

EXCERPTS OF STATEMENTS OF WITNESSES

In Re

WILLIAM DESMOND TAYLOR MURDER

1922 - 1936

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1  
2 EXCERPTS OF STATEMENTS OF WITNESSES IN RE  
3 WILLIAM DESMOND TAYLOR MURDER - 1922 - 1936  
4

5 HENRY PEAVY (now deceased) Valet and house-  
6 servant to Mr. Taylor.  
7 Statement taken on 2-9-22 at ten A.M.

8 P.11

9 L.11 Q. On the morning you found Mr. Taylor's body, in what  
10 position was the davenport in the room with respect to  
11 the body.

12 A. Had not been a place in the room disturbed that I could  
13 tell you anything about - - -

14 L.23 Q. In other words - - - the chair was where it belonged  
15 and when this man died his feet were under the chair.

16 A. Yes.

17 P.27 (Re burglary of Dec. 4, 1921 \* \* \* he said (Taylor)

18 L.3 "They've taken the gold tipped cigarettes \* \* \*"

19 P.28

20 L.14 A. About a week later, right by the side of the mail box  
21 where you go in onto the front porch\* \* \* as I reached  
22 in the box to get the mail I seen this gold tipped  
23 cigarette. I said "Mr. Taylor, did you buy any more of  
24 those gold tipped cigarettes?" He said "No." \* \* \*

25 P.28 Q. Was the front door locked the morning you arrived there  
26 and found Mr. Taylor's body.

27 L.26 A. Yes.

28 & P.29 Q. Was the back door locked?

29 to A. Yes, just as I left it that night. I was sure of that.

30 L.9 Q. The screen door hooked?

31 A. Yes, the screen door hooked.

32 Q. Windows locked on the first floor?

33 A. All the windows locked down on the first floor.

34 P.32 (witness quoting Mabel Normand) "Henry, Mr. Taylor and  
35 L.24 I are going to get married. Will you work for me when  
36 we get married \* \* \*"

37 P.33 "You work for Mr. Taylor" she said "we are going to get  
38 L.1 married and have a little baby \* \* \*" This was all  
39 said in the presence of Mr. Taylor.

40 P.34 A. Well, I don't know anything about the love that Miss  
41 L.8 Normand had for Mr. Taylor but from Mr. Taylor's actions  
42 I knew he was crazy in love with Miss Normand.

43 MRS. FAITH MacLEAN, neighbor  
44 Statement taken on 2-9-22

45 P.40 L.22 Q. When did you first learn that Mr. Taylor was dead?

46 A. At 7:30 Thursday morning.

1 P.41, L.1 Q.Who was it that brought it to your attention?  
 2 A.His colored servant came screaming out of the house.  
 3 Q.What did he say?  
 4 A."Help, Police, Mr. Taylor is dead."  
 5 P.41,L.19 Q.Did the fact that Mr. Taylor was dead remind you  
 & of anything that occurred the night before \* \* did  
 6 P.42,L.1 you hear a shot.  
 to 4 A.Yes, what we thought might be a shot or a muffler  
 7 explosion, I do not know which.  
 8 Q.When did you hear that?  
 9 A.Sometime probably between quarter of eight and  
 10 eight o'clock on Wednesday evening.  
 11 P.43,L.7 Q.Now, at the time you heard this shot did you go out  
 on the porch?  
 12 A.Yes, shortly after \* \* \*oh, about, I suppose three  
 or four seconds, maybe a minute.  
 13 P.44,L.15 A.No I did not I just opened my front door.  
 Q.Well, what did you say?  
 14 A.I saw a man had already opened the door of Mr. Taylor's  
 15 house and was looking towards Alvarado St.\*\* \* I  
 16 didn't see him open the door; it was already open  
 I think.  
 17 Q.Which way was the screen?  
 18 A.The screen door was open.  
 19 P.45,L.13 I think the screen door was open then, must have been  
 to have seen his figure as clearly as I did.  
 20 L.21 Q.Did he shut the door?  
 21 A.It seems like he shut the door. It seems like he  
 22 leaned in and pulled it closed.  
 23 P.46,L.5 A.So it must have been opened because I distinctly  
 24 saw his cap.  
 25 L.13 Q.You are satisfied are you, that the light came from  
 Taylor's apartment out on the street through the  
 26 open door?  
 A.Yes.  
 L.21 Q.Did he seem in a hurry?  
 27 A.No, he was the coolest thing I have ever seen \* \* \*.  
 28 P.47,L.3 He turned around and looked at me and hesitated.  
 to 6 Then it seems as if \* \* \* that Mr. Taylor must have  
 29 spoken to him from inside the house \* \*\* he thought  
 30 he had spoken and he didn't. Seemed like he pulled  
 31 the door shut, then turned around and looking at me  
 32 all the time, walked down a couple of steps that go  
 up to Mr. Taylor's house there.  
 33 P.47,L.15 Q.Do you know whether the man that you saw went to  
 Alvarado St. through the open court there?  
 34 A.He went towards Maryland St. and towards the alley  
 35 in between the two houses because he was facing  
 that way ready to go when I closed the door.

1 P.49,L.15 Q. You knew it wasn't Taylor.  
 2 A. Oh, I knew it wasn't Taylor.  
 3 Q. Could you have recognized the man if it had been  
 4 Mr. Taylor.  
 5 A. Ch, yes, positively.  
 6 L.25 A. When I first saw him it looked like he had  
 7 stepped to the door and was looking towards  
 8 Alvarado St.  
 9 P.50,L.26 Q. Now, it is possible that it might have been this  
 10 & young man Howard Fellows, the chauffeur, that  
 11 P.51,L.1 you saw there. Could that be possible.  
 12 to 7 A. I suppose it could be possible but it doesn't seem  
 13 to me that he was the boy or was the man. He doesn't  
 14 seem the built of that man.  
 15 Q. Did the man you saw have a smooth face?  
 16 A. Yes, he did have a smooth face.  
 17 P.52,L.2 Q. Did the man you saw have on anything like a chauffeur's  
 18 uniform?  
 19 A. Well, the only thing I noticed was his cap, something  
 20 tied around his throat. I don't know whether the man  
 21 had on an over-coat or not,  
 22 L.22 A. His age I don't know but I should judge the man  
 23 was probably between 30 and 35. He was about 5 feet  
 24 nine, just about \* \* \*, and he was stocky, not  
 25 fat, but stocky. He had on a cap. It seemed like  
 26 a checked cap with a plaid in it, and he wore some-  
 thing around his throat.  
 P.53,L.13 Q. Smooth shaven?  
 L.14 A. Yes.  
 L.25 Q. Color of his suit?  
 A. No, except it was a dark suit.  
 P.54,L.9 Q. Now didn't compare in size with Mr.  
 Smith, the reporter here, who is taking this  
 statement? (Mr. Smith was about 5'7½")  
 A. No, Mr. Smith is shorter.  
 P.55,L.3 (The witness names the following men:  
 Mr. Henry King,  
 Mr. Mahlon Hamilton  
 Mr. Arthur Hoyt  
 Mr. Barrie (first name Nigle?)  
 Mr. Ince  
 Mr. Marshal Neilan  
 Witness was then asked the following questions)  
 P.55,L.18 Q. Now then, tell me whether there is any possibility  
 that this man you saw coming out of there was any  
 of the persons that you have mentioned?  
 A. No, I think not. I think I would have recognized  
 any of those people.

1 P.56,L.8 A. \*\*when he came out he was dressed as my idea of  
a moving picture burglar \*\*?  
2 L.12 \*\*because I remember thinking perhaps he might  
3 have been any of the boys in Mr. Taylor's company  
when they go out on location.  
4 P.58,L.10 A. Not well dressed. I don't know as I would say  
slovenly but I don't think he was well dressed.

5 CHRISTINA JEWETT, maid for Mrs. MacLean  
6 Statement taken 2-9-22

7 (Witness after explaining that she was waiting  
between the service of courses to the MacCleans,  
states as follows)

8 P.65,L.17 A. While I was waiting there I heard a man come from  
the corner and go down in the alley and he stopped  
9 right near against a big fence there in the alley,  
and it seems to me he stopped just between the  
10 garage and Mr. Jesserun's house.

11 P.69,L.8 A. \*\*He had flat shoes on, I know that.

12 L.13 Q. You think it was a man's steps?

13 A. Yes.

14 P.69,L.24 A. When I came in after she rang the bell I heard  
& him move around just as she rang the bell for me,  
15 and I went up and walked in and then I came out  
16 from the dining room, then was I heard him walking,  
I thought he walked in between the buildings and  
17 between the garage and the houses, Mr. Jessrun  
living in \* \* and then I cleared out the table and  
18 as I cleared out the table and was going to take  
out the tablecloth was then I heard the shot.

19 P.70,L.15 A. Yes, in the morning, the next morning \* \* \* around  
the back in the alley \* \* \* I heard somebody com-  
20 ing behind me. I turned my head, I saw Mr. Taylor's  
man who drives the machine and he said "Goodmorning."  
He was in a great hurry and I thought well, he is  
21 late \* \* \* because he is supposed to have the machine  
out I guess before 8 o'clock in front for Mr. Taylor  
22 \*\*\* I guess just about 8 o'clock.

