

Obsessive love led to 2 killings

FROM PAGE 1A

migrant who left her husband in New York and moved to Killeen, Texas, where she worked as a \$2.25-an-hour waitress at a topless club frequented by soldiers from nearby Fort Hood.

Loving met her there and quickly fell in love — so much so that he often told her he would die for her.

Now, he just might.

Following a court-martial at Fort Hood, the Army sentenced Loving to death earlier this month. He is one of four prisoners awaiting execution by lethal injection on the Army's death row at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Through interviews with family and friends, investigators and court records, a portrait emerges of Loving as an obsessive personality who careened from a promising boxing career to dispassionate murder.

Loving's descent into violence is recorded in a videotaped confession given to police at the time of his arrest:

"I had a pistol. I felt kind of like I was big, you know. Wasn't nobody going to mess with me no more."

Killeen is a town of 70,000 people in central Texas, about 50 miles north of Austin. Add to it Fort Hood's military population of almost 40,000 and the result is a town of soldiers, retired soldiers, fast food restaurants, pawn shops and strip joints.

Loving arrived in 1986. He showed skill with artillery and soon became the No. 1 cannoneer for the 3rd Howitzer Section of Bravo Battery, said Sgt. James E. Key, his supervisor.

He also became what the sergeant called the "dirt bag of the unit." He failed a urinalysis in 1987, testing positive for marijuana. He also was disciplined for being late to formation and bad behavior. "The Army took away his pay, restricted him to his barracks and ordered him to perform extra work," Key said.

After counseling with Key, Loving developed a new attitude. Though he initially hoped to leave the service this summer, Key said, he had started to consider the Army for a career. In January 1988, he was recommended for an Army Achievement Medal.

"Loving was a good soldier," said Key, who met him in September 1987. "But he got mixed up with the wrong crowd. When he met Nadia, it all went out the window."

Simmons, 25, and Loving met in September 1988. By most accounts, their re-

lationship was one-sided, the impressionable Loving trying desperately to possess the striking Simmons, the more experienced Simmons trying to deflect him. She sometimes told him not to love her so much. She often talked of returning to her husband.

Loving again ran into trouble with the Army, showing up late for formation and being disrespectful. The Army soon started the discharge paperwork, Key said.

Loving's family blames Simmons for his troubles, saying she put him up to the crimes, but she has not been charged and investigators say they believe she is innocent.

"He was just a dumb black boy that got mixed up with a white girl who was too smart for him," said Loving's mother, Lucille, who lives at the family's home at 35 Stuns St. in Rochester. "He got mixed up with that girl and that's the cause of all his trouble."

Said boxing coach Lord Johnson, who handled Loving as a junior boxer and visited him at Fort Hood during the court-martial: "He would be over at her house cleaning it up. He'd do most anything for her. I guess in his eyes she was the only thing in the world."

"I robbed two 7-Eleven's. . . I said, 'Bitch, don't be scared. Give me the money. . . She looked like she was terrified."

Loving was born on Rochester's east side, the youngest of eight children. His father was an alcoholic. His mother worked several jobs to hold her family together.

"Back then, the worst problem we had was not getting jobs," said Loving's 23-year-old brother Harry, an Army specialist and boxer stationed at Fort Riley, Kan. "We had food on the table, a pretty nice house, clothes. It wasn't that bad at all."

Loving attended School 42 on Lake Avenue and East High School. Johnson said he pushed the youth to work as hard in school as he did in the boxing ring, but Loving left East without graduating. He attended Josh Lofton High School briefly, but quit.

All five Loving boys were skilled boxers. They won various Golden Gloves and Junior Olympic contests, fought abroad and generated considerable interest in amateur and professional boxing.

According to Johnson, the Loving with the most promise was Dwight, who started boxing when he was 8. He spent his youth fighting in the shadows of his older brothers at the Clinton Baden Community Center. He would work late into the evening, hitting the heavy bag and jumping rope.

"For somebody to pick up boxing at that age and do as well as he did, that's really something," said Johnson.

He described Loving as a "beautiful young man. He could have been a heck of a good professional."

Though he was well-liked, Loving had trouble with girls, often arguing and fighting with them. When he fell for a girl, he focused all his attention on winning her, friends and family said.

"We know by being men that there are



'We know by being men that there are plenty of us made to be a fool by a woman. That's what happened to this young man.

— Lord Johnson

plenty of us made to be a fool by a woman," said Johnson. "That's what happened to this young man."

LOVING JOINED the Army, his mother said, to stay out of trouble. He boxed in the Army, too, but ran into problems with his coach, Key said.

In Harry Loving's mind, his brother might have straightened out had he worked harder to succeed in the Army. Harry Loving viewed the relationship with Key as a step in the right direction. He also says the relationship with Simmons led to his brother's downfall.

"I couldn't believe he was interested in just one woman. Not my little brother, who used to have so many fine women. But he looked at me and said, 'Yeah, ain't it hard to believe. But I really love her.'"

"I know what he did was not right. But the woman who provoked it is just walking the streets. When he was arrested, she wrote him so many letters, saying, 'Oh, I love you.'"

According to Key, though, Loving's real trouble started when he bought a long-barrel, 22-caliber revolver from an acquaintance for \$50. He called it a "big rod." Then, on Dec. 11, he used it to rob two 7-Eleven convenience stores in a three-hour period.

