

SNOW NOTES

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

Reverend Bill Gaddis Perspective

December 26, 1996

BPD Interview with Detective Larry Shepherd and Travis Gaddis, brother of Bill Gaddis

Detective Shepherd reminded Travis Gaddis that they previously spoke about information he had about the Clark Gas Station homicide several times. Gaddis said that he remembered sometime in August or September of 1991, while out of prison between July and November, he had a conversation with his brother, Jamie Snow, another person, and a woman with long brown hair. He said they were drunk and partying on Six Points Rd and ended up back at the woman's house. He said she brought up that Jamie wasn't caught for the murder, and Jamie supposedly said they weren't going to be able to convict him on it. He said Jamie said he shot the kid because he thought he recognized him. The other man supposedly said he was hiding behind a garage in the parking lot behind the corner, heard the gunshot, and they fled on foot, and a car waiting picked them up. He indicated the gun was buried in gravel pits by O'Neil park. He said they were all very intoxicated.

Gaddis confirmed that he spoke about this to someone in the county jail about a month prior, and said "I know a way we can possibly get out of the stuff, the trouble that we're in, you know [...] about Jamie Snow." He said that person did not want to be questioned about it because he was afraid of retaliation from Jamie and he wouldn't get anything out of it. He said he was only promised he would not be charged in relation to the homicide and that they wouldn't harass his brother about it. Gaddis reiterated that he was very drunk and doesn't remember the exact words that were used.

At the conclusion of the interview, Gaddis said he would be willing to talk about it again if certain things were done. The detective agreed that he said he "would talk to the States Attorney and see if [he] could possibly get some, some time out of this." Gaddis clarified "some time completely reduced." The detective made him clarify that he has not been promised anything yet.

August 31, 1999

BPD Interview Detectives Dan Katz & Larry Shepherd

Assistant States Attorney Teena Griffin & Wife Angela Gaddis in Attendance

Gaddis confirms he has information about the March 31, 1991 Clark Gas Station murder. He said he walked into an apartment on the corner of Lee and Market Street, Dennis Hendricks rented it, and he was looking for his younger brother. He said there were lots of girls in the front room and he walked back to the single bedroom and he noticed everyone in the room had been crying or solemn. He asked them who died, there was silence, and then Frank Turner, who was lying on the bed, said that Jamie had shot a boy at the gas station. He said he and Jamie looked at each other, there was silence, and he left soon after. He said in order from left to right, there was Jamie Snow standing on the wall, then Mike, then Dennis Hendricks, then either Todd or Bobby Hendricks sitting on a dresser, another Mike, Frank Turner on the bed, and Dave Shepperson at

the foot of the bed with his head in his hands. He said everyone was crying. He said Jamie was wearing blue jean shorts to his knees, a white t shirt, a white Miami Dolphins leather hat. He confirmed that Jamie, Dennis Hendricks, and Frank Turner were definitely crying. He clarified the bedroom door was closed when he approached, and there was no talking when he walked in. He said Jamie looked him right in the eye and did not deny it. He said he left after a few minutes. Gaddis said this occurred at the very end of March or first part of May 1991, and it was raining that night. He is reminded by Detective Katz that the crime happened on March 31st at 8:15pm. He said that was the first time he heard about the case, and he was at the house between 9 and 10 pm on the night he was there, no later than 10pm. Gaddis said his relationship with the people in the room was their "self-appointed leader". He said Mike had a black wife and drove a big green Cadillac. He clarifies this conversation happened before Jamie went to Missouri. He said Jamie left real soon after the conversation. He said Frank Turner and Dave Shepperson are deceased. Gaddis said he went directly home that night and told his wife what was said at the party and who was there.

Angela Gaddis, Bill's wife, who was present during the interview, said that she remembered when Bill came home that night, he told her that they were all there in the apartment talking about the murder and they said Jamie had committed it. She said she cannot remember the date, but it was between the end of March and the second week of May when they were in the middle of moving. She confirmed it was raining that night.

Gaddis added that he didn't tell anyone before because he thought someone else had already come forward and he wants that fact on the record.

