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## Jackie Tulee Interview

Jackie Tulee

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San Jose State University Department of Anthropology  
San Jose Experiences of American Indians in the Urban Relocation Project

Date of Interview: 3/24/16

Interviewers: Professor Jan English-Lueck and Graduate Student Alisha Ragland

Interviewee: Jackie Tulee

Interviewer: We are rolling, go ahead. So, Jackie, we're going to let Alisha ask most of the questions, but I'd like to kinda introduce what we're doing here. This idea came from the new museum- from Amy Long at the new museum of Los Gatos, in cooperation with people like Al Cross, that the time had come to really capture the stories about relocation to San Jose and to the Bay Area. So we're gonna ask you a series of questions to just tell us about your life: your life on the reservation, your decision to come into the relocation program, what it was like, especially during that first few years of the relocation program, and then how you built a life here, how you came back to the reservation. We'll have a whole series of questions for you. Alisha will ask most of the questions and every once in a while I'll pop in with an additional question.

Jackie: Okay.

Interviewer: So, Alisha, take it away.

Alisha/Interviewer: Okay, so, beginning with your first involvement in the Urban Relocation Program, can you describe your experience and your concerns at different stages along the way and how you dealt with them?

Jackie: When I was at the Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas at the time, I met my husband. He's Yakama. And we got married, and we went back to...so he could finish. And before we...before he finished, we decided that...we'd heard of relocation. Weren't sure what it was about, but we decided that we'd take a chance on it. So he filled out the paperwork at the school. How did we decide on San Jose? Somewhere...When we were dating, I told him that I lived in California and that all I could remember was the sun shining on my hair. And he liked that idea, of the sun always being there. And we decided then on San Jose because Oakland and San Francisco and LA were way too big for us. And we went back home to his reservation and we kind of forgot about it for just...I don't know, we got wrapped up, and then we realized that his parents, my parents didn't like the idea that we were married, and we wanted to make our marriage work. So we decided, let's go. I'm gonna cough. I'm gonna cough. (coughs) Excuse me. We decided that we will go on relocation. We left about three in the morning, headed out, and it was in February 1960. Got down to Redding and it was hot. We'd been wearing sweatshirts, you know, from this cold. And by the time we got to Mt. Shasta, we had shed the sweatshirts. Wearing t-shirts. And we saw this big, orange...didn't know what it was. And it was a place where they made real orange juice. We'd never had that before. That was brand new to us. And we stopped and we got a quart each. It seemed like it was the right thing to do. And we went on and we found another one, got some more. And we got into San Jose February 13th. The BIA, we didn't know where it was. We pulled into a little motel on 13th street. Real little. Next morning we got up and he went over to...we found the BIA and he went in and told them that he was here, because he was told that he would have a job waiting for him. Not true. I'm gonna cough again. (coughs) I don't know why I'm coughing. Anyway.

Interviewer: It's a dusty room.

Jackie: That might be it. Okay. And, uh, went to a guy who was sitting there, feet up on the desk, San Jose Mercury, and Larry...you know, turned to Larry, "Can I help you?" He says, "Yeah, I'm supposed to have a job, I'd like to report," blah, blah, blah.

**[00:05:00]**

"You don't have a job." (coughs) Oh boy. "We didn't get a job for you, you do that." I thought, wait a minute, that isn't what we were told at relocation. He gave Larry the classifieds and told him to find his own job. Welcome to San Jose. (laughs) Welcome to the BIA. So, he found a job in Belmont the next day. I don't know if this is gonna work. (coughs) (film cuts out)

Interviewer: (film cuts back in) Alright, go ahead.

Jackie: Found a job in Belmont, then we found a place to stay, and someone from the BIA told us we can stay in this room over this bar. And I said no. I said, "You guys wanted us to improve our lot in life," and I said, "Staying over a bar, I've never done that before. I'm not staying in a bar, or a room over the bar." (coughs) It'll get there. And we stayed in our little place on 13th Street. He went to work, I took the car and looked around in San Carlos. And I found a place real close, one block off of El Camino, right next to Belmont. \$95 a month. Well, we thought we could make it. He was going to be bringing home \$65.49 a week, and if I got a lot of things on sale, we would make \$95 a week- I mean a month, on our rent. We were there for a year. During that time, my mother-in-law called and she said she'd heard that Larry (laughs) was beating me up, getting drunk, and doing all these crazy things. No he's not. He's working. Someone down at the BIA, gossipping, said the wrong name, got our families really worried. So we decided that we were going to kind of stay away from the BIA. And we did. And then some time later, we found out that they were taking the credit for us. And we wouldn't go back down there and talk to them or anything. He worked at this place for fifty-one weeks and the man laid him off. We found out that he did that with these mechanics. Work them, that way he didn't have to give them the two weeks vacation. He found a couple other jobs, and I was working at Lincurd (???) at the time. And a lady there said, "You know, we've got some homes here in Santa Clara." "Where's Santa Clara?" And she brought us down and we looked around and thought, oh man. That's pretty nice. So we found out how much they were. Fifteen five. And, well, if we can...what does it cost to get into it? "You need \$250 down." We found that money. We were thinking of maybe trying to get to Europe, just to go. We'd never been. But we decided to put our money towards this house. And we had to live there six months, to show them that we were going to really buy. And then the day came. They paid the closing costs, the mortgage company. We were in debt now \$88 a month. I'm sorry, \$113 a month. For twenty-five years. And I ended up working at, well, a couple of other places. And finally got to Lockhead. And along the way, we found...there were powwows down here. Well, let's go. (laughs) And, you look around, and..."Don't I know you? You went to Haskell?"

