
I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I, as shorthand reporter, correctly took down in shorthand the testimony and proceedings had at the within named Coroner's inquest; that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of my shorthand notes and a full, true and correct statement of the testimony and proceedings had at said inquest.

Em Allen

Shorthand Reporter.

Coroner's Summons of Jurors.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA | ss.
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CORONER'S SUMMONS ON JURORS.

The People of the State of California Send Greeting:

To Edwin A Clerk E Jay Raib
John R Woodbridge Rialto F C Leithold
K J Stein E P Thom

WE COMMAND YOU, That all and singular, business and excuses being laid aside, you be and appear before the undersigned, Coroner of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, at Ivy E Overholser, Los Angeles, in said County, on the 4th day of February A. D. 1922, at 10:00 o'clock A. M., then and there to serve as a Juror in a certain inquisition now pending before said Coroner) and herein fail not, or answer the contrary at your peril.

Given under my hand this 4th day of February A. D. 1922


Coroner.

VERDICT OF CORONER'S JURY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA | 55.
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

In the Matter of the Inquisition upon the body of

William Desmond Taylor Deceased,

Before FRANK A. NANCE, Coroner.

We, the Jurors summoned to appear before the Coroner of Los Angeles County at
Jury H. Overholtzer's, Los Angeles, Calif
on the *4* day of *Feby.* A. D. *1922*, to inquire into
the cause of the death of *William Desmond Taylor*
having been duly sworn according to law, and having made such inquisition after inspecting
the body and hearing the testimony adduced, upon our oaths, each and all do say that we find
that the deceased was named *William Desmond Taylor*

a — male, married, ~~single~~, a
native of *Ireland* age about *45* years, and

that he came to his death on the *1st* day of *February* *1922*, by
gunshot wound of the chest inflicted by
some person or persons unknown
to this jury with intent to kill
or murder

all of which we duly certify by this inquisition in writing, by us signed this *4*
day of *February* *1922*.

Clavin P. Clark Foreman, *Clavin P. Clark*

John H. Woodbridge

John H. Woodbridge

William C. L. L. L.

C. P. L.

Approved

Frank A. Nance

CORONER'S INQUEST

The following is the transcript of the Shorthand notes taken at the Coroner's inquest held
on the body of William Desmond Taylor

at Ivy E Overholzer at Los Angeles, Cal.

on the 4th day of February 1922, at 10:00 A. M.

Frank A. Howard
Coroner.

INQUEST HELD ON THE BODY OF WILLIAM DESMOND TAYLOR
AT IVY H. OVERHOLTZER, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA,
FEBRUARY 4, 1922, AT 10 O'CLOCK, A. M.

-----000-----

CHARLES EYTON, being first duly
sworn, testified as follows:

BY THE CORONER:

Q Please state your name?

A Charles Eyton.

Q Where do you reside?

A 1920 Vine Street, Hollywood.

Q What is your occupation?

A General Manager Famous Players-Lasky Corporation.

Q Mr. Eyton, have you seen the remains of the de-
ceased in the adjoining room?

A Yes sir.

Q Do you recognize ^{ONE} ~~them~~ as ~~one~~ you knew in life?

A Yes sir.

Q Who was it?

A Wm. Desmond Taylor.

Q Where was he born?

A He was born in Ireland, to the best of my knowledge.

He told me so.

Q What was his age?

A Forty-five, I should judge.

Q Was he married, single or a widower?

A He was married.

Q When did he die?

A Thursday morning, or Wednesday night; I saw the body first on Thursday morning.

Q Last Thursday?

A Yes sir.

Q Do you recall that date?

A It was the 2nd.

Q February 2nd?

A February 2nd.

Q Where did he die?

A At the Apartment "B", South Alverado Street, 404 I think it was.

Q What was the cause of his death, if you know?

