

Soledad Guard's Last Moments

By Charles Howe

The sound of breaking glass took him from his perch on the toilet in his cell, a new prosecution witness testified here yesterday, in time to watch the last moments of the life of Soledad Prison guard John V. Mills.

William T. Worzella, 30, a convicted burglar and writer of worthless checks, also testified he has been harassed by persons representing the defense of the "Soledad Brothers."

Under examination by Monterey County District Attorney William Curtis, Worzella substantially corroborated testimony given by another former prisoner who said he saw the killing on the night of Jan. 16, 1970.

JACKSON

Worzella testified that when he looked out from his cell on the second floor of Y Wing and up at the third tier he heard inmates shouting out "pick him (Mills) up by the head or neck real gently, like a baby, and come down with three blows ..."

Worzella said he saw defendant John Clutchette with Jackson at the scene of the killing. He said that defendant Fleeta Drumgo came past his cell, his hand wrapped in a towel, "and a look of anxiety on his face."

LIES

Earlier testimony by inmate Thomas Yorke had

Drumgo punching Mills in the face.

Worzella said he lied to prison authorities twice when they asked him if he had seen the murder: that he finally told the truth because his own cell.

his cell number and presumed he was marked for reprisal as a possible eyewitness.

Worzella said he realized he was in trouble when an inmate spotted him watching the death tableau.

This prisoner, identified only as "Calloway" reportedly yelled: "Mind your own business, whitey!"

Worzella said he replied to Calloway to the effect that he perform an impossible act upon himself, but nevertheless decided he had best retreat to the relative safety of his own cell.

'THUMP'

Worzella said he did not see Jackson push the body from the third tier. "I heard a thump, like a body coming down," Worzella testified.

After giving state's evidence, Worzella said he was visited by attorney Faye Stender, who at one time represented Jackson.

She "more or less made threats," Worzella said. "In other words, she scared hell out of me."

About two months ago, said Worzella, who was paroled last November, a man

purporting to be a private investigator for the defense somehow found out where he lived and gained entry to his home on a ruse.

The man knew everything about him, Worzella said, "even the name of my daughter and the name of my dog."

The investigator, Worzella said, told him he would be under periodic surveillance by a woman in his employ and offered to furnish him with an attorney.

DEFENSE

Defense attorney Floyd Siliman brought out evidence during cross examination that a probation report on Worzella prior to the time he was sent to Soledad read:

"The manner in which he approached his victims was that of a first class con man."

The Superior Court trial resumes at 9:30 a.m. today at the Hall of Justice.