

SAN QUENTIN SIX CASE

WHOSE PEERS?

A San Quentin Six Defense
Committee Publication
3169 16th St.
San Francisco, California 94103
(415) 626-0690



We are men. We are not beasts and
We do not intend to be beaten or
driven as such ... ATTICA

WHOSE PEERS?

Juror In Seat One

A 32 year old man who is a field engineer for Singer. He was rather nervous during the voir dire and explained it was due to sitting in front of a group of people he does not know and having to speak. His wife, now a housewife, used to be a medical secretary and was born in Missouri. He was born and raised in Texas. They have two children ages 3 and 5. They have lived in Marin County for 5 years and prior to that lived in Florida for 3 years. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1961 to 1965.

He stated he is familiar with this case from press accounts although he was mixing this case up with the Marin Shootout which happened the year before. He also said he read the background article in the San Francisco Examiner; that contained biographical sketches of the six defendants in this case. His wife had worked in the Marin General Hospital and through her work is familiar with Dr. Mannawaring, who is on the list of potential prosecution witnesses.

While he was a student in junior high school he went to a rodeo that was held in a Texas prison. He has read a lot about prison violence in the press and this leads him to think there's something wrong (but he did not explain what that was).

When questioned about his attitudes toward people of a race other than his he stated that the racial composition of the defendants will not affect his judgement - this despite his many years in the south! When radical politics were discussed he said, "My first impression of the Black Panther Party was negative. I now have no opinion." He stated that he wonders about the chains. He also expressed worries about serving on a jury for the duration this trial is projected to last. He felt it may jeopardize his job.

Juror In Seat Two

A 28 year old woman currently unemployed that used to do secretarial work for Prudential Life Insurance Co. Born in Indiana, moved to Marin County from San Francisco in August of 1971. She got married less than a year ago and her husband is an engineer currently working for Bechtal as a stress analyst for a nuclear power plant.

She recalls nothing about this case - says the first she ever heard about it was in the court room. Her next door neighbor is a police officer.

Juror In Seat Three

A woman, about 28 years old; she is a flight attendant for TWA and her husband has worked for TWA for 10 years. Before working for TWA her husband was in the U.S. Navy. They moved to Marin County from San Francisco and before that she lived in Chicago for 21 years. In Chicago she worked for the publisher of an encyclopedia.

She has read press accounts about this case although they do not subscribe to any newspapers. A friend told her that a jury was being chosen for this case and when she got her summons she wasn't pleased and said, "Oh, Lord!"

When questioned if she had any experience with prisons or jails she recounted an incident she had 10 or 11 years ago. She and her date wound up at a party looking for someone that owed him money and just as they got there the police arrived and arrested everyone for disturbing the peace. She spent a few hours in the police station and the jail but was released the same day and it left no impressions on her.

Juror In Seat Four

A 34 year old woman who has worked as a teller at the Bank of America for 11 months. Her husband is a supervisor in the repair and maintenance department of Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. where he has worked for 18 years. They have two children, an 11 year old boy and a 14 year old girl. Before her marriage she worked as a dental assistant for 6 months.

They moved to Marin County a year ago from Concord, California where they lived for 6 years. Before that they lived in Los Angeles.

She works with the wife of a San Quentin guard; the guard is on the list of potential prosecution witnesses. She has heard about this case from her co-workers who told her all about it after she got her jury summons. Her neighbor is a police officer who works in San Francisco.

When asked if she had any moral or philosophical reservations about sitting in judgment of another human being she released a long sigh and said "no".

Juror In Seat Five

A 30 year old man who was born in Texas. His wife has been a teacher for 6 years and teaches first grade. They have a 10 year old son. He works full-time for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. as a test board supervisor and also attends college. He started his higher education in 1962 and is 8 units away from a B.A. in industrial sociology. Last November he was promoted to his present position and he supervises 3 desk clerks and 4 repairmen. His only other work experience was a brief stint being a janitor in a college. He has lived in Marin County for three and a half years and before this lived in San Francisco for 12 years. He grew up in San Luis Obispo (Southern California).

He has press knowledge of the case but did not follow it with any measure of interest. He is familiar with the name of defendant Willie Tate but not sure where he heard it. (There was much adverse publicity and venomous editorializing in the Marin Independent Journal right before Willie was released from San Quentin on \$100,000 bail.) He did know that Willie was no longer in San Quentin and that he is the only defendant not shackled. Also he was aware that Willie had spoken at a demonstration at the courthouse shortly after the trial began.

