

# Angela Defense

By Stephen Cook  
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SAN JOSE — A red-faced and obviously unhappy ex-convict stumbled today on cross-examination over his positive identification of Angela Davis as the woman who accompanied Jonathan Jackson to San Quentin Prison just before noon Aug. 6, 1970.

Louis F. May of El Cajon testified that, just 24 hours before the Aug. 7 courtroom kidnap that ended in bloodshed, he saw the former UCLA professor at the prison, in the van that carried a judge and three others to death in the Marin County Civic Center parking lot the next day.

Her companion, he said, was 17 year old Jonathan Jackson, who triggered the next day's events by pulling three of Miss Davis' guns in Judge Harold J. Haley's courtroom.

## Last Minute

According to Prosecutor Albert W. Harris Jr., Jackson was at the prison at 11:25 a.m. Aug. 6 for a last minute conference with his older brother, George whose freedom was allegedly the object of the kidnap of Judge Haley.

But May, called to help support that version, offered several statements on cross-examination that conflicted with the story he told yesterday for the prosecution.

May, an inmate at San Quentin that day, said he wasn't sure about dates, because time runs together when you are a prisoner, but that it was the day before the Marin Civic Center shoot-out when Miss Davis and Jonathan Jackson drove into the visitor's parking lot in a yellow van.

And he remembered watching as the van left, passing him about 15 feet away, on the other side of a chain link fence.

Jonathan Jackson was driving and "it looked like she was sitting in the middle of the van, facing him."

## Set on Edge

Defense Attorney Howard Moore Jr. set May on edge late yesterday when he began his cross-examination by asking the stocky blond witness whether he was still "registered as a sex offender."

"I will be for life," May replied, his face darkening. "Am I on trial here?"

Moore returned to the at-



Witness Louis F. May as an artist saw him being questioned by Defense Attorney Howard Moore Jr.

Sketch by Don Juhlfin

tack this morning, and succeeded in wringing from May a statement that he had also seen Jonathan Jackson in the yellow van on Aug. 5 — a statement which conflicted with previous testimony that he did not rent the van from the Hertz agency until Aug. 6.

How did he explain that?

"I didn't say I saw a rental van on the 5th," May replied.

He testified that he had seen Jackson at the prison

Aug. 3, 4, 5 and 6, and that he believed that Miss Davis was with him on the 3rd.

Miss Davis, according to trial records, did not arrive in the Bay Area from Los Angeles until the night of Aug. 3.

## Given Parole Date

As to whether she was with Jackson at the prison on Aug. 6, May could only say that he saw a woman walking up the pathway with him but he could not say whether it was Miss Davis

# Shakes Ex-Con's Story

although "it could have been."

May admitted he had been interviewed by the State Attorney General's investigators in August, 1970, and that he already knew then that they were looking for Miss Davis. He conceded, too, that he was given a parole date a month later, and was released in December, 1970.

But he denied emphatically that he ever told a defense investigator he would "have sold my mother down the drain" to get out of prison, and under re-direct examination he denied that he had been given any promises in return for his testimony.

Earlier witnesses have testified that young Jackson appeared in the courtroom of Judge Haley on the morning of Aug. 6, again about 2 p.m. that afternoon, and again at 3 p.m.

Harris has hinted his belief that the kidnap attempt was to have occurred on his last visit that day, but was thwarted because court had recessed early at 2:30 p.m.

Today, he offered as a witness Mrs. Lois M. Leidig, of Portland, Ore., who had been visiting, a frequent Ma-

rin County courtroom observer on Aug. 6 and sat in on the trial of convict James McClain, which was the setting for the kidnap attempt.

She testified that a man she subsequently identified as Jackson sat down behind her shortly after 2 p.m., and that she looked at him about three times afterward.

## Stared at Gallery

That, she said, was because "Mr McClain started staring off toward the gallery at such long intervals, I turned around to see what he was looking at and the young man was in my vision."

The inference was that McClain was looking for a signal.

On cross-examination by defense attorney Leo Branton Jr., Mrs. Leidig admitted having written a letter to her Marin friend in which she said she was "hoping for his verdict for all those anarchists involved . . . our national courts need a verdict like this."

"In fact," charged Branton, "you don't remember seeing anything in that courtroom that day, do you?"

"That's not a fact," the

witness snapped. "I'm under oath and don't you call me a liar."

## Motel Man Testifies

She was followed to the stand by N. K. Patel, owner of the Holland Motel, on Lombard Street.

He testified to a fact already stated by Harris — that at 7:45 p.m., Aug. 6, 1970, a man named Jackson registered, paid \$61.50 and was assigned to room 20.

Patel, working from hotel

records, said there were two persons in the party, but he had no personal recollection of them. Their car was a Ford, license no. T99889, he said. (Sacramento records show that was the number of the Hertz rental van used in the Courthouse plot.)

Shown photographs of various suspects in the shootout, Patel was unable to identify any of them, and did not remember having seen a yellow van.

