

**DeLuna Tape #011**

*DeLuna Tape #011 01:57:32*

*(shot of Ruben Rivera, outdoors, on a mobility scooter)*

**JSL:** Mr. Rivera,

**Ruben Rivera:** Yes, sir.

**JSL:** Would you just tell me for the record here, your name, where you were born and raised, and where you live now?

*DeLuna Tape #011 01:57:39*

**RR:** Ok, I live here now, and I was born in Robstown, Texas, about 20 miles due south of here in 1942. I was born from Mr. Candalario Rivera and Mrs. Anita Longoria in 1942. My father was a businessman in Robstown, and we all moved to Corpus Christi, the last time we moved to Corpus Christi was in 1949.

*DeLuna Tape #011 01:58:14*

**JSL:** Ok, and tell me, where are we sitting right now, where are we right now?

*DeLuna Tape #011 01:58:14*

**RR:** We are about 4 miles due South of Orange Grove, Texas.

*DeLuna Tape #011 01:58:25*

**JSL:** And where are me, what is this, where are we in relation to you?

*DeLuna Tape #011 01:58:30*

**RR:** Well, the community is called Yucca acres, or Yucca acres

subdivision.

*DeLuna Tape #011 01:58:29*

**JSL:** Is this your home right here, where we are?

*DeLuna Tape #011 01:58:41*

**RR:** Yes, this is my home, this is where I live.

*DeLuna Tape #011 01:58:45*

**JSL:** Ok, and would you describe for us your career, starting with the military and then talk about your career in law enforcement, if you would.

*DeLuna Tape #011 01:58:57*

**RR:** All right. I joined the U.S. Army in 1960. I left high school from Corpus Christi and I went in the service in 1960, December of 1960. And I left the service in December of 1966. And I worked for the Army Depot in Corpus Christi, it's a helicopter facility, helicopter repair and overhaul facility. I worked there about two, two-and-a-half years as an aircraft electrician. The army sent me to school to learn electrical theory, and then I wound up an aircraft electrician journeyman. And then I left there . . . about 3 years later, I left the Army base and I became a Texaco dealer with the Texaco Incorporated. And I had a Texaco service station in Corpus Christi for about 3 years. And from there I became a Corpus Christi police department jailer, or correctional officer, for about a year and a half.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:00:18*

**RR:** And then I decided to go to the police academy, and I went to the police academy and I became a police officer in 1974, January of 1974. And then I left the police department in 1977, in March of 1977. And I became a private contractor, building contractor, for about 6 years, and then after that I just . . . I went back to law enforcement, I guess, to being a peace officer. And I became a court bailiff in district court first, and then I became a bailiff in county court. County court, law number 1 and then county court, law number 2. Correction, number 4. And I was also . . . one year I was a correctional officer with the Sheriff's office. But most recently I was a bailiff for county court, law number 4, Judge Klager. And then I had the stroke, and I had to retire.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:01:39*

**JSL:** And you had your stroke in about 2001?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:01:41*

**RR:** In 2001 I had a stroke.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:01*

**JSL:** Was there a period when you served as a constable for either the city of Corpus or the county of Nueces?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:01:55*

**RR:** For the county of Nueces, it was a constable's office,

precinct number 1, under Johnny Alaniz, a former police officer, then was a constable.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:02:10*

**JSL:** And what did you do when you were a constable?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:02:12*

**RR:** Well, I was distributing legal paperwork, that was basically my job, was to deliver legal documents.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:02:25*

**JSL:** Let me ask you this, do you remember an occasion in February of 1983 when you and your partner, Carolyn Vargas, were working your job as constables, and you heard a radio call come out from the police department that you were monitoring, that indicated that there was a robbery in progress over on S.P.I.D., South Padre Island Drive, at a Diamond Shamrock station. Do you remember that?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:02:56*

**RR:** Yes, sir, I do.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:02:58*

**JSL:** Ok, what I'd like you to do, Mr. Rivera, is to . . . Well, let me ask just one other question: was that the robbery that resulted in the homicide of Wanda Lopez?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:03:10*

**RR:** I believe that was the name of the lady that died, yes sir.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:03:12*

**JSL:** Ok, what I would like you to do is just describe the events of that evening, from the first point you remember until your part of the case was finished for that evening.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:03:28*

