

ago, of stealing a purse in Vancouver, of knowing the man 'John' with whom he dealt, and finally of sharing the ransom and helping to plan the kidnapping. Tears streamed down his face all afternoon as he protested his innocence. In the end his questioners shook his hand, and told him they were convinced he had told the truth.

"Another astonishing bit of information was that some dirt caked inbetween the rungs and parts of the ladder were sent to the Bureau of Standards in Washington for analysis. This was not New Jersey dirt, but came, claimed Schwartzkopf, from a state some distance off. This leads the police to believe the ladder was made in that state. He said it was not Massachusetts (in response to a question) but would answer no further questions on that score.

"I questioned him at some length about ~~xxxx~~ Betty Gow and the reasons for eliminating her from the investigation. He said that originally they suspected her of having had sexual relations with Red Johnson, but that she volunteered to go to a doctor to ~~have~~ have her virginity determined. Every line of inquiry was exhausted. Scotland Yard made a thorough report, checking the earlier years of her life. Major Schoeffell made a further check while he was in England. Reports that she had been in Canada, on the west coast, etc., were run down.

While

"~~XXX~~ the Lindberghs were in Japan, Betty Gow had complete charge of the baby for six weeks,' Schwartzkopf said. 'The baby gained in weight, etc., under her care. She would have had a much easier time arranging for the kidnapping in that interval.

As has been stated, she was devoted to the child.'

"I have always regarded Betty Gow as being thoroughly shrewd and alert. Schwartzkopf described her as being pretty dumb, unimaginative, almost bovine. Good and healthy but not much gray matter.

"The police are turning back now to the very beginning. They're taking the first reports and checking them carefully to see if anything was neglected or overlooked. I suggested there might be a story in this, but Schwartzkopf said this was the first chance they had had to work without a lot of reporters on their neck and not to bring them back by printing a story. I agreed he was probably right.

"It might interest ~~to~~ you that Mr. Ochs of the Times protested to Breckinridge, and that protests also were lodged with Schwartzkopf against the actions of Jamison, the local Trenton man for the Associated Press. It was discovered that Lieutenant Sweeney of the Newark police -- the senior officer of the Newark force stationed at the Lindbergh house -- was ~~receiving~~ receiving \$60 a week from the Associated Press for acting as their informer. Jamison was getting the information from him. Ochs protested seriously and one of the Hearst men expressed a willingness to testify that he saw Jamison count the money. Schwartzkopf ordered Sweeney away from the headquarters and sent him back to Newark. He is undecided yet whether to press charges before the Commissioner of Public Safety in Newark, but has about decided not to.

"Jamison was the man who sent out the first bulletin on the finding of the body. He called Governor Moore at his home in Jersey City. Schwartzkopf had just told Moore that he was summoning reporters to give out the news. Moore balled things up in some manner and let it leak in advance.

"Later Jamison was discovered hiding behind a desk in the attorney general's office in Trenton during a conference to determine what charges they could hold John Hughes Curtis on. He promised not to disclose what he had heard, but later climbed down a fire ~~ex~~ escape and telephoned. They had intended that he remain in an inner office, and he had promised to do so until after the conference when all the reporters were to be allowed in. The others were waiting in the hall. Jamison begged not to be thrown out on the grounds that it would be humiliating.

"Since I was not on the story on these two occasions I have no personal grudge against Jamison. Am simply passing it along for what it's worth."

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The following document is the fourth document I mentioned earlier. This is not confidential but I think it of great interest in the whole history of journalism. This is the word count on the Hauptmann trial as far as The New York Sun is concerned.

This document was prepared by Mr. Heisner, who was manager of the New York Sun <sup>Western Union Office</sup> at that time, and his tabulation is dated February 18, 1935. In my own opinion, the words sent by <sup>and Trenton</sup> telegraph from Flemington/to New York for one paper alone, are astonishing

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>	<u>Total</u>
1/2/	8,920	- - - -	8,920
1/3	12,176	- - - -	12,176
1/4	11,931	1,255	13,186
1/5	2,780	- - - -	2,780
1/6	-----	703	703
1/7	11,832	- - - -	11,832
1/8	11,896	- - - -	11,896
1/9	10,968	- - - -	10,968
1/10	11,850	- - - -	11,850
1/11	11,156	2,448	13,604
1/12	3,670	- - - -	3,670
1/13	- - -	1,787	1,787
1/14	11,630	1,464	13,094
1/15	9,544	- - - -	9,544
1/16	9,224	110	9,334
1/17	14,723	1,055	15,778
1/18	13,455	1,925	15,380
1/19	695	- - - -	695
1/20	- - -	- - - -	- - -



