

UNDISCLOSED, the State v. Gary Mitchum Reeves
Episode 6 - The Body in the Well
August 21, 2017

[0:21] Susan Simpson The decision to parole Gary, to release him from his life sentence early, was made in July of 1981. That's 7 years, give or take, after he was first arrested for Grace's murder. Gary says that after his last habeas was denied in 1978, he gave up on ever getting free through the legal system, and focused all his efforts on obtaining parole. He got a job as the runaround in Floyd County, which means he was responsible for cleaning county property, like the police station, which meant he had access to phones during the day, because he was running around, cleaning up after others, and had free run essentially of the police station. So he could make calls, have contact with the outside world, and he asked people to write letters to the Georgia Board of Pardon and Paroles to consider his early release.

The effort, remarkably, seems to have paid off. Technically, Gary was eligible for parole in August of 1981 because back then, even if you were serving a life sentence, you first came up for consideration after 7 years. So when the parole board made the decision, 6 years and, 11 months after Gary was first arrested, to release him on parole, well, that kind of fits. When I first talked to Gary, he seemed confident it was his letter writing campaign, the show of significant community support, that had made the difference, that had won his release. And that, even though it's fairly odd for someone with a life sentence to be released a mere 7 years in, it can happen, and that's why it happened here.

I had several questions though. Because there had been other events happening in that time period that seemed closely related to Gary's case, and I kept wondering if they were related to his release as well.

First, at some point that spring or summer, before Gary was released, Floyd County officer Jerry Boyd had pulled Gary aside to tell him that the GBI had an informant, and the informant said that he hadn't even been there when Grace was killed.

Second, in June of 1981, one of the people who had been in the house on the night of Grace's murder, but who had never been questioned by police, was himself convicted of a murder and given a life sentence. Bo Salmon, Charlotte's boyfriend at the time, had been charged with killing Henry Ridley Jr in 1981, as part of a murder-for-hire scheme, and his conviction would come only a month before the Pardon and Parole board decided to release Gary.

And, third, not long before Gary was released, Gary talked to a GBI agent, and the agent told him that Bo had been involved in 7 or 8 murders, not just the murder of the Ridley boy. Though after Bo had been given a life sentence, no other charges were ever brought against him.

And maybe all of this was just a giant coincidence. Maybe it just happened that Bo's conviction and the GBI's informant all happened right at the same time that Gary's 7 years in prison were up and he first came up for parole. Maybe nothing in Murray and Whitfield Counties had anything to do with Floyd County.

But coincidence or not, I had to at least try to look into it. 'Cause if nothing else, I needed to know more about this informant that Officer Jerry Boyd had told Gary about, the one who said that Gary hadn't even been there when Grace was killed. And that's why I ended up tracking down everything I could about the Henry Ridley Jr. case -- if there was an informant, it seemed likely that it was connected to that case somehow.

And when I started this search, I thought I had a good guess about who the informant might be: Charlotte. After all, Charlotte had testified at the trials of Bo's co-defendants, and there was a good chance she'd been acting as an informant before that. What if she had told the GBI about other murders Bo had committed? What if *she'd* been the one to tell the GBI that Gary hadn't even been in the house when Grace was killed?

It turns out I was right about the first part of that -- the GBI files, when I got them, showed that Charlotte had been a cooperating witness, who had worked closely with the GBI. And that she had in fact told the GBI about at least three other murders that Bo had committed, not counting the murder of Henry Ridley Jr. At first it seemed like I'd hit the jackpot -- if Charlotte had telling the police about these crimes Bo had committed, about other murders he'd done, that's huge, right?

But the more I learned about these cases, the more I began to question Charlotte's statements. Things didn't seem to quite add up. Was Charlotte telling the truth about Bo's crimes? Or was she falsely accusing him of murders he'd had nothing to do with?

And how many murders exactly would I have to investigate, in order to find the informant that Jerry Boyd had told Gary about?

[6:26] Susan Simpson The GBI's file for the Henry Ridley Jr. case was extensive. GBI Agent Bill Dodd, the lead investigator, had been meticulous in his reports, and it turned out that

Charlotte had turned informant in June of '81, just a few days after Bo was convicted. Remember, Bo's trial was the first of two trials -- his co-defendants, Earl Green and Teddy Bear Mulkey, weren't convicted until December of that year. Charlotte didn't even come forward to turn state's evidence until after Bo had been convicted. In fact, Charlotte said she'd expected to be called as a defense witness, though ultimately the defense attorney for Bo Salmon never called her. But it's fascinating in its own right, that she was even considered as a defense witness, because that seems to imply she'd told Bo, or at least Bo had believed, that she'd be willing to lie for him, under oath, on the stand. Because as shown from her testimony at the trials of Teddy Bear and Earl Green, Charlotte couldn't have truthfully testified in Bo's defense. She knew a lot about his involvement with the murder.

But I also learned from the GBI file that Charlotte wasn't the only witness who had come forward to talk to them -- there'd been maybe a dozen informants in all. Unfortunately, while I'd been hoping perhaps that, somewhere in the files, there'd be something about Grace's murder, some clue about the informant that Officer Boyd had talked about, I came up empty there -- in Agent Dodd's notes, there's no mention anywhere of anything having to do with Floyd County.

But even if the notes from the GBI don't directly reference Grace's murder, it was hard not to see indirect references everywhere. Again and again, in reading Charlotte's statements and testimony, I'd see echoes of the murder that had happened 7 years earlier, in that house on Maple Street.

[8:11] Susan Simpson The actual way Henry Ridley Jr. had been killed up in Fort Mountain, in 1980, was very different from Grace's death back in 1974, but that isn't where I saw the similarities so much. According to Charlotte, Bo and Teddy Bear had taken Henry up the mountain together, after getting him drunk and giving him Quaaludes until he passed out. Bo, she said, had told her that he'd been the one that was supposed to shoot Henry, but he was stalling when it came time for it, when they got to the mountain, and said he couldn't shoot Henry with him just passed out like that, until finally Teddy Bear got frustrated and grabbed the gun from Bo and shot Henry himself.

And all of that could be true, for all I know. There's a lot of uncertainty in this case, about how Henry was actually killed. The theory from Agent Gillis, that I mentioned last week, about how Henry had been shot as they walked through the woods spotlighting for deer, that makes sense to me, but from the crime scene photos, the idea that Henry had instead been laying out on the ground, passed out, and then shot in the head -- that seems plausible too. On the other hand, Charlotte's story seems designed to portray Bo in as good a light as

possible, given the circumstances -- the idea that Bo hadn't been able to go through with the killing when they were there, so Teddy Bear had to finally be the one to do it instead. Bo was still a murderer, but it makes him seem a little bit nicer, I guess.

