



Judge OKs woman's testimony in Spector trial

By Michael Muskal, Times Staff Writer
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Phil Spector looked like Elmer Fudd carrying a long gun when he said goodbye to two women leaving his Alhambra mansion several years ago, a waitress testified today at the murder trial of the music producer.

Kathy Sullivan, a friend of Spector's who was with him on the fateful night that ended with the death of actress Clarkson, described the incident with the long gun.

The incident was the subject of an unusual hearing, with the jury of nine men and three women out of the courtroom today. Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Larry Paul Fidler ruled that Sullivan could testify about the incident despite objections by defense attorney Roger J. Rosen.

While the incident sounded comical, Deputy Dist. Atty. Alan Jackson said it was important because it showed that Spector had immediate access to a weapon.

Rosen objected, saying the testimony was prejudicial and had no legal value.

After the ruling, Sullivan explained how she and a friend were leaving Spector's home after staying over. Neither woman had a sexual relationship with Spector, Sullivan said.

Spector asked them to wait and left. He returned, coming down the stairs carrying a long gun, either a rifle or a shotgun, she said.

"What is that for?" Sullivan said she asked.

Spector "said one word: protection," Sullivan told prosecutor Jackson.

She said she was uncomfortable seeing the gun "I don't like guns," she said.

"Why not?" Jackson asked.

"Bad things happen when guns are around."

Despite her discomfort, Sullivan said she never felt threatened nor was she ever assaulted by Spector.

Rosen kept asking Sullivan about whether she felt in danger and she denied that.

"The gun was never, ever pointed at you," or your friend, Rosen asked. "It was always pointed to the ground or at his side. It was never used," he asked.

Sullivan agreed. She said she never felt threatened during the incident. It was just the presence of the gun that made her uncomfortable.

Under questioning by Rosen, Sullivan said Spector was more comical than fear-inspiring. He looked like the cartoon character Elmer Fudd holding the gun, she said.

Last week, Sullivan told of how Spector drank at three restaurants that night, ending at the House of Blues the morning of Feb. 3.

As she did last week, she painted a positive picture of Spector as courteous, generous and fun-loving. Spector often treated her fatherly and was very protective, Sullivan testified today.

He was not out of control despite the large amount of alcohol consumed throughout the night, she said.

It was at the House of Blues that Spector first met Clarkson, a hostess in the VIP area, the Foundation Room.

The prosecution alleges that Spector took Clarkson to his Alhambra mansion, where her body was found in the foyer. The prosecution maintains that Spector had a history of getting drunk and waving a gun at female companions. The defense maintains that Clarkson accidentally killed herself.

If convicted, Spector faces life in prison.

Two employees of Trader Vic's testified that Spector was present and drank navy grogs. Rosen questioned the bartender about the amount of alcohol in the drink and whether the melting ice would dilute its impact.

Adriano DeSouza, the man who drove Spector around on the night that Clarkson died, is expected to take the stand this afternoon. DeSouza was in the car outside Spector's Alhambra home after dropping off Spector and Clarkson.

DeSouza told the L.A. County Grand Jury that about 5 a.m. on Feb. 3 he heard what he described as a pop, then saw Spector leaving the house holding a gun.

"I think I killed somebody," he quoted Spector as saying.

The defense is expected to challenge DeSouza's ability to hear anything that morning because of a noisy fountain and because the chauffer was drowsy after a night of work.

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