

Interview with  
RAY CANO  
Texas Ranger, Retired

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Project: Texas Rangers

Interview Conducted at Mr. Cano's Home  
San Antonio, Texas  
Thursday—April 16, 2009

Interviewed By: Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray  
Longview, Texas

Present at Interview: Ray Cano, Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray



## Introduction

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**RAY CANO**  
**TEXAS RANGER, RETIRED**

**NANCY RAY:** My name is Nancy Ray and I am visiting with Ray Cano of San Antonio, Texas. Today is Thursday, April 16th, 2009. The purpose of this interview is to discuss Ranger Cano's career as a Texas Ranger. Do I have your permission to record this interview?

**RAY CANO:** Yes ma'am.

**NANCY RAY:** And Ranger Cano, do you understand that this video will belong to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, Texas?

**RAY CANO:** Yes.

**NANCY RAY:** And do I have your permission to present copies of this video to various historical organizations such as museums, libraries, schools and once transcribed to place on the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum's website with the restrictions noted that this is for educational purposes only and no books and you would like a copy of the video... is that correct?

**RAY CANO:** That's correct.

**NANCY RAY:** Well let's by learning about you. Where were you born, what is your full name, your parents, date of birth...

**RAY CANO:** OK, I was born in Pharr, Texas, that's PHARR, and that is down in the Rio Grande Valley which borders Mexico. It's about 7 miles from Mexico. I born August the 8<sup>th</sup>, 1949, and I come from... my family were migrant workers, my Mom and Dad were. So consequently as a result of that, we were pulled out of school around April or May until about my 14<sup>th</sup> birthday and we would travel to Idaho, Indiana... harvest crops and then around late

August or September, we'd go back to the valley and re-enroll in school. So we were either a little bit behind or a little bit... well mostly behind in school until about my 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. And my father worked in construction and in my freshman year, we moved to Conroe, Texas, which is Montgomery County in 1964. And finished my freshman year there and then we moved to Rosenberg, Texas, and finished my high school there... sophomore, junior and senior years in Rosenberg, Texas. Graduated from Lamar Consolidated High School.

**NANCY RAY:** And what year was that?

**RAY CANO:** 1968.

**NANCY RAY:** What about brothers and sisters?

**RAY CANO:** I have two brothers who still live in the Valley and a sister who lives in San Angelo, Texas.

**NANCY RAY:** And where were you in that line of kids?

**RAY CANO:** I'm the eldest.

**NANCY RAY:** Did you say your parents' names... did I miss those?

**RAY CANO:** My father's name is Guadalupe... he passed away about two years ago. And my Mom's name is Elvira. My dad was born in Mexico and I guess... he never became a US citizen. He just refused to do that but my mom was born in Texas.

**NANCY RAY:** Well when you were working with the crops, what crops were you... what were you doing?

**RAY CANO:** we would harvest tomatoes... I'm talking from the planting to the hauling to the picking tomatoes and that was in Austin, Indiana. I went to school there ... I think I was in the seventh grade at that time. And other crops were green peppers, potatoes, okra... there was...

**NANCY RAY:** Hard work.

**RAY CANO:** Not easy for work for a teenager.

**NANCY RAY:** Your summers weren't that much fun.

**RAY CANO:** No... didn't have any, not... not like a typical high school kid would have a summer job or go on vacation or whatever. We didn't have any of that.

**NANCY RAY:** Well did you have any favorite subjects in school or teachers who made a big impression on you?

**RAY CANO:** In school, in high school... in my senior year I had a ... I forget his name but he took a liking to me and it was an auto body class. I've always like working on cars so I had an opportunity to take an auto body class in high school and I kind of... that was my ... was waking up in the mornings saying I'm going to auto body class today and that was my... but as far as any other classes... history, I liked history, math (*he made a motion*)... just like I guess most of your students, I didn't care for math a whole lot. Didn't really care that  $x$  equals  $y$  so I have yet to use that (*laughter*).

**NANCY RAY:** And you've made it this far, right?

**RAY CANO:** That's right.

**NANCY RAY:** Well when you graduated from high school, what did you do?

**RAY CANO:** I almost didn't graduate actually. In February of 1968, I went to a Marine Corps recruiter and wanted to enlist. and he asked me well have you finished high school? No, I'm supposed to graduate in May but I want to enlist now. That's when the Vietnam War was still going on. And he said I tell you what, I want to enlist you in the 180-day delay plan and you finish high school and when you finish high school, you'll report to Camp Pendleton, California,

for Marine Corps boot camp. And I did that. I left... I went to California July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1968... finished boot camp... came back... I take it back. I went to ITR which is additional training and came back for a 30-day leave... went back to California. December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1968, Christmas Day, we flew out to Vietnam and landed in Da Nang... well went to Okinawa for a few days and on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1969, 19 years old, landed in Da Nang and stayed in Vietnam for eleven months and seven days. And went back, I ... I was promoted to Lance Corporal and Corporal out in the field which is called meritorious promotion. And December the... well I left there November 7<sup>th</sup>, went back to California and the sergeant said we'll promote you to sergeant if you'll reenlist. And I said I've seen what I wanted to see. Give me my discharge papers and I'll go back home.

**NANCY RAY:** I can understand. Well what was your job in the Marine Corps?

**RAY CANO:** I , my MOS which is a military occupation specialty was 0311 which is a grunt, rifleman. All through training and when I arrived in Vietnam, my squad leader, Wheeler was his name, looked at me and looked at another young blonde, tall scrappy kid about the same age... 19 years old, name was Scarborough... looked at both of us and he said Scarborough you're gonna be a point man and Cano, everybody says *kay-no* for some reason... you're gonna be a radio man. And I said I have no training in the radio, how to work the radio. He said we'll teach you. So I became a squad radio man. I was in Delta Company, First Battalion, 26<sup>th</sup> Marines, 3rd Platoon. Went from squad radio man to platoon radio man and right at the end I was company radio man, just about the month before I left. So that was my job.

**NANCY RAY:** So were you in the field a lot?

**RAY CANO:** Yes.

**NANCY RAY:** Is there anything you want to share about your experiences there or... or not?

**RAY CANO:** I have something I want to show you (*he showed us a radio antenna from the radio he carried in Vietnam*). As a radio operator, you carry a PRC25 on your back along with all the rest of your gear. This antenna is off the radio that I carried in one of our first fire fights in February 1969. The antenna is about right here (*he indicated a position*). It was blown off my radio. So I keep it as a souvenir.

**NANCY RAY:** That brings back memories doesn't it?

**RAY CANO:** Absolutely.

**NANCY RAY:** Were you ever wounded?

**RAY CANO:** Yes.

**NANCY RAY:** You have a Purple Heart too.

**RAY CANO:** Yes.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, we're glad you made it back and thank you for your service.

