

I've been looking into the 1986 disappearance of 28 year old Laura Henderson, which led to the murder convictions of Laura's ex-husband Jack Ibach, and her friend Donald "Mac" McDonald. James Kerwin was also arrested. He had been with McDonald all day and night, but was acquitted. He later died shortly after writing a letter in support of McDonald.

The Kodiak Police Department/prosecutors tried to make it sound like Ibach had hired McDonald and Kerwin to kill his ex-wife. They claimed it had to do with Laura and Ibach's disagreement over the custody situation of their two daughters.

Most of the time when someone is arrested for a serious crime like murder, they're usually at least partially guilty. So when I started looking into it, I looked at it from the police/prosecutors point of view first. As I looked into it, I quickly noticed that things didn't add up. I believe that Donald McDonald, Jack Ibach and James Kerwin were all not guilty. I believe that Laura was murdered the night she disappeared, just not by them.

A former Alaska State Trooper turned private investigator named Rollie Port looked into the case too. He also believes that the three men were all likely innocent. As a trooper, Port was known for being a very thorough investigator, and he helped catch serial killer Robert "The Butcher Baker" Hansen. Port had no reason to say that he believed that the trio were innocent if he didn't truly believe so.

Port interviewed a few Kodiak police officers, which was very interesting.

Laura Henderson and Jack Ibach got divorced. Laura wanted full custody, and wanted to take their daughters to Oregon. I believe that she was killed because of her involvement in Kodiak's drug trade, and because she was willing to do anything to get full custody of her daughters. Even if it meant throwing some dangerous people under the bus to do so.

On March 28, 1986 (the day she disappeared) Laura received a phone call at work from a man she didn't know. The caller claimed that Jack Ibach had ripped him off in a \$20,000 drug deal. He said that he had a tape recording that he wanted to give Laura, and that the tape contained a conversation between Ibach and two businessmen discussing illegal drug activity. Information that Laura could use against him in her quest to get full custody of their kids. They set up a meeting for 9:00pm that night at the King Crab Cannery. I believe that one of the "prominent businessmen" was possibly well-known Kodiak trailer park owner Dell Jackson (1945-2008).

I've heard that Thomas "Tom" Healey (1938-2004) had also told Laura and her co-worker Cathy Wilson that Ibach had ripped off a man in a \$20,000 drug deal, and was in need of that amount. Healey was friends with Cathy Wilson, and Laura's step-dad Gilbert "Gib" Munro (1935-2011).

How did Healey have the same information as the unknown caller?

That same day, Donald McDonald visited Laura at work, and invited her to a dance that was going to take place the next day. He was going to help host the dance.

McDonald moved to Kodiak in September of 1984. He and Laura met soon after, and became friends. Despite that, KPD/prosecutors would lie and say that the two didn't know each other prior to the day she disappeared...

Laura was friends with a woman named Debbie Losser. Debbie's dad Mike Losser was good friends with Jay Buckalew. Jay's wife Lorna worked at Sutliff's hardware store with Mike. McDonald lived with Jay and Lorna when he first got to Kodiak, and bought his white van from them. Laura and McDonald were friends and hung out with each other several times around town. Debbie personally seen them together on at least 3 different occasions. Jay had seen them together too.

Lorna has said that Officer Barry Paris threatened Jay when Jay traveled to Anchorage to testify on McDonald's behalf.

After leaving work on March 28, 1986 Laura met with her lawyer Matt Jamin, and a private investigator named Albert Huff Ruble (1944-2018) to talk to them about that day's phone call, and the meeting that was set for that night. Ruble had been a special agent with the Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS) prior to becoming a P.I.

<https://www.coastguardinvestigativeassociation.org/fallen-members.html>

As a special agent, Ruble worked on a cocaine case alongside the Kodiak Police Department in 1980. The case was overturned in 1983, because Ruble and an unnamed KPD officer improperly used hearsay evidence to get an indictment.

Lofquist v. State, 656. P.2d 1222 (Alaska Ct. App. 1983)

Laura's co-worker Cathy Wilson lived with a man named James Rippey who worked at Al Ruble's P.I. business. Wilson and Rippey possibly have a daughter together that was born in 1991.

Ruble had a consultation with Laura in January 1986 because strange things had been happening, including someone having been inside of her apartment...

On the night of March 28, 1986 McDonald, Kerwin and Gladys Baldwin went to a McDonald's fast food restaurant, which was located next to where the Kodiak Police Department was back then.

They got milkshakes and pie. Gladys worked at the Hope House where McDonald was staying, and she was the mother of Kerwin's son.

There were photos taken after KPD seized McDonald's van showing a milkshake cup still inside. McDonald didn't clean the inside of his van that night following Laura's disappearance.

After dropping Gladys back off at the Hope House, McDonald and Kerwin drove down cannery row. They seen George House, the owner of the Anchor Bar and gave him a ride home. They then drove back down cannery row, and thought about going inside the Anchor Bar to visit with some of the people that George House had told them were there that night.

They decided against going inside because they were both recovering alcoholics.

Before they could drive away, Laura opened the van's door surprising McDonald and Kerwin. She got inside, talked to them, and smoked a cigarette. When McDonald visited Laura at work that afternoon she said that she was going to be on cannery row that night, and she hoped that he could get her some cocaine, which he didn't. She said she had to meet someone, and left the van.

Ruble was in the area, and claimed that he could read Laura's mind...Even though he couldn't provide a description of the van's driver (McDonald). He said that Laura was laughing, and he could see the glow of her cigarette.

How was she that comfortable if she hadn't known McDonald prior to that day like police/prosecutors claimed?

For some strange reason, Ruble let Laura out of his sight so he could "get a better view", never seeing her again.

If he could see her facial expressions and the glow from her cigarette, how could he have possibly found a better view than that?

