

Herbert Turchi
Plumbing

CA 1-3732

807 3/4 Castelar St.
L.A. 12, Cal.

INTERVIEWEE: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI
INTERVIEWER: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 001 PL: ...RCHI, the address is 3222 West Sacamore Way here in Eagle Rock, Glassell Park. and Mr. Chun-Hoon and Paul Louie are interviewing both of them about Castelar School and also the other streets, people, environment at that time, so Mr. Chun-Hoon, you go ahead with whatever you wish to ask now.
- 007 BCH: O.K. Mr. Turchi, will you tell us again where you were born and when did you come to Los Angeles?
- 008 HT: I was born in Veric(?), Pennsylvania, May 19, 1908. and I came to Los Angeles in 1915 and there I went to Castelar Street School. I was 7 years old. And I went up to about the 2nd grade and from there I went to Solano St. School. And I only went there to the 2nd grade and that was it.
- 013 BCH: You didn't finish elementary school?
HT: No, I didn't.
- 014 BCH: In those days, back in 1915, were you required to go to school? Or were people, could they just drop out of school?.
- 016 HT: No, they couldn't just drop out of school. You had to go to school in my time. Her mother's time, they didn't have to go to school.
- 018 BCH: Her mother's case..her mother went to Castelar School.
HT: Right.
BCH: Back in what year was that, Josephine?
- 019 JT: My mother was...she would have been 93 years old this year.
- 020 BCH: Probably in early 1900's?
HT: Oh, yes.
JT: Oh, yes, even before that because I was born in 1909.
- 022 HT: I'm only 10 months older than her.
BCH: Remarkable! How do you keep so young?
- 023 JT: I think my mother was born 1890.

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- 024 BCH: 1890...in that area? Where was she born?
JT: Yes, she was born in that area. If I knew I was going to be answering these questions, I would have looked in her death certificate. It's in there.
- 027 BCH: She lived in that Chinatown area?
HT: Can you get it?
BCH: No, that's all right. Where did she, where did you live in Chinatown?..when she attended Castelar School?..where did she live?..about where?
- 029 HT: About Bernard Street, didn't she?
JT: Yes, ^{I think} on Bernard Street.
BCH: So, she attended Castelar probably early 1900's or before that?
- 031 HT: Before that.
JT: Yes, she was born 1890, I would say 1896, she was 5 or 6 years old.
- 033 PL: Do you happen to know if it was known as Castelar Street School at that time?
HT: Oh, yes.
PL: It was known as Castelar Street School.
- 034 JT; I always remember my mother telling me that she went to Castelar Street School and every time her mother was going to have a baby, they took her out of school to take care of the new baby and the rest of the family. So my mother was already a grown girl, all the other kids were small and she was still in the 4th grade. So she was so embarrassed that she just quit school. And they didn't force her to stay, but she learned just as much as they would now, today in the 9th grade because she could read very good, she wrote very good, her spelling was very good, 'rithmetic, everything.

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040 PL: Now, are both of you Italians, Mr. Turchi?
HT: No,
JT: I'm Mexican.
HT: And I'm Italian.

041 PL: You're...
JT: I'm Mexican.
PL: And you're...
HT: I'm Italian
PL: You're Italian....and both Mexicans and Italians
were living in this area.

042 HT: Oh, yes.
JT: Like I say, my grandmother was born right there
on Alpine Street in a little adobe house.
PL: Your grandmother was born on what street again?
JT: Right there on Alpine.
PL: On Alpine Street
HT: Between Broadway and Castell~~ar~~, Hill Street.
JT: Between Broadway and Hill Street.
BCH: Near where United Poultry is...just below First
Public Savings.
JT: About right in the middle of the block, my
grandmother was born there in a...

047 HT: No, United Poultry is on Ord Street.
BCH: No, they have a new place now.
HT: Oh, they do? So, they moved?
BCH: No, they have two branches now.
HT: Oh, I see.
BCH: It's right near that bank, First Public Savings,
just below there.
HT: Well, I'll be darned.

050 BCH: So, mainly, in those days there were Italians,
and Mexicans and..
Ht: Slobovians(?)

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- 051 BCH: Slobovians and do you remember what other ethnic group?
- HT: And Syrian people because he was down by Macy Street where Old Chinatown used to be on Macy Street and Alameda. There used to be a lot of Syrians there, too, Slobovians and Italians and Mexicans.
- 054 PL: With these different ethnic groups, was there any one of them...was there mostly Italians, mostly Mexicans, mostly...
- HT: Mostly Italians.
- PL: Mostly Italians.
- HT: Yeah.
- PL: What period of history was this that, roughly around what year to what year?
- 058 HT: Oh, I would say all the way up to the 50's and 60's. There were all Italians there until you people moved in. Then you people bought out.
- BCH: About the 50's or 60's.
- HT: Yeah, because old Chinatown used to be on the other side of ..between Macy Street and Aliso and up this side and up the Plaza side. I used to deliver paper there when I was a kid down Chinatown there.
- 063 HT: Then, where the people were right across the street, there used to be a Cuzner Lumber Company ..used to be there. Across the street from there Chinese people lived ..they had railroad where they would bring in fruits and stuff like that hay and stuff like that because I pitched waterfelloes(?) when I was a kid. I used to unload the boxcar and I unload the trucks and stuff like that. We had to work when we were little kids, you know. Ha, ha.

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- 068 PL: Before, before....now when did you come to..
HT: Los Angeles?
PL: to Los Angeles again? That was in 19...
HT: 1915
PL: Oh, 15?
HT: 1915. I was only 7 years old.
PL: Right. Now, when you came, did you come to the
CastellarSt/School area?
- 072 HT: Right. I moved on Cleveland Street with my sister.
We moved in with her. She lived up on Cleveland
St. In fact, her children went to Castellar St.
School, too.
- 073 PL: Now, at that time when you moved there, was the
community mostly Italian?
HT: Mostly Italian.
PL: They were still mostly Italian for a long time, then.
HT: Oh, yeah.
BCH: He said until about 1950.
- 076 HT: Yes, mostly Italians. Then next to that was the
Slobovians and then Mexicans, then the Syrians.
They were about even...Syrians and Mexicans, but
the Italians and the Slobovians were the most.
- 080 BCH: I want to ask about Castellar...so down the street from
where you lived on Yale Street was the school,
Castellar School? You were just about a block away?
HT: Yes, when I lived on Yale Street, it was right
across the street. When I was on 848 Yale Street.
Then when I lived on the 734 block and a half away.
- 083 BCH: So what do you remember about the buildings on that
school ground?
HT: I remember the building on that side there they had
a sewing for the girls upstairs. Downstairs they
had a penny lunch.

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086 BCH: Penny lunch. We have a picture of that.
HT: You got that?
BCH: Yes, we have a picture of that. I want to show you that. It came from the Security Bank and was printed in the school district newspaper. One day when they printed that and I looked at it, I said, "Gee, that's Castelar School, Penny Lunch." And then I looked in the background and there's a flag of Italy ..
HT: Yeah.
BCH: So what do you remember...it was a penny lunch they serve, you just pay a penny?
HT: Penny lunch for the kids that went to school. Well, a penny at that time was a lot of money. I've got some brochures of restaurants that's been down there, I used to get a whole T-bone steak dinner and everything with wine and everything for 35-40¢.

095 PL: You have some of those menus?
HT: I got the menus.
PL: Oh, I would like to see them.

096 BCH: Now, when you studied at Castelar School, what kinds of subjects did they have? What did they teach?

097 HT: Well, they taught you to ...like I went to kindergarten and 1st grade and they teach you spelling and arithmetic. You know, regular subjects and then you got older and you went to second grade and a little higher, subjects were a little....

