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5-9-1964

Deposition of Dorothy Kilgallen Kollmar, New York Journal American Reporter

F. Lee Bailey
Counsel for Sam Sheppard

Dorothy Kilgallen Kollmar
Deponent

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

EASTERN DIVISION

- - - - - X

SAMUEL H. SHEPPARD,

:

Petitioner,

:

-against-

:

No. 6640
Civil

E.L. MAXWELL, Warden,

:

Respondent.

:

- - - - - X

Statement of Dorothy K. Kollmar,
held at 220 South Street, New York,
New York, on May 9, 1964, at 3:45 P.M.

- - -

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- - -

MR. BAILEY: This statement, taken for
submission with a stipulation resulting from
the Order of the Court of May 6, 1964, is agreed
by the parties to have the status of a deposition;
by agreement of counsel, no oath is administered
since the integrity of the witness is not in
dispute.

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EXAMINATION BY MR. BAILEY:

Q Your name is Dorothy Kilgallen Kollmar?

A That's correct.

Q By whom are you employed?

A The New York Journal American, 220 South Street,
New York City.

Q For the purpose of this statement would you
rather be referred to as Miss Kilgallen or Mrs. Kollmar?

A Well, perhaps Kilgallen would be more pertinent,
because in the writing I do for the Journal American
I use the name Dorothy Kilgallen, which is my maiden name.

Q Miss Kilgallen, did you at some time in 1954
go to Cleveland, Ohio for the purposes of writing certain
articles or other material concerning the case of the
State of Ohio against Samuel H. Sheppard?

A I did.

Q Could you tell us approximately when you first
started to cover this case?

A I believe that I went out on an early Sunday morning
flight after "What's My Line?" and arrived in Cleveland
at some hour in the morning.

I did a broadcast with my husband, station to
station from Cleveland to New York here. Then I went to
the courtroom, and to the best of my recollection that

1
2 was the first day of the actual trial.

3 Q At what stage were the proceedings then?
4 Was this the impaneling of the jury that was going on?

5 A I was certainly there during the impaneling of the
6 jury. So, I would say, it was the Monday on which
7 the trial began, if it did begin on a Monday. I am not
8 exactly sure of the date without looking it up in my
9 records.

10 Q The trial judge who presided over the trial,
11 according to the record, was Edward G. Blythin. And
12 I ask you whether or not during the impaneling of the
13 jury you ever had an occasion to have a conversation
14 with Judge Blythin?

15 A Even before the impaneling of the jury I had a
16 conversation with Judge Blythin.

17 The day I arrived in court there were other
18 reporters and photographers, and some photographers took
19 my picture for television or for the local paper and my
20 own paper. And as soon as I got into the courtroom
21 a deputy or someone connected with Judge Blythin, perhaps
22 his secretary, whom I got to know, but I don't recall
23 his name, said, "Judge Blythin would like to see you in
24 chambers."

25 This was in the morning before court had

1
2 actually started or before Dr. Sheppard had been brought
3 into the courtroom.

4 And so I went into the chambers. And that was
5 the first time I met Judge Blythin.

6 Q Did you at that time have a conversation with
7 the Judge?

8 A Yes, I did.

9 Q Would you tell us, as best as you can, what was
10 said by you and what was said by Judge Blythin in the
11 course of the conversation?

12 A Yes.

13 He was very affable. He shook hands with me
14 and said, "I am very glad to see you, Miss Kilgallen.
15 I watch you on television very frequently and enjoy the
16 program." And he said, "But what brings you to
17 Cleveland?"

18 And I said, "Well, your Honor, this trial."

19 And he said, "But why come all the way from
20 New York to Cleveland to cover this trial?"

21 And I said, "Well, it has all the ingredients
22 of what in newspaper business we call a good murder. It
23 has a very attractive victim, who was pregnant, and the
24 accused is a very important member of the community,
25 respectable, very attractive man."

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1
2 And I said, "Then added to that, you have the
3 fact that it is a mystery as to who did it."

4 And Judge Blythin said, "Mystery? It's an
5 open and shut case."

6 And I said, "Well, what do you mean, Judge Blythin?"
7 I was a little taken aback because usually, I have talked
8 to many judges in their chambers, but usually they
9 don't give me an opinion on a case before it's over.

10 And so I said, "What do you mean, Judge Blythin?"

11 And he said, "Well, he is guilty as hell. There
12 is no question about it."

13 And after that we talked about the accommodations.
14 He, I believe, again expressed his astonishment that
15 people like Bob Considine and people from foreign
16 newspapers were on hand. Theo Wilson was there from the
17 News with another man from the News, whose name I don't
18 recall, Hank something or other.

19 And the Judge seemed genuinely surprised that
20 there was so much interest in this particular case, which
21 to him seemed to be a mere formality.

22 Q Did you have any further conversations with the
23 Judge during the course of the trial?

24 A Only casual conversations on the sidewalk when we
25 were both waiting for taxis in the rain or something

1
2 like that. But nothing that really pertained to the
3 case.

4 Q There were no further discussions with relation
5 to the matters of the trial?

6 A No.

7 Q I want to ask you about the arrangements made
8 for the press in the courtroom. I am particularly
9 interested in the benches erected inside the trial bar.

10 A Yes.

11 Q Do you happen to recall which of the several
12 reporters covering the trial were seated at these
13 benches? Who had the front row seats?

14 A No, I really don't recall. I know I had a good
15 enough seat where I could see. But sometimes I would
16 sit in the actual courtroom part, in what we call the
17 pews, where the general public was admitted or the
18 members of the family. Sometimes, because I wanted to
19 get out quickly. But I don't believe that I had
20 a stated place where I was entitled to sit if I so chose.
21 I am sure Bob Considine, and the New York Times and
22 Marguerite Parton of the Herald Tribune had a place;
23 and, of course, the Cleveland reporters had the best
24 place because I suppose they being hometown newspapermen
25 were entitled to the best places.

Q One other thing that I want to ask you. Do you recall whether or not photographs were taken inside the courtroom during the trial? And I don't mean the proceedings. But --

A As I recall, photographs were taken when the Judge was not on the bench, but when the defendant was in the courtroom.

Q Do you know whether or not the defendant was photographed after the jury had been taken out and as he was leaving the courtroom, or before the jury came in and he was entering the courtroom?

A You mean from day to day?

Q Yes.

A I believe there were some photographs usually after the proceedings at luncheon recess, in the morning before the Judge took the bench and the court was called to order.

MR. BAILEY: That is all that I have.

Mr. Kessler, can you think of anything else?

MR. KESSLER: No.

Can you think of anything, Mr. Brake?

MR. BRAKE: No.

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