

Episode 1



Season 1 : E1 - The Crime Scene

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Speakers: Bruce Fischer, Jamie Snow, Tammy Alexander, Lesley Pires

Episode Description: Eighteen-year-old Bill Little was murdered Easter Sunday while working as a gas attendant at the Clark Oil station in Bloomington, Illinois.

Nearly 10 years later, Jamie Snow was convicted of the murder and sentenced to life without parole in Stateville Prison. Jamie Snow has always maintained his Innocence. In the premier episode of Snow Files, Jamie Snow explains the crime scene in depth. You'll learn "who was where" on the night of the crime from the key perspectives of the star witness, Danny Martinez, and the two first officers on the scene - Jeff Pelo and Paul Williams. We're playing some pretty old tapes, so slap your headphones on for the best listening experience, and dive into crime night.

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Music Intro: Injustice Anywhere presents Snow Files: The wrongful conviction of Jamie Snow and how they got away with it.

Jamie Snow: And I think about this all the time. If I have to spend the rest of my life in prison for a crime I didn't commit, I need the world to know what happened and how it happened.

Bruce Fischer: Jamie Snow was wrongfully convicted in 2001 for the 1991 murder and armed robbery of William Little, a gas station attendant in Bloomington, Illinois.

Jamie is currently serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole in Stateville Prison. Jamie has always maintained his innocence and he continues to do so today.

The violent and senseless murder of William Little took place on Easter Sunday while Jamie was across town having dinner with his family. In the months and years that followed, police were unable to solve the crime and the case went cold. Over eight years would pass before two overzealous rookie detectives came along to attempt to crack the case. Solving a cold case like this one in a small town would be a career builder for sure. These two detectives had no qualms with building a case using unreliable jailhouse informants and faulty eyewitness identification. These two detectives were willing to convict Jamie Snow by any means necessary regardless of facts.

In the years following Jamie's conviction, new information has come forward to confirm that police misconduct and bad lawyering sent the wrong person to prison for William Little's murder. There is no physical evidence linking Jamie to the crime. Jamie's wrongful conviction has not gone unnoticed. Jamie has an army of well-informed supporters. Jamie's case was featured on Crime Watch Daily in 2016 and his case was most recently investigated on the Truth & Justice Podcast with Bob Ruff. Jamie is currently being represented by the University of Chicago's Exoneration Project. Jamie's attorneys believe strongly in his innocence and they are fighting valiantly for his freedom. Sadly, in cases like these, the wheels of justice turn very slowly. Jamie has served nearly 21 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. The fight for Jamie's freedom will not end until he is back home with his family. Please join us as we discuss the Jamie Snow case. Welcome to Snow Files.

Jamie Snow: I want to start off this statement by thanking Bob Ruff and his Truth & Justice top podcast for featuring me on his program. I want to thank everyone who takes the time and effort to make that project you know run like it does Mike, Zaq, you know all the transcribers of the episodes, and I really want to send a big thank you to Jim Clemente for his involvement in his work and trying to make some expert sense of all this. I want to send an even bigger thank you out to the Truth & Justice army of listeners, you know, without you guys there is no Truth & Justice Podcast, it's just a group of people talking into a microphone. So thank you for allowing me into your weekly lives and for trying to help us find out who took the life of Bill Little on March 31, 1991, Easter Sunday.

Those of you who have reached out to me on a personal level you know, I want you to know that you've made the last few months the easiest of the last 20 years of this nightmare for me. You know, it seems that every time I get to a point where I feel I just can't go on, God sends someone to lift me up. This time, he sent an army of someone's. And so from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you.

The purpose of this project is to look at the case through a different lens with a different focus. Bob's focus was to try to figure out who killed Bill Little. And to be honest, he may have very well gotten us onto the right track, you know, time will only tell, we still want to try to solve and so we're not trying to stop that, you know, but our focus is gonna be a little more on the trial and the evidence of misconduct and corruption that took place. You know, just about every wrongful conviction contains misconduct and corruption. If I have to spend the rest of my life in prison for a crime I didn't commit, I need the world to know what happened and how it happened. The concept of crowdsourcing the hunt for, for information is still in play here. You know, we need listeners to help us to help us hunt for you know, certain evidence and people and as we go along, you'll you'll see what we mean, there's still stuff out there that I think people can help us with.

