

Interview With

RAMIRO “RAY” MARTINEZ
Texas Ranger, Retired

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Project:
Texas Rangers

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Interview Conducted At Home Of
Ray Martinez
New Braunfels, Texas
Friday—September 19, 1999

Interviewed By:
Robert Nieman
Longview, Texas

Present At Interview: Ray Martinez and Robert Nieman



Introduction

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Ramiro "Ray" Martinez
Retired Texas Ranger

ROBERT NIEMAN: This is Friday, September 17, 1999. My name is Robert Nieman. We are at the home of Ray Martinez of New Braunfels, Texas. The purpose of this interview is to discuss Ranger Martinez' career as a Texas Ranger. Mr. Martinez do I have your permission to videotape this interview?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yes you do.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Mr. Martinez you understand that this video tape will belong to you and to me, Robert Nieman?

RAY MARTINEZ: I understand.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And finally, Mr. Martinez, do I have your permission to present copies of this tape to various historical organizations such as museums, libraries, schools and etc.?

RAY MARTINEZ: You do.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Mr. Martinez, what is your full name and where do you currently live?

RAY MARTINEZ: My full name is Ramiro, R A M I R O Martinez and I live in New Braunfels, Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What and ah....when and where were you born?

RAY MARTINEZ: I was born in Kent County, Texas, it's northwest of Abilene about roughly eighty miles .

ROBERT NIEMAN: What's the county seat?

RAY MARTINEZ: Ah.....they have one, Jayton.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I'm sorry?

RAY MARTINEZ: Jayton.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How do you spell that?

RAY MARTINEZ: J A Y T O N.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. And when were you born?

RAY MARTINEZ: I was born January 20, 1937.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And who ah....were your parents....who were or are your parents?

RAY MARTINEZ: Who are or were my parents, my parents were Manuel Martinez and he was from Kent County and my mother was Julia Macias and she was from Mexico, Durango....Durango, Mexico.

ROBERT NIEMAN: In Chronological order, do have any brothers and sisters?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yes I do, I have a....my older brother, Gilbert ah....M. Martinez, and ah....he'slives in Austin. Sister, older sister Celia Galvan.

ROBERT NIEMAN: GA....?

RAY MARTINEZ: GALVAN. And then a younger sister, Mary Hamm, HAMM and she lives in Austin and then ah....Charlie or Charles Martinez, that's my younger brother and he lives in Austin.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And ah...who is your wife?

RAY MARTINEZ: My wife is Vernell Martinez, nee Schmidzensky.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You're going to have to spell that.

RAY MARTINEZ: S C H M I D T Z E N S K Y, she's from Fredericksburg, Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: German?

RAY MARTINEZ: German.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. Ah....where did you go to scho.....or excuse me, do you have any children and if yes, their names chronologically.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yes I have two daughters, I have Janice Martinez and she lives in Houston and Janette Martinez who lives in San Diego, California, they are twin girls.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And they are....the one in California is getting married?

RAY MARTINEZ: That is correct, she is getting married tomorrow.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh okay. Ah...where did you go to school?

RAY MARTINEZ: I started my school at the biggest country school in the state of Texas back in those days and that was Hobbs, Texas. That's close to Snyder, Texas. But after elementary there I went on to Rotan High School.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And when did you graduate?

RAY MARTINEZ: 1956.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....any special friends or teachers you had in school, any special subjects you liked above others?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well I had ah....a special friend, of course he died ah....a few years ago, Jimmy Ray Kendrick ah....he died in Waco. He was my running buddy in high school and ah....as far as my ah....favorite subject in high school ah....academically was history, I loved history. And of course then ah...football. If you live in West Texas you have to play football.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well the same applies for East Texas. Ah....when ah....after you got out of school what did you do?

RAY MARTINEZ: After I got out of the ah....school I went to Austin, that was in 1956 and ah.... I enrolled at the University of Texas. I ah....at the time there was a big drought in West Texas, well actually it was most of the state that was under a big drought, that had been there for a number of years. And my daddy was anot a share cropper, he ah....rented land and ah....farmed the land and he paid a fourth to the land owner, cause daddy had his tractors and

everything you know. But ah....he got pretty well wiped out during this drought. So when I was going to the University of Texas my brother was also enrolled at the University of Texas and he was getting the GI bill and ah....so he and I together were sending money home instead of getting money, because we worked at the State Hospital 44 ½ hours a week.

ROBERT NIEMAN: State Hospital in Austin?

RAY MARTINEZ: At the State Hospital in Austin and then went to school five ah...six days a week, because we even went on Saturday, eight o'clock classes. And ah...at the end of the semester....

ROBERT NIEMAN: You say that was you and your brother?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah, my brother and I .

ROBERT NIEMAN: Which brother?

RAY MARTINEZ: Gilbert.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Gilbert, okay.

RAY MARTINEZ: My older brother and ah....so I gave up the ship at the end of the semester and I went to work full time so that I could help my folks back home some more and ah.....then I just left and joined the Army. Ah....through the Army I could send them an allotment home, so that helped them out.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What....what kind ofwhat was you duties in the Army, were you infantry, artillery or...?

RAY MARTINEZ: I was a combat medic, I was in the medical corp. and ah....took my training....of course my infantry training in Ft. Carson, Colorado and then from there I took my medical training in Ft. Sam Houston and then I was sent to Munich, Germany. Basically the

medical corp. my duties ah....the only difference was, one I had a rifle when I was in the infantry and ah....I was still infantry in the medics but you ah....saved lives instead of took lives.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When did you and your wife get married?

RAY MARTINEZ: We got married in 1961.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, so you were out of the service?

RAY MARTINEZ: July....yes I was already with the Austin Police Department when I got married.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay ah....any particular....had you always wanted to be a policeman or did that just a job available?

RAY MARTINEZ: Not necessarily, not necessarily, I had a difficulty finding a job that I liked in Austin because ah.... back in those days of course there was such a thing as discrimination. And ah.... I remember going to Southwestern Bell Telephone and putting in an application, or trying to put an application and they wouldn't even give me an application. So there were little hard times there, but I got on with the State ah....Health Department and ah.... I found out that there were openings at the Austin Police Academy so I made my application and I got accepted and so I became a policeman.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When did you ah....what was your....what date did you become a policeman?

RAY MARTINEZ: Okay, well I started in September 1960 I started at the Austin Police Academy and graduated on my birthday, the 20th of January 1961, same day I was commissioned.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what was ah...your first.....up until August 1st, 1966 what were you duties as a....in the beginning?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well they were varied. Of course I started out on the foot patrol, on the lower Congress, 6th Street and ah....also the University area. Ah....it was ah....we didn't have enough cars, we had all the districts covered, but whenever there was somebody absent or sick or vacation there was a vacancy in one of those patrol cars the ones ah....there were three of us that were walking the districts, we would get the car to patrol in it. And sometimes at night, if you was on the night shift, well of course we used some of the CID cars that were available to patrol in. So basically that's what we....we did ah....we patrolled the city. I was ah...what we call radio patrol, we answered all of the disturbances, fights, etc., etc. and then we assisted the traffic units whenever there was a collision.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...well this brings us to Whitman and the tower and as we talked about earlier ah....regretfully maybe other than this tape, most of what people is going to know about the tower incident is the movie ah....The Deadly Tower.

RAY MARTINEZ: The Deadly Tower.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The Deadly Tower. So I would like to talk about that some so we can dispel some of the things. Ah....lighter side first, I watched the movie Wednesday night because I knew we was going to be visiting. Was there a softball game going to be that Saturday, you remember in the movie, were you going to play....could you play left field?

RAY MARTINEZ: No, not such a thing, especiallyI wasn't playing, no.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. All right, that's just ah....anyway ah....before we get into this ah....previously to the Whitman incident, three peop....ah....three people had jumped off the tower. Ah....but was there ever stories of anybody getting up....did they ever think about anybody getting up in there with a rifle?

RAY MARTINEZ: Never. As a matter of fact ah....in 1956 when I first came to the University of Texas there was a cousin of mine, Richard, was also attending the University of Texas and he and a friend of mine from ah....Rotan, Donald Lewis, and my brother we all went up on the tower. That was the first ah....thing that they showed anybody that came into Austin, was to go to the Tower. Of course they told me that there had been some people that had jumped off, you know, and we went up and ah... this was in August of 1956, ten years previous to the incident with Whitman. But ah....no ah.... it was just a big symbol of the University.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....going to the movie, we'll talk about that and that will cover a lot of this. Ah....in the movie it shows that you were denied a promotion, that you were very upset and that you'd felt discriminated against. Would you tell us the real story.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well first of all let me say about the movie, it is trash as far as I'm concerned. There was enough drama in the movie that they didn't need to add anything.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You mean in real life?

RAY MARTINEZ: In real life, the real ah...incident that happened.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well before we do that, go back you....you told me before we got here about them approaching you in Laredo. Just bring us right up to

RAY MARTINEZ: Okay ah....I was approached in Laredo, my wife and I, and we were told that they were going to make a movie about the tower, the University of Texas tower incident. And ah....that ah.... they would like to use my name....my permission to use my name to you know, give some substance to the movie. They told me they didn't need it because they could still do the movie without using the names of the real people and everybody would know what it was about. But ah....my agreement was, if you make it as factual as possible, you can use my

name and that was the agreement. When I saw the movie there had not been ah....there had not been any efforts to be as factual as possible.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And I assume that's why Paul Carr, the actor in that portrayed Houston McCoy, they used a different name, McCoy wouldn't agree?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well I assume that is what happened, yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, now back to the promotion, since we got the background a little. Ah....they portrayed in the movie that you were bitter because you'd been turned down even though you were the highest rated, but just simply because you were Hispanic you couldn't have the promotion. Can you tell us what really happened.

RAY MARTINEZ: I think the movie, in the law suit that ah....when we filed a law suit against them, we found out that NBC and MGM, I don't know which one of the two, but anyway ah....they were concerned with discrimination and gun control, that was some of the topics that they wanted to cover. Of course in ah....discrimination problem, in the movie it alleges that I had been.....I had taken the test three times, that I had made the highest score three times and that I had been passed over three times because of my race. And that is not true. Because the first time that I took the test I missed it by .33% of a point. There was 221 questions and each question counted .33, so in order to pass you had to have a score of 49. If you made a score of 49 then of course they will add to your performance, your longevity, etc., etc. and then come up to composite score so that you can be on the list for the next promotion, eligibility list. Well the first time I made a 48.66, so I missed it by one question. So once I missed the 49 cut off point I was not eligible to compete any further. The second time I made a good score, but yet I wasn't high enough to get promoted. When the incident happened at the University of Texas tower I was already number one on the list, I had been number one on the list since April of 1966, the

only thing I was waiting for was a vacancy to occur so that I could get promoted. And this did happen in November of 1966 when Officer Frensley, he was a detective, resigned from the Austin Police Department to join the U.S. Customs Service, so that left a position open and I was the one on the top of the list and I got promoted.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And his name was Officer what?

RAY MARTINEZ: Frensley, a Sargent.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember how you spell that?

RAY MARTINEZ: F R E N S L E Y, I think.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So obviously that was one of the things that wasn't right. Ah...another thing they showed was that your wife tried her best not to get you to go down there that....that fateful day. Can you give us a background on your wife and that supposed incident.

RAY MARTINEZ: That's very incorrect because my wife was at work, I called her up and I told her that I was going to the University area because there was a sniper in the tower, or somebody shooting from the tower, and that I was told to go over there and try to find an intersection and work traffic, so I told her I'd probably be working traffic. She told me to be careful and go on out there. Ah....my wife didn't know what had happened until I called her and I said I was all right and she says, "Well why shouldn't you be". Cause she thought I was working traffic. Of course she had heard of the incident and I said, "Well I was a little more involved in this than what I told you".

ROBERT NIEMAN: So obviously she didn't come down there after the shooting.

RAY MARTINEZ: No she sure did not.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Also the movie portrayed your wife as being Hispanic and pregnant.