A Well, 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; so I immediately went over to his residence, and he was lying on the floor on his back. Detective Ziegler was there, and he had called the Doctor, he told me previous to my arrival; and the Doctor told me Mr. Taylor had died from hemorrhage of the stomach. Mr. McLean, Douglas McLean--had told me that he had thought he had heard a shot the night before, and his wife also thought she had heard a shot--and he wanted the body turned over; they didn't want to turn it over until the Coroner came. The Deputy Coroner came after a while, and he was told he had died of hemorrhage of the stomach and I told him he had better turn the body over to make sure, and he put his hand under Mr. Taylor's body, and found a little--when he pulled his hand out, it had a little blood on his hand. Douglas asked him what that was, and he said it evidently had run down from his mouth, but I noticed that there was no trail of blood--Mr. Taylor's head was in a pool of blood--there was no

trail of blood running down.

Q There was a pool of blood ~~under his~~ ^{HEAD?}

A Under his head, yes, a little pool of blood. I immediately opened up Mr. Taylor's VEST, AND ^{looked} looked, and on the right-hand side, and there was no mark. I looked on the left-hand side and saw some blood, and then I told the Deputy Coroner that I thought that evidence enough to turn his body over to see what would happen. I sent for a pillow to put under Mr. Taylor's head, and we turned him over--the Deputy Coroner and myself--and we pulled his shirt and his vest up, and we found the bullet wound.

Q Mr. Eyton, was his body stone cold at that time?

A Stone cold and very stiff and rigid.

Q Indicating that it had been dead for some time?

A Yes.

Q Where was the body lying with reference to the front entrance to his home?

A It was lying right 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.

Q Who were present when you was there?

A When I came in, the first man I noticed was Detective Ziegler, whom I have known for a number of years, and Douglas McLean, Charles Maigne, the landlord, and Harry Fellows, Mr. Taylor's assistant director.

Q Did all of these persons live there in this neighborhood?

A That I could not tell you; Mr. McLean did, I know because he showed me where his Apartment was.

Q The place where Mr. Taylor lived, was in a ~~house?~~

A In a COURT. yes.

Q These other buildings WERE NEAR-BY?

A There are several apartments in this court, all the way around.

Q Did Mr. and Mrs. McLean, or either of them, tell you about the hour that they heard the gunshot?

A Yes, Mr. McLean told me that it was about 5 or a quarter after 5, and Mrs. McLean thought it was a little later.

Q That night?

A Yes, the night before.

Q You didn't make any definite measurements as to the position of the body?

A No sir.

Q So that what you testified to is only an estimate, and nothing definite about it?

A Yes.

Q Now, how long has Mr. Taylor lived in this place?

A That I could not tell you; he lived in it before he went to the war, I believe.

Q When did you last see him alive?

A The same day--Wednesday.

Q Now, did he have any fire-arms of his own?

A I believe he had a revolver; I believe the revolver was in the upper drawer upstairs; in fact, I know there was, because Detective Ziegler and myself went up there and saw it.

Q When you were called to this place, did you see any fire-arms in this room where he was?

A No.

Q What is the name of his valet, or attendant there?

A Harry Peavey, the Colored Cook; I never knew him

QTY 5AD. H/AL

Q Was it the man who called you?

A Harry Fellows, his assistant director, was the one who called me.

Q You have no independent knowledge of the manner in which he met his death?

A No sir.

THE CORONER: Have you any questions, Gentlemen?

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 evidence in the room when I got there--neither the room or the body showed any evidence of a struggle. He had on the same suit as when I seen him the day before when he talked to me.

THE CORONER: Is there any other questions? That is all, you may be excused.

DR. A. P. WAGNER, being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

BY THE CORONER:

Q Please state your name?

A DR. A. P. Wagner

Q Where do you reside?

A Los Angeles.

Q What is your occupation?

A Physician and County Autopsy Surgeon.

Q DR. WAGNER, DID YOU PERFORM A POST-MORTEM ON THE BODY OF THE DECEASED?

A I DID.

Q Will you state your findings?

