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Rudolph Miles

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

Interviewee: Rudolph Miles

Interviewer: Homero Galicia

Project: Hispanic Entrepreneurs Oral History Project

Location: El Paso, TX

Date of Interview: February 3, 2009

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Transcript No.: 1520

Transcriber / Summary: Patrick Driscoll

Rudolph Miles was the president and founder of Rudolph Miles Customhouse Brokers, Inc. in El Paso, TX; he was born in El Paso in 1920; attended Lamar Elementary and El Paso High; could not attend college due to finances so took correspondence courses and vocational school in accounting; describes his parents, his mother was a homemaker from Mexico, his father was from Yuma, AZ and worked for American Smelting and Refining Company; spoke Spanish at home and learned English at school. Recounts his first accounting job with J.W. Chambliss that did construction contract work, later worked for El Paso Building Material as an order clerk; describes his duties at the job and recalls when he had an appendicitis while working there that almost killed him; explains his parents' preference to live close to the schools he attended. Mr. Miles then recalls his courtship of his high school girlfriend and his decision to join the U.S. Army Air Corps for a year, due to the start of World War II stayed in for four years working in finance for the military in St. Louis, MI and Sioux Falls, SD where he married his girlfriend; mentions that after the war he returned to El Paso and began working for his father-in-law's customs broker office Bailey Mora Co, Inc.; goes into further detail of how he met his wife in Mexico; describes his efforts getting his broker license and the circumstances surrounding the startup of Rudolph Miles Customhouse Brokers, Inc.; explains business generated from the twin plant system maquiladoras where U.S. made parts were assembled in Mexico; recounts his time serving on the selective service draft board, as well as on the boards for the Chamber of Commerce and First City National Bank. Mr. Miles presents some of the challenges he faced from customs due to the nature of trans-border business; describes business expansion from maquiladora growth during the 1960s, and how his sons joined to help; describes the careers of his children and how his children took over the business after he initially retired from brokering; gives his reason for going back into broker business was to support his warehouse business after his sons sold his business and he needed clients. Reminisces on how much El Paso has changed from the time he went into the military and how business and society has changed for Hispanics; closes with explaining how his family was the key to his success; advises young people starting a business to gain the personal support of financiers and to get involved with civic committees.

Length of interview 52 minutes

Length of Transcript 22 pages

Name of Interviewee: Rudolph Miles
Date of Interview: 3 February 2009
Name of Interviewer: Homero Galicia

This is February 3, [2009]. This is Homero Galicia beginning to interview Mr. Rudolph Miles Sr., the president of Custom House Brokers. Thank you, Mr. Miles, for giving us this time this morning. You know, you've been a figure in this community for many years—an important figure in the business community—and your story is an important one, so I appreciate you giving us time.

RM: Thank you.

HG: I wanna ask you, Mr. Miles, if we can begin, you were born, where you were born, and where you grew up, and—

RM: All right, I was born, here, in El Paso, in 1920. I went to grammar school at Lamar, no longer—it was on Montana, Yandell and Lee and something else—Dallas. I think it's a government office now. I graduated from there, went to El Paso High. I spent four years there and knowing I could not attend college because of finance, and I took correspondence courses in accounting. I think it was Walton's Accounting. I studied that and then what is now the community college, at that time it was a vocational on Rio Grande.

HG: El Paso Tech, uh-huh.

RM: I attended there and—mainly because they had very good accounting teacher that used to be at El Paso High, and she transferred to there. So I took some courses with that. It helped me quite a bit because—do you want me to continue?

HG: What year was that?

RM: That was 1938.

HG: Wow. And what street did you live on when you went—

RM: I lived on Missouri. It's the overpass goes over, where I used to live, Missouri and Dallas.

HG: Okay, and—

RM: I think that about the only Negro family at that time was living on Dallas Street. The corner grocery store was on Missouri and Dallas.

HG: And you used to call that the “black bridge,” I remember that.

RM: No.

HG: Okay.

RM: No, no, no. The black bridge was too far south.

HG: Okay.

RM: Missouri was on the north side of the tracks, but interestingly enough, one of our past mayors lived on the south side of tracks, that was Williams.

HG: Okay, Mayor Williams.

RM: He went to school at Lamar also, and I knew him well then.

HG: And your parents, what did they do and who were they.

RM: My mother was a homemaker. She came from Mexico. She immigrated. My father was from Yuma, Arizona and he worked for American Smelting and Refining.

