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# Bertrand Signature Not Written By Shaw Noted Expert Testifies

## Court Hears Retired FBI Agent

A nationally known handwriting expert testified today the "Clay Bertrand" signature on the guest register at New Orleans International Airport was not written by Clay L. Shaw.

Charles A. Appel Jr., a retired Federal Bureau of Investigation graphologist from Washington, D. C., said the entry in the book was "made by some other person entirely."

SHAW, 55, is on trial before Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. on charges of conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy, shot to death in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

A state witness, Mrs. Jesse Parker, testified earlier she saw Shaw sign the Bertrand name in the guest book in the airport's VIP Room in December, 1966. Bertrand is the alias District Attorney Jim Garrison says Shaw used in plotting to kill Kennedy.

Shaw insists he never used such an alias.

Two other defense witnesses testified this morning. Jefferson Biddison, a real estate man, testified he is a long-time friend of Shaw's and handled the defendant's mail during the summer of 1966 while Shaw was in Europe.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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SECTION 1

STATES-ITEM

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A POSTAL WORKER delivered mail to the Biddison address in this period addressed to Clay Bertrand.

Biddison said he never received any mail addressed to a Clem or Clay Bertrand.

The other witness was former Saturday Evening Post writer James R. Phelan, who testified about discrepancies in a memo written by Assistant DA Andrew J. Sciambra about his interview with the state's star witness, Perry Raymond Russo.

Appel, noted as the handwriting expert who broke the Landbergh kidnaping case in 1932, was qualified as an expert witness as court closed yesterday.

Chief defense counsel F. Irvin Dymond called Appel to the stand as the trial opened its 31st day today. The witness was cross-examined by chief prosecutor James L. Alcock.

As court opened this morning, Dymond showed Appel a state exhibit with the "Bertrand" signature, and a witness compared it with a photographic enlargement of the same signature.

Dymond then brought out other exhibits, documents signed by Shaw before a notary. Appel said he had examined them.

The witness went into a long comparison of the "Bertrand" writing and the Shaw signature. Step by step, he analyzed the formation of various letters and showed how Shaw's differed from Bertrand's.

"FOR THESE REASONS . . . I conclude they were not written by the same person," said Appel.

He said he has examined other writings by Shaw and "the entry in the book was made by some other writer entirely."

Dymond then tendered the witness to Alcock for cross-examination. He said he receives a government pension, but has done no FBI work since his retirement in 1948.

Appel testified he made his comparisons from photographs. "I saw no original documents until I arrived here today."

have been better to work from the original signatures. "It is not necessary at all," the witness

APPEL SAID HE had Shaw seated in a normal manner to make his signature for comparison and that the defendant was shown no other writing. He said he had no way of knowing how "Bertrand" was seated.

Alcock asked the witness if the difference between Shaw's handwriting and that of "Bertrand" were "significant." "There are no two writings exactly alike," Appel said.

At this point, a recess was taken.

Upon resuming, Alcock asked Appel if handwriting analysis is an "exact science."

"No, sir. Mathematics is the only exact science there is," Appel said. He added that his comparison process is "most scientific."

He said he took about two hours to reach his conclusion in this case.

ALCOCK ASKED IF mistakes are ever made in this field. Appel said, "In any endeavor I've ever heard of where humans are involved there is room for mistakes."

He said he has never been proved wrong.

On redirect, Appel said he felt he had sufficient samples on which to base his opinion. He said he was participating in this trial without compensation because he felt it "a civic duty."

As a rule, he said, he does not work for defendants because "I don't like to break down law enforcement" but he did in this case because he wanted to see that justice is done.

ON RECROSS - EXAMINATION, Alcock pressed this point, explaining he wanted to see if the witness had formed an opinion in the case prior to making the handwriting analysis.

Appel said he got into the case after Lloyd J. Cobb, president of the International Trade Mart, called him Feb. 14 and asked his fee. Told it was \$250 a day, Cobb replied that Shaw "doesn't have such money as that."

the merits of the case with Cobb, but decided he would accept the duty to prevent an injustice from being carried out.

