanese were also starving, of course, and they saw the smoke, so they came and they just helped themselves. They removed the [inaudible] and everything and then when the yams was already cooked, because we have a little girl in there, maybe she was three years old, so we got her one yam to her. Well, one Japanese took it from her. We did not eat because they all just helped themselves. See? I'll never forget that one. So, anyway, going forward, we were already on our way toward town, but we have to lie about going toward the downtown, but to another barrio because there are Japanese there. Because if you are telling the truth if the Japanese ask you, oh yeah, they know that the Americans are in town, they'll kill you. They will massacre. It's happen. So anyways, we were walking and then these Japanese soldiers stop us and then he ask us to line up like this and one of the Japanese had a bayonet and he went over this way for our bags that really it was nothing, we just pretend to carry something to make it look like we're really moving out. See? So, there's nothing there, just dirty clothes like that. Cause they were looking for food. Like this. Like this. And then it reached my grandmother. My grandmother's devoted to St. Anthony and she always have her rosary around her neck. So, this sargent for example, asked her to open the bag. My grandmother did that and he saw the statue of St. Anthony. Believe it or not, he bowed reverently and back off. He did not just "Ah, let's go." No. No. He bowed very reverently.
END OF VIDEO FILE 1

START OF VIDEO FILE 2
JS: And then, from there on, I know he told this guys, let's go. They left us alone. And then, um, from there on, we were able to proceed to town. We never met anymore live Japanese, but dead ones only on the way. And, uh

JD: And why do you believe that was the case that nobody bothered you after that?

JS: Oh, St. Anthony help us. The Holy Spirit. Because we are devoted Catholic and we believe and we always pray, especially my grandmother's Holy Rosary is always around her neck and sometimes she stop and say the rosary … oh sometimes she say the rosary while we were walking, my mother would tell her. And after that I remember going down and we could see

civilians rode the highway and the Americans, you know, busy. But then, there was a small airplanes, um, at that time they tell us they are observation planes. I guess, they're just watching if we were civilians or pretending or Japanese pretending to be civilians like that. But he cannot guided us, because we were looking, looking up. And then, finally, we reach there and told us where to go, what area, because there was a place there were civilians were assigned. They cannot go to town because the Americans were there. See? And so that's how then we lived there a little bit until we were sent on and it was ok to go to different places. We cannot go to our town and our house was demolished anyway.

JD: Wow.

JS: Yeah. Because the Americans bomb it. Yeah. Because I tell you the Japanese were plenty there in Leyte. That is where McArthur liberated Leyte first. See? And that's how I grew up as a kid and it is very fresh in my memory about that, my experiences.

JD: I'm sure. So, the Japanese you said at first they were ok, when the war first started. They weren't cruel or anything in the beginning and things got worse. They were not as gentle. I'm imagining you witnessed brutality of some kind?

JS: Yeah. Because the second wave they already have like a garrison. They're using the large, big houses to garrison, to torture, investigate, suspected civilians they are spies.

JD: Spies for the Philippines or …

JS: For the Americans

JD: Ok

JS: For the Americans. Or the Philippine Army at that time. So, they were torturing a lot of men. Ok? In fact, I will tell you something too that really, uh, I was so scared I guess I was growing up I have nightmares because, um, the, what do you call this, I was a kid and so we were, we have a little place my mother, a little place there in the market selling vegetables and then we befriended some Japanese. They come. They buy vegetables and all that and then some of the girls, if I remember correctly, they want to bring food to some of those civilians that being tortured, the relatives or something, but they permitted me to go because because I'm a kid. See? I could bring the food. Well. Ok. I did but hear cause the windows were open cause it's in the marketplace are like a square thing. So, I start walking. I've got this food in my basket and I could hear screaming coming out from the house. I tell you I could not go on. I was shaking. I could not go. I was not a brave kid. Yeah. because I could hear the screaming. Oh my goodness the beatings. So, I turn back. I didn't go up the stairs. No. I turn back.

JD: So, you went into the house where you could hear the screaming or it was a nearby house?

