

*December 9, 2004*

*Beatrice Tapia Interview Transcript*

08:09:17

**JL:** OK. We are in Corpus Christi, Texas on December 9, 2004. I am in the living room of Beatrice Tapia, on Alamo Street, in Corpus Christi. And we're going to ask some questions here. If you would tell me, Beatrice, just say your whole name, where you were born, what city you live in today, and tell me a little bit about the family you grew up in.

08:09:45

**BT:** My name is Beatrice Tapia. I live here in Corpus Christi, Texas, and I was born and raised here in Corpus. My family is very big. We like to talk to people. My mom is very caring. My sisters, I have four sisters and one brother. And we grew up here on Carrizo Street in Corpus Christi. And we're just a big old family. We get to know a lot of people around Corpus.

**JL:** What are the names of your sisters and brother?

**BT:** My sisters, the oldest one is Mary Jane Garcia, Mary Margaret Tapia, and me, Beatrice Tapia, and the little one is Cynthia Maria Garcia, and my little brother is Rafael

**JL:** Using the name of the street, will you tell me about what time you moved to the street you grew up on? And who... Just tell me about the street. Who lived where?

08:11:04

**BT:** Um, we lived on Carrizo. We were there when I was ten

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years old, eleven years old. We had a family in front of us, beside us, who had a street, a house on Kenny and Carrizo. That was the Duran family. The Garcia's family lived across the street from us. Diana also was living across the street from us. We had a Fidela Hernandez who lived right down the street from us, and her sons Carlos Hernandez, Javier Hernandez, and her granddaughter, Pricilla Hernandez. And then we had Lila... This lady, this girl I grew up with. Lila... Gonzalez, I think it was. And her sister.

**JL:** Lila Zapata...

**BT:** Zapata! Yeah. And her sister. I forget her sister's name. But, her She had a brother named John John. And Tommy. And her mom was, uh, I can't remember what her name was. I see her all the time nowadays. And then we had another family that used to live right beside us that were very close to my mom. I can't remember their last name. But it was a neighborhood, a street where everybody got along. Everybody talked with everybody. Everybody played with everybody's kids. You know, I played around a lot with Pricilla, me and my little sister, and we knew Carlos Hernandez and we knew Javier. We were, her mom was very good with us, and her mom used to go out with my mom. We had a good neighborhood too, where we talked with everybody.

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08:12:42

**JL:** And you said when you were... Well, tell me just there on Carrizo Street, using the name of the street, tell me just all the kids you hung out with, that you ran around with.

08:12:52

**BT:** I remember Pricilla Hernandez. I remember Lila and her sister, and the Garcia family, which was Terry, Paul... Terry, Paul, Richard, Teddy, Mary Jane Tanguma, Diana. Diana was Salina, I think her last name was Salina. She lived next door to the Garcia's family. And Roger Duran, and his brother Ruben, I think it was Ruben Duran. And we just all played around together in that neighborhood. Most of the time we would play with Pricilla and Roger and Lila, we were all little kids getting together playing dolls and trucks and stuff.

08:13:40

**JL:** Right out behind your house was there a place where people congregated or a place where...?

**BT:** There was a big empty lot, it was like a hill going down, and there was a big old lot, and there was a drainage tunnel that would go on the other side of Kinney Street. And we used to get together and play baseball and kickball. Or we used to go and sit there and throw rocks at the tunnel. And sometimes

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we would get the habit of going in the tunnel, to play around to see what was on the other side: Kinney Street. But we used to go around, right there that hill, going down the hill behind our house.

08:14:17

**JL:** And did somebody older, male folk, hang out back there sometimes?

**BT:** Oh yeah. Richard Garcia. Carlos Hernandez, Javier. Roger's brother Tommy, I think, er, Ruben. They used to go down there and drink. There was like a little slab where there was four cement poles and in the top of cement, and they used to drink down there in the bottom.

