

INTERVIEW OF ESCOLASTICA T. CABRERA

by William M. Fitzgerald and Deanne C. Siemer

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- Siemer: Escolastica T. Cabrera is a businesswoman who has been an entrepreneur in Saipan for many years. She has been an astute observer of the political scene and has known many politicians personally. Mrs. Cabrera has graciously agreed to an interview with respect to our history project about the Northern Marianas. I want to thank you very much for helping us out with this project. I'd like to start, if I could, by asking you where you were born and when?
- Cabrera: I was born in Saipan on February 10, 1930.
- Siemer: What were your father's and mother's names?
- Cabrera: My father's name was Vicente Ramirez Tudela. My mom's name was Rita Diaz Borja.
- Siemer: Were they also born in Saipan?
- Cabrera: They were born on Guam, both of them.
- Siemer: When did they come to Saipan?
- Cabrera: I know the most about my father. His father's father was from Spain. He was the first Spaniard to arrive in Guam. And what I know about his history is that he was the first Governor in Guam in 1800-something. And all the children were born there. His father was married to a lady from Guam. That is the Ramirez. When they came to Saipan, it was still in the Spanish time. I think it was when the Spanish sold Guam to America. Many people from Guam, even the Carolinian people, moved to Saipan. At that time, most all the Chamorros and Carolinians were in Guam. I don't know how many people were here in Saipan. But when the Americans took Guam at that time, many ran from Guam. That is what I heard from my father. The Americans were so careful for the sanitary [measures] and those Carolinians were just wearing a wrap-around, no clothes, or a bra or something. So they kept running, running to Saipan. They didn't like to follow what are the rules for the Americans.
- Siemer: So when the Americans came in, people moved.
- Cabrera: Many, many people came to Saipan at that time. My father said he was 16 years old [when he came to Saipan], and all his brothers and sisters born in Guam came too. And his father also came later to Saipan. They died here in Saipan, both of them.
- Siemer: How many children did your parents have?
- Cabrera: My mom was telling me she was pregnant 19 times but she had miscarried six 13 were born.
- Siemer: What are their names?
- Cabrera: The oldest one is named Isidora, then Dolores, Josepha, Francisco, Anna, Manuel, Torquarto, Rosario, Remedio, Jose, Escolastica, Olivia, and Carmen. Two, Remedio and Rosario, were buried in Palau. My father was there during the German time. When the Germans came to Saipan, many of the Chamorros were sent to Palau to work in this phosphate factory.

Siemer: In the phosphate factories?

Cabrera: Yes. During the German time. In 1914, when the Japanese came to Saipan, my father was already in Palau. My father was telling us many stories about those times. I don't know why I wasn't listening, but I never was particularly interested when I was young. But now I can think of everything back then and I can still remember what my father taught me.

Siemer: Did your father take the family to Palau?

Cabrera: Only the first baby was born here. My mom married in 1912, on May 16. The first baby was born in Saipan on April 30, 1913. Then they moved to Palau. So all the children, from the second baby to Jose, the one before me, were born in Palau. In 1927, they moved back to Saipan.

Siemer: Why did they move back here?

Cabrera: They just wanted to retire. They retired, and they wanted not to lose their land here in Saipan. Already the parents died. They wanted to come back.

Siemer: What kind of a position did your father have in Palau?

Cabrera: Foreman. He was the one watching all these Micronesians from Truk, Ponape, Palau, the Marshalls and Chinese, so many people working in this factory. So they said was he was the foreman. One of my uncles, my mom's older brother Francisco, he's the communicator. He can speak seven languages.

Siemer: There were a number of Chamorros who went down there?

Cabrera: Yes, the Sablans, Borjas, Tudelas, Magofnas, Cabreras. I can't remember them all. It's only Chamorros who were sent. Everybody had their children there [in Palau], but they don't want to be christening their babies in Palau because there was a shortage of priests and christening needed to be delayed until the priest arrived.

Siemer: Was that because the Chamorros were better educated? Is that why the Germans took them down there?

Cabrera: I think so, yes. Also because they speak the languages. My father spoke German, Spanish and a little Japanese, and when the Americans came, they learned pidgin English.

Siemer: After your father returned here to Saipan, he retired?

Cabrera: Yes.

Siemer: Where was the family land here in Saipan?

Cabrera: We have a piece of land in Garapan, and we have a farmland in As Teo. That's my mom's side. My mom's mother had a big land in As Teo. Today we have less. My grandma from my mom's side, she had 30 hectares of land, but when she became older, the husbands died, and she started selling to the Japanese, Okinawans, or Taiwanese. So she left 18 hectares of land. During all these World War II land claims, my father didn't want to claim.

Siemer: Why not?

Cabrera: He said, "Why?" He is going to claim to the Americans because he survived? He said, "No, I don't want to claim, what for?" So one day I went to my father and I said, "Father, are you sure you don't want to claim anything that might be ours? Are we going to have something from what we lost in World War II?" Then my father told me, "If you want to, my daughter, why don't you just bring me one piece of paper and a pencil." So I was sitting in front of him, because I didn't know what we have, what kind of assets we

have. So he started telling me everything, so I wrote down everything. I went to the Land Commission. When I went to the Land Commission, the chief was Mr. Elias Sablan. I was just standing at the corner because there was a big line already, more customers before me. Then he said to me, "May I help you?" He called me, "my daughter." He knew me very well. I said, "Yes, Mr. Sablan." I just got the piece of paper and I gave it to him, and he started reading it. Then he said, "Oh, this is so clean. This is very honest. Let's put something more." So I said, "Well, up to you." I was so happy. I went home and I said to my father, "Father, you know, this is not only the claim that I put down. When I showed it to Mr. Sablan, he added some more, because he said you're a very honest man."

Siemer: Where were you educated?

Cabrera: I was educated only up to the third grade, in Japanese school. The time was limited because of the war.

Siemer: Was there a limit that the Japanese put on local people?

Cabrera: Only five grades.

Siemer: Five grades?

Cabrera: Yes. Before us, everybody graduated from five grades. But in our time, 1942, the Japanese told us no more study. They put us out to sugarcane fields or tapioca fields to help in all these factories. Hurry, hurry because already the enemy is coming, and they wanted to produce all these things. So we didn't have much study any more. They sent us to work. They sent us down to where today the Civic Center is to make this the airplane base for the Japanese planes. I was a worker there. I was only 12 years old.

Siemer: Did the Japanese take any of your family buildings or land?

Cabrera: Yes. The Japanese took all the buildings in Garapan. They took every Chamorro house. They told us, just go out and go anywhere you want. If you have a farm, you can go to the farm. But some people have no farm, so they have to go to friends or relatives. We kept one of the old men, and two couples, on our farm.

Siemer: Where did your family go?

Cabrera: We have a farm down here at As Teo, not far from here. Have you ever been down at the Lourdes Shrine?

Siemer: Yes.

Cabrera: So that area. Now my brother Francisco is taking care of it. My mom has eight brothers and two sisters. And my father also has two sisters. My father (Vicente) had eight brothers: Francisco, Manuel, Juan, Jose, Torquarto, Mariano, Jesus, and Enrique. His two sisters were Rita and Maria. My mother (Rita) had seven brothers: Jose, Francisco, Ramon, Ignacio, Joaquin, Antonio, and Vicente. Her only sister was Anunciacion.

Siemer: Did they all come to Saipan?

Cabrera: No. Mariano at that time was in Palau. We never knew if he was missing in action no communication. And Jose he stayed in Guam. Now, all the Tudelas in Guam are descended from Jose. Enrique married a woman from Rota and moved to Pagan. Mariano and Torquarto were single. Mariano became a whaler. Torquarto was deceased from an accident while hunting an eagle on Guam. So many times he go, but that day when he jumped the big canyon, he fell down. And Jose was watching him. Very deep. No rescue at that time, no telephone, no ambulance, no nothing. He went to report to his father that Torquarto was gone. So he died in Guam.

Siemer: What happened to the family during the invasion?

Cabrera: There was already a warning like a typhoon. Anyway, the Japanese put the siren on so that means warning as maybe they see one American plane coming. We were already at the farm. That first time was February 19. But in February 1944, many airplanes came. You can barely see them. They are very high. So that time was 2:00 o'clock in the morning. And we were in Garapan, before the Japanese told us to move out. Two o'clock in the morning me and two younger sisters, and my mom. My father just came from the farm at that time. It was lucky that my father was there that night. So the Japanese were telling everybody to run. Using a megaphone. Telling everybody to run, go and hide somewhere, because the enemy is already coming. So at two o'clock in the morning we just went out with what we had. We don't have anything. Even barefoot; nobody had any shoes. Everybody was going up to the mountain. Many of the Japanese just stayed under the trees. They had no house to go to. But my mom had a sister. They had a house up on the hill, near the Maturana.. That was the farm for them. So we went there and we stayed inside the house.

Siemer: Near the Maturana?

Cabrera: Yes. We were still there at 9 o'clock in the morning. We didn't know what to eat. I think everybody felt hungry. We had no coffee to drink. That [previous] night my mom had a big pot of soup on the stove, and we left this in our kitchen. So I was the one to go get it. My mom has another adopted son from one of my father's brothers. He was the same age as me. I said, "Mom, may I go down to Garapan? I'd like to bring back the soup." My mom said, "Well, if you can make it, okay." So I went back to the house. I was hiding. This boy went with me. I took a bucket and I poured the soup in this big bucket, and we carried it together. Before I got back to the house at Maturana, again the bell went off because they still saw the airplanes. So I went into the grass still holding my bucket. I'm strong enough, so I don't spill my bucket. So I took this to the house, and everybody was so happy. Maybe they put more water to cook so everybody can have it. So we had no rice, no nothing, but everybody had this soup. After that, my father didn't want to go back to Garapan, so we just moved to the farm. At that time, my father didn't want me to go back to school. So that's why I stopped from third grade at that time. And I never went back to school.

