

## **APPENDIX**

### **BARRIO LOGAN HISTORICAL RESOURCES SURVEY-**

#### **Interview Summaries**

##### Interview with Norene Riveroll and Natalia Riveroll

One important site in the neighborhood in the past was the Neighborhood House. It was a recreational place, a social place where all the people would go and where the children would go. They used to give awards; they used to have cooking classes. They used to take us to the swimming pool. The neighborhood house was where the Family Health Clinic is on National and Beardsley. It was a recreational community center used by the children in the neighborhood. They had many programs like games, dolls, cooking classes and once a week we would go to the Plunge in National City. Lupita was a secretary there. Ms. McClure was in charge of the facility and coach Pinkerton was in charge of the boys. He didn't have a car and he worked there for thirty years. He would take the boys walking and on the bus to play against other teams. They had a coach, an intern from San Diego State University and he was the only one who had a car. He would take them to Torrey Pines; it was the first time the area boys had ever been to a beach. We would take cooking classes, bake cakes, they had a big kitchen. In the front they had dominoes checkers and different board games. They also had a room with dolls and toys. The facility also had dance classes. Porfirio would teach the dancing, specifically flamingo dancing. This went on for many years because my older brothers and sisters were involved also. It was a place the young boys stayed all night long playing basketball till 9 o'clock at night in the courts. The neighborhood house was not run out of an actual house, it was much like the building the clinic is in now but two stories smaller scale.

Their real significance of it is the low socio-economic position the entire community was living in during that period of time of the 40s and 50s. They had no money and that was the only place they had to go. They provided them with this healthy supportive environment for something they never would have experienced in their whole lives if it weren't for them.

The Little Neighbor on Newton Avenue was a kindergarten school and they also provided dental work. For \$0.50 one could get a tooth pulled or have a cavity filled.

Doria's was on the corner of Logan and Beardsley. It was one of the only drug stores but also place where people would go to get over the counter medicine. It was also a soda fountain.

The Cornet Theatre was across from Doria's in the time around 1945. They held amateur talent shows.

Lowell's school existed where Perkin's is now. Back then people only spoke English. The community was not bilingual like it is now because of law that did not allow people to speak Spanish in school. For many in the community, English is the first language. Back then people assimilated more than they do now.

In the past the community was all homes and no industry. There was no gang activity and everyone felt safe.

In 1925, the New Mexico Café property was bought. The New Mexico Tortilla factory was built in 1929 with an electric tortilla maker. It was one of the first factories with an electric tortilla maker in the city. The store delivered tortillas to Old Town. They also sold food to the cannery workers. Later, the tortilla factory became a restaurant. Jesus Lopez and Leonor Lopez were the owners. The Campos market was on the corner of Newton and Beardsley where the New Mexico Café now stands. In the 1980's the New Mexico Café took over the property where the Campos market stood.

Another market in the community was the Amador Market on National and Beardsley. There were two grocery stores owned by the Amador's and they as well as the Campos market were groceries stores for the community that gave credit to the people.

When the cannery business dismantled it was hard on the people in the barrio. This affected so many different people. Many of them were never able to find work again.

The Chicano movement was powerful in Barrio Logan. People took over wrecking yards and spaces that were meant to be for the Highway Patrol. In the neighborhood the houses were being torn down and different businesses like junk yards were going up. The neighborhood was not the same. Many moved out but they would still come back every day to visit family. Although people did not live in the Barrio anymore they were still affected and they began to be aggressive to stop the changes going on. Those involved in taking over Chicano Park were people who had stayed in the community.

The freeway cut the neighborhood in half. It left the church on the other side of the freeway and this truly affected everyone. One of the community markets had to sell so the freeway was built in its place.

The Neighborhood House Café and Clancy's were restaurants on National Avenue. Clancy's was the only place in the barrio where people could buy a hamburger. They sold beer there and many of the men in the neighborhood hung out there.

El Por Venir restaurant has been around since 1918 and it is still standing.

Metro Theatre showed Mexican movies on Logan Avenue.