08:14:42

**JL:** And, how was Pricilla Hernandez, who you mentioned, how was she related to, you've mentioned Carlos Hernandez. How were they related?

**BT:** Pricilla was Carlos's niece. Carlos was her uncle.

**JL:** And you played with Pricilla. Can you, describing the two of you, just using your names, how old you were, who's older, who's younger.

08:15:08

**BT:** As I can remember, I was older than Pricilla. We played

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around a lot. Sometimes we'd sit on the steps from her house and sit there and play. If I remember right, I was older than her. I was about, at least ten or eleven, and she was about eight or nine.

08:15:32

**JL:** Can you tell me something about young Pricilla, what her personality was like, how she interacted with people around her?

**BT:** Pricilla was a busy body. She would see people, "Where are you going?" "I want to go!" or "What are you going to do?" She was a busy body. She was always asking everybody who'd come around walking, down the neighborhood. Or, she would come in my house and say, "Let's go sit on my porch and see who goes by." You know, we'd go sit on the porch and we'd be talking to everybody else and they would walk by and she would tell me, "I'm going to ask them where they are going." So she would ask them, "Where are you going?" Real loud. She was a really perky girl. She was, everybody loved her. And everybody would tell her, "Well, I'm going to go over here to the store" or "I'm going to go to the park over there," and she would always ask them, "Well, can I go?" She had a real spunky personality. I guess that's why me and her got along with each other, because, you know, everything me and her

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would do, me and her would go to the park or sit on the steps and talk to everyone else in the neighborhood. She was very spunky though.

08:16:56

**JL:** Did you ever hear people in the neighborhood there, maybe even in answer to Pricilla's questions, talk about clubs that they were going to in those days?

**BT:** I can recall, there was a couple of times, at least one or two times they would tell her, "We're going to the club. You can't go. You're too young. You're a baby." You know, Carlos would always tell her, she would always ask Carlos Hernandez, "Where are you going?" And he would say, "Somewhere. Don't worry about it." Or, "I'm going to the store." Or, "I'm going to see Wanda." Or to, you know, with his friends, to see his other friends. There was this one time that I can recall, that me and Pricilla and my sister Cindy were sitting on the porch, and Carlos Hernandez and Javier Hernandez were sitting on the top, on their porch, and I remember one time that we were sitting there and we overheard Carlos Hernandez telling Javier that he had, excuse me [coughs]—that's what I get for smoking—that he was going to go see Wanda, at the store, the Diamond Shamrock. And we heard that we was going to going to go over there, and

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we heard that he was telling Javier that he... Carlos Hernandez had hurt Wanda. But that he... We weren't really paying attention to him, but we overheard... he was talking loud enough for us to hear what, he were, they were there... Carlos Hernandez and Javier were sitting, and me and Pricilla were sitting on the steps, on the very top steps. So, we overheard that he was, that Carlos Hernandez had hurt Wanda, and then that he was going to go and see somebody else. But, before that he had said that he was going to go to the store to see Wanda. So, I turned around and asked Pricilla, "Who's that?" This is what I can remember back then, when I was living on Carrizo Street. And Pricilla told me that it was a friend of Carlos Hernandez, and that she would always ask him, "Where are you going?" And he would say, "I'm going to go see my friend," Carlos Hernandez would always say, "I'm going to go see my friend Wanda."

08:19:33

**JL:** OK. We went over and looked at that house, and so, what I'm going to ask you is we saw that there were sort of some concrete or stone steps that kind of go up to where the house sits, the Hernandez house, and then from there were a few wooden steps...

**BT:** On the porch, coming down.

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**JL:** Which you would go up to get into the house.

**BT:** Yes.

**JL:** And do you remember how many doors there were into the house?

08:19:57

**BT:** I remember there's two. There's one on the side [indicating with hands, the perpendicular relation of the doors], and one this side.

