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### Childhood Stories of Dominic Garcia

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Interviewee: Dominic Garcia

Interviewer and Transcriber: Sierra Love Trabosci

Date: 03/03/2022

Interview occurred at the University of New Mexico Main Campus in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Keywords: Childhood Stories, New Mexico, School, Friendship, Moving, Family, Elementary School, Hobbies, Middle School, Spanish Colonial Furniture, Video Games, Sports, High School, Traveling, Fishing

Sierra: My name is Sierra Trabosci. I'm here today on March 3rd, 2022, with Dominic Garcia here in the University of New Mexico. Hello!

Dominic: Howdy.

Sierra: Alright, our theme is childhood stories and memories, so we'll get started with that. Alright Dominic, let's start with when and where you were born?

Dominic: I was born in Espanola, New Mexico, on July 25th, 2003. My mother was going through labor for I believe 72 hours and eventually they had to do a c-section. We both almost died but, as you can see, we didn't.

Sierra: For the better.

Dominic: I'd like to think so.

Sierra: What was your fondest childhood memory at or before age five?

Dominic: That's a really good question. I don't remember a whole lot before age five. Around age five (long pause of thought). I'd have to say, one of my fondest memories (1:00) was being stopped by all the faculty and staff at all of my schools because nobody believed I could read.

Sierra: Alright. Who was your best friend going through elementary school?

Dominic: I switched around elementary schools a few times. For my first one, he was a little boy named Caleb. And then my second one, he was a little boy called Reed. I actually saw Reed last semester at La Posada, so that was kind of fun.

Sierra: Neat! Do you have any siblings?

Dominic: Not to my knowledge.

Sierra: [Pause as finding questions] Let's see...why don't you recount your best middle school experience?

Dominic: My best middle school experience probably happened when I was twelve years old. Eleven or twelve. I don't remember exactly; I think (2:00) I might have actually been eleven. I finally asked my grandfather to show me how to make Spanish colonial furniture. And so, with a lot of patience and a lot of sharp objects that children usually don't handle, I was able to create elaborate pieces of furniture that I would sell at the Spanish Market and it is something I want to keep doing.

Sierra: Awesome! Do you have a favorite piece that you've made?

Dominic: Yeah! I think it was called the Mesita Redonda. It's like a round table. It's really small, like a children's piece, and I make a version of it every year until the pandemic hit, when I stopped. It would always sell-it was like my signature.

Sierra: Awesome. How long does it usually take you to make one of those?

Dominic: About 3-4 days, maybe 5.

Sierra: That's really fast, actually.

Dominic: The time got quicker as I got older. I was able to understand the machinery and the carving better, and I just had a better work ethic. Because when (3:00) I first started, I would do it for an hour, then I would complain and go inside. But, you know, with age comes maturity.

Sierra: Yeah. Let's see, what were your favorite hobbies?

Dominic: My favorite hobbies were always just video games, like most teenage boys, and I used to like playing sports with my friends. I never actually joined any organized sports outside of campus, but in middle school I always did something. And then when high school rolled around it just kind of stopped, but I never stopped video games.

Sierra: Which one's your favorite?

Dominic: That's like asking someone who's their favorite kid (chuckling). As of this moment, my favorite is Fallout 4, especially the Nuko World DLC. Shoutout to Bethesda.

Sierra: That's a good one. Alright, let's see (4:00)...(pause as looking for questions). Alright, you said you moved around schools a lot. Which one was your favorite?

Dominic: My favorite school was probably Zia Elementary. We were the Eagles, you know, way back in the day. I don't remember too much from it. But I just remember we had half days one Wednesdays, which was really nice, and people there seemed to get along with me pretty well. It was a nicer school, too. It wasn't bad.

Sierra: Nice.

Dominic: I don't remember too much from that one.

Sierra: Did you like traveling a lot?

Dominic: I didn't really enjoy it that much. My second elementary school wasn't the best, I admit.

Sierra: Alright, we're just about at the five-minute point, so approaching our time limit. Anything else you'd like to add about one of your favorite childhood stories? (5:00)

Dominic: Learning how to fish at age 3 was really fun, and I will end on that.

Sierra: Alright, thank you so much!

Dominic: Thank you! [End 5:11]

## Reflection

This was my first oral history in two years, so this experience was definitely a good and refreshing one for me. While I had conducted these before, I was definitely rusty and I had problems with coming up with questions, especially with someone I knew closely. It made it difficult for me to ask questions that I felt I already knew the answer to, but it was really neat to find out just how much I didn't know on those same questions. I felt overall that it went really well, and I became more comfortable as the interview went on. I would definitely like to do more of these in the future, although next time I know to prepare my questions more in advance and to ask questions that I think I have the answer to, because there could be more than meets the eye.