So, you know, and I want to say, you know, Bill Little isn't the only victim in this case. You know, of course he has shouldered the heaviest burden. He lost his life. And his family has carried the burden of his loss for almost 30 years now. Myself and my family are victims of this. We have shouldered a heavy burden for many years now as well. What I want people to know is that the people of Bloomington normal in McLean County are victims in this tragedy as well; A crime of violence was committed on one of your citizens. Imagine all the people in that neighborhood who began living in fear after the crime because the person wasn't caught. It's almost 30 years now, guys and he still hasn't been caught. The citizens of Bloomington normal in McLean county deserve justice, and you haven't received it yet.

We're going to put it all out there for you guys, everything. We're not going to spoon feed you, we're going to put it all on the table and let you decide based on all the evidence if I'm guilty or not. And more importantly was my trial fair or was it corrupt. This is not a knock on the McLean County State Attorney's office as it is today or the BPD as it is today. There have always been good and honest truth seeking justice minded people in both departments. I'm absolutely sure of that. This is however, a well deserved knock on the McLean County State's Attorney's Office under the

direction and supervision of Charles Reiner, Tina Griffin, as well as the actions of a few BPD officers at the time.

When we're done, if you don't believe in what we're saying, and you don't see the clear picture then tell us or even tell us along the way. If you need to, but base your opinion on the evidence, not on your bias because the evidence is what we're going to use. So, you know, because here's what everyone listening to this should consider. So what I really want people to think about, you know, you guys set the standards for your, your, your your law enforcement officials in your community, you elect your state's attorneys, your judges, your sheriff's whose policies drive the police force. If you say with your silence, you know that what they did in this case is okay, then you're saying it's okay to do the same thing to someone you love. You know, I've said this before and I will always say, you know, the frame game doesn't just happen in Chicago and New York, you know, Pittsburgh and Dallas. I'm going to prove to you what happens in the small cities as well. What you guys do with it will determine if justice is ever served in this case. Justice for Bill, justice for myself in the community of Bloomington normal and McLean County is really what I want. So, tune in and let us know what you think. And I appreciate it. All of you. That's it.

Bruce Fischer: Snow Files is being produced by Free Jamie Snow in coordination with Injustice Anywhere. Please join us as we present new, unheard, compelling information about Jamie Snow's case. It's time to get to work.

Danny Martinez had driven his car to the Clark gas station to fill a leaky tire at the air pump and to grab some sodas. He was at the air pump filling the tire when the two police officers arrived on the scene at 8:21 p.m. The officers were responding to a silent alarm that had been pressed from inside the gas station at 8:16 p.m. Eighteen-year-old gas station attendant Bill Little was shot twice in the heart during the suspected holdup and he died before being discovered by police. Here's Jamie Snow to tell you about the night of the crime.

Jamie Snow: What I really want to focus on today is, is giving you guys a clear picture of what happened at the gas station that night. The call came out that there was an armed robbery at the Clark gas station. The two officers that responded were Jeff Pelo and Paul Williams. Paul Williams was the sergeant at the time and he is the glue that is gonna hold together exactly what I'm saying. Paul Williams placed himself in a position on the corner of Linden and Empire where he had an unobstructed view of the gas station. He was focused in on the door to make sure

that nobody went in or came out and he was actually able to see inside the gas station and didn't see any movement.

(From recording)

Paul Williams: And I responded and came up Chestnut Street turned on to Linden going north and pulled up and shut my lights off. And Officer Pelo arrived at about the same time and he got out of his car. And I pulled my squad up a little closer to the intersection of Linden and Empire so that I could see the front of the gas station. I stayed in my car trying to see if there's some movement inside the station or just exactly what was going on before I got out of my car.

Detective: Now, when you arrive, and you heard officer Pelo say he was present at the scene also, you started moving up a little closer or did you just exit your squad?

Paul Williams: Nope, I stayed in my squad. I pulled up my car a little bit closer to the intersection so that I could see a little bit more of what was going on.

Detective: So what I'm alluding to finally, is from your vantage point, there really was no obstruction of your view of the entrance and exits of the...

Paul Williams: The only obstructions were the cars that drove by on the street, intermittently.

Detective: And you saw no movement?

Paul Williams: I didn't see anything.

(End recording)

Jamie Snow: You know, we could try to say that there were semi trucks driving by or that, you know, their view was obstructed from, you know, gas pumps or this or that we can say that, but we have to rely on what they said. What they said is what's important. It's not what we say it is what the police officer say. You heard Jeff Pelo say that he was 1023. I'm assuming that means he was on scene. Jeff Pelo, he says that he got, he got himself into a position where he can see a Hispanic male that was down putting air into his tires, that's Danny Martinez.