**JL:** OK. And what I would like you to do is, if you would, talking about the incident where you heard Carlos and Javier up on the porch talking about what Carlos might have done to somebody whose name you heard. And I'd like you to just tell us, sort of describe where you were, where they were, in that scene, and to describe the whole thing, from the beginning to end, where you were, what they were doing up on the porch, whether they were doing anything, whether they were—what kind of condition they were in...

**BT:** OK.

**JL:** And everything that you remember hearing about what might have happened to somebody.

08:20:51

**BT:** That, as I remember, and, I'll never forget it, was that Pricilla came over to my house. She wanted me come over to her

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house. And she said we were going to play with some dolls and some other stuff, toys. And, I went with her, and their house was sitting like on top of a hill, and I as I remember there were two concrete slabs, like a wall, and the steps, there were concrete steps going up. And then, at the end of the last step up, there was like a little sidewalk, and then there was steps, wooden steps, on the door, I mean, on the porch, and the porch was there, and there was a door facing the street, of Carrizo, and then there was a door facing the street of Agnes. On Agnes. And we got there and we sat on the very top step of the cement steps. A little bit further from the first step, like going towards the walk way. And Javier and Carlos Hernandez were sitting on the porch itself. And Javier was facing Carrizo Street, and Carlos Hernandez was facing the other door, towards Kinney, on that side of the street. And they were sitting there and they were drinking, and I remember Carlos's mom coming in the door, standing in the door, asking them what they were doing.

**JL:** And did you know anybody named Wanda in the neighborhood, or who had been around the neighborhood, or who...

08:23:13

**BT:** I can't recall, but I do recall one time that she was around the neighborhood, that she was walking down the street with this other girl. And that's how I knew, because there

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was another time me and Pricilla were outside playing on the sidewalk itself, not the steps, where Carlos was sitting on the steps, and Wanda passed by with this other girl. And that's how I knew who Wanda was. And she was, Wanda was a friend of Carlos.

**JL:** And did Wanda have a last name? Do you remember?

08:23:46

**BT:** I remember him saying Lopez. I remember him telling Pricilla when we were playing around that it was Wanda Lopez. Because that day Wanda passed around with a girl and that's when he called her name, and Pricilla, she's a busy body, she wants to know everything, and she would tell him, "Well, who's that?" And Carlos Hernandez told her, "it's Wanda Lopez."

**JL:** How many times did Carlos Hernandez, that you heard, talk about going over to see or talk to or visit with Wanda Lopez?

08:24:37

**BT:** OK. Let me see, it was, that one time, when she passed by, that onetime when I first found out who she was, who Wanda Lopez was. And if I'm not mistaken, what I can remember back then, it was at least three or four times more that I heard Carlos Hernandez talking about her.

**JL:** Did you get the impression that he was sweet on her in

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any way?

**BT:** I would say he had a crush on her, that he wanted to, to date her. Because of the way he would talk about Wanda, because of the way Carlos Hernandez would talk about Wanda.

08:25:14

**JL:** Was there another occasion then, I think you've already described it to us partially, when Javier and Carlos were discussing what Carlos might have done to Wanda Lopez?

08:25:32

**BT:** When I heard about what happened to Wanda Lopez, back then, I had learned to put two and two together. And when I heard, when Carlos Hernandez, when me and Pricilla were sitting outside, when Carlos Hernandez said that he had hurt, Carlos Hernandez had hurt Wanda Lopez, that's when I put two and two together, when I started hearing about the news about Wanda Lopez. And I was scared, because of what I had started to put two and two together, [starts crying] and what Carlos Hernandez had did to Miss Lopez. I heard that, the day that me and Pricilla were sitting outside, that he had told Javier, that Carlos Hernandez had told Javier that he had hurt Wanda, and I looked at Pricilla, and I remember that Pricilla just told me [shakes head and shrugs], you know, she just like, "don't," [puts fingers to lips,] she just

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went like this [puts finger to her lips]and told me [to say] nothing. And I kind of looked at Pricilla, and Pricilla look at Javier and Carlos Hernandez, and they just looked and they were drinking when he had said that he had said that he had hurt Wanda.

