

Kansas City Garment Industry Project

Transcript of Interview with Marshall V. Miller

John A. Dvorak: Welcome to another interview for the Kansas City garment industry project. Today is May 6, 2010. I'm John Dvorak and I'm interviewing Marshall Miller, a Kansas City attorney whose late father Leon Miller was considered the dean of the Kansas City laundry and dry cleaning industry. The videographer is Mark Titus. Marshall, Your grandfather, Isaac Miller, came here in, was it 1901? Why did he come here?

Marshall V. Miller: Yes exactly. He came from England. He traveled first to Buffalo, NY, arrived in New York in 1901. He had been born in England and married in England, but the family had come from Riga, Latvia, and before that parts of Russia. Basically came to find a better life. He was a tailor. He took a job originally – we don't know with what company – when he first came to Kansas City. But within a very brief period of time, about a year, in 1907, he started the Miller's Quick Service Dry Cleaning Company.

Question Had he done garment work in the old country?

Answer Yes, he was a tailor.

Q What did his business do in the early days?

A In the early days it was strictly laundry and cleaning. We have pictures of a horse-drawn truck from, I believe it's 1906 or 1907, and the horse, whose name was Topsy. They picked up and delivered cleaning, had multiple stores basically in the Northeast area of Kansas City, which was the major area where business was at that point. And continued that business for many many years.

Q Did you know him?

A I did. He died in I think it was 1952. So I knew him as a young man. I was born in 1945. So I had some recollection of both my grandfather and my grandmother, ah, going over to their home, their coming to ours, that sort of thing.

Q Do you know what appealed to him about the business?

A I think that it was, I think there were two things both from his standpoint and my father's standpoint. I think they genuinely had a sense of clothing and fabric that was almost inherent in their psyche, and it continued through me, as far as having a real interest. So first it's just clothing and fabric. I think it probably came from him being a tailor, and constructing clothes. But then my father was never that But then I think a big piece of it was just working with people, the retail environment. People say for many years that my father never knew a stranger. And I think that was a very important part of that as well. And, so it was just building relationships with customers that were lifelong relationships, and dealing with their laundry and dry cleaning issues through the years.

Q Do you know, did your grandfather's business do well at the beginning or was it a tough struggle?

A I think it was not easy beginning at all. I think there was competition, and there was just the nature of things. But I believe that the life that they developed was one of moderate

means. There was never lots of money, or a lot being made. But I think that the family survived well. There were, my father had two other brothers and a sister, and they, ah, you know, had a home in Northeast, and, you know, multiple cars for the children at various times, and I think that he built a very decent living for the family.

Q Do you know precisely the types of things that your grandfather's business did? Did they just do work for individuals or did they do work for companies and hotels, or all of the above?

A In the beginning I think it was very much individuals. I remember my father telling me that they definitely interfaced with the entire clothing industry in Kansas City, but mainly it was when there were issues. In other words, if you were making new clothes and everything was fine and there were no issues and you pressed them and sold them and shipped them out of Kansas City, you didn't need a dry cleaner or a laundry. But when there were issues with fabrics, or there were problems of color running, or some other kinds of things, I remember my father from time to time talking about working with some of the different businesses here who made clothing. And he knew those people, and they were friendly, to help them solve problems. It was only much later that my dad — and my dad got involved in the 1930s — and it was only much later that the business changed from one that was directed solely to individuals and private things to one that was focused on hotels and apartments and that kind of thing, so that we were dealing with a different kind of business. A lot of that came from the type of equipment. My father was very focused on new technology. And, in the dry cleaning business, there was an historic "it was always done that way" and I remember that dad was the first in Kansas City to on an ongoing basis buy new equipment that was not from the United States. I can remember as a kid a big piece of equipment that was made in England, that was brought over from England. I can still remember that they had a large cleaning room, and they had to jack hammer the floor, the concrete floor, and put in rubber and asphalt, because this machine not only cleaned but extracted and dried, and when it started going, it would shake so much that it could literally, they thought, shake the building down. And so, they had to build very large things, and go way down in the ground and bolt it, and I remember as a kid — and I hadn't thought about that in years — watching them put that machine in. What it allowed was three-hour dry cleaning. And he was the first in Kansas City. So you could drop something off in the morning on your way to work and pick it up at noon if you wanted. You could do that only because of this kind of technology. Dad would continue to do that. He was constantly buying new kinds of equipment and trying to figure out how to make things more efficient.

Q Now did your grandfather ever do any tailoring?