RAY MARTINEZ: And pregnant. Well my wife is ah....like I spelled her last name awhile ago as Schmidzensky, she is from Fredericksburg, a Fredericksburg German, Fredericksburg, Texas and ah....we have twin daughters, so therefore she is not a Hispanic number one and number two she couldn't of been pregnant because we have daughters, two daughters, I mean twin daughters and in the movie it showed one little girl and then her very pregnant.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And I think you said that upset her to no end.

RAY MARTINEZ: Of course it would and justifiably so.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yes sir. Ah....well do you remember....what were....you were offwere you off duty when the shooting started?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yes I was supposed to go to work at three o'clock that afternoon, so I was off duty. I....I'm a creature of habit and I was proud of the police profession, proud of my uniform, I had my uniform laid out already and my boots polished and I was just cooking something to eat at noon and ah....when I saw on television the news you know, that ah....they announced that there was a sniper in the tower shooting at people.

ROBERT NIEMAN: It wasn't on the radio?

RAY MARTINEZ: No, it was on television.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. Another inaccuracy. You know, in the movie you heard about it on the radio. I was reading like I said, night before last, I watched this cause I knew we was going to be visiting and I knew that movie was terribly inaccurate, but to familiarize myself. All right, also in the show you in the movie you called down there and your disgruntled and what not, but the tape that I heard yesterday morning on the Today program when they interviewed you, they played the tape of you calling in down there and everything, the man you talked to, I don't remember who it was, was calm and you was calm, nobody was jumping up and down getting

excited or anything. So, you called down there and they told you toI'll just kind of leave it up to you from here.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well when I called of course, you know, a dispatcher answered and I asked if they needed some help and they said yes and I said, well you know, then they patched me on to a Lieutenant Thomas who was on duty and I asked the Lieutenant I said, "Do you need help", and he said, "Yes". I said, "Where do you want me, do you want me to come to the station or do you want me to go to the University area". Well he said, "Go to the University area and try to find an intersection there, work traffic, keep people from coming in there". I said, "Fine". And that was the end of the conversation.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well before we go on past that, you'd also mentioned to me previously, in the movie they portrayed your Captain as being a real southern red neck.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well in this movie, yes it showed him like he was chewing tobacco and probably a red neck you know, a bigot red neck and ah...just gimmick. First of all there was no Captain, there was nobody out there commanding and that is primarily the reason I went up there because there was nobody directing the show so to speak.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well that's going to be my next....how did you get from traffic patrol to the tower?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well ah...just when I got to the scene I could see that the intersections were covered, I mean ah....there wasn't any traffic moving because everybody was taking cover, so there's no need in working traffic. And I just worked my way up to tower because I figured they were going to be assaulting, there would be some officers in there. And that was my primary reason to go over there and support them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But there was no command post?

RAY MARTINEZ: There was no command post.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Everybody just doing their own thing basically?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well basically you've got to remember that back in 1966 we did not have the luxury of the communications that we have now days. There were a few walkie-talkies that they kept at the station for special assignments and they were very expensive at the time. And ah....most of those ah....walkie-talkies that we had there was because of Lyndon Johnson, the President, would come to Austin and they'd be assigned those to a special ah.....Supervisors you know for the security of the President. So really once a patrolman got out of his car he was on his own because he didn't have any communications from the station or anybody else.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well kind of lead us through, you're out of your car, lead us through until you get inside the building.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well this is my personal car that I drove out there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

RAY MARTINEZ: I parked it behind St. Austin school which is one block on the other side of the University drag or Guadalupe Street.

ROBERT NIEMAN:(unintelligible)....

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

RAY MARTINEZ: Or....yeah and ah....so I went through St. Austin's church using all the cover I could, then I ran across Guadalupe Street. And of course now days the campus is completely different, but back in those days there was some open ground where some of those buildings are.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well now, let me interrupt you, he was taking people down on Guadalupe Street wasn't he?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well he killed several. So anyway, I worked my way to one of the buildings ah....ah....school buildings, went out the other door, went through the back door of the other building and worked my way out....I went through about two or three buildings ah....using them as cover until I got to the south mall, then I ah....went behind the stone fence and I didn't know that Billy Speed had died there. I saw some blood there but I didn't know that a fellow officer, Billy Speed, had been killed right there at that spot. I looked and I surveyed the situation, I could see dead people and I could see wounded people and ah....so the only way I could get into the main building was to run across this open ground. I did not hesitate at all because if I'd hesitated to talk to any of the wounded or tried to remove the wounded, I was afraid I would become a statistic too, I would get shot. So my best bet was just to run and try to get in the building to get up in the tower.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So you wasn't following along with an armored car with a bunch of other people pulling the wounded out?

RAY MARTINEZ: No, no people were laying out there. I ran and I got into the main building and when I got into the building I happened to see Jerry Day who was a policeman, he was in uniform, and I saw him with a University Security Guard. I tried to use the walkie-talkie the Security Guard had to try to call the police station to get an armored truck to the scene, you know, to get some of the wounded out but I couldn't. So I found the telephone and I tried to dial the phone to call the police station to ask them for the same request, but when I dialed the first digit the lines were busy, because all their lines were jammed. So I turned around and I didn't see Jerry and I didn't see the ah....the security man, so I went to the tower because I knew where the tower was located. When I got to the tower entrance there was a young man with a clipboard and he asked me my name and wrote it down on the clipboard and I don't know what the hell

for. But anyway, at least he was doing something. And I got on the elevator and I went on up to the top floor.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what was your thoughts, thinking that door open?

RAY MARTINEZ: I didn't know what to expect ah.....I had my gun out, I expected to see a bunch of officers up there to help. But I had my gun out anyway.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What kind of weapon did you have?

RAY MARTINEZ: I had a .38 caliber, that's what was issued, it was a .38 on .44 frame.

ROBERT NIEMAN: .38 special or just a straight .38?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah a straight .38 on a .44 frame, but a big.....the gun looked big.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

RAY MARTINEZ: And ah....anyway ah....when the elevator opened I was staring at another gun and a rifle because it was Jerry Day and Allen Crumb, who I didn't know at the time was a civilian, he had a rifle and Dub Cowan who was DPS Intelligence.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Cowan?

RAY MARTINEZ: Cowan, COWAN. And we were staring at one another, so Iwe recognized one another and ah.....holstered and I stepped out of the elevator. Dub Cowan at the time started on the phone dialing the phone, I assume he was trying to establish communication with somebody. I ah.....started checking that building.... I mean that floor to make sure that the sniper wasn't there. I knocked on the door and I heard some sounds and they said, "Who is there", and I said, "Police", and they said, "Just a minute", and they started unstacking furniture, because they had barricaded themselves in there, there was a bunch of people in there. I remember two nuns, they were still wearing their black habits you know in those days. So when I opened the door....they opened the door, they all came out, there was at least more than a dozen

people that came out, got them on the elevator, one man came out and he had a pair of women's shoes and they were bloody and ah....he said, "A guys out there", and he said, "I need your gun, I want to go out there and kill him, he's killed my whole family".

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember his name?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah, Mr. Gabor. So we had to restrain him because he was trying to get our weapons. And so Jerry Day grabbed him and we put him in the elevator and Jerry went down to get him out of there with the rest of the people and we sent 'em down. At that time I saw the door that led to the stairway going up, I opened the door and I could see some bloody footprints on the steps, I started going up the steps when Allen Crumb the civilian came up there with his rifle and he said, "Are you going up", I said, "Yes I am". He said, "Well you're not going by yourself", said, "Let's do it service style". I said, "Fine".

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well let me interrupt you, where is the other officer?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well Jerry Day, he....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, but there was another one up there on the phone.

RAY MARTINEZ: Dub Cowan, he's still on the phone.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, okay.

RAY MARTINEZ: I just left him there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: McCoy's not there yet.

RAY MARTINEZ: No.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

RAY MARTINEZ: So we go on up and ah....we get to the landing and I look out and I can see the face of a small boy with his tongue protruding out, he's dead you know, he's facing me. I ease my way up to this little part of the hallway or....which is going to go up the steps again, it's

got a little landing. And when I look around, the boy's dead, there's a woman laying down in her pool of blood, she's alive and then there's another woman and she's dead and at the end there is a young man about 20 and he's alive but he's seriously wounded. And he said, "Come on", he said, "He's outside". That's when I found out that there was one person out there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Up to that time you didn't know whether there was one or five.

RAY MARTINEZ: No. At least that young man said, "He's outside, he's outside". And ah....so Crumb and I go over there and we move the young man out of the way because we've still got to go up and make sure that he doesn't get caught in some more fire....gun fire. We go up the steps and there is a trash can laying near the steps, we helped move it aside and blocking the steps is a desk. We get to the desk, we push it around and use it as a barricade or shelterit's a shield and we secure the floor there. We find the receptionist dying behind a couch, we look out the window and there's two windows that we could look out, we couldn't see the sniper, we just saw a lot of debris, empty cartridges and food and stuff scattered around. We look out the little glass door that's the exit to the rampart outside.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The little door's got a glass in it?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah. And it's on the southeast side, facing south, it has a dolly propped against it getting it secured.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So the door would open

RAY MARTINEZ: Out.

ROBERT NIEMAN:from where you're at, outward.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah, yeah. So I pushed and I pushed and ah.....finally I gave it a big shove and the dolly went out and clanging....noises....so I waited to see if the sniper would come around to check what the noise was. Here I have to say that ah....there was a lot of noise, because

there was a lot of people shooting up at the tower and every time somebody fired a pistol or rifle or whatever it was ricocheting back amongst the buildings and it sounded like thunder, so there was a lot of noise. And of course.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: So he may not of heard it?

RAY MARTINEZ: He may not of heard it and the bullets were hitting thethe ah....limestone and it was kind of soft thuds you know. But anyway, when he didn't come....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you hear him shooting?

RAY MARTINEZ: Huh.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you hear him shooting?

RAY MARTINEZ: No. So I went ahead and opened the door and I pointed my gun towards the west side and he wasn't there, so the doors almost at the corner, so Ithen I looked on the east side, looking north, and I couldn't see him. So I knew that he had to be on the opposite corner somewhere between the opposite corner and the other corner. So I got Crumb to come out and face west with his rifle.... oh before that of course, something we had covered, when we were going up the steps there towards the last, Allen Crumb looked at me and he said, "Are we playing for keeps", that's after we had passed that young boy dead and the whole family. And I said, "You're damn right we're playing for keeps". And he said, "Well you better deputize me". And I found out that he was a civilian then and I said, "Consider yourself deputized".

ROBERT NIEMAN: Now Crumb worked for the University?

RAY MARTINEZ: Ah....he worked for the Coop, which was right there on the drag. Actually he had just been retired one month from the Air Force and they had hired him there at the Coop as kind of a floor walker, you know, to make sure there was nobody shoplifting. When the incident happened....the shooting started, there was a boy that got shot off a bicycle across from

the Coop, so he went over there and helped drag him out to safety underneath some shade, because it was a real hot day, the boy had got shot in the leg. But ah....and then he continued from there.....he was trying to find a telephone to call his wife and tell her not to come and pick him up.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well where did he get the rifle?

RAY MARTINEZ: I don't know where he got the rifle, he got it somewhere along the way.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well before you go out on the deck, and nowI'd interrupted you awhile ago, you said he said, "Let's do this military style".

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: For us whose not been in the military, explain what that means.

RAY MARTINEZ: In other words, leap frog, you go up and you cover and you hold your weapon while the other one moves up, you know, kind of like a leap frog deal.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh okay. Okay, you're in the door.

RAY MARTINEZ: Okay so I put Crumb there with his rifle pointing west and go around to the left and I tell Crumb, "If he comes around that corner shot him, because I'm going to go search for him". So I go out on the east side of the tower going north. And as I'm going, of course there was also some bullets coming in, in the three rain spouts, because at first he was shooting over the rampart. Well when he started getting fired....return fire then he was restricted to those three rain spouts on each side of the tower, east, north, west and south and ah....there's three of them on each side and you can see... you still have a view, but I mean, you're restricted as to your targets. And they were all....the police and the citizens that were shooting were also putting bullets in there to try to keep him from(side of tape ends).