JS: Well, you see, this is a marketplace here and then there's a huge house there where they are the garrison and a house there, one some big ones, it's like a plaza type thing, marketplace and then they asked me to go because I'm a kid because I can't do a thing about any spying about all

that stuff, but I was scared. I was scared. As I said, I could hear screaming because the windows are open to intimidate the people. That's what it was. So, I turn around. I don't go in. I was shaking. Let me tell you. I was shaking. So, that was before really we went out, you know, evacuation, but this is the second wave of Japanese. Now, in all fairness to the first wave of Japanese. Of course, I guess they have to make the civilians feel confident towards them. You know. Try to win our confidence towards them. So, the captain was Abi, his name was Abi, but he was good. The people really, a lot of people, even as a kid I admired him. When he was goes through a church when there is a meeting, he never wears his uniform or his sword. You know how the Japanese are? They wear swords. No. He just wear his khaki uniform and a white shirt. That is it. [inaudible] have his sword here or his gun, but his second in command. Oh wow, he's always dressed up to the … he was military man. His long sword dragging behind him and oh that was his demeanor, but then Abi was transferred. So, that's when the second wave came in.

JD: I see

JS: Yeah. Then they have garrisons all over town. Of course, we're all, most of the men there they were all suspects. And even civilians, they would punish the civilians. What they would do is, like a lamp post in the Philippines, they would tie them around the lamp post like this all day, all night. Because, you know, kids, we grew up like that at that time and we see them, because it's part of our environment. That was our part of the … that's how we grew up fast in a way not fast as, like doing adult things. No. For the war.

JD: I see

JS: Yeah. You have to learn. I learn how to cook rice at 7 years old so that I can bring the food to my, my mother, my aunt to the market so that they can eat. I have to learn that. I have to learn the simple cooking. But I have to learn that. See

JD: I see. So when the Americans came and they started rooting out the Japanese on Leyte, how did you feel towards the Americans because you had good and bad experiences with the Japanese, how did you feel about the Americans?

JS: Oh, they were our liberators! Hooray! Yeah. They were … oh yeah. We welcomed them right away and, um, in fact, when we were able to, we build. My mother, my grandmother, we build a hut in town, we build a house already we were able to go in there. And then we befriended some Americans, they, because I'm a kid and probably some Americans they have children, you know. And this one American guy, he is kind of big, he was a baker. Oh my gosh he was my favorite. He always bring a big box of still hot bread or whatever that he bake in there and he called me Lucy. Maybe that was his kid here in the States. Oh he was very good. They were very, when I was sick, he had a doctor come to the house, brought me blankets. Let me tell you. And then, my mother and my uncle did some laundry for some of the Americans then there was uh, that was nice. Oh yeah. They were our liberators. You see? And then my, going forward, my step-dad's company, mostly Filipino company, you know that most of the Filipinos here in the States, they volunteered a whole regiment to go to the Philippines. So, he happened to be assigned in our town. And then my Aunt had a friend visitor, a Filipino visitors, and then, according to the story, cause I wasn't there, my mother was just coming in going to our house,

our yard and, my step-dad saw my mom and said that, “oh, who is she?” And then my aunt, cause the first cousin, they live across the street from us. “Oh that is my cousin da da da da “ and he invited her. Well, anyway, to make a long story short, they got married. At first, of course, I didn’t like it [laugh]. I think that’s a reaction you know. But then there was nothing I could do. I was a kid [laugh]. So, anyway, they got married and then he was assigned to Manila and then they asked me to go along with them. And then, when we live in Manila it was really late. School started. So, when we try to, they try to register me in school. They said, “Oh it’s too late, we cannot accept her anymore.” We went to Pangasinan, the province of my step-dad. And in Pangasinan, in their town, his dad is the, he is like, not a big [inaudible], but they respect him. They know him very well So, I was there. I stayed with them and then they say that, ok, we went to Manaoag Military school, they registered, mean they took me right away. I was fourth grade or fifth grade and then I was there for one year in Pangasinan and that’s how I met my husband.

JD: So, you met him there in the Philippines when you were a child?

JS: In the Philippines

JD: Ok. Also, if I can back up a little bit. Your mom met your step-dad. He was a U.S. soldier. Was he a Filipino? He was one of the regiment.

JS: Yes. I will show you a picture.

JD: Ok. So, he was a Filipino member of the U.S. military. Um, was it San Francisco they were based from?

JS: I think so. I’m not sure about that part.

JD: So, he had grown up probably in California.