Instead of looking in the bars along cannery row, Ruble automatically assumed that Laura had been kidnapped.

McDonald said that Laura got out of the van, and that him and Kerwin drove off. They drove around town, got back to the Hope House around 9:50pm, and officially signed the Hope House's logbook at 10:00pm. McDonald being at the Hope House around 10:00pm, and watching TV with others was corroborated by the logbook, and 5 separate witnesses. Several other residents signed the logbook before and after him.

Ruble went to Matt Jamin's office at 9:20pm, and told him that he had lost Laura. Leaving as much as 20 minutes unaccounted for.

Ruble and Jamin went to the Kodiak Police Department at 9:45pm. So there was about 45 minutes in between when Ruble claimed to have lost Laura and believed she was kidnapped, and when police were notified.

Why would someone wait 45 minutes to contact police and tell them that the person they were supposed to keep an eye on was possibly setup and kidnapped? Ruble wasn't just some regular person who folded under pressure, he was a trained professional.

Ruble and Jamin claimed to have seen Jack Ibach at the boat harbor, and in a bar between 9:30pm-10:00pm. He was with two men. They didn't ask him if he knew where Laura was, and they didn't try to identify the men he was with.

How much time did Ruble and Jamin actually spend at the police department?

Ibach had been called into work that night to work on a tugboat called the Kodiak King to help a SeaLand container ship head out to sea. His boss confirmed that he had been on cannery row at 9:40pm.

Ruble and Jamin visited Laura's co-worker Cathy Wilson at work around 10:00pm. Ruble went back there by himself around 11:00pm, and talked to Cathy again. They got her to contact Laura's parents, instead of doing it themselves. She also called the Hope House after 11:00pm. A woman there confirmed that McDonald's van was parked outside.

In the year 2000, P.I. Rollie Port looked at the Kodiak King's logbook, and seen that the page from March 28, 1986 was missing. Port spoke to Dennis McMurray, the owner of the tugboat. McMurray said that he must have made a mistake, but that page was the only page that was missing from the logbook...

Since he had been seen with Laura the day she disappeared, McDonald immediately became a suspect. Laura disappeared around 9:00pm. McDonald was officially back at the Hope House by 10:00pm. Police and others knew where he was that night, but didn't attempt to make contact with him until sometime between 4:00am-5:00am on the morning of March 29th.

The Hope House was locked down each night. McDonald didn't leave any time between 10:00pm, and when police arrived in the morning to talk to him.

Day shift commander Officer John Palmer came into work off-duty, in uniform along with his police car. Officer Palmer, Ruble and Jamin drove to the Hope House to confront McDonald. Ruble and Jamin disagreed as to whether or not they were passengers in Palmer's police car, or if they drove there in a personal car.

I went on a ride along with an Alaska State Trooper 13 years ago, and I still remember it like it was yesterday. I don't know how Ruble and Jamin couldn't agree on if they were in Palmer's car or not. I don't imagine that private investigator's and lawyers spend much time riding around in police cars...

When they got to the Hope House, Officer Palmer allegedly told McDonald that he would be arrested for kidnapping, and 1st degree murder if Laura's body ever turned up. McDonald was arrested later that morning, and was charged with kidnapping and murder.

Laura had been missing for about 12 hours or so at the time of McDonald's arrest. She had only been missing for 7-8 hours when Palmer first contacted him. Laura's body has never been found, neither has her blood, nor any other evidence proving that she was actually a victim of foul play.

Police impounded and searched McDonald's van, but they never searched his room at the Hope House. Why would police search a kidnapping/murder suspect's vehicle, but not his residence? The clothes he wore the night Laura disappeared was still in his room at the Hope House months later when his friend Jay Buckalew went there to get his belongings so the Hope House staff wouldn't have to throw his stuff away!

KPD detectives William Walton and Bill Rhodes searched the van. The only pieces of possible evidence found in the van were an "earring backing", a feather, shoe prints on a folder, and a cracked window. McDonald believes that the earring backing might have actually been the backing from one of the collectible pins he had on a hat.

The Kodiak Police Department searched the van. The state crime lab searched the van. Alaska State Troopers searched the van for fingerprints and palm prints. They found a lot of prints, but none that belonged to Laura. The FBI searched the van for blood, hair and clothing fibers. They found none that belonged to Laura. Detective Walton said that he doesn't believe that a violent struggle took place inside the van.

A window was broken, but McDonald, Kerwin and multiple other people all said that the van's window had been broken several months prior to Laura's disappearance. McDonald already had a replacement window. He had taken the van through a car wash, and the broken window didn't leak, so he didn't feel the need to put the newer window in yet. The window was double paned.

There are lots of vehicles in Kodiak that have dents, and broken/missing windows, and none of them have been involved in any murders. McDonald's van was made in the 1960s and wasn't in great condition. It even had a wooden bumper.

P.I. Rollie Port asked Detective Walton about the broken window in McDonald's van, and the feather that was found.

Rollie Port: "Was there any way of telling whether there was dirt in the cracks to be able to tell that the window had been broken for some time or did it look like a recent break, was there any glass laying down below the window if it was broken from the inside or the outside?"

Detective Walton: "If I dismissed the window being broken, then it appeared to be an old break in an old van."

Rollie Port: "What else, do you remember finding, outside of that feather that you found, did you find some duck or down sleeping bags or clothing or?"

Detective Walton: "Yes."

Rollie Port: "Okay, could that feather have come from that?"

Detective Walton: "I always thought so."

Shoe prints were found on a folder inside of McDonald's van. Strangely, neither the police or McDonald's defense bothered to compare the prints on the folder with the shoes found out at Monashka that police alleged belonged to Laura...

Lead officer in the investigation Officer Barry Paris pushed the narrative that Laura was the victim of a murder for hire. That her ex-husband Jack Ibach had hired Laura's friend Donald McDonald along with James Kerwin to kill her.