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

RAY MARTINEZ: All right, you know, of course the rain spouts there are three of them on each side of the tower and ah....he had been returning fire through those spouts after the fire was coming up, they were from the civilians and the police and that reduced the number of his targets. So officers and the civilians were shooting also into those rain spouts. So I had to be very careful, when I crossed the rain spouts I had to leap over to get over that obstacle. And before I got to the corner, I don't know why I turned around and I saw Houston McCoy behind, he was a long distance way back, he had a shotgun. At that time he was standing straight up and I kind of motioned to him with my hand to get down and he didn't understand and a couple of rounds hit up there close up there, you know, just little duds you know, they hit, thud. And the powder came down and he realized what I was talking and so he kind of hunkered down some and then he came on. I got around the corner and when I got to the corner and I looked, I saw the sniper at the northwest corner, he was sitting down pointing an M-1 carbine at the southwest corner. And I was afraid that Crumb had not stayed at his position and had gone around and I was afraid that he was drawing a bead on him, so I opened fire right away. I hit him and sprung up like a wounded cat and turned around with his M-1 carbine trying to bring it down on me. I was shooting and I could see the muzzle blast on his carbine, I kept shooting and just as I emptied my gun, McCoy had come around the corner and I hollered at McCoy to shot. McCoy shot him with a shotgun hitting him and he spun him and he was going down and Imy gun was empty so I reached up and I grabbed the shotgun from McCoy and I ran and shot him one time before he hit the deck. And that was the end of it, he was dead.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Go ahead.

RAY MARTINEZ: Ah....immediately I started waving the shotgun and hollering "Cease fire", but nobody could hear. So I threw the shotgun down and ah....got the heck out of there. Crumb

was the one that had the presence of mind, he found a towel and he started waving it and that's what the people at one time had the impression that he had surrendered. And so the police department has been criticized for killing him after he had surrendered.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh man. Well let's go back just a little bit. Ah.... I've got to try to ask you, as you come through that door, you related to me once up in Waco at the reunion up there, that there's going to be a little bit of controversy of who actually killed him, you or McCoy.

RAY MARTINEZ: Uh hum, uh hum.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you related to me, this was a couple years ago, but I've never forgotten it, well it was you that stuck your head through that door. What was you thinking about, I mean....I mean, here's a guy that you know can.....he can handle a gun and you don't know where he's at and you're coming through that door, do you remember your mind then?

RAY MARTINEZ: No, all I hadah....remember I had to do something, I had a job to do, I had to find him. You know, cause I had seen all those dead people and I had to do something. So Ifear was in there somewhere but ah.... I had overcome my fear. But like I have always said, fear is ah....if you're not scared you're a liar or you're crazy, one or the other and I'm neither.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

RAY MARTINEZ: I'm not a liar nor am I crazy. But fear was there, but you just have to overcome your fear and do your work. You know, it's just like a serviceman when he's attacking, he's scared but he still charges.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well in this book, The Sniper In The Tower, ah.....that you said was a good book and I found it to be an excellent book.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The ah....a couple of points he makes is that ah....one time a bullet came through one of these ah....drain pipes right between you and McCoy? I think he says in there somewhere.

RAY MARTINEZ: It might have, I don't know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Because he interviewed both you and McCoy.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And I think Crumb.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yes

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was Day up there by this time?

RAY MARTINEZ: No, no ah....Day wasn't there. Ah....see the problem is that ah....in McCoy's interview ah.... I have read some magazine articles about him saying that, 'I didn't wait, that I went ahead and did and that', if I'd known that McCoy was anywhere around with that shotgun I would of said, 'let me use the shotgun', or I would of said, 'go right ahead be my guest, you take the shotgun and you go with the lead', because I'm no idiot, I would use a shotgun before I use a pistol.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, you bet. Ah...well another thing he talks about in here is that Crumb accidentally discharged his weapon.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you hear it?

RAY MARTINEZ: No, no because there was so much shooting going on.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, uh hum.

RAY MARTINEZ: But see I found out later that his rifle....because he was not familiar with a rifle and he fired the rifle into the wall, which was a blessing because that's why he was probably aiming in that direction instead of....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Whitman probably heard it.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah. Well he probably saw it and he knew that it couldn't come from down below. So when he hid there, that's why he was aiming, he was probably figuring that they were coming and instead of looking in my direction he was looking in that direction and kept me from getting shot.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah because if he'd of been looking down the bore of thatthe sites of that rifle when you stuck your head around there.....

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: As I said, we definitely know he knew how to use a weapon.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well, you know, I...I've.... I haven't ah...I never thought about it until Neal Spells from KTBC in Austin ah....brought it out, he said that I stuck my head up when I first went out....when I stuck my head out....when I looked around the corner and I stuck my head out, anyone of those three times I could of gotten blown away, cause I didn't know where the man was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well this man in this book ah.....well let me....before we get into this, this will be the end of it. A couple of things ah....you'd already said....well in the movie again, it shows Whitman has a portable radio up there and was....he had it on, do you remember that?

RAY MARTINEZ: I remember he had a radio on, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And he did have it on?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. Ah....in the movie you yell out to Whitman, drop it and he turns and that's when you shoot him. Did you holler at him, 'drop it' or anything else, or did you just ..

RAY MARTINEZ: I just opened up, you know, there would been.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, and you said that ah.... you could see his muzzle blast flashes.

RAY MARTINEZ: Uh hum.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I mean was he shooting straight at you?

RAY MARTINEZ: No, no, ah....the rifle was up.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

RAY MARTINEZ: Like I said, he was....you know when he jumped up and turned around and I kept shooting and ah....his muzzleI mean his firing....he was going up. No he never brought the rifle down.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. And you were hitting him, what in the....

RAY MARTINEZ: I don'tI have no idea.

ROBERT NIEMAN:the chest or.....

RAY MARTINEZ: I don't know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....and then do you remember, why....why.... I mean he was still moving when you grabbed the shotgun from McCoy?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah, he was going down, he was almost down on the ground when I fired the last round.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....in the movie again, did you get a parking ticket that day?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yes....

ROBERT NIEMAN: You did?

RAY MARTINEZ: No, no, wait a minute. See that's another thing that's stupid about that movie. It made it look like I got the.....while all this shooting was going on that the police officers were out there issuing parking tickets. That's what the movie made it look like, you know, and that made me so mad because you know....that those officers were out there doing it. What happened was I left my car there overnight because they took me to the police station in a police car and then they took me to my brothers house and I spent the night at my brothers house until a news conference the following day at ten o'clock. After the news conference which was....we were through about twelve and then we ate. Then my brother took me to pick up my car, which was the following day about one or two o'clock in the afternoon. And of course things had resumed back to normal, I mean the police functions, so I got a tickettwo tickets as a matter of fact, for being parked in a two hour zone in the University area you know and those two parking tickets were about ten o'clock in the morning and about noon.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I assume those tickets got fixed?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah, they were taken care of.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....well why....why did you go to your brothers house, not to yours?

RAY MARTINEZ: The Chief ah...told me tonot to go to my house because the news media would be at my door calling, coming and I wouldn't get any rest, so I went and hid.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....did....now this is after the fact now, but did the police in fact encourage....cause you were compared to Whitman, under armed, ask people forif they had high powered weapons that could reach that tower?

RAY MARTINEZ: Did I what now?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did the policethis is after the fact.....

RAY MARTINEZ: Oh.

ROBERT NIEMAN:ah....ask people toin factcause y'all didn't have ah....high powered enough rifles to reach that tower.....that ah....

RAY MARTINEZ: Uh hum.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did the police actually do that? Ask civilians for deer rifles and?

RAY MARTINEZ: I don't know. Ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Once again, I'm talking about now strictly in a week or a month later on you learned more about it.

RAY MARTINEZ: Oh no, no, no, after.....I mean during the shooting?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yes.

RAY MARTINEZ: I don't know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: No, no, I meant afterwards, a month later, do you know more about the shootingthe other things

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah. No, but I mean that the police were requesting weapons, I mean, long range weapons, I understand that they requested some you know, during the siege, but I mean later on no, because ah....ah...I remember right after the incident that ah....Lieutenant Girding was ah....given the job to buy some rifles you know ah.....check out some rifles you know, to see which would be the best to buy, you know, for long range. And that I know that they did that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: One other question I have, up there on the tower ah....when Whitman saw you, did he have a look of surprise or shock or just.....?

RAY MARTINEZ: I never did see his look.

ROBERT NIEMAN: In the book again ah....the author says that ah....you killed Whitman one time and that was the end of it. Houston McCoy is an alcoholic, he has to kill Charles Whitman every day of his life. Would you describe that as being correct?

RAY MARTINEZ: I don't know what's bothering McCoy or if it's for the purpose of ah.....news media or whatever, I don't know what his problems are. Ah....as far as I was concerned I did a job, he's dead, I could care less, I don't worry about it, I sleep well at night. Ah....it has never affected me.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well ah.....do you ever have any contact with McCoy or Crumb or Day?

RAY MARTINEZ: I ah....saw McCoy oh the last two years ah.....there at the tower you know, whenever they had anniversaries and talked to him, we conversed and we'd shake hands and converse. But ah.... I haven't seen Jerry Day in many years, probably in about thirty years. And Allen Crumb I haven't seen him, but I hope to see him ah....day after tomorrow.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh wonderful, that would be great. Ah....well any thing else you'd like to add on before we move on pass the tower yourself?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well, no the only thing I can say is ah.....you know, I have been ah....ah....one thing that bothered me is that ah.....some of my accomplishments in later life ah....some people always say, 'well if it wasn't for the tower he wouldn't have done this, he wouldn't of done that, he wouldn't be where he is', you know. And II think I'm quite capable and I have proven otherwise that I'm capable of whatever I have earned, after the tower. I think I could of earned it before and ah....the tower....even if the tower hadn't happened.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I guess you've then obviously come to grips that regardless of.....a hundred years from now, you're always going to be known as the person who helped stop Whitman?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well, yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And I don't think that anything to beI think that's something to be proud of too. I mean that guy was killing a lot of people.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well you know, like I say ah....if you train and if you're dedicated, you have a job to do, you're going to do it. And that's all it is in a nut shell, doing your job that you're sworn to do, that's the way I see it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well this was.....to my knowledge, I mean it's almost getting to be common, it's not even the lad story any more when somebody goes on a killing rampage. Just like the night before last, ironically you and I...I'd visited with you that day about this interview and that night I was watching the Deadly Tower and I stopped the....when the movie was over I stopped it and there had been some guy that had gone crazy up in Ft. Worth in a church and killed seven, eight people. But this was the first. Whenever you see something like that in Ft. Worth or out in Colorado or something, I would think you just about have to think about that.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well I just feel sorry for the....for what's going on at the time you know, for those people. Because I can understand how they are suffering and I've seen the suffering and I can also see the ah.....feel for the police department because they have this big problem on their hands and they are going to criticized irregardless of which way they go.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, well you're back ah....ah....okay well I guess I need to ask this, did anybody from the movie consult you about the making of the movie, other than what we've already spoken of?

RAY MARTINEZ: No....well as a matter of fact they did call me one time and they asked me about the scores, on the test scores and I again told them, this is the way it went.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But they didn't talk to you about....well I remember I asked you one time about you running across the campus....

RAY MARTINEZ: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN:for the tower, did it look like he was setting up there with a machine gun firing and you was dodging bullets as you run across the campus and you said.....

RAY MARTINEZ: No. I didn't know if he even shot at me. Because you know, there was a lot of shooting going on and ah....I don't know if he ever shot at me or not, or if he even saw me. One thing I did do though, I went with Joaquin Jackson one time and ah....we retraced my steps up there and ah.... later on after I had talked to Joaquin I went up on the tower for some reason and I looked at my steps, retraced my steps and other than those buildings that I went through, I was sticking out like a sore thumb, I mean, I thought I was behind some shelter, but he had such a magnificent view from up there that I was just naked as a jay bird coming through out there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hum...ah...the actor who portrayed you, Richard ah.....I'm going to spell this cause I can't.... I can't pronounce....YNIQUEZ. I don't know how he pronounces that.