Siemer: You stayed on the farm during the invasion?

Cabrera: Yes. So on June 11 at one o'clock in the afternoon somebody came to tell us that Americans had landed from rubber boats. The Japanese found four American soldiers. And they brought them to Garapan which they called the Kempetai Center. I saw that they tied the eyes, they put the band like this. So I told my brother, I told everybody, that I saw this, so my brother wanted to see. And that day we are ready to go to Garapan just to see that. So one o'clock when the bell rang again it meant that the enemy is coming. So at that moment, we moved some food, water, I packed our good clothes, small jewelry box, my mother's sewing machine it is a hand-type. And we moved to the cave. We had plenty of caves down there.

Siemer: The cave was on your father's farm property?

Cabrera: Yes. So we stayed in that. It was quite a big cave. When we stayed there, the Japanese soldiers came again, and they said you'd better get out of here. We need this cave. So we could not do anything. We had to obey. So we moved to another small cave.

Siemer: Also on your father's property?

- Cabrera: Yes. We had maybe five caves down there, from the largest to small. So we kept staying in this small one. You could not stand up. You had to kneel down, sit down. My father put a big banana tree up outside to protect the cave. At that time, the banana was very, very big. This is the kind of banana I think my father brought these seeds from Yap Island.
- Siemer: He put it in front of the cave?
- Cabrera: Yes. My father was a cobbler. He was making leather after he killed a calf. And he dried this leather. So he put one piece of that leather inside and covered with all these bananas. We could go outside if we needed to but not for long. So 19 days we stayed there.
- Siemer: In the cave.
- Cabrera: 19 days. But one of my brothers could go outside daily if there were no planes. We tried to cook under cover so that there would be no smoke. We didn't want to let the smoke out. But one day, maybe the airplanes saw some Japanese soldiers down there. They threw a very big bomb. The bombs fall almost like whales. This was right in front of the house of the farm where my brother was getting some food. So my brother came back. He saw that and said "I don't want to go back anymore." He cooked, what do you call this? Honolulu taro. It's a white taro. And even the water was not hot yet, just started. The next day he tried to go and look. No more. The soldiers took it and they ate it. So after that, we had nothing to eat. Also, one of my adopted brothers, he could climb up on the coconut tree and just got the fruit of the coconut tree. We could take that inside and get the juice and cut the inside and eat that. Or sugar cane. There was one big agency down there [in the village] where you could get water from the spring. But for one week nobody could go to the big spring down there, the biggest spring in Saipan. Before that, all the men could go then and get water in any kind of container gallon or half gallon. Containers from the Japanese, like they used for soy sauce had already been cleaned and no more smell of soy sauce. We were keeping those. At that time already the American soldiers were invading. There was machine gun fire. One of my brothers, Francisco, he came and everybody threw down these containers, nobody drank water. He said to my father, "What does that mean?" So my father said, "You're very lucky because you didn't get shot." After that, they didn't want to go out. So at that time we were very thirsty me and my two other younger sisters. We were more afraid of the Japanese.
- Siemer: What did the Japanese tell you about the Americans?
- Cabrera: When I was in school, our teachers said the Americans were crazy.
- Siemer: Even that early?
- Cabrera: Yes, that early. It was 1941. Our teachers were telling us, "Anybody like Americans? Can you put your hand up?" We don't know how Americans looked like. Everybody was so silent. But when I went home, I talked to my father, and I said, "Father, how is American? Good or bad?" My father said, "Why?" Then I said, "Our teacher was telling us today that Americans are crazy people. When you go with Americans, the Americans make you like you're animals make you work like a cow, something like that. The teacher was telling us that if there is an American victory, they will kill all of us like animals." So my father said, "No, that's crazy. But don't say anything." Well, I cannot say anything. At that time, when we were already in the cave, we had a Japanese soldier on the other side of that very small hole and the other side was not a small hole. We had [gathered some] bananas, ripe bananas. We were eating the bananas, but my mom was also feeding this Japanese soldier. My mom said, "We'd better give the Japanese soldier something." But he opened his

pistol. I think he liked to clean it. So we prayed that God didn't give this soldier the idea to shoot us.

Siemer: Were there other families there in the caves, too?

Cabrera: Yes. On our side of the cave, in a small cave, we had 45 persons from a baby up to an old man and woman. On the other side, maybe more than 50 about maybe five, six families.

Siemer: Did the Japanese soldier stay right there until the Marines came?

Cabrera: Until the invasion. When the invasion came and the Americans were on the ground, they kept running and running. They went up to the top of our cave, on the top of that rock, and we could feel that they were shooting down. The Americans were [below] on the ground, so they were shooting like this. The Americans found us. When the smoke cleared, we noticed that we got some more people coming toward us that we can see. "Hey father, it's Americano, Americano coming." So we were just very scared.

Siemer: Was it an American, or did they have Chamorros with them?

Cabrera: No, no Chamorros yet. There was only one captain, he came first, looking to maybe find some people. So the American just maybe could feel, smell people inside. He just kicked out our door cover. My mom was the first one out. "Americano, Americans." My mom said like that. I didn't know what to do. But one of my brothers came out after mom. This brother was in Guam during the Japanese time.

Siemer: So he spoke English?

Cabrera: In three languages he could say. "Hello friend, never mind, I don't know." Then he said again: "Hello friend, never mind. I don't know." The other people could not say anything [in English]. Only my mom and my brother.

Siemer: Your mom spoke some English?

Cabrera: That's only pidgin English that she knows. And we had all these [religious] statues, crosses and things like that with us. So the Americans said, "Come down, come down. Don't get scared of them." Then one American came to my father and said, "Anybody speak the Spanish or Japanese language?" We did speak Japanese, but my father said he is Spanish, "Hablan Espanol." The captain just called from the radio. Then maybe 20 Americans were all around us, and all these American soldiers came to me, and said, "Hi, senorita, hi, senorita." I can laugh, but I was so scared, you know. So they told us to follow them until we got down to the spring. We had more than 100 people from different caves. One of my cousins, he just went through the spring, and he took the water from the spring like this, and he drank. The American soldier came to tell us, "Don't drink this water because the Japanese have died up there and it's washing down from that." So he brought us a 5-gallon tank of water from the ship, and they threw us a case of K-ration. Everybody was just so hungry, you know. We ate so much at one time, and that's why we got very sick after. Everybody got diarrhea all the people. Then they took us to Camp Susupe.

Siemer: Was it that day they took you to Camp Susupe?

Cabrera: That same day, yes. They put us in a big truck, and we passed by all the Japanese who had died all over the streets. We stayed in Camp Susupe. We had no house. Very few people had their houses left from the Japanese time. They put up tents. No mats on the floor. So we slept just on the ground, on the sand.

Siemer: How long did it take them to find all the Chamorros who were in the caves and get them to Camp Susupe?

- Cabrera: I think until August. I think they took us on June 15 until July 19 or something like that. One of my sisters-in-law from my husband's younger sister was the last one. She came from Marpi on the ocean side. My mother-in-law (this was before I was married, but I can say now my mother-in-law) was very worried, because we knew the Japanese were still up there at that time. So anyway she survived.
- Siemer: How long did the family stay at Camp Susupe?
- Cabrera: They separated Chamorro, Japanese, Korean, Okinawan, everybody went to a different place.
- Siemer: So they separated them all out?
- Cabrera: Yes. So as I remember, after six months, they moved us to Chalan Kanoa. Many of the houses in Chalan Kanoa were built by the Japanese. Today there are still some there. So they put us in a place that today, you know where the Municipal Building is?
- Siemer: Yes.
- Cabrera: And that was the dispensary. So we still had nothing to put on the floor to use as a mat.
- Siemer: The old Municipal Building was a dispensary back then?
- Cabrera: Yes. It's one room there. There's still that building up there. After it was the Municipal Building, it was used as a credit union, remember that? We used that as a church, Catholic Church, during this time. So we stayed there.
- Siemer: When did you start to work after the war?
- Cabrera: This is a good question. I was only 16 years old. Two of my brothers were working. Mr. Blanco and Mr. Jose Sablan opened a handicraft store where Americans and military personnel shopped. So one of my brothers, Francisco, was very good and very expert at carving canes and statues. One of my brothers was good at crochet and weaving.
- Siemer: Like straw?
- Cabrera: Yes. From the pandanas. I liked to make money, too. I had nothing to do at home. My mother did the cooking. We stayed in a very small room, with four families in one house. So I asked my brother one day, "Can I go with you?" My brother said, "Okay, but what are you going to do?" I said, "Well, I'm going to learn something." So I went. Quite a few people were working full time.
- Siemer: Was the military paying them for the handicrafts?
- Cabrera: It was on a consignment basis. I started learning how to make cigarette cases first. No matter how many products you make, it was on a consignment basis. Mr. Sablan was the manager.
- Siemer: Which Sablan? Elias?
- Cabrera: No. He died already. It's the same family, a cousin. His name was Jose. He's the one. He had a store before, during the Japanese time. He knew how to run a business. So he was the manager. Then John Blanco, he spoke English, too, because he was in the university under the Japanese, and he must have learned some English. Everything had to be inventoried, and if everything is gone, at that time we could get our money. I already knew how to work weaving, and I learned how to make this, not crochet, but what is this kind of string, that we can make bags, just make bags or belts. I learned this too.
- Siemer: Did you speak English by this time?

