

Casey and Sandy Parson's Interview with Salisbury Post
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August 9, 2013 (PART 3)



Casey Parsons: To me, she wasn't missing.

Reporter: Almost two years, and you said- phone number disconnected, didn't have an address. You looked on Facebook. I guess, how intense was the effort to figure out where she was, who she's with, and how she's doing?

Casey Parsons: But, see though, I met Nan several times and talked to her. Nan is a wonderful lady. I had no reason not to trust Nan and I knew Erica wanted to stay there and did not want to come back here. So, I was not going to sit there and try to force Erica back when she was doing just fine and having fun and being with her grandmother. I just- there was no reason for me- I had no reason to doubt there was anything going on with Erica.

Reporter: How were you handling school and checking up with her, make sure she was-

Casey Parsons: She was home schooled, and we-

Reporter: - meeting the state requirements for homeschooling?

Casey Parsons: Well, the lady up there said she had her- the next door neighbor was a teacher and a tutor and that she was getting her- she was getting tutored with her because Erica has a huge learning disability. She's very- she's- if you would say equivalent to grade levels, she's probably three levels behind. And, she went to public school here until it was- it would get embarrassing for her because all the groups that she was with- they actually wouldn't even call her at a grade level. She would have to go to another room by herself with

other kids that was way younger than her. And, it would get very embarrassing and she did not like that. So, we home schooled her. And, Nan knew all about the home school. She knew about all of her little tests and workbooks and everything that we worked with and she said that there was a teacher next door that would help her with this. And, that she would put her back into public school. Now, I don't know if she did that.

Reporter: Then, the missing persons report is filed by James. I'll ask a question about him in a minute. But, then a couple days- so, the poster comes out, the news release comes out, the story comes out- and then, the Sheriff's office says, "The parents did provide some information and possible leads as to the location of Erica Parsons (advising that she may be in the Asheville, NC area with relatives), but after following up on this information, Sheriff's Investigators have determined that the information the parents provided was not true." They say, "Sheriff's Office Investigators have followed up on information on possible locations of Erica Parsons across the State of NC, but so far, none of the information provided by Casey & Sandy Parsons have been found to be factual." And to that, you say- what?

Casey Parsons: They're lying. And he warned us that he would say stuff like that when we got our lawyer. They proved there was the other lady there, Strawberry. And, we also got told, um, Billy Goodman's mother is from Asheville and she resided in Mooresville. And, I don't know, I don't remember what they said her name was. And, the Strawberry lady has lived everywhere including also Mooresville. This is all comes from the detective. And, there is a Kelly and she does have kids. Just like the phone call with Billy at the police station when they called, he denied ever even having Erica as a kid- he never had a kid, he said. And he has three kids. We told them all everything so why they're saying that the factual thing- there was a Strawberry. That lady Strawberry, and a Kelly. I have no idea, because they know exactly who them people are. They've talked to them.

Reporter: Why would they lie? In your-

Casey Parsons: I have no idea.

Reporter: - I mean, you're saying that they are lying, so- why?

Casey Parsons: There's a Strawberry and there's a Kelly. They've talked to them. I do not know.

Reporter: So, who are you saying is lying- is it investigators or the people they're talking to?

Casey Parsons: The detectives are. The one- I've only talked to one detective. Detective Malden. I haven't talked to anybody else. There was a police officer in the room on the second day, I don't even know what his name was.

Reporter: Do you feel the information that you were given from Nan and some of those other folks was incorrect?

Casey Parsons: Honestly, I do not. I really believe there is Nan and Irene, and I know there's the Strawberry and Kelly. I- no, I don't. I really believe them.

Reporter: So, you don't think they could have given you fake names or-

Casey Parsons: No.

Reporter: Led you to believe one thing over the other?

Casey Parsons: No. I don't.

Reporter: Where do you think Erica is now?

Casey Parsons: I honestly believe she's still in Asheville with Nan. I really do. They said Strawberry is in Carolina Beach. I don't know if they've moved down there or what but when Erica went in September and November, she told us of the Biltmore house, the big house. So, I know she's seen it, I've never took her to seen it. And, she rode horses in the mountains and she talked of that even about to my other kids and everything.

Reporter: And, again, just to clarify- you said this Janice Jackson might also be the same person as Strawberry?

Casey Parsons: As Strawberry.

Reporter: And that is Erica's biological father-

Casey Parsons: Yeah.

