

## **Hollingsworth Family**

**Narlene Hollingsworth** had married L.G. Hollingsworth, Sr. early in life, divorced him and then married his brother, **Ricky Hollingsworth, Sr.** To further complicate matters, Narlene's sister, Pamela married into the Hollingsworth family. **Dixie Hufford**, who would figure prominently in the events, was married to the senior Hollingsworth but divorced out of the family. Dixie was the sister of **Dian Teer**, the mother of Domini. **Domini Teer** was dating Damien Nichols, and was pregnant, at the time of the murders.

NARLENE: No, I'm - I'm his [LG Hollingsworth, Jr.] aunt through marriage. It's just by marriage.

DAVIDSON: You're his aunt by marriage. But he's your ex-husband's son?

NARLENE: Yes sir. I know it's confusing.

DAVIDSON: I'm confused on that one. Now, L.G. is your -

NARLENE: - Ex-husband's -

DAVIDSON: - Ex-husband's son, but you're his aunt by marriage, how did that happen?

## **Hollingsworth account of what they saw**

May 5th began for Narlene Hollingsworth when she took her children to school and then picked up her nephew, LG Hollingsworth, Jr., to help him job hunt. LG soon found a job at the Big Star store. At approximately noon, they had a car accident. Narlene spent the early afternoon at the insurance company. Afterwards, she returned home bringing LG along. Narlene lived near Domini Teer and Jason Baldwin and LG claimed to visit Damien at Domini's trailer early in the afternoon and later saw Damien in Lakeshore, near five p.m. Narlene, accompanied by her family, then returned LG to his home in the neighborhood of the victims.

After leaving off LG, Narlene said she encountered the victims on Barton in front of their school. As with each encounter that day, her memory was vivid and specific. Narlene testified that little her son Ricky's girlfriend, Sombra, and all of her children except Anthony were in the car with her when this occurred. No substantiating statements were taken.

## **May 10, 1993 – Statement to WMPD**

NARLENE: Okay, there was two smaller boys and a little heavy set boy, a little heavier than the rest of them. And the little heavy set one had little bit darker hair than the rest of them. If I am not mistaken, the little heavy set boy had on a pair of green shorts with some black in it, with black and white tennis shoes on. But, I think they all three were wearing shorts, but I am not

really sure about the other two, because I go a good look at the little dark headed boy. That's the one that I can really describe better than the rest. [Narlene Hollingsworth interview, May 10, 1993] (Note: these clothes did not match the missing person reports or the clothes found at the crime scene.)

She also recalled a conversation she had with them. "And, I told them little boys you ought to go home and that little boy said, no we are going to play for a little while."

NARLENE: ... *what happened was Dixie Hollingsworth had asked me to pick her up at where she works at a laundry mat, she said, will you pick me up, I get off at 10, I said, yes I will.*

HESTER: *Alright, where is the laundry mat?*

NARLENE: *That laundry mat is right there on Ingram. Okay*

DABBS: *Is that the one next to the Flash Market?*

NARLENE: *Yes it is, it's right there.*

DABBS: *Okay*

NARLENE: *Okay, I got ready to go, and my husband went with me and my children were too. And, on our way, coming do[wn] like you're going to Love's, I saw Dominic and Damia[n] coming down the street.*

DABBS: *What time was this?*

NARLENE: *This was exactly 20 minutes til 10, exactly, cause w[e] had our watches and we knew what time it was. Okay they had dark clothing on and they were not cleaned.*

DABBS: *You said at one time that they were muddy all over.*

NARLENE: *They did have dirt on them, yes they did, now*

HESTER: *Now, which way were they walking?*

NARLENE: *They was coming back towards Lakeshore, this way.*

Others in the car that night told police the same story.

**Tabitha Hollingsworth (age 16)** gave a handwritten statement and a tape-recorded statement on May 20. Tabitha placed the time of the sighting between 9:15 and 9:30 pm. In both statements, she stressed that Damien and Domini were "very muddy" or "all muddy".

