

1 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
2 MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

3  
4 THE PEOPLE OF THE )  
STATE OF ILLINOIS, )  
5 )  
Plaintiff, )  
6 )  
vs. ) NO. 99-CF-1016  
7 )  
JAMES C. SNOW, )  
8 )  
Defendant. )  
9

10 JURY TRIAL

11 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had on the trial  
12 before the Honorable DONALD D. BERNARDI, on the 9th day  
13 of January, 2001.

14 APPEARANCES:

15 MR. CHARLES REYNARD,  
16 State's Attorney of McLean County,  
MS. TEENA GRIFFIN,  
17 Assistant State's Attorney of McLean County,  
for the People of the State of Illinois;

18 MR. FRANK PICL and  
19 MR. PATRICK RILEY,  
Attorneys at Law,  
20 for the Defendant.

21  
22  
23  
24

I N D E X

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

Witness:

KAREN STRONG

Direct Examination by Ms. Griffin p. 4  
Cross Examination by Mr. Picl p. 12  
Redirect Examination by Ms. Griffin p. 15

MARY BURNS

Direct Examination by Mr. Reynard p. 16  
Cross Examination by Mr. Picl p. 27

MIKE BERNARDINI

Direct Examination by Mr. Reynard p. 31  
Cross Examination by Mr. Picl p. 47  
Redirect Examination by Mr. Reynard p. 60  
Recross Examination by Mr. Picl p. 62

STEVEN RAY PARKER

Direct Examination by Mr. Reynard p. 63  
Cross Examination by Mr. Picl p. 69

KEVIN SCHALL

Direct Examination by Mr. Picl p. 89  
Cross Examination by Mr. Reynard p. 106

DAVID ARISON

Direct Examination by Mr. Picl p. 107

DONALD HOPPER

Direct Examination by Mr. Picl p. 116  
Cross Examination by Mr. Reynard p. 126

BRIAN WHITMER

Direct Examination by Mr. Picl p. 130  
Cross Examination by Ms. Griffin p. 134  
Redirect Examination by Mr. Picl p. 136  
Recross Examination by Ms. Griffin p. 137

1 THE COURT: We will go on the record in  
2 99-CF-1016. State by Mr. Reynard, Ms. Griffin, the  
3 defendant, Mr. Picl and Mr. Riley. We are prepared to  
4 continue with the State's case.

5 Are the People prepared to proceed?

6 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes.

7 THE COURT: And Mr. Riley.

8 MR. RILEY: Yes.

9 THE COURT: All right. We will call in the  
10 jury.

11 (The hearing was held in the  
12 presence and hearing of the jury.)

13 THE COURT: All right. Folks, please be  
14 seated, and we are prepared to continue with the  
15 evidence in the State's case.

16 And Ms. Griffin, call your next  
17 witness.

18 (Witness sworn.)

19 K A R E N S T R O N G

20 called as a witness on behalf of the People herein,  
21 being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as  
22 follows:

23 DIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MS. GRIFFIN:

1 Q Would you state your name please?

2 A Karen Strong.

3 Q And do you live here in the Bloomington/Normal  
4 area?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Who do you live with?

7 A My husband Kevin.

8 Q Do you have any children?

9 A Four stepchildren.

10 Q I want to ask you if you know an individual by  
11 the name of Mark McCowan?

12 A Yes.

13 Q How do you know him?

14 A He is an ex-boyfriend.

15 Q And do you know Mark McCowan to have any  
16 nicknames or street names?

17 A Yes.

18 Q What is that?

19 A Stretch.

20 Q And I want to ask if you know the defendant in  
21 this case Jamie Snow?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Do you see Jamie Snow in the courtroom?

24 A Yes.

1 Q Point him out.

2 A Right there in the brown hair, brown suit.

3 THE COURT: I didn't hear you. Could you  
4 describe him once again?

5 THE WITNESS: The brown hair and the dark  
6 suit.

7 MS. GRIFFIN: Q Where is he at the table?

8 A The farthest to the left.

9 THE COURT: The record will reflect that the  
10 witness has identified the defendant.

11 MS. GRIFFIN: Q Now, how did you come to  
12 know the defendant Jamie Snow?

13 A Through my ex-boyfriend Mark.

14 Q Now, I want to ask you about the time period  
15 around Easter Sunday, March 31, 1991, and ask you who  
16 you were living with at that time?

