

*Frederick Hahn*

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Statement taken at the District Attorney's Office of Bronx County on November 19, 1934, 2:30 P.M. in the presence of Assistant District Attorney Breslin, Attorney General Wilentz of N.J., Col. Schwartzkopf, N.J. State Police; Capt. Lamb and Lt. Keaten, N.J. State Police, Det. Madden of 48th Squad Detectives, N.Y.C. Police and Stenographer King.

By Mr. Breslin:

Q What is your name?

A Frederick Hahn.

Q Where do you live?

A 1816 Webster Ave.

Q And your business?

A Fred's Lunch Bar and Restaurant, same place 1816.

Q How long have you been in business at that location?

A Four years.

Q You live upstairs over the restaurant?

A Yes, same place.

Q That is on the east side of Webster Ave. near 175th St.?

A Yes,

Q You know this man Hauptmann?

A Yes, sir.

Q How long do you know him?

A Since 1931 in the spring.

Q Where did you meet him?

A In the restaurant.

Q Who introduced you to him?

A Hans Kluppenberg and Willie Dreissigacker.

- Q How long did you say you were in business at that location?
- A Four years.
- Q How long are you in the country?
- A 12 years.
- Q What were you doing before you opened that place over there?
- A I had a lease on an apartment house on 112th St. between  
Amsterdam and Broadway.
- Q How long were you there?
- A About 6 months.
- Q What did you rent out, flats?
- A No, it was regular furnished room house, apartments and  
rooms separate.
- Q Where was Kluppenberg living when you met Hauptmann?
- A In 175th Street, middle of the block.
- Q Right around the corner from your restaurant?
- A Yes.
- Q He had been rooming there for some time with Dreissigacker?
- A Yes he came in our place before I knew Hauptmann.
- Q How long do you know Kluppenberg?
- A Since we are in this restaurant.
- Q How often did Hauptmann come into your place?
- A Some times steady, some time he came once a week, some  
times two or three times a week.
- Q Did he have his meals in there?
- A Yes some times had his dinner.
- Q What meal did he usually come there for lunch or supper?
- A Mostly evening.

Q Kluppenberg came with him?

A Kluppenberg was there steady every day.

Q Dreissigacker came in with Hauptmann too?

A Dreissigacker only came in on Sunday. Dreissigacker and Henry Lampke and some times a blind man came with him.

Q What is his name?

A I couldn't tell you.

Q You wife knew Hauptmann too?

A Yes, sir.

Q Just you and your wife worked in the place?

A Yes.

Q You didn't have any other employees?

A Yes, we have three more employees.

Q Do they know Hauptmann?

A Yes.

Q Are they still working for you?

A No, there is nobody working there any more.

Q You have nobody working there who knew Hauptmann?

A No.

Q Did you ever visit Hauptmann at his house?

A Yes, I was twice there at his house.

Q When?

A In 1932, and June the first time, the middle of June.

Q The middle of June 1932?

A That's right.

Q What was the occasion for your visit to his home then?

A Just to look at the apartment.

Q Who invited you up there?

A Mr. Hauptmann himself.

Q Did your wife go with you?

A The second time I was there, yes.

Q How long did you know Hauptmann before he asked you to  
visit his home?

A A year and about two or three months.

Q Who else went up with you on the first visit?

A The first time I went myself.

Q Did you go up alone?

A With Hauptmann.

Q In his car?

A Yes.

Q What happened up there?

A Well he showed me his apartment and then, first the rear  
of his apartment and then we went in the front room  
and he showed me everything what is there and see things  
from the trip he made to Florida and through the country  
and then he showed me this victrola. He opened it and  
there I seen the two bags of money.

Q Two what?

A Two paper bags with money.

Q Two paper bags with money?

A Yes. One bag was on the right side when he lifted the  
cover and the other was on the left side where the  
victrola runs.

Q How did he happen to open that?

A Well I don't know. I told him, "What is this here?"

Q Did you open it up?

A No he open it himself.

Q And you saw two packages of money?

A Yes.

Q One on either side?

A When it was open I could see what it was.

Q A bag, what kind of a bag?

A A paper bag. I figure it was a 5 lb. paper bag. We call it No. 5 paper bag.

