

Angela Davis Grand Jury Record Made Public

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SAN RAFAEL, Calif., Jan. 15—A woman who looked "very much" like Angela Davis was seen in the Marin County Civic Center parking lot a day before the Aug. 7 prison escape attempt that took four lives here.

This disclosure, based on testimony of a gas station attendant, was among several contained in 127 pages of previously sealed transcript from the grand jury that returned indictments charging conspiracy, kidnaping and murder against the 26-year-old Miss Davis. The transcript, minus 15 expurgated pages, was made public today.

Together, the testimony of 25 witnesses comprised a skein of circumstance linking Miss Davis indirectly to the events of Aug. 7, when Jonathan Jackson interrupted courtroom proceedings, freed three San Quentin prisoners and tried to escape with a judge and each time.

other hostages, Jackson, the judge and two of the prisoners were killed during the gun battle that erupted outside the courthouse.

The transcript also further illuminated the basic prosecution strategy of associating the incident at San Rafael with a plot to ransom the so-called Soledad Brothers, a trio of prisoners awaiting trial for killing a guard. One of the three is Jonathan Jackson's brother, George.

While Miss Davis has never been placed at the scene on the day of the shootout, the grand jury heard testimony tying her to the Soledad Brothers' cause, to Jonathan Jackson and to the guns used in the breakout attempt.

Witnesses testified that: Miss Davis was seen in the waiting room of San Quentin prison on Aug. 4 and 5, the week of the shootout, while Jonathan visited his brother. The two had arrived together to escape with a judge and each time.

Miss Davis was accompanied by Jonathan Jackson on July 25 at a Los Angeles gun shop where she purchased the third of four guns bought in her name and used in the escape attempt.

The fourth gun—a Spanish-make shotgun—was bought by Miss Davis in a San Francisco shop two days before the incident. The sales clerk recalled Miss Davis from her publicized difficulties as a Communist professor at UCLA and asked for her autograph.

At 2 p.m. on Aug. 7, three hours after the shootout, Miss Davis flew from San Francisco to Los Angeles after buying her ticket from an agent and paying for it by check.

James McClain, one of the prisoners, later slain, shouted "free" of "release the Soledad brothers" by 12:30 or all, they all die," as the escapees left the courthouse with the hostages.

pages — was withheld on the petition of A. Leonard Bjorklund Jr., attorney of record for Fuchell Magee, the surviving prisoner of the shootout, who is charged with Miss Davis. The unpublished section apparently deals with events inside the escape van that carried the escapees and the hostages.

The gas-station attendant, Peter D. Fleming, worked at his father's service station, directly across from the Civic Center. He testified that two Negroes, male and female, approached him on Aug. 6 to help with a dead battery.

The three went together to the center parking lot (scene of the shootout the next day) and Fleming helped them start the vehicle, which he described as a yellow Ford Econoline van, with the words "Hertz Rental" on the side.

Fleming pressed to compare his memory of the woman with photographs shown him by District Attorney Bruce R. Jackson.

Bales, could not make a positive identification before the grand jury.

Asked to describe her, Fleming said she was "sort of attractive. She was a little bit darker than the male, as far as complexion goes. . . . She had a dress on."

"What kind of dress?" "A minidress, I would say. . . . Not a real mini mini, but, you know, it was mini. She was very attractive, good-looking person."

"What kind of build?" "Good build. Excellent." Confronted with photos of Miss Davis, however, Fleming said they looked "very much like" the woman and "a lot like her." But, he added, "I can't remember the teeth. That's the only distinctive thing about her, you know, in the face with the teeth, I can't."

Fleming positively identified the male as being Jonathan Jackson.