23 P.71,L.8 (Witness quoting Mrs. MacLean) She says "Come up  
stairs". I says "All right." I come up stairs.  
She says "Mr. Taylor was shot last night." "Ch"  
24 I said "Was he, that is what I heard," and she  
25 said "Yes."

26 L.15 A. I think I said to Mrs. McLean "That is the man I  
heard in the alley."

Q. Are you sure Mrs. McLean told you when you went up  
there - - - you say at 8 o'clock

A. In the morning.

Q. Are you sure Mrs. MacLean told you at that time Mr.  
Taylor had been shot?

A. Yes.

Q. What time of the day was that?

A. 8 o'clock in the morning.

1 P.72,L.25 Q. Can you think of that remark Mrs. MacLean said  
& "Mr. Taylor is shot." Didn't she say, "Mr. Taylor  
2 P.73,L. 1 is dead."  
& 2 A. No, she said "Mr. Taylor has been shot."

3  
4 CHARLES DOUGLAS MacLEAN, Neighbor  
Statement taken 2-9-22 at ten A. M.

5 P.77,L.3 A. I told the officers what occurred the night of the  
6 murder \* \* I was late for dinner. I was 5 minutes  
7 late. We had dinner at 7 o'clock. \* \* I must have  
8 taken another 5 minutes to get ready. We sat down  
9 I should judge 10 minutes after 7. We sat there  
10 and I guess it took a half hour to eat dinner.

11 L.19 A. So I immediately after dinner got up from the  
12 table, went upstairs to get the heater. I went  
13 in the front room and lighted the gas radiator.  
14 Also lighted the gas radiator in the backroom up-  
15 stairs, and I went in the front room and got my  
16 house coat and put it on and went into the bath  
17 room and detached the heater, when I heard the  
18 noise or explosion, it sounded like a shot.

19 P.81,L.10 (Speaking of Mr. Taylor's body on the morning of  
20 its discovery.)

21 Q. What was the condition of the clothing, if you  
22 know. Was it disarranged at all?

23 A. No, not at all. He looked immaculate.

24 Q. How was he lying?

25 A. He was lying flat on his back, his feet separated  
26 a little, his legs apart and his hands at his sides,  
27 lying perfectly on his back.

28 P.82,L.2 Q. Why his coat appeared to be arranged you may say,  
29 just like he was laid out by friends

30 A. Yes, he was perfect.

31 L.7 A. As I remember the coat laid perfectly along his  
32 body. It wasn't thrown back over or anything.

33 L.9 Q. Was his coat buttoned?

34 A. I don't think so.

35 L.18 A. He looked just like a dummy in a department store  
36 or in a window of a store, so perfect, so immaculate.  
37 I remember I was impressed with the fact he looked  
38 like a wax figure dressed up.

39 HOWARD FELLOWS, Chauffeur for Mr. Taylor  
40 Statement taken 2-9-22, 4:45 P.M.

41 P. 101,L.4 Q. Where did you take Mr. Taylor the day he was killed,  
42 begin in the morning?

43 A. It was the studio. \*\*\*called for him I think at  
44 one o'clock. I took him down town to the bank, which  
45 I drove Harry up to see you, I think it was, which  
46 I went home and called for him at quarter of four at  
47 Robinson's.

1 Continuing

P.101,L.4 Q. Robinson's Store?

2 A. Yes. He came along -- Harry was waiting to see him.  
3 They talked there until it was pretty near time for  
4 me to move or get a ticket for standing after hours.  
L.25 (After relating taking Mr. Taylor home, he, Taylor,  
5 said) "I will call you between 7 and 7:30 if I want  
6 you.

P.103,L.23 Q. You went around to Mr. Taylor's house the night he  
& was killed.

P.104,L.7 A. Yes.

Q. Just describe your movements when you went there  
7 giving the time?

8 A. I called up at the house at 5 minutes after 8 which  
9 I looked at my watch \* \* \* I called up and got no  
10 answer. About 5 minutes after 8 I tried to call  
11 and I went out and got into the car, drove up 6th to  
12 Alvarado, up Alvarado to Maryland and right around  
13 in back there where his garage is, right behind the  
14 landlord's house \* \* \* I didn't put the car away  
15 then, I left the engine running and lights on.\*\*\*  
16 I rang the door bell, the lights were all lit  
17 which I thought he might be home on account of all  
18 the lights being lit. I rang the door bell and the  
19 second time I rang the door bell I looked at my  
20 watch\* \*\*,  
21 L.25 which my watch says quarter after 8. I rung the  
22 door bell 4 or 5 times because I kind of thought  
23 he was in there on account of the lights being lit.

P.105,L.2 Q.

A.

24 Could you hear the door bell ringing?

25 Yes. I started away and I got about to the steps  
26 and I hesitated to see if I could hear him coming.  
27 As I hesitated there was no sound and I went and  
28 put the car away, opened the garage doors and put  
29 the car away, closed the door and walked right  
30 straight through the court down Alvarado.

P.105,L.25 Q. You did not open the screen door?

A. No, never do open any door.

P.106,L.1 Q. Did you ever have such occasion before, the lights  
31 would be on and he would not answer the door bell?

A. I never had any occasions like that.

L.17 A. \*\*\*as I go around I notice there is a light lit in  
32 his bedroom and a light lit in his den. There is  
33 always them lights but it was a dim light. This  
34 time all the lights were lit, dining room lights were  
35 lit and they lit up the curtains that much more.

Q. His upstairs lights were lit?

A. One of them, just a glance I took at them.



1 HARRY FELLOWS, Assistant Director to  
2 Wm. Desmond Taylor  
Statement taken 2-9-22.

3 P.109,L.11 Q. Did she appear to be fond of him?

A. Miss Minter?

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. Yes, she did seem to be very fond of Mr. Taylor.

6 L.18 A. - - - and seemed to chase him around to the studio  
7 and things like that. As far as I know Mr. Taylor  
8 never really thought an awful lot of Miss Minter.  
9 I mean more than just to like her for a nice little  
10 girl.

11 P.111,L.1 A. He thought more of Miss Normand than he did of any  
12 one I have ever known.

13 P.111,L.14 A. I got there - - - I must have got at Mr. Taylor's  
14 house about 8 o'clock in the morning when I came there.

15 Q. That is the day he was killed?

16 A. Yes, on Thursday morning.

17 Q. Well, did you know that he was killed before you  
18 went there?

19 A. No, my brother called me up and told me Mr. Taylor  
20 was found dead. ~~xxxxx~~ \*\*\* I understood him to say  
21 Mr. Taylor was found dead in bed.

22 P.112,L.15 Q. Who was there, Harry, when you came in?

23 A. There was Douglas MacLean and the owner of the court  
24 I think, his name is Jesserun. I think there was  
25 two men from headquarters and my brother, Howard and  
26 Henry Peavy. I am not positive whether the doctor  
27 was there when I first got there or whether he came  
28 when I was 'phoning Mr. Eyton.

29 P.113,L.26 A. Arthur Hoyt and Charlie Maigne and myself went  
30 upstairs and got all the literature and things like  
31 that that we could get and put them in a package \*\*\*.

32 P.114,L.1 L.16 and I gave Jimmie Vantrees who was Mr. Taylor's  
33 Cameraman and Mrs. Ivers (Jimmie's mother) and ask  
34 them to keep the letters for me.

35 P.114,L.25 A. Why Jimmie must have given them to Mrs. Ivers and then  
36 then I went right over and got them from her and took

37 P.115,L.1-3 them out to the studio.

38 Q. What did you do with them?

39 A. Gave them to Mr. Eyton.

40 P.116,L.7 A. \*\*\* I don't think anybody made an examination  
41 until Mr. Eyton insisted on an examination being  
42 made and that must have been two hours or 2½ hours  
43 after the time we got there anyway.

1 W. A. ROBERTSON, friend of Mr. Taylor.  
Statement taken 2-9-22 at 8 P.M.

2 P.124,L.17 Q. Where you ever present when Mr. Taylor mentioned  
3 Mary Miles Minter?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What was the occasion?

6 A. That was last Saturday night.

7 L.25 Q. Who, if anyone else was present?

8 A. Mr. Hoyt.

9 P.125,L.6 Q. He said she had been pestivating around there  
and got to be a great deal of annoyance.

10 L.21 A. No, that was last Saturday \*\*\* that was the 28th.

11 Q. 28th of January?

12 A. Yes.

13 P.126,L.20 A. She would cometo his house and kick up a fuss.

14 Q. What did he tell you about her kicking up a fuss?

15 A. She threatened to scream. She was very obnoxious  
to him and all of these attentions.

16 P.133,L.22 Q. By Mr. Cato: Were you ever with Miss Windsor  
17 and Mr. Taylor and Miss Blanche Sweet and Marshal  
18 Neilan and a couple of other girls at a cafe when  
19 Mr. Taylor taunted Neilan regarding Miss Minter.

20 A.

21 VERNE DUMAS, neighbor  
Statement taken 2-9-22.

22 P.144,L.15 A. \*\*About 7:30 as near as I remember \*\*\* I was in  
23 my bath room shaving \*\* I heard this noise of the  
24 nigger hollering,\*\*

25 L.24 and he hollered Mr. Taylor was dead, stone dead,  
26 somebody come quick. I ran back in the bathroom,  
27 grabbed a towel, wiped the lather from my face, put  
28 on a bath robe and ran over there.

