

## Alfredo Santos Part 2

[Alfredo continues the family history relating to the move to Stockton, Calif.]

Alfredo: *Uno de los familiares* offered to take Tommy from my mom—he was like eight months And raise him. Oooh, my mom got pissed off. “No one is going to tear apart my family.”

Then her brothers and her sisters here in Uvalde were begging her to come back. So finally, my mom, after a year, decided to come back. So, we all moved back to Texas.

Chuy: “We all” meaning?

Alfredo: My mom, my brothers and sisters.

Chuy: So, that family. The others stayed.

Alfredo: *No, todos los demas se quedaron en California.*

Chuy: *Todos se quedaron en California.* So, your mom, she was basically a housewife at the time?

Alfredo: Well, no, in Stockton, she worked in a department store because growing up as a kid in Uvalde, she worked in a department store in Uvalde. And she also worked at a gas station during the war. So, in Stockton, she worked.

Chuy: When she comes back to Uvalde...

Alfredo: When she comes back to Uvalde, she starts over.

Chuy: Where did she work.

Alfredo: She worked at Gifts and Discounts store. She worked for Esmerijildo grocery store and for a finance company.

Chuy: All the local businesses—retail.

Alfredo: Yeah.

Chuy: And so, where do you fit *en la familia*?

Alfredo: I am the oldest.

Chuy: The oldest—okay. So, she comes back with how many kids in tow?

Alfredo: Three.

Chuy: Three—you’re the oldest. You come back and enter Uvalde schools at what age?

Alfredo: I went to second grade in Uvalde.

Chuy: Okay, and what school was that?

Alfredo: Benson Elementary.

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Chuy: Okay. And was Benson a segregated school?

Alfredo: No, there were Anglos there.

Chuy: Okay. Were any of the schools in Uvalde segregated at the time?

Alfredo: No, not that I recall.

Chuy: Okay. And you went through school, I believe, from some of the bios that I've read about you, you didn't make it through high school. You went to California somewhere.

Alfredo: No, what happened is I went to the first part of second grade in Uvalde. *Se vinieron mis abuelos*—Winter Texans, because you know, they're seasonal. And also, what happened, as they settled in California, my grandmother started working for the cannery, which is seasonal. And she became a supervisor and she had a lot of leeway (?) and stuff. But, they would come in the winter to Uvalde because they had other friends in Uvalde.

And so, I got to go back with them. So, I did 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade—yeah, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade back in Stockton. *Y luego*, my mom remarried, David Diaz, a guy from Hondo, Texas, and he was working in Chicago. He was a barber. And so, they came and got me in California and I moved to Chicago—well, outside of Chicago—with them and did 5<sup>th</sup> Grade over there. First semester of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and things weren't going well—straight F's, except a B in Reading. The psychologists will tell you that I was acting out or whatever.

Chuy: Yeah, absolutely. What else would it be, right?

Alfredo: Yeah. Both my grandmothers came that Christmas to Markham, Illinois, and I got to go back with my grandmother on the train. We always traveled by train. I got to go back with my grandmother and I finished 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade in Stockton.

Chuy: Just for geography here—how far is Stockton from Uvalde?

Alfredo: Oh, I don't know. Stockton is seventy miles east of San Francisco, forty-six miles south of Sacramento.

Chuy: Okay.

Alfredo: It's in the San Joaquin Valley. (unintelligible) *Entonces, el* summer of '65, *se vino el primo, Tony, de Uvalde, con unos amigos*. They were working in the fields, whatever, and they were camping out at my grandmother's living room. Tony, *era el hijo de Antonio que se murió en la guerra*. And so, *era uno de los consentidos de mi abuelo*. Tony, for some reason, had to go back to Uvalde, so I went with him. And we came to Uvalde. He had some business to do here. He was in his 20s. So, then, my mom had gotten things together.