

Luis Sanchez

*The
Kerr County Historical Commission
Presents*

An ORAL HISTORY

OF

San Jose Luis Sanchez

*Kerrville, Texas
2022*

Kerr County Historical Commission
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewee: San Jose Luis Sanchez
Interviewer: Mary Elaine Jones
Date: May 4, 2022
Place: Tech Center
Tivy High School
Kerrville, Texas

Luis Sanchez, owner of Sanchez Barber Shop in Kerrville, TX, began his barber career in the family-owned Sanchez Barber Shop, in 1969. The shop, located initially at 212 Main Street and later at 220 Main Street, was founded by his grandfather, Florin C. Sanchez around 1911. Four generations of Sanchez family members staffed the shop for over 100 years until its closure and property sale due to the Covid 19 pandemic that began in 2020, forced world-wide closure of businesses, and was a particular challenge for entrepreneurs in hair salons and barber shops. In this interview, Luis Sanchez provides a history of the barber shop, the changes that took place for the business and in Kerrville. A life-long resident of Kerrville, he describes his early years, the musicians in his family, the role of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in the Hispanic community with festivals such as Cinco de Mayo. He also details saving the original Sanchez Barber Shop building and emphasizes the importance of family as a core value.

*The Oral History Project is a part of the
Kerr County Historical Commission, a
volunteer organization.*

Kerr County Historical Commission

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Name: San Jose Luis Sanchez

Date of Birth: November 21, 1946

Place of Birth: San Antonio, TX

Profession: Barber
Owner of Sanchez Barber Shop, Kerrville, TX
Texas Real Estate Agent

Father: Florin Bowles Sanchez
Mother: Pauline Campos Sanchez

Siblings: Maria Florinda Rico
Maria Guadalupe Anparan
Maria Dolores Flores
Maria Paulette Sanchez
Jesus Antonio Florin Sanchez

Spouse: Rita Castillo Sanchez

Children: Dolly Sanchez
Melanie Sanchez
Christian James Sanchez

Grandchildren: Kaitland Symone Sanchez Wahrmond
(Spouse: Christopher Wahrmond)

Great GrChild: Camilla Ernestina Wahrmond
Elena Luisa Wahrmond

An Oral History Of San Jose Luis Sanchez

Hello. My name is Mary Elaine Jones, and I am with the Kerr County Historical Commission's Oral History Project. Today we are privileged to be visiting with Luis Sanchez in the studios of Tivy High School in the Kerrville Independent School District. Luis has agreed orally and in writing to share his personal history and perspectives on Kerrville and Kerr County. And he has granted the video and audio taped interview to the Oral History Project, where it will be housed in the Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library and the Logan Library of Schreiner University. He has also granted permission to the Oral History Project to upload the interview to the Portal to Texas History, which is housed in the University of North Texas Library in Denton, Texas, where the digitized version will be preserved and available online for educators, the general public and for researchers.

Mary Elaine: So, Luis, we are very pleased that you are willing to be with us today and to share your history with us. I guess the best place to begin would be for you to give us your full given name and your birth date and where you were born and when.

Luis: When I joined the Army, I found out that my name is San Jose Luis Sanchez. I didn't know about the "San" until I joined the army.

Mary Elaine: Named for Saint Joseph.

Luis: Yes. I was born in San Antonio, Texas, at the Baptist Memorial on November 21, 1946. My parents were Florin Bowles Sanchez and Pauline Campos Sanchez.

Mary Elaine: And do you have siblings?

Luis: I have four sisters and one brother: Maria Florina, Maria Guadalupe, Maria Dolores and Maria Paulette and my brother Jesus Antonio Florin Sanchez.

Mary Elaine: And where do they live?

Luis: Florin lives in San Antonio and Maria Guadalupe lives in San Antonio. Florina, Dolores and Paulette live here in Kerrville as well as myself.

Mary Elaine: And how did the family get to Kerrville?

