

ST2 – Sara Torres, “Helping Other Spanish Speaking Immigrants”

Transcript: pp. 5-6

Time-Line: Decade VI, Local and National Events, 1950’s.

ST: ...Then it got to be -- the variety store wasn't just selling magazines and everything. People were coming in -- our people -- coming in and talking to my mother, asking her, “How do I get a job? I just got here.” My mother got into being a social promoter. A person you come in and cry and she listened to you. I mean, she could listen to anything. She sympathized with you... I think that's where we all went into helping the community -- because of that. The warmth that she had. And then the knowledge of my father knowing what to do, where to take them. He used to take them to find jobs. How to go enroll in this. How to fill out a form. They used to bring it -- they couldn't read English.

I: Was there any other place to be able to go at the time?

ST: No, at the time, there was no Spanish Coalition -- no. They used to come in there all the time. And that's when -- it was funny. That's when everybody would just come in for anything, and that's how we started knowing the demand of our people, and we started being known from all over. We moved from State Street to Park Avenue -- the theater. And Park Avenue, we also had the variety store. And then we started with everybody. I mean, people from South America, the Cubans. And I was involved all the time.