JS: Well, he came here, you know, a lot of Filipinos came here to work like in Hawaii, that type of thing

JD: Like migrant farmers.

JS: Migrant farmers and then he went to California, mostly California where he stayed, and then when the war came, most of the Filipinos here, they are strong, young and able, they volunteered.

JD: Ok and so he went to the Philippines, married your mom, brought you to Manila, but that didn’t work. So then you went to Pangasinan. Ok, then you lived in there for a year.

JS: For a year or so.

JD: Ok. And then, if you don’t mind, go on with your story.

JS: Yeah. Ok. As I said, that's where I met my husband, because, what happened was that his uncle and my step-dad were good friends when they were kids. So, when we were there visiting, they invited us for dinner and it so happened that my husband was there vacationing. Actually, his relative was the aunt, the wife, but he lives only in another town, just close by called San Jacinto and so, little kids play around and all this and then they had a social box they had a dance under the mango tree [laugh]. The social box, you know what a social box is? Where they put chicken in the box and they pay that to dance and then they pay like one box is two pesos, that kind of thing. And then it so happened that my husband, Philippi, he was there, of course, you know, and then his uncle were there, he didn't have any money, he was a kid [laugh]. So then his uncle bought my box and then, of course, he give it to him. Yeah, we danced and all that

JD: and how old were you at this time?

JS: I would say, maybe thirteen and a half, somewhere in there, or fourteen. Because I came here exactly I was fifteen.
END OF VIDEO FILE 2

START OF VIDEO FILE 3
JS: Ok. I was there in Pangasinan for one year, went to school there, and then after that, I went to Manila and with the school there in sixth grade. Yeah. And after that, after finishing sixth grade, then we came here. We came to America and they tagged me along.

JD: Ok

JS: Yeah, they tagged me along. So, that was nice. So, we came here by military ship. Yeah.

JD: So, you were all on the military ship? You and your mom and your step-dad.

JS: Yeah and my brother was born there. My other brother, my younger brother.

JD: He was born in the Philippines.

JS: In the Philippines, but he was only, what, four or five years old. So, yeah. We all came together.

JD: Ok. So, let me ask you a few questions about, uh, let's see. What is your first language?

JS: Say that again?

JD: What is your first language?

JS: Oh my first language? Well, I would say English really. Filipino, I can speak, my dialect, Visayan, and then Pangasinan, my husband, that's why sometimes I can speak better in Pangasinan than my Visayan. Why? Because when my husband was still alive, that is what we speak here at home, Pangasinan and English. Now, the Visayan, I can only speak when we go to

events or we belong to an organization. So, it was kind of mixed up where I was not sure anymore.

JD: Right. Well, you left Leyte when you were how old?

JS: Fifteen. Oh Leyte? I was um, maybe I was thirteen? Something like that?

JD: When did you learn English?

JS: Oh in school in the Philippines. That is how they taught us.

JD: All of instruction was in English

JS: Oh yes.

JD: So, can you describe what that was like, if you can remember. Because you were speaking Visayan up until you started school. Or were you speaking English at home before you started school.

JS: No, was Visayan, our dialect. Our dialect.

JD: So you had to learn English.

JS: Not very much, pick up a word like that kids. Yeah, I started school and all in English.

JD: Can you describe any lessons that you learned in English? I'll give you an example. My mom is also, um she is Visayan. She is from Samar. So, she remembers little songs that they taught her when she was learning English. Can you remember any?

JS: [singing] I have two hands, the left and the right. Hold them up high so clean and bright. Clap them softly, one, two, three. Clean little hands are good to see. [end singing] and I even teach my grandchildren. Yeah, that is we learn and, um we do not, we didn't have kindergarten. We should start on first grade. First grade.

JD: Correct.

JS: and we learn writing and arithmetic

JD: That almost made me cry cause that's the song my mom used to sing to me. And [singing] I have ten little fingers, I have ten little toes [end singing] do you know that one?

JS: Oh, well the one I remember is [singing] good morning to you [end singing] I teach that to my grandchildren [laughs]

JD: Ok. Alright. So you speak Visayan and Pangasinan. Do you speak any other Filipino dialects?

