

# 'CLAY BERTRAND' 'SIGNATURE' NOT SHAW'S.

FBI !!! NEW O

## EXPERT

ORLEANS STATES-ITEM 2-26-69

A nationally known handwriting expert testified today the "Clay Bertrand" signature on the guest register at New Orleans International Air-

port 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.

A POSTAL WORKER testified in the trial that he 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.

Russo testified he heard

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12/14/66 Clay DeStancel New Orleans, La

COPY OF SIGNATURE FROM GUEST REGISTER AT N. O. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

11/19/62 Mary (Mrs) DeStancel Mrs DeStancel

DEFENDANT CLAY SHAW'S VERSION WRITTEN FOR HANDWRITING EXPERT





**GRAPHOLOGIST CHARLES A. APPEL JR.**  
En route to testify at Shaw trial.

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Shaw discussing the assassination of Kennedy here in September, 1963, with Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie.

Sciambra testified earlier he went to Baton Rouge in February, 1967, and interviewed Russo, then wrote a memo to Garrison about the talk.

Garrison later gave a copy of the memo to Phelan, the writer testified today, and it contained no reference to any assassination plot meeting.

Appel, noted as the handwriting expert who broke the Lindbergh 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 morn-

ing, 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."

Alcock asked if it would have been better to work from the original signatures. "It is not necessary at all," the witness said.

**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."

He said he did not discuss 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 next witness was Biddison, of 1414 Chartres, who said he has known Shaw for 23 years. He identified a photo of a black Cadillac as the car he owned in 1963. Several state witnesses have testified they saw Shaw in such a car with Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie in 1963.

Biddison said he never lent the auto to Shaw during 1963. Shaw, he said, drove a black Thunderbird. The witness said he did lend Shaw the Cadillac in 1967.

**SHAW, TO HIS** knowledge, never used the name Bertrand or any other alias, Biddison said. He said he never heard Shaw mention Oswald or Ferrie. Shown pictures of Os-



wald and Ferrie, the witness said he never saw them in person.

Biddison said he never knew Shaw to wear tight pants or a hat. Russo testified he saw Shaw dressed that way in 1962.

In 1966, Biddison said, he received Shaw's mail at his office at 902 Royal st., but never at his home, 1414 Chartres. None of it, he said, was addressed to Clem or Clay Bertrand.

On cross-examination, Biddison said he lives alone, but for five or 10 days in 1966 Shaw stayed with him. He said he seldom saw Shaw during 1963.

Asked how much Shaw mail came to his office in 1966, Biddison replied, "Tons of it."

**HE SAID HE** and Shaw lived together from 1946 to 1948 and 1950 at two different French Quarter addresses.

Phelan took the stand and testified he is a free-lance writer from Long Beach, Calif. He said he came to New Orleans in February of 1967 on assignment from the Post to interview Garrison.

He said he talked to the DA in his office, then at his home, and four or five days later at Las Vegas.

Garrison registered at the Las Vegas hotel under the name of W. O. Robertson, Phelan testified. There, he

said, Garrison gave him some material which later testimony established included the Sciambra memo on the Russo interview.

**AFTER RUSSO** testified at the March, 1967, preliminary hearing for Shaw, Phelan said, he called Garrison and told him he was "tremendously disturbed" by the testimony.

He said he went to Garrison's home and "pointed out the wide discrepancy between what Mr. Russo had said in the Sciambra memo and what he said on the stand."

Dymond asked, "And what did Mr. Garrison do?"

"His jaw dropped a little bit," Phelan said, and he called Sciambra, who came to the house.

Phelan said he told Sciambra that in his report on his meeting with Russo in Baton Rouge there was no information about an assassination plot. "The memo never said Shaw knew Oswald or that Russo knew Shaw or that Russo knew Shaw by the name Clay or Clem Bertrand."

Alcock objected to this testimony, and the trial was recessed for lunch.

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.

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. *END*