

MR AND MRS. GEORGE ABILA. George Abila Born 1908

TRANSCRIPT of OH 0084 **A-B**

This interview was recorded on January 20, 1978, for the Maria Rogers Oral History Program. The interviewer was Jessie Velez Lehmann. Veronica Lamas transcribed the interview.

NOTE: The interviewer's questions and comments appear in parenthesis. Added material appears in brackets.

ABSTRACT: George Abila, who grew up in Huerfano County describes how his life was growing up in a farm during the Great Depression. Explains the school system in Huerfano County and sheepherding,

[A].

00:00

(Esta muy bien.)

Mr. Abila: Okay

(Dígame, si.)

Mr. Abila: Como le digo. Vinimos de—

(—De su familia de ustedes. Sus padres de ustedes.)

Mr. Abila: My father's name was Juan Santos Abila and he was born in Huerfano County and he was born—

(—Do you know the year?)

Mr. Abila On March the 15, 1869.

(Ase mucho tiempo. ¿Y su mama?)

Mr. Abila: She was born April the 15, 1985.

(¿Su mama de usted? ¿Y como se llamaba?)

Mr. Abila: Maria Cruz Abila. Maria Cruz Rodriguez era su primer nombre.

(¿Y nacieron?)

Mr. Abila: Y nació en el Huerfano County también.

(También.)

Mr: Abila: Right.

(Y ahorra díganos si sabe poquito de sus abuelos. ¿Estos son sus abuelos que me esta diciendo?)

Mrs. Abila: No papas.

(¿Sus padres de usted? Buenos de sus abuelos sabe alguna cosa?)

Mr Abila: Y a los abuelos especialmente de mis abuelos de parte mi papa no le puedo decir porque nunca los conocí.

(Oh. ¿Y los de su mama?)

Mr. Abila: Y los papas de mi mama si los conocí por varios años pero no se de donde vendrían o como cuando_____.

(But you met them in Walsenburg?)

Mr. Abila: In Huerfano County. Vivamos en un rancho en pegados_____.

(Tell me how your father got his ranch.)

Mr Abila: He got it from a bank. Some people I don't know they do not know where they got it in a bank or what. But anyway, got it from a bank.

(It wasn't Homestead.)

Mr. Abila: No it wasn't Homestead.

(Do you remember what year that was?)

Mr. Abila: No I don't remember because I think I wasn't born.

(Oh I'm sure you were not, but if your father ever told you.)

Mr. Abila: I think the only way I can find out when it was bought— I think still have the deeds.

(Oh well, I don't want you to pull up no _____ things. You know if you have to go and get them I suppose.)

Mr. Abila: Yea. He bought this place from a bank I know.

(And how many acres?)

Mr. Abila: 120.

(Did it have a house on it? Did your father build a house on it?)

Mr. Abila: Yes.

(Did he build it himself?)

Mr. Abila: Yea.

(What did it build it out of?)

Mr. Abila: Adobe house.

(Adobe house.)

Mr. Abila: Back then, I think there was a log house. I think that's where I was born and then later on—I remember any of the other days.

(How old do you think you were?)

Mr. Abila: I must have been maybe eight/nine years old.

(When did he build the other edition to the house? When they built the edition to the house, did they have indoor water and indoor electricity?)

Mr. Abila: Never did have any water.

(Nothing like that?)

Mr. Abila: There was nothing like that. I think the electricity came in I would say—

Mrs. Abila: —After we were married.

Mr. Abila: Yea after we were married. ____ in 1932 or '33.

(When were you born?)

Mr. Abila: In 1908.

(1908)

Mr. Abila: April 1908.

(In the same place where your parents were born? The same county?)

Mr. Abila: Huerfano County yes.

(Okay. After you grew up that you remember nine years old. Where you in school then?)

Mr. Abila: Yes

You were in school.

Mr. Abila: Yes

(Tell us about the school. What did it look like?)

Mr. Abila: Well, the school was a big adobe house.

(Was it one room? Two rooms?)

Mr. Abila: Two rooms

Did they have two teachers?

Mr. Abila: No just one.

(One teacher. How did they—)

Mr. Abila: Wait a minute, wait a minute—I think it was only one room and then later on they added another one, but they never did have two and they only had one teacher.

(One teacher. Did the teacher speak English and Spanish?)

Mr. Abila: No

(English?)

4:46

Mr. Abila: Just English except one that I told you. Remember I told you when we had I don't know I think we had one, two, three. When we had one teacher there was a little _____. We had her for about I don't know, two or three years and then we had another teacher his name was Barker, something like that. Then we had another one and then we had a Spanish one when I was in the forth grade. No I was about the sixth grade then.

(Who old were you when you started school?)

Mr. Abila: I imagine I was seven I guess.

(Seven years old?)

Mr. Abila: I remember but I think—

(Could you speak English?)

Mr. Abila: No.

(You couldn't speak English?)

Mr. Abila; I couldn't speak English even when I came out of school yet. I couldn't even speak English right like I should.

(When you came out of the sixth grade?)

Mr. Abila: When I went as far as the eight grade.

(The eight grade? That's as far you could go during that time?)

Mr. Abila: Yea.

(In that town? And if you would've gone on you would've had to go to another town?)

Mr. Abila: Right.

(Was it far?)

Mr. Abila: It was about thirty-eight miles. Everybody had to go that far.

(Oh that was a long way. I those days what kind of transportation were you using?)

Mr. Abila: Well, I don't think—I remember, but I don't think in my days I don't think there was no transportation to go to high school.

(No. Just in the town?)

Mr. Abila: Yea, and then later on I think—oh I don't know what year it was. They started the bus. This bus used to come and take all the kids to school. From nine grade on they had to go to Walsenburg.

(Oh I see. What was the little town where you went to school?)

Mr. Abila: Red Wing

(Red Wing.)

Mr. Abila: Well, it wasn't Red Wing it used to be Chamas [?] School.

(Chamas[?] School and then they named it Red Wing?)

Mr. Abila: The bus stop where they had they had _____ and the store was Red Wing. In other words, en otras palabras. Ese lugar eran puros ranchos y había una escuela en Chama. Había una escuela en Malacaite [?], había una escuela en Red Wing, y había otra escuela en Fast Creek. La escuela donde íbamos nosotros era Chama, la escuela de Red Wing no estaba más de dos millas de diferencia de Red Wing a Chama. En la escuela de Malacaite [?] y de Red Wing estaban was the same maybe four miles of distance. Y la escuela que estaba en Fast Creek estaba say another two miles or three miles from la escuela de Chama. Well, en cada distrito, every district had it's own school.