17 A Mark.

18 Q Where were you living at?

19 A Willow Creek. No, it was Greenwood, sorry.

20 Q And that is a trailer court?

21 A Yes, but there was an apartment building there.

22 Q And did you live in the trailer court or the  
23 apartment building?

24 A The apartment building.

1 Q Point him out.

2 A Right there in the brown hair, brown suit.

3 THE COURT: I didn't hear you. Could you  
4 describe him once again?

5 THE WITNESS: The brown hair and the dark  
6 suit.

7 MS. GRIFFIN: Q Where is he at the table?

8 A The farthest to the left.

9 THE COURT: The record will reflect that the  
10 witness has identified the defendant.

11 MS. GRIFFIN: Q Now, how did you come to  
12 know the defendant Jamie Snow?

13 A Through my ex-boyfriend Mark.

14 Q Now, I want to ask you about the time period  
15 around Easter Sunday, March 31, 1991, and ask you who  
16 you were living with at that time?

17 A Mark.

18 Q Where were you living at?

19 A Willow Creek. No, it was Greenwood, sorry.

20 Q And that is a trailer court?

21 A Yes, but there was an apartment building there.

22 Q And did you live in the trailer court or the  
23 apartment building?

24 A The apartment building.

1 Q Now, regarding Easter Sunday, March 31, 1991,  
2 did you become aware at some point that William Little  
3 was shot and killed at the Clark Station at Empire and  
4 Linden Streets on March 31, 1991?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Now, on that Easter Sunday of 1991 do you recall  
7 whether or not you were with Mark McCowan that day?

8 A Yes, we were together.

9 Q Do you recall what you did that day?

10 A We went to his mother's for Easter dinner.

11 Q Did she live here in town?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And do you recall returning to your residence in  
14 Greenwood?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Do you know about what time you returned there?

17 A Between 4:00 and 5:00 o'clock.

18 Q In the afternoon?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay. And once you got back to your residence  
21 there at Greenwood that Easter Sunday did Mark McCowan  
22 ever leave you?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Do you know about what time that was?

1 A Between probably 5:00 and 7:00.

2 Q And did you stay at your residence then?

3 A Yes.

4 Q At any point after he left your residence did  
5 you see him again that night on Easter of 1991?

6 A Yes, it was later on.

7 Q Do you know about what time that was?

8 A Between 10:00 and midnight.

9 Q Where were you at when you saw them together?

10 A I was sleeping on the couch.

11 Q Would that be in your apartment?

12 A Yes.

13 Q In the front room, living room area?

14 A Front room.

15 Q And how did you become aware that he was back?

16 A He had woke me up.

17 Q And when he woke you up, what happened?

18 A He had asked if Jamie could come in and stay for  
19 a few days.

20 Q And did you see Jamie Snow, the defendant, when  
21 he woke you up?

22 A I just saw him at the back door.

23 Q And when you say the back door, could you  
24 describe a little bit about how your apartment was



1 there. How it was set up?

2 A You walk out of the front room and walk down the  
3 hallway and on the left there was a kitchen area and the  
4 back door was in the kitchen.

5 Q So when he asked you if Jamie could stay there  
6 for a few days, did you get up and that is when you saw  
7 Jamie?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And where was the defendant at when you saw him?

10 A Outside.

11 Q Did you -- could you see him completely?

12 A No, just from the waist up.

13 Q And what did you observe about him, anything  
14 that you recall?

15 A T-shirt, a hat on.

16 Q Do you recall -- that is your general  
17 description what you recall he had on?

18 A Yes.

19 Q What kind of a hat?

20 A Just a ball cap.

21 Q Now, did you see anyone else there either with  
22 Mark or Jamie?

23 A No.

24 Q Did you see, or did you know how they got there?

1 A No.

2 Q Did you see any vehicles in the area?

3 A I could see through the door. There was a car  
4 there. I couldn't see what kind of a car it was or  
5 anything.

6 Q Okay. And after Mark asked you whether or not  
7 Jamie could stay there for a few days what did you say?

8 A I told him no.

9 Q What happened then?

10 A Jamie left and Mark left I think. I don't  
11 remember then, but I think they both left together.  
12 Mark was mad because I wouldn't let him stay.

13 Q I want to show you what has been marked as  
14 People's Exhibit Number 53 and 56, and I'm showing you  
15 specifically People's Exhibit Number 53 and ask if you  
16 recognize who is in that photograph?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Who do you recognize that to be?

19 A Jamie.

20 Q And showing you what is marked as People's  
21 Exhibit Number 56 ask if you recognize who is in that  
22 photograph?

23 A That is Jamie.

24 Q And would People's Exhibit Number 53 and Number

She said  
I were  
asking

1 56 more accurately reflect how Jamie Snow appeared back  
2 in 1991 as opposed to how he appears in this courtroom?

3 A Yes.

4 Q The first time that you were ever contacted by  
5 the police or the authorities about any of this  
6 information would have been when?

7 A A year ago if that.

8 Q Okay. And at that time did that kind of catch  
9 you off guard?

10 A Yes, it did.

11 Q Was that the first time that you thought about  
12 this for awhile?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And at the time that the police initially talked  
15 to you about a year ago, did you recall specifically  
16 that this was Easter Sunday night when you saw Mark and  
17 the defendant?

