

ST1 – Sara Torres, “Puerto Ricans in Bridgeport, 1940’s - First Spanish Movie Theatre”

Transcript: pp. 3-4

Time-Line: Decade V, Local and National Events, 1940’s.

I: Do you know what made them leave to come to the United States?

ST: My father. My father wanted to -- well, my father always taught us to look ahead -- to have a goal. To not just be satisfied with something. My mom is the rock of the family, with her faith. And, yes, they came just like that -- to come up, and to be able to do better for their lives, and give [a better life] for their children at that time...

He worked there, in the factory, for a while. But then again, his goal was always to get ahead. Opportunities are there. To look ahead... He felt he had to be proud of Puerto Rican. Puerto Rican since Day One -- that was it. Spanish heritage, the love for your people, to be proud, to know who you are, to lift up your head even though somebody says something. That was taught to us when we were small...

We lived at 1182 State Street. Oh, I lived there, I would say, sixteen years we lived on State Street. So, he started a variety store, and from the variety store, he went into -- we had the first Spanish movie theater...

We used to go to New York and get the films on train, and bring the films back -- my mother and I... The theater was on State Street, all the way down at the end of State Street, so it was past Colorado Avenue...