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Freddy Schilling Interview Transcript

13:47:14

(shot of Freddy Schilling, seated, examining papers. A radio is playing in the background)

Freddy Schilling: Old buck knife.

JSL: Recognize that?

FS: Well, I've had several of them. He had some of them, you know, my brother in law [Carlos Hernandez] had some of them. They used to sell by the dime, back then, you know?

JSL: But that's the kind of knife he carried?

13:47:25

FS: Yeah, that's exactly the kind of knife, just like I told you. He used to get in my truck or my car and he would always pick my knives up too, you know, no telling where he got that knife from. I know he always had a knife, though, constantly had a knife. He-

13:47:55

(Schilling examines photographs)

13:49:38

JSL: February 24th, 2005. We're in Corpus Christi, Texas on 11th Street. Would you just tell us your name and a little something about where you were born?

13:49:50

FS: Fernando Schilling. I've been residing in Corpus Christi for

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the past forty years. I was married, have four kids. Presently I'm living with my mother. I just got out of prison.

13:50:09

JSL: Tell us a little something about your physical and mental . . . medical condition.

13:50:13

FS: Ok. As it is right now, I've got rheumatoid arthritis. I've had both hips replaced. Both my knees are contracted. My hands are going out on me. I've got, like I said, rheumatoid arthritis. I also cut my thumb. *(shows thumb to camera, laughs)*

13:50:33

JSL: And what kind of work do you do?

FS: Ah?

JSL: What kind of work do you do?

13:50:35

FS: I was a certified welder. I worked for many, many years, you know, as a welder. I've done all kinds of work really, in reality, but mainly, you know, welding. Right now I'm trying to supplement my income by doing a little bit of woodwork and stuff like that, you know. It's a little trade that I picked up while I was in prison.

13:51:00

JSL: You said that you were married. What was your wife's name?

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FS: Paulina Schilling.

JSL: I'm going to just show you a picture here, I'm going to write "F.S." for Fernando Schilling, number one, and put today's date, 2/25/05. And I'm going to hand this to you, and you can take a look at that, then maybe hold it up to the camera so we can see it, and tell us who that is.

13:51:30

FS: That's my wife and kids and two sons.

JSL: And who's that gentleman there?

FS: That's me, many years ago.

13:51:50

JSL: Ok. Now, would you name the children that are there, the two boys?

FS: That's John Michael and this is Eddie Schilling. That's my wife and that's me.

13:51:58

JSL: And you also have, there's a young woman by the name of Pricilla-

FS: That's my step-daughter, but I've raised her since she was a baby.

13:52:00

JSL: And who is her mother?

FS: Her mother is Paulina.

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JSL: And who is her father?

FS: Beto Vela.

13:52:25

JSL: When you were younger and dating Paula, did you go to any clubs here in Corpus Christi?

FS: I went all over. Many clubs.

JSL: Can you tell me some of the clubs?

13:52:39

FS: Spowana, Rabbit, Casino. Several other ones. *(phone rings)*

Can you stop for a minute?

(camera cuts to new shot, still Schilling)

13:53:04

JSL: Tell me about the Casino club.

13:53:06

FS: It's a disco club. You know, the majority of the neighborhood used to hang out in. This is where, everybody, I guess, went to have a good time.

FS: The Casino was located at South Port. It's a place where everybody, friends would meet. You know, it's a disco place, you know, it's just like a hang-out place.

JSL: And tell me who-

FS: I didn't hang out myself there all the time, I just, you know, on the weekend or something I would go. It wasn't every

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weekend, like maybe once a month or so, something like that.

13:54:03

JSL: And who else went to the Casino club that you know?

13:54:07

FS: A bunch of people that I knew, Carlos Hernandez, Joe Oevo [?],I had friends.

13:55:06

JSL: And how about Dahlia Saucedo, did she go to the Casino Club?

FS: Yeah, she went to the Casino Club. She used to go to the Carousel. In fact, that's how I met her, at the very beginning. She was coming out of the Carousel, walking down the street, crying. I pulled over, tried to be nice and offered her a ride. That's how things got started between me and Dahlia Saucedo.

JSL: And where did things go from there?

13:55:33

FS: Well, it kind of got out of hand. Because at first, when I first met Dahlia, she played this little innocent role. She was having troubles with her husband and had a boyfriend. So, just one thing led to another, and before you know it me and her started doing things. So we did that for about a month or two, and I finally knew that I wasn't spending enough time with my family, and I told her, "Hey, Dahlia, this has to end, because my wife's taking notice, and I'm spending more time over here than

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I'm spending at the house." So one day she said, "If that's the way you feel about it," and I said, "Yeah, that's the way I feel about it. I'm sorry. I'm not saying it's going to end, but I'm letting you know I've got to slack off. I've got to spend more time with my family."

13:56:40

FS: So one day I was at work. I used to work for Save a Dollar, no Save More, I can't recall. But anyway, it was a little convenience store located on Weber and Galahar. She came by one day. She called me first before she did because she said she was fixing to go to Houston. When she came, she came with a brand new van and she said she needed to talk to me. That particular day she kept asking me to take the rest of the day off. I said, "I can't do that." She said, "Come on. You've filled in for other people, get somebody else to fill in for you." I said, "You know what, let me see what I can do." And I called one of the workers and asked him if he could come in fill in for me because I had filled in for him several times. In fact, Jamie Luby had a niece that was working there. I can't recall what her name was, it was many, many years ago. But she was working that day. So I took off, I guess it was two o'clock or three o'clock in the afternoon. When I got in the van, that's when she started talking to me about her real life, not the lies she was telling me before. It seemed

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that something had happened at the house, her house, and one of the kids got killed and she came into a lot of money. She had a lot of money. Supposedly she had bought this van for me. This van was supposed to be for me, and all this. At first I couldn't believe it. "Why are you telling me all this now," I said. "Why did you make me spend all my money all that time that we were together, for the first two months, and I go home broke when you've got all this money." She said, "I just wanted to see if you really had feelings for me. I didn't want you to have feelings for my money. I wanted to see if you're for real, and I can see that you are."

