

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

Edward Palumbo Perspective

Relevant Criminal History

3/26/1983 Residential Burglary Conviction, McLean County, 4 yrs, released 3/18/1985

5/08/1986 Residential Burglary Conviction, Tazewell County, 6y 6mo, released 8/28/1989

9/04/1986 Residential Burglary Convictions, McLean County, 6y 6mo, released 8/28/1989

4/25/1991 Armed Robbery with a firearm, Dropped

2/28/1992 Residential burglary conviction, McLean County, 19 years, released 1/10/2001

BPD Interview with Detective Barkes and Detective Russell Thomas

April 2, 1991

Ed Palumbo confesses to driving two people to the Bloomington Bus Center on March 1, 1991 for an armed robbery and he was paid \$730. He said he helped plan the robbery but did not want to be recognized so stayed in the car. He claimed that his friend who robbed the bus station said he had also robbed Freedom Oil while Jamie was outside.

Shannon Schmidt Interview with Detective Russell Thomas

April 23, 1991

Shannon says Ed Palumbo is her boyfriend. She says that on April 2nd, Ed told her that he passed Jamie in his car on Morris Ave and they stopped to talk. Jamie asked if he saw him in the paper, and said the gun went off and the kid died. That's all Ed told her about the conversation. She said one time Ed pointed out robberies in the paper to her, and said Jamie did the Freedom Oil robbery and one after Christmas. She said that Ed said he told Officer Rick Barkes about it on the phone.

BPD Supplemental Case Report, Interview with Detective Russell Thomas

May 9, 1991

Without his attorney present, but with his permission, Ed Palumbo spoke to detectives about his current armed robbery case and other cases he had knowledge of. He waived his rights but kept interrupting that he was afraid Jamie and his friend would hurt him and his family if he talked. He said he knew of 4 or 5 armed robberies or burglaries that Jamie did. He specifically mentioned Freedom Oil, a St Louis gas station, the Bus Station (Ed's current case), West Side Liquors, and the Clark Oil station (*different from the Clark Gas Station*). He said Jamie

confessed to him that he robbed the Clark Oil station in December 1990 while at his trailer in Park City South. He said Jamie showed him two revolvers he pulled out from a hole in the wall. He says that the day after he confessed to the bus station robbery, he pulled along Jamie on Olive street, who had his wife and another woman in his car (*Ed does not mention anyone else in his car*). He said Jamie asked, "Did you hear what I did? Did you hear about the kid that I shot at the Clark Station? Have gun, go off, kid dies." He said he didn't respond and just drove off and went home. He said that Jamie once told him that his wife knows everything he has ever done and will never tell on him because she loves him. He refused to give a typed statement.

BPD Supplemental Case Report, Interview with Detective Russell Thomas May 11, 1991

Ed Palumbo requested Detective Thomas to come in on his day off so he could make sure he understood what he previously told him. He reiterated that Jamie robbed the Freedom Oil station and West Side Liquors, and that his wife would never squeal on him. He was asked if he knew of any other crimes that were not mentioned before and he said he could not remember. *The Clark Gas Station murder robbery was NOT mentioned.*

Analysis of Detective Katz's appraisal of the Clark Station Murder Case October 7, 1993

An unknown officer analyzed the case and wrote the following regarding Ed Palumbo:

"The Ed Palumbo lead. I put vary little credence in this lead. As we found out later, Mr. Palumbo had a hidden agenda. We check this lead as far as it would go. We tried talking to SNOWS wife, sister and [REDACTED]. We got no where. Palumbo has told us lately to "go fly a kite." We know that Shannon Schmidt is not the only girlfriend that Palumbo had at this time. He was in McLean county jail because my task force put him there. He was in on Armed Robbery charge. He and SNOW had held up the Freedom Gas Station just two blocks north of the Clark station. Palumbo had also done the Bloomington Bus Depot armed robbery SNOWS. The witness against Snow, saying he was in on the Freedom Oil armed robbery, took off and the charges were dropped. This left Palumbo holding the bag, sitting in jail on the Bus Station armed robbery [...] and ask yourself, did he have reason to mislead the police, and did he have reason to be mad at SNOW. (Who was now free for doing the same thing he was doing). Would it be great if he could get the police to arrest Snow on a murder rap? I certainly asked myself these questions, and so did the task force that was working this case when this lead was hot, and I'm sure a defence attorney would ask the same. He would mislead the police, and get even with Snow at the same time. I am very, very cautious of this lead [...] Shannon Schmidt is nothing without Palumbo. Hers is merely parroting Palumbo and total hearsay."

