

1

00:00:30,000 --> 00:00:31,000

We will do that.

2

00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:32,000

Thank you.

3

00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:33,000

From the heart.

4

00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:34,000

Thank you very much.

5

00:00:34,000 --> 00:00:35,000

From the heart, my friend.

6

00:00:35,000 --> 00:00:39,880

This weekend, outspoken enemy of the mob, Buffalo Jim Barrier, was found dead in a local

7

00:00:39,880 --> 00:00:40,880

motel room.

8

00:00:40,880 --> 00:00:44,600

There were no obvious signs of foul play, but tonight, Barrier's friends and relatives

9

00:00:44,600 --> 00:00:47,560

are voicing their strong suspicions.

10

00:00:47,560 --> 00:00:49,640

My family, we all believe he was murdered.

11

00:00:49,640 --> 00:00:55,200

Despite what he thought were ongoing threats to his safety, Jim Barrier refused to back

12

00:00:55,200 --> 00:00:56,200

down.

13

00:00:56,200 --> 00:00:59,880

We thought it was like a setup.

14

00:00:59,880 --> 00:01:03,680

It didn't feel right.

15

00:01:03,680 --> 00:01:08,400

I know that there's people out there that want the truth as bad as I do.

16

00:01:08,400 --> 00:01:09,800

We deserve justice for our father.

17

00:01:59,880 --> 00:02:05,720

2008 at 11.30 AM, at a motel six on Boulder Highway.

18

00:02:05,720 --> 00:02:10,560

Housekeeper knocks on the door to room 105 to check to see if it's okay to clean the

19

00:02:10,560 --> 00:02:15,000

room.

20

00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:23,560

When she opens the door, she notices a gentleman asleep on the bed.

21

00:02:23,560 --> 00:02:30,880

She comes back at 12.30 and notices that he's still asleep.

22

00:02:30,880 --> 00:02:36,920

At 1.10 PM, the housekeeper returns and finds him in the same position.

23

00:02:36,920 --> 00:02:45,240

Another housekeeper shakes him to see if he's awake, at which time they believe he's dead.

24

00:02:45,240 --> 00:02:51,080

The violent crimes detectives responded out to the scene in the early afternoon.

25

00:02:51,080 --> 00:02:57,240

The body was found lying face up on the bed with his shirt open, with a pillow behind

26

00:02:57,240 --> 00:03:01,800

his head and his pants down around his ankles.

27

00:03:01,800 --> 00:03:07,520

There was a white powdery substance found on his beard and on his shirt.

28

00:03:07,520 --> 00:03:13,600

The nature in which the body was found was a little suspicious because there wasn't a

29

00:03:13,600 --> 00:03:18,040

clear sign as to why he was deceased.

30

00:03:18,040 --> 00:03:24,440

At some point they identified him as being James Barrier, went by the name of Buffalo

31

00:03:24,440 --> 00:03:25,440

Jim.

32

00:03:25,440 --> 00:03:31,120

I'm Buffalo Jim and it's another Friday night brother here in Vegas town.

33

00:03:31,120 --> 00:03:36,560

Barrier was a true Las Vegas character, a pro wrestler, auto mechanic, political candidate.

34

00:03:36,560 --> 00:03:39,040

Here you go sir, Buffalo Jim Barrier.

35

00:03:39,040 --> 00:03:43,520

Barrier built a gigantic animated smoke belching paper mache buffalo.

36

00:03:43,520 --> 00:03:46,080

I thought the people of Las Vegas would like it brother.

37

00:03:46,080 --> 00:03:53,520

My father, Buffalo Jim Barrier, loved Las Vegas, the bright lights, and the excitement

38

00:03:53,520 --> 00:03:58,240

that shows the restaurants.

39

00:03:58,240 --> 00:04:02,800

And he was someone who was larger than life.

40

00:04:02,800 --> 00:04:10,920

He was someone who just lit up a room when he walked in, just a character.

41

00:04:10,920 --> 00:04:13,920

His dad was a Cherokee Indian.

42

00:04:13,920 --> 00:04:21,920

He would educate us on our background and always would remind us, you know, that remember

43

00:04:21,920 --> 00:04:29,040

your ancestors and remember your bloodline lineage, it's important.

44

00:04:29,040 --> 00:04:33,160

His childhood wasn't very easy.

45

00:04:33,160 --> 00:04:41,560

He began working at a gas station at the age of 15 with his older brother doing oil changes.

46

00:04:41,560 --> 00:04:45,840

He slept in the gas station floors, you know, and his older brother was teaching him the

47

00:04:45,840 --> 00:04:48,560

ropes.

48

00:04:48,560 --> 00:04:57,120

He started off doing mechanics out of his van.

49

00:04:57,120 --> 00:05:01,840

And he eventually made his way up to the level he was at with owning his own auto repair

50

00:05:01,840 --> 00:05:08,160

shop that he started in the late 70s.

51

00:05:08,160 --> 00:05:10,120

He fixed a lot of incredible cars.

52

00:05:10,120 --> 00:05:15,880

I know that he fixed a car once for Wayne Newton on Robert Goulet.

53

00:05:15,880 --> 00:05:18,640

And I know there's celebrities even in other states that would bring their cars to his

54

00:05:18,640 --> 00:05:23,240

shop as well.

55

00:05:23,240 --> 00:05:26,440

He was a very caring and hardworking person.

56

00:05:26,440 --> 00:05:29,840

He always made sure to provide for our family.

57

00:05:29,840 --> 00:05:33,480

There were four of us growing up.

58

00:05:33,480 --> 00:05:36,640

I have an older sister named Jessica.