HG: What was his name?

RM: Martin. Martin Miles.

HG: And your mother's name?

RM: My mother's was Raquel (Hogueira??) Miles, and her family was all from Mexico. We always stayed in the United States. Well, visit between Chihuahua and El Paso.

HG: Did you grow up speaking Spanish as well, English and Spanish?

RM: When I first went into grammar school, I hardly knew any in English. My dad spoke to us in English, but he worked at the smelter and his turns were from three [o'clock] to eleven [o'clock], so about the only time that we saw him was weekends. So my mother was always talking to us in Spanish.

HG: Oh. So you studied accounting, what was your first job after El Paso Tech?

RM: I was still going to El Paso Tech, but then I worked for Chamness, J.W. Chamness.

HG: What kind of a business was that?

RM: He was a contractor, but his office was out of his home, so there was two of us that were accountants, or bookkeepers, and we kept his logs of the different projects he had. He had his office on the front room, on the side, and when business started going slow, Chamness had other—I think it was lumber and all that. And they said, Well, while we're trying to catch up, work on that. And I said, "I came in as a bookkeeper." So I got a job with El Paso Building Material.

I was their order clerk. We manufactured clinker brick, we manufactured steel wool, and we handled all kind of building materials. C.L. North was the owner of that business. I did some bookkeeping, but they had a high-powered bookkeeper who was secretary treasurer of the firm. In 19—well, I don't remember exactly the date, but I like to work, and I had a pain in my stomach and I still went to the office. They came up to me and said, Rudy, I want you to go see a doctor right now because the last guy that sat in that—died with appendicitis. (laughter) So I went downtown, I had my car, and Villarreal, I think it was Villarreal, he was a surgeon, anyway. And he said, "You immediately go to the hospital, Hotel Dieu." I said, "I'm gonna go home." "No, you go straight down because I'm going right there after you."

HG: Wow.

RM: My appendicitis had ruptured.

HG: It really—wow.

RM: He was a good surgeon, saved my life.

HG: Oh, wow! How old were you at that time?

RM: About nineteen.

HG: And you had a car; you owned a car.

RM: Well, it was my dad's.

HG: Okay.

RM: Since he worked from three [o'clock] on, at noon I could take it down to him, he'd take me back, and then he'd use the car.

HG: I'll be. Right.

RM: At that time, we lived on California Street, close to El Paso High. Our parents were always seeing that we lived close the school that we were attending because right now, you know that everybody takes their children in cars.

HG: Right.

RM: At my time, there was no such thing. You walked to school, so if you were going to walk, they'd moved to a place that was easier to attend.

HG: Did you have brothers and sisters?

RM: I had one sister. She is two years younger. She's still alive; she is still attending the basketball games. She's eight-six [years of age]. I'm eighty-eight, almost eighty-nine.

HG: Fantastic. And what is her name? What is her name?

RM: Minerva. Minerva Gomez. She had a husband that died of heart attack but she has made a life all by herself. She taught. Since she didn't go to college, she taught in parochial schools.

HG: And the war came about that time.

RM: Nineteen forty-one.

HG: And what were you doing when that happened?

RM: My girlfriend was Elvia Mora, and we wanted to get married, but her father says, “No, you’re too young.” But anyway, I said, “Well, I’m going to put in one year in the Air Force. I’ll just sign up for one year. I’ll be back.” But in December, as you know, I went in August—December the war broke out. I was already in the Air Force waiting to be assigned. And then when the war broke out they needed more people that knew, bankers or somebody to do the finance office. So they asked me, “While you’re waiting for assignment, we’ll assign you to a finance office.” There were several things that I could’ve been assigned, and I came into the finance office and I said, “Well, here’s my orders.” And he says, “Give me the orders.” The master sergeant tore them up. I said, “I’ll be court-martialed.” “No,” he says, “I’ll take care of that.” So I stayed in the finance office from 1941 until the war ended.

HG: Really? That was four years?

RM: In St. Louis. In St. Louis, most of the time. The last year was in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. We did get married when I moved over to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. We spent one winter there; it was even forty degrees below. Now I can’t stand forty degrees above. That’s more or less. What else do you need?

[Both talking at once]

RM: After the war.

HG: Okay, then when the war was over and you were married, you came back to El Paso.

