

# SNOW NOTES

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

### Mary Burns Perspective

#### Mary Burns BPD Interview January 2001

Mary confirms she spoke to the same detectives on the phone the day before about Jamie Snow and the William Little homicide and that she used to be a guard at the McLean County Jail. She said she supervised Jamie in the west pod at that time. She said in September 1999, when Susan Claycomb was arrested, she told her during the intake interview that she was pregnant and did not commit the crime. She said Susan said she didn't know why Jamie would lie because she doesn't remember ever driving in a car with Jamie ever. She said Susan denied ever being in the car with Jamie about 6 – 10 times before trial.

Mary continued that one time in late March or early April 2000, Jamie was sitting at her desk with two other inmate workers present, Darren Smart and Demetrice Crite, and he told Mary that he remembers an early evening joyriding in a car with Susan driving, another female upfront, and a male in the back with himself, and he might know who did the crime. Mary said she warned him that she would have to tell anything he said to her because she was a correctional officer. She said Jamie continued that he asked the driver to pull over so he could get sick in an alley behind the Clark gas station, and the male left for a little while and then came back. He said he read about the murder in the paper the next morning so he thought the other male did it. She said that Darren Smart asked him if he knew who did it why wasn't he telling his lawyer? She said Jamie then ended the conversation and went back to his cell.

Mary said there was a second conversation with Demetrice Crite present, where they were sitting on a couch in the pod in front of the TV, watching COPS. She said they were talking about how they got apprehended and Jamie said he remembered being at his girlfriend's house in Ohio, he looked up, saw cops, and ran because what kind of man would he be if he didn't run? She said he claimed to hide in some bushes but a dog found him and then the cops beat him. She said she thought only guilty people run because of the OJ Simpson case, and she think that one of the inmates asked why did he run if he wasn't guilty?

Mary said she had a third conversation with Jamie where he said someone he was in a cell with in the processing center was on the state's witness list and he was wondering why he would say Jamie told him anything after only knowing him for 8 hours.

Mary said there was a fourth conversation with Jamie where they discussed Jody Winkler being a witness, and Jamie explained that he helped him, gave him work, and took care of him when he was sleeping behind and alley, and he was upset that he was going to turn on him now. She said Jamie always said he hoped Jody would stick to the truth. She said Jamie told her after he found out Jody got a reduced sentence that he knew he was going to tell on him.

Mary said in an additional conversation about the Hendricks family, Jamie said that one of them killed his wife and step kids and that if he could get off then so could he.

Mary said that another time, Jamie was looking very sick in his cell and vomiting throughout the night. She said he just received the crime scene photos and told her that he did not feel well. Mary confirmed it has been three months since she worked in the jail, and she agreed to contact the detectives again if she could think of anything else.

**Snow Trial, January 9, 2001**  
**Direct Examination via Charles Reynard**

Confirms she was just contacted by the police regarding this matter a week and a half ago when her name was added to the defense witness list, because she was a Corrections Officer in the McLean County Jail from April of 1998 to August Of 2000 (p17).

Mary identified Jamie Snow in the court room and said she recalled the night he was booked into the jail and had contact with him the next day when he was housed in the mail infirm. She said he eventually became a pod worker at the end of March 2000, assigned with extra duties, and allowed to return to his cell late at night after the other inmates were already locked up (p 19 & p 20, lines 1 -2 & 13-15).

Mary claims that she and Jamie got a long reasonably well and she recalled having a conversation with him shortly after he became a pod-worker, in her cubical, after the pod locked down at 2:30AM. Mary claimed another pod-worker was present, either Lindsey Caldwell or Darren Smart. Then she quickly said she needed to “recant,” and it was just Jamie and herself present. She said Jamie said thinks he knows who committed the murder, and she reminded him to be careful because she would have to tell her superior anything he said. She said he was real sure of who committed the murder. She said he recalled a memory of a time when he and Susan Claycomb Powell and another couple went out drinking and joy riding in the early evening. She said Jamie said he asked the driver to pull over so he could get sick the alley, and the driver got out and walked down the alley, and said he would be back in a few minutes. When the driver came back they went home, and Jamie woke up to the news that the murder had occurred at the Clark gas station they were just right behind. She said Jamie said he thought the driver committed the murder. She said she was concerned and asked Jamie if he told his lawyer, and he did not respond, and went back into his cell and shut it for the evening (p 21, lines 8-24, & p 22-25).

Mary recalled another conversation that happened a few months later during Susan’s trial, again in her cubical, after midnight when the pod was locked down. She said there was another inmate present, Lindsey Caldwell. She said they were watching a cop show and Jamie started talking about when he was apprehended. She said Jamie said he was outside working on a car with his girlfriend outside, and he looked up and saw a lot of cops coming, and said, “What kind of a man would I be if I didn’t run.” (p 26 & p 27, lines 1-6).

## **Cross Examination via Frank Picl**

Mary said she did not take it as Jamie was trying to impress her or the other inmate when he said, "What kind of a man would I be if I didn't run." (p 27, lines 13-18).

Mary confirms that Jamie did not say he had shot Bill Little or robbed the Clark station (p 27, lines 19-24).

Mary said she told her supervisor Chris Sammon about this second conversation and he did not make a report, and he is still working at the jail (p 28, lines 1-20).

Mary said she reported the first conversation to Chris Sammon too, and he did not make a written report (p 28, lines 21-24 & p 28, lines 1-5).

Mary recounts what she claims Jamie told her about the incident in the first conversation, that Jamie was getting sick in the alley and thought the driver went inside the Clark station, robbed it, and shot Bill Little, but he did not give any other details (p 29, lines 6-24).

Mary confirms Jamie did not say the driver came back with any cash, cigarettes, or a gun, and did not see anyone rob the station or shoot Bill Little, and it wasn't until the next day when he thought the driver committed the murder (p 30).

## **September 23, 2003**

### **Darren Smart Affidavit**

Darren states he was never contacted by Jamie's trial. He says he was contacted by detectives before his trial while at Pontiac Correctional Center. He said they were asking about a statement Mary had given them about a conversation she had with himself and Jamie and another inmate in 2000. He said that never did Jamie say to him or in his presence that he knew who committed the murder. He said the only thing Jamie said was he did not do the crime and did not know who did it. He said Jamie never had the conversation Mary Burns is referring to and he told that to detectives.

## **Interview with Demetrice Crite via Tammy Alexander**

### **August 14, 2020**

Darren said that he and Jamie were in McLean county jail together and that in regards to the case, Jamie only ever told him that he did not do it. He said he had first-hand knowledge that Corrections Officer Mary Burns was having an affair with an inmate and got engaged to him, and was forced to resign. He said while in Stateville, Detective Katz came to interview him and offered him a consecutive sentence time cut to say Jamie told him about the crime in front of Mary Burns, and he told them no, Jamie only told him he didn't do it. He said they also told him about the reward money and they threatened to transfer him down to Menard Correctional Center in retaliation, and they actually did, from 2002 - 2017. He clarified that at the time he had three 20 year sentences, and they offered to run one concurrent, making it 40 years. He is still in Stateville and currently expects to be released in 8 or 9 years. He states he did know Darren Smart and they did not sit around and talk about Jamie's case. He said none of them spoke about their cases together. He said it's obvious that Mary Burns was testifying to cover her own hide.