**[00:10:00]**

And that seemed to be the connection with everybody was Haskell. And we ended up...a lot of us ended up...formed a club. And it was just a get-together. It ended up being more like family, like we'd made up our own tribe. And if anyone needed help, or, you know, you'd just...that was it. Bucky L. was there. His sister Dorothy. I mean, I could go on and on with all the names. But we became a family. And that was really nice, because back home we were called "urban Indian." I don't know if we liked it or not. At the beginning of when they started this relocation, we knew that some of the people were coming down here...Or, I say here. Wherever they wanted to go. And they were using it in the winter time, like get away from the snow. And that wasn't what it was for. It was to start a new life. And I remember when Larry and I

first came down, what we really liked about it, people didn't stare at us. I'm fair. Larry is dark. And back home, the non Indians would look at me, and they'd look at him, and it was like maybe a little bit of disgust in their look. Down here, nobody cared. We were Jackie and Larry. It was really cool. No one cared. It was just...It was just really nice. And Larry ended up working for United Airlines. He retired from there. He put in a lot of years. And during that time, we never made it to Europe, but we made it to Hawaii. (laughs) We took our kids to Hawaii, we took our kids here and there, flew them, and had a great time. It was just really super. One of the things that really helped our kids, even though we were away from home; we would have people over. Larry golfed. A bunch of them got together and started golfing, and I hadn't paid attention to this until Brian, our son, mentioned to me, "You know, Mom, I learned a lot more about Indians than I think if I'd been at home." "What're you talking about?" He says, well, when Indian golfers would come over to the house and I'd fix dinner or lunch, whatever, for them, they'd start talking. And he said the Sioux's would talk about what they did. He said the Choctaws would talk and Paiutes. And everybody would talk about back home. And he said, "I learned more about different tribes." We have some people from Alaska. We all learned. Or, he did. I'm sorry, he did. Well, we did, too. And he said, you know, everybody shares their stories and there's always laughing going on. He said it was great. He said, "I like that." And he said, "Some of these guys, they ended up being like an uncle. Uncle Art." Uncle Art is since deceased. There are just a lot of them. They would tease him. We had a dog. Little dog. And Uncle Art said, "Oh, he's just the right size! I'm a dog eating Sioux. Don't tell him that!" Our son kept his dog away from Uncle Art after that. (laughs) He wasn't sure if he really meant it or not. And that's about it. We've been here ever since. Same house. Now you find a car for fifteen five and you have to pay it off in, what? Four years? Five years? And here we are. Fifty...about fifty-three years later. We don't want to move. I mean, if we moved, it would be within California, but we don't...We raised our kids down here. This is their home.

Interviewer: Were they born here? Were your kids born here?

Jackie: Both of our kids were adopted. I had (pauses) four miscarriages, and the doctor said maybe we best...you know, go down another street.

**[00:15:00]**

So...we called up, or I did, I called up the San Jose, I guess it's called Children's Services at the time. I'm not sure. Told them what we wanted and that we were thinking about adopting, give us information and..."What is it...Who do you want to adopt?" And I said, "Well, we wanna go Native American?" "Full blood?" "If you have one?" "Half?" "If you have one?" "Mixed with what?" "We don't care." And she was throwing some things at us and I know she was trying to see if we were prejudiced or what. And I said, we don't care. Give us a child. That's what we want. A baby, whatever. And one day they called us, and they said, "We have a seven year old. He's Eskimo. Think you'd be interested?" "Yeah." So they brought him out and as it turned out, he's fair like I am, but he's got curly hair. Larry has curly hair. I'm fair. People thought he was ours anyway, so it really worked out. We got him when he was seven and that was, I think, in August. Not too long after that, my aunt called and she said, "Would you guys like to have a baby?" "Oh, we just have a child right now." "I know, but the mother's going to have to sign it away." Well, I turned to Larry and to our son and I said, "Do you guys want a baby?" "Yeah, okay!" So I told her okay, 'cause she was saying, you know, "This is costing me money on the phone!" (laughs) Back in the day. And, okay. And then one day she called while Larry was out golfing and she said, "Congratulations! You have a little boy." I hung up and I went out to the golf course. I told a guy inside of the pro shop, I said, "I need to talk to Larry." I said, "We've just become parents." He said, "Oh, jeez! Go get a cart!" And I'm going over the hills and all over the place. And I told him, I said, "Guess what? We've got a baby boy!" He said, "Okay, well let me finish eighteen here and I'll be home." And I was ready to kill him. But he said he,

when I told him that, he couldn't believe it and it was just more nerve...being nervous and everything. And he had to think about- I mean, he was really happy. He just didn't know how to...jump up for joy or anything other than "I'll finish my golf." And he came home and we went- we flew back home then. And we got our- we went in. They shut the hospital down. They wouldn't let anybody go in and out of the doors and we had to go into a special room- I mean a special door. And when we went up the elevator they closed the hallway down. And we went in, we saw our baby, and the doctor said, "You know, his eyes are so dark. We had to check them out." He says, "I've never seen eyes like that before. We wanted to make sure he was okay." (laughs) Big baby. There he was. We took him home four days later. We lied. We told the airlines that he was two weeks. They had a...you know, you can't bring a baby or bring a newborn. Oh yeah, well, because he was a big baby and at that time, the stewardesses couldn't marry and they didn't know that he was only four days old. Brought him home and we were a family again. So that's the story of our kids. The oldest one is married, the youngest one is...he's living with us. I think he likes to think he's taking care of us. And that's it. That's our life.

Interviewer: So did you go back and forth? You just told us about a trip back home. What was your relationship with home and with your brothers and sisters at home?