<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>	<u>Total</u>
1/21	10,917	---	10,917
1/22	10,978	---	10,978
1/23	11,160	---	11,160
1/24	14,753	775	15,528
1/25	14,154	3,273	17,427
1/26	114	-----	114
1/27	-----	2,985	2,985
1/28	13,668	968	14,636
1/29	14,107	-----	14,107
1/30	15,445	883	16,328
1/31	13,342	2,310	15,652
2/1	12,636	3,144	15,780
2/2	330	-----	330
2/3	-----	1,166	1,166
2/4	13,764	-----	13,764
2/5	12,480	-----	12,480
2/6	12,432	-----	12,432
2/7	12,806	-----	12,806
2/8	12,214	-----	12,214
2/9	10,121	-----	10,121
2/10	-----	490	490
2/11	11,892	-----	11,892
2/12	10,894	-----	10,894
2/13	11,322	-----	11,322

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>	<u>Total</u>
2/14	9,591	1,305	10,896
2/15	3,664	----	3,664
2/16	2,900	----	2,900 (Flemington and Trenton)
GRAND TOTAL:			440,180

Notes: Attached to this interview will be approximately sixty pages of rough notes taken day by day by Mr. DeLong during the Hauptmann trial. Also attached to the interview will be a biography of Mr. DeLong.

Edmund DeLong

by Frank Rounds, Jr.

Interview No. 3

February 28, 1962

Q: At the end of our last interview, you mentioned that you had been called down from the Elliott Spear (?) murder at the Mount Herman (?) School because Bruno Richard Hauptmann had been arrested. You also described your most ~~xxx~~ vivid memory of the trial. I would like to pick up from your arrival back in New York from Mount Herman or from exactly what happened when you first received this word.

DELONG: That will be fine. I got out of the Mount Herman school about as fast as I could go. Everybody did. I had a handful of notes and I was telephoning some information to the paper and they said, "You might as ~~xxx~~ well come on back. They've arrested Bruno Richard Hauptmann.

Q: Do you remember what time of day this was?

DELONG: Yes. It was around noon, September 20, 1934.

Q: How long had you been up at Mount Herman trying to solve that serious matter?

DELONG: I'd been up there four or five days but there wasn't much of a solution because the school did not want to have much

of an investigation. Dr. Spear's father, as you probably know, was secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions and he stated flatly that although his son had been murdered he did not wish to take another life. He was rather reluctant to go ahead with the investigation. The district attorney was also the attorney for the school, and was so guided. And most of the clues were --

Q: I guess the dean of the school wasn't very interested in your staying there, either.

DELONG: No, he wasn't. We stayed at an inn up there -- beautiful spot.

Q: Were both of the Spear men Princeton?

DELONG: The son was the class of '20, Elliott Spear. I don't know about the father. He might have been.

Q: I've been interview<sup>ing</sup> Dr. Fucci, the former headmaster of Andover, and he's doing a piece on the Spear murder for American Heritage. He knew both father and son and it was his impression that both were Princeton men.

DELONG: I wouldn't be surprised. Of course, the elder Dr. Spear was quite elderly. It was a curious thing. Mrs. Spear's

parents were there. Mrs. Spear<sup>e</sup> was ill, and after dinner the parents went up to join their daughter in the bedroom. Elliot Spear<sup>e</sup> went into his study, sat down and was doing some work when he was shot.

Q: Dr. <sup>Fueller</sup> Keith (?) said he went over to a bookcase to get a book, and at that moment he was shot. He didn't know what the book was. He was very impressed by Spear<sup>e</sup>. He felt he had a great future and was doing a lot for liberal arts.

DELONG: I think he was a fine educator, very dedicated, extremely high class.

Q: Anyway, you were on the telephone around noon.

DELONG: Yes, I telephoned the New York Sun to tell them that I had one or two pieces of ~~xxx~~ minutiae that we could add to the story, but that it was pretty hard going because nothing was being handed out by the prosecutor or the school.

One rather curious thing I've always wondered about -- Elliot<sup>e</sup> Spear had a loaded revolver in his desk drawer, which would indicate that he might have been anticipating something. He was shot with a 12 gauge shotgun. Another thing I've often wondered about -- they had a watchdog who didn't bark and wasn't at all excited. He must have seen whoever committed the murder, and it would indicate that perhaps the dog knew the murderer.