But in evaluating Charlotte's statements about the murder of Henry Ridley, there was a problem I kept running into, again and again. At times, her story would deviate from what other witnesses said or what the crime scene seemed to indicate. For instance, she says Bo told her that the Ridley boy had been shot one time. But the State's other major witness, JW Patterson, the man Bo had recruited to help with the murder but who claimed Bo had gone ahead and done it without him, he said that Bo had told him Henry had been shot 3 times.

In reality, Henry had been shot once. But the GBI believed, from the casings found, that three shots had been fired up there in all. So, whose story is true? Charlotte's or JW's? I don't have any way to tell, and maybe they're both true, and Bo just told each of them different stories. But it was the little issues like this, all conflicts between what Charlotte says and what others say, that left me unsure of how much to believe about what she was telling the GBI.

Like when Charlotte also claimed that Bo had been hired not just to kill Henry, but to kill the rest of his family as well -- that Earl Green had insurance policies on his wife Margaret, and Henry's two little brothers, and that Bo had been hired by Earl Green to take them all out, one by one, so he could collect on the insurance for all of them. Which, again, may be true, I don't have a way of saying for sure it's not. But in an already horrifying story, the implications of this story raised the bar to a whole new level. According to Charlotte, she knew her husband was going to kill a 12 year old and a 7 year old for cash, and she was fine to sit back, say nothing, and take the money they were paid for it. But if Earl Green really did have life insurance policies on Margaret and all three of her sons, how come the only insurance records ever found were the ones on Henry?

Still, one part of Charlotte's story did prove to be true: she said Bo had used Quaaludes on Henry, to make the murder easier to pull off. And the blood tests showed that Henry had been a little drunk at the time of his death, with a BAC of .11, but they also showed that another drug had been present in Henry's system. The medical examiner testified,

The blood specimen also showed an amount of methaqualone, that is, Quaaludes. This is a common commonly abused sedative--hypnotic, sleeping pill type of thing. And it was at .35 milligrams per deciliter. This in the person's blood by itself would be suitable for ordinary routine medication. That would be less -somewhat less than what you would try to achieve if you were giving it to someone for -- as a tranquilizer or as a

sleeping pill. But, combined with the alcohol, it would have a potentiating effect, that is, each would multiply the effect of the other.

Quaaludes, just FYI, are not a good mix with alcohol. Even in the low amounts, relatively, that were present in Henry's blood, they could have been a problem because combining Quaaludes with alcohol means each is worse. But Bo's fondness for using Quaaludes and other drugs on his would-be victims can be seen in Bo's other attempts to kill Henry, too, the ones that failed. His first attempt to kill Henry had been when he'd placed Henry in a car doused it in gasoline and shoved it off a mountain. Henry had survived, but according to the people who talked to the GBI and testified at trial, his memory of this event had been strange and vague, to point it was not really a memory at all. He was fuzzy on the details, and what he'd claimed was that he'd driven himself off the mountain. That he'd bought a new car from Bo Salmon, and gone driving, and then something had happened, he'd gone off the road, and the car had veered off, gone down a cliff, burst into flames. At one point, he told his girlfriend Lisa that he thought perhaps his cousin Larry Silvers had run him off the mountain -- that maybe that's what happened to him. Henry and Larry had been having a dispute, or had one a year ago, ever since Henry had turned State's evidence on Larry in a theft case the year before, so the two of them didn't get along, and somehow Henry got it into his head that maybe Larry and Larry's friends had been why Henry had driven himself off a mountain.

Only none of that ever happened. Larry Silvers was never involved, Henry hadn't bought a car and gone for a midnight swim, actually he hadn't even driven to the mountain at all. According to Charlotte, Bo and Earl Green had decided that the best way to kill Henry would be to stage an accident, as if he'd been drunk and had wrecked because of that. Only Henry hadn't had a car of his own at the time -- for the plan to work, he'd need to have a car somehow. So they decided to claim that Henry had bought Bo's car from him, and used that one. One night while Henry was hanging out with Bo, Henry was either given Quaaludes or had them slipped to him somehow, and then while drugged up, Bo and apparently Teddy Bear Mulkey, had put Henry in the car, gone up the mountain, doused it in gasoline and pushed it off the cliff.

Only Henry lived, which in other circumstances might've been a big problem for his would-be murderers. But since Henry couldn't remember how he'd come to be on the mountain, Bo and his accomplice were safe.

[14:44] Susan Simpson And then there's the other failed murder attempt, the attempted overdose. Charlotte testified about how Bo had tried to make Henry overdose on morphine,

but when he wouldn't inject himself anymore, he had instead substituted his coke for half coke, half morphine. But Henry had gotten sick, and that plan failed too.

The fact Gary couldn't remember anything about the night Grace was killed has always made it easy for his guilt to be assumed. Because any explanation other than his guilt just seems too far fetched, too much of a conspiracy theory, like something ripped out of a bad movie. But after learning more about Henry's case, the simplest explanation for Gary's memory loss no longer seems quite so simple. Bo, it would seem, was familiar with drugging people, without their knowledge, using their drinks, in order to murder them.

What if something similar had been done to Gary? After all, if Henry couldn't remember being going off a mountain... And with that possibility in mind, Gary not recalling how he drove himself home to his parents' house that night suddenly seems a lot less hard to explain.

And there are other similarities too, between Grace's murder and Henry's murder. According to Charlotte, Bo's alibi for the night that Henry was killed was pretty simple: he told her, if the police come knocking, just tell them I've been asleep in bed all night, that I didn't know anything about it.

Which is more or less the alibi he went with in Grace's murder too. But these similarities between Charlotte's description of Henry's murder and what we know of Grace's murder would only really be relevant if what Charlotte was saying was true. And that's something I'm no longer sure can be assumed.

There is at least some objective evidence for what Charlotte says about Bo's guilt in the Henry Ridley Jr. case. Because immediately after Bo's conviction, she began talking to the GBI and telling them what she knew. She could help them build a case against Earl Green, she said. Earl was still free at the time, even though Bo had been convicted of doing a murder that Earl had hired him for, Earl hadn't been charged. But Charlotte's story would be enough, if it had something to corroborate it. So finally they got Charlotte to wear a wire, and talk to Earl about the murder, get him to implicate himself somehow. So in late June of 1981, that's what she did.

