

DALEDEPUE-1
Evans

Secure interview with Dale DePue
7:00 pm Sat. 4/3/04
Spring Creek Correctional Cntr.

As I entered the visitation booth at Spring Creek, Dale DePue was standing at the back of the booth facing me. He eyed me suspiciously as I entered. Backed into the corner of the booth he reminded me of a cornered rat or weasel. He waited till I was seated, with the phone in my hand before sitting down. He was smaller than Pease, with a slighter build and skinnier arms. He had a rather pale, but clear, complexion and was clean shaven. Like Pease, his dark hair had recently been buzzed close to the scalp. I introduced myself and offered to shake his hand which he looked at but declined to acknowledge.

When I explained to him what I was working on he quickly said he didn't know anything about the Hartman case. He said that he was out of the state when it happened. I told him that his name had come up several times in my queries because of the similarities between the Hartman murder and the beating that he had given Chris Stone up at Ft. Knox 2 weeks earlier. He immediately said that he never beat up Chris Stone and that he wasn't even in the state when that assault occurred. He said that he and his family were traveling thru the states at that time on their way back to Alaska and he believes that they were in Montana then. He suggested that I ask his mother, Ronnie Taylor (from Nenana).

Face to
face?
Booth

Many of the questions that I had prepared for DePue were related to his involvement in the Ft. Knox assault. It took me by surprise that he would deny that crime. So several times during the interview I asked him questions about it and he would always repeat to me firmly that he did not beat up Chris Stone. (I think he believed that I was trying to trick him, but I was simply asking questions from my list)

When asked if he knew Chris Stone and E.J. Stephens, he said "only from school" (Lathrop). He claims not to know Mike Grimes at all. And that he only knows Ira Poe ("the gravedigger?") since he arrived at Spring Creek. He says he never met Marvin Roberts or Kevin Pease until they met in jail but that they "seem like pretty good guys" not the kind of guys that would do the crime that they're in for. "But who knows," he said, "It could be all show."

"Or it could be like in my case," he continued "I mean, I'm guilty of my crime, but it was just kid stuff that got out of hand. Maybe that's what happened to them. Of course, my crime didn't involve the sexual stuff. Anyway I learned my lesson, I'm a different person now."

DALEDEPUE-2
evans

He said that he never went to Noah's Rainbow Inn for anything and that the only person he knows who ever lived there was someone named "Aaron W"

When I asked him if he knew Nairobi Chandler he said "No, but he sure has a catchy name"

I asked him if he still got along with Shawn Aldridge and he said yes but that he never sees him because Aldridge is in Arizona. When I asked him why he (DePue) was never sent to Arizona he said he had no idea. "It might have something to do with good or bad behavior" He said that he has only 2 years left to serve on his sentence.

All in all, I got from the interview, which lasted only 30 minutes, about what I expected to get... No truthful answers, no new information and a pretty good feel for what kind of a guy DePue is. The whole time that I spoke to him he eyed me warily with his head held kind of low on his shoulders like he was prepared to duck at any moment. With each answer, he appeared to be calculating his response (but quickly, not as if he was thinking hard about it) He stayed on message the whole time, and I only caught a couple of inconsistencies (such as when he said initially that he only knew E.J. from school but then much later, when I said I couldn't find E.J. he said "he lives in Oregon"

There was only one time when I felt that he momentarily let his guard down and responded spontaneously. I was trying to loosen him up by telling him that I'd heard some very unbelievable theories about the reasons he might've had for assaulting Chris Stone. I mentioned that one woman had told me she thought it was a gang initiation thing. He interrupted loudly, saying...

" Oh that's nothing, man, I even heard that I was supposedly mad at Chris Stone 'cause he was fuckin' my girl friend. Shit, have you ever seen Chris Stone, man?" When I told him I hadn't, he said... " He's a little pale fat fucker with fuckin' holes punched all over his face. I mean, I'm not sayin' that I am the best lookin' guy around but no girlfriend of mine would ever fuck that with a face full of holes!"

I told DePue that he was one of the few people that I had to verify facts with. I asked him if I heard any more stories in which his name came up, could I write to him to confirm them and would he answer me. He said that he would.

I stood to leave and so did he. I put my hand on the glass to see if he'd acknowledge it. He did not. It was obvious that he didn't like me any better now than when I had started.

DALEDEPUE-3
evans

After talking to both Pease and DePue, I came away thinking that, If I was in the joint with both of them, I'd be much more concerned about having Pease after me than DePue. I couldn't tell if Pease was lying to me or not, but it was obvious that DePue was. Pease tried to paint himself out to be a bad boy wrongfully accused. DePue, as if he was a formerly wild child that has outgrown his evil ways. Brian O'D's description of DePue as a Sociopath fits. I believe that Kevin Pease is innocent of the Hartman murder, but I'm not yet convinced that DePue is guilty of it.