On May 25, **Anthony Hollingsworth (age 21)** spoke with a WMPD inspector and wrote a handwritten statement. Anthony also noted their muddy black clothing.

**Rick Hollingsworth (age 56)** spoke to police and wrote a statement in December 1993. He put the time of the sighting between 9:00 and 10:00 pm. He could not identify the two people they saw walking; he noticed only that they had long hair.

All four Hollingsworths described this sighting in the same location: on the southside service road along the interstate, between the Blue Beacon truck wash and Love's truck stop. That's approximately 200-300 yards from the murder site. The Hollingsworths were driving eastward, and Echols and Teer were walking westward.

Narlene's encounters with the children and Misskelley were uncorroborated. This was not the case for her next encounter. Sometime after 9 pm on the evening of the fifth, Narlene's aunt, Dixie Hufford called and asked to be picked up from her workplace, a laundromat on Ingram, about a half mile east of the neighborhood where the victims lived. The Hollingsworth family crowded into their 1982 Ford Escort wagon. Who exactly was in the car would vary slightly from account to account. All agreed on the presence of Narlene, her husband Ricky, their sons Anthony and Ricky Jr., and their daughters, Tabitha Hollingsworth (now Bly) and Mary. Anthony and Narlene also included Sombra, the girlfriend of little Ricky. Tabitha placed LG Hollingsworth in the car. Little Ricky, Mary, and Sombra were not interviewed and LG gave other whereabouts for himself.

Narlene, Anthony, and Tabitha told the same basic story as to what they saw. While travelling east on the South Service Road as they were passing Love's Truck Stop and before the Blue Beacon, they said they saw Damien Echols and Domini Teer walking along the roadside. They both wore black. Domini, Narlene's niece, had on black jeans with white flowers. (The prosecution would present a case they mistook Jason for Domini. These differed from the clothes Misskelley said Jason wore, but is in agreement for what Damien wore.) They were both muddy.

Tabitha testified to this sighting at the Misskelley trial. Anthony and Narlene testified at the Echols/ Baldwin trial. Tabitha testified it was about 9:30 and in her note to police said "about 9:15 or 9:30." Narlene was precise about the time. "This was exactly 20 minutes til 10, exactly, cause we had our watches and we knew what time it was." [Narlene Hollingsworth interview, May 10, 1993] The others were less certain with Anthony stating it may have been an hour later. Anthony also had a problem with the date.

DAVIDSON: When did you say you went and talked with the police about this?

ANTHONY: Very next day. [snip]

DAVIDSON: Did they write anything and have you sign it that day?

ANTHONY: Yes sir.

DAVIDSON: The very next day?

ANTHONY: Yes sir. [snip]

DAVIDSON: Ok. So May the 6th, uh - you talked to Gary Gitchell about this?

ANTHONY: Yes sir.

DAVIDSON: Ok. And gave him a statement?

ANTHONY: I ain't gave him a statement til May the 7th, I think. [Echols/Baldwin trial]

After being presented with his signed statement dated May 25th, 1993, Anthony changed his time frame.

DAVIDSON: May the 25th is when you talked to 'em?

ANTHONY: Yes.

DAVIDSON: So, it wasn't the next day?

ANTHONY: No, sorry about that.

Narlene testified immediately following Anthony Hollingsworth. Perhaps to prevent a similar embarrassment, at the end of his direct examination Fogleman presented her with the date she made her statement.

FOGLEMEN: Alright. And uh - did you give a tape-recorded statement to them?

NARLENE: Yes, I did.

FOGLEMEN: Alright. And was that on May the 10th?

NARLENE: I think it was.

FOGLEMEN: Ok. Let me show you this and see if that refreshes your memory. (pause) Does that refresh your memory? Is that when it was?

NARLENE: It sure was.

FOGLEMEN: I don't have any further questions.

Even with this refresher, Narlene seemed confused as to the date during cross-examination.

DAVIDSON: And do you recall when those statements were?

NARLENE: Well, I know it was on a Friday. About the - well, I told them, but I gave statements - probably around the 9th or 10th. Like Mr. Fogleman said. (Friday was the seventh of May.)