- Cabrera: Just a little bit, yes. At that time, people were earning only 35 cents a day.
- Siemer: Where were they selling the handicrafts?
- Cabrera: They just had a room inside a former Japanese building. They put all the handicrafts in a room. Chamorro dolls, baskets, everybody did what they know. The public got jealous of these people, because like my brother, he could earn \$1,000 in one month. You can take your things to do at home, no matter how long you work.
- Siemer: So your brother kept making a lot.
- Cabrera: A lot. So the people were very jealous, because the people were only earning 35 cents a day.
- Siemer: Working for the military?
- Cabrera: Yes. 35 cents a day, and they were hard-working people. A carpenter worked for 50 cents a day. And the regulars were 35 cents a day.
- Siemer: Where else did you work?
- Cabrera: I was very lucky. They picked me for a job. They were looking for a tailor. I'm not so good at sewing, but I knew how to run the machine. I had started sewing my own dresses.
- Siemer: Your mother had a sewing machine before the war?
- Cabrera: Yes. I made my own dresses after the war. I could go to somebody's house and I could borrow their sewing machine. I could sew when I needed to have a new dress. So there were jobs with the Army. Many of the women went there to work as tailors. They were making the khaki hat and the khaki belt.
- Siemer: Regular Army issue things?
- Cabrera: Yes. This job they picked me for was with the Navy. I said, well, I'd like to learn more, especially men's clothes. I don't know how to do that work. But if somebody was doing that, I might learn and I can make it. They took me to the Naval Magazine. The commander's wife was there, but there was only me, myself, noone else. The commander's wife took me to a 200-foot Quonset hut. Everything was inside there from the ship's store, photographs, barbershop.
- Siemer: A 200-foot long Quonset hut?
- Cabrera: Yes. So there was the sewing machine in this room. But it was very dangerous for me. Only myself and all these sailors, Navy. They always come and say "Hello senorita, hello senorita." I lasted four days only. It was not comfortable for the commander's wife to stay with me, watching me. So they moved the sewing machine to her house.
- Siemer: So you moved to her house?
- Cabrera: To her house, and I felt secure there. They could go somewhere and I could stay by myself. What kind of sewing I did was they brought me a big bolt of the red material, big bolt of the white, and I only have to cut and just to stitch it.
- Siemer: What were they making out of the red material?
- Cabrera: Flags for the ammunition truck. So it was an easy job.
- Siemer: What year was this?
- Cabrera: That was 1946.

- Siemer: How long did you stay working for the military?
- Cabrera: I was so lucky, because the first commander, after 18 months, he was finished. He retired from Saipan, and went to San Diego. Before they moved, already a new commander had come in. So the new commander's name was Smith; the first one was Shouse.
- Siemer: And the second one was Smith?
- Cabrera: Smith. But no wife. So when I came, I could just take the broom (nobody told me to do this), I could clean the house first, I could fix his bed, then he had already gone to the office. So if I see some dishes in the sink I could wash that. Mostly glasses with the company coming. They had a special galley for the officers. They're not cooking, but they were drinking. So [the dishes to be washed were] mostly glasses. Nobody told me to do this. Then I started my sewing. I could sit down and do my sewing. So one day he told me if I finish my job I can go home. I don't have to wait for the bus until 4:00 or 5:00 o'clock. So I did this. I could go home. So at that time I could receive 35 cents a day. \$8.50 a month.
- Siemer: A month.
- Cabrera: When the second one commander went, the number three commander (Commander Thorpe) came with his wife. So at that time I was so lucky, I was lucky from the beginning. So this was the third commander. This is the Navy Hill today, the Maturana that was the Navy Hospital. So while I do it for the first commander's wife, we were cutting flowers and I brought down to the hospital, both of us. Sometimes we cut flowers and we brought them to the church one church for both Catholics and Protestants. Every Sunday they had services there. So she trained me how to serve the island commander. So when they came in sometime in the afternoon, they played cards, what's that called?
- Siemer: Bridge?
- Cabrera: Yes. All the officers' wives came, and they played bridge. They asked me to prepare some drinks to serve them. So when I did this, I think I'm just special. The first Commander's wife told me what to do first, from the island commander's wife who is the most . . .
- Siemer: The most senior?
- Cabrera: Yes. Serve her first. Everybody told me, very nice girl, very good girl. I could hear that every day: very nice girl, very good girl. So at that time she wanted me to take me back to the States.
- Siemer: What did you say to that?
- Cabrera: I wanted to, but then she went to ask my parents. My mom said no, missus. Woman can not go. No can do. Man okay.
- Siemer: So your mother didn't want girls to go? Only the boys could go?
- Cabrera: That was the very old-timers, very old-fashioned. If you were a lady, you could not go anywhere. We had to stay home. But if man, okay. So I just obeyed my mom; I didn't go. So the third commander, they stayed until 1949. The third commander's wife was a beautician. She trained me how to be a beautician. She said she was going to open her shop down in the commissary. They had a commissary for the military, and inside in the commissary, she had a small room. She said she was going to pay me 50 cents a day, and all the tips would be mine. So that was good for me. I was very happy. But she didn't stay long. When we already had this kind of agreement, the orders came to move.
- Siemer: Oh, so they moved before you opened up?

- Cabrera: I learned how to do it. Eventually, it became a good business. The Navy wives would go to the beauty shop every week.
- Siemer: Who were the people who went to college back in those days?
- Cabrera: The one who is now alive is John Blanco.
- Siemer: John Blanco.
- Cabrera: And Vicente Sablan—he's passed. This was the son of Kili, the one we called the Old Man Sablan.
- Fitzgerald: It is July 21, 2004 and we are interviewing Mrs. Cabrera: because the tape failed after part of her interview back in 1997. You started talking about the American wives of the commanders that you knew. And I think you worked with some of them?
- Cabrera: Yes.
- Fitzgerald: One was a beautician, and she was about to leave.
- Cabrera: Seven months, again they have to go, again order, have to go, I don't know where they go this time. The third Commander had to go to Japan that time. So, when she was ready to go, she asked me if I can buy all her supplies and equipment. She has one dryer and one shampoo bath and all the small things. I had no money, no \$500.00. How to get the \$500.00? So I went home and I asked my parents and I said, "You know, I would like to keep this business." I was 19 years already, since I started at 16, so for three years I've been working around and, I said, "Tata, please go to the bank." There's only one bank in Saipan, Bank of America, and I don't know if you know John Blanco?
- Fitzgerald: Yes.
- Cabrera: Okay, so John Blanco is the manager for the bank that time.
- Fitzgerald: Even at that time?
- Cabrera: He's the one who started [that bank] with the American guy.
- Fitzgerald: So that's about 1950?
- Cabrera: About then. It was a Quonset hut down near where the Civic Center is today. The police station. That is the area.
- Fitzgerald: I see.
- Cabrera: I mean Bank of America was there, at that time.
- Fitzgerald: So, John Blanco, he was still the manager until what year?
- Cabrera: I don't remember the year.
- Fitzgerald: 1970 something?
- Cabrera: He really retired about . . .
- Fitzgerald: A long time, yes?
- Cabrera: . . .a long time. So, my father went to borrow the money, only \$500. I was so disappointed because they turned him down. We have no savings, so John Blanco told my father, if you have somebody you know who has money in the bank, you can find somebody to be a co-signer. So, my father come back to me and said, "Daughter, I am sorry because I don't get the money." I was cry and cry and I said, "I really want to take this business. Tata, go,

go again one more." So that time, second time, I said to my father to go there. One of my brother-in-law, he has money, he has savings, because at that time he already had plenty of cows and pigs. He was selling all these things to other people and he kept his money there [at the bank]. I suspect that maybe John told my father that why don't you see your son-in-law and ask to be co-signer. So we got the money, the \$500.00. I had to repay in six months.

Fitzgerald: Is that right, six months?

Cabrera: Yes. Now I'm making big money since I get my shop, and I have many customers coming, all my American military people coming and Chamorro people, especially for the Christmas time. In 1951, I had my first baby. I went to the hospital, I had the baby and when I come back from the hospital two days later, I had three people waiting for me [at the beauty shop]. Somebody told me that I have to be back soon from the hospital.

Fitzgerald: At that time, the hospital was at Maturana Hill?

Cabrera: Maturana Hill was the second hospital. The first hospital was in a Quonset hut located near what is today is the Civic Center, at the Justice building, the court. There were Quonset huts there and the police station was on the other side. That's the first hospital. That is where I have my two babies there. Then the second hospital moved to Maturana Hill. My fourth baby, I had at Maturana, five, six, seven also

Fitzgerald: Yes, so you started the beauty shop when you were 19, right?

Cabrera: Nineteen, yes.

Fitzgerald: And, even while you were having babies, you were still operating the beauty shop?

Cabrera: Yes. I had two babies while I operated the beauty shop.

Fitzgerald: Was the shop in Susupe?

Cabrera: Yes, in Susupe. After I married, my one brother and my two sisters, younger sisters went to Guam to work. They worked in a store named Guam Style Center. Did you ever hear about that?

Fitzgerald: Yes, I remember that, right.

Cabrera: So, my brother worked there and also one of my younger sisters. You know Larry Ramirez?

Fitzgerald: Yes.

Cabrera: He's my cousin.

Fitzgerald: Okay.

Cabrera: From the Ramirez side, my father's side, Ramirez Tudela. They went to work in that place. My brother started sending packages for everyone. This is for Escolastica; this is for Nana; this is for Josepha (my oldest sister); this is for Ana. Every week we got some package from Guam because he's working there. Everything—food, soy sauce, games, and clothing, all kinds of clothing, bedspreads and some things like that. So, just in my mind, when my box was already full, I said I don't need these things; there are many things here that I don't need. So I set up like a little store. It was located where the Shell station is in Susupe today. The Shell gas station. There was a small store there. You know Ed Pangelinan.

