



EPISODE 31: Drug Smuggling And Operation Jackpot - What Happened to the Money? Part 2

Mandy Matney 00:03

I don't know what happened to the millions of dollars Alex allegedly stole from his clients or why he stole the money in the first place. But a team of us at FITSnews.com have uncovered a series of connections tying Alex Murdaugh to an alleged drug smuggler. And while we're proceeding down this road with caution, we believe it's very important to this case. My name is Manny Matney. I've been investigating the Murdaugh family for almost three years now. This is the Murdaugh murders podcast with David Moses and Liz feral. Now that Alex is accused of stealing at least \$8.4 million from over a dozen clients in a decade. Some of the biggest questions in this case are about all of this money. Why was he stealing so much when he was already making plenty as an attorney? Where was all this money really going? Where is it? Now? What was Alex into all of these years and just how bad was it? We need to go back in time to start the process of unpacking the answers. To understand Alex Murdaugh's ties to drug trafficking. We need to look at a man who was a good friend of the family, a man named Barrett T Bowler. And just to clear the air, Bowler is spelt like bowl where but from what the locals tell me it is apparently pronounced Bowler, at least with the older generations, like the Murdaugh name and Alex name. I don't make these rules up about pronunciation but when several locals tell me how a name is pronounced, I believe them and I go with it. Now my boss will and I started looking into the Bowlers back in June, we both were getting a slew of tips that told us the same thing you need to start digging into Barrett bowl where the dude who Alex bought Moselle from in his connections to drug trafficking, these tipsters would say something like, I don't know how it's connected, but it's definitely a piece of this puzzle. So back in September, things started to really spiral in this case, there was news breaking almost every day about Alex alleged thievery, the Gloria Satterfield case and Alex alleged suicide gone wrong debacle, my boss will folks and I divvied up these subjects in the best way we could at FITSnews.com. And we'll end up taking the drug angles of the story. And just for background, we'll start at FITSnews in 2007 as a political blog and was immediately deemed the bad boy of South Carolina journalism for his unflinching takes since 2013. His one man publication has grown steadily and both readership and relevance across the state of South Carolina earning its place among legacy publications, Will's mission as a publisher and a journalist in our mission at FITSnews.com is to lead an honest, intelligent and compelling conversation on the individuals institutions and ideas we cover seeking the truth wherever it leads, so I thought it would be best to bring wil on the show to explain his reporting and all that he has uncovered in the Murdaugh's connections to the Bowlers, well, they

Will Folks 03:25



EPISODE 31: Drug Smuggling And Operation Jackpot - What Happened to the Money? Part 2

go back away, the Bowlers and again, all these southern names it's funny trying to get them right. Always call the hand and people say how do you say this? How do you guys say this down there and so whatever they say back is what I ended up calling them so the Bowlers the Bowlers, it is but spelled like bull where it looks like bull where I think most people would spell it that way. But obviously Barrett T bull where he's a guy who died in September of 2018, a commercial fisherman, he was very close to Alex Murdaugh, they were business partners, they owned properties together. Alex was his lawyer. And, in fact, when Bohr was dying, in 2018, he signed over his power of attorney to Alex and it was one of the more exhaustive, expansive, empowering powers of attorney I've ever seen. I mean, literally just signed his life over everything he owned to Alex right before he died, so they go, they go way back, but his father who actually died six years earlier back in 2012, was tight with Alex dad, with Randolph Murdaugh, the third so the families go back.

Mandy Matney 04:32

So who are the Bowlers? There are three things to know about Barrett T. Bowler, Barrett T. Bowler was an alleged drug smuggler charge and operation jackpot in the 1980s which we will explain in this podcast. He was the former owner of the now infamous Moselle property and he was Alex Murdaugh's business partner. Also important to note he died in 2018. Shortly after being diagnosed with cancer, the Murdaughs and the Bowler's connections stretch back to the World War Two era when Randolph Murdaugh Jr. AKA the original busta, Murdaugh tried a few cases with Barrett bull grandfather. I should also say here Alex Murdaugh is definitely not the first Murdaugh to be accused of a crime.