In a newspaper interview, Narlene and Tabitha said they spoke to the police two days after the murders - although Tabitha Hollingsworth statement was dated the twentieth. "Narlene Hollingsworth and her 16-year-old daughter Tabitha said they told police two days after the murders that they saw Teer and Echols walking down a service road along I-40 around the time of the murders." [Memphis Commercial Appeal, September 28, 1993]

Ricky Hollingsworth, Sr. rode shotgun and was in the best position to identify the pair of walkers. When asked whether Ricky and the children had seen Damien and Domini, Narlene said, "Yes, aint no way they missed that." [Narlene Hollingsworth, May 10th, 1993] Ricky said he only saw two people but couldn't say who. Narlene gave a possible reason for his reluctance to identify them. ". . .he sure is scary [sic], he's scared somebody is going to kill him." By the time he gave his statement to the police in December 1993, Ricky had divorced Narlene.

The testimony that Damien and Domini were present on the Service Road a short distance from where the bodies were found represented a problem for the prosecution. Domini was not being presented as part of the crime. The prosecutor put forth that the Hollingsworths mistook Jason for Domini, even though as a relative, they had known Domini for her whole life. Narlene was adamant about who she saw. "I wouldn't change my story if I was dying," said Hollingsworth, a resident of the Lakeshore Estates trailer park. "I know that freckled-faced, red-headed girl anywhere. It was Domini - not a boy." [Memphis Commercial Appeal, September 28, 1993]

Defense attorney, Phil Ford, protested the claim of misidentification.

FORD: Your Honor, we're asking for that instruction. This witness identified Damien and Domini at the roadside. There is no testimony whatsoever from either of these last two witnesses that Jason was there and the - you know good and well that the state is going to argue that she's wrong and that she is really seeing Jason and that's speculation, that's -

BURNETT: I don't know, I'm just saying that -

FORD: - Just junk and what you're doing, Judge, is you're allowing them to do that. When this witness says "No, it's Domini." And we're asking that you give an instruction that this applies only to Damien, since Jason has not been mentioned.

BURNETT: Well, do you have other evidence that's going to suggest that Jason could've been there and that she was mistaken?

FOGLEMEN: Your Honor, we're going to have other evidence that Jason had shoulder length hair, that he was 5'8", weighed about 112 lbs. at the time.

FORD: Your Honor, that - that is - they're trying to say that - that's crazy, your Honor. That's crazy. That's crazy doing - [snip]

FORD: Your Honor, based on that, I remove - I renew my motion for severance.

BURNETT: Denied. [Echols/Baldwin trial]

### **Other Testimony from Echols and Baldwin trial – March 1994**

NARLENE: Well, I saw uh - three bicycles. I saw one little heavy set boy on a red one with black on it on this side. And he's the one I almost ran over, I liked to hit him. [snip] Oh no, you can't forget that day. Anyway, uh - when I was going down that road, the little boy just whipped right out in front of me. He was in a big hurry to get somewhere. And the other little boy on the other bicycle was a little blonde headed boy, with his little hair sticking up. And Sombra raised up in the seat - in the back seat, and said, "Oh, I know them." I said, "You don't know them, they live over here and we way over there. Now sit down before you get me a ticket and put your seatbelt on." She said, "No, I really do, that's Steve Branch, I play with him everyday, all the time I see him. My momma knows him." I said, "Well, sit down for right now and let's - let's get home." I said, "I done had a rough day and I'm ready to go home." (snip) It was about 10 minutes after 5.

Narlene provided a letter to Misskelley's defense team saying she encountered Misskelley that night at 6:30 pm. This made her an alibi witness at a crucial moment. Because of this statement, she was not a witness in the Misskelley trial. She was, however, confronted about this letter in the Echols/Baldwin trial during cross-examination by defense attorney Scott Davidson.

DAVIDSON: After going to uh - after seeing the boys over by Weaver, did you then go over uh - you know where Highland trailer court is?

NARLENE: Yes sir, I do.

DAVIDSON: Ok. And uh - did you go over there?

