

DeLuna Tape #004

DeLuna Tape #004 06:35:19

JSL: Can you tell me your name?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:35:22

LRV: My name is Louis Richard Vargas.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:35:25

JSL: And Mr. Vargas, where are we right now?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:35:27

LRV: We're at 1317 O'Neil.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:35:31

JSL: Who lives there?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:35:33

LRV: Myself and my girlfriend

DeLuna Tape #004 06:35:37

JSL: How old are you Mr. Vargas?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:35:39

LRV: 47

DeLuna Tape #004 06:35:42

JSL: Tell me a little about your family. Your mother, your father, your sister. Just tell me about your family.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:35:57

LRV: It's a small family. Just my mother and my father and me left. Of course we have aunts and uncles and cousins and loved

ones. But right now my father is a little handicapped and my mother is trying to hold on there and I'm still within reach.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:36:19

JSL: And what's, your father you said he's a little handicapped, does he have a medical condition at this point?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:36:26

LRV: Yes, he's always taken it hard ever since my sister passed away. So. I don't know. He suffered a stroke and now he has more physical problems, so mother has to take care of him. I have to stay there for him.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:36:46

JSL: How old are they?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:36:48

LRV: I believe one's in the 70's and one's in the 60's.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:36:53

JSL: And what was your relationship with your parents when you were growing up? What kind of relationship did you have?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:37:01

LRV: We were both in school and trying to make our parents happy and working, and whatever they needed then we were there. And as we grew up we kind of headed our own ways.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:37:14

JSL: And how did you get along with your mother and father in

those days?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:37:21

LRV: There was a lot of love. A lot of discipline. And they taught us a lot in how we grew up.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:37:34

JSL: And tell me about the relationship between, you said you had a sister, what was your sister's name?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:37:40

LRV: Her name was Wanda Jean Vargas.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:37:42

JSL: And was she older or younger than you?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:37:44

LRV: She's younger than me. About a year.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:37:47

JSL: About a year younger. And what was her relationship with you?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:37:53

LRV: We were close, like siblings always playing around, arguing, loving and we went through school together of course. She looked up to me and I needed her for backup. And we were inseparable.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:38:11

JSL: What was her relationship with your parents? How did she get along with them?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:38:15

LRV: She was a... They kept an eye on her more than they did me and that's because she was a young girl growing up so I can understand that. And so they took care of her and kept an eye on her more than they did me.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:38:30

JSL: Pretty strict?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:38:32

LRV: Oh yeah. They wanted her to grow up to be good morals and good foundations and everything.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:38:40

JSL: Which one of the parents was strictest with the daughter?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:38:42

LRV: That was mom.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:38:44

JSL: That's how it was in my family too. Tell me about Wanda as a teenager, where did she go to school, who were her friends, her activities.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:38:57

LRV: Let's see, I think we both, she was following my steps, we went through the same school, elementary, junior high and high school. It was kind of hard for her to study, so she kind of looked up to me to help her out. So I did as much as I could but

my mother was there. My father was always working and out of town that was his job. So my mother had to sometimes put up more with us. But she [Wanda] was learning, she tried her best.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:39:33

JSL: So you were the better student of the two?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:39:36

LRV: That's what I think she kind of said and we argued a little bit about that sometimes.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:39:41

JSL: You wanted her to work a little harder?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:39:43

LRV: Yes, I wanted her to do something with her life.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:39:51

JSL: Did she make it through school?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:39:52

LRV: I think, she dropped out. She didn't quite graduate.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:39:58

JSL: And do you remember the names of the schools you all went to? At this point, it's been a long time.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:40:07

LRV: Let me see, I think T.G. Allen, Wynn Seale and Ray High School.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:40:11

JSL: Ray High School.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:40:14

LRV: I think I left her for one year because I went to Miller.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:40:17

JSL: You went to Miller?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:40:20

LRV: That's another high school.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:40:22

JSL: And tell me about Wanda's friends. Did she have a lot of friends and hang out with people?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:40:31

LRV: Not quite that many. Again she led a strict life so I think maybe one or two.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:40:39