Liz Farrell 05:20

What I'm about to tell you is a little bit of history taken from news reports at the time. As you'll see the names are not the only generationally repetitive thing here. So are the shenanigans after a five year federal investigation in the 1950s that centered on the hellhole swamp area of Berkeley and call it in counties, which was the location of major illicit liquor activities. During Prohibition, Buster Murdaugh was one of 30 people, including a couple of magistrates, a sheriff constable and at least one sheriff's deputy who were indicted as being part of a criminal network of moonshiners. Buster, who people here say was mean as the snake was accused of obstructing a college and county grand jury investigation into moonshiners. He was also accused of selling a Hampton county moonshine or to move his distillery to Collin County to avoid law enforcement. See in college and county Buster was apparently helping to keep low country moonshiners in business by instructing the sheriff there at the time, who was also indicted to make quote unquote friendly raids, unknown violators of Internal Revenue laws. These moonshiners would get a warning that one of the friendly rates was coming and they would be assured that quote unquote friendly prosecution would follow if the moonshiners said that they paid for this protection. Basically, Buster was accused of creating a scenario in which he and others in law enforcement would look like they were



EPISODE 31: Drug Smuggling And Operation Jackpot - What Happened to the Money? Part 2

handling the problems with the illegal liquor and the honky tonks while also secretly profiting off of them. It was also around this time that the South Carolina legislature passed a new law that allowed the governor to suspend or remove state and local officials from office if they were indicted. After the indictments. The governor at the time suspended the college and county sheriff, a guy named Haskell Thompson but Buster was allowed to stay in office. It wasn't until after high school suspension was upheld by the state Supreme Court shortly before the trial was due to start in September 1956 That Buster resigned to solicitor this wasn't a huge sacrifice for him though, because 1956 was an election year Busters name remained on the ballot for November, and no one was running against him obviously. So all he had to do was somehow survive the trial, and he'd be back in office, which is exactly what happened in August 1956. One month before the trial Buster had tried to get the charges against him dropped. Ironically, he accused the federal government of promising light sentences to his co defendants to induce testimony against him. He referred to the charges against him as merely a surplus image, which is a word I had to look up. It means excessive or non essential, and I'm very surprised that carpetland hasn't found a way to use it yet. So by this time, some of the 30 co defendants had pleaded guilty had their charges dismissed or in one instance went missing. So Buster was one of 20 guys who would face trial together. He asked for a separate trial because of what he called the danger of guilt by transference. He didn't want their stink to get on him. The federal judge did not grant him those motions. So Buster went to Charleston and stood trial. The trial took two weeks and two days; they were in session on Saturdays and at night. The trial featured testimony from a witness who said he paid money to be able to carry a constables badge which they wanted so they could hijack a distillery for their own use. The jury also heard from witnesses who said that after they'd get busted, they would pay hundreds of dollars to law enforcement officers and to magistrates to avoid jail. One of the witnesses was a defendant in the Collin County case that Buster was accused of obstructing; he went to prison in 1951 to allegedly quote unquote, protect Murdaugh. reporters at the time noted the seething sarcasm coming from the defense on cross examination. And they wrote about how Murdaugh's attorneys mocked the witnesses by saying they could have written better indictments against them than the government had written about their client somehow. And I'll tell you how, in a second, the jury found everyone except Murdaugh guilty. His co defendants were sentenced to a federal prison in Tallahassee, Florida, former Sheriff Haskell Thompson got the longest sentence of seven years when the jury acquitted Murdaugh, a reporter noted that an unidentified man ran from the courtroom to tell Mrs. Murdaugh the news. In response she wept after reading the verdicts. The judge who is from Norfolk, Virginia decided to offer his opinion that no solicitor or assistant solicitor or anyone in the solicitor's office should be allowed to represent any party in any court in a matter arising from a criminal case the law permitting this should be changed. He also said that, quote, the practice of having special sheriff's deputies without compensation leads to corruption. I should pause to fast forward and remind you that for many years and until a few months ago, Alex Murdaugh was an unpaid badge carrying member of 14th circuit solicitor



EPISODE 31: Drug Smuggling And Operation Jackpot - What Happened to the Money? Part 2

Duffy Stone's office back to 1956. So about a week after all, Gladys Murdaugh had her celebratory cry in the federal courthouse, someone got arrested and someone's name was Alex G. Murdaugh of Orangeburg, South Carolina. Alex G was charged with tampering with a jury that had just acquitted his first cousin Buster. Shortly before the trial began a man named Alfred R. Goodwin of Florence South Carolina said he had received a call from Alex G. Who said he wanted to meet up with him. The two met at a restaurant where Alex G told Goodwin that Bluster was only charged because of political reasons. Turns out Goodwin was about to become the foreman of the jury that acquitted Buster Alex G was indicted by a federal grand jury and charged with attempting to influence a juror and Buster was re-elected for yet another term.