101 JT: M they used to have wooden floors and they used to have their toilets outside in separate .

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- 103 HT: Oh, those toilets outside, they didn't have it at Castel~~lar~~ar Street School.
- PL: Were the toilets just out houses or a....
- 104 HT: No, they were just like a bungalow. They have one side for the girls and one side for the boys.
- PL: They were outside of the school building.
- HT: Yes.
- 106 HT: Then, they had the Penny Lunch and the sewing upstairs in the big school...
- BCH: It was a large building, huh?
- HT: Yes, a large building. I wish I had that picture. Then on the corner of College and Hill Street, there was a nursery there. Did anyone ever tell you that?
- 111 PL: What was the date of that?
- HT: Well, I was in the about the third grade when they had the nursery ...I was about maybe 10 years old?
- 114 PL: So, you're coming in 1915, that'll be 10 years old, that'll be 3 years later.
- HT: 1925, about like that.
- PL: 1925. Now, who ran the nursery?
- HT: The school.
- BCH: They take care of kids like babysitting, baby care, child care.
- 118 HT: Yeah. Then they had the restrooms like the boys and girls outside like bungalows, then they had another building therrere right close by they called it Sloidus(?) woodwork but we used to call it Sloid (?) at that time.
- PL: How do you spell that?
- HT: I would say S.l..o..i..d I think.
- BCH: Part of the school.
- JT: Things they made out of wood...nowthey call it woodshop.

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123 HT: S..L..O..I..D, I think.

JT: S..L..O..Y..D.

PL: That was the woodworking shop of the school.

JT: Yes.

125 HT: And you know where the French Hospital is at?
Well, when I was going to school, there was no
French Hospital there.

127 PL: That was before the French Hospital was built.

HT: We used to have gardening...we used to do gardening
there, right there...we used to do gardening.

BCH: So that was all part of the school.

HT: Part of the school. Then they still have the little
clinic for the school, don't they, on Hill St.
across the street from the laundry?

130 BCH: The property is still there but they don't use
it as a clinic anymore.

HT: They don't use it anymore. We used to have a clinic
there.

BCH: Right. Yale Street Clinic.

132 HT: Then there was a nurse who used to come to our school
all the time at Castellar, Mrs. Macy was her name.
I bet a lot will remember this too.

134 PL: Now, how did that clinic serve Castelar School?
Or did they serve the community?

HT: Castelar School and the community.

PL: Both.

HT: Both.

PL: So that the nurses from the clinic went to Castelar
School.

HT: No, just one nurse used to come...Macy, Mrs. Macy
was her name...I'll never forget as long as I live.
She used to take care of us.

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- 138 BCH: Do you remember the teachers there, any of them or how they taught?
- HT: I remember Mrs. Cline was in the 5th grade, Mrs. Bees was in the 3rd grade, Mrs. Colts was in the 2nd grade and Mrs. Cole...C...o...l...e... was in the 4th grade. That I remember.
- 145 PL: Now you mentioned a Slowed
- HT: Slويد
- PL: Slويد School as teaching woodwork.
- HT: Woodwork...we used to call it Slويد, well, that's what they told us it was.
- PL: Right.
- HT: They call it woodwork now.
- PL: Yes, but kind of...how much woodworking teaching did they do?
- 148 HT: Oh, they teach you how to make bread boards, little tables and chairs and things like that, you know, benches.
- 151 BCH: Carmelita's brother, John Pelitierri, he went there. His brother, Mike, has a picture with him standing with a table that he made at Castelar School.
- HT: No kidding. Did they say Slويد, too.
- BCH: It didn't say Slويد, but he showed us the picture and he was standing right behind the table. So woodworking must have been a great part of the curriculum.
156. PL: Now, was that limited just to boys?
- HT: Yes, just to boys.
- JT: The girls used to have sewing classes.
- PL: And that's where the second floor sewing classes were just for the girls.
- HT: Of the ^{Penny Lunch, ...where the Penny Lunch was.} /...The cafeteria was downstairs.

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160 JT: And also a cooking class, too. They had cooking and sewing. But after a certain grade, I think they started at 4th grade they started sewing in the 4th grade and then in the 6th grade they taught cooking.

163 HT: They learned cooking in the Penny Lunch.
JT: We was taught once a week they would take us to Gates Street School, right over there at Lincoln Heights. They had a regular kitchen for teaching. They used to teach us cooking there. Our sewing class we had at our own school.

168 PL: What kind of sewing machines did you have?
JT: I really don't know. They weren't power. They were the regular, you know.
PL: Treadle.
JT: Treadle, right.

170 BCH: How were the students in the classroom? Were they pretty well behaved? How were they?
JT: I know in my school they were, not so much, but he was the devil in the school.
HT: They sent me to special school.

172 BCH: Where's the special school?
JT: At that time they had special schools for the boys that couldn't you know
HT: Solano
BCH: And that was Solano? That's why you left the 2nd grade there.
HT: 5th grade. I left the 2nd grade, went there, and then I got out of special school and I went to Castelar School, Mrs. Cline.
BCH: Back to Castelar School until the 5th grade.
HT: Then I went to Solano special, Central special, then I went to Sister school, then I went back to Castelar St. School, then I went back to Central special, then I went to Borlight(?) special, then I went to Graphie(?) special and then I got my diploma.

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- 181 PL: When you went to these special schools, did they give you the same subjects or did you have to learn other subjects?
HT: No, we didn't have to study like we did in regular school.
PL: What did do then? Did you ...
HT: They gave us subjects, but they didn't care whether you we got the....we didn't care whether we go to school, we played hookey, used to sell papers, shine shoes because we had to go out and work all the time. We wasn't much crazy about going to school at that time, either. It was working and going to school and like I said there was a bunch of us going to these schools and we all had a good time.
- 188 PL: You had to go to these special schools?
HT: You had to go.
PL: And then at what age did they say you did not have to go to school?
HT: 16. When I was 16 I didn't have to go to school. I didn't go, I went to work.
- 191 BCH: Did you finish at Castelar? You went up to the 5th grade.
HT: 5th grade at Castelar. Then I went up to the 9th grade in special school.
- 193 BCH: Special school meant that you didn't behave played hookey...
HT: Behave, played hookey and...
- 196 PL: At that time, were there more or all woman teachers or were there any men teachers?
HT: All women teachers, all women teachers.
JT: Special schools were men.
PL: Special schools were men but the regular schools were all women teachers.
HT: All women teachers unless you went to intermediate high school or junior high. Then they had men teachers in the gymnasiums. In the schooling they had men.

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- 203 HT: When I went to Solano, Mr. Hopkins was the principal of Solano St. School and he was the teacher of the special school. At the same time he was principal, he was teacher for the special school. And Mr. Rosenthal...there were two of them there. Lots of us boys from the neighborhood went over there.
- 208 BCH: So these men teachers tried to make you behave. How did you do that? Very strict, huh?
- 209 HT: Oh, very strict. They spank you, boy. Better believe it. With a paddle.
- PL: With a paddle, huh?
- HT: Oh, yes.
- PL: With a paddle, huh? Take you across and just paddle you. And the parents didn't complain about that?
- 211 HT: No, they didn't have the rights like they do today. Them days they could do..the teachers..boy, they made you walk the chalk line, boy, let me tell ya. Well, they made men out of you, and decent men, you know, most of them that I went to school with, they all turned out to be good fellows, went to work and everything, got jobs, not like juvenile you know...every day procedure just like you go to a public school.
- 218 BCH: So when you went to Castelar, they couldn't make you behave, huh? How did they try to make you behave?
- 219 HT: All different ways they try to make you behave. They punish you letting you stay in late, not go out to recess and stuff like that. Then you couldn't play ball and stuff like that but you behave for a while and then get naughty again.