29 P.145,L.1 A. Well, when I went in Henry preceded me \*\* and  
30 there was Mr. Harrington and some gentlemen whose  
31 names I do not know living across the street there.  
32 In other words, 4 of us in a room \* \* \* evidently  
33 he had died from a hemorrhage because blood had  
34 run from his mouth and his nose and then looked  
35 like from his ear and had congealed and he was  
36 lying perfectly natural as though he was simply  
laid out as a corpse.

37 P.145,L.18 A. \*\*\*but the body was lying parallel with the desk  
38 with the feet to the door and the rug, the corner  
39 of the rug near his foot was pushed back a little  
40 bit \*\*\* and the chair upright and this foot under  
41 it and the chair at the desk was pushed just  
42 partially under the desk \*\*\* and the chair right  
43 between his head and the desk. Well, on the table  
44 8.

1 Continuing  
P.145,L.18  
2 P.147,L.9

was a check book open and two piles of checks.  
Q. Has the rear door a spring lock or is it locked  
with a key.

3  
4 P.150,L.26  
&  
5 P.151

A. Locked with a key from the inside..  
Q. There was no chance for anybody straightening  
this body out between the time the colored boy  
hollered and you went in there.  
A. No, the only part of his body I touched was  
this arm and it was absolutely stiff.

6  
7 L.10

Q. How about his coat?  
A. It was as straight as if it had been pressed.  
A. \*\* and it was absolutely pulled perfectly  
straight.

8  
9 P.152,L.20

---  
MR.CAHILL: We tested that and the bullet ----  
the gun was not more than an inch away from his  
body and they couldn't possibly get that close.

10  
11 MR. WOOLWINE: I heard it was 2 to 4 inches.

12 MR. CAHILL: No, we have got it to within an inch,  
13 the test shows that.

14 P.153,L.10

15 MR. WINN: In my opinion, the shot that was fired  
16 4 inches from the pants in making that demon-  
17 stration, is the nearest likeness to the shot  
18 in the coat.

19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25 JMc/v

NEIL HARRINGTON, Neighbor  
Statement taken 2-9-22

1  
2  
3  
4 P 157, L 21 Q \* \* \* I understand you went over with Mr. Dumas?

A I went in there first.

5 Q When you saw Taylor lying out on the floor, why his clothing was perfectly arranged, was it not?

6 A Perfectly arranged. I made the remark at the time, "I don't believe the man fell in that position."  
7

8 P 158, L 18 (Re man peeping in windows of Taylor's home in August, 1921)

9 A Between Taylor's house and the garage, there is the two windows, and Taylor's house the window to the living room and the window to the kitchen--

10 \* \* \* I saw a man peeping in the curtain, and  
11 as he saw me-- this man, I believe I would recognize-- as he heard me he started and I  
12 stopped naturally, rather frightened, and he didn't say a word, but whirled right around and  
13 walked out.

14 P 160, L 1 Q Do you know whether Mr Taylor was there or not?

A There was a light in there.

15 L 11 A \*\*\* I should say probably along about the 20th of August.

16 P 161, L 24 Q How would you describe the fellow's face?

17 A Rather a good looking fellow, good features. Of course I couldn't tell whether his face was ruddy complexion--

18 P 162, L 3 Q Regular features?

19 A Yes, regular features. It wasn't Taylor's chauffeur at that time.

20 L 15 Q About what time was it in the evening?

A Oh, somewheres around 9 o'clock, early in the evening.  
21

ARTHUR C. HOYT (Friend of Taylor)  
Statement taken 2-9-22

22  
23 P 166, L 23

24 P 167, L 1-2

(Witness is quoting Taylor and speaking of Mary Miles Winter) A Mind you, I am saying this from memory but \*\*\* he (Taylor) said, "What am I going to do? She comes here \*\*\* threatens to make a scene. I try to get rid of her, doing all in my power. \*\*\* Finally when I did get her  
25  
26

*W. H. H. 500-4-19  
Rings 19*

1 P 167, L 6

to go, she said 'Well, you will have to drive me home.' " And he said, "No, you got here and you will have to go alone."

6 P 183, L 19

CHARLES MAIGNE (Friend of Taylor)  
Statement taken 2-9-22

A \*\*\* After I got over the shock of Bills death, was wondering how on earth Bill could have fallen the way he did. The position that Bill was in stumped me for two solid days \*\*\*. If he had been sitting in his chair and had been shot, or if he had been shot in his back with his back to the door, he was lying stretched out with his feet towards the door, hands by his side. There was no blood anywhere except directly under his head where the blood had run out of his mouth from the hemorrhage and a little bit directly under where the wound in the back was.

Q Was the clothing all properly arranged?  
A Clothing all properly arranged.

12 P 186, L 11

(Speaking of the condition of the room when he first saw it the morning after the murder)

MR. WINN: There were also papers on the couch?  
A \*\* I know when you came up there about 9:15 or 9:30--

MR. WINN: Around 9:30 or 10 o'clock.

A Before we had been there a half or three-quarters of an hour, I noticed three or four checks on the floor alongside of Bill, cancelled checks. They were not on the floor when I came in. This pile of cancelled checks was almost smooth and level right on his desk, just as though he had been interrupted in his work and nobody had touched them. \*\* On the night after Taylor was killed I called up Earl Tiffany and had him come up to the house.\*\*\* His wife came up with him\*\*\*.

21 P 187, L 1-6

The first thing he told me was that his wife had positively seen Sands at the corner of Fifth and Figueroa, I think it was, at 1:15 PM on the day before Taylor was murdered. She had known Sands and Tiffany before she married Tiffany.

(Second Statement taken 12-1-25)

24 P 259, L 5

A \*\*\* it must have been about half past 7 in the morning of the day that Bill was killed that Miss Normand's maid came over and wanted to see me

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right away. \*\*\* I hurried over and Mabel told me that Edna Purviance had telephoned to her that Bill had been found dead. \*\*\* and Mabel \*\* asked me to go up there, and I think there were only two or three people there when I got in. It must have been approximately 8 o'clock.

P 259, L 13

Q About what time was that that you got there?  
A About 8 or 8:30, I should say.

P 264, L 22

MR. KING: The man in the corner court, just beyond Miss Purviance, on the same side Bill was on, he said he was reading an Evening Herald and heard the conversation between Miss Normand and Mr. Taylor, and heard them say, "Good night", and then the footsteps going back, and then immediately the whirr of the motor, and she had gone and the footsteps died out, and he heard the shot.

MABEL NORMAND

Statement taken 4-10-22, 9:50 PM

P 192, L 2

(Speaking of her visit to Taylor's home the night before the murder) \*\*\* I arrived at his house about 7 o'clock.

P 194, L 5

Q When you went in did you see anybody besides Taylor and his negro Peavey?  
A No.

L 18  
L 21

\*\*\* and the room had been changed around, \*\*\* I noticed one thing in particular, that his desk was open and rather scattered full of checks and things.

P 195, L 25

Q How long did you remain in the house with Taylor?  
A Well, until about, I guess, a quarter to 8.

P 201, L 19

Q Had his street clothes on, did he?  
A Yes, just as I saw him when I walked in.

Q In other words, he didn't have a smoking jacket or house jacket on?  
A No, he was dressed just like you are.

P 202, L 1

Q In his street clothes.  
\*\*\* and he said he would call me at 9 o'clock, but he never called.

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WILLIAM DAVIS, Chauffeur for Mabel Normand  
Statement taken 2-18-22

P 213, L 24 Q About how long did you wait? (Speaking of the night of the murder)

A Well, something -- 30 or 35 minutes; just an estimate.

P 214, L 1 Q About what time did you arrive?

A About 7 o'clock.

P 216, L 17 Q About what time was it when you drove away from there?

A It was around-- it was between twenty and a quarter of eight; it was within five minutes of that because I looked at the clock and it showed about twenty minutes of eight.

CHARLOTTE WHITNEY  
Secretary to Mrs. Shelby  
Statement taken 11-28-25

P 225, L 4 A \*\*\*and Mary stood up and looked at her mother and said, "Do you really mean that?" and Mrs. Shelby said, "I certainly do." She accused her of being intimate with Taylor and then made other remarks. \*\*\* She locked herself in her mother's room \*\* and she got the gun and tried to kill herself, but there was a safety catch on it and it wouldn't go off.\*\*\*  
L 7  
L 10 Mary was monkeying with this thing and finally the catch released itself and the darn gun went off.\*\*\*

L 14 Q What kind of a gun was that?

A Revolver. A little snub-nosed thing.

Q Was it a black one? A Yes.

Q Who did the gun belong to? A Mrs. Shelby

Q Do you know how long she had it?

A Oh, she always carried a gun. I mean we always kept one in the house.

L 22 Q She knew how to handle a gun?

A Oh, I should say so.

P 226, L 7 A \*\*\* one night when we (witness and Mrs. Shelby) went down to Taylor's after Mary, Mrs. Shelby took the gun, but I don't think she had any intention of using it on Mary.