**RAY CANO:** You're welcome.

**NANCY RAY:** How heavy was that radio?

**RAY CANO:** ... it weighed about maybe 25 or 30 pounds... wasn't very heavy. After a while you just get used to it, it was part of your... everything you carried.

**NANCY RAY:** With everything else you carried, what was your load in the radio and everything else you had to carry?

**RAY CANO:** Well the radio was about 25 or 30 pounds and then my own backpack... probably another 30 or 40 pounds plus your rifle. And I also carried a .45 caliber handgun so it was pretty heavy... humping up and down those jungles.

**NANCY RAY:** Well after you were discharged, what happened?

**RAY CANO:** Went back home. Discharged December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1969... went back home and I enrolled in Pan American University down in Edinburg, Texas. Enrolled as a pre-law student, wanted to be an attorney and I was a political science major. I was going to school and working part time also. I was a ... a bartender for a while working at night, going to school and taking advantage of the GI bill that we were given. And after my first year of college... of course I was dating my present wife, María, and met her in 1964 and then like I said I went to Rosenberg and we kind of lost touch with each other. We ... when she found out that I had joined the Marine Corps and probably was going to Vietnam you know, she got hold of one of my cousins and to make a long story short, we... we got together again. So got engaged but I didn't want to get married yet because I didn't have a job. So my aunt's husband's brother was working with DPS at the time back in 1970. And he told me DPS is hiring, you ought to apply. I said DPS? I had never in my wildest dreams ever thought about being a police officer... never had given it a second thought. So you know, I said I'll give it a shot. So I applied in 1970 and I was... after about a year's time, I was accepted. Reported to the DPS Academy in Austin on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1971... graduated 18 weeks later. The Academy's training is kind of paramilitary so the first day that I showed up for training, some of the instructors they come up to you and they thought they were drill instructors I guess... the way they talked to us. I thought here we go again. So I was 22 at the time. I was ... I was in pretty good shape so I didn't have any problems with the physical part of it or the academic part of it. The only part that I had a little problem with was the ... being one of the few minorities in the Academy. That played a big part in me not wanting to quit.

**NANCY RAY:** And how is that?

**RAY CANO:** They... they would try and run you off by belittling you, by degrading you, by calling you every name you could think of.

**NANCY RAY:** They did everyone this way or just you?

**RAY CANO:** Especially the Hispanics. There were 111 recruits that showed up. There were 105 white males and 6 Hispanic males. There were no blacks, no females, no Asians, there were just 105 and 6. So when we graduated, we graduated 86 I believe... 80 white males and 6 Hispanics. So we all kind of hung together. ... once I graduated from the Academy, I was assigned to the Highway Patrol in Weslaco, Texas, which was just 15 miles from home. My wife was a nurse at the time.

**NANCY RAY:** You were married at this time?

**RAY CANO:** We got married ... I graduated from the Academy on 2/11/1972 and we were married August 26, 1972, about six months later or so. And we lived in Weslaco and she was a nurse so it was a little trying at first because when I was working two weeks of nights, we didn't get to see too much of each other. She worked a day shift... she worked 7 to 3 and when I worked nights I worked 5 to 2 or 6 to 3 so she wasn't real happy about that. So you know we like to make our wives happy so I said OK I tell you what I'll do. I'll transfer to Driver's License. Driver's License is the same pay as the Highway Patrolman but you work 8 to 5 and you're off on weekends. So I did that and they transferred me to San Antonio in 1973. Well I was here six months and I couldn't stand it so I called Captain Ira Dees in Corpus. And I said I want to go back to Highway Patrol. And he says make up your mind, boy, what do you want to do? *(laughter)* I said I want to go back to Highway Patrol. So I didn't tell my wife about that until I got home. So I got home and I told... I say ... there's an opening in Alice and there's an

opening in Edna. And she said why are you telling me that? Because we're gonna go to one of those stations. I'm going back to Highway Patrol. Not to demean Driver's License in any way, they do a great job. But I just... I didn't like the fact that when I was driving to work every morning I knew exactly what I was gonna do. You know you drive up there in a black and white. You've got a badge and a gun on and you walk in the office and you sit behind a typewriter and you renew driver's licenses or you give driving tests all day long.

**NANCY RAY:** Day after day...

**RAY CANO:** Day after day, every day is the same thing. So I just didn't... that wasn't me. I've always had jobs that required me to be outside. I've had, going back to my high school days... I worked in auto dealerships as a porter... I've worked as an air conditioning apprentice, a carpenter apprentice, lumber apprentice... grocery stores... I had a summer job, either summer job or after school job to help my parents make ends meet. So I had to be outside. So as a result of that phone call, about six months later we went to Alice, October 1974 to September 1977, went to Alice as Highway Patrolman. And then after September of 1977, we transferred back to the Valley, went back to McAllen as a Highway Patrolman as well.

**NANCY RAY:** Well as a Highway Patrolman, what were some of the things you had to deal with? That was not the same as going to a Driver's License job every day.

**RAY CANO:** Right, and that's one of the things that... when I went to Alice, my partner there was Dan Mora. Great guy, matter of fact I saw him a couple of months ago there in Alice.

**NANCY RAY:** And he was the experienced...

**RAY CANO:** He was the senior trooper there in Alice. Matter of fact he's still there, retired and then he stayed there. And he knew that I was coming from the Driver's License Division so he's

a little... here comes an office guy and working night shift and arresting drunks and speeders and what not. But we got along great. And we were fortunate to have a good sergeant, Sergeant Darrell Morris, there in Alice that allowed me to work a day shift Monday through Thursday so I could go to school at night. And I was attending Bee County College. And Friday, Saturday and Sunday, I worked nights, did that for three years so I could go to school.

**NANCY RAY:** And what were you taking in school?

**RAY CANO:** Criminal Justice. So I was lucky enough that I finished school. I received my Associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Bee County. So after that, we transferred to McAllen and I think I went to school there for a few semesters. I still had in the back of my mind that I wanted to get my degree you know. So went to school at Pan Am for a few years. We were there about three years as well and then in... about my last eight or ten months in McAllen, there was a project going on at that time called the South Texas Enforcement Program or something like that. And that may not be the name but that program was ... was targeting narcotics and stolen vehicles. So I was assigned to the task force for about eight or ten months and I was assigned to work with a Motor Vehicle Theft investigator named Ed Sanders. And worked with him for eight months looking for stolen cars... and we worked a case down in Brownsville with Ed and ... Bruce Casteel was a Ranger in Harlingen at the time. So Bruce was working a counterfeit case in Brownsville where they had this man whose last name happened to be Cano as well. And what he was issuing is false birth certificates, social security cards, bogus vehicle documents... so he asked me if I would do a little undercover work for him and go in there and see if I could buy a birth certificate or something. I said sure. So we went in there and I did my undercover role and

did a purchase of some documents and walked out and the next day we went in there and busted him.