08:27:06

**JL:** When this happened, would you tell me, were they talking to you? Were they talking to each other? Did they want you to hear? How was that...?

**BT:** They were talking to each other. They were talking to each other, and it was loud enough to where me and Pricilla heard them, heard Carlos Hernandez and Javier. When he said it, when Carlos Hernandez said it, he was like happy about it. He didn't care if anybody heard him, heard him say it. You know? He was like, Carlos Hernandez was like, I'm not hiding anything. That's what I felt back then, because he said it loud enough to where me and Pricilla heard it.

**JL:** How well did you know Carlos Hernandez? How often did you see him?

08:28:35

**BT:** I saw Carlos Hernandez a lot, because he was dating my sister, Mary Margaret Tapia. Mary Margaret, Margie, as we call her now, Margie, would go over to his house a lot. And

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they were dating each other. And I would go with my sister Margie, over there, to Carlos Hernandez's house.

**JL:** You mentioned Margie's nickname. What's your nickname?

**BT:** Pinky. Everybody knew me as Pinky.

08:29:09

**JL:** Did you see Carlos Hernandez when he had been drinking?

**BT:** I've seen him several times when he was drinking.

**JL:** And I assume you've seen him when he wasn't drinking.

08:29:18

**BT:** Yes I did.

**JL:** Was there a difference? Can you describe Carlos Hernandez when he was drinking and when he was not drinking?

08:29:23

**BT:** When he wasn't drinking, when he was not drinking... He was, Carlos Hernandez was... He was nice. He was nice. He talked to you right. Carlos Hernandez would talk to you right. He would treat you like a nice person. When me and Pricilla wanted money to go get an ice-cream or something, Carlos Hernandez would give us money to go get our candy or ice-cream or whatever we needed to get. He was a very polite person when he was, when Carlos Hernandez was sober. You know, he cared about his family. He cared about Pricilla Hernandez. He cared about his mom, Fidela. He was a real

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good person when he sober. But when he was, when Carlos Hernandez was drunk, well, that was a different side of Carlos Hernandez that I saw. He was, Carlos Hernandez was very aggressive. He was constantly, Carlos Hernandez was constantly mad at the world. He would, Carlos Hernandez would argue with my sister Margie. He would argue with his mom, Fidela. He would, you know, argue, he would get mad with Pricilla, Carlos Hernandez would get mad at Pricilla and send her outside the house. You know, Carlos Hernandez wouldn't let Pricilla come out and play with us. You know, he was a whole different person when he was drinking. He was angry. He was totally a different person, that you wouldn't even think that Carlos Hernandez would be nice when he would sober up.

08:31:12

**JL:** When you... If you would describe seeing Carlos Hernandez and what your emotion was when he was drunk.

08:31:20

**BT:** When I saw Carlos Hernandez drunk, my emotions were, "don't be around him." I wouldn't want to be around Carlos Hernandez, or I wouldn't want to go see Pricilla, because I was scared that he would tell me, that Carlos Hernandez would get mad at me for going to see Pricilla, or that he would get mad at my sister, thinking that my sister

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would send me over there to find out what Carlos Hernandez was doing.

08:31:55

**JL:** How did Carlos Hernandez get along with Javier? Did they fight?

**BT:** As I can remember, Carlos Hernandez and Javier at times they would fight with each other. Carlos Hernandez and Javier would fight with each other. Or they would just argue with each other. But when they were sober, they were brothers. Like, no other person in the world meant to them.

08:32:23

**JL:** I'm going to hand you something that I've marked on the back, just so we know what it is. It says BT, for Beatrice Tapia, 12/9/04 number three. And, if you just, it's actually [hands Beatrice Tapia a photograph] a set of photographs there that are all pasted together in one. Do you recognize those photos?