Edward Palumbo Grand Jury Testimony September 8, 1999

Ed Palumbo confirms he was then serving time in the IDOC for a residential burglary in which

he received a 19 year sentence. He says he ran with Jamie in Bloomington around the time of the Clark Station murder in 1991. He said days after the murder, on Olive Street in Bloomington, he and Jamie were driving in their own cars on the street. Jamie had his wife Tammy and her sister in law Susan in the car, and he had his girlfriend Shannon in his car. He said Jamie waived him down, asked him if he read about himself in the newspaper, and said “Boom, boom, kid dies. Gun goes off.” He said he laughed it off and never mentioned the Clark Station but they both knew what they were talking about. He said he was freaked out he said that in front of all the women and Jamie assure him that his wife was cool. He said later he saw him and asked him why he trusted his wife with that information, and he said Jamie told him he got rid of the gun. He said at first he thought he was joking, bragging, but now, remembering his face, he was serious and knew too much. He said it struck him as more that coincidental. He said Jamie had a

smart mouth and was always slipping by. He said Jamie said he got a lucky break that the composite didn't look like him and was pissed off he didn't get much money. He said that Jamie indicated after the victim was smarting off, acting like a smart ass and cocky, he just popped him, and it didn't bother him as much as he thought it would. He said this is the final result of Jamie “living a life like that.”

Snow Trial, January 3, 2001

Direct Examination Via Charles Reynard:

Palumbo admits to residential burglary convictions in 1986 and 1992 (p 119, lines 20-23 & p 120 lines 1-4).

He claims that a few days after the Clark Station murder, he was driving home on Olive Street with his girlfriend in the car and saw Jamie driving with a passenger and someone in the back seat. He said they stopped in the street and had a conversation. He said Jamie asked if he read about him in the paper, he said no, he said the paper might have said something, and just said, “Boom boom. Gun goes off. Kid dies.” He said he would check it out, that was basically it, and he went home (p 120, lines 15-24, p 121 – 123, & p124, lines 1-5).

He said when he got home he asked his girlfriend if she heard what was said and they had a discussion about it (p 124, lines 6-12).

He claims weeks later, at a rural area southwest of Bloomington, at Funks Grove, he had a disagreement with Jamie, telling him it wasn't so smart to have that conversation in the car in front of his girlfriend and Jamie's wife and the other girl. Jamie supposedly said he trusted those people, and he took care of the gun (p 125 & p 126 1-5).

He claims that Jamie said he did not look like the composite in the newspaper (p 126, lines 13-14).

He claims that Jamie said the kid was a smart ass so he shot him, it wasn't as hard as he thought it would be, he did not get a lot of money (p 126, lines 10-24).

Cross Examination Via Frank Picl:

Palumbo clarifies he was convicted of two separate residential burglary charges in 1986, both with a sentence of 6 years 6 months each, and additionally, he was also convicted of a residential burglary in 1983 in McLean county and received a four year prison sentence, all three different cases with different sentences, and he was currently in prison (p 130 & p 133, lines 1-11).

He relents that during the conversation on Olive Street between their cars, Jamie did not say he shot Bill Little, the Clark Station attendant and he did not say what clothes he was wearing (p 135, lines 21-24 & p 136 lines 1-2).

He claims that during the conversation at Funks Grove, Jamie told him he got rid of the gun but not what kind, but it was the weapon used at the Clark Station robbery (p 136, lines 10-24).

