

Boulder Latino Background Questionnaire
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Name of person completing questionnaire: Marcella Diaz
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Section 1 - Grandparents

1. Name Born Where? When?

Grandfather: Juan Martinez San Geronimo, NM Nov. 12, 1900

Grandmother: Josephine Valdez Clayton, NM Dec. 27, 1907

2. When did your grandparents arrive in the United States?

They lived in the NM area since 1850 or before.

3. What caused your grandparents to leave the area where they were born?

A. Juan's family owned land in San Geronimo NM. The family also resided in Cimerron, NM after the death of Juan's mother in 1905 when Juan was five years old. Thereafter were forced to abandon their land because of several recessions which were followed by the depression that had began in 1920. then traveled north east to Clayton, NM to search of employment opportunities.

B. Josephine was born in Clayton. She lived there with her father and two younger sisters father after the death of her mother when she was eleven years old. family until she Juan married in February 1923. After their marriage they and other family with whom they always traveled in groups of about 20-25 members, traveled between northern NM and southern CO. Many times traveling by covered wagon and worked as farm laborers in which ever town and in what ever farm they could find work during the Great Depression and the depressed economy that followed for many years. Many of the winter months were spent in Romeo, in the San Luis area where the snow was constant, deep, houses so cold at night that their buckets of water would be solid ice in the mornings.

Some men, the fortunate ones, were able to find odd jobs such as: repairing fences working on farms fields, or any other job offered them. Road construction being another option.

Between 1924 and 1946 Juan and Josephine had eight children. Six were living and two had died. To present the areas they traveled:: Anna was born Weston, CO 1924, Tomasita born 1925, birth place unknown, Celestina born April 1927 in Morley, CO, Ramona born 1929 in Stonewall, CO, Luis David born in 1931 in Costilla NM, Juan Jose born December 1933 and died Dec. 1934, Dolores born 1936

in Manassa, CO, Eulalia born 1940 in Romeo, CO, Marcella (adopted) born 1943 in Morenci, AZ, Cecilia born 1943 in Morenci. They had also lived and worked in Clifton, NM, Mora, Gardner, Blanca, Alamosa, and other towns not mentioned here. Two more children would be born later.

Juan worked for the Workers Program Administration between 1938 and 1940 which was a program established by Pres. Roosevelt designed to help poor people.

In the early months of 1941 they moved to Morenci, AZ so Juan could work in the copper mines. They were traveling in a truck and a car. The car broke down midway, they packed as many people into the small truck as possible, women children men. Everyone had to stand up in the back of the truck. Women holding at least one child. Anyone who did not fit was left behind with two men who were responsible for fixing the broken down car. It turned out to be a three day trip for them. Juan didn't work in the pit of the mine but worked about the grounds and the heavy equipment used in excavating the stone.

While in Morenci they became grandparents in January of 1943 and adopted their first grandchild. Josephine gave birth to another daughter in November of the same year.

In 1944 the WPA having exhausted its funds, no longer able to employ left people fending entirely for themselves and forced to resort to drastic measures. They had lived in three different houses. Not being able to work meant any money the did have would not be used to pay rent. Having had to move out, home now became a tarp staked to the ground, above their heads outside the city limits.

Weeks later they were on their way back to CO. Their belongings consisted of their bed rolls, an extra set of clothes, a camp stove, and a pot for cooking meals, and moved to Monte Vista, then to Pueblo. There Juan and the unmarried and (old enough) children worked on the farm fields except for one daughter who remained at home with Josephine to care for the younger children. Their last child Jesus Manuel was born in Ordway, CO in 1946 in a two room converted barn on the farm where the family lived.

While they lived in Ordway on this farm the farmers ran out of work for Juan and he was forced to consider and accept work as a shepherd. He went to do his new work and Josephine was left with the responsibility of moving from the farm, finding other living quarters, and being in charge of the children. The family moved in with the oldest daughter who was living in Ordway, then to the colonias northeast of Ordway, then to a farm outside of Sugar City, CO where she joined the rest of the children on the farm fields harvesting cucumbers, pickles and other vegetables. One of the daughters stayed home to care for the youngest children.