**NANCY RAY:** How did you dress for your undercover?

**RAY CANO:** just general dress... I didn't shave for a few days... a little scrungy.

**NANCY RAY:** A little rough around the edges?

**RAY CANO:** Yeah... and then did my Spanish thing you know and a little slang and that kind of thing... street talk and that stuff. So he made a case and went in there and got a bunch of documents. Got the typewriter he was using to do all these bogus documents and Bruce got a conviction.

**NANCY RAY:** And that was your first...

**RAY CANO:** One of the few cases that I worked with Bruce.

**NANCY RAY:** Was that the first time you worked on criminal investigations?

**RAY CANO:** Yes because up to then, it was all Highway Patrol. It was all highway investigating accidents, speeders, and a few narcotics cases every now and then. And ... but until that time that I got assigned to the task force, I wasn't doing any criminal type work. So that was...

**NANCY RAY:** Was that your first... is that what sparked your interest in becoming a Ranger?

**RAY CANO:** No, actually it sparked my interest in becoming an Auto Theft investigator. Up to then, a Ranger wasn't even in my sights. And Ed Sanders was... he was a great teacher. He was a... just unquestionable integrity you know. He kind of took me under his wing and he taught me what he knew. So he said we're gonna be hiring some Auto Theft investigators and we're gonna have an opening in Laredo and some other places. And he said you'd be a great pick for Laredo

being bilingual and you're still relatively young. I think I was in my late 20s maybe or my early 30s. And I said I'll take the test. So I took the written exam and went to the interview board and got promoted and by that time, I had... we had two children.

**NANCY RAY:** What are their names?

**RAY CANO:** My daughter Cynthia and my son David. And September 1981, we went to Laredo. And when you get a promotion, you're supposed to get a raise, right? Well we went to Laredo and the cheapest thing that I could find in Laredo was a duplex which was about \$200 more for rent than what I was paying when I was buying a home in McAllen. So it wasn't much of a raise there. But I was doing... I was going to do what I liked to do. So we were in Laredo for five years. And as a result of being there, started working in Mexico quite a bit. I got ... I got hooked up with an Auto Theft investigator with the sheriff's office, Webb County Sheriff's Office, and started going into Mexico, into Nuevo Laredo. And also worked a lot with National Auto Theft Bureau, NATB... it's run under a different name now but I worked with Henry Lipe, LIPE. And he worked in Mexico quite a bit. We'd go to Monterrey, Ciudad Victoria, all along the border looking for stolen vehicles. We'd go out and meet the state judicial police, the federal police, the local police and we established a real good rapport with them that they started releasing vehicles to us through the Consulate's office. One time I was... I was in Laredo by myself and the state judicial comandante... one of his what they call his jefe de grupo, which is kind of like a supervisor, and another agent and myself were riding in a 1978 Ford Bronco, stolen Bronco. And we were looking for other stolen vehicles. And he turns back, he's driving... the comandante is driving and he turns back and says hey Cano, when we can find some other

ones better than this one, you can have this one back (*laughter*). I said whatever you say, Comandante. So here we were riding around in a stolen vehicle looking for other stolen vehicles.

**NANCY RAY:** And you're in Mexico?

**RAY CANO:** And I'm in Mexico. ...

**NANCY RAY:** Were you armed? Did you ever take your weapon with you?

**RAY CANO:** No... no, I never did. I never took my gun over there... I wouldn't dare do that. Now I'll tell you a story. Another story about working in Mexico is ... I was in Mexico with the owner of a stolen Ford pickup truck. Back then the Ford pickup truck was a real popular vehicle to steal... it was real easy to steal. All you had to do with the switch was put a new one in and you were good to go. So we go to the consulate's office. We get all the paperwork and then we go back to the federal impound lot which I had permission to be in. So I walk into the impound lot with the owner of this vehicle and I look up and here come two ... two police officers, federal police officers that I had never seen before. So I said buenos días and all of that and they asked me who I was. And he said *acompañamos* which means come with us. And when he said *acompañamos*, I had a bad feeling there. So we went inside the office and he took me inside to the... I found out later it was a new comandante who had taken over overnight... news to me. So I was placed under arrest. He said, all in Spanish of course, he said you're under arrest. You are ... you've entered federal property with no authorization. I said well if you'll let me explain... he said you don't have anything to explain. Just sit down and we'll talk later. (*laughter*)

**NANCY RAY:** So you sat down.

**RAY CANO:** I sat down and the owner was a little nervous. I said everything's fine, everything's fine. So after about six hours, he ... he called me in the office. And I explained to

him again who I was, what I was doing, and I said I know that you do not want to create an international incident by arresting a state police officer who is over here working under the guise of the consulate's office. I said if you'll let me call the consulate's office, we can get this straightened out. And he said OK. And after that we became friends. We'd go out... after this was all over with... I went back about a week later, through the front door this time. And he received me cordially and we went out to have lunch. And after that he'd call me up and say I've got a couple of cars for you, come get them.

**NANCY RAY:** What happened to the old comandante... and just overnight? What happened?

**RAY CANO:** Well I found out later he'd been replaced. He evidently... he was not doing... whatever he was doing was not consistent with Mexican policies so he was let go. And that happens a lot in Mexico.

**NANCY RAY:** Well these vehicles... they're stolen in the United States and then they're taken across and your position was to try to recover them and return them to the owners... or what happened with them?

**RAY CANO:** Returned to the insurance company most of the time. And that's the reason... that's probably the major factor that came into play for me leaving the Motor Vehicle Theft Service. Had I been stationed somewhere else where I would be working auto theft rings and things like that, I may have stayed. But it got to the point that I felt that I was working for the insurance companies you know. I would recover certain amount of vehicles and go to the consulate's office and then the paperwork is just horrendous. I mean it's... you have to have just about everything to prove that vehicle belongs to whomever on the US side. And then I would call the insurance companies and I'm kind of the mediator there. OK, you owe the wrecker

company so much. You owe the impound lot so much. You owe the person who recovered it you know a little piece of that. So ... I just felt that I wasn't doing law enforcement type work. Now we were making some arrests also or the Mexican officers were. Not only would we recover them but they would also conduct a follow-up investigation... OK how did this car get here you know... this and that. So they did put some people in jail.

**NANCY RAY:** Well the people stealing them, were they mainly US citizens or Mexican citizens?

**RAY CANO:** Both. And the majority of them came from Houston, Harris County... Houston or Bexar County, San Antonio.

**NANCY RAY:** Well did you ever fear for your life? Did you ever feel like you were in a dangerous situation or not?

**RAY CANO:** Just that one time when I was... you know after we'd been there... OK I've been here for two hours, four hours, six hours... what's going on? And of course you it's natural... can I make a phone call? It doesn't work that way there. Of course you didn't have cell phones you know then. But I never really did fear for my life.