Now Danny was putting air in his right front tire of his car. He testified that the front of the car was pointed north. The rear of the car was south, the air pump island was on the eastern most fence line of the Clark gas station. So in order for Jeff Pelo to be able to see this Hispanic male that was crouched down by his tire, he had to of been on the eastern most part of the credit union parking lot from that vantage point he could see down the fence line to Martinez he could see the Martinez license plate and he could see the door, so he had an unobstructed view of Martinez and the door. There's been speculation of how his sight may have been obstructed, but it wasn't. When Pelo was watching Martinez, he tried to run the license plate. The dispatcher was giving him a hard time because the computer was down.

(Recording of Pelo talking with dispatch over the radio)

Bruce Fischer: In case you couldn't understand that, the dispatcher asks Pelo if he wants her to hold the plate because she doesn't expect leads to be back up before her shift is over. Officer Pelo responds, "This vehicle just left the parking lot, if this is a real armed robbery, I'd like to have the 28. Thank you".

Jamie Snow: When he was trying to run that license plate, Danny Martinez was still crouched down by the right front tire of his car.

(From recording)

Jeff Pelo: On toward the east side of the credit union's parking lot, standing there watching the Clark station's parking lot was a older car, blue, a male putting air in a tire that was watching it I watched in front of the station. There was no, I couldn't see no movement or anything inside and the license plate number of the blue vehicle's in the lot. One of the dispatchers was giving me a hard time about running a plate because leads was down. The male walks from his car towards the station, stops, looks back towards his car, turns, walks towards the station, stops and turns around, goes back to his vehicle, got in it, I can't remember if was backing out of the lot or if he could've made a U-turn and drove out of the lot, drove westbound on Empire Street. After he did that I started walking across Empire Street on the east side of the lot.

Detective: Now speaking of Mr. Martinez and that vehicle, and you say that vehicle is by the air pump?

Jeff Pelo: Yes

Detective: You said, when you first observed him, it looked like he was squatting down by the front, passenger side?

Jeff Pelo: Yes sir. The front passenger tire, there's a point where he was crouched down there with the air hose coming to him as if he was putting air in the tire.

Detective: Then you said he got up from that position, walked towards the Clark Station office, stopped, turned, looked in his vehicle, then turned around, and started to proceed back to the Clark Station, stopped a second time, looked at his vehicle, walked back to his vehicle and left the parking lot.

Jeff Pelo: Yes. I can't remember if he walked around his car and then got in it or if he just went to the driver's door. That part I just don't remember.

Detective: But at anytime did you order him off the lot?

Jeff Pelo: No I never, I never spoke to him at all. The closest I ever come to speaking to him that night was when I pointed at him to one of the other officers that he had just been in there.

Detective: Now when he left his vehicle and walked the first time towards the Clark station, how far and I know it's difficult, but how far you think he was away from his vehicle before he stopped and turned around.

Jeff Pelo: Wasn't that far, 20 feet maybe, 25, I don't know the exact distance.

Detective: Would it help if you did any relationship to, he was halfway to the Clark door or he was closer to his car?

Jeff Pelo: He was closer to his vehicle than he was to the front of the business.

Detective: Now the second time after he stopped and turned around and looked at his car, and then turned back around and walked towards the store, how much further do you think he walked?

Jeff Pelo: I wanna say he got within 15 feet of the front door. He was at, he was at an angle. I wanna say it was like 15 feet in front of the door.

Detective: So he was fairly close, to the front of the store?

Jeff Pelo: Yes.

Detective: Now, he leaves, another truck pulls up while you're walking up?

Jeff Pelo: Mm-hmm.

Detective: Did you order them to leave?

Jeff Pelo: Yes.

Detective: Do you know where they went?

Jeff Pelo: They went, initially they went to the credit union lot on the south side, they actually went where I told them to and stop. I've never seen them stopped over there.

Detective: Now, that vehicle wasn't there prior to you getting there?

Jeff Pelo: No.

Detective: And you actually observed the people in the vehicle?

Jeff Pelo: Yes.

Detective: And at no time did any of those people in that vehicle, the second vehicle now, which I think you said earlier was a truck, a pick-up truck, none of those people you observed go into the building.

Jeff Pelo: They never entered the building. No. They got out of the vehicle, but they never went into the building.

(End recording)

Jamie Snow: When Pelo was running that license plate, Paul Williams was already watching the door. According to Danny Martinez, he claims that this person was backing out of the gas station and remember, remember this is very important for later on. He says the guy he saw was backing out of the gas station with his hands in his pocket. He leans into the door backwards to exit the gas station.

(From recording)

Detective: So after you put air in your tire you were going into the business area to purchase?

Danny Martinez: A pop.

Detective: Ok, and then as you were walking towards the business you observe someone backing out, or did you observe someone backing out while you were still putting air in your tire?