NARLENE: Yes sir, I did.

DAVIDSON: And uh - what were you doing over there?

NARLENE: Well - well my uh - daughter and her husband was into it. She kept saying she wanted to move and she asked me earlier that day, would I go over there and check on a place to live for her and talk to a man name David Dees that rents out mobile homes. And I told her if I had time I would. I figured if I could do all that stuff for everybody all day, I could do something for her

Judge BURNETT: Where in the hell are we getting at?

DAVIDSON: She saw Jessie Misskelley over there at 6:30. [Echols/Baldwin trial]

Since Misskelley was not at trial, an issue was made of the relevancy. The defense argued that Misskelley was a potential witness and this would impeach his credibility. The testimony proceeded, but Narlene declared it was all a mistake.

DAVIDSON: And when you were over at Highland trailer park, um - uh - did you witness uh - or were you there when there was a group of people out there?

NARLENE: No sir.

DAVIDSON: Did you see Jessie Misskelley that day?

NARLENE: No sir, not that day. I saw him Thursday.

DAVIDSON: Thursday. [later:]

NARLENE: After I thought about each day and what I did on those days and I realized. And the children refreshed my memory too by saying, "Mother, that was Thursday that we saw him." [ibid]

Although now of less consequence, Narlene went on to recount the conversation she had with Jessie.

NARLENE: Yes sir. I was thinking there for a little while that I saw him that Wednesday, but I remembered I went back over there on Thursday, and it was Thursday when I saw him. And I hollered at him three times before he turned around and answered me. I said, "Jessie, are you mad at me?" He said, "No ma'am, I could never be mad at you."

DAVIDSON: Ok.

NARLENE: And I said - he said, "I just didn't hear you, I'm sorry."

Although she stated she was in the car with her children during this encounter, there were no statements substantiating or contradicting the time of this event from the other witnesses.

Narlene went on to she was told at 6:30 pm by "Sheila Joy" about the three missing children, although this was well before their disappearances had been reported.

### **Narlene's Credibility**

Narlene's credibility was brought into question from several sources. The notes from the interview with her aunt, Dixie Hufford, said, [Narlene] "will exaggerate." Her brother-in-law, John Hollingsworth was blunter, claiming she was only interested in the reward money. "I can understand them checking into all these leads, but if they're listening to Narlene Hollingsworth, he's wasting his time." [Blood of Innocents, p. 125] Private investigator Ron Lax quoted her as saying she was "born to know things." Davidson tried to use this to impeach her testimony at trial.

DAVIDSON: Have you made statements that you were born to know things and that you knew that something was wrong after the -

NARLENE: - Well, I knew - I knew something was wrong because the - I knew the children were missing earlier. [Echols/Baldwin trial]

Her "bad feeling" was acute.

DAVIDSON: Ok. And did - was there another reason you felt like you ought to stop?

NARLENE: Yes sir.

DAVIDSON: And what was that reason?

NARLENE: I was getting sick.

DAVIDSON: Why were you getting sick?

NARLENE: I don't know.

DAVIDSON: You don't know?

NARLENE: No sir. I just started feeling like all of a sudden I wanted to throw up.

DAVIDSON: Felt like you wanted to throw up?

NARLENE: Yes sir.

DAVIDSON: And is that when you passed them?

NARLENE: Yes sir, I was passed them and got down the street and tried to stop where I could throw up.

DAVIDSON: And you stopped to throw up?

NARLENE: I stopped for a second and then went on 'cause they kept hollering - the kids kept hollering "Let's go on, let's go, you can get sick when we get there."

The defense attacked her credibility by suggesting that she might lie because her nephew was a suspect.

DAVIDSON: Goes to credibility, your Honor. He's some type of relation.

Although this line of questioning was dropped, Narlene had no hesitancy to implicate her nephew during her police interview.