(Oh I see. How many students do you think there were in your school?)

Mr. Abila: Well, when I was in school había no less than seventy or seventy-five from primero hasta maybe to the eight.

(Eight grade?)

Mr. Abila: Yea

(That was quite a few children and were most of them Hispanos?)

Mr. Abila: In fact, la escuela de Chama donde yo iba estudiaron por un tiempo los escueleros de Chama. Los de Red Wing estaban all together.

(Si, si)

Y había, I can tell you había una, dos. I think there were only two families que eran Americanos well, unos eran _____ and what ever. After maybe four or five years they divided the prisons. Los presidentes [?] los cambiaron. _____ Red Wing si and then the escueleros que venían de Red Wing a Chama de vuelta a Red Wing. Entonces quedaron mas pero es que puros Mexicanos no había un single de Americanos en la escuela de Chama.

(Y los libros estaban en ingles o en español?)

Mr. Abila: En ingles todos.

(Todos en ingles?)

Mr. Abila: No había libros en español.

(Pero la mayoría usted diría que en su casa hablaban puro español.)

9:55

Mr. Abila: Puro español. Esa fue la razón porque nosotros no aprendimos el inglés ves. Porque nosotros fuimos—en mi casa no se habla en inglés. Porque mamá no sabía inglés. In fact, no sabía leer y no sabía el inglés y mi papá no sabía como lo vaya salido ahora. Lo aprendió y luego donde anduvo trabajando. Ahí aprendió inglés. Pero nunca lo hablo el inglés. Y luego cuando nosotros fuimos a la escuela estos Americanos que estaban en la escuela pues mi familia estaba en la escuela ves. Si estuvieran un tiempo con nosotros pero nos hablaban en inglés cuando ellos fueron y con _____ el Mexicano y luego ya no hablaban en inglés a estos Mexicanos. Y nosotros nunca aprendimos el inglés.

(Bueno si ustedes eran la mayoría porque no podían hablar el español ahí no se necesitaba yo creo mucho hablar inglés o si?)

Mr. Abila: No pos no había con quien. No había mas unas tantas familias. Y no se estuvieron mucho tiempo. Se cambiaron cuando cambiaron el distrito. Y quedaron puros Mexicanos.

(Si)

Mr. Abila: Y _____ pos no había nunca nada de Mexicanos. _____ decían si no sabían interpretar al Mexicano pero no había. _____ este maestro [?] que vino si. Este maestro [?] vino sabía el comprendió y que nosotros no sabíamos _____ no ciertamente yo iba como en el libro seis cuando el vino. Y yo podría leer lo que puedo leer ahora pero no sabía que leía no me entendía las palabras. Entendía muchas si pero no mas partes no entendía.

(¿Y este señor era Mexicano?)

Mr. Abila: Mexicano

(¿Y de donde vino el?)

Mr. Abila: De Nuevo México.

(Nuevo México?)

Mr. Abila: Right.

(¿Y fue el único?)

Mr. Abila: Y fue el único. Ese fue el ultimo maestro que yo tuve. _____ se llamaba el.

(¿Después de que usted salio de la escuela, que hizo?)

Mr. Abila: Yo me crié en el rancho y siempre trabaje y estuve en el rancho de mi papá, toda la vida. _____ en el tiempo de invierno cuando no había suficiente que hacer en el rancho así asistían en manos [?] por los big farmers, rancheros grandes. Y se volvían en tiempo de verano después de que hicieron la cosecha de nosotros. Trabajaba en los ranchos.

(¿Que clase de cosecha hacía su padre de usted?)

Mr. Abila: Cosechábamos sácate, alfalfa, aveno, maíz, trigo, frijol, y todo eso.

(Muchas cosas.)

Son: We used to do that to make extra money.

Mr. Abila: We used to do that and they used to like the wheat they used to take it to the flour mill. Whatever they didn't sell they used to take it to the flour mill and then we used to make them flour and the rest of the grain we used to raise some hogs and we used to raise some cattle or sheep whatever and we used to feed it. It used to sell a lot of them too and so where was the whey. The whey that we didn't use on the stuff we had, we used to sell.

(Did almost all the farmers do this around there?)

Mr. Abila: All the farmers did the same thing.

(All of them did the same?)

Mr. Abila: Same thing yea.

(Did you ever like exchange grains? When one didn't have one come in.

Mr. Abila: No we never that.

(Where there any indians around that territory at that time?)

Mr. Abila: No, not one.

(Not any at all?)

Mr. Abila: There was one indian that was, I don't know how they come or how come he used to stay for my mother_____. He used to stay a lot on there. Where he came from I don't know.

(Then he just left?)

Mr. Abila: He died.

(Oh he died?)

Mr. Abila: He died there I remember I herd his sheep. 175 something like that and we used to herd them ourselves. We used to raise our grain and stuff we used have over 640 acres up in the mountains.

(I see.)

Mr. Abila: And we used to take the_____in the summers and it was three hours from the sheep in the land. Later on, one of my brothers didn't want to keep on with us and we were two brothers. We heard a sheep and we used to go and we walked eight days maybe and then we used to exchange every eight days, something like that. This indian is called Antonio I think, Jose Antonio or something like that. He died when I was up in the hill.

15:07

(¿Y el hablaba español?)

Mr. Abila: Oh yea sure.

(¿Si? ¿Qué clase de indio seria? ¿Apache? ¿Hablan en español que curioso verdad? Que vino y se fue como vino sin nadie saber. Que mas le iba a preguntar de sus hermanos. ¿Cuantos hermanos y hermanas?)

Mr. Abila: Tenia tres hermanos. Esos eran hermanos y hermanas. Y tenia tres hermanos—half brothers. Y hermanos hombres y mujeres eran, una, dos, tenia otra pero ya estaba muerta cuando yo—

(—Cuando usted nació.)

Mr. Abila: Yea, entonces dos hermanas y dos hermanos _____.

(Se murió la madre de usted?)

Mr. Abila: No.

(Se volvió a casar su papá?)

Mr. Abila: La mamá de ellos se murio.

(Oh.)

Mr. Abila: Entonces se caso con—

(Su padre de usted?)