**BT:** Yeah, that's Carlos Hernandez and Javier Hernandez.

08:32:45

**JL:** OK, if you'd just hold it up so the camera can see it and just say you it is again.

08:32:51

**BT:** [holding up images and pointing] That's Carlos Hernandez

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on my right side. And that's Javier Hernandez on my left side.

**JL:** Did Carlos Hernandez, did you ever see him with a weapon? With any kind of... Not necessarily using a weapon, but just with a weapon?

08:33:11

**BT:** You know, just for a moment, seeing them like this. Like, seeing Carlos Hernandez and Javier like this, it reminded me of how Carlos and Javier used to be when they were sober. And, yes, Carlos Hernandez did carry a knife with him. He carried a knife with him.

**JL:** Let's start again with that one. Did you ever see Carlos Hernandez carry a weapon?

**BT:** Yes, I did.

08:33:45

**JL:** Tell me about that. What was it?

**BT:** It was a knife, longer than the four fingers, like a dagger. Or, it was smaller than a dagger, that he would carry on his belt in a casing.

**JL:** Did it open, or did it?

**BT:** I don't remember if it was open or if it's closed, but I know he used to carry it in a case on his belt.

**JL:** Did you ever see Carlos with any other kind of weapon?

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**BT:** I cannot recall. There's something in my mind that's telling me that I saw, one time, [pressing fingers to temples as though thinking quite hard] when we were inside, Mrs. Hernandez, Fidela's house, that my sister, Margie and me and Pricilla went in the house after playing, well, me and Pricilla after playing, that him and Margie, that Carlos Hernandez and Margie, my sister, were sitting on the bed, and I don't recall, but I saw something that would look like a gun, but I couldn't see all of it. I saw, just like, the barrel. Not the barrel, the back of it, because I remember, Carlos Hernandez was sitting on the bed, and my sister Margie was sitting, not close to him, but a little bit to where the gun was sitting. To me it looked like that back part of a gun. To where it was sitting between them. I couldn't see the whole thing, it just looked like a barrel, the back of a gun. And, I, I, to me I would say it was a gun. But, other than that I couldn't see the rest of it.

08:35:51

**JL:** Would you just say one more time what you heard them say?

08:36:34

**BT:** Well me, Beatrice, and me, Pricilla were sitting there on the steps and Carlos Hernandez and Javier were sitting on the porch. They were drinking. And I heard, I heard, where Carlos

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Hernandez had mentioned to Javier Hernandez that he had hurt Wanda Lopez, and I got scared.

**JL:** Do you remember what Javier said?

**BT:** I don't exactly remember what Javier said, I just know that when I turned around and I looked towards the porch towards where Carlos and Javier were sitting at, Javier just like looked at him, and just went like this [shakes head], shaked his head, like a no position, to Carlos Hernandez. I couldn't hear what Javier responded to him, I just saw that he moved his head back and forth.

**JL:** Carlos Hernandez said something in your presence that you overheard. Do you know if other people overheard similar things?

08:37:55

**BT:** I don't remember if anybody else heard anything, but there is a possibility that his mom, Fidela Hernandez, Carlos Hernandez's mom had heard it, because she had just finished walking in. She had, she was standing at the door, and she had just finished going into the house.

08:38:15

**JL:** Now, we've heard some information from your mother and sister and things like that. Was this a matter, before our project came to you all and started asking questions about

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things that had happened many, many years ago, was this all a matter of discussion in your family?

08:38:34

**BT:** No, there wasn't no discussing about it after we left from Carrizo Street. We had never heard anything about Carlos Hernandez or his family after we left.

**JL:** Did, at the time that all of this happened, did anybody come around your neighborhood, a police officer, or detective or anyone, and ask questions about Carlos Hernandez?

08:39:01

**BT:** As I can recall and I remember, no. I don't remember speaking to anybody. I don't recall my family speaking to anybody. I don't recall nothing like that happening.