Appel added that at the time, "I knew nothing about the case."

Alcock exclaimed: "What? You knew nothing about the case and you were afraid an injustice would be done? No further questions!"

The whole Bertrand matter was clouded yesterday when the man who originally introduced the name into the Kennedy case, New Orleans attorney Dean Adams Andrews Jr., testified that he made it up.

ANDREWS, WHO has been convicted of perjury for changing his story about Bertrand under oath, changed it again yesterday, saying the mystery figure "was a figment of my imagination."

The rotund attorney, who speaks in a jargon that sounds like a polyglot of everything from 1930 jive-talk to today's hip, said of his previous testimony, "It's page after page of bull."

Andrews told the Warren Commission a man known to him as Clay Bertrand called him the day after the assassination and asked him to go to Dallas and defend Lee Harvey Oswald, then accused of killing Kennedy. Andrews' perjury conviction resulted from his giving different versions of this story under oath to the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

HERE IS ANDREWS' latest version of the incident, as brought out in yesterday's testimony:

Alcock: "When you received this telephone call on Nov. 23, 1963, did you have an image of the man who called you?"

A—I did.  
Q—Did you know him by any other name than Clay Bertrand?

A—Gene Davis. (Eugene Davis is a French Quarter bar operator who denies ever using the name Bertrand).

Q—You identify Gene Davis as Clay Bertrand?

A—I HAVE NEVER identified Gene Davis as Clay Ber-

trand as a cover name or Gene Davis.

—Did you ever see him Lee Harvey Oswald?"

A—No.  
Q—And you didn't choose to help the FBI (by telling them Davis was Bertrand)...

A—I didn't choose to subject this man, all of a sudden it dawned on me that I was about to subject this man to a lot of heat and pressure that didn't belong to him. So I gave that cover name...

"... IT'S BEEN WHIP-LASHING ever since. I can't get away from it, I am not able to stop it. When he (Davis) called me that day it was about a car sale and, in casual conversation, he said that if I wanted to be a famous lawyer I ought to get cases like the one coming up in Dallas. Nobody said, per se, that I was to be the lawyer . . ."

Q—You mean to tell me nobody asked you to take Oswald's case?

A—Yes, my answer is yes, no one called me to say that.

Q—Why did you say that?

A—Humph! No answer there. Except I'd like to be famous myself as something other than a perjurer.

Slightly later, Judge Haggerty began questioning the witness himself. He asked:

HOW DID YOU come up with Clay Bertrand, not Joe Brown or Charlie Smith, but Clay Bertrand. It's not a common name?"

A—Of all the names, I had to pick that one.

Alcock: In other words, you went back 13 years in your memory to pick up the name Clay Bertrand. (Earlier, Andrews had testified he was introduced to Davis as Bertrand in the 1950s.

A—It wasn't easy.

Alcock: How did you know your former client, Lee Harvey Oswald, had been charged with assassinating President Kennedy?

A—I don't know till yet that he was charged with assassinating

**Q—WELL—HOW DID you know he had been arrested?**

**A—**I saw him on TV. I saw him when he shot this guy Ruby.

**Judge Haggerty: Shot Ruby! Ruby shot Oswald!**

Andrews, with an expression of disgust, extended his forefinger, cocked his thumb, and made a motion of shooting himself in the temple.

In earlier testimony yesterday, Andrews said Shaw was definitely not the man he knew as Bertrand. He said

he had done some legal work for Oswald, but never heard him mention Shaw. He said he knew David W. Ferrie slightly, but knew of no connection between Ferrie, Shaw and Oswald.

#### **GARRISON CHARGES**

Shaw plotted the assassination here with Oswald and Ferrie. The Warren Commission named Oswald as the lone assassin.

Dymond, who had expressed hope earlier the defense could wind up its case today, said yesterday this is now most unlikely.

"It looks like Thursday," Dymond said, "but you can't tell how long the state will keep our people on the stand."

Shaw, Dymond said, will still take the stand as a defense witness.



**CHARLES A. APPEL JR.**  
On way to Shaw trial.