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Interview no. 802

Rosa Martínez

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Rosa Martínez
INTERVIEWER: Javier Salgado
PROJECT: World War II
DATE OF INTERVIEW: November 17, 1993
TERMS OF USE: Unrestricted
TAPE NO: 802
TRANSCRIPT NO: 802
TRANSCRIBER: Javier Salgado

BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Born in El Paso, Texas, 1920; attended Aoy Elementary School, Bowie Junior High School, Bowie High School; worked in the Immigration Department as a Clerk before World War II; worked as a translator in the Censorship Department during World War II.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Recalls early childhood in El Paso; schools attended; work in the Immigration Office; work as a translator in the Censorship Department; entertainment after work; recounts attitude of neighborhood toward war; overall feelings about the War.

Length of Interview: 45 minutes Length of Transcript 28 pages

Rosa Martinez
November 17, 1993
By Javier Salgado
World War II

S: I would first like to start with a little bit about when you were born and where you were born?

M: Well, I was born here in El Paso in 1920 it was in the south side it was called the Second Ward. Of course most of the poor people lived there, it was the poor section of town, it still is. And so that is where I was born.

S: Um, Could you tell me a little bit about your mother and father?

M: My mother was a single mother. And we were five children and she worked. We never missed having anything you know like toys and things like that. Because we were not used to living ... we did not see anything else in the neighborhood that you envy or you want. We were happy.

S: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

M: Three sisters and one brother. And we all went to school and my mother encouraged us to go to school and she was a very strict mother. She said, "You better pass all your classes or else." You would get punished to. "You maybe punished in school but I will punish you later when you get home." (Laughter)

S: So school was a very high priority?

M: Oh, yes with my mom.

S: Okey, what did your mother do?

M: She use to s@w at home and that is about all. She was a very good strict mother because at that time not everybody went to school. Because the people would take their children out to the cotton fields to pick cotton during September and we would not see our school mates until November or December when they came back from the fields. But my mother did not. She worked at home and she helped families sometimes you know, or did one days work at home cleaning, but mostly she stayed home.

S: Did she speak to you in English or in Spanish?

M: In Spanish. She learned English by hearing us speak after we came home from school. We use to speak in English so she would not know what we were talking about.

(Laughter) And once she surprised us and she said, "I heard what you said, I know what you said."

S: You were surprised?

M: Yes because she would take the lesson from the youngest one when he was in first grade and he would tell him to read that—what is that? Jane and Terry or Terry and the dog and whatever. So my brother would read, and she learned. She learned to read but she would not speak because she was embarrassed. She would not speak English because she was embarrassed but she would understand it.

S: That is incredible.

M: It is incredible. (Laughter) We learned the hard way that she was understanding us.

S: One day it happened. Could you tell me a little bit about the schools you went to?

M: I went to Aoy school it is on Campbell and Seventh street.

S: What was it called again?

M: Aoy A-O-Y. And we were taught by English speaking teachers. Anglo teachers. There were no Mexican teachers when I went.

S: Oh really.

M: Really. Until later on when, I think it was in sixth grade when there were two Spanish speaking Mexican teachers. But we had to learn English, we really had to. There was nothing like today like English as a second language. No, no, no. We started right away.

S: You had to learn.

M: Yes. They taught us with those, what do they call them? Flashcards? Were they had R-A-T rat, D-O-G dog with those.

S: That is how you learned how to speak English?

M: Ah huh. In fact I will tell something that is funny. They told us that if we wanted to go to the restroom, to raise our hands and say, "May I be excused?" So when I went home, I said I know how to say can I go to the bathroom. She said (Mother) how do you say it? I want to go to the excuse me. (Laughter) So it was called the excuse me. I was the oldest and my sisters, "I am going to the excuse me."¹

S: Everybody thought it was the excuse me.

M: Yes, but we learned English, we learned it that way.

S: Was it a fast and effective way to learn English?

M: I think so. We all did, we had to. All of us that were going to school. It was unbelievable. That we started knowing nothing, you know in the first grade and then by the end of May we knew a few words. Then we knew how to express ourselves a little bit.

S: That was in elementary right?

M: Yes. After that I went to Bowie Junior High School. They had it in the same place, they had seventh and eighth at Bowie High School. And then I went there. I enjoyed it, but it was during the Depression and everybody was broke, everybody. And so they had a program that was called the NYA, National Youth Administration I believe that President Roosevelt put into effect I believe. It was to help poor people. They gave us a job paying us five dollars a month. That was a lot of money at that time and so I use to work there and the girls would get to clean the erasers and the blackboards. And the boys would help the janitors on Saturdays. On Saturdays only and they would pay us five dollars.