JSL: And did Wanda have any children?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:40:44

LRV: One. A little girl.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:40:47

JSL: What's her name?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:40:48

LRV: Melissa

DeLuna Tape #004 06:40:49

JSL: And so that's your niece.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:40:52

LRV: That's my niece.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:40:56

JSL: And who is the father of that child?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:41:02

LRV: Uh, the father was there at the beginning. His name was Lopez. I can't quite remember his first name. And I once, I guess he knew she was going to have a baby, he kind of got out of the picture. So my parents ended up paying for everything. So I guess they finally met and stuff. But I don't know if the daughter ever, my niece has ever met him. I'm not sure. But he was not in the picture.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:41:40

JSL: So your parents were close to your niece.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:41:44

LRV: Actually, they brought her up.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:41:47

JSL: Tell me about Wanda after she had left school when she was an adult... Where was she working... who were her...? What kind of things did she do at that point?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:41:58

LRV: After, after we... when she went as far as school. Well, I

took off to Houston to work. So I didn't see her for a long time, for about 3 years. Weekends probably but then she stayed behind with parents. What I would hear [is that] she would not go for, you know, good dependable jobs. She would just go for, you know, whatever she could as to make money. And also she was staying with mom and dad, to help them. So she started working convenience stores.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:42:35

JSL: What was the name of the store or the company that she work at?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:42:40

LRV: I believe it was Shamrock.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:42:43

JSL: And how many different Shamrock stores did she work at? Do you remember that at all?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:42:46

LRV: I believe there were two. Two.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:42:50

JSL: And I meant to ask you before, where do you work?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:42:58

LRV: At the time?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:43:59

JSL: At the time or where were you working in Houston?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:43:02

LRV: Oh in Houston. I was working with a Central Welding. I was a field mechanic.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:43:03

JSL: And where do you work today?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:43:10

LRV: Today I work with the city of Corpus Christi.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:43:14

JSL: Now what time of day did your sister work. Let me start over again. Was there a... did you come back to Corpus Christi while your sister was still alive?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:43:29

LRV: As a matter of fact, let's see, yes I had just come back. The oil boom had finished in Houston, so I had come back, we came back to Corpus.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:43:41

JSL: Ok. And you say we, who were you living with at that time?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:43:44

LRV: The family that I had while I was married.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:43:52

JSL: And what time of day was your sister Wanda working when you came back, around what time of day did she work at the Shamrock?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:44:05

LRV: I think she would go in the evening and come out at night.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:44:09

JSL: And how many people were working over there with her?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:44:12

LRV: Just one, herself.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:44:14

JSL: And that was this gas station over on South Padre Island Drive. Is that right?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:44:20

LRV: Right

DeLuna Tape #004 06:44:48

JSL: Your sister's no longer alive, is that correct?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:44:51

LRV: No

DeLuna Tape #004 06:44:52

JSL: And how did she die?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:44:54

LRV: She was murdered.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:44:56

JSL: Where was she at the time?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:44:58

LRV: She was working at Shamrock.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:45:00

JSL: Ok. And what I'd like you to do if you can is just remember back to that day, that evening, that night and tell us what you remember about it. Really from as early in the day as you want to as late in the day as you can remember.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:45:13

LRV: Well, the night before she had asked that I go with her, we go out with her because she wanted to celebrate an evening with us. And I told her I might not[be able to], because [I] worked late, and I had a lot of bills to pay. She right away said that she would take care of my bills. She would go get them done before the evening was out so that we could all go out. I said, "No, you don't have to do that." She said, "I will if you go out with me. I said, "Ok." Well, I got home to Mom's and Dad's home and ready to go and we get this disturbing knock on the door. A man screaming saying that something just happened at Shamrock, where my sister works and to be careful on the way over there but it doesn't look good. I took off on my own. And I made it there right before they put her in the ambulance and from there we went to the hospital. And she was gone.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:46:35

JSL: What did you... What was so important that she wanted to go out with you that night? What did you think was so important?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:46:43