The transcript of Charlotte's conversation with Earl Green is one of those intercepted communications that you end up having to just assume made sense to the parties, because from the outside looking in, there are all kinds of references and asides that don't seem to make any sense at all. I still don't know what half the things Earl and Charlotte talked about even mean.

But portions of it are clear. Enough to conclude that there *was* a financial arrangement between Bo and Earl, and that Earl needed to pay Bo back in connection with Henry's murder. Charlotte told Earl at one point,

C - He said that you know that the money was suppose to have been paid before he went to court.

E - Yeah. Yeah.

C - So I told him I'd come tell ya, and I'll tell ya.

E - Well I'll get it up tommorow. I thought I'd have it Wednesday.

In some way or another, Earl promised Charlotte, he'll get her the money that he owed Bo in connection with killing Henry, and he'd bring it to her in an unmarked brown bag. Just to keep it discrete. And then, Earl also seemed to tell Charlotte that he planned to lay the whole murder on *Margaret*, his wife, Henry's mother, to blame her for Henry's death, because, quote, "she's dumb as hell," and he's "gonna make it out like Margaret had it done, like it wasn't Bo, it was somebody else." In other words, he was going to tell the cops that Margaret had been discussing hiring some other hit man, not Bo, to kill Henry -- and, Earl seemed to think that this devious plan would somehow get law enforcement off his trail.

But one of the more damning exchanges of the whole conversation comes from a comment from Charlotte that's kind of a throwaway, more of a wistful complaint. She tells Earl:

C - This wasn't suppose to happen. He wasn't suppose to have to go to jail.

E - He shouldn't have. I don't see how in the hell they ever got him. See Patterson got that \$1000.00 dollars. I say he got it but I ain't hearded nothing.

It's a little indirect, for sure. But the way they talk, it's clear Earl and Charlotte don't think Bo got arrested for nothing. They're just surprised the State managed to convict him.

[21:09] Susan Simpson At the time that Charlotte wore the wire to her conversation with Earl Green, she'd only told the GBI about Henry's murder. She'd refused to give them any info about Bo's other crimes, though it seems clear they'd questioned her about it. But then, a couple weeks later, GBI Agent Bill Dodd had been asleep at his house one night when he woke up to a phone call, at 3:05 in the morning, and it was Charlotte. She was ready to give

the GBI more info, she said, about the Ridley murder. And also about some other murders Bo had done besides. According to Dodd's report,

Charlotte stated the reason she had not furnished this information before was that she feared for her life and that she did not want to testify against Bo in court. She stated now, it didn't matter, because Bo didn't care anything about her.

Despite the lateness of the hour, Agent Dodd had immediately sprung into action. I can only assume he'd wanted to get Charlotte in for an interview before she changed her mind. So, by 3:20am, Dodd had picked Charlotte up and taken her to the police station, where she was interviewed, and told Dodd about three other murders that Bo had done.in

[22:13] Susan Simpson As recorded in Dodd's files:

Charlotte stated that Bo Salmon and Teddy Bear had killed Jack Patton and Bill Kelly. Charlotte stated Bo and another subject, believed to be Teddy Bear or Pistol Whitener, had also killed Elbert Cline and put his car in the river. Charlotte stated the reason Patton and Kelly were killed was mainly because of her. Charlotte stated Bo had threatened, on several occasions, to kill Patton and Kelly for fooling around with her. She stated Bo had also threatened to kill her if she ever told anything she knew in reference any of the murders.

Charlotte stated Elbert Cline was killed for a \$10,000 contract, and she had heard Billy Mathis make the contract with Bo. Charlotte stated she had seen Billy Mathis give Bo a brown envelope a few days later in the kitchen of their residence. After Mathis had left [the residence], Bo went into the bathroom with the brown envelope. Charlotte stated when Bo came out of the bathroom, he had several one hundred dollar bills. Charlotte stated the reason for the contract on Cline was that he had taken close to \$20,000 - \$25,000 from them to purchase drugs. But after Cline purchased the drugs, he told them it was not any good. He (Cline) had told that the people he had sold the drugs to wanted their money back. Charlotte stated [that] she heard Cline had kept all the money, amounting to close to \$100,000. Charlotte stated Bo told her he had shot Cline twice in the head with a .38 caliber pistol and killed him. Charlotte stated when Bo had talked about the murder, he had said they. She stated for this reason, she felt like Pistol or Teddy Bear was with him. She stated it was probably Teddy Bear, because Bo could snap his fingers and Teddy Bear would jump.

Charlotte stated the gun that was used to kill Patton and Kelly was a .32 revolver, which Bo had gotten from Johnny Vaughn at the Sportsman's Tavern, and a .22 pistol, which Teddy Bear had, which she understood was stolen. Charlotte stated that she had been to the cemetery with BO, where Patton and Kelly were killed, and also to the location where Cline's car had been found. She stated Bo had told her about how everything had happened. She stated Bo had never told her where Elbert Cline's body was located. Charlotte stated Bo would always say that they would never find his body.

[24:32] Susan Simpson Of the three victims that Charlotte told Agent Dodd about, I recognized one of the names right away: Jack Patton. Him I knew because he was one of Bo's closest friends. Jack was the one who'd helped Bo light a man on fire in 1966. But I hadn't even known that Jack had been murdered, let alone that Bo had been accused of killing him. And the two other names, Billy Kelley and Elbert Cline, I'd never even before heard. I realized I would need to go to Dalton if I wanted to learn more.

And since I hadn't spent much time up in Dalton and Chatsworth, I didn't know much about the towns and wasn't sure where to start. By chance and luck, though, it turned out I did have a contact who knew the area. I met Dawn last year, at a meet-up for our Season 2 case. She lived a little ways north of Rome, and she told me if we ever needed help from someone local to the area, to let her know. At the time, I'd just started looking into Gary Mitchum Reeves's case, and when I realized that Murray and Whitfield county had court records I'd be needing, I asked Dawn for help and she was able to track down court files and get copies. She also agreed to help me out with what I spend probably most of my time doing when I'm out investigating a case: getting lost while trying to find witnesses to interview.

[26:13] Susan Simpson

There we go

Dawn

That says 1816 -- okay so then maybe 1802 is...oh see this is 1816.

Susan Simpson

Okay, yeah so it's the one next there, wait --

Dawn

Very confusing.

Susan Simpson

Did you see an 1802 on that one though?

Dawn

...Um

[26:00] Susan Simpson And while I hadn't realized it at first, when I first asked for Dawn's help, it turned out that her husband, Joseph, was an attorney in Dalton -- and while he hadn't been around practicing back in 1980, once he saw the court files I was looking at, he knew what attorneys I needed to be talking to if I wanted to find out more about these cases, and what questions I needed to be asking them. That's how I found out that Charlotte's statements about the murders Bo had committed, or allegedly committed, might not be quite what they seemed.

