

DeLUNA

**NOT A SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW, BUT ONLY A TYPESCRIPT OF JSL'S
ROUGH NOTES**

**Interview of Rose Rhoton
07/11/2004**

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

Interview took place at 5:30 p.m. at the McDonald's on Beltway South West Road. 2 hours. Many tears.

All of my family members say he's guilty. I don't believe them.

Question her sibs always ask: But why did he have his shirt off.

Our answer: Probation.

Peso – No physical evidence.

No one else in family visited CDL. At the time of trial, my mom was in hospital, dying. Best thing for her, passing away.

Austin sister: Mary Arendando went to the trial everyday and reported that it was all circumstantial evidence. She and I were the only ones.

Carlos had been in and out of juvenile since I remember; stopping school. Normal thing with him was visiting him in jail. But I was shocked hearing about this; he could never do this. He told me so many times in prison, didn't do it.

She hired attorneys. They believed he committed it. They said there was no evidence to reopen case; in so many words, they believed he was innocent

Rose was 1 year younger than Carlos. Carlos was always shy. Didn't have many friends. Hanging around with bad kids. He left school before 8th or 9th grade. Lived in abandoned house, lived with Ida Sosa. Heard he did drugs, smoked pot. I never saw him do that. Saw him drink, but not the rest.

Kind person. Kind to my mother. He worked. If he had something, he'd offer it to you, to eat, drink. Unlike my other brother, Manuel.

Kind. Never initiated a fight. Afraid of little dogs. Afraid of everything. Afraid of so many things. Recall him afraid of kids. Nothing hateful. Other sisters may remember: drugs, stealing – they said. He lived with us for a while. Not for long.

My mom was old. 9 kids. Her husband – no encouragement to Rose to better her life. Not her fault. Do better with life – her mother never said that.

[Dad? Unclear from notes.] Vincent. No marriage. Rose never knew him. He left her [Mom?] when pregnant with Rose. Mom=Maria, Martine, Margerite – she married Blas Avalos.

He said in prison that this was his destiny. God wants it.

Manuel fought with other guys. Got Carlos in trouble. Carlos would follow and take the blame. Manuel was initiator.

Mother, MMM married to 1st man – Rose doesn't know name. Their children:

1. Vincent Conejo – doesn't know him.
2. Danny Conejo, Garland
3. Toni Peña – close to Vincent, Corpus.
4. Mary Arendando – Austin
5. Vicki Gutierrez, Garland
6. Becky Gutierrez, Garland

Then next man came along, and had three kids with her. He left when mom was pregnant with Rose. Kids never knew him:

7. Manuel, b. 1961
8. Carlos, b. 1962
9. Rose, b. 1963

Manuel, Carlos and Rose were all little kids when Mom married Blas Avalos. When the three of them were born, all the others were out of the house except Marie, Vickie and Becky. Those 3 took care of us and the others moved away.

Rose was closer to Carlos. Manuel was the dominating one. He would start, initiate a plan, we would follow. Manuel walked away, we got in trouble.

Got close to Maria when Rose's daughter – 13 years ago. Ever since this happened with Carlos --- since the execution, I think.

When CDL convicted, no one wanted to have anything to do. Never write - He told her that. Never saw initiative to go visit. It costs me to say they don't care – why hang around. Only when he was executed, did that draw people to him.

Manuel only married once that she knows about. [but see her later statements to Peso, in which she identified other women.]

Wouldn't have been shocked if it had been Manuel who did the crime but was shocked it was CDL.

Peso tells her about Manuel saying to someone that CH did it – She never heard this.

Hardest thing that broke Carlos' life is that Manuel never came to visit.

Manuel has phone #. He calls once a year on Christmas. Last time. Got this number from Toni. [material removed] Woman's voice, answering machine.

Toni Peña:

- Not close with Rose.
- A lot of it because of Carlos. I cut ties with all of them.
- Tried to visit them
- Quit all communication
- They don't want to be close.
- Shocked that Toni Peña didn't help us or give us pics.
- Rose invited all to daughter's wedding. Only Mary and Vickie Gutierrez came. [Maybe Becky???

Photo. Rose has a photo, color, with CDL.

Carlos never carried a knife. He never carried a gun. He dressed neat. One thing - Carlos always wore dark slacks, large long-sleeved button up, unbuttoned.

Rose has color pictures. I have a picture of him. Toni said Carlos broke into her house and stole some stuff.

Carlos never wore jeans. Never wore flannel shirts. Never wore sweatshirt. Carlos never wore tennis shoes, he wore shoes to make him taller. Always dark shoes, platform, small boot.

Manuel was conniving. It took Rose a long time to forgive him. One time Carlos broke into Toni's house and stole something. Brother-in-Law told Manuel to get him so I can kick his ass. Dumb Carlos, always trusting people, followed Manuel. The two jumped him and beat him. Ever since that...I haven't forgiven Toni for that...Back of mind. Older man beat a kid. Carlos was 14 or 15.

Toni didn't talk to you [Peso] because of guilt.

Mary went to trial every day and would talk to us. She saw the whole thing.

Danny Conejos went to visit on day of execution, but why not before. Older couple were there; against death row. Carlos wrote them a lot.

I had a girlfriend who visited CDL a lot. Close, in love with Carlos. **Rosie Esquivel**, Garland, TX.

Letter to Rose rec'd after the execution: Carlos apologized. Knowing how hard it had been for her. [This is letter to which news article refers.] When we moved, the letter was stored at Mary's house. It got wet and was destroyed. All his lawyer's stuff was

destroyed. She was caretaker of his possessions. All destroyed. Buried in Corpus Christi
– Ask Toni.

My brother smoked Marlboros.

3 of us went to Sanders Elementary. Tom Brown Jr. High. In area where Ray High is located. 1-6, 7-9, 10-12. But after jr. high, she moved to Garland.

4 years ago she and family went to Corpus. Stopped at Toni's. Toni said Manuel was dating Angela, who owns a shop in Corpus. Antique furniture and 2d hand stuff.

Carlos came and lived with us (her husband) in Dallas in early 80s. He would come home late. Go off with friends, not destructive. Before that he lived with Manuel, until M kicked him out. Carlos borrowed Manuel's truck, got drunk and totaled it. M kicked him out.

[We didn't ask about CDL's attempted rape in Dallas].

Ida Sosa: She heard of her. Runaway. CDL and Ida lived together in an abandoned house. Rumors of sniffing paint.

Erma? Never heard of him being married. Shocked.

Mom died in August 1983 on her birthday. Took death sentence hard.

Toni has picture of Carlos. Never saw Carlos in jeans and sweatshirt.

Send William over to get pics.