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April 22, 2022

Mr. McDonald,

I believe that you are innocent, and I have some interesting information for you. There's a lot so I'll probably send it over the course of a few letters.

I had been looking into the unsolved 1993 murder of Carlos Medina for a while out of curiosity. I got in contact with his brother Jerry earlier this year, and he asked me to please try to help his family solve it.

I have found some similarities between Laura Henderson's 1986 disappearance in which you are in prison for, and the unsolved 1993 murder. I also heard that after Alaskan crime writer Robin Barefield wrote about the 1986 case in 2019, James McLaughlin's daughter contacted Robin and told her that she believes that her dad killed Laura and got away with it. I wasn't sure if either of them has ever told you that. Robin told me that she was intrigued by the similarities I've found between the two cases.

It's crazy because lots of people including police informants had told police that McLaughlin (1934-2002) said he did it, and he had a motive. I've read that John Palmer even told some people that McLaughlin did it. Palmer was the main investigator in Carlos Medina's 1993 murder, and was the Kodiak Police Chief for part of the 1990s. But if McLaughlin's own daughter thinks he killed Laura, that's big.

Carlos Medina (1956-1993) was originally from the Philippines. Him and his brother Jerry moved to Saudi Arabia to work for a little while. The brothers were very close. Carlos ended up moving to Kodiak in 1983 and Jerry moved to Canada.

Cliff Anderson

Carlos started out working at a cannery, worked hard and got himself a job at the Kodiak Electric Association, and ended up opening an Asian restaurant. Carlos was well liked; he helped old people pay their medical bills, sponsored a basketball team, stood up for his fellow immigrants, and was even thinking about running for City Council.

Their youngest brother Rolando (1965-) had been living in Canada with Jerry, before moving to Kodiak in 1992 to live and work with Carlos.

One Friday night he went to his restaurant, left early and didn't come back for Zam closing. Rolando wasn't worried because it wasn't uncommon for Carlos to leave early to hangout with friends and other business owners. When he didn't come home at all that night, his friends and family gathered at his restaurant on Saturday morning and reported him missing to police.

On Saturday night his truck was located at the bottom of Pillar Mountain, and the cab of the truck was full of blood. A police officer stayed parked near the truck all night. On Sunday his body was found near the top of the mountain, and his head had been caved in. His ring and watch had been removed from his body, but were found on the side of the road.

Sometime after the murder a woman went to the police department with information about the case, and was interviewed by John Palmer.

That night a man called KPD from a pay phone, said the name of the woman who had talked to Palmer earlier that day, threatened to kill her, then quoted an Alfred Hitchcock movie.

"There was a movie about 'The Man Who Knew Too Much', I've rewritten the movie to 'The Woman Who Knew Too Much'."

Palmer claimed that the woman was flown out of Kodiak for her
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Carlos's friends and family felt like the police weren't doing enough to solve his murder. Palmer responded to the criticism by saying that "ethnics" don't trust the police.

When I heard about the threatening phone call, and the caller quoting an Alfred Hitchcock movie, I pictured a middle aged white guy who had been a career criminal, not a 26-27 year old Asian guy like Rolando. Rolando was arrested in 1998 and later extradited back to the United States. He was charged with 2nd degree murder, and for stealing some of Carlos's life insurance money. Carlos had \$258,000 in life insurance. Rolando allegedly gave \$100,000 of it to Carlos's wife and supposedly kept the other \$158,000.

Police didn't even use that as a motive. Palmer theorized that the two brothers got into an argument and Rolando beat Carlos to death. The DA dropped the murder charge because Rolando's DNA didn't match the suspect DNA that was found. Palmer still kept claiming that Rolando was the killer. He plead guilty to a couple misdemeanor theft charges. He later claimed that he didn't steal any of the money and that he was willing to testify to that under oath if given the opportunity.

I recently found out that Palmer had looked at two other suspects: Dennis Robertson and William Brady. Dennis Robertson was allegedly in a Washington prison as of 1996, possibly for a different murder but I haven't been able to find proof of that yet. William Brady was supposedly the last person Carlos was seen alive with. He died sometime between 1993-1996. I'm curious to find out if he died of natural causes or not after hearing about what happened to James Kerwin.

Cliff Anderson

Side note... Carlos had signed papers for a \$200,000+ house in the Aleutian Homes "Little Manila" section on Friday, the last day he was alive... He had spoken at a city council meeting earlier that week in support of immigrants who had been living in boarding houses the city wanted to shut down.

Weren't gunshots allegedly heard in that part of town the night Laura disappeared? I've found information that appears to show that James McLaughlin, and Laura's mom and step-dad owned property in that area as of 1979. However, McLaughlin's arrests in 1984 and 1988 took place at an apartment.

In 1984 a woman obtained a protective order against him. Then later that year on September 27, 1984 he called KPD 3 times that day. The first two times he talked to Sgt. Floyd Steele, and told him that he was going to let everyone know that Sgt. Steele and his son were involved with illegal drug activity in Kodiak if the cocaine charges he was facing weren't dropped.