**RR:** Ok. We were slated to come off duty at 10 o'clock at night that night. And when we got to the office about 9:30, which was the usual time that everybody that came in, people that got off at 10, there was a late paper that had to be delivered and it fell on us. So we took the paper, and it was all the way on the other side of town, on McCardle Street, deep South. So Carolyn, my partner, and I, we got in the car, and we took the paper and delivered it to a man over on McCardle street. And then we were coming back about . . . oh, about ten 'till ten, something like that. We were coming down the freeway and I monitored a call from the police department about an armed robbery at the Diamond Shamrock, about the 2800 block of S.P.I.D.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:04:31*

**RR:** And when we heard the call we were right in front of the place mentioned, but we were on the freeway. There was no way for us to get off the freeway. So we continued on down the freeway and made the interchange to the crosstown freeway and went to the next exit, which was Galahar. We went, we got off on Galahar and made the turnaround and came right back, we came right back

to . . . excuse me *(reaches for cup)* my mouth gets so dry.

*(drinks)* Ok. We made the turnaround and came back on crosstown and we hit S.P.I.D. again and went left and the next exit was Kostoryz. We got off on Kostoryz and I knew that the Diamond Shamrock was on the other side of the freeway. And we made the turnaround and came back to the Diamond Shamrock and there was a few people out there on the driveway. And we met the ambulance on the way to the Shamrock station, and I moved out of the way so the ambulance could go first. And the ambulance went and stopped at the driveway at the Shamrock, and there was a person laying there at the driveway. And we made a brief, just a brief stop, and someone hollered "he ran that way" and pointed towards the neighborhood. So we continued going down the neighborhood, down . . . I believe it's Dodd Street that comes in out of the neighborhood. And we drove and we stopped the car at the next block and we got off on foot because there was a search for a suspect that had apparently robbed the Shamrock station at knife-point.

DeLuna Tape #011 02:06:43

**RR:** That's all the information we had. So we got off and we were looking for a Hispanic male wearing tennis shoes, a T-shirt, and blue jeans. We continued on down the neighborhood, and there was a lot of officers out there, there was Texas Parks & Wildlife, and

there was Sheriff's deputies, and there was city police, and there was highway patrolmen, there was everything out there. And we were combing the neighborhood, and we came up on . . . it was Carolyn Vargas and I, came up on a group of men, one of them hollered, "there's a man up under that truck over there." And we looked, and it was a pick-up parked down the street. It was over a puddle of water because it had rained that night. And I looked over in the direction of the truck, and there was two feet of somebody that was laying up underneath the truck. And I told Carolyn to cover for me, and she used her gun, or my gun I believe, I don't remember, but she covered with me, she covered for me with a gun while I grabbed the guy by the shoes and pulled him out of the pickup, out from under the pickup. And he stood up, and I identified him as a Tony, or Carlos, I don't remember his last name. But anyway, I went through the procedure of checking for weapons and I patted him down and I found a wad of bills in his right front pocket and I pulled it out and I showed them to him and I said, "Is this what you got from the service station?"

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:08:49*

**JSL:** Was the gentleman that you pulled out from under that truck, does the name Carlos DeLuna ring a bell?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:08:55*

**RR:** Yes, sir, that was his name, that's what he told me his name was.

DeLuna Tape #011 02:09:00

**JSL:** Ok, and when you arrived at the gas station just after the ambulance just after the ambulance had arrived there, how did you know which direction to go start your search for the suspect.

DeLuna Tape #011 02:09:18

**RR:** One of the persons that was there, I forget who it was, but he came forward and he pointed in the direction of Dodd street and he hollered, "He ran that way."

DeLuna Tape #011 02:09:30

**JSL:** Ok, and just to set the scene, you've got South Padre Island Drive which runs, if I understand it, West to East there-

DeLuna Tape #011 02:09:40

**RR:** Yes, sir.

DeLuna Tape #011 02:09:41

**JSL:** And then you've got a little street right next to the gas station that's between . . . there was an establishment there called Wolfy's, which was a strip club...

DeLuna Tape #011 02:09:49

**RR:** Right, right.

DeLuna Tape #011 02:09:50

**JSL:** And across the street was the gas station?

**RR:** Right.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:09:53*

**JSL:** And what's the name of that street that runs...

**RR:** I believe it's Dodd.

**JSL:** And Dodd street then runs North and South.

**RR:** That's right.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:10:02*

**JSL:** And so they pointed and said, somebody said, "He went that-a-way," and they pointed which direction on Dodd?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:10:08*

**RR:** North. North, because Dodd dies right there at the freeway.

It runs perpendicular from the freeway.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:10:18*

