

SNOW NOTES

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

Julie Knight Perspective

BPD Interview via Detectives Dan Katz & Rick Barkes with Paula Wingett March 30, 1999

Paula confirmed that she told Detective Stinessa in January 1998 that Susan Powell told her that she knew all about the killing, and that it was Jamie Snow who killed the boy at the gas station. She said Susan did not want to explain more. Paula said the conversation occurred at her home in the summer of 1991 or 1992. Paula said her ex-husband, Paul Howard, told her that Susan told him that Jamie Snow, a hitchhiker, and Susan were involved in the crime and Jamie was the shooter. She said she did not know any other particulars, that Susan told her she didn't want to be involved. Paula has heard from other people that they thought it was Jamie Snow but she can't remember who. Paula said she has known Jamie Snow since her children have been little and she used to babysit for him. Paula said that was the only conversation she has with Susan about the crime, and her daughter Julie Knight was present. Paula said Susan and her son Shane were dating at the time and he told her that he thinks it was Jamie who did it, but had no other details. Paula remembered that she started the discussion by confronting Susan with what her ex, Paul Howard had told her, and Susan replied that she knew it was Jamie Snow but she just didn't want to go there. She said Julie and Susan spent a lot of time together.

BPD Interview via Detectives Dan Katz & Rick Barkes with Julie Knight April 1, 1999

Julie says she was friends with Susan Powell, and Susan told her that she drove a brown or tan Cutlass getaway car, Jamie did kill William Little, and she wasn't sure if it was because he got mad there wasn't enough money or if he was mad that he was seen. She said Susan parked down the street. She said they were not good friends but went out together. Julie said that Susan started talking to her about this in early 1992, at her residence, and Shane Tallon was present, and her husband Tony Knight. She said her brother went out with her and they were sitting around drinking. She says the four of them were very, very, very good friends. She said Julie told her that she drove the getaway car between 30 and 50 times, and told her the Jamie Snow was in the car with her just as much. She said she was scared to go to jail and Jamie was high. She does not remember what she said they did after. She said she has been stressed and hasn't slept in 5 days so she can't remember. She said she doesn't know a dollar amount of how much money was stolen but she knows it as very little. She said Susan did not tell her if anything was brought back into the car. Julie says she has not had any conversation with Jamie Snow in reference to this case. She said there was a rumor going around Bloomington that after the conversations, she went to the police with the information. She said one day she was working at her dad's bait shop and Jamie came in and gave her a cold blood stare, turned around and left, without saying anything, and it scared her and she called her dad. She said she hasn't seen him since. Julie said no one else in town told her about what happened in the gas station, including her brother Shane. She said her and her husband discussed it. Julie said she hasn't spoken to Julie in years. Julie said she believed Susan because she said it with no hesitation, the way she said it, with details about

the car and the night that it happened, and about Jamie, she believed her. She said they haven't spoken about it since 1992, before Jamie came to her shop.

**BPD Interview via Detectives Dan Katz & Rick Barkes with Paul Howard
April 4, 1999**

Confirmed detective Katz and he had a conversation about information he had pertaining to William Little's homicide. He said he knew one time Susan Powell told him I can't believe Jamie Snow done that, and that she only thing he really knows about it. He said he can't remember how the conversation came up, it could have been at his store where he had a picture of the suspect up. He said he doesn't think the drawing looks like him. He said her tone was in disgust, not in surprise. He said the conversation must have been a year or two after it happened, a long time ago. He said it was either at his home or in his store. He said his daughter, Julie Knight, was probably present but he cannot confirm. He said he heard Jamie Snow's name pop up sometime after this and it was the only name he heard. He said he thought that another guy who killed his girlfriend on West Market, Ted Hughes, looked like the composite. He said his son Shane may have talked to Susan about it. He said Susan told him about the freedom station robbery and had mentioned Jamie Snow, herself, another girl, and a hitchhiker from Colorado were involved, and they had a broken windshield wiper. He said Jamie said he took her leather coat, put gas in her car, and pulled the coat up over his head when he did the robbery. He said he didn't know he did it until Jamie told him he did.