September 8, 1999

Bill Gaddis Grand Jury Testimony

Direct Examination Via Teena Griffin

Bill Gaddis confirmed he was a licensed minister and affiliated with the Pilgrim Holiness Church on East Street in Bloomington. He said he had known Jamie Snow since they were little kids as their fathers raced stock cars together, and he has known Dennis Hendricks since the seventh grade. He said he knows Dennis' brothers, Billy, Todd, and Tim, Mark McCown, and Dave Shepperson. He clarifies his brothers are Frank Turner, Frank Roberts (aka Garren Bradford), and Travis Gaddis.

Gaddis said that he first wanted to clarify that he left the group of friends before October 14th before the year of the homicide (he later explained that's the date he quit his gang membership). He continued that his brother Garren lived with Denny Hendricks, and one night he went walking through their apartment looking for Garren. He said there were many women in the front room and he walked through the kitchen, down the hallway, to the bedroom and opened the door. He said that Jamie Snow was on the wall wearing a pair of blue jean cut off shorts, a white t shirt, and a white Miami Dolphin's baseball cap. He said there was also a man named Mike, two Hendricks brothers (maybe Dennis), another man, his brother Frankie stretched out across the bed laying down, and Dave Shepperson at the foot of the bed. He said Jamie was heavily crying, and Denny and his brother Frankie were crying. He asked who died and Frankie said Jamie shot a kid at the gas station. He said he and Jamie looked at each other, he looked around the room, then backed out, went down the hallway, and left. He said it was raining that night and he drove home disgusted and told his wife.

Gaddis said he and his wife recently talked about it and agreed this happened either the night of or the night after the crime, but definitely before May 1st when they moved.

Gaddis said that everyone in that room was affiliated with the North Sider Prison gang. He said that Jamie later went to Florida to hide out from the police, and tried to get his brother Garren to go with them, but he convinced Garren not to go. He said that Jamie told his brother Garren that he was hiding in his sister's attic because he thought they were looking for him for the murder, and had he known it was just for a robbery, he would not have hid.

Gaddis clarified that he is not a friend of Jamie Snow. He said that since then, Dave Shepperson died after he was tripping on drugs and walked out in front of a truck, and that his brother Frank died when he fell out of a tree while working. He said he saw Jamie once since that night, maybe a year later at his brother Garren's house, and he did not talk to him. He said that he spoke to his brothers Frankie and Garren about this, and that he had heard from Garren that Denny Hendricks tried to collect the reward money but his information was not credible enough.

Gaddis said the reason he's testifying was because a couple months ago, he told someone else about the conversation that night in the room full of people crying, and then that person reported it, so the police contacted him. He said he was tricked into that conversation.

Gaddis clarified to the grand jury that Jamie was an acquaintance of his, not a friend, and that Jamie hung around people he was in charge of. He said Jamie is a thug, a fighter. He said he has no reason to lie and wouldn't be there today unless the police contacted him. He continued that the whole room full of men couldn't have whooped him together, and they were glad to let him walk away with the information, that he "ain't afraid of none of them."

Gaddis said that if his brother Garren was asked about what Jamie told him today, he would do time before he would say anything, that "they all would do time before they rat on each other." He said he's only there because the victim had no gang affiliation and did not deserve that, and it amazes him that there are so many witnesses and Jamie hasn't been brought in yet.

Gaddis clarified that when his brother Frank said Jamie shot the kid in that room that night, Jamie made no attempt to dispute it, he did not say a word.

September 8, 1999

Mike Higgins Grand Jury Testimony

Higgins stated that he did not use a racist nickname that Gaddis accused him of being known by. He said he did not know Dennis Hendricks, Bobby, Todd, or Billy Hendricks. He said he may have gone to High School with Jamie Snow but doesn't remember him. He said he does not know Frankie Turner, Dave Shepperson, Bill Gaddis, Franklin Roberts, or Garren Bradford. He said he is not familiar with the apartment in question on the corner of Lee and Market. He said he read about the Clark Station murder in the Pantagraph but he did talk to anyone about it. He said he has no information about the crime.

