

## final - Don Bolles Update.mp3

**Amanda Luberto** [00:00:05] In 1976, Arizona Republic investigative journalist Don Bolles went to an interview and ended up becoming a dark chapter in the history of Arizona and of journalism at large. He went to visit a source at the Hotel Clarendon after receiving an anonymous phone call while he waited at the lobby. A call came for him at the front desk. The call reportedly only lasted a few minutes, enough time to say the interview was off, and when it was done, Bolles walked back out into the hot Arizona sun. It was early June, and while not as hot as the weather we're having this summer, the Rays have never been kind. With the turn of a key, all started his car, presumably to return to the newsroom at the state capitol. But after driving a few feet, the unspeakable occurred. Remote controlled bombs consisting of six sticks of dynamite erupted underneath the driver's side of the car. The explosion was contained but destructive. The lower half of his body was blown off, the driver's door ripped open and the reporter lay waiting for help. Don Bolles spent 11 days in Saint Joseph's Hospital before passing away from his injuries. Limbs had to be amputated to fight off infection. But the damage was too severe. The story goes that he uttered three things while in the parking lot injured that day. John Adamson, Emprise and Mafia. A note left behind on his desk was another clue. Beside his typewriter was the message. John Adams in the lobby at 1115 Clarendon House, fourth in Clarendon. It felt as though the pieces of the puzzle were there. The death had to be related to the Mafia, whoever John Adamson was and whatever Emprise was. But these stories are never that simple. Almost 50 years later, there's still a debate on why Bolles was murdered and who is to blame. Welcome to Valley 101, a podcast by the Arizona Republic and AC Central dot com about Metro Phoenix and beyond. I'm producer Amanda Luberto. And today I'm joined by our in-house Don Bolles expert Richard Ruelas to discuss why the case is still so interesting to people and new hypotheses that have arisen. Hi, Richard. Welcome to Valley 101.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:02:40] Thanks for having me, Amanda.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:02:42] I wanted to start by asking some big overarching questions so the audience can get to know you better if they haven't gotten a chance to listen to season one of our investigative podcast, Rediscovering. Season one, of course, was all about Don Bolles after you discovered some cassette tapes that hadn't been heard before. How long have you been covering the Bolles case and how did you get connected to those tapes?

**Richard Ruelas** [00:03:08] The Bolles case... I've been sort of adopting it as a mini beat for the last decade or so, just making sure every year we have a story coinciding with the anniversary to kind of keep the memory of the man alive. And so we were going through some storage space that the Republic had bunch of files somewhere when like most people with storage space, it after a while you think, why are we keeping all this stuff? So they went down and brought a bunch of it up, but they noticed some file cabinets were locked like dead, bolted shut, and so they hired a locksmith to open them. And our editor, Greg Burton, pretty soon realized these are Don Bolles files. And so he told me, Get down there and see if there was a story to be had. I went down there, looked through, and I realized I was probably not the first reporter that's gone through these files. But then I saw a box of cassette tapes and I thought probably in the seventies and eighties and nineties when people were going through this box, we didn't do anything with audio. Now we have the ability to. So let's see what these cassettes contain on them.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:04:13] And there was a lot.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:04:15] Yeah. So these are cassettes Bolles had while he was doing his recording. He had just gotten a new tape recorder and figured out you could record calls and they were a jumble. They weren't really marked.

**Don Bolles tape** [00:04:27] I thought things were minor, peculiar. One time when I went down to the track and they gave me the fake royal treatment and this was early in the game and I was just the deadline around. I throw in \$2 down on a dad just to see what happened, you know, and got near the end. And I was about \$20 down or something and I didn't care, you know, And the public relations guy said, Hey, I think I know who's going to win. I got a good shot at who's going to win the next race. I want to go out of control and back there or something like that. Yeah. And I said, okay. And this this guy came out of nowhere to win that race.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:05:16] And they weren't marked so that a reporter 40 years down the road could look for him. They were marked for his use, so he knew what was in them. I didn't I'm hitting play on the cassettes at random and just trying to catch up. Who was talking? What are they talking about? What are they talking like? I'm in the middle of a conversation in which they're not stopping to catch me up. So we finally discovered a story in them that Boles was upset that he was covering the racing industry and he believed they wiretapped his home phone. So this became a mini obsession of his leading up to the day he died. And that's the story we told with that first podcast.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:05:59] What is it about this case that has kept your interest all these years?

