

During his years in the Dominican Republic, Manuel met a woman named Mercedes Cuello, born March 24, 1912. We don't know much about their relationship, but we do know that when Manuel boarded that plane to Miami, Mercedes (then 19-years-old) was pregnant with a son, who would be named, Ramon Bienvenido Ruiz. Ramon was born on June 8, 1931, a few months after Manuel left the Dominican Republic. We don't know if Manuel knew Mercedes was pregnant when he left. Mercedes married 46 year old Aurello Ruiz, and he became Ramon's Papi. He died when Ramon was 7 and young Ramon subsequently worked hard to help make ends meet. As a young man he became involved in politics prior to getting married. He ran a mechanic shop and people gravitated toward him. At age 27 he married Digna Enriquez de Jesus.

On May 30, 1961 Rafael Trujillo, dictator of the Dominican Republic was assassinated. At the time Ramon was 30 years old, was married and had two daughters.

Almost everyone involved in the conspiracy and members of their extended families were rounded up. Two of the conspirators were killed in gun battles while resisting arrest. The other four were imprisoned and later shot.”

Rafael Trujillo Lovatón—Ramfis--- assumed de facto control. As a result of a dispute with his two uncles over potential liberalization, and having little enthusiasm for a power struggle, Ramfis soon fled the country. A Council of State took over; elections were held, and Bosch was elected. He was a liberal who “expressed concern for the welfare of all Dominicans, particularly those of modest circumstances.” His regime separated church and state and initiated civil and individual rights, civilian control of the military, and land reform. Those in power were not happy, and on September 25, 1963 a military coup took control of the nation.

Ramon's participation in political rallies during the time of the dictatorship made his life difficult. After Trujillo's death he apparently frequently slept in the hills that surrounded his home in San Francisco de Macoris, a town in the North East corner of the Island. At night, his daughters recall, he would periodically visit. One night gun shots were heard.

In 1966 Ramon flew to New York and worked in a factory. By 1967 he had earned enough money to bring his wife to the U.S. and their four children stayed with their grandmother, Rosa de Jesus de Enriquez. In October 1967 grandma brought them to New York where they lived for 8 years. In 1970 or 1975 the family moved to Lawrence Massachusetts.. At some point in his life Ramon visited the

Dominican Republic and helped rebuild his mother's house. Mercedes died at age 64 in 1976. **RAMON, DIGNA AND DAUGHTERS ROSA ELIZABETH AND RUTH MERCEDEZ**