August 25, 1999 & September 22, 1999
Dennis Hendricks Grand Jury Testimony

Hendricks verified he lived with Frank Turner on the corner of Market and Lee at the time of the crime and they later moved to Mulberry Street. He said that his brothers, Mark McCown, Steven Graham, Dave Shepperson, and Franklin Roberts aka Garren Bradford and his brother Darrell visited their apartment. He did not know Mike Higgins. He clarified that the apartment was actually a three bedroom apartment.

Hendricks said he knew Jamie because Jamie was friends with his brother. He said that he did not have conversations with anyone about the Clark Station murder and he did not have any information that Jamie was involved. He said he does not remember being in a room where Bill Gaddis entered and people were emotional, and Frank Turner said Jamie shot the guy. He said he can't remember himself or anyone crying. He said the North Siders were a prison gang and not affiliated with the outside.

He said Jamie called him on Friday, August 13, 1999 to ask if he had talked to anyone about the case and he kept reiterating he did not do it, and he has not talked to him since.

September 22, 1999
Billy Hendricks Grand Jury Testimony

Hendricks confirmed that he and Jamie were close friends since childhood through the early nineties. He said he never had any conversations with Jamie about the Clark Station murder except to ask him if he was involved and Jamie said he would never do anything like that. He said he has heard rumors that Jamie, Stretch, and Susan were involved but he has no information one way or the other.

September 22, 1999
Todd Hendricks Grand Jury Testimony

Testified that the only person he knows by name that went to his brother Denny and Frank Turner's apartment on the corner of Market and Lee was Danny Basham.

BPD Interview Darrell Gaddis Detectives Dan Katz & Rick Barkes
May 31, 2000

Detectives explained he is being questioned because he has been listed as a defense witness by Steve Skelton in Susan Claycomb's trial. Darrell explained that Skelton wanted him to talk about his brother Bill Gaddis and Shane Tallon being liars. He said he was never a North Sider, and he stopped being friends with Jamie and the Hendricks' in early 1990 when he wanted custody of his children. He had no first-hand knowledge from Jamie or Susan about the crime, or if anyone else told their group that they were involved. He said he's hated Shane Tallon since 1993 and would not be upset if something happened to him. He said he had a falling out with his brother Bill in the late 80s, early 90s, and he does not like him at all. He last spoke to him 10 or 12 years

ago, and he is 32 years old. He said Bill is 36 or 37 now, and to his knowledge, he does not have any direct knowledge about the case. He said his brother is a habitual liar, he calls himself a Reverend and that is a lie, he is not a Reverend, he has never been ordained, he bought a diploma out of a magazine, so he is most definitely a liar. He said he lied about simple things, just to make up stuff, especially saying he has first-hand knowledge about cases, and he is obviously lying again now. Darrell said Bill separated from the group a long time before he did, so if he didn't hear it himself, there is no reason Bill would have. Darrell said he knows Skelton because retained him as a lawyer for his tickets, and while he was in his office, Skelton asked him if he knew Bill Gaddis, and if he was a liar, and he agreed that yes he is a liar, if Bill said the sky is blue or two and two is four, he would call him a liar.

January 4, 2001

Bill Gaddis Testimony, Snow Trial

Gaddis claimed he knew Jamie because his mother used to take him to church and his father served time with his father and drove race cars with him (p 15, lines 3-6).

Gaddis claimed he hung around with the Hendricks brothers while growing up (p 15, lines 13 – 17).

Gaddis claimed that on Easter Sunday 1991, or the day after, he went to his brother and Denny Hendrick's apartment on Market and Lee Street to look for his brother Garren to make sure he was going to work the next day. He said he walked in the front room, through the kitchen, a hallway on the left, past a bathroom, and to the bedroom. He said there were girls all in the front room and everyone else was in the bedroom. He said he knocked on the door and said "if you don't open it I'll kick it in." He said when he walked inside he saw Jamie, Mike, Denny Hendricks and one of his brothers, someone else, Frank Turner laying on the bed, and Dave Shepperson at the end of the bed. He explained Frank was not his blood brother but he lived with him most his life and considered him his brother. He said everyone was crying so he asked who died. He said Frank said Jamie shot that boy at the gas station. He said he cannot remember if Jamie looked at him, he had his head down and did not deny what was just said. He said he walked out, went home, and told his wife what happened. He said Jamie was wearing blue jean shorts and a white t shirt and a white backwards baseball cap. (p 16, lines 16-24 – p 22, lines 1-4).