Danny Martinez: No, I heard someone backing out of the gas station door, backwards, and at that moment I stated that my car was about to die and my car backfired again and I turned around so it wouldn't die, but by the time I turned back around the person was...

Detective: So, so you were walking towards the building when you observed someone backing out?

Danny Martinez: That's correct.

Detective: Okay. And can you describe this person you saw, observed, backing out?

Danny Martinez: Ahh, no, I, I can describe him when I, when I turned around and saw him. Ahh he was maybe 5'9, about 5'8, 5'9, 5'10, ahh, brownish-blond hair, ball cap, he had a, a spring jacket what you would consider a spring jacket, and he had both of his hands in his pocket.

Detective: And then you, so you observe him backing out, your car starts to stutter, sputter a little bit so you turn back to see what's going on with your car, turn back and at that time how, you and him almost meet face-to-face?

Danny Martinez: That's correct. As it was stated earlier he then curled papers that were three foot apart, ahh, ahh, and that's where, he was to me it seemed that he was kind of shocked and his eyes opened up, and ahh, that's how...

Detective: So, after, as you were walking off, he almost walked into you.

Danny Martinez: That's correct.

Detective: You were about three feet apart, you observed him go which way?

Danny Martinez: I saw him go in between the, ahh, gas station and my fence and he walked towards the alley, the back alley.

Detective: When you were walking from your car towards the business, did you see anybody inside the business other than the person you observed backing out?

Danny Martinez: No.

Detective: When you first saw the person backing out of the business, was he already out, or was he at the door, or...?

Danny Martinez: He was at the door, ahh, with the door like halfway open.

Detective: Okay, so he was partially already out when you first observed him?

Danny Martinez: Right.

Detective: And that police officer saw ya?

Danny Martinez: Ahh, after I saw the gentleman he went through the building in my chain link fence. I start walking two steps and I heard a gentleman say, "BACK UP", and I turned around and I saw an officer across the street at the credit union, I think it was a credit union back then, and ahh he said, he had mentioned, did you see anybody and I said, yeah, I just saw him and I just saw some guy just go through the, the grass here. And says, he said I ahh told him I live next door and he says why don't you go back to your car and ahh go on home, and he told the

gentlemen that was in the black truck, or a gentlemen that was by the black truck to get in the truck and get out of here.

(End recording)

Jamie Snow: So he's listing everything together while Martinez is down putting air in the tires, Williams is already watching the door, Martinez is down putting air in the tires, Pelo is watching him, he's running the license plate and he's watching the door at the same time. Martinez claims as he gets up and starts walking towards the door, stopped, turned, and looked at his car and according to his testimony says he turns back around and him and the guy were face-to-face, 1-3 feet away from each other that they actually sit there looking at each other for a second or two before any of that stuff happened. Williams is already watching the door. Pelo had an unobstructed view of Martinez and the door.

Bruce Fischer: The two police officers were in position with clear views of the Clark gas station entrance door and the parking lot at the precise time that Danny Martinez claims he saw a man exit the gas station door and come face-to-face with him in the parking lot. The two officers on the scene were looking right at the gas station door, and Martinez never saw the man Martinez claims he saw.

Jamie Snow: When I got the tape-recorded interview, and I listened to this tape-recorded interview, I, I felt like I was going to actually have a nervous breakdown. I had to stop recording, rewind it, listen to it again, stop it and rewind it and listen to it again. I was like, I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Pelo saw Danny stop and turn and look at his car and then turn back around and continue walking towards the door. He had an unobstructed view, Danny and the door there was nobody there and the state knew it. And when it came time to go to trial, they asked Jeff to lie about it. He said he wasn't gonna lie about it. They said just answer the questions that we asked you. And that's what he did.

So many people have tried to pick and shake the story of Danny Martinez and Jeff Pelo and Paul Williams. But the fact is the three of them were there at the same time but you can't divorce from the sequencing of events in the scenario. Paul Williams, Jeff Pelo, and Danny Martinez, you have to consider the three of them together when Danny was crouched down by that tire, Williams was already watching the door. It's a fact! This is the state's evidence. When Pelo was trying to run that license plate,

Williams is already watching the door. Danny was still crouched down by the right front tire and Pelo had an unobstructed view of that door.

So the idea that this person could murder William Little, with both of these police officers on the scene and in in, in in their own words, focus in on the gas station and is actually able to see inside the gas station and this guy could get out, and come face-to-face with Danny and get around the corner without two police officers seeing them is just ludicrous, its mind boggling to me that anybody would think that. And look, I challenge anyone to look at the documents that we are going to put up and tell me something different.