Luis: My great, great grandmother, Margarita Rodriguez Carranza, arrived in Kerrville around 1871 with her daughter Tomasita Carranza Bowles. Tomasita had a daughter, Lottie Marie Bowles who married Florin C. Sanchez, my grandfather. Their son, Florin Bowles Sanchez, married my mother, Pauline Campos.

Luis Sanchez

Mary Elaine: From what state did they come?

Luis: They came from Montclova and the town of Cuatro Cienegas. That is where she had a vineyard and apparently she sold it when she left because when she got here, she bought property.

Mary Elaine: So they came straight to San Antonio?

Luis: No, they came to Eagle Pass, and by way of Uvalde, as far as I know, and eventually to Kerrville.

Mary Elaine: I see. The family home really is Kerrville. Kerrville is particularly for your generation then and that generation.

Luis: Yes, in Kerrville. I have been here all my life.

Mary Elaine: And with deep roots.

Luis: Yes, my grandmother was born here. My mother and my Dad were born here in Kerrville. And I was born in San Antonio because they happened to be there when I was born.

Mary Elaine: But you are still a Texan, and that is important. Well, any other history about the family coming? Was there any special reason that your grandmother came to Texas?

Luis: We really do not know. I think they were just looking for a better place, and they found it. They did and they did in Kerrville. I am so pleased that they picked Kerrville.

Mary Elaine: You are married?

Luis: I have been married 50 years. It will be 53 years next month.

Mary Elaine: Tell us about your spouse and how you met and her name.

Luis: Her brother and I played music with a dance band and at one of the dances, I met his sister Rita (Castillo), and I got to dance with her. I went out and danced with her during a song I did not play in. And I got to meet her. And then like three years later, we started dating. We dated for about three and a half years and got married in 1969.

Mary Elaine: Where did you go to high school?

Luis: Here in Kerrville—Tivy, and grade school at Tivy Elementary.

Mary Elaine: The old elementary school right across from the high school, right?

Luis: Yes.

Mary Elaine: That was a big transition to go across the street?

Luis: Yes.

Mary Elaine: What do you recall about those years in high school? Anything special?

Luis: Well, we had a lot of fun. We were in the high school band. Well, actually we started band in the fifth grade. I play a trumpet and remember all of the times that we were with the band and the football games and marching in parades. We even went to Mardi Gras my senior year with the band and marched in New Orleans in the Mardi Gras parade.

Mary Elaine: What is your year of graduation?

Luis: 1965.

Mary Elaine: Was your wife Rita at Tivy during that time?

Luis: No, she was from Fredericksburg. All her family are in Fredericksburg. Of course, she has been in Kerrville now for 53 years.

Mary Elaine: That's a great blessing. And you have children? Tell us about them.

Luis: I have three children. My daughter Dolly is the oldest, Melanie, and then my son Christian James and I have a granddaughter and I have a great granddaughter.

Mary Elaine: Give us their names. Your granddaughter and great granddaughter.

Luis: Kaitland Symone Sanchez Wahrmond. She married Christopher Wahrmond. And my great, great granddaughter is Camilla Ernestina Wahrmond.

Mary Elaine: Wonderful blessings.

Luis: Oh, they are indeed.

Mary Elaine: OK, so one of the things that I think is important for us is to understand what you did for a living and maybe you can start with what happened right after high school and then how you ended up with the barber shop.

Luis: Well, I grew up in the barber shop. We lived right behind the barber shop. All I had to do was walk through a doorway and I was in the barber shop. I was interested since I could open the door, like about three years old or so. And I loved it. I thought it was the neatest thing in the world. It was full of laughter. I didn't know what they were laughing about, but I laughed along with them.

And that was located initially at 212 Main Street.

Once I got my driver's license, I forgot all about the barber shop. It was about cars and girls and dating and running around. The barber shop just completely faded out of my life until I decided I wanted to get married.

