BEGIN SIDE ONE

SOLLIDAY: This is an interview with Amanda Soza Galaz. [Taped interview begins after the conversation had started].

GALAZ: . . . the Baber Mercantile, I think was a mercantile -- they used to call it a "mercantile, feed, and seed" store, or something. You know they had hay, and they had oats for horses, you know. And they had harnesses, because I remember going with him once or twice to the store, when he would go to load up his wagon. And he had two teams of horses, and he would haul, I guess material for the dam. I don't remember. . . .

SOLLIDAY: Now, that was before you were born, too? That must have . . .

GALAZ: No, no! No, I remember that.

SOLLIDAY: Okay, so he was still -- well, I guess they were still working, doing work up there all the time, even though the dam. . . . Well, there were other dams, too, being built then.

GALAZ: I think it was the Roosevelt Dam. I don't think it was the Granite Reef, or. . . . I think it was the Roosevelt. When did you say the Roosevelt was? Wasn't it 1913?

SOLLIDAY: Let's see, that was finished in 1911. And then soon after that they built the Horseshoe Mesa Dam.

GALAZ: And Granite Reef.

SOLLIDAY: All those other dams. That one was even earlier. That one was finished before Roosevelt.

GALAZ: Which one was the latest, the Stewart Mountain?

SOLLIDAY: The Stewart Mountain.

GALAZ: When was that?

SOLLIDAY: All those other dams were built in the '20s, so he may have been going up during that time.

GALAZ: Or see, I don't know if he just hauled food and took up there for the workers -- you know, for the men that were up there, if he took food, you know, like canned goods. I just remember that he would have the wagon, you know, loaded and then covered with a great big huge tarpaulin. And then he would leave, and he would be gone for two or three months.

SOLLIDAY: With a whole team of mules?

GALAZ: Or the horses, uh-huh, with the two teams of horses. And then he would come back, and then he would stay here, and then a few months later, then he would go again. I think he went during the spring, during the summer, you know, when it wasn't snowing wherever he went. I think it MUST have snowed wherever he went to, to the dams. Oh yes, see, this is what I would have to look up. You know, when the dams were built, and then depending on those years, then I could. . . .

SOLLIDAY: Well, see, now that must have been. . . . Well, how old were you when you remember Dad _____.

GALAZ: I must have been. . . . Oh, let's see. . . . Maybe six or seven. That was in the '20s -- early '20s.

SOLLIDAY: That was right when they were building those other dams, just below Roosevelt, so that would be. . . .

GALAZ: In the '20s? Because my brother was born in '23, and I'm three years older than he is, so I must have been about six or seven years old, about. Oh yes, he was still hauling then.

SOLLIDAY: You grew up over by -- wasn't it over by Rural Road?

GALAZ: Yes, ON Rural. I think it was 1121 Rural Road in Tempe. And we were. . . . Our house was at the end of Rural School Road. And then from then on, all the, beyond that, just south of us, was all the ranchers. There were dairies and my dad worked for two other ranchers, which was I think Ted, one of them, his name was Ted, my dad used to call him Ted. And Ed Hendrix. And they had sheep.

SOLLIDAY: Oh yeah, I heard there was a lot of sheep at one time. _____.

GALAZ: They raised sheep, and my dad worked for them, too. And I remember very well, going and taking him to work with my brother. He would drive the car and take my dad and leave him and then go and pick him up in the evening when

my other brother came home from work with the car. Or he would take his wagon, he would go with his team of horses. And that was in . . . hm, that must have been. . . . I can't remember very well. Maybe I was ten years old or something.

SOLLIDAY: Did he go up. . . ? I know in the summertime they'd usually take sheep up into the mountains _____.

GALAZ: Yes, they would take them up north, I think, in the summer, because it was real hot here in the valley, and they would take them up north. And sometimes, some years, he would go with them. Or he would go to a certain place and meet them as they were coming back from the mountains, where they had been in the summer, and then he would go, he would leave the house, and he would say, "I have to. . . ."