When harvesting had been completed they moved to Sugar City and lived in a two room shack that was owned by a resident who had originally come from Mexico and had settled there and who would later become Juan and Josephine's son in law. Within two years Josephine bought their first home there on the west side of town in 1948. It was a small two room house to which eventually she and her now other son in law also from Mexico and who worked for the rail road company, built an adobe addition to their home. The married daughters, married son and Josephine and the younger children lived in Sugar City until the Fall of 1954. Their life of uncertainty somewhat improved by not having to roll up their bed rolls every morning, having to be ready to move at a moment's notice. The family lived happily and the younger children were able to attend elementary school. A more settled life for Josephine and the family.

During this entire time Juan remained a sheepherder living the small trailer his employer provided and relocated as necessary for the sheep to be able to graze. His employer also gave him a dog and a horse to help him with keeping the sheep gathered and safe. A somewhat lonely and isolated life for Juan.

4. When did your grandparents move to Boulder?

Anna who was married to Ben Medina had moved to Boulder (spec. unkn.) when in the summer of 1954 found Ann needed some oral surgery to be performed. Josephine took the children (four) still at home to Boulder to help the Medina family. Since for years now Josephine had faced the entire responsibility for the family she once again faced the choice to stay or move on.

5. Your grandparents moved from _____ to Boulder?

They returned to Sugar City and a few weeks in Boulder, weeks later found themselves back in Boulder. Josephine and the remaining unmarried children abandoned their home leaving everything but a couple of small suitcases which held some clothes and left Sugar City. They didn't leave anything of value. The remaining family must have taken what they could use.

Having arrived just in time for the school year to begin the children were enrolled in the appropriate schools. Jesus Mannel the youngest child, a third grader at Lincoln, Marcella and Cecilia attended sixth grade at Lincoln. Mae three grades ahead at Casey Jr. High.

6. What were the reasons your grandparents decided to settle in Boulder?
Josephine must have felt there were greater opportunities for her husband and

children.

A. Where did your grandparents live in Boulder? (Addresses) When?

They lived with Ann and Ben along with the Medina children at 1953 Goss St. for a while then moved to the basement, then upstairs. The house had three apartments. From there they lived on Grove (address unknown) and on to Mapleton St then 4th St.

Josephine during the first couple of years cleaned other peoples houses. She was meticulous about everything she did and there were plenty of people wanting a good housecleaner. It is safe to say she was in demand. Since there were so many wanting her skills she then put Marcella and Cecilia to work on weekends and summers. They had to turn over all their earnings to the family "pot".

B. When did your grandparents buy their first house in Boulder?

Within two years, sometime in 1956 Juan and Josephine bought a home at

C. Address:

2004 Water St.

It was the Goss St., Grove St., Arapahoe, and Water St. neighborhoods where most minority families lived.

7. What type of work did your grandparents do?

Juan joined the family in Boulder and was hired at the University's Physical Plant. He picked up trash on the Boulder campus. Juan as always was a hard worker and his boss was always very good to him.

After moving there Josephine began a home based laundry and ironing service. She was so in demand that it was of course impossible for her to complete every job on time. That meant Marcella and Cecilia had to pitch in.

8. English and Spanish Ability

A. Spanish Ability

Grandfather: Spanish was his first language. ONLY Spanish at home. Juan spoke, read and wrote.

Grandmother: Spanish was her first language. ONLY Spanish at home. Josephine

spoke, read and wrote.

B. English Ability

Grandfather: Juan spoke English quite well. Read it some, and wrote the essentials sufficiently.

Grandmother: Josephine learned to speak English quite well, spoke English and easily made herself understood, also learned to write but not proficiently.

9. How many children did your grandparents have?

They had ten children of their own. Two dies at young ages. They adopted one grandchild.