13:59:07

FS: We're going down the road. In fact, we're right here on Staples. I see this little '72 Mustang Mark One. At that age I was fascinated by fast cars and good-looking cars and stuff like that. I saw this Mustang, I really fell in love with it. She said, "You like that." I said, "Yeah." She said, "Well, pull over, let's look at it." We pulled over, we looked at it. I talked to the guy. It was Classic Motors, right here on Staples and Craig Street. She said, "You like it?" I said, "Yeah." "Well, try it out." The guy comes out, he says, "The clutch is slipping," and all this, but I tried it out anyway. By the time I came back, they're already talking about getting the clutch fixed.

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She says, "Do you like it?" and I say, "Yeah." She says, "Do you want it?" and I say, "Who wouldn't? It's a nice car."

Apparently, they made a deal, the guy and Dahlia. The following day she came in with a cashier's check, bought the car for me. So that really stunned me, you know what I'm saying. She kind of really bought my love. That's what she did. It wasn't that I fell in love with her or loved her or anything like that, because I had my wife and kids. At that time I was, wow, crazy. One thing led to another and me and Dahlia ran off together. I shouldn't have done that, but I did.

14:00:52

FS: So we ended up in Houston. I took my kids for a little while, back and forth. I stayed gone for a while, from my wife, but I supported my wife while I was on the lam. My kids were well taken-care-of. She was taken-care-of. Dahlia was sending money every week through the Western Union. She was real nice about it. She accepted that my feelings were towards my wife, not towards her. Dahlia was just, I guess she was fascinated by me. I don't know what it was that really attracted her to me. Anyhow, I just kept living that life, that life of spending and having and enjoying it. I guess it comes once in a lifetime, that's the way I looked at it at the time. And I thought I would enjoy it as best I could. But then, when the time came that my mind was

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really saying "Hey, this ain't right. Go home." I met this other girl up in Houston, and she's actually the one who convinced me to come home to my family. But that's what I needed. And that's what I did. So when I came home, my wife accepted me, and we tried to get everything back together the way it was.

14:02:32

FS: But Dahlia kept getting in the picture. She kept coming around the house, trying to make me jealous by driving by with other guys. Stuff like that. One day we had it out because I came home and she was playing with my kids and my wife, trying to win my wife to her side. I got pissed off. I said, "Dahlia, you need to quit. You need to quit, really. You need to quit coming around, messing with my family, I don't need this." Things got heated up between us at that point. She started cussing and running back and forth and everything

14:03:18

FS: Anyhow, she did kind of quit coming around. But I would go around the neighborhood, because I was the type of guy that I liked to cruise up and down the street, seeing friends. I used to smoke a little weed back then, drink, especially drink. I would run into her. I'd see her going up and down. She would be following me and I'd see her. In fact, I'd see her with Carlos in the van several times. I'd seen her with my best friend. I'd

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seen her with several other guys. I just didn't pay no attention to it because she was trying to get me pissed off. "Come back to me, let's work things out." And I wasn't going to go there. I wasn't going to go there with her. I just wanted it to be over.

14:04:17

FS: At that time I was working at the Maverick on Alameda, right before you get to Weber. One day I was coming home . . . In fact, that day, I was with this friend of mine. He came over to the store, and that morning I met him. We were drinking. We drank till about 10:30 in the morning. I got off at seven in the morning, so we drank about 10:30 in the morning. I was tired, and I said, "You know what? I'm going to go, Jesse." It was Jesse Cano.

14:04:55

FS: I went home, and when I got home I had a beer in one hand and a little roach in the other. I was smoking. I was fixing to go to bed. Like I said, I smoked a little weed, I'm not going to lie. Anyway, I was smoking the joint. I was coming in through the door. Next thing you know, here comes the cops, all running down, back and front. They asked me who I was, and I told them who I was, put the joint out, put the beer down. They said, "Well, we need to talk to you." That's when I found out what happened to Dahlia, that she had been killed. It really

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stunned me, because I couldn't believe it. But when I got to the police station I saw her little baby girl standing up on top of the desk. And I'd seen some of her family, I can't recall really, who it was, but I knew some of the family. And I'd seen the baby girl crying, and that's when I realized that really happened.

14:06:04

FS: After that, they investigated me. They took me out to the Texas Public Safety department and they asked all kinds of questions and stuff like that. It's just like I told them, I was at work. I worked from eleven to seven in the morning. Next thing you know they had this other guy named Jesse [Garza], they had my best friend, Johnny Longoria, they had four or five different people, because they said that they had found four or five different sperm cells in Dahlia at that particular night that she was killed.

14:06:48

FS: They mainly found a lot of evidence towards Carlos Hernandez. But they were more focused on this other guy named Jesse [Garza] than they were on Carlos. Because they found fingerprints, they found pubic hairs, they found sperm, they found beer cans that had fingerprints that belonged to Carlos, stuff like that. They way they killed her, wasn't very nice. Apparently they raped her and choked her. They said -- I've never seen any pictures of it or

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anything like that -- but they said they carved an "X" on her back. They never showed me a picture of Dahlia, actually, when she was dead. If they did, maybe I didn't want to look at them or something. I can't recall them showing me anything. But they said they carved an "X" in her back. But they found a knife and they found everything in the van. My understanding, I don't know.

14:08:02

FS: I had Paul Rivera, who was a homicide detective at that time, we kind of talked on a regular basis. He always expressed to me that Carlos had a whole lot more to do than they can see. But, like I said, they were more focused on Jesse. In fact, I think they indicted Jesse, then they acquitted him. I remember them calling me to court one day, and I presented myself over there.

