

Assistant Superintendent

P R E S E N T :

N. D. Collaer

Examining Inspector,  
Acting Stenographer &  
Spanish Interpreter

Witness

Witness

Witness

Witness

Senior Patrol Inspector

Patrol Inspector

Patrol Inspector

Patrol Inspector

Irvin H. Cone

Curtis D. Mesley

Andrew Wozencraft

Louis D. Knesek

JAN 5 - 1934

El Paso, Texas

Be it remembered that I, Ramon Rico, having been placed under arrest on a charge of murder do hereby make the following voluntary statement to Nick D. Collaer after having been informed of the nature of the accusation against me, and I hereby certify that before the making of said statement by me, I was duly warned by Nick D. Collaer that I did not have to make any statement whatever with reference to the said accusation against me but that if I did make such statement, that same would be reduced to writing and could be used in evidence against me on my trial. That my voluntary statement with reference to the accusation against me is as follows:

The alien, being first duly sworn, testifies as follows in the Spanish language:

Examining Inspector:

- Q. What is your name, age, occupation and place of residence? A. Ramon Rico, 25 years of age, I have no work and live with Eulalia Casca at No. 3210 Manzana Str., El Paso, Texas, in the house of Jose Estrada ("El Firpo").
- Q. Who else lives in that house? A. The concubine of Jose, Carlota Montes, also lives there. She has two little children. Fidel Ortega also lives with us there. He has no woman.
- Q. Where were you born and of what country are you now a citizen? A. I was born in Chihuahua City, Mexico, and am a citizen of Mexico and of the Mexican race.
- Q. Have you ever been deported from the United States? A. Yes, I have been deported from the United States 4 times.
- Q. Have you been in any penitentiary? A. Yes, 13 months because I was caught with liquor here in 1928, and I was deported to Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico. I was in the school of correction in Saint Anthony, Idaho then. I was caught again and sentenced to 13 months in Leavenworth Penitentiary and was deported to Mexico at Laredo, Texas. I was deported twice here at El Paso, once to Mazatlan and the last time at Laredo, Texas.
- Q. Where you apprehended ~~xxxxxxx~~ last night? A. At No. 171 Madison Str., El Paso, Texas.
- Q. Who was in that house at the time you were apprehended? A. Ruben Rico, my brother and his wife Rufugia Molina; Fidel Ortega; Agustina - I don't know her family name - she is the mother of Carlota Montes, the concubine of Jose Estrada. Then there were two children Concepcion (18) and Jesus (9). Concepcion is the sister of Carlota Montes and Jesus is her brother.
- Q. You and Fidel were injured at the time of your apprehension, how did that happen? A. Well, about noon yesterday Fidel and I went to Juarez for a trip. Jose Estrada told us to wait for him in the afternoon in the plaza. We were there when he arrived in the car from which we later ran. The three of us went to the wholesale liquor house of Bernudez and Jose Estrada there bought four cans of 4 1/2 gallons each of liquor. I don't know what kind - alcohol or setol - and then Jose took Fidel and me down to a point near Cordova Island on the Mexican side and left us.



It was about 5 o'clock when we crossed the river to Cordova Island. The federal guards were eating and we did not pay them. A man with a wagon took us over the river but I don't know his name. We went to the traps near the international line and waited there until the car of Jose Estrada came. It had but one headlight and by that we were to know it. We waited there for some time and finally the car came. Jose Estrada was supposed to have looked over that section of town to see if the officers were there. We crossed with the liquor, Fidel Ortega and I, and got in the car of Jose Estrada. When we got in the car there were two rifles in the front. Jose Estrada was driving the car and Fidel Ortega sat with him in front. I sat in the back seat with the liquor. The officers overtook us and Jose stopped the car and the officers drove up on the left side of us and one of the officers got out of the car and about that time Jose Estrada shot. He had a small rifle (30-30 Winchester) and Fidel Ortega had the large gun (38-55 Winchester) I don't know whether Fidel shot or not.

