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Gloria Sanchez Interview Transcript

10:33:26

(shot of Gloria Sanchez)

JSL: So, we're in Corpus Christi, at the Homewood Suites with Gloria Sanchez. It's Wednesday, the 23rd of February, 2005, it's about ten a.m. here. And we're going to get some of the history of this case. So, Gloria, would you just tell us your name, and a little bit about yourself, where you grew up and where you live now and work?

10:33:57

Gloria Sanchez: My name is Gloria Sanchez. I was born here in Corpus Christi, lived here most of my life. Have a, had a brother and a sister who also live here in Corpus. I just recently remarried and I've been working with the IRS for 22 years.

10:34:16

JSL: What do you do at the IRS?

10:34:19

GS: With the criminal investigative division, I'm a compliance support assistant. Do a lot of investigative work on the computer.

10:34:30

JSL: Ok. You said that you had a sister and a brother growing up. Could you tell us the names of your sister and your brother.

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GS: My oldest sister, well, she's older than both of us. Her name is Pat Salazar. My brother was Johnny Longoria and he's passed away in 1980. He was younger.

10:34:50

JSL: And, I know you've lived in a, you spent most of your life in Corpus Christi, but there was a time you were in, I think when you were growing up, in Atlanta. So if you could just kind of take us through and give us the places where you lived and approximate time or age you were . . .

10:35:08

GS: Ok, because we were raised by my aunt, and my dad had always told us that once he settled down he would send for us. So when I was in the second grade, he was in Atlanta, he sent for us, we went and lived over there until I was, like, 13. Then we had a situation with a stepmother, that she no longer wanted us there, she sent us, me and my sister, back. My brother stayed over there, he didn't join us until about two years later. He came, I think, in 1969, maybe '70, something like that. But once he did come back, he was getting into a lot of trouble, and he was into drugs, and we were just back and forth, back and forth, between family here in Corpus.

10:35:56

JSL: And after that, you lived in Corpus until?

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10:35:59

GS: Now.

JSL: Was there a time when you went to California?

10:36:04

GS: Visits, but not, like, to live. I was there maybe two or three months at a time with my cousin, but we'd always come back home.

10:36:10

JSL: Ok. You were friends with Paula Hernandez.

10:36:27

GS: Well, the way I met Paula was through my brother. He was Freddy's [Schilling] friend, they went to school together. I don't know how Freddy met Paula, but that's how I met her, I think, when I was pregnant with my second . . . second daughter, I met Paula. And her and Freddy always had problems. He was always cheating on her, and she would come to me. She needed a friend.

JSL: Tell us how you met Paula and who Freddy is.

10:37:00

GS: Ok, I met Paula through my brother because he was a friend of Freddy's. Freddy and my brother went to school together. By the time I met her she'd already had the three children, the two boys, and they were the same age as my daughter, so we became friends. After that, she introduced me to her brother, and I think he had

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just gotten out of prison when I met him, and by that time I was already going through a divorce, so that's how I met Carlos.

10:37:35

JSL: And did . . . tell us what your relationship was with Paula, how close you were with her, at any points along the way.

10:37:49

GS: We, me and Paula, were very close. Whenever she would have problems, in fact, at one point we were living together because she had left Freddy. And we were like sisters. She would babysit when I was going to school to get my G.E.D. And he [Freddy Schilling] would come and visit her also, but he was always messing around on her, so she was basically with me most of the time.

10:38:14

JSL: And approximately what dates are we talking about here, what years?

10:38:20

GS: '75, '76, because I already had my girls, and she had the two boys. So yeah, we met around seventy- . . . I don't know, maybe a year or take difference, I don't know, but '72, '73 is when we met. And we just got close. He [Freddy Schilling] didn't like me, he didn't like for her to have friends, so . . . But she snuck around, I'd go over, she'd come over, until eventually when she

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moved in.

10:38:56

JSL: Where were you living at the time, when she moved in with you?

10:38:58

GS: On 12th street, next to an old grocery store that my aunt had. Yeah, that was where we were living. I'm trying to think, because it was so long ago. Me and my sister were living there first, and then she moved out to live with her boyfriend and Paula moved in.

10:39:18

JSL: Tell us about Paula, what was she like?