**NANCY RAY:** Well when you left Auto Theft, what did you do?

**RAY CANO:** about... well September '86 is when I left so a few months prior to that there was a... some Texas Rangers openings. And I worked with a Ranger who is still there... his name is Doyle Holdridge, great guy. I learned a lot from him. And he knew that I was a little frustrated with what I was doing so he said you ought to take the Ranger test. I said Man, the Ranger test? I haven't got a shot at making the Rangers. Yeah, you do, just take the test and we'll see what happens. So I took the test and I went to the interview board and got a phone call from Captain

Jack Dean. He says well, you made it. They promoted three Rangers back in 1986... Ray Coffman who subsequently became the Chief, myself and then Howard Dunham. There were three promotions that year so he said you're gonna go to Kingsville. I said OK. So September 1986, here goes the family again down to Kingsville which is right, it is 30 miles from Alice so I knew the area and I think that may have played a part in why he stationed me there. Because I worked Alice which is Jim Wells County and Brooks County and Kleberg County so we were there for seven years.

**NANCY RAY:** Well let's back up a bit. I wanted to ask you about Laredo. I understand that in the past, Laredo has been a pretty dangerous town. Is that correct or not?

**RAY CANO:** Not when I was there. Now we were there in the early 80s and we used to go as families or as friends... we used to go into Nuevo Laredo with no problems at all. Either walk across or drive... we always drove across. even went to a few, maybe one or two Christmas parties in Nuevo Laredo.

**NANCY RAY:** What about drugs? Were they really bad at that time or not?

**RAY CANO:** Not as... not as bad as they are today. I mean they were still... they were still around. You would find that the DEA was there at the time and our own DPS state Narcotics officers, they would make their sizable seizures. But it was... now with all this cartel business going on, it's a little more prominent now. It's really given... it is giving Mexico really a bad name because Mexico is a beautiful country and beautiful people and I just enjoy working over there.

**NANCY RAY:** Well there are two sides to that too. I mean there supply and somebody's demanding. Is that right?

**RAY CANO:** That's right.

**NANCY RAY:** What does cartel mean? I've heard that word, what does that mean?

**RAY CANO:** I would assume it just ... you have different groups of people and then there're four or five groups of people in Mexico that are fighting for territory and areas of smuggling drugs into Mexico. But as far as cartel, I couldn't tell you the definition of what it would mean.

**NANCY RAY:** Well before we move to your Ranger career, is there anything else while you were with... as a Highway Patrolman or Auto Theft or anything that you want to tell us about?

**RAY CANO:** No, not really. It was pretty much routine type work. Got into a few chases but ... matter of fact, one chase that I got into there started in Edinburg and ended up in McAllen about 20 minutes later. I found out that the driver of the vehicle... he was DWI and found out that I used to work with him out in the fields. Yeah, it's a small world. It was sad to see but you know...

**NANCY RAY:** You still had to take him in.

**RAY CANO:** Yes.

**NANCY RAY:** Well what about when you took the written test... did you pass it the first time to become a Ranger?

**RAY CANO:** Well it's not a matter of pass or fail. And I don't know if any of the guys have told you how the promotional system works. It is based on what is called the Olympic system. you take the written exam and the maximum you can score is 500 points. And what they do is... let's say you have a hundred people to take the exam. They'll take the top 25 scores and those 25 will be asked to appear before an interview board. And the interview board also is a maximum of 500 points. And you go before six interviewers and they'll score you and then they'll take your

written score and your interview board score and then they'll take your college points or educational points, military service, DPS service, and then they'll compile those three scores and then the top three are the ones that get promoted.

**NANCY RAY:** I see. No, I did not realize that's how it works.

**RAY CANO:** That's how it's done.

**NANCY RAY:** Who was on your interview board, do you remember that?

**RAY CANO:** Jack Dean was one of them. I don't remember the other gentlemen. I know there were three captains there.

**NANCY RAY:** Do you remember any of the questions they asked you? What were they looking for?

**RAY CANO:** I know one question that they... that they kept harping on, one particular captain. He said let's say you're out on a traffic stop and you get in a fight with the driver. And your partner comes over and pretty much saves you from getting your butt whipped. So you're indebted to him. It was a good thing he was with you because otherwise you may have gotten hurt. A week later you're out there working again and this time your partner starts whipping up on this guy... with a flashlight... something he shouldn't do. What are you gonna do? Are you gonna turn him in? Or if he says hey, you need to cover me. Remember I helped you last week. What are you gonna do? Are you gonna save him if he gets filed on? If the victim you know charges him with assault and you go to court, are you gonna lie for him? Are you gonna perjure yourself? Remember... he just saved you last week. What're you gonna do? I said I'm gonna tell the truth. You're gonna tell the truth, are you really? You're just gonna let him... just hang out to dry after he just saved you a week before from getting your butt whipped and now you're just

gonna hang him out to dry? You're not even gonna lie for him and save him? Nope. And he harped on that for about 30 minutes. I can't believe you'd just let him out. Now what they're trying to do is to see if you would lie for someone or violate the law or violate policy. And it's one of those scenarios where you... you know what you want to do but you know what you have to do.

**NANCY RAY:** Choices can be hard. OK, so they selected you and you went to Kingsville. What about that badge? Now it's a cinco peso badge, right? Is it actually made from a cinco peso?

**RAY CANO:** Yes.

**NANCY RAY:** I understand that badge feels pretty heavy. Is that right... from a responsibility aspect?

**RAY CANO:** There is a lot of responsibility attached to that badge. the way that the Texas Rangers feel when they promote someone to that position... they feel that you are a mature, responsible, honest Ranger. I was going to say man but now we have female Rangers as well. so they station you out in you know wherever and they know that you're going to do the right thing. Now one thing that I would like to say is this. The Rangers' success is attributed a lot to local law enforcement. Your local police department, the sheriff's office, your constables, your DA's office... these are the agencies that call upon the Rangers because of their resources, their expertise on investigation... to come in and help them. So I know that the Rangers that I've worked with and the Rangers that I've heard of, whenever a big case was made and here come the cameras and the reporters and all of that, you know you put that sheriff out there. It's his case. Now you may... of course you helped a lot with the case and he'll give the recognition. You know we don't go out there and -- we did this -- you know and stick your chest out and put

that badge out there. No, that's not the way I worked. And again, the Rangers that I worked with did not work like that.