18 A Yes. Oh, I didn't remember that day that it was  
19 Easter Sunday, but after you know thinking about it  
20 later I remembered when it was.

21 Q And before did you give a time frame the time of  
22 the shooting?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And the time that the defendant left and got

1 arrested in Missouri at his sister's house?

2 A Yes.

3 MS. GRIFFIN: I don't have any other  
4 questions. Thank you.

5 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Picl.

6 MR. PICL: Thank you, judge.

7 Judge, may I have the reporter read back  
8 the last question and answer. I didn't catch it all.

9 THE COURT: All right. Why don't we stop for  
10 one moment to do that.

11 (The court reporter read back the  
12 last question and answer.)

13 MR. PICL: Could I ask maybe for the question  
14 and answer before that also?

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 (The court reporter read back the  
17 last two questions and answers.)

18 CROSS EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. PICL:

20 Q Ms. Strong, those last two questions what did  
21 you think you were asked? I'm unclear.

22 A Whether -- I guess what I was being asked did I  
23 know what time frame it was from Easter to the time that  
24 he was arrested at his sister's house.

1 Q What do you mean time frame?

2 A What time it was that Mark and Jamie were at my  
3 house.

4 Q I think you have testified between 10:00 and  
5 midnight on Easter Sunday?

6 A Right, and I also testified that I didn't  
7 remember that it was Easter Sunday until after thinking  
8 of it.

9 Q And you didn't remember that until you were  
10 interviewed by the authorities roughly a year ago?

11 A Right.

12 Q What does that have to do with Jamie being  
13 arrested in St. Louis?

14 A I don't know.

15 Q All right. I'm puzzled.

16 Karen, when did you -- well, strike  
17 that.

18 I believe you told us that you first  
19 became aware that Bill Little was shot at the Clark  
20 Station on Easter Sunday '91, is that right?

21 A It was Easter.

22 MS. GRIFFIN: That is not correct. That is  
23 not what the testimony was at all. I said at some  
24 point did you become aware that he was shot and killed.

1 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead.

2 MR. PICL: Q My question I guess then is  
3 this. Ms. Strong or is it Mrs. Strong?

4 A Mrs. Strong.

5 Q Mrs. Strong, when did you approximately first  
6 become aware that Bill Little had been shot on Easter  
7 Sunday 1991?

8 A The next day probably in the newspapers.

9 Q All right. So it wasn't until roughly a year  
10 ago when the authorities got a hold of you that you made  
11 any connection at all between Jamie and Mark appearing  
12 at your residence late in the evening of Easter '91 and  
13 the shooting?

14 A I knew that they were there. I just hadn't  
15 been brought up to me or asked of me if it was Easter  
16 Sunday or not.

17 Q And so between Easter Sunday and roughly a year  
18 ago you didn't actually think it was Easter Sunday, did  
19 you?

20 A Yes, I did.

21 Q Oh, you did?

22 A Yes, I did.

23 Q You didn't tell anybody about it though because  
24 you didn't think it was important, is that right?

1           A Right.

2           MR. PICL: I have no other questions. Thank  
3 you.

4           THE COURT: Ms. Griffin.

5                           REDIRECT EXAMINATION

6                           BY MS. GRIFFIN:

7           Q Mrs. Strong, just to be clear you didn't just  
8 recently know that it was Easter Sunday 1991 that Jamie  
9 Snow came to your house with Mark McCowan?

10          A No.

11          Q And you didn't just recently connect that to the  
12 shooting of Bill Little--

13          A No.

14          Q -- is that right?

15          A Yes.

16          Q And without going -- I'm not asking you to go  
17 into any details of the conversation, but would it be  
18 correct to say that you had additional conversation with  
19 Mark McCowan about that night shortly after Mark McCowan  
20 brought the defendant to your house?

21          A Yes.

22          Q Okay. And that kind of tied things together?

23          A Yes.

24          Q But you didn't go forward and bring that

1 information to the police, is that correct?

2 A Yes.

3 Q You didn't talk to the police until they came to  
4 you, is that correct?

5 A Yes.

6 MS. GRIFFIN: I don't have any other  
7 questions.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Anything further, Mr.  
9 Picl, on that?

10 MR. PICL: No, I have nothing further.

11 THE COURT: All right. Then you may step  
12 down. Thank you.

13 (Witness excused.)

14 M A R Y J A N E B U R N S

15 called as a witness on behalf of the People herein,  
16 being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as  
17 follows:

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. REYNARD:

20 Q Would state your name?

21 A Mary Jane Burns.

22 Q And is it Ms. or Mrs. Burns?

23 A Mrs.

24 Q Mrs. Burns, is it correct that you live near to