Detective Walton has said that he was bothered that there was no paper trail.

McDonald didn't have much money, Kerwin didn't have any money on him at the time of his arrest, and there wasn't any suspicious withdrawals or money transfers made from Ibach's bank accounts in Kodiak or Anchorage.

A camera's film was developed and pictures showed McDonald, Kerwin, Gladys Baldwin and Kerwin and Baldwin's son near a cabin and cliff out at Monashka. Officer Paris believed that the pictures showed them practicing throwing a body off the cliff. Prior to that, it was believed that Laura's body was dumped in the harbor or somewhere out at Bells Flats, which were in the opposite direction of Monashka.

It is not humanly possible to throw a body as far as McDonald would have needed to have thrown Laura, if he threw her off a cliff out at Monashka like Officer Paris and prosecutors alleged. Detective Walton even said that a person would have needed a "launcher" to make her body fly far enough to clear the rocks and land in the ocean.

The TV show "Inside Edition" came to Kodiak and proved that two men couldn't have thrown a 150 pound body that far. Following Kerwin's acquittal, it was then claimed that McDonald must have thrown Laura's body the impossible distance all by himself... Her body would have needed to have been thrown a distance of more than 50 feet horizontally.

According to Guinness World Records, the farthest throw of a human occurred in 2009 when New Zealander Johnathan Macfarlane threw a man named Andrew Rainford a distance of 4.87 meters or 15 feet 11 inches.

P.I. Rollie Port asked Detective Walton about his thoughts on the theory of Laura's body being thrown off a cliff out at Monashka.

Rollie Port: "Okay, the theory of the body being thrown off the cliff, do you think that's plausible?"

Detective Walton: "I never thought that was plausible."

Rollie Port: "And why is that?"

Detective Walton: "Because the cliff slopes outwards toward the sea rather than straight down...straight up and down. And it kind of just slips away and...I don't know the physics involved, but you'd really have to heave something a long way out with an arc to get it to get into the water."

Rollie Port: "How far straight out would you have to throw it 50 feet out to get it to land in the water?"

Detective Walton: "I think it would be further than that. I don't know the distance involved, but there's a...that cliff does not go straight down. It slopes toward the, it's tall, 200, 250 feet up, but slopes toward the ocean or the bay, Monashka Bay, with a great big boulder field at the bottom. So if he did it at low tide, the body is going to wind up maybe, if it was thrown on the rocks. If it's on top of the rocks I doubt that's where high tide was. But they would still be there, even after high tide."

Rollie Port: "So..."

Detective Walton: "You'd need a launcher."

Rollie Port: "Did you ever, were you ever chastised because you did not believe that theory?"

Detective Walton: "Uhm."

Rollie Port: "And who did the chastising?"

Detective Walton: "Barry Paris."

Rollie Port: "What did he say?"

Detective Walton: "Just, he tells me that we've got pictures of them -- and that's where she is. I remember that. Because it was real --- it showed someone - youngster at the edge of that cliff."

Rollie Port: "Did you buy it at that time?"

Detective Walton: "Nope."

Rollie Port: "Did you tell Paris that?"

Detective Walton: "Yep."

Rollie Port asked Detective Walton if the clothing evidence started being found before or after the camera film was developed.

Rollie Port: "There was ah, at the time that you got that film, had the clothing already been found there on Monashka Bay?"

Detective Walton: "I don't remember."

Rollie Port: "Okay."

Detective Walton: "I don't remember timing wise.."

Rollie Port: "Okay, the...."

Detective Walton: "At one point in time I had a timeline and it all written down. Of events. What was found on what day. I wish I had that in front of me now. But....."

Rollie Port: "Would that be in your files?"

Detective Walton: "Should have, should have been with the Police Reports."

Rollie Port: "Do you know of anything that should have been in that file that did not find it's way in there because Barry Paris pulled it out?"

Detective Walton: "He could have pulled anything out."

Rollie Port: "Okay, in particular though, there was information about McLaughlin about people making statements that McLaughlin said he did it, these things."

Detective Walton: "Oh, it's so easy to make stuff disappear at that Department. I mean the Police Report wasn't locked up. It was in a file that anybody could get to. And I assumed that now it's probably been microfilmed so what have they thrown away."

Rollie Port: "Yeah, did you ever find that some of the reports that you had written had either been excised, changed, or disappeared? In reference to McLaughlin, ah, possible, possibility that he was involved?"

Detective Walton: "Not that I know of. Anything is possible."

Rollie Port: "Okay, there was a report that Barry brought up after the trial that had to do with McLaughlin and that was lost at the time of the first trial and it surfaced later on."

Detective Walton: "No kidding."

Rollie Port: "Yeah. Do you know anything about that?"

Detective Walton: "No."

Rollie Port: "Have you ever been..."

Detective Walton: "That's interesting."

Rollie Port: "wondered about where any of your reports ended up? Or whether or not any of your information was taken out of a report for any reason?"

Detective Walton: "I've always wondered that."

Rollie Port: "Okay, and why is that?"

Detective Walton: "Well, curiosity."

Rollie Port asked Detective Walton if he typed up information that people had been telling police about a drug dealer named James McLaughlin (1934-2002) possibly being involved in Laura's disappearance. Walton said that he did, then Port told him that he never saw them in the file. McLaughlin was a cocaine dealer. I've heard from sources close to him that he was also involved with heroin and marijuana.

Rollie Port: "Do you know if Laura Henderson was an informant for Barry Paris?"

Detective Walton: "I don't know. Ahm, he was a non-communicator. We never knew.....what he was doing."

Rollie Port: "Do you know ah..."

Detective Walton: "Was Chuck Lowry there at the time?"

Rollie Port: "Yes."

Detective Walton: "She could have been an informant for him, he was doing most of the drug work. But Barry could have been involved."