He says he doesn't remember ever calling the police and reporting what Jamie said to him (p 137, lines 3 -20).

He admits he lies occasionally when it suits his purpose but he is trustworthy (p 137, lines 23-24 & p 138 lines 1-8).

Palumbo claims there was no indication by any authority that he would get out sooner if he cooperated with this testimony (p 139, lines 12 – 19).

Palumbo agrees that he knows people who are charged with crime take opportunities to trade information for sentencing consideration, but he doesn't see that in his situation, but he is aware others are thinking that (p 140, lines 2-12).

Palumbo confirms he did testify on August 16th that Jamie was a big BSer in 1991 (p 140, lines 19-24 & p 141 lines 1 – 8).

Palumbo admits that on August 10th, at the Tams Correctional Center where he was serving time, he had an interview with Donald Hopper, he told the investigator he wasn't sure if it was true that Jamie shot the kid, he said Jamie is a big bragger with a big mouth. When asked if he said he didn't really believe Jamie did it, he claimed he said that because he was sick of the investigator being repetitive so he just agreed (p 141, lines 11-24, & p 142, lines 1-2)

Palumbo confirms he told Investigator Hopper that Detective Barkes was extremely upset with him because he said he would not change his testimony as long as he was in control of the state, but once released, he would not say anything harmful to Jamie (p 143, lines 13-24).

When asked again if Barkes was upset with him, he said he doesn't care what Barkes is and he doesn't know how his name got into this (p 144, lines 4-7) .

Palumbo admits he does not know where Jamie was on the night of the crime (p 146, lines 7-10).

Redirect via Reynard:

Palumbo says he COULD have told Investigator Hopper that he heard from Jamie that he would read about him in the paper, the gun went off, and the kid died (p 147, lines 15-20).

Palumbo claims the prosecutors did not promise him anything for his testimony (p 147, lines 22-24 & p 148, lines 1-4).

Recross via Frank Picl:

Palumbo says he does not know if his case for an armed robbery charge was dropped in 1991 after he interviewed with Officer Bernardini (p 148, lines 11-17).

The Bailiff excuses the jury with instructions not to discuss the case or review media about the case, and Palumbo addresses them, saying, "Or don't smoke any crack because we all know crack kills." No one said anything in response (p 149, lines 11-18).

Offer of Proof via Frank Picl:

During questioning outside the presence of the jury, in front of the judge, Picl asks Palumbo if he plead not guilty to the 1986 residential burglary plea, later changed his plea to guilty, and if that makes him a liar. Palumbo stated that he didn't think changing the plea made him a liar even though he admits he did the burglary. The same questions were asked of the other 1986 burglary guilty plea and he also admitted he did the crime but changed his plea from not guilty to guilty (p 151-157).

**Officer Jeff Pelo Affidavit
November 18, 2009**

"Originally Detective Rick Barkes worked on the investigation into whether Jamie Snow was involved in Bill Little's death. Sometime in the early 1990s I heard that Detective

Barkes was taken off the Snow investigation because of things he had done on the case. I heard his wife had given him information about the case that she learned from confidential communications in her job as a crisis counselor at the McLean County Jail. I heard that Barkes was eventually sent back to patrol because he was caught doing his own investigation on the side into Jamie Snow's case.”

**Ed Palumbo Affidavit
November 18, 2015**

“Around the time that the Bloomington Police Department was investigating the killing of Bill Little, I had a close relationship with Detective Rick Barkes’ wife Julie.”

“When I was brought in for questioning Detective Barkes and his partner interviewed me. Detective Barkes became uncontrollably angry during the interview, so much that Detective Barkes’ partner had to leave the room. I felt intimidated by Detective Barkes. I felt intimidated by other law enforcement officers too because I felt Barkes may have been influencing matters. Once I was convicted and sent away, I felt less pressure.”

“I do not believe that Jamie Snow was responsible for killing Bill Little. I never thought in my life that Jamie Snow would have anything to do with killing anybody. I believed that when Jamie Snow went to trial, he was going to be found not guilty.”