[26:31] Susan Simpson Like I said, I'd never heard the name Elbert Cline before I got the GBI file from the Henry Ridley case, and before my first trip to Dalton, I just assumed that he was someone Bo had killed. Because during the GBI's investigation into Ridley's death, five different witnesses had come forward and claimed they knew something about how a man named Elbert Cline had been killed. And how either Bo Salmon, or someone he knew, had been the ones to do it.

The first witness was Confidential Informant (CI) 166. She'd given the agents information about the Ridley killing, but also said she had information about other murders Bo had done, though she was scared to tell them anything more than she already had. The GBI report read,

CI 1-166 stated more information could be given reference the Ridley, Patton, Kelly, and Cline case at another time. CI 1-166 was afraid of being seen, this time, and was sure of being killed if they learned of the information being furnished by [her] CI-1-166.

The next informant, CI 1-167 took it a step further. Not only did this witness know that Bo had been involved in Cline's murder, the witness also knew what Bo had done with the body. And CI 1-167 had a rough idea of where to find it. The GBI's report read:

On Thursday, February 19, 1981, [approximately 1:30 P.M.,] Confidential Informant 1-167 met with Special Agent W. E. Dodd and accompanied him on a four-hour search for a well located in the lower end of Whitfield County, where CI 1-167 had heard Elbert Cline was thrown after being shot.

The location was located, where CI 1-167 had gone with Bo Salmon, Jack Patton and Billy Kelly about three years earlier, and this was supposed to be the location.

CI 1-167 stated they never went to the well, but stayed at the location pointed out. CI 1-167 stated that Bo would always walk [from] there to the well and be gone about twenty to twenty-five minutes before returning.

Unfortunately after the search, they had nothing. CI 167 knew the well was somewhere in South Whitfield County, but they couldn't actually find the spot where they'd been before. So, the Cline investigation remained open. Then, about six months later, after Bo had been convicted of Henry's murder, Earl Green and Teddy Bear Mulkey were charged in it as well. Mulkey's girlfriend, who I'll call Louise, came forward, and told the GBI that Mulkey had information they'd be interested in. And since she didn't want Mulkey going down for the murder Bo had already been convicted of, she was looking to set up a deal on Mulkey's behalf. According to the report:

[Louise] asked if she and Teddy Bear could furnish information as to the person who killed Cline and where his body was located, would it help Mulkey reference the charges against him. Agent Dodd advised [Louise] he could not make any promises, but he was sure, if she had valuable information, the District Attorney would take this into consideration.

[Louise] stated she knew Teddy Bear did not have anything to do with the murders, but he might have heard something that might be helpful.

But, when the GBI went to Teddy Bear Mulkey and ask him about it, he wouldn't talk. Finally, he agreed to say something about the Elbert Cline case, but he couldn't tell them where the body was. According to the report:

Mulkey stated he did not wish to talk about the Ridley Case. After being questioned at length reference the Patton, Kelly and Cline case, he stated Bo had told him that a guy by the name of Ken and his wife were the people who had killed Cline. Mulkey stated he did not know Ken's last name. Mulkey stated Ken and his wife were con people. [Mulkey stated Ken's wife had been arrested in Whitfield County. He stated they had visited Bo about the third or fourth week after he had been arrested for the murder of Ridley.]

Mr. Mulkey stated he did not wish to talk about the Ridley case. After being questioned at length reference the Patton, Kelly and Cline case, he stated Bo had told him that a guy by the name of Ken and his wife were the people who had killed Cline. Mulkey stated he did not know Ken's last name. Mulkey stated Ken and his wife were con people. Mulkey stated Ken's wife had been arrested in Whitfield County. He stated they had visited Bo about the third or fourth week after he had been arrested for the murder of Ridley.

[30:02] Susan Simpson Yeah, I still don't know who Ken and his wife the con people are, and you don't need to worry about that for now. What was interesting, though, is that even though Mulkey couldn't talk about the Ridley case, he did agree to take a polygraph with regards to the other cases. Per the report,

On Friday, September 25, 1981, [at 10:30 A.M.,] Harold Wayne Mulkey signed a stipulation and submitted to a polygraph test reference Patton, Kelly and Cline cases.

Upon completion [of the test,] the Polygraph Operator [O. D. Ward] advised he believed Mulkey was truthful when he said he had nothing to do with the Patton, Kelly and Cline cases. Agent Ward advised he did get a reaction when he asked Mulkey if he knew who killed the three. The agent stated he would have to say the test was inconclusive.

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[30:45] Susan Simpson Polygraphs are close to meaningless, and I can't put any stock whatsoever in the actual conclusions the operator got. But still, what I find surprising, and can't help but be tempted to read some meaning into, is the fact Mulkey agreed to the test at all. But *only* with regards to the Patton, Kelly and Cline murders, not the Ridley case. If Mulkey had been confident in his ability to beat a polygraph, wouldn't he have maybe tried to use it to deny the Ridley murder as well? The fact he agreed to answer questions about three cases, but not the fourth, might suggest he regarded the other cases differently.

Or maybe it suggests nothing at all, and it's meaningless polygraph stuff. Either way, these four witnesses provided a foundation that, to me, at least initially, made Charlotte's story about Elbert Cline sound believable. And when questioned by police about Cline's murder, here's what Charlotte said:

Investigating officers and Charlotte went to the location of the recovery of Elbert Cline's vehicle. Charlotte showed where the car had been pushed into the river. Charlotte stated that the car was supposed to have gone out of sight, but the car had gotten caught on a stump or the bank and would not go all the way into the river. Charlotte stated [that] as they started back toward the vehicle, Bo told her to follow him. She stated they walked across a short patch of woods, just before coming out of the woods into a freshly plowed field, Bo told her to stay behind him, because there were wells out there. Charlotte stated they walked across a freshly plowed field, where the dirt was very soft, up a small rise, and she asked Bo if Cline was out there in a well, and he said, "You're close." Charlotte stated Bo was walking through the field, looking around on the ground as if he was looking for something, then he stopped and picked

up something from the dirt which sparkled in the sun light. She said Bo wiped it off and put it in his pocket, then said, "Let's go." Charlotte stated when she questioned Bo about the location, he said Jack Patton had shown him the location, and they had gone fishing there on several occasions. Charlotte stated that prior to the recovery of Cline's car, Bo came home one night, very muddy, up to his knees and on his shirt. She stated that it seemed to be the same type red mud of that [was] in the field investigating officers had just visited. She stated the clothes were stained so severely that she was unable to get all the mud out. Charlotte stated that on the day Bo was arrested for the Ridley murder, he was wearing a T-shirt that he had worn the night he had gotten so muddy.