A I PERFORMED AN AUTOPSY ON WILLIAM D. TAYLOR, AT THE REQUEST of Ivy H. Overholzer, February 2, 1933, and found a bullet wound in the left side. The bullet entered six and a half inches below the armpit, and in the posterior axillary line, and passed inward and upward, passing through the seventh interspace of the ribs, penetrating both lobes of the left lung, and emerging on the inner margin of the upper lobe, then traversing the Mediastinum, passed out of the chest on the right side of the middle line, posterior to the right collar bone, and entered the tissues of the neck, and I found the bullet just beneath the skin, FOUR AND a half inches to the left of the outer side of the right shoulder, and on a line drawn from the top of the shoulder to the lower junction of the right ear. The left pleural cavity contained considerable clotted blood. The vital, chest, and abdominal organs were free from disease. The cause of death was gunshot wound of the chest.

THE CORONER: Have you any questions, Gentlemen? That is all, you may be excused.

MABEL NORMAND, being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

BY THE CORONER:

Q Please state your name?

A Mabel Normand.

Q Where do you reside?

A 3082 West Seventh.

Q What is your occupation?

A Motion Pictures.

Q Miss Morrow, were you acquainted with Mr. Taylor, the deceased in this case?

A Yes.

Q Did you see him on the evening before his death occurred?

A Yes, I did.

Q And where did you see him?

A Well I tell you when I went in there and when I came out?

Q Did you see him at his home?

A Oh, yes.

Q And you were with him about how long on that occasion?

A I got there about 7 o'clock, and left at a quarter to eight.

Q And when you left his place, did you leave him in the house, or outside?

A No, he came down to my car with me.

Q Where was your car?

A Right in front of the Court.

Q On Alvarado Street?

A Yes, on the hill.

Q He accompanied you to your car?

A Yes.

Q Was he still there when you drove away?

A Yes, as my car turned around, I waved my hand at him; he was partly up a little stairs there.

Q At the time you was in the house, was anybody else in the house?

A Yes, Henry, Jim, and

Q HENRY PEAVEY?

A YES.

Q DO YOU KNOW WHETHER MR. PEAVEY LEFT THE HOUSE BEFORE YOU DID OR NOT?

A Yes, he did; he left about, I should say about 15 or 20 minutes before I left, but stopped outside and spoke to my Chauffeur; we came out later.

Q No one else except Henry Peavey was there?

A That was all.

Q WHAT TIME WAS IT YOU SAY YOU LEFT HIM--DROVE AWAY FROM HIS PLACE?

A I left him on the sidewalk about a quarter to eight.

Q DID YOU EXPECT TO SEE HIM OR HEAR FROM HIM LATER THAT EVENING?

A Yes, he said--he had finished his dinner--he said would I go out and take dinner with him and I said "no; I was tired; I had to go home and get up very early; he said he would call me up in about an hour.

Q DID HE CALL YOU?

A No, I went to bed; if he called me I was asleep; when I am asleep he tells my Maid not to disturb me.

Q WAS THAT THE LAST TIME YOU SAW HIM WHEN YOU LEFT HIM ABOUT A QUARTER TO EIGHT?

A That was the last time.

THE CORONER: Have you any questions, Gentlemen? That is all, you may be excused.

HENRY PEAVEY, being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

BY THE CORONER:

Q Please state your name.

A HENRY PEABODY.

Q Where do you live?

A I LIVE AT 127½ EAST 3RD STREET.

Q What is your occupation?

A Cook and Valet.

Q Mr. Peabody, were you employed by Mr. Taylor, the deceased in this case?

A Sir?

Q Were you employed by the dead man in the case?

A Yes sir.

Q How long have you been working for him?

A About six months.

Q Were you in his house on the evening ~~when~~ he was found dead there?

A Yes sir.

Q What time did you leave the house?

A I figured it was about a quarter past ~~when~~ I left the house.

Q Where was he when you left?

A He was sitting in a chair facing just ~~now~~ now, and Miss Normand was sitting in a chair just ~~there~~ there. They were discussing a red-backed book.

Q In what part of the house were they?

A They were near the dining room where you ~~enter~~ enter the dining room from the living room.

Q What is a two-story apartment, is it not?

A Yes sir.

Q And on the ground floor, how many rooms?

A The living room, dining room, and kitchen.

