

Annie B. LaFontaine

(- 4 Feb 1951)

LaFontaine, Annie. On Sunday, February 4, 1951, at her residence, 470 Maryland Ave. sw., Annie LaFontaine (nee Bowling), beloved wife of the late James A. Fontaine, sister of Edward Bowling and Mrs. Eva Hale. Friends may call at the Lee Funeral Home, 4th st. and Massachusetts ave. ne., where services will be held on Wednesday, February 7, at 2 p.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, February 5, 1951, p. A10

Mrs. LaFontaine Dies Little More Than Year After Gambler

Mrs. James A. LaFontaine widow of the man who for many years operated "Jimmy's Place," the gambling casino, died of a heart attack yesterday. She was 77.

Death came unexpectedly at her home, 470 Maryland avenue S.W., where she and her husband had lived quietly during the nearly half century of their marriage.

Mrs. LaFontaine had been in good health, though she never had recovered completely from the shock of her husband's death in November 1949, relatives said. She suffered a slight heart attack Saturday afternoon and died at 7:25 a.m. A niece, Miss Mary Regan, who had lived with her since LaFontaine's death, was at her bedside.

Husband Long a Gambler

For more than half a century the name of "Jimmy" LaFontaine was almost synonymous with the gambling in the District and nearby Virginia and Maryland. He was an almost legendary figure who bossed dice tables, numbers games, horse betting and roulette wheels in an aura of mystery and amazing immunity to the law. His fabulous gambling house was located on Bladensburg road, just across the District line.

The income of his estate, valued at \$2,245,430, was left to Mrs. LaFontaine when he died. There were no children. According to the terms of the will the fortune will now be divided among 11 nieces and nephews.

Mrs. LaFontaine was born Anne Bowling in Fredericksburg, Va. She came here with her parents as a young girl. Before her marriage, she worked for a short time in the Government Printing Office.

Rented Home 46 Years

Although her husband massed wealth, the couple never moved from the modest house on Maryland avenue, which they rented for 46 years. However, she had a summer home in Atlantic City.

Surviving are a brother, Edward Bowling, 101 Rhode Island avenue N.E., and a sister, Mrs. Eva Hale, 1331 Neal street N.E.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Lee funeral home, Fourth street and Massachusetts avenue N.E. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.