Jackie: Well, we went back and forth...This is before we had kids. We went back and forth to Larry's reservation probably a couple times a month.

**[00:20:00]**

We would- (coughs). Sorry. We would leave Friday right after work and go like heck up the freeway. Larry was very concerned about his mother. She wasn't really pleased about us getting married, but he wanted her to know that everything- especially after they had gossiped about us and...We- My folks were still, you know, not real happy. But I would go to see my grandfather. He was okay that we were married. He was alright with it. And eventually my mom came around. It took a while for them, you know. If you think that your kid's marrying the wrong person...(laughs). With my mother-in-law..."Jackie doesn't know how to do beadwork. She doesn't know how to do hides." No, I didn't know how to do any of that. (laughs) But I knew how to work in an office. (coughs)

Interviewer: Do you need another cough drop?

Jackie: I've still got one.

Interviewer: Oh, okay.

Jackie: It...We go home. Well, since our parents are deceased now, we don't go home as much as we had been. We were going up there, flying up to see them. And they'd come. My mother-in-law finally came down to see us and Larry was so happy. She was real...We didn't realize how ill she was, and when we did, I took her to our doctor in Redwood City. Forty-five minutes later, well, she...He said, "Bring her medication with you." I'm not kidding, I had a shoebox full of what they'd given her at the clinic on the reservation. I showed it to the doctor and he looked at it and he said...Well, I won't repeat what he said. And he took the shoebox and he threw it in the trash can. And my mother-in-law- I thought "Oh boy, here we go." Forty-five minutes later, he had her in the hospital in Sequoia. And he said "I'm gonna get her cleaned out of all that medication. She doesn't...Something's not right. I'm gonna figure it out." And we were lucky. He was a really good doctor. About seven days later, she'd been all cleaned out. The nurses just loved her. She had long hair. The custom back home...you never cut your hair until you lose your husband or you lose your son. And, so when she lost her husband she had it cut and then it was way down here (gestures) and the nurses I guess hadn't seen hair like that and they'd go in and they'd comb

it. And they babied her. She loved that. She'd never been treated like that before. Couldn't get over it. And when we took her home she had a pill for her heart and a pill for...what was it? She went home with two pills I believe. And if you watch her diet, you don't have to worry about diabetes. You can control it with diet. And she had lost weight. I hadn't realized it. And she said, "You know, I could cut fish all day." Larry and his family fished on the Columbia River the old way, using scaffolds and then they would get a lot of fish, and then they would- people from Portland would come out and buy it or else they would take it in and sell it there. And- But it was up to her. She would cut the fish. Clean it out. Get it ready to go to market, so to speak. And then she realized, I guess, finally, that Jackie's okay. So we got along real good after that. We really did. Larry would go hunting. I'd get her in the car and away we'd go. "Where do you want to go?" And she'd...We went over to Klickitat.

**[00:25:00]**

Jackie: She was real close with the lady over there and she introduced me. And that lady told me, "Then you are my daughter-in-law. From now on, from this time on, you are my daughter-in-law. So you have two mothers-in-law." Okay. And that's...It made me really feel good, that they would think like that. And then we'd go over to Warm Springs. I'd take her over there to visit relatives. I mean, it was just really...It was just so...We just had a really good time. I'm glad that we did that. I am. My mother finally came around. And my step-father just fell in love with Larry because Larry hunted and fished and all that kind of stuff. Did the same thing he kind of did. And my sisters, well, Larry was their brother. And to this day he's their brother. Not a brother-in-law. My brother. They treat their brother better than they do their sister. (laughs) So we do. We go back home. Like, we- I was telling Chris that we go- we're wanting to go back and pick up a couple of little kids that we've been bringing down. They call us Auntie and Uncle. I guess we probably treat them more like grandchildren, don't we? We get to spoil them. I never- I hardly ever, ever give them a time out. I think it's cute whatever they do. (laughs) When we go back home we- over to my reservation- I make sure that I see my cousins. And it's just really- It's nice. What I miss, the first thing we do when we go over to my reservation, we go over to the graves. We go to the cemetery and I visit my mom, my grandpa, my uncles. And men from there. And then I go visit my sisters, and they all know what I'm going to do, so no one's feelings are hurt that I haven't, you know, gone there. But I was pretty much raised by my grandfather and both of my great-aunts. They...My mom was working and, I don't know, maybe- I don't know. It just seems like Indian people, we- you bring your kids over and if you want to leave them for a few days, you do. You don't think anything about it. "I'm not babysitting, I've got your kids." And we would end up here, there. No one thought anything about it. I had another great-aunt that- her second to the youngest daughter, her and I smoked. We weren't supposed to, but she had a license. A car license. And we would say we'll go get a loaf of bread at the, you know. And we'd be smoking like crazy. We just had a lot of fun. Having relatives, having cousins around all the time. I thought everybody lived like that. I really did. And it was hard for us when we came down here. Well, we had the golfers, but not so much the kids like I grew up with them. Larry, he grew up with- he had his first cousins living there at their house. I would go to different homes and you just didn't think anything about it. I'm talking too much, go ahead.

Interviewer: No, this is your story. You're doing great.

Jackie: (laughs) Well, we just...My mother-in-law did teach me how to dry corn, so down here I dry corn. Obviously we don't hunt. Larry can't hunt down here. He doesn't. She- The day she was going to teach me how to dry meat, dry deer meat, my sister-in-law was put in the hospital and the police came out to let her know. They didn't have phones. And the police would come out and tell you. So we had to stop everything and go see my sister-in-law. And we never got back to that, because of her illness. My

husband, Larry, went to Indian School. He went to Chemawa, outside of Salem. He went there almost through high school.

