

SNOW NOTES

THE WRONGFUL CONVICTION OF JAMIE SNOW AND HOW THEY GOT AWAY WITH IT

Bruce Roland Perspective

April 5, 1994 Letter

“Dear Charles Reynard,

This letter is concerning [sic] information that I have, leading to the indictment on the person’s involved in the shooting death of William Little. I beleave [sic] that I have enough to bring indictment’s out. But I am serving a 3 year sentence for a DUI and driving on revoked. I understand that there is a reward of 5000.00 from private donor’s and crimestoppers is also [sic] offering a 2500.00 reward leading to indictment’s. I would be happy to assists you with any information I have. If there’s help for me getting something like conditional discharge or early release from IDOC, I think that I should be transferred to Mclean Co to discuss this matter. It just does not seem safe to discuss everything hear [sic] at Lincoln c.c. I am willing to do what it take’s to get this indictment.

Hope we can help eachother.

Thank you. Bruce Roland”

May 2, 1994 Letter

“Dear Miss Griffin and Mr. Crow,

I have now received 4 more years for the charges of theft over 300 and tampering with an ATM machine. The reason for the charges are strong and out of the faith that I had for my lady friend. She showed me how to make the deposit and how to withdraw the cash. Her and my daughter receive [sic] all the cash. also the check’s I wrote were for things she stated she needed while I was gone in prison. This was clearly a con and I was fool enough to beleave [sic] her. She promised me that she would pay for all these transactions. Im not sure why or what I was feeling. But the truth is that I feel that she also should be charge for something. She helped with the deal with ATM.

I know that my information was not much in the little case. And I surely wish that I could help more.

I feel that my sentence was very harsh this will cost me 7 years of my life. I am in the prossess [sic] of fileing [sic] a motion to reduce sentence to concurrent instead of consecutive can you please help me. I beleave [sic] that maybe I could help you in the future.

Thank Bruce Roland”

December 3, 1999 Recorded Interview BPD with Detective Dan Katz

The interview was recorded two days after his lawyer contacted Detective Katz to say he was arrested on a DUI and had information about a murder that is worth a free pass on the DUI. Roland stated he heard about the Clark Station robbery-murder from the media the day after the crime. Then, in May 1991, he spoke with Susan Powell and she asked him to buy a leather coat. Then during a second conversation, she said she was nervous because the police were looking for a leather coat that Jamie gave her, which she pawned. He said in February of 1994, while at Lincoln Correctional Center, Travis Gaddis or Travis Bradford told him that Jamie was involved in the crime. He said that after being transferred to Logan Correctional Center in May 1994, he had a job mopping, and saw Jamie in his segregation cell while he was working. He said Jamie told him he was in for the Clark gas station thing. He said Jamie confessed that he was partying at the Whitmer's house three or four houses down from the gas station, went to buy a pack of cigarettes there, but didn't have enough money, and the clerk wouldn't give them to Jamie for free, so they had an argument. He said Jamie and Mark "Stretch" McCown went back to the gas station, Jamie went inside determined to get the cigarettes, had an altercation with the clerk, shot him, and took the cigarettes and the money. He said Jamie claimed it was much more than the 40 or 60 dollars he thought was stolen. He said they could not talk about it again because other people were around, and then Jamie was transferred out of Logan Correctional Center.

December 17, 1999, Failed Polygraph

RESULT: Not truthful on the following questions:

- Did you tell the truth when you said you had a conversation with Jamie Snow about the Clark Gas Station while at Logan?
YES
- Did Jamie Snow tell you he was at Whitmers' house just before the shooting at the Clark Station?
YES
- Did Jamie Snow tell you he was at the Clark station two times the night of the shooting?
YES

RESULT: Inconsistent/erratic on the following question:

- Did Jamie Snow tell you he shot the guy at the Clark Station?
YES

Susan Claycomb Trial
August 22, 2000

Direct Examination via Teena Griffin

Roland confirms he was convicted of the offense of possession of a controlled substance in 1989, felony DUI and driving under a revoked license in 1993, and theft over \$300 in 1994 (p 143, lines 17 – 24 & p 144, lines 1 -5).

Roland says he grew up with Jamie since high school (p 144, lines 9-12).