Fitzgerald: Yes.

Cabrera: It was Eddie Pangelinan's grandpa's store. He was selling grocery, only grocery. At that

time nobody was selling any dry goods, what I call dry goods. Nobody sold that in the store, even Joeten. Nobody was selling clothes, shoes, or anything. I took everything I had [received from my brother] down and I asked permission from my mom and I said, "Nana? You know I don't need this thing. I'd like to, maybe to give to Tun Manet." (I call Tun Manet uncle, Tun like we say uncle). I wrote everything down, I just gave everything a price, and it came out to \$200.00. I also got some from my mom. We put it together and I went there and I said, "Tun Manet, can you sell this thing in your store?" He said, "Oh yes." Because we know each other very well, he didn't say no. He said, "Just hang it up there," maybe how to arrange your display, because I only had like one or two of each thing, not much, no dozen. He said, "Okay, I give you 20%." That's big money in those days. So, in one week, no more, everything was sold. Tun Manet's wife came to the store, and when I came in just to buy some canned goods she said, "Hey, your things are very salable. No more. See? No more. Nothing." I said, "Okay." So, still my brother was sending other things. The second time I did this, [sent things to Tun Manet to sell] I paid him \$80.00. I just got it in my mind, I said to my mom, "Nana, maybe can you give me permission?" (Because my brother is their son, and he's not married, so he's the one taking care of my parents and he's the one sending all these things). I said, "Nana, can you give me permission? I'll go to the Municipal office and I will pay for a license." It was only \$10.00 for a license for one year.

Fitzgerald: For a business license?

Cabrera: For a business license. So Nana said, "Okay, just do what you want." I went there and got the license. It said Escolastica T. Cabrera. My Nana was just kind of jealous because it was not Tudela. I was already [married to] Cabrera. She's not feeling good at that time, so I moved my beauty shop over to my house, inside in my house.

Fitzgerald: Still in Susupe?

Cabrera: In Susupe. It was located where today the gas station is that also sells that fishing tackle.

Fitzgerald: Oh, yes.

Cabrera: That is the store I started. My house was across the street. I sold that in 1976. I sold that when I moved here. Five years after I moved here, people were calling me, is it true you are selling your land down here? At that time my daughter was in college, and I needed money. I asked only \$30,000. The property was 2,331 square meter. I never forgot. I still remember that. Chamorro people kept on calling. How much do you want? I said if you have cash, \$30,000. One of the Chamorros (a man, I didn't see him because we talked on the telephone), I can see how he flip to his eyes and he say in Chamorro, "Lanai! Laputa diablo!!"

Fitzgerald: Wow. That's bad.

Cabrera: Yes, because maybe he was thinking \$5,000 or \$1,000? I said, "Never mind, I'm not asking you. That's my price." So many people were calling me. I was already running the store here [on Capitol Hill]. Then just the same year, who is the lady from San Roque married to Americano? She's the one called me. She said, "Are you sure you're selling your property in Susupe?" I said, "Yes." "How much?" I said, "\$30,000." Her name is Ana Toy. Her husband's name is Toy. They built the store in front of the Mt. Carmel. They sold, like dresses and clothing. But she asked me for this kind of deal. She said, "I don't have the \$30,000, but today I can give you \$5,000 and maybe next week \$5,000?" I said, "Oh, I think that's okay for me, but the rest, is every month \$1,000." So, it took two years. I really needed the money.

- Fitzgerald: How long was the beauty shop in Susupe?
- Cabrera: When I was running that, I opened the store that I called the Saipan Style Center. I opened at the time when I got the license. I told my brother, I said, "You know my brother, I already have a license so now you can send us as much as you can." I have many brothers. Three of the brothers are carpenters and they helped me build the store. So that's the beginning and I put many shoes, clothes, pants and lotion and then I sold my groceries, little bit of my groceries, even beer.
- Fitzgerald: What year was that?
- Cabrera: That is 1951 to 1952.
- Fitzgerald: When you had the beauty shop, did you ever hire any assistants?
- Cabrera: No.
- Fitzgerald: Only you?
- Cabrera: Yes, only me. I hired a lady to watch the kids. I already have two and I got pregnant again, almost every year I had a baby.
- Fitzgerald: You were pretty busy in those days.
- Cabrera: I'm the one to open the store 7:00 o'clock in the morning until 10:00 p.m., I think the regulation was. So, I'm the one who started the dry goods [business] in Saipan. So, maybe two years and Joeten and Herman Guerrero, they also started to bring some clothing in to put in the store. Herman Guerrero's store was on the Beach Road side.
- Fitzgerald: Now, was it Mr. Ramirez who was in Guam?
- Cabrera: Yes.
- Fitzgerald: Starting the Guam Style Center?
- Cabrera: Yes.
- Fitzgerald: So, was he sending you all the things?
- Cabrera: My brother sent the goods for sale. He worked for Mr. Ramirez.
- Fitzgerald: Your brother, okay.
- Cabrera: My brother bought things on sale. When they got sale price, they call it baratura. And when he buys, and for example the tag say \$19.95 or whatever the price is, he said just sell it like that, so make no change the price, maybe \$5.00 or something like that, so at that time we just kept the price like that.
- Fitzgerald: So, how did the things come in from Guam?
- Cabrera: A small, very small, boat, like a galaide, down at the fishing harbor.
- Fitzgerald: At Sugar Dock?
- Cabrera: Not Sugar Dock, it was at a fishing dock in Garapan across from the Kristo Rai Church. They call it the Gobieto Aleman, the German pantalan. The Germans made that to go straight to the Governor's house.
- Fitzgerald: So, the boat would come from Guam into there?
- Cabrera: Yes. I would contact somebody to bring the cargo to my store by jeep, not car, but jeep. The person who had the cargo would have a manifest. You go and take your cargo, checking off this and this. I also had a jeep, my first car was a jeep.

- Fitzgerald: Is that an old jeep from the military?
- Cabrera: Yes. And I borrowed a trailer from a neighbor, so I'm the one to go and pick up the cargo. My husband was a policeman and if he is on duty, I cannot bother him. I'm the one. Even I'm so big stomach, even tomorrow I'm going to have a baby, I always do everything. So that's all my life.
- Fitzgerald: Who drove the boat up from Guam?
- Cabrera: The name is Chuck. He did it by himself.
- Fitzgerald: Chuck, okay.
- Cabrera: I think I saw him one time in Guam. He is still in Tamuning.
- Fitzgerald: Chamorro guy? Or American?
- Cabrera: No, Americano.
- Fitzgerald: And anybody who wanted to send things to Saipan, he would just put them in his boat?
- Cabrera: Yes.
- Fitzgerald: They would come up to the dock in front of the Kristo Rai Church?
- Cabrera: Yes, and they would just go and tell people you've got cargo, so go get it. So that was the kind of business we started. At that time, there was no tax either.
- Fitzgerald: But your brother was getting all these materials from people in Guam?
- Cabrera: From the Guam Style Center. At that time, this is a very big store. The Guam Style Center was very near to the George Washington High School. I think the Larry Ramirez was a partner, along with one guy from Honolulu. So, that is the first time that I know what is a muu-muu. A muu-muu is a dress, very long, you know. They sold a lot of those. So he sent that to us and my mom was cutting and sewing more for him. He also manufactured small pants for the small kids, so my mom also made money from that.
- Fitzgerald: How about competition, did you have any competition?
- Cabrera: At that time, no competition. After about two years Herman and Tenorio, they called it Herman and Tenorio, they started importing and selling the clothes.
- Fitzgerald: Herman Guerrero?
- Cabrera: Yes, they partnered.
- Fitzgerald: And Joeten?
- Cabrera: Yes.
- Fitzgerald: They were partners?
- Cabrera: Yes.
- Fitzgerald: Oh.
- Cabrera: To start selling the dry goods.
- Fitzgerald: I see.
- Cabrera: They were located on Beach Road. Today, he leases his place on Beach Road.
- Fitzgerald: What year did they start, do you remember?
- Cabrera: I'd say like two years after me, so maybe 1954.

- Fitzgerald: They were your biggest competition?
- Cabrera: Yes. Then I moved to my own store. I didn't like my sister. She didn't give me a chance to go to work for my customers at the beautician shop. She wanted me to stay watching the store. So I was mad one day and I told my husband, "Why don't you build my own store? I'd like to leave from these people before we get in a big fight."
- Fitzgerald: Yes, so where did you go then?
- Cabrera: On the beach. You know where Dr. Cabrera's house is?
- Fitzgerald: Oh, yes.
- Cabrera: So that's neighboring.
- Fitzgerald: Okay. How about, did you let people buy things on credit?
- Cabrera: Yes, this is very bad, very bad, especially for the family. When I left the Susupe store, I had \$15,000 uncollected. Even after I came here [to the Capitol Hill location], still too many. I cannot say no, especially if you're family. Now, my children they just come in and they take it, even one soft drink every day, every night. The children come into the store and just take it, candies and biscuits. It is very bad, so I was thinking I'm going to close next year.
- Fitzgerald: How about unpaid bills, did you have any way to collect them?
- Cabrera: Well, if it is family, I don't like to do collection.
- Fitzgerald: Yes.
- Cabrera: They get mad at you.
- Fitzgerald: Yes.
- Cabrera: After that, they don't talk to you. I don't like that.
- Fitzgerald: So, basically, if somebody didn't pay, you . . .
- Cabrera: Many people die already.
- Fitzgerald: Tisina ma-ayuda.
- Cabrera: When they die, I said, "God knows." Thank you.
- Fitzgerald: Sho-gna-nai. [Ed. note: There's no help for it.]
- Cabrera: Yes. At the time they die, three individuals owed me like \$7,000 some.
- Fitzgerald: So, how long were Herman and Joeten in business together?
- Cabrera: I don't know exactly. After they started selling dry goods, Joeten moved to Susupe. He built quite a big store
- Fitzgerald: Did they have a fight? Or did they just . . .
- Cabrera: I don't know, I cannot answer that.
- Fitzgerald: But then Herman started a bakery?
- Cabrera: Herman started the bakery when the Americans came to Saipan.
- Fitzgerald: Okay.
- Cabrera: Right away. The military gave Herman supplies to make bakery goods, and he built a wood-fired Chamorro oven. Herman hired a Carolinian old man and a lady from Guam