1 P 227, L 18 Q Did she (Shelby) threaten to kill him (Taylor)?  
 2 A Yes. Several people heard that. It was in my  
 3 office.  
 4 L 21 Q When was it in your office?  
 5 A That was in 1920, in the summer. He (Taylor)  
 6 had finished directing with Mary. Charley  
 7 Maigne was directing her and Charley was in the  
 8 office, and Taylor was in the office.\*\*\*  
 9 P 228, L 2 A \*\*\* She said, "If I ever catch you hanging around  
 10 Mary again, I will blow your god damned brains  
 11 out." She walked right up to him. He was just  
 12 livid with rage and shook her fist in his face  
 13 and swore dozens of times.  
 14 L 11 Q Do you know of an incident that occurred in which  
 15 Monte Blue was supposed to have been run out of  
 16 the dressing room with a gun by Mrs. Shelby?  
 17 A Well, I don't know that she had a gun, but I  
 18 know that he was run out of the dressing room,  
 19 because he ran into my office from the dressing  
 20 room.  
 21 P 229, L 11 (Referring to incidents surrounding visit of  
 22 Mrs. Shelby to Taylor's residence in search  
 23 of Mary) \*\*\* She (Mrs. Shelby) said, "I will  
 24 take my gun, and if I find her there, I am going  
 25 to kill her."\*\*\*I begged her not to take it \*\*  
 26 She wouldn't do it, so she went with the gun.\*\*\*  
 L 22 Q She had the gun with her at that time?  
 A She had it in her hand and her coat sleeve; she  
 had big coat sleeves and the gun was in her hand  
 hid by her coat sleeve.  
 P 230, L 9 Q Do you know of any other trouble with Taylor  
 that Mrs. Shelby had?  
 A They fought all the time. Always on the set when  
 he was directing.  
 L 15 Q Was the situation getting worse all the time?  
 A All the time. It was terrible.  
 P 231, L 3 Q Was there anyone else present at any of these  
 battles, that you recall, over Mr. Taylor?  
 A Well, Carl Stockdale. I am sure he was present.  
 P 231, L 25 Q Do you know any of her servants (Shelby's) at  
 the time of the murder?  
 L 232, L 2 A I knew them only by their first names.\*\*\* We  
 had a butler named Frederick, a butler named  
 Ernest, and a cook named Pauline.  
 L 7 Edith Stewart was Mary's personal maid at that  
 time.



1 B 244, L 15 Q Can you think of any friends of yours, or any  
2 acquaintances of Shelby, in any way at all, that  
3 were associating with or closely associated with  
4 them immediately prior to, or immediately after,  
5 Taylor's murder?  
6 L 19 A Mr. George Periolet.  
7 L 23 A He is at Engstrom Apartments, Los Angeles.  
8 L 25 A \*\*\* Have you talked to Jeanne McPherson at all?  
9 Jeanne knows a great, big, large lot  
10 P 245, L 4 A \*\*\* Jeanne came over to see Mary a day or so  
11 after the murder. She would be a good person  
12 for you to talk to. And her mother, Mrs. O'Neill.
13 P 246, L 7 Q Well, going back to that old subject of the gun,  
14 I just wanted to be sure that Mrs. Shelby had it  
15 in the house for a long time.  
16 L 13 A Oh yes, there was always a gun.  
17 Q If anybody said that Mrs. Shelby did not know  
18 anything about a pistol or revolver, and was  
19 afraid of one, that would not be true?  
20 A That is ridiculous. Mrs. Shelby was not afraid  
21 of anything.
22

MR. CHARLES EYTON  
Gen. Mgr. Famous Players-Lasky  
Statement taken 11-30-25 at 2:20 PM

23 P 249, L 22 A (Speaking of the morning following the murder)  
24 \*\*\*I was called on the telephone, I should judge,  
25 at 8 by his assistant Harry Fellows, and he told  
26 me. He said, "Mr. Eyton, when I came over to  
27 Mr. Taylor's room this morning, I found him dead."  
28 And I says, "Dead? What's the matter?" He says,  
29 "Well, we have had a doctor here and he tells  
30 us it is a hemorrhage of the stomach."\*\*\*  
31 P 250, L 2 A That would make it about 8:30, I should judge.  
32 L 10 A I didn't go through the house. Charley Maigne  
33 and Arthur Hoyt and Douglas MacLean and Harry  
34 Fellows.  
35 P 251, L 26 A \*\*\* Douglas MacLean was the first man that put  
36 P 252, L 1-3 it into my head that he (Taylor) was murdered.  
37 He said he was confident that he had heard a shot  
38 the night before. He said to me, "Charley, don't  
39 let them take his body away without turning it  
40 over, because I think we heard a shot last night."
41

1 P 252, L 5 Q Have you any idea who did the telephoning around  
about the murder?  
2 A No. Harry Fellows telephone me.  
3 Q Did you hear anybody call up Mabel Normans or  
Mrs. Shelby?  
4 A No. That all happened before I got there, if  
Mrs. Shelby was called up. Mabel Normand was  
called up, I know. Charley Maigne told me.

5 P 253, L 20 Q What was the position of the body when you first  
6 saw it?  
7 A The body when I first saw it lay right in front  
of the desk, with the head back. The desk was  
near his feet.

8 P 254, L 26 A \*\*\* Of course Mary was engaged to marry Mickey  
9 P 255, L 1-4 Neilan, so she told me, but I don't think there  
was very much to that.  
10 Q This trouble with Taylor, when was that?  
11 A He and Mickey? Oh, Mickey said something one  
night. They were drunk and Mickey apologized.  
It was nothing serious.

12 L 15 Q Do you know Neva Gerber?  
13 A Yes. That was one of Taylor's former flames,  
before any of this came up.  
14 L 19 \*\*\*\* When he went to war it was understood that  
when he came back he was going to marry Neva  
15 Gerber.

16 MRS. MARGARET SHELBY FILLMORE  
17 Sister of Mary Miles Minter  
Statement taken 3-10-26, at 10 AM.

18 P 274, L 1 Q You do have a recollection then that she was (Mary)  
19 home at dinner that evening?  
20 A Oh, absolutely, because mama had cooked this  
dinner she particularly liked and hoped she would  
21 come home to it.  
Q How long did she remain there? -  
22 A After dinner we went into the living room and  
Mary laid on the couch and read a book called  
23 "The Cruise of the South Sea Islands". It was  
rather a dry book, but the way she read it was  
24 interesting and we simply sat around home and  
enjoyed our evening at home, the three of us.  
25 Now I know mother was not at home, because if she  
was, she would have been there, Mr. Fitts.  
26

1 P 274, L 11 Q What time did you folks retire that evening?  
 2 A We stayed up quite late, I guess mama retired  
 3 about 10 or 11 o'clock. Mary and I stayed up and  
 4 didn't do much of anything until about 12.

5 L 25 Q Well, you are quite positive that, after Mary  
 6 came home that afternoon, she didn't go out again  
 7 at all during the evening?  
 8 A I am positive in this way; that we stayed up until  
 9 about 12 o'clock, until after mama went to bed  
 10 and Mary's room is right next to mine and I didn't  
 11 hear her go out. I am quite sure she didn't  
 12 P 275, L 2 Q But you just said a few moments ago that she could  
 13 come in without your knowing it.  
 14 A Yes, she could have. \*\*\*

15 P 276, L 17 Q Then what time of the morning of the second of  
 16 February did your mother come back to the Hobart  
 17 house?  
 18 A Well, I should say around 9 or 10 o'clock.  
 19 Q When she came home to the Hobart house, she was  
 20 acquainted with the fact that Taylor had been  
 21 killed?  
 22 A She said that Margery Berger told her \*\*\*

23 P 277, L 10 A \*\*\* She (Mrs. Shelby) said, "Margery Berger tells  
 24 me that Mr. Taylor has just been murdered."  
 25 L 17 Q You are, then, positive that your mother was not  
 26 at the Hobart house that night (Night of murder)?  
 27 A Yes, I am positive that she was at the New Hamp-  
 28 shire house.  
 29 Q And that she came in the next morning, early in  
 30 the morning?  
 31 A Yes, she came after the call from Miss Berger.  
 32 Q Could it have been after 9 o'clock when she  
 33 came in?  
 34 A It could have been. As I say, it was early in  
 35 the morning. I know it wasn't as late as 11.  
 36 P 279, L 18 Q \*\*\*\*\*you knew nothing of Taylor's death until  
 37 your mother told you about it? A No.

MISS J. M. BERGER

Income Tax Expert for Taylor and M.M. Minter  
 Statement taken 3-11-26 at 1:30 PM

24 P 283, L 17 Q \*\*\* We have been informed that you had a conversa-  
 25 tion with Mrs. Shelby at the time he (Taylor) was  
 26 killed in which you were the first that gave her  
 27 the information as to his death.  
 28 A I did? My god, the next thing they will say I

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murdered him. I should say not. I was the first one to give it to her? Absolutely not. I didn't know it until it was given to me.

P 283, L 23

A \*\*\* I think Mrs. Shelby called me up right after I got to my office in the morning.

Q What time was that?  
A I imagine about 7:30.

P 284, L 21

Q Do you recall that you warned Mrs. Shelby that she should not be in that house (N.Hampshire house) by herself?

A I did? Well, I should say not.  
Q And that she replied over the phone that she wasn't alone, that she had Mr. Smith there?  
A I say that? How could I ever make such a remark? The first time I heard or saw you was after this murder, wasn't it?