59

00:05:36,640 --> 00:05:42,880

And I have a sister named Elise and then our baby sister, Jerica.

60

00:05:42,880 --> 00:05:45,080

My mother was in love with my father.

61

00:05:45,080 --> 00:05:48,200

She still loves him.

62

00:05:48,200 --> 00:05:54,280

But in the year 2000, my mother left my father and we moved to Seattle, Washington because

63

00:05:54,280 --> 00:05:57,560

my mom has a sister up there.

64

00:05:57,560 --> 00:06:03,080

But they eventually, Jerica went to live with my father and he treated Jerica like a queen.

65

00:06:03,080 --> 00:06:04,960

They went everywhere together.

66

00:06:04,960 --> 00:06:09,120

They were just inseparable.

67

00:06:09,120 --> 00:06:10,640

Every day was an exciting day.

68

00:06:10,640 --> 00:06:13,800

Something new.

69

00:06:13,800 --> 00:06:15,720

He was so much fun.

70

00:06:15,720 --> 00:06:25,200

He would always bring the excitement.

71

00:06:25,200 --> 00:06:28,080

And he always loved wrestling.

72

00:06:28,080 --> 00:06:30,240

Fireman's carry.

73

00:06:30,240 --> 00:06:32,320

Oh, man.

74

00:06:32,320 --> 00:06:36,840

New every weight champion in the world.

75

00:06:36,840 --> 00:06:38,840

Got it.

76

00:06:38,840 --> 00:06:39,840

Got it.

77

00:06:39,840 --> 00:06:40,840

Got it.

78

00:06:40,840 --> 00:06:44,080

Buffalo wanted to run his own school and wrestling company.

79

00:06:44,080 --> 00:06:49,280

I'm here tonight at the Buffalo Jams Pro Wrestling School, brother.

80

00:06:49,280 --> 00:06:52,080

So he called it Buffalo Wrestling Federation.

81

00:06:52,080 --> 00:06:53,080

Whoa!

82

00:06:53,080 --> 00:06:56,880

There goes out the tall that's where it's at!

83

00:06:56,880 --> 00:06:59,280

His style was badass.

84

00:06:59,280 --> 00:07:03,360

Ring on every finger.

85

00:07:03,360 --> 00:07:04,640

It's Friday night.

86

00:07:04,640 --> 00:07:08,720

He would wear this bulletproof vest that was literally made with bullets.

87

00:07:08,720 --> 00:07:11,400

It's Buffalo Jams!

88

00:07:11,400 --> 00:07:12,720

Everybody wanted to be up around Buffalo.

89

00:07:12,720 --> 00:07:15,400

We're going to the top, Buffalo!

90

00:07:15,400 --> 00:07:18,360

Buffalo, he was just cool to be with and we clicked.

91

00:07:18,360 --> 00:07:20,600

We became very good friends right off the bat.

92

00:07:20,600 --> 00:07:23,600

He's got him on funny slams!

93

00:07:23,600 --> 00:07:26,560

His television show was on late night cable TV.

94

00:07:26,560 --> 00:07:28,840

I mean, he had a tremendous following.

95

00:07:28,840 --> 00:07:30,400

It was so camp.

96

00:07:30,400 --> 00:07:33,280

It's another Friday night, Buffalo Jams Wrestling Show.

97

00:07:33,280 --> 00:07:34,920

I'm here with Little Buffalo.

98

00:07:34,920 --> 00:07:40,080

I decided that I'd participate in his wrestling show for an episode.

99

00:07:40,080 --> 00:07:43,000

Get him, buffalo!

100

00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:46,760

The name Little Buff came about because I was like his sidekick.

101

00:07:46,760 --> 00:07:47,760

I like it!

102

00:07:47,760 --> 00:07:48,760

I like it!

103

00:07:48,760 --> 00:07:49,760

You know?

104

00:07:49,760 --> 00:07:50,760

Oh, it's fun.

105

00:07:50,760 --> 00:07:52,200

I mean, he knew how to put on a show.

106

00:07:52,200 --> 00:07:54,200

You never know what's going to happen.

107

00:07:58,840 --> 00:08:01,960

It was for about six years.

108

00:08:01,960 --> 00:08:05,640

It was just him and I.

109

00:08:05,640 --> 00:08:09,560

So we're standing in front of my family's home.

110

00:08:09,560 --> 00:08:11,480

This is a home that we lived at.

111

00:08:11,480 --> 00:08:18,000

This was my father's dream home.

112

00:08:18,000 --> 00:08:20,760

He loved it up here.

113

00:08:20,760 --> 00:08:26,200

He looked up at the mountain and to him, he saw an Indian chief in the mountain and he

114

00:08:26,200 --> 00:08:31,320

was like, this is going to be my mountain.

115

00:08:31,320 --> 00:08:34,120

And being back here now, it just doesn't feel the same.

116

00:08:34,120 --> 00:08:49,120

It's not the same without him.

117

00:08:49,120 --> 00:08:55,720

That night, my father mentioned that he was going to go meet with a friend for dinner.

118

00:08:56,720 --> 00:09:19,720

He said, I'll be home by 12.

119

00:09:19,720 --> 00:09:26,520

Around 9.30pm, I texted him, but he didn't reply.

120

00:09:26,520 --> 00:09:34,920

I gave him another call later in the evening and he didn't answer.

121

00:09:34,920 --> 00:09:39,720

I tried calling my father in the morning again and he didn't answer.

122

00:09:39,720 --> 00:09:42,720

And that really was alarming for me.