Gaddis identifies Jamie in exhibit numbers 53 and 56, photographs from 1991 (p 22, lines 5-24).

Cross Examination via Frank Piel

Gaddis admits that he is currently licensed as a preacher for the Pilgrim Holiness Church, a Methodist church, and he is still working on his ordination. He cannot perform weddings. He reports it is on East Street but he cannot remember the number of the street address. He said he lives out of state and he will not tell anyone what state he currently lives in (the judge allows that) (p 24 & 25).

Gaddis says he currently preaches sermons on Sundays, his congregation has 250 members, and he has been licensed by Midwest Pilgrims for seven years (p 26).

Gaddis is asked to describe the layout of Hendrick's apartment again, and he says there is small front room, a small kitchen that leads to a hallway, and a bathroom and bedroom on the left. He says it is a one bedroom (p 27, lines 1-14).

Gaddis claims he has been there four to five times, and Dennis Hendricks, his brother Garren, Frank Turner, and lots of girls were usually there (p 27, lines 15-24 & p 28, lines 1-14).

Gaddis is asked again to list who was in the room the night of his story. He lists Jamie Snow, Mike, Dennis Hendricks and one of his brothers, someone else in the corner, Frank Turner laying in the bed, and Dave Shepperson on the edge of the bed (p 29).

Gaddis says none of the people in the room that night appeared to be using drugs or drinking (p 29, lines 22 – 24 & p 30, lines 1-3).

Gaddis admits that he does not know how long these people were in the room or what they were talking about before he entered (p 30, lines 4-11).

Gaddis claimed he met Jamie when he was about nine, but he cannot remember his mother's name and thinks his sister's name is Mary. He said Jamie's mother took him to church a couple of times and he must have forgotten her name as a child (p 32, lines 5-24).

Gaddis cannot say how long Jamie lived with his mother and step father, he did not visit him at his mother's house, they were acquaintances, and he saw Jamie while he was with his father (p 33).

Gaddis confirms he never spent any time with Jamie alone from the time he met him when he was 9 through the time he saw him in the room of people when he was 26, saw him once again at his brother's house on Mulberry Street, and only since then in mugshot pictures (p 35 & 36).

Gaddis says he considers himself a religious man now but before he joined the church, when he ran with the Hendricks' brothers, he was a heathen, and so were they (p 38).

Gaddis claims he went to 6:30pm mass at the Pilgrim Holiness Church the night of the crime (p 40, lines 14-21).

Gaddis says he was not using drugs the night he had the encounter with Jamie in the room full of men (p 42, lines 1-5).

Gaddis confirms that one of the ten commandments is, "thou shall not kill," and he left that apartment that night thinking Jamie killed someone, but he never called the authorities (p 42, lines 6-24 & p 43, lines 1-8).

Gaddis admits he knew about a \$5,000 reward before he spoke to the authorities about the case (p 44, lines 7 -16).

Gaddis says that the room he encountered all the men in had two windows for natural light and a light in the ceiling but it was off (p 45, lines 4-12).

Gaddis admits that he does not know from his own knowledge if Jamie Snow shot Bill Little (p 45, lines 17-24 & p 46, lines 1-17).

Gaddis is asked what Jamie's step father's name is and he says he thinks it is Bill. He is asked to point him out in the courtroom but Teena Griffin objects and its sustained (p 46, lines 18-24).

Gaddis says he has a pretty good reputation for telling the truth now, but did not feel any religious duty to report what he knew from 1991 to 1999 (p 48, lines 13-24).

Redirect Examination via Teena Griffin

Gaddis is asked if it is his responsibility to hold people accountable for their wrong doings, and he answers by saying it is his job to make sure their soul is right and it doesn't matter if he gets a death sentence of whatever, God works out the judgement in those things.