14:08:40

FS: I guess I was, maybe, five, ten minutes on the stand, I can't recall. It wasn't really much, they just asked me about Carlos Hernandez and stuff like that. And I told them that Carlos was a violent person, which he was. Carlos was very violent. He threatened my life many, many times. Many times. I've always dealt with him fist to fist and I've always took him down. I've always had the opportunity of taking over whatever he had going towards me. He would pull clubs, or he would pull a knife, he's even picked up trash cans and tried to hit me with them. He

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always threatened me. He says, "I'll kill you, just like I killed that bitch of yours." He would say that. But he would only say that on a drunken rage. When he was normal, he was a completely different person, but when he drank, don't get around him, because he'll stab you in the back. That's the type of person he was. Very untrustworthy. You don't know one move from the other. That's basically it.

14:10:20

JSL: When Carlos made those statements to you, would you describe to us what exactly would Carlos say to you . . . Let me just ask you straight forward: Who killed Dahlia Saucedo as far as you are concerned?

14:10:30

FS: Me, as far as I'm concerned, Carlos Hernandez did it. Carlos did it. I'm going to . . . That's my gut feeling. Because he came to me. I would come home from work, and he would be at the house. My wife knew how I felt about having him around the house, especially when he was drunk. Ok? We were constantly arguing, me and my wife, because of her brother being around the house. I told her, "I don't want the dude around here. I don't want him. What do I have to tell you to make it clear with you?" Like I said, that was several times. In fact, one particular fight that I got into with him, my friend, Johnny Longoria -- he used to live

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right here on 12th, he passed away a while back, he got shot in Houston. Anyway, we were at the park and we were drinking. South Bluff Park. [Note: South Bluff Park is the park where Michael Ortiz heard Carlos Hernandez confess to three murders, Saucedo, Lopez and the woman under the bridge.] We went to the store -- I believe it was 7-11, I can't recall -- to pick up a couple six-packs of beer. And we were on our way back.

14:11:50

FS: At the time, before I left, I had a little stereo, radio that we had on top of the one of the barbecue tables and we were listening to it. Well, my brother in law, Carlos Hernan -- I mean Javier, not Carlos, Carlos's brother, Javier -- took the radio home. That pissed me off, "What the fuck?" So I went over there, me and Johnny went over there to get the radio. It was just about a block and a half away. So when I went up there I started hollering, "Hey, where's my radio, man? How come you took it?" "Man, you want your fucking radio?" and he got the radio and he threw it. It landed all over the sidewalk, batteries flying everywhere and everything, and that pissed me off. And I took him around the corner, whipping his ass for doing that. Well, Carlos Hernandez comes out with this ax handle. And he's coming at me with the ax handle, and that's when Johnny Longoria comes out and says, "Hey, what the fuck? You want to fight him, fight him hand

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to hand." "Oh, You want some to?" so he goes at Johnny and starts whipping Johnny with the ax handle. Next thing you know, I ran up to him and I said, "Hey, Carlos, come on, man, leave him alone." He's whipping him with this ax handle, basically wanting to kill him. So when I went up there to him, he starts coming towards me with the ax handle. Somehow I managed to get the ax handle off him and I threw it up on a roof of a house. So that's when we went hand on hand. And I started whipping the shit out of Carlos.

14:13:41

FS: But before he did that, before we got into that fist fight, he's coming with the ax handle before I took the handle, and he says, "I'm going to kick your ass. I'm going to kill you just like I killed that bitch of yours." Just like that. Every time we got into a fight, he would always bring that up.

14:14:00

JSL: And which person was he talking about?

14:14:02

FS: Dahlia Saucedo. "Just like I killed that bitch," he was like that. He would always say that on a drunk rage, though, you know what I'm saying? He wouldn't say it . . . Like, the following day he would come in apologizing to me, saying, "I'm sorry about what happened yesterday." This was several times he did this to me, several times.

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14:14:25

FS: In fact, he confessed to my wife. He told my wife that he did it because he wanted to get her [Dahlia Saucedo] out of the way and he didn't want my wife to suffer any more, that that's the reason he did what he did.

14:14:40

JSL: If you could tell us that one more time, using everybody's names, so we know who you're talking about. Tell us about what your wife told you she heard from him.

14:14:51

FS: My wife told me . . . she started crying one day and she says, "I'm going to tell you the truth. I really shouldn't be telling you, but Carlos confessed to me. He told me that he killed Dahlia. He says it's because he didn't want to see me suffer any more." He was tired of me fucking around, always seeing me fucking around. Which I did, I was a player. I used to have little girlfriends on the side.

14:15:20

FS: Back then, it was normal. I was young, I was crazy, I had a lot of women. My wife knew I was like that. She accepted it. As I grew older, common sense told me it wasn't right. I quit, I quit doing stuff like that. But when I was young I was wild. And he would always see this. He was kind of jealous of me. I would

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have a certain girl that was kind of attracted to me, and I then would leave, and Carlos would try to make a move. These girls would come and tell me, "Tell your brother-in-law to leave me alone, I don't want to mess with that crazy." "Ok, don't pay any attention to him. He's just like that."

14:16:16

JSL: Did he ever make a move on Dahlia?

14:16:18

FS: Several times. Dahlia told me. She told me herself that Carlos was trying to make a move on her. I really never approached him about it or anything like that. I just said, "You've got to quit fucking around with him. Quit hanging around him. Just don't get around him."

14:16:42

JSL: Did you know that she had a sexual relationship with him?

14:16:46

FS: Common sense told me that she was. Personally, I never knew that she did. I knew that something was going on.

14:17:03

JSL: You mention that you had these conversations with Paul Rivera about your brother-in-law, Carlos Hernandez. Tell me about that.