LRV: I don't know. Apparently, I think... I mean I can't remember to that date. She was so excited for us I guess to meet some new friend she met. Being that her life was always trying to be the best you can and take care of yourself, probably she had, I'm thinking, found somebody that she was proud of and wanted us to meet him, to meet him, her, friend or something?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:47:13

JSL: Did you think it was a young man, maybe, that she met that she wanted you to meet?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:47:17

LRV: For her to be that excited, It would have to be something; for her to want me to be there.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:47:25

JSL: You never knew the name of that person?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:47:28

LRV: No

DeLuna Tape #004 06:47:30

JSL: But in your mind, she wanted you to meet her new boyfriend?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:47:34

LRV: I'm thinking that. I'm thinking that's what it was going to lead to.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:47:42

JSL: And um, tell me again about how your evening there, as you were waiting for her to get off work so you can go with her, was interrupted. Who came, I don't need a name but just...

DeLuna Tape #004 06:47:57

LRV: Who came to the door? I later come to find out, talking to a man, and also within that time period that it was a neighbor across the street's son who happened to go by the store and saw what happened. And he wanted to be the first one to come and tell us. And he was the first one that came and told us before we even heard it on the news or anything

DeLuna Tape #004 06:48:25

JSL: And how did he get over to your house from there?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:48:25

LRV: I believe he was on a bike. I'm not sure.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:48:29

JSL: And where were your parents living at that time? What street?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:48:34

LRV: 2418 Cleo

DeLuna Tape #004 06:48:37

JSL: And how far away from the gas station is that?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:48:41

LRV: Oh not far at all. A couple streets to the main street and

then up the freeway and down the freeway. You could get there in less than 10 minutes.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:48:59

JSL: So when you heard that, you told your parents to stay where they were. You got in your car and you went over to the gas station. You said when you arrived there, you could see them, they were just starting to load your sister on gurney into the ambulance. Did you make any attempt to be with your sister at that moment.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:49:27

LRV: Yes, and they restrained me and said this wasn't a good time to get into that area.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:49:38

JSL: Did you happen to look over and see. What did you see at the gas station there at that scene, what did you see besides your sister?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:49:49

LRV: It was chaos; there cops, officers, lights, ambulance, people moving all about. People... What struck me, even to today: Why were they cleaning up right away when this was too fresh? I mean, why disturb anything?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:50:19

JSL: Well come to that. What were they doing, that you were just

now referring to? Tell me about that.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:50:24

LRV: All I remember is, I got, I got restrained. I looked at the ambulance, and they are loading her up. I look back at the door and it's pretty gruesome. And I see 2 individuals with gloves just wiping the floor as fast as they can, the entry and exit, same door.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:50:41

JSL: Were they using little tiny swabs to take blood?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:50:45

LRV: They were picking it up real quick with some large cloth or something.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:50:54

JSL: So it was like they were cleaning it up?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:50:53

LRV: Real quick.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:50:58

JSL: Did you get a chance to look inside the gas station?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:51:02

LRV: No. I took off.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:51:07

JSL: And was there... when you arrived at the scene... were there, you mentioned a lot vehicles, and police personal, and emergency

personal (unintelligible). Were there private individuals, people, you know what I mean, from the street, who had gathered to be onlookers?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:51:28

LRV: I'm more than sure there was, I was just concentrating on my sister, but by just side views, yes.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:51:39

JSL: Do you remember how many approximately?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:51:45

LRV: No, I can't

DeLuna Tape #004 06:51:48

JSL: When you drove up was there, you know you've seen in the movies and everything, tape, crime scene tape, yellow tape, did they have that spread around the scene?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:51:55

LRV: No.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:51:58

JSL: How close did you get to the front of the station where your sister was? How close were you able to get just as someone driving by?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:52:

LRV: Caddy corner facing the first pump. Pumps right here; I got here that's as far as I got.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:52:17

JSL: Were you between the pumps and the station?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:52:21

LRV: I was in clear view of the station, pump was to the right.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:52:26

JSL: OK, and you could have touched the pump from where you were?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:52:29

LRV: Pretty close.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:52:30

JSL: Yeah, and that's the island, there's just one island of pumps there.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:52:34

