

Day two: Bonelli girlfriend testifies at murder trial

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life just ended." Bonelli's mother, sitting in the front row of the courtroom, wiped tears from her eyes as she listened to the tape.

On Thursday, witness Charles Ewing, a friend of Fracchia, said Bonelli talked of using illegal drugs. "He said he got tripped out when he was on acid, and he said it was a strange experience," Ewing, 16, said. "He said once that he talked to

things, like objects, when he was on acid. He would tell me it was rat poison." Other witnesses said they never knew Bonelli to use illegal drugs. Though Asmar said Bonelli professed his love to her, Ewing testified

that Bonelli had told Fracchia two days before she was found dead that he planned to break up with Asmar.

Bonelli and Fracchia appeared to be "getting along great" on March 15, when they were together at the house of a friend, Steve Sears, Ewing said. "They were kissing each other. They were holding hands."

Fracchia left Smith's house shortly before midnight, saying she had to pick up Bonelli but that she would return by 4 a.m., Smith said. She never came back, according to Smith and another friend, Nicole Caddio, who had spent the night at Smith's.

Two of Fracchia's friends, Ewing and Anne Tommelein, became concerned when Fracchia didn't come to school the next day, so they went to Bonelli's house that afternoon. They said Bonelli was there with James Nader, who faces charges of being an accessory to the murder because of allegations he gave Bonelli a ride

from the murder scene. Tommelein, 17, testified she told Bonelli that Fracchia's mother was worried and might be coming to his house to talk with him. She said Nader became scared and said, "If Mrs. Fracchia is coming over here, I'm getting the hell out of here."

Bonelli appeared "preoccupied," Tommelein said. "He didn't want us there after Jim left." Bonelli's trial on a charge of first-degree murder is scheduled to continue today before Circuit Judge Alice Gilbreth. The defense is expected to call witnesses today, including Bonelli's mother.

Old cars light up dealer's life

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BUT FOR really dedicated antique car buyers, anytime is a good time.

Even in winter, people stop by to take a look. One man stopped by in the middle of the night and left his business card and a message for Bressler to call him.

The cars run in price from \$3,000 to \$149,000, with convertibles starting at \$8,000. "Convertibles are the really hot cars," Bressler said. "There's something unique about many of the 25 cars in the lot. One, a white 1958 Chevy Impala nicknamed Daddy's Dream, has a horn that plays 28 tunes. Another, a 1907 Fleetwood Brougham Cadillac, sports a sunroof along with pull-out picnic tables and footrests in the back. Bressler has owned between one

and six antique cars during the past 18 years. Often, he tried to keep his collection down to one because it's a lot of work to keep a car in tip-top shape. But he wasn't always successful. "I'd be down to one, then I'd drive by and see a for-sale sign."

The business has been Bressler's dream for years.

"For years I've been talking about it," Bressler said. "Then I saw a piece of property for sale that was zoned for used cars, and I decided it was time to get the ball rolling."

EVEN THOUGH Bressler has been collecting cars for years, he says there's always something new to learn. "You learn by trial and error," he said. "You learn every day."

Bressler doesn't leave his work at the office. "At night, in my spare

time, I talk to people all over the country about cars.

"It's been the story of my life for years," he said. "It's always a fun thing. I never get tired of it."

Though his spare time is getting rarer and rarer, Bressler likes to golf or travel, though usually his travels involve the car business.

"Really when I get away, I go to look at cars," he said.

Bressler's wife, Roz, is good-natured about his long hours. "She used to think I was crazy — chasing cars," he said. "She looks at them once, and that's enough."

Planning to go to Cleveland to look at cars, he asked her if she wanted to go on a vacation. "Are we going to look at cars?" she asked him in exasperation.

The Bresslers, local residents for nearly 10 years, have three children.

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