He took a field trip to San Bruno County Jail in connection with a University of California extension course which dealt with major social issues. This was just before Sheriff Hongisto was elected in San Francisco and it was a quick tour of the facility which left him with the impression he wouldn't want to spend any time there.

He has read Look For Me In The Whirlwind (an anthology of essays by the Panther 21) about 5 years ago. He feels there is room for prison reform but that the courtroom is not the proper place to discuss this.

Juror In Seat Six

A woman, about 25 years of age, formerly a stewardess but quit her job last fall after 4 years. She now spends her time painting, wall-papering and moving into the new house they have bought. Before she worked as a stewardess she worked in the electronics industry. A native of Northern California (from the Napa Valley) she moved to Los Angeles, then San Francisco and Burlingame and to Marin County not quite 2 years ago. She has attended Miramont College in Los Angeles for one year and majored in liberal arts.

Her husband was born in Texas and is a director of systems for Western States Bank Systems (Master Charge data processing) and has been there for 4 years. He also worked in data processing in Dallas, Texas.

In August of 1971 she was living in San Francisco and recalls the incident but none of the details. George Jackson is a familiar name to her but not in connection with the incident that resulted in his death but the Marin Courthouse Shootout a year before in which his brother was killed. She only recalls the guards were killed on August 21, 1971 and didn't know George Jackson and two inmate trustees also died.

When questioned about her attitudes toward racial minorities she replied, "Different racial groups do not phase me. I fly with lots of different races." When asked about radical political groups she said, "It doesn't matter what group they're with."

The judge asks a standard question of all jurors as to any experience they may have had with crimes of violence, either as a victim or someone close to them having been a victim. She said in reply to this inquiry, "I don't believe in people using violence for personal gains." About the chains the defendants are subjected to she said,

"It just doesn't phase me at all, but I noticed them right away." She said she is unaware of the problems that exist in prisons but feels it's an area that should be looked into.

She expressed hesitancy to accept the responsibilities of a juror and said, "I'm not sure I could do the right thing in making a right choice as to a final decision. People can't help getting emotional. Violence does affect me. We read it everyday in the newspapers. I have a doubt that I could be a perfect juror, but I could be fair and impartial. But that's only because I've never done it before."

Juror In Seat Seven

A 37 year old field auditor for the Internal Revenue Service. The only Black man on the panel. He has worked with the IRS for two years. He has a B.S. degree from Golden Gate University where he took 4 years of accounting. While he was going to school he worked part-time for an accounting firm for one year and before that was a truck driver for PG&E for 5 years. He got married in 1965. Both he and his wife graduated from college in 1972.

His wife is a doctor and works as a pathologist at the San Francisco General Hospital. She studied at the University of California at Berkeley and currently is in her fourth year of residency at the hospital. They were both born near Baton Rouge Louisiana and have a 3 year old son.

In 1963 he moved to San Jose, California, in 1967 to San Francisco and then two years ago to Marin County.

He reads the San Francisco Chronicle and the San Francisco Examiner daily and also watches TV News. He has read about this case extensively. A long time ago he also read Soul on Ice by Eldridge Cleaver.

When he was 23 he worked as a truck driver for the Pepsi Cola Company. Angola State Prison in Louisiana was on his route and he made deliveries there every Wednesday for two summers.

Juror In Seat Eight

A housewife in her forties that has been married for 20 years and has 3 children, two teenagers and a 10 year old. Years ago she was a computer programmer for IBM in New York. Both she and her husband were born in Michigan where they lived most of their lives. They moved to New York for two years, then to California and spent 3 months in San Francisco while looking for a house and moved to Marin County in 1957. Her husband is an attorney and works for Kaiser Aluminum in corporate management. He also has a real estate license.

She has limited familiarity with the case as she never reads the news, she did see the headlines. In August of 1971 they were vacationing in Oregon so they missed most of the initial publicity. She was aware that a jury was being selected but thought by the time she got her summons the jury would already have been selected for this trial. She recognized George Jackson's name "but didn't realize he was involved in this". Most recently she has seen a headline about the Marin County Shootout but didn't read the article "because she doesn't like that kind of news".