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224 PL: Now with you coming over that young, mostly
Italians, now did you have any trouble with the
English? from the beginning?
HT: No.
PL: Did you know English before you came over?
HT: Yeah.
PL: Oh, you did.
HT: I was born in Pennsylvania.
PL: Oh, so that was different.
HT: I was born, my brothers and sisters were born in...
228 JT: How about your brothers and sisters who were born
in Italy? Did they have trouble?
HT: No, they come out here and they put them in school
and they learned English. I imagine they didn't
have the same as we did but they done all right.
JT: But his two brothers and two sisters were born
there and they were very well educated. Where
did they go to school?
HT: In Italy. They didn't go to school here.
JT: When they came here they were already grown up.
235 PL: See, that's different. What about new immigrants
that came directly over from Italy? What about
their children that didn't know much English? What
happened when they went to Castelar School?
HT: Well, there's a fellow that, he's about 8 years older
than I am, he went to school with us in Mrs. Cline's
room and he's eight years older than me and they
taught him just like they did us, you know. Of
course they didn't learn as fast as we did, they had
to explain to them more or take them to the side or
pay more attention to him, show him what to do or
with us, she just tell us, write it out on the black
board and everything and tell us what to do and we
would just do it. Whereas with the immigrant who
couldn't talk very good English and everything, they
have to pay more attention to them.

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246 PL: Were there very many teachers that were of Italian background?
HT: No, not one that I know of.
PL: Not one. But yet this was mostly an Italian neighborhood.
HT: Right, an Italian neighborhood.
PL: But then how would the teacher be able to converse with the new Italian boy or girl that came over?
How did they do it?
HT: The children who were Italian help the others translate everything for them and talk, see. Because there were a lot of Italians in the room there. So they would interpret it and tell the teacher what the boy wanted to do.

255 JT: In that neighborhood, they called it Little Italy because they all migrated there directly from Italy or maybe they would stop back East and they would all come here. They all seemed to migrate right there in that little section so they used to call it Little Italy.

259 BCH: You know Mr. Capra the producer, director?
HT: Yeah, did he go there?
BCH: He went there. He wrote it in his book. I have some pictures in the book, showed him at Castelar School. And one thing he said was that every morning he led the pledge of allegiance. Do you remember that? The flag salute? I pledge allegiance?
HT: Yes, I remember that. We used to do that outside.
BCH: Yes, that's what he said.
HT: I remember that.
JT: When they used to raise the flag.
HT: When they used to raise the flag.
BCH: I didn't know that, but we've done that for 10 years now since I got there.
HT: You've done that?
BCH: Yeah.

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266 HT: Outside?
BCH: Outside. We didn't know this. We're about the only school that does that.
JT: And then you would appoint some of the boys to fold the flag and everything and it's a privilege to these kids.
BCH: We carry the flag out.
HT: Teacher's pet and everything...put up the flag every morning. There was a principal there, did they tell you that? Mrs. Smith, she was blind.
BCH: Carmelita told me and Carmelita's brother, what's his name?
HT: John? Did he tell you about her?
BCH: John. Yes, she was blind. Mrs. Smith was blind.
275 HT: My brother used to chauffeur her. My next oldest brother, Joe.
BCH: But how could she operate and move around when she was blind?
HT: I don't know. I know when I was bad and they send me to the principal's office and she says, "Herbert, come over here. Put your hands out there!"
PL: What did she use?
HT: A ruler. She was a nice lady, though. She was a nice lady. "Now go back to your room and be a good boy," she would say. She was a lovely woman. I mean, to us you know we were young, she seemed to be quite old.
BCH: Several people have mentioned her.
285 PL: Then even though it was an Italian neighborhood, you mentioned Mexicans there Slobovians, how did you get along with each other, or did you get along with each other?
HT: Right. It was wonderful.

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288 PL: There was no ah..
HT: No, we played ball together...it's not like today. God, when I went to school with the colored, I never had any trouble with them. Gee, everything was fine.
JT: I went to Lincoln High School and I used to walk to school with the colored kids. We felt nothing. It never entered our minds that she is black. Why should I go with her because she's black. We all got along fine.
HT: We all got along fine.

296 PL: Now, were there very many black families living in the area.
JT: Well, in my neighborhood..
PL: Where was your neighborhood?
HT: Lincoln Heights.
JT: Lincoln Heights over by North Broadway there was only one colored family. They got along with everybody. Nobody looked down on them, they just accepted them just as one of their own.
HT: There wasn't any in our neighborhood. No, there wasn't no blacks.

302 BCH: Were there any Chinese families around?
HT: Chinese? Well, they were in Chinatown.
JT: They always seemed to have their own little section.
HT: They had their own section. I used to shine shoes at the Plaza there and they lived right there.

307 HT: Did you ever hear of Mr. Hancept used to be in charge of Ferguson Alley, used to be in charge up here of all the Chinese, an elderly man. I used to do his work.
PL: What was his name again?
HT: Mr. Hancept..
PL: Hancept. How do you spell that, sir?
HT: H..A..N..C..E..P..T

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311 PL: What did he do?
HT: He..the Chinese he used to pay their electric bills, water bills, they couldn't talk English...
JT: He kind of looked after the people.
HT: He kind of looked after the old people, the Chinese.
BCH: Oh, he looked after the Chinese old people.
PL: What background was he? Hancept?
HT: Chinese.
PL: He was Chinese, his name was Hancept.
BCH: This was back in 1915...
PL: What year was this? around that time?
HT: This was around 1938, around 1938, 40 around there. I went in the plumbing business. That's when I met him. He's got a son live over in Boyle Heights on Dozier Street.
PL: That son is living now?
HT: I think so. He was in the produce business, the son was.

324 PL: Do you know his son's name or address or anything?
HT: No.
PL: You said he was in the produce buiñess now?
HT: He was in the produce when I was working at that time. I wonder if they still live on Dozier. I could take a ride up there.
JT: Does he go by Hancept, too.
HT: He goes by Hancept. It's his dad's name.
BCH: That's an unusual name.
PL: We would like to get in touch with him.

329 HT: Well, he didn't go to Castelar.
PL: But, at least for a Chinese he....
We would like to get in touch with him. He would be an important person. But getting back to Castelar, how large was the school? How many students did you have?

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334 HT: Well, that I wouldn't know.
JT: Wasn't it just the one big school?
HT: Well, it was two stories. They had about 16 rooms. Downstairs was the kindergarteners, are they still downstairs, the kindergarten? on that end, towards where the Penny Lunch was. Then the next was Mrs. Colts, 2nd grade.

343 BCH: What kinds of games did you play? Remember the types of games?
HT: No, I don't remember?
JT: Baseball?
HT: Oh, well we played baseball in the 3rd or 4th grades.

348 PL: How about some of the Italian games that you would play? as children. They weren't any different.
HT: Oh, we used to play "Run Cheek Run"
PL: Oh, yes, we played that.
HT: Yeah, "Run Cheek Run", "Who's in my Grapevine" and this or that and all different games...Hide and Go Seek, and Tag and stuff like that.
PL: Kick the Bucket, maybe.
HT: Kick the Bucket.

353 JT: Didn't you play basketball or volleyball?
HT: No, not too much of that.
JT: We did in my school.
HT: We had a hand ball court there.
PL: You had a hand ball court? Would that be against the building?
HT: No, they just built one on the side. You have them out in the field there?
BCH: Yes, popular game.
HT: They didn't have no gymnastics.

360 PL: When you were going there, were most of the women teachers young or old or all ages or?
HT: Oh, middle age. Yeah, no young ones.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

363 HT: Today they have young ones. Them days they weren't too young.
PL: Now in those days when you went to school in Castelar, were there any teachers that were married/
HT: Oh, yes.
PL: There were?
HT: Oh, yes. Yes, they were married.

367 PL: Because at one point, married teachers could not teach..
HT: Oh, there were teachers that were married, better believe it.
BCH: Did they teach, when they were in the classroom, a large class all at one time or did they try to divide you into different types of groups/
HT: All in one time.
BCH: Everyone had the same book..
HT: Same book.
BCH: Large classes, huh?
PL: How many were in the class?
HT: Oh, I'd say about 30, 40, something like that.