And I was working at Mooney Aircraft and my Dad pulled me aside one day and he says, "So what are you going to do when they lay you off?" I said, "Oh, I don't know, Dad. I'll find something." And he says, "Well, what about the barber shop?" "Maybe," I said. Oh, my gosh, I forgot all about the barber shop.

"If you go to barber school, the barber shop is there waiting on you. And I did. I decided I'm going to postpone my wedding, we're going to get a barber license, and then I'm going to become a barber. And, and I did for the next 46 years.

Mary Elaine: Oh, my goodness. Now in that interim, did you go into the service? Were you in that era of the draft?

Luis: Yes, I joined the National Guard, here in Kerrville. Six days before I got my draft notice. When I got my draft notice, I took it to the sergeant and he said, "Throw it away. You belong to me." So, I served six years, and they were all here in Kerrville. I did the basic training and the advanced infantry training, and then I served here in Kerrville.

Mary Elaine: Give us some history of the barber shop. And I know you have pictures of family and how that got started.

Luis: My grandfather and his brother were from San Antonio, Florin Cantu Sanchez and his brother Esteban. They were both symphonic musicians with the San Antonio Symphony. And they were also --I like to call them mobile merchants, but they were peddlers and they would travel to Boerne and Comfort and eventually to Kerrville and they would spend a week on the road and once in Kerrville in the evenings, they would hire the local union hall and play music for the folks here in Kerrville.

My great uncle who lived in Kerrville was also a musician. And I believe that he introduced my grandmother to my grandfather and they got married in 1910 and he moved to Kerrville full time then.

Mary Elaine: And her name was?

Luis: Her name was Lottie Marie Bowles.

By 1911, we know that he was operating a barber shop. We think that he saw the need and he was an enterprising person, so he decided to open a barber shop. We celebrate January 1, 1911, as the starting date of his business because we don't know exactly, but I do know that by then he was barbering until 1938 when he passed away.

And another guy named Eleano Diaz operated the barber shop until 1946 when Dad got back from World War II

Mary Elaine: So, your Dad was in which branch of the service?

Luis: He was in the army, and he was in the European theater and his name is Florin Bowles Sanchez. And he went from Africa to Berlin with Patton.

Mary Elaine: Oh, for heaven's sake. Was he proud of that?

Luis: Oh yes. I bet it meant a lot to him. There is a little story where he stopped Patton and asked him for his I.D., and he didn't have it with him. Dad said,

“Well, I can't let you enter.” “Well, I'm General Patton.” Dad said, “You need your I.D.” So, he made him go back and get his I.D. And when he came back through, Patton said, “If you hadn't asked me for this ID, I would have had you court martialed.”

Mary Elaine: That is a beautiful story.

Luis: But after the war, he got his barber's license and barbered until 1984. I got my barber's license in 1969 and we began barbering together. And we worked together for several years, quite a few years, and that was wonderful. I loved working with my Dad. In 2005, my son got his barber's license. That is Chris, Christian James. And in 2015, my granddaughter, Kaitland, got her barber's license. About the time COVID hit, Kaitland had had my great granddaughter and we were very concerned that she might catch it and pass it on. And so we decided to close the shop. We haven't opened it back yet, but we intend to open it as soon as everything clears up completely. We're still concerned about so much going on in the state.

Mary Elaine: And beauty salons and barber shops were big targets during COVID in terms of transmission because of the proximity.

Luis: Yes, we had to close our shop down by the order from the state, you know, to not operate. And later when they would let us operate, you could only have one person in there and everybody had to have masks and it is almost impossible. It was kind of yes, nobody wanted it. My son didn't want to do it. My granddaughter said, “Let's wait.” So that's what we are doing right now.

Mary Elaine: Let's go back a little bit. The initial shop was on 212 Main Street.

Luis: And then my Dad built a new shop in 1954 on 220 Main Street. It is part of the same lot, but on the other end of the lot and he opened for business March 19, 1955. We still have the building; we hope to renovate it.

Mary Elaine: Did you move it?

Luis: Yes, it is on Stadium Drive.

