

Sirhan Jury Hears of 'Polka Dot Girl'

She Was Standing Next to Him, Both Smiling, Witness Says

Los Angeles, June 13 (UPI)—A dark-haired girl in a polka dot dress was standing smiling next to Jordanian immigrant Sirhan B. Sirhan moments before he allegedly stuck out a gun only inches away and shot down Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, grand jury testimony revealed today.

A waiter standing a few feet away from the assassination scene said Sirhan had a "sick looking smile on his face" as he stood on a tray stand stacked with coasters beside the girl in a pantry leading to a kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel.

Vincent Thomas Di Piero, the waiter, told the grand jury he did not see the girl after the shooting.

A Kennedy campaign worker, Sandy Serrano, 26, previously had told police she saw a woman in a polka dot dress run out onto a courtyard of the hotel early, June 5, shouting, "We shot him."

Miss Serrano said she asked who had been shot and the woman replied: "We shot Kennedy." Miss Serrano did not appear before the grand jury which indicted Sirhan for murder.

"Four to Six Feet Away"
Di Piero, who said he was a part-time waiter, said he was four to six feet away when Kennedy was shot. He said he had noticed the girl and Sirhan standing on the tray stand. He was asked by a grand jury if he could identify her if he saw her again. He answered:

"To some degree, yes sir, I could. I would never forget what she looked like because she had a very good-looking figure—and the dress was kind of—kind of lousy."
"After the shooting . . . did you happen to see this girl again?"
"No, I only saw her before."

"Didn't Ask Her Name"
Di Piero said he didn't ask her name. "One fellow said that he had seen her but that he didn't know where she went or what her name was."

"She had dark hair that was cut, I would say, just above the shoulders," he testified. She had what looked like a short nose. She wasn't too—facially, she wasn't too pretty. She was not that pretty and, like I say, she had a very good figure."
"Could you describe what she was wearing?"
"Yes. It looked as though it was a white dress and it had either black or dark purple polka dots on it. It kind of had— I don't know what they call



Sirhan Bishara Sirhan Protected by police after capture

it—but it's like—looked like a bib in the front, kind of went around."
A grand juror: "A lace dicky, probably."

Di Piero: "It was like over the material itself; it was the same as the clothing. And then she was . . . like I say, they were both on the—standing together."

"Talked or Flirted"
"Back of the tray stand?"
"Yes. And what happened, he (Sirhan) looked as though he either talked to her or flirted with her because she smiled. This is just before he got down."
"They were both smiling. As he got down, he was smiling. In fact, the minute the first two shots were fired, he still had a

very sick-looking smile on his face. That's one thing—I can never forget that."

"I saw him get down and when I went to turn, the next thing I saw was him holding the gun. He kind of moved around Mr. (Karl) Uecker (assistant maître d') and he kind of motioned around him and stuck the gun straight out and nobody could move."

Seemed on His Tiptoes
"It was—you were just frozen, you didn't know what to do and then I saw the first powdering or plastering (gun discharge). When he pulled the trigger, the first shot, Mr. Kennedy fell down."
"He kind of went around Mr. Uecker . . . and when he stuck the gun he looked like he was on his tiptoes because he wasn't tall."

Di Piero said he heard five shots. He was asked if there could have been more.
"There could have been. I don't know. In the confusion I was standing behind there, the next thing I knew I had blood all over my face and glasses. And then the man that got shot in the head (United Auto Workers official Paul Schrade) fell in my arms and then the other boy who was shot in the thigh, he fell on top of me."

"Mr. Kennedy, he was on his way, falling—he was falling down. The first shot, he kind of reared back, very, very sharply." Di Piero was asked how the crowd reacted.
"Tried Hard to Escape"
"Well, the suspect turned almost immediately, and after all the shots were fired, he was trying to escape. He tried very hard to get away. But Mr. Rafter Johnson—and by this time Mr. Grier and Mr. Uecker—were all holding him against the heater. And people were trying—were hitting him and cursing at him and it was utter confusion. I mean, everyone was trying to kill him."

A special 25-man police unit was assigned today to follow every lead in the assassination



Roosevelt Grier as he helped subdue Sirhan Sirhan (right).

try to prevent any controversy such as that which followed the slaying of President John F. Kennedy.

District Attorney Evell Younger also disclosed that a special three-man task force from his office would make legal preparations for prosecution.

"We are realistic enough to know that this trial will be watched by millions with such interest that if there were 10,000 leads and we tracked down 9,999 of them, someone would write a book asking what we were trying to cover up," Younger said.

Younger said Sirhan could get "just as fair a trial in Los Angeles as he could in Keokuk, Iowa, or any place else"—indicating he would fight any move for a change of venue.

Escorted RFK by Hand

He disagreed sharply with Gov. Rockefeller's statement in Los Angeles yesterday that a presidential candidate must undergo certain risks in exposing himself to the public. Younger said the public was "entitled to a live candidate on Election Day."

Uecker also testified. He said he escorted Kennedy by the hand

from the stage to the pantry. "And while I was holding his hand, I was turning to my right toward the Colonial Room where the press room was. At the time, something rushed by my right side."

At that time I didn't recognize what it was. It was some paper flying. I don't remember what it was, paper or white pieces of things.

Tried to Shake Off Gun
"Then I heard the first shot and the second shot right after that and Mr. Kennedy fell out of my hand. I lost his hand."

"I looked for him and I saw him falling down. And I turned around again, and I saw the man—right, standing next to me."
Uecker moved to grab the assailant.

"The arm was holding the gun in, pushed the arm down toward the steam heater . . . and I took him around his neck as tight as I could and pressing my right against the steam heater."

"I was hitting his hand on the steam heater as hard as I could with my left hand. I had him right here on the wrist and

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RFK Autopsy Found 3 Wounds



Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi

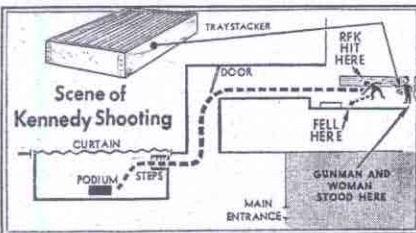
The man who performed the autopsy on Sen. Robert F. Kennedy testified that he found three bullet wounds.

Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi, chief medical examiner of Los Angeles County, said the fatal bullet entered behind the right ear and pierced the brain. The other two bullets entered in the vicinity of the right armpit about two inches apart.

One of the nonfatal bullets was found in the neck. The other, Noguchi told the grand jury, emerged in the front of the right shoulder.

Some witnesses had placed the assailant as far away from Kennedy as six feet when the shooting began, but the medical examiner testified that the muzzle of the pistol was "no more than two or three inches from the edge of the right ear."

He said an examination of powder burns on the victim confirmed this.



NEWS Sketch by Staff Artist Julian

Grand jury was told that Sirhan and attractive girl watched approaching Kennedy party from tray stand. Sirhan then stepped off and fired fatal shots, witness said.