- Q. Did you shoot? A. No, I had no gun. After Fidel Ortega was shot he handed me the rifle which he had but I did not shoot because I was lying down in the back of the car. Jose Estrada started the car again and when we reached Magoffin the car ran into another car and Jose Estrada died there.
- Q. Then what happened? A. Fidel Ortega and I ran. I was in the lead. We went to the house of Jose Estrada's concubine, Carlota Montes.
- Q. When you reached that house (3210 Manzana Str.) who was there? A. There was my concubine Eulalia Casca, Carlota Montes, and Maria Lopez, Jose Estrada's mother. I reached the house first and two or three minutes later Fidel Ortega came in. Fidel was badly injured in the head.
- Q. What did you say when you reached the house and to whom did you talk? A. I told Carlota that Jose Estrada had been killed in a fight with the federal officers and that the car had run into another one on Magoffin Str. She ran out with Eulalia my woman and the old woman Maria Lopez stayed there. Fidel went into the bath room alone and in about five minutes Fidel left the house by the back door and just a little while I ran out the front door. I was standing by the front door looking out and decided to run. When I was on the railroad tracks I looked back and saw the officer's cars and went directly to the house of Carlota's mother Agustina, where Ruben Rico my brother lives.
- Q. What part did Ruben play in this liquor business? A. He had nothing to do with it.
- Q. Where was he when the fight occurred? A. In his house.
- Q. Was he in the house when you arrived? A. Yes, he was up then because Fidel had arrived before I did.
- Q. Did you and Fidel have any arrangement or understanding to go to Carlota's mother's house? A. No, we both knew about the house however and that is where we both went.
- Q. Did not Carlota, the woman of Jose Estrada, tell you both to go to her mother's house to hide out? A. No, as soon as I told her about Jose's death, she ran.
- Q. Do you recognize these two rifles (indicating two rifles removed from the car in which Jose Estrada was found killed (Studebaker 1930 model sedan, Texas License No. Tex-367-629, registered in the name of Leo Montes 3430 Montana Str., El Paso, Texas)? A. Yes, those are the two rifles which Jose had. I had seen those rifles at the house where I lived many times. They belong to Jose.
- Q. Under the mattress on a bed was found a 12 gauge winchester shot-gun and a Mauser, in the house where you live. What do you know about those weapons? A. I had seen those guns in the bed at the house but they were not in the car tonight.
- Q. Whose guns are they? A. They belong to Jose Estrada.
- Q. Jose Estrada is under bond on a liquor charge at present, is he not? A. Yes. I was not here however when he was caught.
- Q. Then Jose Estrada's mother and your woman and Carlota Montes, Jose's woman, were all in the house when you and Fidel arrived and knew that you both had been in-



- volved in the fight when Jose Estrada was killed? A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Did you tell them that an officer had been killed? A. I told them that Jose had shot an officer - that is all.
- Q. What did Fidel tell them when he arrived? A. I don't know, I was watching the front door.
- Q. What else do you know about this affair ~~evening~~ of last night that you would like to tell us? A. No, nothing more.
- Q. How long have you been working with Jose Estrada? A. Since I returned from the penitentiary.
- Q. How many trips have you made with liquor? A. Around twenty, I would say. Sometimes I work with Fidel Ortega and some times alone.
- Q. Have you been in any other fights with the officers? A. No, we have never had any fights before.
- Q. Were either you, Jose or Fidel drunk this evening or do either of you use narcotics or marihuana? A. None of us had been drinking and we do not use narcotics nor marihuana.
- Q. Does Jose Estrada always carry rifles in his car? A. He always carries two rifles - the two we had tonight.
- Q. Why does he carry them? A. They are for the purpose of fighting if the officers run into us.
- Q. What did Jose Estrada say this evening when he first saw the officers coming? A. He said "here come the officers".
- Q. What did the officers say when their car pulled up to the left side of the car in which you, Jose Estrada and Fidel Ortega were riding? A. I did not pay any attention. The officers came up to our car and Jose stopped the car and Fidel and Jose got their rifles ready. One officer got out of the car and Jose shot and I got down in the car and did not see what went on.
- Q. Can you say that there was but one shot fired by Jose? A. No, I can not. I only remember one shot but there may have been more.

Ramon Rico

Ramon Rico

FINGERPRINT CLASSIFICATION

15 U 00

32 U 00 & 7

Irvin H. Cone

Irvin H. Cone - witness

Curtis D. Mosley

Curtis D. Mosley - witness

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct transcript of the record of investigation of this matter.

Nick D. Collins

Assistant Superintendent  
Border Patrol