123

00:09:42,720 --> 00:09:45,200

Like, dad's not answering his phone.

124

00:09:45,200 --> 00:09:47,720

Like, what's going on?

125

00:09:48,720 --> 00:09:50,720

It was around like 2pm.

126

00:09:50,720 --> 00:09:58,720

I was with my sister, Elise, and I get a phone call from a police officer saying that she's

127

00:09:58,720 --> 00:10:00,720

calling about my father.

128

00:10:00,720 --> 00:10:03,720

And she said I need to speak to an adult.

129

00:10:03,720 --> 00:10:05,720

I was only 15.

130

00:10:05,720 --> 00:10:09,720

Elise was 20 years old at the time.

131

00:10:09,720 --> 00:10:13,720

So then I frantically went to go get Elise.

132

00:10:13,720 --> 00:10:17,720

I turned the volume of my phone up so I can hear the conversation.

133

00:10:17,720 --> 00:10:23,720

And Elise took the call and I heard the police officer on the phone say, your father is dead.

134

00:10:23,720 --> 00:10:32,720

And we need you to come to Motel 6 on Boulder Highway to come and identify the body.

135

00:10:32,720 --> 00:10:40,720

During the whole car ride there to the Motel 6, we were just crying uncontrollably.

136

00:10:40,720 --> 00:10:47,720

Elise was driving like 100 on the highway and we were trying to make it there as fast as we possibly can.

137

00:10:47,720 --> 00:10:58,720

When we pulled up to the front of the Motel, we both were approached by a police officer from Metro

138

00:10:58,720 --> 00:11:05,720

and invited into the Motel room to identify my father's body.

139

00:11:11,720 --> 00:11:18,720

This is the room that my father was found dead in.

140

00:11:18,720 --> 00:11:24,720

He was right here on the stretcher when we walked in the room.

141

00:11:24,720 --> 00:11:31,720

He was in a body bag and the bag was unzipped.

142

00:11:32,720 --> 00:11:42,720

That moment is so painful to remember and think about.

143

00:11:42,720 --> 00:11:46,720

They found him lying on the bed here.

144

00:11:46,720 --> 00:12:02,720

We were in a state of disbelief that our father was lying dead in front of us at a Motel.

145

00:12:03,720 --> 00:12:11,720

It's really difficult to see this room.

146

00:12:11,720 --> 00:12:21,720

It's the last place I saw him before the funeral and I gave him a hug the last time I touched him was in this room.

147

00:12:21,720 --> 00:12:28,720

And he was so cold and I just remember that the police actually had to tell me to let go

148

00:12:28,720 --> 00:12:32,720

because they needed to take his body away.

149

00:12:32,720 --> 00:12:38,720

I didn't want to let him go.

150

00:12:38,720 --> 00:12:48,720

The police, they didn't give us any information and details of how he was found or what happened to my father.

151

00:12:48,720 --> 00:13:01,720

The police handed my sister, Elise and I, an envelope with his car keys, his wallet, his cell phone and the receipt to the Motel.

152

00:13:01,720 --> 00:13:13,720

I immediately took out the phone and thought that I should look through the call log to see who the last person was that he had spoken to.

153

00:13:13,720 --> 00:13:23,720

There was a message so I went ahead and I listened to his voicemails to find out who had left that message.

154

00:13:23,720 --> 00:13:28,720

This person may be the last person that he spoke to.

155

00:13:28,720 --> 00:13:35,720

In her message she had said, hey Buffalo, this is Lisa, is everything okay?

156

00:13:35,720 --> 00:13:46,720

And she had said it with a tone of concern and so I called the number and the woman picked up and I said, are you Lisa?

157

00:13:46,720 --> 00:13:51,720

And she didn't reply. I said, do you know Buffalo Jim?

158

00:13:51,720 --> 00:13:56,720

And she goes, I don't know Buffalo Jim and she hung up.

159

00:13:56,720 --> 00:14:02,720

The woman that spoke on the voicemail was the same woman that answered my phone call.

160

00:14:02,720 --> 00:14:07,720

Why would she leave a voicemail voicing concern for my father?

161

00:14:07,720 --> 00:14:14,720

I was telling Elise, no she knows something. She knows something. She's lying. How could she not know her father?

162

00:14:14,720 --> 00:14:17,720

There's a lot of call logs here. She left a voicemail.

163

00:14:17,720 --> 00:14:34,720

I was in California on a vacation and I received a phone call from my sister Elise and she said, Jennifer, dad was found dead.

164

00:14:34,720 --> 00:14:41,720

I just signed off on the body. I was shocked. I just didn't know what to say.

165

00:14:47,720 --> 00:14:52,720

It was weird because Buffalo hadn't called me for a couple days.

166

00:14:52,720 --> 00:14:56,720

And then phone rings, it says Buffalo Jim.

167

00:14:56,720 --> 00:15:09,720

And when I picked it up, it was his daughter. She goes, Johnny, dad's gone.

168

00:15:09,720 --> 00:15:25,720

To go from that presence in your life all the time, it was different when everything just shut down. Boom, right there.

169

00:15:25,720 --> 00:15:33,720

On the morning of April 7th, 2008, I was assigned Mr. Bear's Autops.

170

00:15:33,720 --> 00:15:39,720

Anytime anybody is found dead in a hotel room, it's out of their normal environment.

171

00:15:39,720 --> 00:15:47,720

If you're going to be conservative, which I was, you would want to consider that a homicide until proven otherwise.

172

00:15:47,720 --> 00:15:52,720

Mr. Bear had no significant external trauma.