S: So you were involved with that?

M: Yes I was involved with that. Yes I started working there.

S: That is were you first started working? How old were you?

M: I think I was about fourteen. I was a Freshmen.

S: You were a Freshman?

M: Ah huh, that was in 1934.

S: And after that you went to Bowie High School?

M: Yes I finished high school.

S: What year did you graduate from Bowie?

M: I graduated in 1938. Fifty-seven years ago.

Unbelievable huh?

S: It is.

M: Yes, I graduated from there and I started working first at a factory. I was counting the whatever the people were sewing you know I had a list and counted them, what they did how much there output and whatever they were sewing.

S: Were you like a supervisor?

M: No, I was a clerk. Later on I found out that they needed clerks at the immigration office?

S: How did you find out about that?

M: You know were they have the adds for the civil service they use to have them downtown in the postoffice. They would put the lists and that is were we would go.

S: You would go after work? To see what kind of different jobs were available?

M: Yes. I had studied typing and shorthand in high school so, I applied as a clerk and I got the job as a clerk.

S: What were the requirements? Were there any prerequisites to get that job?

M: I was lucky. Because everybody asked for your previous experience but I had this previous experience of being clerk so I was hired as a clerk typist. Most of it was filing,

the offices were in Santa Fe bridge. So I stayed there until the war. When the war started and they opened the censorship office, a lot of us went to apply—a lot of Bowie High School graduates.

S: A lot of Bowie High graduates.

M: And you know how I knew that, because when I started working there there were a lot of friends there. School friends from Bowie. Because they needed translators, not just Spanish and English; Russian, German, Chinese. All kinds of people that knew different languages.

S: Really, and they were being recruited in El Paso?

M: In El Paso to work in the censorship office.

S: Were there a lot of people that got the job as Russian, Japanese and Chinese translators?

M: Those were special because most were Spanish and English because of the correspondents coming from Mexico. But they did have all kinds of languages. They had a language department that was special. Okey, as I had worked for the immigration, they assigned me to the immigration section of censorship. They had departments.

S: They had different departments. Why were you interested, first of all, to get that job as a censor as a translator?

M: Because I kept coming to the post office to look for a better job. (Laughter)

S: Okey, so it was better paying then?

M: Oh yes.

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S: How much were you being paid as a clerk as opposed to when you started getting paid as a translator?

M: Well, I was getting about let's see, those wages are unbelievable to me now. I was getting about thirty dollars a week. And then when I started as a junior censorship clerk I would be getting about fifty.

S: And this was working at forty hours a week or full time?

M: Working forty hours a week. And that was a lot of money at that time. So that is how I got the job, I made an application and I got the job.

S: And when you started working as a translator how much were you getting paid then?

M: Well I got a lot more.

S: As a junior supervisor?

M: As a junior censorship clerk I got more than being a clerk typist. I stayed there until the war was over. When they closed the censorship. So then I went to work at Fort Bliss. Well the war was over so now they were discharging the soldiers, so then I went to the, what was it called? Separation Center at Loveland Heights and there I worked as a clerk typist again and by that time they had electric typewriters. So I had to learn how to use the electric typewriter. There I was a supervisor for a while. For a couple of years I was a supervisor. They separated all the soldiers—the war was over, and so I had to look for another job.

So I got a job with a company that imported and exported Mexican curios. But I still was looking to go back into civil service. Then I worked one year for the company and then I went to work for a telescope company, and there I was the shipping clerk. That I received all the telescopes that were returned and I found out what was wrong with them, sent them to get fixed and then take them back and then saw that everything was done. And then have them shipped out again. But I was still looking to go back to civil service so I went and applied and I got a job at Bulmont Hospital. And there I worked as a war secretary, you know the ones that keep the files for the patients and take dictation and everything for the doctors. That was my last job.

S: That was your last job. Okey, getting back to the censorship job did you wear uniforms?

M: No.

S: You did not wear uniforms you just came as you were?

M: Yes, but to get that job we had to be investigated.

S: There was a background search?

M: Oh yes.

S: You had to be a United States citizen I suppose?

M: Oh yes. They go and ask your neighbors.

S: They went to go ask your neighbors about you?

M: Yes it has to be a security. We had a security check. We had to pass that.

S: Did they tell you they were going to do that or did you find out about the background check?

