

SNOW NOTES

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

Carlos Luna Perspective

Case Report 3/31/1991, hours after the crime

Case Report 4/1/1991

Case Report 6/22/1991

From inside a home 100 feet away from the Clark Station, Carlos and a younger boy Juan saw a man exit the building at 8:20pm (Case Reports 3/31/1991 & 4/1/1991).

The suspect was wearing a black coat and black hat, carrying a cash drawer in his hands, and ran (Case Reports 3/31/1991 & 4/1/1991).

The suspect left the area by going east, around the corner of the building, then north, up the back alley (Case Report, 3/31/1991).

Carlos thought he could identify a possible suspect, but could not provide any details. Neither Carlos or Juan could make a composite drawing (Case Report, 4/1/1991).

Two months later, Carlos attended a line up with Jamie Snow present. He said Jamie Snow looked like the person he had seen leaving the gas station because his hair and the shape of his face was similar. He said "I think he is the person." Juan did not make an identification (Case Report, 6/22/1991).

Recorded Cold Case Interview, 4/19/1999

Carlos states that him and his nephew were looking outside the window of his home across the street from the Clark Station on the night of the crime. They were looking to see if his sister in law was working in hopes of getting candy from her. There were no cars around the area.

He recalls he saw a suspect leave the gas station by opening the door with his left hand in a normal fashion, with something tucked under his coat on the left side, and then walk east, about ten feet, until he hit the corner, and then took off running north, up the alley, into the darkness.

He said he made a joke that the guy just robbed the station. He heard the sirens a few minutes later.

He went outside with all the neighbors who were watching the crime scene, and told his aunt what he saw after a few minutes. When people began to clear out, they approached a detective to tell him what he saw.

He described the lineup he attended. He said he picked number six, because he pictured them all doing it in his mind, and "he's the one who came out [...] doin it." He said he told Juan and Juan's dad that he picked number six since Juan said he could not pick anyone. He may have also told his brother. He does not know the names of any suspects. He still feels comfortable with his choice of number six.

Description:

White male, 5'10-11"

Thin

Long black trench coat down to ankles

Plain, black or dark blue baseball cap with no logo

Blonde to brown hair, medium to long in length

White tennis shoes

Blue jeans

Jamie Snow Trial, January 3, 2001

Carlos Luna via Charles Reynard:

Luna confirms he was 14 at the time of the crime, living across the street from the Clark Station parking lot, in the second house to the right, at 807 East Empire Street, in Bloomington, IL, with his parents and three brothers (p 73-78).

Luna confirms he was with his nephew, Juan, watching TV at 8:15pm, and he checked out the window to see if his sister in law was working, so maybe they could get candy (p 79, lines 18-24 & p 80, lines 1-8).

Luna confirms the window he was looking out of towards the gas station was facing west, on the side of his house, in the front bedroom (p 79, lines 7-9).

Luna states he saw a white male, about 5 foot 11, exit the gas station and walk along the east edge of the building, until he turned north, towards the alley (p 81, lines 1-12). His nephew Juan arrived to the window as the man was exiting the front door (p 82, lines 13-14).

He recalls the man was wearing a black baseball cap, a black trench coat, blue jeans, and white sneakers (p 81, lines 19-21).

He states the man was carrying something under his coat, and he thought it was the tray to the cash register (p 82, lines 1-8).

Luna states he joked to Juan that he thought the man was robbing the gas station, and they went back to watching TV (p 83, lines 13-14 & 20-21).

Luna states he returned to look out the window when he saw lights and heard sirens, and he watched an ambulance head towards the gas station. Shortly after he went outside with Juan and his family to watch the scene. He spoke with an officer outside about what he saw (p 84, lines 13-23 & p 85, lines 3-20).

Luna states they went to sleep normally that night, and the next day they went to the police department to give a suspect description and a statement (p 85, lines 23-24 & p 86, lines 3-14).

Luna describes the lineup he observed, and states he picked number six, because he “just imagined every one of them doing it and he came to mind” (p 88 line 22 & p 89, lines 1-2).

Luna looks at the lineup photo and states he still believes number six is the individual he saw exiting the Clark station on the night of the crime (p 89, lines 19-23).

Carlos Luna via Frank Picl (pronounced *Pit-sul*):

Luna admits he told detectives in 1999 that the suspect was wearing a trench coat down to his ankles, but now he describes the coat as longer than his waist but not down to his ankles. He admits he forgets things as time passes (p 93, lines 1-18).