P 285, L 6

Q Do you remember of ever calling Mrs. Shelby on the telephone and telling her Taylor was killed or murdered?

P 285, L 5

A NO - capital letters -,NO.  
Q Now, Miss Berger, I asked you yesterday a question, whether or not you ever had a conversation with Mrs. Shelby on the morning of February 2, 1922, following the death of Mr. Taylor?

A I did.  
Q At what time?  
A At half past seven in the morning Mrs. Shelby called me.  
Q Would you care to relate to me what the conversation was?  
A Absolutely. Gladly. I arrived at my office between 7 and 7:30 on the morning of February 2nd, 1922. My telephone was ringing. I answered the phone. Mrs. Charlotte Shelby said, "Margery, I have something terrible to tell you. The man that was in your office yesterday afternoon is no more. He's dead." I said, "What do you mean?" She said, "He was found dead this morning." "Who told you? What do you know about it?" I said, "Lasky's just called me up and told me." I said, "Where are you now?" She said, "I am at the New Hampshire home." I said, "Is the whole family there?" She said, "No, I am alone." I  
L 21 A \*\*\*\*\*She did state that Lasky's Studio had called her up and informed her about half an hour previous to her calling me. It was between 7 and 7:30 that morning at my office that she called.

MRS. CHARLOTTE SHELBY  
 Mother of Mary M. Minter  
 Statement taken 4-9-26

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 3 P 289, L 25 Q During the time in the east there, when he (Taylor)  
 4 was directing her (Mary), did you observe any  
 5 awakening of a friendship or love between the  
 6 two of them? A No.  
 7 P 290, L 1 Q When did you first see that, or did you at all?  
 8 A I never did know it, Mr. Keyes, until Mr. Mott  
 9 told me of the letters that had been found in  
 10 Taylor's drawer that absolutely is convincing  
 11 that there had been something there.  
 12 Q You mean after he was killed?  
 13 A Yes, and Mr. Eyton told me also after Mr. Taylor  
 14 was killed that he knew that, that he knew for a  
 15 long time that Mary and Mr. Taylor had been  
 16 intimate, and I said then "Mr. Eyton you should  
 17 have told me."  
 18 L 19 Q During that time, Mrs. Shelby (referring to  
 19 latter part of 1919 and early part of 1920), was  
 20 Mary going around with Taylor to your knowledge  
 21 at all?  
 22 A Why no, and Mr. Taylor was the most perfectly  
 23 poised man, such a proper man. He would take  
 24 Mary out to dinner and he would invariably in-  
 25 vite me and my mother to go to dinner with them.\*  
 26 L 24 Q Did you make any objections?  
 27 A Not the least in the world.  
 28 Q Were you friendly with him? A Oh, yes. \*\*\*  
 29 P 291, L 7 Q Do you remember anyone in particular with whom  
 30 she was associating at that time?  
 31 A It wasn't men. Men hadn't begun to give me any  
 32 trouble at that time. It was women.  
 33 Q Who was that?  
 34 A Jeannie McPherson.  
 35 L 22 Q Taylor's name never entered into the discussion  
 36 then?  
 37 A No. I always felt that, when Mary was out with  
 38 Mr. Taylor she was under a good influence. \*\*\*  
 39 P 292, L 10 Q Did you ever have any words with Mr. Taylor over  
 40 Mary?  
 41 A Never a word, never the slightest word.  
 42 P 294, L 25 (Speaking of the time Mrs. Shelby went to Taylor's  
 43 P 295, L 1 home at 2 a.m. looking for Mary) Q Did this  
 44 secretary of yours, Miss Whitney, go in the  
 45 house with you?  
 46 A No, I know she didn't because there was nobody  
 47  
 48

- 1 P 295, L 1 in the room but Mr. Taylor and me. She stayed  
in the car.
- 2 Q Did you have any weapon with you at that time?
- 3 A Good lord, no.
- 4 Q You are sure you didn't have a revolver with you?
- 5 A No, Mr. Keyes.
- 6 Q Well, you owned a revolver at that time?
- 7 A No. If I owned a revolver at that time, I don't  
8 know where it was. It was thrown away.
- 9 Q What date was it when you were at Mr. Taylor's  
10 home that you were telling about?
- 11 A I think I could almost fix that date, Mr. Keyes,  
12 referring to a certain little book, you know.  
13 Because I was reading Mary's diary and she goes  
14 on to say in this diary that she and I had some  
15 little words that evening, you see, and she has  
16 written it very cleverly, about the small girl  
17 going out in a huff, etc., and she adds that  
18 mother was right. \*\*\*\* And I think the date of  
19 that happening is right in her diary.
- 20 L 15 Q Did you ever make a threat to kill Mr. Taylor?
- 21 A No, Mr. Keyes. I never had any reason or desire  
22 to kill Mr. Taylor.
- 23 L 25 Q And you are positive, are you, Mrs. Shelby, that  
24 you never at any time threatened Mr. Taylor?
- 25 A Certainly not, I had no reason. I never threat-  
26 ened to shoot Mr. Taylor. I don't think I ever  
threatened to shoot any man.
- 27 P 296, L 2 A To shoot him? No, because I had no reason. I  
28 had no provocation. I never had a quarrel with  
29 Mr. Taylor in my life.
- 30 L 9 Q You spoke of having thrown a gun away?
- 31 A No, my mother did that.
- 32 Q That was your gun?
- 33 A Yes. It was a gun I used once. I shot it once  
34 and once was enough.
- 35 L 14 Q How long had you had the gun?
- 36 A The gun was given to me in Santa Barbara by  
37 Harry Eaves, who has a jewelry shop up there - a  
38 very short little pistol - a little automatic -  
39 \*\*\*\*\* and he said to me, "I have got two and you  
40 ought to have one."
- 41 L 20 Q "here did you say you shot it once?
- 42 A I got a friend of mine to take me out in Santa  
43 Barbara, just off the road, and we shot it into  
44 a bank and I shot it once.
- 45
- 46

- 1 P 296, L 22 Q Did you ever do any target practice with it?  
 A Yes, that one time. It was enough for me. The  
 2 thing was too short. I can shoot a long pistol.  
 I wouldn't mind shooting a shot gun.\*\*\*
- 3 L 26 Q Well, Mrs. Shelby, Mary shot that pistol off one  
 4 time, didn't she?  
 P 297 L 1 A Yes, she shot it off twice.  
 5 Q Was that the "suicide"?  
 A That's the "suicide"
- 6 L 5 A (Re supposed suicide) "Well, we were living at  
 7 56 Fremont Place.\*\*\* I remember the secretary  
 was there that night, Miss Whitney.\*\*\* She (Mary)  
 8 rushed up the steps crying "I am going to end it  
 all. I am going to end it all." \*\*\* Then Char-  
 9 lotte (Miss Whitney) said to me, "Mrs. Shelby,  
 oh, Mrs. Shelby, there's a pistol in your closet."  
 10 P 298, L 2 \*\*\* But she ran up the stairs and ran in my room  
 and closed the door.  
 11 L 4 Q Did she lock the door?  
 A Oh, locked the door, and the first thing we knew-  
 12 bang. \*\*\* and a second more and - bang - the  
 second shot. \*\*\* The chauffeur (Chauncey Eaton)  
 13 appeared, and the night watchman (?), and I said,  
 "Break in the door". The two men rushed against  
 14 the door, the door fell in, and there lay Mary  
 on my bedroom floor \*\*\* They picked her up so  
 15 tenderly, and Chauncey turned her over and he  
 said, "Why, Mrs. Shelby, there is no blood on  
 16 her." \*\*\* By that time the secretary had faded  
 out of the picture in a faint \*\*\* and she (Mrs.  
 17 Shelby's mother, Mrs. Miles) said, "Why no, she is  
 not shot; stand her up, Chauncey." \*\*\* Then she  
 18 (Mary) looked at us and said, "I thought I would  
 give you all a jolt."  
 19 Q \*\*\* was there anything said about Taylor in that?  
 Did he have anything to do with that quarrel?  
 20 A No, I don't think he had anything to do with that.  
 \*\*\* I may have asked her if she had been out with  
 21 Mr. Taylor.  
 Q But there was no quarrel about Mr. Taylor?  
 22 A It seems to me she mentioned Taylor's name. I  
 don't remember now, or what.\*\*
- 23 P 299, L 3 Q Then the report that I got that you have been  
 24 practicing some revolver shooting - is there  
 anything to that?  
 25 A I told you I shot it once. I know a man who  
 will verify it - Mr. Stockdale.  
 26

1 P 299, L 6,  
2 L 13

Q No other pistol at any other time?  
A No, I am afraid of pistols. \*\*\*  
Q What did your mother do with your pistol after  
Mary pulled this stunt.  
A That was all there was to it. Of course, we  
found Charlotte Whitney in a faint on the floor  
and we had to revive her.\*\*\*And Chauncey was  
trying to find out where the bullets went, and  
we discovered one bullet had been shot into my  
closet, and we found that, and another one went  
up in the ceiling of the closet. I remember  
mother taking the pistol. He said, "Here, give  
me that. That's enough of pistols lying around."  
Q What did she do with it?  
A I never saw it again. I think I asked her once  
or twice what she did with it, and she said,  
"It's out. It's put away."