**NANCY RAY:** So you had to develop a relationship with those other law enforcement officers.

**RAY CANO:** Absolutely.

**NANCY RAY:** Is that the first thing you did when you became a Ranger?

**RAY CANO:** When I became a Ranger, I went to the sheriff's office there in Kingsville. That's where I had my office. Sheriff Scarborough was the sheriff there and the father before him was a sheriff and the father before him was a sheriff so it was I don't know, three or four generations of sheriffs there. And I met him and then some of the other people and then also worked a lot or met and worked a lot with the district attorney's investigator, his name was Alan Muños. He helped me a lot as well you know in working in Kingsville, in working the county, and I asked the Sheriff and I asked Alan... I said OK, who has been here the longest? They said so-and-so and I said that's who I want to work with. They said how come? I said that's who I want to learn from. They've been here the longest, he knows a lot of people and he knows the good ones and the bad ones. and we learn from each other you know... interview techniques, things like that. And that's why I say that they deserve a lot of credit for what they do.

**NANCY RAY:** And that's a pretty standard answer that we get... is that we give them the credit... the ones who are running for election. It seems that Rangers are very humble people I mean t hey don't... not very boastful. OK, I show you became a Ranger September 2, 1986. Is that correct?

**RAY CANO:** That's probably right.

**NANCY RAY:** You're in Kingsville... do you remember what was your first case?

**RAY CANO:** I picked up a case that was about a year old, almost... unsolved homicide. A young lady was found murdered in Nueces County and I worked on that case for about two years... off and on with the detectives in Corpus Christi. After two years, we finally made a case and I... it was a circumstantial evidence case. And I convinced, persuaded, whichever... the local assistant district attorney, his name was Rocky Carrillo, he was from Duval County, that we needed to get this guy prosecuted. And he said all you've got is circumstantial evidence and I said I know but it is strong circumstantial evidence. To make a long story short, went to trial and got him convicted. And the thing about... the thing that upset us was that the Kleberg County jury, even though they convicted him for murder, gave him ten years probation.

**NANCY RAY:** Why?

**RAY CANO:** Who knows? So judge, the state district judge, Manuel Banuelas, he told the defendant that he'd been given ten years probation. I don't agree with it but that's what the jury has assessed. So any little violation that you commit, I will revoke your probation. So a month later, he did something that caused him to revoke his probation so he went to jail for ten years. So ... that was one of the first cases that I worked that was challenging.

**NANCY RAY:** Well what kinds of crimes did you have there?

**RAY CANO:** It was a variety of things... thefts, robberies, sexual assaults. I was assigned five counties, Kenedy County, Kleberg, Brooks which his Falfurrias, Jim Wells and Duval County. Duval County kept me the busiest... Duval and Jim Wells kept me the busiest. And in Jim Wells County, there was another case that I worked on that remains unsolved to date. Dan Mora and I were working, I think it was Christmas Eve... may have been December 23<sup>rd</sup> but it was around Christmas time... close to Christmas. And that evening we had had supper with Alice police

officer by the name of Matt Murphy. We were at the county jail and somebody had brought some pizza in and we had pizza and after that, everybody went on their way... let's go patrol the highways and byways and whatnot. Well that night, Matt Murphy was killed ... and Dan Mora and I went out, went back to the scene and it was an all night and all day search. And Gene Powell at the time was a Ranger in Kingsville and he worked on the case. Kasey King then came along and he worked on the case. And then I came along and I worked on the case. And to this day, that case has not been solved... which is a thorn in my side. There were a lot of people involved. The sheriff... the sheriff there now, Oscar Lopez, was the Chief of Police then and ... I mean it was a concerted effort from everybody to try and solve that case... couldn't do it.

**NANCY RAY:** That has to be disappointing.

**RAY CANO:** Yes... very, very... very, very disappointing for a police officer to be killed and not find the person that did it.

**NANCY RAY:** Well the techniques that you used to solve crimes at that time... what were the main ones that you used? You didn't have DNA... or not?

**RAY CANO:** No, no, not at all. One thing we used the most was ... was polygraph you know for a lot of our cases. And we had one of our best polygraph operators in Corpus Christi by the name of Pat O'Berg who is now I think a... he is still with the DPS as a commander but I'm not sure exactly what he's doing. some of the schools that I went to that helped me along with my investigation was interview and interrogation schools. Of course blood splatter, fingerprint schools... you know investigative training that investigators use in their everyday investigations.

**NANCY RAY:** I don't think I asked. Who was your first captain in the Rangers?

**RAY CANO:** Jack Dean.

**NANCY RAY:** He was on the board and was your first captain. *(short pause to change discs)*

**RAY CANO:** You were talking about some of the training that I received. Another one that I'm fortunate and proud of to have used in my investigation was being a forensic hypnotist. There were several of us that were sent... Chief of the Rangers back then was Maurice Cook and he got us... he influenced the hypnosis program within the Rangers. And he assigned several of us to receive training from an expert trained hypnotist. So we ... we first started out with audio recording of our sessions which was one of the safeguards that the court asked for... was that all these hypnosis sessions would be... there would be some sort of proof that there were no leading questions asked of the victim. And then after that we went to a video as well. There were some cases that ... that were subsequently made as a result of information obtained from a hypnosis session.

**NANCY RAY:** Can you tell us about something that you... when you used hypnosis and how you went through it... a specific case?

**RAY CANO:** There was one case... it was a sexual assault case and the officers had pretty much run out of leads. They had an idea who the suspect was and when a hypnotist hypnotizes a... the subject or the victim, there's only limited detail that you are told of or the hypnotist is told of and that is the date, the time, and the location. If they have other information or details, we don't know of those details. We... we can ask the victim or the subject through non-leading questions about what those details may be. And when I say non-leading questions... instead of saying OK, describe his mustache. That person may say... you know what... he did have a mustache now that I remember. You may say did this person have facial hair? And then they can say well he had long sideburns or mustache or goatee or full beard and that... that's where the

non-leading aspect of it comes into play. So you have to be very careful in how you ask the questions. In this particular case, I... we were pretty much at the end of the interview and I asked the victim one last question. I'm not gonna give the details of it but I asked her one last question and then she remembered something about that. So as a result of that, I went and got an evidentiary search warrant, picked up the suspect, and sure enough what she had remembered is what they found. So they made a case on that and he pled out.

**NANCY RAY:** The person that's under hypnosis does not... before the hypnosis session, they don't remember these things? Or they have not come up with this information?

**RAY CANO:** They may remember them but they've repressed that memory for reasons that they don't want to remember the particular details of the event. And on sexual assault cases, the first thing that the hypnotists are trained to do is... OK, we're gonna go from the time that this first happened until the time before the assault. We aren't going to have you relive it. We aren't going to make you go through that traumatic event again. The very first time that you saw this person is what we're gonna focus on. You know if you saw the face then we'll go from the top of the head, the hair, the eyebrows, the eyes, the nose, the cheeks, the lips, everything... just describe what you're looking at. Or a lot of times, we'll have a sketch artist with us and if they're under hypnosis and they're describing this person and the artist is sketching out the photo. Or they may see a ... a license plate number. How many times have you seen a license plate number and yeah... I remember seeing it but I don't remember it. Well under hypnosis, they say I see a license plate OK. Here's a piece of paper and a pencil, write it down. And they're under hypnosis and they'll write the plate down and we'll pass it along and sure enough you know that's what they're looking for.