Roland said he had a conversation with Jamie at Logan Correctional Center in December of 1994 where he was a sanitation worker, and Jamie was in segregation. He said that Jamie told him he was on the circuit, in segregation, because he had a big name through a gang he was affiliated with back in Bloomington Normal. He said Jamie said he was responsible for shooting William Little. He said that Jamie told him he was partying at the Whitmer's house on Linden Street, went to the Clark station, got in an argument over a pack of cigarettes, came back an hour later while mad with Mark "Stretch" McCown, had an altercation with William Little over the cigarettes since he would not give them for free, and Jamie shot him because he recognized him, took the money, and the cigarettes, and they left. He supposedly said there was no way the police would nail him, and they did not have the conversation again, because you are not supposed to talk to people in segregation (p 146 – 151).

Roland states he did not go to the police with the information when he got out of jail because he did not want to get involved (p 151, lines 9-14).

Roland states he was prompted to go to the police with the information in December of 1999 because he was charged with a DUI and his attorney recommended it, and he was not made any promises regarding the pending DUI charge (p 151, lines 15-24 & p 152, lines 1-13).

Cross Examination via Steve Skelton

Roland concedes you can walk to the Clark station in less than two minutes from the Whitmer's house (p 152 line 24 & p 153, lines 1 – 3).

Roland claims to have known Mark "Stretch" McCown for twenty years, to have grown up with Jamie, and to know that Jamie and Stretch were friends (p 152, lines 3-19).

Roland confirms that in 1999 he told Detective Katz that Jamie told him through the cell door that he got a hell of a lot more than \$60 from the robbery, and that he thought it was \$60 because of reporting in the Pantagraph (p 154).

Roland confirms that his DUI case is still pending and he could go back to prison (p 155, lines 1-11).

Roland confirms that it was five years between the time Jamie confessed to him, and the first time he told any authority about the conversation (p 155, lines 16-24 & p 156, lines 1-2).

Snow Trial
January 8, 2001

Direct Examination via Teena Griffin

Roland confirms he was convicted of the offense of possession of a controlled substance in 1989, felony DUI and driving under a revoked license in 1993, and theft over \$300 in 1994 (p 80, lines 1 -12).

Roland says he knows Jamie Snow but he does not see him in the court room today (p 80, lines 13-22).

Roland confirms he recognizes Jamie from the photos marked at exhibit numbers 53, 56, and 36 (p 80, lines 23-24 & p 81, lines 1-14).

Roland confirms that he does not see anyone in the court room that looks like the Jamie Snow he knew back when he knew him (p 81, lines 15-19).

Roland says he knows Jamie by association. He said in junior high school, he was friends with Mike McCown, and Jamie was friends with Mike's younger brother, Mark "Stretch" McCown (p 81, lines 20-24 & p 82, lines 1-17)

Roland claims he had contact with Jamie at the end of December 1994 when he was at Logan Correctional Center. He said Jamie was in segregation and he was working sanitation, mopping the floors. He said they recognized each other while he was working in Jamie's section, and Jamie told him he was in segregation because of the name he got while affiliated with a gang and was involved in an incident at the Clark gas station. He said he asked Jamie if he shot the kid over \$40, and Jamie told him it went down over a pack of cigarettes, that he didn't have the money to pay for them, William Little wouldn't give them to him for free, he left upset, came back determined to get them, shot William Little because he was scared he was going to recognize him, and then took the pack of cigarettes and the money. He said that Jamie was partying at the Whitmer's house three houses north of the gas station on Linden street, and had went back to the station with Stretch the second time. He said Jamie said he could never get arrested because the police didn't have enough evidence. He said they did not discuss it again (p 84-87, & p 88, lines 1-7)

Roland states he did not go to the police with the information when he got out of jail because he did not want to get involved (p 89, lines 4-12).

Roland states he was prompted to go to the police with the information in December of 1999 because he was charged with a DUI and his attorney recommended it, and he was not made any promises for anything in return for his statement (p 89, lines 10-24 & p 90, lines 1-5).

Cross Examination via Picl

Roland says that his lawyer advised him to come forward with this information after he got into trouble just because he was a good citizen (p 90, lines 11-20).

Picl insinuates Roland is coming forward now so he can tell his judge he is an outstanding citizen during his sentencing hearing, and Roland says he doesn't consider himself an outstanding citizen, but he is an honest and truthful citizen (p 90, lines 21-24 & p 91, lines 1-4).