[33:09] Susan Simpson Now, Charlotte's statement has a few red flags in it. Like that thing about the shiny thing on the ground? Apparently it was a diamond ring or something. But what are the odds Bo would've just happened to find some random ring in the dirt after taking Charlotte on a tour of a murder scene, that was for a murder he'd committed? Seriously?

But, while the story is odd, you can see why, after reading the whole GBI report, I came to the conclusion that Bo likely had killed a guy named Elbert Cline. I mean, that's what Charlotte said. And what informants 166 and 167, said. And Bo's co-defendant in the Henry Ridley murder also claimed to have known about Elbert being killed. So whatever happened to this Elbert Cline guy, it seems like it must've involved Bo, right?

But who *was* Elbert Cline? Had he really been murdered? Had his body ever been found? What was all of this about?

I didn't have much to go on, at first. I couldn't find hardly anything online. I was able to confirm that on November 2, 1980, Cline's car had been found in the Conasauga river, pretty much exactly how Charlotte had described. And the death index records confirmed that a man named Elbert Cline, from Whitfield County, had died almost two years later, on August 19, 1982. My guess at the time was that the family had given up on ever finding him, after his car was found in the river, so they had petitioned to have his death declared, or something. And that's why the death came so much later than the car showing up in the river. But after the the internet trail ran cold, it did seem to me that Elbert Cline must never have been found. That his body must still be in a well somewhere, where Bo had dumped him.

Before making my first trip to Dalton, I joked with Dawn about how she better be ready to go tramping through the fields, because we're going to find that well. Okay I wasn't entirely

kidding. Which is why I was almost disappointed when Joseph gave me the news: the Whitfield County well hunt was called off. Elbert Cline's body had been found. The mystery had been solved. But the answer was a lot different than what I'd expected.

[36:50] Susan Simpson Leslie Waycaster is the attorney that represented Teddy Bear Mulkey when he was tried for Henry's murder. That's originally why I'd wanted to talk to him. But it turned out, he'd been part of the Cline case.

[37:03] Leslie Waycaster

There was another case, where my former partner Greg Melton and I represented a fella who was accused of murdering a guy named Elbert Cline.

[37:16] Susan Simpson And Leslie told me that Elbert Cline's body *had* been found, in a well, in South Whitfield county, in August 1982, long after Bo and Teddy Bear and Earl Green had been convicted and sent away for the Henry Ridley murder. And not only had Elbert Cline's body been found, some guy I'd never even heard of had been convicted for his murder. Bo Salmon had nothing to do with it.

[37:39] Susan Simpson

So, I don't know the timing of when the body was found. But the files I have, I think are *before* the body got recovered, and Bo's wife was telling authorities that *he'd* killed Elbert Cline and dumped in well in southern Whitfield County.

Leslie Waycaster

Mmm, well the part about the being dumped in a well is correct but the rest of it isn't. [Susan: Mmm-Hmm] I mean, the record...I'm not telling you anything that's not in the public record...Mike admitted that he'd shot him. [Susan: huh] Said it was in self-defense.

[38:08] Susan Simpson I was kind of shocked when Leslie told me this, because based on what Charlotte and the other witnesses, I had been expecting the Elbert Cline case to involve a still-missing body, and I'd assumed it was established fact that Bo or someone close to Bo had been responsible. I had been thinking that maybe since Cline's body had never turned up, the state had decided that a no-body prosecution would be too difficult, and hadn't pursued it. And anyway, Bo already had a life sentence, so why bother? But, when I got to Dalton, it turned out that a guy named Mike had confessed to the crime and been convicted of it, and done his time, and been released long ago.

[38:48] Leslie Waycaster

Mike's a very nice nice guy. He's recovered well, he's doing well. I saw his sister not long ago. She said he's made something of life over the last 25 years. He just got in a bad crowd. I mean this was a bad crowd.

[39:03] Susan Simpson Elbert Cline had been part of that bad crowd, and given Elbert's reputation, it doesn't seem like it was much of a surprise to anyone that he ended up getting shot -- I mean, he'd been shot at a few times before, this was just the first time the shooter hadn't missed.

And Elbert Cline was not much-loved in Dalton. Attorney Marcus Morris, who had been a prosecutor in Dalton back in those days, told me a story about one of the incidents he remembered, one that was in line with a lot of the things I'd hear about Elbert Cline:

[39:30] Marcus Morris

There was a girl in there, and Elbert put some...something in her drink, did something to kind of drug her...and - this is a true story - and anyhow, he basically picked her up and went across Walnut Avenue, and there was a vacant lot there, and ah... she still had her faculties enough about her to try to struggle to get away, and somebody intervened... I can't tell you what happened, but anyhow he was arrested for that.

[40:00] Susan Simpson And there were other incidents like that, too. So it's not really a surprise that Elbert's disappearance wasn't a cause of too much distress in Dalton.

[40:10] Marcus Morris

Really it's kind of like Mike Lau did a public service so to speak, you know cuz Elbert was a bad fella.

[40:20] Leslie Waycaster

And the then sheriff of Whitfield County, Jack Davis, testified on Mike's behalf as a character witness. That's why I said, if Mike had picked up a phone when it happened, and said "I just killed Elbert Cline," they might have said "Well, the parade'll start at 4:00", [laughs] you know, something, I mean, I doubt he would have been prosecuted. I doubt he would have been prosecuted.

[40:50] Susan Simpson Mike wasn't someone that anyone I spoke to would have expected to be caught up in something like this.

So what had actually happened? Leslie Waycaster, Mike's attorney, couldn't tell me any specifics about his involvement the case, but he was able to give me a summary of what was already in the public record.

[41:03] Leslie Waycaster

There was a hung jury. So, then we entered into a deal where Mike pled to a lesser offense to some degree of manslaughter. There was a couple of different ones in Georgia, and I don't remember which one it was. So, he entered a plea to that, and he had already served some time, and he may have had to serve a little more, but ultimately, my recollection of it is that ultimately, he served about a year- for, for that.

Susan Simpson

What was the evidence against him, do you recall? Was it....