**NANCY RAY:** It works.

**RAY CANO:** It works, oh absolutely. Now one thing about hypnosis is we will not... I say we. A hypnotist will not hypnotize a suspect. Contrary to what you see on TV about hypnosis... is the reason we will not hypnotize a suspect is because when you're under hypnosis, you're always under control of yourself. You can always open your eyes... you know what... I don't want to do this anymore... I don't feel comfortable doing it... Get up and walk away. Which means if you're under control... that means you can lie under hypnosis. What they call... it's a term called confabulation. A confabulation is where you kind of fill in the blanks to please the hypnotist. Or you can just flat out lie to please the hypnotist... just make something up... so that's the reason we don't hypnotize suspects... just the victims or witnesses.

**NANCY RAY:** OK but just the victim is the one you'd use hypnosis.

**RAY CANO:** And then the witness that may have seen a hit and run... sees a hit and run... remembers seeing a license plate but just cannot remember it for whatever reason. And a lot of times it happens in everybody's life... you come inside the house and lay the keys down and you can't find them... OK let me relax a minute... I came in here... then here... now I know where they are. And you go and that's where they are.

**NANCY RAY:** Hopefully (*laughter*). OK, well what other cases can you tell us about that you had in Kingsville... something that stands out in your mind?

**RAY CANO:** Had a big cockfight raid in Brooks County.

**NANCY RAY:** That's a first, tell us about that.

**RAY CANO:** Is that right? Cockfighting is real big or was real big back when I was there in Kleberg County and in Brooks County and in Duval County. But we had information one day

that there was gonna be a big cockfight in Brooks County which is Falfurrias. And it was supposed to be people coming from pretty much all over south Texas. So we put a team together. What makes a successful cockfight raid is you are... is the people that are in there. So I had some Border Patrol agents. I had a young detective working for the Kleberg County Sheriff's Office. His name was Jaime Garza, and some other Border Patrol agents. And I told them OK, this is what we're gonna do. I want you guys to go in there. You're just part of the public that are going to go see this cockfight. You pay your money and what they do is they observe who's running the cockfight, who's promoting it, who's taking the bets, who's making the bets, who owns the roosters, and you know we're gonna give you a couple of hours to go in there you know... just mingle and be part of the crowd. If you drink beer, drink beer or whatever... just... just blend in. So they did that and two hours later we raided the place... the sheriff's office, Brooks County Sheriff's Office, some other Rangers and it was a successful cockfight raid. We... I think we arrested 20 people there.

**NANCY RAY:** What kind of sentence did they get for something like that?

**RAY CANO:** The gambling is a... and I haven't kept up with the penal code in a while since I retired but the gambling I think was a Class C. And keeping a gambling place may have been a Class B, I'm not sure. And gambling promotion I think was also a B which was a fine and maybe six months in jail. I'm not sure but everybody just paid a fine pretty much... everybody just pled out you know.

**NANCY RAY:** They knew they were guilty (*laughter*)... just got caught.

**RAY CANO:** Yes. And we had another one in Victoria that Ranger Morgan Miller was in charge of and Al Cuellar, Robert Garza who is still a Ranger in Corpus and myself... we were

the undercovers... three Rangers walked in there undercover. They didn't... I mean again the old raggedy baseball cap and just look a little scrungy and walk in there and pay your entry fee and... I mean this was a well set-up cockfight. They actually had the ring where the... the cockfight ring where they fight fenced in. It had a screen door where you walked in with your rooster and had bleachers around it. I mean we were just sitting there... just watching what everybody was doing. And when the word came to raid it... OK, he was doing this and he was doing that and another success... success raid.

**NANCY RAY:** Well what else went on in Kingsville? Did you have many cattle thefts or...

**RAY CANO:** Didn't work a whole lot of cattle thefts. There was a couple of guys that I worked some cattle thefts with... with the Texas Cattle Raisers Association because Hap Roberts was in Kingsville and the other gentleman that I worked with lived in Duval County, Chick Saenz... I think he has since retired. But they both taught me a little bit about cattle and cattle branding and going to stockyards and checking paperwork and checking brands. Matter of fact we made a pretty good... Chick Saenz and I made a good case on *undisclosed name's* ranch in Duval County. His foreman was stealing cattle from him and that's usually the case. You've got your own employees that are stealing cattle... they'll take one or two at a time. Then they get brave and they'll take a trailer load.

**NANCY RAY:** Well when you left Kingsville, what did you do?

**RAY CANO:** After I left Kingsville, I promoted to lieutenant, November 1994 and came back to San Antonio. And I was here for , until February 28, 2001. And when I was in Kingsville, I think it was Captain Dean and Bruce Casteel was his sergeant, I think. And then Captain... it

was Captain C. J. Havrda may have been his lieutenant as well. And then C. J. promoted to captain. When he promoted to captain, I promoted to lieutenant.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, did you... the promotion process, what was that like?

**RAY CANO:** It was the same thing as promoting to Ranger... Ranger sergeant.

**NANCY RAY:** What about your responsibilities as a lieutenant? They had to be different.

**RAY CANO:** It was a little challenging because I promoted from within the company. In other words they guys that I worked with of the Rangers that I worked with... I now supervised. So that was a little challenging.

**NANCY RAY:** So how did you handle it?

**RAY CANO:** Very diplomatically (*laughter*). And for the most part, they accepted me as their lieutenant. There was a little resistance from the older Rangers but ... there were times that it was displayed but we got along well. We didn't have any problems.

**NANCY RAY:** Well you weren't working in the field doing investigations, is that right? What did you do as a lieutenant?

**RAY CANO:** As a lieutenant... the job description of a lieutenant is to make sure that all the reports are correct that are submitted from the field. You make sure that the investigations... that all the leads have been followed. And if need be, you go to the district attorneys for the different counties and you meet with them and the Ranger that conducted the investigation and see what else we need to do to make the case successful. and of course you're in charge of the budget so to speak... travel expense and vehicle expense and supplies and ammunition... Make sure that everything is there when you need it. And act as a captain when the captain is away. I did that for seven years and C. J. and I got along... we were a pretty good pair at working. I... like I said, he

was my lieutenant when I was a sergeant in Kingsville so I knew more or less how he worked. So when he became captain and I became his lieutenant, I could... we could read each other's minds pretty much. He was also a Vietnam veteran so both of us had military experience and being vets you know we... we knew what to expect of each other. So we had a good relationship there.