RM: I came back. I would’ve stayed in because I was in the finance office, and they always needed people in that, but my wife’s father says, “Well, when the war’s

over, I need somebody to help me on the American side.” He was a Mexican broker and he had part of Bailey Mora.

HG: Which was a customs broker at that time?

RM: He was a broker. So I took my discharge, came to El Paso, and that was in 1945. Yeah, I went in '41, '45, four years. So I started working for Bailey Mora.

HG: As a broker on the U.S. side?

RM: Well, I wasn't the broker, but I worked in the accounting and I did the whole thing. I mean, one department at a time. He wanted me to learn it.

HG: Was it a big office?

RM: At one time, they had five brokers. When I got there, there was still four. When the war was over business went down because there was an awful lot of things coming in from Mexico, like ores and fruits, and all that, and we were handling all that. But when the war was over, the demand went down. It finally got down to where there was—oh, in 1948, I did get my license. I went before a board, they asked all kind of questions relating to customs, and since I'd been doing at every department that we had with Bailey Mora, I passed it.

HG: Now, when you met your wife, when she was your girlfriend, did she live here in El Paso at the—

RM: No. They always lived in Mexico. I met her at a party.

HG: Okay. She didn't go to high school with you?

RM: She graduated in Mexico and then went to Loretto [Academy] and then went to another—she didn't like Loretto, so she went to Jesus and Mary.

HG: Then when you were doing the customs, as a broker, now, you were a broker on the U.S. side?

RM: On the U.S. side. By that time, when I got my license, they had, out of the five there was only two of us left, myself and Robert Wickstead. So we kept Bailey Mora going until about 1965 I believe it was. Oh, Wickstead left, so that left only one broker—me. And a corporation could only operate with two at that time. Now a corporation is just one, all right. But since I was the only broker, Bailey Mora had to desist or get another broker. We couldn't get another broker, so I opened my own business in 1966 as Rudolph Miles Customhouse Broker. Later on, we incorporated as Rudolph Miles & Sons, that's when my sons started graduating or getting old enough to come and do business as Customhouse Brokers. They passed their exam.

HG: So you were doing the Customhouse brokering and when you had to essentially close Bailey Mora on the El Paso side, then you were able to open Rudolph Miles & Sons as a corporation.

RM: Rudolph Miles Customhouse Broker, but not "and Sons."

HG: Okay. Okay.

RM: I went out on my own then.

HG: Okay, did you require financing to start your business?

RM: I had a little bit of money and I really didn't—you know, I'm a joiner, or I was a joiner, and I joined the Jaycees, I joined the Optimist, each one, I went up

through the grades and I knew the bankers. They were friends, so I could borrow from the banks on my signature. So that's how I did it. I remember very well the ones that were in Jaycees later became president—or—yeah, even presidents of a bank. So I was well connected and when I went on my own when the twin plant system came into effect, nobody knew what the twin plant would've been. It really wasn't a twin plant; it was assembly in Mexico from U.S. components. You know how much it's changed? Now it doesn't have to be U.S. components. The components are coming from China, from India, from all over, and they're still, since they're being manufactured in Mexico or assembled in Mexico, you don't have the American quality or parts going to Mexico. Coming from every place, so it's hurting. What made it this way was the—oh, that treaty that—

HG: The new one, the—NAFTA.

RM: NAFTA is the one that changed everything.

HG: Okay. Now, I remember that you were on the draft board.

RM: Yes, I was. Before it closed, I was the chairman there. That was very hard because people that you knew would come in to try to get deferred, and boy you closed your eyes and said, "Let me see the facts."

HG: What did the draft board do? And were you on the draft board to represent the Hispanic community, or were you just—

RM: No, I was just appointed. There was five of us, I think, on the draft board. At one time, Modesto Gomez was on the draft board. I can't remember even the people that were there except one woman we all called "Boots,"—Boots something or other.

HG: Brown? Was it Brown?

RM: Yeah.

HG: Yeah, she was the secretary.

RM: There were some people that tried to get out on, “I’m not good, you know. I’ve got a disability” and you’d have to look real close before you exempt them.

HG: Now, the draft board was, young men would get drafted to the military service, and the draft board would allow exemptions, if you approved it.

RM: Yeah, we—

HG: And it was a local board?

RM: Yeah.

HG: And you served on that for many years.

RM: I don’t recall how many years, but it must’ve been about four, five.

HG: What other boards did you serve on?

RM: Oh, gosh. I served on—

HG: The Chamber of Commerce?