14:17:10

FS: Paul Rivera . . . In fact, one day he told me himself, "You

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know what, man? Your brother-in-law sure is one crazy motherfucker." He says, "He even scares me that he's going to do something to my family." He told me, words just like that.

14:17:27

JSL: Paul Rivera's a big guy.

FS: Big guy. Nice guy. Nice guy. He's all right.

JSL: Tell me about any other things that they suspected Carlos Hernandez of.

14:17:38

FS: They mentioned that they suspected him of . . . At that particular time, or later on, as time went on, before they indicted . . . I think it was during the first time they indicted Carlos, they suspected him. I'm not saying . . . At that time I really just wanted everything to be over. I wasn't paying much attention to it. But he did mention something about, that they suspected him of other killings of women, one under the Harbor Bridge, I believe, and one on Leopard, or something like that. I can't really recall what they were about.

14:18:23

JSL: Do you know about when it was that that conversation took place?

14:18:26

FS: Oh, God, I can't. I know it was in the eighties, mid-

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eighties maybe. I can't recall the conversation.

14:18:38

JSL: Just out of curiosity, you mention you were in South Bluff Park. Did you ever know a man named Michael Ortiz?

14:18:44

FS: Michael Ortiz? I can't recall. I know a lot of people, many names.

14:18:52

JSL: Now, just to go back and pick up a couple of points: You said that Dahlia had a lot of money and that her daughter had been killed. Where did she get that money?

14:19:02

FS: On a settlement from the city. Apparently they . . . Really, to be honest with you, I don't know how much she got. I never questioned her about it. All I knew is I was able to spend it. All I know is that one of the babies was playing out in the street. Where she lived was on a dead-end street. So when the trash was coming by to pick up trash, for some reason, the trash truck backed up into her driveway. And the baby happened to be playing in the driveway and they ran over her. But that's what she told me. After that, I never talked to her about it. I know people have feelings. I just never mentioned it again, never questioned her about it, how, why, where were you.

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14:20:00

JSL: Do you remember an occasion when you had a fight with Carlos Hernandez when an ambulance was called?

14:20:10

FS: I can't recall, to be honest with you. I know I've had several fights with him, a bunch of fights. One time we had a fight right here on 10th Street. He had a butcher knife and he was chasing me around with the butcher knife. I believe I picked up the trash can and I started going towards him. Somehow I ended up with the knife in my hand, chasing him. Next thing you know, the cops drive up. They see me with the knife in the hand, thinking I'm the one that's . . . I tried to explain to them, "Whoa, whoa, whoa. Wait a minute, he's the one with the knife. I just . . ." Times like that, when cops came around . . .

14:20:58

FS: We had a fight out there on Laredo Street one day. I remember Javier and Carlos, they came at me. I got it on with Javier first, then Carlos came at me, and then his mother came at me. I can't remember whether I hit Fidela or what. All I know is, it really escalated it to a major fight. I saw cops coming around and I started jumping on top of cars and jumping fences and running. That's all I recall. The following day he came over like it was nothing, with beer in hand and everything, "Hey, here."

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JSL: Carlos?

FS: Yeah.

14:21:43

JSL: What was Fidela like?

14:21:45

FS: Crazy. She's a psycho. My kids used to go over to her house. I really never did approve of my wife taking my kids to her house. Because she was always complaining about, "I'm not going to feed you kids," "No, you can't get this," "No, you can't get that," "Go play outside." Didn't treat them like grandkids, she treated them more like a burden to her.

14:22:21

JSL: Tell me about Carlos Hernandez and knives.

14:22:24

FS: Oh, he always had knives. Always. Always had a knife with him. I can't ever recall him not having one. Sometimes I'd see him, he'd be sitting out there on the sidewalk and playing with it or showing it off. There'd be times, he thought something was going to happen, he'd pull a knife out.

14:22:58

JSL: I'm going to show you something. I'm marking this "F.S. number two." This is a picture of a knife. Did you ever see a knife like that, that kind of knife with Carlos? Would you hold

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it up and show it to us. Tell us about Carlos and knives like that.

14:23:20

FS: He always had a knife. Always had a knife like that. Constantly he had a knife. Always had a knife like that, just like that right there. Those were two-dollar knives you used to get at the trade center. You used to get them at the convenience stores, they had them out there on display. He used to steal packs of cigarettes, and sometimes steal the knife.

14:23:50

JSL: What . . . this is a hard question to ask of you, but I want to ask it. What was the relationship between Carlos Hernandez and Pricilla, your stepdaughter?

14:24:02

FS: Well, you know, my understanding is -- I was locked up at the time. But I came out of prison one day. Months later, my wife and I were laying down, and she started crying. She confessed to me. She didn't want to say anything, but when she did, she told me that Carlos Hernandez had sexually assaulted my stepdaughter, Pricilla. That really, really . . . It hurt me, hearing that.

14:24:47

FS: I'll be honest with you, I was really scared of this dude. I mean, I fought him off for a long time. And I just wanted to

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leave it at that. I didn't want things to escalate, maybe me killing him or him killing me, you know what I'm saying. I couldn't believe my wife was telling me this. I said, "Why are you telling me this now?" I said, "Did you call the cops? Have you reported it?" "Nothing was done." "Why?" Because it was her brother. I just couldn't believe my wife did that. I didn't know how to deal with it at the time. I really felt like I wanted to kill that son of a bitch because of what he did. I knew eventually we were going to get to a point where we were going to hurt each other. One of us was going to hurt somebody real bad. But I wasn't looking forward to it. I just wanted to wait for the time, and when the time came, that's when I was going to take out my anger on him because of what he did to my stepdaughter. I don't know where it would have took us, but if I had to, I would have killed him.

