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Ana M. Varela-Lago: This is an interview with Mrs. Marina Inclan. Marina, I would like to start by talking a little bit about your family. Could you tell me, why did they come to Tampa and when did they come?

Marina Inclan: They come to Cuba first, and then they came to Tampa. I was born in Cuba and have a brother that was born in Cuba and my sister was born in—they already passed away—my sister was born in Spain.

AVL: I see. Where in Spain were your parents from?

MI: Lugo, *la provincia de Lugo*.

AVL: That is in Galicia, in the province?

MI: Yes. They moved—the town in which Mother was born was Santa Eulalia.

AVL: De la Devesa?

MI: De la Devesa. And my father, San Miguel de Reinante.

AVL: Could you tell me their names?

MI: My father was Baldomero Lopez, and my mother was—. I have to give her, the maiden name, or—?

AVL: Yes, the maiden name.

MI: Leonor Ranon.

AVL: Leonor Ranon.

MI: Um-hm. Yes.

AVL: Okay, so they met in Spain, your parents, they met in Spain?

MI: Yes, they met in Spain. My sister—my older sister was born in Spain.

AVL: Okay, they married in Spain, then?

MI: They married in Spain and they came to Cuba.

AVL: Why did they come to Cuba?

MI: Because they wanted to—my father had a brother in Cuba and he told my father to come there and he will provide him a good—

AVL: Job.

MI: Yes—and they stayed in Cuba.

AVL: What did they do in Spain? Were they farmers, is that what they did in Spain before they decided to come to Cuba, your parents? Do you know what they were doing?

MI: My father came first, he was a young man. He came to Cuba and he learned how to make cigars in Cuba. He was a cigar maker in Cuba.

AVL: Did your mother also work in the cigar factory?

MI: No, no, she doesn't work in the cigar factory.

AVL: So, they are in Cuba and you are born in Cuba, and your brother also—in Cuba?

MI: Yes. And my sister, my older sister—she's passed away—she was born in Spain.

AVL: And why did your parents decide to come to Tampa, then?

MI: Yes.

AVL: Why did they come to Tampa? Why did they leave Cuba?

MI: Yes. They leave Cuba because they thought that they had more prosperity here in Tampa than in Cuba.

AVL: I see. And when they came to Tampa they also worked in the cigar factory?

MI: My father worked in the—right here in Celestino Vega.

AVL: Celestino Vega? Was he a roller?

MI: He was a cigar maker. He made both.

AVL: And he worked in Celestino Vega most of his life?

MI: Most of his life, yes. My mother doesn't work, she take care of children.

AVL: How many children did they have? There were three when you came to Tampa?

MI: There were three, yes.

AVL: So, three?

MI: Um-hm, Um-hm.

AVL: Where did you live when you were growing up here in Tampa?

MI: Right here, around here, yes.

AVL: So they settled in West Tampa?

MI: In West Tampa, yes.

AVL: And they always lived here in West Tampa?

MI: Yes, they always lived here in West Tampa, yes.

AVL: Did they speak Galician at home, your parents?

MI: No, my mother is the one that, but my father no, my father speak good Spanish. But my mother, sometimes she had some word in Gallego.

AVL: Did they ever go back to Spain, Marina?

MI: No, no, they didn't.

AVL: They never did?

MI: They died here in Tampa.

AVL: Did you go to Spain?

MI: I went to Spain, yes. I went to Spain, and I've been in Asturias. My husband was a native of Asturias, yes.

AVL: Yes. Let's talk about your husband a little bit. How did you meet your husband?

MI: I met him at the Centro Obrero.

AVL: At the Centro Obrero?

MI: Yes.

AVL: And he was from Asturias?

MI: He was from Asturias.

AVL: Where in Asturias?

MI: Piedras Blancas.

AVL: Piedras Blancas. And where is that, do you remember?

MI: In Aviles.

AVL: In Aviles. Um-hm, and what was his name?

MI: Alejandro Inclan.

AVL: Alejandro Inclan.

MI: Yes.

AVL: Was his family also here in Tampa?

MI: His sister, yes, his sister was here.

AVL: And he was also a cigarmaker?

MI: Yes, he was a cigarmaker.

AVL: Did you work as a cigarmaker?

MI: Yes, I did, I did, here in Garcia & Vega.

AVL: What did you do, did you make cigars?

MI: Yes, I made cigars.

AVL: And he also worked at Garcia & Vega?

MI: No, he worked in Ybor City, Corral & Wodiska.

AVL: Did you belong to the clubs, Marina, to any of the clubs? What club did you belong to? The Centro Asturiano, the Centro Español—?

MI: I was a member of the Centro Asturiano, yes.

AVL: How old were you when your family came to Tampa? Do you remember, were you still a child, or—?

MI: Yes, I was a child, yes.

AVL: And what year did they come, do you remember, more or less?

MI: I think in—1914.

AVL: Nineteen-fourteen [1914]?

MI: I think so, yes.