Q Brown?

A No, square like two fold, it folds this ----

Q It was a brown paper bag?

A Brown paper bag yes and it was open.

Q At one end?

A Yes and I could see the stack of money at that time like that.

Q About 4 inches high ?

A Yes.

Q And you could see it?

A Yes, it was nice laying in there.

Q That was on the right?

A Yes on the right, where the big cover was on.

Q On the other side was the disk?

A The disk, yes, and on the side of the disk between the partition and disk was another bag, but it was closed.

Q And you don't know what was in it?

A No. I said, "You are very careless to leave so much money laying here."

Q What did he say?

A Well he said, "It is not my money. I don't care for that money. It belongs to Fisch." and I said "who is Fisch?" and he said, "It is a man living down the block next to a church and some of this money belongs to me." He said, "Part of this money belongs to him." That is all and I said, "Why don't you put it in the closet somewhere? It is very careless to leave money laying like that." He said, "Yes, I going to do that." he said, and then I seen the closet was open and in the corner was two suitcases and I said, "You have two suitcases, they are plenty of room to store it away."

Q In the same room you saw the victrola?

A Yes.

Q What was it a closet?

A Yes there was a closet in the corner in the front.

Q What other conversation did you have with him with reference to this money you saw there?

A To the money nothing else. At first I told him to put it in the bank and he said, "No, I don't trust the bank. You see what happened to the United States Bank" and so on and that is all.

Q Did he tell you how much was there?

A No, he didn't tell me the amount. I said, "It is a lot of money if it is large bills." and he said, "Yes", but

he didn't tell me how much money there is.

Q That was in the middle of June 1932?

A Yes, middle of June.

Q How do you recall the date?

A Well it was the first time I went out swimming and I remember it was in June.

Q Where did he say this man Fisch lived?

A Fisch, he said a block down the same street where he was living on.

Q Near the church?

A Yes, near the church.

Q Didn't you ask him why he was minding this money for this man Fisch?

A No, I wasn't so familiar with Hauptmann. I didn't want to ask everything.

Q Do you know Fisch?

A No, I never met him.

Q When you went into that room the top of both sides of that victrola was down wasn't it?

A It was closed yes.

Q How did he happen to open it up?

A Because I ask him, "What is this?" I said, "This is an old time victrola." "Yes", he said, "this is an old timer." and he told me where he got it from but I don't remember.

Q And then he opened it up?

A Yes and then he opened it up.

- Q Didn't he make some other remark to you while you were standing in the middle of the room?
- A Yes, then it was later he showed me pictures. Oh, this was on the other occasion when I was there with my wife.
- Q What else happened the first time you were there?
- A The first time. First we went in the bedroom and he said, "This is one room nobody can get in this room." This was the bedroom in the rear, the room on the west part of the building in the rear. He said, "Nobody can go in there."
- Q You didn't see his bedroom did you?
- A I see it, the door was open. He said, "Nobody can go in there."
- Q Was his wife home that day?
- A No, she was in Germany, in Europe. Then I seen another room. I didn't see the kitchen and then there was a dark room, looked like a closet, it was dark in there.
- Q Was this day or night time you went up?
- A It was evening already, it was down already.
- Q How long were you in the house altogether on that occasion?
- A Not longer than one-half hour.
- Q Then where did you go?
- A We went right home.
- Q He took you back?
- A Yes.
- Q When did you go up there again?
- A That was about a month later I went there with my wife.



Q How did you happen to go up with your wife the second time?

A To see the new Radio he bought.

Q He bought a radio?

A Yes he spoke about the radio in the restaurant and said,  
"Come up some time and look at it."

Q Did he buy the radio while his wife was away?

A Yes.

Q Did he drive you and your wife up?

A Yes.

Q That was about a month after your first visit?

A Yes.

Q What happened when you went up there that time?

A He showed us the radio and he played it and I sat down on  
an easy chair and my wife was looking at the radio  
and Hauptmann stood in front of the table there and  
he said, "If you stood here you would"-- then he turned  
around and didn't say anything.

Q Didn't you ask him what he meant?

A He had his face towards the window, towards the corner  
on the front of the building.

Q Did you ask him what he meant?

A No, I had no chance.

