

**[Material that is irrelevant to Los Tocayos Carlos and contains sensitive personal information about one or more persons has been removed.]**

**To: DeLuna Investigation Team**  
**From: Susan Montez**  
**Re: Meeting with Mary Conejo Arredondo**  
**Date: July 26, 2004**

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**Mary Conejo Arredondo**  
**[Material removed]**

I met with Mary Arredondo in her home **[material removed]** [in] Cedar Park, TX, on July 22, 2004. Mary was Carlos's second oldest sister, and the fourth child born to Margarita and Francisco Conejo. These are my impressions.

Mary lives in a neighborhood of two-story, newer houses. The streets are clean and the houses and yards are well-kept. There were no trees, which gave the neighborhood an appearance of open space and bareness.

Mary is short and small. She has the same intense dark eyes and hair and classic Indian nose as her older sister Toni. She is a friendly, gentle person whom I feel was probably the peacemaker in the family, who tried to help people get along in difficult circumstances. She has three sons. Max, the older, is divorced and has a daughter. They both live with Mary. Michael is married and has a son and a daughter. Robert is single and is in the process of moving from Dallas to Houston.

Mary worked for many years at Texas Instruments. A few years ago, there were massive layoffs. Mary lost her job and went to work for Coca Cola, in the equipment service department, where she is presently employed. Mary's husband, Robert Arredondo, was killed in an automobile crash in Corpus Christi in 1976, when her boys were little. She never remarried.

Mary remembered Joe DeLuna as “nice, okay.” He worked in a scrap metal yard in Corpus Christi, and he would haul scrap metal to Mexico and sell it. Carlos resembled Joe DeLuna. In addition to the three children he had with Margarita (Manuel, Carlos and Rose), Joe fathered three sons with someone else. Mary said the children were brought together at times, but the three boys lived with their grandmother, Joe’s mother, who raised them. Joe’s mother did not care for Margarita or any of her children. Mary remembered Margarita and Joe constantly fighting. When Margarita was mad at him, she wouldn’t cook for him. Mary would make him a sandwich because she felt bad for him. Joe left them when Rose was about nine months old; or possibly when Margarita was still pregnant with Rose. Rose was named Rose for Joe’s mother and Mary for Margarita.

Mary said that she, Vicky and Becky took care of Manuel, Carlos and Rose when they were little. Sometimes they would have to stay home from school to do so. The school got after Margarita for this, but she just ignored them. One day, Mary was called into the office and asked why she had so many absences. She explained that her mother needed money and had to work outside the house. Someone had to take care of the littlest children. After that, the school gave Mary a job in the school cafeteria, and also found babysitting jobs for her, so that she could contribute to the family income. Eventually, Vicky quit school, stayed home and took care of the kids. Becky got pregnant and left home. Margarita’s attitude was, “Hey, I didn’t tell you to get pregnant.” However, Mary said that Margarita didn’t kick Becky out, as Rose had told me. Becky left on her own. Robert’s social security, which Mary’s three boys received after Robert was killed in 1976.

Mary remembered when she, Vicky and Becky were dating. They couldn’t leave the little

kids alone, so each sister would pick one child and take them on her date. She laughed about this and said it wasn't that bad. She often picked Carlos. Mary remembered Carlos as a good boy that was kind and gentle and loving. He was not sick very much. Mary did not remember anything about Carlos's performance in school. She said that no report cards or records were kept by Margarita.

Mary graduated from high school and got married in 1967. She and her husband went to live in Michigan, where her three boys were born. Once, Mary went back to Corpus Christi to visit Margarita, who told her, "Good, you're gonna stay here now." Mary told her no, that she was going back to Michigan because that was her home. But Robert's sister told him about job opportunities at Buick in Corpus Christi, and everyone came back to Corpus Christi to live.

After Hurricane Celia [August 3, 1970], Mary wanted out of Corpus Christi. The family moved to Garland, Texas, where her husband got a job at the Kraft Foods plant.

Mary knew that Carlos and Manuel were starting to get into trouble as young teenagers. They took Toni's truck without permission, but luckily nothing bad happened. Mary wanted Carlos to live with her so he could stay out of trouble. He lived with her for a time and worked at the Whattaburger in Dallas. But it didn't last long, and Carlos eventually drifted back to Corpus. Mary heard from Toni that Carlos was living in abandoned houses. He was in and out of juvie and also went to some kind of boot camp. Margarita went to visit him there and took Mary's son Max, who was her favorite grandchild. Mary said Margarita would tell Max, "You're my favorite." Mary told her not to do that, because it wasn't right. She had other grandchildren. Mary said Margarita loved her boys and took them everywhere with her. **[Material removed]**

No one could believe it when Carlos was arrested for murder. When the trial began, Margarita went into the hospital. She had surgery, and there were lots of complications. Mary

was with her every morning, then went to the trial, then went back to the hospital. Mary's three boys had been receiving Robert's social security since he was killed in 1976, and they lived on that while the trial was going on. At the time, Toni was working at Minyard's, a market like Albertson's. When she got off work she would go to the hospital so that Mary could be with her boys. Vicky came to the hospital as well. Margarita died

The prosecutor in Carlos's trial was mean. He said very bad things about Carlos. Mary remembered that period of time as a complete nightmare. Margarita died knowing that Carlos had been condemned to death.

Mary visited Carlos on the day he was executed. He asked her to stay for the execution. She did not go because the others (Rose, Brad, Vicky, Danny and his wife Mary, and Carlos's lawyer Mike Weaver) all talked her out of it. They told her she would not want her last memory to be of watching him die. To this day, however, she feels bad that she didn't stay, because Carlos had asked her to.

It was after 8 p.m. and I thought I should go. Mary said she would look for family photographs and let me know if she had any.