M: Yes of course the neighbors are very close. (Laughter)

S: So who was it that told you that they came asking about you?

M: And of course in the Mexican section of town, you can see the F.B.I. with there hats and there coats and you know all that stuff. I mean, "Andan buscando a alguien" (They are looking for someone) Nobody wants to say anything.

S: Was everybody scared?

M: Yes.

S: That is how they started asking questions about you?

M: About my family.

S: About your family to?

M: Yes.

S: Everything?

M: Yes, I guess we were all good citizens I guess. But I passed it.

S: Okey. When you applied did you ^{get} the job right away? Or after the background check? How long was the time between you making the application and the time you got hired?

M: They needed the people so it was done real fast. Maybe three weeks, four weeks maybe a month yes. After I applied. Because they were hiring the people real fast, they were setting up the department.

S: There was a high demand?

M: Oh yes.

S: Could you tell me (Describe) a day as a translator? Would you punch in? What time you got there and what you did the whole day until the moment you punched out.

M: We signed in the morning at eight o'clock. Then there was a table, and there were about ten of us or eight of us, that was the Immigration Department. And then they gave us a stack of letters and then we started reading them, and checking the envelopes and everything. We had to check the envelope real good. Put it to the light to see that there was not anything in between, you know where it is pasted. To see that there was not anything written there.

S: Why was that?

M: Because that is where there could be messages, that were not suppose to see. It was really like Cloak and Dagger.

S: Did they teach you all this stuff, to look for certain things?

M: Yes.

S: They gave you like a seminar on how to...

M: Yeah they gave us instructions when we started. Because who would think that there was anything in the envelope. It might be written with that invisible ink. I think we also tested for that because somethings could be invisible.

S: Really, and how long did they give you instructions on that?

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M: You know I do not remember, but we were instructed because I did not know anything about that. So then we worked until 10:00 a.m., we got a break at 10:00 a.m.

S: How long would the break be?

M: Fifteen minutes. And then we would come back, at 12:00 p.m., we went to lunch. Come back at 1:00 p.m. and started the same thing. Got a break at 2:00 p.m. and then we were out by 5:00 p.m.

S: So you were out by 5:00 a.m. then?

M: Five days a week.

S: Five days a week Monday through Friday? And no working at all on Saturday or Sunday?

M: No.

S: So it was a regular 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. job?

M: That is why I liked working for the federal government.
(Laughter)

S: I would to, that would be perfect.

M: Yeah because--you know, private companies you usually have to work half a day on Saturday. So I was always ready to go back to civil service.

S: So you were always looking for civil service. Besides envelopes, what other stuff would you...

M: We had to read the letters. To see if there were any messages or anything that might imply that they were doing something--you know, something unusual that was not suppose to be there.

S: Okey, and where were would you get the letters from?
Would they be stolen?

M: No, all the mail. All the mail that was coming in from
different countries. It had to be read.

S: So you would read them first? Then what would happen?

M: Then we would seal them again...

S: And send them to...

M: Yes. (To the person addressed) If there was anything
suspicious they would be given to the supervisor. And then
they would see what...

S: What the proper action would be?

M: Yes. The proper action to take. We never took action,
we just-- if we saw something suspicious or read something
suspicious we would give it to the supervisor.

S: What would be an example of something suspicious?

M: Well during the war--you know.

S: Just anything?

M: Anything.

S: That was out of the ordinary. Did you in particular
find anything that was out of the ordinary?

M: I am glad I do not remember. (Laughter)

S: Why?

M: Because we were sworn that we would not talk about our
jobs.

S: So you were not really allowed to talk about that?

M: Because as soon as I got out of work I forgot about it.

S: Really.

M: Yes, because we were suppose to. Because they had a saying there--what is it they use to say? Loose lips sink ships.

S: That is the line they gave you?

M: Yes. It was a secret, that is why the secret service had to clear us. Because we were not suppose to talk about what we did, or what we read, nothing.

S: So after work you could not talk about it to anybody? Not even your husband or your boyfriend or nobody.

M: No.

S: Do you remember somebody else finding something?

M: No nothing. We all worked like that--you know, like after work we forgot about it. We never discussed it.

S: Like you said most of the people that worked there were Bowie graduates? Were there more male or female or was it equal?

M: More or less there were a lot of females. Of course it was the war. The older men were...

S: Enlisted?

M: No the younger were enlisted--men. Not many so it was almost all women.

S: So it was mostly women? After work what would you do?

M: A lot of times we had a good time.