**JL:** As you sit here now and reflect back on those times and what you had heard, what are your thoughts about how things might have been changed or different if somebody had come by and asked?

08:39:39

**BT:** I would think that if somebody would have come by and started asking questions about Carlos Hernandez or Javier, I would think that they would have arrested him and taken him to jail for what I overheard what he did to Miss Wanda. And it should have been done back then. They should have asked

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questions, the police officers or whoever it was, should have came by and started asking questions about that, about Carlos Hernandez and Miss Wanda Lopez. Now that I think of it, they should have had gone and arrested Mr. Hernandez.

**JL:** But that never happened?

**BT:** It never happened.

08:40:29

**JL:** Do you know how Carlos treated his brother, Efrain, or Frankie?

08:40:54

**BT:** Efrain? I don't remember too much about it, but I do remember that there was times that they would get into arguments. Carlos Hernandez would be mad with Efrain. I remember one occasion, me and Pricilla were riding our bikes outside, and I heard, we heard somebody arguing, and it was Carlos Hernandez with his brother Efrain. And we just heard all this argument. And I just told Pricilla, "What happened?" And Pricilla didn't know nothing about it, but we did hear, overhear that they were arguing.

08:41:50

**JL:** Do you know or, have you heard talk about how Carlos Hernandez treated Pricilla, in ways...?

08:42:03

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**BT:** Carlos Hernandez used to treat Pricilla, when he was sober, he would treat her real good, and whatever Pricilla wanted he would give it to her. You know, like, Carlos Hernandez would give her money to buy ice-cream, other things. But when he was drunk, when Carlos Hernandez was drunk, he didn't treat Pricilla that good. He would, Carlos Hernandez would get mad at her, at Pricilla, to yell at her, and put her, you know, send her inside. Or he would hit her, you know, and send her inside.

**JL:** Did you ever hear that Carlos had mistreated Pricilla in any way?

08:42:49

**BT:** I don't remember hearing anything about that. The only thing I do recall is that there was times when Pricilla was scared to go home, and there were times when Pricilla didn't want to spend the night there. She would constantly, Pricilla would constantly ask me if she could spend the night at our house.

08:43:09

**JL:** You've mentioned that you'd sit out in the streets or the front porch or the yards and things and see the comings and goings of different people, maybe of them older than you. At those times, did you ever encounter a person by the name of

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Carlos DeLuna, back then on Carrizo Street.

08:43:58

**BT:** I remember seeing Carlos DeLuna. I'd heard about him, about Carlos DeLuna. And I'd seen him a couple of times, Carlos DeLuna. And I'd seen him talking to Carlos Hernandez, a couple of times.

**JL:** Where was that? Where you living when that happened?

**BT:** We were living there on Carrizo Street.

08:48:02

**JL:** ...show you some additional photographs here. Let's see if you recognize anybody. I've marked one here, BT number four, and if you look at that, and then maybe show it to the camera a little bit so that everybody can see what you are talking about.

08:48:17

**BT:** [holding up image and pointing] This is Carlos Hernandez. This is my sister Margie Tapia. And this is Efrain.

**JL:** OK.

**BT:** I remember.

08:48:30

**Camera Man:** Can you hold that up still the way you had it.

**BT:** [pointing again, image in close up] Carlos Hernandez, my sister Margie, and Efrain. And if I'm not mistaken my sister

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was pregnant at that time. Margie. She was pregnant at that time.

08:48:52

**JL:** And there are some photographs on what I'm marked BT, Beatrice Tapia number five, also December 9. There's one picture that's distorted, I don't want you to pay any attention to that, there's nothing really there to see. But there are two other pictures. Let's see if you recognize the folks in those pictures.

08:49:12

**BT:** OK. [holding image up and pointing] This black lady was a lady that Carlos Hernandez was dating. I don't remember her name. This was Javier, his brother, and this lady looks very familiar. I can't recall her name. I... Bruce showed it to me one time, and, I don't remember her name, but she used to hang around the neighborhood too.