377 BCH: What about homework? Did you bring...
HT: No homework.
PL: No homework at all?
HT: Never got homework.
PL: Well, now, you never got homework. What about some of the others?
BCH: Maybe you didn't do your homework.
JT: We always had arithmetic, always. And we had to learn poems.
HT: Oh, we had to do that. Then they started up spelling.
JT: We used to have a spelling bee. Some of the children take sides and they would see who would stay up the longest.
HT: First you stand up and you sit down when you miss it. The one who stand up the last was the champ.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLAIM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 389 BCH: What elementary school did you say you attended?
JT: Griffin Avenue.
BCH: Griffin Avenue is 100 years old also. this year.
JT: Oh, really?
BCH: Yes, this year.
JT: Somebody told me that. You know Joe M....., his wife went there and I graduated from there, too.
BCH: Griffin and Castelar are 100 years old. Breed St. is the oldest school. It was 100 years last year. So, one, two, three.
JT: Breed. That's over there in Boyle Heights.
BCH: Yes, Boyle Heights.
HT: That's where I lived....on Breed Street. I lived on Breed St. right off of Brooklyn Avenue.
- 397 JT: In Griffin Avenue School, I started in Kindergarten and graduated in the 8th grade. At that time you graduated from the 8th grade.
- 399 PL: Tell me a little more about this Penny Lunch. What kind of food was available?
HT: Well, the nourishing food like they have - corn flakes and stuff like that, peanut butter...I didn't know what peanut butter was until I went to Castelar School Penny Lunch. And boy, I love peanut butter with milk. I eat there, every time I go there I order peanut butter and milk. I loved it.
- 405 PL: You had corn flakes, peanut butter, ...
HT: Peanut butter, hamburgers, hot dogs ..
BCH: Things haven't changed. We still have corn flakes, peanut butter, hamburgers.
JT: Oh, really?
- 410 PL: So that anybody who had a penny would be able to buy that lunch?
HT: Right. Well, they called it Penny Lunch but it cost more than that. They used to call it Penny Lunch. Did you ever hear it was called Penny Lunch before?

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI
INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

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- 413 BCH: Yes.
JT: How much did they give you?
HT: Oh, they gave us 18 or 15¢ you know. And boy, you would buy plenty for dinner. You get jello,...
- BCH: If you couldn't afford it, could you eat lunch?
HT: Now that I do not know. I don't remember that. We had that paid.
- 418 HT: When I was out some selling papers and shining shoes, I used to go over and buy stuff.
JT: It was a big treat for him.
HT: They had baked apples, everything like that, everything that's good to help him for you. Good.
- 422 PL: Now would you say that most of the children bought the Penny Lunch or just a few of the children bought the Penny Lunch?
- 424 HT: Oh, I'd say not too many. Most of them brought their lunches.
PL: Most of them brought their lunches because a penny is a lot of money in those days.
HT: Them days, 10 or 15¢ was a lot of money.
JT: It's so funny, nowadays, the kids see a penny on the floor, they wouldn't even pick it up, and walk right over it..
- 429 PL: Oh, you also mentioned...who cooked the Penny Lunches?
HT: Well, they had cooks, two, three lady cooks there. But they had the students help cook and it would teach them at the same time. That's where the cooking class comes in. So they teach them cooking and everything. And I imagine the ones that were best in it they let them work with them.
- 438 PL: And yet Penny Lunch every day, Monday through Friday.
HT: Friday, correct.
PL: Now did you have to ...did the school have to know ahead of time that you were going to buy a Penny Lunch?

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 440 HT: No.
PL: You just came by
HT: They used to have a lot of milk. The milk man used to come leave 3, 4 cases of big quarts of milk.
BCH: They still do that.
HT: Yeah? Because I ran away from home and a friend of mine and we didn't know the folks and we slip on the porch during lunch and come back 3 o'clock in the morning, we see him and he drop the case and run like the devil, he got scared. Yeah, they used to deliver bread, used to deliver milk, they used to deliver bread and milk at the home, the creameries and the bakeries.
- 453 BCH: What other types and places were around Castelar School? We saw a map, kind of an aerial view of the school and it...they say they had a bakery across the street..a Franco Bakery.
- 457 HT: Oh, yeah, where that restaurant is across the street, catty corner from the French Hospital, that was Franco American Bake Company. I worked there. My sister, she went to Castelar Street School. She passed away.
- 460 BCH: The bakery. It just went out of business, huh?
HT: They sold it to the Four S Bakery.
JT: They took over the business and then sold the property, didn't they?
HT: Then they sold the property.
BCH: That's now Four S.
HT: Four S is now over there near Riverside Drive.
PL: I've seen that and I was quite surprised.
- 467 PL: Now you mentioned some other businesses near Castelar School. What were some of the other businesses?

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI
INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

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469 HT: Over the corner there cross the street from the recreation center, that corner, that side, the school side the Anjonies lived there. and they had rental there...

PL: Anjonies? How do you spell that?

HT: That I couldn't tell you.

PL: But it's Italian? Anjonies.

HT: Italians. Anjonies. They lived there and then they had a house that they rented. And next to that was a demmit(?) company where they made tanks and everything .

PL: What kind of tanks were those? Water tanks?

HT: Water tanks. Made tanks and all kinds of working shop

HT: Next to there was the baker boys, Tony Alees and Akaleen, next to that was the city corral.

PL: City corral?

485 HT: City corral where they had the steam rollers and everything..the city worked out of it. the city worked out and cleaned streets and everything. The city corral was there. Then Castelar Street School.

BCH: Oh, because we saw a photograph of Castelar School and next to it was a large yard.

HT: That's city corral.

BCH: Somebody said that was the telephone company there.

HT: No, no. City Corral.

492 PL: Let's come back now. The time of the year was around 1917, 18, 19. The City Corral was there even when I went to school there. It's like it started.

BCH: Like a maintenance shop.

HT: That's correct. Then the steam rollers went in there to truck(?), you know just like they do on San Fernando Road, they all go, the City Corral

BCH: Next to Castelar School.

HT: Right.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

502 BCH: We didn't know what that was.

HT: That's the City Corral. You got that picture?
Now, you know what it is. Then across the street from the school was the building, the old building that they got now on the Hill Street side. On the corner there they had a grocery store there. Used to buy apple candy there.

510 PL: Now, that's where the recreation park is?

HT: Yeah, up the next corner by College. Right on the corner there right across from the gas station where the laundry is, Morgan Laundry. They used to have an apple candy store. They used to make apple candy. Apples and they dip the apple in the candy. Then they had a big container or barrel with big pickles, boy. Rose was the lady's name that run that place.

521 BCH: Where was the orphanage? You said there was an orphanage.

HT: Orphanage where the recreation is. Right on the corner of Alpine and Yale.

PL: Right where the recreation center is.

HT: Right where the recreation center is.

PL: Right in that corner.

HT: Right in that corner was an orphan home there.

527 PL: Now, what was in between the orphan home and that other side?

HT: They tore down the orphan home then they build the Advanced Truck Company there.

PL: Truck Company?

HT: Advanced Truck Company. Trujillo or John, they can tell you about that. They had it all walled in, all walled in from Alpine Street up to Cleveland St. they had a high wall, Cleveland St. so kids won't fall off or anything. They had an Advanced Trucking Company there.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

539 PL: They took most of that block then?

HT: Yeah, they took where that recreation center is. Of course the recreation center took more, up further, up towards the college. They took about oh, I would say, about 300 yards up...the trucking company took about 300 yards up.

PL: Then beyond the trucking company, the trucking company would take some of the older houses.

550 HT: There were some older houses, there was a big two story building that next to that was a little grocery store, next to La Marties lived in there, Lockwood lived in the next one.

PL: Oh, the family.

HT: Families. Then we lived, then the renters lived, then the Spattaport, what's the name of that macaroni? I can't remember, then the store company(?)

561 PL: Then, you were talking about shoe shining and selling newspapers, you did that after school?

HT: After school.

PL: Were there quite a number of boys doing that kind of thing?

HT: Oh, yes. They had to because the people were poor. My father had seven children to feed.

JT: In those days there was no one to give you a handout. If you didn't make it, you didn't have it.

HT: If you didn't make it you didn't have it, you didn't eat.

JT: There was no one to dish it out to you or hand you any...

HT: Everybody had to work.

576 PL: Where did you go? to shine shoes and

HT: At the Plaza, over there, I shined shoes at the Plaza.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

001 JT: He played with the Chinese people a lot, too. They were in that area. The Plaza and then Chinatown right next to each other.