AVL: Okay. Tell me a little bit about your childhood. What do you remember about growing up here in West Tampa? What are the things that you remember?

MI: I'd always go and play with my sister and my brother and with the children around here, yes.

AVL: Do you remember any of the activities of the club, any of the picnics, things like that?

MI: No, they don't have any club around here, no, no.

AVL: Okay. How about the summer. What did you do in the summer and holidays?

MI: In summer—

AVL: Did you go to the beach?

MI: No, I helped my mother, I helped my mother, and my sister helped my mother, yes.

AVL: When did you get married? Was that during the Depression when you got married, do you remember?

MI: Yes.

AVL: Did you marry in the church?

MI: No.

AVL: No? Did you marry at home?

MI: Civil, yes.

AVL: What do you remember of the Depression, the Great Depression, was it hard here in West Tampa?

MI: Yes, yes.

AVL: Did your family still have work or did they have to go somewhere else to find work, or they stayed here in West Tampa?

MI: Yes, they stayed here in West Tampa.

AVL: I hear that a lot of people had to go to other places, but your family stayed here.

MI: Yes, yes.

AVL: Okay. Tell me now a little bit about the war in Spain, the Spanish Civil War and how do you remember the things that people did here in Tampa.

MI: Yes, yes.

AVL: What did you do during the war in Spain? I saw you in this photograph with all the women of the Committee.

MI: We collected clothes, we collected clothes, and we made churros. We made churros, on every Saturday in the afternoon we'd go around the street and sell churros. And I had two or three of them that had a car, and they'd go to—they'd come to West Tampa to sell churros, and they'd go to Ybor City to sell churros. We made churros. I'm the one that made churros.

AVL: Oh really! So where did you make them, I mean, did you go to a bakery, or—at home?

MI: No, at home, yes. There was a baker there that told us that we could make all the churros there. I don't know the name of the bakery, I don't remember the name of it.

AVL: Right. So you did that every Saturday, every Saturday morning?

MI: Saturday, yes.

AVL: And how long did it take for you to make all those churros? Was that, like, all day working on those?

MI: Yes, all day! We'd begin very early in the morning, yes.

AVL: What else did you do, did you do other things?

MI: Yes, we collected money in the factories, yes.

AVL: And when was that, like every week or every day?

MI: Every week, every week, yes, every week.

AVL: Here in West Tampa.

MI: West Tampa and Ybor City, the whole cigar factories.

AVL: How about the clothes, how did you collect the clothes?

MI: The people offered the clothes and they'd take it to the Centro Obrero.

AVL: I see.

MI: Yes. Lot of boxes of clothes we delivered to Spain, yes.

AVL: How about food, did you send any food, also, or do you remember people sending food or other things like medicines and things like that?

MI: Oh, yes, medicines, right, medicines! Yes, they sent a lot of medicines.

AVL: And your husband was also involved in the Frente Popular.

MI: Yes, he was.

AVL: What did he do, do you remember?

MI: He collected clothes and things.

AVL: Do you remember being in any of the demonstrations, Marina, all these demonstration that were organized here in Ybor City?

MI: Yes, yes. One demonstration began in Ybor City and went to downtown.

AVL: Were you there in that demonstration?

MI: Yes, yes.

AVL: Was it a big demonstration, do you remember?

MI: Yes, very, very, very big.

AVL: How many people do you think were there?

MI: I think about 300-400.

AVL: And what happened afterwards? It went to City Hall and what happened there, do you remember, were there any speeches?

MI: We talked about the condition that Spain was suffering. Yes, that's one of the reason that we went there.

AVL: Right. Do you remember participating in any other demonstrations?

MI: No, I don't. If I did I don't remember, you know?

AVL: Yes, that's okay. How about the speakers, you know, from Spain, that would come to speak here in Tampa—

MI: Oh, yes!

AVL: What do you remember about it?

MI: I remember very, very much Fernando de los Rios.

AVL: Uh-huh, that was the Ambassador?

MI: Yes, yes. I don't remember the names. There's a lot of people that came from Spain, but I don't remember their names, you know. The only one is Fernando de los Rios, because he was very nice and very popular.

AVL: And where did he speak, Fernando de los Rios, do you remember?

MI: At Centro Asturiano.

AVL: Centro Asturiano? And do you remember any of—was there a lot of people attending?

MI: Oh, yes, it was a lot—

AVL: Was that at the theater of the Centro Asturiano?

MI: Yes, the theater, yes.

AVL: And what kind of things did he say, do you remember?

MI: He talked about the conditions that suffered Spain, the Civil War.

AVL: How about the other people here in Tampa, apart from the Spaniards, like the Italians and the Cubans, were they also involved in the Frente Popular?

MI: Yes, yes. The Cubans, they were involved in it.

AVL: Did they do the same kind of things, or did they do different things?

MI: No, they do the same thing.

AVL: They worked together, there wasn't any—was there any conflict between the different groups—?