Bruce Fischer: There is much more to discuss about Danny Martinez. In this episode, we prove that Martinez's testimony has been fully discredited by police interviews and testimony of both police officers who are on the scene. In episode two, we will break down Martinez's trial testimony and we will also show you in great detail how his miraculous ID of Jamie, years later after failing to identify him multiple times shortly after the murder, is completely unreliable.

My name is Bruce Fisher. I'm one of three co-hosts who will be bringing Jamie's story to you each week. I am the co founder of Injustice Anywhere, an all-volunteer organization working to bring more attention to wrongful convictions. My interest in wrongful convictions began back in late 2009, when I became aware of the Amanda Knox case in Perugia, Italy. This case shocked me to the core. I dove in headfirst and began researching everything I possibly could about the case. Social media provided an incredible opportunity to bring people together. Our group worked closely on the Amanda Knox case. Up until that point in my life, I was unaware of how serious the issue of wrongful convictions truly is. Not only throughout the world, but also right here in the United States.

This newfound awareness led to the creation of Injustice Anywhere. Once again, a dedicated group was put together. We developed an advisory board and began reviewing possible cases of wrongful conviction. Around that time, Tam Alex brought Jamie Snow's case to our attention. Jamie already had a well-organized group of supporters, long before Injustice Anywhere came along. The information available made it easy for our advisory board to properly review Jamie's case. After seeing the evidence, our group voted unanimously to support Jamie and to feature his case. Injustice Anywhere is pleased to sponsor the Snow Files podcast. Anyone who takes the time to review the facts of Jamie Snow's case, knows that he is innocent.

Lesley Pires: I'm Lesley Pires, a I'm a really good friend of Jamie's and I wholeheartedly believe in his innocence. We met through crowdsourcing with the Truth & Justice podcast, and our friendship just took off, and for me, looking away has never been an option. I think Jamie really did the best job explaining the significance in this bond. When he wrote to me quote, "the need for an outside contact is universal to every person in jail. Whether that is coming from a friend, family or anything in between, we find validation for our very existence, out of the contacts we have outside of here. Without friends or family, or just one person who gives a damn about someone in jail. What could the purpose in life really be? If no one else sees value in you, how can you ever see it in yourself?" So as a friend, a supporter, it's my job to raise up Jamie's voice in any circumstance to validate his worth, his suffering, and to just set him free. And I hope this podcast does just that. And I'm not a legal expert. But I've certainly studied the corruption making this a wrongful conviction. Professionally, I'm a marine scientist with a six-year degree focused in biology and technology, and I've worked the industry for 10 years now, not behind the desk in the field using the scientific method. Although at times, I'm sure you'll hear my passion, I will only consider the facts when reviewing the evidence. And lastly, I'd just like to say that it's my honor to be here today, on the right side of history, and it's just that simple.

Tammy Alexander: My name is Tammy Alexander. Most people from this case know me as Tam Alex. I've been working on Jamie's case for around 10 years now. I had read an article about his case and it seemed really questionable to me at the time. I had never written anyone in prison before, but for some reason felt compelled to write Jamie and let him know that I didn't know if he was guilty or not, but from the little I'd read, I'm sure he didn't get a fair trial. So he wrote me back and he said that he wasn't guilty, and if I would be willing to read the documents, trial transcripts and police reports that he would prove it to me. I was definitely up for the challenge and he sent me everything he had. It took me a few months to go through everything, but as I moved through, things just weren't adding up, and I became more and more convinced of his innocence every day. It helped that he would answer every question I had, even the hard ones. Once I became convinced of his innocence, I had to help. So I started with setting up a website and social media. That was in October of 2010.

Since then, we've had annual events in Bloomington. We've had newspaper articles written about his case. His case has been featured on Crime Watch Daily, and most recently on Truth & Justice podcast with Bob Ruff. There have been so many people

that have helped along the way, but I would be remiss if I didn't talk about Ray. He's the former chief of police in the New Jersey area, and he learned about Jamie's case through his wife, Pam, who was Jamie's juvenile advocate back in the 80s. She reconnected with him around 2011 or so, after searching for him on the Internet. Ray has been an integral part of the investigation. He knows the police reports better than anyone. We have filed numerous FOIA requests and currently have a FOIA lawsuit pending against McLean County. Ray has done some amazing work and I'm really looking forward to having him on the podcast to share his insights. I just want to add that we are very excited about the podcast and getting the entire story out to the public. Also, a huge thank you to Bruce and Lesley, for all your hard work and putting this together.

Bruce Fischer: We are now going to answer a few frequently asked questions about the case and we would love to hear from you on the Snow Files podcast page if you have additional questions or observations.

