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Photographer Terrorized Her, Mrs. Onassis Testifies at Trial

By MAX H. SEIGEL

Mrs. Aristotle Onassis declared in a crowded courtroom yesterday that a feeleance photographer, Ronald E. Galella, had terrified her in Central Park, outside her apartment building on Fifth Avenue and on Capri.

She was on the witness stand for the second day to face questioning by Alfred S. Julien, lawyer for the photographer, in a suit charging her with preventing Mr. Galella from earning a living.

Mrs. Onassis said the photographer had doubly terrorized her on Sept. 24, 1969, by rushing toward her to take pictures while she was bicycling with her son, John. She said he also had leaped toward her in front of her apartment house.

When asked by Mr. Julien whether she had told Secret Service men, assigned to guard her children, to smash Mr. Galella's camera, she leand forward in the witness chair and, raising her voice, declared indignantly: "I never said that, Mr. Juleen."

Testimony in the Federal Courthouse at Foley Square disclosed that the incident on Capri occurred in August, 1970. Mr. Julien produced a picture showing Mrs. Onassis at a restaurant with the children of her sister, Princess Lee Radiwill.

Mrs. Onassis was shown in conversation with a waiter. But she denied under questioning that she had asked the waiter either to get Mr. Galella away or to call the police.

Mrs. Onassis said only that

she was terrified, knowing that Mr. Galella was following her about.

The testimony was interrupted both during the morning and in the early afternoon by frequent objections by Mrs. Onassis' lawyer, former Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind, and by sharp exchanges between Mr. Julien and Federal Judge Irving Ben Cooper.

At one point Judge Cooper charged Mr. Julien with having subjected Mrs. Onassis to grueling questioning for hours.

"And so far," Judge Cooper commented, "there's not a shred of evidence from the witness that helps make out the complaint."

A Murmur in Court

Mr. Julien asked Mrs. Onassis: "Do you recognize that people have a great interest in you, in your behavior, in what you wear and how you look, as well as with whom you are seen?"

A low murmur swept through the courtroom when Mrs. Onassis answered: "No, sir."

Shortly afterward Mrs. Onassis was excused from the witness stand, and Mr. Julian called Mr. Galella to testify.

The photographer, who is suing Mrs. Onassis for \$1.3 million in damages because, he contends, she is interfering with his livelihood, explained that his was a special kind of photography, depending on unexpected appearances and surprise to achieve its results.

"In fact," he told the court, "I sort of camouflage myself, at times, if possible."