Mr. Abila: Con la mama mía.

(Ya comprendo.)

Mr. Abila: Ellos eran mayores que yo.

(Bueno, entonces cuando se caso usted?)

Mr. Abila: En 1930 yea.

(1930? La mera depresión. What was happening then? Was it bad? Were you—.

Mr. Abila: —Well, we didn't suffer.

(You didn't suffer?)

Mr. Abila: Because we had—

(—As long as you were on the farm.)

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Mr. Abila: We was on the farm and they used to have a lot of you know—
tenían_____Russian[?] pero muchos de nosotros teníamos suficiente harina. We used to
raise our own—cosechar nosotros la misma carne, huevos, leche, everything.

(Tenian todo lo necesario por que el dinero no valía nada.)

Mr. Abila: No valía nada.

(Bueno entonces ustedes no sufrieron.)

Mr. Abila: No

(¿Y donde se casaron?)

Mr. Abila: En Walsenburg.

(En Walsenburg.)

Mr. Abila: Right

(¿Y vivieron cuantos años allí en Walsenburg?)

Mr. Abila: ¿De casados?

(Si de casados.)

Mr. Abila: Vivimos en 1930 to 1952 que nos movimos para acá.

(¿Bueno cuando usted se caso entonces para donde se movió? ¿Estuvo allí en su casa de su padre?)

Mr. Abila: No hice mi casita.

Son: _____ in the land.

(O usted hizo la casa para usted. ¿Y entonces usted trabajo los files [?] de papá también?)

Mr. Abila: Si yo nosotros tres. El se iba en el tiempo de verano como era en Abril, Mayo—bueno en Mayo, Junio se iba a las trasquilas. El iba a Utah, Wyoming, and all of that.

(A las que?)

Mr. Abila: A trasquilar borregas, sheeps.

(O si, si.)

Mr. Abila: Y nosotros teníamos—yo tenia posible como unos doce años and my other brother tendría puede como unas trece pero siempre nosotros hacíamos el—

(El trabajo.)

Mr. El trabajo de rancho, sembrar—nosotros hacíamos la siembra while he was out.

(Mientras su papa andaba por allá en muchos lugares, con los borregos.)

Ahí andábamos con la _____ con los caballos y _____ pos no podíamos con la araba [?] estábamos medianos. We used to go around and go and then go around and go. We used to do the whole thing hasta que el venia. Y siempre estábamos en el rancho. The first time, la primer vez que voy a salir a trabajar afuera de rancho tenia about eighteen years old.

(¿A donde fue?)

Mr. Abila: A Westcliff [?] una _____ que le decían Westcliff como thirty—

Son: Forty-two miles

Mr. Abila: No _____ por ahí.

(Y que estaba asiendo ahí?)

Mr. Abila: _____ sacate. Este hombre desde que tenia la tienda en Red Wing, ese hombre nos conocía pos ahí tratábamos and we used to buy everything there el _____ de un año a otro. Tratábamos ahí, si teníamos dinero llevábamos, si no teníamos no lo llevaban y lo comprábamos. Pero en Octubre cuando vendíamos el sacate o borregos o grano, lo que teníamos. Con el dinero le pagábamos.

(Y ese señor que tenia esa tienda era Mexicano?)

19:53

Mr. Abila: No, era Americano. Y este hombre tenia un brother-in-law. La mujer de el y la mujer de este hombre que le digo venia a Westcliff, eran hermanos. Y venia este hombre muchas veces hacer cita [?]. Y vino, y le pregunto a _____ que si no sabia quien podría conseguir alguno que quisiera trabajar en el sacate. Y fue a la casa el a ver si queríamos. Y cuando fue le dije, “Pos si mi padre me deja ir, voy” and he did and he let me go.

(Ahora si lo deajo ir.)

Mr. Abila: Y eso fue cuando tenia eighteen years old. Y fui por el tiempo del el sacate y no cuando se acababa el sacate y volvíamos a trabajar a casa y de ahí from then on I’ve done that for about, como por unos cuatro o cinco años. Iba siempre para el tiempo de el sacate iba a trabajar.

(Bueno, after you got married then you go to _____.)

Mr. Abila: Yes

(And you had some children.)

Mr. Abila: Yes

(How many?)

Mr. Abila: six

(Six children. Y todos vivos?)

Mr. Abila: Todos vivos.

(Did you have hospitals?)

Mr. Abila: Yes there was doctors and hospitals I never did use it. She did. Cuando tenia los babies. That’s the only time we used the doctors.

Other voice: You’re talking about the—

(We're your children born at home?)

Mrs. Abila: Yea.

(They were born at home?)

Mrs. Abila: Uh huh.

(Did the doctor come to the house?)

Mrs. Abila: We had the—

(—From where?)

Mrs. Abila: Gardner used to go to the house.

(Gardner)

Mrs. Garner: Uh huh. Eliberto [?] ocupó hospital.

Mr. Abila: Si Eliberto si estuvo en el hospital en Walsenburg.

(El mas chico?)

Mr. Abila: No el mayor.

(O el mas grande.)

Mr. Abila: He had pendix.

(O si si si)

Other voice: He had pendix and he had_____.

(Tambien?)

Mrs. Abila: Yea

(O)

(Y se les logro siempre?)

Mr. Abila: O yea.

Mrs. Abila: Aquí estaba aquí anoche.

Mr. Abila: Aquí estaba aquí anoche.

(O si ya me dijeron.)

Mr. Abila: He was the only one que estuvo en el hospital.

(Are those the only childhood diseases that you can remember that your children had that were bad?)

Mrs Abila: Uh Huh.

Mr. Abila: Yes the only one.

(What about your parents? Did their children have some very bad diseases? Do you remember? When they were little?)

Mr. Abila: Not that I know. My momma did.

(Oh she did?)

Mr. Abila: My momma did because my momma had _____ that she lost her hearing remember?

Other voice: Yea she lost her hearing.

(So that was your mother?)

Mrs. Abila: No era de _____era—

Mr. Abila: —¿Viruela? Something like that. Any way, my father never did. Well, he did too, but one year that he was shaving sheep in Utah.

Mrs. Abila: He got pneumonia. ¿Que no?

Mr. Abila: He got sick and he was in the hospital for about oh fives days at least.

Mrs. Abila: pneumonia

(Pulmonía?)

Son: Yea yea

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(Si right.)