**JSL:** Ok, Mr. Rivera, what I would like you to do now is go back through the point where you were pulling up to the station behind the ambulance and describe that whole scene from that point to when you and Ms. Vargas started your search. Just what we went over, but I'd like to hear it in your words rather than broken up with my questions. So if you can imagine yourself pulling up to that station just behind that ambulance, and describe what happened after you heard where you were supposed to go start searching and where you went.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:10:48*

**RR:** Well, after that person gave us directions, in other words, said that the person, apparently the perpetrator, he would refer to the perpetrator, that had gone north on Dodd, I took the car, I was driving, I took the car, I drove the car slowly down Dodd street and we started giving it a visual search. And when we got to the next street which was Nemec, we stopped the car right there in Nemec and we got off and we started walking and making a sweep through the neighborhood.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:11:34*

**JSL:** Ok, let me ask you another question here. And that is, in your testimony in this case, you stated that you were, as you were doing this search, you were monitoring your radio?

**RR:** Yes, sir.

**JSL:** You were monitoring your radio, and as you pointed out a minute ago, there were many, many law-enforcement officers and patrol cars from different agencies in that neighborhood. Is that correct?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:12:05*

**RR:** That's right.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:12:18*

**JSL:** And you were hearing people calling in, members, law-enforcement people calling in and explaining what they were doing and what they were seeing. Is that correct?

**RR:** That's right.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:12:13*

**JSL:** And you said in your testimony, and I'm going to read this, quote, "There was a report that the subject was in the nursing home area next to the ballpark," close quote, which is on McCardle Street approaching Kostoryz. Quote, "And we took part in that little search there." And then you describe going back over in the direction of the gas station where you eventually found the man under the truck.

**RR:** That's right.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:12:46*

**JSL:** Can you tell me about that? What diverted you over to that area, what drew your attention to that area over by the nursing home and how that went?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:12:57*

**RR:** Well, the reason that I was diverted over there was because I heard on the radio that he was sighted over there

**JSL:** And he...

**RR:** And I knew where the nursing home was. I was familiar with it.

**JSL:** Could you describe to me how you ended up over by the nursing home.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:13:23*

**RR:** Well, I think we got back in the patrol car, and we started driving slowly towards the nursing home, looking in both directions, you know, making a visual search of where we were going.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:13:44*

**JSL:** And why did you go towards the nursing home?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:13:45*

**RR:** Because we heard that on the radio that he was sighted in that direction. But we didn't see him over there, the suspect.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:13:56*

**JSL:** And were there other officers searching by the nursing home?

**RR:** Yes there was.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:14:00*

**JSL:** And could you describe for me where that nursing home is located?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:14:05*

**RR:** Well, it's on the North . . . it's on the South side of McCardle, right about where Johnson Street intersects with McCardle.

**JSL:** And just a little bit west of Kostoryz Street, is that correct?

**RR:** That's right. About a block west of Kostoryz, or two blocks.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:14:28*

**JSL:** And if you go a little bit further west on McCardle from Kostoryz you come to a school, ball fields, and all of that. Is that the area?

**RR:** Yes, that's an open field.

**JSL:** You remember going over to the nursing home because you had heard a call that something was happening...

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:15:37*

**RR:** Yeah, an officer had broken the frequency and said that there was a subject over in the, over in the ball park area. So that's what diverted us over there.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:15:54*

**JSL:** And do you know of a nursing home over in that area?

**RR:** Yes, sir.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:15:58*

**JSL:** Ok, and is that the nursing home where you heard the subject was potentially seen by a police officer?

**RR:** I know of the nursing home, yes.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:16:09*

**JSL:** Ok, and describe what happened when you got the call about the nursing home. What did you do at that point?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:16:20*

**RR:** Well, I went in that direction but I didn't see anything, so we really just turned back to the original place where we were.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:16:33*

**JSL:** Ok, now let me ask you this question: You mention there was some money on the individual who you pulled out from under that truck.

**RR:** Yes, sir.

**JSL:** How much money was that?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:16:45*

**RR:** I don't remember exactly, but it was a bunch of 1-dollar bills wadded up, wet because he had been laying in a rain puddle. There was a five and there was a few 1-dollar bills. But I didn't have time to count it, I just took it and I gave them to the police officer that came over.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:17:10*

**JSL:** And approximately how many were there? I'm not going to hold you to this, I just-

*DeLuna Tape #011 02::17:12*

**RR:** Well, it was approximately eight dollars, five and three, a five and three ones.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:17:20*

**JSL:** And are you sure that you saw some money that night?

**RR:** Yes, sir, it sure was, American currency.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:17:27*

**JSL:** Ok, dollar . . . paper money?

**RR:** Yes, sir.

**JSL:** And his pocket was not empty?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:17:33*

**RR:** The right front pocket only had the bills in it.

**JSL:** Ok.

**RR:** And he didn't have anything else. He had a billfold, and I took out the billfold and I gave it to the peace officer that picked him up.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:17:50*

**JSL:** And just to be clear on the money that was in the pocket, it would not have been as much as two hundred dollars, let's say.