James "Jim" McLaughlin's step-son Michael McLaughlin has said that Paris and Lowry were "dirty with the drugs." James Kerwin also mentioned Lowry in the letter he wrote shortly before his death.

“It has been said by many that Officer Lowry is very well informed on the drug dealing in Kodiak and if someone from outside Kodiak would take a close look at the Kodiak Police Department, Mr.Lowry and his people would get damn nervous.”

Kerwin hauntingly ended his letter with:

“If something should happen to me, I want this information that I have written, to be made available to Donald Mac McDonald who has wrongly been convicted of murdering Laura Henderson. Mac is now serving 99 years in prison.”

Kerwin died, and was quickly cremated against his family’s beliefs. That conveniently prevents his body from ever being exhumed to find out if he really died naturally or not.

Rollie Port: “Okay, why didn't you yourself, ah, take it upon yourself to investigate the possibility that Jim McLaughlin was the murderer here?”

Detective Walton: “I was probably told not to worry about it or that he would take care of it. So I typed up a summary sheet and gave it to Barry Paris and from there, and from there, I've never -- before either, from there it was supposed to go to the front office and be filed with the rest of the Police report.”

Rollie Port: “Do you have any idea....do you have a feeling that it might have been shit canned?”

Detective Walton: “Very easily could have been.”

Rollie Port: “Do you know of any examples where that occurred?”

Detective Walton: “Well it had to have occurred if you say it's not in the Police report.”

Rollie Port: “I have not seen it.”

Detective Walton: “Because I remember typing it.”

Rollie Port also asked Detective Walton about the earring that was found 1-2 weeks before trial, after Officer Michael Andre allegedly contacted a psychic in Chicago.

Rollie Port: “Did Paris give you any indication whatsoever that, that he had put Andre up to calling the psychic? Or did Andre tell you that?”

Detective Walton: “I don't, I don't remember him saying that, but it would be very easy to do. All you would have to do is paperclip on the page and - Police magazine and give it to Andre and he'd go to the paperclip and go “oh, look at this...”

Rollie Port: “Okay.”

Detective Walton: “Mike was...he was easily led.....”

Detective Walton said that he slipped and fell in the KPD parking lot the night Laura disappeared. He said that the road out to Monashka would have been worse, and that a person would have needed chains on their tires, and would have needed to drive very slow.

Rollie Port traveled to Kodiak and drove the route.

Rollie Port said:

“Traveling at the speed limit it took me 1 hour and 15 minutes round trip. This did not include walking from the road to the bluff and back. There are 5 separate witnesses who said that McDonald was home between 9:50pm and 10:00pm and the log shows other people logging in after McDonald at 10:00pm. As I stated earlier McDonald's vehicle was not in good repair. The drive shaft was "wired" to the transmission and the van could not be driven over 35mph. This was verified in testimony. The speed limit on the road to Monashka bay is 55mph. I cannot see how it would be possible for McDonald to kidnap Laura, drive to Monashka Bay, kill and disrobe her, throw her body over the cliff and then be back at the recovery house by 10:00pm.”

McDonald would have had a maximum time limit of 1 hour to do all of that!

Officer Anthony Willis said that Officer John Palmer once told him, Officer Bradbury, and Alaska State Trooper Chris Hill that Laura had been put in a crab pot and dropped in the ocean...Contradicting the story KPD/prosecutors used to convict McDonald and Ibach. Officer John Palmer was the chief of the Kodiak Police Department during the 1990s.

The prosecutors didn't use a timeline to prove their case. A timeline would have proven that McDonald could not have committed the crime.

March 28, 1986:

-Laura's lawyer Matt Jamin said that he met with Laura at his office sometime between 3:00pm-5:00pm.

-Marjorie Holden said that she seen Laura at a bank at 4:30pm.

-P.I. Al Ruble said that he met with Laura and Jamin from 4:00pm-5:00pm.

-Laura's co-worker Cathy Wilson said that she spoke to Laura on the phone between 4:00pm-5:00pm, but later changed her story and said that Laura had called her at 5:00pm at the earliest.

-Laura was supposed to meet a man she didn't know at 9:00pm to receive a tape recording that she could use to blackmail her ex-husband.

-Al Ruble met up with Jamin at 9:20pm to let him know that he had lost sight of Laura.

-Colleen Jones said that McDonald's white van swerved in front of her near the Hope House around 9:35pm.

-Ruble and Jamin went to KPD at 9:45pm.

-Ruble and Jamin said that they seen Jack Ibach on the docks, and at a bar between 9:30pm-10:00pm with two other men, that they didn't attempt to identify.

-Daniel Merrigan claimed that he had seen a white van driving approximately 40mph at the end of Monashka driving AWAY from town sometime between 9:45pm and 10:00pm.

-5 separate witnesses said that Donald McDonald was at the Hope House watching TV with them that night. The Hope House's logbook also confirmed that. The Hope House was locked down each night. He wouldn't have been able to leave that night between the time he stopped watching TV with others, until he was contacted there by off-duty Officer John Palmer, Matt Jamin, and Al Ruble sometime between 4:00am-5:00am the morning of March 29th.

As you can see, there's no way that all of those people could have been telling the truth. There's no way that Donald McDonald could have kidnapped Laura around 9:00pm, driven her out to Monashka on dangerous, icy roads in the dark, killed her, thrown her body more than 50 feet horizontally off a cliff, and returned to the Hope House by 10:00pm.

Colleen Jones claimed that McDonald's van swerved in front of her near the Hope House around 9:35pm. Daniel Merrigan claimed to have seen a white van at the end of Monashka between 9:45pm-10:00pm.

Both of those statements were somehow considered to be "substantial circumstantial evidence" linking McDonald to Laura's disappearance.

Daniel Merrigan said that he, "couldn't see the people in the van", that he "thought" the van was white, and that he "didn't notice" if it had windows on the side or not.