Mary Elaine: Talk about that. What happened?

Luis: Well H-E-B moved in next door to us and we were neighbors for 20 years and during that time they offered to buy me out many times which I didn't want to sell, but eventually I did because they were going to build a new store and they needed the room and, and I found another property. We did an exchange. Plus, you know, a few bucks, right? And I am happy with the property that I have now. We moved the barbershop to that property now.

Mary Elaine: You preserved the old building?

Luis: Yes, we kept it. We didn't want it torn down.

Mary Elaine: Oh, that is a great. Would you give a little idea of the flavor of the shop? It is very unusual in today's world for an entrepreneur, a family-owned business to last as long as yours did. And can you tell us what you think helped with the longevity of it?

Luis: Well, I guess the fact that it was a family business and that we had been doing it for so long. I got a real estate license in 1981. I thought I was going to change professions and then I couldn't do it. You know, there was the family business. And so I waited until I retired before I got into real estate, which was in 2015, but my son came along and he wanted to barber and so he got his license and then I kind of talked my granddaughter into it because I kept telling her, you would be a fifth generation barber. And she said, "I don't want to be a barber grandpa" But then at the end, she said, "I'm gonna do it." And she barbered for five years before we closed it due to Covid.

Mary Elaine: Did you have long time customers and whole families as customers or what would you say?

Luis: I had two, maybe three customers that my grandfather did. And my dad cut their hair, I cut their hair, and my son cut their hair. They had four generations of barbers that cut their hair and one of them would tell me that he remembers when my grandfather would come from San Antonio with their wares. And one of the things that they did have was Mexican pastries. Pan dulce. That is what he remembered. I guess he continued doing that, you know, because probably into the twenties, he was still coming and going to San Antonio with his music career.

Mary Elaine: From those wonderful bakeries down on Houston Street.

Luis: I don't know what else they may have brought but whatever it was, it was necessities that people in Kerrville could use.

Mary Elaine: That H-E-B did not provide.

Luis: Right.

Mary Elaine: Because right now you can get pan dulce there.

Luis: Oh yes. Everything.

Mary Elaine: You said it was fun. I heard you say that and that it was fun to be there.

Luis: It was. Yes, it was. It was a lot of camaraderie, a lot of laughter. My first job was sweeping the floor. And then later on, Dad bought me a shoeshine box and then he bought me a bigger shine box, you know, that you could sit up on it and had the little legs on it. And, man, I was in business. I could charge a quarter then, from a dime to a quarter because I had a better chair.

Mary Elaine: Oh, my goodness. And your customers loved it.

Luis Sanchez

Luis: Oh, yes. And everybody wore shoes that you could shine. That is not the case anymore.

Mary Elaine: Did the barber shop serve everybody in Kerrville or was it simply the Hispanic community?

Luis: It served everybody. Yes, it did. And now it wasn't the only barber shop in town. There were several barber shops. But when my Dad needed a haircut, he would go to anybody's barber shop. They all got along well. Everybody came. And at that time, you could park on the street in front of the shop, up until 1978. After that, you couldn't park on Main Street anymore.

Mary Elaine: Did that change anything in terms of your customer base?

Luis: Not really. They just had to drive. And we had a big lot in the back. You had to drive into the lot and they parked around the shop. So that wasn't a big problem. But they did like to park out front.

You know, before the interstate, all traffic from San Antonio going west came right through downtown on Highway 27 and in front of the barber shop. There were eighteen wheelers and everything. And I got quite a few customers that way. I had one that came in and wanted a flattop. He came about five years later and said, "You remember me?" I said, "I remember your hair." But I remembered him.

Mary Elaine: Do you remember how much it cost over the years and how inflation influenced prices?

Luis: OK. When I started barbering I think we were charging a dollar and a quarter for a haircut and that was in the sixties--1969. Right before then, Dad's prices had been like \$0.75 to a dollar. He would go up a quarter every time. And when I started barbering, in about six, seven months later, I went up \$0.50 to \$1.75. Oh my gosh. Everybody was upset with that. That it went up so much. But it was just the economy and all that and when I quit barbering in 2015, I was charging \$25 for a haircut. It was quite a bit of difference.