Roland confirms he asked Jamie if he got \$46, since he saw that figure reported in The Pantagraph, and Jamie supposedly said he got a lot more than that (p 91, lines 14-24).

Roland confirms that Jamie supposedly said he took one pack of cigarettes and didn't say there was a struggle over them, just an altercation (p 92, lines 1 – 21).

Roland confirms that Jamie did not say he attempted to just take the cigarettes from the store the first time without paying for them (p 93, lines 7-20).

Roland confirms that Jamie supposedly shot William Little the second time he went back for the cigarettes after an altercation over them, because he was afraid of being recognized, and did not specify if he took the money from the cash drawer (p 93, lines 21-24 & p 94, lines 1-7).

Roland confirms that Stretch was supposedly with Jamie but he did not say if he was in the car or on foot (p 94, lines 8-13).

Roland confirms that Jamie supposedly told him he was on the circuit and in segregation because he shot and killed someone and earned gang affiliation (p 95).

Roland confirms that he had ample opportunity to report this confession to the authorities between the time his lawyer contacted them regarding his DUI, and the time he supposedly heard the confession (p 97, & p 98, lines 1-2).

Roland confirms he only knew Jamie through the McCown brothers and he was never close friends with him (p 99, lines 10-13)

Redirect via Teena Griffin

Roland confirms that although he read media coverage about the crime in the paper between 1991 and 1994, he did not read in the paper that Jamie was a suspect or that there was an argument over the cigarettes, or that Stretch was with Jamie (p 99, lines 21-24 & p 100, lines 1-12).

Brian Whitmer Testimony January 9, 2001

Direct Examination via Frank Picl

Whitmer says he has never met Jamie before. He knows of him, he doesn't know him personally. He did concede that they got in a fist fight in 1988 or 1989 briefly, but it was broke up quickly, he never saw him ever again, and doesn't recognize him sitting at the defense table today (p 131, lines 3-24 & p 132, lines 1-11).

Whitmer confirms he lived with his father Carroll on 1105 North Linden Street in 1991, which is one door down from the Clark station, and it takes 30 seconds to walk there (p 133, lines 1-13).

Whitmer says he was not hosting a party at his home the night of the crime because he was in prison and Jamie was not welcome in his house by anyone living there (p 133, lines 14-24 & p 134, lines 1-2).

Whitmer confirms that no, he did not have any conversation with Jamie from his yard or the curb a couple weeks before the night of the crime (p 134, lines 9-16).

Cross Examination via Teena Griffin

Griffin asks Whitmer multiple questions regarding the timing of his arrests for various offenses and his sentencing dates, to determine if he remembers being locked up the night of the crime, March 31, 1991. Whitmer says he is positive he was in prison the night of the crime and he did not have a conversation with Jamie a couple weeks before the night of the crime. Griffin claims that Whitmer was arrested on March 20, 1991 and not sentenced until April 19, 1991, and Whitmer confirms, but insists he was locked up before sentencing (p 135 – 137).

Redirect via Frank Picl

Whitmer confirms that he was locked on up March 31, 1991 (p 137, lines 20-24).

Recross via Teena Griffin

Griffin tries to get Whitmer to recall what he was arrested for on March 20, 1991, so she can see if he recalls being locked up or free before that date. Whitmer is aggravated and tells her he has not studied his paperwork, he could care less, he is not on trial, and he has been arrested for aggravated battery so many times he can't see straight (p 138 & 139).

Carroll Whitmer Testimony January 10, 2001

Direct Examination via Frank Picl

Carroll confirms he is Brian Whitmer's father and has lived at 1105 North Linden Street for 35 years, which is two doors north of the Clark gas station (p 96).

Carroll confirms he was home on March 31, 1991 and there was not a party at his home, and he would know if there was (p 97, lines 9-16).

Carroll confirms that his x-wife and his granddaughter were living In his home at the time (p 97, lines 17-18).

Carroll says he does not know Jamie and has never met the man photographed in Exhibits 56 or 36a.

Carroll says he remembers the night of the crime because the police came to his home and he checked his garage door to make sure it was locked and no one was around. He said he let the police search his garage (p 98, lines 9-17).

Cross Examination via Teena Griffin

Carroll concedes he doesn't know who is at his house when he is not there but insists he did not leave his residence at all the night of the crime (p 100).