LRV: Right.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:52:35

JSL: So you were right near the island.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:52:38

LRV: Right there.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:52:38

JSL: And it was just on the other side of the island that you could see your sister, where she had fallen.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:52:43

LRV: Yes, very close,

DeLuna Tape #004 06:52:45

JSL: How many feet? Can you estimate?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:52:52

LRV: Over 20 feet, little more.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:52:56

JSL: What did the police tell you? What did you say to the police?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:53:14

LRV: I need to get in there.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:53:18

JSL: And did you tell them who you were?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:53:20

LRV: Mm hmm...I sure did. And they said the only way you can see your sister is if you head to the hospital now. So I did.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:53:29

JSL: Did they tell you what had happened? Did they say anything to you about what had happened?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:53:35

LRV: No, they didn't say. They just said something tragic has happened.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:53:46

JSL: Did they tell you anything about who was involved?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:53:49

LRV: No.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:53:52

JSL: Did you hear anything there about, any names of people who might have been involved?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:53:57

LRV: No.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:54.01

JSL: As quickly as you can, you got out of there and went to the hospital?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:54:04

LRV: Right

DeLuna Tape #004 06:54:08

JSL: And, um, who did you talk to at the hospital?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:54:12

LRV: I believe the doctor was there in charge of the emergency. And then my parents were arriving also. So I ran right through those doors to meet my sister.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:54:32

JSL: Were there police officers there to help you, talk to you?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:54:37

LRV: I don't recall it.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:54:48

JSL: After you left the hospital that night, did you go back to

the gas station?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:54:54

LRV: No. We went back home to Mom's house.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:55:08

JSL: After that moment, after that time that night, there came a time where there were some hearings in court and there was a trial. Did you attend those hearings and trials?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:55:21

LRV: Yes, I did.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:55:23

JSL: In between that night and the time of those hearings and trial, was there any news about this on the local television? About this case.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:55:39

LRV: Yes, they started airing on air, making people aware of what had happened at the store.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:55:48

JSL: What did they use on the television to make people aware of what had happened?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:55:54

LRV: Something I never heard that made me very furious was the 911 calls.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:56:15

JSL: How many 911 calls did they play at the first trial, that was at the trial that had to do with your sister being killed and a man named Carlos DeLuna who was the defendant. Do you remember how many they played?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:56:29

LRV: Maybe one.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:56:30

JSL: Right. Ok. I've read the transcript of the tapes and I just brought you the transcript. On television, what were [they] using to tell people about what had happened?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:56:47

LRV: They showed words on the bottom and they show some kind of figuration on top. But not only did they show those two things they put her voice in there. So you had three ways of hearing what was happening at the time.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:57:11

JSL: And what were you hearing?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:57:13

LRV: The most I heard of it, I believe there was more than one 911 call.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:57:20

JSL: And when did you find about the other 911 call?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:57:25

LRV: When I heard it on TV.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:57:29

JSL: Ok did your family at some point file a law suit against the Diamond Shamrock?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:57:36

LRV: Yes they did.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:57:39

JSL: And the theory of that suit was that Diamond Shamrock had not had proper security to protect your sister. I meant to ask you she was there at night. She was alone. Were there video cameras in that Diamond Shamrock?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:57:55

LRV: No prior to that, we had even asked them to build some kind of glass container to keep the attendants safe.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:58:04

JSL: Did your sister work in any kind of glass like that?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:58:07

LRV: No wide open.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:58:08

JSL: How close was she to the customers, let's say when they came in to ask to get something or to give her money, or to ring something up on the cash register?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:58:18

LRV: Maybe go to other stations they are pretty separate, that station has a flaw. The counter is face to face with the customer.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:58:32

JSL: What was that neighborhood like?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:58:36

LRV: At the time, there was a lot of dancing going on next door. There was a club.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:58:42

JSL: What kind of dancing?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:58:45

LRV: I don't really recall. Loud music. So it was a busy area there.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:58:53

JSL: Was it entertainment for gentleman at that place?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:58:56

LRV: I think, I'm not sure. But it sure drew a lot of cars.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:58:

JSL: What did your sister tell you about how she felt about that place?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:59:04

LRV: She better never catch me at one of those places.