**Richard Ruelas** [00:06:05] The Bolles case is such a rarity, not just a journalist dying on the job, but being targeted for their work. You know, it happened in Las Vegas in recent years. A reporter there. And it happens in foreign countries all the time. It's rare in the United States for it to happen. And it was such a violent, overt attack. This wasn't someone being poisoned or or stabbed or shot. This was a message, a loud explosion of a reporter in the middle of a city. And so trying to figure out why someone would do that. There's a lot of intrigue in this. And I think the rarity is what has kept it alive these years.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:06:49] So for people who might not know all of the ins and outs of the case, who are some of the big players to keep in mind, as you and I talk about the case throughout this episode and what is their relationship to Bolles?

**Richard Ruelas** [00:07:03] Yeah, Bolles were supposed to meet a guy named John Harvey Adamson at the Clarendon Hotel. John Harvey Adamson didn't show, calls him up in the lobby and says, I can't make it. So Wolves walks back and the prosecutors and police will say that a man named Jimmy Robison, Jimmy the Plumber Robison, who was a plumber, but he also earned the nickname the plumber, was sitting in the parking lot and with the remote control device detonated the bomb. Robeson and Adamson were known quantities. They were people who, if you had a dirty deed to do, they would do it if you needed. Someone beaten up if you needed something exploded. These would be a couple of guys you could hire to do the job. There was a man named Max Dunlap, who the police and prosecutors say hired Adamson and Robison to do the job. And the official theory, says Dunlap did so as a favor to his friend, a very rich man named Kemper. Marley, who was a liquor magnate, wanted to get involved in the racing industry and was never officially implicated in the case, although police and prosecutors kept saying he's the reason, he's the motivation. But they could never show that he actually gave the order. It was more like

maybe one day he said, Who will rid me of this troublesome reporter? And Dunlap took that offer up.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:08:26] So was Dunlap convicted of the murder?

**Richard Ruelas** [00:08:31] Yes. Dunlap, Adams, Adamson, all at various points were convicted of the murder, the justice system and this case being so complicated. All of their convictions were at some point tossed. Some of them were retried. At the end of it, the only person who walked away acquitted by a jury was Jim Robison. The other two men were convicted and all of them have since passed on. Dunlap, even though he was acquitted by a jury, couldn't be released from custody because he was convicted of another violent crime. So he had to keep in prison to do more time. He was actually accused of trying to kill Adamson. The story gets very complicated, But yes, at some point they all face charges and at some point all were convicted of this.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:09:28] So someone was at one point behind bars for this murder?

**Richard Ruelas** [00:09:33] Yeah, all three did time for this murder.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:09:37] So since Rediscovering aired in 2019, there's been a few new podcasts that have come out covering the bull story. It's not just an interest of us in Arizona or us work at the Arizona Republic specifically, but it's a national story. Like you were saying, it's so rare these podcasts, the Patsy and the Syndicate have come out since then. Over the last few months, we have interviewed the creators of these podcasts. How did you first hear about them?

**Richard Ruelas** [00:10:05] They wanted me to know. I mean, there's the Twitter. I was getting press releases incessantly asking me, Would you want to speak to the producers of these podcasts? And the answer ended up being, Yes. I very much would like to speak to the producers of these podcasts. One of them, I'm in the Syndicate. They interviewed me for it just to talk about what I was able to discover about Don Bolles, the person when this podcast was out, they let me know it was out. And then for the Patsy, I kept getting press releases saying, The Patsy's out, the Patsy's out. Do you want to talk to the producers? I listened to them and it made me very curious why they took the direction they did. And so, yes, I did have a lot of questions for the people who made these podcasts.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:10:48] Yeah. So that sort of leads me to my next question here. So part of what drew you to these interviews was the fact that there were new theories that popped up that both of these podcasts ran with. The official story goes as we were talking, that the bombing was ordered by liquor executive named Kemper Marley. Bolles' reporting had cost Marley his nomination on the State Racing Commission. And it was sort of an act of revenge. But these new podcasts suggests that he might not have been the person who made that call. What did these podcast report that was new? What was their new alternative theory?