It was like a day and a night, I guess, with the horses. You know, you'd have to take a day, and go and meet them, and then bring them to the valley, and bring them into the valley for feeding and for the young, the babies to be born. And I remember that -- I remember that very well.

SOLLIDAY: Seeing the sheep all over?

GALAZ: Oh yes!

SOLLIDAY: I think there's only one place here in Chandler where you can still see a few.

GALAZ: We'd go and pick him up at work, and sometimes they were crossing the street, you know, from one field to

another, and we'd have to wait for them to get across. And then you could see them, all the fields were full of sheep. And then when all the little ones were born, they were even SLOWER, because, you know, they'd wait for the babies to go across the street with them. Oh yes, I remember that. And now I can't tell you where. . . . I'll have to ask Harry where the ranches were, and what it is NOW.

SOLLIDAY: It might be hard to figure out what they are now, because there's no landmarks there.

GALAZ: My brother will remember, because, see, he's older than I am, and he used to take my dad to work in the morning and leave him and then come back, and then we'd all go to school. And then in the evening he'd go and pick him up. So he'll remember. And he's older than I am -- Harry is older than I -- so he'd remember where we used to take him, and what is there now. See, if it was just south -- if we were on Rural, and we drove south on Rural to. . . . Oh, I don't know, to Ray Road or south of Kyrene.

SOLLIDAY: That's pretty FAR south, then. It's not just _____.

GALAZ: Yes. No, it wasn't close. No, they were. . . . Because, I mean, there was just all pasture land, that's all it was. There was cattle, there was sheep, and then the Coles had the date farm. There was a big date farm south of Tempe, too. And then the Dobson family, you know,

they had their cattle pens right here where the Dobson Ranch is now -- where the Dobson Ranch where the homes are.

SOLLIDAY: Oh yeah.

GALAZ: That used to be the feeding pens for the cattle that belonged to the Dobson family.

SOLLIDAY: Yeah, I remember -- well, I met Earl Dobson, who was one of the _____.

GALAZ: Oh yeah, they're brothers. There's like maybe three generations of Dobsons, and they were all farmers.

SOLLIDAY: Yeah, in fact, they're one of the few farmers left here, I think, in the area.

GALAZ: Yes, they're the only one's left. The children stayed, but see, they sold all of that. That's all there was there at the Dobson Ranch, where my house was. They were feeding pens for the cattle. They would bring them there and fatten them up. And they kept them, you know, in stalls, so they wouldn't move around and lose weight. And then when they were fattened, then they would haul the huge trucks and come and load 'em up and take 'em to the depot and put 'em in the boxcars in Mesa and ship 'em out. I don't know if they went to California or to Texas or where they went, but they were loaded on the trains at the Mesa Depot, or at the Tempe Depot, I don't know. But they were hauled in those huge trucks that have those triple-deckers where they load the cattle in.

SOLLIDAY: _____.

GALAZ: Just 20 years ago, because I lived at my house at the Dobson Ranch for 17 years. But I still remember driving to Mesa and going past the feeding pens.

SOLLIDAY: I saw one picture -- of course it was after all the cattle were out, that they'd taken this picture. It looked like it must have been an awful lot _____.

GALAZ: Yeah, an awful lot. Well, you know, the Dobson Ranch is from Alma School Road to Price. That all belonged to the Dobsons. Now, from the north and the south, I don't know the boundaries. I guess it was Southern or Broadway.

SOLLIDAY: Yeah, that was probably. . . .

GALAZ: Southern or Broadway was the north boundary. And then on the west was Price Road, and on the east is Alma School. Because, you know, those signs that says, "The Dobson Ranch Community" -- they're way over to Alma School. And ALL of that property belonged to the Dobson family. There were several brothers, I think.

SOLLIDAY: Yeah, there were some uncles also -- a lot of different Dobsons, _____.

GALAZ: Yes. Not all of them went into the cattle business -- there were others that did. Oh yes, they're a very old family.

SOLLIDAY: I wanted to ask you about your house, also, that you're. . . . Now, did your father build that house?