Q: I gathered from <sup>Fuess</sup> Spreigers' (?) interview, particularly the circumstantial evidence of the missing book from the library, a book on school murders which had been taken out by the dean. Well, our concern is not with that, but with the Lindbergh murder, and you were on the telephone.

DELONG: Well, I had been aware that they were following his notes for many months. I think I told you how the FBI moved in and set up a map with pins to signify where the notes turned up.

Q: Well, did the FBI indicate to you who the man was?

DELONG: They had a composite photograph because one or two people who had turned in notes had written on them -- and from my memory, had told what the man looked like. So they had an artist do a composite photograph based on descriptions given by several different persons. One was a girl in the ticket window in a movie in Greenwich Village, I recall, who testified at the trial.

Q: But the FBI wasn't indicating to the press who the suspect was?

DELONG: They didn't know. They just had a general description

in New York.

Q: So the name Bruno Richard Hauptmann was new to you?

DELONG: Entirely so. We checked out as fast as we could and got a taxicab to the <sup>e</sup>nearest railroad station, Greefield or Greenboro, and hopped the train back to New York as fast as we could. And from then on there was no more investigation or running around. It was a question of preparing the case.

As I recall, there were 180 witnesses, all told. Hauptmann, of course, retained counsel.

Q: Last time you told me the story of the arrest, the local police officer who got impatient.

DELONG: Well, I was not there, of course, but I learned the story later. That was Lieutenant Flynn of the New York City police who jumped out of the car and arrested him.

Q: What happened after you got back to New York?

DELONG: Well, there were just the general details of the arrest. There wasn't anything very much for the next several months, before they <sup>appointed</sup> ~~imported~~ Attorney General David Wilentz as prosecutor. He recruited a staff of assistant prosecutors. <sup>Paul</sup> Dickinson was one. Most of them were from the attorney general's

*off* in Trenton. Joe Lanigan was quite active. They had to work up their strategy, what charges they planned to bring.

Q: Was Hauptmann imprisoned in Trenton during this intervening period? He wasn't out on bail, was he?

DELONG: Oh, no. He was arrested and placed in jail. There was no bail. They moved him down to --

Q: When did you first see him?

DELONG: I think I first saw him at the trial. They weren't giving any interviews or permitting the press in to talk to him. He was arrested in September, the 20th, of 1934 and actually the trial didn't begin until January 2, 1935. So that was 3 or 4 months. And that's pretty fast time to prepare a trial, I should think, run down all their witnesses and so forth.

Q: Were most of these 180 witnesses on the side of the prosecution?

DELONG: Yes. I would say that four-fifths of them were. There weren't many defense witnesses except persons who claimed that they were with Hauptmann on the night of the kidnapping.



Q: Well, then, would you like to describe the trial at this point?

DELONG: The trial has been described as the trial of the century, and I guess it was up to the more recent trials in Nuremberg. It started on January 2, 1935, as I said and continued until the night of February 13, when the jury brought in its verdict of murder in the first degree.

The jury was a country jury. There were 4 women, all housewives, and the rest were a sprinkling of farmers, ~~maxims~~ machinists, there were two laborers, a carpenter, a stenographer, all from that area of Hunterdon County -- Lambert<sup>nt</sup>ville, Lebanon, Highbridge, Clinton, Franklin, Flemington. The judge was an outstanding member of the bar and of the court, Justice Thomas W. Trenchard (2) of Trenton. He was rather elderly, in his seventies I think, but he knew how to preserve order in his courtroom and that took some doing.

Q: Would you explain that?

DELONG: Well, there were 700 newsmen there to begin with, and a ticket to the trial was harder to get than a ticket to the Army-Navy game. Everyone was trying to get his friends in also. The various newspapers and wire services set up their offices in the ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ courthouse, where possible. You had to negotiate for space with Sheriff John Henry Curtis, who was

also the jailer. He died around 1940. You paid Curtis for your space.

Q: What do you mean by that?

DELONG: You just did, that's all. If you wanted to get it, that is. I got down there and we were given a ladies lavatory for the Sun staff. I don't know what the ladies did, but <sup>was</sup> fortunately it/right off the courtroom. You could just dash out. We had about five telegraphers there, and I had two or three other men with me.

Q: Would you describe the courthouse?