14:26:07

FS: He's no good, man. The dude was no good, no good. And it wasn't just my daughter, believe me, because I've seen him. He used to hang around this laundry right there on Park and Staples. It used to be Don's Laundry at that time. There used to be a restaurant, Hermando's, across the street. Next door used to be the 7-11. It used to be kind of the hangout for the neighborhood there. And he would constantly hang out there. And he would

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constantly try to make passes at little girls. I'm not saying little bitty girls, but I'm saying girls 13, 14 years old. He was always trying to get them. In fact, some of them were my daughter's friends. My daughters could tell you that, that Carlos tried to put his hands on them. The dude was sick, man. He was throwed [sic] off, he was throwed off, believe me. Like I said, he used to scare the shit of me. Paul Rivera will tell you, he told me the same thing, scared him. That's the detective we're talking about. That's how bad that dude was.

14:27:40

JSL: Did you know a detective by the name of Eddie Garza?

14:27:43

FS: Yeah, I know Eddie Garza. Eddie Garza was my best friend's uncle, Johnny Longoria, the one who got killed up in Houston. We grew up together. Eddie would always chase us up and down the street because we wouldn't go to school. Put us in the car and take us for a little ride, then drop us off. Kind of put the scare on us. But I know Eddie.

14:28:08

JSL: And Eddie kind of kept his eye out in the community, right?

14:28:09

FS: Very well. Him and this other officer named Controla [?]. Controla did the same thing for us, he would always . . . It

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seemed like they were trying to give us a headache and everything, but in reality they were just trying to make us go straight.

14:28:28

JSL: And would it be the case, you think . . . How well did Eddie Garza know what was going on in the community?

14:28:35

FS: I think well, very well. He was the type, he liked to meddle in everybody's business.

JSL: When I see this picture of you and your family, everybody's dressed nice, everybody looks nice. How did Carlos dress? What did he look like?

14:29:01

Freddy Schilling: Well at times, he was . . . Like I said, when he was normal, let's say normal, not sober. When he was normal, he was a completely different person. A person you wouldn't mind being around. In fact, he was really impressive with other people, that people had a tendency of accepting him. They had trust towards him. But they didn't know the other side of him. They didn't know what he was really like, not the side that I knew. He was like two personalities, completely, different person, from good to evil. And when he drank, like I said, you don't want to be around him.

14:29:55

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JSL: How did he dress?

FS: He mostly wore blue jeans, T-shirts. I'm not saying they're raggedy or nothing.

JSL: And in the winter?

14:30:08

FS: Normal. Coat, like anybody else. I never really took much attention to him. Overalls.

14:30:15

JSL: Do you ever see him wearing a long-sleeved, kind of like thermal underwear, long underwear top, something like that?

14:30:25

FS: I might have. I've seen him wear overalls, just the T-shirt underneath.

JSL: How about a flannel jacket or flannel shirt?

14:30:35

FS: Flannel jacket, yes. Seen him in flannel shirts, sure had.

14:30:45

JSL: Did he smoke?

FS: That I can't recall, to be honest with you. I think he did. I can't recall.

JSL: How about beer, what was his brand?

14:30:57

FS: The cheapest. And the more he could get, the better. Once

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he got started drinking he wouldn't quit. Wouldn't quit until he got to the point he wanted to get to, and that was the violent point. And if you didn't know how to deal with him, you couldn't be around him. Me and him, like I said, we dealt in many violent ways. In a way, he was kind of scared of me. But me, personally, he just didn't know I was really scared of him, but I just didn't show that. It's just like a dog. If a dog barks at you and you show that dog that you're not scared of him, he ain't going to come at you. Same way I treated Carlos. And he respected that. There were many times when he went overboard and he came at me.

14:32:10

JSL: How was he with women, acting?

14:32:14

FS: At first he was very lovable. Then he became very dominating over them. Very jealous, very constantly haunting them. Couldn't go there, couldn't do this. His sexual toy. That's the way he was with women. And women were scared of him. I mean, he would actually scare them to the point to where they couldn't leave him. That's the way he was.

14:32:51

JSL: What was Carlos like when he felt a woman had dissed him, had . . . Tell me, start with his name and tell me.

14:33:05

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FS: I've known him to be very abusive with them, Carlos Hernandez. Very, very abusive with them. He had a girl he lived with for a long, long time. Her name was Rosa Anzaldua. God, man, I used to see her, one day she'd be real nice, the next day she'd be with a black eye and a busted lip. Till one day she just got tired of it. He came home from work, bitching about "What's for dinner," and stuff like that. Rosa went in the kitchen and cooked something for him. She cooked some hot water, poured it on his ass. Burnt all over, all this, on him. Major burns. He ended up in the hospital for months.

14:34:04

JSL: He cut her hair, did you here about that?

FS: I can't recall, to be honest with you. I'm not going to say. I might have heard something about that.

JSL: And he had some children with her?

FS: Yeah.

JSL: Do you happen to remember-

14:34:16

FS: He was good with kids. I can't say . . . he never mistreated my kids, because he never did. The only thing he ever did was with my daughter. He was different towards boys than he was towards girls. He was more fascinated sexually towards girls than he was . . . yeah.

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14:34:40

JSL: You told me that he was very jealous of your women.

FS: Yeah.

JSL: The fact that you were a very handsome man, you're still a very handsome man, and women were attracted to you. Tell me about his jealousy.

14:34:55

FS: He just didn't . . . Actually, it wasn't because I was messing around on my wife or anything like that, I think it was more because he couldn't. Women that I messed around with just didn't want to have nothing to do with him. Everybody around the neighborhood knew what Carlos was like. Nobody really wanted to mess with him. He'd come around, everybody would be real quiet. No one would say nothing. They didn't even want to start a conversation with him. Sometimes I had to take him with me just to get rid of him.

14:35:52

FS: I mostly hung out with my younger brother-in-law, Javier Hernandez. We were like brothers. We had our ups and downs, we were always fighting and arguing, just like brothers would. But I'll be honest with you, I really loved him. He was a good dude. He was my brother. Me and him were the ones that were mainly together, and he didn't like that.