Leslie Waycaster

Well, Mike... never denied shooting the guy. He said it was in self defense. So it was really a question for the jury as to whether or not it was self defense. There was a gun... It was over a drug deal that had gone bad. Mike a very nice guy, but he was kinda down on his luck. But, he, um, he and Elbert Cline were in a car, they'd gotten into a fight, Elbert had a gun with him, somehow or another, Elbert was physically a much bigger guy than Mike, but somehow or another, Mike got his hands on the gun and he shot him. And, um, that's why I said earlier, If he'd called the police right then, what the police knew about Elbert Cline, there'd be no doubt that Mike would have been believed about self defense. It was hiding body for 2 years and keeping his mouth shut that got him in trouble.

[42:36] Susan Simpson According to Mike, Elbert had come to his house one day, and Mike had gotten in the car to talk to him, when Elbert found out that Mike didn't have the money to pay him back, things had turned violent. Elbert and Mike, still in the car, had gotten into a struggle, and the much larger Elbert Cline was strangling Mike. Mike had been able to grab Elbert's gun, and then somehow shot and killed him. Then, Mike had panicked. In hindsight he should have called 911, but instead he hid the body in the woods and tried to figure out what to do. First thing he did was dispose of the car -- he called a friend and claimed that he was trying to get rid of Elbert Cline's car for him as part of an insurance scam, and together they drove to the river, and drove the car in. But, unfortunately for Mike, it didn't sink all the way, it got caught in something and was still visible, and in was spotted the next day. When investigators recovered the car, and found a gunshot on the

driver's side door, and blood stains on the passenger side seat, and a .38 slug on the floor of the car, they assumed things hadn't gone great for Elbert.

Mike had more success in disposing of Elbert's body. He'd been able to transport it to a nearby well, close to his house, one that was presumably, or hopefully, was no longer in use, where he dumped it in. And that was that. For nearly two years, Mike says, the topic just never came up. He never told a soul about what he'd done, and he'd tried to move on with his life.

And then, August, 1982, the police found Elbert Cline's body.

Marcus Morris, the former prosecutor in Dalton that I spoke to, wasn't directly involved in the Cline case, he remembered when that had happened:

[44:19] Marcus Morris

Later on, Elbert was missing.

Joseph Evans

Was he reported missing?

Marcus Morris

He was missing. And um... Jack Davis was the sheriff at that time. And Jack Davis I believe received information, and I'm not sure whose source it was that Elbert Cline was buried in a well at a certain place. And they went, and um, actually dug up a um parallel shaft in that well and found Elbert's body in there.

[44:54] Susan Simpson After finding Elbert's blood-stained car in the river, and him being missing for the next two years, it wasn't really a surprise that Elbert was dead. But as for how the body was found then, that's still a mystery. *Someone* tipped off Sheriff Jack Davis that Elbert Cline's body was in the well, but who the informant was isn't recorded anywhere. And, not even Mike's defense knew that.

Susan Simpson

Do you know how the body was found? Do you recall that?

Leslie Waycaster

I don't- it seems like...the police had somebody that called them and said, Hey. You need to go look in this well on this property. Where Mike, I don't know if Mike was still livin' there, but there's a well on the property, and you need to go look in there.

That's where the body is. So they got a tip. And they went. And, sure enough, that's where it was.

Susan Simpson

Huh.

Leslie Waycaster

I never knew... who it was that tipped the police off. We surmised that Mike told somebody. But we were just trying to look for ways as to how after that body has been in a well for almost 2 years, how all the sudden, somebody knows where it's at.

[46:08] Susan Simpson So, how the sheriff learned where Cline's body was is still a mystery, but it seems like the rest of the case was more or less resolved. None of the attorneys I spoke to in Dalton had any doubts about it.

Marcus Morris

Bo might want to claim that he killed him, but, Mike killed him.

Joseph Evans

What makes you so confident in that belief?

Marcus Morris

That Mike killed him?

Joseph Evans

Yes sir.

Marcus Morris

I don't know why Mike would go to prison. And, I mean, admit that he did something.

I mean, Mike Lau had not really been in trouble- did not have a very bad record at all. He's young, he was a real young guy at that time.

[46:43] Susan Simpson Mike did serve time for the killing. And any prison time is a serious deal, especially for a young guy like Mike who had no prior record. Though he ended up getting early release, though.

[46:52] Marcus Morris

My understanding is that- and I don't know how long he served, I don't know how long, but he didn't complete that sentence. I think he--

Susan Simpson

I think he got 5 years, and I think he served no more than 2.

Marcus Morris

Right. So he, somebody got involved and got him paroled out, let's just say that. You could do that at that time and not that many people know it. You can't do that today. But, it wasn't... nobody ever intended, I think, for that to happen to Mike.

[47:40] Susan Simpson Based on Mike's conviction, it was starting to seem an awful lot like Bo Salmon had nothing to do with Elbert Cline's murder. But if so, then what can explain Charlotte, and the statements she made? Remember, she described in detail to the GBI how Bo had confessed to her, to the murder of Elbert Cline. She gave a kind of complicated back story about how it'd happened. In fact, he'd taken her to the murder site as he narrated what he'd done. This isn't a case where it's possible she could be mistaken -- either Bo killed Elbert Cline and Charlotte told the police the truth, or Charlotte made up a story to frame Bo for Cline's murder, for some unknown reason. So which is it?

I can kind of buy, perhaps, that Charlotte was just mad at Bo, because he'd been convicted, and was going away for life, and maybe she was trying to frame him for as many murders as possible, because of reasons. But it's not just Bo she implicated in the murder, remember? -- She said a guy named Bill Mathis had been the one who'd hired Bo to do the hit, and that Pistol Whitener, or maybe Teddy Bear, had helped him carry it out.

And if Charlotte would so easily implicate people in murders they had nothing to do with, is it really too much of a leap to wonder if she could have done the same to Gary at his trial?

I was still mulling over the question of why Charlotte had falsely accused Bo of Cline's murder when Dawn and I made a trip to Whitfield County courthouse to collect files in a different criminal case, where Bo and Teddy Bear had been convicted of being hired to burn down a local bar. But, while there, we decided to pull Elbert Cline's case too, just to see. And what we found there made me realize I wasn't nearly as close to finding an answer in the Elbert Cline case as I'd imagined.

When we got back from the court, we updated Joseph on what we'd found in the court file -- and in particular what had been in the autopsy report.

[49:33] Susan Simpson

He said that actually, he did that, to make it look like Cline was trying to get insurance money off his car. But, tell them what the body was like when they got it out of that well.

Dawn Evans

So, it was badly burned all over, and there was a noose around the body's neck, and there was at least one gunshot.

Joseph Evans

Boy.

Susan Simpson

Hands tied behind his back.