Mandy Matney 10:37

And we'll be right back. So at the end of Busters 40 year reign as Solicitor Barrett T Bowler had his first of at least three run ins with law enforcement in all of the records that will and our researcher Jen would have found while looking at the bolar family, the first incident showing their alleged involvement with drug trafficking occurred on January 24 1980, off of the St. Helena sound, for those of you unfamiliar with the South Carolina low country, the St. Helena sound is north of Hilton an island and south of Charleston. It's about an hour and 15 minutes southeast of the Moselle property

Will Folks 11:16

happened on January the 24th 1980. This was again very early in the relationship between these families. A US Coast Guard Cutter called Cape Knox was actually patrolling the St. Elena sound off the coast of South Carolina that evening. And again, this is according to reports filed at the time. According to the Associated Press, this Coast Guard Cutter spotted a pair of 65 foot fishing boats, one called the Miss Cathy and the other called the Waterworld. This was during what they termed a routine patrol with the sound Oh one of the boats was apparently in distress was taking on water was sinking and when the when the Coast Guard boat pulled up, they come up to Bullbars boat or boars boat, the Waterworld, and they find 11 undocumented, if you will, Minh, who were alleged to have been from Miami, basically, they were on his boat because the original boat that they were on, allegedly sank. That boat was called the island city. And so at the time, you get this coast guard warrant officer who filed a report who said it was unclear what caused the sinking and that the ownership of the vessel that sank had not been immediately established. But the Waterworld the boat that these men were discovered on belongs to Bowler. And so one of the other boats. It's interesting, the Coast Guard had been tied to some drug enforcement agency actions. And so you know, everyone just assumed Okay, well they came up on these boats that they saw the Coast Guard come in and so they put all the product on one boat and sank it. That was generally what most people thought happened. And so what was interesting was that none of these 11 men on board the Waterworld, that no one was arrested. Nobody was questioned as far as we



EPISODE 31: Drug Smuggling And Operation Jackpot - What Happened to the Money? Part 2

know, these guys were just sitting back in Miami. You know what everybody just went? What about their business? But you know, it's kind of odd, you know, you say Okay, so you've got Barrett Bowlers boat out there. You got two other boats, one of them has been tied to smuggling in the past. One of them sinks. As soon as the Coast Guard boat comes up, it's like, yeah, okay, start putting these things together. It's like, you know, what, are they up to out there? I mean, do we really have to speculate too hard about what was going on out there, but, but again, they questioned all these men, but no one was arrested. And again, as far as I can tell, everybody just got sent back to where they came from.

Mandy Matney 13:38

This makes me wonder if there was possibly some interference from someone powerful and influential, who could have intervened with the Coast Guard's investigation and allowed Bowler to escape charges. The operator of the other boat, by the way, was caught six years later, during a drug bust called Operation cancer in Florida.

Will Folks 13:57

I wanted to mention that one of the boats that was involved in that was later implicated in a separate incident. So again, we go back to that 1980 incident. What were they doing out there? Well, I think we all know what they were doing out there.

Liz Farrell 14:12

When you talk about drug smuggling in the 1980s in South Carolina, you'll hear the term operation jackpot mentioned often at the beginning of Reagan's war on drugs. A 33 year old US attorney named Henry McMaster led one of the first federal drug task forces using new federal civil forfeiture laws to combat drug smugglers by seizing assets like homes, cars, money and boats in his critically acclaimed nonfiction deep dive into the gentleman smugglers of the 1970s and 80s. Jason Ryan describes, quote, a cadre of freewheeling southern pot smugglers who lived at the crossroads of Miami Vice and a Jimmy Buffett song the inner agency operation included agents from the Internal Revenue Service, US Customs, FBI and the DEA while smugglers and kingpins evaded arrest for you Here's the subsequent man hands across the world concluded with captures in Antigua, Australia, Miami, New York and San Diego. The surviving gentleman smugglers still gather occasionally at an event they call the felons ball.