**Richard Ruelas** [00:11:28] Actually, their theories aren't new. They're just getting new credibility. I guess they're given credence. Wasn't die when his car exploded. He was on the ground and he starts talking to the people coming up and he says a lot of things, you know, just some phrases. He asked them to call his wife. He he tells them to let his wife know he loves her. He then says, find John Adams and John Adams and sent me here. He then starts talking about the Mafia. He then starts talking about M Prize, which was a company that co-owned the dog racing tracks in town. He's saying things that he thinks led

up to him being bombed. In a way, he was in no real position to let anyone know why he was bombed. He didn't. You know, the only tangible piece of evidence he had was John Adams and brought me here. Everything else was just conjecture, him thinking out loud. But people really seized on Emprise in the Mafia. And I think it's a much better story if the mafia did it. I think one of the problems with the official story is it doesn't seem to merit it. Like, why would a guy be so upset about a volunteer post on a state racing commission? Why would that be enough to want him to blow someone up? So mafia? That makes more sense. This is what the mob does. So the alternative theory is that people involved with the dog racing industry, people involved with the Mafia and Emprise, there was a family called the Funks that owned the dog tracks and Bolles was very deeply involved in looking at the fox. The Funks were the people who Bolles believed wiretapped his home phone. So he didn't like them. They didn't like him. They sued each other. There was a lot of back and forth. So people are pointing towards the Funks. And there was an investigative reporter named Don Devereaux who worked for the Scottsdale Progress, and he has been peddling an alternative version of the bull story since 1978, 80, somewhere in there.

**The Patsy Podcast** [00:13:39] But I think that, again, we had a lot of confidence in Don Deborah's legitimacy as a reporter and his seriousness. And one thing that Adam said to me is like he would not say something like this lightly. He fully understands the seriousness of saying something like that. And that's why in when he says it, he is careful to couch it. And again, it's not a he's not saying it as a fact. He can't prove it. It is his educated guess based on his knowledge of the environment at the time and all the people involved and so on and so forth. So we're certainly cognizant of the fact that it's an explosive claim by one of the people that we interviewed. But we felt that the way it was presented was appropriate in the context.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:14:16] The theory is not new. It's just I think as time has gone on and there's fewer people around to maybe rebuke his story, it sounds really good. It's a much better story. To think the mafia did it. So these podcasts really are running with the theory.

**The Syndicate Podcast** [00:14:37] When Devereaux told me about the Motorola gold scam, you know, I reached out and I got confirmation from Kathy Colby that 48 hours before dawn Bowles died. This is exactly the story that he told her he had and he was about to run with. I've gotten confirmation from a number of people with regards to Don Bolles working on a big story before he was killed, including another notable name in the media, Pat McMahon, who told me three days before Bowles was killed. Or he was bombed. I'm sorry. Erma Bombeck was a big name in local media back then, and Bowles and McMahon were close friends. And near the end of the roast, Pat McMahon approaches Don Bolles and says, Don and excuse my language, I'm quoting word for word. Pat McMahon says, Don, when are you going to quit with these crazy goddamn investigations into the Mafia before you get yourself hurt? And Don Bolles told him, there is one story I have left to write, and it's the one I'm working on now. And as soon as I'm done with this investigation, I am choosing an entirely new line of work for my family.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:15:42] Say one thing that really animated me to look into these podcasts is they blame the Arizona Republic. I kind of took it a little personally the idea that the newspaper was complicit in covering it up. How do you explain how a newsroom back then or even today would not be interested in finding the truth of what happened to their friend and colleague?