Mary Elaine: You have some pictures of the family and we are going to scan them but tell us who is in this picture.

Luis: My grandfather. He is the one who started the business. He was from San Antonio; this is my grandmother, Lottie Marie and her brother Percy C. Bowles.

Mary Elaine: Did he ever come to Kerrville?

Luis: He lived in Kerrville.

Mary Elaine: Was he a barber?

Luis: No, he wasn't a barber. He was a musician.

Mary Elaine: I want to talk about that. And then this picture is...?

Luis Sánchez

- Luis: That's the old barbershop at 212 Main Street, the one that my grandfather established.
- Mary Elaine: This is a vehicle.
- Luis: Yes, there is a car out front.
- Mary Elaine: That dates it doesn't it? And then this is the final one –the building that you have moved, right?
- Luis: That's the one that we moved.
- Mary Elaine: And then this picture is...?
- Luis: My son Christian, my granddaughter Kaitland, and myself through generations.
- Mary Elaine: Thank you for sharing. Besides the talent and the skill set to be a barber, you have a whole history of musicians in your family, don't you?
- Luis: Yes, everybody in my family plays music.
- Mary Elaine: You were in the Tivy band, but your father and your grandfather played instruments. Your grandfather was a musician.
- Luis: Yes, he was a symphonic musician. Dad was a musician, but he just liked to play at the barber shop with his friends. And I picked up the trumpet pretty young and started playing with dance bands like when I was 14. And we would play weddings and quinceaneras and, you know, little events around town. I think we went as far as Comfort. They had a dance hall in Comfort and in Fredericksburg, but mostly around here.
- Mary Elaine: And your children? Now remind me: you have a brother?
- Luis: I have a brother. He is the youngest one of the family, and he was in the Tivy High School band; played a trumpet but he's a guitar player now. He is a full-time musician. Oh, my children were in the band. Dolly played a flute, Melanie played the drums, Chris played the trumpet. My granddaughter never got interested in it.
- Mary Elaine: Your children went to Tivy as well?
- Luis: Yes.
- Mary Elaine: Talk about deep roots in the community. Your family has been here a long time.
- Luis: I like to say that I have tried to leave Kerrville, but I keep coming back. I can't find anything better.
- Mary Elaine: While we are on the topic, then, talk about Kerrville and what you remember. Where did you live and what was the community like?

Luis: What I remember most is the barber shop. We lived right behind the barber shop, so we could go through the barber shop and out the front door. And there were steps that we sat on, my sister and I, and then the sidewalk was right in front of us. The building was right up to the sidewalk.

And one of the games we played was to see who could tell whether a car had a radio antenna or not. But we had to sit there and wait for a car to pass by. I mean, we would sit there 5 minutes, 10 minutes sometimes, and not a single car would go by. Finally, we would see one turn from Sidney Baker. And, boy, we would strain to see whether it had a radio antenna or not, who could pick it out first or from around the five points area, you know, but we could see. But we had to wait and wait.

Mary Elaine: That tells you something about what the traffic was like then.

Luis: We're still waiting because there is a lot of traffic now.

Mary Elaine: You all grew up in the community and was Our Lady of Guadalupe Church a part of your life?

Luis: It was. We went to catechism there. Went to mass many times. I think I did my first holy communion at Our Lady of Guadalupe. That property had belonged to my great, great grandmother.

Mary Elaine: This is Grandmother Bowles?

Luis: Oh, no. Carranza, Marguerita Carranza. When she came into town, she bought property and that was one of them. And the property on Main Street had been donated to the Catholic Church by one of the members of the Michon family. When Father (Henry) Kemper came to Kerrville in 1911, he wanted to build a church for the Spanish speaking community as close to the community as possible. He approached my great, great grandmother and asked her if she would be willing to trade properties. And she said, "Yeah, sure, we'll trade." And so, the Guadalupe Church was built, and we moved to Main Street.