DeLuna Tape #004 06:59:09

JSL: What did she tell you about how she felt about the gas station?

DeLuna Tape #004 06:59:13

LRV: She had to work, she had to make a living. And the reason she picked that one was because it was close to home and they hired her there.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:00:02

JSL: Now, between [the] time when your sister died and the trial, how many times did you see them playing that one 911 tape?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:00:17

LRV: Over and over. Every month at least twice or more. It was a highly publicized crime. A lot of people heard it.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:00:32

JSL: How'd you feel about that?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:00:36

LRV: I think it could have been prevented. But I came to speculate the reasons why. There was ample time.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:00:46

JSL: What did it make you feel like to see that happen?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:00:49

LRV: Where was everybody at?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:00:57

JSL: Between the time of trial and...I'm sorry between the time that your sister died and the trial, what kind of interaction did you have with the authorities, the police, the prosecutors?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:01:17

LRV: They came, four of them came to my mother's house, and they came to talk to us and promised us everything would be taken care of. That we didn't have to intervene in no way.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:01:31

JSL: Did you suggest the possibility of intervention?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:01:34

LRV: Yes, I did.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:01:35

JSL: Could you tell us what you said, what that conversation was?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:01:39

LRV: At this time I was very furious and hurt, and I promised them that if they didn't take care of it, I would.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:01:

JSL: [What did the police say to you?]

DeLuna Tape #004 07:02:01

LRV: Not even to go there, that they would promise me that they'd be tedious to the end.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:02:05

JSL: And do you...you said there were four detectives, were they

plain clothes or were they in uniform.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:02:11

LRV: No, they wore like suits.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:02:14

JSL: Men, women?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:02:17

LRV: I only remember 4 men.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:02:20

JSL: Do you remember their names?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:02:21

LRV: No, I don't.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:02:24

JSL: Did you talk to any attorneys, or the four men who came with suits on. Do you actually know whether they were police, detectives, and prosecutors? Do you know who they were?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:02:37

LRV: They were all detectives they said, they showed their badges.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:02:41

JSL: Did you ever talk to the lawyers for the state? Or the prosecution? The district attorneys office.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:02:48

LRV: No.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:02:51

JSL: Now did you attend the trial?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:02:54

LRV: Yes

DeLuna Tape #004 07:02:55

JSL: So you saw the attorneys for the state?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:02:58

LRV: Oh yes.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:03:01

JSL: But they never spoke to you?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:03:03

LRV: Not to me, they might have spoken to my parents. I was more sitting back, just studying everything.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:03:16

JSL: What else did they tell you about the case at that point, when they came, those four gentleman?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:03:26

LRV: They were there to pay respect and let us know that this was a very one of a kind crime scene that they had never witnessed and that involved one of the big chain stores and they were going to try to see how to correct this and find out what really happened.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:04:00

JSL: Now have you ever heard the name, Carlos Hernandez. Let me ask this when did you first hear the name?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:04:14

LRV: On TV.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:04:16

JSL: And what did they say?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:04:18

LRV: It's not so much what they said, it was what Carlos DeLuna kept repeating. He kept on saying: He was nowhere near: he didn't do it that; that his friend did it, this Carlos Hernandez.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:04:47

JSL: Did there ever come a time when you were curious about the man Carlos Hernandez that you were hearing about on TV, what does he have to do with it and ask them if they were looking into the question of who this Carlos Hernandez [was]?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:05:07

LRV: At that time, later on, I asked, we asked, my parents asked, Where is this man? Does this man exist, and where was he at this time?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:05:24

JSL: Let me just...Did they tell you that they tried to find Carlos Hernandez?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:05:31

LRV: They said later on that he was in prison at the time?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:05:34

JSL: When you say later on when was that in relation to the trial, before trial, after trial?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:05:42

LRV: During trial.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:05:47

JSL: And so my understanding is to say that they assured you that Carlos Hernandez couldn't have done this because he was away at prison at the time?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:05:58

