

Audio file

[CardenasMaryRose_restaurant_2017-06-20 1.m4a](#)

Transcript

00:00:00 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Where have you been?

00:00:02 Garcia, Julieta V

I was interviewing Ben would ask me and yeah, now we got a good good. He want. He wanted to tell me his story and and that was very good. Mary, can I put some of this on?

00:00:03 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Oh, that you gave me.

00:00:07 Cardenas, Mary Rose

So you got a good story.

00:00:11 Cardenas, Mary Rose

How wonderful. Uh-huh. No, no, no, no, no, no, I'm here. I'm up to here. No, not at all. I'm just really full.

00:00:15 Garcia, Julieta V

The.

00:00:15 Garcia, Julieta V

Plate. OK, I'm going.

00:00:16 Garcia, Julieta V

In case you OK, Sir.

00:00:20 Garcia, Julieta V

So tell me a little bit then again about how you started selling Avon, so that I can have it on my.

00:00:24 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Well, I started selling eggs.

00:00:27 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Let's see, yeah.

00:00:30 Garcia, Julieta V

Because your aunt.

00:00:31 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Chihuahuas with married to Simon Olivares and she was a representative in Chipita. There was a a lady, an old maid, very heavy, but very choppy has a very, very, very.

00:00:48 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Hola. And so she took a life. I mean, Mattia was the one that was the Avon representative. With this with that Lady. But she knew that I was. And and it was in in the during the war, 484748 and all. And so I did very well because the.

00:01:08 Cardenas, Mary Rose

80.

00:01:09

3.

00:01:10 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Getting a pension or whatever from the husband in the army and and the.

00:01:15 Garcia, Julieta V

We had some money.

00:01:16 Cardenas, Mary Rose

You're getting money and they were going. They wanted the perfume and stuff to go to Madame Morris with the man. And so I didn't.

00:01:28 Cardenas, Mary Rose

But and and my mother would worry. But, you know, I was never in any way felt insecure or afraid. Where did you get that confidence?

00:01:42 Cardenas, Mary Rose

I did not know. I did not know.

00:01:47 Cardenas, Mary Rose

From Europe, because my father was a.

00:01:50 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Lethal pusher. He was an educated man and and that believed in education and very passive and very proper Espanol. My my father had green eyes.

00:01:55

I cannot.

00:02:05 Speaker 3

Yes.

00:02:06 Garcia, Julieta V

And and what was his?

00:02:08 Cardenas, Mary Rose

He he sold insurance with Texas prevention.

00:02:14 Cardenas, Mary Rose

And but before that, I think he no, he didn't work for other science. For summers, furniture, summers, furniture, selling furniture. I don't know. You know, they probably went out of business ago but.

00:02:23 Garcia, Julieta V

Hmm.

00:02:33 Cardenas, Mary Rose

But he he was always himself, always. And he was a pencil for sure, like my mother. But I don't know. I don't where he went to school or what. But he was he could. He was educated. Not originally from Mexico.

00:02:46 Garcia, Julieta V

He was from where originally.

00:02:51 Cardenas, Mary Rose

I think, but I.

00:02:52 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Don't know. Ohh no.

00:02:53 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Because he had good idea. Mildred, Crab and their his mother was their niece.

00:02:57 Garcia, Julieta V

Yeah.

00:03:00 Cardenas, Mary Rose

I don't know the story, Juliet. I did not know the stories.

00:03:03 Speaker 3

What are you saying?

00:03:06 Garcia, Julieta V

I.

00:03:06 Cardenas, Mary Rose

And because they you know, and then they went to San Antonio and back and so on, but their daughter was a, a midwife. She delivered a lot of babies. Daughter cried.

00:03:17 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Dora craft Alonzo. And then she had a sister. She had a sister.

00:03:25 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Seeing that Marilyn and also there were two sisters married to two brothers, but Theodora was destitute and their mother was rich.