**RR:** No, sir.

**JSL:** Not as much as a hundred dollars.

**RR:** It was not a large amount. It was something like below ten bucks.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:18:05*

**JSL:** Ok. Now tell me what happened after you pulled the gentleman out. I understand that you say you went through the procedure. I assume you handcuffed him?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:18:20*

**RR:** Well, not right away. I patted him down first, real quickly in the position that we know. You know, putting my right leg between his legs. And Carolyn Vargas was covering for me. And I

went through a pat procedure real quickly, and as soon as I was satisfied that it was clear, I took his hands around the back and I handcuffed him.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:18:46*

**JSL:** You were the gentleman who pulled him . . . You were the law enforcement officer who pulled him out from under that truck. Who got credit for that arrest?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:19:02*

**RR:** I'm not for sure. I want to say that the city police got a credit for it.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:19:10*

**JSL:** Can you tell me how that went down, how that happened?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:19:14*

**RR:** Well, I gave him . . . Officer Schauer walked up, he was involved in the search, and he asked me--we knew each other--he said, "What you got, Ruben?" And I said, "I think I have a suspect here, guy, that this may be the man." So he looked at him with his flashlight, shining his lights at him. And then he said, "Here, let me have him." And I took off my cuffs and he put his on. And then from then on, I didn't see him no more. And Schauer took care of it. So I'm thinking that maybe the city police got credit for it.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:20:00*

**JSL:** There was an individual at the scene who literally came face to face, within a couple feet, a few feet of the suspect as he was running out of the gas station, out of the gas station store and disappearing, as you say, to the North. And he looked at him in the face, and he testified that this was a face that did not have any marks on it. It did not have any bruises or cuts on it at that point. When Mr. DeLuna, who you had pulled out from under that truck, when he arrived back at the gas station where they took him, at first, and then when he arrived back at the police station a few moments later when they took his picture, he had bruises and cuts on his face. Now can you explain to me how it would be that if that was the gentleman that had committed the crime, when he came out of the store he did not have bruises and cuts on his face, but he did when he was brought back to the gas station and taken over to the police station and photographed?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:21:15*

**RR:** I don't know how that could have happened, but I didn't see no bruises and cuts on his face. When I first brought him out from under the truck, I didn't shine my light on him and the lighting situation there was not that well.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:21:30*

**JSL:** But Officer Schauer put his flashlight on him.

**RR:** He did.

**JSL:** And at that point you're clear that you saw no bruises or cuts on his face at that point?

**RR:** I don't remember seeing anything like that. If he did have any scratches they were very minor.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:21:48*

**JSL:** Thank you. Let me read you something else from your testimony. This was from the police report, actually. I want to ask you about this. You stated, quote, "Once handcuffed," -- you're referring to Mr. DeLuna -- "Once handcuffed, Officer Schauer and myself assisted the suspect to his feet and walked him to a patrol unit. During this walk, subject mumbled something not understandable. He smelled strongly of some type of alcoholic beverage and seemed unsteady while walking," close quote. Tell me about that: what kind of a condition was Mr. DeLuna in when you were in contact with him?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:22:33*

**RR:** He has halfway intoxicated. I wouldn't say he was intoxicated fully, but he smelled like he had had some intoxicating liquors before the situation.

**JSL:** Would you tell us the story of Chupita Rodriguez?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:23:55*

**RR:** Well, I'll tell you, the way legend has it, and I've heard it over and over again. I couldn't . . . I can't substantiate it

because I don't have any documentation on it, but everybody knows the story I'm about to tell you. Now, Chupita Rodriguez was the first woman to be executed in the state of Texas, in 1888.

"Chupita" is a nickname, I don't know what it stands for, probably "Concepcion" or something like that, but I don't know. Her last name was Rodriguez. And she was a female, the first female that was executed in the state of Texas. And she was . . . the reason that a lot of people talk about it is because she was arrested, she was tried and hung all in the same day. And it's a heck of a thing to say, but that happened that way. And that is down in history. And it took place about ten miles North of here, or East of here, right on the other side of the Nueces River.