The third time he called, Sgt. Steele had already gone home for the day. So McLaughlin told the dispatcher that there would be trouble concerning Sgt. Steele's son. The dispatcher called Sgt. Steele at home.

Sgt. Steele felt threatened. He along with investigator Lowry got a warrant. Sgt. Steele contacted McLaughlin and agreed to meet him at his apartment instead of having to talk over KPD phones. McLaughlin told Steele that he wanted him to pressure officers, the DA or judge into dropping his charge. At that point other officers entered his ~~appt~~ apartment and arrested him. He was convicted of cocaine possession and a class B felony for interference with official proceedings. However, it appears that he may have only received just a suspended sentence...

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In 1985 he allegedly started talking about there being a contract on Laura's life. In 1986 Laura disappeared and McLaughlin told people that he killed her, in 1988 he was arrested for cocaine possession again. It appears that he sued the city of Kodiak and KPD in 1990, and died in 2002 a few days after his 68th birthday.

Palmer was abnormally involved in Laura's 1986 disappearance, and Carlos's 1993 murder. James McLaughlin's m/o seems to have some things in common with both cases as well. Kodiak has always had a lot of criminals, but I've never heard of other cases around here where a criminal has attempted to threaten/blackmail an officer, or where a criminal has called the police, threatened to kill a possible witness/informant, then quote a movie. That sounds like a different level of criminal behavior. I've heard of a couple of serial killers in other states taunting police like that, but not regular criminals.

How did the caller from the pay phone in 1993 (likely Carlos Medina's killer) know the name of the woman, and that she had talked to Palmer earlier that day? That makes me think that either a KPD officer or other employee possibly notified the killer after the woman had talked to Palmer.

From everything I've come across, it looks like McLaughlin could have played both sides since he knew what the corrupt KPD officers were involved in. So whenever he got caught, they always let him off easy.

There are several parts of your case that don't make any sense.

Jack Ibach allegedly talked to a travel agent sometime in February or March 1986, talking about how he wanted to fly to Asia in April, and that a couple "friends" would meet him there by boat, while also telling ~~her~~ the travel agent not to say anything. If I was a travel agent, I would have automatically assumed that Jack was possibly up to no good.

Cliff Anderson

ME
If that was true, why didn't the supposed hitmen he hired wait until April or May so he would have been out of the country, giving him an alibi? He would have automatically been the #1 suspect in Laura's disappearance no matter what the circumstances were. But her disappearing on March 28th makes less sense if he was involved. And why would he want the hitmen to meet him in Asia in April-May? That doesn't make any sense at all, and none of it would have done anything to help him with custody of his kids.

Why was a boat going to be involved? Why couldn't him and his two friends all fly to Asia which would have been much faster. Even if they each took separate flights? And from what I've read, it sounds like you and Kerwin were friends, but that neither of you were friends with Ibach.

I think that his plan to fly to Asia in April 1986 and have friend meet him there by boat might have had something to do with drug smuggling, and nothing to do with the disappearance of his ex-wife.

This is where things get even more strange. I've found some de-classified CIA documents. In 1990 the CIA tracked a boat that was transporting cocaine from Asia to Kodiak. When the ship got near Sand Point, Alaska the CIA allegedly witnessed a smaller boat transport at least some of the cocaine to a beach. The documents don't say if it was all offloaded there, or if some of it made it to Kodiak. I had never previously heard of cocaine coming into the United States from Asia, but a former coke dealer told me that it was common for it to enter the U.S. from Asia too, and not just from Colombia.

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Other documents from 1990 show that the CIA tracked a large shipment of heroin from Asia to Anchorage. It was offloaded and stored in a warehouse about 1 mile from the Port of Anchorage. It was then supposed to be put onto another ship, and transported to San Francisco where it was to then be distributed to people in Chinatown.

If the CIA was conducting surveillance on large scale drug smuggling through Alaska in 1990, that type of smuggling must have taken place throughout the 1980s as well. It appears that the Coast Guard requested help from the CIA via the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (DCSINT) and the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA).

When looking into your case I heard that Jack had allegedly ripped off people in a large drug deal, that they had information for Laura, and that at least 2 of them were going to travel to San Francisco... If Jack worked on a tug boat, he would have been in the perfect position to have been involved in things he shouldn't have been.

I have several questions for you:

- Did you ever meet James McLaughlin, Dennis Robertson or William Brady?

- Do you know if Rollie Port recorded his interview with Detective Walton?

- Do you remember where the landfill was when you lived in Kodiak?

Cliff Anderson

I have more to talk to you about, but I'll ~~say~~ save that for my next letter. True-crime shows and documentaries are very popular now. I wish that one would re-enact your version of events, re-enact the police's version, then provide proof that there's no way that you could have been involved. Rollie Port's interview with Detective Walton, McLaughlin's daughter thinking her dad actually killed Lawra... I believe that there's enough evidence out there to prove your innocence, as well as to solve Carlos Medina's 1993 murder too.

Sincerely,
Cliff Anderson