“No one came to me from Jamie Snow’s defense team during his trial.”

**Truth and Justice Podcast Interview, Ed Palumbo & Bob Ruff
Season 7: E16 - A Deal with the Devil, October 27, 2019**

“When I got a question about Jamie Snow at that time being pulled, pulled in about being arrested you know by Barkes and questioned and shit, I said, I said ‘shit, he don’t...he don’t have the balls to do it.’ And I mean, I was honest and I always said that over and over and over to people was just he didn’t do that, because he’s not into that, you know, he’s – why and then they, they know at the end of it, like I told you Reynard said that he didn’t care one way or another.”

“He didn’t have nothing to do with that. I remember the time or he would have said something. But I just didn’t think that he had the balls to do that kind of stuff. And then the funny part was when that happened, when he stopped me I was the only person that said that because the one cop said to me they knew I was lying because he had said something to somebody else about, uh, who killed the kid.”

“He says, you know, it ain’t no big deal you’re, you’re, you’re not the only person that said that he done killed – and I didn’t believe even then that Jamie Snow was in the bars talking like that. I

don't believe that, no way. I know better than that. I know Jamie is not a big drinker he didn't, he didn't drink hardly at all.”

“Bob Ruff: Did Jamie actually say that to you that he killed that that he killed that, that he killed Bill?”

Ed Palumbo: He didn't say that.

Bob Ruff: What did he say to you?

Ed Palumbo: Basically did he – did I read about him, you know, and that whole situation.

Bob Ruff: Did you read about me in the paper last night?

Ed Palumbo: Yep [...] Yeah, you know, maybe I misunderstood him.”

“And then why are they all of a sudden taking him to court right before I get out You know? 'Cause when they came to me I said “hey, shit, I'm outta here. I'm sick of this shit. I'm going to jail – I'm going to seg.” And then, you know, when we got to Logan, you know, they just looked – went no, you want to, you know, go to seg until you get out? You know, you don't have to get out, you know, you can do the rest of your time. More than, you know, the time you done. At that point, I didn't think I was ever gonna be able to make it home. You know, I didn't think I was gonna be able to make it home for, you know, people that were hating on me also.”

“I never ever ever ever thought that anything I said would be significant enough to matter [...] Because I never believed that Jamie did that. And I made that perfectly clear to every single person. Why wasn't that significant? Because they manipulated, you know, everything around. You know, not just make myself sound like an angel. You know, I'm no angel, but damn, I was just young and dumb and in love and I really honestly thought that this will be like swept under the rug.”

“Bob Ruff: I'm looking at a systematic corruption. I'm looking at motivations of Rick Barkes.

Ed Palumbo: Right, well let's just put it this way [...] He hated me. I mean, no matter what he says or what he does now or whatever, he doesn't, he doesn't like me.”

“I told him I says ‘Jamie didn't do this shit.’ They didn't care. I told them that I would testify to that. They didn't care [...] they said ‘man you're nothing, this ain't, you know nothin’’. I told 'em ‘then quit callin' me.’ You know, I don't want to be...back here, I don't wanna go to the grand jury and all that shit. I don't wanna be involved in this – I'm in, I'm in prison and you think I wanna be, you know, taken out knowing that I'm going to go to court or to testify against this Jamie kid? You know, that don't make no damn sense.”

“I was ready to go out. It was either do that, you know, they done brought me from the work camp where I was at and put me in seg and told me I was going to stay 'til whatever...again. And then I ended up going to Logan and I have –they took all my property, held my property 'til the

day I walked out. Didn't have no property the whole time I was there. They kept my TV and everything.”

“Bob Ruff: Did they ever offer you any, any kind of leniency?”

Ed Palumbo: Hell, no.

Bob Ruff: They didn't offer you anything for it?

Ed Palumbo: You know, they always, you know, act like, maybe you, you know, when I did it, I was already in jail and stuff. Basically, I just did it for like a visit. Can I see my girlfriend? You know, that's all they did for me.