00:03:37 Cardenas, Mary Rose

I don't and I don't.

00:03:38 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Know what the story of?

00:03:39 Cardenas, Mary Rose

That but I I I can tell you that and with a lot of Carmella. Also you remember. OK, dear Mildred, man and you couldn't even step very hard on her rug and.

00:03:46 Garcia, Julieta V

Hmm.

00:03:53 Garcia, Julieta V

That was her mother.

00:03:54 Cardenas, Mary Rose

No.

00:03:55 Cardenas, Mary Rose

That was Carmela's mother, yes.

00:03:59 Cardenas, Mary Rose

And dear Mildred and dear daughter were sisters.

00:04:03 Garcia, Julieta V

And they are here. They always lived here.

00:04:05 Cardenas, Mary Rose

No, no, no, no, no.

00:04:06 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Are.

00:04:08 Cardenas, Mary Rose

And they always live here and.

00:04:12 Cardenas, Mary Rose

And I did not know my father was their nephew, and I don't like that. And and and the one that that we were very fainted with. The other is Lonesome Martinez and she was still daughters daughter.

00:04:12 Garcia, Julieta V

Then say your dad.

00:04:27 Cardenas, Mary Rose

The other, the other, there is a divorced her husband and had nine.

00:04:32 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Children or other?

00:04:33 Cardenas, Mary Rose

And then they moved to San Antonio and we lost touch. And then we reunited. But yeah, and I do not know.

00:04:42 Cardenas, Mary Rose

TRTICD, Mildred.

00:04:46 Cardenas, Mary Rose

I I don't know. I really do not know why there were my father's aunt.

00:04:52 Garcia, Julieta V

Hmm.

00:04:52 Cardenas, Mary Rose

I do not know, but they and but we were taught that there were our aunts and and and practically at times lived in.

00:05:01 Cardenas, Mary Rose

In our halls, I mean, she was she was a, a midwife. She delivered things.

00:05:07 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Via Mildred was miss Propper. She never worked in her life and they married Dos Hermanos Cosas. Fondos. Alonso and I do not know that history.

00:05:19 Garcia, Julieta V

Probably see.

00:05:29 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Yeah, yeah.

00:05:29 Garcia, Julieta V

So then your first job, your first job was Avon, and then after that.

00:05:36 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Fun then.

00:05:41 Cardenas, Mary Rose

I'll work for the credit Bureau for 17 years.

00:05:44 Cardenas, Mary Rose

And I don't know, just got jobs, you know, going to school and working during the summers.

00:05:52 Garcia, Julieta V

Well, at one point you were working at a lady store downtown because.

00:05:59 Garcia, Julieta V

Catalina.

00:06:01 Garcia, Julieta V

Oscar, his mother, worked for you.

00:06:04 Cardenas, Mary Rose

All lanes you go.

00:06:05 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Lanes Department I was a manager. I was a man.

00:06:12 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Don't. I was.

00:06:15 Garcia, Julieta V

Mm-hmm.

00:06:16 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Yes, yes, yes, she. Yes, that's the truth.

00:06:18 Speaker 3

Hmm.

00:06:20 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Did she remember that?

00:06:22 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Oh, how did look ohh OK.

00:06:22 Garcia, Julieta V

You remembered it because you came to my house and we had a picture of Catalina and you said, why do you have a picture of that Lady in your house? I see my. I see my pill and thought I said, well, that's my husband's wife.

00:06:36 Garcia, Julieta V

Mother. And you said you're getting and then you told me the.

00:06:40 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Story. Yes, she did. She worked at Lane and I was a manager.

00:06:46 Garcia, Julieta V

And they had accused her of stealing or something. And you took her aside.

00:06:52 Speaker 3

Of course.

00:06:53 Garcia, Julieta V

And she adored you. She just respected you forever.

00:06:57 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Well, I mean, who? Ohh Juliet? I thought so many about so many people that.

00:07:03 Garcia, Julieta V

Right now.