Mary Elaine: What do you remember about the church and the kind of life that it was for people? I mean, was it integral to the community?

Luis: To us it was quite a bit. Sorry to see it go because well, they had a big playground. I mean, we went through the catechism classes, we went out and played with a lot of children, a lot of running around and, you know, just a lot of fun. It was a place for the family gatherings. And then there was weddings and, you know, all kinds of events. Cinco de Mayo was a big deal, and it was celebrated in front of the church, that one last block on Jefferson. They would close that street down, and all day long you could hear hammering because they were building booths, they were building a bandstand, and they were building a dance floor. And then at night, they would play. It was wonderful.

Fritz Marquecho-- I remember him playing. He would be a good one to do a story on. Then later on, it went away. But back then, it was a lot of fun.

The Queens, they had reinas. Very nice. You voted for them with money. A penny was a vote, a dollar was 100 votes for the person, for the queen, you know. So, whoever raised the most money was crowned the Queen of the Cinco de Mayo.

Mary Elaine: What an honor to be queen. Anybody in the family get to be queen?

Luis: Maybe my aunts. Probably. That was a little before my time. I don't remember, but I do remember when the church was still there.

Mary Elaine: And there was a school also wasn't there at one point?

Luis: But my Dad would talk about Star School. It was for the Hispanic kids. I never saw it.

Mary Elaine: Because Tivy Elementary was the perfect place.

Luis: Actually, my first introduction to school was with Marieta Rodriguez, who was Emmitt Rodriguez's wife. They had Calvary Temple Church on the corner of Jefferson and what is now Rodriguez Street. But that is all part of H-E-B now, but she had a little kindergarten for the Hispanic kids so they could learn English before they got to school. That was her whole goal--to teach these kids English. And she did a wonderful job.

Mary Elaine: Did all of your siblings go through the school?

Luis: We all did. And we lived like on the same block.

Mary Elaine: Was your grandfather was bilingual?

Luis: Yes, he was.

Mary Elaine: Everybody was probably back then but was Spanish mostly what was spoken at home and in the community?

Luis: In our home: My mother was born in Mexico, and she came over when she was three years old. But she is the baby. She had one brother and five sisters, and she was number six girl. And they all spoke Spanish. Everybody spoke Spanish in her family. And when my Dad and my Mom got married, Mom would speak Spanish to us. And Dad would speak English. We would answer Mom in Spanish. We would answer Dad in English. We didn't realize we were doing that. You speak in two languages. You know, it didn't occur to us until we got to kindergarten, and we had to split them up. You know, this is Spanish, this is English. Oh, OK.

Mary Elaine: You know, that is lost. In many ways.

Luis: It is. My kids never picked up Spanish really well. My granddaughter is still mad at me because we didn't teach her Spanish.

Mary Elaine: Yes. Most of this younger generation does get unhappy.

Luis: Now we are working on our great granddaughter. We are going to teach her Spanish.

Mary Elaine: Because it is terrific. Just to be able to do another language. But Spanish is the logical one.

Luis: It is. And it's so necessary around this area because there are a lot of people that don't speak English.

Mary Elaine: You've lived in Kerrville for a long time now, and your whole life really and so I would think that you have some memories of Kerrville that you might want to share or some perspective on it in terms of what kind of community it is or has been.

Luis: It's very inclusive. I mean, I think I've never felt that I was not part of Kerrville. You know, I've always felt that way, and I've tried to project that also. You know, Kerrville is an inclusive town and everybody is welcome and I think that's wonderful. That is one of the things that, you know, is foremost in my mind.

Mary Elaine: That's a very important thing to have said. Any other memories from early on? And of course, you have high school memories and you have your early marriage memories. But in terms of the community itself, in terms of change.