who was the wife of a Saipan local man, and his brother, three of them. He's the manager, Herman. The military gave Herman the flour, the shortening, yeast, sugar for free. I know it was to give the people to taste how is the bread because at that time people were hungry. We had just moved from Susupe Camp. Nobody can make bread. Nobody has an oven, even for the family oven. So he's the one who started that. When the Americans landed and they took people from the caves, they have to take you first to a place where they made a record, how old you are, what's your name, where were you born. That was before ID cards. Then they asked you, what kind of job you worked before [the war]. Me, I'm not working during the Japanese time because I was a school student. Herman was working in a Japanese bakery, Shimada. He mentioned that when they asked him. One of my brothers was a policeman during the Japanese times, the other one was a messenger then. He came every Friday in the small boat from Guam, and he carried the big, how to call that, kabang. Not a briefcase, but he's carrying this bag and this is so many secret agents' [reports] from Guam to the shireibu. [Ed. note: "military headquarters" or "command post."] That is what they call it in Japanese. I don't know how to say that in Americano.

Fitzgerald: Oh, like kempeitai? [Ed. note: gendarmerie or military police.]

Cabrera: Something like that.

Fitzgerald: Like Japanese spies; they're looking for things on Guam?

Cabrera: To present here maybe just to let them know what is going on. So that's what my brother was doing every week. He stopped when the first planes came and he didn't want to go back, so that's why he stayed here.

Fitzgerald: I see.

Cabrera: My other brother, the Japanese put in jail, not only him, but about 12 of them. Whenever you meet somebody [Japanese] in Guam you are supposed to salute or bow down. When I went to Guam and I was talking to Pale Oscar Calvo. You know him? He just died.

Fitzgerald: Monsignor Calvo?

Cabrera: Yes, he just died, now going on three years. I was there [in Guam] and he was telling me the story about Pale Duenas. Only because no salute in front of the office of the Japanese, they cut his head off.

Fitzgerald: Cut his head off? Father Duenas?

Cabrera: Yes, Pale Duenas. He's younger and he's the second priest, Chamorro. First priest is Pale Palomo, the second is Duenas, and third is Oscar Calvo.

Fitzgerald: Because he didn't bow?

Cabrera: Yes. Very mean, the Japanese at that time.

Fitzgerald: Japanese Army?

Cabrera: In Guam.

Fitzgerald: But Herman worked for a bakery, a Japanese bakery called Shimada?

Cabrera: Shimada, yes. There were only two bakeries in Saipan [in Japanese times], the other one is Ota. [Ed. note: the Shimada Bakery where Herman Guerrero worked during the Japanese colonial time was located just between the German pantalan and the Gobietno on what is now the Beach Road and near Horiguchi Building.]

Fitzgerald: So that's where he learned how to be a baker, from the Japanese?

- Cabrera: I don't know if really he knew how to be a baker, but he worked there. Maybe he's only the custodian or what. I don't see him, you know.
- Fitzgerald: So, then with the Navy, he was a baker?
- Cabrera: Yes, the Navy, they give everything free and he sells the small loaf. Selling for 15 cents and we have to line up, all the people have to come and line up. He finished some time around 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon. So we just buy it and take it home. No slice, no plastic bag.
- Fitzgerald: So, Herman's was the only bakery . . .
- Cabrera: In Saipan in the beginning.
- Fitzgerald: ... in Saipan?
- Cabrera: In the beginning, yes. Now, after that, the women started making bread. Most of the women, they built their own ovens. They started from 50 pound [sacks of] flour and they made some bread and like that. So then I closed the beauty shop. I didn't like to be working there any more because I'm very busy in my store, after I built my separate store. At that time, I hired girls to watch the store too, then I started another business that I called the snack mobile. I go to schools, three different schools, and I sold all these foods, from ice cream, hot lunches, sandwiches, tuna sandwiches and hot dogs, and ice cups.
- Fitzgerald: Empanadas?
- Cabrera: Empanada, bonelos, ripe bananas. I put everything in the truck. This is a military truck, my snack mobile.
- Fitzgerald: What year was that?
- Cabrera: Now 1955, I think, 1955 or 1956. Then I started another business. Mr. Brown, one of the American administrators, came to when he found out that I'm going to the schools and feeding the children. He came to me and said, "Escolastica, you know we have only the Navy plane coming [to Saipan] and sometimes the Navy plane is supposed to arrive at 9:00 o'clock and it never comes, all day and it never comes. But the people still stay [at the airport] until they announce the plane is not coming due to engine trouble or maybe it will come this afternoon, something like that." Then Mr. Brown walked inside my store and said, "Escolastica, would you like to go up to the airport and sell all those kinds of food that you are selling at the schools? I like what you're doing at the schools." I said, "Mr. Brown, maybe no using the truck because I have two trucks now, one of my nephews takes one truck to go to Hopwood and me and my husband [take the other truck] to Mt. Carmel where I serve for the high school and all the grade school." It was very easy to make my decision. I said, "You know what, Mr. Brown? Just give me permission. If I can put a building up there, six by six is enough, and they can give me an electricity extension to put the coffee, percolator, I can do it." So, he came back and said, "Okay, go." So I told again my husband go, get a carpenter and build that six by six, put in a small window, put in a door and I think just enough space to make sandwiches, boil eggs, and sell ice cups, soft drinks, cigarettes, no beer. So I made a good business there.
- Fitzgerald: How about Oly Borja, when did he start his business?
- Cabrera: Oly Borja, that was very late. I don't remember what year, but there was already plenty of stores in business, but very, very small.
- Fitzgerald: So, you're the first business woman, right?
- Cabrera: I am the first, right.

Fitzgerald: So, Oly Borja didn't start his business until later?

Cabrera: He started later.

Fitzgerald: What did he do?

Cabrera: They were selling groceries. Most stores were groceries. When I moved here [to Capitol Hill], I make very good business. I purchased this land in 1959 and I just cleaned everything up. There was plenty of tanga-tanga and everything. I had a very good business here. We cooked tapioca and banana and some vegetables. So, when I decide to move from Susupe, that was 1967, I ask a carpenter to put in the concrete floor and I make three bedrooms inside. I wanted to move from Susupe because the location is good for business, but very dangerous for my children. At the time I already had eight children. One time one of my daughters was out on the street at 8:00 o'clock in the morning. A policeman picked the baby up and said, "Whose baby is this one?" I said, "That's mine." Every baby I had was put in the baby crib in the bedroom at night time, but in daytime I would take the baby play pen outside. I put the baby in the play pen because if I'm in store I can also see the baby. I had somebody watching the baby but sometimes they are washing, cleaning the house, and not taking care of the baby. This baby was about two years old and she jumped out of the play pen. When she didn't see me around, she thought maybe I'm over there in my mom's house, in the back of the Style Center. So that happened at 8:00 o'clock in the morning. And at 8:00 o'clock in the evening another different guy comes to the house. My son, six years old and two sons of the Pangelinans the next door to me, they went out to the beach, at the back of my house, and they found a piece of tin. They said they're making a boat out of the tin. They found some rope and they pulled this boat out to the ocean, three of them. It's at low tide, so they can still walk, but what happens when it comes to high tide? This Yapese man, he's working outside the house. I had just come back from my number four baby, and my husband, I sent him to shop something for the store. The guy said, (speaking Japanese too, he cannot speak Chamorro because he is Yapese) "Ma'am, the three kids are out at the reef." I said, "What?" And I looked out the window. "Why are you telling me? I cannot do anything. Why don't you go and get them?" So, he did. He went out and he pulled these three boys off the reef. If not for this guy, already finished these three boys. So since that time, I was thinking, I've got this farm. I told my husband, "We just go, we move. Move. Danger. I don't want to see somebody killed. Even though there were not so many cars at that time.

Fitzgerald: And what year was that?

Cabrera: Maybe 1967, something like that.

Fitzgerald: How did you get along with all the other business people, like Joeten and Herman?

Cabrera: We did very well. We were very friendly. Joeten had the only wholesale also. Nobody else had wholesale at that time. Only one wholesale, so no matter what you like, or you don't like, you have to go there and buy, see?

Fitzgerald: And everybody, even though they're in competition, you were still friendly to each other?

Cabrera: Oh yes. Because Joeten and my husband are second cousins and we are very close to them.

Fitzgerald: Did you have a Chamber of Commerce or something like that?

Cabrera: I was very active in Chamber of Commerce. One time during the Trust Territory time, they elected me to be secretary.