RM: The Chamber of Commerce, the First City National Bank, On Jaycees, almost all the positions—almost, except president, I didn’t want it. The Optimist Club, I did become president one year.

HG: Before I ask you about the maquila, let me ask you about—as you were growing your business, did you face challenges?

RM: I—like maquila, or the twin plant, or the assembly plant really made my business because I was in on the very first one and nobody else knew anything about it. I learned by doing.

HG: Now when that began, let me ask you, a little bit, because that was a convenue; it was an agreement that was a Mexican Presidential agreement, if I understand right, to allow assembly in Mexico. And I know Aureliano Gonzalez-Vargas, an attorney in Juárez was part of that, writing those, but the families in Juárez, I don't remember them all, but, Bermúdez, Mr. Bermúdez was involved with that. Do you remember some of the other people that were involved in forming those first agreements?

RM: The first one I think was RCA and then it was Figure Flattery, a clothing manufacturer, and I handled both of them and it was hard at the very beginning, especially on the Mexican side. U.S. was all for it because we were using American parts to send over to Mexico, all they were doing is doing the sewing. You know, once you get your foot in the door on something new, everybody coming to town and wanting to set up, they would always ask and the banks and the Chamber of Commerce and all that referred them to me, and especially the people that I was handling—the firms that I was handling. So my business grew quite a bit.

HG: I guess I need to understand the brokering business was—you have to verify all the product crossing?

RM: Well, paper. We didn't go and verify each piece, but by their invoice, we would classify. The Mexican government, even though they did allow it, it was a new thing for them and, as you know, the Mexican customs inspectors, it was hard for

them to understand that whatever went over was coming back. They wanted to charge duty, their Mexican duty. And their Mexican duty, it was pretty high. But eventually we convinced them that it was coming back, but boy, I think it's still not as hard, but it's harder, than in United States. United States they go by your figure and your bond, and of course—

HG: So you had to take care of both sides, things from the U.S. going into Mexico.

RM: On the Mexican side, I never did do anything except when the Mexican broker couldn't explain to the Vista what was happening, I did, on several occasions, go over and explain to them what was gonna be done to them.

HG: But you had to account for the parts that were going into Mexico and then when they came out.

RM: And at that time, at the very beginning, if you had so many pieces of collars, and so many pieces of sleeves, and things like that they were supposed to come back as a complete item. We had to keep good track of that. Now it's not that difficult.

HG: Okay. So if you had twenty dozen sleeves, you had to come back with twenty dozen garments?

RM: That's right.

HG: Okay. I appreciate that. Now, so when the maquila grew in the sixties—was that the middle of the sixties?

RM: About middle of the sixties.

HG: Um-hm. And your business began to grow as plants started building in Mexico, and they were building these shelter operations, they were building warehouses that began to grow. You were on the ground floor. Now, did other people come and try to compete with you as brokers?

RM: Well, others came in, but I had the bulk [phone rings] and I had—people recommended me, so there's a few others that had one or two accounts, but not the way I had.

HG: Wow. And your sons learned the business out of college, out of high school?

RM: Rudy Jr. didn't go to college, but he was working for Furrs as assistant manager at one of the stores and I said, "I need somebody to help me," so he says, "Well, I'll come." That's the first one that I got, and little by little, all of them. Mike was appointed to the Naval Academy, but after one year he says, "Dad, I can do much better helping you than going through the Naval Academy or what—Ensign or anything, I'd rather come to you." So I had Mike, Danny, Rudy, and then eventually Edgar. The youngest one never did come in, he got into art.

HG: So you had six sons?

RM: Five.

HG: Five sons, and how many daughters?

RM: Five.

HG: Five and five.

RM: Yeah.

HG: And your daughters also got in the business?

RM: One of them. One of them is right now with me. Martha, the oldest one, was oh, very little, and then she had already finished college so she went teaching. Ceci went direct from college to teaching, and then from that she went into Rudolph Miles & Sons after I'd already quit because I sold my business to my sons. I thought I was gonna retire way back—I had a heart attack in '86. I was with Junior Chamber of Commerce and we were up in Taos with a group of people that were high school—we took them every year. And I had a heart attack down there, and I said, "Oh, I have to get slower." So they did an angioplasty and I came out all right. But I slowed down some.

HG: And who took over then? You sold it at that time to—

RM: I sold it to all of my sons. I said, "We have a buy/sell agreement, there it is." So they wanted to expand. Oh, we expanded. Before I retired, we expanded to Denver and Albuquerque.