173

00:15:52,720 --> 00:15:57,720

He wasn't shot. He wasn't stabbed. He wasn't beaten. He wasn't strangled.

174

00:15:57,720 --> 00:16:02,720

He had a white powdery substance on his nose and on his beard.

175

00:16:02,720 --> 00:16:11,720

There was a number of drugs that I tested for. In addition to the standard drugs, the only positive was cocaine.

176

00:16:11,720 --> 00:16:20,720

The minimum lethal levels for cocaine is kind of in the 100 to 200 nanograms per milliliter range.

177

00:16:20,720 --> 00:16:25,720

Mr. Bear's blood level was right around 250.

178

00:16:25,720 --> 00:16:33,720

Mr. Bear had significant heart disease and his cause of death was a combination of the heart disease and the cocaine.

179

00:16:33,720 --> 00:16:40,720

I put his death between 7 and 9 p.m. on April 5th, 2008.

180

00:16:40,720 --> 00:16:51,720

Once we got the information back from a toxicology report, I was in so much shock and we couldn't believe it.

181

00:16:51,720 --> 00:17:03,720

Because I never saw him once use any drug or drink any alcohol or party.

182

00:17:03,720 --> 00:17:09,720

Buffalo loved to go out and have a great time.

183

00:17:09,720 --> 00:17:20,720

But he never did any drugs around me. I have this memory in my mind of Buffalo saying, I'm eating clean and I'm in the best shape of my life.

184

00:17:20,720 --> 00:17:27,720

My dad told me that in the 80s, he used to take some cocaine every once in a while.

185

00:17:27,720 --> 00:17:38,720

He was not proud of that, but in my entire 24 years of knowing my father, I've never seen him ever do any drugs of any kind.

186

00:17:38,720 --> 00:17:46,720

If it was true that he had cocaine in him and that he had done it himself, I would be shocked.

187

00:17:46,720 --> 00:17:52,720

That would have been completely uncharacteristic of the Buffalo that I knew.

188

00:17:52,720 --> 00:17:59,720

Because Buffalo had a cocaine problem in his early years and was proud of the fact that he had beaten it.

189

00:17:59,720 --> 00:18:08,720

When we went to identify his body, there was no evidence of cocaine in the motel room at all.

190

00:18:08,720 --> 00:18:13,720

Where did this cocaine come from and why wasn't it at the scene?

191

00:18:13,720 --> 00:18:21,720

The white powder substance that was found on his beard and on his mustache, we don't even know if it was really cocaine or not.

192

00:18:21,720 --> 00:18:26,720

They don't know if it was straight cocaine or they don't know if it was cut cocaine. They don't know what it was.

193

00:18:26,720 --> 00:18:28,720

All they said was it was white powder.

194

00:18:28,720 --> 00:18:35,720

Did anybody ever test the cocaine that was on his nose or on his shirt or on his beard to see what the level of it was? No.

195

00:18:35,720 --> 00:18:41,720

We were sitting around in the dining room table and my sister looked at me and said, Jennifer, he was set up.

196

00:18:41,720 --> 00:18:44,720

What are we going to do? Is anything going to be done?

197

00:18:44,720 --> 00:18:46,720

Something was not right.

198

00:18:46,720 --> 00:18:51,720

Foul play was involved.

199

00:18:51,720 --> 00:18:58,720

The night my dad died, we know he received a voice message from a woman named Lisa.

200

00:18:58,720 --> 00:19:06,720

And I told the police. I said, please look into this woman.

201

00:19:06,720 --> 00:19:16,720

The detectives at some point had tracked down a young lady who was in the room with Mr. Barrier on the night of his passing.

202

00:19:16,720 --> 00:19:24,720

And she had told them that she had had a long relationship with Mr. Barrier.

203

00:19:24,720 --> 00:19:35,720

She stated she called Mr. Barrier and put a friend on the phone, another male, who wanted to discuss selling him a motorcycle.

204

00:19:35,720 --> 00:19:47,720

According to her statement, she said that the reason why she called him was because she had a friend with her in town from Arizona and he needed money and wanted to sell the motorcycle.

205

00:19:47,720 --> 00:19:51,720

However, that person was never brought up ever again.

206

00:19:51,720 --> 00:19:57,720

My dad somehow left the house, decided to leave and go meet her.

207

00:19:57,720 --> 00:20:04,720

Lisa said she and Buffalo Jim, they agreed to meet at the gas station on Charleston Blower.

208

00:20:04,720 --> 00:20:11,720

And then they drove to the Motel 6 on Boulder Highway.

209

00:20:11,720 --> 00:20:23,720

The young lady said that Mr. Barrier parked the Rolls Royce around back of the Motel 6.

210

00:20:23,720 --> 00:20:37,720

At 8.22, Buffalo Jim is seen in the lobby of Motel 6 getting a key card for Room 105.

211

00:20:37,720 --> 00:20:48,720

And about 30 seconds later, Buffalo comes shuffling in front of the Motel office very slowly and

behind him is a short female in silhouette.

212

00:20:48,720 --> 00:20:56,720

And she's following him three or four steps behind. That was Lisa.

213

00:20:56,720 --> 00:21:07,720

Lisa says, once inside the Room 105, they were playing a sexual fantasy game.

214

00:21:07,720 --> 00:21:13,720

The young lady stated that Mr. Barrier was using a lot of cocaine and acting paranoid.

215

00:21:13,720 --> 00:21:17,720

She tried to calm him down by telling him he needs to drink some water.

216

00:21:17,720 --> 00:21:22,720

She says that Mr. Barrier lays down on the bed and he starts convulsing.