Lesley, Who is where and when? Can you set this up for us? Jamie says you cannot divorce Officer Paul Williams, Officer Jeff Pelo, and Danny Martinez. What does he mean by that?

Lesley Pires: Pelo and Williams both arrived on the scene within seconds of each other. Williams testified to that twice. Williams stated that he was across the street on the western front corner and Pelo was across the street on the eastern front corner. They were both looking towards the front door, which was centered between them, so they had overlapping vantage points. Neither saw someone leave that front door. The timing of the dispatch call proves that, as each had to radio in when they were 1023 on scene.

Williams has always described that he first saw Pelo exit a squad car, walk on foot, and then cross Empire Street towards the gas station lot. It's his description of Pelo's activities that confirms his presence. Further appeal reported Martinez's presence and sudden departure from the lot to dispatch, because he thought he was a suspect. The timing of that is all recorded. At 8:21 and 14 seconds, Pelo asks dispatch to run Martinez's plate and just 38 seconds later, he reports that his vehicle just left the parking lot, and exclaims quote, "If this is a real armed robbery, I'd like to have the 28." Then just 72 seconds later Pelo calls for rescue after finding the victim down on the ground.

Over the years including at trial, many have speculated that perhaps Williams was late to the scene and didn't see the same things that Pelo saw or that maybe Pelo was distracted with his microphone and didn't see what Martinez did. But they were all three there at the same time for those crucial few moments at about 8:21 p.m. We heard Jamie mention semi trucks and gas pumps when he mentioned possible view obstructions. It's been speculated over the years that Pelo may not have seen the front door of the gas station because of a center island pump likely blocking his view of the door or if semi truck was passing by. But Williams was sitting at the intersection south of the Clark station door and he noted car traffic not semi trucks. He was also watching the front door at the same time as Pelo, but from the southwest corner, so he was looking at the other side of that same gas pump, at the same time as Pelo and reports no one leaving that door.

Martinez also claimed that the suspect walked down this strip of grass to the alley, but he didn't watch him walk down there. Pelo was standing directly across from that grass patch. Had he not seen the door because of the gas pumps, he would have seen someone walking on that grass towards the alley. Jamie makes a good point in that we have to rely on the evidence, what the police reports say, what the police officers actually reported they saw that night and not speculation as to what could have happened.

Bruce Fischer: Tam, how significant is this Danny Martinez story?

Tammy Alexander: Well, actually the cops didn't take Martinez's ID seriously in the beginning at all. There were two composites and they only released one initially and that one was not Martinez. It was another witness that we'll talk about later. So fast forward to 1993, late 1993 when the leads were dying, they released Martinez's composite, and actually they released them both and that was against the judgment of the police spokesman David Ogg. So David Ogg released a public statement, saying that releasing a second composite went against FBI police training and was like putting a second string offense into a game when the first string doesn't get the job done.

So when we move on to 1996, they actually dropped the other composite and started solely using Martinez composites. What you have to understand is these composites didn't look anything alike. So something was happening here. They were just like dropping this other witnesses composite completely over the years. And you can see the timeline on the composite issue and the dots page on the podcast side.

But the significance of his story to circle back the significance of Martinez's story is that he was the only person on the scene when police arrived. Two police officers were on the scene at the same time Martinez was there and one of them watched every move Martinez made until he left the scene, from the time he was airing his tires until he left the scene. He described that. Martinez only ID'd Jamie nearly 10 years later, after failing to do so in an in person lineup, shortly after the crime and photo arrays with multiple pictures of Jamie included in them, he never ID him. And also his story changed several times over the years. And they still used him as the star witness in both Jamie and Susan's trials.

Bruce Fischer: Tam, what is so significant about Danny Martinez's movement and timing in the lot that night?

Tammy Alexander: I think the significance is that people try to make it muddy, which is very evident from the trial. But you know, the facts are in the documents and that's the state's evidence. So Martinez consistently claimed he heard two pops while filling up his tire and said his car was backfiring. The state consistently claimed that those were shots. Martinez said he saw someone exit the station as he was walking up. And then he says he came face-to-face with that person.

But we know from the dispatch tape that Pelo was there watching Martinez from the time he was airing up his tires until the time he pulled out of the gas station. And I know this sounds repetitive but I can't say it enough. There was somebody sitting there watching them and it's in the police reports that where he describes that he even described his movements down to how far he was from the store before he turned around and got back into his car and left. We also know from dispatch tape that Martinez left before Pelo even crossed the street. He was telling the dispatcher to hold the plate because the person left and he wanted to hold on to it in case it was a real armed robbery.