DeLuna Tape #011 02:25:12

**RR:** She was a.... Legend has it that she took the rap for her boy. She had an ille- ille- ill-

**JSL:** Illegitimate?

**RR:** -illegitimate child and that was . . . he was grown up already, and he came into the tavern which she ran at a cattle crossing on the Nueces River, and he sat at the bar while a horse trader came in and bought some whiskey. And he [the horse trader] was about to move on when he decided to paw at Chupita Rodriguez. And her boy, that was sitting there, jumped him, said, "Hey, fella, that's my mother you're pawing at." So the man hit him in

the face and knocked him down. So the man got up and left, Chupita Rodriguez's boy got up and left. But he waited for him outside until he left, and when the horse trader left he followed him and hit him in the back with an ax, and he axed him to death. And he dumped him in the river.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:26:27*

**RR:** And then he came back and told Chupita, "I just killed the man that was pawing at you." And so he left. He left someplace, nobody knows where. And then when the sheriff came by the next day asking questions about the, because they found the body in the river. They came asking questions about the homicide and Chupita Rodriguez say, "No," and said, "I did it. I did it because he was doing this and he was doing that." So the sheriff arrested her and took her in and she was . . . . She had to stand trial for the death, and she confessed. She gave a confession that she had done it. So they executed her. She was hung on the river bottom, just the other side of the Nueces River, in San Patricio County, because the Nueces River separates Nueces and San Patricio. And she was hung in San Patricia county.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:27:25*

**JSL:** And what became of the case of Chupita Rodriguez? Does she still stand convicted today?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:27:36*

**RR:** Well, a lawyer was trying to do away with that conviction. A modern lawyer, a young man from . . . I forget who he was, but he was in the papers for some time, you know, the progress of the case. And a judge granted, I forget what judge did, but a judge granted an erasure on the conviction. And I think that she got her case, he case got it erased.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:28:19*

**JSL:** Was that easy to do or hard? How easy?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:28:21*

**RR:** No, that's hard to do because you have to petition a district judge for that. And you have to go back to history, all these years, and find out, you know. I think he based it on the fact that the jury and the way it went, the way the trial went. And I think the judge granted the erasure on the conviction.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:28:53*

**JSL:** And again, you were telling me, you were telling me before, did they make it easy to do that or hard? How did it go when that lawyer started, decided that he wanted to...

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:29:00*

**RR:** Well, Dr. Garcia, I don't know if you've heard of him or not. Dr. Hector P. Garcia. He was instrumental -- he's dead now, he died the other day -- he was very instrumental in Mexican affairs, you know, liberty affairs, justice and all that for the Mexicanos

in South Texas. And he stepped in and he, I think he paid the lawyer to fight that case. And he was saying that for the longest time, it was in the news always, that that was an injustice and that case should be reputed. And they fought it and fought it and I think, I think it eventually got erased.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:30:03*

**JSL:** And justice was finally done.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:30:06*

**RR:** That's right. See, in those days, the Texas Rangers were commissioned to kill Mexicans and Indians. That was their main job, was to clear the countryside of Mexicans and Indians because they were a menace to society. Either run them back to Mexico or kill them. Take their land, they don't have no right to have any land. That was the model, that was the reason why.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:30:36*

**JSL:** And they even used the judicial process and capital punishment-

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:30:40*

**RR:** The Texas Rangers were a nightmare to the Mexicanos in South Texas. They were, they were killing them left and right. They were shooting them off their horses and taking their land. Hanging them in front of their families and stuff like that. The King ranch became a big ranch because of that. Because Mr. King

would go in.... or his cowboys would go to a little ranch that they wanted to take in. "Say, Juan, we'd like to buy your land and your cows and your little animals. What you got? How many goats you got?" because Mexicanos believed in goats, you know. "Oh, we got a few, we don't want to sell, señor." Boom, the next thing. Kill him, right there in front of the family.

DeLuna Tape #011 02:31:30

That way you forget about it, and take their land, and run the family back to town. That's how Corpus Christi grew and grew and grew. Corpus Christi had a big, vast Mexicano population. There were saloons, the . . . [?] Saloon, the Grande Saloon, all of that. And they were all Mexican cowboys that come in and drink their beer and dance and all that and go home. Their homes were *hostales* [?], right back of the Port Street and Leopard Street, right back over there. *Hostales*, you know, made out of sod, that's where the Mexicano would raise his family, right there. And the big, the big cattle barons were over on Broadway with the big mansions with steam-heated rooms and all that, with Mexicano labor cutting the wood for them in the steamers. You know, Corpus Christi's got lots of history, lots of history, . . . and all that.