PL: And there were no difficulties at that time?

JT: Never, we never heard of any difficulties. Never.

003 BCH: Is that the Union Station, Paul?

PL: Yes, that's the Union Station area. Marchassault.

JT: Then down below was Little Tokyo they called it.

PL: Right. Did you ever go into newer Chinatown when you were younger or older?

006 JT: No, I was afraid.

PL: You were afraid, why?

JT: I don't know why but my father used to always tell us that if we weren't good kids that he was going to take us down there and leave us there and they was going to make chop suey out of us. So we were always afraid to go over there, anywhere near that neighborhood we used to hang on our mother's skirt. But my father used to do a lot of

HT: That's 1927, 28, 29, 30.

011 BCH: Your wife was saying that she was afraid to go down to the Chinatown area, were your?

HT: No, not me. A lot of people were afraid. They heard different stories that the Chinese people take you down the dungeons and stuff like that. I was never afraid because I went to school with some of them and I knew the guys. I was like one of the family.

015 JT: And your father worked in there.

PL: Oh, your dad worked in Old Chinatown?

HT: Yeah.

PL: What did he do?

JT: He was a plumber.

PL: He was a plumber.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN HOON

016 JT: He was a plumber. His father was a plumber and he was a plumber. But my father was in business for himself and he did a lot of work in Chinatown.

018 PL: So that he knew the Chinese people.
HT: Oh, yeah.
PL: And he wasn't afraid to go in there?
HT: No.

019 PL: Now what was some of the other stories that other people said about Chinatown that made them afraid to go in.
HT: They told them they would keep you down in the dungeon there if you don't go, and they'd do this and they'd do that to you.
PL: What for instance? Do you remember some of the specifics?
HT: No, I don't remember what it was, but

022 JT: Well, didn't they say they had a lot of opium smoking in that area, opium houses?
HT: No, they didn't say that.
JT: My father told me that.
HT: They didn't have too many of that.
JT: He said they had a few houses there where they used to
HT: Well, just like the Italians used to sell wine, what the hell, bootlegging
JT: Well, I'm just saying my father said they smoked opium

025 BCH: What kinds of shops did they have in Chinatown there?
HT: Oh, they had weaving shops and stuff like that and clothing and stuff like that
BCH: Restaurants?
JT: Not too many restaurants.
HT: Not too many, that one that I worked in, what was the name of that one, I forget it, the Jews were running it though. It was right in the corner of Chinatown, right in the corner of Ferguson Alley and Los Angeles St.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 031 BCH: You know, they say the street names changed, like they say that before Castelar Street, it was called
HT: the Street of the Bull or Bull Street. Well, Johnny would know that because he's older than me. The only time that I know that they changed the street there was when I had my shop there on Hill Street they changed it from Castelar Street to Hill Street.
- 036 BCH: Do you remember the year they changed it? Is it the 60's or
JT: It hasn't been too long, though. When you opened your plumbing shop there it was still Castelar.
HT: Yeah. Sure it was still Castelar.
JT: So, what year was it when you opened your plumbing shop?
HT: I opened my plumbing shop there in '44.
BCH: 1944.
HT: I was in Kwan Lee Lung, Chico Bros. It was Chico Brothers, Kwan Lee Lung Grocery Store.
BCH: Chico Bros.
HT: Yes, Chico Bros. Greek.
BCH: Grocery store?
HT: Yeah, it was a big store there, grocery store, Chico Bros., did they tell you that?
BCH: No.
JT: Yeah, he owned quite a bit of property in there, the Chico Bros. Three brothers.
- 046 HT: Used to be a grocery store, Chico Bros, then they Kwan Lee Lung rented it from them. They went out of business and Kwan Lee Lung rented it off of them. That was Chico Bros. store.
- 049 BCH: So you moved your shop there in 1944.
HT: It used to be Chico Bros. that's before Kwan Lee Lung. The Chico Bros was there, I moved in back of Kwan Lee Lung on Hill St.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 052 BCH: On Hill Street, the back of Kwan Lee Lung?
HT: It is Kwan Lee Lung. In the front, there's Alpine Street, there's Hill Street, on that side.
BCH: Oh, on the other side, just like a little parking, next to the church there? Methodist Church. There's a Chinese church there.
HT: Next to the parking. Well, next to Kwan Lee Lung. There's where I was.
BCH: That's where you were...until what year?
056 HT: I moved out of there in '73.
BCH: And you stayed in Chinatown, though, huh? You moved somewhere else?
HT: I stayed right there. I mean, the business. I was living in El Sereno then.
BCH: Where did you take your business? After you moved out of that parking lot? Next to Kwan Lee Lung.
059 HT: I worked for Golden Pagoda, Grand Star, Rice Bowl all that I worked for.
BCH: So you saw this Chinatown grow?
HT: Yep. They used to call me the Chinese plumber.
JT: Especially the New Chinatown.
062 PL: Now did you do a lot of the plumbing in New Chinatown when it got started in 1939?
JT: He did most of the repair work, not the
HT: I did the repair work.
066 HT: There you are, Castelar Street. Right next door to ^{Kwan Lee} Lung. See the old cars.
BCH: 768 (?) Castelar Street.
PL: Can we have one of these cards?
HT: Sure you can have it.
PL: Oh, my gosh. I'd like to have your signature on it. Then I might be able to auction it off, you know.
070 BCH: It's part of the history.
PL: It is. My goodness..

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 071 HT: When they changed it to Hill Street, I had all them made. I had a box of them.
PL: I'll have you sign your name right here on that. Oh, this is terrific.
- 074 BCH: How many children do you have?
JT: Three.
BCH: Three.
JT: We have two boys and one girl, and seven grand children. and one great grandson.
BCH: Are they living in Los Angeles? This area?
JT: Oh, yes. Except one. She lives back East, she lives in Massachusetts.
BCH: That's your daughter.
JT: My granddaughter.
BCH: Granddaughter.
JT: Yes, and she has a son. which is our great grandson.
- 079 PL: What about some of the holidays or celebrations during school. Did you celebrate any thing at all.
HT: No, not that I remember. They never had any of those things.
PL: Not even Italian day or....
HT: The Italians used to have a fiesta there. They used to have a saint at St. Peter's church, you know, They had a saint, they used to have street dances and everything
JT: They closed off one of the streets and they would have
HT: Close up and they would have all kinds of games and stuff like that.
- 085 JT: Of course at that time you didn't have the traffic that they do now.
HT: No cars.
- 086 PL: Did the school participate in any of these things?
HT: No.
PL: The school never held anything like that.
HT: No.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

087 HT: They had a night school at Castelar.

PL: Night school? What kind of night school?

HT: They had...

BCH: In 1914. Yes, someone told me that. They had
....Fornelli, John Fornelli, his father went to
night school in 1914 he said.

HT: Well, I was there in the '20s. They still had
night school.

092 PL: What did they teach in night school?

HT: That I do not know because I was just a kid then.
My brother went there and I think my two oldest
brothers went there and I think they had the same
subjects that they do now.

095 PL: Your brothers were older?

HT: Oh, yeah, older than me.

JT: They were the ones that came from Italy.

HT: They worked during the day and went to night school.

JT: It could be they taught them English.

099 HT: I came in 1915. After that they had night school.
after I was here 6 or 7 years. I know they had night
school there.

101 PL: How about the American holidays? Did they celebrate
them?

HT: Yes, they celebrate.

PL: Which ones?

HT: Fourth of July and all those.

PL: Did they have a special celebration at school?

HT: No, no.

JT: About the only thing they do is like they still do
with the kids, Halloween. We would have Halloween
parades and things like that. I think they still do
that, don't they?

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

106 PL: Now, how about your parents. Now your parents of course would register you in school. Now did the school make any attempt to reach out to the parents in any way or did the parents like in my case when I went to school in Seattle, the parents came only when I was a little naughty, you know.

HT: They ask for them, they ask for them to come in. Well, see, my folks couldn't talk English so my brothers sign me in the school. I have two brothers, the oldest brother would sign me in the school and then when I would be in trouble or anything, they would go to my brothers.