DELONG: Yes. It was a century-old white building with brown steps and wooden benches somewhat reminiscent of Cotton Mather's time. It was quaint, a pillared building directly across from the hotel where everybody spent their leisure hours. You could get a room down there for about \$15 a week, which I guess was the going rate, but the people in the town didn't jack up the prices. It was a little tough finding someplace to eat. ~~XXXXXXX~~ It was a town of 3,000. ~~But some of the newspapers,~~ the World-Telegram, for example, took over Stockton Inn at Lambertville. It was in the winter and they could use the whole place. They had a big staff. <sup>—the Sun staff—</sup> We used to eat every night at the White Swan, which is sort of a third-rate roadhouse about

8 miles out of town, but that was about all there was. I've always felt that Hauptmann was guilty and that he did it alone and that nobody else was involved. I don't think even his wife knew about it. <sup>She</sup> ~~He~~ had a night job.

Q: What kind of job?

DELONG: In a bakery up in the Bronx.

Q: What did he do during the day?

DELONG: Well, he was a carpenter. I don't think he worked on any particular buildings of any note. He was just a general handyman.

Q: During the trial, and watching him, did you ever reach any conclusion as to how he happened to come to this terrible decision and act? It must have required some imagination and daring. Is there anything in his background to explain it?

DELONG: Of course, he denied right up to the end that he was guilty. But he had been a two-time loser in Germany, and as a two-time loser he'd been placed in a mortar trench up in the front lines. He survived the war, and I just have a theory and it means nothing, that ~~his~~ his great hero was Baron <sup>Rickhefen</sup> ~~Rickhefen~~ (?),

the Red Knight of Germany. He named his son after <sup>Richtofen</sup> ~~Rickenhoven~~,  
Manfred, and <sup>I have wondered</sup> whether or not in his warped mind there was some  
revenge motive originally. Lindbergh had flown the ocean, the  
first transAtlantic flier, that might have had something to  
do with it. I don't know. You can only speculate on it.

Q: What did you mean when you said he was a two-time loser?

DELONG: He'd served two penitentiary terms, not long terms,  
but he was an ex-convict. As I recall, one was for larceny.

Q: Apparently he came to the States after World War I.  
For what reason, do you know?

DELONG: That was never brought out, particularly. I don't  
even know how he got in, come to think about it. His wife was  
German, too, and really not very smart. I don't think she would  
know what was going on, anyway, and I think she was completely  
dominated by Hauptmann. They had just the one child, Manfred,  
and I think that he and his mother are living over in Phila-  
delphia now. He later was in a very serious accident, struck  
by an automobile and was badly crippled. Of course, he was  
just a baby at the time of the trial, a little bit older than  
the Lindbergh baby, not much. He wasn't in school. Maybe he  
was in kindergarten.

Q: You say she wasn't too smart. Was she attractive, or did she make an appealing appearance in the courtroom?

DELONG: Not very. She was pretty bedraggled and beaten down. Sort of a faded blonde. And Hauptmann, certainly up to the time of the ransom payment, was more or less impoverished. She wasn't well dressed. I have an idea that any money he made he probably kept. Actually, I don't think he was employed during most of the period while the investigation was going on, except for odd jobs he could pick up. You'd had the depression in 1929 and '30, round in there. There weren't too many jobs to be had, anyway. There wasn't a great deal of construction work going on.

Q: Was his skill in carpentry brought into the trial in connection with his building of the ladder?

DELONG: Oh, yes. It was pointed out that he was a carpenter. Of course, Hauptmann said, "If I were going to build a ladder, I would have built a better ladder than that one."

Q: Well, you go ahead and tell the story.

DELONG: Okay, and you ask me any questions you want <sup>ask</sup> as I go along.

There were 31 trial days. The trial opened at 1 o'clock on January 2nd and 10 jurors were selected the first day. They

didn't go in for jury selection the way Mr. Dewey later did in some of his racket trials in New York, where they'd take a whole week to get one juror and it was usually a blue ribbon panel when they had it.

Attorney General Wilentz outlined his case on the second day, after the jury was completed. He started one afternoon, at 11 o'clock the following morning the jury was selected, and he started right in.

Q: There were no disputes over the jurors?

DELONG: Nothing outstanding. I remember one man was turned down because he was too old, sixty-five, but there wasn't a great big controversy or a lot of quibbling about challenges or that type of thing.