**The Patsy Podcast** [00:16:06] Well, that's a great question, Richard, And certainly I don't want to put you on the spot with it at all. But I mean, was it some of the information we found out about the history of the Arizona Republic as it played into the and fraud issues that were going on at in Phoenix from the late sixties, Funks, the racetracks, etc.. There were certain things that when it s that it said, look, you know, there were people at the Arizona Republic. And of course this also goes to the Tom Sanford death. Right. And the circumstances surrounding his death, you know, that just looked a little not quite kosher to a certain age, that from a newspaper, from a news organizations perspective, that why do they always have a reporter in a city outside of a prosecutor's office prior to the trial leaking information about the investigation, constantly creating a narrative that folded right into what we consider the frame of Max Dunlop. I mean, you can go back into your archives and see a lot of the newspaper articles leading up to the trial that basically just go right down the path of we found the guys that did it. This is why they did it. You got to wonder. So, I mean, yeah.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:17:29] It was the Arizona Republic who found the fatal connection between Dunlap and Marley.

**The Patsy Podcast** [00:17:34] Sure. And yeah, but but, but.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:17:37] But what if that just was what happened? What if that just was not a framing of it, but people looking for the truth, discovering the truth and printing the truth?

**The Patsy Podcast** [00:17:47] Well, to that point, why was Don Bolles told by his superiors in 1973 to stop investigating the connection between Emprise and the Mafia and the dog track syndicate in Arizona, forcing him to spend the next three years continuing to investigate on the side or in secret, giving his materials secretly to Tom Sanford, his editor, who was the only person who knew about it.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:18:22] They say that the Republic hid the truth, that an editor ordered the reporters to stop looking into it and stop looking into the truth. And then I think about our newsroom today. If something bad happened to one of our colleagues and the editor tried to tell us as a newsroom to stop looking into it, I don't think that would get very far. There's very little the editors can tell us to do. But we would all in one unit say, yeah, but not one of us would squeak out and tell another outlet, Hey, you're not really hiding the truth there. They believe the Republic held back the truth and part of it. Ken, this is the theory based on without much, is that we were holding back the truth because some editor was was being blackmailed by the Mafia.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:19:11] So it all ties back into the. The Mafia theory.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:19:14] The mafia. The mafia had something on a top executive here at the Republic. And being that it was the mid-seventies. This is the theory. Just having an affair with a woman wouldn't have been strong enough in the mid-seventies because that was way too common in the seventies. So this is Don Devereux's theory. It must have been that they had something about an executive and a child. There must have been an editor that was a pedophile and they had proof of it. And that's why and that's really the linchpin. And as ridiculous as it sounds, as I'm saying it, one of the podcasts sort of dances around it. One of the podcasts actually out and out says it. The narrative you have in the podcast has bulls being taken off the beat because without any evidence, there must have been a pedophilia scandal involving a top Republican executive.