GALAZ: Yes. My father built our house where we lived in Tempe. He bought the property that the house was built on from my grandmother, from Jesus. And he built our house, and it was made of adobe. And we had -- he planted big shade trees outside, because it was so hot, and he built [planted] them close to the house to protect the house from the sun. And we had the well. Just right outside the kitchen door we had the well. And we all . . . all of us were born in that house, and all of us got married from that house. We never knew any other house but that one that he built.

SOLLIDAY: What did it look like inside?

GALAZ: It was two rooms. It was two rooms, large. In the kitchen the stove was used for heating. And in the winter we had. . . . Later, in the later years we had a big wood heater, but in the winter, before that, we would bring the Dutch ovens, you know, that were made of cast iron, with coals, with hot coals, and bring 'em into the other room for heat in the morning and at night. But it wasn't hard to heat or cool the house, because the adobes were so thick that I don't ever remember it being THAT hot in the house, you know, where we couldn't stand it, or that cold either. Because in the morning, you know, when we got up to go to school, my mother already had the fire going, and she was making the oatmeal and fixing breakfast. And it was warm

in the kitchen when we got up. So. . . . And then we had a vegetable garden, and my mother had her flowers and her plants. And she had chickens, she raised chickens and turkeys. And all the families on our street, everybody had their vegetable gardens and their chickens and we exchanged corn. And whenever anybody had an abundance from vegetables, they'd share them with the neighbors.

SOLLIDAY: Now, of course, I think a lot of those neighbors were relatives, too, weren't they?

GALAZ: Some of them -- most of them. Let's see, there was the Anguis family was up the street from us, and they were cousins, because the mothers were sisters. And then the Vasquez was a brother of my mother, and they lived further UP the street, north of us, and they were also relatives -- very close relatives -- and they owned their homes too. And then all the other families in between who had lived -- everybody had lived in the same neighborhood and raised the children, and the children all went to school. You know, even if we were not blood relations, the neighbors felt very close, because when there was anything bad happening, the whole neighborhood would know about it, and everybody would come and help.

SOLLIDAY: Yeah, I know I'd seen. . . . Well, the reunions in Mesa every two years, I've seen the maps that show some of the . . . where different families lived. I guess that

whole area over there, because it's so different now -- that's all apartments for the students off of campus. And it's hard to believe how much that's changed (GALAZ: Yes, it is.) because there's nothing. . . . Well, except for that Elias house that's left there all by itself over on Eighth Street.

GALAZ: Yes, but see there was another. There weren't too many families there, because, see, that was mostly a business. There was a Chinese grocery store next to her, you know, down from her.

SOLLIDAY: Oh, is that on Eighth Street?

GALAZ: Uh-huh, yes. And then there was her place, and she had sort of like a little stand for refreshments. You know, she used to sell pop and snow cones. And then they had -- in the back of the house they had built this big platform, or deck I guess one would call it -- a wood deck. And then they had benches all around, and then they had the string of lights. And that's where the dances were held on Saturday nights. And all the young people, you know, would come and meet there, and they had people come and play there. I don't remember who it was, but I remember coming. And all the older people would come, and they would be over to a side, while all the young people enjoyed the music and the dancing. And that was at the Elias house, Doña Inez's house. And then up the street,

east of Doña Inez, was the Granillos. They had their homes there, the Granillos. Do you have anything on the Salazar family?

SOLLIDAY: I've seen the name a few times.

GALAZ: They also lived in that, in the Elias *barrio*. On Eighth Street there was the Salazar family, and the Granillos, and the Romos -- the Romos lived also in that area. And it was like this. Well. . . . And who else? Oh, and then the Oviedos -- the Oviedo family, they were east of the Elias home, and they were closer to the Creamery. They were east of the Elias, and the Oviedos had a store, a grocery store. And Oviedo is a very, very old family. They were right next, just before you got to the Creamery, and then the Creamery Road was where you turned up to the Lone Palm Service Station, and then you got the road to Mesa, which was just a two-way -- you know, for two cars. It wasn't any wider than that. And all around it and south of that was just all farms and ranches.