JS: No. The Ilocano they were trying to teach me, but somehow, I was not into it. But I pick up Pangasinan fast. I don't know why. But, my husband teases, oh because you didn't have anybody to speak Visayan, only Pangasinan. But I learned it fast. They said that Pangasinan is a difficult dialect. That's what they tell me, but somehow I picked it up and I'm glad I did.

JD: Very good. Did you learn Tagalog.

JS: Oh yeah, when I was in Manila already, they started, we have to take Tagalog classes. That was required. But before that, no Tagalog. No. Just in Manila. Ok. I was speaking outside Tagalog. I was not good at it, but just enough to get by and of course, in school, you have to … oh, I take it back. In Pangasinan, I think is where I started those Tagalog classes. I think so. And then in Manila mostly. And then, after that, as I said, after sixth grade, they came here because there, the Philippines, after sixth grade you go to high school and you're just a kid, but they said they change it now. There's seven, eight, nine, twelve. Eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve. That's what they told me. I said, ok, that's good.

JD: So you learned Tagalog

JS: My Tagalog is not that great.

JD: So, when you are with other Filipinos here do you speak English or do you speak Tagalog

JS: Well, mostly English

JD: Ok. Well, that makes sense. Ok. So, you were learning English as a child. Why do you think Filipinos learn English in school?

JS: Because we were under the American. Remember. Spain and America had a deal. My history is kind of faded. I like history. Because after Spain, it was the Americans who took over the Philippines. Yeah, so that taught us in English. But, that was the legacy they left the Philippines. The legacy of Spain was religion. That's how we got Catholic religion. But, it's ok. That was fine.

JD: So, having those, I mean, in a way it was imposed on the Filipino people, but you're ok with that. You think that was a good thing. The religion and the language.

JS: Oh, you mean the Spaniards. Well, I was a kid, but the older folks had to learn Spanish. Our prayers were in Spanish. I wish I could remember some of them because sometimes I can hear Spanish in Hail Mary.

JD: Ok. So, you came with your mom and your step-dad and your baby brother on a military ship. What was that like?

JS: Oh. Sick! [laugh] Sea sick. Oh yeah. But I can't remember how many days it took us. And, um, we have to, um, [inaudible] we have our dinner and everything with upstairs and we are with the civilians. It was not too bad I guess. I was a kid, but I was sick a lot. Seasick! Seasick a lot. So, people were just lying down on that deck an everything. Oh my gosh. But we arrived in San Francisco and after that they bus us to, um, Pittsburgh, where they processed us.

JD: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania?

JS: No. No. Down in California.

JD: Oh ok

JS: Down by San Francisco. Yeah, by San Francisco. All the military wives. We all were bused there there in Pittsburgh. And that's where some of the husbands met their wives that came by themselves. Some of them. And some are sorry they had met them. Yeah. So I heard. So I heard. You know, they talk. They talk. Yeah, but we were bused there and um and then we went to L.A. because my dad used to be in L.A. and he had an older brother that lives in L.A. and they got us an apartment there. And then, we kind of settled a little bit. And then I started _____ Jr. High in L.A. Yeah. And I had a very good English teacher and she was very nice to me. Cause she said my husband was in your town. Cause he was telling her stories. And I'll never forget her last name was Mrs. Nelson. And so I lived in L.A. I went to Jr. High. And then, oh I think junior, and then we moved. My dad re-enlisted in the army and assigned here at Fort Lewis. So, we came here in about, oh, 1949.

JD: Ok

JS: Yeah, and we met the worst blizzard here and that was our experience. And then, we stayed here until 1951 I guess. Because Korean war broke in 1950. Oh, in the meantime, I was attending Clover Park high school. And then my dad went to Korea. He went to Korea in 1950. And then I was with my, just my mother, my brother and, um, oh and then my sister was born in 1950. My dad was already in Korea. So, he just received a telegram from Red Cross. So, anyways, we lived in Tacoma in World War II housing. That's where we lived there. And, before my dad left, he tried to teach me how to drive. Ok? He was teaching me, but luckily, the cars, the highways before are nothing [laugh] compared to what there is now. So anyways, he taught me how to drive. I learned a little bit, but when he went to Korea, I was forced to really drive because, my mother she just had a baby. In fact, she was hospitalized for several months. And my baby sister has to leave the hospital and they said, "Hey, this baby here is going to grow up in the hospital." So, I had to take care of her.