**BPD Interview via Detectives Dan Katz & Rick Barkes with Christopher Shane Tallon
August 11, 1999**

Shane said he knows a little bit about the Clark gas station case, and Susan Powell told him she was in the car when Jamie Snow shot William Little. He said the conversation occurred around August of 1991 through February of 1992 while they were dating. He said it was one conversation and Paul Howard was present. He said Susan didn't tell him who's vehicle it was or what type, and he hasn't spoken to her since February of 1992. He said she never told him why William Little was shot, but they were getting high on crack cocaine before the robbery. He said they were usually hanging out with Carl Claycomb, George Claycomb, and Mark McCowan. He said her demeanor was of concern, that she felt sorry for who he shot, and it was not a laughing matter. He said she didn't talk too much about it. He said he interpreted that Susan was upset because she felt William Little didn't deserve to die. He said over the years he has heard that the kid was shot because he didn't have enough money to give Jamie Snow, that he could identify Jamie Snow, and Jamie was high during the robbery.

Julie Knight Grand Jury Testimony
August 25, 1999

Julie stated she knows Susan because she dated her brother, and she knows Jamie Snow because he lived next door to her as a child. She knows Mark McCowan because he also lived in the same trailer court. Julie said she knows about the March 31, 1991 Clark Gas Station shooting and has first-hand knowledge from Susan. She said Susan told her she drove the getaway car, a brown or tan Cutlass Oldsmobile, Jamie killed Bill Little because he could identify him, he got thirty or forty bucks, and Susan used to laugh about it. Julie said Susan spoke about it often. Julie said Susan also commonly said she wished Jamie was around when she was having problems with someone because he is very intimidating and could do anything and get away with it. She said Susan mentioned that Jamie murdered someone in Florida. Julie recounted how one time Jamie supposedly walked into her work and scared her by giving her a cold dare stare and not saying anything or buying anything, and she is scared to be there today.

Julie said that Susan first told her about the crime about two months after it happened, when she was seeing her every day. She said the police first spoke to her about it five years ago and then again today. She said the first conversation with Susan happened in her apartment in front of her husband and kids, and she was thinking how could these people laugh about this, but she didn't say didn't dare say anything about Jamie Snow.

Julie said that Jamie was high all the time and it was his motive in the crime, and he killed the kid because he could identify him. She said she didn't think Jamie knew him before the robbery.

Christopher Shane Tallon Grand Jury Testimony
August 25, 1999

Shane said that he dated Susan Powell in 1991 for four or five months and lived together on Fell Street in Normal with her son. He said he knows Jamie Snow because he lived next door to him as a child. He said that while Susan and he were in their apartment, she told him that she was in the car when Jamie shot the guy at the gas station. Shane said Susan felt sorry about William Little dying. He said that was the only time they spoke about it and she only mentioned Jamie Snow being involved. He was asked to recite the story with more detail again and added that they were in the kitchen after his incarceration for intimidation when Susan told him the story, and she felt sorry about it, but he had no other information. He confirms his mother's name is Paula Wingett. Shane said Susan used to drive his car while they dated and it was a 76 or 78 brown Buick Regal that does not look like an Oldsmobile, and she did not have her own car. He said that Susan did not spend a lot of time with Jamie and Mark McCowan and he did not hang out with the three of them. He said maybe Susan stopped hanging around with Jamie because he was in Florida.

**Paula Wingett Grand Jury Testimony
September 8, 1999**

Paula confirms that Shane and Julie are her children and Susan was her son's girlfriend. She said she knew Jamie Snow since he was younger and he was involved with her children, and Mark McCowan ran around with them too. Paula said that she was talking to Susan outside of her home with Julie present, and Susan said she knew Jamie shot that boy but didn't want to talk about it and wouldn't testify. Paula said that her ex-husband and two children told her they spoke to Susan about it too and they seemed to have more information than she did. She said Julie said she knows Susan knows all about it, and also her son, but he didn't say a lot to her about it, just that Susan knew about the killing. She said that her ex-husband told her that Susan was the getaway driver, but Susan doesn't have a license and isn't supposed to be driving.