10 P 303, L 9

A I had an engagement with a man the next morning  
(2-2-22) at 9 o'clock.\*\*\* This man was a client  
of a friend of my daughter's, Mr. Albert Heiner.  
\*\*\*I also had been talking to a man about buying  
an Aeolian Organ, and he stopped in that morning.  
\*\*\* And while these two men were in the room,  
the telephone rang. It was then a little after  
9, and Mr. Carl Stockdale called me up. He had  
gone to the studio to work and had learned of  
the death of William Desmond Taylor. Naturally,  
knowing that he directed Mary, he called me up  
and told me that William Desmond Taylor had been  
found dead that morning.

17 Q  
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22 P 304, L 25  
23 L 1

Q Just what did he tell you?  
A He said, "Mrs. Shelby, I just wanted to call you  
up and tell you, I am at the studio. William  
Desmond Taylor was found dead this morning."  
"Oh," I said, "that's terrible." That's all he  
knew.\*\*\* I turned to these gentlemen and said,  
"Oh, my, it's terrible. A man who directed my  
daughter, a very charming gentleman, was found  
dead this morning." \*\*\*\* Then the telephone  
rang again and the inevitable Miss Berger again.  
\*\*\*I said, "Oh, Margery, Mr. Stockdale just  
telephoned me from the studio that Mr. Taylor  
was found dead this morning." \*\*\*\*\*In a few  
minutes the telephone rang again.\*\*\* This time  
Miss Berger said, "William Desmond Taylor was  
murdered this morning. He was shot." I said,  
"Oh, my, this is terrible; the man was murdered?  
Was shot? So we discussed that and the organ man



1 P 304, L 6

knew I was waiting to go out with Mr. Rice so\*\*  
Mr. Rice and I got in his car \*\*\* and I said,  
"Mr. Rice, do you mind if I stop at my house and  
tell my people?" \*\*\* and it seems to me that on  
the way crossing Vermont I met my mother coming  
over in a car with the chauffeur and I just  
waved to her to turn around and come on back  
with us. I remember that distinctly.\*\*\*\*\*  
L 14 I was in a great hurry because Mr. Rise was  
waiting for me in front, and I remember the chauffeur  
had parked my blue Packard in the driveway,  
and something was said about Mary wanted the car.  
Chauncey had gone to get Mary's car. However, I  
went upstairs in a great hurry, and I said, "Oh,  
Julia, dear, Mr. Taylor was murdered last night."  
She said, "Oh, it isn't possible. I can't  
believe it. It isn't true." I said, "Oh, yes,  
it is. Miss Berger told me so." \*\*\*\*\*

10 P 305, L 16

Q Did Mr. Woolwine ever try to take your statement?  
A No, he never asked me a thing, Mr. Keyes. No-  
body ever questioned me.

13 P 309, L 3

MR. MOTT: Tell Mr. Keyes exactly now, that part of  
the conversation with Chauncey?  
A I said, "Chauncey, what did you tell them?" He  
said, "I told them that you called me up very  
early that morning, about half past seven, and  
my wife said you went over there without break-  
fast; that you wanted to go over to the Hobart  
house." I said, "The morning of the Taylor  
murder?" He said, "Yes." I said, "Why, I  
couldn't have known until after 9 o'clock." He  
said that he drove me over that morning and  
said that I was at the window with the papers."  
I said, "How could that be; besides there wasn't  
any papers that morning." "No," he said, "that's  
what they told me down at the office, that there  
wasn't any papers that early." I said, "Well,  
that's nothing, it is just a lapse of memory, it  
is of no consequence." And finally he saw he  
was in the wrong. I explained to him that Mr.  
Rice had driven me over."

1 P 309, L 9 MR. MOTT: Now explain that Monte Blue proposi-  
 2 tion.  
 3 (Mrs. Shelby tells about some night when Mary had  
 4 failed to come home, and they had looked for her  
 5 until about 2:30 a.m. and finally located her  
 6 car in front of Charlotte Whitney's house)  
 7 L 20 So Margaret and I rushed in and went up the steps  
 8 hurriedly and opened the door and came upon Mary &  
 9 Monte Blue on the couch. The door opened right  
 10 into the front room. This Monte Blue started to  
 11 run out into the kitchen and out the back door.  
 12 Q You mean that they were in a compromising  
 13 position?  
 14 A Yes. I was about the maddest woman that could  
 15 ever be. I grabbed this halfbreed Indian by his  
 16 shirt tail and I said, "Come right back in this  
 17 room. I have something very foreeful to say to  
 18 you. Come back here/"

19 P 310, L 15 MR. DAVIS: That time she went out with Marshall  
 20 Neilan, after the murder; wasn't that about two  
 21 nights afterward?  
 22 A Yes.  
 23 Q Immediately afterwards, wasn't it?  
 24 A It was.  
 25 L 20 MR. KEYES: She tried to kill you, you say?  
 26 A Yes.\*\*\*\*Oh, Mary said around the house freely,  
 "Oh, Mrs. Shelby killed Taylor". Not only once but  
 many times. He was always saying that.

EARL TIFFANY  
 -Chauffeur for W.D.Taylor  
 Statement taken 2-17-22, 11:30 AM

18 P 314, L 8 Q Do you know of Sands securing a considerable  
 19 amount of money that was not his? \*\*\*\*  
 20 L 12 A Mr. Taylor told me right close to \$2400, some-  
 21 thing of that sort, as near as he could figure.  
 22 L 16 Q Did he say how he got the money?  
 23 A Yes; I saw the book, when he discovered the book.  
 24 Q Through checks?  
 25 A Through checks and money that he had left with him.  
 26 P 315, L 4 Q Do you know of any women, frequent callers on  
 Mr. Taylor?  
 A Yes; Mary Miles Minter, Mabel Normand, Edna Pur-  
 viance \*\*\*\*\*  
 10 A I think it was Mrs. Dustin Farnum. \*\*\*  
 13 Q Did you know Miss Gerber?  
 16 A Yes, she has been there.

- 1 P 317, L 23 Q Do you know if it was his (Taylor's) custom  
2 always to accompany a lady or escort her to the  
3 car?  
A Yes it was, he was very polite that way.
- 3 P 318, L 1 Q Was it his habit to leave the door open when he  
4 would go out?  
A If he stepped out the front door, it would  
generally be ajar.
- 5 P 319, L 3 Q Do you believe that person (murdered) was famil-  
6 iar with the house, you know, the ground?  
A They had been there; there seems to be no doubt  
7 about that.  
Q Somebody that knew the house? A Yes.
- 8 L 11 Q Did you ever know of any of those chauffeurs,  
9 say Fellows, or what is the other fellow's name?  
A Harry Fellows and Howard Fellows or Bill Davis?  
10 Q Davis, yes. Did they ever handle any hop?  
A No.
- 11 P 322, L 14 Q MR. WINN: This man Sands pried into Mr. Taylor's  
12 business more or less, did he not?  
A Yes, he did in every way possible.  
13 Q He knew considerable about his affairs and Sands  
14 told you that Taylor's name wasn't Taylor, that  
15 his name was Deane-Tanner?  
A Deane-Tanner.  
16 Q Did he tell you how he found that out?  
A Well, through Taylor's correspondence, I presume.  
17 \*\* Taylor told me that Sands read every letter  
18 that came into the house for him.
- 17 P 323, L 1 Q Did Taylor also tell you he didn't know how  
Sands found out so much, but he was trying to  
catch him? A Yes.
- 18 L 9 Q Did Sands ever tell you he had it on Taylor?  
19 L 15 A For instance, Sands would say, "If the old man  
ever gets hard, or something of that sort, with  
me, I will let him know where I get off at, you  
20 see, and where he gets off," \*\*\*\*
- 21 L 21 Q Do you know whether Sands had any means of find-  
ing out whether or not Mr. Taylor had slept with  
a woman in his home there or not?  
22 A That Sands had any means?  
Q Yes.  
23 A Absolutely.
- 24 P 324, L 1 Q Tell us what it is.  
A In finding the hair pins in the bed and these  
25 pink combinations had been used, and the douche  
26 bag had been used and Mr. Taylor had suppositories  
there at one time.