10:39:23

GS: She was very insecure. I think I felt sorry for her because she was so tied down with him. She loved Freddy so much. He could do anything, and she'd still stay with him. But she was . . . she didn't get along too well with her mom. She'd had an older daughter that she'd given away, and the mom had her. And the relationship between her and her brothers, it wasn't very good, they weren't close. And I know that when she introduced me to Carlos, she seemed like she was afraid of him. She never came out and said it, but there just . . . things that made me think that she was afraid of him.

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JSL: Let me show you a picture, and I'm going to put "G.S. Number 1" on here, for Gloria Sanchez number one, and I'm going to put today's date, 2/23/04-

GS: '05.

JSL: '05. Thank you. There's some other notes there, but . . . if you would look at that and maybe just hold it up and tell us who that is.

10:40:50

GS: This is Freddy Schilling, and this is Paula, and this is the older son, Eddie, and this is Michael Schilling. It's a nice picture.

10:41:07

JSL: Would you describe how you met Carlos Hernandez. Do you remember the first time you met him or how you met him? Describe that.

10:41:15

GS: Yeah, it was in April. I think we were going to the carnival when I met Carlos. I was separated from my husband. I remember that I had gone to the carnival with Paula, and I had my daughters with me. The youngest one I was still carrying because she was small.

10:41:39

GS: And I ran into my ex-husband there. And he came up to me and

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he hit me with his fist and almost knocked me down. And Paula and Carlos were with us, and he caught me so I wouldn't fall. And that was the first time we had met. We had taken the kids to the carnival. After that, we started talking. He was mad because my ex had hit me. But he was a . . . I mean, he was nice to me. It didn't last long, because when I tried to get out of the relationship, he started coming around to the house and stalking me and bugging me and stuff like that, when I tried to cut it off. But at that time Paula was living there with me. So, I mean, he would call and talk to her and stuff like that. So, I mean, I knew that they were brother and sister, and it would be hard for me to get rid of him.

10:42:42

JSL: What was Paula's attitude toward your seeing Carlos?

10:42:47

GS: At first, I think that was her intention when she introduced us. But then she knew that it wasn't going to work out, because he was always . . . with other girls, and fooling around, and whatever. But I know that that's what she had wanted in the beginning.

10:43:05

JSL: Describe your relationship with Carlos. What was he like, where did you spend time together?

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10:43:12

GS: When we first started seeing each other, we didn't go out anywhere. He would come to the house. I mean, I was still married. I mean, I was separated and whatever, but we never like, had a date or anything. He would come to the house, he'd stay there a couple of times, and my ex-husband came over in the middle of the night. And, I don't know, in those days, whenever you'd call the police they wouldn't do anything. *(phone rings, camera cuts to new shot, still Sanchez)*

10:43:46

GS: Ok. Anyway, whenever I would call the police to get rid of my ex, 'cause he was real violent, they would come and just give him a ride home. Carlos would just hide under the bed or in the closet or something.

10:44:04

JSL: About how long were you seeing Carlos Hernandez? How long did it last?

10:44:08

GS: It was about four, five months. But I was always catching him with other girls, and he was always giving me infections and stuff, and . . . 'till I finally caught him.

10:44:46

JSL: And you used the word stalking a minute ago, would you

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describe what that was all about?

10:44:52

GS: He would hide in the back yard, in the grass. And, in fact, I didn't know about it until my sister told me, "He's in the back yard," and he would sneak around and- *(phone rings, camera cuts to new shot, still Sanchez)*

10:45:10

JSL: Let's start over again with how you knew he was coming around and stalking you in a way.

10:45:17

GS: Ok, well I didn't know he was stalking me at first. My sister was there, and she had told me there was somebody in the back yard. And turning the light on, you would see him run off. And he did that a couple of times, because when we were seeing each other, the fact that I was still married, he would sneak in through the back, and he knew that way to get to the house. And he just . . . he was always, you know, he knew that. And we used to have a signal that if my ex was there, the light would be on. If he wasn't the back light would be off and it would be ok for him to come -- *(laughs)* it sounds -- anyway, it would be ok for him to come over. So I got to where I would leave the light on all the time so he would think that he was there.