**BPD Interview via Detectives Dan Katz & Rick Barkes with Aaron Todd Fox
August 18, 2000**

Aaron said he has information about the case, he knows that Susan Powell and Jamie Snow are involved, although he does not know them personally, and he didn't know what they looked like until seeing them in the paper. He said that Susan spoke to him briefly on August 14, 2000 in the McLean County Jail and she told him that Julie Knight and Shane Tallon were involved, and that Julie was throwing around a bunch of tings, and he told Susan that he knew some of the things that Julie had said. Aaron said the first time he spoke to Susan, he was in the jail for violation of probation, and Susan was a trustee working, so he recognized her and said he was Julie's ex-boyfriend.

Aaron said he has known Julie for 18 years, and when he was helping his nephew-in law, Shane, remodel his trailer, Julie came over, and they eventually started dating on and off in early 1997 for three and a half years. Aaron said that Julie and her dad would talk about the case, because she thought she would get caught up in the case and would get riled up. Aaron said he would ask her, "then why are you doing it," and she would never give him an answer personally. Todd said that in early 1999, Julie told him that Susan told her where the car and gun was. He said Julie did not want to be a part of the case and did not want to testify, that she was dodging the subpoena's, was worried she would get caught up in lies, and Shane told her the only thing she would get caught up in was perjury. She later retracted and said she didn't know where the gun and the car was.

Aaron said that he thought Julie was lying. That he knows her, and it's his opinion she was lying. He said he heard Julie's dad tell her that she needed to do something in order to save her kids, who were in DCF custody because she was screwing up. He said she was being coached by her dad to tell on people for drugs too.

Aaron said that he knows Shane as well and they have bad blood now. He said Shane was also ducking subpoena's. He said Shane was lying about their business partnership and it went downhill. Todd said Shane said he didn't know nothing and dint want to get involved. Aaron said he heard Shane ask Julie why in the hell she was running her mouth about this, and Julie did not reply at the time. Aaron explained Julie had pulled Shane into it and that's why he was asking.

Aaron said he has not spoken to anyone else about the case, that it is not a concern of his. Aaron said if he had any information about the case, he wouldn't open his mouth, he would take it to the grave, but that's not Julie. He said Julie has schemes and scams, she is an attention getter, wants attention, and will get it in any way she can get it. He said he doesn't know if this is why she did it, but he was there looking in her face, he knows how she operates, and in his own personal opinion he thinks she is lying. When asked if it mattered that Julie had said this same information prior to them dating, he replied that he didn't know, he doesn't know how she was then.

Aaron confirmed that the probation he violated was for violating a restraining order Julie had against him. He explained he is still mad at Julie, but not vindictive, that he did not contact the police or Steve Skelton to nail her. He said he does not want anything to do with Julie, he has feelings for her, he hates a lot of things that she has done, they can ask anyone in his family, and he ran back to that crap all the time. He said he doesn't want to see bad things come to Julie but she has to stop a lot of what she is doing.

Aaron confirmed he was there when Steve Evans called and took informant information from Julie, and she was not lying about what she told him. Aaron confirmed that Julie's father said that if she helped Katz out, Katz would help her. He said that Julie and he did not discuss if Katz helped her or not. Aaron said that in regards to making deals, the detectives can do whatever they want, if they want to they will, he's not stupid to it, and in the beginning, he did not know what Katz said or not, there were too many lies and deception in their relationship. He confirmed that Julie never complained to him that she didn't get her kids back after the detectives had supposedly promised to help her with that.

Aaron said that before 1999, when something was in the paper about Jamie, she started talking to Shane about the information she had in the case. He added that Julie was tight lipped with him about a lot of things to do with her friends. He confirmed that the detectives contacted Julie, Julie did not contact them, that he understands that she said something to someone else, and was involved that way. Aaron said he was never present during any of the conversations between Susan and Julie. He said all he knows is what he heard between Shane and Julie, and Julie and her dad.