1 P 324, L 5 Q Did Sands ever tell you what women he suspected  
of spending the night out at Mr. Taylor's home?  
2 L 11 A Mary Miles Minter, Mabel Normand, and Miss Neva  
Gerber.  
3 P 325, L 4 Q Did he ever find any hair in the bed?  
4 A Yes, and like this thing published in the paper,  
where it says "I love you, I love you," I seen  
that note at Taylor's house myself.  
5  
6 P 326, L 9 A (After telling how Mary had been told over the  
phone that Taylor wasn't home, that Mary would  
drive over to the house and catch Mr. Taylor  
7 there) She would be given to understand he  
wasn't there, and she would get in her car and  
8 come over, and find him there. I have seen her  
coming out of the house as if she were about  
9 ready to cry her eyes out. (M.M.Minter)  
10 L 15 Q On those occasions, how long had she remained  
in the house?  
11 A Well, sometimes, well, he would be waiting there  
and I would go on home and he would come out and  
say he wouldn't need me any more, to go on home  
12 \*\* The next morning I would take him to the  
studio and Jazz (Sands) would say, "Let's go up  
13 and see who slept with the old man last night."  
14 P 327, L 8 Q Is it your wife that saw Sands on the street?  
15 L 12 A Yes, that was 16th & Flower \*\*\* she told me about  
that the day before the murder.  
16 L 19 Q Did she tell you before she heard of the murder?  
17 A Yes.  
Q That she saw Sands on the street?  
18 A Yes, walking down 16th Street. \*\* There was no  
question about it.  
19 P 328, L 1 Q She knew him?  
20 A She knew him as well as she knew me.  
21 Q Just a moment, Did she have any conversation  
with him?  
22 A No, not at that time.  
23 Q Did she speak to him?  
24 A No; she said he turned and looked right at the  
street car, and looked right at her as if he  
didn't recognize her, and she said she had a  
notion to get off the car \*\*\*  
25 A \*\*\*\* it just started, you know \*\*  
26 L 24 Q Did she say anything about his clothing being  
to the same as it used to be, or different?  
P 328, L 1-2 A She said he had on a cap, a grey cap and grey  
overcoat, one of these what you call them, a  
certain kind of coat.  
Q Gaberdine? A Yes, that is it.

- 1 P 329, L 6 A She said he looked just as fat as he always did.  
He was an inch shorter than my wife.
- 2 L 10 A 23 to 25 years old.
- 3 Q How tall? A About 5 ft. 6½ or 7 inches
- 4 Q And his weight? A About 187 pounds.
- 5 Q Smooth shaven? A Yes.
- 6 Q Light complexion? A Very ruddy complexion,  
healthy looking, very healthy.
- 7 Q His hair?
- 8 L 25 A Well, his hair \*\*\* was blonde but his beard was  
dark.
- 9 P 330 L 2 Q Did he wear glasses?
- 10 A No, not to my knowledge.
- 11 L 14 A Jazz wore about a 7 shoe.
- 12 P 331, L 2 Q How about Sands' eyebrows coming together over  
his nose. Do they do that? \*\*
- 13 A Not quite. I remember one thing, they were a  
perfectly straight line.
- 14 Q Not arched?
- 15 A No; they sort of came up favoring the upward  
turn more than any other way.
- 16 Q What was his nationality?
- 17 A I think English, with a little Scotch.
- 18 L 14 A Without a doubt he had a wonderful education.
- 19 P 333, L 22 Q Do you know whether Sands carried a gun or not?
- 20 A Yes, he did.
- 21 Q What kind?
- 22 A He had a Colt's, whether that was his or Mr.  
Taylor's I don't know.
- 23 P 334, L 16 A I was down town with him several times, and he  
carried it with him once or twice to my knowledge,  
and he would stick it alongside the car and I  
would ask him what was the idea, and he just  
laughed about it, was all, but the man was a  
coward. \*\*
- 24 P 337, L 9 Q Is he (Sands) hairy, is his breast hairy?
- 25 A Well yes to an extent, that is where it is long.
- 26 Q He had long hair on his chest?
- 27 A Yes.
- 28 Q And on his legs?
- 29 A Yes, extremely long, and he was ungodly.

MARY MILES MINTER  
Statement taken 2-7-22, 5 PM

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P 339, L 19

Q \*\*\* When was the last time you called on him (Taylor) at his residence?

A On the 23rd of December.

Q Were you alone at that time?

A I was alone.

P 340, L 15

A I had not seen Mr. Taylor in five months at that time \*\*\* three months I know of, and I just got to thinking about it and decided I couldn't stand it any longer. I was going to go up and tell him "goodbye".

P 342, L 9

Q As I understand it, you were sincerely in love with him?

A That is true.

L 14

Q You told him, did you?

A Absolutely. He loved me; he told me so.

P 346, L 19

Q Had you been going with Marshal Neilan during, say the last thirty or sixty days prior to Taylor's death?

23

A Yes, he had been to see me; I had been out with him; I am not sure whether it was within the thirty days or not, but in the last two months, yes sir; but going with him no more than I had for years off and on.

P 347, L 7

Q Had he proposed to you?

A Yes, he did.

Q Do you recall approximately when it was?

A About two months.

L 19

A Yes, about the last of November.

Q And you, of course, rejected him, I suppose?

A Yes; that is, I didn't exactly say, "No, I will not marry you." I didn't take him seriously.\*\*

P 348, L 21

Q Did he (Neilan) ever bring any tales to you for which Taylor was supposed to have been responsible?

A Not until recently.

Q When was that?

A Last Friday night. Whereupon we had a severe quarrel. I didn't believe him.

P 349, L 1

Q That was Friday night after the killing?

A Yes.

Q Or before the killing?

A No, after.

Q Did he ever say anything like that to you before the killing?

A No indeed, he didn't. He knew that I loved Mr. Taylor.

- 1 P 350, L 1 Q You and Marshal Neilan were engaged? A No.  
 2 Q Did you ever give him the impression that he  
 3 might some day be successful in his effort to  
 4 marry you?  
 5 A Not to my knowledge. If I have, it was more or  
 6 less of a joking way. I think I have at times  
 7 said, "Well, Marshal, when are we going ~~to~~ all  
 8 around the world on our honeymoon?"
- 9 P 353, L 20 Q (Witness had been speaking of spending the early  
 10 morning in a Hollywood studio (morning after  
 11 Taylor's death) talking with Neilan) What were  
 12 you talking about?  
 13 A About Mr. Taylor and the letter Marshal Neilan  
 14 had tried to get for me.  
 15 Q Who tried to get for you?  
 16 A Marshal Neilan had tried to get for me. It was  
 17 the first inkling I knew of his knowledge of my  
 18 letters, that I had written any to Mr. Taylor.  
 19 He told me certain very, very ghastly things  
 20 that have since been proven absolutely true. He  
 21 told them to me in my interest but they made me  
 22 very furious at the time, and we left more or less  
 23 in a quarrel.  
 24 L 12 \*\*\*\* He said, "Now, Mary, I tried to get your  
 25 letters"--  
 26 P 359, L 22 (Mary is quoting Marshal Neilan) "Now, Mary,  
 here is the ghastly thing I have to tell you."  
 He said, "One time--" I don't know whether he said  
 in his room or the club, he was somewhere, I  
 think in one of his own rooms, he, Marshal Neilan,  
 and Arthur Hoyt, Cap Robinson-- He said "Cap  
 Robinson"; maybe he meant "Captain"; I don't know.  
 \*\*\*\* I know Arthur well. He said, "We were all  
 standing around there talking pleasantly"--  
 I think he said Antonio Moreno was there. He  
 said, "We were all talking pleasantly and Mr.  
 Taylor suddenly started talking about you (Mary)  
 and the talk grew finally more and more personal  
 and finally he said \*\*\* he said you have been  
 over in the last two weeks"--I should say this  
 is within at least three weeks of Mr. Taylor's  
 death; I think Marshal told me at the time \*\*\*--  
 "within the last two weeks, that you were  
 undressed in his apartments; that you beseeched  
 him for his love; that he resisted you, and  
 finally persuaded you to leave his apartments."  
 L 14 \*\*\* I could feel myself grow red. I said, "Is  
 that all you have to tell me about Mr. Taylor?"  
 He said, "Well, I could recite some more instances  
 about Bill's seeming insanity." \*\*\*

- 1 P 360, L 20 Q MR. MOTT: Excuse me. Did he refer to Mr.  
Taylor's condition?
- 2 A Yes, he said he was drunk at the time.\*\*\*
- 3 P 361, L 1 A At this time he was intoxicated, and they talked  
4 on and on about this thing. Marshal said he  
5 got up and told Bill, "You are insane; some-  
6 thing is the matter with your mind. I would  
7 certainly take more vengeance on you if I didn't  
8 think you were crazy." \*\*\*
- 9 P 363, L 25 A More or less in a humour way, I said, "The only  
10 person I know who could have had a possible  
11 motive for killing him would be Mrs. Julia  
12 Crawford Ivers."
- 13 P 370, L 12 Q This was the second time he (Neilan) had  
14 declared his love for you. On one occasion he  
15 proposed to you?  
16 A Yes.  
17 Q He asked you to marry him?  
18 A Yes, and then he would dart away again.
- 19 P 377, L 12 Q You didn't telephone Taylor on the night he  
20 was murdered?  
21 A No.  
22 Q Where did you happen to be that night?  
23 A I was at home reading the Cruise of the Kawa.  
24 It is a humorous book; it is really a travesty  
25 on Frederick O'Brien's stories of the South Seas.  
26 It is very funny, and I laid there laughing all  
evening. I was very-- right while I was laying  
on the couch reading aloud to mother and sister  
and we were all laughing heartily at that time,  
and at the same time Mr. Taylor was being  
murdered. It seems very horrible to me.
- Q You had no company at home that night?  
A Let me see. I don't remember any. Possibly Mr.  
Stockdale, he generally did, or maybe somebody  
dropped in. I don't just remember. Usually  
every evening somebody drops in. I know they  
were not there at the time I was reading the  
book.
- MARY MILES MINTER  
Statement taken 3-4-26
- 24 P 380, L 17 Q And during all of the period from the time you  
25 first started in to work in the pictures, up  
26 until Mr. Taylor's death, your mother took charge  
of your money, did she not?