Son: And then they said it was nothing serious

(No pulmonía no pero _____ [?] cólera _____. Era malo malo)

Mr. Abila: Outside of that, my dad never did until he died. When he died he didn't stay long _____ in three days he got a heart attack.

(Okay, now you told me about your children. Tell me how many boys and how many girls.)

Mr. Abila: There was five boys and one girl.

(And one girl.)

Mr. Abila: The youngest was the girl.

(Okay. How long did you stay there then, after they were born—all your children were born?)

Mr. Abila: I stayed until 1952.

(1952. Do you want to tell me something about how—if they went to school?)

Mr. Abila; They all went to school.

(In?)

Mr. Abila: In Chama.

(In Chama.)

Mr. Abila: And then after they finished their 8th grade they went to high school in Walsenburg.

(In Walsenburg. Okay.)

Mr. Abila: Except then—

Son: —except me.

Mr. Abila: Except you were right. You went to—

Son: —Boulder

Mr. Abila: Boulder yea. In the end she was in high school when moving here.

Mrs. Abila: Me [?] is Tom.

Son: That's me is Tom.

(He came to Boulder when he was thirteen.)

Mr. Abila: Right.

(What year was that?)

Mr. Abila: 1948

(1948)

Son: '47 or '48

(Why did you move from Walsenburg?)

24:55

Mr. Abila: The reason why I moved from Huerfano County was because the place was too small and then years changed much that we didn't—the last five years that we went back there and before that, but any way. The very last five years we couldn't raise grain anymore because we didn't have no water.

(What happened to the water?)

Mr. Abila: Well, the years change like now. The years change, no snow, no rain or hardly any rain and the water right that we had was way too far off. There were not many water rights.

(Too expensive probably to go.)

Mr. Abila: No it wasn't expensive because we didn't have to pay for the water.

Son: We had the water rights.

(Oh.)

Mr. Abila: But our water rights were way too late see all the wild guys [?] that had to first water rights. _____ all the water and then we didn't get any see.

(Oh I see.)

Mr. Abila: They used to be from number one clear up to seventy-six.

(Oh my)

Mr. Abila: And our priority on _____ was forty-two and in order to get water steady water we had to have seventy-five feet of water in the creek and I don't think it was filled up in ten years I don't think it was over sixty. So we—

Son: —The majority of time you never had over fifty.

Mr. Abila: Yea and that was one of the reasons because we didn't have enough—we didn't have no grain at all. We couldn't raise no hogs, hardly. We couldn't raise when there was not much of nothing and then whey the last five years, some years if we had a good change to get one irrigation and _____ had no little rain the summer. We used to raise enough but—.

Son:—_____ nature.

Mr. Abila: Most of the time we would leave and that's why, see. Instead of raising your own grain, your own whey. The way everything went up so high—you had to buy some and you wasn't making—I wasn't making anything. Instead of making something I was loosing.

(So what did you do with your land?)

I sold it.

(You sold it.)

I sold it when I—before I started getting in debt. I got in debt while in think it was in 1942 when my brother died—his wife she said she couldn't run the place so she couldn't farm or anything like that. She wanted to sell her part.

(To you?)

To me and I didn't have the money to buy it. So anyway, I went to bank where we used to borrow money. Nosotros íbamos as banco y le pedíamos al banco 200, 300, 400 pesos y nos lo daba la palabra, si. Por seis meses o por un año o por whatever. Y eso hicimos por oh I don't know dies, quince, veinte años. Nunca tuvimos _____. Pero cuando mi hermano se murió la mujer dejo que ya no podía correr ranchos y que para lo otro quería su parte. Y yo no tenia el dinero y fui a el banco y el banco me dijo—tanto dinero así ocupaba. Me pregunto cuanto dinero ocupaba. Y ocupaba 1,400 pesos para pagar la parte y los animales que teníamos y caballos y _____.

(El terreno y todo.)

Mr. Abila: No el terreno todavía quedo afuera.

(O si?)

Mr. Abila: Y ocupaba 1,400 pesos y me dijo el banco, "I'm sorry" dice "pero usted _____ han sacado dinero aquí a la palabra por años y años. Su palabra a sido buena pero 1,400 pesos es mucho dinero." Y no teníamos en ese tiempo _____ que había ese terreno prestado donde vivimos era de mi papa ahora si. No teníamos mas de el terreno prestado en la sierra. Y no era suficiente claro para el dinero. Pero el había _____ donde el gobierno que daba el gobierno para comprar animales y todo eso. Y había un amigo mío que estaba ahí y porque no aplicaba que estaba cierto que el conseguía. So _____ and I did and they loaned me the money.

30:02

(What was their name?)

Mr. Abila: Higby era el FHA.

(FHA)

Mr. Abila: Si era el FHA.

(Was this in Walsenburg?)

Mr. Abila: Yea

(It was okay.)

Mr. Abila: _____ for the money and they told me it would take about a month or so to approve it or whatever. In fifteen days they called me and said we're going _____ and I got the money and I paid her for all for all the part of machinery, the horses, the sheep, the cows, whatever we had. Except the land. The land estaba todavía al nombre del muchacho. No estaba al nombre de ella. But anyway, I used to pay the taxes on the land and I used to rent the part it sometimes and I used to give her, her part.

(Her part uh huh)

Mr. Abila: And then we sold the timber that we bought with the _____. We bought that place for \$400 and we sold the timber for \$700.

(It was timber and the land?)

Mr. Abila: And I gave her half of the money and I'll get the other half. Then later on what she sold her part to her girlfriend [?].

(So then you had to sell out [?] and make—)

Mr. Abila: No I still I kept. I kept _____ when my brother died.

Son: We made an agreement that they would keep between their brothers.

Mr. Abila: I kept_____for about three or four years I guess then she sold her part al otro muchacho and the other boy kept everything together like brothers even divided we just had so many cows and I used to take so many cows.

(Just divide it by the middle.)

Mr. Abila: And then when I sold I_____the other part that I had and beside that I was going to say and then when my brother died.

32:24

[End of Part A.]

00:00

Mr. Abila: Esperante [?] era un hombre muy vivo y siempre era un hombre que le gustaba jalar para aya y para acá y no la_____.

(En la política?)

Mr. Abila: Si en todo.

