

> MEMO TO THE FILE

DELUNA

THIS IS NOT AN INTERVIEW SUMMARY BUT ONLY A TYPESCRIPT OF RBW'S NOTES

Interview of
09/21/2004

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

Yolanda Ortiz
[material removed]

Yolanda and her husband Dario Oritz leased the building and ran the Club Casino from 1973-1984. The club was opened Wed-Sun 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. and in the last 3-4 years stayed opened until 4:00 a.m. on Sat and Sun mornings. The Club eventually closed because business fell off and it became unprofitable.

In its day the Club was a very popular meeting, drinking, dancing place for younger Hispanic's. Many people walked to the Club, there were few cars in the parking lot compared to the number on people inside. The dance floor was large with a big projector screen on the wall next to it where pictures of patrons were shown while they were dancing. Everyone wanted their picture on the screen so there are lots of slide pictures of everyone during the time Ortiz's ran the club. There was always crowd of regulars who where at the club everyday. Ricky Hernandez helped at the club with cleanup. Off duty CCPD policeman were paid \$10.00 an hour from 10:00 p.m. to closing to provide security. Two of the cops who worked off duty at the club were fired from the police department for dealing drugs. [material removed] In the 80's officer Carlos Cavazos worked security. Cavazos became an Ortiz family friend and worked his way up to assistant chief at CCPD. In the late 90's Cavazos was passed up for a promotion to chief. Because of this Cavazos retired from the department, sued the city and won. Cavazos is now in charge of security for the CC School District. Cavazos can provide information on CCPD police corruption.

The Club was a rough place. Many men carried knives and the employees and the police frequently took them away. Stabbings were common an occurred almost weekly. One time a girl was stabbed or shot in the parking lot and she died. Another time Yolanda noticed a patron, [material removed], had a small spot of blood on his shirt she asked him if he had been in a fight? [The patron] said, "what?" He fell to the floor and died on the spot. The [material removed] were suspects in the murder. A bouncer (?name) at the Club was shot in the leg by a patron in the 80's. Two or three times Yolanda took butcher knives away from patrons.

Yolanda looked at our pictures of Deluna, Hernandez and others. She recognized the following: Carlos Deluna "hung" out at the club with Beto Vela, they were always together. Carlos Deluna always drank beer and Beto Vela drank one Coke a night but never drank beer. Beto and Carlos Deluna were "regulars". Beto Vela was a dancer and ladies man. Beto had many wives and kids from many women. Paula Hernandez was one of Beto's girlfriends who was frequently at the Club with Beto in the 80's. Jessie Garza was a

regular at the Club. "He was a little guy who thought he was bad". Linda and Mary Perales frequented the Club. Linda was married to Beto at one time. Beto had a son named Herbert. Carlos Deluna got into fights, (no knives), at the Club a few times and was asked to leave. Pete Olivarez was a regular. Sometimes Yolanda gave Pete a ride home he lived near Airline. I ran through the players list with Yolanda but without pictures she wasn't able recognize many names. She assured me that Carlos Cavazos would. I concluded my visit with Yolanda. Yolanda will sort the Casino Club slides by year so they will be available at our next visit.

R. Bruce Whitman
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