If McDonald was driving near the Hope House at 9:35pm, there's no way that he could have been at the end of Monashka any time between 9:45pm-10:00pm. If he was out there, then he wouldn't have been able to get back to the Hope House by 10:00pm like he was proven to be.

Either one or both of them did not tell the truth. Either by mistaken identity, or as part of a "communal effort" to side track the investigation.

In 1989 a woman overdosed on cocaine that she believed may have come from, "Della the lesbian's house on the hillside." Her brother-in-law convinced her to cooperate with KPD. Her brother-in-law was...Daniel Merrigan.

Detective Walton believed that the Della she was referring to was likely Della Fannin (1954-2014). Della's house was raided, drugs were found and she was arrested. Her conviction was overturned in 1991 because it was assumed that the cocaine the woman overdosed on may have come from Della's house, but there wasn't any proof of that. Nobody involved had actually said that they had bought it from her. Della was represented in her appeal by Matt Jamin's law firm.

A man named Wayne Arndt claimed to have found a body matching Laura's description, but the Alaska State Troopers said that they didn't have any record of it.

After the film was developed, clothing and other items started conveniently appearing out at Monashka. Evidence that was found by police officers and their acquaintances.

Laura's mom Catherine "Kitty" Munro told police that Laura had wart surgery on her foot (didn't tell them which foot), and that she had a bandaid on it. A LEFT shoe was then found with a bandaid in it. A private investigator later contacted the podiatrist who had performed the wart operation, and the podiatrist said that it had been done on Laura's RIGHT foot...

Two shoe prints were found on a folder inside McDonald's van. But nobody bothered to compare the prints on the folder with the shoes that were found out at Monashka. If they matched, that could have proven that the shoes found out at Monashka were the ones Laura had on the night she disappeared.

A purse with Laura's expired Oregon drivers license was found, even though she would have had her valid Alaska drivers license with her when she disappeared. Some people believe that the purse that was found could have been one that Laura had let her daughters play with.

Officer Michael Andre allegedly contacted a psychic in Chicago. Officer Paris said that Officer Andre told him that an earring would be found within 3 feet of the driver's seat in McDonald's van.

1-2 weeks before the trial was set to begin, Rhodes and Walton were called into work on their day off, and were told to search the front part of the van. They quickly found an earring, and were told to stop their search. They contacted Paris, and he obtained a warrant.

Officer Paris claimed that it was actually him that had found the earring while searching the van with Officer Andre. And that without him (Paris) finding the earring, McDonald and Ibach probably would not have been convicted. From everything I've heard about Paris, it sounds like he thinks very highly of himself.

Either way, that just happened to be the one time that the Kodiak Police Department violated their contract with the tow yard by not allowing a tow yard employee to be present during the search...

Officer Paris said the van was secure prior to the search for the earring, while Detective Walton said it definitely wasn't.

P.I. Rollie Port said:

"The entire situation on the finding of the earring must be investigated. Keep in mind that the owner of the impound lot has testified while the van was in the impound lot it was not secured. Further, the only time he was denied his request to be present at a search of a vehicle in his lot was when the earring was found."

Detective Walton said that he thought it was "really bizarre" when he heard about Officer Andre contacting a psychic in Chicago, and the information leading to KPD finding an earring in McDonald's van shortly before trial. He said that he didn't think that Detective Rhodes believed it either.

P.I. Rollie Port asked Walton if someone could have planted the earring, to which Walton replied, "sure".

Walton believes that where the earring was found, it would not have been consistent with falling out of a passenger's ear.

He finds it odd that the search was stopped as soon as he and Rhodes found the earring. "It's obvious. We were led down the path and didn't even know it."

Rollie Port asked him if he believed that the earring had been planted or not. Walton said that he didn't think so at the time, but at the time of his interview with Port he said, "That's a definite possibility."

Port then asked him why his thoughts on the earring had changed over the years. Walton said that he had heard things about the other officers involved, and that there were a lot of rumors when he worked at KPD.

Port asked Walton if he had ever heard of officers Barry Paris, John Palmer or Bill Marsh...Particularly Paris or Palmer ever manufacturing evidence, or doing anything that would affect the outcome of an investigation.

Walton said he remembered Rhodes telling him that he thought that evidence was possibly manufactured in drug cases.

Walton said that there was always "innuendo" around the police department that stuff was made up. He remembers that Officer Marsh was in court once and had some of the evidence (drugs) in his pocket, and lied about a question the district attorney had asked him.

There are people that believe that the clothing evidence found out at Monashka was planted, and that the earring was planted in McDonald's van to try to establish some

kind of connection between McDonald and Laura's disappearance. And to try to convince jurors that a violent struggle must have taken place inside the van.

I'm not sure if Officer Michael Andre is still alive or not. I found one of his daughters online and sent her a message. I told her that her dad had once contacted a psychic, which helped solve a murder case. I also mentioned that a documentary is going to be made about the case and she instantly blocked me...

Soon after that, a different woman sent me a message, deleted it before I could read it, and also blocked me. A quick search revealed that the second woman had the last name "Andre" before she got married, and is possibly another daughter of his.

Why would adults get upset/nervous like that upon hearing that a documentary is going to be made about a big case their police officer dad helped solve?

According to Detective Walton, a lot of people in Kodiak had been saying that Laura's disappearance had been related to drugs, and not a child custody dispute gone bad. They told police that they should investigate a drug dealer named James McLaughlin. They said that Laura had been threatening to share information regarding drug distribution in Kodiak, if her ex-husband didn't let her have full custody of their daughters. Information that would have implicated her ex-husband Jack Ibach, drug dealers, and businessmen.

Officer Paris told Detective Walton to disregard that information because Laura was, "In the ocean." Paris theorized that McDonald and Kerwin had thrown Laura's body off a cliff and into the ocean out at Monashka, even though that theory was impossible.