There were many Italian people in the community in the past.

## Interview with Ramon Chunky Sanchez

Many significant sites exist in the Barrio. El Por Venir was on National Avenue. It was an old tortilleria and it is now a restaurant. Another historical restaurant is the New Mexico Café. La Bamba was a nightclub around the 40's to the 60s. It existed under the Coronado Bridge/ Interstate 5 ramp. Because of the freeway construction it was torn down and built over. The Logan Inn is another historically significant site where the longshoremen wait for their calls. Jack's Island has been standing for decades and it also used to host a bar on the bottom floor. Before Chueys was remodeled and relocated it existed in a Quonset hut. El Sarape was owned by the Penny Family, who were Native Americans. Ralph and Raymond were the sons of the family. El Sarape was a restaurant in the community next to the Ponderosa Deli on National and Cesar Chavez. The Penny family was known for being musicians.

The Red Steps Gang originated in Barrio Logan from an actual set of stairs in the community. These stairs were located adjacent to what used to be the Harbor View center, a social services center which gave the community access to a dentist once a week. These steps were eventually painted red and this group began to meet there, thus the name.

When the cannery businesses shut down many people left the community. Slowly the community became economically diminished. These businesses kept the diversity in Barrio Logan with for example the many Italian people in the community. The cannery brought many Italians into the area.

The Cornett Theater was located where the Cesar Chavez off ramp now exists on Logan Avenue. They played many Marvel Comics episodes. They also had an amateur night for people in the community. The events and films here were all in English and the Metro Theater was all in Spanish. The Cornett Theatre sold corn cups for \$0.05 for low income people who could not buy snacks.

## Interview with Evelyn Mitchell

Historical Logan Avenue was composed of many businesses that catered to the necessities of the community. Logan held many community amenities such as the drug store across the street from the longstanding Porkyland, Conklin's Bakery, Sawaya's market on Logan and Evans, the Amador market on Logan and Beardsley as well as another on National and Beardsley, and a local doctor's office for Dr. Singelton in the big yellow house on the corner of Logan Avenue and Sampson. Dodge's or Doria's was a soda fountain that sold root beer floats, etc. on Logan and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Metro Theater also on Logan Avenue used to have a snack bar. They sold mini burgers for \$0.20 and the street car cost about a nickel. In the past a street car served people in Barrio Logan down Logan Avenue to downtown.

Barrio Logan was a very diverse community in the past with Japanese, Italians, Japanese, Syrians, and Mexicans living together. A Syrian family, the Hasham's owned a liquor store and the Saway's owned their market, and a gas station on the corner Newton and Sampson where the Barrio Station parking lot is now. This family lived on Sampson and National in the 1950's.

The neighborhood used to be mostly homes; the businesses between homes now were not there before. The neighborhood used to consist of several neighborhood grocery stores, bakeries, bars, and theatres. Basically the west side of National where Bank of America is has stayed the same. This was Barrio Logan during 1947-1958.

Jacks Island is a landmark in the community that in the past held a bar/nightclub. The taco shop in front of Jack's Island has been standing for many, many years. It was called Shannon's and was very much like a cafeteria. Many people remember that Chuey's was a Quonset hut and that 19th Street and Newton used to have a junkyard but it was cleared for the Mercado development. The Blockhaus on 16<sup>th</sup> Street was a laundry mat in the past. Many women worked there, if not here then they worked at the cannery. There was a nursery behind the Family Health Clinic where children had cots, were fed milk, and were given cod liver oil.

Laura Rodriguez, a matriarch of sorts in the community, played a vital role in the Family Health Clinic. She fundraised by making and selling tamales to fund the clinic. Her picture is painted in Chicano Park. She lived at 1861 Newton Avenue.

Next to Las Cuatro Milpas was a little grocery store called Petra's. Behind the counter you could see Petra's living room. You could see her tub of tortillas that were all different sizes but they were good. When people went there they could see her progress, the living room became full of newer and newer furniture. She later started making tacos and burritos and then larger plates. She eventually moved over to where Cuatro Milpas is now at.