

Records made in Ybor City, Tampa, Florida August 25, 1939. [Textual Transcription]

3532

RECORD 12.

(Made in Ybor City, Tampa, Florida, August 25, 1939. Stetson Kennedy. intermediary, interviewer; Robert Cook, operator, photographer.)

Item:

1) Martin Noriega, age 51, of Cuban parentage, is introduced. He doesn't speak much English, but understands it quite well. He says that he is going to tell the story of Juan Jose.

Ziomara Andux, 13 year old girl of Cuban descent, educated in Ybor City acts as interpreter for Martin Noriega, giving his explanation of the type of story he is going to tell.

(Amado Valdez, a Cuban cigar maker of Ybor City, Tampa, Florida, reports that "Juan Jose" is a novel written in Spain by Joaquin Vicenta, about 20 years ago. He says that until 1931 the cigar workers of Ybor City paid 25¢ each, weekly, to lectores who read novels and newspapers in Spanish to the workers in the factories.

The Cigar Manufacturers' Association of Tampa, in 1931, alleged that the lectores were disseminating strike propaganda, and so banned them from the factories. This resulted in a bitter 10 months strike of the cigar workers. The cigar workers lost the strike.

(Amado Valdez says that the lectores read many such novels as "Juan Jose" to the workers, who remembered them and often told them over to each other in abbreviated forms.)

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2) Martin Noriega tells in Spanish "The story of Juan Jose, a working man, and his beautiful wife, Rosa."

REVERSE

3) Esther Pollato explains in English something about the story of Juan Jose as told by Martin Noriega. She said that it was a true story, based on actual happenings of about 35 years ago.

4) Martin Noriega tells in Spanish another story about a woman and a preacher.
(Pornographic.)

Evelio Andux explains something about the story, in English.

5) Martin Noriega tells a story of Cuba, "San Blas."

6) Martin Noriega tells a story about a man of Ybor City.

7) Martin Noriega tells the story of "Juanito."

END OF RECORD