

Mrs. Onassis Cites Galella 'Harassing'

By MAX H. SEIGEL

Mrs. Aristotle Onassis spelled out in Federal Court yesterday what she said were "aggressive actions" toward her by freelance photographer Ronald E. Galella.

In a day-long appearance on the witness stand she recounted how in September, 1970, the photographer approached her outside her apartment at 1040 Fifth Avenue.

"He lunged at me and he was grunting and he was saying 'Glad to see me back, Jackie, aren't you, baby?' And then he took his camera strap and he was flicking me on the shoulders. Sometimes, he was as close as two feet away. I kept going and I got into the car and I went shopping."

Mrs. Onassis added that Mr. Galella followed her all during her shopping trip, taking photos, and then back to her apartment, taking more, until she went into the building.

Mrs. Onassis related this incident under direct examination by her lawyer, former Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind, in her suit designed to keep the photographer from harassing her. The suit seeks an injunction that would keep the photographer 200 yards from her residence and 100 yards from Mrs. Onassis anywhere else.

Mrs. Onassis' action is a countersuit. Mr. Galella is suing her for \$1.3-million, charging interference with his livelihood.

'Occupation' Described

The witness started her testimony by describing her principal occupation as wife and mother. She said she spent the school year in the United States and summers and school holidays in Greece. Mrs. Onassis added that her activities were such that "I do not expect that the public is interested in me." This statement appeared to be belied by the packed courtroom and those waiting in the corridor to get admission.

Mrs. Onassis said she first became aware of Mr. Galella in 1969. She told the court she noticed him because "No one else leaps out at me, yells at me, hits me with a camera strap." She also said the photographer maintained a vigil in front of her house and followed her by foot, car, boat and plane.

Mrs. Onassis told of an incident that occurred Jan. 7, 1971. She related how she left her apartment at night by a back entrance.

"I walked down a dark street, close to the building so Mr. Galella would not see me,"

she said. "I had made an appointment to meet a limousine at 85th Street and Madison Avenue. I was with friends and I wanted to keep him from dogging me all evening."

Spotted by Photographer

But, she said, the photographer spotted her and gave chase. Mrs. Onassis said her car drove very fast down Fifth Avenue to get away, but could not. Then, as the car approached 53d Street, she suggested a stop at "21." There, she said, she opened the door as if to get out. The photographer leaped from his car to be on the sidewalk. But Mrs. Onassis said she quickly got back into her car and finally got away.

She said another incident was at a performance of the play "Forty Carats," which she attended in 1969 with her mother-in-law, Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, and Gian-Carlo Menotti, the composer.

At the performance, Mrs.

Onassis said, Mr. Galella leaned over Mrs. Kennedy to photograph her in her seat during intermission, disturbing everyone in the party.

The witness told, too, of being followed in the winter of 1970-71 on a visit to Brooklyn to have dinner with Oliver Smith, the set designer. She declared that when she and Mr. Onassis left at 2 A.M., Mr. Galella was there, his flash bulbs popping.

Turning to her version of testimony given previously by Mr. Galella, Mrs. Onassis denied ever telling a Secret Service agent to smash his camera or arrest him. Mr. Galella had contended she made both requests near her apartment after he had taken photos of Mrs. Onassis and her son, John Kennedy, bicycle riding in Central Park.

Mrs. Onassis will resume testifying today before Judge Irving Ben Cooper who is hearing the case without a jury.