Luis: There have been a lot of changes, that's for sure. It's grown which is natural, you know, because we have a beautiful area. The whole country of Texas is beautiful.

Then I've had some great customers in my shop that you would probably recognize. Richard Church from Church's Fried Chicken, Eladio Soasa from Tequila Soasa. Gosh, James Avery. I cut his hair forever till his wife bought a beauty salon. And then I lost him. But no, it's been great. You know, that's hard to pinpoint just one thing.

Mary Elaine: Well, you have moved into real estate, too. And you have another perspective on the community and maybe even a broader perspective.

Luis: I do.

Mary Elaine: If you had to say what has governed your life in terms of a philosophy what would you say?

Luis: I mean, I believe in the family unit. You know, I believe in staying together as a family and that's probably been the most important thing in my life. My family and, of course, not only them, but my brothers and not my immediate family but my brothers, sisters and we've always --and my mother made sure-- that we

all stayed together, that we didn't start, you know, how do you say that? Start family feuds and this kind of stuff. Certainly, people can get crosswise. No, no, I won't allow that. You guys need to stay together. And that's the way it has been all along. We have had a very close family.

Mary Elaine: And in today's world, that is a treasure, isn't it?

Luis: It is. I have one daughter that lives in Utah, and we sure miss her. We are waiting for her to get back.

Mary Elaine: And you wonder sometimes if they really will come back.

Luis: Oh, she will. These two are already talking. I talked to her this morning. She is ready to come back.

Mary Elaine: Did you have any influential mentors during this time? Any people who were very important to your progress? Any teachers?

Luis: I guess one of the guys that comes to mind is my music teacher, Mr. Preizner. He was the first music teacher that I had. It was encouraged. As you know, in music, you have to play and practice. We didn't care all that much, but he would say, "Come on, let's do the lessons and then you can go play." And so that got me going pretty good in the music part of it. Of course, my Dad was a huge influence in my life, you know.

Mary Elaine: I would have guessed.

Luis: Yeah, I was with him quite a bit. I got to spend a lot of time with him, and that was great. And my Mom. My Mom was as big an influence as was my Dad. With her, you know, it was that we should stick together.

Of course, there are a lot of successful men in Kerrville that I've kind of emulated somewhat because they were doing well. And I'd like to do well also.

Mary Elaine: Kerrville is home, and family is exceedingly important. Is there anything else that you want to say about Kerrville?

Luis: Well, I intend to be here till I die. I don't plan to go anywhere. I like Kerrville really well.

Mary Elaine: Is there anything else you would like to add about family, about family history? Because now we have a good understanding of the roots of the barbershop and the incredible nature of being in business for that length of time.

Luis: When my great, great grandmother left Mexico, she left a vineyard or sold a vineyard. I never knew her, but my grandmother was in our lives quite a bit and she always talked about her grandmother's vineyard. When I sold the barbershop and got the property on Stadium Drive, I decided to plant a vineyard. It is a small vineyard of about 200 plants, but it's doing real well.

Mary Elaine: Does it require much water?

Luis Sánchez

Luis: It does, but we have a well and we have a drip irrigation.

Mary Elaine: That's fascinating. I think you are the first in this area, aren't you?

Luis: I think so.

Mary Elaine: I really think so. Well, I wish you well. And we thank you especially for this interview. And you have shared with us an interview with the *Texas Reporter* that describes the history of the barber shop.

Luis: I sure did. And it was in the barber shop that we did the interview with my son and my granddaughter, both cutting hair. And I even did a haircut while we were doing the interview.

Mary Elaine: We will add it to this narrative if you give us permission.

Luis: Sure. Absolutely.