**Tony Knight, Claycomb Trial Testimony
August 22, 2000**

Direct Examination via Charles Reynard

Tony confirms that Julie is his ex-wife and they were dating in 1991 (p 65 & 66).

Tony confirms that one time he and Julie were at Susan's apartment visiting, and Julie and Susan were sitting at the kitchen table and he was in the living room with the children, and he heard their conversation only a little, heard the word Clark, and then years later came to understand they were talking about the Clark Gas Station, but he doesn't know anything specific (p67 & 68)

Cross Examination via Steve Skelton

Tony confirms he was married to Julie until the late nineties and was with her often, but had only been in Susan's apartment that one time. He could not recall any time frame for when this incident occurred (p 69-71)

Christopher Shane Tallon, Claycomb Trial Testimony August 22, 2000

Direct Examination via Charles Reynard

Shane confirms that he was convicted of robbery in 1990 and intimidation in 1994. He confirms that he has a pending misdemeanor charge from 1999 and a recent traffic violation associated with that charge but he has not been promised anything for his testimony (p 126).

Shane confirms he had a relationship with Susan from October 1991 to February 1992 and they lived on Fell Street together (p 128).

Shane states that they were having a discussion in their kitchen about relationship issues in January of 1992 and they were discussing drug problems and Susan leaving with the car for hours. He said that Susan said Jamie shouldn't have shot the kid, she was in the car when they did it, and they were high on crack. He said that Susan felt remorseful about it, and he first told the police about this on August 11 of 1999, prior to his current pending charges (p 129- 134).

Cross Examination via Steve Skelton

Shane confirms that he was dating Susan in 1991 and 1992. He confirms that his sister was dating Tony Knight who she would later marry and that they were often over (p

Shane denies ever telling Julie's boyfriend Aaron Todd Fox that he did not want to testify (p 136).

Shane admits he told Aaron that he did not have any information about the Clark Gas Station murder. He admits he was lying when he told him that in the summer of 1999 because he didn't trust him and it suited his purposes (p 136-137).

Shane admits that he told the grand jury in 1999 that he is not positive if Susan was high on crack the night of the crime, but today he is saying she did tell him that she was. He also confirms that they were drinking alcohol during that conversation (p 138-140).

Shane admits that he considered Susan a bullshitter in 1991 and 1992 and that's why he did not ask her any other follow questions about the crime, that and because he just didn't want to know (p 142).

Julie Knight, Claycomb Trial Testimony
August 25, 2000

Re-Cross Examination via Steve Skelton, Recalled

Julie confirms that Aaron Todd fox was once her boyfriend, she lived with him, and he was present for conversations she had about the Clark gas station shooting (pages 113 & 114).

Julie denies every telling Aaron that she was in the car with Susan during the shooting, that they dropped her off somewhere, or that Susan had knowledge of where the gun or the car was (p 115).

Redirect Examination via Charles Reynard

Julie reported that she had a domestic violence relationship with Aaron Todd Fox and that's why her children were removed from her home (p 116).

Julie said Aaron told her she had to testify whether or not she was scared because she had to do the right thing, and she recalls Susan told her the car was parked down the block on the night of the crime (p 117).

Aaron Todd Fox, Claycomb Trial Testimony
August 25, 2000

Direct Examination via Steve Skelton

Aaron confirms he has known Julie and her brother Shane and both her parents for 18 years and had a relationship with Julie throughout 1989 and 1999 (p 189).

Aaron confirms that he learned Julie had knowledge of what happened to a vehicle after the night of the crime on two separate occasions in either 1998 or 1999, once at her brother Shane's house and once at her step-father Paul's house (p 190).

Aaron said that while in their bedroom in the basement of her father's house, Julie told him she had knowledge of what happened to the car (p 191).