James McLaughlin ran the King Crab Cannery's bunkhouse at some point. That cannery also happened to be the same location where Laura was supposed to meet an unknown person to receive a tape recording the night she disappeared...

McDonald and Ibach were convicted of Laura's no body murder. Kerwin was acquitted even though he had been with McDonald all day, and slept in McDonald's van outside the Hope House that night. The van was full of stuff, and had not been cleaned that night.

If there was a violent struggle, Laura's DNA should have been found in there by investigators.

Also, Ruble said that he seen Laura smoking a cigarette. Why wasn't that found? There's a picture of the van after it was seized that appears to show an ash tray. Is it possible that Laura hadn't finished her cigarette, and took it with her when she got out of the van alive and well before meeting her actual killer(s)?

Since then, several private investigators and others have looked into the case to try to prove McDonald's innocence, and to find out what really happened to Laura.

Private investigators heard that Laura had been using cocaine quite a bit in the months leading up to her disappearance, and that she had been hanging out with the “coke crowd.” One of her close friends even stopped associating with her because of it.

Some of the most compelling information I’ve heard, has come from James McLaughlin’s own step-son Michael McLaughlin. McDonald was once in prison alongside Michael, a career criminal.

Before getting transferred to a different facility, Michael wrote an 8 page letter to McDonald discussing Laura’s disappearance. Much of what he mentioned in the letter closely correlates with information that has come from more credible sources.

He said that he wrote the letter because he didn’t think that it was right that McDonald got in trouble for something he had nothing to do with. Michael referred to Jack Ibach as a “low life maggot.” He said that Ibach was a “punk” that caused a lot of people problems.

He said that the only reason why McDonald got caught up in the mess, was because he was friends with Ibach’s “bimbo” ex-wife Laura. He said that Laura and Ibach were two rats that couldn’t keep their problems to themselves.

The two of them had been going through a child custody battle over their daughters. Laura was wanting full custody. She didn’t seem to be having much luck with it through the court system.

Michael said that it got to the point where Ibach lost control of the situation, and Laura started indiscriminately recording conversations between her, Ibach, drug dealer’s and other big players in the drug trade.

He said that it was just a matter of time before something bad happened to the both of them. He said that they were “amateurs”, and that they, “didn’t have the slightest idea of what they were actually fucking with.”

He said it was Laura’s lawyer Matt Jamin who tipped off some of the people she had been recording, including Dell Jackson and Jeff Hobbs. He said that Hobbs was a “plug” for women named Della and Becky that were “cop sanctioned street level drug dealers” that were associated with Laura in a “girl power” sort of way.

He mentioned that Della and Becky were “dykes”. There’s a strong chance that the Della he mentioned was the Della Fannin that was arrested following a woman’s non-fatal cocaine overdose in 1989. Della’s conviction in that case was overturned.

Matt Jamin and his associate Joel Bolger later became judges. Current Kodiak judge Stephen Wallace was a KPD officer in the early 1980s, and later went on to intern with Jamin.

Michael said just about everyone had their hand in the proverbial cookie jar back then, and were making money off of Kodiak's very lucrative drug trade.

He claims that Bolger once represented him in a case.

"Jamin's firm (Bolger) represented me in a drugs/weapons case at one point. Another touchy scene which includes details like me offering Bolger a ride in the trunk of my car over fees."

Michael said he heard that Laura's tape recordings had been going on for months before she told Jamin about them. He thinks that she probably also told Della, Becky, and other people she thought she could trust.

If she would have used the tapes she personally recorded about drug activity, they possibly would have made both her and Ibach appear to be unfit parents. At least not fit enough for either of them to have full custody. Maybe she believed that the tape the unknown caller was offering her would have had Ibach's voice on it, but not hers? And that she would finally be able to get the incriminating evidence she needed.

Why else would she be so excited about the meeting for the tape, if she already had tape recordings of her own?

Michael said that people started talking about, "putting the bitch on the back of a milk carton..."

He said that people were getting nervous. Laura had a big mouth, and the Kodiak drug trade was connected to two major biker clubs from Eastern Washington...along with some other "heavies" from around the country. He also mentioned that there was a lot of cash involved. He said, "common criminal interests make strange bed fellows."

He said that Kodiak was the, "wild wild west." Nobody wanted the feds to start sniffing around, and that there were too many eyes on Laura. Making anything resembling foul play a bad option.

However, framing the unliked ex-husband Jack Ibach, making Laura's murder appear domestic related would have been a perfect solution to the problem. Michael said Jack Ibach was the only person that was supposed to get in trouble.

"All that shit was smoke and mirrors which should have left dumbass Jack, and Jack alone, as the patsy. Neat and tidy.....The estranged husband did it."

Michael said people stopped talking around Laura when they heard that she had been recording people. He said that she got nervous, and Dell Jackson was tipped off that she was trying to get Jamin to take her tapes to the feds. Jamin apparently refused to take the tapes, and tried to talk some sense into her. Either for his safety, Laura's safety

or for his business interests. Michael said that, “there was several groups of rather serious people that were getting antsy too.”

He said that people approached the McLaughlin’s asking for a favor. Wanting them to find the tapes Laura had recorded, steal them, and make them disappear. He also said that nothing bad was supposed to happen to Laura as far as he heard.

I find that last part hard to believe, because a person doesn’t end up on the back of a milk carton unless something bad happens to them...

James McLaughlin told people that he killed Laura because she knew too much about his drug business, and he heard that she was getting ready to tell on some people.

Someone close to McLaughlin told me that he traveled to New York shortly after Laura’s disappearance during the Spring of 1986. It was his first time visiting New York since moving to Kodiak around 1970. He traveled there with an unknown friend, left a pistol at a different friend’s house, then left after being there just a day. He didn’t go back until he moved back to New York permanently around 1995.