SOLLIDAY: So was Eighth Street actually the road to Mesa that you drove down that?

GALAZ: Uh-huh, yes. Yes, that was the road to Mesa. (Comment about tape recorder). I'm not sure which, but see, this was, this is Eighth Street, and it used to come past the college, and I think it would come to either McClintock. . . . You don't think that it went as far east

as Price?

SOLLIDAY: Well, it may have gone all the way _____.

GALAZ: Okay, and then, see, then here was the Creamery. It was the Borden's. Then this street would end, I think this was McClintock -- I'm not sure, but let's say it is McClintock. Then it turned south on McClintock and came south and then I don't know whereabouts it would turn east, and then that was the road to Mesa. Now I don't know where this is now, and right here was a service station, and this was called -- there was a BIG palm tree here, and it was called the Lone Palm Station.

SOLLIDAY: Oh, okay, I've heard that name before, and I wasn't sure where it was at.

GALAZ: Okay, and this was the Borden's Creamery. And I think this is McClintock. Do you think it was McClintock?

SOLLIDAY: _____.

GALAZ: And then the Oviedos had their big store right here. And they had, you know, groceries, and this was a very old family. And if I remember correctly, the mother of the Oviedos and the mother of the Sigalas were sisters, and the Oviedos and the Sigalas were cousins. And the Sigalas were also a very old family. But then the Sigalas lived in the old neighborhood in the Dewey and Fifth Street thing. (SOLLIDAY: _____) That's where they lived. And my teachers were Angelina Sigala and the other

one was. . . . See, I thought of their names the other day. Angelina and Sophia. Sophia Sigala. And they were my teachers at Eighth Street School. I don't know what their father did, I don't remember. I just remember that my teachers. . . . And they graduated from the Tempe. . . . See, it was the Teachers. . . . It was the Tempe Normal College?

SOLLIDAY: It was the Tempe Normal School.

GALAZ: Tempe Normal School -- that's when they went to school there, and then they were my teachers at the Eighth Street Training School.

SOLLIDAY: Okay. Now, at that time, that was a segregated school, wasn't it?

GALAZ: Oh yes, it always was, it always was. It always was a segregated school. They had this school -- this is the Eighth Street? This is still Eighth Street, huh? (SOLLIDAY: Uh-huh.) They had the Eighth Street School on Mill and Eighth Street, and that was a segregated school, until way, way late. I don't know when they integrated with the Training School. They used to call it the Ira D. Paine Training School. That was an elementary school in where the college is now. It was the Ira D. Paine (SOLLIDAY: Yeah, I remember that.) Elementary School.

SOLLIDAY: The building was there until just a few years ago.

GALAZ: And then they transferred the students from -- I don't know when, I guess when that building wasn't safe anymore, then I guess they had to. . . . Since they didn't have money to build another one, so they just integrated the school, and the children came to the Tempe Training School. And then they built the Tempe Grammar School on Tenth Street, and there it was a little bit more integrated. But the Eighth Street Training School was just, it was just all for Hispanic children.

SOLLIDAY: Now weren't there a few that went to the grammar school over on Tenth Street?

GALAZ: Yes, there were a few. Yes, I think several of the families then, when. . . . I guess when the school wasn't safe enough, then they just started, you know, putting children to the other schools, until they built the Tenth Street School. I don't know, which was the other one, the Ritter?

SOLLIDAY: Yeah, Ritter over on Rural.

GALAZ: And then they started, you know, sending the children to, I guess, the closest school to where they lived from, because if the school was condemned, they couldn't send the Hispanic children there anymore. So, it was really very bad, but we survived. So I don't have any. . . .

SOLLIDAY: Now, according to newspaper articles that I was

reading, they always said that, well, it was segregated, but they always said that, well, these were always kind of what they said a little bit later, was the separate but equal. They said, well, it's the same, just as good of a school.

GALAZ: The education?