10. Education level of grandparents?

Grandfather? Fourth or fifth grade Grandmother? Third grade

11. U.S. Military Involvement?

Grandfather? None Grandmother? None

12. With whom did your grandparents socialize?

Grandfather? A. Primarily within the family, B. With work acquaintances and local Latinos

Grandmother? A. Primarily with family, B. In-law families, acquaintances, and neighbors

Civic or Religious Involvement?

No civic involvement.

The parents were Catholic but not involved in the church. They sent us to church on Sundays, followed church requirements for membership. Children were not allowed to attend services or enter any other church other than Catholic.

Altars made to collection of Jesus, Mary and other saints and pictures of other saints and candles were common at home. Prayer was also common since we were young. When Mom said lets go pray we knew we were for a long period of kneeling, praying the rosary (El Padre Nuestro y Santa Maria) followed with a new novena

every tenth day or other prayer petitions, until she had her fill. Lenten season was an everyday prayer time for us, or anyone who intentionally wanted to join the family in Spanish prayer, and who ever happened to knock on our door during prayer time.

We were too young to know that we were being taught important aspects of faith, rituals to remember, to be practiced daily, prayers to learn, memorize and never to be forgotten. But I understand today Josephine showed us the importance of faith, prayer, how to pray, and to be dependent on God, not just her.

13. What were the cultural customs of your grandparents related to the following?

Courtship:

The girls were allowed date but the boys had to come to the door and ask for permission to take us out. If the boy was courteous and respectful then permission was granted and a curfew was given. The curfew was usually 10:00p.m. If we returned late the curfew for the next date was changed to an earlier time.

Weddings:

I, Marcella was the only daughter to have a large wedding. Since I had always turned over any earnings my (mom and dad to me) Juan and Josephine did not set any limits on my spending but I knew enough to keep costs reasonable.

I had a Catholic church wedding, reception and a dance. The bride's and the groom's family members were all invited included local friends. The dance was open to anyone wanting to attend. The weddings were large, family was involved, family helped prepare food and everyone enjoyed themselves.

At the dance the parents of both the bride and the groom stood over the kneeling newly weds, and said a special prayer (s) and blessed the couple. The parents' blessings culminated in them making the sign of the cross over the bride and groom. I always thought this a very special part of my wedding.

Baptisms:

Babies were to be baptized soon after their birth. Celebrated with a family gathering. Catholic Catechism instruction was necessary before Confirmation and again family celebrations were held, but were not extravagant.

Birthdays:

Birthdays were not seen as a special occasion, therefore not celebrated.

Holidays:

The special holidays were Easter-no Easter eggs just a family dinner, Thanksgiving-family dinner and Christmas-gifts were practically non-existent when we were children, though we did get a sock filled with mixed shelled nuts, an orange or apple and one small gift that stuck out of the top of the sock. We had never received more so we did not know enough to want more. We again celebrated with family gatherings/meal.

Our parents had always had to be frugal with money and Josephine being "in charge" was careful with her spending. She had long ago learned to be frugal and thrifty having lived through many recessions, The Great Depression and the tough years that followed, all leaving behind a legacy of uncertainty. It is still a mystery to me how she always managed to be prepared for the next, (?) whatever it happened to be. She always had a stash.

Juan and Josephine had a tough life. Nothing had ever come easy for them and they didn't try to make their children's lives easy either.

Funerals:

Since most people died at home, in big families "la muerte" was no stranger. We didn't think of death as happening only to some else. Having come from a large family we were very familiar with it. As children we were taken to the "velorio" (wake) for the "difunto" (the deceased). We were taught to pay our last respects and express our "pesame" (condolences), to accompany the casket to the cemetery.

The immediate and extended family of the deceased were considered to be in "luto" (mourning). Those in mourning wore black or dark colors for periods, as imposed by patriarchs/matriarchs, which could be up to one year. There were also other restriction imposed. No singing, no music or such also as imposed.

16th of September

Never heard of it or Cinco de Mayo till long after we moved to Boulder, but have never celebrated it.

Section 11 - Parents

14. See Section 1 and name of person completing questionnaire

My grandparents were my Parents

15 thru 25 *See Section 1*

Section 111 - Your Generation

26.