JD: And how old were you when this was …?

JS: Let's see. I was about eighteen. But now I was eighteen and then luckily we had some family/friends whose husbands also went to Korea so they rented a house and they helped me take care of my baby sister while my mother was still in the hospital. Cause she could not leave cause she was paralyzed. And then

JD: You stayed with them with your baby sister.

JS: Yeah. They really helped me. I don't know anything about how to take care of babies. They say, "Oh, the baby was crying and crying and you didn't wake up." [laughs]

JD: Ok. So, this family that you stayed with. This was Filipino family?

JS: Oh yeah. Married to Filipinos or so. Military.

JD: Also military?

JS: Military

JD: Ok. So, describe the Filipino community you came to. So, first you arrived in San Francisco and lived in L.A. for a bit. Was there a Filipino community that you connected with at that time?

JS: Not really, but this [inaudible] some Filipinos were married to caucasians and they were great help to us. They were the ones who bought us things, you know.

JD: The white families

JS: the bi-families. My older brother was married to a really German lady. They all came from Arkansas because they were four sisters all married to Filipinos.

JD: Ok

JS: Yeah. In L.A. So, they were the one who take care of us, showing us how to do things in America. How to do dishes and everything.

JD: I see

JS: Yeah. Gave us clothes, cause we don't have jackets or coats. So, we lived in L.A. … oh! They are very good experience, kind of funny in a way. So, ok. We were in L.A. and we were in a Filipino restaurant. They took us there. The name was Leyte Cafe. Downtown [inaudible] downtown L.A. So, ok. Our eyes were burning so we were going like this. Ok? There at the restaurant while our order was being cooked and then the waitress or some Italian lady married a Filipino guy. And then we were tearing. And then after that because we became friends because we lived in the same apartment. And so, "well you know what? I really feel sorry for you guys because you were crying when you first went to the restaurant. You probably miss your country." Crying? Miss our country? No! Because our eyes were burning. The fog. The smog.

JD: Oh, the smog

JS: The smog in L.A. was so thick before. Oh if you're not used to living in L.A. Oh yea

JD: Ok

JS: [laughs]

JD: Ok. So, it wasn't really the Filipino community in California that helped you transition.

JS: No

JD: It was the caucasian

JS: Caucasian families married to Filipinos.

JD: Ok. So, when you moved up to Fort Lewis here.

JS: We were kind of on our own. Yeah. We have relatives here in Seattle. The Zapatas. We went to visit them. My dad
END OF VIDEO FILE 3

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JS: was able to buy a car before he went to Korea so we visited them and they visited us at the American Lake Garden where there was, uh, what do you call this, the housing. So, they came, but we were kinda really on our own.

JD: How did your mom handle that, being on her own?

JS: My mom is not very, um, how shall I say? It was mostly where she doesn't express her feelings, but as far as being practical, it was mostly I did the housework, and though, um, and at that time we had coal heat.

JD: Coal

JS: Coal. Uh huh. And everything, there was electric stove. Nothing. We knew take a shower, you have to wait for the, you have to heat the heater first and then it will connect to the water heater, then you can take a quick shower. [laughs]. Really, that's how it was. My dad would do it in the morning because he wakes up first. I cannot really describe how she feels, but, because she, I did most of the work. That's why. Because, being the oldest, I have to do everything. You know? So, as I said, after she get out from the hospital, that's when we left and then we hired, she hired a couple of Filipino farmers down in Sumner. We befriended some Filipinos there already. And she asked that if they could drive us to L.A. and then she'll pay them and then she'll pay them for the bus fare coming back to Washington. Because I couldn't drive really. I didn't have a license and then I have a little sister and my mom was still have the brace. So, I did all that taking care of the

JD: Was it just one trip down to California or was that a regular ..

JS: Oh no. Just one trip. Leaving Washington for good.

JD: Oh

JS: Yeah. When my dad was in Korea. Cause he was in Korea already. So, that is why, as I said, we have friends already. Farmers. And they were very good. They were kinda young yet, you know. They could do a lot of long drive. And then when we arrived to California, that they give us an apartment there. And, again, my uncle, the older brother of my dad, send his wife. They were helping us. Oh and then we were living in this apartment. The owner, or the manager, she's the sister of my uncle's wife. Yeah. As I said they're four sisters all married to Filipinos. All very nice. Very nice people. She helped us. We had an apartment. We live there in L.A. Close to downtown L.A. Yeah and we just kinda lived there and we moved downstairs where it was a bigger place, and stayed there and I attended Belmont high school and that's where I graduated. And then, after that, I went to Los Angeles, L.A. college. Well, I got married.

