

Audio file

[CardenasMaryRose_2017-10-27.m4a](#)

Transcript

00:00:00 Mary Rose Cardenas

An excellent cook. I mean just.

00:00:02 Speaker (Unknown)

Hi.

00:00:03 Speaker 2 (Unknown)

Everything.

00:00:04 Mary Rose Cardenas

She just had all the and I.

00:00:07 Speaker (Unknown)

Kind of.

00:00:07 Speaker (Unknown)

And a big heart.

00:00:08 Reba (Cardenas) McNair

And kind of big heart because, see, she took Jim and as as a son.

00:00:10 Mary Rose Cardenas

I know.

00:00:13 Mary Rose Cardenas

Yes. Oh, no, she adores you.

00:00:16 Mary Rose Cardenas

Yes.

00:00:17 Mary Rose Cardenas

And Jim was like.

00:00:19 Mary Rose Cardenas

One of the family, he was another son.

00:00:24 Speaker (Unknown)

Right.

00:00:26 Julieta Garcia

So when did, when did she pass Mary? Do you remember? I mean, when? When did your dad? No, but when did your dad?

00:00:29 Reba (Cardenas) McNair

Right after, right after Jim and I.

00:00:31 Reba (Cardenas) McNair

Got married?

00:00:34 Mary Rose Cardenas

My father dropped dead and.

00:00:39 Mary Rose Cardenas

Just I don't even remember now. Yeah. Ohh and.

00:00:40 Julieta Garcia

But he was coming home from work right and walking home.

00:00:45 Julieta Garcia

And had a heart attack and died. And so you were the eldest. And so then you became in charge of the family.

00:00:46 Mary Rose Cardenas

I had a hard time.

00:00:49 Speaker (Unknown)

Yeah.

00:00:52 Mary Rose Cardenas

Oh yes, and my gosh.

00:00:54 Julieta Garcia

And how old were you? Do you remember when he died? Oh.

00:01:01 Julieta Garcia

You were not married yet when he died.

00:01:03 Mary Rose Cardenas

No, I'm not married.

00:01:05 Mary Rose Cardenas

So because now he I was, I was oh silly. Gavon. Ohh, are you kidding? 14 years old.

00:01:06 Julieta Garcia

Are you already selling?

00:01:10 Julieta Garcia

Yes.

00:01:14 Julieta Garcia

High school. Yeah. You. You said you had made more money than your dad was bringing home at the time.

00:01:18 Mary Rose Cardenas

Yes, yes, at the.

00:01:22 Mary Rose Cardenas

It was during the war.

00:01:24 Mary Rose Cardenas

And there were ladies here that wanted the perfumes and the stuff to go to matamoras because there was almost. There were no men here, there were at the war or whatever. And so I did very well. And my mother was a brilliant lady. She was very, very. She got married very young. But I don't know how.

00:01:27 Speaker 2 (Unknown)

Of course.

00:01:30 Speaker 2 (Unknown)

TV.

00:01:44 Mary Rose Cardenas

She learned to do everything she could fix the car. She could fix she.

00:01:49 Julieta Garcia

Could fix anger.

00:01:49 Reba (Cardenas) McNair

Was she was.

00:01:50 Reba (Cardenas) McNair

She born on this side or in Mexico?

00:01:52 Mary Rose Cardenas

No, she was born in. She was born in Mercedes.

00:01:56 Mary Rose Cardenas

Uh-huh. Uh, huh.

00:01:56 Reba (Cardenas) McNair

OK. And and her parents?

00:01:59 Mary Rose Cardenas

Were were in over there. She had and she had.

00:02:04 Julieta Garcia

Her. Her name was.

00:02:06 Mary Rose Cardenas

Olivaris Olivaris and she had a sister. The Angelita then had a what I would call a beer joint but, but anyhow, they call it a restaurant and man, I mean, she had a lot of money and then I had the Francis.

00:02:26 Mary Rose Cardenas

That they called. She had a grocery store.

00:02:30 Mary Rose Cardenas

Uh in Mercedes?

00:02:32 Mary Rose Cardenas

And.

00:02:33 Reba (Cardenas) McNair

But you were born in Brownsville.

00:02:35 Mary Rose Cardenas

No, I was born in Jersey. The only ones that born in Brownsville was Bertha and Richard.

00:02:37 Reba (Cardenas) McNair

And Mercedes too, and certainly.

00:02:44 Reba (Cardenas) McNair

No, no. Get away from there. Go.

00:02:48 Reba (Cardenas) McNair

So you were born in Mercedes and you met Mr. Cardenas.