He told that same person at some point that he had been questioned about a murder. When asked about what murder, he said that it was about the murder of a “narc”, and that police didn’t have anything on him...

The person he told that to had never been to Kodiak, and didn’t learn about Laura Henderson’s disappearance until years after McLaughlin’s death. But when they did, the similarities started to add up.

There was no reason for him to travel across the country, and leave a gun at a friend’s house. Why wouldn’t he have wanted to keep the pistol with him in Kodiak for self-defense? Being a drug dealer isn’t a safe occupation. And it’s not like he had been traveling back and forth between Kodiak and New York on a regular basis.

When he visited his friend, he offered to get his son set up in Kodiak since he was graduating from high school soon. His friend said that there was no way he would let his son move to Kodiak with Jim.

Michael told McDonald that McDonald was the closest thing to a boyfriend people could see. They hoped that Laura would give him the tapes for safekeeping. Michael said that his uncle Jimmy (likely Leonard James Wooldridge) was a professional thief, and that Jimmy was supposed to become friendly with McDonald and steal the tapes if he got the chance. Wooldridge was the brother of Michael’s mom. Michael also mentioned that James Kerwin was supposed to hang around McDonald for the same reason.

McDonald and Kerwin met in 1985 and got along, but didn't know each other very well. McDonald didn't find out that Kerwin knew Jack Ibach and James McLaughlin until after he was arrested.

I wonder if the McLaughlin crew looking for the tapes had anything to do with someone being in Laura's apartment in January 1986? That's when Al Ruble had his first consultation with Laura.

Michael said that he knows who put Kerwin close to McDonald, because he was there was the favor was asked.

"They needed dependable outside help, someone who could not possibly be on the tapes associated with the people who were. Kerwin was perfect because he knew the game and didn't do drugs."

Michael randomly said:

"Part of survival in the game is learning what you can from astute observation, reading between the lines, knowing both the game and the players, unconfirmed hindsight. I tell people all the time about survival in the game- "If being a tough guy was easy everyone would do it..."

It appears that the McLaughlin's hated Ibach, but they had several mutual friends. A private investigator named Edward Jack learned that Ibach was friends with a guy named George Yoder who owned a boat called the F/V Nordby. He learned that there was a fire on the boat about a month after Laura disappeared.

Yoder's name and phone number were in James McLaughlin's address book, and his other step-son Steven McLaughlin said that he remembers that they were friends.

Kerwin had taken care of the F/V Nordby before, so he must have known Yoder as well. The police found a notebook that belonged to Kerwin. There was a partial number in it that appeared to have some of the same numbers that were in Jack Ibach's phone number, and they tried to make a big deal out of that.

Officer Paris said that he could connect Ibach and McDonald better than Ibach and McLaughlin. But right after he said that, he contradicted himself. He said that Ibach used cocaine, and he believed that Ibach bought it from McLaughlin...

Michael said that a guy named Gary Cue possibly got Ibach called into work the night of Laura's disappearance, and that Gary was friends with both Ibach and the McLaughlin's. Gary's wife Barbara "Barb" Cue's name and mailing address were in McLaughlin's address book. Her P.O. Box address was also connected to Gary.

It appears that almost everyone in the case either knew each other, or knew of each other in some way. That's very common, given that Kodiak is a small island community.

Most people in Kodiak know each other in some way, or have mutual acquaintances. So it's not smart to immediately jump to conclusions without looking further.

Michael said that the people associated with Dell Jackson that asked for the favor to find and "vanish" the tapes were couriers that used to "work" with Ibach. He said that, "those gentlemen were couriers for a big Eastern Washington bike club and whole clubs don't just go away."

Michael said that in 1986 there were 3-4 guys in Kodiak that were capable of pulling off Laura's murder the way it was done.

"Making someone disappear without a trace, a struggle, or a commotion in that short of time. Yeah, I knew all of them, but no I don't know who actually did the work...or even who all was in on it."

He also said:

"You should remember something else I told you. This ain't a fuckin' TV show where ya get to see what the bad guy is doing behind the scenes. In fact, when something like this goes down it's need to know only-And guess what people lie or don't tell everything you know."

He said that he knew Michael Putnam, George Lee and Guy Carroll. He said that they were low-life thieves and grifters that weren't smart enough, strong enough, or have enough balls to make someone disappear in seconds. He said that those guy's names turned up in McDonald's case because they were hang arounds, and that they would hear things and repeat them.

"In fact, after she was gone there was a communal effort to side track the case because the tapes hadn't turned up. Hence the whole, "we saw her on the Alcan" bullshit, the body out by the river-Also Kerwin was a somebody too and there were people looking out for his interests too...That shit was working too that is why the cops played the "Chicago Psychic" card and started planting evidence like the earring and the shoes."

Michael said that it's his bet that Officers Lowry and Paris found the tapes and, "vanished em cause they were dirty with the drugs."

In 1984 James McLaughlin was facing drug charges. He called the Kodiak Police Department 3 times one day. He said that he would bring people forward that would implicate an officer and the officer's son in illegal drug activity if his charge wasn't dropped.

Officer Barry Paris said in an interview with P.I. Rollie Port that at some point he believed that James McLaughlin was involved in Laura's death, and that he never dismissed that possibility, even though that contradicts what Detective Walton said in his interview with Port.

Detective Walton said the only cop that knew the big picture of the investigation was Officer Paris. Other officers were assigned small parts of the investigation, but Officer Paris formulated whatever meaning he wanted out of whatever the other officers found.

Michael said that Paris was “dirty with the drugs.” If there’s any truth to that, Paris could have had a reason why he wouldn’t let Detective Walton and other officers investigate rumors that McLaughlin killed Laura, and why he made them look in a different direction instead.