- Fitzgerald: So they had a Chamber of Commerce for Saipan?
- Cabrera: Yes. Beginning in 1970, I was running the Farmer's Market.
- Fitzgerald: Oh, down near the Post Office?
- Cabrera: Yes. For 10 years I ran it and it did very well at that time. I was the manager for that. They called it CAA, Community Action [Agency], and there was federal money to pay anybody who's working there. Every day they changed who's going to work in the store. I don't think that is right. They don't know anything about business. When they say no more funds from the federal government, they're going to close the building over there. I was on the board of directors. Ten of us started the Farmer's Market. So, one day I heard that they were going to close the market. (Any decision, I always ask my husband or I just let him know. Sometimes I'm not asking, I just say this is my idea. This is the kind of life I have with my husband. This is very true. Sometimes I didn't ask, I was telling him if I want to go some place.) I said wait. Then we went to the director for the Agriculture, this is during Trust Territory time. The farmers complained where to sell the product, no? Where to sell, no store, no place to sell. I had already moved from Susupe. My building is empty. It is a good location. So, I told everybody who is present at that time, I say, "You know what? Maybe we can put the market in my place, in Susupe. I've got the building, I've got light and everything, a good location, good parking, but I want \$100.00 a month at least for the utilities." So, everybody agrees, yes, so they can bring all the products and sell there. Then, somebody got jealous, and said \$100.00 is very expensive, so somebody offered a place in Chalan Kanoa. It was a small building and very dark building, no windows and only one door in the front but they offer \$40.00 a month. So, the board liked to go to that \$40.00 a month rent, so they moved from my place where everything is good but it is \$100.00 rent. So, they put in the Farmers Market in there. It was no good, very dark. And the person who is managing that, they put the money in the pocket. What next? They close again. Then they put it the big building in Chalan Kanoa, The Congress of Micronesia is supposed to have spent \$30,000.00 on that building. I know everything about that.
- Fitzgerald: In the 1960s, what was the attitude regarding reunification with Guam?
- Cabrera: Well, I was in the Popular Party. The Territorial Party had a different name then. It was Telijula. Then Territorial, then Republican. At that time, our family had a big fight because my husband and I like to stay in the Popular Party. Two of my brothers followed Olympio Borja to the Territorial Party, what is now the Republican Party. Olympio Borja is my first cousin, from the Borja, the Tudela, but I don't want to go to the Republican Party. At that time Judge Benavente, Ignacio Benavente, was also in the Popular Party, so we stayed. My brother would get mad with me and said, "Hey, you're kaduka, don't come to the house." "Okay. Never mind, I don't come to your house."
- Fitzgerald: He was Territorial?
- Cabrera: Yes.
- Fitzgerald: Your brother?
- Cabrera: Because they followed Olympio.
- Fitzgerald: The Popular Party, were they in favor of uniting with Guam?
- Cabrera: Yes, that is to be united with Guam, but these people [the Territorial Party] they don't want that.
- Fitzgerald: They didn't want that?

- Cabrera: I don't know who's the Americano who taught them to go direct, direct they call it. Everyone [in the Popular Party wanted] to go to Guam.
- Fitzgerald: So how did you feel when the Guam voters said no in 1969?
- Cabrera: We were sorry. They were wrong. They were very wrong, and now they regret it. So many of my friends coming here they were telling me after that happened, Esco, you in Saipan had a very good idea. How is everything going [with] this kind of status? And like that. They are jealous of us now, and they regret the vote.
- Fitzgerald: Were you mad at the Guamanians then, or now?
- Cabrera: I'm not really mad because I have so many friends there, but I said I'm sorry. We are only one Chamorro [people]. Back then, if I go to the United States and if I am in line at the Immigration, even in Guam, and one of the people in front of me is Guamanian, at that time it hurt my feelings, you know when we were in the Trust Territory and we have to put out our TT passport, show to Immigration. These people just keep looking from the Immigration, Guamanian! Guamanian! At that time, I feel bad because they are proud of themselves being Guamanian. They are not thinking that we are brothers and sisters, we are Chamorros.
- Fitzgerald: You were on the Saipan Municipal Council, right?
- Cabrera: I'm the first woman, not elected, but appointed. Mayor Sablan appointed me. Felipe Ruak resigned because his health is not so good. I don't know how they were thinking of me. When the messenger came and asked me to be on the Council, that Mayor Sablan wanted me to take over the seat of Felipe Ruak to be on the Saipan Congress at that time, not yet a municipal council, but the Congress, I said, "You know what, Tun Ben? Felipe Ruak is the secretary. I haven't gone to school. I don't know how to write English. I'm just very honest. Many people maybe are more educated than me. Why me?" "Well, Escolastica, the Mayor wants you." "Well, I don't think so, go and look more for somebody else." So he went and he came back again two times and he said, "Mayor Sablan wants you. He said he doesn't care about how to write or read, somebody can write, somebody can read for you, but he needs your brain". I said, "Okay, If it is that way, maybe I try."
- Fitzgerald: How long did you do it?
- Cabrera: It's just one year.
- Fitzgerald: Did you ever do any more politics?
- Cabrera: One of my older daughters ran. It was during the Froilan Tenorio Administration. When Froilan Tenorio and Herman Guerrero ran, she ran at that time.
- Fitzgerald: But you didn't want ever to run again?
- Cabrera: No. There are many educated women already.
- Fitzgerald: Oh, maybe you are too busy with the business?
- Cabrera: Yes, also that. But I learned a lot of things from that one year. I'm the only woman and I can see some man sitting and sitting and never open the mouth. But in my time, that was in 1963, the United Nations had a visiting mission to the Marianas. I was there at the meeting. I pounded the table. I stood up and I talked. I asked why is everybody always talking about the social, the economic, the education, but I don't see anything happening. I don't see anything. Especially on the economic side. What kind of economic situation do we have here in Saipan? At that time we had so many snails, African snails. And all the vegetables, when you plant today and tomorrow you grow like one inch, two inches, you

go next day, no more. Eaten by the snails. What kind of economic progress is that? We don't even help the farmers to grow vegetables and help the people running a farm. So I'm standing up and I talk about that. One of the visiting mission members is a Liberian woman.

Fitzgerald: So, you enjoyed it when you did it?

Cabrera: I did very well. I'm happy.

Fitzgerald: What did you think of the administration by the Navy until 1962?

Cabrera: This delayed the development of Saipan, of the Commonwealth. Yes, this is the big delay because at that time if, like my daughter after she graduates from high school, she really wants to go to college, but at that time only close friends [of the administrative personnel], one or two, even if the other students have a good record, other people are turned down. That's no good. At that time many parents talk about that because they [the administrators] are only selecting who is their own friend or their own relative.

Fitzgerald: So, who's doing that, the Navy commanders?

Cabrera: No. After the Navy, they call it the Administration. The Administration decides on whoever applies to go to college. Do you know maybe this man, Commander Norman Miller? You know him?

Fitzgerald: No

Cabrera: I don't know if he's still alive. He's the one who came to Saipan and always, every day he was coming to my place. Everybody came to my shop to see what kind of food I'm cooking. Miller was the Dean at the University of Hawaii. One time, after I already moved up here, one of my sons wanted to go to join the Job Corps. He's not good at school. I heard that people can go to Job Corps to learn more vocational things. I went to the office, and I asked if my son wanted to go to the Job Corps, can he apply and so like that. They answer me at that time they said, no, because that program is only for the low income. They put us in the high income [category] because I was running the store. Miller came here that time with the wife. He brought his wife to my restaurant, so I attend to him and I give him a free lunch. I told him only a couple of months ago I was down at the office and I asked to have one of my sons go to Job Corps to study some vocation, but they just told me [he] cannot because I'm a high income family. Then he said, "Okay, after I leave here, I will find out." One week later, he sent me letter and he said, Mrs. Cabrera, no matter high or low income, everybody is eligible to come to the Job Corps. Oh, maybe they [at the administrative office] got copy, cc no? Then they called me, "Mrs. Cabrera, we want to send your son to the Job Corps. So you can tell your son to come here and just sign all these papers to go." So my son went to the Job Corps for two years. Now this son is in Houston, Texas, working for an airline.

Fitzgerald: Oh, is that right?

Cabrera: Already more than five years.

Fitzgerald: Okay.

Cabrera: He worked here for five years and everybody was laid off. So in Houston they said they have open a good job there, so [he is] almost five years over there.

Fitzgerald: But then after the Navy left in 1962, then you had the Trust Territory government?

Cabrera: When the Trust Territory [headquarters] came to Saipan, Benitez was the Deputy High Commissioner.

- Fitzgerald: Who was that?
- Cabrera: Benitez is a Mexicano, not Americano.
- Fitzgerald: So, what did you think of the Trust Territory government?
- Cabrera: Before the Trust Territory, after the Navy, they had what they call NTTU. That is the Navy Technical something, I don't know what else, very secret. Very secret. That was the time when they built all these houses.
- Fitzgerald: Up at Capitol Hill?
- Cabrera: Yes, that time in 1955 when the DPN came from Guam. At that time I have very good business in Susupe because there were 200 Filipino workers only allowed to go shop between 5:00 o'clock to 7:00, two hours, and only in Susupe. There were three stores there, the one of the Pangelinan stores, my store and my brother's store. So there was a bus to go to these three stores. They can park the bus and they can get off and they can go back and forth to the three different stores. But they were not allowed to go inside the village. And that happened in my store one time. When already all aboard to go, one Filipino was hiding. I don't know where the policeman found him. He didn't want to go back to the barracks. They put him in jail that time.
- Fitzgerald: So, what did you think of the High Commissioners, like Johnston?
- Cabrera: Johnston? He's nice. Before Johnston is . . .
- Fitzgerald: Norwood?
- Cabrera: Norwood also. Everybody is my good friend. How about before Norwood?
- Fitzgerald: Goding?
- Cabrera: Goding?
- Fitzgerald: Yes.
- Cabrera: Yes, all the wives were coming to my store and shopping and talking. At New Year's, I don't know maybe because they know me very well, for congress woman and business woman, they invited me to go to his [Goding's] house, they called an open house.
- Fitzgerald: On New Years Day?
- Cabrera: New Year's Day. We have drinks and eat some snacks.
- Fitzgerald: Who did you like best of the three?
- Cabrera: I think all of them know me very well. One time when my daughter went to school, in 1972, I was crying in pain, at Kobler Airport. I was crying because that was the first time to separate the family, and I'm not used to that. Commander Johnston came to me, he kissed me and he patted my back to make me stop crying, you know. Norwood is also very good friend of mine.
- Fitzgerald: And then he went to work for Black Construction?
- Cabrera: Yes, right, and I heard he died. I saw him one time in Guam before he died. I know them because they were shopping in my store.
- Fitzgerald: What about the Congress of Micronesians people, like Lazarus Salii?
- Cabrera: Yes. I was very friendly with them, from Palau, from Yap, from Ponape. At that time I had a good business here [on Capitol Hill] when everybody stayed in this housing area, very