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JSL: Carlos?

14:36:25

FS: Yeah, he didn't like me and Javier being together. You could always sense that jealousy. He would always try to, "Hey, let me go with you." There were times when we couldn't, and he'd get pissed off about it, like we were trying to blow him off.

14:36:45

JSL: What was Carlos's relationship with Javier?

14:36:50

FS: Well, you know what? Javier was even scared of him. And he did the same thing I did, but he did it in a different way. He did it more of a "I'm on your side, brother." He would . . . When times came he'd be over there instead of over here. Bad. You could say he was scared of him too. Javier, he was an alcoholic. All he wanted to do was drink. He never got violent. Like I said, me and him, we've had fights, but we always made up. And I always accepted Javier because I knew what Javier was like. I knew that he wasn't what his brother was at all. Just, at times things got out of time between me and Javier. We always made up. Brothers, like I said.

JSL: If Carlos-

FS: He wasn't the violent type or nothing like that, not Javier.

14:38:05

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JSL: If Carlos felt like he wanted to confide in somebody, who would he talk to?

14:38:11

FS: Well you know, I've never known him to come and confide for anything. But I've known him to tell some of his girls. In fact, I know that he told one of his girls what he did to Dahlia. And she, in turn, told the cops about it. When they indicted Carlos, I think they used her as a witness. I don't know, I can't recall. I never got called back or anything for that. Like I said, I was cleared for that case, so they never brought me back to court, never asked me to be a witness or nothing like that.

14:38:54

JSL: Why did you get into it with Carlos so much?

14:39:34

FS: It's just dislike. He was the type of person that he would meddle into your life. And he would. He would go and tell my wife that I was with a certain girl, you know what I'm saying? And it pissed me off. That was the main reason I didn't like him, because he was snitching on me with me wife, telling her everything I did, where I was or what I did. Stuff like that. And it hurt my wife, and I didn't want her going through that. I mean, like I said, at that time I was young, stupid, naïve. Yeah, I was a player.

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14:40:20

JSL: Dahlia had a serious cut on her little toe when they found her.

FS: Yeah, I heard something about that. Had one of her toes cut off or something like that.

JSL: What did you hear about that?

FS: All I know is that she had one of her toes amputated or something. I don't know. I know she had a . . . Like I said, she was beat up, strangled, something about an "X" being carved on her back or something like that. I don't know.

14:40:50

JSL: I'll show you another picture her, I'm marking this "F.S. number three." If you could just take a look at that, hold it up to the camera, and tell us who those people are if you know.

14:41:05

FS: That's Efrain and that's Carlos. The one in the middle, I don't know. I can't recall. I never even knew this picture existed.

14:41:19

JSL: And when you said Efrain, is that Frankie-

FS: Efrain, Frank Hernandez. That's the one that died, Robstown.

JSL: How did he die?

14:41:29

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FS: He was dancing with some girl, and apparently the girl had a lover, another girl. And she got jealous, and they went out back in the bar. And she broke a quart [bottle] and cut his throat and cut a piece of his eye out. They said that he would have lived if they would have left him face-down, but when they threw him in the park they left him face-up and he choked on his own blood. That's how he got killed.

JSL: How did-

FS: The girl ended up getting ten years in prison for it. It was a girl that killed him.

JSL: How did Javier die?

14:42:17

FS: You know, that's something I've never been able to put together. Now I understand he got burnt, that he went to the Valley. And his wife used to live across the street, or her and Javier used to live right across the street. They had a beautiful baby. And he used to love her. And she used to take care of him, really loved him. Like I said, Javier was an alcoholic, he had an alcoholic problem. That's the way he lived, all his life. Now, when he died, I can't recall if I was out here or I was in prison. That's just what I heard through the grapevine, that he went to the Valley and that somehow he fell asleep, the mattress caught on fire, the house burnt down, or wherever he was staying at burnt,

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and he burnt with it.

14:43:38

JSL: What do you know about Carlos Hernandez's background. When did you meet-

14:43:42

FS: Well, I never met Carlos Hernandez when I first met my wife. He was in prison. He was in prison, I think it was 25 years or something like that, but he spent 15 or so. He spent a lot of years in prison. I know that when he was arrested, he was arrested for some armed robberies, Circle K's, convenience stores. He had, like, 5 or 6 robberies that he had done. He was 17 at the time. They caught up with him and he got locked up. Being locked up here at the county jail, I know that he was sexually abused, that they raped him. And my understanding is that throughout his duration in the prison, what they call a punk, somebody's . . . They got a man or something like that. My understanding is he was like that in prison when he first got there. I don't know how true it is, or what, but this is just what I heard. Like I said, I've never confronted him.

14:45:15

FS: I never had a decent conversation with him. You couldn't have a decent conversation with him. He was just on . . . a daily basis conversation with him. You couldn't talk to him

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about, "Hey, what happened, man?" because you were afraid you might say the wrong thing and make him go off. So I never really talked to him. I never asked him nothing personal. He never asked me nothing personal. But he sure got into personal business, you know what I'm saying?

14:45:48

JSL: Did you know about an incident that even before then, a car accident that injured Paula?

14:45:54

FS: Yeah. My wife told me about that. She had a boyfriend. In fact, they were Greeks. I can't recall what his name was. But anyhow, my wife was in love with him. His parents had just bought him a '69 G.T.O. And they were out cruising around. I can't recall whether it was Carlos that was driving. I think it was. But anyhow, Carlos was speeding around -- if Carlos was the one that was driving, I can't recall. But anyhow, they got into a wreck right up here on Morgan an the freeway. They hit one of them columns, them dividers in between the underpass. Totaled the whole car up and killed the guy. Paula, she had her jaw messed up and everything, but she lived. Carlos lived. That's all I know.