A Yes, there was always tailoring there, but it was mainly repair for the individuals.

Q Not for companies?

A Not for companies no.

Q Now how did the business transition from your grandfather to your father, Leon Miller?

A Well, I think it was with some sense of some difficulty. I think that my father's ideas and my grandfather's ideas were probably a little bit different. So, I sense, although there was never a lot of discussion about it, that there was clearly a real interest in approaching things a

little differently. So my father, my father's first love was not the dry cleaning business, and laundry business. It was playing trumpet. And he loved to play trumpet. And he played trumpet in a lot of dance bands in Kansas City. In fact, at his funeral, I not only put inside his coffin a small little brass trumpet, but we had his placed on top of his coffin, and had a very famous trumpet player here in town play at his funeral one of his favorite songs, Stardust. He loved to play trumpet. He never could figure out how to make a living at it. And uh, while he tried very much, and even at one point he and another friend went out to California to find their fortune. They didn't. And dad came back. And at that point dad decided that if he was going to do this, he wanted to be trained. So there was a Dry Cleaning and Laundry Institute that still exists, in Maryland, and he went back to school. And we have pictures of him being a graduate of the class where he spent many months learning the business from a technical and a chemical standpoint. And ah, so that he understood the chemistry of spots and issues, and the issues of different kinds of fabric and was taught by people that really understood and felt like he had a lot more technical expertise than a number of other people. And therefore applied that. And I can remember that he was always as the so-called dean of the business in Kansas City, he would always get calls and always had people coming out saying "Everyone says this is mined. Nothing can be done." And most of the time he could figure out how to solve the issue.

Q Now, what year would your father have gone for the training?

A I think it was around '36 or '37. We have a graduation picture, but he didn't have a certificate. In the last two years, I contacted them, because they're still in business, and they issued a new certificate. So he had his diploma again. It's framed.

Q Did he then take over the business in the 1930s.

A I think the transition began in the late '30s, but it was really, probably after World War II at some point when he was more directly engaged in everything, probably in the mid-'40s.

Q How did the business operate differently under your father as opposed to the earlier part of the century under your grandfather?

A Well, I think that dad just tried to apply a number of the more modern ideas. That maybe his father had always done things a certain way. And it was fine, and nobody cared. Dad was constantly experimenting. He was constantly looking for new kinds of equipment, new ways of laying out how people worked. Before I ever heard about ergonomics, that was what dad was into. Someone, a fella that was doing the cleaning, he wanted him to not have to move very far. Didn't want him to have to pick up a lot of heavy things. He was trying to think of ways where there would be just a small step. Have all kinds of ways of helping that kind of person. Likewise in the pressing of clothes. What I can remember as a little kid, presses were hand presses, you know, steam, it was hot, and stepped on it, and you pulled it down, the head. Well, there developed air presses. And I think dad had if not the first, one of the very first where you pressed the button and it came down. Well, that was good, except you had to keep your hand out of there, or your head, or other things. Likewise, the whole idea of dealing with, ah, other kinds of equipment. I remember he would constantly be changing the layout. A large press, and a small press, and the racks that you would push clothes on. Every six months, maybe more often, maybe less, he would move things around. He didn't like the way that was laid out. It could be laid out a different way, and it would be easier and

therefore better. He was very focused on quality. And many of the employees that worked there worked there most all their lives. And I can remember a great many of them who were there who were pretty elderly and had been with him 20, 30, 40, 50 years. But they worked there because they liked it. I also can recall during the summer it was pretty hot. You're around steam. He was the first to put an air cooling system in. They couldn't really air condition because it was too much. But he had big ducts put in, and big handlers up on the roof, that had water in it, and it was pushing through water cooled air so that the employees would not be so hot. He felt he would get a higher quality of work and felt very strongly about it. The work was kind of the opposite of a number of other cleaners who went towards, in the '50s and '60s, very cheap things, where they would have a lot of volume. Someone did 50 pairs of pants in an hour or something like that. Dad was the exact opposite. He had no interest in that. He wanted to put out a quality product that people felt good about from the beginning.

Q The cleaning business was different in the '20s and '30s and '40s than it is today and it was much more important to people, was it not?