SOLLIDAY: Yeah, the education and the books.

GALAZ: You know, when you're that age, you don't compare. You say, "Well. . . ." I had friends at the other school and say, "What kind of books did YOU have?" or "Are you into this now?" I don't know, I wouldn't have any idea if it was equal, or if it was lesser, or if it was. . . . But it WAS segregated, there's no two ways about it.

SOLLIDAY: Let's see. . . . Now, I think you'd mentioned before. . . . I don't know if you'd remembered any stories that you might have heard from your parents, or just family stories of what it was like in Tempe, even before you were born. I know that a lot of . . . since your family was some of the first people here in Tempe, that if there were any stories you remembered about what it was like at that time.

GALAZ: Well, no, I just remember there at the house, that my oldest brother, Daniel, died the same year he was born, you know, according to my mother. And then the second son was Reynaldo, and he went to school. I don't know what

school was open -- maybe it was Eighth Street School, I don't know. Was that the only school there was?

SOLLIDAY: Yeah, I think that was the only school _____.

GALAZ: He was born in 1904.

SOLLIDAY: Yeah, that would have been the only school then.

GALAZ: And then he died during the epidemic, the influenza epidemic. After World War I there was. . . . He was born in oh-four [1904], and then he lived for sixteen years. Twenty [1920]. That would be after the war, huh? After the war, during the influenza epidemic, there was a lot of influenza and a lot of typhoid there, a lot of diphtheria. And my mother said that at that time when there was no vaccines or anything, that the children that got sick, they just died, because there was nothing to protect them. I think Reynaldo was sixteen years old when he died.

SOLLIDAY: So it wasn't just babies. It was. . . .

GALAZ: Oh, no, it was everybody. It was grownups and. . . .

SOLLIDAY: Because we don't think of that now with influenza.

GALAZ: No. Older people and ALL ages -- it didn't make any choices. Death didn't make. . . . Or the sickness, the epidemic, the people that lived through it were just very lucky, because there was no miracle drugs, no nothing. If you got sick, you died. And if your infant. . . . If

any mother that a child was born and the baby got sick, he just died, because there was nothing. And then the people, the families were so poor that they couldn't go to doctors. They just had midwives and people that would try and help, you know, say, "This is good for this. Try it. We did, and it helped." Whether it was herbs or home remedies that they had at the time. Some of them worked, and some of them didn't.

SOLLIDAY: Did they close the schools or try to. . . .

GALAZ: See, I don't know. See, the mothers never went to town or anything. The mothers, they had so many children that you just had to stay home. They were just keeping themselves together. So they wouldn't know if there was, if this was all over town or if any of the other. . . . I don't know, maybe even some of the Anglo families were affected too, I don't know. But she would just tell me about a certain family that lost one child or two, or a brother or a son, or a grandmother, or. . . . But it hit everybody.

SOLLIDAY: I think I'd heard that even all over the country at that time. . . .

GALAZ: Oh yes, it was all over the country. And they don't know if it was something the soldiers brought back from overseas with them, or if it was in the air, you know, after the war -- because it lasted, what, four years?

SOLLIDAY: That's a long time for an epidemic.

GALAZ: Yes! And the war lasted four years, so they don't know if it was something that they brought from over there. I don't think that they knew. I don't know if we had ever had an influenza epidemic here before then, if there were records of. . . . Like, you know, before my parents came.

SOLLIDAY: That's the only one I think I've ever heard of.

GALAZ: Of course, you know the Indians didn't have any sicknesses until the white people came. They gave them everything: typhoid fever, measles -- everything. They weren't sick, they had never had any of those illnesses.

SOLLIDAY: Yeah, and even today, that's still _____.

GALAZ: Yes, they never had anything until the white people came to this country. They never had typhoid fever or diphtheria or influenza or. . . .

SOLLIDAY: _____. You mentioned before that the Indians used to come into Tempe also.

GALAZ: Oh yes, when I was growing up. . . .

END SIDE ONE

[Taped interview ends abruptly].