**NANCY RAY:** That helps.

**RAY CANO:** Absolutely.

**NANCY RAY:** Well can you think of any incidents that happened while you were a lieutenant that you want to tell us about? Things that you did or you helped some of the men in your...

**RAY CANO:** I forgot to tell you about one that... when I was sergeant in Kingsville and I would like to go back to that one. To this day is... I think about it. Not as regular as I used to but every April 19<sup>th</sup> is an anniversary of the Branch Davidian fire. So I came in from work one day, it was March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1993. Captain Dean called me... asked what I was doing. Well as a matter of fact I'm watching this thing on TV about Waco. What's going on? He said well I'm glad you asked. Just pack your bag, you're going there. I said for how long? He said let's try a week. I said OK. Well four and a half months later we were still there. And we were going to stay there for two weeks, come back for a weekend and go back again. And there from ... from the day that those four ATF agents were killed until the trial, I was involved with that. As a result of that investigation, I... the ATF case agent Dave... I forget Dave's last name. And Assistant Prosecutor Johnston and myself went to Hawaii on that investigation.

**NANCY RAY:** Really? Now what... what were you investigating in Hawaii?

**RAY CANO:** Former cult members... we were trying to build a case against the Davidians that had been arrested. so the funny thing about going to Hawaii was that we got there and we met with some other ATF agents who had located one particular witness who did not want to speak to ATF agents or FBI. So they took me to this man's house... it was not just me but Mr. Johnston and I think Dave Aguilerra was his last name. So we went to this gentleman's house and he came out. He said I told you I don't want to talk to y'all. And I said my name is Ray Cano, I'm a Texas Ranger from San Antonio, or from Kingsville. I said will you talk to me? He said you're a Texas Ranger? I said yes sir I am. He said let me see your badge so I showed him my badge. He said come inside the house so he talked to me.

**NANCY RAY:** It did carry a lot of weight.

**RAY CANO:** So he talked to me and he talked to Mr. Johnston and Dave... I said I'll need these gentlemen to come with me. He said that's fine but I'll talk to you. But he wanted talk to the ATF agents.

**NANCY RAY:** So what did you learn from him?

**RAY CANO:** Well, without getting into any specifics, he just kind of told us how Vernon Howell, or Dave Koresh, whichever name you want to use... how his whole operation came into play. How he extorted money from the members and other things that were going on within the compound that we knew but he corroborated and we got some other information from him that helped us... strengthen the case against the Davidians.

**NANCY RAY:** Well when you were at Waco during the incident, what was your role? We've talked to different Rangers and everyone had a different job. What was your job while you were there?

**RAY CANO:** After we got there... initially when we first got there, our first assignment was to interview all the ATF agents that participated in the raid. I'm talking from the agent in charge down to the last man who rode in that cattle trailer... those two cattle trailers. And we were interviewing them and taking statements from all of them as to what happened. And the... I don't know if it is public or not but... but I knew one of the ATF agents who was working there who had a lot of information about Waco so he was a former DPS officer. So we got to talk to him as well. And then after that, as some of the members were still coming out, we were interviewing them in conjunction with the FBI. So we were able... some of us were lucky enough to get some statements from some of these people and say OK, you know so-and-so was there and so-and-so shot out this window and things of that nature. And then when... when tragedy occurred that April 19<sup>th</sup> when the whole compound burned down, there were several Rangers that were assigned... the whole compound was broken down into grids and I was assigned... I was one of the team leaders that had some people assigned to me that OK, this is your grid and your job is to go in there and gather evidence. So we found weapons and ... you know things that were relative to the way the ATF agents had told us that had happened there. And you know there were some things that were sad. We found... I found some baseball cards, coin collections and toys... you know... it was pretty sad.

**NANCY RAY:** Well when you run in... you're working something like that, how do you go home and get that off of your mind and you go back to your normal family? How do you handle that and the stress?

**RAY CANO:** You know after doing it for so many years, you just learn to deal with it. As soon as you walk in that door, you just leave it out there... sometimes.

**NANCY RAY:** Sometimes, yeah.

**RAY CANO:** But other times... you know my wife will ask me ...OK how was your day today? And I'll tell her a little bit about it but I don't go into any kind of details. But ... I try not to mix my personal life with my work... try not to but it happens. And I don't want to say that we become callous. I've seen... as a matter of fact, some of the guys would tell me that I was callous or coldhearted because I used to go to autopsies in Corpus Christi and Dr. Rupp, RUPP, was a medical examiner then. And he knew that he could count on me being in there with him while he was doing his autopsy and I was taking pictures and this and that. And other guys, they just couldn't handle it you know. If they didn't have a mouth full of Hall's cough drops to mask the odor or a mask or looking from the other room... they just wouldn't go in there. And some officers have that problem. And I think that when I was in Vietnam I saw so many dead bodies that it just... it didn't bother me. And ... that can be good or bad, I don't know.

**NANCY RAY:** You found your way of handling it anyway.

**RAY CANO:** Yes. And same thing with car accidents... you know you see fatalities and yeah it bothers me to see a dead person there... somebody's wife, husband, brother, sister you know but it's... you look at it. You deal with it and say I've got a job to do and that's what we're here for. So that's the way I handled it.

**NANCY RAY:** Well there's no way we can capture all of your career... all of your cases or anything. But are there any other cases that you'd like to share, that you'd like to talk about or... or not.

**RAY CANO:** No, after Waco, which was in '93 and in '94 I promoted to lieutenant and came here to San Antonio... and San Antonio was... When I was here as a lieutenant it was pretty

much, from an investigative aspect, it was pretty much uneventful. I mean I did supervision. I had... I supervised 15 sergeants, Victoria, Harlingen, McAllen, Laredo, San Antonio... so my span of control was kind of limited because of the location where the men were. I had one female Ranger, Marrie Garcia, who was in San Antonio. But other than that it was... well there was one investigation as a lieutenant that I was involved in. In Austin, it dealt with the Texas Commission and Alcohol and Drug Abuse, what they call TCADA I believe it was. And it had to do with some... it was a large fraud investigation that Charles Brune who was the lieutenant there and myself were in charge of that. Maurice Cook assigned us to that case. We were working in conjunction with ... I think it was PricewaterhouseCoopers, a big accounting firm that helped with that case. So got to go to the capitol on a regular basis and meet with some of the senators so it was a pretty high publicity type case.

**NANCY RAY:** Well I understand that you had... as a Ranger sometimes you had responsibilities for driving governors or driving presidents if they were in your area. Did you ever have to do that?