HG: And how did you train your sons for the business?

RM: I'll teach you this section—because there's—it's not just imports; it's exports, and both of them you have to have a knowledge of the schedules and what is permitted to go out, what is not permitted. Some of them you have to get licenses for exports, and it's pretty involved.

HG: Now your sons also started other businesses from that?

RM: Right with me. They didn't train on anything else except our business. Later on, they had, like what Ceci is, RM Personnel; it wasn't RM Personnel, but it was the same thing.

HG: Employee Leasing.

RM: They had here and then California leasing employees. Their insurance, or their insurance premiums got so high that they said we're gonna close, so we've got a lot of clients, but we're out of it. So he says, "Do you want it?" I said, "I don't know anything about that." "Well, you got employees that they're gonna be without a job and clients that are gonna be without employees, but you can manage it if you want." So I put in some money into it and opened up RM Personnel.

HG: What company was it before? Or it wasn't a company?

RM: IPS or something like that, but I don't even remember because I wasn't involved in it. So I went in without insurance, and I was insuring it myself, you know.

HG: Self insured.

RM: One of our employees gets—

HG: Hurt.

RM: Hurt, it came out of my pocket. But I love the company, RM Personnel.

HG: And then—

RM: We did very well. But then eventually we did go in with, I think it was Liberty Mutual or somebody that insured.

HG: And Ceci worked with that from the beginning?

RM: Ceci was manager before of the old company and, naturally, I said, “All the employees I’ll go ahead and hire them.” And so she ran RM Personnel with my supervision until—when was it? I don’t remember exactly the date, but I had had enough. I had made a lot of money on RM Personnel, and I gave the RM Personnel to my five daughters. One of them has since died in an accident. RM Personnel gave her descendents their portion. So now it’s just four. And then, one of the four, the youngest one, said, “I don’t wanna have the headaches or anything,” so they bought her out. So now, it’s just three of the girls. One of them is Elvia, the other one is Martha, the oldest, and then Ceci. Ceci runs it and the other two are still a third owner.

HG: That’s nice. And then I remember Mike, too, got into trucking. Was it Mike that got into trucking—the trucking business?

RM: You know, I was never involved in that.

HG: Okay.

RM: So I do know that they had that trucking business up at the—what is it? Foreign Trade Zone area.

HG: It was Herman Miles Trucking?

RM: Herman Miles. It started out with Danny Herman. I knew him well. He used to come into the office before they had the union, and actually, Rudy and he got very friendly, and that’s when they formed Herman Miles. Danny Herman was a—you know, pretty good. He and I went looking for business together, I think we were in Chicago or someplace where we met some of his clients and they also handled the shipments going into Mexico and coming out, so it worked both ways, trucking and the broker were pretty close. That was before I had sold to the sons,

but when I sold to the sons I really retired and traveled all over the United States and every place. But like I say, eventually I came back.

HG: So you started now again, this business is—

RM: Once my sons sold to UPS, I figured they were giving me business at the warehouse—that was my warehouse—and I said, “I don’t think UPS is going to give me business there, so I’ve got to start all over again so that I can get my clients to do business with my warehouse.” So that’s why I came back in.

HG: Okay, when was that, two thousand—?

RM: It’s six years ago.

HG: Two thousand two.

RM: I started with no clients, but I knew people, so little by little, now I have Electrolux, I have several other [inaudible]—several other big clients.

HG: Large clients. And you were already in your eighties when you started this new business.

RM: Well, that was six years ago. Yes, I was about eight-one. Well, I had that warehouse, either I sell it or I make it work.

HG: And you enjoy doing this?

RM: I like the reports that they send me. I go down there maybe two or three times a week just to look and chat with my manager and see what problems they have, what problems they do not have, and you saw that the managers called me to [say

that]he was not gonna be there until noon tomorrow. Well, he's doing a very, very good job, and that's how I—

HG: Well, you've seen a lot Mr. Miles. You've seen the maquila industry grow, it was good to you; you've contributed to this community. What big changes have you seen in El Paso?

RM: Other than customs? Gosh, you know, when I left to go into the Air Force, or to the service I should say, El Paso was about ninety thousand people. Where you have buildings and all that, I used to ride horses all over there. We used to go—

HG: Right.