10:46:08

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JSL: And did he . . . well, first of all, tell me what your impression of Carlos was when you met him and when you were with him in those first months.

10:46:18

GS: When I first met Carlos, I thought he was a nice guy. But it was something different for me. I'd been married and whatever, and I wasn't used to the attention that he was giving me. But then, after a while, when I started catching him with all these other girls and stuff, it was like, I could tell he didn't care, he really didn't care the way I thought he had. So that right there, I didn't need that.

10:46:50

JSL: And how did he treat you, when he was with you, to your face?

10:47:00

GS: It's not so much the way I remember him treating me, but I do remember my oldest daughter, she hated him. She said there was just something about him that gave her the creeps. And to me, that was more important than how I felt. If my girls weren't comfortable around him, and I have three girls, I didn't want him around.

10:47:29

JSL: What did you know, or what do you know now about Carlos's, Carlos Hernandez's background before you had met him?

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10:47:39

GS: What I didn't know then and I know now? He had problems and, I guess, dealing with women. I didn't know all this stuff that's happened at the time, and I guess if I had I wouldn't have been involved with him, but I didn't know any of it.

10:48:03

JSL: And was there an incident that you came to learn about where he was in a car accident and injured someone?

10:48:14

GS: Right, when I met Paula she had told me about this guy she had been engaged to. Something about the night before, they'd been in a car accident, and her brother Carlos had been driving, and he'd been drunk or something, and the guy had gotten killed. And that's what he had gone to prison for. And I always felt that maybe Carlos felt guilty for what had happened and always tried to help Paula or gain back her love or whatever it was. Because I think, deep down, she did resent him.

10:48:55

JSL: And I think you said that happened the day before?

GS: That she was supposed to get married.

10:49:07

JSL: Did your brother -- you mentioned that you had a brother, Johnny Longoria -- did he know Carlos Hernandez?

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10:49:17

GS: I don't know how my brother met Carlos but I know that he didn't like him. They didn't get along.

10:49:23

JSL: What did Johnny think about your going out with Carlos?

10:49:30

GS: We tried to keep that a secret but he found out and he didn't like it.

10:50:15

JSL: You said Paula moved in with you on 12th street. When was that? Was that before or after you had been seeing Carlos?

10:50:25

GS: During and then after. She was living there already. Freddy came and went, came and went, and I don't know where he was at, but I know he'd come and visit her all the time. And she would leave and then she would come back, and I'd take care of the kids. But you know, that was ok, we were good at that, we were friends, so it was ok. She'd babysit for me or I'd babysit for her, and everything was ok.

10:51:00

JSL: You've already done some of this, but just tell us a little bit about Paula's relationship with Freddy Shilling, with her husband, Freddy Shilling. What was that like?

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10:51:13

GS: Paula loved him to death, and there was nothing that he could do wrong. It was weird how we could try to make her see things and it just . . . it wasn't going to happen. But then when he got involved with Dahlia, it was like . . . all three of them were friends and it was ok.

10:51:37

JSL: Tell us about that relationship. We're talking about Dahlia Saucedo?

GS: Right.

JSL: First of all, well, just tell us about that whole, how it all got started, that whole situation.

10:51:49

GS: I don't know exactly when Freddy met Dahlia, but I remember when he brought Dahlia over to the house on 12th street. There was a lady out in the van, she never got off, and he came over for whatever. And I went out there and I realized that I'd known her already, I just didn't know that she was the one who he'd been seeing. And we started talking about, "do you remember when we met," blah blah blah blah blah. She said yeah.

10:52:22

And at one point, I think her and Freddy had gotten into a fight and she had stitches right above her eye, and it was time for

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the stitches to come out for her. And although she was Freddy's girlfriend, or whatever you want to call her, and Paula was my friend, it's like, there was nothing really wrong with it, because everybody knew everybody. It was weird, but . . .

10:52:55

JSL: And what, I take it, well, . . . how did Dahlia support herself?

10:53:00

GS: I had been told that she had gotten an insurance settlement from a child or somebody that had gotten killed, and that's what she was living off of.

10:53:10

JSL: And tell us, sort of, what happened. Freddy left with her for a while and came back? Tell us.

