

E= Yeah uh huh. Yeah, I would go to work at 3 and get off at 11 o'clock then come home and go to bed about 1 o'clock and Mr. Shaw's, it was uh, he had corn on the cob and carrots for the canneries and him and his wife used to load up the trucks with the **diggers**, you know, and have the trucks all ready loaded by the time I was coming in. And I used, sometimes, got in and eat something and go get up in the truck and take off in to the Blue Goose in Salem, in the morning. Go up there and dump a load and come back and about 8 o'clock take off with the other one. And that's the way we did it.

M= And you'd be back in the afternoon in time to go to work at Tech.

E= In time to work at Tech. You know? And that way we decided, we move up here, we got this house up here at Birch and 16th Street. My family was the first family, was the first Mexican family to live in Forest Grove.

M= To live in Forest Grove.

E= To live in Forest Grove. And my wife went to work for the Japanese guys up there, planting those little plants, you know, those flowers pots and all...? They want me to irrigate the plants and every morning, Ike or Arthur, they used to call me up and "Come on Emilio. It's already time for irrigate the plants." You know, get up and go to work. And work until about 2 o'clock, two-thirty. And then from there go down and work in Techtronic.

M= What did you do for Techtronics?

E= I went, when I got to Techtronic, they asked me what kind of job I can do, I said, "well, I don't know like, I never worked in this kind of work, just give me a chance and maybe I can learn." They said, "you have to put **your** step in. Do you want to take as a janitor?" "Fine." **A janitor. The building is 96 or Sunset Plant, you know, straight across from Sam Benson Hospital.** That's where I started. And then I...

M= And what year was this roughly?

E= '64?

M= Okay.

E= '64/'65 something like that. Around those years. I can't remember to good what year it was. And then they said "from there you can move. Everytime you see an open put..."

AUDIO BREAKS

M= This is a continuation of the interview with Emilio Hernandez on March 22nd. Okay, So you were saying.

E= Okay. Uh. Let me see.

M= You were talking, I guess, about..

E= Techtronic?

M= Techtronics. Oh you said you were working at the Sunset Building there, '

E= Oh yeah. And then from the Sunset Building I got a new job in cables. I start work in cables.

M= Over in the main industrial park then.

E= Uh no. They had them up here over at the Sunset Plant.

M= Okay.

E= And then I worked for about 6 or 8 months in cables and I got a job on the molding machines over at the main plant and I got transferred until I hurt myself up there. I was setting up a dye on the machine, broke 2 of the discs in my spine and I had surgery and I wasn't too good at it after that.

M= You got in the way of the machine?

E= Well I didn't pick up anything because all the dyes on those machines, they were pretty heavy. You had to pick them up with a, what they call them, snash block, you know? And I just twisted like this. Bang. That was it.

M= So you injured your back and neck then?

E= Yeah. Real easy you know. And I sat down and I blind myself up, and I don't know. Then I called supervisor, you know, I told him. He said "well you gotta go home." Went home. He said "if you don't feel so good you go and see a doctor." I came home and drink a couple Heinessens and went to bed. And the next morning I was feeling pretty good until about 9 or 10 o'clock and I started making exercise and went, start hurting again and real bad. I went and see a doctor and he said "well you got to ruptured discs," he said, "the only thing is we can give you some shots. Maybe," he said, "it could help you. But I don't think so. The only thing we can do is going to be surgery." And about a year later I had surgery. And I used to go work there for 2-3 hours in Techtronic and couldn't stand it, the pain. Had to come had to lay down and I was terrible, until the disability, the doctors disability me from work. I quit working and here I am. I still have a problem with my back.

M= How long did you work for Tech then?

E= About ten years.

M= And can you tell me a little bit, you said you were the first family here in Forest Grove? I guess back in those days there weren't too many families that were really settled here in the area.

E= Uh no. I tell you. The only that I know, we were four families in the county.

M= Uh-huh, only four huh?

E= Four families in the whole county Josa in Hillsboro, Farcun in Cornelius and Jule Lopez in Cornelius and ourselves down here in Forest Grove. You know. That was all the families. I remembered in the harvester season they had to shut down the schools to pick up strawberries with school kids. You know.