RM: Really. We used to go to the crossroads, rent a horse for one dollar a day, but we had to feed him. But one dollar a day, I remember that. So we'd ride all the way—don't go into town—well, we'd come into town in horses.

HG: I'll be. And have you seen changes in the Hispanic business community over those years?

RM: Yes. You know, we've gone through quite a few changes, not only in the city, but in the all south. Because of my name and because my dad was American or Anglo, I didn't get the discrimination that some other people did way back. But I heard an awful lot that were discriminated against because of being foreign and being Black, those two were—it was very hard. Even basketball teams or football teams, they were discriminated against. But I never did because I—since I told you I was a joiner, I was invited to the DeMolays, even though our family and friends would say, That's not Catholic, they're anti-Catholic. I said, "They're not anti-Catholic, and I joined, and I know exactly what they're doing, they're very good."

HG: What role did religion play in your life? What role did religion play in your life?

RM: I have even been on the board of a Progress until I got so that I couldn't hear well what was going on, and so I told the president of the foundation, I said, "Look, I'm coming to the meetings. I know that you all are talking. I have to ask several times, so I'm going to resign." So that's—

HG: Progress—that was the Bishop's committee for raising funds and—

RM: The Bishop is on the committee, but it's not the Bishop's committee, it's separate. The Bishop is one of the members, but he's not the—of course, you have to honor a person that is of God, but actually the committee is run by the president and the board, and the Bishop sits on the committee.

HG: You also served on bank boards.

RM: That—for City.

HG: For how long?

RM: Until they went out of business.

HG: Right, and when they closed, that was in the—

RM: I think I got out before then, just a little before.

HG: And did you go to another bank and serve on a board?

RM: No. My daughter got on at Chase, and my son got on at —not Wells Fargo but, at the time, it was El Paso National?

HG: Or State National?

RM: State National.

HG: Okay.

RM: State National. So both of them were on different—

HG: What would you say are keys to your success?

RM: An awful lot, I depended on my sons and daughters. Without their help, I doubt whether I would've gotten where I am. I rely an awful lot on my family. We're all very close. In fact at family reunions we have fifty or sixty, and birthdays, fifty or sixty, at my house, and they all come to my house.

HG: If a young person came to you and was building a business and asked you for advice, what good piece of advice would you give a young person starting a business?

RM: It depends on what business it is, but if you need the support of the business community, like the Chamber of Commerce, you got to know, personally, bankers; you should get involved with city committees, either Hispanic or the Greater Chamber of Commerce. They can help an awful lot. And you have to work, not be afraid to work, and generally the owner or the president of a company that succeeds is going to be there sometimes at seven o'clock in the morning and sometimes leave at midnight. I don't do that anymore, but I've got people that work until ten, eleven [o'clock]. They might be called from the bridge and say, "You have a problem."

HG: Are you concerned right now about issues in Mexico?

RM: I'm not concerned, but that – I know that – I was just talking – I had a breakfast and there's a trucker from Mexico, and he says—we were asking the same question you asked me right now—and he says, "Well," he says, "I had one of my sons abducted," and I said, "Did you get him back?" He says, "I had to pay three million," or something like that to get him. So, I mean, that's not for publication but I don't know, maybe it's true, maybe it's not, but that was just this morning.

HG: Wow. So you're still involved, growing your business and I—

RM: I am really thinking of retirement as soon as my daughter gets her license.

HG: To do the—

RM: Yeah.

HG: Which one is that?

RM: That's Elvia.

HG: Elvia, okay, that's great. Well, Mr.—

RM: Yeah, she's gonna take her exam in April, and I hope she passes. It's a very difficult exam. You have to be, more or less, like a lawyer, you're a custom broker, everything. Every time the United States makes a treaty, that goes into the—what do you call it?

HG: The codebook.

RM: The code. And they ask you questions about that, so they have to keep up every time. Some little change.

HG: Well, Mr. Miles, I appreciate, very much, your time. You've been a great contributor to this community and your story is very important to us, so it's very kind of you to give us your time, and this concludes the interview with Mr. Miles—Rudolph Miles.

RM: Rudolph Miles.

HG: Yeah. Do you have a middle name?

RM: Senior.

HG: Senior, right. Do you have a middle name?

RM: No, I never have.

HG: And you've been known as "Rudy," right?

RM: When I was born, I was given a middle name. I didn't like it; I dropped it.

HG: Well, thank you very much, I appreciate that.

End of Interview