Q: Did the fact that there were 4 women impress either the prosecution or the defense one way or the other?

DELONG: Not particularly.

Q: Were the Lindberghs there the first day?

DELONG: Yes. Lindbergh ~~xx~~ would wait until the court was called to order, and then he would walk in a side ~~xx~~ door and

~~xxx~~ take his seat. He wouldn't come in and sit while they were getting ready. And she was only there a couple of days when she was asked to testify. He came every day, all through the trial, and sat there. She stayed away except when she was called as a witness.

Wilentz, in outlining his case, told the story of the kidnapping, the discovery that the baby was missing, and stated that the motive for the crime was money, lots of money. Edward J. Reilly, chief of defense counsel, promptly asked for a mistrial on the grounds that the statements by the prosecutor were highly prejudicial. This motion was denied.

Mrs. Lindbergh was called as a witness that day, to tell of the last hours spent with her baby, about the child's clothing found at the scene, and this was entered in evidence. A very emotional scene.

Q: How did she behave?

DELONG: She behaved beautifully, but it was heartbreaking to anyone to see the ordeal.

Colonel Lindbergh was then called, and told of the events of the kidnap night, and of hearing a noise outside his windows like the smashing of an orange crate. He described how he took his shotgun -- that was after they came back.

Q: Well, was it the reconstruction of the crime that the kidnapping took place after they came back?

DELONG: I don't know, but there is that possibility. Anyway, he heard this noise. That might have been the ladder or a heavy wind, as I recall.

Q: But the baby's room was not close to their own, was it?

DELONG: No, quite a distance away, and it's a big house. And he described how he took his shotgun after Betty Gow, the nurse, told him the child was missing, and how he had rushed out into the night. There were some cabins in the woods out there. People used to come out for weekends to hunt in the woods, and he thought possibly some of these people had taken the baby.

Q: How did Lindbergh behave during his first testimony?

DELONG: Quiet, matter-of-fact, ~~very~~ straightforward, unemotional. He identified Hauptmann as the man whose voice he heard in the Bronx cemetery the night that Dr. Condon paid the ransom. He was in a car.

Q: I thought he was quite a distance, so that Hauptmann wouldn't see him.

DELONG: So that Hauptmann wouldn't see him, yes, but I guess



he was close enough. He said he believed Hauptmann guilty, and he expressed confidence in his household servants.

There was a butler, Ollie Whately and Mrs. Elsie Whately, his wife, in addition to Betty Gow. Mrs. Whately was <sup>She</sup> the cook. ~~XMA~~ said that she was in the servants' quarters when the kidnapping occurred, that she did not hear the dog bark, that Betty Gow was with her most of the evening.

Betty Gow, who was Scotch -- Whately was English -- described putting the child to bed. The child was ailing and it had a cold. Later she discovered that he was missing. She was cross-examined at quite some length by Mr. Reilly, the defense attorney, who sought to show that she had knowledge of the crime. After leaving the stand, she collapsed. She just fainted. It was quite an ordeal for her.

Q: This was after her first testimony?

DELONG: Yes. She collapsed in back, not in the courtroom. She identified the child's ~~x~~ sleeping garment by some green thread that her mother had sent her from Scotland, and this apparently is the kind of thread that held its color. It didn't fade. And she told of finding the child's thumb guard in company with Mrs. Whately, near the entrance gate of the estate.

The next witness was a State trooper, Joseph Wolf, who was the first State policeman at the scene, and he told of seeing the ransom note on the windowsill.

Q: Who called the police?

DELONG: The Lindberghs called and notified the local constable, and he notified the State police.

Wolf also told of finding footprints on the ground. They'd pulled the window down to hold the note in place, you see. Apparently they'd backed out and down the ladder and pulled the window shut afterward.

Another State trooper, Frank A. Kelly, who was a fingerprint man for the State police, told of his unsuccessful efforts to find fingerprints on the ladder and in the nursery.

Q: Isn't that unusual?

DELONG: Well, he could have worn gloves, probably did. It was pretty cold, anyhow.

On the fifth day, the testimony related mostly to the Condon phase of the case. John Ferrone, a Bronx taxi driver, identified Hauptmann as ~~the~~ the man who had given him a note to deliver to Dr. Condon. He testified that Hauptmann had called him and asked him ~~and asked him~~ to give him his address, and

he'd met Hauptmann on the street. He'd given him this note to Dr. Condon on the night of March 12, this note having directed Dr. Condon to the cemetery where he made his first contact with Hauptmann.

