

Bruce Whitman and JSL interview of Nueces County **Sheriffs Captain Paul Rivera** and also **Sheriffs Sgt. (IAD) Elmer Cox**, 8/25/04.

Notes, not summary.

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

On his walls, Rivera has several Selena posters and memorabilia from his work in the case, including news articles. Also has pics of him on motorcycle and police academy instructor certificate.

Paul Rivera's assistant is named **Gary**.

First thing, Rivera says we need to speak to **Sgt. Elmer Cox**, Sheriffs Dep't IAD. Rivera spoke to Cox, who told Rivera he was driving Carlos DeLuna (CDL) from prison to Corpus one day and Cox said CDL confessed to him. Confessed to another deputy (Petrusaitis) and him: he admitted he stabbed her. Only once; didn't know why she died from only one stab wound.

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A bit later **Elmer Cox** came in and said:

Years ago.

David Petrusaidis and I. (DP became the sheriff in Rockport later)

Early 1980s.

Drive over.

Not investigation; I was just curious.

CDL: "I been stabbed 100 times and I only stabbed that bitch 1 time and she died."

Bench warrant from Huntsville death row to Corpus; maybe for sentencing; early 1980s.

We asked him how he knew Hernandez. He knew Hernandez from prison. He said Hernandez was an "acquaintance."

I asked how his shirt came off. He answered, tree snagged it.

I asked how he got cuts. He answered, from the pavement under truck.

I asked him how he had \$ in his pocket. He didn't have an answer to that.

CDL said he saw Hernandez coming out of the store and he sees him running away.

I asked him, why did he run. He answered because on parole.

Q. How did he know Hernandez. A. Prison

Q. Why no shirt? A. Tree snagged it.

Q. Why cut? A. Asphalt.

Q. Why had money. No answer. That's when I new he was guilty.

Then, he let's slip the thing about "that bitch." I said to David (Petrusaitis), Did we just hear a confession?"

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Paul Rivera's brother **Ruben Rivera** (who was constable who was first on scene to arrest

DeLuna) used to work for p.d., quit in '77 to open restaurant; it failed. So he joined constables office. County has various regions, each with various constables and deputies. Not experienced. Bunch of wannabe cops; rubbernecker; get to scene and don't know what to do. [material removed]

**Joel Infante** was the I.D. tech on the DeLuna case. [material removed] PR thinks he was fair.

*Carlos Hernandez, he was a mean motherfucker!*

Who we should talk to about getting prints: CCPD Rocky Vipond, in homicide. Commander Mike Walsh. John Hornsby in I.D. Bruce has been talking to Robert DeLaGarza, burglary detective. Knows Abbey Cisneros.

Bruce asks: At DeLuna scene: why no prints; the money tray was out of the till and on the floor, why no prints?

Rivera response: I.D. Division was very inefficient at the time; now is better.

Tells story about having to take notes at autopsies in old days.

Time spent looking for "Ortiz" on computer, then PR asks someone to bring us a printout.

He gives us DOBs for people we're looking for:

Sandra Sierra, [material removed]

Grace Alegria Longoria, [material removed]

Debora Charles [material removed], picked up in 1987; lived then at [material removed]

Hasn't seen Mario Martinez for a long time.

Doesn't know whether Carlos H was snitching.

Only contact he had with CDL was taking him from City to County jail in 1983.

Where is Olivia Escobedo, the lead investigator on the case? Last time he heard, she was in Austin, working for courts or A.G. Eubie Alvarado in PD would know how to find her.

Some geography: [material removed] was off of Port street; CDL lived at [material removed], near the golf course.

Addresses for Carlos Hernandez: [material removed], Hancock, Carizo but nothing on David.

*Jon Kelly mad a big stink, which is why they released Hernandez in 1986.*