[49:59] Susan Simpson Yeah, the case file presented a very different picture from what I'd imagined. The file was thin, and had nothing on the crime scene itself, but the tale the autopsy told was vivid enough. Cline had died from a single gunshot wound to the back, which was as I'd expected, but everything else in the report was not. It said:

SCENE DESCRIPTION: W11
Victim reported missing 11-2-80; search in progress since
that date. Body found in well; rope around neck, hands
tied. Grade-all used to remove corpse.

This is the markedly decomposed body of a white male measuring 70 inches. The body surface
has extensive black charring indicating fire effect. The face is extensively decomposed.
There is a green rope noose around the neck. The chest has a burgundy colored long sleeve

The file also had a confession from Mike, that he'd given to Sheriff Jeff Davis the night he was arrested. And the story told there was exactly as all the attorneys had described to me-- the struggle in the car, Mike grabbing the gun and firing, and then panicking and not knowing what to do. Dumping the body in a well. And then, nothing for 2 years until it was found.

I think it is fair to say there are some inconsistencies here. Though, the confession had made some attempts to incorporate some of the details from the autopsy report. There's no mention at all of the hands behind the back, and nothing to explain the other things that had been found. There was a line in the confession, in which Mike claimed "the rope around the neck was where I tried to drag him." And there is a mention of fire. It says:

Sometime after my house burned down, there was some trash outside. My father and I took the trash and put it in the well. My father operated the front-end-loader while I put the trash into the well. Elbert's shoes were thrown into the well.

When my house burned there was some trash outside. My father and I took the trash and put it in the well. My ^{father} operated the front end loader while I put the trash into the well. Elbert's shoes were thrown into the well. Elbert had on a striped valour shirt and was wearing blue jeans. I burned his billfold. Elbert had

Okay, sure, maybe that's how the body was burned. Maybe the house burned down and they poured burning trash into a well, and the corpse got burned a year after it was put there. Only not really, because the well had water in it. So even if burning wood was tossed into the well with a front end loader, it still doesn't explain why the body was burned. And there were other parts of the confession that were confusing too. Like this section, where Mike described what he did with the body after the murder.

I began thinking about burying the body, but I couldn't. I waited till dark, and walked down to where the body was. I took a blanket with me. Also some ski rope. The blanket was actually a slipcover for a sofa. I wrapped the body in it.

Came by to...
After they left I began thinking about
burying the body but I couldn't. I waited
till dark and walked down to where the body
was. I took a blanket with me. Also some
ski rope. The blanket was actually a slip
cover for a sofa. I wrapped the body in it.
I WAS going to bury the man but I just
couldn't. I thought about the well. I
couldn't bury the body but couldn't because

That last line, with the sudden correction, stood out to me, as did a few other lines in the confession. Lines where the story had started to go off track from the evidence, followed by a quick fix to bring it back on track. Plus a few parts that just don't make any sense at all. Mike's confession says that he'd wrapped the body in a sofa cover, sorry- A BLANKET, that was actually a sofa cover, and *then* put the noose around the neck to help him move the body. So maybe he... wrapped everything up? Except for the head? And then used the head to attach a tow rope? I guess? Maybe? But Mike moved the body by putting it in the trunk of his car, so how was the rope around the neck helping with that?

[53:18] Susan Simpson I was left more confused than before. Was Mike's confession true? Or was there more going on here? The way things stood, the truth or falsity of Charlotte's statements to the police was kind of in limbo -- it seemed like her statements were probably false, that she'd lied and accused Bo and Billy Mathis, and Pistol Whitener, and Teddy Bear Mulkey of a murder they hadn't done. But I couldn't really conclude that for sure because there were just too many holes in the story, I couldn't quite rule out the possibility that more had gone on here, that maybe Bo really had been involved and Charlotte was telling the truth.

And since I was out of other options, I decided to talk to Mike.

When I called Mike, he was, understandably, not particularly eager to recall details of a really bad time in his life, but he was patient and willing to answer my questions. Yes, he said. He'd killed Elbert. He'd stupidly gotten into drugs, and that night, he'd stupidly gotten into the car with Elbert, that evening back in 1980. At first they'd just talked. But Elbert got

angry when Mike said that he couldn't pay him back yet, and he'd gotten violent. Choking Mike, and slamming his head against the side of the window. They'd struggled, and at some point, Mike had gotten ahold of Elbert's gun, and just kind of blindly fired. It had all happened so fast, he didn't really know what had happened. But, when it was over, one shot had gone through the car's roof, and one shot had gone through Elbert.

That part all made sense. It all lined up with what I'd heard from other sources. But, then I asked him about what I'd read in the autopsy report, about the burning. And, Mike said I'd had it wrong -- "No, that's not right. It was not burned. Not unless someone took the guy out of the well and burned him, and then put him back in. That body wasn't burned."

And when I told him about the autopsy report, and about the ropes, his reaction was "Noooo way," like, surprised. As in, no way that's what the files said. "No one ever mentioned that to me," he told me. He seemed completely surprised, and baffled. Just as confused as I was. "Was I sure I had the right reports?" he asked. I must've gotten this case mixed up with another one. There were other murders at the time that he'd remembered, vaguely from seeing news reports. Maybe that file had gotten mixed with this one. And I was reading off an autopsy report from some other case entirely. Because what I was telling him couldn't be true, he'd never heard any of this before, and he had no answers for me. The body hadn't been burned, and there were no ropes that he could recall, and that's just not how it happened.

After I talked to Mike, I told Dawn and Joseph about my conversation with him, and how I'd come away believing what Mike had said, even if the story he had told me hadn't made any sense.

[56:14] Susan Simpson

So I finally talked to the guy convicted of um, killing Elbert Cline. And, he seemed very credible, he said he did it. And then I tried to tell him about the condition of the body you know, the burning, and the noose, and the hands behind the back-- and he was trying to convince me there's no way in hell that happened. Because he knows for a fact that the body wasn't burned, and that there was no noose and there was no hands tied behind the back. And he seems believable! So, now, like, I'm kind of wondering... did they, like, have 2 bodies in the well? And they pulled the wrong one??

He could just be a really good liar and maybe I'm falling for it, I don't know -- but when I told him about the, like, the autopsy, his like immediate response was, like - You've got the wrong file, you're looking at the wrong thing. And I had to like, insist,

like, actually, no, this is the right file, it is the Elbert Cline file, and it says this is how he died. And he was just- It really seemed like the first time he was ever hearing that, and he seemed very baffled. And he was like, "That doesn't make any sense at all. I can guarantee that body was not burned" And so, I told him about how maybe it was like the burning brush- like, put in after the fact? Because the well was full of water. You can't burn a body in a well full of water, which, I mean, he has a point.