Will Folks 15:12

Operation jackpot really cranked up in the, you know, after Ronald Reagan was Elected and took office in January of 1981. That's when these seizure operations really started ramping up. And again, it was more than just seizure operations during the jackpot, because one of the things about jackpot that was interesting is that it gave the federal law enforcement agencies and their partners expanded access to go after the property and holdings of anyone that they



EPISODE 31: Drug Smuggling And Operation Jackpot - What Happened to the Money? Part 2

connected to these various operations. And so what you had was all of a sudden, instead of just stopping at the specific drug conspiracy, or alleged conspiracy, what they could do was go into other properties owned by the people that were involved in these operations and start investigating them and seeing what turned up there. And so it represented a major expansion in the war on drugs. And at the very tip of that spear in South Carolina was the current governor at the time, he was the US Attorney Henry McMaster. And so he played a starring role in this new operation, which again, was focused on a lot of the alleged offshore drug traffic off the coast of South Carolina.

Mandy Matney 16:25

So Why was South Carolina the perfect place for smuggling drugs? One of the most attractive things about South Carolina at the time was the coast was largely undeveloped, unlike Florida, and it features hundreds of tiny barrier islands that are perfect hiding spots to hang out until the coast is clear. And there's also a lot of places to stash illicit goods. South Carolina Law Enforcement was not only ill equipped to handle any extensive patrol as a coast, some, as you learned earlier, were easily paid to look the other way.

Will Folks 17:00

It's a part of the coast where there's not a lot of development. It's a part of the coast, there's not a lot of light. It's a part of the coast where there's a lot of easy access from the water to roads. And I think that's one of the things that as this conversation continues, we'll probably get into that when we start looking at some of these properties that Alex Murdaugh and Barrett Bowler are connected to. But yeah, it's just the perfect place to move product to get it quickly off boats on the vehicles and then up the interstate and to your distribution networks.

Mandy Matney 17:30

So that brings us to February of 1983 when Barrett tableware and his father were first hit with federal charges related to drug smuggling. According to an article in the Tallahassee Democrat US Customs see 17 tonnes of weed and \$33,000 from Bowlers shrimping boats.

Will Folks 17:49

Yeah, this incident in February of 1983, we start to see okay, this isn't just speculation, you know, after the 1980 incident, you could obviously make a case Oh, well, maybe they were really fishing maybe they were doing this but we get to 1983 and in this incident, you got another US Coast Guard Cutter called the U encounters a boat called the Janine n which is another shrimping boat that was owned by Bowler and they found on that boat a total of 854 bales of marijuana. Now authorities let this boat Janina and they allowed it to proceed to its destination which was Beaufort, South Carolina again right near the St Elena sound once the



EPISODE 31: Drug Smuggling And Operation Jackpot - What Happened to the Money? Part 2

boat got there. Obviously numerous arrests were made and Bowler was arrested. His father was arrested and both of them were facing charges in connection with that incident in February of 1983. So again, we're not speculating anymore there were warrants actually issued for their arrest based on probable cause based on alleged smuggling activity at this point,

Mandy Matney 18:51

but something extremely suspicious happened to the captain of Bowlers bow who was the star witness in the case against the Bowlers.

Will Folks 8:59

The case against the Bowlers is proceeding and there's a star witness His name is Franklin see branch and again those of us who follow the the Murdaugh lore who had been working, you know, at exposing this family this is connections, you know, this guy's name has become sort of iconic, you know, we all talk about getting branched, you know if we expose too much or find out too much, this is a guy who was scheduled to testify against both the Bowlers father and son, but in April of 1983, according to the Tallahassee Democrat, Scott is on his way to a bar and St. Joe beach, and he quote, walked into the path of an oncoming vehicle. And to the credit of the local paper down there in Florida. They did say, hey, this wasn't you know, this, this didn't happen in a vacuum. This guy was one of nine people who was arrested back in February in a marijuana seizure and that he was scheduled to testify in a drug trial. So again, to discredit the Tallahassee Democrat did provide some of that context that's so often missing in mainstream media. coverage today, but they did talk about it. And they did reference that but you know, bottom line with branch dead, and without his testimony, the Feds had to abandon the case that they were pursuing against the Bowlers. And in fact, in June of 1983, the federal government dropped all charges against both boilers. These were all federal charges.

