



Fourth woman testifies Spector threatened her with a gun

By Michael Muskal, Times Staff Writer
4:34 PM PDT, May 9, 2007

Two more women testified today that Phil Spector pulled a gun on them in separate incidents as the prosecution in the music producer's murder trial continued to build its argument that he has a history of violence against women.

Today's testimony brings to four the number of female companions who said they were terrorized by a drunken Spector who waved a gun.

Spector, 67, is charged with killing actress Lana Clarkson on Feb. 3, 2003. The prosecution maintains that Spector shot Clarkson in the deadliest of several similar incidents involving women.

The defense argues that Clarkson, 40, accidentally shot herself in the morning hours at Spector's Alhambra mansion.

Today's witnesses were sharply different. Stephanie Jennings, who testified in the morning, said she was a photographer specializing in music stars and was a former lover of Spector. Melissa Grosvenor, who took the stand this afternoon, described herself as a waitress who had a platonic relationship with Spector.

But they recounted similar stories: Spector drank a large amount of alcohol, then became demanding and abusive. At some point a handgun appeared and was used to threaten each woman when she tried to leave.

In his tough cross-examinations, defense attorney Roger J. Rosen used previous statements by Jennings to try to undermine her testimony that she was terrified. He tried to impeach Grosvenor by stressing her criminal past and will continue his effort when court resumes Thursday morning.

Grosvenor described a trip to California, about a year and half after she met Spector in May 1991. They had gone to dinner, Knicks games or parties until Spector suggested she visit California, so he bought her an airplane ticket after November 1992.

They had dinner and drinks in Beverly Hills, returning to Spector's Pasadena home about midnight. They danced and had a good time.

"I had a drink but I was tired," she said. Spector was "definitely a little drunk, slurring his words."

About 2 a.m., Grosvenor said, she wanted to leave and Spector's "whole demeanor changed." She said she was sitting on a chair waiting to leave when Spector walked in.

As Head Deputy Dist. Atty. Pat Dixon walked her through the incident, Grosvenor explained: "He walked in with a gun.... He was wearing the holster, a shoulder holster," and had a

handgun.

Spector "walked right up to my to my face just inches from my eyes and said, 'If you try to leave, I'm gonna kill you,' " she testified.

Asked if the weapon was loaded, she replied she thought so, but "didn't want to test it."

As he began his cross-examination, Rosen presented employment forms on which Grosvenor lied about why she left the employ of a Georgia bank. He was also allowed to present records about her conviction for bank fraud, though no details were given.

Earlier, Jennings, who specialized in taking photographs of music industry stars, said that Spector used a gun to threaten her during a 1995 incident in a New York hotel.

In her testimony, Jennings told Deputy Dist. Atty. Alan Jackson and the jury that she had met Spector in April 1994 at Elaine's, a fashionable restaurant on Manhattan's Upper East Side. She said she went back to Spector's suite at the Carlyle Hotel, where she and others partied.

Jennings said she and Spector became intimate that night and continued a long-distance relationship.

In January 1995, she said, she joined Spector for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductions in New York. When Spector got drunk at a party, she said she left and went to her room on his floor of the hotel.

Jennings said she was asleep when a bodyguard working for Spector knocked on her door and invited her to join Spector in his suite, where he usually stayed when in New York. It was the same suite that Princess Diana used when she was in town, Jennings said.

Jennings said she told the bodyguard she didn't want to go to Spector. Spector then knocked at her door.

Jennings described Spector as drunk and demanding. She quoted him as shouting, "I'm paying for this room. You'll come down to my suite if I tell you."

"I said I'll pay for the room," Jennings said.

The pair yelled at each other and Jennings said she started to cry. They moved to the bathroom, where Spector hit her, she said.

"He slapped me or pushed me. I ended up falling backwards," Jennings said. "I jumped up and I pushed him and he fell into the bathtub." Spector then blocked the door, produced a handgun, pointed it at her and told her she could not leave.

Eventually, she said, she called 911 and told the investigating officers what happened, but did not press charges. She said she was never again alone with Spector.

Rosen produced transcripts of her interview with police three years ago in which Jennings painted a less drastic picture of the incident. Jennings described the incident in a less severe way and seemed to acknowledge that alcohol and guns were part of Spector's normal lifestyle in the transcripts.

Rosen also raised questions about Jennings' dealings with a tabloid newspaper.

Jennings today said Spector terrified her, but in the police statement, she said that she was familiar with Spector's heavy drinking and gunplay. Although she was scared, she did not think Spector would shoot her that night. In the statement to police, Jennings said she ended her romantic relationship with Spector that night, but in the police interview, she indicated it may have continued.

There were also inconsistencies in Jennings description of her relations with the tabloid paper National Enquirer. She said she sold photographs of Spector for \$1,200 and gave no interviews.

Rosen produced a letter showing she was paid \$1,000 for her pictures and an interview.

michael.muskal@latimes.com

Staff writers Peter Y. Hong and John Spano contributed to this report.