217

00:21:22,720 --> 00:21:31,720

He's clutching his chest with both hands, she says, a little like a mild seizure.

218

00:21:31,720 --> 00:21:41,720

She leaves Buffalo Jim in the Motel room.

219

00:21:41,720 --> 00:21:49,720

Lisa said she took a taxi back to the Chevron where she left her car.

220

00:21:49,720 --> 00:21:56,720

At 9.30, she leaves a message on Buffalo Jim's cell phone asking if he's okay.

221

00:21:56,720 --> 00:21:59,720

But he never answered her back.

222

00:21:59,720 --> 00:22:03,720

She mentioned that she had known him for years.

223

00:22:03,720 --> 00:22:13,720

So if you had known someone for many years, why wouldn't you call the police if they have a seizure?

224

00:22:13,720 --> 00:22:19,720

And also, I still wonder about the guy that she was with who wanted to sell the motorcycle.

225

00:22:19,720 --> 00:22:27,720

Where was this guy? He was never interviewed. Where is the motorcycle?

226

00:22:27,720 --> 00:22:32,720

Another thing, my father checks in at the Motel at 8.22 p.m.

227

00:22:32,720 --> 00:22:37,720

However, his room was accessed seven minutes before he got there by a guest room key.

228

00:22:37,720 --> 00:22:44,720

There was a keys swipe, meaning the room had been entered shortly prior to Buffalo going in.

229

00:22:44,720 --> 00:22:48,720

It was late in the evening, could it have been a maid?

230

00:22:48,720 --> 00:22:54,720

Highly unlikely. Maids usually work in the afternoon.

231

00:22:55,720 --> 00:23:02,720

Also on the key access report, it identifies which key is being used.

232

00:23:02,720 --> 00:23:08,720

Like if it's a manager's key, a housekeeping key, it said it was a guest key.

233

00:23:08,720 --> 00:23:13,720

That tells me that someone was in the room waiting for him to check in.

234

00:23:13,720 --> 00:23:20,720

We just are in shock that that wasn't really investigated or looked into as possible foul play.

235

00:23:20,720 --> 00:23:24,720

And that is alarming to us.

236

00:23:27,720 --> 00:23:34,720

When my father was found dead on the Motel 6 bed, he had a \$1 bill in his wallet folded.

237

00:23:34,720 --> 00:23:37,720

He never folded money in his wallet.

238

00:23:37,720 --> 00:23:40,720

My father was known to carry large amounts of cash.

239

00:23:40,720 --> 00:23:44,720

Why was my father left with a \$1 bill?

240

00:23:44,720 --> 00:23:48,720

I had heard that that's a very notorious mob hit sign.

241

00:23:48,720 --> 00:23:54,720

The message behind having a dollar left in his wallet was a message of, hey, we got you.

242

00:23:54,720 --> 00:23:58,720

Hey, this is a hit. Jokes on you.

243

00:23:58,720 --> 00:24:03,720

Barrier's longtime friend, former councilman Steve Miller, suspects foul play

244

00:24:03,720 --> 00:24:08,720

and says Barrier had received death threats in recent days.

245

00:24:09,720 --> 00:24:14,720

Before he died, there were numerous death threats my father had received.

246

00:24:14,720 --> 00:24:18,720

They came in various forms.

247

00:24:18,720 --> 00:24:25,720

The first time I noticed that my father was getting threat letters and threat calls

248

00:24:25,720 --> 00:24:35,720

was two years before he passed on. He'd get phone calls at his office from unknown numbers

249

00:24:35,720 --> 00:24:42,720

with a mail screaming in the phone, I'm going to kill you. I'm going to kill you.

250

00:24:45,720 --> 00:24:49,720

I used to tell him, dad, oh my gosh, you're getting threats. Are you worried?

251

00:24:49,720 --> 00:24:53,720

He's like, no, no, no, I'm just, you know, I just laughed it off.

252

00:24:53,720 --> 00:24:57,720

I just have to be careful. Watch my back.

253

00:24:57,720 --> 00:25:02,720

He said I will not back down and let anyone take anything away from me.

254

00:25:03,720 --> 00:25:07,720

The death threats that my father received were believed to come from the long-standing feud

255

00:25:07,720 --> 00:25:13,720

between a neighboring business, the crazy horse too, and my father.

256

00:25:13,720 --> 00:25:17,720

The crazy horse too was a gentleman's club.

257

00:25:18,720 --> 00:25:22,720

It was right next door to Buffalo's garage.

258

00:25:24,720 --> 00:25:29,720

And it was ultimately the most successful club the city could ever have imagined.

259

00:25:29,720 --> 00:25:33,720

It was owned by a man named Rick Rizzolo.

260

00:25:35,720 --> 00:25:39,720

Rick Rizzolo had a reputation around Las Vegas.

261

00:25:39,720 --> 00:25:44,720

He says not a nice person to folks that were adverse to him.

262

00:25:44,720 --> 00:25:49,720

There was some rumors of mob involvement with the crazy horse.

263

00:25:49,720 --> 00:25:53,720

Some of it had been substantiated. Yes.

264

00:25:54,720 --> 00:26:00,720

The feud started about maybe 1998 when Buffalo wouldn't relinquish his space

265

00:26:00,720 --> 00:26:04,720

for the expansion of the crazy horse too, and it's just got worse.

266

00:26:04,720 --> 00:26:09,720

They want to move me out, and I've got four children in the feed, and I don't think so.

267

00:26:10,720 --> 00:26:14,720

It was probably worth a million and a half to move him out of there correctly,

268

00:26:14,720 --> 00:26:19,720

but they were offering him zip. Buffalo says, why should I move?