Mandy Matney 20:22

This is one of those stories that's really jaw dropping when you think about it. And it's amazing that the Tallahassee Democrat picked up on this at a time when you couldn't just Google a name, it makes me think that the reporter was given a tip that something more was going on here. What a coincidence that the guy who was apparently essential to the case against the Bowlers, was killed in what seems like a strange incident, as he's about to testify in a major drug smuggling case,

Will Folks 20:50

hit by an oncoming vehicle. The initial reports don't lead to any questions about whether or not that's suspicious. Again, this is 1983. It's an era where you could kind of run people over and disappear without there being a lot of quite the same level of digital surveillance. And



EPISODE 31: Drug Smuggling And Operation Jackpot - What Happened to the Money? Part 2

you know, we didn't have cameras on every street corner, then we didn't have GPS in cars back then we didn't have cell phones tracking people from this tower to that tower. We didn't have all the same information about who people were when you actually had someone either in custody or being questioned. So again, it was just a different era. And again, I'm not necessarily saying that this was foul play, or that branch was murdered, but again, a month or two before he's supposed to testify in court on some major charges to people who are part of a significant smuggling operation. Yeah, it's a bit suspicious. So

Mandy Matney 21:41

It's also odd that the loss of one witness would apparently submarine the entire case against the ballers. This again, makes us question if there was some sort of powerful intervention happening that saved the Bowlers from facing prison time. And while we have no proof that Henry McMaster had anything to do with the charges getting dropped, it's not lost on us. But he was a US Attorney in South Carolina at the time and was the leader of this massive investigation. And Henry McMaster, the current governor of South Carolina, still to this day has a lot of connections to the Murdaugh family. McMaster, along with the majority of politicians in South Carolina has stayed mostly quiet in regards to the Murdaugh murders and the other crimes attached to it. He hasn't once done anything to publicly call out the corruption that has been uncovered, nor has he done anything to put pressure on authorities to solve these crimes. In one interview with the state newspaper in September, McMaster called the Murdaugh murders, one of the saddest stories he's ever heard. And that's all he said.

Will Folks 22:52

Well, I mean, there's a lot of connections as far as that they supported him politically. They've supported him financially. Obviously, he honored Randolph with the order of the Palmetto. Not long ago, as a matter of fact, that was right before the boat crash, I believe there's some definite connections there. And again, the Murdaugh's also very closely intertwined with that trial, your community, obviously, Henry McMaster spent eight years as attorney general of South Carolina, so he's very close with those folks, as well, as part of that South Carolina judicial community that they watch out for each other, you know, they they try to protect each other. And I think the question that we're having to grapple with, as we look into the operation jackpot connections to the Murdaughs, the question we have to ask ourselves is, you know, were they watching out for each other in a way that potentially could have gone much deeper than we know, there's been a lot of speculation in recent weeks, well, was US Attorney, McMaster targeting certain rivals to the Murdaughs, or business associates of the Murdaughs. And again, I haven't seen anything that would support that, to some degree, I think you have to look at the 1983 case involving the Bowlers. And you want to hope that McMaster and the Feds were really pursuing them, and were genuinely trying to get justice in that case, and that they just caught a bad break when Franklin Branch died. But again, I think



EPISODE 31: Drug Smuggling And Operation Jackpot - What Happened to the Money? Part 2

one thing that all of us covering this family have learned over the last couple of years and certainly the last few months is there aren't a lot of coincidences when it comes to these people. If you're looking for an innocent explanation, you know, you can be looking for a long time because there's just not a lot of innocence related to anything that these guys have been involved in.

Mandy Matney 24:31

And we'll be right back.