Q Now, the entrance to this apartment is

IMMEDIATELY INTO THE FRONT THERE, IS IT NOT--THE FRONT ROOM,
RATHER?

A The front room, yes sir.

Q They were seated?

A Near the dining room there, in the living room,
near the entrance to the dining room.

Q When you went out, which way did you go out, at the
front or at the back?

A I went out the front way. I always lock up the
back door when I go out. I always lock the back door screen;
it has a hook on the inside. I use the front door to come out
all the time.

Q Did you carry the back door key with you?

A No sir; I always turn it in the door and leave it
just as it is.

Q Now, when did you next see Mr. Taylor?

A The next morning, when I went to work.

Q What time are you in the habit of coming to work?

A I am usually there about half past seven.

Q What time did you arrive there the next morning?

A At just about half past seven.

Q What day was that?

A Thursday morning.

Q On arriving there, what did you do?

A I picked up the paper first; I stopped in a drug
store on the corner of 5th and Los Angeles to get a bottle of
medicine; Milk of Magnesia, he usually takes that every morn-
ing, I bought that on my way out. I picked up the paper and
unlocked the door. The first thing I saw was his feet. I
looked at his feet a few minutes and said, "Mr. Taylor." He
never moved. I stepped a little further in the door, and seen
his face, and turned and ran out and hollered.

Q Who did you summon? Who did you call to?

A I don't know.

Q You just made a lot of noise to attract all the attention you could?

A Yes sir.

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. Jessurun?

A Yes sir.

Q Who else came?

A And Mr.--you see I don't know their names--I just seen them--the two gentlemen next door, Mr. McLean and Mr.-- I can't think of the other gentleman's name--right next door to me.

Q You didn't come back there after you had gone away, when Miss Normand was there with Mr. Taylor?

A No sir.

Q When you went out, was anybody around the place?

A Only Miss Normand's Chauffeur; he had his lights all on inside the limousine, clearing it. I hit him on the back and stopped and talked to him a few minutes.

Q When you first opened the door, did you see any furniture overturned, or any signs of a disturbance in the house?

A Nothing more than a chair that was sitting next to the wall had been pushed over a little bit and his feet was under this chair. The part of the furniture around the house and room upstairs was just as I left them when I went away that evening.

Q And did you notice whether anything had been taken

off of his body, or not; any jewelry?

A I didn't notice that; I didn't touch him at all.

Q Do you know whether he wore any valuable jewelry?

A Yes sir, he had a wrist watch and another watch with a lot of little trinkets on; and a thing you stamp checks with to keep anybody from making the check any bigger, and a lead pencil.

Q Did he have a diamond ring?

A Yes sir, he had a large diamond ring that he wore.

Q Do you know whether he had it on that evening?

A Yes sir, he was dressed just as when I went that evening, as I found him the next morning.

Q Was the ring on his finger the next morning?

A Yes sir. His other jewelry that I had put away the night before was just as I had put it away up in the dresser drawer.

Q You didn't find anything taken from the apartment?

A No sir, it was just as when I left it when I found it. The rug was a little bit kicked up. It looked like he had pushed it with his foot.

Q There was no other disturbance there?

A No sir; even the living room table that I had moved aside--the rocking chair would hit the table, and I moved the table so the rocking chair would not hit the table--it was just as I left it.

Q BY A JUROR: *were any of the windows up at night?*

A No sir, we had those little long pins that run in the windows. The windows upstairs in his bedroom were up; the windows downstairs I always locked with this peg that slipped in the window.

Q *were they still that way in the morning?*

A They were still that way in the morning. The lights were *brandy* just as I had left them the night; two lights ^{one} / in

the living room and one in the dining room.

THE CORONER: That is all, you may be excused.

T. H. ZIEGLER, being first duly sworn
testified as follows:

BY THE CORONER:

Q Please state your name?

A T. H. Ziegler.

Q Where do you live?

A 426 North Hill.

Q What is your occupation?

A Police Officer.

Q Mr. Ziegler, were you called to the premises where
the deceased was found dead?