I don't know what L. G. is capable of, and I am not saying that he would do it, and I am not saying that he wouldn't, but I know Damian. Everybody said that Damian, I know that he's supposed to have 666 on his shoes. [snip]

Well, only one thing, the day I run into L. G. the day at the police department, he begged me to go in there and sit down with his mother and I said, I can't do that. He said that I wasn't ain't no laundry mat Wednesday night, I said, yes you was, he said, no I wasn't, go and there and tell them that I wasn't, I said, no I won't, I said, cause you was up there at that laundry mat, he said, naw I wasn't, I said, yes you was, cause Ricky Hollingsworth said that I had just missed you. [Narlene Hollingsworth, May 10, 1993] (Notes: this last comment is odd, since Ricky Hollingsworth was supposed to have arrived with Narlene. When Narlene repeats the above assertion the second time the transcription reads, ". . .he said you go in there and tell them that you are mommy and I said, no, I won't.)

Her son and fellow witness for the prosecution, Anthony Hollingsworth, had been arrested for unlawful carnal knowledge with a minor. The defense attempted to bring this out, possibly as another reason why Narlene might want to point to someone else as the killer.

DAVIDSON: Ok. Does Anthony live with ya?

NARLENE: Yes, he lives on my land.

DAVIDSON: On your land?

NARLENE: Yes sir.

DAVIDSON: He lives out in the yard?

NARLENE: Well, he - I wouldn't say that. He lives - he lives in a camper.

DAVIDSON: Ok.

NARLENE: He eats with me but he stays in the camper. He has to.

DAVIDSON: He has to?

NARLENE: Yes.

DAVIDSON: Why does he have to?

FOGLEMEN: Your Honor, I -

NARLENE: Sir, I don't really want to answer that.

FOGLEMEN: - Don't see where this has anything to do -

BURNETT: I'm have a little bit of trouble following your - your line of uh - thought as far as what uh - is relevant.

NARLENE: Well, he didn't kill nobody. [Echols/Baldwin trial]

BURNETT: Are you objecting to relevancy?

FOGLEMEN: I'm objecting to the relevancy.

BURNETT: Sustained.

Anthony Hollingsworth is now on the Arkansas sex offenders list.

### **LG Hollingsworth**

"I was not a suspect," [L.G.] Hollingsworth said as his mother, Linda, sat in on the interview. "When they [the police] talked to me I told them I was happy to help them all I could." [Commercial Appeal, 1/31/94]

FOGLEMEN: Alright, now tell me about the box in your car.

L.G.: No, it's Richard's car.

FOGLEMEN: Alright, tell me about the box. [Interview, L.G. Hollingsworth, September 2, 1993]

L.G. Hollingsworth, Jr., 17 years old in 1993, was the son of L.G. and Linda Gail Hollingsworth. He was the nephew of Narlene Hollingsworth. His initials were not abbreviations, but his name. He gave "L.G." another meaning: he had "Little Gangster" tattooed on his bicep.

He lived in the neighborhood of the victims, nearby the Garners on Holiday Circle, where Mark Byers said he first went to search for Chris on the night of the disappearance. A ninth-grade dropout, he spent the day of the fifth looking for a job, finding one at the Big Star grocery store as a bagger.

He was friends of Damien Echols. He had dated Liza McDaniels, described as Domini's best friend, although she moved out of town just prior to the murders. In Damien's May 10th interview he described L.G. as weird. He had a falling out with L.G. after L.G. suggested they swap girlfriends [Blood of Innocents, p. 120] (although this would have been for his cousin, Domini). Damien pointed at L.G. as someone who could have killed the children. When he saw Echols being taken into custody, L.G. said he was the next one they were going to arrest.

L.G. was the target of several tips, although the most incriminating could not be confirmed. In one taken by Detective Mike Allen, the tipster said: "She had overheard that a Domineck and a

Damion killed the three little boys and that L.G., last name unknown, took and laundered their clothing. Caller stated that Damien had body parts in a box from the children." [Blood of Innocents, page 121].