Liz Farrell 24:37

So after all of this, after drug trafficking charges against both Bowlers were dropped. The younger of the two was charged again just a few years later, this time in Georgia in the late 1980s. Sometime before November 1988. Barrett and his wife were sitting in the backseat of a car she had rented for a trip from North Carolina to Miami and back they were stopped for speeding riding You're the Georgia and South Carolina line in Chatham County, which is where Savannah is this is not too far from where we live in Beaver County, and not too far from Hampton County and Allendale county where the Bowlers lived at the time. The Trooper grew suspicious and asked for permission to search the car. The driver said he had no objection to a search and the front seat passenger opened the glove compartment and pressed the button to pop the trunk where there was seven pounds of marijuana and 28 grams of cocaine. The Bowlers were convicted. He was convicted of trafficking cocaine and possession of marijuana and she was convicted of possession of marijuana. They tried to appeal the decision on the grounds that only Mrs. Bowler could have granted permission for the search since she was the one who had rented the car. Their appeal was denied. We're not sure what happened next though, we don't know whether the Bowler served any time for their crimes, or whether they were given one of those quote friendly sentences we talked about earlier.

Mandy Matney 25:53

So Barrett Boulware and Alex Murdaugh became business partners in the late 1990s. The first record our researcher gin uncovered is from 1998. It shows that a company called Murdaugh holdings and Barrett Bowler purchased a stretch of remote waterfront property on the St. Helena sound for \$115,000 Alex and Barrett again purchased several more remote waterfront properties around St. Helena Island in 2003 and 2004 and we will get into those properties in a minute but Alex also represented Barrett Bowler in a civil case in 2006, against Salchattche closings, but the Bowlers and the Murdaughs weren't just business partners.

Will Folks 26:37

And the other thing that's interesting, we were talking just a moment ago about their business connections, their property connections, their connection as you know, Alex acting



EPISODE 31: Drug Smuggling And Operation Jackpot - What Happened to the Money? Part 2

as Barrett Bowlers attorney, but they were also very friendly socially. They would go to basketball games together, parties together, you know, the couples were often seeing each other out on the town, so it wasn't just a work relationship. They were friends, and in fact, a lot of the old money in Hampton would always look at the Murdaughs and the Bowlers together and we're wondering, okay, what, what's going on there because pretty much everyone knew what Bowler did for a living. Everybody knew what his line of work was down in Hampton, so they were kind of surprised to see Alex publicly associated with him.

Mandy Matney 27:18

According to sources close to these families in private, the Murdaughs and the Bowlers were very casual about the family's history with smuggling drugs. These sources say that on the wall, a Bowler's living room right above their fish tank was a photo showing Cuban men on a shrimping boat holding up bags of cocaine, quote, they talk about drug smuggling, like it was a casual conversation. One source close to the family told me they were proud of it. The Murdaughs were around for these conversations according to my sources, and would laugh along with the Bowlers as they chat about their drug smuggling days. Keep in mind this is when Alex Murdaugh was carrying a badge for the 14th circuit solicitor Duffie Stone's office and ostensibly had been sworn to uphold the law the Murdaughs and the Bowlers were close like family they spent holidays together in 2013. The Murdaughs purchased Moselle from the Bowlers. We have heard that Alex helped get the Bowlers out of legal trouble when the Murdaughs were given Moselle as a thank you gift, but we haven't found any legal records to support those rumors. Either way, the Moselle property exchange was interesting,

Will Folks 28:29

that was purchased by I think Alex Murdaugh, paid Beauvoir's wife or Bowlers wife \$5, for the property. And again, that was an interesting transaction, because everyone's kind of like, well, wait a minute, \$5 What, what's the deal with that, but if you look at the actual deed, it talks about the \$5, but also the exchange of like, kind replacement property. And the total value of that replacement property was \$730,000. These sorts of exchanges are actually very common. And they're entered into by people who want to avoid paying capital gains taxes, and they can do that if they sell a property and then take the proceeds and then buy other properties with it. So basically, what you do is if you want to sell your property, you don't want to pay taxes on it, you just take the proceeds and buy more property with it. And a lot of property investors do that. So there is a legitimate use for it. But again, as we've seen with the Murdaughs, you know, legitimate processes can be turned to illegitimate means, you know, I mean, these folks are experts at gaming the system and trying to find holes in the system that they can exploit.