- 1 P 380, L 20 A Entirely; and before I was in pictures I was an  
actress on the stage - as a child -
- 2 Q And she managed all your affairs?  
A Oh, yes.
- 3 P 381, L 25 Q You eventually fell in love with Mr. Taylor?  
A Immediately.
- 4 P 382, L 15 Q Your mother found out that you were in love?  
A Yes, oh, yes. I made no secret about it.  
Q You told her?  
A I don't know that I told her; but Mama knew of it.
- 5 P 388, L 5 Q And she (Mrs. Shelby) objected to your keeping  
company with any man?  
A He certainly did - other than her choice - and  
her choice was not my choice.
- 6 P 389, L 19 A Oh! I know that he loved me and that he was  
simply trying to break off his relations with  
me - and I was never jealous of anyone he appeared  
with - it was impossible for me to have him at  
my home - to see him at my home - and I couldn't  
expect Mr. Taylor to sit alone all his life and  
go with no one.
- 7 P 390, L 13 A Oh, yes. Mrs. Ivers. Why I didn't know that Mrs.  
Ivers was there frequently - she may have been -  
she was his scenario writer.
- 8 P 393, L 19 A \*\*\*\*\* I said (to Taylor) "Will you see me to the  
car?" And he said, "Oh, yes." So we walked out  
to my car - and as I wanted something of his to  
keep to remember, I pulled his handkerchief out  
of his pocket and put my handkerchief in its  
place. \*\*\*\*\*
- 9 P 399, L 5 Q Your mother on several occasions accused you of  
being intimate with Taylor?  
A Oh, yes, she always had that in the back of her  
mind.  
Q She used to harp on that?  
A Yes.  
Q As late as up to when - do you remember?  
A Oh, as late as up to last year. Whenever she  
got angry, she would say something about that.
- 10 L 14 Q Well, now come back to the night in question -  
(the night of the murder) who was there with you?  
A Mama, Margaret my sister, and Belle, who was a  
cook.
- 11 I 23 Q What were you doing?  
A I was lying on the couch, read a book - the  
"Cruise of the Kawa" by Walter Traprock---funny  
little story.

- 1 P 400, L 3 A Yes, and I think Mrs. Shelby was there \*\*  
 Q Do you remember distinctly?  
 2 A She must have been. I can't say definitely that  
 she was there, but it is my conviction that she  
 3 was there.\*\*
- 4 P 401, L 20 Q Did you ever hear your mother making any threats  
 against Taylor?  
 5 A Oh, yes. Not only against Mr. Taylor, but  
 against anybody who interfered with her - with  
 her control of me - or with me.  
 6 Q Can you give us any particular occasions?  
 A I'm afraid I can't. Every time she got angry.  
 7 P 402, L 2 Q Did you ever hear her say she was going to kill  
 him?  
 8 A Not definitely. She may have said, "I'll kill  
 him; I'll kill him." \*\*\*\* Mrs. Shelby was like  
 9 that, always going to kill somebody -  
 Q She seemed very determined that no one should  
 10 interfere with her control over you and your  
 affairs?  
 11 Q She always spoke violently - I can never remember  
 her being calm - until last summer.
- 12 P 403, L 2 Q When did you first hear that Taylor had been  
 13 killed?  
 A Thursday morning, just before noon. \*\*\*\*  
 14 1 15 She (Mrs. Shelby) said, "Taylor's been found  
 murdered in bed this morning - where were you  
 15 last night?" It's my impression that Margery  
 Berger had telephone to her - the papers had  
 16 been ringing with extras "Mr. Taylor found  
 murdered in bed."
- 17 P 404, L 10 Q The first you heard was about 11:30 on Thursday  
 morning?  
 18 A Yes.  
 Q And you got the news from your mother?  
 19 A Yes.
- 20 P 407, L 7 Q Do you think it could have been as early as 9  
 o'clock when your mother came over?  
 A Possibly.  
 21 Q But your impression is that it was about 11:30?  
 A I think so.
- 22 B 411, L 1 Q She (Mrs. Shelby) was back in Los Angeles when  
 he was killed?  
 23 A Oh, yes, she was in Los Angeles at the time.
- 24 P 412, L 13 Q By the way, you never owned a revolver, did you?  
 A Yes, I bought one in the summer of 1923.  
 25 L 18 Q Where did you buy it?  
 A I went to Dyas' and bought it.
- 26 P 413, L 1 Q Well, you shot your mother's? A I did - very  
 carefully - in the left hand corner of the room.

INQUEST STATEMENTSCHARLES EYTON

Gen. Mgr. Famous Players-Lasky

Inquest Statement - 2-4-22

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- P 415, L 15 A Mr. Taylor's assistant rang me up at my residence about, I should judge, 8 o'clock, and told me Mr. Taylor had died suddenly.\*\*
- P 416, L 16 Q Was his body cold at that time?  
A Stone cold and very stiff and rigid.
- L 20 Q Where was the body lying with reference to the front entrance to his home?  
A It was lying in front of a little desk with the head pointed east and the feet pointed west. I should judge the feet were three or four feet from the door - the front entrance.
- L 25 Q Who were present when you was there?  
A When I came in, the first man I noticed was Detective Zeigler, whom I have known for a number of years, and Douglas MacLean, Charles Maigne, the landlord, and Harry Fellows, Mr. Taylor's assistant director.
- P 417, L 7 Q When you were called to this place, did you see any firearms in this room where he was?  
A No.
- L 20 Q BY A JUROR: Was his clothing ruffled in any way, showing any violence?  
A No, absolutely none; it looked like he just walked in the door and was shot in the back; that is the way it looked. It didn't show any evidence in the room when I got there - neither the room nor the body showed any evidence of a struggle.

HENRY PEAVEY

Taylor's Colored Servant

Inquest statement 2-4-22

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- P 424, L 26 A I am usually there about half past seven.
- P 425, L 1 Q What time did you arrive there the next morning?  
A At just about half past seven.
- L 14 Q Who did you summon? Who did you call to?  
A I don't know
- L 19 Q Several people came, did they?  
A Yes sir; I think Mr. Desmond, and the gentleman who owns the court was the first.
- Q You mean Mr. Jessurum?  
A Yes sir.

1 P 426, L 10 Q When you first opened the door, did you see any  
 2 furniture overturned, or any signs of a disturb-  
 3 ance in the house?  
 4 A Nothing mor than a chair that was sitting next to  
 5 the wall had been pushed out a little but and his  
 6 feet was under this chair. The rest of the furni-  
 7 ture around the house and rooms upstairs was just  
 8 as I left them when I went away that evening.

9 P 427, L 4 Q Was the ring on his finger the next morning?  
 10 A Yes sir. His other jewelry that I had put away  
 11 the night before was just as I had put it away  
 12 up in the dresser drawer.  
 13 Q You didn't find anything taken from the apartment?  
 14 A No sir, it was just as when I left it when I  
 15 found it. The rug was a little bit kicked up.  
 16 It looked like he had pushed it with his foot.  
 17 Q There was no other disturbance there?  
 18 A No sir; even the living room table that I had  
 19 moved aside--it was just ~~xxxx~~ as I left it.

20 L 22 A \*\* The lights were burning just as I had left  
 21 them that night; two lights, one in the living  
 22 room and one in the dining room.

T. H. ZEIGLER, Inv. Officer LAPD  
 Coroner's Inquest 2-4-22

23 P 428, L 13 Q When did you arrive there?  
 24 A A little before 8 o'clock in the morning of  
 25 February 2nd.  
 26 -L 22 A I found the deceased, Mr. Taylor, lying just  
 inside of the door on his back. His hands, one  
 of them, apparently to the side of his body, and  
 the other lying outstretched; and blood pouring  
 from his mouth. He was lying with his head to  
 the east, flat on his back, dead.  
 Q Was his body rigid and cold?  
 A It was.

P 429, L 1 Q Who was there when you arrived there?  
 A The owner of the buidling, Mr. MacLean, another  
 movie actor, and Mr. Peavey.  
 Q Do you mean the owner of the building, Mr.  
 Jessurum?  
 A Yes, sir, and Mr. MacLean, and another man I  
 don't know.  
 L 22 Q Did Mr. Jessurum tell you he heard a shot?  
 A I think he did.

35

STATEMENT OF CHAUNCEY EATON  
Chauffeur for Mrs. Shelby  
Taken 6-1-36, at 4:30 PM

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- 3 P 433, L 11 Q He was murdered on the night of February 1st,  
4 1922. When did you first hear of the murder.  
5 A If I am not mistaken, when I went to the New  
6 Hampshire house the next morning about 8 o'clock.
- 7 L 18 Q Who told you about Taylor being murdered?  
8 A I think Mrs. Shelby called to me from an upstairs  
9 window and said, "Did you know that Taylor had  
10 been murdered?"
- 11 L 26 Q Can you fix the exact time of the morning?  
12 A Not otherwise, about 8 o'clock.
- 13 P 439, L 16 (Witness is speaking about taking the gun from  
14 M.M. Winter at the time of her attempted suicide)  
15 Q Can you describe the gun which you unloaded  
16 which belonged to Mary?  
17 A I think a 25 caliber blue automatic. I believe  
18 we could find the shells of that gun because I  
19 hid them on a beam in the New Hampshire house.  
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