... got everyday (Laughter) But we used to go to the movies or dinner. For us it was a fun time.

there were alot of ladies working over there and their husbands were in the Army. They were afraid of they were moving. There was a lot of people and they knew had moved, that they didn't know where their husbands were transferred--we met people from all over the United States.

S: Originally. During that time?

M: During that time.

S: And you would just meet them all over the place?

M: Well they use to work with us for a few months or maybe as long as they could until their husbands were transferred. Or if they were transferred and they stayed here they would work longer. But we knew alot of people--especially I knew a girl from Florida that was newly married. And then others from out of town, from other states. And we use to go to Juarez for dinners.

S: Really. And how old were you when you...

M: I was in my early twenties, twenty or twenty-one I think.

S: When the war broke out, what was your reaction?

M: Well there was no--I had some cousins, and we were worried because they were being eighteen year olds. And I had a couple of cousins that were eighteen. And they were drafted. And of course in my family my brother was the youngest--he was just a baby, but we were worried. And later on when my sister graduated, two years later, a lot of her schoolmates went into the army.

S: Oh really. So you were worried for people who you knew and for family that were going to war, that was your main concern?

M: Yes. And of course we were given coupons for butter, and milk, sugar. But I was thinking what am going tell Javier (Interviewer) that we missed all that? No I did not, and you know why? Because we were so poor that we did not miss the butter because we did not buy butter. (Laughter) We did not buy alot of milk. So my mother did well with her coupons, so in that way we did not suffer. The only thing is that we could not get nice shoes because...

S: The rationing.

M: No, the stockings the nylon stocking were rationed.

S: That caused alot of problems?

M: Well yes. (Laughter) We had to learn how to stop the runs with a little bit of nail polish. And then our shoes-- well by that time I was wearing high heel shoes, and the soles were made of rubber. Well that was not real nice was it? But we made good, we made good.

S: So it did not really effect you that much, the rationing?

M: No it really--and I was thinking about it and I said the rationing it did not effect us very much. We were use to it, and my mother had always given us just a little bit of sugar. She gave a sweet meal but she would just, oh just a tip of the teaspoon or sugar. So we were not use to the sugar. We did not eat candy.

S: You did not eat candy?

M: (Laughter) And not because we were taking care of our teeth. (Laughter)

S: That was not the reason.

M: We could not afford it. (Laughter)

S: That is weird. I was also going to ask you did you know about the German and Italian soldiers that were being kept in El Paso?

M: No, but what I read about was about the Japanese and the Chinese.

S: Oh, the Japanese and the Chinese. Where was this at?

M: That they were taken them from there farms here in New Mexico or where ever they had a farm. And they were put in a concentration camp. The Japanese.

S: Do you remember where that concentration camp was located at?

M: No not here in El Paso, I think it was around California.

S: Okey.

M: But I am not sure, but that thing we heard. And of course there were people who talked to--in that section of town were I lived. (Laughter)

S: Everything got around. All the news was there?

M: That is it.

S: Really?

M: Yes. But it was interesting because the only place the soldiers had to go was downtown. So it was full of soldiers.

S: Always full of soldiers.

M: Yes there was a--what would they call them, there was a hall that they had for the soldiers. And they held dances there.

S: Oh they did? Every Saturday or every weekend?

M: Well they had it open everyday.

S: Oh really?

M: Yes because there were so many soldiers that they did not--no place to go. And so they had that downtown. And the girls went there and they went to the dances.

S: Did you ever go?

M: No.

S: You never went?

M: No, but some of my friends from the censorship did.

S: They did?

M: Yes.

S: And they would tell you...

M: Oh yes they had a good time all the time.

S: What did the night consist of?

M: I think they called them. They had that paper were they had soldiers. Those calls were called something--I do not remember the name. But they had those halls with volunteers. And they had music and they had donuts and

coffee. And girls would go there and they would dance with the soldiers...(End of side one)

S: Okey you were talking about the soldiers.

M: They were very friendly. Well they did not have anything else to do, there was nothing to do.

S: In El Paso?

M: That is what they say, they said, "There is nothing to do here." But anyway they had the dance at the recreation hall. I knew some of the girls that went there, and they had a good time. And we would also, maybe once a week, go to Juarez to a nightclub.

S: Really. How was the nightlife then in Juarez?

M: Oh my goodness it was beautiful. At the time yes. They had some very nice clubs there. There was The Lobby, that was one of the best. And they had music and they had entertainment and it was a beautiful place.

S: What was the one club that you use to go to the most?