Reporter: - that you claim denies that he has kids?

Casey Parsons: Yeah. He said that over the phone.

Reporter: What's his name?

Casey Parsons: Billy Goodman, wasn't it? I know it's Goodman. Was it Billy?

Sandy Parsons: I think it was Billy Goodman.

Casey Parsons: I think they said Billy Dean Goodman, is what the detective said.

Reporter: Okay. What school did she go to here?

Casey Parsons: She went to Bastian Elementary in Rockwell, and then she also went to Mount Pleasant in Concord. Well, Mount Pleasant. It was the Cabarrus County school systems.

Reporter: How was her relationship at home? How was it here with you guys and the kids?

Casey Parsons: It was good. It was good. And, she had a very special bond to the little ones. She was their bigger sister and she was here when they was born. She loved it.

Reporter: So, why did she want to stay with Irene instead of coming back here?

Casey Parsons: She loved her grandma.

Reporter: So it wasn't-

Casey Parsons: She just did.

Reporter: - that she was unhappy here, so much that she wanted to be happy with her grandmother?

Casey Parsons: They gave her more stuff than we could, material wise. 'Cause, even here when she would come back in September and November, it would- if we didn't give her the clothes and stuff that she wanted, she would be like, "I'mma call Nan. They'll get it for me."

Parsons Attorney: You have to understand at this time, this household was in turmoil over James- he had assaulted her in August of 2011. He had been arrested and spent 20-some days in jail, uh- been released. He had- what- psychological problems?

Casey Parsons: Yes, he did.

Parsons Attorney: He had to be committed at one point?

Casey Parsons: Presbyterian Hospital, yeah.

Parsons Attorney: Okay. And he- uh, you were sick, you had had- I think, part of the warrant had said that you had actually- that he had pulled your-

Casey Parsons: G-tube, and-

Parsons Attorney: G-tube out, your bag out- your colon bag out-

Casey Parsons: Yeah. Yeah.

Parsons Attorney: And, at that time he was going- you were ill. He was going through legal situations. And it was- it wasn't- it'd be easy to believe a child could have an idyllic setting somewhere else that they'd rather be in.

Casey Parsons: Yes. And, here- when she lived here in the last few months that she did, it was him going to work, me at the hospital. Nobody really here but older- Jamie, was my older son and my oldest son had already left and got married at that point. He did not live here, and he was fixing to go into the army. And, my hospital visits weren't a two or three night stay, we're talking two and three weeks, maybe four weeks. So, she would be here with James a lot. We call him Jamie. Then, I would come home. And, during that period I was here maybe a week sometimes before I'd go right back in the hospital, and then Jamie was doing a lot. There was a lot of stress here in the last months. When she went there, like I said, she would come back a day or two and want to go right back. She'd be willing to call her- it'd be like, "I want to go ride the horses. Let me just go this weekend." And I, "No, no." She was ready to go right back. And, that's-

Reporter: And you said- James was committed to Presbyterian?

Casey Parsons: Yes, he was- he did. He had bipolar and he would- he would be suicidal one minute and then maybe even an hour later real hyper, talkative, couldn't get him to be quiet and you'd think he was okay and then the next minute you'd have to go watch him and look for where he's at 'cause he'd get suicidal again. Real mean. He had a lot of anger. Lot of anger.

Reporter: Do you, um- the warrants say assaulting a three year old. Biting an arm. It also said threatening the same child when he was then five. Assault on a female, yourself-

Casey Parsons: And my daughter.

Reporter: -one of the sisters in some sort of threatening manner. Do you believe, if Erica was home a lot with him, and there is no court record that we know of that says he assaulted her- but, do you think something was going on, maybe he allegedly assaulted her? Did she ever tell you?

Casey Parsons: She would just tell me he hollered at her a lot and stuff. She's never really said anything about him assaulting her. Um, Jamie did every one of us like that. We was all a little bit scared of Jamie. Just even after yesterday they put his mugshot up on TV. We was all worried about whether he was going to come last night and show up. That's just him. We've all feared Jamie.

Reporter: Was he asked to leave?

Casey Parsons: We had to call the cops. On June the 7th was the last day that Jamie was in this house. I think it was June the 7th.

Reporter: Why was he kicked out?

Casey Parsons: He beat me until I was unconscious that day. And, he had slammed my eight year old into that door right over there.

NOTE: Thank to “askfornina” on Websleuths for transcribing this, Part 3 Interview.