RAY MARTINEZ: (pronounced) Eganiz

ROBERT NIEMAN: I'm sorry?

RAY MARTINEZ: (pronounced) Eganiz.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did he ever contact you?

RAY MARTINEZ: No.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Or Kurt Russell who played Whitman?

RAY MARTINEZ: Nobody, no.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....what did you think of the guy that did portray you, I mean your.....let's....let's start from the time you're in the tower, his portrayal of you from there. I know how inaccurate it was before, but I'm just talking about the way he tried to seem to bring out your emotions. I mean he tried to bring out that you were..... I got the feeling he was bringing

out that yeah you were scared but you were still going to do your job, was the impression I got from the movie....this guy.

RAY MARTINEZ: I don't know if it's an ego problem, but I don't think he did a good job.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

RAY MARTINEZ: But ah....my Ranger buddy, Rudy Rodriguez said there was only three things that were accurate about that movie and said about me, one that I perspire a lot, the guy perspired a lot and two I was drinking beer and three I was bar-b-quing.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. Ah.....okay.....and in after years has any one of the Whitman family ever contacted?

RAY MARTINEZ: I met the father ah....a couple of days after the ah....the shooting and he told me that wasn't his son that did the shooting, it was somebody else, you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well Whitman....it turned out later he had a brain tumor.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That he would of been dead within the year.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Of course I'm not making that as an excuse.

RAY MARTINEZ: I don't....no, I mean there was a lot of debate about the tumor.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....the tower has just re-opened night....last night, night before last....last night ah....I'm kind of anxious myself, I'd like to go up there some time. All right, I've had it described to me that youafter the shooting, the tower incident, you would stay on the Austin PD how much longer?

RAY MARTINEZ: I left there in July of 1998....I mean '68...'68, almost two years.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did the Austin PD try to build you into some kind of something that you wasn't?

RAY MARTINEZ: No.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Or use you as a poster boy or anything like that?

RAY MARTINEZ: Negative. As a matter of fact any time that I went somewhere, you know, I received awards here and there, every time I had to go on my own, I never got any free time from the police department, I had to do it on my own. I would have to trade ah...ah....ah....time off, you know, with other officers so they could work so that I could get off, because the department never gave me any time, any time to go anywhere. And ah....you know other departments I have noticed, you know, that they will work with their officers you know, but they never gave me a day to go anywhere. Ah....as a matter of fact I'll bring this out right now, one day ah....this was when I was still a Detective I mean Sargent, Chief Miles called me to his office and he said, "Look", he said, "I got a letter here from the Sons of the American Rep....ah....Sons of the Republic.....American Revolution and they want to give you a gold medal at Madison Square Garden, present you with a gold medal for law enforcement, you know, accomplishment in law enforcement and ah....in Madison Square Garden before the three networks". He says, "I think this has gone too far already", he said, "It's disturbing your work". And I said, "Well Chief", I said, "I don't care", I said, "I haven't taken a day off from the department, the department hasn't given me a day off yet for whatever happened". So he says, "Well I'm going to answer them and I'm going to tell them you're going to decline because ah.... due to your busy schedule or something". I said, "You write whatever you want to and I could care less". And I walked out of there. Later on I was checking on medals and awards one day, I

don't know why I was in the public library and I happened to check on it and I looked in there in the book and it's says, not awarded that year. That was the first year and it was not awarded.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's sad, you should of got it.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But ah....if ah....when did you decide to try to join the DPS?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well what happened is II left the Austin police department and ah.... I had a friend of mine ah....Henry Hammons and ah....of course the pay at the Austin police department back in those days was very....very poor I'd say. And the retirement system is the same way. Of course I understand now days they have very good pay and retirement system. But anyway, I was looking after the all American dollar and I left the department and Henry and I were partners, we took over the Picnic Grill or Picnic Restaurant which was there on Guadalupe Street about 29th and 30th Street and I went into the restaurant business. But I'd been there about two weeks when I was missing law enforcement so bad, I really didn't have my heart into that restaurant business, I really found out that I had it in law enforcement. Of course if I wanted to go back to the police department I would of had to start as a patrolman again. And so I said, no I'm going to go backward, so I started feeling law enforcement's around and ah....I contacted DPS and they were at the time trying to create a drug unit, they had a few already, agents, I think they had about 15 agents and ah....so I came aboard in 1969 with the State narcotics and ah....I was sent to Houston as a narcotic agent. And ah....I had a very interesting career there with the State narcotics in Houston, stationed in Houston for the next 4 years.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You were in narcotics 4 year?

RAY MARTINEZ: Uh hum.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Any particular cases there you'd like to relate?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well not really. Well I almost got killed one time ah....this was on a heroine deal that we were going to try to apprehend a big heroine dealer and ah....the plan was that he was supposed to come and deliver to the informer, unbeknown that we were already laying up a trap. Of course I was in blue jeans and a shirt and ah.....and the guy drove up to the washateria ah....he couldn't see the informant and he started getting nervous so I jumped out of the brush and I had my badge, I put my badge up there and I only had a little .25 caliber pistol that I used for undercover. And I hollered, "Police", you know, "Hold it", and I had my little pistol and I think he fired a round at me, cause we never did find a gun. And ah....he gunned the car trying to run me over and I shot at him and I hit the windshield but the .25 caliber was too weak, it didn't penetrate, it just shattered. And I had to jump to side because he(unintelligible).....just barely grazed it and took off. Of course other agents were in the cars over there and they gave chase and ah.....they got him and they got 13 ounces of heroine and ah....I remember Percy Foreman defended the guy and pled him out.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Any other?

RAY MARTINEZ: But ah....we made history on that one because thethe District Attorney's office there had just formed a unit where on major crimes that they would take them to the Grand Jury as soon as possible. They took this guy to the Grand Jury the following morning and he was indicted within less than 24 hours, he was already indicted. So he was kind of a history maker. Oh well, we had a lot of cases where ah....we saw a lot of guns ah....we'd kick the door open and ah....we'd be facing a gun, of course it was a Mexican stand off, you know, with pistols and they gave up, I mean, which was good. And ah....close calls but ah....they gave in and we didn't that's all. But ah....what was so funny....or I don't think it's funny, it's very sad, is when I started in narcotics ah....we'd get a baggy of marijuana or even a pound, if you bought a pound you made

state news. And baggies, all made local news, especially if it was small baggies. Now days it 's tons.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

RAY MARTINEZ:18 wheelers full and hardly make the news. But back....if you got a pound you made state news and that's the sad state of affairs as to what our drug problem has gotten to.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....when did ah....when did you decide you wanted to try to be a Ranger?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well....

ROBERT NIEMAN: And why did you want to be a Ranger?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well ah....I got an invitation from ah.....Captain Peoples.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Clint Peoples?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yes ah....asking that ah....now asking but an invitation to take the test ah....for the Rangers. And ah....I thought about doing it and then ah....I talked to Captain Eddie Oliver who was a Ranger Captain there in Houston and ah....he said, "Ray", he said, "I sure would like for you to consider, or find somebody, a Hispanic to consider the Texas Rangers, you know cause he said, "The Commission sure would like to have a Ranger that's Hispanic". So I said, "Well I'll look around Captain". And so I went to my house and I wrote a letter to Captain Peoples declining to take the ah.....thanking him for the invitation but declining to take the test. I said ah.....due to the fact that there are a lot of narcotics and I want to stay in the field of narcotics so that I can make the world safer for my kids you know. The reason why I did that, because I did not want to made a Ranger because I was a Hispanic, I didn't even want to be considered, you know, so that's why I turned it down. Of course the following year when ah....

there was an announcement you know, for tests, then I made my application without a solicitation so to speak and ah...I ah....got on the list but I died on the list. And the following year I tried it again and this time I made it the third time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And so did you end up being the first Hispanic Ranger since 1935?

RAY MARTINEZ: No, no, no. No, no there was ah....Art Rodriguez was one and Pete Montemayor made it when I didn't, so there was two Hispanic Rangers. And so when I came aboard ah....of course when I went to the interview board Captain Peoples asked me he said, "Well did you solve the narcotic problem". "No Captain I didn't".

ROBERT NIEMAN: So what was you....when did you officially become a Texas Ranger?

RAY MARTINEZ: '73.

ROBERT NIEMAN: September 1st?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah, '73.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And where....where was your first duty station?

RAY MARTINEZ: First duty station was Laredo.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And your Captain was?

RAY MARTINEZ: John Wood.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, did you....well I....before we talk about John, and John's a good friend, ah.....did you know Allee?

RAY MARTINEZ: Captain, I knew of him, I had met him once and that was about it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay ah....well then you came in after the problems they'd had with Cesar Chavez?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well not necessarily Cesar, it was ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Or the.....

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah, the farmers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

RAY MARTINEZ: Ah....the farmers strike yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But there was still a lot of hostility I'm assuming?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....did it get.....did....how did the Hispanics down there treat you I guess the bottom line I'm trying to ask.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well....oh I got along fine. You know, first of all if you treat people like people and ah....you go in there and show them what you're trying to do, you're not going to have any problems. Oh yeah, there....there'll be some here and there that are going to be resentful ah....they're never going to forget.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But a Hispanic is wearing a Ranger badge.

RAY MARTINEZ: Oh well they....I don't think ah....it even bothered anybody over there. I got along fine.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....I guess ah....the case that.....the other case that I'm a little bit familiar with is ah....George Parr.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well let me back up a little bit there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

RAY MARTINEZ: When I gotwhen I got commissioned and I went to Austin to get my badge, you know I looked at my badge and I saw the back of it and it had the Mexican eagle and it had(unintelligible)....Mexicano. I looked at it and I looked at Colonel Wilson.....ah...Spear and I said, "Colonel", I said ah.... "What side of the border am I going to have to work on, this

one or the other". He said, "I better not catch you on the other side". So anyway....so I went to Laredo, but ah....Laredo in it's self.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well let's talk about the Laredo experiences.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah, Laredo in it's self was very interesting. Because you know, you can't separate Duvall County from Laredo. As a matter of fact when I was working in Duvall County they said that the people in Duval County learned from the people in Laredo, I mean that George Parr or the old man Parr, Archie.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: You mean Archie.

RAY MARTINEZ:had learned from Judge Raymond who was the.....the....Judge in Laredo, the County Judge. And let me just bring up a little inci.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, talk to be about Laredo.

RAY MARTINEZ:a little incident that happened while I was working doing investigation in Laredo. They had a news.....the Laredo Times that had a column, you know, like 50 years ago or 100 years ago, but ah....like we have here in New Braunfels, but it was Up Periscope and ah....anyway, what was so funny about it was something that happened previously and it was talking about this County Judge that was running for re-election. And ah....he had an opponent, a young man, and they had a public forum where they got to speak. The young man ah.....the challenger, got up and he told the people of Webb County, in Laredo, he says, "Ladies and Gentlemen I want to be your County Judge. This County Judge that you have right now...", said ah...."he paved a county road all the way from the Zapata highway to the front of his ranch, had it paved and then he didn't stop there he turned around and to his place and paved his road all the way to this house", says "Do you want to re-elect this man again". And the people , Yeah, you know they were happy. So the old man got up there, the old Judge got up there, and he said,

"Ladies and Gentlemen of Webb County", says "What this young man has said is true, now do you want to elect him and pave his road". So the old man won. So that was the thinking you know. And ah....but anyway ah....Laredo has his own, let me just start there because ah.....Laredo if you've ever driven (side of tape ends)

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, we've got the tape set.

RAY MARTINEZ: Okay. Talking about the streets of Laredo, if you ever go to the streets of Laredo, if you ever go to the streets of Laredo..... I mean to Laredo you will find that the majority of the streets, at least when I was stationed there, were dirt streets. And that was the reason why is because a lot of the money that was supposed to go the maintenance and the repair and the paving of the streets was going into the pockets of local elected politicians and their underlings. But we'll get back to that, let's go back to Duvall County first. I

ROBERT NIEMAN: No, no, go ahead to Laredo and just bring it right on up.