14:47:04

JSL: Did he feel-

FS: Remorse towards that? I don't think so. He never expressed

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it to me. But my wife, she always felt bad about it. She told me, she told me several times about it. We talked about it. Like I said, I never really asked much about Carlos. I knew what he was, I didn't need to ask.

14:47:36

JSL: For good or ill, your children were around Carlos from time to time.

FS: They loved him.

JSL: Pricilla was, Eddie was, John Michael was. Did you ever hear anything from any of them about Carlos and other crimes, including, specifically, the Shamrock.

14:

FS: No, no. Hell, if I knew about it, I ain't going to let some innocent man be put to death. I would have said something about it. I really would. That's just the way I am. I've got feelings towards others. He didn't. He always thought of himself. I guess I kind of thought about myself too, sometimes, like when I was fooling around with my wife. And I regret those times. But I don't, that I know of . . . I don't think none of my children ever knew nothing anything about it. 'Cause they would have said something to me. Especially Michael, because Michael was the kind that would always, "Dad, did you know this? Did you know that?"

14:48:55

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JSL: Let me . . . You mentioned a minute ago that you had been interviewed -- when you were over in prison, I guess -- by a man named Peso Chavez.

FS: Yes, I have.

JSL: And he talked to you about some of the same events that we're talking about.

FS: Yes.

JSL: And he showed you a picture that has two pictures of male persons on it.

FS: Yeah, it really, really threw me off.

JSL: Let me show it to you, it's "F.S. number four." And if you'll just hold that up and describe what your reaction was.

14:49:35

FS: *(holds photo)* Well, my reaction was, when I'd first seen this picture, I really thought they were both of Carlos Hernandez. Because Carlos looked so much like this *(points to the photo on the left side of the paper)* when he was younger. This *(points to photo on the right)* is more of when he was all wasted, drinking a lot and alcoholic. But this one *(points to photo on the left again)* right here, like when he first came out of prison, it really . . . Like I said, it sent chills through my body when I seen it. Then when he told me that this *(points to photo on left)* was Carlos DeLuna and this *(points to photo on right)* was Carlos

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Hernandez, I said, "God damn, I can believe that, that's probably where the mistake was made." 'Cause it really, really looked like Carlos. *(holds up the photo to the camera)* You can see, right there, the resemblance. I really, really thought it was Carlos [Hernandez] when I first seen these pictures here. I didn't know anything about Carlos DeLuna, I've never met the man, I've never seen him, I don't know what he looked like. But when I seen them, right there, the first time they came to me, I said, "Carlos." But when I got a closer look at them I seen that it wasn't really Carlos. He told me it was Carlos DeLuna, I said, that's really something, because he looks so much like him. So much. So much. So much. I mean, I would have made a mistake. I would have said, "It's Carlos Hernandez."

14:51:23

BW: Where were you when the Wanda Lopez case happened?

FS: Lopez?

JSL: That's the Shamrock. Were you living in Corpus?

14:51:32

FS: Like I said, I can't recall. I think I was here at the time. I was listening to the news when it happened. Like I said, I wasn't really into the case, but I know I heard about the killing, about the Shamrock killing. The cops had caught the guy, he was around the corner, something like that.

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14:51:57

BW: Does that seem like a crime . . . One of the things we're investigating is that Carlos Hernandez was possibly the person that did it. Does that seem . . .

14:52:09

FS: It don't surprise me. It don't surprise me one bit, that Carlos might be involved with this, that he might have had something to do with it. Somehow, they'd mistaken this other guy. I sure would hate to hear that, because an innocent man might have been killed because of this guy, here. Carlos, he was capable of doing something like that. Crazy enough.

14:53:30

JSL: I want to describe to you what another person told us happened in the Dahlia Saucedo event. I'm not going to use names, if you don't mind.

FS: Ok.

JSL: Some of this came out of the trial, actually, that you testified at.

14:53:45

JSL: That Carlos Hernandez had been riding in the van with-

FS: Dahlia.

JSL: Dahlia Saucedo in the front seat of the van. Sort of the place of honor with Dahlia. And they went over to the Casino Club

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and picked up Jesse Garza and a man named Pedro Olivarez. Jesse Garza, good looking man, younger, long hair, quite handsome. And she asked Carlos to go sit in the back of the van with Pedro, so that Jesse Garza-

FS: Jesse could sit up in the front, yeah.

14:54:27

JSL: And that this was a cause for jealousy on Carlos's part. And then it went from there. How do you react to the possibility that that might have been the setting in which Carlos did something.

14:54:40

FS: I tell you what, it really wouldn't surprise me if he did some type of retaliation either towards him or towards Dahlia because of that. He wanted to always feel like he was the one, the leader, you know what I'm saying. He was the type of person that you couldn't leave him out or his feelings would be hurt.

14:55:14

JSL: Did he have people who hung with him or who he could . . . there are a couple of situations-

FS: I can't-

JSL: I don't want names.

FS: Yeah, I can't pinpoint anybody or anything like that.

JSL: There are a couple of incidents where-

14:55:30

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FS: He had a girl that he was messing around with. He was seeing Rosa, he was with Rosa at the time. But he had another girl. She used to drive a, I think it was a '69 Malibu, blue one, with big white tires in the back. She would pick him up, I guess, every morning, at a certain time. And the reason for that was because she would wait for her husband to go to work and then come and pick up Carlos. And Carlos would be driving the car like it was his. He'd be driving all around the neighborhood. Me and my wife would talk about it "one day", said, "One of these days, that girl's husband is going to see Carlos driving that car around with her, and something's going to happen."

14:56:26

JSL: That wasn't Gloria, Gloria Longoria?

FS: I can't remember. No, no, Gloria Longoria, that was Johnny Longoria's sister.

