

Interview with Tony Trejo Sergovia
Date of interview: August 16, 1995
Place of interview: Sergovia Home
Interviewers: Susan Gutierrez
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Summarization by Dee Morning
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Done

An attractive, energetic and cheerful Tony tells of her birth in an Encinitas apartment and subsequent childhood homes in Green Valley, La Costa and across the road from the present day Wiegand Mall (Encinitas).

Tony's father moved the family to Carlsbad in 1927 or 28 where he ran a small Mexican store. He later did construction work and then became a gardener. She speaks of her large family who all lived close by in the barrio.

Tony talks about her six months in a San Diego tuberculosis sanitarium when she was in her young teens. Sun baths were part of the cure.

Tony met Albert, a seasonal worker from Santa Ana, when he was in Carlsbad. At the age of 15 she ran away to join Albert. Her father sent the sheriff to intercept the elopement. After being returned home Tony had a change of heart and didn't want to marry but her father told her she had already left the house so now she had to get married. After 12 years of marriage and 3 children, Tony relates how Albert left her and how she had to support herself and her children. First she found seasonal work and eventually she and her sister went to work at Camp Pendleton in the mess hall. Her extended family cared for the children while she was gone. Later she married Ben Sergovia who is a distant cousin of Albert's. Ben also happened to be the translator who came with the policeman sent to intercept her youthful elopement. Tony remembers Ben looking at her and saying in a very gruff voice, "How old are you kid?"

When asked about healthcare in the 20's, Tony responded that a midwife attended to births. One of these midwives was her grandmother Josepha who was born in Mexico. She was known for her expertise in diagnosing and curing common ailments of infants and children.