Q: I thought the notes had appeared in the newspaper. This is not correct?

DELONG: All the notes except this one appeared in the newspaper. This was the only one.

A witness who impressed me considerably was ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Amandus Hochmuth. He was the next witness on the fifth day. He was an 87-year-old Prussian army veteran and he told of seeing Hauptmann near the Lindbergh estate in an automobile, with the ladder, the morning of the crime. The defense protested that he was too old and too far away, and I remember the judge, who, as I say, was quite elderly himself, said, "Well, the old man might have had a very good reason to remember what he saw that day." In other words, he must have impressed the judge. He was sitting on his porch, and he saw this car going up.

Q: Why would Hauptmann go early in the day to the scene of the crime?

DELONG: Well, there seemed to be some indication that perhaps he'd been around there before. He could have read, for example,

that Lindbergh was going to deliver a speech that evening at New York University, and he might have thought that Lindbergh wouldn't be there. Maybe he was going to take the ladder up and put it in the bushes. There were plenty of places he could have hidden the ladder. You see, it was pretty wild country up there, and instead of trying to drag it up there at night he could have hidden it.

Q: You were also impressed by Hochmuth?

DELONG: Yes, I was. It was eye-witness testimony, you see. He was the first person who really said he had seen him.

Q: Did Hauptmann have his own car?

DELONG: Yes, he had a car. Hochmuth said that the ladder was inside of the car, folded up and over the back seat, probably extending the length of the car inside.

Then they recalled Frank Kelly, the fingerprint man for the state, and he testified rather briefly concerning the ladder. He admitted that it had been taken apart, but he stated that it was put together again as it had been originally. Now the defense claimed that the ladder had been handled by so many persons, and taken apart so often, that it could no longer be considered the original and therefore should not go into the evidence.

Q: Would one of these people be you?

DELONG: Yes, I certainly handled it -- and so did everybody else.

THEN THE following day Dr. Condon told his story, and he remained on the stand all day. He stated exactly how he got into the thing, every step of the way. He was a good witness. The defense counsel gave him a pretty rough going over, they tried to break his story, but he held up extremely well. I believe he was 72 years old, around there.

One thing I forgot to say that in these early negotiations, the ~~XXX~~ Jafsie letters between Condon and Hauptmann, Condon demanded some proof that Hauptmann had the baby. As proof, they sent a package to his home which contained the baby's sleeping suit. This was mailed.

Q: When the notes were delivered over the wall of the cemetery, was the understanding that the baby was to be returned at that time?

DELONG: Yes. <sup>Hauptmann</sup> He said, "You'll hear from me immediately." He was to tell him where the baby could be located. This was negotiating, <sup>took place</sup> you see, <sup>after Condon</sup> having turned over the money. <sup>when nothing happened</sup> Then Jafsie inserted a series of notices in the Bronx Home News saying, in ~~affix~~ effect, "Why haven't I heard from you? We've carried

out our end of the bargain. Where's the baby?" And those notes were continued at intervals until the baby was found.

Q:           M When was the sleeping suit mailed?

DELONG:    That was sent in the midst of the negotiations, just as proof that he ~~xxx~~ did have the baby. One of the thumb guards was never found, either. It's possible he may have kept that.

Myra Condon Hacker, the daughter of Dr. Condon, told of being with her father when the package containing the baby's sleeping suit arrived in the mail. As you can see, they might have said, "How did you happen to have this sleeping suit?" If he had no witnesses.

Q:           Was it postmarked from the Bronx?

DELONG:    Yes, as I recall.

Another witness was Frank J. Wilson, a special agent of the intelligence division of the Department of Justice, who directed the serial preparation of the ransom notes at the office of J. P. Morgan & Co.

Q:           Did Lindbergh go to J. P. Morgan and say, "Give me notes that can be identified?"

DELONG:    Either Lindbergh or Breckenridge, or perhaps even

the F.B.I., but it was arranged that this was one way you could identify them, by the serial numbers, you see. He described the search for the bills and stated that at that time \$18,500 of the bills had been accounted for. He said that some might have slipped through the federal Treasury and been destroyed, following President Roosevelt's proclamation recalling all gold.

A surprise witness who was quite decorative was Miss Hildegard Alexander, a clothing model. She ~~xxx~~ described how she watched Hauptmann in the Fordham station of New York Central Railroad while he in turn was watching Dr. Condon, at a time when few persons knew that Condon was conducting his ransom negotiations. This is one of the things that the defense, in summation, said was probably untrue.