(En todo)

Mr. Abila: Cuando mi padre vio esto de cómo estaba el negocio de andaban queriendo me quitar todo lo que podían. Me dijo mi padre—un día fue a mi casa y me dijo, “Yo quiero que vallas conmigo hoy a la plaza.” Y le dije yo que a que quería ir a la plaza. Y dijo, “Yo he oído rumores aquí y allá. Si ahora no te doy mi parte de la tierra antes de que me muera. Si yo me muero te van a traer en broma [?].” Y le dije que yo no quería nada por que no me pertenecía anyway. Y dijo, “No yo quiero darte my parte de mi tierra la mitad de mi tierra antes que—.” Y fuimos y me dio a traspasar [?] la tierra. La mera mitad de la tierra del racho me la trajo todo a mi. La tierra y el agua.

(Y entonces estuvo usted mas años?)

Mr. Abila: Estuve así hasta—por muchos años hasta después de que se murió estaba me estuve. Después de que el se murió me estuve—

(—¿Se acuerda cuando se murió su papá?)

Mr. Abila: Si

(Que año?)

Mr. Abila: Será en 1956.

(Oh)

Mr. Abila: En Abril wasn't it?

Mrs. Abila: May

Son: En Mayo

Mr. Abila: In May 1956

(Pero usted se vino para acá en el '52 para Boulder?)

Son: '62

Mr. Abila: In 1960.

(Oh '62. '60?)

Mr. Abila: '60 in February 1960.

(Oh.)

Mr. Abila: Y come le iba diciendo, y por eso fue la razón cuando este negocio de las aguas y todo esto se vino tan malo que no podía hacer la vida. Podía hacerla si me había metido en cuenta. Pero no quería meterme en cuenta. Y por los últimos cinco años que estuve allá antes de venirme para acá, corría mi lugar mío y corría un lugar grande de cien vecinos que vivían unas cuatro millas de donde vivía yo. Y así la estaba haciendo. Cuando solitos de—.

(—Trabajando doble)

Mr. Abila: Doble

(Uh huh)

Mr. Abila: Pero cuando todo esto paso que los muchachos se estaban viniendo para aca. Ellos empezaron que para que estaba allá. Y me vine para acá.

Son: Y yo fui el que le dije.

Mr. Abila: Vendía allá antes de todo estaba aquí y no vendería nada entonces vendí y me vine para acá y compre mi casa. Pague la mitad de la casa y una vez porque no sabia yo que tanto iría a estar sin trabajo o como. Y pague la mitad de la casa pero como el los quince/veinte días agarre trabajo.

(Entonces usted ha vivido en este domicilio desde que vino a Boulder.)

Mr. Abila: Eighteen years.

(Dieciocho años. Dígame de su trabajo aquí en Boulder.)

Mr. Abila: Y vine aquí a Boulder y como a los dieciocho días que vine aquí a Boulder fui a trabajar y me llamaron a trabajar en lumber yard. Me llamaron a trabajar a que fuera a vaciar un carro de tren de cemento. Y cuando fui allá que hice trabajo les gusto mi trabajo _____ y me dijeron que si quería un steady job. Y allí comencé. That's the job that I've been at for eighteen years in lumber yard. Well, _____ stay in the same yard porque trabaje dos años en la yarda vieja hasta que hicieron la nueva and then I moved to the new yard and I've been there ever since.

Son: You're still affiliated with the same company

Mr. Abila: Yea

(Hábleme de su trabajo que le gusto y cuando lo hicieron.)

Mr. Abila: (Cuando comencé a trabajar el primer día que vine a trabajar, trabaje unloading cars—car cement. Then from there on I was a truck driver for about maybe two months something like that. Then after that they told me I was too grown [?] around the yard you know straighten up things and taking care of the yard and they put me to work in the yard. De ves en cuando, once in a while salía de delivery pero mas estaba en la yarda. En then, cuando no mudamos then we stayed two years aquí in this yard. Y de aquí no mudamos a la yarda nueva. Y cuando nos mudamos a la yarda nueva we had a different manager. They changed managers and everything. Y _____ trabaje como dos meses the same way en la yarda and then they put me as a foreman very hard y era el foreman del _____.

5:00

(Cuanto duro de foreman?)

Mr. Abila: Dure come well, I say ten years.

(Diez años. Would you say that you had problems with the people that were hired _____?)

Mr. Abila: Yea I did—a lot of problems with a lot of the guys.

(Why do you think you had problems?)

Mr. Abila: Because they didn't want to work. They used to tell them what to do, que hicieran, les enseñabas como hicieran el trabajo y no mas no se iba uno y hacían como les daba gana.

(Yo quería que les dijera.)

Mr. Abila: Si querían que les dijera pero si no los estabas viendo hacían—les decían exactly how you wanted the work or como lo hicieran y nos te ibas y lo hacían.

(You never had a problem yourself getting a job.)

Mr. Abila: Oh no I never had a problem—never did.

(Okay, you told me about an incident you only had one problem you felt in all your life of discrimination. Do you remember what you told me? About the man who came.)

Mr. Abila: Oh yea well, that man, that was. Which one was it? Which one of the managers we had then? Well anyway, this man came over and he asked for a job. He was a man about oh say—

(—Young man?)

Mr. Abila: No. He was a man about—I say forty-five something like that. Maybe at the time that he came he was working he applied for a job. Maybe I was about five/six years older than him, anyways. He was about forty-five/fifty years old something like that. In the morning that was on a Monday when I went to work the boss told me, “We got a new man. I’m going to give you a new man and you tell him what to do.” He told the guy, “This is _____ and he’s a foreman.” Then, he introduced the other workers. But he said, “This is _____ he’s a foreman and whatever he tells you to do, that’s it.” Then he worked about two hours or something like that and then he took off and he told some of the other guys not to me, but some of the other guys que eran Americanos ahi. He told them that he wasn’t one of our _____ Mexican. That no Mexican is going to tell him what to do and he left. He didn’t even take his lunch box or nothing. Nobody knew what happened to him. Until later on they said that he was working on other yard.

(Okay, other thing that we are interested in knowing is when you came here to buy your house did you have any problems buying your house? No problem?)

Mr. Abila: No problem, I went to a real estate man and took me to different places and they showed me different places where the houses were. Some of the houses I didn’t like because they were too old houses. There was a nice house down there on Cherry Ville. It had four acres of land and sure wanted to buy that, but in kind of bad shape and boys didn’t work long enough already. Then he came to his house to sell me this house and when he came to this house he said that this just had to remodel it all over. He said that the price was pretty high and he said that I could buy it, but when I told him that I would give his \$6,000 down. He said, “Well, I think I can buy that.” And we did, I bought the house. I didn’t have any trouble to buy the house.