Carroll concedes that it is his signature on the McLean County visitor jail log, indicating he did visit his son Brian in jail the night of the crime, but he has no recollection of it, the visits were allotted only an hour or a half hour, and he probably visited in the evening (p 102 & 103).

Redirect via Frank Picl

Carroll says he saw no dates or times on the visitor's log that the prosecutor just showed him, he was probably drunk when he interviewed with detectives in 1999 and said his son was home the night of the crime, that he did not visit his son in jail for more than an hour, and he's positive there was no party at his home the night of the crime (p 105 & 106).

Bruce Roland Plea Hearing November 9, 2001

Charges:

- 1999-DT-712 Driving under influence of alcohol, revoked, uninsured vehicle, squealing/screeching tires, headlight/taillight/sidelight out
- 2000-CF-1460 Driving w/ revoked or suspended (felony)
- 2001-CF-127 Driving w/ revoked or suspended (felony)
- 2001-CF-13 Aggravated driving under influence of alcohol and an additional count of driving with license revoked – (felony)
- 2001-CM-1059 Deceptive Practices/ Bad Check / First Offense

Sentence: 5 years

- 2.5 for 1460 and consecutive with remaining cases
- 2.5 yrs concurrent and 364 current for misdemeanor DUI
- Court costs and \$60 restitution to Weaver Rental within 6 months of release
- All remaining charges dismissed.

Danielle Roland Plea Hearing
November 9, 2001

Charges:

- Forgery / Make / Alter Document
- Forgery / Make / Alter Document
- Forgery / Make / Alter Document
- Obtain Substance by Fraud
- Possess amount (up to 15 grams) controlled substance
- 2001 Deceptive Practices / Bad Check

Sentence:

- 2 years probation for possession
- \$40 Restitution
- All other charges dismissed

Danielle (Roland) Prosperini Affidavit
October 4, 2012

States Bruce Roland gave false information and testified falsely at Snow's trial. States that right after Jamie was convicted, he stated to her that he lied at trial and felt very guilty. She said they had numerous conversations about this.

She stated Barkes and Katz harassed Bruce. Then Roland caught a DUI and called Katz. She states she was with him when he called Katz and he wanted to talk to Katz about the Jamie Snow case. Stated they came to see them the next day, but Bruce didn't want to talk to him without a lawyer and hid upstairs, and Katz told Danielle he was eligible for an extended term.

She stated Katz was very flirtatious with her, called all of the time – even after the trial. Katz pressured her to make sure Roland cooperated, and said he could put him away for 50 years. Katz's wife was in charge of licensing home daycares, and Danielle had a home daycare – he made it clear that he had the power to do whatever he wanted through his wife. She stated Roland failed two polygraphs.

She stated Roland caught another DUI between trials while out on bond, and he had to serve time on that case.

She states her ex-husband was involved with Susan Little, and he (her ex) was recording phone calls without her knowing. She stated Karen Strong called her out of the blue and told her that she was going to her ex-husbands and Susan's place and buying drugs and that her kids had been there. She stated when she found out she took the tapes to Teena Griffin and Reynard to try to end visitation with ex-husband, but instead, they got eavesdropping orders from Judge Bernardi (trial judge), and told her to find reasons to call her and grill her on the case. They wrote notes to tell her what to say.

She stated after sentencing, she told Jamie's attorney's that Roland had lied, but nothing ever happened.

Tammy Alexander Affidavit
May 13, 2014

Roland admitted to Tammy that he doesn't remember seeing Jamie in Logan in 1994. They were not allowed to talk to inmates and could not have a conversation.

Roland remembered receiving the response to his letter from Teena Griffin. He stated that Crowe came to see him four days after transferred to Logan in 94, and that he told Crowe all he knew was hearsay, and two inmates in another prison told him that Jamie did it. He stated that Crowe or Katz wrote out a statement for him and had him sign it but didn't say when the statement was signed or what he was referring to.

Roland said they followed him constantly after the got out on bond on a DUI, and that he caught a DUI while he was out on bond. He stated the police threatened him with a max sentence on charges, and that Katz was around all the time.

Roland stated that Katz drove him to Springfield to have him take a polygraph, and the results were inconclusive.

Roland stated they told him what to say at trial and prepped him in a room in the courthouse moments before the trial.

Roland said he was scared but wanted to do the right thing, and "not a day goes by that [he] doesn't think about Jamie."