Q: That seems like rather an accidental encounter.

DELONG: Well, this was after Hauptmann's arrest. She recalled, when she saw his picture in the paper, having seen this man watching Condon. She said there were very few people in the station at the time, and she was attracted by this man watching this elderly man. Condon was rather a striking figure. When

Hauptmann's picture appeared in the paper she said, "Why, that's the man I saw!" That was several months later, of course.

Q: Aside from Mrs. Lindbergh, she was the only ~~xxxxx~~ note of beauty in the trial?

DELONG: No, there were some other ~~xxx~~ notes of beauty. One day Mr. Reilly arrived with twelve ~~xxxxxxx~~ beauties who he said were his witnesses, and he took the whole front row for them. Where he found them, I don't know, but this was their day to get into the courtroom. As I said, everybody was trying to get somebody into the trial. There weren't many tickets left for the public and there was great demand for them.

After Miss Hildegard Alexander, they got into the handwriting testimony. The state produced 8 experts. This was interesting and, to my mind, convincing concurring testimony that it was Hauptmann's handwriting that appeared on the ransom notes.

Q: Did they have only one piece of handwriting?

DELONG: There was the original note on the windowsill, and on the package that contained the sleeping suit. It was primarily the ransom note left behind, and there were misspellings in the ransom note. I was very definitely impressed with that. They had all sorts of charts and they explained in great detail



Q: Did all 8 agree?

DELONG: They all agreed. The defense battered <sup>up</sup> ~~ed~~ one handwriting expert who disagreed, obviously, but they had only one. But these men gave their biographies. They'd testified in many trials.

Q: How was Hauptmann himself behaving at this point?

DELONG: Well, he broke down for the first time on the ~~XXIX~~ 12th day of the trial, by shouting at Thomas W. Sisk <sup>Sisk</sup> ~~(?)~~, a Department of Justice agent. He called out, "Now, mister, don't you lie!" Sisk ~~(?)~~ had told of searching Hauptmann's house ~~and~~ after his arrest and of watching Hauptmann glance toward the garage. This gave him the idea that Hauptmann might have some money back there, and that testimony caused the outburst. He did find some money out there. It seemed he just kind of glanced nervously at the garage, and Sisk figured, "Well, there might be something in that garage. I'd better take a look."

That was the first time Hauptmann showed any emotion. He'd been stony-faced, cold blue eyes, imperturbable.

The other witnesses at that time were a county physician in control of the autopsy performed on the baby's body, the truck driver and the truckman who found the body, just sort of bringing the ~~the~~ thing together and tying up the loose threads. Then came the Morgan witnesses who told about preparing the

bundles of money, turning them over.

Q: Were there many spectators in the courthouse?

DELONG: As many as there were seats for, not more than 30 - 40. There were a lot of special writers there, too, magazine writers, and such, besides the press.

Q: Did the spectators ever get out of hand?

DELONG: No. The judge would have cleared the courtroom in a minute if there'd been any outburst.

Q: Were there definite hours for the sessions?

DELONG: Oh, yes. It started at ten in the morning and went to four, and then it adjourned to the next day.

Q: Did you commute back and forth?

DELONG: Yes. I had two men with me. One man, each day after the trial, would talk to Wilentz. Wilentz would hold a press interview, and we had to get something -- who was going to be the witness tomorrow and that sort of thing. And one would talk to the defense attorney. They would cover those things, and they stayed over there. I would come over early, about six o'clock

in the morning. They would give me their notes and I would write the lead for the first edition, saying in effect that the state expects to introduce this type of testimony today, and witnesses would be, and so forth. Then you'd pick up a little of the testimony of the previous day and that sort of thing.

Q: How was Reilly chosen? Were you impressed with him?

DELONG: I certainly was not impressed by him. He had a great deal of criminal experience. He was known as Deathhouse Ed. I don't know that his record of acquittals was anything magnificent, but he was a big, florid extravert, always appeared in a frock coat with a carnation in his buttonhole. I think Reilly figured he could win by charming the jury in his summation. He gave them everything he had on the summation. He spoke ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> about 4 hours, hoping that he could influence one juror. If he could sow a seed of doubt in the mind of one juror, that's all he needed.