M: The Lobby.

S: That is what it was called, The Lobby?

M: The Lobby.

S: And that was located in what part of Juarez?

M: Just across from the--when you go on the Santa Fe bridge, just across about two blocks from there. It was full of clubs, you know, both sides. I have not been there for a long time but we use to have dinner, we use to go and listen to the music and have dinner with our friends from other parts of the country that I tell you that were wives

of the soldiers. And they were working at the censorship office. It was nice.

S: You really enjoyed it?

M: Oh yeah, and we went shopping there to.

S: During the day time right?

M: Yes.

S: And then you would shop and then go eat and then go to a club? All that in one day?

M: Yes.

S: That sounds like a lot of fun.

M: Well you know because I only could go out once. I was in my twenties...

S: Once a week?

M: Yes, but I could only go out once a week.

S: Because of your mother?

M: Yes. I had to be home at a certain time--it is unbelievable is it not?

S: You also had to be home at a certain time?

M: Yes, not stay after eleven or anything like that.

Eleven was a perfect timing. And I was a working girl and I was taking care of the family but I had to be home at eleven.

S: You had to be home at eleven?

M: Yeah. But we went to the movies also after work, so it was a nice time.

S: So that is what you usually did on the weekends?

M: On the weekends, yes we went to Juarez and had dinner,

go shopping. And during the week we would probably go to the movie theater. There were a lot of movie houses downtown.

S: Downtown?

M: Yes.

S: Because everything was located downtown?

M: Yes.

S: Everything I mean the post office, the halls...

M: Everything around--yes, like Mr. Rogers. (Neighborhood)

(Laughter) Have you seen Mr. Rogers?

S: Yes.

M: So I guess it was like that. Let us go to the post-office let us go to...

S: Everything was located in one area.

M: Right.

S: That is convenient though.

M: It is. The farthest thing was Washington Park. And Memorial Park. But everything was downtown, the movies the--that was it.

S: That was it.

M: Ah huh. Restaurants.

S: Could you tell me anything else about the war that stands out? During the war, anything in particular that stands out.

M: Let me see. The thing that stands out was when President Roosevelt died. Because he had helped the poor people so much--it was like it was a personal thing.

S: How did you find out about it, when he died?

M: At that time there was no television there was radio but the papers--by the paper, and the paper boys would yell, "Extra, extra, extra."

S: Really?

M: Yeah when there was good happening especially when special news or something drastic had happened. They would go out, "Extra, extra" and everybody wanted to get the extra.

S: And that was the extra?

M: That is the way I heard.

S: And you really felt a certain compassion when he died?

M: Yes. I even cried I think--I was so sad. To me he was the person that helped us the most.

S: And during the war you kept close attention to what was going on with Roosevelt and what he was doing during the war?

M: Oh yes, yes, yes when he had that meeting at Yalta. The Yalta Treaty (Yalta Conference) I believe, and they signed the Yalta Treaty and he met with the Russian prime minister (Joseph Stalin) and the prime minister of England, Churchill. (Winston Churchill) Churchill was a very colorful person.

S: You remembered that in particular?

M: Yes.

S: Why, what stands out?

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M: It was something funny, I had read that he had visited President Roosevelt here at the White House--and he liked to drink. (Laughter) And I do not remember exactly what, but it was a funny thing that happened and he was out of his bedroom. And he enjoyed drinking. That was one of the things that is outstanding. And then at the time of the Yalta Treaty, President Roosevelt was very sick. And the way we saw it was in the movies when we--that is another thing about the movies, they had the news--what did they call it? After they showed the picture and they showed the comedy they would show the news. And I think it was called "Time Marches On", and then they would show all the news like we see on t.V. now.

S: It was like a news brief kind of?

M: Yes.

S: And this would happen before the movie would go on?

M: After the movie.

S: Oh after the movie.

M: After the movie. So that is the way we saw the news from all over the country--when we went to the movies. From all over the country--what was happening and what was happening with the war, you know like what we see on t.V. Like in Vietnam when the war was going on we could see everything in the afternoon news--and my son was there, and I watched it. And that is the way we saw it at the movies. But we did not watch the movies everyday so it was once a week.

S: So it was once a week you would find out what was going on?

M: Yes.

S: My next question is did you hear about the fireside chats?

M: Yes.

S: Did you listen to those all the time?

M: Most of the time yes. Because the first thing I did when I started working was buy a radio. Because we did not have a radio. And so I got the radio and--you know what I always put it on the English broadcasting. And my poor mother--but I guess she understood a little bit, but I always had it on the English stations. (Laughter)

S: So you always had it on the English stations?