269

00:26:19,720 --> 00:26:24,720

If you're not going to pay me, I'm staying, and that's when the problems arose from that moment

forward.

270

00:26:28,720 --> 00:26:32,720

He's got an auto marine store, and so like any other mechanic,

271

00:26:32,720 --> 00:26:35,720

people leave their car overnight.

272

00:26:38,720 --> 00:26:41,720

There was a lot of vandalism that occurred at the shop.

273

00:26:43,720 --> 00:26:47,720

My father would leave for the night. The next day he would come and, you know, show up at the shop,

274

00:26:47,720 --> 00:26:49,720

and cars were damaged.

275

00:26:52,720 --> 00:26:54,720

Tires were flattened.

276

00:26:55,720 --> 00:26:59,720

My father would lose business. It was an ongoing battle.

277

00:26:59,720 --> 00:27:03,720

My father had to come out of his pocket to repair any damages that had been done.

278

00:27:04,720 --> 00:27:09,720

Auto mechanic Jim Barrier says the topless club has brought nothing but trouble to the neighborhood.

279

00:27:10,720 --> 00:27:16,720

They put in phony fire lanes, used city parking enforcement to come by and take it only my customers.

280

00:27:19,720 --> 00:27:25,720

Over the years, the club had begun to really develop this reputation for violence.

281

00:27:26,720 --> 00:27:33,720

There was a lot of talk about bouncers were beating up some of the patrons.

282

00:27:33,720 --> 00:27:40,720

One of the alleged victims is this man, Kirk Henry, a Kansas tourist who said he had his neck broken

283

00:27:40,720 --> 00:27:44,720

after a night of lap dances and drinking at the crazy horse.

284

00:27:45,720 --> 00:27:51,720

There was a host of things that were alleged. A lot of them documented that were occurring in there.

285

00:27:51,720 --> 00:27:56,720

And they got to the point where now, Buffalo's got a tremendous amount of damage.

286

00:27:57,720 --> 00:28:01,720

And it was getting up there in the hundreds of thousands of dollars over time here.

287

00:28:02,720 --> 00:28:11,720

And so with all this lost income and the interference with his business and intentional infliction of emotional distress on Buffalo,

288

00:28:12,720 --> 00:28:18,720

I did file a lawsuit on Buffalo's behalf for a million dollars on this matter to try to get him some relief.

289

00:28:18,720 --> 00:28:27,720

While this lawsuit went forward, it came out that sometime about 1995,

290

00:28:27,720 --> 00:28:36,720

the feds had actually been taking a look at the crazy horse before Buffalo was even having his battle with them.

291

00:28:36,720 --> 00:28:52,720

I was assigned to work the organized crime program with the FBI.

292

00:28:56,720 --> 00:29:04,720

And back in the 80s and 90s and 2000s, the mafia was involved in running these various strip clubs around town.

293

00:29:06,720 --> 00:29:12,720

Strip clubs make more money per square foot than a casino.

294

00:29:15,720 --> 00:29:19,720

For the most part, it's cash. Nobody paid taxes on any of this money.

295

00:29:21,720 --> 00:29:32,720

One of the places in Las Vegas where you could find representation of every single mafia family in the United States was in the Crazy Horse 2.

296

00:29:32,720 --> 00:29:37,720

And Buffalo Jim's Auto Garage was next door.

297

00:29:41,720 --> 00:29:53,720

So we had an ongoing investigation because they at the club were involved in tax evasion, extortion, and various other types of illegal activities.

298

00:29:53,720 --> 00:29:58,720

Numerous employees of the Crazy Horse have come under FBI scrutiny.

299

00:29:58,720 --> 00:30:03,720

The club's owner, Rick Rizzolo, freely admits hiring people with criminal backgrounds,

300

00:30:03,720 --> 00:30:09,720

but he has denied engaging in any criminal wrongdoing at the club.

301

00:30:12,720 --> 00:30:20,720

During that time frame, Buffalo was supplying the FBI information about what was going on at the Crazy Horse.

302

00:30:20,720 --> 00:30:31,720

Buffalo Jim was sending us boxes of evidence, usually on a weekly basis for, I would say, approximately two years.

303

00:30:31,720 --> 00:30:38,720

He would write down what people told him and send it in to us. It was very helpful.

304

00:30:40,720 --> 00:30:48,720

On February 20th, 2003, we executed the search warrant on the Crazy Horse 2.

305

00:30:51,720 --> 00:30:58,720

We had two SWAT teams and like 80 or 100 agents.

306

00:30:59,720 --> 00:31:05,720

It's been a long time coming. There's been a lot of problems here since the day the Crazy Horse 2

moved in.

307

00:31:06,720 --> 00:31:10,720

After all these years, they're finally getting this guy.

308

00:31:11,720 --> 00:31:21,720

Sometime in about 2006, there was a plea deal reached where Rick Rizzolo would plea to income tax evasion.

309

00:31:21,720 --> 00:31:28,720

And then in early 2007, Rick Rizzolo was sentenced to a year and a day.

310

00:31:29,720 --> 00:31:38,720

My father felt relief that Rizzolo had gone to prison, knowing that Rizzolo had caused him and my family much turmoil.

311

00:31:38,720 --> 00:31:45,720

He always reassured me that everything would be okay and that I'd always be protected and that I would always be safe.

312

00:31:47,720 --> 00:32:00,720

Unfortunately, Rick Rizzolo only served 10 months for good behavior, so he got out in March of 2008 and went into house arrest.

