



Testimony at Spector trial focuses on possible fingernail discovery

By Peter Y. Hong, Times Staff Writer
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A defense investigator who once worked for Phil Spector testified today that he thought famed criminalist Henry Lee had found a fingernail at the scene of actress Lana Clarkson's shooting death.

"I think it's a fingernail," Stanley White said he told Lee--who also was working for Spector's defense team--after the criminalist plucked a small white object off the floor in Spector's castle-like Alhambra mansion.

"You're crazy," Lee replied, according to White.

"You need glasses," White said he responded, walking away.

The testimony revived prosecution claims that Spector's team may have hidden crucial evidence recovered after Clarkson's Feb. 3, 2003, shooting.

Prosecutors earlier sparked an inquiry into the missing broken fingernail, which they said could have shown Clarkson died in a struggle. But defense lawyers, who say Clarkson accidentally shot herself, denied any knowledge of the broken nail.

The prosecution is expected to seek severe sanctions if Judge Larry Paul Fidler finds evidence was concealed.

White, a retired sheriff's deputy then working for defense lawyer Robert Shapiro, said his exchange with Lee took place the day after the shooting during an examination of the foyer where Clarkson died.

Corroborating White's account, attorney Sara Caplan, who also took part in the examination, testified earlier she saw Lee take a small white object from the ground.

"He picked it up and put it in a vial. It was a little white thing," she said on the witness stand.

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