Guy Carroll (1955-2007) said that a drug dealer named Peter Bail asked him if he wanted to make some money. That was about 6 months before Laura disappeared. Carroll said yes, Peter dialed the number, and handed the phone to him.

The man on the phone said that his name was “Jack”. He offered Carroll \$25,000-\$30,000 to kill a woman. Carroll later told a guy named Michael Putnam (1951-2005) about “Jack’s” offer. Carroll said that Putnam had already heard that someone wanted a woman killed because she was getting ready to “inform” on some people.

Carroll said that after Laura disappeared, he was with Putnam one day. Putnam seen Laura’s picture in the paper, and told Carroll that Laura was the one “we were approached on.” Carroll thought that meant that Laura was the person that “Jack” wanted killed.

Carroll knew that the “Jack” on the phone was not Jack Ibach, and believed that the guy on the other end was actually James McLaughlin. If Carroll was a “hang around” like Michael McLaughlin has said, then Carroll probably knew what James McLaughlin’s voice sounded like.

He said that he told the police about the conversation he had with “Jack”. He told them about it around the time the grand jury was investigating McDonald.

He said that Putnam must have heard about what he said to police, because shortly after that, Putnam became angry and assaulted him.

Putnam said that Carroll never told him about his phone conversation with “Jack”, and that he never saw Laura’s picture in the paper.

Putnam did however say that he had been approached in October 1985 about a contract killing, but that he wasn’t told if the target was a man or woman. Or who was wanting the person to be killed.

Is it possible that Guy Carroll and Michael Putnam being approached in late 1985 about a contract killing, lines up with the timing of people talking about wanting to put Laura on the back of a milk carton?

James Kerwin entered Donald McDonald's life in 1985 as well. Michael McLaughlin has said that he had personal knowledge of Kerwin being planted into McDonald's life, to try to find out where Laura's tape recordings may have been located since McDonald was friends with her.

A guy named George Lee said that he attended a party at James McLaughlin's house sometime after McDonald had been convicted of Laura's murder.

During a discussion they had about her disappearance, McLaughlin told him that, "The bitch knew too much (about his drug business) and had to be shut up." But that McLaughlin also told him that he would not want "to get brought down over someone else's (domestic) problem."

Michael McLaughlin said that they were tipped off that James McLaughlin was possibly going to get subpoenaed in the case, and that Michael was put on "guard duty" for a couple weeks because of it.

He said that a guy named Kevin Owen nicknamed "lost and found" got grand jury duty. Owen was upset about it, and went to James McLaughlin's place hoping that he could help him get out of it...I'm not sure if Kevin Owen was the person that tipped them off, and shared grand jury information or not.

Were they afraid that McLaughlin might get arrested?

Officer Barry Paris said that Putnam was a police informant. He said that Putnam was put into McLaughlin's house to solicit information from him. Paris said that Putnam said that McLaughlin made a statement that he was responsible for Laura's death. Paris felt that Putnam's information was not believable, but couldn't come up with a reason why. Paris also said he didn't find Guy Carroll truthful either, but once again, he couldn't explain why.

Accusations of misconduct followed Officer Barry Paris from every police department he worked for. He was allegedly involved in misconduct while working at police departments in Oregon, Kodiak, and Tacoma.

Detective Walton said that he heard that Paris had been fired in Oregon, and that Paris had allegedly beaten a person that was in handcuffs while working there.

He said that in Kodiak, Officer Paris broke the leg of a guy he didn't like named Robert Walton (no relation) after pulling him over for driving without a license. Detective Walton said that Officer Paris was a "brutal man", and that he could hold a grudge. Paris knew Robert from before.

There are news articles online about Officer Paris being involved in a shooting in Tacoma, WA in 1996. The guy Paris shot was unarmed, and the shooting was ruled

unjustified. The City of Tacoma paid the guy \$538,000. Although the shooting was ruled unjustified, Paris didn't get in trouble criminally because there was, "no criminal intent."

<https://archive.seattletimes.com/archive/?date=19980220&slug=2735500>

Here is a YouTube video of Paris while working in Tacoma:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9AFNIUtC2s>

The guy who claimed to have found a woman's body near the Buskin River was Wayne Arndt, who once lived in Dell Jackson's trailer park. Colleen Jones claimed that McDonald's van swerved in front of her the night Laura disappeared, and she also lived in Jackson's trailer park at some point.

I don't know if there's anything to that or not, or if them living there and sharing false information was just a coincidence. Colleen's story was theoretically possible, but the Alaska State Troopers claimed they had no reports of a woman's body being found.

On October 15, 1988 a man named Jim Dale Upson fired a rifle at the Mount Shasta Police Department in California after drinking at a bar. The shot came close to at least one person's head. Minutes later, he called the police and said that the shot had been "a warning" and that next time, "I'll kill you."

In July 1989 he was convicted of shooting into an occupied building, and making threatening phone calls. He failed to appear for sentencing in January 1990, and went on the run until he was caught in 2011.

During his 21 years on the run, he spent some of that time working as the manager of a trailer park in Kodiak, Alaska. The owner and president of that trailer park was...Dell Jackson. I don't know if Jackson and Upson knew each other prior to the police department shooting, or if him moving to Kodiak and landing a job at the trailer park was just a coincidence. While in Kodiak, Upson went by the alias "Jim Jones".

<https://www.siskiyoudaily.com/story/news/crime/2011/07/05/fugitive-caught-after-21-years/49491575007/>

https://www.kodiakdailymirror.com/news/article_961474e7-1c75-5061-b540-b5484de422e8.html

<https://www.bbb.org/us/ak/kodiak/profile/manufactured-home-park/jackson-mobile-home-park-1296-22036023>

There are still many questions that remain unanswered. But it appears that if Laura's tapes would have made it into the hands of good law enforcement officers, a lot of bad guys could have been in a lot of trouble.