M= Oh because they didn't have enough..

E= They didn't have enough labor. They didn't have no labor.

M= Right, but during the summertime though, I assume even then there were lots of Hispanic people moving in to help with the crops?

E= Uh no.

M= Not so many?

E= No, no, no, no, no . There was no...we didn't have, we had some problems with the Mexican food; couldn't find it up here nothing. We had to go to California to get some, like tortillas, hot pepper, all the Mexican, you know, spices that we need. We had to make a, every time we're going out, had to make a special trip down to L.A. where we had to go up there to see our folks, you know, we got some cousins and nephews in L.A.. Spent about 4 or 5 days up there with them. Same time, we buy everything up there. We buy tortillas and special meat we need you know. Put them in some big ice boxes, put some ice, tie 'em up and put them up on the top of the car and bring them in. You know.

M= So you couldn't even find much in Portland...

E= Couldn't find nothing. Nothing. Not a damn thing up here.

M= I guess there were enough Hispanic people by say, the late '60's so that...

E= The people started coming in about...I know we come in '62.

M= Right.

E= Right after Columbus day.

M= Oh yeah. Right after the storm.

E= After the storm. The storm was October and we come in, in June. You know, and the people didn't start coming in until about '66; '65, '66 something like that. We start helping people ourselves cause that's when we started settling down people up here.

M= Was about '66 or thereabouts?

E= Something like that.

M= Now around that same time you, I guess they started with, started doing a Hispanic or Spanish language mass at the church here.

E= Right along there we used to have a missionary coming in from Mexico, every year, for the harvest season. They spent four weeks in Woodburn, four weeks up here, four weeks in McMinnville and then from here they moved onto Medford and then from there they go back to Mexico. We didn't have a steady priest until '67. '67 or '68 something like that.

M= And was that Father **Biezer** from **Jesuit school**. And we run into each other accidentally. You know, we had a friend, I had a friend in the hospital in Hillsboro and this guy was real sick you know. And I had to pass as his brother, you know, we was friends but they don't let anybody else, just the immediate family to see him and I had to put my name as his brother. That was the only way I could get in and I used to come in from work and I stop at the hospital and I spend 15-20 minutes with him then come home. And that evening when I meet Father **Biezer**, I was going out from a room when Father **Biezer** walked in, walking in. And he said "hello, hello." And I said, "nice to see you." "Yeah, nice to see you too," he said, "What is your name?" I said, "My name is Emilio Hernandez." "You are the guy that I'm looking for," he said, "Don't leave," he said, "I want to talk to you." He had two girls and two boys with him, the volunteers, and himself. And he said, "Here I am, what you going to do with us?" I was like, "what you mean, what am I going to do with us? With you guys?" He said, "Yeah, I'm supposed to be your priest. Father **Arnoldo Biezer**. **Arnold Biezer**," he said, "These are my helpers and they sent us down here to help you," he said, "you got a house for us today?" I said, "I don't have a house but I have rooms, I said okay if you want to live with us," I said, "You are welcome to our house. It anything better or nothing." And he lived upstairs for four months.

M= Oh really?

E= Yeah. Him, the priest, and the four helpers.

M= Oh yeah? They lived in this house?

E= In this house up here with us. And he stayed there for about four months and then we rented a house for him.

M= Now this was before he was teaching at Jesuit?

E= No after. After he retired from the Jesuits.

M= Okay.

E= Oh he was working at Jesuit High School when he came down here.

M= Okay.

E= But after he got the job down here for nothing, because we wasn't going to pay nothing, you know.

M= Oh I see. That's why he needed a place to stay.

E= Yeah he didn't reside up here.

M= And since he wasn't getting paid he needed a place to stay.

E= Uh huh. And he stayed down here and started working. You know, for the first three years. We didn't know if we were going to have the mass services on Sunday or not. Or where; because one Sunday we used to make the service in Cornelius. The other Sunday, Forest Grove. The other Sunday, Hillsboro. The other Sunday in Gaston and we were transients you know?

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