10:53:16

GS: Freddy left Paula, I mean with Dahlia, and I don't . . . I assume they went to Austin or something. I had thought that that's what they had said because at one point Paula went to Austin too. But I don't know if it was all at the same time or whatever. They would come and go, she supported him, and everything was fine and dandy. I don't know all the little details.

10:53:50

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JSL: Who supported Freddy?

GS: Dahlia.

JSL: So she was using the money that she got from the settlement or whatever money she had to support-

10:54:01

GS: Support him and buy him whatever he wanted.

JSL: What did she buy him?

10:54:05

GS: From what I remember, what they told me, she not only bought him a car, she also would buy clothes for the kids and for Paula. She was just throwing the money around for whatever anybody wanted.

10:54:25

JSL: What was Paula's view about all of this, what did she feel about Paula?

10:54:29

GS: It seemed to me, from what I remember, Paula and Dahlia got along pretty good. And maybe Paula was using her, too, for the money. But I think deep down she always knew Freddy would come back to her no matter what. And it didn't really matter.

10:54:52

JSL: What did Carlos Hernandez think about this relationship between his sister and Dahlia, and-

GS: All three of them?

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JSL: Sorry, Dahlia's relationship with Freddy.

10:55:04

GS: Ok, 'cause by that time I wasn't seeing Carlos anymore, but he would call to the house a lot. I know he didn't approve of Freddy fooling around. I mean, this wasn't the first time. But for some reason he didn't like Dahlia I just think. I don't know, I think that he saw his sister as very unhappy at the time that she was staying with me, and the back and forth, and Freddy here, and Freddy there. Maybe they discussed it, I don't know.

10:55:44

JSL: How did Dahlia die? What happened to Dahlia?

10:55:48

GS: The morning that we heard it on the news, I didn't know anything about what had happened the night before. I didn't even know that my brother had been with Dahlia. And they had said that she'd been strangled with a pair of trousers. And she was in the van with her child, the little girl was in there also, and some kids had found her body walking to school. But, I don't know, I was so shocked I never even thought about who could have done it until all these people started coming "so-and-so did it" or "so-and-so said he did it." It was just, it was crazy.

10:56:30

GS: Then one day, this investigator . . . Paula had already moved

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out of the house and this investigator had come over to her apartment. And I was there with her, and he said he wanted to talk to her about Dahlia. So I stayed out of the room, and when he left she told me that they're investigating who killed Dahlia, because some guy was being accused. And I asked her, "Well, what was his name and what was his number?" And the next day I called him. And I told him that, when Paula was living with me, Carlos used to come over to the house a lot, and he would always tell her that they were never going to be able to prove it, but he'd been the one that had killed her. And she would tell me. And I thought that's what she had told the investigator, but I guess, since it was her brother, she wasn't about to do that. But I told her that she needed to tell somebody. She said there's no way she could.

10:57:36

GS: So I called him [the investigator], and I set up an appointment with Eddie Cruz, and I told him about the calls that Carlos had made to the house, that he'd been the one that had done it, but that nobody would be able to prove it. So when we met at the attorney's office a couple of days later, they wanted to know if I would give a statement to the police. So I said ok. I went over to the police station and gave a statement, and that was it. That was the end of it. I figured "I've done my deal, I'm ok."

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And then I heard from Albert Peña and he asked me if I would be a witness. And I said ok. But they never used me because, he said, they were concerned because I had three daughters, I had young kids. Eventually they never used me, for whatever reason.

10:58:34

JSL: And what did they tell you about why they didn't use you?

10:58:38

GS: They were afraid for my safety because I had kids. That was the reason he gave me, I don't know if that was true or not.

JSL: Who might have endangered your safety?

GS: Carlos.

JSL: Carlos?

GS: Hernandez.

10:58:55

JSL: Now let me go back over a couple of details there. So you were living with Paula right after Dahlia had been killed. And there were phone calls which she received from her brother Carlos. And would you describe those phone calls and what you learned about the content of those?

10:59:14

GS: Yeah. When Paula was still living me, and around the time that Dahlia was killed, Carlos would call and would want to talk to her. And I always noticed she wouldn't be doing the talking.