(Tell me about the neighborhood. What did you think about the neighborhood?)

Mr. Abila: I think the neighborhood that we have is—I can't see it any better because I didn't have any discrimination or say this or this to me or nothing. They treat me just as good as anybody else.

(Did you ever visit with each other, into each other's houses?)

Mr. Abila: Not really. No. We never did. The only _____ here and _____ there was an old lady and I used to mow her grass and everything. The next lady on the other side she was an old widow too and I used to do her work all the time. Then I went over there in the corner I used to do his work all the time too.

9:55

(There were a lot of retired people here.)

Mr. Abila: Yea. Then Mr. _____ over here when I retired the first thing he did when I retired he came asked me what I was going to do and I told him that whatever I could find and he asked me if I could take care of his yard and I did. I've been doing it ever since I retired.

(Tell me when you retired.)

Mr. Abila: I think I retired in 19—I think it was in 1973, '72/ '73 I don't remember. I don't think I got it, but anyway.

(One thing lets go back a little bit because these are specific things that I wanted to ask you about. For instance, when you where in Walsenburg did you have a church there?)

Mr. Abila: In Walsenburg?

(Uh huh)

Mr. Abila: Well there is a church in _____. We never did go to church in Walsenburg because we didn't live in Walsenburg we lived outside _____.

(Of the country)

Mr. Abila: In the country. I mean we had a church in—

(—In the country?)

Mr. Abila: There was a church about two miles from where we used to live and then there was another church in Gardner.

(Did you go there? Did your parents go?)

Mr. Abila: Oh yes sure.

(Your parents went. Did you go too when you were little?)

Mr. Abila: Sure that's why we used to go to church. But then later on in the _____. This church that we had in Chama, we didn't have a steady priest. The priest from Garner used to go over there and give us mass.

Mrs. Abila: It was Our Lady.

Mr. Abila: And then later on—.

(—What was it called?)

Mrs. Abila: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mr. Abila: Our Lady of Guadalupe

(I see.)

Mr. Abila: And then later on—

(—Did he preach to you in Spanish?)

Son: Yea

Mr. Abila: Yea sure.

(Oh. Where they Spanish?)

Mr. Abila: No

(No? But there were some that could speak Spanish?)

Son: It_____we had some.

Mrs. Abila: Some Spanish.

Mr. Abila: Yea we had some. Well I don't think.

Mrs. Abila: Yea si había algunos padres Mexicanos.

Son: Yea because when I was up there when I was a kid you had the Spanish speakers.

Mr. Abila: El padre _____ no era Mexicano.

Son: No pero I mean.

Mr. Abila: Pero hablaba—

Mrs. Abila: Y el padre Tereso [?]

Mr. Abila: El padre Tereso [?] no era Mexicano era Español yo creo.

Son: Español yea pero hablaba

Mr. Abila: Hablaba Mexicano right

(Si uh huh. ¿Y tenían como para entretenimiento que hacían cuando usted era joven?)

Mr. Abila: En el rancho no había mas entretenimiento que el juego de pelota los domingos nos juntábamos just to play baseball. En el rancho nosotros allá teníamos— casi todos los vecinos tenían vacas y tenían caballos. Y eso era casi lo que hacíamos nosotros todo el tiempo. Todos nos juntábamos y encerrábamos un bunch de caballos. Y andábamos jineteando. That's all we used to do. No había otro cosa mas que—

Mr. Abila: Solo _____ Día Santiago [?]

Mr. Abila: Oh yea.

Son: About once a year,

(¿Era una fiesta?)

Mr. Abila: Yea era Dia Santiago y Dia Santa Ana. Lo celebraban por tres días.

(O si)

Mr. Abila: Eso era once—

(—una vez por año)

Mr. Abila: A el año. Para el día cuatro también pero no para el día cuatro no había mas que se juntaban y iban a un picnic.

(¿Las familias?)

Mr. Abila: Y todavía _____.

Mrs. Abila: _____

Mr. Abila: Si pero muy a lo lejos. Pero la única diversión que había era para el día veinticinco de Julio y el día veintiséis. Santiago y Santa Ana eran dos días pero si era every year.

(Cada año. ¿Tenían bailes?)

Mr. Abila: Oh yea. Tenían rodeos y había bailes.

(¿Y los bailes eran caseros o eran bailes in halls?)

Mr. Abila: In halls yea.

(¿En donde? ¿En Walsenburg?)

Mr. Abila: No en Gardner.

(En Gardner.)

Mr. Abila: Y en Red Wing había otra sala. Y en esa escuela, en la escuela de Chama hacían you know la escuela de Chama o la escuela de _____Creek or Gardner. Para Christmas hacían programas every year. En todas las escuelas hacían programas pero la hacia un programa se juntaban los_____yo creo hacían otro programa en una escuela por un día. Y en otro día en otra escuela y en_____.

Mrs. Abila: After the program there was a dance.

Mr. Abila: Yea

(Oh después del programa había—)

Mr. Abila: —Carnaval había de_____.

(¿El rodeo?)

Mr. Abila: En Agosto, en Julio, el día Santiago, el día Santa Ana había rodeo, carnaval y todo eso.

Son: That was down in Walsenburg though.

Mr. Abila: No, no en Gardner.

Son: ¿En Gardner también?

14:55

Mr. Abila: Sure

Son: That was before_____.

(¿Entonces vamos a tirar el brinco otra vez para Boulder y aquí que hacen para entretenimiento cuando ustedes primero vinieron para Boulder? ¿Que hacían?)

Mr. Abila: No nos hemos salido para ningún lugar. The only place we go here since we moved here is the church and once in a while, si a caso alguna conocido. Amigos sometimes no invitan a un baile. _____we never go to any places.

(¿No van como al senior citizens?)

Mr. Abila: A el senior citizens o bingo y todo eso we never.

Son: That's what I'm trying to encourage them to go some place and get away from this thing of just staying by themselves at home.

(Bueno quizás mas adelante vamos a hacer alguna cosa. ¿Usted estuvo en la militaría?)

Mr. Abila: No

(¿Y sus hijos?)

Mr. Abila: De mis hijos estuvo uno.