**RAY CANO:** I started... first started doing that in Laredo as an Auto Theft investigator. I would ... the Highway Patrol and the local police and myself and the governor's protective detail. We would work together and take care of the governor. And that's when Governor Mark White was the governor and ... he would come down there once a year to the George Washington celebration in Laredo which was a big, big event. It was a week-long event. And we would take care of Governor Mark and his wife Linda Gail. Matter of fact, that's... when you asked about Mexico being safe back then... and it was. I mean I can remember the time when it was almost 10 or 11 o'clock at night and the Governor wanted to go to supper at the Cadillac Bar in Nuevo

Laredo and so I called my state judicial guys down there and said hey, can we come down there? The governor wants to have dinner at... Yeah, we'll take care of it. So they'd meet us at the bridge and they'd escort down to the restaurant and go in there and have supper with him and bring him back and no problems at all. Also, I did executive protection for Governor Ann Richards and what was his name... another gentleman, anyway we went down to Mexico with him and it was a good operation then. And then of course President Bush I went to Kingsville once back when I was there. And all that experience working in Mexico and working with the police has helped me where I am today. previously with AT&T because I retired on February 28 of 2001 and worked for AT&T for seven years and I've done some work in Guatemala for AT&T where we worked a week-long case with telecommunications fraud down there.

**NANCY RAY:** Now you were working as security-type...

**RAY CANO:** Yes, I was the security manager for AT&T for what they call asset protection. And also worked some cases in... when I hired on with AT&T, I went to Houston and I worked in cases that required some bilingual skills. But I was gonna say that now I'm working for Trinity Industries out of Dallas... I'm the Director of Security for Trinity, Mexico. We have some plants in Mexico so my primary duties are in Mexico. So all that experience and bilingual skills and investigative skills and training have now come into play and it's been a big help in what I'm doing now.

**NANCY RAY:** I would imagine... right. Well when you're working for Trinity, what are you doing? How are you...

**RAY CANO:** Trinity has... like I said, it has five plants in Mexico down in the state of Coahuila with Sabinas, Monclova, Españos, and near Mexico City. And there's ... security officers that

maintain security for all those plants. And I'm in charge of making sure that all the policies and procedures are followed. And we've implemented some new ones and we've had some reports that are being generated now to... to substantiate what the men are doing. And we work with management down there and Risk, also Risk managers so it's just worked out pretty well. And actually, I first started... the first few times I flew down there and now I drive. I drive to Mexico and I haven't had a single bit of problem since I started driving down there back in June. Matter of fact, some of the Customs guys there at the bridge they recognize the car... recognize me and they just wave at me. And on the way back... on the way back 40 miles from the border is the military checkpoint when you're coming back in. And you'll see the Hummer up there with the M-60 and you've got a manning it. And military personnel, they'll check your vehicle. And the last two times I've been down there, they just look at me and nod and wave at you... there's this guy again going back home. So like I said, I haven't had a bit of problem down there.

**NANCY RAY:** That's good. Well is there anything else... the Branch Davidian case, was that your most well-known case?

**RAY CANO:** Yes.

**NANCY RAY:** You never had any serial murders like Henry Lucas or...

**RAY CANO:** The only one that I got involved initially was the and I forget the case... there was a book written on it titled Every Breath You Take that Gerry De Los Santos and I first started working on it. And then he ... he ran with it and worked with the Florida investigators... I've got the book there but I can't think of the suspect's name. But that was a very famous case in San Antonio. And like I said it ended up in a book being written about that case. But Gerry did a great job with that and subsequently he made a case on it and it was a husband who had hired

these three guys to kill his wife. And one of the... the killer actually fled to Mexico. And Gerry and I came close to bringing him back but there were some diplomatic issues that came into play that Mexico held him. They didn't want to extradite him. I think they finally did after about a year or so... they brought him back. But another thing I was going to say about Mexico is when I was in Laredo, this gentleman that I worked with, this investigator and myself... we were the first county and state police officers that were actually issued a special commendation from the state of Tamaulipas attorney general's office that allowed us to carry a handgun in Mexico while working down there.

**NANCY RAY:** That is an accomplishment.

**RAY CANO:** And that was as a result of our rapport with working with the officers down there.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, that makes me think then if... what happened during your career that makes you feel the best... most proud of something that you did. Is it something like or maybe a case you solved... maybe something nobody even know it.

**RAY CANO:** No, as far as the cases that... I don't want to say that *I* solved. The cases were all teamwork. The one that stands out the most of course is Waco and that took a lot of teamwork from the commander then who was in charge of Waco... was Captain David Byrnes and Carl Weathers also... I think he was a lieutenant then. And all the way down to the Ranger who was in charge of the evidence, Jim Miller I think was in charge of that. I mean it was all... every single case from Waco to your theft case to your robberies to your misdemeanor cases... it's all about able to put the case together because of the teamwork. And working with good DAs that accepted your work for what it was. It just ... it just makes me proud that ... that I was part of that team.

**NANCY RAY:** That's something to be proud...

**RAY CANO:** Sure. It really is. And there's no regret.

**NANCY RAY:** Good... that's a good feeling. Well let me ask you this. When you became a Ranger and then when you left or even up through today that you know of, what are the biggest changes that Rangers have? You know it might be technology, it might be leadership, I don't know. To you, what do you think is the biggest change from what you had versus what they have today?

**RAY CANO:** Well as a matter of fact yesterday when I was down with the guys at firearms training, they're vehicles have come a long way. They've got Rangers driving Expeditions and pickup trucks and you know four-wheel drives and the firearms equipment that they have. They have the latest, I don't know if it's the latest or not but they've got... You know when I was on we had an M-1 Carbine and now they've got semi-automatic weapons and lot better handguns. The training is pretty much the same. They seem to be getting younger though.

**NANCY RAY:** I know.

**RAY CANO:** But I appreciate what they do and like I said... DNA back then when I was around was not... if it was used, it was minimal. There are a lot more Rangers now than when I left. I know that like I said my span of control back then was fifteen Rangers throughout south Texas. And now the Valley itself has its own company, captain and a lieutenant and Rangers. And there's a lieutenant in Corpus which I know that when C. J. and I were in San Antonio, we wanted to have a tighter control of our Rangers and one thing we wanted to do was put a lieutenant in Corpus and kind of split the area up. And that has happened.

**NANCY RAY:** Well is there anything you would like to ub... for people to remember you for... your legacy? When somebody looks at this video, the next generation maybe... what would you like them to say about you, Ray Cano... Texas Ranger?

**RAY CANO:** Oh I don't know. Just we did our job... I did my job to the best of my ability and if you set your mind to do something, you can do it.

**NANCY RAY:** And I would say you've done that and you still are... still very busy in another career after your Ranger career. Well is there anything else you'd like to share?

**RAY CANO:** No, that pretty much covers it. Just again... just set your goals and if you apply yourself, you can attain it.

**NANCY RAY:** Well I want to thank you for your time today for this interview and thank you for your service to the state of Texas.

**RAY CANO:** Thank you very much.