M: Yes. And then I started getting the subscription for the "Times". Of course in English I never got the Spanish newspaper.

S: Would she get mad?

M: No she did not, I think she just wanted us to get an education and to really understand English.

S: So you would follow the fireside chats then? And how about "My Day"...

M: Mrs. Roosevelt.

S: Mrs. Roosevelt, did you read that?

M: Oh yes I read that. I kept up with her when she was visiting the coal mines and she was visiting all over the place. Because she had to do it for the president because

President Roosevelt was in a wheelchair. I admired her very much, she did a lot.

S: For the country?

M: Yes.

S: You were not the only one that felt like this about Roosevelt and the war, what was the feeling in your neighborhood and in El Paso in general? Did they support the war?

M: In the neighborhood, I think that everybody felt the loss of President Roosevelt. Because he helped with a lot of programs. You see he helped people and not just gave them food stamps and things like that, he started work.

Working projects like for the men fixing the streets, for the young men he had something that was called the CC^[CONSERVATION (CORP)] Camp and that was for youths and they went and did a lot of work in the forests. You know, like the Forest Rangers. And years later we went to visit a cave, a Collasal Cave near Tucson, and everything there was...(Coughs) excuse me, all the work done in the cave was done by the CC young men. It had there, "Done by the CC group". It had the steps--you know, how they had to clean up the cave so people could go in and visit. They did it.

S: They did all that?

M: Ah huh.

S: What was your feeling toward the war? Did you support it? I mean how did you feel? And also what was the feeling in El Paso?

M: Let me tell you something. Do not tell me like my granddaughter says, "Is this going to be a long story?"

(Laughter)

S: No go ahead.

M: Okey so, the first thing we knew about the war was about Pearl Harbor. And it was, I think it was on a Sunday, and we were all sitting around the table having lunch. And I always put the radio on, and then they stopped for the special. The Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor and we could not believe it. And of course we were behind the president when he declared war.

S: So it was a sense of pride and patriotism?

M: Oh yes.

S: Alot of Patriotism?

M: Ah hum.

S: Did you make a victory garden, I think they were called victory gardens or how did you support the war?

M: My mother always had a victory garden.

S: Oh she did?

M: Wherever we moved she tried to get the corner house. The corner apartment so that she could build a little fence and then she would have flowers, and one of her herbs.

S: Okey.

M: So we always lived in apartments but they were all one floor apartments. Not like the apartments of today with so many floors. But she always made a garden and she planted uh--mostly herbs like celantro. (Parsley)

S: Celantro?

M: Uh huh. Green onions--she was a hard worker my mother was.

S: She was? She had to be because to raise five...

M: Yes. So I knew that, nobody had to tell me, I knew that as soon as I got out of school I had to work.

S: To help the family right?

M: Yes. So as soon as I started working she stayed home and there was alot of work to do at home so she did not work anymore. But she worked at the house, kept the house-- and I knew without anybody telling me that it was my duty to ...

S: Start work.

M: Start working.

S: And that is when you started working as a clerk in the immigration.

M: And to keep on going to the postoffice to see if I could get a civil job. (Laughter)

S: You were there all the time then?

M: Yes. And of course I also went to business college at night.

S: Really?

M: Yes. I went there for about two years but I started working at the immigration. From work I went to the business college--I took bookeeping--I took so many things.

(Laughter)

S: A little bit of everything?

M: A little bit of everything.

S: Is there anything else you would like to say about your job or about World War II?

M: World War II let me see...

S: Would you say that after the war there was^a drastic difference in the way you lived? Did it change your life? Because most people say that after the war their life changed completely, would you say your life changed completely?

M: Well no we just started to--it just started getting better for us. Because my sisters were also graduating from high school and they were getting jobs. And as I told you we did not have any brothers or father who went to the war. But everything started getting better after the war, more jobs.

S: So when you think of World War II you think of positive things?

M: Yes.

S: Very positive things?

M: Yes.

S: Is there anything you would like to say?

M: No, is there anything else you would like to ask?

(Laughter)

S: No, I was just wondering if you had anything else you would like to talk about.

M: No, sometimes I remember alot of things and then sometimes when somebody asks me I do not remember anything.

(Laughter)

S: Okey, then that is going to be the end of the interview. I would like to thank you for your time and your patience.

M: Your welcome, I hope that it helps.

S: It will. Thank you very much.