[57:23] Susan Simpson Dawn and Joseph weren't buying it, though. Yeah, maybe Mike had convinced me he was credible, but that doesn't change the fact that his story is at odds with the actual findings of an independent medical examiner.

[57:35] Joseph Evans

I don't know. I don't buy it. I think he's been tellin' the same story for 40 years, and it's too damn late to change it now. I think that's where the... I mean, the body was - the body was bound, the body was burned. If he says it wasn't, his- what he's saying doesn't line up with the truth. Again, I think he's tellin' the same story that he's told for 40 years, and it's just too late now for him to - to change.

Dawn Evans

Maybe he has a really good reason for claiming that he murdered Cline, and is just convinced himself that that's the truth, and that's why he seems credible. Or, I mean, I don't know. I don't know how the reports of how the body was could be so wrong. Like, I don't know. It's one or the other.

[58:28] Susan Simpson And this is where I get caught up in an endless circle. I have no good reason to disbelieve Mike's story and I have no good reason to disbelieve the autopsy report, but one of them is absolutely wrong. I guess there is one explanation -- that Mike did the murder, but in a way that fits the autopsy -- but as easy as an explanation as that might be, or might sound like, I don't believe that could be true either, for a variety of reasons, and it also doesn't explain why Mike's description of the crime scene is wrong in so many confusing, and basic ways.

And it also doesn't explain why, a year and a half before Elbert's body was found, five different witnesses came forward and told the GBI during the course of the Ridley murder investigation that they had knowledge of who had killed Elbert Cline, and none of them named Mike. None of them even seemed to have known Mike. Several of them had also known the body was in a well in south Whitfield County, which is where the body did turn out to be. And I refuse to believe that was just a lucky guess on their part. They'd known something. The question is how?

If we knew who the informant was that tipped off the location of Cline's body, that might give us an answer. Unfortunately, it's not listed in any file I've seen. But there were some circumstantial facts that make me think I might have a clue about who it was.

Elbert's body was found on August 19, 1982. Now, a year before that, in September of 1981, Teddy Bear Mulkey's girlfriend had tried to set up a deal with the GBI. Where, in exchange for getting help with his case, he'd tell them where Elbert Cline's body was, and who had killed him. But Mulkey had backed away from the deal, and gone to trial instead, where he'd been convicted, gotten a life sentence, and gone off to prison.

The next year, he filed a motion for a new trial. A,d a hearing was scheduled for August 11, 1982, so Mulkey was transported back to Whitfield County for it, and on August 19, 1982, Mulkey's motion for a new trial was denied. That same day, an informant's tip led the sheriff to Cline's body in that well, in South Whitfield County.

Now, there's no proof there's a connection there, but, again, the coincidence seems interesting. Mulkey had allegedly known where Cline's body was, and had considered telling police about it in exchange for a deal. A year later he was back in Whitfield, with a motion for a new trial, and the same day it gets denied, the police find Cline's body. Had Mulkey gotten desperate, and tried to see if maybe and exchange for tipping off the body's location, he could get a new trial?

There's one person who'd know the answer to that question for sure: Teddy Bear Mulkey. He'd been paroled from prison a few years ago, and while I thought it was doubtful he'd talk to me, I had to try. So, Dawn and I tracked him down, knocking on doors where we thought he might live. At first, we came up empty. Finally, thought, we got to an address where a man opened the door, and when I asked if I could talk to Mulkey, the man told me no, he didn't live there, but by luck, he could help us out. Mulkey, he said, was his ex-brother in law, and he hadn't seen the man in 26 years, but he knew an address where we could probably find him.

So off we went. But the address that we'd been given turned out not to exist, and the neighbors we talked to there had no idea what house we were talking about, or this man Mulkey. Our wild goose chase got us no closer no finding him. Finally we gave up. That's when I told Dawn about a sneaking suspicion I'd had about the man we'd spoken to? Yeah, that was Mulkey's brother in law.

[1:02:13] Susan Simpson

I'm pretty sure that was Mulkey.

Dawn Evans

[Laughs.] Wow.

Susan Simpson

He don't have no brother in law. [Laughs]

Dawn Evans

Oh my goodness.

Susan Simpson

That was so him, and he was so confident about it.

Dawn Evans

He got us beat!

Susan Simpson

I know. And he gave us like, uh- but you can tell, because he made up an address, but like, he used one he already knew, where he used to live, kind of, and just changed it!

Dawn Evans

Sighs.

Susan Simpson

Yeah, well. I'm not gonna go back. He's clearly not interested in talking

Dawn Evans

Oh, yeah.

[1:02:51] Susan Simpson So if Mulkey has any answers, he's not sharing them.

But Elbert Cline is only the first of three murders that Charlotte blamed Bo for. And even if her claims about Cline's death are uncertain, what about the other two?

Those men, Jack Patton and Billy Kelley, had been friends of Bo's, and in 1979, they'd been found dead in a cemetery -- they'd been ambushed and gunned down in a hail of bullets, and the murder was never solved.

Charlotte said Bo had killed them. And, since I still needed to find that GBI informant who knew about Grace's murder, off I went, on another murder investigation. And, if I'm being honest, at this point it wasn't just about Gary's case, or what had happened in Floyd County. I wanted to understand who Bo had been, and just how all of this could've happened. If Bo had really killed all these people, and if so, why it had taken so long to stop him. As I would come to learn, the families of Billy Kelly and Jack Patton have been grappling with these same questions for a long time.

[1:03:53] Susan Simpson

So, you knew Bo?

Benny

Yeah. Yeah.

Susan Simpson

What was he like?

Benny

Uh, he, from my- I was- younger days- they called him the "hit man" 'cause he got paid to... take people out.

[1:04:43] Susan Simpson That's all for Episode 6 of Undisclosed, the State v. Gary Mitchum Reeves. We'll be back next week with Episode 7, and stay tuned this Thursday for a bonus episode of Undisclosed brought to you by Colin. If you'd like to read episode transcripts or check out people maps to help keep track of who is who in this case, we got you covered -- they're on our website at undisclosed-podcast.com.

Special thanks for this episode goes out to Lisa Harris with the GBI for her assistance in tracking down old case files, and a huge thanks goes out to Dawn and Joseph Evans for all of their help in investigating this case. Mital Telhan is our behind the scenes jack of all trades who did all the million and one things it takes to bring this episode, and our sound editor is Rebecca Lavoie, who is legion when it comes to podcasting, but among her many shows is the fantastic Crime Writers On. Check it out.

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