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She wouldn't be talking, you know, I guess it would be him. And whenever she would hang up, she'd say, well, "He said that he did it, but they're never going to be able to prove it." And I knew that it had been him, I believed her. And she said, "What am I going to do?" She'd have to tell somebody, but she wouldn't, she just wouldn't. But I think that, like if it was my brother, I would. I mean, my brother was my brother, we're very close. But when it comes to killing somebody, and I told her, I said, "You need to tell somebody." He would call, and he'd want to know, "What do you all know now?" or "What's going on now?" or "What have you heard?" or stuff like that. He always was getting the updates from her on what was going on.

11:00:22

JSL: When this gentleman came to talk to her, you said his name was Eddie Cruz. As I understand it, Eddie Cruz was an investigator working for the defense lawyers. Is that right?

11:00:42

GS: Mmm-hmm. I think Eddie Cruz, the way he got into the picture is, I think he was the uncle of Jesse Garza. And he was doing a favor for the sister, which was Jesse's mom, and trying to, you know, get him off.

11:01:00

JSL: So the sister, it was Eddie Cruz's sister and Jesse Garza's

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mom.

GS: Right.

JSL: And, Jesse Garza, why was he involved?

11:01:07

GS: I never knew Jesse Garza. When all that first came up and how they figured that he had done it, I don't know how he got into the picture.

11:01:17

JSL: But he was the man that they originally charged with this.

GS: Right.

JSL: And so his family went and hired a lawyer, Albert Peña, is that right?

GS: Mmm-hmm.

JSL: And Albert Peña then asked Eddie Cruz or maybe their mother asked Eddie Cruz-

11:01:32

GS: I think the mother, Jesse Garza's mother, is the one who got Eddie Cruz involved.

JSL: And he was an insurance adjuster, is that right?

GS: I just knew he was some kind of investigator.

11:01:42

JSL: Ok, so he came out, Eddie Cruz came to talk to Paula. Is that correct?

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GS: Correct.

JSL: And you were there at the time?

GS: Right. Well, I made a point to be there because she told me he was coming, and she didn't want to be there by herself.

11:02:00

JSL: Who did they suspect at that point had done it? Why was the investigator coming to her?

11:02:05

GS: I don't know. I was never told that. But I guess, because of the involvement with Freddy, I thought maybe they thought Freddy had done it. My first thought was they thought Freddy had done it.

11:02:19

JSL: And when you then found out the phone number of Eddie Cruz and you called him, tell us again what happened at that point.

11:02:30

GS: Ok, when I called Eddie Cruz, I told him that I had some information, that I had been there the night before at Paula's, and that I needed to talk to him. He said ok, we'll meet at this little restaurant that was down the street from the house on Agnes, he says, and we can talk.

11:02:50

GS: So, after I told him about Carlos making the phone calls to

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Paula and saying all that, that he had done it, he said, "Well, I need you to talk to the attorneys," which at the time was, they worked with Albert Puerta, another attorney, and they all had a partnership, and I think that was the same office that Albert Peña was in. But it was on Ayers and I think it was on a weekend that we went over there. I told them the same story, and they wanted me to make the statement to the police. And I went in and talked to Paul Rivera, and he took my statement, he recorded my statement.

11:03:27

JSL: And would you describe the meeting you had with Paul Rivera and the reaction to your information?

11:03:35

GS: When I first went in and talked to Paul Rivera, the first thing he asked me was, "How do you know Eddie Cruz, did you have an affair with him?" And I said, "No," I said, "I just met him." And I felt that he thought that I was doing it . . . somebody was making me say, you know, give the statement. And he was like, seemed like I was wasting his time. He asked me a few questions, he recorded the statement, and I don't know what ever happened to the tape.

11:04:04

JSL: What was his demeanor, attitude? How did he make you feel in having come forward with this information?

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11:04:11

GS: He made me feel like somebody was making me do it, and that it wasn't true.

11:04:29

JSL: Do you know what Carlos's relationship was with Freddy at that time? Do you know if they were getting along or not?

11:04:37

GS: I think that Freddy made an effort to get along with Carlos, but the fact that he [Carlos Hernandez] had just gotten out of prison . . . He hadn't been around, so no. I don't know, I just think Freddy put up with him, just because of Paula.