**JL:** Do you recognize anybody else?

08:49:46

**BT:** This girl. I don't remember. Her name was Dora or Diana, or something with a D.

**JL:** OK. Thanks. Um, I'm going to show you another picture, if you would look at that picture and see if you recognize that person there.

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08:50:08

**BT:** This is Wanda Lopez. [pause] This is Wanda.

**JL:** What do you think when you see that picture?

**BT:** She was very pretty. She was very pretty, she was a very outgoing person, and my heart goes out to her and her family, because she was beautiful.

08:50:35

**JL:** The picture I just showed you of Wanda has got number one on the... I'm sorry, it's... I'll give you the number, this is BT, 12/9/04, and the number is number seven. OK. I'm going to show you another picture and if you could take a look at that and tell me tell me if you recognize anything there, and what...

08:51:08

**BT:** I can recognize the knife that Carlos Hernandez used to carry with him. And he used to carry it in a case on his belt.

**JL:** Have you ever seen that picture before?

**BT:** No.

08:51:40

**JL:** OK. I'm going to show you another picture. This one has been marked BT number one, and if you take a look at that, hold it up so the camera can see it.

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**BT:** [holds up paper] this is Carlos DeLuna. This is Carlos DeLuna.

08:52:02

**JL:** And then if you would open that up, the whole thing.

**BT:** [unfolds paper and points] That's Carlos Hernandez.

**JL:** OK.

**BT:** I can't... [sighs]

08:52:35

**JL:** What are you thinking when you see that picture?

**BT:** What I'm thinking is that I'm glad my sister Margie got away from him. Because he would have—Carlos Hernandez [starts crying] would have hurt my sister too, and I'm glad she got away from him.

08:53:01

**JL:** Do you know how come Pricilla lived over there on Carrizo Street with her grandmother?

**BT:** I don't remember why she was living with her grandmother. I just know that her grandmother raised her.

08:53:18

**JL:** How did her grandmother treat her? How did Fidela treat Pricilla?

**BT:** Fidela treated Pricilla real good. Pricilla had everything she needed with her grandmother, with Fidela. She

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had a home. She had everything that she needed, and Fidela used to treat her real good. [still teary]

08:53:45

**JL:** When were you born?

**BT:** I was born December the ninth, 1956.

**JL:** So, it's your birthday today? [still wiping away tears]

**BT:** Yeah, today is my birthday.

08:53:59

**JL:** [inaudible] relive all these memories. Do you remember about how old you were when you overheard the conversation between Carlos and Javier on the porch about how Wanda Lopez had been hurt?

**BT:** I was about... God. [pause] I was about fifteen, sixteen years old.

**JL:** And how old was Pricilla at that time?

**BT:** She was about fourteen. Thirteen or fourteen years old, because I was older than her.

08:54:41

**JL:** As you think back on the whole events of those years, and what, what you overheard, and you know of course that Carlos DeLuna that you identified in that picture was executed fifteen years ago. What do you think? What you feel? What are your thoughts about how all of this turned out?

*December 9, 2004*

*Beatrice Tapia Interview Transcript*

08:55:30

**BT:** My thoughts is that Carlos DeLuna should have never been executed for something Carlos Hernandez did. And it's totally wrong to have had executed the wrong person. They should have come out and looked for more evidence against Carlos Hernandez instead of putting Carlos DeLuna executed. And I'm so glad that we, that my family, and especially my sister Margie, got away from Carlos Hernandez.

08:56:18

**JL:** Do you have any thoughts about Carlos DeLuna's family?

**BT:** My heart goes out to them because if the police and the prosecutors and the whole judicial, should have found out the real truth about it. And they could have saved Carlos DeLuna. And my heart goes out to his family because he was never the person, he was the wrong person they executed for what Carlos Hernandez did. And I wish that, you know, if there was a way to turn back the time back then, Carlos DeLuna would still be with us and his family.