PL: They would go to your brothers. They wouldn't go to your parents.

HT: No, because my parents couldn't talk English. So my brothers had to take care of all this, especially when my brother was chauffeur for Mrs. Smith the Principal. Everytime I...she would get after him to get after me.

119 BCH: Did he chauffeur her home or where did he take her?

HT: He would pick her up at home, take her to school and when she had to go home or when she had to where..

PL: So he was working for the school really?

HT: I don't know whether he was working for her or the school..that I did not know. I was too young.to know all this.

123 PL: Now, what about other parents?

HT: Well, now the other parents, the teachers and the principals would get in touch with the parents.

PL: Directly.

HT: Directly because they talk English. Maybe there's a few like myself that folks couldn't talk English and then they have their children take care of it.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

127 PL: Do you remember at any time in the school when the parents and the teachers ever got together socially or anything like that?

HT: No, they didn't have things like that.

PL: Like the P.T.A....

HT: No, they never had anything like that. Never saw anything like that in my life.

131 BCH: A few years before you came to Castelar, the history said that there was a fire there and burned one of the buildings down, back in 1904. Did you hear anything about it?

HT: Oh, well, I wouldn't know anything about that.

BCH: The building that you went to school in, it was fairly new then at that time, do you remember? Was it fairly new? That building?

HT: Yeah. It wouldn't be fairly new, it's 100 years old now.

135 BCH: They said that the school that was originally there was burned down in 1904.

HT: I wouldn't know anything about that. In fact, I've never even heard about it. Now, you get where Chinatown is now, where the Grand Star is from Hill Street to North Broadway used to be Baker Ironworks. Baker Ironworks, ever tell you that? Nobody told you that? It was a big ironworks there. Right across the street up a little place from Little Joe's, Baker Ironworks was right across the street, too. Two parts was Baker Ironworks they had there.

PL: I'm trying to remember. Was there any...there was a Corral, or that street maintenance, was there any ranch or horses? I'm trying to remember...remember we were trying to figure out something, you remember what that was?

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 148 HT: You know where the old suture(?) school used to be? They had a little baby hospital next door, Castelar Creche they used to call it.
- PL: Castelar Creche. And where is that at? They
- HT: used to have stables there before you come to the ^{France} Bank of America baking company. There was the school, then Castelar Creche, that's where they build later. They built that around 1948, I think.
- 155 PL: Castelar Crest. Is that C..R..E..S..T? Castelar Crest?
- HT: Creche. C..R..E..C..H..E.
- PL: Oh, c..r..e..c..h..e. Now, what is that?
- HT: They had babies there.
- PL: Babies there.
- HT: Fatherless.
- 160 BCH: Maternity. Like a
- PL: Orphanage, huh?
- BCH: No, the girls went to have their babies there.
- PL: Oh, out of wedlock.
- HT: Yes, out of wedlock.
- PL: And where was this located?
- HT: That was...isn't there an insurance company there now? a Chinese insurance company?
- BCH: What street used to be there?
- HT: Used to be there? That was Castelar Creche.
- JT: That's right there on Hill Street.
- BCH: Where the Chinatown Service Center used to be. It's a motel now.
- HT: That's where Castelar Creche was.
- 167 BCH: Was it very large?
- HT: I done work there. Yeah.
- JT: Not too large.
- HT: Well, it was a half a block, towards Broadway. Back of Broadway faced the back of Castelar Street. So, that was pretty big. Sure it was big.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 171 PL: How many store fronts would that be? Maybe 35 feet or...
- HT: No, I would say about 75 feet, wouldn't you?
- BCH: That's pretty good size.
- HT: 75 or 50 the least, cause the lots were 50, 50 at that time.
- PL: Who ran that? Was that City or...?
- HT: That I do not remember.
- BCH: Maybe the church, huh?
- HT: I don't remember.
- JT: Weren't they nuns?
- PL: Of course we could find that out.
- HT: Yeah, you could find that out.
- JT: You did work there.
- 177 BCH: You remember French Hospital? It's across the street.
- HT: Right. I done work over there.
- BCH: When you came back in the 1915, it was already there, do you remember that?
- HT: '15? Yeah, it was a small hospital. That's where we had the yard from the little, small French Hospital. Then they added on and took the whole thing. That's where we had our gardening for Castelar Street School.
- BCH: Over there, huh?
- JT: That's been added on about 3 or 4 times.
- BCH: Yeah, expanded.
- HT: Expanded different times.
- 184 PL: You mentioned about a stable?
- HT: That where Castelar Creche was at, the insurance company I was talking about? There used to be horse stable there.
- PL: How large an area?
- HT: As big as it is now. Then you know where the Cathay Bank is at the....Cathay Bank right there at the end of the driveway there, you go in there, there used to be a stable there.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 191 PL: More than one stable?
HT: Yeah. Used to be a horse stable there.
PL: Were there other stables in the area then?
HT: No. Then the other stables...
JT: How long ago was this, honey?
HT: Oh, that's when we first, about 15, 10, around there. When I came here they had stables. Then the other stables they had on Aliso Street where the freeway went through, where the depot is. They had a lot of stables there, around there, Aliso Street
- 196 JT: Then that's why they had the blacksmith shop right across I told you where my grandmother lived, across the street she said they had a blacksmith shop. Right there on Alpine Street. She lived in this little adobe house. She said that's where she was born.
- 199 PL: Because of all these stables, were there any rodeos or anything like that over there?
HT: No, they rent horses and wagons for fruit peddlers and everything. They didn't have cars and trucks and everything like they go now. They had horse and wagon. Then the City had horses they got from over there with a dump wagon. It would open up and just a horse and wagon they pull lever and everything. bring up the gate, the gate stop a load and then when they go to the dump they open the gates and the dump would go down. See, all horses was there that time. Quite a few horses.
- 208 BCH: They said that a long time ago up towards the Pasadena Freeway, they used to have bullfights.
HT: That I do not know.
PL: Yes, that's what I wanted to know.
BCH: You know who told us that was Leo Politi, you know Leo Politi? He's an artist and he writes books. He's Italian and he lived in that area but he would come down to Chinatown quite a bit and make sketches..

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 212 BCH: to draw. He wrote a lot of books about early, the early Los Angeles. You don't know, you never heard of that name.
- HT: No.
- BCH: He's from Italy. He told us a little about the history, the early history. They had bullfights down towards the end there where the Pasadena Freeway is now.
- HT: Is that right?
- BCH: Yeah, he said that street was called the Street of the Bulls, Calle del Toro. He said that used to be Bull Street.
- 218 HT: Your folks. I never heard your folks, I never heard your folks talk about it.
- BCH: They never talked about it. Oh.
- HT: Your folks never talked about it. I never heard of it.
- 220 PL: Well, now, as young boys in your age, did you go outside of your area very much? You went downtown a little bit, but did you go to other parts of the City?
- HT: Yeah, I used to go to Lincoln Park, Downey Playground. I used to go to Hazard Playground over in Boyle Heights. I used to go all over.
- PL: You went all over?
- HT: Yeah. Echo Park. We used to go all over. We had no trouble like they have today.
- 225 PL: Well, in 19...well, they started to demolish Chinatown. Old Chinatown, in 1933 and it took a long time. And then China City opened up in June of 1939 and then New Chinatown opened up in June of 1939, too. Were you familiar with China City and that area there? That was on Ord, Alameda, New High, Spring and that area? Did you go there?

