

Saturday, July 26, 2008

DOOTHAN EAGLE

One of two brothers in Ozark capital murder case pleads guilty

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OZARK — One of two brothers charged in the death of Miles Ben Ansley of Ozark pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of murder on Friday.

Darrell Facion, 22, of Dothan, pleaded guilty to felony murder and was sentenced to 22 years in a state prison, minus time served since Ansley's murder on Nov. 27, 2007.



Darrell Facion, shown at a February court appearance, was one of three people arrested for the Nov. 27, 2007, murder of Ben Ansley.

Authorities believe Ansley was shot in his residence on Orange Lane by Facion's brother, Alvin Facion, 23, also

of Dothan, during a robbery set up by Ansley's friend, 31-year-old Donovan Beatty of Don Circle in Ozark.

All three men were charged with capital murder.

Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams and Darrell Facion's attorney, Neville Reese, agreed there was no evidence Darrell Facion had conspired with his brother or had any knowledge his brother was going to kill Ansley.

But Darrell Facion entered Ansley's residence, Reese said. "It was in his best interest to plead. Under our law, if you are part of a felony in the course of which somebody dies, then

you're just as guilty ...," Reese said. "(Darrell Facion) took responsibility for what he did. He regrets what he did."

Under the plea, Adams said Darrell Facion could be eligible for parole in seven and a half years. He could have served between 10 and 99 years in a state prison.

Adams said he considered in the plea deal what sentence a judge would have given Darrell Facion had been convicted.

"Again, there was no evidence Darrell knew or had a

plan with Alvin. ... That's felony murder, in which today, Darrell took responsibility for his role," Adams said.

Ansley's mother sat quietly near family during Darrell Facion's plea.

She left the courtroom shortly after.

"For the rest of my life, I gotta stay in tune and fight to make sure these boys stay in jail," she said.

Jury trials for Beatty and Alvin Facion have been set for September.



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