- good. I'm selling a lot of betelnut, I'm selling whatever they request. They like fish, I can buy fish and bring here and taro, banana, and all kind of things.
- Fitzgerald: I guess they all lived here for quite a while?
- Cabrera: Yes, they were staying until everybody moved out.
- Fitzgerald: Andon Amaraich?
- Cabrera: Everybody, I know him.
- Fitzgerald: And John Mangefel?
- Cabrera: Yes, from Yap.
- Fitzgerald: Tosiwo Nakayama, President of Palau later on?
- Cabrera: One of my son's classmates, Eloy, is married to Palauan lady. They went to Palau to baptize their child in Palau, to have the party there, big party. So my son went there because he's the godparent. And everybody was asking who is he? People from Palau did not know my son and those who know my son, they always say, oh that's Esco's son. So, my son is very happy that a lot of people came to greet him.
- Fitzgerald: Because you knew all these people from . . .
- Cabrera: Yes, when they were here.
- Fitzgerald: . . .when they were in the Congress of Micronesia?
- Cabrera: Yes. One of my uncles had land in Yap and before he died, he gave me a piece of paper, and he signed that I can take this land, 13 hectares in three different places. I've never seen it. We are always talking, my husband and I, we'd like to see it. We will go to Yap to see it. When I had the restaurant, one of the Yapese men was eating over here and I talked about that. He said, "Yes, Mrs. Cabrera, if you go Yap and we cannot exchange the land to Saipan, maybe you can sell," something like that. Since that time I never go to Yap, so too bad. But my husband still remembers all the names of that.
- Fitzgerald: Of the land?
- Cabrera: Yes.
- Fitzgerald: What do you think that the Trust Territory did that was good?
- Cabrera: Not much, because the salary is very low and everybody complained that their salary is never enough to live on.
- Fitzgerald: You mean the ones that came from the States? Or the ones that are from Saipan?
- Cabrera: The locals. They pay all the Americans good, their salary is high. When my husband was policeman every ten days he receives \$70.70, so now he doesn't have the privilege of a retirement [payment] because I told him to stop to help me in my business because I said your salary is nothing. If we had only that salary, if I'm not running the businesses for these so many children we have, I'm going to ask the Red Cross to help us. Sometimes I say that, but I'm making my business and when I stand, during the Christmas season, believe me, I can stand from 8:00 o'clock in the morning to 10:00 o'clock at night serve many, many customers coming in and out. Sometimes I have a good day, sometimes even one week no customer, it's okay. The low income is like \$700 some and the high income is \$2,000 some.
- Fitzgerald: So, can you think of anything good that the Trust Territory did?

- Cabrera: I'm not sure. The roads are never fixed. The water is still same as today even though this government, and every government, campaigns for 24 hours water. It never happened. Maybe some places have now, but here, sometimes 12:00 o'clock no more water. I like to take a shower in the evening, but I cannot do it.
- Fitzgerald: How about when Northern Marianas decided to separate from the other parts of the Trust Territory, from Palau and Yap, what did you think of that?
- Cabrera: I think everybody was happy about that.
- Fitzgerald: Everybody what?
- Cabrera: Happy, because we have our own government when they elected first Governor, Carlos Camacho.
- Fitzgerald: So, you were in favor of that separation?
- Cabrera: Yes. Yes.
- Fitzgerald: And did you know that there were these negotiations going on between 1972 and 1975 between the United States and the Marianas?
- Cabrera: They called the plebiscite?
- Fitzgerald: Yes.
- Cabrera: And Ambassador Williams?
- Fitzgerald: Yes, what do you think of him?
- Cabrera: He's very good. He's a friend of mine.
- Fitzgerald: Is that right, you knew him too?
- Cabrera: Yes, he came one time during Governor Guerrero's Administration. It was Governor Guerrero's birthday and he was eating in the Hyatt and he was back of me, he patted my back and greeted me, Esco!
- Fitzgerald: So you liked him?
- Cabrera: Oh yes, a nice man
- Fitzgerald: How about Eddie Pangelinan?
- Cabrera: Yes, he's nice too.
- Fitzgerald: And, Ben Santos?
- Cabrera: Who?
- Fitzgerald: Ben Santos?
- Cabrera: Oh yes, yes
- Fitzgerald: He was involved in the political status negotiations.
- Cabrera: Yes, yes. They did very well. But Eddie, when he ran to the Republicans, he get mad, so he went to the Republicans, he changed a little bit. Sometimes he comes here, but not like before.
- Fitzgerald: What do you think of Felix Rabauliman?
- Cabrera: I think those people are very strong Republicans. Yes, also I know him.
- Fitzgerald: How about Oscar Rasa?

- Cabrera: I don't think very well of him. That building they call Oriental? My good friend is the owner of the place and she's a Korean, husband Korean, and she's Catholic and every time we go to church every week we go to her restaurant for breakfast and every time we're there, Oscar Rasa is there and we meet him with some other people from Rota, from Tinian. I don't know what they are doing.
- Fitzgerald: How about Dr. Palacios?
- Cabrera: He's good.
- Fitzgerald: And, Danny Muna?
- Cabrera: Yes, Danny Muna is my nephew from the Tudela side. When I was in the Saipan Congress, we made the resolution for the John Kennedy head, we bring a John Kennedy monument and we decide to put it in front of Mt. Carmel.
- Fitzgerald: Right. Right.
- Cabrera: I don't know how many years when somebody asked the Bishop to remove the head and just to put a Mt. Carmel statue there, and now they've removed [it].
- Fitzgerald: Oh that Kennedy head is not there anymore?
- Cabrera: No, no, long time ago, during a typhoon it was broken on the face and they put in the warehouse down at the Lower Base. And I've been asking, Mr. Mayor, where is the Kennedy head? I'd like to see that we can put back, if we cannot put in the front of the church, perhaps look if you can put it at the Museum or up there in the Governor's Office or somewhere? See, we in the Saipan Congress at that time we made this resolution to make the Kennedy head and I would like to see that put somewhere. Mayor Sablan again finished his four years, nothing. But now under Mayor Tudela very nice, it's inside the Mayor's Office, but it's a different face and I don't like that. They paint navy blue and black hair and just is not like the original. I have an idea. I don't want to be in retail any more. I'm going to put together something like a museum. Yes, it will be my last business.
- Fitzgerald: How about since 1978 when the Commonwealth started, what have been the good things?
- Cabrera: It's good because everybody can open their eyes now. You know, many people came back from United States educated, men and women, and I think they like it when they also have their own congress and senator and everything.
- Fitzgerald: So you think since 1978 the people of Saipan have a lot more opportunities to do things?
- Cabrera: Yes, and so many opportunities especially the food stamps for the low income people. That's many good things. You see poor people very happy that they receive this kind of privilege. It's a lot of growth [in the Commonwealth] it's different, different time.
- Fitzgerald: How about the bad things that have happened since?
- Cabrera: Well, yes, one bad thing is bringing this poison, like marijuana or drugs into the Commonwealth.
- Fitzgerald: Yes.
- Cabrera: I never have seen that before. I never have to be afraid of danger even if I work myself down here. Before when I was driving, I was attending meetings, sometimes by myself, in Chalan Kanoa at 10:00 o'clock in the evening. I can drive myself. But now I cannot, so

sometimes I am thinking if I have a flat tire before Vestcor, that place is all boonies. No street lights. If I had a flat, I cannot fix my own tire, so maybe I'm going to leave the car, I'm going to hide in the grass, because I am afraid of the people. If it was only Chamorros, I'm not afraid, but I am afraid of these Palauans, Trukese, Ponapeans, some other people you know when they get drunk. They have different customs and I don't know them. Right now, many good families cannot depend on their children. The children, they don't please the parent. If they want something, they just do it. I don't like the American rules.

Our rules? No matter how old you are if you're not married, you cannot go away from your parents. Man or woman. That is our custom during the old times. Now? If 18 years old, they want to go to rent the apartment and stay, now they stay with the boyfriend and like that and making babies and so, that's something I don't like. The number two that I don't like is that I cannot beat you. My Tata told me when he raised us, they would beat us with a belt they made from the tail of the cow. After they remove the leather, they braid it. Sometimes they put pieces of wood for the handle. That is the one, but you have to lie down, lie down and I give you pak-pak one, or two, three. My Tata told us, don't break the bone. Don't break the bone because you cannot fix it and don't beat the head, because the head is the brain. But now, this I don't like because even a pinch and some one will call the, what are you calling that?

Fitzgerald: Child abuse. DYS?

Cabrera: Yes, DYS.

Fitzgerald: How about the economic development of Saipan, what do you think of that?