When the judge inquired about any law enforcement connections she has - she mentioned that 10 years ago she belonged to a lawyers wives organization. As to her personal experience with any kind of crime - her house was burglarized in 1970. A juvenile was apprehended but she did not participate in the prosecution.

Her only experience with prison was one trip to Vacaville 4 or 5 years ago. A member of her church (First Presbyterian) had a special interest in prisons and had organized the tour as a program to enlighten people about prisons. It was "an adult educational program for the rehabilitation of prisoners". Designed to serve as a self improvement project for prisoners some church members participated and visited prisoners on a continuing basis. It was an enlightening experience for her but she couldn't pursue it beyond the one visit because of time limitations. Also, when she was 15 years old her family had toured Jolliet Prison but she was barred because of her age.

When exploring her attitudes toward racial and ethnic groups other than her own she stated she has had broad experience visiting different countries and has never had a problem relating to other races. (She has traveled to Trinidad.)

As to radical politics she stated she thinks everyone does what he thinks is right and is entitled to their own opinions. She does not associate the Black Panther Party with violence - the only thing that comes to her mind in connection with the BPP is "breakfasts in Marin City".

As the judge asked the attorneys to pass this juror for cause she was challenged for cause by Judd Scott for defendant Hugo Pinell (he had exhausted his individual peremptory challenges and

there were no more joint peremptories left). Pinell corrected Mr. Scott and stated that he challenges the entire County of Marin. The juror smiled (or was it smirked?) at Hugo. The challenge was denied, the remaining defendants still having peremptory challenges left accepted the juror, the D.A. accepted and on June 10th the juror was seated.

Juror In Seat Nine

A 27 year old woman who was born in Washington State. She is a commercial loan teller for Wells Fargo Bank and has been with the bank 5 years. She sought an excuse from jury service because she felt the bank would suffer as she is irreplaceable and also because she was planning a trip to Washington in April. (She is the only juror that has been seated from the first panel of jurors called). She lived in Florida for two years before coming to Marin County and worked in Commercial sales there. She came to Marin County 5 years ago. She has been married 2 years and her husband works for the California State Automobile Association.

She said she is familiar with the case and recognized the names Stephen Bingham, Hugo Pinell, George Jackson and Fleeta Drumgo. Her memory has been refreshed by the court experience she explained. She subscribes to the Marin Independent Journal but rarely believes what she reads in the newspapers. She also watches news on the TV and listens to radio news.

She hasn't read much about prison, prisoners' rights, prison violence or prison reform but indicated she was interested in these subjects. In November of 1974 she spoke to members of a prison support group who have an account at the bank where she works. She stated this group's

efforts are supported by the warden of San Quentin and it is called "Radios For Prisoners". Her contact came about because she handles that account. Also as a representative of the bank she has visited "The House" but that's as close as she has been to San Quentin. (The House is run by a Catholic group that extends itself to prisoners and their visitors. A visitor can arrange for free child care there, get a meal, a change of clothes and they will find a place for visitors from out of the area to find lodging.)

After she had been passed for cause and had been in the jury box for a lengthy period of time she brought it to the judge's attention that something else came to her mind. She has on one or two occasions met a guard that works at San Quentin as she works with his wife at the bank! She said this would have no affect on her ability to be a fair and impartial juror.

Juror In Seat Ten

A man in his fifties who retired as a Quartermaster from the Army after 20 years service and now works for the post office. He has been in the post office for 12 years. He was born in Ohio, his wife has never worked, they have 6 children, two of whom are still at home. One of his grown children is married, one is a carpenter, another is studying to be a court reporter in San Francisco. In the Army he was in the infantry, also was a warrant officer and worked with missiles.

He has served on 3 court martials. As a warrant officer he helped the prosecutor prepare one of these cases, once he sat on the court and the third time he assisted the prosecutor. There were no crimes of violence involved (one was sleeping on duty, another drunk charges and the last an AWOL charge). He also got several drunken soldiers out of jail.

He has read about the case in the Marin Independent Journal and his knowledge was about the same as what the judge explained to the jurors. He did not recognize the names of any of the defendants. He did not follow this case with any measure of interest. He recognized several of the names of potential prosecution witnesses but only because he had delivered mail to them at the old San Rafael courthouse - had never met any of them.