00:07:04 Cardenas, Mary Rose

That I mean, and I don't know why it's motivating me to do that just so unjust. And I couldn't stand that, you know, and and I I didn't expect to win anything, but I wanted them to to know that they that they were we were some somebody was looking.

00:07:09 Cardenas, Mary Rose

It was.

00:07:13 Garcia, Julieta V

That's fine, that's fine.

00:07:18 Garcia, Julieta V

Mm-hmm.

00:07:23 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Because they thought they could.

00:07:24 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Just humiliate people and get away with it. Not with me.

00:07:30 Cardenas, Mary Rose

I would, and I would. I would not permit it either. I was around and someone I would buddy in and my mother would could give another.

00:07:36

Yeah.

00:07:42 Cardenas, Mary Rose

But Juliet, I don't know. I cannot tell you why. I was the way I was. And I'm sorry. I embarrassed a lot.

00:07:50 Garcia, Julieta V

Never, never, never. I would never have heard to me to be embarrassed. I was always in awe.

00:07:59 Garcia, Julieta V

I mean, I would thought that's good learning and I was very young, but not only young, I was also inexperienced in that and I was.

00:08:03 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Yes.

00:08:05

Yes.

00:08:07 Garcia, Julieta V

Just I mean.

00:08:11 Garcia, Julieta V

Every time you did one of your things, I mean, I was just, I would. I learned and I what I learned the most. OK? I learned that you had courage that came from inside like you say because something wasn't right. You couldn't just not say.

00:08:20

What?

00:08:27 Cardenas, Mary Rose

It you.

00:08:27 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Ignore it, you could survive.

00:08:28 Garcia, Julieta V

And then I learned that.

00:08:31 Garcia, Julieta V

You could.

00:08:32 Garcia, Julieta V

Someone on and survive and and for some reason I didn't know that. I mean, you know you you think something terrible is going to happen. No, you just. You gained their respect. And you confided the kid and that and you get stronger each time. And that's what you taught me too that.

00:08:39 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Uh-huh.

00:08:49 Garcia, Julieta V

Every battle makes you stronger. Yes, it doesn't diminish you. It makes you strong.

00:08:55 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Whether you win or lose it, you, you, you, you have joined it and and it has given you experience.

00:09:03 Garcia, Julieta V

Hmm.

00:09:05 Garcia, Julieta V

Now it's very important.

00:09:07 Speaker 3

I I'm Gene Ecoff married Linda Linda.

00:09:15 Cardenas, Mary Rose

I know no. Ohh she. She would just sit for hours wanting to talk to me. I probably embarrassed her a lot of times.

00:09:22 Garcia, Julieta V

I know.

00:09:27 Garcia, Julieta V

Now, never embarrassed. Never.

00:09:32 Garcia, Julieta V

She had courage to there was no but.

00:09:33 Speaker 3

Oh, yes, yes, yes. She had a lot of.

00:09:35 Cardenas, Mary Rose

No. Ohh.

00:09:37 Speaker 3

Gold Juliet for the.

00:09:39 Garcia, Julieta V

Poor and all. She. Ohh. No, no, you did you. You felt like you had to rip. She felt like she had to represent the people that couldn't represent themselves or.

00:09:50 Garcia, Julieta V

When you have a.

00:09:51 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Voice. Amen. And I and I hate it.

00:09:54 Cardenas, Mary Rose

When people will take advantage of that and that I would buddy and and my mother yelled out, but I couldn't. I, you know, I couldn't take that. It wasn't right.

00:09:56 Speaker 3

Thank you.

00:10:10 Cardenas, Mary Rose

And.

00:10:14 Speaker 3

OK.

00:10:16 Cardenas, Mary Rose

And and I and I would tell everybody I'm married.

00:10:20 Cardenas, Mary Rose

To a Mexican from Mexico.

00:10:23 Garcia, Julieta V

And in spite of that.