Marcella (Martinez) Diaz

Morenci, AZ

January 13, 1943

Spouse's Name:

1. LeeRoy Mauricio Diaz (1959-1977)
2. Rudolph W. Martinez (1993-1996)

Boulder, CO
Boulder, CO

August 18, 1935
June 29, 1941

27. Are you till living in Boulder?

NO, I lived in Boulder from 1954 until 1998. Moved to Lafayette, CO in 1998.
Upon retirement it was more economical to live outside Boulder.

Addresses where you have lived in Boulder?

1953 Goss St., (Don't recall house numbers) Grove, Maxwell, Mapleton, 4th St.
1954-1956, 2004 Water Street 1956-1959.

In 1959 I got married and lived on Portland Ave. (house number unknown) Sept. 1959-Dec. 1959, 2537 Mapleton Jan. 1960-1962, 2011 Goss St, 1962-1969, 3365 25th St 1970-1973, 3831 No. 30th St 1973-1975 in Palo Park), 4251 Ponderosa Ct. 1975-Feb. 1978 in Palo Park).

While married our first home was purchased 1962, It was the one at 2011 Goss St. All other homes listed above after this one were purchased. We lived in them they were not used as rentals.

After getting divorced and following the sale of the Ponderosa home, in Feb. of 1978 I bought a townhouse at 3840 Broadway for myself and my four children to live in.

28. What were the important economic and social factors in your decision to move out of Boulder?

I retired July of 1998, sold my townhouse on Broadway, bought a new home in Lafayette, paid off all my bills and have lived on my limited income since. I could not have lived as comfortably if I had remained in Boulder.

29. Where have you been employed or type of employment after age 18? (Include number of years if appropriate)

You?

1965-1971 Worked with the Boulder Head Start (Volunteer)
1968-1972 Program and Project Follow Through Program (Volunteer and served on it's Policy Advisory Board).

1969-1973 ADULT ONLY - I taught Day Classes 3 days per week and Night Classes 2 nights per week) Worked for BVPS and later included Work Incentive Program (Social Services) and taught ABE (Adult Basic Education), Survival, Citizenship, ESL (English as a Second Language) included classes and ~~private instruction~~, and GED Classes.

SSL (Spanish as a Second Language) ~~private instruction~~
Taught some Mexican/Spanish cooking classes for Longmont schools.

NOTE: ~~Night Class instruction continued until about Sept. 1977.~~

July 1973 -July 1998

July 1973-November 1975 Financial Aid, Univ. of CO -clerical position
Nov. 1975-Dec. 1977- Non Academic Scheduling Receptionist -clerical position
Jan. 1977-1992 Non Academic Scheduling Coordinator for UMC Univ. of Co -It was my entry into administrative positions.) Was responsible for the proper use and provision of special services for needs of each event, of all scheduled events (approximately 12,000 per year), supervision of other Scheduling staff, Processed event charges and related reports, substantial upgrade, more \$. NOTE: In 1977 the number of events scheduled in the UMC was 1,200. When I left the Scheduling Office in 1992 that number had grown to 12,000 events per year.

1992-1995 (Following a reorganization and building audit)
UMC Business Office Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable for Building Operations (non including Food Service), initiated/renewed Standing Purchase Orders & equip. maintenance contracts, all related paperwork, Office and Business supplies inventory, supervised 3.5 employees, interpreted University rules, policies, documents, language, etc for non-English speaking, served on successfully worked on other special assignments as needed such as merchandise repair. - substantial upgrade, an Accounting Tech, much more responsibility and more \$
1995-1998 Supervised 3.5 Business Office and UMC Food Service staff, AP/AR, retail outlets income, approved small dollar purchases, petty cash transactions, UMC safe contents, related paperwork, approved account/code use, was responsible for writing a Business Office procedures manual detailing technical accounting procedures and redesigned the billing procedures and collection or UMC Catering. Job classification at highest Accounting Tech level, great pay.