Bob Ruff: Let you visit?

Ed Palumbo: Yeah.

Bob Ruff: Is that Shannon?

Ed Palumbo: Yeah.

Bob Ruff: So when they bring you back that was – they would, they would let you see her?

Ed Palumbo: Yeah. That's it. They knew they had that. Barkes, lead 'em right into that. He knew that I didn't wanna, you know, I was young and in love. He knew that I was willing – would make a deal with the devil in order to stay home but he already was too smart that he let me out that last time and I took off.”

“But Jamie, I mean, honest to God I, I thought everything was gonna be hearsay, you know, but then, right, I went to court. I figured when someone's fuckin' with my time, and I couldn't get at them, and there's all this bunch of bullshit [...] I'm just saying that, you know, when you fuck with my time, I'm gonna, you know, fuck with you. Or my time, you know, I'm gettin' ready to get out of fuckin' prison. After damn near nine years of prison people wanted to push it to the limit [...] they they told me that they were going to bring me to court and I could be charged with perjury, or what else [...] All that you know, and I was thinking five years – I had myself convinced, you know, that I was not gonna get out of prison you know, that I might have to, you know, defend myself you know in the wrong circumstances. I mean I don't know. I was under a delusion that I might not get out of prison for some reason.”

“The catalyst for me, even going, you know – and, and I still got...went to seg. They locked me in seg and shut me [...] They didn't say shit, they took my shit and they said ‘you're going to court’. And I said ‘all my property and shit’ and they told me I was going to Joliet or Statesville or whatever the hell it was at that time. And I ended up going to Logan or Lincoln, I can't remember which one it was, where I talked to some people about my situation [...] And then – no, yeah, they didn't give me my property or nothing. Nothing. And I was stuck in the, you know, the dome. You know and I was in the cushy spot. I was in a work camp [...] I was livin' the dream, man. Mowin' every day, you know, bush hoggin'. You know, lovin' in prison, ready to get out. Next thing you know is I'm not, you know, going to court or nothing. And they said ‘yes you are’ and with that little thread they threw me in seg and I was on my way.

Bob Ruff: How long were you in seg before the trial, do you remember? [...] Are we talking days, weeks, months?

Ed Palumbo: Oh shit, weeks, you know, we didn't, you know, thinkin' I was going to seg to seg. And all because of this, like, like, I want to, you know, be involved in that? I didn't wanna be involved in that. But I was mad. And in my mind, I'm telling 'can I win this, you know, turn this around?' No."

"Everybody that knows Jamie knows that he's not that kind of guy, which is even at the worst scenario. I mean, he's just a bragger. And he ain't the person that did that, you know, he ain't that guy. He wouldn't even be acting like that if he done did something like that and you look at someone that has, you know, done something like that, you know, when you've been in prison, you know, you know, they look just like anybody but they get that edge on 'em. And, you know, you know, they get that way about 'em. And Jamie don't have that."

"I really believed that anything at all, even that I said about Jamie it would just be hearsay, because who am I? I'm already in jail, you know, all right, I'm gonna make a deal with the devil. Why would that be, you know? And I'm not saying I was with him, you know, eyewitness, so why would this be so relevant, but I believe that it was relevant because you know certain people you know they want to just close the case by any means possible and I think that the record shows that they don't do very well. And if you don't believe in a blue line, then you really are a fool. Their job is to make a conviction by any means possible. An attaboy or not an attaboy. It's either good or no good. So, they provide a service which is take care of business. Just like we provide a service take care of business, you know what I mean? And it is what it is. It's a war. You know, they, they, they win a lot and if you underestimate the law then you're not – you're a fool."

"You know, I got nothin' but love for Jamie. I know he's salty. I know that this situation is dire. I don't feel like it's fair. So I feel like it's – even if it makes me look bad. You know, I come out of this and maybe bring this stuff to light again, it is what it is. You try to do the right thing by him but, you know, obviously it was his doom."