

Testimony on 'Day Before'

Quentin Ex-Con at Angela

By Kevin Leary

A former San Quentin inmate testified yesterday that he saw Angela Davis with Jonathan Jackson in the prison parking lot the day before the fatal August, 1970, shooting at the Marin County Civic Center.

Louis F. May said he wasn't sure whether it was a Wednesday or a Thursday, ("A person doing time doesn't really remember dates.") but it was "the day before the Marin county incident."

May said he was operating the prison's motorized tram, used to transport visitors from the main gate to the entrance to the visiting area, on that day when he saw Jackson and Miss Davis in a yellow van in the parking lot.

May said he knew Jackson from previous visits, and he recognized Miss Davis from the publicity she received when she was fired from UCLA for her Communist activities.

The former inmate testified that he had seen Miss Davis and Jackson together visiting the prison "four or five times" earlier that week.

On the day before the shooting, he said, he saw them in the van together — Jackson driving and Miss Davis sitting next to him as they left the prison parking lot, after the youth left the visiting room.

As they drove by, May said, he heard "argumentative sounds . . . quite loud" coming from the van. But he could not understand what was being said.

RECORD

Defense attorney Howard Moore Jr. opened the cross examination by bringing out May's criminal record, which included a conviction for burglary, a conviction for lewd and lascivious conduct on a child and a conviction for indecent exposure. Moore also brought out that the witness was a registered sex offender in San Diego county, where May now resides.

To each of the probing, personal questions May remained unflappable. He balked only once, when Moore pressed him on the court action May is taking to try to erase the sex offenses from his record.

May bristled and said: "I don't think it has any bearing on this case, and I don't want to discuss it."

May's testimony ended there for the day, but Moore said the witness will be recalled today for at least two hours of further questioning.

TRIAL

Yesterday marked the opening day of the seventh week of testimony in the San Jose trial in which Miss Davis is charged with murder, kidnap and conspiracy.

The State has accused the militant, black philosophy teacher of engineering the abortive escape attempt at the Marin County Civic Center on Aug. 7, 1970. Four persons were killed in the ensuing gun battle, including

Trial

Superior Court Judge Harold Haley.

Another of yesterday's witnesses was Jack P. Schotte, a San Quentin guard who testified that Joan Hammer, the prominent San Jose activist in liberal and radical causes, was with Jonathan Jackson on Aug. 6, 1970, when the 17-year-old revolutionary visited his brother.

Schotte said Mrs. Hammer checked in at the visiting room at 10:25 a.m. and talked to George Jackson for about an hour before Jonathan showed up.

TALK

After Jonathan entered the visiting room, the brothers huddled in conversation, and Mrs. Hammer leaned back in her chair and did not participate, according to Schotte.

The guard said he went to lunch between 12:15 and 1 p.m., and by the time he returned, Jonathan was gone and Mrs. Hammer was conversing with George.

Schotte said he considered the visit to be a "routine meeting" at the time, since Jonathan had visited his brother many times, and he believed Mrs. Hammer "must have visited before," even though he didn't recall seeing her any other time.

Marin county fireman Michael Vonada stuck to his testimony of last week in which he positively placed Miss Davis at a service station across the street from the Civic Center the day be-

fore the incident.

Both last Thursday, and again yesterday under rigorous cross examination by defense attorney Leo Branton Jr., Vonada insisted that he saw Miss Davis standing outside the service station smoking a cigar, while young Jackson made arrangements to have the dead battery in the yellow van jump-started.

And a Pacific Telephone Co. security agent produced telephone records that showed a collect call had been made from Al Fleming Mobil Service Station (the one across from the Civic Center) to Hertz Auto Rentals in San Francisco.

James J. Finnegan testified that the call was made in the name of Jonathan Jackson, that it cost 40 cents,

it was made at 10:44 a.m. of Aug. 6, 1970, and it lasted five minutes, 41½ seconds. at San Francisco International Airport.

Finnegan also testified that the phone number found in Jonathan's wallet after he was shot to death in the escape attempt, was to a public telephone near the American Airlines ticket counter In his opening statement, chief prosecutor Albert W. Harris Jr. claimed that Miss Davis was at the airport at the time of the shooting, and that she fled from there shortly after the escape failed.