Another tip came from someone who claimed L.G.'s aunt Dixie Hufford had said two boys and a girl went to the laundromat on Ingram on May 5th, between 10 and 10:30 pm to clean up. "They had mud and blood on their clothes. Dixie was related to one of them. . . Hollingsworth." [Tip from "Boone," May 20, 1993]

L.G. stated he borrowed the car of his friend Richard Simpson and went to the Flash Market laundromat to get Domini's phone number from his aunt Dixie. His aunt Dixie confirmed he came by for Domini's number wanting to call her to talk about a fight she had with Damien. Dixie recalled he wore a white shirt and a tie. She said he knew Simpson's car and L.G. had used a different one.

Another tip dated May 11th came from the teacher of L.G.'s Mississippi cousin. The teacher stated eight-year-old Sara Hollingsworth said she overheard that L.G. had come home with "blood on him + clothes" and he was carrying something in a box in his car. When the police finally followed up on this lead in the middle of June, Sara Hollingsworth denied she had said this. [Commercial Appeal, May 10, 1994]

His aunt Narlene said L.G. appeared in the Lakeshore neighborhood the evening of the day the victims were discovered. She said her family members told her, L.G. had a box with something smelly inside and he threatened the children if they touched the box: "Don't touch it, don't step on it or I'll hurt you." [Narlene Hollingsworth, May 10th, 1993 interview]

NARLENE: The thing that is bothering me is them coming down the street with that box, they claim L. G. had and they didn't want to open it

DABBS: But you said smelled horrible?

Like the incriminating tips, nothing could be nailed down about the box. When confronted about its contents, L.G. told Fogleman it had nothing more than test papers from a Vo-Tech school.

Narlene gave a detailed account of her day. She described taking L.G. to look for a job in the morning, having an accident around noon, returning L.G. to his home about 5 pm, encountering the victims, and then later encountering Damien and Domini along the South Service Road. L.G. filled in a few more details, although his description is sometimes self-contradictory. He described finding a job in the morning, going to a Sonic fast food restaurant for lunch, trying to go home but needing a key after lunch. At this time Narlene and L.G. went to his mother's work at a Nursing Home in the south part of town but had an accident along the way. They next went

to the insurance company, sometime after that to Narlene's place in Lakeshore. L.G. says he then went to visit Domini's place "about one." (This encounter would seem to have to be later considering all that occurred. Dian Teer said he came over about 11 am.) He stayed at Lakeshore until about 5 pm, seeing Damien there just before he left. Then Narlene took him to his house.

In notes from his May 26th statement he said he was at Simpson's house from 5:30 to 9:30. In undated notes it says he went to the laundromat at 10 pm. His most extensive interview took place early in September. (In September, L.G. was under house arrest, offense unspecified). In this statement, he says after Narlene took him home, he encountered his mother and a friend of hers. They soon left together for her friend's house. In the same statement, he said he went home and stayed there until his mother arrived at 7:30 or 8:30. In another contradiction in the same statement, he said that he went to his friend Richard Simpson's house. Richard "was tripping out or something." [Hollingsworth interview, September 2, 1993] L.G. said he stayed there until he went to the Flash Market laundry. Simpson at first confirmed L.G. was there and then said L.G. was not there and he had asked him to lie (more below)

Were two days being confused? When did L.G. get his job at the Big Star? This event helped define the day for L.G. and Narlene Hollingsworth. They both agree they were together the rest of the afternoon until five p.m. But, Narlene also describes taking L.G. to and from work the next day. "Cause they were all gathered up there and I didn't know what was going on, so I went on down there and L. G. was saying, get me on to work. So, anyway I went on and got him on to work, so then later on that day, he got off early. I know he come to my house about 2:40 or a quarter to three and I thought that he would be working a little later than that on Wednesday." [Narlene Hollingsworth interview, May 10, 1993]

Anthony Hollingsworth referred to Wednesday as though L.G. already had the job. "L.G. was supposed to work @ Big Star that nite." [Police notes, Anthony Hollingsworth interview, May 26, 1993]

As has been noted, both Narlene and Anthony had problems defining the day they saw Damien and Domini, at least in relation to when they gave their statements to the police.