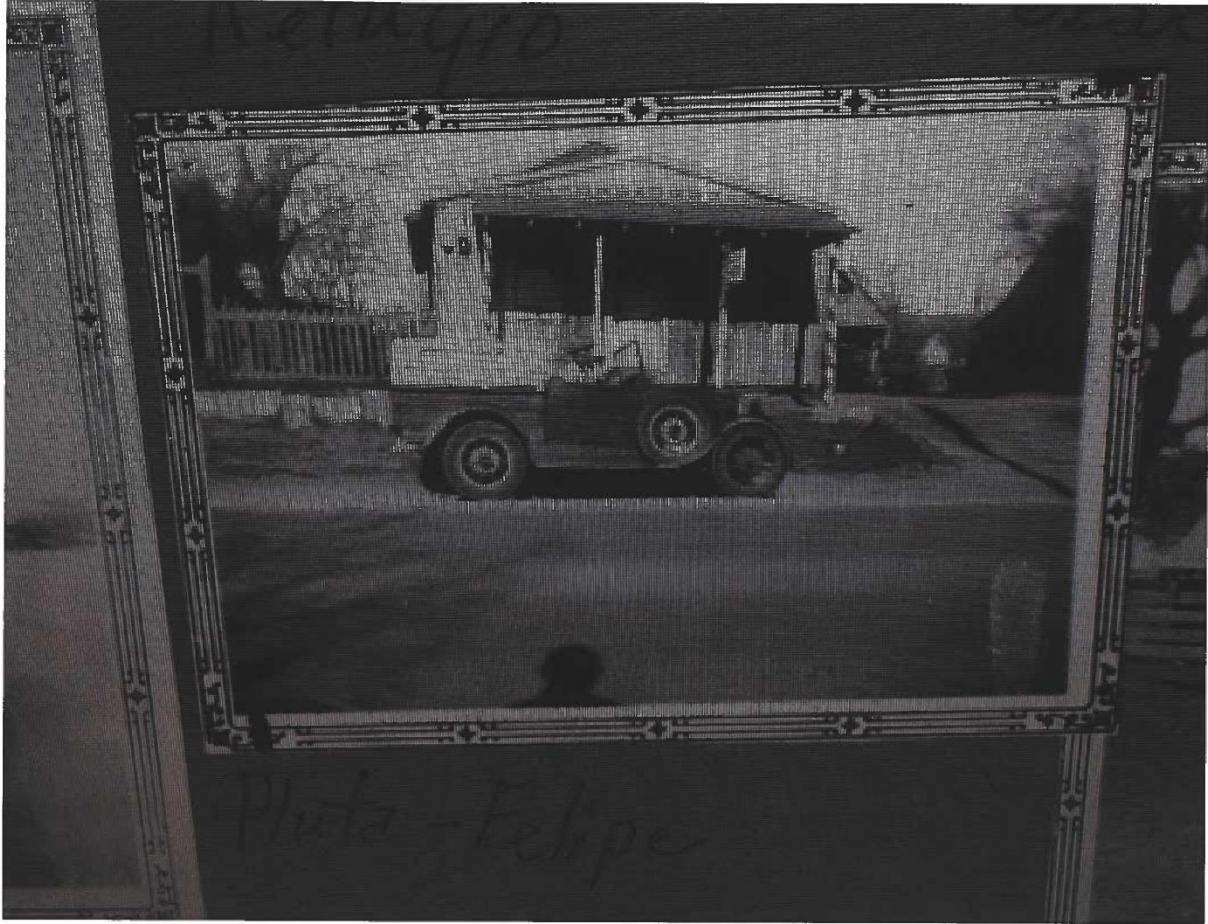
Mary Elaine: We thank you very much for today and for the insight that you provided into the community and into your own history and into the history of Sanchez Barber Shop. Thank you very much.

Luis: Thank you, Mary Elaine. My pleasure.



Florin Cantu Sanchez and his wife Lottie Marie Bowles and family

Luis Sanchez



Sanchez Barber Shop (circa 1910) at 212 Main Street, Kerrville, TX

Luis Sanchez



Sanchez Barber Shop: 220 Main Street, Kerrville, Texas.



Three generations of barbers: Christian James Sanchez, Kaitland Symone Sanchez Wahrmund, and Jose Luis Sanchez