RAY MARTINEZ: Okay, okay. Okay, Laredo....of course when II was the in investigation in ah.....in Duvall County I got called back toI was sent to Laredo to do an investigation on the road and bridge department. There I found a complete chaos in the bookkeeping system that made it impossible to try to trace ah....materials because there was approximately eighty something people that were signing for materials. So anyway, I wrote a good report to the jury....grand jury, went back to Duvall County and continued helping out in that investigation. When that investigation was through I returned back to Laredo and there was an activist working there his name was Berry and ah....he was making all kinds of allegations about misdeeds by elected officials and their spending of money and etc. So I was called upon to do an investigation into the streets of Laredo because Mr. Berry had found something that was very interesting ah....that the street department had ah.....bought 649 batteries for street department vehicles in a

6 month period. And I think they had approximately 70 vehicles, so you know little flags went up. So I was called to do an investigation. Well right off the bat, the first day rattle out of the box I got an anonymous call at the house saying, "Mr. Martinez go over there by the bridge where they have condemned those house, you know, they're going to build a new bridge, and you'll see something". Okay, so I drove up there and sure enough what I saw was ah....approximately 6 or 8 county employees out there demolishing houses, working on those houses. Well I went to my office, got my camera and came back and I took pictures of those people and they disappeared. So

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did they....those people?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah, the workers disappeared. Ah....so I found out that they were county workers, so the District Attorney said, "Well why don't you go over there and find out who they are, over there at the office". So I went over there and sure enough ah....all of those people that I had seen had been ah....they had a little notebook like you schedule for your days you know, eight hours, they put eight hours, the name and the day of the week you know and eight hours. They had all those people had been credited with eight and then you could see where they were erased and given zeros. So I confiscated the book you know, cause I had the pictures to go over there to show that those people werehad been working. Of course they disappeared. Ah....the street commissioner I think checked himself into the hospital, so we were on to something. We started working on it and ah....low and behold I started seeing all these checks ah....you know, too many employees at the street department. So talking to the DA, Charlie Bourgers, he said, "Okay, well why don't we do this, why don't we find out who actually is working on there". So what we concocted was that we were going to be the pay masters, because what they did ah.... their system was ah....when payday came around they went to the coroloanis they called it, the

city barn and they gave each individual his check. So we went and confiscated all the checks and we went to the coroloan and had a legal pad and a Polaroid camera and everybody that came up we had to see his ID ah....driver's license, we'd write his name down, he had to sign for his check and we'd take a photograph of him. Well at the end of the day we had about 70 checks left over. So something's wrong here, so we started calling those people to the grand jury and it was very interesting what we found out. See the commissioners, the street commissioner had one of the best or if not the best semi pro baseball teams in south Texas ah.... that was commissioner Rodriguez. And what had happened, if you look at all these people, and they were getting paid \$229.00 a month. And that was odd. So we started calling them in, found out that one of them was a coach at one of the high schools, you know one was a banker, one worked for the news paper at San Antonio, the Express or the Light, I don't know, you know he had delivery service you know and we went on with different people like that. They all had one thing in common, they all could play ball, baseball, real good and when we got 'em into the grand jury we asked 'em, "Well what do you do for the city". "Oh we're street inspectors", you know individually, I said, "What do you do", they said, "Well we take a pad and after five o'clock and we drive around and I drive around and when we see some chuck holes or something that needs some street repairs we write it down. So in essence you had ah.... I don't know about 20 people driving around all over the city every day you know, on the dirt streets, you know, which was a bunch of bull.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

RAY MARTINEZ: So we got a number of those people indicted. And ah....also you know they were buying like the batteries that I said, the 649 batteries, again just like that at the road department, they would buy batteries or mufflers or.....for their girlfriends and family, whatever

and everything is just being charged you know. So you know, they were buying it for the whole city, I mean their relatives.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How high up in the city government did this go?

RAY MARTINEZ: All the way up to the mayor. And then ah....another thing is that ah....the commissioner had a brick factory in Mexico and he had a brick factory in Laredo, in both Laredos.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Nuevo, Laredo ?

RAY MARTINEZ: And Laredo. And some of those people are getting paid, they were truck drivers that he was hiring, I mean paying them with the city money to bring their bricks up into the interior.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You couldn't hardly make a profit could you.

RAY MARTINEZ: And then they would send gasoline, barrels of gasoline across for the trucks on the other side. So you know, he was utilizing a lot of those materials for his own personal.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well would he not of had to have some custom officials in his pockets to be.....?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well I'm pretty sure he did. You know and some of those workers lived in Mexico you know, so it easy for 'em to get it back across.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was you.....how manywas you able to get some of them in jail?

RAY MARTINEZ: Uh hum.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you get the Mayor?

RAY MARTINEZ: No it was a different story, I mean, we got the commissioner, we got a bunch of other lowly people so to speak. And of course they had 'em an attorney. One attorney

was representing 'em all you know, protecting 'em. So at that time there was Tony Conalás, now you got to remember the Mayor Martin was very well connected with politics in Washington, D.C., everywhere, okay. And Tony Conalás was the....the....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well now what year was this happening, about?

RAY MARTINEZ: Oh, '76, '77 somewhere in there. And....'77... I think it was '77, Carter was here in office.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

RAY MARTINEZ: And Tony Conalás was the ah....U.S. Attorney and I remember him coming to the ah....jury....grand jury and saying, you take everything below the Mayor and we'll take the Mayor. Well that was the biggest farce. Okay we got all these people now we know, well the FBI started investigating the Mayor and they got him on one thing that ah....he was ah....had written \$196.00 checkyou know, signed a check across state lines because Sherman Williams paint company you know and he had used that paint to paint his ranch.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And that's all?

RAY MARTINEZ: That's all. And they gave him 60 weekends in jail and ah.....a half a million dollars in fine. Well he paid the half million and he'd come in there on Friday's and they'd have his little reading lamp and everything, you know, and they'd turn him loose on Monday morning. He'd come in late Friday night I mean he had....you know, it was a sham. Of course later on they got him on anotheron a state deal and another million dollars and another....same....same deal, you know. But ah....nonetheless there were so many things that we discovered, such as like I said ah....buying car parts ah.....the ah....the baseball players, the brick people, you know, there was so many categories. And ah....and that's why, you know, millions of dollars were going into his and nothing going into the streets of Laredo.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well the custom agents, would they of fallen under your domain or would of been under federal?

RAY MARTINEZ: They would of been under federal. Unless you know you could prove of bribery, but it was very complicated. And I had a couple of people that come and helped me, you know, from ah....DPS Intelligence, that helped me with the investigation. But like I said, you could see it. Once ah....the bigger ones started ah....getting indicted then the attorneys they forget about the small ones and they just threw 'em away to the wind, just let 'em shift for themselves.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Now how....how long did all this take?

RAY MARTINEZ: It took about two years, well it took about a year....for the investigation?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh hum.

RAY MARTINEZ: It took I'd say a year. But ah....I mean we came up with a lot ofI have a lot of newspaper clippings from all of this investigation.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well talking of Mayors, then you had a case with what the Mayor of ah....Brownsville?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well we worked on it, but ah....I did have a case on him, but ah....the case ah....the statute of limitations had expired. Rudy worked ah....most of those cases.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Rudy?

RAY MARTINEZ: Rodriguez, my Ranger buddy. He worked most of those cases because he had been working there a long time in ah....in ah....Brownsville, doing special investigations.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what was the background on that case?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well again, official corruption, you know, elected officials ah....ah....abusing the system, pocketing the money, the feather in their own pockets. And it was prevalent along the border. I mean the patron system and ah....so I don't care if ah....people

disagree with me, but I always ah....called it the cactus curtain, you draw a line fromfrom ah....ah....Corpus Christi to Laredo and everything south of there. It's a different world.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The old Nueces strip.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah, I called it a different world, I mean ah....the patron system was strong and ah....alive and well over there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well speaking of Mayors, what about ah....once again all I.....somebody said to me was about J. B. Davis, the Waco Mayor and something between Christmas and New Years? Are you familiar withremember that case? This is one that someone said that you had worked on....something to do with it, he didn't remember the details.

RAY MARTINEZ: Okay, what was it now?

ROBERT NIEMAN: J. B. Davis, the Waco Mayor, some case that happened between Christmas and New Years one year.

RAY MARTINEZ: I don't recall.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about ah....some kind of house burning in Valverde?

RAY MARTINEZ: Oh yeah, this was ah....a case that ah....it was very sad, it was a man ah....was in Austinfirst of all it was a married man. I mean the man's wife and two children, a boy and a girl, and they lived in Bulverde and what happened.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: How do you spell it? How do you spell that?

RAY MARTINEZ: Bulverde.....BULVERDE, right out here in Comal County. And what happened was ah....it was around ah.....I think Easter holidays and ah.....the father was a salesman, you know he called on representatives of bolts and what have you. And ah....he took.....his wife went to work in San Antonio and the father took the boy and the girl to San Antonio to spend the days with the.....vacation.....Easter holidays with the grandparents. He came

back to his house in Bulverde and ah....he was doing out his inventory and end of the month reports or whatever it was and he said that he had a ah.....an account in ah.....I don't remember if Georgetown or Taylorit was Taylor I think ah....the following morning. So he decided to get an early start, he would go to ah....Austin and spend the night and that way he could beat the traffic and go on down to Taylor and be there at 8:30. Well that night the house burned down, the wife was alone at the.....at the house and ah.....neighbor dogs started howling and what have you about three o'clock in the morning and ah....the fire department was called and they went out there and ah....put the fire out and in the morning they found the woman, the body, you know and it was about seven or something. So what happened was ah.....the husband called from Austin, his answering service in San Antonio and they told him that ah....he had an emergency he had to come back home. So he did. And when he got home of course he found that the wife had died in the fire. Of course we got the body, what was left of it, and we took it to Austin for autopsy and ah....when we moved it around we heard some sloshing inside and the pathologist said, "This is a murder, this is a homicide", right off the bat. Because he said the fluid, so he opened it up and sure enough we found a bullet in there, she had been shot. And ah....the doctor had determined that the woman was alive when she burned because of the soot in there, she was still breathing. Anyway ah.....I kind of suspected the husband, cause right away the people that were there at the scene said that he didn't show any emotion. Ah.....I started checking on him and found out that he didn't have an appointment in Taylor the next morning at 8:30. He stayed in a motel in south Austin, if he was going to beat the traffic he would of stayed at the LaQuinta on the north side so that he wouldn't have any traffic problems, but he stayed on the south side. Ah....that's number one, if he was going to be in Taylor at 8:30 why did he stay on the south side, then he went to eat breakfast at Jim's, he called about ten minutes after eight from Jim's, we

traced the call from the telephone there at Jim's on the south side, so he actually didn't have ah.....I mean he wasn't concerned about going across town to the north side you know, so then it all started adding up. Ah....we checked with the maid and the maid had ah....changed ah....all the towels, every towel in the place. Ah....the distance from Austin to ah....Bulverde ah....I think it was 68 miles which would take about an hour drive. They had.....the fire marshal's office put the time of the fire at about eleven o'clock. So everything started falling into place. Ah....he had ah....it took him a long time after he got the call at eight, he didn't rush, it took him a long time to get back to the scene, after he got that information, the emergency. He told us he drove like a bat out of hell.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is it not amazing sometimes how dumb criminals can be?

RAY MARTINEZ: I mean....but this was all circumstantial. We checked the door latches and everything and everything was locked from the inside. Soand it was arson, it was determined it was arson. Another thing he told us was that ah....he described all the weapons that he had up in the attic. And ah....we found everything you know, because it was just the barrels and what have you, but we did not find a pistol that he had there in the room where she was found dead and we didn't find two other special pistols that ah....were dear to him like a...(unintelligible)ah....45 caliber and something. Well ah.....in doing our investigation we found two of the guns in a pawn shop in San Antonio. And the month before he had just ah....he ah....updated them, paid the interest and kept them good you know. So he knew where those damn guns were.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

RAY MARTINEZ: The only one that was missing was the one in the bedroom, probably the one that was used to kill her. And he told us....he refused to take a polygraph, he said, "Whenever you find the guys that killed my wife I'll take the polygraph". Well it was him as far

as I was concerned. And then ah...he also made the statement, "Whoever took those guns killed my wife". Well he knew where the guns were. You know, and we had.....we had a lot of information, a lot of it. We put it togetherhowever, this was all circumstantial. And ah....in other words we didn't have a smoking gun so to speak. So it lingered on and stayed there, we got a new District Attorney, he decided to prosecute it and he prosecuted it and we lost it, because like I said it was a circumstantial case and we didn't have anything. But it was....it was ah.....one hell of a case.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Whatever happened to him, do you know?