One of the prime reasons L.G. aroused suspicion in this case are the contradictory statements from him and his alibis. Richard Simpson worked for the city of West Memphis as a building inspector. At forty nine, he spent his free time as a nondenominational preacher. He said he met L.G. through his ministry. L.G. spent a lot of time with Simpson. At the time of his September statement to police, L.G. had moved out of his parents' house and was temporarily staying with Simpson.

Simpson's relation with L.G. raised the suspicions of the police. On the weekend after the

murders, they went to Memphis together with Simpson buying drinks for the underage L.G.

When Simpson was brought in to talk with the police on May 13th, he told them L.G. was at his place on the night of the fifth.

Shortly after that interview, Simpson and L.G. took a trip to Princeton, Kentucky. They rented two rooms in a motel and L.G. met up with his girlfriend who recently moved there. His girlfriend's uncle and aunt called the police on the underage pair. Sheriff Jim Dorrah intervened and soon L.G. was brought back to West Memphis.

Richard Simpson came in for a second interview with the police. This time Simpson was polygraphed about L.G.'s alibi. He failed the polygraph and then told police that L.G. had asked him to lie; L.G. had not been at his home that night. The new story was that L.G. had come over Thursday and they were together through the weekend. [as presented by Fogleman, L.G. Hollingsworth statement, September 2, 1993].

At the time of the murders, Richard Simpson was hosting a visit from the Hungarian architect, Laszlo Benyo. Benyo was in America for seven weeks as part of a Sorows foundation program that enabled him to learn American culture and architectural traditions. According to police notes:

When asked about the date of Wednesday 5-5-93. He [Benyo] stated he was living with Richard Simpson during the time and that he is certain that he was at home during that evening. He knows L.G. and another young Black/Male who used to come over. He didn't remember L.G. coming over on that Wednesday.

[snip] He stated again. . . L.G. didn't come over. . . [Det. Ridge notes, Laszlo Benyo, 5/27/93]

### **Contradictions**

He stated he heard about the Murder on Thursday evening when he was discussing with Richard his travelling plans and Richard brought up the murder of the three boys. He remembered that on Friday Morning Richard took him to the Airport for a flight he made to New Orleans. [ibid, 5/27/93]

This contrasts with a profile of him in the May 20th, West Memphis Evening Times.

Benyo was out of town when he heard about the recent murder of the three young boys in West Memphis. He said it made him very sad, and he hopes it is a rare crime.

On February 10th of 1994, the day after the preliminary hearing wherein it was revealed Damien Echols had named L.G. as someone who could have killed the children, the Memphis Commercial Appeal ran a story about him. The story, "Inquiry, trials haunt L.G. Hollingsworth," described him as a target of the investigation and included some of the allegations surrounding

him. That night L.G. called Domini to discuss this. The police taped the call. L.G. seemed to believe Jason was claiming he did it, but as had others, he had trouble recalling who Jason was.

### **Phone Call – February 10, 1994**

L.G.: My name's in the paper.

DOMINI: Oh really, about what?

L.G.: What's, what's that guy uh with Damien? Michael or somebody. . . Jason, that's the name. . . Jason, Jason is trying to say I killed them kids.

DOMINI: What?

L.G.: Now you know I didn't do it, don't you?

DOMINI: Little Jason?

L.G.: Mm-hmm.

DOMINI: Don't worry about it. [transcription, phone call, February 10, 1994]

Again L.G. asks Domini to confirm his innocence.

L.G.: Now you know I didn't do it, now don't you?

DOMINI: I don't know. I ain't saying nothing. I don't know who did it. I don't have no idea what's going on or what.

### **Timothy Cotton, fellow inmate of L.G.'s**

The allegations against L.G. continued. In March 1994 with the Echols/Baldwin trial underway L.G. sat in jail, charged with forgery and burglary. Fellow inmate Timothy Cotten said Hollingsworth had confessed to him, saying Damien and LG killed the children in retaliation against Mark Byers for a drug deal gone bad. The police dismissed Cotten's statement, saying he was looking for a deal. [Commercial Appeal, July 17, 1994]

L.G. Hollingsworth, Jr. died in an automobile accident on October 26, 2001 at the age of 25.