Cabrera: I'm very disappointed, because I wanted to put in a tapioca factory. I know tapioca is very easy to grow and at that time there is plenty of land. A lot of people know how to make their own. I went to Japan, me and my husband, and I take some of my accountants with me. I've got a feasibility study. When I went to Japan, we visited the guy making the machine and we saw everything. We went to Kyushu and there they cannot make it with tapioca but they use the sweet potato, so the sweet potato is providing the starch and they make katakuri. [Ed. note: "katakuri", originally dogtooth violet starch, later sweet potato starch; different from tapioca starch.] I learned from them and they gave me the price to purchase that. Two Japanese came and we talked with the Commerce on that time, Fred Camacho. Bill Stewart promised me to do the feasibility study, but he asking \$22,000.00 for this. This was during Camacho government.

Fitzgerald: EDLF? [Economic Development Load Fund]

Cabrera: EDLF. He hid my application. I asking \$2.5 million to complete the machine and the Lieutenant Governor, Pete Agulto (who served with Teno) promised me I can have one well, because you need lots of water to wash the tapioca. He promised me that. I went go to the Governor, and I said, "Governor I need financial help, because I would like to put this factory in Saipan and I would like to make money for the Chamorro people." The Chamorro people when they first start after World War II everything is broke. So many Chamorro say they never trust the Chamorro how to open the kabu-nushi, right? [Ed. note: Incorporation or establishing a company with shareholders.] To be a corporation. But if I do this, I can show that a Chamorro can run a factory and produce tapioca. I've got the machine still to now, that's why I'd like to put this machine in my museum. Since 1955, when my husband made this machine, a lot of people came almost every day to rent, to grind the tapioca.

Fitzgerald: So they never gave you the loan?

- Cabrera: When Herman Guerrero was in the Senate, I lobbied him and one time he said we'd have a meeting around 3:00 o'clock at the CDA, so me and my husband went there. So, all the board is around so, already matai, he died, Juan Sablan. You know, I feel sorry, Juan Sablan but he's on the board of the California Bank because he knows about money. He's the one first told me like this. "Mrs. Cabrera, if you have this money, this much money, you're going to finish all the CDA money for only yourself." I don't know how much money they had, but I needed that much money. That kind of talk to me already my heart is broken. Then he said, "Mrs. Cabrera, my mom also knows how to make starch, tapioca starch." But I want to [make it] in a factory. Anybody can make 10 pounds or what, but I want to put the factory because I already have the study of the feasibility. One hectare of property you can earn (in one year) about \$40,000. You can plant the tapioca branch and you can still go to work. You don't need to come back and cut the grass, you don't need to put the water. One year, six months already you can harvest. For six months to eight months that is the good time to get the starch. And the by product is good for animal feed. Everybody can raise pigs or chickens. During the Okinawa time, the Japanese time they bought the tapioca by-product, you can just park there, down hill, and get food for the chickens. And you don't have to buy animal feed. So, they didn't give me the money. That's why I'm going to put this thing in my museum.
- Fitzgerald: Yes.
- Cabrera: And the starch now? See, how the apigigi doing now, we buy tapioca starch from Thailand? Every month may be 50 cases. Why do we do this?
- Fitzgerald: Because the EDLF wasn't very . . .
- Cabrera: They don't trust me.
- Fitzgerald: They didn't have any vision?
- Cabrera: And he's very young.
- Fitzgerald: Is that Fred?
- Cabrera: Yes, Fred Camacho. He never saw the two factories here down in the Lower Base [during Japanese times], the very big factory they call Nan'yo Tapioca Kaisha, the other factory is named Ohashi Dempun.
- Fitzgerald: Yes. Nan'yo Tapioca Factory.
- Cabrera: Nan'yo Tapioca. I would have named my corporation the Northern Marianas Tapioca Factory. Not Esco. Not Gregorio. And I think this is good for all entire Marianas people.
- Fitzgerald: What do you think about the garment factories here in Saipan?
- Cabrera: No good. Too much problem. Trouble. Maybe it is good for the Governor because earning the tax, but that's all.
- Fitzgerald: What kind of problems are there?
- Cabrera: Oh, the workers run away and kidnappings or suicides. Too many people are hiding from Immigration. Too much problem for the Immigration.
- Fitzgerald: How about the tourist industry?
- Cabrera: Tourist industry is good. I have many Japanese talking to me, some Japanese come only one time in Saipan and told me like this. Not much place to see, only they go to Last Command Post or go to Managaha and just ride on the bus and go to swimming. But suppose I continue my idea. I will call it the Saipan Marianas Culture Center and I will

collect some things from World War II, some antique things that maybe already are over some hundred years old. I'd like to educate the new generation.

Fitzgerald: What's your feeling about the education system?

Cabrera: Education today? They say they are learning many, many things. They've got new textbooks. Only now they like to learn English and forget the Chamorro language. So, that's not right and I'm not happy about the education system. After the war, my Tata has a crippled leg because he broke his leg two times when he worked on the farm. So he cannot work any more. My mom is old. All my older sisters and my older brothers were married, so I'm the one to stay with my parents. So, like I said, I help my parents and I don't go to school. So, when I start to have babies, children, I never speak English inside my house. I speak Chamorro. I don't go to school, but I can speak English, even not 100 percent, maybe not everything, but I can keep learning because I have the business and many different people are coming in. At that time there was no Japanese language in Saipan because no Japanese, no tourist, not even the Micronesians are coming that time, and all the Micronesians can speak English. So, in 1957 when I went to Japan, that was my first trip to shop, me and my brothers again and my young sister. Every place I go, the Japanese never know Saipan and never hear Saipan, only that the Japanese [who] have been in Saipan [know about it].

Fitzgerald: How did you get to Japan in 1957?

Cabrera: The Trans Ocean plane. Only Trans Ocean plane.

Fitzgerald: Went from Guam to Japan?

Cabrera: Yes, from Saipan to Guam, Guam to Okinawa, then Okinawa to Japan. And that time when we reached Okinawa, there's a big typhoon. We were supposed to be allowed to stay only 72 hours but maybe we stayed like two days more because of the typhoon.

Fitzgerald: That was Air Force or Navy plane?

Cabrera: I don't know whether that was a military plane, I just know Trans Ocean, two propeller.

Fitzgerald: That was the name of it, Trans Ocean?

Cabrera: The name was Trans Ocean. Only two propellers, not jet.

Fitzgerald: How about the health of the people of the Northern Marianas, is it better since 1978?

Cabrera: Yes, because after the Navy left, they had first doctor come. This is only first local doctor, Dr. Dela Cruz. I don't know what his first name is. He's the first doctor. He's the one who delivered my one, two babies. After the Navy, the Interior came. That time is bad, bad conditions. I had two babies born in the Interior time. Then Dr. Palacios became a doctor, on my third baby. They were still in the Quonset hut down in Susupe. Then Dr. Chong came.

Fitzgerald: How about Dr. Torres Hospital, did you have any babies there?

Cabrera: Yes, my number 10. Before he's the Governor, Carlos Camacho was a doctor. And Dr. Cabrera, who is my brother-in-law, my husband's young brother. Then Dr. Kaipat. Before Dr. Cabrera, I think Dr. Torres is number one.

Fitzgerald: Where's Dr. Cabrera now?

Cabrera: He's retired.

Fitzgerald: Retired.

- Cabrera: Now, he's in the States. He went to see the doctor in Seattle for an operation on his knee. He's not working. He's the same age as me, going to be 75.
- Fitzgerald: But you think the health situation today is better?
- Cabrera: Yes, it's better, much better and the hospital is clean. Before when it was in the Quonset hut, you could almost watch the rat walking on the feet.
- Fitzgerald: Even Dr. Torres, Dr. Torres Hospital was not so good?
- Cabrera: Yes, not as clean as today, because only they hired two ladies for sweeping and mopping. Many Chamorro people bring food from home and especially the Carolinian people and they got their food in the cabinet and when they not eat, still maybe the rat is coming, looking for the food and is not enough clean.
- Fitzgerald: When did you get married?
- Cabrera: 1951.
- Fitzgerald: And, how many children do you have?
- Cabrera: Thirteen. And everybody is alive, they all live here. I have children on Tinian, too. Senator David Cing's wife, that's my daughter. My third child.
- Fitzgerald: And, how many grandchildren?
- Cabrera: I think more than 40 already. And I have 12 great grandchildren.
- Fitzgerald: So, when you were married, what church was that?
- Cabrera: When I was married there was only Mt. Carmel.
- Fitzgerald: Who was the priest then?
- Cabrera: The first priest after the Spanish priests left was Pale Ferdinand. He died when he was sent to Santa Rita in Guam.
- Fitzgerald: But before the war, they were all Spanish?
- Cabrera: All Spanish.
- Fitzgerald: And then after was Americans?
- Cabrera: Yes, Spanish and American.
- Fitzgerald: Pale Arnold, do you remember him?
- Cabrera: Pale Arnold married us in 1951. When I celebrate the silver jubilee 25 years, Pale Arnold came back and I was so happy and he gave me the 25 jubilee.
- Fitzgerald: So, Father Arnold, he was here in 1950?
- Cabrera: Since 1950, no, the priest was named Ferdinand. When the Mt. Carmel Church was built, that's Pale Ferdinand the one, so in 1952 Pale Arnold came back and Ferdinand went. Capuchin. The Capuchins came after the Jesuits.
- Fitzgerald: So, the Spanish were Jesuits?
- Cabrera: Yes, yes. So, now the Capuchins are here. There's been change even the church.
- Fitzgerald: So, in old days, the mass was in Latin?
- Cabrera: Before.
- Fitzgerald: Yes.

Cabrera: But not now.

Fitzgerald: Okay, that's all the questions we have. Thank you very much again for helping with this project. It's been really a nice morning.