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April 26, 1972 ☆☆☆☆

# Denial of Carr Tie To Angela

*Never Met,  
Claims Wife*

By Don West

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SAN JOSE — Mrs. Joan Hammer and her daughter Mrs. Elizabeth Hammer Carr denied today that slain black militant James Carr ever was connected with the Angela Davis or Soledad Brothers defense funds.

The two were questioned on the stand during a preliminary hearing for Carr's accused hired killers.

The questions were an effort to bring out the motive in the killing.

## Never Met

Both women said they had known Fred Bennett, a former Black Panther captain whom an informer said Carr had killed. But they said Carr had never met Angela Davis, although Mrs. Hammer had.

And both testified that Carr never had expressed any fear for his life although Mrs. Hammer said fire bombs were found in the bushes of his home about three weeks before the shooting.

Assistant District Attorney William Hoffman drew sharp defense objections during the preliminary hearing on murder charges against Richard Rodriguez, 22, of Baldwin Park, and Lamar Lloyd Mims, 21, of Los Angeles.

## \$540 Fee

Hoffman announced he has evidence the two, who were arrested within 20 minutes of Carr's killing April 6, had been hired in Los Angeles and paid \$540 for the job.

The petite widow, mother of Carr's seven month old daughter, was testifying under protest after having referred all police questions to an attorney.

Hoffman argued that his question as to whether she knew Bennett related directly to motive for the slaying.

## Bomb Factory

Bennett, a former Black Panther captain reportedly involved with a prominent fellow Panther's wife, was slain in a bomb factory in 1970, but authorities did not disclose the murder until April of 1971. Two months later an informant accused Carr of the murder, but no charges were ever filed.

She testified that shortly after Carr left her mother's house she heard six shots, panicked and ran first upstairs and then outside where she saw Carr's feet dangling from his jeep. She did not see his assailants.

Neighbors of the Carrs, however, saw men fleeing the scene and quickly notified police, leading to Mims and Rodriguez being arrested 20 miles away with guns and firebombs in their car.