Mandy Matney 29:41



EPISODE 31: Drug Smuggling And Operation Jackpot - What Happened to the Money? Part 2

And there's something else about Moselle that we should talk about. The property had a landing strip. I have seen a video of a small plane landing at Moselle in 2018. According to my sources, the Murdaugh's would casually talk about how the landing strip used to be used for smuggling drugs. Looks very close to where Paul and Maggie Murdaugh's bodies were found last June. There's a large shed next to the dog cages. The Shed has monstrous doors that were big enough to fit a plane in. Our researcher at FITSNews found that Barrett tableware obtained his pilot's license in 1997. He purchased Moselle and 2000 and apparently owned a plane up until they sold Moselle to the Murdaughs in 2013.

Liz Farrell 30:29

As we're finding out more about these criminal ties to the Murdaugh family, and as we're looking into one of the biggest questions in this case, which is not only where the money went, but why Alex Murdaugh allegedly stole it, we were reminded of these passages and Jason Ryan's book jackpot.

DAVID MOSES 30:44

People heavily involved in the drug trade, particularly on the importation side, have a lot of overhead expenses, purchase of boats, airplanes, paying vessel captains, and off loaders purchase and rental of stash houses, attorneys fees, etc. Even so, if they are even mildly successful smugglers, they stand to make a lot of money. Critical to every operation was finding an isolated spot to unload the drugs. The best sites featured a dock close to the ocean, the absence of neighbors and proximity to major highways.

Will Folks 31:22

And I think the big question of all this of all these stories that we're covering is, to what end? We talk about that with regard to the money, where's the money going? We talked about the motivations for these crimes. Like why were Maggie and Paul killed? We talked about it with the death of Randolph Murdaugh. The timing there, right after the Mozelle homicides made it all just nothing adds up. Nothing adds up.

Mandy Matney 31:49

And another thing that just doesn't add up, like we said Alex and Barrett were business partners, but usually businesses try to make money businesses that invest in property, usually try to sell them at a profit, Barrett and Alex bought a lot of properties together, but they sat on them even through major real estate booms in Beaver County. In an upcoming episode, we'll take you through the land that they purchased together and why each one raises even more questions about what Alex Murdaugh was up to before his wife and son were murdered. We will also talk about something that even shocked me. And I rarely get shocked anymore, the jellyfish Gambit.



EPISODE 31: Drug Smuggling And Operation Jackpot - What Happened to the Money? Part 2

Will Folks 32:35

But when you start looking at how close these two families were, again, it's just hard to avoid the connection there. And once you start looking into Bowlers past and his family's past and you start looking at the sort of operations that they were clearly mixed up in, you know, just raises so many more questions about what were the Murdaughs up to did those other activities again, whatever they were, I don't know, where they run into drugs where they laundry money. Again, we don't know at this point, but they were clearly into something. And the question is, was that something they were into? Did it play a part in some of these crimes that we're all covering right now?

Mandy Matney 33:29

Visit [FITSnews.com](https://www.fitsnews.com) And check out an amazing video by my colleague Dylan Nolan that shows these questionable properties purchased by the Murdaugh's bowl wares and their associates. Be sure to follow FITSNews on YouTube to check out our latest videos on the Murdaugh murder saga, and I will post those links in the description. Before we go, I want to take a moment and thank all of you who completed our recent survey, there is still time to go to [Murdaugh murders podcast.com/survey](https://murdaughmurderspodcast.com/survey) For a chance to win a \$100 amazon gift card. We want to learn more about you and what matters to you and we want to improve this podcast every week. Be sure to like the Murdaugh motors podcast on Facebook and Instagram so you won't miss any future giveaways and the latest updates in this case. We want to thank everyone who was able to support hopeful horizons in our January march with the mission campaign because of your sales. We are sending a big check to helpful horizons and that is a big deal. We also decided to partner with hopeful horizons for our merch sales throughout March so be sure to visit [Murdaugh mortars podcast.com/merch](https://murdaughmortarspodcast.com/merch) to check out our awesome that is a big deal T shirts, our cup of justice mugs and other really fun items 100% of the proceeds will go to hopeful horizons hopeful horizon is a Children's Advocacy, domestic violence and rape crisis center. Together, we can create safer communities by changing the culture of violence and offering a path to healing. Learn more at [hopeful horizons.com](https://hopefulhorizons.com) The Murdaugh minors podcast is created by me, Manny Matney, and my fiance David Moses. Our executive editor is Liz Farrell,

DAVID MOSES 35:36

produced by Luna shark productions.