RAY MARTINEZ: He's still around, he's still around.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah.....another one that was....had mentioned to me was a daughter of an FBI agent ?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well she was involved with ah....a young man, a local young man, that was ah....very prominent here in the community. He got a drug habit and ah....he was dating this young lady. However he got involved in the drug traffic and gamblers and he killed a guy from Palestine down here at ah.....the farm, shot him, and then they drug him out and ah.....to the pasture and ah.....he said where the vermin can get him and of course we just found bones later on. Anyway he took the car down to the border and sold it. Anyway ah....he got involved with this drug traffickers and gamblers and he killed Mr. Slade, J.C. Slade and dumped him out here so the vermin's could get him and of course the vermin's did a pretty good job and we just found a lot of bones scattered all over the pasture. Ah....he took the car of the victim and sold it down in the valley. The only problem is that he got this young man to go with him, to go get rid of the car. And ah...the young man became scared that this guy was going to kill him, he was inviting him to go to the deer lease and ah....he started putting two and two together and he was afraid

that he was going to be eliminated. So he kind of led us in the direction of this young lady, the FBI agent's daughter. And of course he was divorced from the wife of theah....the FBI agent and the girl was living here, the agent was in San Antonio. Anyway he ah....was going to try to eliminate that young man but the young man didn't bite so he didn't go. So thethe girl became scared too and so she decided to talk and she told us that she had witnessed the shooting. Well we went and recovered all the bones and ah....we took 'em to the pathologist and according to the way she told us the way us how ah....the guy was laying down in the street when he got shot in the back ah....Dr. Bird was able to ah....lead fragments on the bones and ribs and what have you, he managed to position the body where it was true and all, so dug out one slug out of ah....the ah....ah....wall. Where we had found the bones.... of course we started concentrating on where there was heavily dark dirt because like when you kill a deer, you know, where you field dress it, later on you come back a year later and that's going to be a real dark spot there because that's where the blood drained. So we dug in there and we recovered every one of the pellets including the one ah....that was at the house you know, from the gun shot. Ah....the thing that I loved about this, was that this young man ah....in the investigation we came out, found out that he had killed ah....another man in Del Rio and ah....he was from Seguin, he was a gambler, he had beat him to death with a pistol. So we knew of two murders and then during the investigation we found out that he might have been ah....he was a good suspect for another one that had got killed in a house fire. However ah...that one the trailer was gone and what have you, so he was responsible for at least three murders. Ah....we got him convicted on the oneon the gambler from Palestine and then Tol Dawson, the Ranger in ah....ah....Del Rio managed to also ah....make a case on him on that Del Rio killing on the guy from Seguin. But the thing that I was real proud of was ah..... I wanted a writing sample from him because ah....he had used the dead man's

identification in ah.....McAllen, he stayed at a motel and he signed it J.C. Slade and ah....he made hisalso his E's he put 'em together like in deer, on the name of the street he put those E's kind of backwards or something. So his attorney wouldn't let him give me a hand sample unless the attorney was present, so the attorney ah....had to approve everything that I did on the (unintelligible).... So the attorney's name John Chung and there was another attorney here in New Braunfels named J.C. Regans, so J.C., J.C. So I started telling him okay I want you to write this paragraph, it said, 'John Chung goes with J.C. Drake hunting down in the valley where they shoot deer and while shooting the deer they drink a lot of beer'. So I got all those little e's and those j's and I went on. And then I said ah..... "Now put your name ah....for numbers", you know, "Date of birth", okay we know that okay. I said, "Write down your driver's license number down", so he did. Then I said, "Okay, now got any credit cards", "Yeah I got some gas station cards". I said, "Write those down". And the attorney said, "Whoa, wait a minute", he said, "Not that, are you going to use them in this case". I said, "No I'm not going to use them in this case". "Okay". So he wrote it down, well I sent it to Taw Dawson.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Taw used 'em.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah, he can. But ah....that was one of the good ones you know, we got a good conviction off of it, two convictions.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about some of your other cases?

RAY MARTINEZ: Ah....we had ah....a real bad case in ah.....Seguin ah....a little old lady was murdered, she was one of those good Samaritans and ah....she was ah....trying to help this parolee ah.....taking him home. Anyway, she was a good Samaritan and she thought that she was going to be able to save this guy and set him up straight. Incidentally thethe guys name was Freddie Gonzales and I had arrested him when he was a juvenile in Austin, when I was an Austin

policeman. But ah....ah....the....what had happened ah....I got called by Seguin police department needing some assistance on the murder. And what we found was that ah....this house was kind of like under repair and it did not have any heating in it and it was one of the coldest February's that we have had around here. And she was found wrapped up in a lot of blankets stuffed into a metal shower and left there you know, and she was discovered about six days later. Anyway we...we got her and we found out that this Freddie had been living there and so we started looking for him and he had just vanished. So the last time that anybody had seen 'em together was on a Thursday and ah....so the Pathologist set the time of death on a Monday, you know because of the body. And ah....we had to put it back, so what I did I got the ah.....from Entex, the gas company, they keep a circle, you know one of those deals for the temperature per hour, and I got that and I took it to the Pathologist for those several days. And the Pathologist, because of the coldness and the coldness in house and the way she was wrapped, he was able to bring the time of death back to Thursday, the last time that he was seen. Anyway ah....we searched for Freddie, we found a lot of evidence there that lead us to believe that he had committed the murder and we got a warrant for him. We went to Austin looking for him and he was one step ahead, we went to his relatives and he had just been there, then we went to ah....Bastrop and just missed him there, we went to Smithville, just missed him there, went to Houston and we just missed him there and then he disappeared. I ah....went off to the FBI academy and I came back and ah.... I was gone for several months and ah....well I think it was about six months after the murder, because we had a warrant, active warrant, for him and a look out for him and all that information for Freddie. And ah....all of a sudden we got a hit from DPS ah....fingerprint, ID section, says ah.... 'This man that was arrested in Edinburg, Texas is ah.....matches the prints of Freddie Gonzales'. So we took off for ah....well we said, oh my God you know, they had turned

him loose on probation, we called over there and they said they had turned him loose on probation on a burglary. But it took about three months for those cards to reach Austin. And so anyway, ah.....we figured that he was gone, so we went anyway over there to try to trace him down and we found him in jail. Because they had put him in jail for revocation of probation and ah....so anyway I went over there and latched onto him and they had a young lady prosecutor there that was indigent that I was.....she didn't want me to bring him back over here. I said, "Lady, that's capital murder over in Seguin", she said, "Well I want to revoke his 5 years probation". I said, "Mame, we can send him for life, we can send him for death". "No I want him". So anyway, I talked to the DA and he said, "Get him out of here, get over there". And then she says "Okay but you bring him back when you get through". I said, "All right". So on the way to Seguin we talked to him and he said, "Oh yeah I killed her, yeah I did it". I said, "Well the District Attorney is going to be waiting for us when we get there". He said, "I want to talk to him". Okay, so we drove up to Seguin, went up to the District Attorney, District Attorney said, "You killed her?" He said, "Yeah". "You know I could send you to death". Well he says, "I didn't rape her, I didn't rape", he said, "But I did kill her", he says, "I'll go for life". "Okay". He said, "Can you send me tomorrow". The District Attorney says, "I'll try to get all the paper work done". So the next morning he tried but there was some conflict at the court, so anyway, so it took about two days, they send him and that woman starting calling Captain Dean to let her know when I was going to bring that guy back.

ROBERT NIEMAN: For five years probation.

RAY MARTINEZ: For five years and Captain Dean said, "Get a bench warrant". But ah....those were the deals. Now ah.... I did work a lot in ah....Duvall County ah.... I remember when ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well how long were you in Laredo?

RAY MARTINEZ: I was 4 ½ years.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then you were transferred to....?

RAY MARTINEZ: New Braunfels.

ROBERT NIEMAN: New Braunfels.

RAY MARTINEZ: But ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: How did you get in Duvall....Duvall County from New Braunfels.

RAY MARTINEZ: No I was....when I was stationed in Laredo that's when I worked in ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh okay.

RAY MARTINEZ:in Duvall County. Yeah Captain Wood called me one day and....

ROBERT NIEMAN: John Wood.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah John Wood, he said ah.... "Ray", he said, "Pack some clothes for about two weeks and meet me Sunday there in Alice", I said, "All right". Well two weeks turned to two years. But anyway, I went on over there, this was in '74 and ah.....so I went and met Captain Wood and ah... on Sunday and on Monday John Hill, the Attorney General, came in and a bunch of gang buster and they welcomed us into Duvall County ah....Judge Cario because he wanted to get rid of the Parrs you know, of course they were always together, but they had just split and so he wanted us to conduct an investigation. So by golly we got started and the people...the AG's office and it was Gene Powell, Rudy....no Rudy wasn't in the Rangers....yeah he was already in the Rangers. So anyway it was ah....this was in '75. And ah....Rudy, myself and Gene Powell were the Rangers and Captain Wood ah....working there and of course ah....had a couple of people from ah....later from Intelligence Division of the DPS and a number of people from the Attorney General's office, attorneys. And ah...we started the investigation there in

Duvall County. We started making a lot of good cases, but we couldn't get it through the Grand Jury because the Grand Jury refused to indict, you know it was there ah.....part of them were poor people and part of them were ah....ah....career people. and some of the cases that were involved for instance was ah....the ah.... County Superintendent of schools for instance. He had all kinds of beautiful trophies and what he was doing, he was using the county credit cards and his wife was going out and buying clothes or what have you and then they'd take vacations and they'd put it all on the credit card and let the county pay for it. The secretary would then take the credit cards and go for two weeks vacation all the way up to Michigan and everywhere and ah....just charge it to the school. It was fantastic ah..... I mean the way they were using the money. Ah....there was a little ah....grocery store in Ramirez and they had a gas tank right there by the road and that was supposed to be for the school buses. Well we started investigating because there sure was a lot of gas being used by the school buses over there in that area and oil. And we found out that, that ah.....I guess it was a 250 gallon barrel.....or I mean tank had a hole in it, it wouldn't hold any gas. What they were doing was pumping it into the ladies ah....gasoline and she was having the gasoline and the same way with the oil, because ah....ah....we tried to figure out how many gallons of ah....oil to the mile the buses were getting you know, because they were burning so much oil.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

RAY MARTINEZ: But ah....that was some of those things like that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well you found ah.... I think in this book I read there ah....you found a bunch of records in ah.....between the floors?

RAY MARTINEZ: That was in the attic there in ah....in ah.....Benevides Independent School District tax office.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what were these records, just....?

RAY MARTINEZ: Oh they were a bunch of the checks and all the things that we were looking for to make cases.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you work on anything else that two years or just strictly that?

RAY MARTINEZ: Oh that, there was so many of them. See because ah....there was so many different ways. For instance ah....ah....Rudy ah....was told that ah.....there was a missing school house. Well we started looking for it and we found the school house they stole, you know it was one of those small building, but they put it in a rancho. Another thing was ah....one of those big water tanks you know, instead of a water tower it was a big round one right there by the school. You could see the imprint of where that had been you know and the big old pipe and there was a twin tank to it there too, you know, still with the water. But this one was missing, so we found it in a ranch with a helicopter. And ah....so they stole that big water tank. And Gene Powell for instance ah.....he had a lot to do with the equipment, doing the inventory of all the equipment that the county had bought, maintainers, caterpillars, whatever you know, they were out there in the ranches. And when Gene started going through the invoices you know and we'd find those invoices you know, he started making an inventory of all the equipment and boy we started going in helicopters and putting markings on those equipment, the next morning you go by the county yard and all those things had been brought back, you know, had TR, temporary restrain....or Texas Ranger you know, they'd move 'em at night to bring 'em in. Ah....all kinds of things, welfare ah....they had a county welfare, election time came around, all they had to do was ah.....if you were going to vote for me, I'd give you a voucher where you could go get groceries you know for free.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You know, no politician I guess even including Huey Long over in Louisiana, controlled the place with the iron hand that George Parr controlled Duvall County. How did he get such power and how did he keep it?

