

Coon's Kingdom

by D. Coon



Harsh Reality

by Gish



Fontenot trial

Former principal returns to witness stand

Associated Press

LIVINGSTON — A former junior high school principal testified Wednesday that he gave a football coach, who later turned up dead, a ride to the school field house on the day he was last seen alive.

Hurley Fontenot, 48, former principal of Hull-Daisetta Woodson Junior High School, is charged with murder in the April 12 slaying of coach Billy Mac Fleming, 36.

Fleming's body was left along an isolated logging road in East Texas and found 10 days later.

Prosecutors contend that Fleming and Fontenot were rivals for the affections of Laura Nugent, 36, a teacher's aide and the school secretary. Fleming and Mrs. Nugent had planned to marry last summer.

In his second day on the witness stand, Fontenot gave a detailed account of his last meetings with the coach.

As he was getting ready to leave the school April 12 to drive to Houston, Fontenot said Fleming stopped him and asked for permission to leave school early to go to the bank and to meet with the school's athletic director.

He gave his approval, he said, and then gave Fleming a ride to a field house where the coach's pickup truck was parked.

"That was the last time I saw Bill Fleming," Fontenot said.

Fontenot said he left the school grounds about 3 p.m., and made a few stops before making trips to Houston's Hobby Airport and Inter-

continental Airport to meet his daughter. He was unable to find her at either, he said.

After he called her and she said she planned to stay in Austin for the weekend, he traveled to a race track in Louisiana, he said, then to his sister's in Daisetta and back to Houston.

Fontenot said when he returned to school Monday, April 15, he learned that Fleming had failed to show up for work, so he called Nugent, who said she didn't know where he was.

About a week later, he said, he learned Fleming's body had been found southwest of Livingston. He said on the following day, April 23, deputies called and said they wanted to talk to him.

Informant robbed after hanging himself

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A professional killer who turned informant against several reputed mobsters was robbed of jewelry and cash after he hanged himself last week, the Bexar County sheriff says.

Sheriff Harlon Copeland said Tuesday his department is seeking theft warrants against several men who allegedly stole more than \$1,000 in cash and jewelry and a suicide note from Frederick DiNome's residence Feb. 12.

DiNome, who had lived in San Antonio under the federal Witness Protection Program since last June, was found hanged from his bedpost, Copeland said.

The Bexar County medical examiner, saying there was no evidence DiNome had been beaten or was under the influence of drugs, ruled the death a suicide.

Copeland said DiNome's roommate discovered the body. The roommate reportedly first called some friends and waited two to three

hours before informing authorities, Copeland said.

"It is an atrocious act to rob a dead man," Copeland said. "It is like robbing a grave and we plan to prosecute."

DiNome testified last year against eight reputed mobsters accused of operating an international car-theft ring, including Paul Castellano. Castellano was shot to death in New York Dec. 16. The trial of the others continued. A jury is deliberating a verdict in the case.



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