(¿Uno? ¿El chiquito?)

Mr. Abila: El mediano

(¿Cual guerra?)

Mrs. Abila: No fue.

Mr. Abila: No fue a la guerra.

(No fue a la guerra. ¿No mas se lo llevaron o el se fue de voluntario?)

Mrs. Abila: El se fue de voluntario.

(En que rama de la—)

Mrs. Abila: Air Force

Mr. Abila: En el Air Force

(¿Cuántos años estuvo el?)

Mr. Abila: Cuatro años.

(¿Que hacen sus hijos? ¿Todos se vinieron para acá cuando usted se vino para acá?)

Mr. Abila: Todos estan aquí.

(¿Y todos viven aquí?)

Mr. Abila: Right

(¿Viven desparramados o cerca de usted?)

Mr. Abila: Viven cerca.

Son: Todos juntos.

Mr. Abila: Except one, uno vive en—

Son: Broomfield.

Mr. Abila: Broomfield

(Broomfield)

Son: Todos estábamos juntos

(¿Y todos tienes su trabajo?)

Mr. Abila: Todos tienes su trabajo. They've never been out of work.

(Nunca han tenido problemas para trabajos.)

Mrs. Abila: Bueno la muchacha vive en Denver.

(O vive en Denver.)

Mr. Abila: Si la muchacha

(¿Todos se fueron a la escuela? ¿Acabaron la escuela aquí en Boulder?)

Mr. Abila: Dos

Mrs. Abila: La muchacha y el _____. Ellos acabaron la escuela aquí.

Son: Erben [?]

Mr. Abila: Erben [?] didn't go to school here.

Son: Yea Erben [?] Well, not here in Boulder no.

(Aquí en Boulder.)

Son: I thought you meant acabando la escuela.

(No, no aquí en Boulder. Los que acabaron la escuela.)

Mrs. Abila: Los que acabaron la escuela aquí en Boulder—el Abel [?] y la Lian [?].

Mr. Abila: Y la Lian yea.

(O si bueno. Otra cosa que les queria preguntar que es muy interesante para nosotros es las yerbas que usaban cuando usted estaba chico, si se acuerda de yerbas que usaban para medicinas.)

Mr. Abila: Well, yerbas que usábamos el poleo, la yerba buena, _____tenian unas matas de_____el pomajio [?]. Todas yerbas de campo_____el pomajio [?] mariola.

(¿Y para que las usaban esas?)

Mr. Abila: Muchas los usaban para el resfrío para tos.

(¿Eran yerbas que crecen arriba de la tierra?)

Mr. Abila: Sure

(¿Y que las usaban como te?)

Mr. Abila: La yerba buena la usaban, la secaban y la usaban para la comida. Le echaban a la comida. Lo mismo que el poleo. El poleo también era_____. Pero ese otro orégano ese lo usaban cuando se resfriaban que tenían mucha tos.

Son: Medicine yea

(¿Y la mariola como le llamo?)

Mr. Abila: Pos esa desaparecía que para la gente para_____. Hacían te y se la bebían.

(A si)

Mr. Abila: Lo mismo que habían hay un chamizo pado[?] . Es un chamizo muy fuerte, muy strong. Pero lo usaba la gente para remedio. Como para la gente que tenía fiebre y todo eso. Y había otra de sus raíces allí que la sacaban de la sierra esa, que decían_____. Era una yerba muy strong pero para cuando tenían acaraban_____or something lo usaban. They used to use a lot of these things. Había otra yerba que le decían la yerba que se criaba mucho en la tierra y era de negrita [?]. Y la molían y se descosentaban [?] un brazo or something hacían como un parche. Y se la ponían hay.

(Para sanar)

19:55

Mr. Abila: Right. Corrió de Gardner donde vivíamos nosotros a la lamosa y lo_____. Iba en el día la lamosa y volvía.

(¿Y usted que tanto cree que—cuantas millas?)

Mr. Abila: Había como, por donde el iba para cross cut the mountains—había no menos que treinta millas about thirty miles.

(And there were no roads then?)

Mr. Abila: No there was only a trail.

Son: Nothing but trails—hard trails.

(And did he use more that one horse?)

Mr. Abila: Oh yes he used to go so far and there were ranchos [?] between see and he used to go to_____, come down and change horses and go down and he had to change horses again.

(Come back?)

Mr. Abila: Every day

(Every day?)

Mr. Abila: And they say that he—

(—You know how long he did that?)

Mr. Abila; I think that somebody said that it was about twenty years.

(Twenty years. Do you know when he quit? What year?)

Mr. Abila: No I don't.

(No? That's really interesting. You were telling me something about how they did the work.)

Mr. Abila:

En esos tiempos casi todo en esos tiempos que yo estuve de_____no había tractor. Había para los que tenían mucho terreno que tenían dinero pero all of our work we used to—

(—Your father did this too?)

Mr. Abila: Yea

(Your father and you did too?)

Mr. Abila: With horses. Broken plows we never had any tractors en todas esas con broken plows. La gente cortaba el grano con créesles you know by my hand.

(Sickle)

Mr. Abila: Sickle. Yea something like that. Muchos cuando ya llego no lo hice pero mi padre si lo hizo y mis abuelos. Se juntaban todos los vecinos e iban a un lugar primero a un rancho y de allí se iban a otro y así se ayudaban.

(Se ayudaban)

Mr. Abila: Ya el_____todos lo triaban con caballos. Así en pilas grandes. You know big stacks de grano and they used to get a bunch of horses they used to go around around si lo tiraban con el aire lo limpiaban.

(¿Tenían como una cosa que la alzaban con el aire?)

Mr. Abila: No hacían un big ground—era, le decían.

(¿Era?)

Mr. Abila: Una era. Decían así_____.

(What did it look like?)

Mr. Abila: It was a piece of ground. Maybe about I don't know.

Son: It was just a flat surface.

Mr. Abila: Maybe one hundred feet all around great big ground. It was nothing but dirt. Lo alzaban and they used to bring a bunch of sheep or horses and track them down y quedaba duro just like cement now [?]. Then they used to stack your grain in there and they used to stack you know_____mantener las pilas grandes de_____. Eran round si y comenzaban de top y echaban so much all around and then they used to go round and round with the horses and then_____.

(Oh the horses would stop_____.)

Mr. Abila: Yea and then after that it was pretty well ground up. We used to put a little more and it would keep on going till they used finish the whole thing.