11:04:56

JSL: Just to clarify here, every time we use the word Carlos here, we're talking about Carlos Hernandez.

GS: Yes, I never knew the other Carlos.

JSL: Ok. Do you know anything about Carlos Hernandez having any kind of relationship with Dahlia herself? That they knew each other, or spent any time together, anything like that?

11:05:18

GS: Specifically, that Carlos would have gone out with her, no. Only that when he would call and tell Paula these things that he had done, I just assumed that they had been together.

11:05:43

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JSL: What happened after you went to the police? Did anything change in regard to who was charged with the crime? They had originally charged Jesse Garza.

11:05:53

GS: Yeah, they had charged Jesse. I don't remember, I don't remember what happened after that, but I do know that Carlos had said something, that he had gotten away with it, and blah blah blah.

11:06:22

JSL: What did you hear about Carlos Hernandez having said something about having gotten away with it? Do you remember what that was?

11:06:28

GS: It was through Paula, that he He had said that all along, and then when it was all over, I had also heard something about one time when he had made a phone call from the jail, or from a pay phone or something, and he had told somebody, "I never want to go back to prison again." I think it was his mom or somebody that he was talking to.

11:06:51

JSL: What was your impression of what he was saying, or what he was . . . you know, was he proud of it that he had gotten away with this, is that the sense that you have? If you could just

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describe what you heard afterwards and what your impression of it was.

11:07:05

GS: I wouldn't say that Carlos was proud, I would say that he was trying to make an impression on Paula, "and look what I did for you" -type attitude because that was his sister. The proud, and getting away with it . . . The fact that I never actually heard it and didn't know the tone that he used, I don't know.

11:07:42

JSL: There was testimony at the trial of Jesse Garza, where you were called to testify, to come down but didn't actually testify in court. There were statements made that there were harassing phone calls being made to Dahlia Saucedo. And there was some suggestion that the phone calls were coming from you. And I want to give you a chance to respond to that idea.

11:08:07

GS: I didn't know about that until you told me and I until read the transcript. But I know I never made any phone calls to Dahlia. If there was anything coming out of that house, it either had to be Paula or somebody else. I never had harsh words with Dahlia. In fact, we got along pretty good.

11:08:30

JSL: And there was also testimony at the trial about a physical

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fight that you had with your brother Johnny. Was that over the Dahlia Saucedo matter?

11:08:38

GS: Well, we had a lot of fights, me and my brother, but supposedly he'd gotten wind of the phone calls or something, and they said that that's what the fight was about. I don't remember the fight being about that. I mean, we had a lot of fights, and we'd get into it, but I don't remember having any over Dahlia.

11:09:04

JSL: Do you have any doubt about who killed Dahlia Saucedo?

11:09:09

GS: I have no doubt. I know it was Carlos Hernandez.

JSL: Would you just say that, "I have no doubt," again, but use everybody's name.

GS: Ok, ask me the question again.

JSL: Do you have any doubts about who killed Dahlia Saucedo?

11:09:31

GS: No, I have no doubts who killed Dahlia Saucedo. I know it was Carlos Hernandez.

11:09:38

JSL: And how do you know that?

11:09:40

GS: Honestly, because I believe he told his sister, "I did it,"

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and she didn't do anything about it.

[NOTE: POTENTIALLY OFFENSIVE CONTENT THAT IS IRRELEVANT TO LOS TOCAYOS CARLOS HAS BEEN REMOVED]

11:11:12

JSL: And you were, when you were seeing Carlos Hernandez, it was after you had separated from David Licea, you told us already that . . . Tell us what Carlos thought about David Licea, what his attitude was towards him, what he felt towards him.

11:11:26

GS: Carlos Hernandez hated my ex, and I know my ex hated him, and the fact that he knew we were seeing each other. But whenever my ex would come over and Carlos would be there, he would hide, though. Maybe to protect me, not to get me in trouble, I don't know.

11:11:51

JSL: Did anything ever happen to David Licea?

11:11:55

GS: I don't remember exactly what year it was, but I know that our divorce was already final, and he still would come over in the middle of the night. One night he came over, banging on the door, that he was bleeding. I didn't believe him, because he would

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always come and try to get in anyway. But I did eventually open the door, and he was bleeding, he'd been stabbed, and he needed to go to the hospital, so I called the ambulance. He didn't even want to go in the ambulance by himself, so I went with him. He told me that he had been walking home to his mom's and two or three guys approached him and one of them stabbed him.