A Right. It was. Part of it is just the way people dressed. There were a couple of transitions that were very interesting. I think that people in the teens and 20s and 30s and 40s and 50s and up 'till the late '50s maybe early '60s, every person that went to work had a suit on, and a tie. Unless you worked in the factory. You had a coat and tie on. Women would go out. They would have a dress on, or they would have a uh, a uh, whatever. And so part of the issue always was the if you were wearing these sorts of things then you had to get the shirts laundered and the clothes cleaned. And the costs were very moderate. They were not, as they related to other expenses, that expense of dry cleaning and laundry was not terribly expensive. So there was a lot of volume. I can remember as a kid working especially on Saturdays or coming back with dad on Sundays where he would work on things. There were a lot of clothes there. I mean, there were a lot of clothes there. People would come in with big bags of clothes. It was a function of Number 1, that's what you wore and Number 2, it wasn't expensive. So this was not a big deal. The feeling was "we want to be clean, we've worn this suit for a week or two or whatever and we need to clean it and the shirts and whatever." It wasn't a big expense. Then, the next step was all of the fabrics that you could wash. It made a huge difference from the standpoint of shirts, and permanent press in the '50s and '60s. And so then people didn't need to clean or have laundered nearly as much as they used to. And I think the change in the kind of fabrics made a huge difference in volume. The response that many people in the industry did was to raise the prices. So that's where the prices started to raise, because if you didn't have the volume, then you raised the prices in order to continue to make some money. But a lot of the companies, the businesses went out of business with the whole permanent press and different kind of fabric period. And then more later, it became people no longer wearing a coat and a tie. Wearing things they could wash easily, with even more kinds of fabrics that weren't just a plastic kind of thing but a lot of stuff that you just throw into a wash machine and not have to worry. And that changed the business again, dramatically. So that the volume kept going down, the prices would go up. I remember dad just marveling at how some people charged so much. And he just didn't feel that was appropriate. That's how I think we got to the point where today, where a lot of dry cleaning and laundry is pretty expensive. Well, it's a self-fulfilling promise when you raise the prices high enough that you drive people into other kinds of ways of doing things. And then, just

people not dressing up much anymore made a big difference and does even today I'm sure.

Q Now your dad would have done business with individuals who walked in the door, but did he also do a more mass business with hotels and other institutions?

A Yes. Yes. And also other dry cleaners. In other words, he would have, there would be 10, 15 different companies that held themselves out in different parts of the country as dry cleaning and laundry, but they didn't have any facilities to do that. So they would be basically taking it in, and one of dad's trucks would pick it up mid-morning and return it if they wanted it that afternoon. So that he was doing work for other dry cleaners and launderers. As dad got into the whole hotel thing. It was probably in the early '70s I think. I can remember that when Kansas City International Airport was being initially announced, I can remember dad going out to the hotels that were going to be built and getting all of them lined up so that it would justify a truck being out there at 9:30 every morning going from one hotel to the other. The Marriott that's right at the airport, and the others. There was a Hilton as I remember, and a couple of others. Picking them up and then taking them back, and then coming back about 2:30 in the afternoon with everything done, turning it back to the hotels so that they could have it ready for the people. And then every now and then, someone needing something quickly, or they had to leave early, or he had to mail it or send it to them or something like that. But that developed. From there then, most of the hotels downtown and in The Plaza and different places. And that was a business for some time that he did also.

Q Kansas City was a major garment manufacturing center in the 30s, and really into the '60s. Did your father dovetail with that aspect of the industry?

A You know, I think where it was, he knew the people that were the manufacturers. He frankly for a number of them handled their own personal dry cleaning and laundry. And when they had issues with fabrics or some other kinds of things where there was a problem and they needed somebody to give advice on what to do, ah, he could do that. And I think part of that, a big part of it was the fact that he had actually had some schooling. And most people that were in the business just were in the business and learned it from somebody else, where dad had spent time understanding the chemistry and the kinds of fabrics. I can remember, and these are things I haven't remembered in a lot of years, I can remember him being very sensitive to the kinds of fabric. Exactly what kind of silk is this? Where does this silk come from? Asking a lot of technical questions. Are you sure, what kind of gravy was it? Or what type of food was it? So that he was trying to be sure. Is this red wine? You know, is it scotch? Whatever. So he would try not to get the color out. Because the key issue was, if you were trying to take a spot out, and you rubbed it too much or you put too much chemical in it. I can remember large areas, I mean, they called them spotting tables, I should have kept one somewhere, But there would be bottles, they would be plastic, and they'd have a little tip on it, like you would have for some types of ketchup or whatever, and you would mix these different chemicals. You'd put these on the fabrics and try to get the spots out. And I can remember that very vividly now.