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 231 HT: Yeah, I used to go ...I told you I sold paper and shined shoes over that way.
- PL: What else do you remember about China City?
- HT: Well, I remembered that they had all these old houses, they're all old. The houses, they're all old, they've been old buildings for years, before I come here. And they're all old houses and the streets were all dirt streets, they wasn't paved or anything, they're all dirt streets, And then the only ones that had cobbled stones was Ferguson Alley and the other street down below. They're the only ones that had cobblestones. They were the only streets that were paved. And Los Angeles Street and Alameda, they had sidewalks and everything just like the rest of the street.
- 242 PL: Did you do any plumbing for the people in China City?
- HT: If that was China City, I did.
- PL: You know, the very small shops? That's where Mrs. Sterling was the one that rented out the shops to the Chinese.
- HT: Mrs. Sterling, she lived up there on Stadium, didn't she live up there?
- PL: I don't know where she lived but she was the one that started Olvera Street.
- HT: Olvera Street. That's the one. That's the one. That's the one we boxed the exhibition for, Choppy's(?) Place. Yeah, Mrs. Sterling. Yeah, Olvera Street. Yes, she's the one that started that. Yeah, She used to live up in the Stadium, she had a big house, a big place.
- JT: Dodger's Stadium.
- 253 HT: Yeah, Mrs. Sterling. I boxed an exhibition. The Pachuks, they were having trouble with the Pachuks at that time. You ever hear of the Pachuks? Pachuks--Mexicans with a...

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

256 BCH: Gangs, huh?

HT: Gangs with ankle choker pants and the hats...

BCH: That was in the '40s, though.

HT: Yeah.

257 BCH: Do you know anything about the gangs, like the Alpine gangs? Were they in existence when you were running around?

HT: Yeah. Well, no. They had the Alpine gang around my shop there.

BCH: Oh, this came later then.

HT: Later.

260 PL: Oh, that was afterwards then?

HT: Yeah, after I went to school. I was married then.

My boy, I had my plumbing shop507 Alpine St.

PL: But Alpine gang had not yet come around at that time.

HT: They did when I had my shop.

PL: Oh, they did when you had your shop.

HT: We had a trouble with them.

PL: Oh, what kind of trouble?

HT: They come over there, they want to beat me up. They got a wreck there, a wreck in the corner....

JT: It was Castelar then.

HT: It was Castelar then. They got a wreck in the corner. These were American boys so this bunch of Mexicans want to beat these guys up .

270 PL: Wait now. You mean the American boys want to beat up the Mexican boys?

HT: The Mexican boys want to beat the American boys up.

JT: The American boys were in the car and they had a little, just a little accident. Well, they were ready to, the American boys I guess they figure well, we better play it cool so they were ready to just leave it go but the Mexican boys didn't want to because they were in a big gang. So he interfered and...

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 275 HT: So, I told them, I said, "You pick on these guys you got to pick on me." I said, "What's the matter with you?" I says, "It's an accident, anyone can have an accident." I said, "For God's sake,..."
- JT: And they had all the information that they need.
- HT: I said, "You got your information that you need, you got your address, license number, they done the same thing with you, what do you want to beat them up for?" I told them.
- 279 PL: Now, around what year was that. It would be about 19 when?
- HT: '39, 40. Then they went away, they didn't bother these boys but the whole gang come down after them.
- JT: That night.
- HT: That night. The Alpine Gang.
- JT: After it got dark.
- 283 PL: What did they say to you?
- 285 HT: So....they say "There's the guy." They're Spanish you know. So, I told them in Spanish, "Come on, get me. You get me, I'll get a couple of/^{dozen of}you guys." I had a piece of pipe, you know. They thought it was a rifle.
- 288 JT: He kind of hid it on the side.
- HT: I kind of hid it on the side. They seen it on the side. It kind of shine. It was galvanized pipe. Come on, I said. You get me, I'll get a half a dozen of you guys. Come on, I told them. So they didn't bother me. Then the next day I went down and got two box of bullets for my gun advertised there they had the Blue Bonnet ice cream place there. So, I told these guys, they're going to get me but I'm going to get a dozen of these guys if they fool around with me. They never bothered me anymore, did they?
- JT: No. He showed them that he wasn't afraid of them.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 296 PL: What's this Blue Bonnet ice cream shop that you were talking about?
- HT: You know where Kwan Lee Lung is? The building across the street? That's where Blue Bonnet...
- BCH: That's a liquor store, huh?
- HT: A liquor store.
- BCH: Johnny's Liquor.
- HT: Johnny's Liquor.
- JT: Yes, this was a long time ago.
- 300 PL: Before Johnny's Liquor...
- HT: Before Johnny's Liquor. That Johnny's father owned all that property.
- BCH: He was Italian, too.
- HT: Greek.
- JT: Chico brothers.
- BCH: Chico brothers. That's it.
- HT: Yes. Chico brothers. His real name is Chicoplaus. Chico. Well, anyhow, they had the Blue Bonnet ice cream place there, right on the corner. They rented off the Chico brothers.
- 305 PL: Well, now. these Mexican gangs. how old were they?
- HT: Oh, they were 19, 20, 21 years old, around there.
- PL: Because ever since there, we've always had an Alpine gang.
- BCH: Yeah, always.
- JT: Oh, really?
- BCH: Yes, it's always there. It's still there.
- 310 HT: Did you hear where the Marines and the Navy got after these Pachuks and everything? It was in the news and everything.
- JT: Well, the picture of the Pachuco, the picture or the play? Well, it's something about that time of the year..of that era.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 314 BCH: Did you ever remember anything about Chinese gangs?
HT: No. I was surprised to hear one when they had trouble across the street from Little Joe's. What was that?
The Chinese restaurant there.
BCH: Golden Palace?
HT: Golden Palace. They had trouble there. It was in the paper. I was surprised they had a gang. They called it the Chinese mafia. Now they got Mexican mafia, too.
- 320 PL: Now, when did you hear about this Little Joe's or across at Golden Palace? How many years ago?
HT: Oh, I would say about 7 or 8 years ago.
PL: Now, before that time you had never heard of it?
HT: Never heard of it. They had a doing, shooting or something.
BCH: Yes, it was a shooting.
JT: We were surprised, because
HT: We were surprised because it said Chinese never got into trouble.
JT: Why don't you just throw that on the floor. It keeps slipping, I know, because when I sit there it does the same thing.
HT: Never had any trouble, never had any trouble.
- 328 PL: Yes, coming back to school, you know like the July 4th, Thanksgiving and New Year's, you had no special days??
HT: They had a Thanksgiving or 4th of July and everything, you get off and stay home and that sort of thing. The school never had nothing. Not them days. Did you have it at your school? You did?
JT: I guess they figure you were a bunch of Italians and it didn't mean anything, but it did to us. We always made turkeys, pumpkins and things. Christmas, we always put on a little play and everything.
PL: Now, your Griffin Ave. was a better neighborhood.
JT: Yes, oh yes, much better.
BCH: The economic level was higher.
JT: Right.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

342 HLT Lots more Whites.

JT: Yes, mostly Americans, Irish and Mexicans, Italians, and everybody.

BCH: Chinatown was Italian, they were lower class economically?

JT/HT: Yes.

347 PL: Now, when you were in the Castelar area, what kind of work did the Italians, Mexican-Americans and Skovians, what kind of work did they do? I'm talking about the parents now.

HT: They would be working at the Southern Pacific, in the macaroni company, in bakeries or any job that they could get. And there's lots of Italians and Mexicans and colored that were working for the City Corral. All mixture of.....and in the garages and stuff like that, hospitals and Baker Ironworks they had a lot of Baker Ironworks there and Llewellyn Ironworks on Main Street. I think there's still Llewellyn Ironworks on Main St. But the Baker Ironworks, did they ever tell you they call that hill up there in back of Chinatown Silverwood Hills?

PL: Silverwood Hills? No, I never heard of that.

HT: Never heard of it, huh?

BCH: You mean where Dodger Stadium is?

HT: Yeah.

363 PL: Now, why did they call it that?

HT: Because, Silverwood, remember Silverwood Dept. Store?

PL: Oh, yes, yes.

HT: So, they had a sign on top of there on the hill there that said Silverwood. They advertise, so they call it Silverwood Hill. Now, another thing I heard they call it Baker Mountain on account of Baker Ironworks. I think I got a write up about that.

BCH: He's got a good memory.