**[00:30:00]**

Jackie: He went there when he was in grade school. He started out at Warm Springs, going to school over there. So a lot of the Warm Springs Indians thought he was Warm Springs. And when he would go with his cousins, fishing, nobody questioned him, because he's not supposed to fish. He's not of their tribe. (laughs) Over on my reservation, everybody really likes Larry, so everybody just looks the other way when he's fishing. He's really lucky. Yeah. We're both really lucky that the families ended up like they did.

Interviewer: Did your family teach your sons how to fish and hunt and things like that?

Jackie: My husband did. Not hunt, because you don't just go hunting. You hunt because you need the food. You fished because you need the fish. But we ate- When I was growing up we had elk, salmon, and deer. And I can remember begging my mom, "Please, couldn't you buy some real hamburger?" And it would be the beef. And I can remember her telling me, "Jackie, it's twenty-five cents a pound! We don't have that kind of money. And we'll grind up the deer meat and make you a hamburger." "Yeah, okay." I picked fruit. Mom canned and put it in the cellar. Somebody told me the other day that it's called the root cellar. Okay. It was underground and you had to get the cobwebs out before you went in. And she would have cherries and then jams, all kinds of stuff like that. We had a big freezer. Chest freezer. And that was full of fish. Trout, salmon, elk, deer. That's..Oh! And my grandfather, he would- Oh, yes, don't move this chair. He would...I would get on the horse, on my horse, and he would put these potatoes- sacks of potatoes- across, and then I would cut them in half. And we would go along in the field and he would plant potatoes. And we'd do that all there until the whole field, I think it was about, maybe a 20 acre field? 15, 20 acre field? And we'd...And then when the potatoes were ready, I was in school then, so I didn't have to do it. But he would, he'd go out. He'd get gunny sacks. Fill them up. And then he would give them to my great-aunts, to my mom, to whoever needed them. He didn't keep them. He didn't sell them. They always went for somebody else. That was pretty neat. When I stayed at Grandpa's, we did have electricity, but we didn't have any running water. (laughs) My great-aunt, I can remember, she'd go out and she'd build a fire and let it go down to like coals, type of thing, and then she'd put this great big washtub over it and we had her prime a pump. And we'd dump the water in there, and then we'd wait for it to get hot. And she would wash clothes. We had a wood stove. She put- They put beans in the back. We always had beans. What else did we do? Oh! In the barn, Grandpa had horses. Work horses. And they would- he'd get my cousins, boy cousins, and they would go up to the field. This is where he planted the potatoes too. And they'd cut the hay down. They'd bring it down and they'd put it, throw it in the barn. And then all of us girl cousins, we'd have to trample it. Get it down. Get it down, and then, when they'd leave to go, we would- after we'd trample it- then we would go to the river and we'd swim. Because we were all dusty and dirty. And then we'd hear them coming back and we'd repeat. I mean, it was a good life. It was. Nobody thought of it as it being work. Everybody did something. The family that lived above Grandpa's during the winter time, they had homemade skis. And they would ski down to our house and then we'd all walk down to the school.

**[00:35:00]**

Which I know my kids say, every time you tell the story Mom, you add 10 miles, no, it was probably a mile and a half (laughing). But we would walk to school and even if the school, didn't have an indoor toilet, we would have to go outside and nobody really wanted to go out during the winter time. So you would be sitting there, your legs moving like crazy so finally you'd raise your hand teacher would let you go out

(laughing). And then I remember about being at Grandpa's, there was, on the other side of the pasture, there was a hill that went up and then there were trees and it was bare in between. And I can remember the coyote up there, I don't know if it was the same one but there would be coyotes up there howling and it always sounded so good, it was just like music. And oh, I know, my Grandpa would wake me up in the summer time around maybe 4/4:30 and we would go sit on the end of the porch and we would watch morning come on. And he would do this (arm rubbing back and forth) saying see the sun is going to warm me, takes care of me, takes care of us, so then I would sit there, (arm motion) getting the sun to warm me up to, but that was the way that it was. Things just weren't work, they were work if you look back at it, but in those day that was not work, we rode horses, we always had chores to do, and as soon as we finished the chores then we could go ride horses in the morning. And we would ride and ride and then my great aunt, had a triangle, and she would ring it, you heard it all over the place, we would come in for lunch and have chores, and because there was so many of us kids the floor got mopped three times a day, there was that many of us. Then after we got through at noon time we would go swimming and we would all afternoon, then we would hear her clanging for supper and then after supper we would go help Grandpa put hay in the maingers for the horses or go check on the chickens, you know things like that. Then at dark automatically you went to bed (nodding). That was it, that was my day (laughing), you asked me.

Interviewer: So, I did not follow up on something you said earlier, and I am sure you'll have questions too, but you had said that when you made that decision to come over in the Relocation Program and they told you, you would have a better life, what did that mean to you? Because it sounds like you had a pretty good life