MI: No, no, no, no, I don't, no—

AVL: In their support of Spain? So everybody agreed and supported the Republic?

MI: Yes, yes.

AVL: How about the Americans? Were they also working for the Republic?

MI: Much of them sympathized with that, but I don't, I don't—

AVL: Do you remember things happening in Tampa proper, downtown Tampa, events in support of the Republic, at all?

MI: Yes, we went to City Hall and we talked to those people that were employed there, and—

AVL: Right, the mayor and all that—

MI: Yes, the mayor—

AVL: So, do you think the Americans were supportive?

MI: Yes, most of them were supportive, yes, most of them were supportive.

AVL: And how about the church, Marina, do you remember? Were there conflicts here between the church and the people?

MI: No, I can't tell you nothing about the church because I don't think they—

AVL: What did the people here think of the United States' response to the war, you know, they wanted to be neutral, not to help any of the sides. How did the people here in Tampa think about that? Were they happy with that, or—?

MI: They would be more happy if they'd help the Civil War in Spain.

AVL: Okay, tell me a little bit about the work of the women. Did you all work together at the Centro Obrero?

MI: Yes, yes.

AVL: How did the group become organized, do you remember how, how the whole thing started?

MI: They sympathized with the cause in Spain. That's the reason they gathered there and we formed the committee.

AVL: Who was the leader of the women, I mean the people, who was like the president, do you remember?

MI: Well—Elisa, but she died. Elisa, and—

AVL: Is that Elisa Morris, was her name?

MI: Yes, yes.

AVL: And when she died, then Carmen Ramirez became the president?

MI: Yes, Carmen Ramirez did it, yes. She was very enthusiastic, yes. I think that all the women, they were very enthusiastic.

AVL: And you used to meet at the Centro Obrero, how often? Like every week, or every month, or—? How often, do you think?

MI: It depends on how the war was. They'd call us and maybe—sometimes it's a week and sometimes it's a month.

AVL: I see. And how did you know how the war was going in Spain? What were your sources of information?

MI: The paper.

AVL: The paper? What paper did you read?

MI: I think *La Gaceta* was the most read.

AVL: That's the one? Did you read American newspapers also?

MI: Yes, yes. I read also.

AVL: How about the radio, did you listen to it?

MI: Oh, yes, I do listen to radio.

AVL: Tell me about that.

MI: Yes, I do listen to radio.

AVL: Did you have a radio at home?

MI: Yes, yes.

AVL: And what time did you hear the broadcast usually, I mean, were those news from Spain coming from Spain?

MI: Yes. Approximately in the afternoon or at night, yes.

AVL: And almost every day there was the news?

MI: Yes, yes.

AVL: Do you remember any of the picnics that were organized to have money?

MI: Oh, yes, yes.

AVL: What kind of things—?

MI: A lot of people'd go to the picnics, they were very enthusiastic.

AVL: Where were the picnics, where were they, do you remember? I've seen photographs of some of the picnics at Drew Park, La Columna—

MI: Yes, La Columna, that's right!

AVL: Do you remember that?

MI: Yes, La Columna, that's right, yes.

AVL: Were the women the ones who did all the cooking and prepared the things?

MI: Yes, yes, they'd do churros, they made churros.

AVL: Always making churros!

MI: Yes, they'd make churros and they'd make empanadas, and they'd make everything to sell them—

AVL: I see. How about, you know, when people here know that the Republic is not winning—

MI: Oh, yes.

AVL: How were the people here feeling?

MI: They feel bad, sure they do! They feel bad. They sympathized with that.

AVL: Did you have family in Spain, Marina, at that point?

MI: Not now.

AVL: During the war?

MI: Yes, up there, yes, I have family, I have cousins, that's all.

AVL: But when the Spanish Civil War was going on, did you have family there?

MI: Oh, yes.

AVL: Did you keep in touch with them, how did you know about them?

MI: Yes. They'd write to me often—not often, once about a six month or seven month.

AVL: What happened then when the war was over, when Franco won, how was the feeling here in Tampa?

MI: Oh, the feeling was terrible! Yes.

AVL: And did the people here in Tampa do anything else after the war, to keep supporting—?

MI: No, I don't think so, no. They were so depressed that they didn't do anything. No, I don't think, I don't remember them doing anything.

AVL: Marina, to conclude this interview—is there anything else that you would like to add to the interview—some aspect that we haven't discussed that you think comes to your mind? I remember now seeing the picture with the General, General Philemore, and you

were there with the other women. Do you remember anything about that visit, the man?

MI: Yes. He came and he talked in the Labor Temple. He talked there.

AVL: Was he representing the Red Cross—who was he, do you remember?

MI: He was Mexican, huh?

AVL: He was a Mexican general, I see.

MI: Yes.

AVL: Okay, do you think there is something else that you would like to have included—? No? Okay, well, Marina, thank you very much for this interview, and it has been a pleasure meeting you and interviewing you.

End of interview