373 JT: He really does. I know different friends get together and they start talking about old times and they are amazed at him remembering names and the things like the cemetery where the church is at.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 378 JT: Where the church is at was a cemetery. I have a lot of my ancestors buried there at the cemetery right there on North Broadway but still they have the church and part of a school, I think it is on it now--the cathedral.
- BCH: Cathedral school. A ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ cemetery there. Yes, a map that we have shows the cemetery there. How did you meet your husband then? If you went to school at Griffin Avenue ...
- JT: My uncle and him used to pal around together. They met in a pool room. My uncle liked to play pool and he played pool right there in his own neighborhood.
- BCH: Which neighborhood was that?
- JT: North Broadway. There was a pool hall there and so he brought him over to the house and that's how we met.
- 389 BCH: How many years have you been married?
- JT: 55 years.
- PL: Wow. How wonderful.
- JT: 55 years. We got married in 1927.
- 394 HT: They used to go up there, they had a KK Brickyard.
- PL: Bishop Road? Now, where's Bishop Road?
- HT: You know where the St. Peter's Church is and what the name of the school.....the Cathedral? That's Bishop Road. Up there used to be a brickyard up there.
- PL: This would be 19....?
- HTT: That would be in the 1925, 30, something like that. Then over there where the Marines are at right there you know...
- PL: The U.S. Marine a...
- HT: Base? There used to be L. A. Brick Co. there
- PL: Oh, my gosh.
- HT: Better believe it. L. A. Brick Co. I remember all them places.
- 407 BCH: I have another question about the school. In the classroom, you had a variety of ages, huh? You didn't have like in kindergarten or first grade a particular age?

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 410 BCH: You had older kids in there as well?
HT: Yes.
BCH: They try to keep the ages about equal or ...?
HT: Keep them equal..
BCH: You didn't have some older kids in there?
HT: Very few, very few.
PL: But they were there.
HT: They were there.
PL: If the older immigrant comes in and he didn't have the English, they put them in the lower grade....
HT: Yes, they start....just like this friend of mine, he was 8 or 10 years older than me....
BCH: He was in the same grade, in~~x~~ the same room...
HT: He was in the same grade as me. That's what I was saying that if you couldn't talk English, we were the interpreters for ~~them~~.her, the teacher.
- 419 BCH: We have a picture, you know, that's about that big that the Board of Education had contracted with someone ---took an aerial view in 1925 of the school and all the property around it. I was wondering sometime if you have time if you would like to help us identify some of those places?~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Corral? You mentioned it was ~~w~~ next ~~x~~ to the school.
HT: Corral, tank company, backstrap(?) company, the orphan home....Does it have a picture of the orphan home?
BCH: I don't know if it is or not. We could see the bakery though, across the street from the school?..and it was such a very fine picture, back in 1925 and it was an aerial view and you saw the school yard and you saw the buildings and you saw the car and people walking, too.
HT: Yeah?
BCH: Yeah. We'll show you that picture, I don't know if you have time to
HT: Yeah, I got time, I got lots of....

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI
INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

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436 BCH: You come down to Chinatown? Maybe you could come to the school, huh?
HT: Yeah. I could come down anytime.

439 BCH: This is a calendar of our 100th year. We want to give you a copy of it. It's just a picture of the school,
HT: I'm going to look for that a....
JT: We sat up here, I was falling asleep....
BCH: Looking through these old movies....
JT: He said, "Gee, that's terrible. I tell them I got pictures and I can't find them.
HT: I thought I was going nuts.
JT: He said, "Now what did you....?" I said, "I didn't touch them. I never touch his things because this way I can always say I never touch his things.
HT: Well, you see how I got them all

452 BCH: You might have got them mixed in with some vacation pictures.
HT: That's what I'm going to....
JT: That's what he's thinking.
HT: Because, boy, I've got the Penny Lunch ...
JT: In fact this last roll he's got a picture of his plumber shop. He said, "that's the roll, that's the roll after I got through taking that picture I took them of the school," but we went through the whole roll
HT: It wasn't there.
PL: We'd like to get a picture of your plumbing shop.
BCH: You have a picture of it?
HT: Yeah, I got a picture of it.
PL: Oh, we'd like to have that because that's...
JT: That's the one we had on Alpine St.
PL: Oh, I'd like to see it.
HT: We'd like to show you that right now.
PL: Fine, fine.

462 BCH: I'm going to have to run along now.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

- 463 BCH: If you get down to ~~1~~Castelar School one day, we want
 to show you the picture
- HT: All right. Good deal.
- BCH: We'll show you the picture and you can help us identify
 it. See, we're going to have a display on November 9th.
 We're taking all these pictures and we're going to display
 it in the auditorium of the new school. So we want to
 use that picture and maybe identify parts of it. And
 if you have any pictures that you could find.
- 471 HT: Like I say, the only thing I got is the movie of it.
- PL: That's all right.
- HT: Boy, that would be something.
- PL: Now, you're going to tell him about the Open House.
- BCH: Yeah. The Open House is on November 9th.
- HT: What time?
- BCH: Well, in the morning. We're trying to get ...we'd like
 to have a resolution like from the City Council, the
 State Assembly, the State Senate, the Secretary of State
 ...resolutions commemorating 100 years of Castelar ~~1844~~
 School. So, we're going to have that November 9th
 probably about 10, 11 o'clock.
- HT: In the morning.
- BCH: In the morning and kind of like Open House. You can sort
 of walk though the school.
- HT: Good. It'll be nice.
- BCH: A little luncheon...
- PL: We would like to have you there.
- HT: Good.
- JT: We'd like to come.
- BCH: I'll write you a note....take you through the school.
- HT: O.K. Thank you very much.
- BCH: You know anyone else that finish Castelar, went to Castelar?
- PL: I'll ask him that.
- 495 PL: Mr. Turchi's showing some film and we'll try and identify
 them as we go along.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI
INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

48

512 PL: Mr Turchi, you're telling me something about a tissue factory somewhere in the Chinatown-Castelar area?
HT: Yes, over there on ~~Maxx~~ Spring St. and Alameda, block from Broadway. A tissue factory. When we were kids, we made tissues for, wrappers for oranges and lemons and so forth and so on. And we used to go down there and get tissue papers and make kites. That's it.

523 PL: Oh, repeat that for me.
HT: They used to come from Macy St., they used to come from Lincoln Heights..the kids that get tissue paper from Chinatown, they used to come down here, they get tissue paper and make kites.

529 PL: Who's Mr. Hancept?
H HT: Mr. Hancept. He used to be an elderly man and talked ~~ex~~ very good English and the used to take care of the Chinese who couldn't talk English and paid their bills, their water bills for them and everything.
PL: Advise them?
HT: Advise them and tell them what's good and what's no good. and everything just like you would a child.

538 PL: Now, where was he doing his living?
HT: On Los Angeles Street.
PL: On Los Angeles Street.
HT: I don't know whether I got the number or not downstairs.
PL: But anyway, you say he spells his name H..A..N..C..E..P..T.
HT: Hancept.
PL: Hancept, but he is a Chinese.
HT: He is a Chinese.
PL: ~~x~~ That's amazing. We'll just have to try to ..
HT: I'm going to look into this. I'm going to see if I can go over to ~~x~~Dozier St. in Boyle Heights and see if his son is still there.
PL: Because we surely want to meet him, we want to meet him. Now, also, you also told me about a Mr. E. 6. N. ..
HT: Trusick(?)
PL: Trusick, now tell me about him.

INTERVIEWEES: HERBERT TURCHI and JOSEPHINE TURCHI

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INTERVIEWERS: PAUL LOUIE and WILLIAM (BILL) CHUN-HOON

552 HT: Well, he used to go to Castelar ~~St~~ Street School. He was a Scout for the Chicago Cubs. He was a All ~~St~~ Star for Lincoln High baseball and he was an All Star for the football and track. He was a marvelous athlete. He was a Slovobian...and a good fellow and you can get a lot of good advise from him.

564 PL: Now, I have his address and you said he has a twin sister.

HT: Yes.

PL: And the twin sister is still living and Mr. Evol Pusich is around what age?

HT: He's 76.

PL: 76, still going strong?

HT: Still going strong.

PL: I just don't know where you young fellows get your energy.