Aaron said that while at her father's house, he heard Julie and her dad talking about her concerns in getting caught up in this case and her father told her that it could her get her kids back (p 194).

Aaron said that while they had the earlier conversation in their basement bedroom, Julie speculated that she knew where the gun and the car were based off what someone had told her, and she said she was in the car with Jamie and Susan that night, they had dropped her off somewhere (p 195-196).

Aaron admits he was convicted of burglary and aggravated battery in the past (p 196 & 197).

Cross Examination via Charles Reynard

Aaron confirms that he was previously convicted of deceptive practices and aggravated battery. He denies crimes against Julie Knight. He confirms they had an abusive relationship but insists he was not convicted of abusing her. He confirms he is in jail right now for violating his bail bond conditions by having contact with Julie when she had a no contact order against him (p 197 – 200).

He said that he is not angry with Julie, and he has a lot of feelings about her regarding how she does things to a lot of people that are not right. The last part of his answer is stricken because he was only asked if he was angry, and he is instructed to confine himself to the prosecutor's questions (p 200 & 201).

Aaron specifies that Julie did not say Susan told her herself about the crime, that she just knew Susan had information (p 201).

Aaron confirms that Susan told him Julie was going to testify against her when they saw each other in the jail recently but he already knew she was going to come forward (p 202).

Aaron says that Julie was reluctant to come forward and he did not encourage her to come forward (p 202).

Aaron explained that Julie told him all at once, that she knew where the car and the gun was, that she had been with Susan and Jamie, and that Jamie dropped her off. He explained on a separate occasion he heard her in a conflict with her brother Shane where he was asking her why she was doing all of this (p 204).

Aaron concedes that he may not have told the police about Julie saying she was in the car with Susan and Jamie that night, and he doesn't remember if he told the private defense investigator either (p 205-207).

Redirect Examination via Steve Skelton

Aaron insists he is not angry with Julie, he is upset with her about several personal things she has done that do not concern Jamie and Susan, and he does not have an axe to grind with her, he could have retaliated with things other than this, but has moved a hundred miles away from her (p 208).

Aaron explained that he did not have time to hatch a plan with Susan when he saw her in the jail recently, they only spoke for 3 – 5 minutes (p 208 – 209).

Aaron said that his relationship with Julie was abusive but it was not a one way street (p 209).

Re-cross examination via Charles Reynard

Aaron is asked if he knows that the detectives were looking for all of the information he had on this case during his interview and he confirms that he did know (p 210-211).

Redirect Examination via Steve Skelton

Aaron confirms that the style of his BPD interview was a question and answer format, and that Katz ended the interview by saying he has no further questions and will stop the tape (p 211-212)

Bridget Logsdon Perspective

Snow Trial Testimony

January 12, 2001

Direct Examination via Teena Griffin

Bridget claims she was with Jamie's wife, Tammy Snow, and her ex-friend, Julie Knight, at the tavern Jesse's Place on Front Street during the summer of 1999. She claims that Tammy said she knew Jamie did it, and that was the end of the conversation, she walked away (p 46-47).

Cross Examination via Frank Piel

Bridget confirmed they were drinking at the bar. She said that Tammy did not tell her anything. That she told Julie Knight that she knew Jamie did it, in front of her. She said Kimmy Morris was also present (p 48).

Bridget says she did not report the conversation to authorities because it was none of her business and she did not know there was a murder investigation going on, she didn't think it was important, but she knew Julie was being questioned about it for the past five years (p 49 - 50).

Bridget confirms that all she heard was Tammy say she knew Jamie did it. She said she knew the context because Julie said she was asking her about it earlier on in the night. She said she did not hear the word murder or robbery mentioned, or hear her say words that her husband shot and killed Bill Little on Easter, 1991 (p 51).

Redirect via Teena Griffin

Bridget confirms that Tammy was previously discussing the William Little case with Julie Knight, and she heard Tammy say she knew Jamie did it (p 52).

Bridget confirms she never went to the police on her own and first spoke about it to private investigator Mark Foster for Susan's trial (p 52).