DeLuna Tape #011 02:32:35

**JSL:** Deep down, how much has changed.

**RR:** How much what?

**JSL:** How much has changed from those old days?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:32:39*

**RR:** Well, everything has changed, except the injustices still happen, quite a bit. They're disguised, but they're there. People don't, you know . . . the Mexicanos who . . .

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:32:54*

**RR:** My grandmother, my grandmother, my father's mother, Doña Severa Guevero Rivera, in Robstown, she would cook for stray people, cook for them outside, with two-by-fours and all that on a big wok. She would make beans and rice and everything. And then she would have a little room back there where she would keep a boarding house. And the guys would get up in the morning and go cook spinach and . . . you know, around here we used to grow a lot of vegetables, some time ago. But the Rio Grande Valley took over the vegetable business. And now the farmers around here went to oil and gas and cattle and cotton and corn and sorghum. They don't raise no more vegetables because the market got flooded from the Rio Grande Valley in Mexico. No price for turnips or nothing like that, carrots, cabbage, no price for them no more. So they went to sorghum and cotton and cattle and oil and gas. They were . . . [??] . . . took all this land. This, this very, where we're at right now, used to belong to a Mexicano by the name of

Juan Lopez Digene.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:34:17*

**JSL:** And who took it?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:34:19*

**RR:** It was a land grant. There were seven land grants. Carlos Del Oso, Sierra Blanca, La Brea Ranch, seven big grants that were granted by the Queen of Spain here in all this territory. And then the settlers from the South, southern United States came over here, and they saw a bunch of stray cattle in the woods and hogs and everything and turkeys and everything. And no fences, no borders or anything, nobody owned them. Or so they thought. The Mexicanos who owned them, they went to Mexico because they got run off by the Texas Rangers. And when they came back and tried to reclaim their lands -- barbed wire. Say, "You don't belong here, Mexican, you're just a Mexican. Get on back to Mexico." But they were born here. They just left temporarily, you know. They were born right here.

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:35:25*

**JSL:** You describe that, when you arrived over at the gas station, someone yelled out to you, "He went that way," and pointed North on Dodd, back into the neighborhood. And was that, when you heard that, you understood that to be a description of who?

*DeLuna Tape #011 02:36:07*

**RR:** Of the suspect, of Carlos.

DeLuna Tape #011 02:36:12

**JSL:** That somebody had seen the suspect heading North.

**RR:** Yeah, running that direction, right, one of the people that were there.

DeLuna Tape #011 02:36:17

**JSL:** And the people who were there, were there police officers there?

DeLuna Tape #011 02:36:20

**RR:** No, no, they were civilians, just customers.

**JSL:** So these were witnesses who had seen the...

**RR:** Probably, yes.

DeLuna Tape #011 02:36:30

**JSL:** One other question, do you have any relatives in law enforcement?

**RR:** I got one nephew, Joe Torres. And there is a Ray Rivera, he's retired, and Paul Rivera, still there at the sheriff's office.

DeLuna Tape #011 02:36:46

**JSL:** And what relation to you are Ray and Paul?

DeLuna Tape #011 02:36:49

**Off-camera speaker:** Can you tell us about this?

DeLuna Tape #011 02:37:20

**RR:** My boy, my boy put that together. *(drives on scooter over to*

a metal sculpture) What do you want me to tell you about it?

DeLuna Tape #011 02:37:25

**Off-camera speaker:** Just all about the bullet hole and the whole bit.

DeLuna Tape #011 02:37:28

**RR:** The skull? Well, this is known as the Texas Longhorn. The bullet hole is where they shot it to take advantage of their meat, you know. And I think the head was boiled to get the *barbaco* out of it. I set it out to dry, but.... The Texas Longhorn has got a long history in Texas.

DeLuna Tape #011 02:37:58

**RR:** The Texas Longhorn came on a boat, on Spanish Galleons from Spain, and they turned them loose here in Texas, (*camera pans over to Longhorn skull*) and they became a very popular breed of cattle because they were . . . you could strain them and they had a lot of endurance and they were a tough breed of cattle. They had big carcasses and they could stand the long cattle drives up north and they wouldn't die, they wouldn't starve or anything.

(*camera zooms in on bullet hole in skull*)

**RR:** Yeah.

DeLuna Tape #011 02:38:40

(*camera slowly zooms out from skull*)