00:02:54 Mary Rose Cardenas

No, I've met Mr. Cardenas here.

00:02:56 Reba (Cardenas) McNair

What? What? What brought you to Brown?

00:02:57 Mary Rose Cardenas

So.

00:02:58 Mary Rose Cardenas

Ohh no. Oh no. I I went to school here. I graduated from school here.

00:03:03 Speaker (Unknown)

But.

00:03:03 Reba (Cardenas) McNair

Why from Mercedes to Brownsville?

00:03:06 Mary Rose Cardenas

Well, because my father was sold insurance and the insurance company was here in Brownsville.

00:03:13 Julieta Garcia

OK, so your father?

00:03:15 Julieta Garcia

Was a pencil, and that's what his mother.

00:03:16 Mary Rose Cardenas

Ohh yes and an intellect. I mean he would read forever. He knew everything that was going on. Yes, my father was smart, but my mother was smarter because.

00:03:24 Reba (Cardenas) McNair

He was very smart too.

00:03:31 Mary Rose Cardenas

Yes, she had a lot of comments.

00:03:34 Mary Rose Cardenas

And my father.

00:03:35 Julieta Garcia

He was more cerebral. He was the pencil pusher. He was the.

00:03:39 Speaker 2 (Unknown)

Yes. And they went up to what grade in?

00:03:41 Speaker 2 (Unknown)

High school or here in Brownsville.

00:03:43 Mary Rose Cardenas

My mother, I think, went to high school because.

00:03:47 Mary Rose Cardenas

She would say I don't.

00:03:48 Mary Rose Cardenas

Know I don't think. No, she did.

00:03:51 Mary Rose Cardenas

No, no, in, in, in Mercedes, Mercedes and my father. No, my father.

00:03:53 Julieta Garcia

I'm sorry in the safe and your dad?

00:04:00 Mary Rose Cardenas

I do not know, except my father spoke English very well, but he was really educated in.

00:04:08 Julieta Garcia

Mexico. He was Spanish. He he had what? His last name was out of some Mandy, and he had red hair.

00:04:10 Mary Rose Cardenas

He was Spanish and Spaniard.

00:04:14 Mary Rose Cardenas

The answer mainly.

00:04:18 Mary Rose Cardenas

Yes, red hair.

00:04:20 Mary Rose Cardenas

And greener kind of not green. I don't know how to tell you, but they weren't like, really light brown or something that they kind of changed. And but he was he was not very tall, I mean. And for a man he was my mother was tall and but my father was very fair. Very.

00:04:29 Speaker (Unknown)

Wow.

00:04:40 Mary Rose Cardenas

And have had kind of of.

00:04:44 Mary Rose Cardenas

I said we're not normal, but he was.

00:04:50 Mary Rose Cardenas

Of course, he's.

00:04:51 Mary Rose Cardenas

The father was a Spaniard and he was a very proud Spaniard because of some Indies and, you know, and just you don't hear about them. But. And my mother was only goddess.

00:05:03 Mary Rose Cardenas

And in Mercedes? In Weslaco.

00:05:07 Julieta Garcia

Lots of olive otters and your grandfather.

00:05:08 Mary Rose Cardenas

Oh, my God. Oh, God, there and there.

00:05:15 Julieta Garcia

How?

00:05:15 Julieta Garcia

Something, everybody.

00:05:18 Mary Rose Cardenas

And but very I mean, what can?

00:05:22 Mary Rose Cardenas

I tell you.

00:05:24 Mary Rose Cardenas

Ah.

00:05:26 Mary Rose Cardenas

They were very helpful to us. They shared my mother's.

00:05:34 Mary Rose Cardenas

Oldest sister had a bar in Mercedes and it was during the war and they she made a lot of money and she shared it because my father sold insurance.

00:05:47 Mary Rose Cardenas

And with limited income and whatever.

00:05:51 Mary Rose Cardenas

But we didn't. I lived first on the.

00:05:51 Julieta Garcia

Where did you live when you were when you were growing up in Browns?

00:05:59 Mary Rose Cardenas

First, like on the second or third and Jefferson Street, and then for the most part on Adams.

00:06:10 Julieta Garcia

And we lived on Washington.

00:06:11 Mary Rose Cardenas

Oh, no, you're the elite. Are you? You were the elite. You were? Yeah. Ohh yes. Yes, yes, yes.

00:06:18 Speaker (Unknown)

No.

00:06:21 Speaker (Unknown)

Why?

00:06:22 Mary Rose Cardenas

Well, because it was a different culture. They had more, more button. Yes. Uh-huh. But oh, no it.

00:06:26 Julieta Garcia

Main Street over.