Luna says it took the man five seconds to walk 10 – 15 feet to the edge of the building, but he was not limping or using a cane (p 94, lines 8-24).

Luna admits he did not actually see what he thought the man was carrying under his coat (p 96, lines 7-9).

Luna admits the comment he made to his nephew about the man robbing the store was just a joke, he did not actually think the station had been robbed, and he was not alarmed (p 96, lines 22-24 & p 97, lines 1-8).

Luna confirms he never saw the man before and no one else was around (p 97, lines 9-14).

Luna confirms he did not see this man or anyone shoot the victim, he did not even know the victim was inside the station (p 97, lines 15-23).

Luna states he was watching the Simpsons TV show during the crime, and he is certain it was broadcast in 1991 (p 98, lines 11-24 & p 99 lines 1-2).

Luna confirms he picked number six from the line up by imaging all of the individuals walking for several seconds in a long trench coat (p 100, lines 2-16).

Luna confirms the man had one hand in his pocket and something tucked under his coat that he could not see (p 101, lines 1-6).

Luna admits he does not know if the man he saw walk out of the station was actually in the station when the victim was shot (p 101, lines 12-17).

Luna claims that no officers interviewed him in his house, and admits he did meet with the State's Attorney to prepare for this testimony (p 102, lines 21-24 & p 103, lines 1-5).

Luna says he cannot remember the distance he was away from the suspect while he was watching him, and he cannot remember if he said the man was holding something while he was running, and if he said he doubted he could identify the suspect (p 107, lines 2-12).

Luna confirms he did say he thought number six from the lineup was the person he saw leaving the crime scene (p 108, lines 15-17).

Luna says he knows Danny Martinez but did not see him at the gas station that night (p 109, lines 4-8).

Luna admits that the person he thought was working at the gas station that night was his brother's ex-wife, and he did not call the police after joking the person may have just robbed the station, because it was just a joke (p 110, lines 10-18)

Luna admits the suspect could have had a two liter of soda under his jacket (p 110, lines 19-23).

Redirect via Charles Reynard

Luna confirms that he is giving his best recollection of the length of the coat, and confirms the item under the coat was not visible to him, but he did tell a police officer he thought it was the cash drawer shortly after 10pm that same night of the crime (p 111, lines 6-22).

Luna concedes he could have been watching a commercial for The Simpsons and not the actual TV show (p 112, lines 5-9).

Luna confirms that he picked number six from the line up and he still thinks it is the same person he saw that night. He states he was looking out the window longer than Juan, who did not make any positive identifications (p 112, lines 10-23).

Recross via Frank Piel (pronounced *Pit-sul*):

Luna confirms he never saw the item under the coat, but it was square shaped, so he assumed it had to be the cash drawer before the police interviewed him (p 114, lines 4-10).

Again, Luna admits that he did not think there was a robbery in progress even though he thought a man just took a cash drawer, which was not an item sold at the store. He explains that since he did not see his brother's ex-wife through his window, he didn't think anything of it, and it could have been a 2 liter bottle of soda (p 115 & 116, lines 1-8).

Redirect via Charles Reynard

Luna claims he can see silhouettes through the Clark Station window from his bedroom window, and he would have recognized his ex-sister in law if she was in there (p 116, lines 16-20).

Recross via Frank Piel (pronounced *Pit-sul*):

Piel asks Luna if the State's Attorney flew him back from Arizona to testify in Illinois. Reynard objects and it is sustained. There were no further questions (p 117, lines 2-8).

Carlos Luna Affidavit January 24, 2010

Luna states that the time he actually looked out his bedroom window the night of the crime was 7:30PM.

He did see a thin white male, about 5'11," with dark brown hair wearing a black baseball cap and a black trench coat and blue jeans.

He watched him walk out the front door and walk down the east end of the building, and then run up the alley. He did see something under his right arm but he doesn't know what he was carrying.

He does not know how much time went by between when he saw this man and the police arrived.

He attended the in person line up and chose individual number six because he best fit his original description.

He states he was only 14 years old and was 200 feet away, and he cannot say for certain it was Jamie Snow.

At Jamie's trial, he saw Jamie at the defense table in shackles, so he knew he was the defendant. He was similar to the person he saw that night but not exactly who he observed.

He assumed the police caught the right guy so he identified Jamie Snow at trial.

He is not sure he could identify someone's face from 200 feet away.