00:10:29 Cardenas, Mary Rose

You know, but I've been blessed. I've had been entered in. I've been. It has been a, a, a great feeling to be able to.

00:10:33

Please.

00:10:38 Cardenas, Mary Rose

And you know.

00:10:39 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Improve a little bit to help someone, yes.

00:10:42 Garcia, Julieta V

That's exactly right. That's exactly right. And that's what Ben was saying today when he got a little nostalgic because.

00:10:49 Cardenas, Mary Rose

And then.

00:10:50 Garcia, Julieta V

Because all of us want to believe that our life has been for some don't, right?

00:10:56 Garcia, Julieta V

And it's of course it's to.

00:10:58 Garcia, Julieta V

Get married to have children, all of that. But it's got to be more.

00:11:00 Garcia, Julieta V

Than.

00:11:00 Garcia, Julieta V

That and and when you do something like what you've done or what Ben has done from his or what Al Kaufman did or normal.

00:11:10 Garcia, Julieta V

Everybody played a role and yes, yes, yes.

00:11:13 Garcia, Julieta V

It feels good.

00:11:14 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Yes, yes, yes. Because you could go sit in the corner, start feeling sorry for yourself, and then, you know, uh.

00:11:25 Speaker 3

No.

00:11:27 Garcia, Julieta V

Why?

00:11:29 Garcia, Julieta V

It's very impressive, very impressive.

00:11:34 Cardenas, Mary Rose

And.

00:11:38 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Judith, I think.

00:11:40 Cardenas, Mary Rose

That.

00:11:42 Cardenas, Mary Rose

It was easier.

00:11:45 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Here in the United States, and it would have been in Mexico, I mean, because the woman in Mexico had absolutely no say. So, no, no one so, huh? No, it was not easy. It would never have been anywhere but much easier.

00:11:56 Garcia, Julieta V

Don't feel right, but it was not easy.

00:11:59 Garcia, Julieta V

Here.

00:12:05 Cardenas, Mary Rose

In Mexico now.

00:12:07 Garcia, Julieta V

No, absolutely.

00:12:08 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Nothing.

00:12:13 Garcia, Julieta V

But it was worth it.

00:12:15 Garcia, Julieta V

You know, I think about it and I think I wouldn't trade one minute even the bad times, even the bad ones.

00:12:20 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Ohh no, no. Hey you. You can't be a gravy train all the time. You gotta work for it. And and and and. But always asking the Lord, please give me the guidance and the courage to do what needs to be done.

00:12:24 Garcia, Julieta V

Hmm.

00:12:32 Speaker 3

Hmm.

00:12:35 Cardenas, Mary Rose

And my mother? That's a good word.

00:12:41 Cardenas, Mary Rose

I thought she what is I? I don't know what she meant, but she wanted me to sell them down.

00:12:45 Garcia, Julieta V

Settle down.

00:12:47 Speaker 3

And then I'll pay you for both.

00:12:48 Garcia, Julieta V

This is as settles down as it's.

00:12:50 Garcia, Julieta V

Going to be.

00:12:51 Garcia, Julieta V

This is it.

00:12:54 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Aye, and the Lord has his hand on the fence, Juliet, because.

00:12:58 Garcia, Julieta V

Absolutely.

00:13:01 Cardenas, Mary Rose

What would I ever thought?

00:13:02 Speaker 3

Of all the college boys.

00:13:05 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Yeah, that would have.

00:13:07 Garcia, Julieta V

And now?

00:13:08 Garcia, Julieta V

Why would I have ever thought that I would?

00:13:10 Garcia, Julieta V

Become a president.

00:13:12 Garcia, Julieta V

I mean.

00:13:13 Garcia, Julieta V

Yes, why? Well, same thing like why and when I get these honors that I get, I I, you know, I think it could have been 1000 other people.

00:13:17 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Yes.

00:13:26 Garcia, Julieta V

100,000 why? Because I'm not so brilliant. I'm not so courageous. I'm not. I mean, it just happens the way things happened. But you know what?