"I said 'Damn. I did all that and didn't get enough money to get nothing. . . I robbed another one. . . I still didn't have no money. I was walking and I saw a taxi. That's when I thought about it. I could rob a taxi. I stood there and said 'I'll do it.'"

After the robberies, during which Simmons waited outside in a car, the two went for supper and then to a movie, according to FBI investigators. It was cool and cloudy that night. They walked some, and Simmons talked again of returning to her husband.

According to those close to Loving, it

was Simmons' talk of returning to her husband that troubled him most. He couldn't stand to lose her, he told them. Once, in a fit of anger, he slammed her head against the sidewalk and beat her up.

After he and Simmons parted that night, Loving called a taxi to take him to his barracks in Building 27002. He told the driver, 20-year-old Christopher L. Fay, to drive to the back of the barracks. He then shot him in the head, twice.

"I was looking at the back of his head and there was a little hole and blood was rushing out. I coked it again and I shot him again in the head. I just sat there looking, staring at the back of his head."

He then went into barracks and counted the few dollars he took from Fay's body.

"I said, 'Damn. No money. I killed somebody and no money.'"

He called for another taxi, this time instructing the dispatcher to have the driver meet him in front of the barracks. Fay's body was still slumped in the front seat of his taxi behind the barracks.

Loving told the next driver, 44-year-old Bobby Sharbino, to drive into Killeen, where he robbed and killed him.

"I said, 'I have a gun. Give me all your money.' I still had the gun pointed at him. I closed my eyes and just shot. Wham. . . I counted the money. It was nothing. I was scared as hell."

Loving left the cab in the street then went to Simmons' home. In his confession, he said he told her that he loved her and that he would die for her. Simmons held him and said she could not believe what he had done.

"I was scared. Because if I could do something like that to two people like that, then it could probably happen again."

Loving and Simmons then went the Nubia Temple, where they drank and danced. At one point, investigators said, Loving pulled his gun on a customer and accused him of looking at Simmons.

Simmons calmed him down and they left the club in a taxi. After dropping Simmons off, Loving tried to rob the cab driver, Howard D. Harrison.

When Loving ordered the 28-year-old driver to open his mouth so he could insert the gun barrel, Harrison fought back. He grabbed the gun barrel and Loving pulled him into the back seat. They fell out into the street. Harrison took the gun, which accidentally discharged. Loving fled.

"There wasn't nothing else I could do," Harrison said in a telephone interview. "I didn't want to die."

THE WINTER had been quiet in Killeen. When the two taxi drivers were found dead — both shot in the head at close range — residents were shocked by the violence.

"I don't think you'd have two cab driv-

ers killed in one night in New York City," said Bob Mashburn, who owns the Yellow Cab Co., where the slain drivers worked. "We were horrified."

Law officers moved quickly to calm residents. The Fort Hood military police, which has jurisdiction over soldiers accused of off-post crimes, received help in its investigation from the Killeen Police Department, the FBI and the Texas Rangers.

A break came quickly. Agent John Wallace, of the FBI's Waco bureau, found Simmons through Harrison's description of his attacker's companion. Simmons told Wallace that Loving robbed the stores and killed the taxi drivers. She denied any role in the crimes.

Though Loving's family and friends believe Simmons plotted the crimes to obtain money to help her gain U.S. citizenship, Wallace does not think she was involved.

"She's not a manipulative person in that way," he said. "She doesn't have the wherewithal to put together a scheme, a plot. But, yes, I believe he did it with her in his mind somehow."

Added Key: "He told me, 'I did it for her. I wanted to show her a good time. I got tired of not being able to do what I wanted to do for her.'"

Army policy prohibits Loving from telephoning or meeting with journalists, but in an April 14 letter to the Democrat and Chronicle he said he hopes to have a book written about his life and use the proceeds to help troubled teen-agers. Simmons has not responded to telegrams sent to her.

A PANEL of eight military officers deliberated 3½ hours before they found Loving guilty on March 31 on all charges in connection with the crime spree. They deliberated five hours before they sentenced him to death the following Monday. No date has been set for his execution.

Besides the testimony of Harrison and the 40-minute confession, the prosecution offered the testimony of Simmons, who spoke in broken English and through an interpreter. She denied any involvement in the crimes.

In a letter Loving received while in custody and introduced at the court-martial, Simmons wrote: "You did a good job, that's why you got me. . . I love you so much it scares me. . . It would be beautiful if I could have your child."

Johnson, the boxing coach, said Loving never expected Simmons to testify against him.

"When they told him she was going to testify against him, he didn't believe it. He didn't believe she'd do that to him."

"That's the bad part about it. They couldn't try her because he wouldn't testify against her. You believe that? And she turned state's evidence on him."

In fact, Loving sought to make it clear that Simmons was not involved. When investigators had completed their interrogation, they asked Loving if there was anything he wanted to add to the videotape.

"Only that Nadia didn't have anything to do with it," he responded. "Nothing at all."

N.Y. LOTTERY

Yesterday's winning number was 554. The Win Four number was 2920. The Keno numbers were 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 29, 36, 37, 40, 46, 49, 56, 59, 62, 71, 73, 77, 80. The Lotto numbers were 9, 11, 15, 25, 37, 52. The supplemental number was 17.