Gaddis insists he never called the police with his knowledge of the crime. That he was contacted by Dan Katz in 1999 after he told someone else what he knew and they reported it, and prior he had told no one else but his wife (p 51).

Redirect via Frank Piel

Piel asks if Gaddis's wife called the police after he told her, and he said no (p 52, lines 5-6).

January 10, 2001, Snow Trial Dennis Hendricks Testimony

Direct Examination via Frank Piel

Hendricks confirms he hosted many parties at his apartment on Market and Lee but Bill Gaddis was never there, he was not welcome, and he was not there on Easter of 1991 (p 30, lines 10-24).

Hendricks said that Gaddis' brother lived there, so after Easter of 1991, he could have popped in, but never while he was there (p 31, lines 4-10).

Hendricks said he was never in a room upset or crying with a group of men on or after Easter of 1991 (p 31, lines 11-23).

Hendricks said he never heard Jamie Snow say he shot Bill Little (p 32, lines 9-13).

Hendricks said he never heard Frank Turner say that Jamie shot someone on Easter night or the next night, and he can't recall if Frank was at his house then (p 41, lines 2 – 8).

Cross Examination via Charles Reynard

Hendricks confirms that he doesn't recall any parties where all of those people were present, and there were no situations where he observed people crying, but there were a lot of drugs at the parties and people coming in and out (p 42, lines 13-24 & p 43, lines 1 – 13).

Hendricks confirms that he never heard Frank Turner or anyone make the statement that Jamie shot the clerk at the Clark Gas Station and if he did he would have remembered it and would be testifying for the prosecution (p 44, lines 2 – 14).

Reynard reads Hendricks' Grand Jury testimony where he said he doesn't remember the situation Gaddis described happening but it could have, and Hendricks confirms he said that (p 45, 46, & 47, lines 1 – 6).

Reexamination via Frank Picl

Hendricks confirms that during his Grand Jury testimony he said "okay" in regards to acknowledging hearing what the prosecutor was saying Gaddis said, not "okay" in agreement to that version of events (p 47, lines 12-21).

Hendricks insists he would have remembered if Frank Turner or anyone said Jamie shot the kid, and he does not recall any such statement (p 47, lines 22-24 & p 48, lines 1-4).

Recross Examination via Charles Reynard

Hendricks confirms that on several occasions he used the words, "it could have happened, I can't remember right now" (p 48, lines 10-16).

Further Redirect via Frank Picl

Hendricks states that he definitely would have remembered if Frank Turner or someone else made a statement like at a gathering in his house with Gaddis present (p 48, lines 21-24 & p 49, line 1).

January 10, 2001, Snow Trial Billy Hendricks Testimony

Direct Examination via Frank Picl

Hendricks states that he attended many parties at his brother's house on Market and Lee St, he can't recall if he was there on Easter of 1991, but Bill Gaddis was never there when he was (p 52, lines 1-11).

Hendricks confirms that he spoke to Bill Gaddis' brothers, Darrell Gaddis, Garren Bradford, and Frank Turner, and the consensus was that he had a bad reputation for telling the truth (p 53, lines 20-24 & p 54, lines 1-7).

Cross Examination via Teena Griffin

Hendricks confirms he is a pretty good friend of Jamie's and visited him about eight or nine times since March 2000 (p 56, lines 22-24 & p 57, lines 1-9).

Redirect via Frank Picl

Hendricks confirms that Jamie did not ask him to lie during any of their visits (p 58, lines 13-16).

January 10, 2001, Snow Trial Franklin Roberts aka Garren Bradford Testimony

Direct Examination via Frank Picl

Garren confirms that he stayed with Denny Hendricks on Market and Lee St around the time of Easter 1991, and Bill Gaddis is his half brother (p 89).

Garren states that he and his sister were recently talking about Bill Gaddis' bad reputation for honesty, and about a year prior, his brother, his sister, and a court reporter were also discussing his bad reputation for honesty (p 90-93).

Cross Examination via Teena Griffin

Teena Griffin only asks Garren to confirm all the crimes he has been convicted of, including aggravated battery and burglary, to which he does (p 94 & 95).