I don't know for certain how he was chosen, but I think it was on the recommendation of the Journal-American, which got into the act pretty heavily. I'm sure that they paid Mrs. Hauptmann for her stories -- that type of thing.

There was also a local attorney, Lloyd Fisher. He ~~xx~~ was from Flemington. Lloyd Fisher and Reilly split up toward the end, because Fisher based his case on identification of the body. He wanted the state to prove that the body found was the

Lindbergh baby. Unless they could prove that, they had no corpus delicti. They had no proof that the baby had been killed. And Reilly said, "We'll concede that," and Fisher was absolutely furious. He stalked out of the courtroom, ~~and he didn't take any part in it at all.~~

Q: To go back to Anne Lindbergh's testimony in the beginning, for a minute. You said it was very moving. Do you recall any details she gave of the last hours of the baby?

DELONG: Lindbergh was going to deliver this lecture at N.Y.U. They were going to ~~xxx~~ spend the night at Mrs. Lindbergh's parents' house, the <sup>Morrow</sup> ~~XXXXXX~~ house, in Englewood. Lindbergh was coming out to join her there. But then when she found the baby had a cold, they felt they'd better get home. That's how they changed their plans. And that's why Hauptmann, if he'd followed the newspapers, would have probably thought the Lindberghs would not be there that night, you see. Instead of that, they came <sup>home earlier.</sup> ~~back around ten o'clock or so. Apparently Lindbergh gave his lecture and came right out and they drove from Englewood then.~~

Q: So the pure chance that the baby caught cold was rather crucial in all this?

DELONG: That's right. If the baby hadn't had a cold, they would probably have had the nurse take him to stay at the

Morrrows overnight. That had been the original plan.

Q: Well now, to continue from where you left off before I interrupted. You mentioned the Journal-American. I suppose there was quite a newspaper war over the coverage of this trial.

DELONG: There was. The Journal-American, that's the standard Hearst procedure to try to get the story, there's no secret about that. They certainly did pay Mrs. Hauptmann something for her story. They tried to buy Hauptmann's story, too. And I'm sure that Mrs. Hauptmann used the funds they paid her to retain counsel.

Q: Do you know, or can you guess, how much those funds were?

DELONG: I don't know. It could be anywhere from \$25,000. I think they failed to get Hauptmann's story because I don't think the state would permit a man on trial for first degree murder to give his story out.

Q: What about Condon?

DELONG: I don't think he was that type of man. He wouldn't sell his story. He felt so upset about this whole thing, as I told you.

Of course, once the trial started we were all working together. We were getting the same information, interviewing the defense attorneys and the prosecution after hours at the same sessions. There were no exclusive interviews. Every once in a while you would pick up something from somebody, but you had a pretty full day covering the trial.

Q: Was the European press interested?

DELONG: I think some of the British accounts <sup>were</sup> are incredible. They were entirely inaccurate. One British reporter described the courthouse as the black ~~hole~~ hole of Calcutta and told of Hauptmann coming in clanking his chains. I never read anything like it. And some of them had direct overseas cables. There was interest all over the world -- there were French reporters, too, although most of the papers took Reuters. There was quite a sprinkling of British ~~correspondents~~ correspondents, and one of them ~~quite~~ had quite an imagination.

Q: Were there any celebrated sob sisters around?

DELONG: Oh, yes. Fannie Hurst was there, <sup>also Edna Ferber and Adile Rogers</sup> ~~Alice~~ St. Johns, Walter Winchell was very much in evidence. He was beginning to be important. He wore black glasses in trying to stare Hauptmann down.

Q: Let's see, was Thomas Sisk the last witness you mentioned?

DELONG: Yes. Then, on the following day Mrs. Ella Ochenbach (?), who was a former friend and employer of Mrs. Hauptmann, testified that Hauptmann appeared to be limping when he visited her house with his wife shortly after the crime. The implication was that he hurt his leg in a fall from the ladder. Mrs. Hauptmann rose and shouted, "You are lying!" and was reprimanded by the court. That was the only time that she broke down.

Q: In what capacity was Mrs. Auchenbach employing Mrs. Hauptmann?

DELONG: I guess in the bakery. That's the only place I know of -- that's where she was at the time of the crime.

Q: Were there any points where Lindbergh showed emotion?

DELONG: He made no gestures. He didn't shake his head or anything of that sort. He was pretty stoical throughout, even when his wife was testifying. After all, he was a man of character and strength, or he couldn't have flown the ocean the way he did. He kept himself well in hand.