We know that Williams stated that when he pulled up he saw a car by the air pump so they were all there at the same time, and neither officer ever heard gunshots, even though Pelo was only feet away from Martinez's car when it should have been backfiring. But even if you want to say the backfire happened before either officer arrived, you cannot tell me that two police officers who approached on a silent alarm were watching the store and Pelo was also watching Martinez from the time he was airing up his tire to the time he left precisely describing his movements and did not

see Martinez almost run into someone. Or that Williams who was watching the door the entire time did not see anyone exit the station. That's impossible.

Bruce Fischer: Danny Martinez and Officer Jeff Pelo testified at Susan Claycomb's trial in 2000, where she was found not guilty. She was Jamie's co defendant. Can you explain her relationship to Jamie and why she was implicated?

Tammy Alexander: Well, Susan Claycomb or Susan Powell, which is her maiden name, was Jamie's sister in law. She was married to Tammy Snow's brother, which was Jamie's wife at the time. Tammy Snow was Susan's best friend. They adored each other and she was also of course the aunt to Jamie's kids and they were all very close. But Susan and Jamie didn't get along very well. They kind of bickered and bantered a lot, they didn't hang out together in a group much less alone. When they were arrested, no one could even figure out why they dragged Susan into it because of their volatile relationship.

She was pregnant and she actually had a child while she was in custody. During that time while she was in jail, they had offered her parole, if she would say she drove Jamie to the gas station, but she never caved. She went to the trial facing the exact same charge as Jamie faced, which was murder. You know, it wasn't accessory or anything like that. It was it was murder. It was exactly what Jamie had, but she had a private attorney and she beat the case. He did a great job and you'll hear more about Steve Skelton's work during this podcast. There's an amazing picture in the local paper, it's called the Pantograph, of Susan and Tammy Snow outside the courthouse hugging after Susan was acquitted. It's such a beautiful picture. We'll find it and post it on the Snow Files Facebook page. What a lot of people don't know is that Jamie was in county jail at the time and he was looking down from the window looking at Tammy Snow and Susan crying and you can just see Tammy's hair. She's got this long blonde wavy hair and but you can see Susan's face and she's just crying. You know, it's just so such an incredible picture.

But unfortunately, she died a few years ago from sepsis. And it was after complications from a surgery but she always supported Jamie. She always supported his innocence. She attended annual events that we had in Bloomington. She was an amazing, you know, an amazing supporter and an amazing voice for Jamie as someone who was acquitted. She also testified in Jamie's trial for him and that's pretty interesting testimony because she was pretty hostile. So we'll probably get to that too, but that's, you know, in a nutshell, Susan Powell Claycomb.

Bruce Fischer: Lesley, Jamie mentioned that the state's attorney asked Officer Jeff Pelo to lie during his trial. How did they get away with that?

Lesley Pires: Pelo reported in his initial 1991 statement on the day of the crime that he saw Martinez filling up his tires with air and told the pickup truck driver to leave the lot. In his 1999 interview, he insists that he never spoke to Martinez once. He pointed his finger at him when he was going back to his house and directed another officer towards him. But he never spoke to him about seeing a suspect, and certainly did not tell him to leave the lot.

But in 2009, Officer Pelo supplied an affidavit in which he claims that right before Jamie's trial, he had a meeting with a state's attorney and the cold case detective, where the state's attorney implied he should lie about being confident he did not see anyone at the gas station that night. He reported that he refused to lie, but agreed to answer only the questions asked of him. At Jamie's co-defendants trial, five months before Jamie's trial, Pelo did testify to the attorney that he saw no one go in the station and no one go out. On cross, he told the defense attorney that he pointed at Martinez from across a lot, said something to him and then sent someone else to talk to him. But he clarified that he didn't remember Martinez saying he saw anyone in the lot. This defendant was found not guilty.

However, five months later, at Jamie's trial after this private meeting with the state's attorney, Pelo testifies again that he did not see anyone come out of the building, but then elaborates on cross examination explaining to defense counsel that he was stressed. This was his first homicide where he was first on scene. He can't remember where he was standing when he called in Martinez's car plates. He can't remember if Martinez turned around in a lot at the same time the supposed suspect was leaving the store. And he states that, yes, he did in fact speak to Martinez when he saw him on his property.

He also tells the state's attorney on a redirect that at this time Martinez did in fact report he saw suspect fleeing the scene around the corner into the alley. On the defense's re-cross about this issue, Pelo admits that although Martinez supposedly said that to him, he did not report it back to dispatch at all. And this is how they got away with it, by blurring the narrative slightly, and then inserting a lie to legitimize Martinez as an eyewitness to a suspect fleeing.