JD: So, when did you meet up with your husband again.

JS: Oh. Ok that's a good one. Ok. I'm glad you asked that question. In 1955, my mother decided, ok, let's go for a vacation because she was so miss my grandmother, they're very good, they're close. She really … and so, but me, cause I was already going to Los Angeles City College. I was working during the day and going to school at night. And I didn't want to go yet. I said I want to finish, but she insisted. I was really upset. I didn't want to go. But ok, to make a long story short, so, well, I could not, I took the civilian ship already. I could not go with her because I was over 21. Ok? So, ok, went to the Philippines, arrived there and then we went to Pangasinan and his aunt asked me, "Oh, did you see Pepe there?" I said, "Pepe? No." "Oh, he's in San Diego." I said, "Oh, really?" Well, come to think of it, maybe we're just passing by, you know. His ship, Navy ship coming here and I was going [laughs]. Ok, so I came back and, I came back on a civilian ship also, I was already 21 and the lady that runs the apartment met me in San Francisco. They drove all the from L.A. to San Francisco to meet me and when I was already finished with immigration she hand me a bunch of letters, but before she give that to me, she asked me, "Josie, did you get married in the Philippines?" "No." [laughs] "Well, you got a letter here from the same guy, same name." [laughs]. It was from my husband. See, I didn't know. So, anyway, I got that and then, I didn't know that my best friend in L.A. was a relative of my husband. Ok?

JD: Ok

JS: So, he went to L.A. and stayed with her and her family. Well, my best friend called me. "Hey Josie. Pepe is here. Da da da." So, I could drive already. I had a car. I drove to her place in Silver Lake in L.A. Well, from there on, well, history. [laughs] We got married in 1956.

JD: Oh. So that's only, that's less than a year.

JS: Uh huh. Yeah really. I came here 1955. Then, he said, "You must get married." and I said ok. [laughs]

JD: So, when did he become a member of the military?

JS: Oh from the Philippines. Because in those days, they recruit Filipinos. Soon as they pass physical and mental. You know, they have to take a test and then the physical, of course, make sure they're free of any illnesses. So, he passed that then you will see more to come. Yeah and so that's, um, we got married in 1956 in L.A. and just across from my high school, Belmont high school, was my church, Filipino Church, very tiny. In fact, they say it used to be a firehouse before it was converted to a godly church. So we got married there. And, yeah, we were married for fifty six years and eight months.

JD: Wow. That's beautiful

JS: Thank you

JD: Ok, so, um, let's see. You said he speaks Pangasinan. Did he also speak Tagalog?

JS: Oh yea, he was better because he studied in Manila. And he said, "Oh I was good at Tagalog. Sometimes they cannot even tell that I'm not …

JD: Not pure Tagalog?

JS: But then he lost it all [inaudible]

JD: Ok. And, um, let's see. Trying to modify my questions. Ok. So, your mom was a war bride here and, um, you were able to see what it was like for a military bride to come here and you have seen Filipino women come to the United States not a military bride. What would you say is the difference in immigrating to the United States? Would you say it is better to be a military bride or better to not be a military bride when immigrating to the United States.

JS: Oh. Good question. Um, you know I can't that part because I was what, 15 years old? I couldn't really tell much. But, um, probably was easier for military, when the men bringing their wives here. Probably not easier. I mean before it was a lot easier when you are married to military.

JD: In what way?

JS: Well, they process the papers, I guess. Quicker, yes. Well, for me, I was a kid, so I think my status, really when I came here, was like a visitor and so every six months, I have to report to immigration. And then, you have to stay five years and apply for citizenship. So, I became a citizen in 1955 in L.A.

JD: And what about the transition, getting used to the United States? Do you think it's easier for military brides or for civilians?

JS: Well, military brides, because she, some of them, they are were not so expose, they didn't have much education, like my mother, not very much. Few grade schools at that time. So, it was probably a little bit harder, but the ones that are civilians coming here, they're more educated.