Q He obviously had a love and appreciation for silk versus wool that the rest of us simply do not have.

A I think it came from, again, the beginnings of the whole tailor frame of reference of his father, of understanding fabrics. And then, just being a younger person, not, you know, that

young, but I mean, understanding the chemistry, which people didn't really get to. They understood what they should do but they didn't know why it was happening. And so, this was understanding the chemistry of it and understanding how this all works together. Silk you're going to have to deal with it very differently than a rayon, or a cotton, or a wool. And the different kinds. I can remember as a kid asking a lot of questions sometimes because I'd be standing there as a little kid just listening as he would be at a counter or on the phone with somebody asking an awful lot of very detailed questions to be able to get the nuances of what can I do with this fabric.

Q How many employees would he have had approximately in the good times?

A I would say probably around 20 or so, I'm guessing, but I'm just trying to count up in my own mind, but I think there were around 20 employees, and a couple of drivers, there were usually two or three trucks and routes of different kinds.

Q Labor unions were an issue in the garment industry here and there were considerable difficulties. Did any of that affect him?

A Yeah, I can remember visits by people from labor unions as a little kid and being kind of frightened. They would come in and have a little visit about things. And, uh, it was unionized, the plant, so his employees belonged to whatever, I don't remember the union. But I can remember from time to time some, and I hadn't thought of that in a long time either, some people showing up that weren't real friendly.

Q Did your father have trouble with the union, would you say?

A I think he was always able to negotiate his way through that. Dad was as I said, I don't think he ever met someone who was a stranger. He was always able to work with people. And so he worked his way through all that. But I, I hadn't thought about that at all. But yes, there were some times when there were some folks that wanted to be certain there was a little more raise than maybe would be reasonable, but it was going to happen.

Q Your father was unionized.

A Yes. Uh uh.

Q Another issue in the garment industry was that a number of the owners of companies were Jewish.

A Uh huh.

Q Your father was Jewish.

A Uh huh.

Q And you are.

A Yes. Uh uh.

Q Did he suffer discrimination or any particular difficulty because of that?

A You know, I never sensed any of that. I mean, there's always something, there's always undercurrents from time to time. And there certainly are people and situations where there's evidence of discrimination. But I think that dad provided a good service at a reasonable price.

I'm not aware, I don't remember anything that was a big deal like that. Now whether when he was going to high school or grade school or something like that at Northeast, if there was anything, he never mentioned that.

Q His employees would have been what, a diverse group?

A They were. It was very much, both a number of black people as well as whites. I mean, I would say it was about 50-50, probably. Pretty much always. And it was a very cohesive organized group. There were a number of people that lived in the neighborhood, that worked there, so they didn't traverse a long way. I think the longest drive was one or two people in Kansas City, KS, but other than that, it was pretty much, you know, a lot of people that lived nearby in the Northeast area.

Q Did you work at the company?

A I did, oh yeah, absolutely.

Q Were you paid?

A Yeah, I think it was maybe like a nickel maybe a quarter a day. I know much later on dad explained that, one of the things I would do, I did a number of dungs, the worst was, people would bring in a big box of hangers, just thrown in, so it was a complete mess. Some in good condition, some horrible. And you could lose your mind taking all these apart and cleaning them. So that was a job. Also you made hangers. Hangers were purchased just as a medal hanger, and there was a piece of cardboard that went on it for when you put slacks over it. I remember putting those on. That was another job. Another job was checking pockets. People would bring in this big sack, and there'd be someone who would what we call "mark it in." So the "mark it in" would be a specific numbered tag that was first stapled on the ticket that had the person's name, and then a series of tags would be stapled on, or usually pinned, on each coat. So I would learn how to do that. And there was a match and the count. And anything unusual, you know, did the skirt have pleats? You could spend your life in the old days when the pleats were not permanent some poor presser having to put the pleats back in. I don't even know how you do that. But what dad would do, I didn't learn until later, is you also check the pockets. You would go through the pockets, and take out, oh, pieces of paper, different kind of things. Sometimes there would be things in the pockets. And so, the deal was there that you had an envelope and you put those in and you stapled it so the person could get whatever it was back, a handkerchief or sometimes there'd be a billfold or something really stupid. But I learned later that dad would put in a nickel or a penny every now and then just to keep me interested. So that I would find a nickel or a penny. Those days a nickel or a penny meant something. Maybe a quarter if you were lucky. It was never going to be anything more than that.

Q What were you then, 12, 15?