RAY MARTINEZ: Loyalty. Ah....George Parrlet me say about the power, because we saw the ballots, the return you know, the canvas. John Doe who was not supported by Parr, he might get 5 votes and James Smith might get 5 votes and ah....somebody else might get 5 votes, that was it. And then his candidates would get 574, 574, 574, that's how tight it was. Now the people liked George Parr because ah.....like they used to say, "Oh Chorch", they used to call him Chorch, said ah....."Old man and woman go over there and say Chorch my daughter is very sick she needs medical help", and George would say, "Pay it", give 'em some money and say, "Take her over there to Alice and put her in the hospital and just tell them to send me the bill, whatever". So they go take her to the hospital and they put her in the hospital and everything and they didn't worry about it, man just like insurance, George would take care of it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was this almost a case of ah.....saving people from themselves in spite of themselves?

RAY MARTINEZ: No, what he was doing is using the money from the county.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

RAY MARTINEZ: County money, not his own and everybody thought it was his. And ah....and the people thought that they were being taken care of. 'Oh man look at that, all Iyou know any time I have problems I go see Chocha and he says here....or this", you know. But that's how he had 'em, he had 'em. Then most of the jobs there were with the school system, the county government, city, water district, so if you wanted to have a job you better.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Play ball with ...(Unintelligible)....

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah. Just like in Laredo, when I got into the street department, I saw the application, and it was kind of a universal in south Texas....application. Your name, your address you know, standard information and then it says, your PT, poll tax number, and you put it down, your wife's poll tax number. And then ten friends and their poll tax numbers, in other words those were the ten that you were going to have to deliver if you got a job.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what brought about his down fall?

RAY MARTINEZ: Ah....well one thing is that he was ah....getting old, he was seeing things, he was taking medication and ah.....there was a conflict, Clint Magness got in there and he wanted to be the ah....the power, the power and ah.....they started fighting, the carios and the Parrs started fighting. And ah...ah....what's his name.....Carrio.....no.....want to run for the Senate and George Parr was back in.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: State or federal?

RAY MARTINEZ: The state ah.....ah.....George was back in ah.....the guy here from Seguin....Tragor and Oscar Cario wanted to run for the Senate. And.....and of course George says, "No", you know, "Were going to support Tragor". And ah.....that's where they split theirthe....and started fighting amongst one another. And that's why we couldn't get anybody indicted because there was affection of Parr and affection of Cario and you needed 9 people to get indicted. So one was canceling the other, so we couldn't get any. John ah.....Hill came in there and personally presented an open and shut cases to the Grand Jury and they refused to indict 'em. Oh he got mad.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well ah....George is an old man and he's getting a threat to his thrown, for lack of vocabulary, well where's Archie....or Archer?

RAY MARTINEZ: He was just hanging around, I mean, playing second fiddle, he was just waiting for the old man to go so that he could move in.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was he capable of being the number one?

RAY MARTINEZ: Ah....yes, but not....not as strong, yeah I mean, notnot like....he did not have the charisma as the old man did. But ah....no see and finally when ah.....that Grand Jury expired Judge Hester came in as the acting Judge because Cario was removed by the Senate.....Judge Cario because of ah....all of his involvements and got some indictments on him, in Alice, the next county over in Jim Wells county.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's where the infamous box thirteen, the landslide

RAY MARTINEZ: Right, from Jim Wells county, but it's really in San Diego which is Duvall county because of the county lines come through San Diego, that's why they say Duvall county.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well box thirteen is where Johnson in 1948 got a couple hundred votes all in alphabetical order and all in the same hand, you know, landslide Lyndon.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah, uh huh. And ah....anyway ah.....when Judge Hester came in there he selected the Grand Jury commissioners who selected the Grand Jurors who were.....everybody wanted to hang somebody, so they got in there and boy we started throwing those papers in there and started indicting people right and left. And it started working and it was both sides.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then George he decideddid you get an indictment on him?

RAY MARTINEZ: No, George was dead.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, whendidn't you get an indictment on him though?

RAY MARTINEZ: No. No see George committed him.....ah....committed suicide on April Fool's day and ah....we came in a week after. But ah....he had a federal ah.....no, no, it wasn't a

federal indictment ah....ah....IRS was after him and he was probably going to have to serve some time for IRS and that was it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So then he committed suicide.

RAY MARTINEZ: Uh hum, yeah he was supposed to go up in court, here in court and didn't because he committed suicide.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what ah....could Archer ah....he's out of the pen now, been out for a long time and he....for a long time he could not go back into Duvall County.

RAY MARTINEZ: That's right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But he can go back in now.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Could....has he got the smarts or could he rebuild that empire?

RAY MARTINEZ: No, no, he doesn't have anymore power. Ah....what happened, Judge Hester ah.....sort of exiled him, he could come in ah....in the morning, stay there until evening to take care of his ranching business and what have you, but then he had to leave, you know, he couldn't spend the night there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

RAY MARTINEZ: And ah....so.....but his exile has ah....diminished, I think it was ten years and he served his time and he's going back.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was there ah.....he had some trouble with his wife, she ended up dead didn't she....Archer?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well ah....the first one ah....committed suicide ah....and then ah....the other one I don't remember what happened to her, he's had several wives.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

RAY MARTINEZ: Jody Martin was the one that committed suicide and ah....that was in the early '70's.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What other cases in the Ranger eraI've exhausted all I know about, now you're on your own now.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well let me tell you something, there in Duvall County too I mean one that was ah.....real funny, it was the District Judge Cario, the one I'm talking about. They had the audacity that ah....he had a fire hydrant there by his house, on the outside of his house and he had a brick wall and they drilled a hole through the brick wall so they could connect the public water into his house. So he didn't even have a meter, I mean it was coming out of a

ROBERT NIEMAN: Fire hydrant.

RAY MARTINEZ:fire hydrant. Oh I meanand ah.....when you were asking about those records that were found, well we found records in different places and we got to dig some holes and get some out of the ground too, because they had been covered with diesel, they set 'em on fire, but then they got lazy and they just covered it up and they went to drink beer or something. And so we got a lot of the burnt records which helped in that case that you were talking about ah....the Duke of Duvall, the IRSwe turned a bunch of those over to help them make the cases. But ah....Rudy Cooling who was the Tax Assessor/Collector for the school of Benevides Independent School District also had the Benevides Independentah.....implement company which was there in Benevides, which was a little store and kind of like a hardware store. And he would sit there and he would get a pencil and he would write out ah....orders ah... 17 lawn mowers at \$100.00 a piece, you know. And then he'd write out a check for \$1,700.00 and of course they never got any lawn mowers. And then they 'd distribute the money here, there and there, you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And still....even if they had lawn mowers to start with, they'd still have 'em to sell.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah, then we had what we call the eight-eighty tractor, it was an Oliver tractor and it wasn't the model number eight-eighty, it was because they were paying \$880.00 a month, the school district, to this low, low (unintelligible....)and ah....then he would distribute the money, he'd keep some you know. But he had that tractor and I went and asked him, I said, "What do you use it for", he says, "For the (cortoriz menasoliz ?)". That means to cut the sun flowers you know. And I said, "But they have 17 lawn mowers". He says, "I don't care". But those were the scams. Ah....ah....they would order Spencer steaks, the school, you know, but the kids were eating frito pie, you know and.....and ah.....those Spencer steaks what they'd do I they'd order all those and they'd take 'em home, the Judge would take 'em home, everybody else you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you feelwith Parr....George, would he have killed to protect what he had?

RAY MARTINEZ: I don't know, he was a smart old man, see because he was indicted in 1954 and he was tried here in New Braunfels and convicted and he knew he had the power. And then President Truman ah....pardoned him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hum.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well there you are see and so they had a lot of stroke.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well of course Truman come out of a similar situation, he was part of old Judge Pendergrass up there in Missouri, you know he kind of come out of the same type of deal as Duvall County.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah, so he was no slouch you know, he was powerful, like getting Lyndon elected you know. And so.....and ah....like I said, he had control over those people in more ways than one.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You know I've had a lot of Rangers tell me that this state is so big that Rangering in one part state is totally different than say up in East Texas where I'm from. What ways did you find it....or would you agree with that statement, that yes....?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well you know there's going to be corruption but there's different degrees of corruption and different ways. And ah...but I mean it's so damn obvious down here.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. They didn't even try to make a secret of it.

RAY MARTINEZ: No, as a matter of fact they laughed about it and ah.....they had a lot of control. And especially if you have all that protection over there at ah....not only the White House but here at the State House, you know, they could look the other way back in those days you know, those people could get away some of those things. You know that why John Hill wanted to have a state Grand Jury, like federal Grand Jury, so....like we were having all those problems in Duvall County. An Attorney General could call in Austin or he could come to New Braunfels or San Antonio and bring those cases and hear 'em over here and that way ah.....you had to worry about ah....patronage or what you, you know, and these people would be independent, they could indictment 'em if they saw fit or if they didn't see fit to indict 'emnot indict 'em you know and ah.....that way there wouldn't be ah.....brother-in-law and that you know. Because that was one of the biggest problems that we had sometimes is that ah....local people they just didn't want to convict some of their own. You know, it was a big problem.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And I think you had said too at least in Parr's case, a lot of people considered him a hero down there, their protector.

RAY MARTINEZ: Sure. See like ah.....Rudy Rodriguez, he worked ah....election fraud there in ah....Duvall County and he got some convictions, but he got 'em in Laredo and he got 'em in ah....Brownsville because what happened was Lloyd Bentsen was running on the ticket so that was a federal and they made it a federal offense, so they took it to federal court and that's how he got some of those convictions in that way. But if there had....if Lloyd Bentsen had been on the ticket, a federal office....

ROBERT NIEMAN: No way.

RAY MARTINEZ:no way.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what's some of your other cases?

RAY MARTINEZ: Oh....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well let me ask you this ah....describe...what would you consider your most difficult case that you solved? From the stand point of, you know, ah.....you put two years in on this case, that had to be difficult, just the stick-to-it ness.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well the thing about the Duvall investigation you know, it just ah.....a lot of different cases. You know, so you got through with one and you just kept on with another and another and another.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well how many indictments did y'all end up with?

RAY MARTINEZ: I think we got 118 or something like that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how many of those went to prison?

RAY MARTINEZ: Ah....only one, cause everybody else copped out and ah.....entered a plea of guilty. And the one that went to prison really.....he had already been to prison once and I don't think he should of gone the second time, cause he'd run his time and he was just a victim of the system ah....because he was the school Superintendent, one of the school Superintendents. And

ah....but ah.....what they were trying to do is ah....most of the people were like I said, victims of the system. In order to survive they had to go along, you know, or move out you know. And ah....they had their families there, they knew the job and you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And a lot of those people were uneducated.

RAY MARTINEZ: That's right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I mean, where are they going to go.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah. And that was the difficulty, you know. Keep 'em ignorant and keep 'em on the farm and keep 'em in the pocket. That's how it was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what was some of your ah....ah.....frustrating case I guess, where you worked and worked and you knew you had 'em and you just couldn't put 'em down?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well that one that we were talking about Bulverde, that was a bad....the worse one because I knew that he was the one and I still know he's the one that committed the murder, but it was just circumstantial evidence and....and ah....those cases are extremely difficult to prove in court. As a matter of fact some of the jurors said, 'We know he was guilty, but'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You couldn't prove it, couldn't prove it. Ah....when did you retire from the Rangers?