11:12:39

GS: Anyway, he had internal bleeding and he had to have surgery. And, to this day, he still has not told me who it was. If he knew or not, I don't know, but he hasn't said. I just thought maybe it was somebody that knew him, or knew me, because the word got around later on that the person that had done it, had done it because of the way he had treated me.

11:13:05

JSL: Did you have any suspicions about who might have been behind that?

11:13:10

GS: I thought off and on that it might have been Carlos Hernandez.

11:13:24

JSL: What do you know about Carlos Hernandez's life after that point, when you stopped seeing him and the Dahlia Saucedo events had been finished. What happened after that that you know about him?

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11:13:40

GS: Ok, after Paula moved out and Dahlia was killed, and everybody went around with their business and with their lives. Through the years I'd heard different things. My daughters had run into Carlos Hernandez at the carnival.

11:13:57

GS: They said he was still as creepy as ever, they couldn't stand him, but that he would ask them if they wanted to get on the rides, that he would get them on there for free, just creepy little things, that they said that they didn't like him. And then I had heard that he had married and had kids. Then one time I saw in the newspaper that this girl had been killed and this guy, another Carlos had said that it wasn't him but that Carlos Hernandez had done it. But by that time, I was already out of all that. I wasn't talking to Paula any more, I don't know what happened to Paula after that. We lost contact for quite a while.

11:14:44

JSL: And when you read about that in the newspaper-

Camera operator: I need to change tapes.

11:15:33

JSL: Would you just describe, at some point, you noticed a reference to Carlos Hernandez in the newspaper. Tell us about

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that incident and what you thought about who that Carlos Hernandez was.

11:15:50

GS: Ok, there was an article in the paper. I try to keep up with the news, but it's weird how, of all articles that jump out at you, this one did. When I read it, they had accused a Carlos DeLuna of a murder that he said he didn't do, that another guy that looked like him, which was Carlos Hernandez, had done it. Well, that was just way out there. That was weird because they were talking about somebody that I knew, right? And the first thing that popped into my head, it had to have been Carlos Hernandez. I mean, that's the first thing that I thought. Then years later I didn't know that the guy, Carlos DeLuna, had gotten the death penalty, until you told me that he'd already been executed.

11:19:00

JSL: Just a few questions about what you know about the rest of the family. What did you know about Paula and Carlos's mother, Fidela?

11:19:18

GS: As little as possible. *(laughs)* No, Fidela, the mother, was very controlling, and what she said went. I don't think she liked me, we had very few words between the two of us. I stayed out of

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her way. Later on, I also found out that she had dated my uncle, which I did not like.

JSL: How did you find that out?

GS: She told me.

11:19:47

JSL: What did you know about Carlos's brothers?

11:19:57

GS: He had three brothers that I knew, Carlos Hernandez. In fact, my sister dated the youngest, Efrain. Javier was another friend of my brothers. The boys always drank and always fought. And it was ok, they were still friends, they were still brothers. It was like, it was normal for them. But they drank heavy. They drank so heavy, I mean they would black out, they wouldn't remember things.

JSL: Which brothers are you talking about?

11:20:35

GS: All three of them, Carlos, Javier, and Efrain. They had another brother I didn't know too well, I think I'd seen him only once, and I think he disowned them.

11:20:47

JSL: And you said the brothers fought. Words, physical?

11:20:51

GS: No, physical fights. They had physical fights, down on the

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ground fights.

11:22:16

JSL: What about Carlos's . . . you said that he'd gotten married and had a couple of boys.

11:22:24

GS: When I found out that he had gotten married, I'd seen him and the girl, Rosa, sometimes waiting for the bus stop. And I knew that she had two little boys from him. Whatever happened to her, all of a sudden she just disappeared. I don't know what happened to her.

JSL: And what was their relationship like?

11:22:42

GS: From what Paula had told me, not too good. But she was the one that told him what to do at one point, and all of a sudden he got tired of it or something, I don't know. She was the one that wore the pants.

JSL: When you were going out with Carlos Hernandez, did he scare you?