Served on numerous and varied University and UMC committees. Especially

enjoyed and excelled in special project assignments. Initiated a UMC Employee of the Month Award Program

In 1998 received University Employee of the Year Award and throughout my years at the university received several other service awards plus nominations for awards JULY 1998 Retired from University of Colorado. Completed 25 years of service.

2000-2004 Was employed at the Boulder County Clerk's Office, Elections Office. Job duties included coordinating Election Judges for Primary and General Elections, recorded updates, worked on mail ballot elections, and special projects as assigned. Is this considered Civic involvement?

Spouse: Not Applicable

30. Spanish Ability Yes/No
Native Spanish Speaker Speak Read Write

You: Yes I speak Spanish. It is my first language. Speak: Yes, Write, A little

Spouse: Not Applicable

31. Education Level: You: GED Spouse: Not Applicable

32. U.S. Military Involvement? NONE
Branch?
Dates?
Where Served?

33. With whom do you socialize
Workers? Retired

Civil Involvement? Very Little
Job or professional related? None

Recreation? Yes, with our groups of golf friends

Family? Yes, With local family, by tel. with distant relatives except when traveling to see them. Many of them are now aged and not possible for to drive. The younger generations are more difficult to see because they are also distant or always busy.
Latino community (not family)? Very Little, see acquaintances at few weddings, and mostly funerals

34. What cultural customs from your grandparent/parents do you still follow?

Many of the customs/traditions that had been carried on for many years have gone by the wayside. My grandparents generation is deceased. My biological mother's/father's generation are almost all deceased. Their customs/traditions practically non-existent. That leaves me as the oldest generation alive for my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. My daughters all live in California. My grandchildren have been raised there. Their parents carrying on few to none of the customs. It is difficult to carry on customs long distance.

Section IV. Questions for all Sections?

35. Did any family member start a business? Type When? Where?

Not since the late fifties. See #7

36. The neighborhood was an integrated community. Describe your interactions with: Anglos, African Americans, and Italian American.

The 1950's-1960's neighborhood when the family lived on Goss St. Water St. there were Anglos, African Americans, can't recall any Italians, but there were Latino's and one or two mixed race couples.

Our family got along with them all and did not have difficulty interacting with any of the families.

37. Describe your relations in Boulder with Japanese Americans and individuals of the Jewish faith?

I don't recall any interactions with the above.

38. Please fill our all responses for all of your siblings to the best of your ability to questions 26, 27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36, and 37.

Sibling: Ted M. Diaz

Born: June 28, 1960 in boulder, CO

- Lived in Boulder all his life.
- Attended public schools, graduated from Boulder High School in 1979. Was always athletic. In Jr. High he broke a track record which he held honors to for several years afterward. He was a skilled distance runner and ran the Boulder Boulder several years. He competed in marathons, biathalon and triathalon competitions and because of his love of the mountains he did mountain biking,

- He also did distance biking and bike racing competitions. He also enjoyed skiing.
- He could read, speak, write English. He did understand and speak some Spanish, but did not write it.
- After H.S. graduation he was employed at CU and had worked the UMC for 25 years before his death.
- No military involvement.
- Never married and No children

He associated with mixture of friends and family.

- He died on May 13, 2003. His service was held at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church and was buried at Mountain View Memorial Park in Boulder, CO.
Parents: Marcella (Martinez) Diaz and LeRoy Mauricio Diaz

Siblings:

Sophia (Diaz) Trujillo

Born on June 2, 1961 in Boulder, CO

Attended public schools and graduated from Boulder High in 1979. Worked at McDonalds and the bowling alley on or near Baseline.

Gave birth to Nicholas Jacob Diaz on May 22, 1980. Father was Tony Alvarez

Attended University of Colorado, earned a BS Degree in Business and went to work at General Dynamics in San Diego. She was employed there for several years until the company moved to Colorado. She currently works at General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. Later while living in San Diego she earned her Masters Degree in Business Administration and a Masters Degree in Government Contracting.