**The Patsy Podcast** [00:20:08] Yeah, what I want to endeavor to talk about. Yes, I want to make a real clear distinction here. We made a real point, and this is something Adam and Chris and I spoke about frequently, that what's in the narration meaning that what we claim is only stuff that we can substantiate through some sort of documentation or some, you know, really significant sourcing. And then the people that we interview obviously are free to say what their opinion is. And I think in that specific example that you're talking about, if I remember correctly, Don Devereaux says that he can't prove it, that it's his it's his theory, you know, that it's basically his, I guess, educated guess. So I do want to be clear that we're not we're not making the claim that that's a fact.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:20:49] And they let Don Devereaux give this theory out loud on a podcast. And that doesn't square with what I would believe as a Republic reporter. It just also doesn't pass common sense.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:21:02] Yeah. I'm curious if I assume you've talked to Don Devereaux and all of the reporting that you've done on this, how you jump from an affair to an affair with a child. Could it have been dirty money? Could it have been other things instead? If it wasn't an affair with a woman, that wasn't also pedophilia.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:21:25] Yeah, I've talked to Don Devereaux a handful of times. And actually, after the last one in which the last conversation we had in which I was asking him some of these questions, he sent me a very nice letter just saying he appreciates the fact I'm sort of pushing back and hopes that we don't stop looking for the truth. I think the problem with these theories is you end with the conclusion. You begin with the notion that the official story is wrong. You begin with the notion that it's mafia and the funks that killed Don Bolles, anything that. And so now every piece of evidence must fit that theory. And so that's what I think leads you to make this logical leap to say, well, the republic must have held back the truth. The Republic must know the truth. Why would the Republic hold the truth back if your aim is to try to answer that question? You're looking for an answer? Well, this is one answer that comes forward. The truth was the Republic did not hold back any evidence to its readers or even the police. Looking back at the stories after the Bolles bombing in 76, the Republic reporters were all over it and actually brought some of the theories forward to the police. The Republic was the one that drew the connection because they interviewed reporters, interviewed Max Dunlap days after the bombing, and it was Max Dunlap who brought up his relationship with Kemper Marley, without even the reporters prompting it. So the republic actually helped knit together the truth, not conceal it.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:23:01] And I mean, we're still covering it. It's still being covered. It's still not being covered up.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:23:07] I mean, frankly, one of the when I started looking into the bulls case, again, you know, when I sort of started taking this on as a mini beat, I did think, boy, it'd be great if I could find something that blows a hole in the initial official narrative. What a great tale that would be. But I started from scratch. Read the stories again, talk to as many people as I could. And that's what the conclusion was. I mentioned how complicated this case was. And after Dunlap and Roberson were convicted, Adamson testified against them and had struck a plea deal. But then Dunlap and Roberson's convictions were thrown out. Then the case went dormant for a while. Like both men were not charged in the case anymore. But in the late eighties, early nineties, a grand jury convened and said, Let's try again. Let's see if we can figure out who killed Don Bolles. And they started from scratch. They invited Don Devereaux into the grand jury to provide testimony. So the idea that

these theories weren't aired out, that they weren't looked at, they were presented to a grand jury. And Don Devereux told me that when he walked out of the grand jury room, he felt great, that he got to air his theories to people who had the power to do something about it. But months later they conclude no. There's no evidence of that. The evidence still points to John Adams and Jimmy Robison and Max Dunlap. And so those are that were the men they charged again in the nineties. ADAMS And testified again against them. Robison was found not guilty. Dunlap was convicted. But the idea that these theories were not looked into seriously is just doesn't doesn't hold up the justice system. A grand jury looked at these theories and decided they held no Mary.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:24:53] Little over 30 years ago.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:24:55] Correct. I mean, you know, and again, they you know, George Weiss, who was the attorney general investigator, said we started with I mean, and George Weiss was friends with Don Devereaux. They worked together on something called the Arizona Project, which was just a collection of investigative reporters from around the country who came to Phoenix to try to finish Don Bolles' work. So they knew each other. They were friends. Colleagues respected each other. And George Weiss asked Don Devereaux, come, let me here. Let me hear the evidence. Show me the evidence. But all they got was theory, a story, and no hard evidence behind it.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:25:31] So another person we got to talk with, in addition to the creators of these newer podcasts was Karen Graham. Karen Graham is the daughter of Max Dunlap. Have you talked with Karen before?

**Richard Ruelas** [00:25:45] I had talked with Karen Graham briefly on the phone because she posted on the Republic's Facebook page about Don Bolles, a letter she found that she had written to Don Bolles, his daughter, and sort of like a daughter or daughter. Both of us lost our dads essentially through this ordeal. And I knew where she stood on the murder. I didn't realize how deep it went. I mean, I'd like to think my father is not capable of a violent crime, too.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:26:15] So let's first set out real quick when we talk to her. What was her stance on all of it?

**Richard Ruelas** [00:26:20] Karen Graham thinks her father was the patsy. Her father was set up, that other people put her father up as the one to take the fall for this.