A Much younger. I was going there from the time I was probably five or six.

Q Really.

A Oh yeah. There were pictures of me when we would come back. When I was initially born, I was born and we lived in Northeast, in an apartment. And it was only when I got to grade school that we moved out to 5328 Garfield. I hadn't thought of that address in a while.

Q Do you remember your phone number?

A No. I have no recollection of the phone number. I'm sure it didn't have nearly as many digits as they do now. Anyway we moved out to Garfield, lived there, and then moved out to, believe it or not, Prairie Village, that was crazy, when nobody was there, back in the 50s at some point. But I would go really with my dad most Saturdays. This was a different era. Kids didn't have a lot of sports teams on Saturday. And a lot of other things. You could go to the movies. But I would go and then sometimes one of the employees would take me to a movie theater, I can remember that. But I would go with dad on Saturday. And most of the time dad would come to work on Sunday, for at least a few hours.

Q Did you like going to work there?

A Yeah, that was fine with me. There were no negatives about that at all.

Q Now you didn't go into the business.

A I did not. I did not.

Q Did you know a lot about the business by the time you were 18?

A Yeah I really did.

Q Could you clean clothes?

A I could. I could. I could. I don't think I could do it now, I think I'd be frightened of it, that I'd screw it up.

Q But you had the skills?

A I had the skill set. I learned how to put buttons on. I learned how to, ah, sew you know some kinds of other things in a very modest way. It was when I probably got to junior high school where things started to unravel only because I became very involved in a lot of school things, like debate and other things which would take me away on the weekends. But up until probably 12, 13, something like that I was there a lot.

Q You never seriously considered making it your life's work?

A I didn't. Dad really didn't want me to.

Q Why not?

A I think he thought that there were other things that I should consider. I think he saw the business changing a lot, and was concerned for the longterm viability of it. He really was, he really was very astute. And, he was always very much engaged in marketing as well, and, you know, always trying to come up with new ideas to generate business. But I think he saw that the business was really changing, and also I think thought that there were probably easier ways of earning a living than working seven days a week. Of course then he realized after I started that I work seven days a week, too. It didn't work real well, if that was the goal. But I think he instilled in me a very serious work ethic.

Q You would have reached adulthood in the early '60s, and by that point your father began to see that maybe the future in the business was not that great.

A Right. Right.

Q Why did he feel that way?

A Well I think part of it was two things: Number 1, was the fabrics people were coming out with, permanent press and other sorts of things, that seriously changed the nature of the use and the need that people would have for dry cleaning and laundry. And then, ah, ah, just the fact that fewer people actually needed to have things cleaned. Because they weren't dressing up the same way. Even up until the last years of his life he really didn't like the way a lot of people dressed. He, he would wear a tie. He would put a white shirt on and a tie. We had an office here in my building for him, once we transitioned out of the dry cleaning business so he wasn't going in every day, there was an office here that he had. He would dress up with a coat and tie and come here. And he would have people that he'd visit and other things. But he felt very strongly about dressing up.

Q Do you know how he felt about the decline of the business, as he saw it coming on. Did he ever talk much about it?

A You know, he did, to the degree that he regretted it. But I think he felt that it was inevitable that once you invented new fabrics that didn't require dry cleaning or laundry, and in the twin way, the industry raised the prices, so that that made it a little more self-fulling issue. Because it was pretty expensive to get this cleaned or laundered. Then, I think he saw that was a real problem. But it was something that wasn't going to change. The issue that he always talked to people about around here, my sons, anyone else who would listen, is the idea that people need to be dressed up. To really look good, you needed to be dressed up. And that was a very strong feeling. But again, he wasn't getting too far on that either.

Q He did realize that was a losing battle?

A Yeah. Absolutely. Absolutely. But he enjoyed looking well and dressing well and looking very sharp and being complimented for that.

Q Do you think he was upset at how everything had changed, was he, it sounds like that he was a smart man, did he realize there was just an evolution?

A Exactly. That's why he said to me at some point when we finally shut down the business and sold parts of it off, he said "You know, this isn't viable. You know, it's a different world. And it's changed. And that's fine." And so, he wasn't real negative about it. I think he just accepted it and moved on. And so, he stayed very active, in his 80s, at the dry cleaning plant, and then afterward, stayed extremely active doing lots of civic things. He was at the Heart Institute at St. Luke's. He was there I think two days a week. He would visit all the heart patients. And he would see how they were doing, and did they need any help as a volunteer. And he would carry in his pocket pictures of all of our cars, and talk about the old cars. Which a lot of the patients were older, and they would remember a Model A or some other car. He also delivered Meals on Wheels until 1993 probably. He had a little Mini Cooper. He would fill it up with meals and deliver meals to people that were 20 years younger than he was and enjoyed it very much.