(Oh my goodness)

Mr. Abila: And they used to finish the whole thing and then after they finished breaking it all up. Then they used to take the horses up and then start lifting up through the—

Mrs. Abila: —una urquia [?]

Mr. Abila: Con una urquia [?]

Son: Wait for the wind.

Mr. Abila: Wait for the wind. Y la aventaban y el aire se llevaba la paja.

(¿Es que estaba una tela abajo? No comprendo. ¿Estaba una tela abajo?)

Mr. Abila: _____la tierra que estaba.

Son:_____.

Mrs. Abila:_____.

Mr. Abila: Bueno una no levantaba la tierra. Levantaba la paja. The straw you know?

Son: The horse and all that stuff used to grind the stuff down to a fine thing.

(Yea)

Son: Grind up the peas [?] or beets [?] or whatever.

(¿Y luego la levantaba_____?)

Mr. Abila: No la levantaba para arriba así para que el aire se llevaba la paja y el grano caía.

Son: Unless you got a pitchfork or—

Mr. Abila: Hasta que ya—y luego iban quitando la paja little by little le iban quitando la paja así del grano así.

(Hasta que quedara lo mas limpio.)

Mr. Abila: ____ el grano ahí. Luego después de que ____ limpiaban ahí si—they used to have boxes, oh big box about—

Son:—Screen

Mr. Abila: Yea screen anyway with little holes in them and they put the stuff and all the grain used to come in—all the rocks or whatever. La ____ o la paja que stuck was pretty thick [?]. Esa no se salía, se quedaba ahí y la tiraban y el grano se quedaba ahí.

(Robert [?] do you have something to say?)

Son: In other words we used to do four or five times of work that you do nowadays.

(Uh huh right)

Mr. Abila : And the beans the way we used to crash the beans see, we had a wire [?] gun with a big box tu sabes un cajón de un carro

(Si)

24:55

Mr. Abila: Y la echábamos e íbamos echando el frijol ahí y con palos y luego ____ y íbamos ____ y íbamos a traer la paja y asta que llenaba el cajón bien y lo machucábamos y luego con el mismo aire si.

(Se volaban)

Mr. Abila: Se volaba la paja y el frijol quedaba en el cajón.

(Se me olvido también preguntarle cual fue el primer año cuando compro un carro.)

Mr. Abila: O cuando compro el primer carro, I think it was in 1928. Compro mi papá un ____ Ford.

(Usted estaba muy joven.)

Mr. Abila: Oh yea. No estaba—tenia como unos eighteen years ya yo creo.

(Dieciocho años?)

Mr. Abila. Por ahí.

(Estaba joven. ¿Fue la primer vez que vio usted?)

Mr. Abila: Y luego después de eso, después cuando yo ya tenía poco mas años mi padre compro una maquina de cortar grano. Y la corrían como cuatro como tres caballos. Y mi padre cortaba grano por toda la gente le pagaban. Cortaba el de el y cortaba todo. Esa maquina cortaba grano y lo amaraba. Iba tirando en_____ and he used to do a lot of customer work for the people.

(Por ahí alrededor.)

Mr. Abila: En todos los vecinos y ranchos alrededor. Y luego vinieron unos hombres que traían una maquina de triar con un steam engine. Y ya triaban con la mano y triaban con maquinas de_____machines.

(¿Cuándo fue eso?)

Mr. Abila;Ya eso fue como en 1928 or '30 something like that.

(Ya cuando comenzaron a salir las maquinas.)

Mr. Abila: Pero we never did what I did, como le dije los ultimos cinco que estuve en el rancho allá corría el lugar mío. Y el rancho del hombre este y hacia el trabajo con la maquinaria el hacia el trabajo mío y el de el both of them.

(Do you think that when you were in Walsenburg that your family was more together when you lived in the valley?)

Mr. Abila: Well, my family has been together all the same way—never had to change.

(They're the same?)

Mrs. Abila: They've too close all the time.

Mr. Abila: They've been too close.

Son: Are you talking about the immediate family?

(Yea I'm talking about your immediate family—your sons and daughters.)

Mr. Abila: They've been always too close.

(Always. They've been very close to each other.)

Mr. Abila: Very close to each other.

(And after they came to the Boulder it didn't change.)

Mr. Abila: They didn't change nothing. It's still the same.

(Kept together pretty much.)

Mr. Abila: Right.

(Do you think that they made any other friends besides the family? Was it hard for them to make other friends?)

Mr. Abila: Oh no. They have a lot of friends. They have a lot of friends because they go out see and then they go out then they have a lot of friends.

Mrs. Abila: Ellos tienen unos amigos que yo conozco _____.

Son: This is it. You know? We were taught when we were kids to be—I don't want to interfere because you were talking to my parents. This is the first thing not only on my dad's part—my grandpa's part when I was a little kid. My grand dad and he was a beautiful man. He taught us, "If you do the things the way they're supposed to be done and treat the people the way they're supposed to be treated you're going to be treated equal." He said, "Sometimes you're going to have a few difficulties, but this is in the long run. It takes a little bit one way or another, but in the majority of the _____ you're going to come out again." And that's one thing my dad always taught us when we were kids because he never favored us. We done something wrong and if we done and if we done something bad, he always put it one way or another. He never defended the other person. He never went against us, but he yet he put it in a mile away. You know what I'm talking about? He said "Well, this is the way it should be done. He says, "Because I'm your dad I'm not going to defend you." And vice versa I says, "I'm not going to defend him."

(If you think that you had difficulties they didn't bother you that much.)

Son: No not really.

(I mean in relations with other people.)

Son: No not really and it hasn't yet because this way of bringing [?] the stop is what has helped us communitate with the other people. You know what I'm talking about?

(Well, you must be a strong person inside. You're a strong—)

Son: —You have to be strong. You have to be strong.

(But not everybody is.)

Son: I've had some real let downs in my part and I kind of slide them to because that's the way that they brought me. They brought me up a certain way. So you're going to have people calm you down low. A lot of people are going to call you some good things and—

(—And you feel like they balanced each other out?)

Son: Yes I'll _____ yea uh huh.

(That's good. Es lo que quería saber si la vida ha estado balanceada bien. Quizás porque vivieron en el rancho tan largo tiempo su familia esta muy fuerte adentro—el espíritu.)

31:37

[End of Part B. End of Interview.]