Jackie:It would mean that we would have electricity and plumbing, at Larry's they finally got water inside, I mean back home a lot of us had to pump all the time, pump our water, all of that, and that's what that meant that we would have electricity. Our apartment, we thought it was a palace, it was a one bedroom and I had a stove, where I didn't have to put wood in it, start it up in the morning. Yeah I mean, my Mom finally, when I was gone, they finally moved, where it had everything, well I mean, water and electricity. I think, what we liked out of everything was that no one nobody stared at us. And now when people come down to visit us they'll mention that too, nobody cares, and you know that is a nice feeling. Back home, unfortunately there is still some of the prejudice, going on. When Larry and I go back home and we have held hands all these years, and when we go into town, into Safeway, different places and we see the look people give us, you know, it's not a nice look and I hear that here nobody cares. He could even put his arm around me and nobody would care and that's nice. When we, when I went to Haskell, I felt really good there, that was the best I had felt, because back home, some of the elders, the really, they would make remarks, still remarks made about light skin, not just me, some of the others who are light skinned, my sister is dark skinned but other relatives or friends might have been, and it would be an Indian but you knew what they were saying you know. And Haskell,it showed how we really come in all colors, all colors and nobody cared, you know. That was for me a nice feeling because I know back home sometimes I would know which ones weren't always going to be nice. And I would just avoid them. I didn't want to start anything. I would go out and I would dance, for powwows. My great aunts would give me a regalia to put on and I would go out (laughing). We would sit on benches all of my cousins and I. We would have what they call a whipwomen. There's a Whipman and Whipwomen and they were there to watch, to make sure everybody was behaving, kids and adults. I mean, they didn't have to really do anything but we were as kids. We were told they're going to get you, if you don't. And as kids we were sitting there joking, laughing, having a good time. And someone would say the whipwomen is coming and we would all get up and start dancing. And I doubt she would have done anything, really but we used to have a good time, that was just, I think I had a really good life. This is a different kind of life. You're right we have a good life down here.



Interviewer: So of course I have more questions, (laughing). Yeah, I was interested in what you said about your son saying he felt like he learned more about Indians here with the collection of all the different people that you met from different reservations. Can you talk a little bit more about what you guys would do together and how you would spend your time, you know any new traditions.

Jackie: You know they would come to the house and sit around the table. And at first they would talk about their golf game. Then when that ran out, somebody would say something. Then somebody else would say hey that reminds me. I found that these men were great at stories. They loved to talk about back home, and they would talk about their own families. And I mean we all did, but I didn't realize our son was picking up on it because he was going in and out and playing around. And he was saying he learned more about their traditions then if they were in school. You don't get that kind of stuff in school, and then having it be first hand. Maybe the first time somebody killed a deer and they would talk in our tribe. Your first kill you would drink the blood from the heart. You're thanking that deer or the elk. Whatever you have killed, you're thanking them and you're showing respect. The blood is not good but that's what you do. You understand. Oh and the other thing that we used to do; my great aunts, they would get the tipi, we called them tents but they were tipis, and we would get them and go up into the mountains. We would stay up there for maybe a week picking roots or huckleberries. Yeah things like that. That was just the coolest thing ever, we didn't have sleeping bags in those days. We had blankets and you just roll it up like a sleeping bag. That was cool because you didn't have to go clean anything like you did in the house. It seemed like they did bring paper plates at that time. So, it was hard to try and do all of that stuff. And try to make the jam out there from everything, huckleberry or whatever they were getting. My great aunt, I called her Gram, she was Gram to everyone. She was the most gentle kindest person you would ever meet. She never raised her voice. Her and my grandfather were brother and sister. They never raised their voice. If all the kids got rambunctious it was just calm down. They never yelled at us, and we did calm down. So that's what I try to do to our boys especially when they're young. That was a good way instead of yelling at them, I thought. Gram was known to make the best dried deer meat and elk and salmon of everyone around there. After she got through drying it, she got those sacks like canvass sacks, and she would put them, all the dried meat or whatever, then she would tie it to the rafters up there. And she would let them hang. Everyone would know okay gram is selling, and all of the sudden she got a lot of company. One of our ways is when you come visit we give you something to take home with you or we tried to. And when we knew gram had made the deer meat, or dried something that's what they were hoping they would give them something like that. And she would, maybe not the whole bag, but a bunch to take home. I wish my husband we're here to talk about his fishing over at Siloah Falls, he started fishing there when he was about 5 or 6 years old and they would fish the old net and they had to wear life lines. And they would fish at night. That's when the fish would really run, and that's what they did for a living. My father in-law was arrested because they said he didn't have a license to fish, and he said he told them our treaty gives us the right to fish. This is our land, our water our river. They took it to court and he won! So all the tribes up there we can go fish up there and we don't have to have a license up there, the Columbia river. If you google Sampson Tulee, it will tell you about it. I was really surprised. I did it one day just to see what would happen. And it has all about what he did and in his will he willed the Columbia river to his sons (laughing). I'm not sure they go fishing there anyways. Their great nephews are down there fishing now and relatives and in-laws go there. Everyone likes the salmon from there, it's good.

Interviewer: One of the things I am hearing is that you had this very rich food gathering life up in Oregon, Washington. San Jose used to be very agricultural but it's certainly not now, so how was that change for you as this place became more that way