A I was.

Q When did you arrive there?

A A little before 8 o'clock in the morning of February
2nd.

Q Will you state what you found when you got there?

A I found the deceased, Mr. Taylor, lying just inside
of the door on his back. His hands, one on each, 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.

Q Indicating he had been dead for some time?

A Yes, sir.

Q Did you see any evidence of a disturbance in the
house?

A Not any.

Q Who was there when you arrived there?

A The owner of the building, Mr. McLean, another Movie Actor, and Mr. Peever.

Q You mean the owner of the building, Mr. Jessurun?

A Yes sir; and Mr. McLean, and another man I don't know.

Q One of the adjacent tenants of the building?

A Yes sir, living next door east of Mr. Taylor.

Q Did you question any of those persons as to whether they had heard any gunshot the night previous?

A I did.

Q What did you learn?

A I learned that from Mrs. McLean, that along about fifteen, or perhaps ten minutes to eight, the night before, she heard a shot. She thought it was a gunshot. She went to her front door and opened the door, and saw a man standing in Mr. Taylor's door. She looked at him, and he stood and looked at her; and he walked down the steps, turned to the left, and going around the end of the building, which is to the east; and out into the street.

Q Into what Street?

A Which is Maryland, I think.

Q Did Mr. Jessurun tell you he heard a shot?

A I think he did.

Q Did he say he didn't try to investigate it?

A He did not; he didn't know but what it was an automobile making an noise.

Q Did Mr. McLean endeavor to investigate it?

A Not that I know of, and Mrs. McLean's Maid also heard a shot.

Q Did they say why they didn't attempt to investigate the cause of the shot?

A They did not.

THE CORONER: Have you any questions, gentlemen?

Q BY THE CORONER: Did you find any weapon about the room where the deceased was lying?

A I found a weapon in the room above.

Q Where was it?

A In the front bedroom in the dresser drawer, lying a sort of box.

Q Did you investigate to see whether the clothing was powder burnt or not?

A I did not; that was investigated, I understand, later.

Q Did you ask any of the persons who were called by Henry Peavey, the Valet, whether there was any weapon there when they first came into the room?

A Yes sir, we looked for everything of that kind.

Q Have you formed any conclusion whether it was possible this shot could have been fired by the deceased himself?

A Impossible.

THE CORONER: Have you any questions, gentlemen?

Q BY A JUROR: Was the revolver found upstairs loaded?

A It was; it had FIVE SHELLS in it; it had not been shown of date.

Q Was it the same ^{CALIBRE} caliber bullet as was found on the dress?

A This was A-32-AUTOMATIC ^{S&W}

Q In the drawer upstairs?

A YES

Q WHAT WAS THE NUMBER OF THE BULLET THAT WAS FOUND?

DID THEY SAY WHY THEY DONT ATTEMPT TO INVESTIGATE
THE CAUSE OF THE SHOT?

A They did not.

THE CORONER: Have you any questions, gentlemen?

BY THE CORONER: Did you find any weapons about the
room where the deceased was lying?

A I found a weapon in the room above.

Q Where was it?

A In the front bedroom in the dresser drawer, lying on
a sort of box.

Q Did you investigate to see whether the clothing was
powder burnt or not?

A I did not; that was investigated, I understand,
later.

Q Did you ask any of the persons who were called by
Henry Peavey, the Valet, whether there was any weapon there when
they first came into the room?

A Yes sir, we looked for everything of that kind.

Q Have you formed any conclusion whether it was
possible this shot could have been fired by the deceased himself?

A Impossible.

THE CORONER: Have you any questions, gentlemen?

BY A JUROR: Was the revolver found upstairs loaded?

A It was; it had five shells in it; it had not been
shot of late.

Q Was it the same caliber bullet as was found on the
deceased?

A This was a 32-Automatic Savage.

Q In the drawer upstairs?

A Yes.

Q What was the number of the bullet that was found?

A I understand it was a 38; I haven't seen it.

THE CORONER: That is all, you may be excused. That is all the evidence we will take in this case. All but the Jury will be excused.