LRV: Exactly.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:06:02

JSL: He wasn't on the street?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:06:04

LRV: No according to them.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:06:06

JSL: He wasn't even in Corpus Christi, he was in prison.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:06:08

LRV: He was in prison. We never questioned it.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:06:26

JSL: Can you just tell me the name of the lawyer that represented your family in that lawsuit against Diamond Shamrock?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:06:34

LRV: I believe it was Rene Rodriguez.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:06:38

JSL: And that was filed sometime after trial? After the trial of Carlos DeLuna?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:06:44

LRV: Yes.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:06:46

JSL: And did your family win or lose that suit?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:06:50

LRV: They won.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:06:52

JSL: I guess, there was, in part, part of winning, there was some money from that lawsuit that was provided to the family. Did you yourself get any of that money?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:07:02

LRV: No.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:07:03

JSL: Why not?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:07:07

LRV: I am, I was more happy that my niece was going to get taken care of. And that she wasn't going to grow up in hardship. So I told my parents to leave me out of this, and give it to you all so you can take care of her. And in a way give them back a daughter.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:07:39

JSL: Who raised your niece?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:07:50

LRV: My parents.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:07:56

JSL: And what did you really want to get out of that lawsuit?

What was your goal in that lawsuit?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:08:04

LRV: Out of that... What I wanted them to do is um... after taking care of my sister, that was aside, what me...what my parents and I wanted to do was make Shamrock aware they needed to safeguard their stores, protect their employees.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:08:38

JSL: Eventually you came to find out that there [were] two 911 tapes, not just one. Ok. What did those two 911 tapes, would you tell us, tell me. What those 911 tapes together showed that happened that night?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:09:03

LRV: It showed that first, she was aware of her surroundings. She knew something was going to happen. And as scared as she was she didn't make it look like she was calling the police. Although the police were at the other end of the line knowing what was about to happen, and disconnected her on the first call.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:10:22

JSL: How did your sister's death affect your life?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:10:51

LRV: Real hard on me. We used to be all family when she was around and after that I kind of like just wanted to be alone. Kind of started leaving my family behind. I just didn't want to carry grief or [for] them to anyway feel sorry for me, so I just said I'll put that away and live my life. And I have that memory.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:11:30

JSL: At that time, the night of your sister's death until Dec 7, 1989 when Carlos DeLuna was executed, what were your feelings towards him?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:11:50

LRV: I didn't know the individual, only what I come to hear. I couldn't believe that he did it, for what reason. If he only knew my sister he wouldn't of done this.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:12:12

JSL: And why did you decide to sit down and talk to us?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:12:20

LRV: After so many years, I said, so there's no stone unturned, I'd like to hear what you all had to say. I was curious.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:12:55

JSL: How would you like your sister to be remembered?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:13:05

LRV: Out of all this said and done, I like her to be memorialized and to help others and help people that go through this realize that she's back and she wants to help people not go through this again.

RP: Richard, do you think the police did a good job in finding out who did this thing to your family?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:13:58

LRV: At the time, yes.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:14:05

RP: But now, [looking] at the whole thing, what are your overall feelings about, tell us everything you feel about how it's all come to be.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:14:13

LRV: Well, now I hear the rest of the story, I've now been introduced to a side of the story I never knew about. But like it's all come to everybody that was involved is resting in peace now. Everybody that's still involved as a victim will somehow get something out of this and carry on.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:14:51

JSL: And who do you see as the people who are the victims now that are trying to carry on?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:15:07

LRV: Us, everybody out there, everybody that's start going through

DeLuna Tape # 4

December 4, 2004

Interview Louis Richard Vargas – DVD

this, other cases. They don't know what it's like.

DeLuna Tape #004 07:15:19

JSL: Do you ever have any thoughts, Mr. Vargas, about Carlos DeLuna's family?

DeLuna Tape #004 07:15:29

LRV: Yeah, I do. Had I known what I know now, this might have never happened this might have gone another way. So, I wish them the best. I can only sympathize with them. This is why I'm doing this. I am going around a lot with things just to get this in memory of my sister. So that everybody can learn from this.

END OF TAPE