- She met Paul Trujillo while attending CU who later ended up living in San Diego. They married on August 19, 1989 in San Diego.
- Paul adopted Nicholas Jacob and he then became a Trujillo (Nicholas Jacob

Trujillo).

They have two children.

1. Victoria Marie, born on May 14, 1990 in San Diego. She is currently attending Wesleyan University in Kansas and working towards earning a nursing degree.
2. Adam Alexander born on June 22, 1992

He is currently attending College in San Diego and works at a local men's clothing store.

- Paul also graduated from U of C and is a Resident Engineer for Infrastructure Engineering Corp.
 - Back to Nicholas Jacob
Married Roanne Francisco on May 22, 1999 in San Diego.
Children: 1. Daylo Antonio Trujillo, born Jan. 7, 1997 in san Diego
2. David Jacob Trujillo, born on April 13, 1998
- Nicholas died on November 11, 1999 in San Diego, CA
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Siblings:

Josephine Angela (Diaz)

Born on May 12, 1962 in Boulder, CO

Attending public school and graduated Boulder High School in 1980

She worked at the bank that was on the Crossroads Shopping Mall for several years before and after graduation.

She married Dennis Gallegos (Son of Paul and Dora Gallegos) on _____.
They lived in Boulder for several years then moved to Vista, California. She was employed at Daniel's Cable Company and worked there for 20 years.

- She and Dennis had a daughter: Solana Marrissa Gallegos. Born on July 13, 1962 in Vista, CA.

Solana graduated high school with a 5. GPA from high school (Colorado Springs)

and is currently attending University of Colorado on a full scholarship

- Solana is NOT married

J. Angela married Ken Hall in Oceanside, CA.

- Children from this marriage are:

Blake Roughby Hall, born on October 16, 1997 in Oceanside, CA

Mackenzie Angela Hall, born on July 29, 2003 in Oceanside, CA

Karlie Violet Hall, born on July 29, 2003 in Oceanside

Angela was also an aerobic instructor in years past. She is the family fitness expert, has been a distance runner for many years. She has consistently competed in local and area running races. Currently she is a home mom.

She has taken some college classes. She has taken training/instruction to become a business appraiser.

Ken works at a Temecula, CA bank as Department Manager in Business Appraisals.

Sibling:

Dolores Elaine (Diaz) Miller, born December 27, 1964 in Boulder, CO
She attended public schools and graduated in 1983 from Boulder High School.

While attending high school she worked for and earned her Auto Mechanics Certification from Boulder Valley Vocational School.

In 1994 she became a Parts Specialist earning her Automotive Service Excellence Certification for Automotive Heavy Duty and Regular Vehicles. In 2007 she received Automotive Service Excellence for Service Consultant Certification.

Other Certification Achievement have been earned through GM, Dodge, Chrysler, Toyota, Scion, Ford, Saturn, Kia, Chevrolet and Mercury (Light and Medium Duty) which are required for a Certified Assistant Service Manager position.
Certifications good until 2017

She has works from Parts Specialist and everything in between to her current position of Assistant Service Manager Weslow Chevrolet. She has also worked at a

Toyota dealership as Assistant Service Manager.

She married Chris Miller on October 12, 1985

Children:

1. Christopher Ryan Miller, born on January 08, 1986 in Boulder, CO
2. Desiree Tylene Miller, born on July 28, 1988 in Loveland, CO

Christopher Ryan married Andrea Christenson on December 29, 2007

Children:

1. Rylee Trysta, born December 5, 2007 in Loveland, CO
2. Aubrey Marie, born on May 19, 2009 in Goosecreek, South Carolina
3. Carter Roger born on September 26, 2011 in Norfolk, Virginia

Desiree Tylene Miller, born on July 28, 1988 in Loveland
Pat Driskell-partner

Children:

Landon Cheyne Driskell-Miller, born on August 28, 2006, in Loveland, CO

Desiree married Brian Raymond , born on June 6,1986. on March 1, 2011 in
Loveland

Children: (Brian's from a previous marriage) now her step child Lilah Raymond,
born on June 23, 2007