Bruce Fischer: Officer Jeff Pelo later wrote Jamie a letter in 2007, calling the state's assertion that Danny Martinez saw anyone else in the lot that night a pile of bullshit. What made him come forward with that information?

Lesley Pires: Jamie wrote Officer Pelo a letter from prison in 2007, requesting his clarification. He supplied him with the trial testimony Pelo gave and that of Martinez. Pelo responded to him that after reviewing the transcripts it was obvious that Martinez did not see anyone in the lot and he was in fact, always wondering how he could claim he did, when he was watching the whole time. He explained how it was clear to him that the state's attorney tried to insinuate a suspect could have fled while he was calling in Martinez's plate, while possibly distracted by the radio, and how Jamie's defense attorney did not respond appropriately to that. He insisted that he was not distracted by that radio and Martinez did not come face-to-face with anyone in the parking lot. Pelo went on to write an affidavit in 2009, confirming these same things. And he outlined two lies he noticed in the transcripts, one being that he did not speak to Martinez to chase him out of the lot or hear him report a possible suspect sighting and that Martinez did not simply leave the lot and park across the street from his house, meaning he did drive away and pass Officer Williams westward down Empire Street.

Bruce Fischer: Officer Paul Williams testified at the coroner's inquest and Jamie's trial. If he was watching the door of the gas station the whole time, why wasn't he used to validate Officer Pelo's testimony that no one entered or exited the gas station? What happened? Jamie said he is the glue that holds this all together. So why has he been dismissed?

Lesley Pires: The state's attorney never asked Williams any detailed questions about Martinez during his testimony at Jamie's trial. He did describe to the state's attorney that he saw Pelo pull up and get out of his car and walk across the street to the lot that he was focused on the front door and that he did not see any civilian come in and out of the gas station. On the defense's cross, Williams stated that he did not see Pelo call in the plate, he heard him do it over the radio, probably because he was watching the door ahead of him. He said he did see people in cars in the lot but could not see if anyone was putting air in their tires because he was not focused on normal activities. He was focused on the door. He said he did not hear anyone outside or over the radio say that they saw a suspect fleeing the scene.

So he was pretty useless to the state's attorney. He did not do anything really one way or the other. Defense counsel never asked him where exactly Pelo was standing and if it was possible for a suspect to flee the scene while he was watching the door and Pelo was watching the same space from a different angle. He was only asked if he heard about a suspect fleeing. How is this not ineffective assistance of counsel? These questions could have been asked because during the 1991 coroner's inquest, Williams did say that he actually arrived at the same time as Pelo and waited for him to get out on foot to pull closer. He reported he was sitting for 15 to 20 seconds and saw nothing unusual.

Later in his 1999 cold case interview, he stated that there was no obstruction of his view while he was sitting in his car watching the door. He saw no movement inside and no one came in or out of that door. This assertion was not validated at Jamie's trial by the defense. Officer Williams has always stated he arrived at the same time or within seconds of Officer Pelo, and he in fact parked, watched Pelo step out of his car and walk towards the southeast corner of the Clark station lot and stand across the street exactly where Pelo said he observed Martinez. Williams clearly states he actually heard Pelo call in those plates as he sat there watching the front door and he saw Pelo cross Empire Street. So he decided to pull forward into the Clark station lot himself.

As Jamie said, Williams is the glue that holds this all together. And he has been repeatedly dismissed so that Martinez's statement can be legitimized. Williams was Officer of the Year in 2004, according to the local newspaper, The Pantograph. By this time, he had received the chief's mere award three times for large-scale investigations and was regarded as an outstanding and dedicated professional and police officer. Surely he is a credible witness.

All right everyone, we hope you enjoyed the first episode. It was a lot of information, a lot of names, times and movements. But you know what, it gets worse. It took a lot of big and little lies to frame Jamie for a murder he absolutely did not commit and a lot of finagling to convince a jury of his peers that he could have done it. It took 54 witnesses. We named three today. Are you ready for more? This is going to be a long ride, and we don't have all the questions and answers. So we want to hear from you. If it's documents or clarification you need let us know. If it's questions or ideas, we want to hear those too. On our Snow Files Facebook group ask Jamie anything there too. He wants to respond to you directly. No more rumors. Ask the man yourself. He's eagerly waiting. If you have a tip, please call 888-710-SNOW. In our next episode,

we'll cover Danny Martinez's actual court testimony and you'll see where he was once absolutely sure it wasn't Jamie, and then where he's suddenly 100% sure it was Jamie, while he takes the stand for the final time. How did he get away with it? We've got new evidence. That's next time on Snow Files.

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