Q Now the business continued until 1999. I take it in those latter years it was not nearly as profitable?

A It wasn't, but it was doing okay. But it clearly, his business model had been discovered by lots of other people. And a number of other dry cleaners and laundries went out of business. And even in the hotel business, the number of people that needed to get laundry and dry cleaning declined, even though the volume was there, because they were not wearing suits anymore, they were having fabrics that they didn't need to clean as much. So, it had definitely declined, no question about it.

Q Did he have any feelings do you know about the decline of the garment manufacturing business in Kansas City?
A Yes, I think he was very sad about that, and felt that it was a huge loss for Kansas City. He watched it happen. Since he knew a lot about fabric and the construction of clothing, I think he also felt that a lot of the things that were coming in that were made in other countries were not very well made, and that was an issue that he would face when people would bring him something to clean, and there would be a problem of some kind with the fabric, or the construction of the garment. And dad would, actually I can remember, he didn't want to fight with customers, so he didn't make a big deal. But he would definitely send things back to this dry cleaning and laundry institute in Maryland and have them do an analysis to see if in fact he was right. You know, was it the fabric that was the problem, not the dry cleaning, but the quality of the fabric or the dye in the fabric. Likewise, with the construction, with the thread and other sorts of things, or buttons things like that. And they'd had lab analyses, and they'd send him back a lab analysis.

Q He lived long enough to see most of our clothes coming from overseas. He couldn't have been very happy.
A No, he really wasn't. I think he saw that in some instances the clothing coming from overseas was a very decent quality, and just was coming from another country with good quality, and not inexpensive, you know, from Italy or England or different places. And since his family originally came from England, and he would, I remember, I forget what the fabric was, but there was a particular type of tweed that come from somewhere in England, a sport coat, and he would like to wear that because that was good quality and it was well made, as opposed to some of the other fabric and clothing that wasn't well made. And so yeah he did not like that and didn't appreciate it at all.

Q Now your maternal grandfather was Sam Schultz. Did you know him?
A Yes I did. He had a very small little operation that was essentially tailor and pressing, and it was a little tiny sliver of a shop on East 8th Street about half a block from the old federal courthouse. So he was right downtown, between, it would be just west of Grand Avenue, on 8th Street, it was the hill that went down at a sharp angle and I can remember he had just a little sliver of a place, maybe he had one other employee is all, and all his life he repaired, shortened trousers, shortened sleeves, remade things, maybe made a vest for somebody or something like that. It was a very small operation.

Q Roughly when he was in business?
A He would have been in business approximately the same time as my grandfather Isaac Miller. But in a completely different scale. And while he had an interest and he did all those things, he ah, I guess you could call him more of an investor. So he took his money and from

a very early age invested it all in real estate and making real estate loans and things like that, and helping other people out. So he kind of had two businesses going to a degree.

Q With this background of yours, do you ever think that maybe, the genes being what they are, you should have gone into some aspect of the garment industry?

A Well, there's no question it came from all sides. There's no doubt about it. I may be somewhat unique in that way in the community. But, you know, I think I do have a real appreciation for fabric and clothing. And I am for quality. And I think I, from my own standpoint, and from the standpoint of my children, my two sons, hopefully we've instilled a little bit of all that. But it just wasn't, it wasn't the thing for me to do. You know, it just wasn't my thing. But as I say, I have a number of people that I'm friendly with, and some of dad's friends, like Robert Gershon and others who are still very much alive. He was the kid, now he's the dean, now that dad has died. But some of the other people we keep in touch with.

Q Your business as a lawyer...

A Import export only. All I do is import export law.

Q Does that relate at all, ever to the garment industry?

A It can. Although we have never gotten into that aspect of the business. Our work is generally not here at all. It's in all different parts of the country. I have a small office in New York. I have a small office in Washington. Most of the people are here. But we deal with people like pharmaceutical industry, automobile industry, electronics industry, just dealing solely and very narrowly with their import export legal issues.

Q So as a lawyer you've never much worked in connection with the garment industry?

A Not at all. Not all all.

(transcript has been edited slightly for clarity)

guest: Marshall V. Miller (d.o.b. July 29, 1945) Kansas City, attorney

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