JD: Ok

JS: Yeah, and so probably easier, but as far as immigration is concerned, the military brides, it's easier because the process quicker, the paperwork because they are military, take them first.

JD: Ok. And going to current day. President Duterte is there and, um, there are some tensions between some diplomats in the U.S. and President Duterte. How have you viewed those tensions?

JS: Ok. The only time I'm exposed to Duterte was in the Facebook. As I said, I'm no longer a Filipino citizen. I'm not saying that I'm not, it's not, how shall I say, I didn't pay much attention to during the election because that's theirs. That's theirs. I know about about the Catholics, see? I'm no longer involved. I'm involved here. My life from when I came here. So, now, I'm seeing a lot of good things about Duterte, but you know he's kinda rough in some edges, but you have to understand where the Filipinos, the Filipinos coming from also being drugs. That really shocked me. I didn't know. Even in my town. The mission in his cell phone about a particular town area in my home town. Whoa! Some of these people are being investigated. I said oh! So, the drugs there are very rampant. Now, as far as the tension [inaudible] well, Duterte has said something about, not very nice, and Duterte explained that because probably I don't want to rationalize because I wasn't there, only what they say on tv that he out of the blue that he say da da da and it was, of course, the media already related it that he called him a son of somebody.

JD: Yes. That was all over the media.

JS: That was all over the media and then they tried to translate what he said cause in Tagalog and he sometimes when he speaks English though, I think I have to listen very carefully. Very, very heavy accent. I mean, I should not be prejudiced, because I'm living here I'm used to listening to American accent already, but really very heavy. But I don't make judgment, but then a lot of people went to the Philippines already. Some of them are just fresh and when they come back, they like it. It's so peaceful. They say it's just so easy to go around. Yeah, that's what they say. They're cleaning it up. I said well then that's good. Then, even this gal who is a member of our organization said oh you know I tried to give a tip to this guy at the airport because he had to push my mother from the airport, I don't know where they were going. And the guy said no I cannot accept that. I don't want to be taken out from my job. And my comment is, you know well that is good, I said, but in those days oh they'll take it right away. He'll even ask for more, but then now they are disciplined. They are, they had to think about their jobs, their families, so I said oh that is good. They said it is cleaning up. Of course they accuse him of killing people, these drugists, what do they call these people, the drug lords, and they said this people here, they said, well, the police is trying to arrest them, but they fight back
END OF VIDEO FILE 4

START OF VIDEO FILE 5
JS: So, the police try to do away with them also. So, the result right now it is peaceful. Yeah. That's what they said. I wasn't there, but all I see is here is people are coming back. That is what they relate. I have to believe that because they were there currently. You know?

JD: Ok. I think it was in 1992 the U.S. military had to leave. They had to close their bases in the Philippines. Um, they're starting to, or they already have begun to rebuild bases in the Philippines. There are five I think active U.S. military bases in the Philippines now.

JS: Clark?

JD: I believe Clark is one of them. Yeah. I know Subic Bay is not one of them.

JS: Oh it's closed? Oh that's right.

JD: So, not that one, but there are some others. Um, how do you view this rebuilding of U.S. bases in the Philippines.

JS: Well, oh gosh, I don't know because I haven't been reading about that, but you're asking me about how I view it. There's some good to it and, uh, well, the best thing is that, how do the people there feel about the Americans rebuilding. In a way, they will give them jobs. Ok? That is good. And also protecting the Philippines from the Chinese because I think the Chinese are trying to grab an area there somewhere in the Palawan area there

JD: In the South China Sea

JS: In a way that is good that we can help each other protect that place because I think there is oil there someplace. That's what they said, so I've got keep up with that. And, as a matter of fact, this is the first time I've heard that they're rebuilding. That's good news. I'm learning.

JD: So, you view it as a positive thing that they're rebuilding.

JS: To me, it's positive because it is, uh, will give them jobs and, um, it is better to have the Americans there than some other, um, countries that will just really, really take advantage and then control them. Because the Philippines is once under Americans. That is my opinion.

JD: Ok. Great. That is all my questions. Do you have anything you'd like to add?

JS: Are you interested in some things I will show you?

JD: Absolutely.

END OF INTERVIEW