RAY MARTINEZ: December '91.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The July 28th, 1991 edition of the Austin American Statement ah....did an article on the tower and it said....quoted you as being burnt out from police work. Is this true?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well I was tired, I was tired ah....because I was having to live out of a suitcase. When ah....we got through with Duvall County, Rudy and I were quote, unquote ah.....we had the expertise in official corruption and anytime something happened there we went,

you know, so we lived out of a suitcase many years. And it get tiring you know, eating in restaurants.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you do all your work here in D area or did they send you to other areas?

RAY MARTINEZ: No, D area, I did happen to go to ah.....help on the ah....Corrasco ah....incident there at the walls. You know, the investigation as to how the weapons were smuggled.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how did they get in there?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well it was a trustee brought 'em in, one of them wasone of the pistols he brought in was in a ham, the magnum, he carved a imprint with the gun in there, he cut the ham in half and then put it together and ah....he let it spoil and he brought it back into the prison system telling them that the warden you know, that the ham had spoiled. They searched him, he took that meat to the kitchen and they knew where to take it to. The other two guns ah....he brought in with a bunch of pork chops, he did that same thing, let them spoil and ah....then he wrapped up the two pork chops I mean thetook the pork chops out and wrapped the two guns and put 'em in there and the guards went around and looked at 'em and he took that in. Ah....the ammunition, he got a gallon peach can and he removed the label and then he cut a real fine line, bent the can back, got all the peaches out and all the syrup out, cleaned it up real good with paper towels, then he got all the bullets and he put 'em with masking tape and made like a bullet belt, like a machine gun belt and put 'em in there and then he wrapped 'em up inside of the can, folded the can back together, put a little tape, you know, on the cut, put the label back on and he said he almost killed him when he went up there and they were searching him, when he came back in and he just told 'em , you know, that the peaches wasn't what thethat he hadn't

ordered it....you know that the warden hadn't ordered the peaches. They said his arm was about to break cause that ammunition was so heavy, while they were searching him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And a lot of people died ...(unintelligible)....

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah. So that one ended and I got sent to Conroe on ah....oh it was ah....bribery, a deputy who was ...(unintelligible)....used for bribery and ah....since it ah....was involving people from El Salvador who couldn't speak English I went up there and had to do the investigation.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I guess you was glad that you weren't....you was already gone by the time Waco come along.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well yeah, I guess it would of been exciting. Well, I don't think I would of liked to have been in that Waco investigation because it was the aftermath so to speak, just going through the

ROBERT NIEMAN: Throwing it back up again.

RAY MARTINEZ:documentation. Yeah, documentation is a....it could be terrible, I don't think I would like that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And ah...well what did you do after you retired?

RAY MARTINEZ: Well after I retired ah.... I started ah....a little private investigation....ah....took cases here and there you know, I didn't go overboard you know and kill myself. But ah...you know that took.... that's what I did. And ah...after a couple of years I decided to run for Justice of the Peace, I won and I was in office for four years. I decided to run for Commissioner, I ran and lost by 65 votes, so here I am, I'm retired to the golf course, doing civic duty and having a good time, enjoying life.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....one question I meant to ask you on Whitman that I failed ah....Danny Ray a Ranger up in Sulphur Springs killed a guy here oh about a year or so ago and he automatically had to go through a bunch of counseling and what not. Did they have counseling for you back then?

RAY MARTINEZ: That's a farce. You know, back in those days they....if you were lucky they'd say 'Why don't you go home, drink a beer and forget about it', you know. Ah.... I had an incident here in ah.... in New Braunfels....I'm trying to think, it was in 1987 ah....my neighbors had a son that was in the military and he was in the military band and I think somebody slipped him something, some(unintelligible)....or something and it kind of fried his brain. So he had a lot of ah....ah....mental health problems and ah....anyway the parents, he's a retired Colonel from the Marine Corp. reserves and Texaco executive, they lived across the street from us here in Greenville. And ah.....the son, whose name was John, he was thirtish, thirty years or something like that, I was working on a murder case out at the lake at the time and ah.....to get peace and quiet writing my reports I got up at four o'clock in the morning and I was writing my reports there at home. Ah....about six o'clock in the morning the bell....the doorbell started ringing and you could see this....feel this frantic and I just had my boots on, black pants and a tee-shirt. And it was my neighbor from across the street ...(unintelligible)....and she said ah....John has gone berserk and he's killing him....Warren, that meant her husband. And so I ran across the street and I could a commotion going on back in the back and I hollered "What's going on". And it was real dark and ah....so there was silence and then here he comes, he's coming out and he looked like he was dragging a machete out. I said, oh hell, and he comes out and he tries to hit me with it and I reach up there and I break the blow you know and we start wrestling and ah....we fight for awhile there, mostly wrestling and I get him down on the ground and put a....kind of amy

arm underneath his throat you know and I got his arm behind him and I'm trying to restrain him. And after awhile hehe calms down you know, I'm talking to him and I'm holding him down. But I mean it was a struggle and ah....anyway after a while he started kind of like started snoring you know. By that time ah.....the police department gets there and they handcuff him and then EMS shows up and they said, "Is this the guy we're supposed to see". "No", I said, "He's inside he's beat up, that's the father". "Well what about this guy". "What about him". "Well let's look at him, he ain't breathing". So we uncuffed him and they started working on him and was giving him shocks and they bring him to and then straight line, he died.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what.....

RAY MARTINEZ: So....

ROBERT NIEMAN: ...was it drugs?

RAY MARTINEZ: No, heart and I think I helped him along a little bit. But anyway ah.....they called and said ah....you know afteras soon as we got through with the investigation because they had to make a custody investigation ah....they wanted to know if ah....I needed to go see a psychologist, psychiatrist you know. "Whatever y'all think".

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about the guy he was beating up on?

RAY MARTINEZ: Oh his daddy, well he survived, he had a lot of ah....but anyway ah....about two months later they tell me, well we found one. I said, thank you. No his father survived ah....it was.....it wasn't a machete, it was a barometer you know, those that you hang on the wall, that he was hitting his father with, but ah.....that to me....in the dark, I mean that's what it looked like in the dark as he came out.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh yeah. Well they said to you they found one, they found one what?

RAY MARTINEZ: One what?

ROBERT NIEMAN: You said two months later they called and said they found one?

RAY MARTINEZ: Oh a psychiatrist.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh.

RAY MARTINEZ: For me to go see. I said, “Ah forget it”, you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: A little bit after the fact. You know I do ah....the New London school explosion, I don't know if your familiar with that.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I'm their oral historian too and I've got about 50 or 60 hours of tapes of survivors of that and that happened of course in 1937 and they all say the same thing, well we didn't know we was supposed to have counselors back then, you know.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

RAY MARTINEZ: You just survive and that's why I kind of laugh about the counselors now days, hell we were raised ah....during World War II, you know we'd see ah....kids, you know, their fathers or uncles or somebody got killed you know and you know about it, the kid would be screaming and crying, hey it's war, you know you just kept on you know, it wouldn't bother us. But now days they rush all those counselors out there. But ah....no, they tried to look for a counselor for me, I mean ah....a psychologist of something, but ah....my god, you know it took two months, forget about it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well Ray I....I've exhausted about everything I know of, just got to leave everythingif we....anything else you want to add, anything else you want tocases you want to go over or discuss or....cause I don't know much of anything else to ask.

RAY MARTINEZ: No I just had a wonderful time in the Ranger service, of course like I said I got a little tired of ah...having to drive that far and be away from home so much, you know. Of course when my daughters were here of course I got a lot of company, but once they were gone ah.....she was by herself and I'd be out there in the country, so that's what tired me out. But ah....anyway too you know, everybody has to make a decision at one time or the other you know, it's time to move on you know, let the young ones come up and take over. Because I have seen in many professions where people just hang on and hang on and hang on and hang on and actually they are going downhill. And ah....I decided that I felt like I was on top of the hill, I didn't want to start going down the hill and not doing the service that I was supposed to be doing, so I thought it was time to quit, call it quits. I can live comfortably and so I have no problem with retirement.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. Well that's about all that really matters. And now you are currently pretty active, I think you said, with the Ranger Museum down in San Antonio.

RAY MARTINEZ: San Antonio, uh huh. And ah....then I stay active here in the community, you know, helping wherever I can and ah....ah....you know, it gives me a lot of satisfaction to be able to do something, help people.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

RAY MARTINEZ: So it just goes on, when I was in the Rangers I was helping people and so I'm just continuing, except this time I don't have a gun and I don't have a badge. But I'm still doing my ah....civic duties or public service as you might call it, you know, still very active. And I will continue.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And the face of the people who wear the single peso, they've got a certain mystic about 'em to this day, even more so maybe to this day.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well now, you know, I go around here in New Braunfels, they either call me RangerRanger Ray or Judge, you know. They get confused at times and some people call me Judge Ranger or Ranger Judge or something like that, but you know, no you know the respect and why I always try to hold myself up you know, in the community to show that the Rangers are special. I...I ah.....get called upon to give talks and ah.....especially about the Rangers and my career in the Rangers and of course they like to hear about Duvall County cause I have a real good talk that I give. And ah.....I'm already scheduled for next March to give a talk to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in Seguin at the district meeting. So I've been very active and do a lot of public speaking.(unintelligible)....about the Rangers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I'm sorry?

RAY MARTINEZ: About the Rangers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. Do you ever give any on Whitman?

RAY MARTINEZ: No ah...you know some of them want me to touch on it and yeah, I'll touch on it, a condensed version.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When did they film that Today segment?

RAY MARTINEZ: That Today segment ah....about two weeks ago.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, so I mean it didn't....it was already inbasically filmed before....long before this Ft. Worth deal happened?

RAY MARTINEZ: Oh yeah, yeah. See it was supposed to have shown the day before, the Today Show, see because it was to coincide with the opening.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, of the tower?

RAY MARTINEZ: But then....then the Floyd.....hurricane Floyd kind of pushed it off another day, you know and then of course that incident happened in Ft. Worth, so you know it just came in with that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Kind of appropriate I guess to do it at the same time.

RAY MARTINEZ: Yes. See because I had one on Dateline, on ah.....towards the end of ah.....July I was on Dateline. Ah....they had filmed that one way back in last year I think, because they were anticipating on opening the tower around April or May and they were going to present that. Of course then the shooting happened up at Colorado, so you got delayed and then they showed it in ah....in ah....like I said, the latter part of July.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you have copies of those tapes?

RAY MARTINEZ: Yeah ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: I'd like to get a copy of it sometime for the museum up here if you....

RAY MARTINEZ: Okay.

ROBERT NIEMAN:if you'd ever see fit, you know.

RAY MARTINEZ: I'll make you some.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And ah....cause we gather everything we can and go up there. Well Ray I....like I said I don't have anything else. Any other things you want to talk about I'm willing....I've got plenty of tape and plenty of time, but that' up to you.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well I don't know what else ah....ah....to talk about, I mean there are so many stories you know and incidents that happened. And ah....I toy with the idea of putting it down in a book one of these days, you know, writing it all down. And I still have all my weeklies, you know, tofrom all the time that I was in the Rangers, so I can go daily you know and see the.....to remind me of some of the incidents.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh I couldn't of done Glenn's book without them, cause he had all of his ah.....twenty something years worth. Ah.....so I mean they're valuable.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well I have eighteen years of weeklies.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How many?

RAY MARTINEZ: Eighteen years of weeklies and ah....so I can use them to refresh my memory you know. And I have a lot of newspaper clippings too, so one of these days....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well you need to do it.

RAY MARTINEZ:I'm going to have to put them together. And ah....because I have newspaper clippings from narcotics or you know, when I was in the Austin Police Department. And one of these days we're going to build us another house where I can have my Ranger room.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

RAY MARTINEZ: And ah....like Jim Peters whose retired and he retired from Corpus and he moved over here a couple of years ago. He bought a house and he's got his Ranger room and it's just a real nice Ranger room that he has. And so that's what I intend to do, if we move out.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well Ray I don't know of anything else to ask.

RAY MARTINEZ: I can't think of anything right now.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I appreciate it.

RAY MARTINEZ: Well it was my pleasure.