11:24:03

GS: When I first started seeing him, no, he didn't scare me. And the fact that he had just gotten out of prison I think that to me that was something "Wow, neat" at the time, you know. He didn't do anything to scare me, but there was just a look about him. He

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had just a weird look that would give you the creeps sometimes. And then when he got drunk, it was like he was looking at you but he wasn't looking at you. It was a looking through you type of look. But other than that, he never really . . . He wasn't physical or anything with me.

11:24:46

JSL: How did other people react when he was around?

11:24:50

GS: They were afraid of him. And I think that especially his brothers Javier and Efrain, I think they were afraid of him. But then, they grew up with him, they knew him better. I, I mean, was new to all this. So they had to have known something that I didn't.

11:25:12

JSL: You mentioned this a minute ago, but just again, if you would reflect back on . . . looking back on it and reflect on, sort of, what you think about it now, these years later, your relationship with him.

11:25:25

GS: It's been what, 20, over 20 years, my brother's dead now. I've had a rough life. I got out of a bad relationship, and now that I know all this, and the fact that I had small girls at the time, somebody's been watching over me.

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JSL: Did you have a conversation with Paul Rivera about this investigation, this recent investigation, our investigation?

11:26:57

GS: Yes. Well, going back: After the Dahlia situation and me giving him a statement. Years after that, I'd say about 5 years ago, I ran into Paul at a club where we used to go to have happy hour. And after all these years, I finally decided to go up to him and call him the jerk that he is, right? And he doesn't remember me from Adam. And I said, "You don't remember me," I said, "but I'm the one that went in there and you insulted me," and blah blah blah blah blah. And he apologized up and down, whatever whatever. Then when you all came along, we talked, and he said, "You remember in those days I was more interested in the women." (*laughs*) And he works for criminal investigation in the county!

11:28:03

JSL: Tell me again the point 5 years ago: what was it that made you go up and talk to him? What was it that had upset you about how he had treated you?

11:28:16

GS: 'Cause all those years it had bothered me. He didn't know me and he was accusing me of having an affair and doing this as a favor to somebody. And when I did tell him, he did apologize, but

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still. We talked. And he tells everybody that I'm his cousin now, because my maiden name is the same, I think, as his mother's maiden name, or something like that.

11:28:47

JSL: And when he said to you, "Well, you know, all I was interested in the women," what did you take him to be saying by that?

11:29:00

GS: That he wasn't really putting his all into the investigation as he should have.

11:29:25

JSL: When you spent time with Carlos Hernandez, would you describe what he wore on a daily basis, and what he wore with you, around you, what clothing?

11:29:37

GS: Ok, most of the time Carlos Hernandez would wear blue jeans, T-shirts. On occasion he would wear this blue shirt that he knew that I liked, but the majority of the time it was just blue jeans and T-shirts.

JSL: How about in the winter? What did he do instead of the T-shirts? Do you know, do you remember that?

11:29:51

GS: I wasn't around long enough. *(laughs)* I wasn't around in

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the winter. No.

11:30:04

JSL: Ok. And I want to just ask you, again, do you remember, I think it was in August of last year, August of 2004, Peso Chavez and I came to your office over at the IRS. And you took us upstairs to this beautiful conference room with a view of the bay and everything. And we spoke to you then, remember that?

GS: I remember.

JSL: And at that point we showed you a picture of Carlos Hernandez, and we also showed you a picture of Carlos DeLuna. Do you remember that?

11:30:40

GS: I remember when Mr. Chavez showed me a picture, when all this first started, of a Carlos DeLuna. I never knew him. But he showed me the picture and told me that, he told me he'd already been executed and I started crying. I got emotional in that I didn't know that he'd already been executed for something he hadn't done. And then when you showed me the picture of the two of them, I recognized Carlos Hernandez right off, but also could see how it was easy to mistake the two.

11:31:25

JSL: Do you have any doubt that Carlos Hernandez was capable of killing a woman at a gas station?

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11:31:34

GS: *I don't have any doubt now. I might have doubted it at the time. The fact that, the way it happened, I can't imagine anybody doing it like that. I've heard so many different stories and so many different things that he's done and said to people, that I don't doubt it now.*