Q How long did you stay there that time?

A Oh, not longer than I figure an hour.

Q Did you ask him what he did with the money he had up  
there when you were there previously?

A No.

Q Did you ever ask him after you saw the money there what he did with it?

A No, I never asked him about any money.

Q When did you last see Hauptmann?

A Hauptmann, I figure 1933 in spring.

Q When did Kluppenberg and the rest of them move from that rooming house on 175th St.?

A In the summer of 1932.

Q After they moved from there Hauptmann continued to come into your restaurant?

A Yes, he was away for a while and then he came back again.

Q You havn't seen him since the spring of 1933?

A No.

Q After you met Hauptmann something about his conduct or actions aroused your suspicions?

A Yes, the first thing in March I missed him.

Q In 1933?

A Yes.

Q Yes, I missed him, and Hans Kluppenberg came in the restaurant to eat at night and I said, "Where is Hauptmann, I miss him for a week already?" and he said, "He hurt his leg. He is downtown and he hired a room downtown. He is under doctor's care." and I said, "He is in a hotel?" and he said, "No, he rented a room somewhere on 18th Street downtown." But I am not positive 18th Street. I said, "Whereabouts is that?" He said, "Somewhere on 18th Street", he said. I suppose he wasn't sure himself.

Q Did you ask Kluppenberg why he rented a room down there?

A No, I asked him, but he couldn't give me any answer. I said, "It is funny. He has an apartment uptown. Why should he live down there?" I think his wife was away that time. She was in Kingston with some relations, something like this he said, "She went away for a little visit. I suppose that is why he stay downtown."

Q What else aroused your suspicions?

A Then he came in again and he spoke about this Lindbergh case and then he didn't say any more.

Q Who spoke about the Lindbergh case?

A We, my wife and I and customers but he never mentioned anything. He sat there as stolid as anything.

Q Didn't join in the conversation at all?

A No, never joined the conversation, and my wife spoke about going to Germany and then a week later Mrs. Hauptmann came in and said, "all right, I am going to Germany, you coming with me?" My wife said, "I am not ready yet. I didn't decide so definitely." She said, "I buy everything, coats," etc. and they buying ship cards too.

Q That was 1932?

A Yes.

Q When was that?

A Beginning of March, no end of March, beginning of March I missed Hauptmann.

Q When you said before you missed him about March --

A Yes.

Q That is March of 1932?

A Yes. I am sure, yes.

Q How long before you missed him was it you met him in 1931?

A 1931, Oh, he was away on a trip. I knew he was away on a trip, hunting trip.

Q What I want to get at is this. The approximate time you missed Hauptmann.

A The first time?

Q Yes.

A 1931.

Q You say that he used to come into your restaurant once, twice or three times a week?

A Yes, that's right.

Q Along about March of 1932 you missed him?

A I missed him, yes.

Q Because he didn't come in as was his practice?

A Yes.

Q How long did he stay away from your place?

A At least three weeks, three to four weeks.

Q Was that the time Kluppenberg told you he was downtown getting his leg fixed?

A Yes, it was the beginning of the week that I ask Hans about Hauptmann and the Sunday after Willie, Hans and Henry came in for dinner. Henry and Willie and the blind man sat at the table first and I said, "How about Hauptmann, is he better?" and at the same time

Hans came in. I said, "Hans told me he hurt his leg."  
and they all said, "Nothing happened to Hauptmann."

Q Who said that?

A Every one, all three and I said, "This is funny." and my wife said, "Oh, you are imagine things." and I said, "No, no, I am positive he tell me so." I was surprised. That was the first time I got suspicion on Hauptmann when they tell me that.

Q Some time after that Hauptmann did come into your place?

A Yes, about two weeks later but I couldn't say nothing, he didn't limp or anything. I said, "This is funny. If you broke your leg you are so fast well again." but he didn't listen to that, nobody listen to that. I said, "It is awful quick you got well again." but I see him limp on the island.

Q That was the summer time?

A Yes.

Q 1932?

A Yes.

Q Was it this time he came back to your restaurant in March or April 1932 that your wife and you and others were discussing this case?

A Yes.

Q It was just after the newspapers published the story about the Lindbergh baby being kidnapped?

A Yes.