Jackie: Sad, where we live, that was all orchards. Do you know where our Lady of Peace is, you see it along the road, the big tall statue, that all used to be orchards. And over where we were, was the golf course and behind us that was all trees. There were orchards by the school. When the kids would go to school, they would come home with a note the second day, "please tell your kids not to pick the apples off of the trees" (laughing). And I thought why doesn't the man give them one tree and let them those pick off of it? They won't ruin the branches if they tell them it's their tree, but every year we get the note. My thing, it's just sad that so much of it, I couldn't believe coming over here today how many apartments there are now. Little businesses underneath the apartments are over there. If something were to happen where are they going to get food? They can't even fish over in the Guadalupe because there's nothing in there anymore, that part makes me sad. That's why we have a lemon tree, a grapefruit tree and an orange tree in our backyard. When the stores have a really good sale on corn, I go buy a whole bunch and then dry it. And I haven't tried to drain meat yet. I don't know, I don't know, but corn is about as good as I can do the first time. I tried corn down there. He made this screen and I put the corn out there. And the birds had a good time. So the next year, he put a screen on the top so it was closed. And then I was able to dry corn. And then when I go home and people know we have to pay for the corn down here, they give us corn, dry corn. Because we don't have any down here, so. And then my sister will give us canned fruit. We know that it came from back there and sometimes if they know we're going to come, will give us frozen deer meat, salmon. And I'm allergic to elk. All the years I've had elk, and I'm allergic to it. I feel sick, but it's so good. And I find that whenever we are eating deer it will bring back memories or something. For example, Larry went hunting and he took, I got to go, with him, and he took a nephew. And we had a really good time up there. Real good time just talking while he was hunting, helping him put it back into the pick up. Another time I went hunting with him and his brother, and he was driving on the side of the hill, like that that was scary for me. And I looked back and said there is a bear following us. And they didn't know. And it started getting closer, and it started to go pretty fast. I did not know they can go that fast, and we got away of course. But that was kind of scary. It wasn't as much fun. And the last time we went up on Larry's reservation to go hunting, I just go along for the ride. I don't hunt, and we were coming out, and we were stopped at a station. And he asked to look at our ID. So Larry showed him his. He says, "I wan't to see your enrollment card" [to Jackie]. Okay, so I pulled mine out. And he said, you're Cayuse. You're enrolled over at Pendelton? I said yeah. He told my husband it's forty dollars. What? He said forty dollars. For what? He says she's not Yakima. He says I've never ever paid for her. You don't know what you are you talking about. And, Larry put it in gear and we pulled out. And I thought, oh boy, we're going to jail. But he didn't turn us in. We had never heard of that before. Larry asked one of his brothers about it. He said, yeah, but they always knew who you were. And that's why they'd let you go. Apparently on the other side of the reservation the Vietnamese were coming in. They weren't hunting but they were coming in after the huckleberries. And stuff like that. And they're not supposed to. And there was not so nice things said, "get off of our land". And, they didn't understand a lot of times either the concept of this is Indian land and you don't just go on freely like that. I understand that on another reservation I guess there was a life lost; they didn't know.

Interviewer: Other people had talked about upon coming to San Jose, one of the things that was really different is that there are so many different cultures and so many different ethnic groups and that that was an adjustment. So did you experience that almost like a culture shock?

Jackie: Yeah we didn't know how to act sometimes. I mean when we would go to, I'm trying to think... where San Jose would have a big thing going on. We weren't sure and we would start to do something and maybe somebody would say something. And we'd say you're not supposed to do what? We started shying away and we just weren't sure. I mean, We not Italians. I don't the language. Or, the Asians. But with the Asians once they found outthat we were Native American then they accepted us real easy and said that some of their ways are like ours. and with the Mexicans, they'd you're like our brother,like her

sister. But still if we did things, it's was like "oops, sorry". I mean you weren't trying to be smart aleccy, we just didn't understand some of what you could and couldn't do. But we always tried to be respectful, and then eventually we kind got so we knew what to do. But I guess, what I saw one time, I saw this over at a DeAnza at a De Anza powwow. Everybody got through dancing, and mixed in with our people where the Aztec Indians. I'm sure you have seen them. They have the large peacock or whatever they are a lot of feathers and everything. And I was standing near one of the guys. One of the Indian guys and one of the Aztec Indians came over to him, and he said where do we go to get our money. And he said what are you talking about. He says, well, we got to get paid, and he says we don't pay anybody to dance. Well, we always get paid, and they kind of got into an argument over it. And the Aztec Indian went away. He's was not happy. He says we are not going to come back here then. The guys says fine. We dance because we want to dance, not because we get paid. We don't pay, and that's right we don't pay. That was really different. I couldn't believe that I had saw that. That they're talking like that. And the man, the Aztec said well we're Indian. And I kept thinking, no you're not. If you were Indian you would know what we were talking about. So I don't know. I see them on TV and I hope they learn. But I don't know. Let's see, the Vietnamese, they're really curious about us. We're curious about them. They lived a hard hard life just trying to survive and they have a good sense of humor. The ones that I've talked too. I mean we go back and form. When I worked at Lockheed that's where I got to meet a lot of different nationalities; I guess you would say. And, I liked it. I enjoyed it. It was fun because you get a break and you sit and talk probably like those guys at our table. People like to talk about way back when; I think.

**[1:02]**

Interviewer: You said when you went to Haskell and you formed a club with a bunch of other friends...

Jackie: Oh, out here.

Interviewer: You would get together and sort of became your own tribe, and that became your own family. And, that you help each other with things. Can you explain the way you guys would help each other and how you became like a family?

Jackie: We found out in talking with this one couple, that an elder, female elder woman who is having a really hard time with her house cleaning and stuff her family wasn't helping her. And we went over and just kind of walked in. And we had brought our own mop, our own stuff. And we said, ah we weren't doing anything. You just sit down, enjoy yourself, and watch TV, whatever. "What are you guys doing here"? I says, we just wanted to help you out a little bit. And we cleaned her house up. While we were doing that one of the other ladies took the sheets off and washed her stuff, like that. Then we all chipped in and got food. Somebody went down to the store and bought some food. And it was enough where it kind of shamed her family. And they started taking better care of her. But that's, that's, if you need something. It wasn't always money it was just, sometimes, you just need that moral support. With all of us, somebody was always losing a family member back home on the reservation. And, maybe we would get together and let them talk about it. Or, we just help out, call them up. That kind of thing. The Haskell club we had out here was really a lot of fun. We had our own Indian center at that time. And we had a kind of a little basement and we held a Halloween party for all the kids in the club. We had so much fun that night. The kids came in. Our oldest son came in dressed up as an outhouse. He won. We just did things like that and easter egg hunt. As it turned out eventually, I think probably somebody went back to the reservation. They just didn't like it down here. And another one moved to another area. And we all kind of ended up...the club is no longer in existence. But the kids got to know each other. That was fun. We had a lot of fun. At the Stanford powwow that they use to have. We use to make fry bread and sell it. And we made Indian tacos. I use to have to make chili beans. And we sold a lot of stuff we really liked that we did better than some of the others which made us all feel really proud.