**Karen Graham** [00:26:32] I'm telling you, I have his handwritten story, his life story, and it tells. I mean, if you knew my dad, it's like you go right now. I go, Dad, why would you be so trusting? You know, Why would you do that? Did you not? But. But like he always told me, he goes, I never did anything wrong. Why would I worry about delivering the money? I didn't do anything. He had no idea. He's been set up. He had no idea.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:26:56] The podcast makes the claim for that, largely based on an interview someone gave to them where they report a conversation they had with one of the attorneys, one of the one of the minor players involved who describes Dunlap as a patsy. But there's a lot of evidence that says Dunlap was involved. There's some weird things. He handled money that went to John Adamson's defense to fly him out of Phenix the day after the crime. He he changed the money into small bills and made sure it got to the right people. And even Karen Graham and her interview, it struck me that she believes her

father was a stand up man, very honest. She couldn't believe why he would hang out with a guy like John Harvey Adamson.

**Karen Graham** [00:27:42] And I watched him sit. And having him charged with, you know, you did this. You did that. Well, no one had proof of anything. Anything except for how do I say, situations are like he delivered the money to Adamson's attorney. No one would believe the man showed up in our driveway, even though my brother in law was standing there watching it and talked to the man and and took to lie detector tests and passed. But still they call him a liar. He's because he's too he's not credible. Well, but John Adamson's credible. I mean, I don't get it. I don't ever get it. He even says in his story goes, I didn't want to do it, but what was I supposed to do? The guy drove off, handed me the bag and drove off. So I'm standing there with a bag full of money. What do I do? I took it down. I did just what they asked me to do. But, you know, come on. I'm like, Dad, why? You know, it it's just it's a sad story of a trusting man, is all it is. Why do you think this story is still so interesting, so mysterious to people? There is a conclusion it's not a cold case, and yet we at large keep coming back to it. What draws people like you back into this story year after year?

**Richard Ruelas** [00:28:57] I think there's a gap between the severity of the crime and the official reason for it. And it's something I tried to tackle this year in looking at the story. Why would someone want to blow up a reporter? Because they didn't get a volunteer position on the racing commission. And I looked back at some clips to try to find that answer. And it turns out temperamentally wanted to get into the racing industry. Don Bolles, his reporting succeeded. He got the aim he wanted, which is to break up the monopoly that the Funk family had over the racetracks in Arizona. So they were going to be parceled out. Other people could get into the racing business. And a longtime source of Don Bolles named Fred Porter, one of the last people, if not the last person Bolles talked to before he left the state capital that day. Fred Porter wanted to get a license and was talking to Don Bolles about, you know, maybe I can you can help me speak at a hearing or mention my name in the paper, and that might help me get a license. Fred Porter was having conversations with Kemper merely about being a partner in the dog tracks. Now, Kemper merely couldn't be a racing commissioner and a dog track owner unless he did so silently. Maybe you get a seat on the Racing Commission and maybe no one knows that you provided the money to help Fred Porter become a dog track owner. And talking to people in the industry. There is a very good reason why they don't allow racing commissioners to control the racetracks. Because if you wish to be corrupt, if you wish to make a lot of money, you could fix the races. Actually, I realized how you fix races. You don't make sure the dogs win the race. You hamper the dogs, drug them or something to make sure the correct dogs lose the race. But you can fix the races. You can demand bribes from people to have their animals run in the race. And then if someone complains, the complaint goes to the racing commission, where you are one of three seats. How much would it cost you to buy the other two? Approval? It's conjecture. There's no proof behind any of what I just said, but that provides more of a good theory as to why Kemper morally was so upset that there was so much money to be made by having a seat on the Racing Commission. If he wanted to also be a silent partner in a dog track, that would have provide a little more motivation. But I think I keep coming back to it every year. I mean, I want to honor the memory of Don Bowles by doing a story on the anniversary. There's so many interesting characters. There's so many layers to the story. And thankfully, it's one that we can keep looking at because it's so rare that there hasn't been another Arizona Republic reporter killed for their work. Thankfully, since this one. So it allows us the luxury of continuing to go back and mine more information out of this story.