313

00:32:01,720 --> 00:32:10,720

Days before Buffalo Jim's mysterious death in a motel room, his longtime nemesis, crooked club owner Rick Rizzolo was released from federal prison.

314

00:32:11,720 --> 00:32:17,720

Rick Rizzolo's house arrest only lasted a week until April 4th, 2008.

315

00:32:18,720 --> 00:32:21,720

Buffalo died on April 5th.

316

00:32:21,720 --> 00:32:26,720

You know, Rizzolo gets out of prison and Buffalo's dead.

317

00:32:26,720 --> 00:32:30,720

Next day, you know, what the F here?

318

00:32:30,720 --> 00:32:31,720

It sums up.

319

00:32:33,720 --> 00:32:35,720

I know they're really strange coincidences.

320

00:32:36,720 --> 00:32:44,720

I was told that Lisa, the woman in the motel room, she was the stripper and she worked at the Crazy Horse 2 and had for many years.

321

00:32:45,720 --> 00:32:48,720

If she worked at the Crazy Horse, she had to know Rick Rizzolo.

322

00:32:51,720 --> 00:32:56,720

And Buffalo ends up dead that night with Lisa in the motel.

323

00:32:58,720 --> 00:33:02,720

This leads me to believe she was part of the plan to set my father up.

324

00:33:04,720 --> 00:33:11,720

There was another thing that alarmed me and made me feel that something was not right.

325

00:33:14,720 --> 00:33:20,720

After we got the call from the police that our father was found dead, my sister and I drove around this entire building here.

326

00:33:21,720 --> 00:33:25,720

We were looking for our father's vehicle and we didn't see it anywhere.

327

00:33:26,720 --> 00:33:30,720

His Rolls Royce was his favorite prize possession.

328

00:33:32,720 --> 00:33:35,720

And so we asked the police officer, where's the car?

329

00:33:37,720 --> 00:33:41,720

And the police officer said, well, we don't know where the car is.

330

00:33:44,720 --> 00:33:46,720

You can see it's a very small parking lot.

331

00:33:46,720 --> 00:33:50,720

You can't miss a Rolls Royce anywhere in this parking lot.

332

00:33:50,720 --> 00:33:52,720

There's no hidden spots anywhere.

333

00:33:54,720 --> 00:33:55,720

Where is it?

334

00:33:58,720 --> 00:34:06,720

On April 6th of 2008, the day the body was found, police released room 105 back to Motel 6 management.

335

00:34:07,720 --> 00:34:17,720

Then at 5.30, Mr. Barrier's Rolls Royce is located in the parking lot of Motel 6 after officers previously could not find it.

336

00:34:19,720 --> 00:34:25,720

Elise received a call from a Sergeant at Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and they said the car is there.

337

00:34:26,720 --> 00:34:29,720

She's like, what do you mean the car is there? Wasn't there? Well, the car is there.

338

00:34:30,720 --> 00:34:40,720

There was so much confusion about it. The police have started a missing car report and then the car just shows up in a few hours.

339

00:34:41,720 --> 00:34:48,720

I don't know what happened to the vehicle. Maybe they, you know, didn't see it earlier in the day.

340

00:34:49,720 --> 00:34:52,720

Maybe somebody had access to the vehicle.

341

00:34:52,720 --> 00:34:59,720

Barrier's car was searched by Metro. That search did not turn up any suspicious evidence.

342

00:35:00,720 --> 00:35:05,720

No prints, no hairs, nothing. It's just very strange.

343

00:35:06,720 --> 00:35:13,720

There's quite a few things that just think maybe there should have been a deeper and harder look at this.

344

00:35:13,720 --> 00:35:26,720

Something else that is a huge inconsistency in the case is that there are two phones that are listed on the police report and they were not my father's phone.

345

00:35:27,720 --> 00:35:33,720

This was my father's phone. This phone is not listed on the police report at all.

346

00:35:34,720 --> 00:35:38,720

There's a phone that's shown. It's a silver phone.

347

00:35:38,720 --> 00:35:47,720

They haven't listed on the report, but we never received it, nor do we know our dad even having this phone. So whose phone is this?

348

00:35:48,720 --> 00:35:50,720

And why was it in his room?

349

00:35:51,720 --> 00:36:03,720

And this is the front entrance to the infamous Crazy Horse 2 nightclub. Jim Barrier's relatives are convinced that the former club owner here may have somehow played a role in what happened to Barrier.

350

00:36:04,720 --> 00:36:11,720

I talked to my father that Thursday before he passed away and he goes, Rick Rizzlow just got out of prison.

351

00:36:12,720 --> 00:36:22,720

My father told me that if they were to get him, specifically the Crazy Horse 2 people, they would make it look like I died of a drug overdose with women.

352

00:36:23,720 --> 00:36:25,720

That was my last conversation with my father.

353

00:36:28,720 --> 00:36:31,720

And also my father received a letter the day he died.

354

00:36:32,720 --> 00:36:39,720

And it says, Mr. Barrier, meetings have been taken place at various locations around town by Rick Rizzlow.

355

00:36:40,720 --> 00:36:48,720

Be careful he's up to no good. He's using people to get close to you. He discussed using a female to get access to your business.

356

00:36:49,720 --> 00:36:58,720

Over the weekend, the body of the 55-year-old Barrier was found in a motel room on the Boulder Highway. Metro says there will be no formal investigation.

357

00:36:58,720 --> 00:37:02,720

You're always supposed to look at any possible suspects.

358

00:37:05,720 --> 00:37:17,720

If it is true that he had anonymous threats and that there were a number of negative things done to his business and then they wind up dead, there's enough there to investigate.