He stated he has heard of Charles Garry (attorney for Johnny Spain) and explained this was because "He's as well known as Melvin Belli". He intimated he considers Mr. Garry a "high class person" and that he's been treated well by "high class people" and vice versa. He also was familiar with the names of some of the other attorneys from seeing their names in the local press and said "they are just names like Eisenhower, everyone knows them".

In the Army he associated with people of all creeds colors and races. He lived in Hawaii for 5 years, called it a melting pot of races and he got along with all of them. In answer to would he be affected if it were shown that a defendant or one of the witnesses adheres to the principles of communism he emphatically answered, "In no way!" When asked if he had any experience with crimes of violence he answered, "Not unless you call World War II a vast violence".

While working as substitute carrier he has picked-up mail at the San Quentin Post Office once in a while. He knew the lady clerk there. He has never been inside the prison. Despite his 20 years in an army uniform he claims he does not identify with people in uniforms more strongly than with people in civilian clothing and will evaluate testimony of all witnesses without this being a factor in his consideration.

Juror In Seat Eleven

A woman about 21 years old who bounced into court very relaxed and when the judge greeted her with "good afternoon" she responded "hi". She is not married and works as the secretary to the manager of the Emporium. Before the two years in this position she was a sales clerk for 6 months in the same store. Presently she has a wide variety of duties which include shorthand, typing, switchboard, credit office and some work on the floor. She has lived in Marin County for 18 years and graduated from High School in 1972. (She took business courses in High School).

She lives alone. Her father and 15 year old brother are self employed in the construction trade. Her mother is a bridal consultant and has been for the past 5 years.

She has never read anything about this case. She has heard the name George Jackson but can't recall anything about him. When a defense attorney asked her what her reaction was when she found out what case she was called for she said she didn't recall her initial feelings, that she felt kind of strange, that she didn't know what to think and that a lot of people at work talk about this case.

Juror In Seat Twelve

A 27 year old woman who is an insurance secretary for Redwood Empire Casualty Company. She's always done clerical work; 4 years with PT&T (clerk and instruction on switchboard and teletype); I Magnin's and a tug boat and barge company have been her employers.

She was born in Washington, D.C. and her husband was born in Ohio. Her father was in the Air Force and they moved to Marin County in 1960 as he was assigned to Hamilton Air Force Base. In 1970 she moved to Oakland, California and moved back to Marin County in 1972 or 1973. Her husband works nights as a stocking clerk for Safeway. He's been there one year and before that he worked for 4 months as a grinder and a janitor in a plastic factory. Prior to that he pumped gas for a Standard Oil station for 7 years.

She has learned more about this case from being in the courtroom than she had known before being called. She has very vague recollections of something happening. The names Fleeta Drumgo, Willie Tate and Charles Garry are familiar to her. She knew that jury was being selected as one of her neighbors had been called on an earlier panel and had been excused.

In regards to radical politics she feels everyone is entitled to their own opinions. She has a cousin who is married to a Black man and they have two children. Her own grandfather was of Spanish, Mexican and Indian (as she put it) extraction.

When asked what effect the chains have on her she replied, "Personally I don't care for it but you have decided and that's the way it is" and also stated that she will be able to put that out of her mind. She has some law enforcement connections; a great uncle she hardly knows was in the homicide division of the San Francisco Police Department in the 1950's; a friend from high school days is now on the San Rafael police force and another uncle of hers is in some way related to a judge.

When she was 18 or 19 she went to an art show at San Quentin. She also recounted how in 1972 or 1973 she was in the immediate vicinity of and witnessed a bomb blast that killed a man. It was in Oakland, California in a parking lot and the man was sitting in a V.W. when a bomb went off in his lap. Her husband was the first person to get to the car to see if he could in any way assist the victim. Later they learned that the victim was somehow associated with the Black Panther Party she stated.

She was passed for cause and about a month later (the day before the twelve jurors were finally impanelled) she informed the judge that her boss had fired her because she was on this jury. She said this would not impose a financial hardship unless her husband lost his job too.



FREE

THE SAN QUENTIN SIX!

DONATION 25¢



EUGENE COALITION / COALITION PRESS
161 MADISON
EUGENE, OREGON 97402 U.S.A.
(503) 343-3282