Interviewer: but you don't do that anymore the powwow?

Jackie: No, uh,uh. It's hard. Al's sister and her husband moved away.

Interviewer: Dorothy?

Jackie: Yeah. And, just different ones retired. Larry and I will probably be here. Well, we're already are planning. Because we've away from home so long, we're both going to be cremated. We've already taken care of that. Once both of us are gone, then our son can go ahead go over to Pier 39. There's a boat over there. It's not the Neptune Society. There's another boat over there. They have the license to take out people that have ashes. And they will take us out to the Goldengate and Brian can through the ashes over the area. Because we really love the area. We really do. I guess because of our kids. They know that. Back home, I was surprised that some of the people, after we told them. Because usually we aren't cremated. That would be no, no you don't do that. But after they heard we were doing that, I was surprised now some of them back home are doing it and it wasn't because, I don't think, of Larry and I talking about it. We just thought it be easier. And we told Brian we don't want it to be sad. You know don't throw a big party or bash. But I said afterwards, take our credit card and go over to Tarantino's and treat whoever goes with you to lunch. We've had a good life. We are going to be married 57 years here this summer. We were married three times. We were married July, August and September. The first time we got married at Larry's reservation by his tribal court. And, then I went to do some business over at my reservation. And I had to come up, you know, tell 'em. "Are you married?" Yes, I'm married over where we got married. Well, our reservation, I didn't know this, our reservation doesn't recognize the marriage over in Yacama. Oh no, now what? So then, we went into Yacama to the county court and we asked them if they could please waive the three day waiting period. "Why?" And I said well because. Okay, well let's go get a judge. So they called him out of his office. His secretary stood up, she was the witness, and he married us, I said one more to go now. And, he said what do you mean, one more? And we said we still want to get our marriage blessed by the church. He said oh, this is a freebie. Get out here. So we didn't have to pay for that wedding. When we got back to Kansas, back to Haskell, I went to the Monsignor 'cause that's where we had our bands issued. And, Dorothy and Fred had their bands issued there too. And he remembered, and he said, okay, come in. And he looked at his calendar, and he says come back Wednesday 6 o'clock mass. And I'll bless your marriage. [He told] Larry, you sleep in the other room. Okay. So that Wednesday, we went to 6 o'clock mass. There were four nuns sitting there, like little penguins, they were so cute. And Monsignor called us up, blessed our marriage. So we are married three times. We went down to Mexico after we moved here. And I asked Larry, do you want to get married down there. He said no, three is enough. What are you going to do if we ever get divorced? And I said oh yeah, we better not. So yeah we do we celebrate all three. Why not. That's how we knew, I mean that should've shown our parents we are really serious. The other thing I want to tell you. Larry and I never thought we would ever fail. It wasn't arrogance. We just knew we were not gonna fail. When we came down here. All the traffic and everything and back in those days it was a lot for us. We weren't going to fail. And we didn't. We made it through.

[1:11:52]

Interviewer: Did you ever receive any help or support from your from your secondary family here?

Jacki: No, because we, Larry and I, we did everything we wanted. And, it and it wasn't that we needed... well... we got a lot of moral support. We did have a tragedy happen in our family. And, I'll tell you,

everyone did really rally around us. We got the moral support and that's what we needed. We didn't need food, money, blankets or anything. We needed the moral support, and we did get it. so. That was great

Interviewer: Anything you'd like to tell us that we haven't asked you about?

Jackie: Let me think. No, I don't think so. That's pretty much our life. We...along time ago when we first got our credit cards, we did a lot like a lot of people do, overextended ourselves. And when we realized that we were in debt like that, we sat down put the credit cards out. And wouldn't ask anyone for help. We just wouldn't. And, we figured out, okay, what we owe the most, let's get that paid off. And, later on we heard on TV where they tell you how to do that, but we'd figured it out already. And since then, we've not over done anything. We are...I don't think we're cheap or whatever you want to call it. We're careful. And you know. Can I brag about my son?

Interviewer: Absolutely.