00:13:28 Cardenas, Mary Rose

And now I have.

00:13:39 Garcia, Julieta V

I don't think that.

00:13:41 Garcia, Julieta V

I don't believe.

00:13:43

More teeth.

00:13:43 Garcia, Julieta V

Yes, ma'am.

00:13:45 Garcia, Julieta V

You know, I mean, we're normal everyday people, right?

00:13:50 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Now you're not normal dude.

00:13:52 Garcia, Julieta V

Oh yeah, we got, yeah, we are.

00:13:55

Yeah.

00:13:55 Speaker 3

But.

00:13:56 Garcia, Julieta V

We we we both know people who are smarter, richer, have more power.

00:14:02 Cardenas, Mary Rose

And I think that's it going to waste.

00:14:03 Garcia, Julieta V

You know.

00:14:07 Cardenas, Mary Rose

You know, because dude it it.

00:14:12 Cardenas, Mary Rose

What is rewarding if the your, your friends or whatever, prosper and the fact that you were able to have a little help to them or whatever.

00:14:16

Yes, Sir.

00:14:26 Cardenas, Mary Rose

That is what is rewarding.

00:14:28 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Not that you have one more nickel and.

00:14:31 Garcia, Julieta V

The other very well. Thank you.

00:14:33 Garcia, Julieta V

Check last.

00:14:36 Garcia, Julieta V

Oh, you're right.

00:14:38 Garcia, Julieta V

In my family, education was everything and we were clear there was no, it didn't matter what you looked like. It didn't matter what you dressed like. It didn't matter what your house had or didn't have, What Car you drove. None of that matter. But mattered was was if you were.

00:14:42 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Amen. Yeah. Amen.

00:14:46 Speaker 3

OK.

00:14:57 Garcia, Julieta V

And if you were?

00:14:58 Garcia, Julieta V

Smart.

00:15:00 Cardenas, Mary Rose

You know, and that was. That's one thing that my father wanted, you know, for. But my mother, you know, she.

00:15:00 Garcia, Julieta V

That.

00:15:00 Garcia, Julieta V

It.

00:15:09 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Was from all the people that always like her brothers had a mechanic shop and the other had a bakery and and so on and so.

00:15:21 Cardenas, Mary Rose

That was my and my father. My mother would say.

00:15:24 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Was.

00:15:24 Cardenas, Mary Rose

A pencil pusher. And he was he. He was not a with a good with a hammer or anything like that. He was. And he had an education in Mexico and he sold insurance and then he worked for.

00:15:40 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Will be prized, or his summers furniture and just he always worked. But but it never measured up to my mother's brothers. You know what I mean? And so. But it didn't matter to me and.

00:15:58 Cardenas, Mary Rose

It's just different, different things that occur and and difference in because my mother was and she got married so young and she lived not because she was but she could so she could fix her car.

00:15:59

We have.

00:16:05

We use.

00:16:15 Cardenas, Mary Rose

She could pay.

00:16:16 Garcia, Julieta V

That's something.

00:16:17 Cardenas, Mary Rose

She.

00:16:20 Cardenas, Mary Rose

My fault.

00:16:25 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Good.

00:16:28 Garcia, Julieta V

You got both then in your head. I mean you, because you're no, you you don't have.

00:16:35 Garcia, Julieta V

You are like your father. You did not have a mechanical skills of your mother. They're right. But you had all of your father's and the good graces of your mother. I remember. I got to know her when we went to Minnesota to see Jane, remember? She went with us and took her with us. And.

00:16:52 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Yes. Yes. Oh, yeah. Uh-huh.

00:16:55 Garcia, Julieta V

And she was so quiet and so sweet. And.

00:16:56 Cardenas, Mary Rose

Oh yeah, I've been so intelligent. Really, really and truly.

00:17:00 Garcia, Julieta V

Yeah.