14:56:40

FS: In fact, that's funny you mention Gloria. One day we were, I guess we were kind of having a hard time, me and my wife and kids. Somehow we ended up at Gloria's place, and we ended up there for a couple of weeks. I was working two jobs at that time, and I just came home from work one day . . . I knew Gloria was seeing Carlos. And Gloria really didn't . . . She wasn't really all that crazy about Carlos, but she liked him, fooled around with him, stuff

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like that. Anyhow, I came home that day. I worked maybe 14, 16 hours that particular day. I was tired, man, I was really tired. So when I came in the house, there's a sofa and there's a chair, and I sat on the chair. I was so tired I started nodding out, passing out, from being tired. My wife had asked me if I was hungry, and I said, "yeah." So while I was in the chair like this, I was nodding out, all I remember was Carlos came in and just went straight at me, boom, hit me, flipped me over off the chair. For no reason. I'm like, whoa, what the fuck was going on here? So I got up and I started defending myself. We took it from one end of the house all the way down to the kitchen, just fighting. And the girls are hollering and screaming to quit, to quit fighting and stuff.

14:58:30

FS: Somehow we ended up in the kitchen. I'm taking him out the back door. I'm beating on him, I'm trying to get him off me. Somehow I slipped on some linoleum floor, like this. I slipped on the floor in the kitchen, my legs kind of split and I went down. I was trying to get back up. He got a frying pan that was on the stove and just started beating me with it on the head. Hit me 4 or 5 times. Actually, I started to kind of black out. I started to, I could still see what was going on and I could feel the pounding on my head from the frying pan. And my little brother-in-

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law, Frank, just happened to come in at that time, through the back door. I guess he was with Carlos, but he didn't come in through the front door. He was out in the front, and he went out the back like that when he heard all the commotion and everything. That's when he grabbed Carlos and pulled him out, got him off of me. Otherwise he would have just kept going with what he intended to do. I would have lost it, right there, if Frank wouldn't have been there. But for no reason, no apparent reason, he just came in and started pounding on me.

14:59:55

JSL: Was this around the time that you were seeing Dahlia?

15:00:00

FS: Yeah, in fact, it was. I think I had just gotten back from Houston. That's when me and my wife, we moved into Texas Drive, had a little apartment up there. That's the reason we were staying at Gloria's house. Yeah. In fact, that is the reason I was staying there, was because of that. And I just felt like that angle was taken out on me because of what I had done. That he came at me in the way he did because of me coming back.

15:00:46

JSL: One of your children, speaking about Carlos, said, "There was just so much blood around. So much blood in my life."

15:00:55

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FS: Yeah, there was, no lie, no lie. I mean, this is a tough neighborhood around here. Or it used to be. It still is, the violence is a little different now. Back then, we used to handle it with fists, now they want to handle it with guns. It's really getting out of hand. That's the way I dealt with it back then. At times . . . It seemed normal to me, for a fight. I hung around with all these little neighborhood gangs. We used to have fights from other neighborhoods and stuff like that. I was brought up in it.

15:01:52

JSL: One last question. Just looking back on Carlos Hernandez, the kind of person he was, the kind of life he led, the things that he did, what are your last thoughts about that or last reflections about him.

15:02:08

FS: I'm glad he's gone. This world's better without him. That guy brought a lot of fear in other people. A lot of people, not just me. My wife was scared of him. My kids loved him. Like I said, he was good with kids. Carlos, he had problems. He had problems he never confronted. He had anger, he had . . . just full of rage. And he just had to take it out on somebody. He might just have took it out on the wrong people at the time. I really felt that his loss, to me, ain't nothing. In a way, I'm

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glad he's gone, because he can't hurt nobody. A violent person, very violent, capable of doing anything. That's about it.

15:03:36

JSL: I think we've got it all.

FS: Ok, this is just a little incident that I just recalled, about a girl named Dina who lived right across the street from us. A friend of mine, his last name was Limon, I can't recall his first name, but anyhow . . . They broke up. They kind of separated, went their ways. Carlos Hernandez, he made a move on Dina. Then before you know it, things kind of heated up and they sort of became lovers or whatever. I don't know, but I know that Carlos moved in with Dina. They were together for a little while, three, four, five months. I can't recall, but they were together for a while. Anyhow, as time went on, Carlos became very abusive with her, very possessive. Like, "Where are you going? What are you doing?" Had to be with her everywhere she went. It finally got to the point to where they were constantly fighting. The majority of the time, Carlos would win because he was the abuser.

15:06:40

FS: My understanding is he stabbed Dina, he stabbed her in the stomach. I can't recall, I think he got ten years behind that, in prison. I think that's the last time I heard of Carlos, I think that's where he died, after that, when he got sent prison. But

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that was the last person that he was with. Even to the last moment he was abusive, you know what I'm saying. He did what he did. In fact, right before then, that's when I had heard that Carlos was suspected of other stuff.

JSL: It was right before then you heard from Paul Rivera.

15:07:30

FS: Right before then, when I heard of Carlos being suspected of killing other, or suspected of being involved in other women's murders or something like that. I won't say he was suspected of killing them. So I don't know. I just thought I'd let you all know about that little incident.

15:07:50

JSL: One more question, and if you don't want to answer this you don't have to. Tell us a little bit about your own problems with the law.

15:08:00

FS: Drugs, drugs. That's been my main problem, drugs. Drugs have ruined my life. I committed some burglaries, some thefts. My main problem's been drugs.

15:08:20

JSL: Not any more?

FS: *No, sir. That's what ruined my whole life. That was my downfall. But I'm over, I'm past that. I'm trying to survive now, I'm trying to*

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make it. I'm trying to get a little shop going, get it up off the ground, and make something of myself. I love my mother. She's getting old on me. I'm afraid I'm going to end up losing her any day now. I don't want that. I want her to see that I'm able to do something for myself. My family, my kids, my grandkids. I've got plenty of them. All I can do is put in the Lord's hands and hope for the best. That's all I can do.