Jackie: Our oldest one when he met his wife to be, he went to visit a friend of his in a locked facility somewhere around here. And, he went in and she was sitting there. And he introduced himself. Went to visit his friend but in the back of his mind, he was still kind of taken with this blond, cute blond. And, he asked her out. And, she said okay. Well, long story short they're married. They've been married about 10 years now. I think together 15. And he said mom I never noticed she was in a wheelchair. That made me feel so good. He has to feed her. She's a quadriplegic. He has to feed her, to do everything. He said I'm getting better at her hair. He has to comb her hair. He says she can do anything she wants. And I said well, okay, if he wants to believe that, that's good. That's shows you how short sighted I am. And, he called me up one day, and said, guess what mom, we just got back from, I think it's called parasailing where they go up and jump off... He took her over... Milpitas, someplace over there where that do that, up in the hills. And because she is quadriplegic, they tied her all up to this guy and they went and jumped off. Whatever he does he takes her. He takes her out in the river. I worry and he doesn't. She doesn't worry. She has complete trust in him. And, I just think that is so neat. And I told him I don't think I would have the patience. I'd probably put dad in a home right away. I don't know that I could do that. They come over to the house and he sit there. And, he has it done pat. He gets the food and knows where to put it. He gets a glass and holds the straw for her. She knows she's can get that. And they just do whatever they want. I am so proud of him. He doesn't think anything about it. He has to give her showers and dress her. He has to wash clothes, cook meals, clean the house, everything. And I just burst with pride. You know, I'd a never dreamed. You know, I did get both of our boys and enrolled. [1:17:17] Dwayne on the paper that they gave us, they had it down that he was half Eskimo. And that was one of the first things I wanted to do then was get him enrolled up there. They had a program going on and I went ahead and filled out the paperwork. And I send it in. And, he was denied. Well, don't tell me no. I went to an attorney and I told him. And, I showed him the paperwork and everything. He wrote a letter. Dwayne is enrolled. He belongs to what they call Sea Alaska, and I was just so glad about that. So he is in an enrolled Indian. He also wanted to, as kids will do as they grow up, wanted to meet his mother and his father his biological parents. Go for it. Well he didn't have any money so he went and sat down in somebody's office downtown where they do searches for people. And he said I just sat there, mom,. And I listened to them talk to the customers that were coming in and heard that they told them, what they can do for them, and how they do it. He left and started doing the same thing. He says I didn't have to pay for it. And he found is my biological mother. She's still in Alaska. And he flew up there. And he met his uncles who fish on a boat. Met his mother. Met his family. And his father is the non-Indian and he lives in the Seattle area. And, I said how did that go? He says, well, I went up to the door and I knocked. And he said this little lady came to the door. Who are you. He says I don't know how to explain. [He] says, well, I'm Dwayne. And he says, I believe that your husband is my father my biological father. And she turned around and yelled for him and he came to the door. And he explained who he was. Dwayne, says, mom, I thought he was going to a heart attack right there. And he did not get invited in. And it was a very short visit if you want to call it

that. And they close the door. And he says, I don't care. He says I got my dad meaning Larry. And I got you as my mom. I'm happy. [1:20:24] Brian I wanted him enrolled, and that was going to be a little bit harder because he's from my reservation. And I knew that if I... they have an enrollment committee and they vote. You give them the information. Well, I went into the room, got the information that I needed. And they had to have someone sit with me because they don't want just going through looking at just everybody. I put it all down and then I was called when they met. And, I flew up there. And, I told them straight out; I would prefer that I tell one person who his biological parents are if I could. So they had a little talk about it and they agreed. Who do you want. And, I told them who I wanted because I knew she'd be very discreet, not gossip. They voted. They turned him down. And I knew which one turned him down. I knew which one turned him down. And the person that I had chosen she said don't worry about it Jackie. I said okay. I trusted her. Two years later she gone touch with me. Brian's enrolled. What did you do? You're not going to prison are you? She said no. She said I waited until that person was off of the enrollment committee. And someone else came in and I explain to them why you wanted just one person to know. But if I had, I would tell them and they respected my wishes. And so Brian is enrolled. That's really important to us to get our kids enrolled. Because whatever... if you wants to go there, well, Haskell is now an university, and if he wanted to go there you have to prove that you're Indian. A lot of things that we do, that we have, you have to prove you're Indian. And that's by the Indian enrollment card. We all, I'd say most of us carry a card with us. That's like gold to us. Brian is entitled and so is Dwayne. They're entitled to everything that I get. Dwayne is entitled to everything the people in Sealaska get. They just bought an interest in a casino in Southern California. So they're doing pretty good down there. And on our reservation we have a casino. It's doing pretty good. In fact, I'll tell you what you doing that I'm really proud about. Are you familiar at all with Oregon?

Interviewer: Oh yeah

Jackie: Then you know where Walla Walla is?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Jackie: You know where the Tri-Cities are? And La Grande and Heppner, Hermiston, okay. Our tribe provides buses to some of these places people are working at the casino. That's a long haul from the tri-cities to La Grande. But our buses go there and pick them up for free. I didn't know that. And if I was staying at the hotel, and if I wanted to catch a ride into town I could catch a bus for free too. But, I didn't know they did that for the employees. That's great; I thought. That's really...that's something else. I had no idea they were doing that. And, there's not any talk at all of taking it away or saying that's part of your salary or anything. It's just something that we do. So I really like my tribe. I like our reservation. My relatives are just super. And when I go home, it's fun. We went to the longhouse one time and it took me and Larry a long time to get around to find an empty seat. You know why? Because my friends and cousins would come down and give me a hug. And I'd start to move and another one would be giving Larry a hug. It was just...I was home. That way I was home. And you go to Larry's is the same way. You go over there to the longhouse or you go to...we... you see 'em wherever. You get all these hugs. It's just super. Yeah, I like being Indian. I really like it. It's just a really good feeling. It's a feeling of belonging of being loved unconditionally. One of my sisters said that they always know that Jackie would marry - I'm the only one to marry an Indian in our family, in our sisters. Jackie would be the one to marry an Indian. I don't know what that meant. Okay, whatever. But that's all I was ever around anyways. So what are your chances, right. I did go to parochial school. And that was interesting because they preach about God. And you go to the longhouse, and we hear something a little bit different. But you kind of learn to blend the two. And it's okay. So, I'm comfortable when I go to the longhouse, and when I see the dances and listen

to the medicine man talk. I'm very comfortable. It makes me feel good inside. Just like when I go to mass. You feel good. So I am blessed. The end.

Interviewer: Beautiful, just a beautiful way to end. I think that's a wrap, yeah.

Jackie: That's a wrap.