**Amanda Luberto** [00:31:58] Do you think more will come out like a deathbed confession? Maybe. Do you think we're going to get a big like you were saying, a blow a hole in the case and find something new? Is there more to be found?

**Richard Ruelas** [00:32:11] There is. And I know where it's at. Deathbed confessions, I'm not sure. Most of the people involved of suddenly, you know, have sadly passed away. The attorney general's office has some records that they're holding on to that they say they'd release eventually. But there are still materials. There are still case files and interviews that were done that we still haven't seen yet. And who knows what is inside there. I doubt it would change the official narrative of the story, but it would add some interesting contours to it. And the day they open those up, I'll be digging.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:32:52] It is context sort of the biggest unanswered question for you. Or is there something else about the case that you think is still like eats away at you in the back of your brain?

**Richard Ruelas** [00:33:06] There's still the Why We Get Closer came from early was supposedly ready to kill the attorney general and like a public relations guy who used to work for him. So, I mean, yeah, there's more about the case that is still unknown how the order was given. If it was Kemper, merely who gave it. Why balls first and not the attorney General first. Yeah, there's still some unanswered questions here. It's also fascinating. You mentioned the context. Every time I get into the Bolles case, I have to mentally get myself into the mid-seventies, a time when there were no cell phones. A time when Don Bolles was clanging away on a manual typewriter with a giant desk phone that rang in the background all the time. Smoking cigarettes, you know, And it like, the atmosphere of that time is so different. And I think that also adds these contours of the fascinating work that was done back then. And when we were doing the podcast, I really got to feel like I got to know Dan Balz by hearing him do the work. And I realized, boy, this job hasn't changed that much. Dealing with sources, dealing with readers, dealing with editors. The idea of this job and what we do day in, day out. You know, I felt very in league with Dan Balz in how he did his job, how I do my job, how we all do this work, and what makes us continue to do it day after day.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:34:39] Just less at desk cigarettes maybe.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:34:43] Yeah. Not even vape cartridges. No, we're not allowed to have no more whiskey in the desk drawer. No, as far as they know.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:34:51] Fifties coming up in a few years. Got to be thing that you're sort of looking at.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:34:56] People still feed me information and at my desk now are a couple of suitcases that someone had from the Phoenix Gazette reporter who covered the Don Bolles trial for the Phoenix Gazette, the sister publication that I used to work for, too. So, yes, there's always little contours to it that that keep me going back into the Dan Balz world.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:35:18] All right. Well, thank you, Richard, for coming on Valley 101.

**Richard Ruelas** [00:35:21] Always a pleasure.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:35:28] Thank you so much for listening to this week's episode of Valley 101. Curious about something. Let us know by visiting valley one on one dot easy central dot com. Thank you to Richard Rueles for his expertise today. You can find more of his reporting on Don Bolles at AZ Central dot com. And you can listen to all episodes of season one of rediscovery wherever you get your podcasts. This episode was written and produced by me Amanda Luberto, the editorial help from Kaley Monahan and Kathy Tulamello. Audio Oversight by Kaley Monahan. Today's musical scoring came from Universal Production Music. You can support Valley 101 by subscribing to us on your favorite podcasting app. Leave us a review on Apple Podcasts or wherever you're listening to us now. If you liked this episode, please share it with a friend. You can find us across social media at A-Z podcast. Next week:

**Kenny Dillingham** [00:36:25] I feel like I've been here for five years. There's so many things to do and all the tasks that have to get accomplished. It feels like there's no way. It's only been eight months. and then part of it's like, Man. Like the seasons are already here and it's game time, so it goes fast. But I would say that for me it's more slow. Like there's so many things to do that it just feels like there's no way that all happened or this has all been accomplished in eight months.

**Amanda Luberto** [00:36:52] Valley 101 is an Arizona Republic and AC central production. I'm Amanda Luberto. Thank you again for listening. We'll see you next week.