359

00:37:18,720 --> 00:37:24,720

When Buffalo died, the lawsuit against Rick Rizzlow died with him.

360

00:37:25,720 --> 00:37:32,720

You just can't lose your star witness and, you know, the case was strong with him alive. With him not alive, it wasn't a very strong case.

361

00:37:34,720 --> 00:37:40,720

My father made enemies with some very powerful people and I do believe he was murdered for that.

362

00:37:40,720 --> 00:37:53,720

My theory would be that they got him into a vulnerable situation. Maybe they forced cocaine into him.

363

00:37:54,720 --> 00:38:00,720

In Mr. Barrier's case, there's no doubt that there could be something in his system that we didn't detect.

364

00:38:01,720 --> 00:38:19,720

The possibilities would be that somehow he was either forced in some way to take cocaine at a level that he was not used to or he was tricked, you know, because definitely cocaine can come in different concentrations when you buy it on the street.

365

00:38:20,720 --> 00:38:22,720

You don't exactly know how strong it is.

366

00:38:23,720 --> 00:38:26,720

I think my father did get lured out by that woman, Lisa.

367

00:38:27,720 --> 00:38:32,720

We don't know what really happened. What was that trajectory and how he ended up at the motel? We don't know.

368

00:38:33,720 --> 00:38:36,720

It was an investigative property for us to be able to tell.

369

00:38:39,720 --> 00:38:46,720

So many people tell me that as a get out of jail gift, somebody's decided to get rid of Buffalo.

370

00:38:47,720 --> 00:38:53,720

That would have been the biggest favor anybody could have done for Rick Rizzlow. Who knows if it happened.

371

00:38:53,720 --> 00:39:05,720

The whole thing has got a bad smell to it. He died under highly, highly suspicious circumstances. This needs to be looked at as a murder.

372

00:39:08,720 --> 00:39:18,720

I think that timing is very suspicious. I don't know if Buffalo Jim ingested that cocaine willingly or not.

373

00:39:19,720 --> 00:39:24,720

But I am left with more questions than answers.

374

00:39:38,720 --> 00:39:45,720

In September of 2006, the crazy horse finally closed after its liquor license was revoked.

375

00:39:46,720 --> 00:39:52,720

And by August of 2019, the building had fallen into a state of very serious disrepair.

376

00:39:53,720 --> 00:39:56,720

It had been broken into by vagrants and it was finally condemned.

377

00:40:00,720 --> 00:40:07,720

After Buffalo's death, Jennifer Barrier took it upon herself to run Buffalo shop.

378

00:40:08,720 --> 00:40:12,720

You know, to finish those ongoing projects, those vehicles.

379

00:40:12,720 --> 00:40:17,720

Then the auto shop closed eventually.

380

00:40:21,720 --> 00:40:25,720

Here in Las Vegas, we lost our most colorful character.

381

00:40:26,720 --> 00:40:32,720

It's just a big lug that everybody loved and funny.

382

00:40:33,720 --> 00:40:38,720

And it just made a hole in our city when he died that we'll never be able to fill.

383

00:40:42,720 --> 00:40:45,720

Hi, baby Bob.

384

00:40:46,720 --> 00:40:52,720

Buffalo had a way about him. When he was there, people followed him.

385

00:40:53,720 --> 00:40:57,720

He loved to be Buffalo Jim and that made him happy.

386

00:40:58,720 --> 00:41:00,720

I miss him a lot.

387

00:41:02,720 --> 00:41:09,720

I hope his daughters know that they meant so much to him and he would be very proud of them.

388

00:41:09,720 --> 00:41:12,720

He really loved the girls.

389

00:41:17,720 --> 00:41:23,720

The past 13 years has been very difficult.

390

00:41:24,720 --> 00:41:28,720

I lost my best friend, I lost my father.

391

00:41:29,720 --> 00:41:32,720

I felt alone for many years after he passed.

392

00:41:32,720 --> 00:41:36,720

In 1999, my father and I drove up to Mount Charleston.

393

00:41:37,720 --> 00:41:39,720

It's a place we went up to every couple of months.

394

00:41:40,720 --> 00:41:43,720

And we were sitting at the lodge drinking hot chocolate together.

395

00:41:44,720 --> 00:41:48,720

And my father said to me, if anything were to ever happen to me, would you stand up?

396

00:41:49,720 --> 00:41:53,720

And I said, yeah, yeah, but what does that mean?

397

00:41:53,720 --> 00:41:56,720

I now know what that meant.

398

00:41:57,720 --> 00:42:01,720

There are people out there that know the truth.

399

00:42:02,720 --> 00:42:05,720

I hope they come forward and talk to us.

400

00:42:06,720 --> 00:42:10,720

We just want to know what happened to our father.

401

00:43:02,720 --> 00:43:04,720

I'm sorry.

402

00:43:05,720 --> 00:43:07,720

I'm sorry.

403

00:43:08,720 --> 00:43:10,720

I'm sorry.

404

00:43:11,720 --> 00:43:13,720

I'm sorry.

405

00:43:14,720 --> 00:43:16,720

I'm sorry.

406

00:43:17,720 --> 00:43:19,720

I'm sorry.

407

00:43:20,720 --> 00:43:22,720

I'm sorry.

408

00:43:23,720 --> 00:43:25,720

I'm sorry.

409

00:43:26,720 --> 00:43:28,720

I'm sorry.

410

00:43:29,720 --> 00:43:31,720

I'm sorry.

411

00:43:32,720 --> 00:43:34,720

I'm sorry.

412

00:44:02,720 --> 00:44:04,720

I'm sorry.