

*Marie Hahn*

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Statement taken at the District Attorney's Office of Bronx County on November 19, 1934, immediately following that of Frederick Hahn and in the presence of those mentioned on said statement. Stenographer King.

By Mr. Breslin:

Q What is your name?

A Marie Hahn.

Q Your address?

A 1316 Webster Ave.

Q You are the wife of Frederick Hahn who was just in here?

A Yes.

Q Do I understand correctly you work<sup>ed</sup> with him in that restaurant ever since he opened it four years ago?

A My husband?

Q Yes.

A Yes, surely.

Q You know this man Hauptmann?

A Yes I know him for almost three years, about 2 and a half.

Q When did you first meet him?

A Well we had the place four years and I was about three months off. I took position of the place there was three young fellows lived 175th St. this Hans Kluppenberg and two other fellows.

Q Dreissigacker and Lempke?

A Yes and through these fellows we met this Hauptmann two or three months after.

- Q So it was in 1931 you met him?
- A I believe it is about three years now.
- Q When did you open the store and take a lease on it?
- A I think it was in 1929 or 1930. We have four years the place, it must be 1930, that's right.
- Q So it was 1931 you met Hauptmann through these other three men?
- A Yes.
- Q After you met him he used to come in your place quite often?
- A Well regular, yes, at lease once a week they were together the four of them.
- Q The four of them?
- A Some times there was just two and sometimes a gang, six seven, or eight.
- Q Do you mean Hauptmann when you say two?
- A Well Mrs. Hauptmann too. There is two fellows, this Hans Kluppenberg and Willie Dräisigacker and Lempke and Mr. Hauptmann ate always together and on every Sunday Mrs. Hauptmann was with them.
- Q How often did Hauptmann go in the store with his wife?
- A Yes, if the others didn't come the two of them was there.
- Q During the week did he come for any of his meals?
- A Yes in the morning. I am not sure in the morning, the girl wait on him. I come at 10 o'clock and stay to closing time.
- Q She told you he usually came in there for breakfast?
- A Yes.

Q Early morning?

A This is the time I didn't open. The time I came down he was here already, it is about 10 o'clock.

Q What time do you open the restaurant?

A Five, six, it all depends.

Q In the morning?

A Yes.

Q How long after you first met Hauptmann was it you met his wife?

A Just exactly I couldn't tell, the first time we met them was a couple of months after what I told you about, about three or four months after I had the place. These three fellows come in our place and they introduce Mr. Hauptmann and just what it was I don't know but they come back from a trip, whether she was in Germany or where they were I couldn't tell you, but I know they come back from a trip.

Q Did you ever visit Hauptmann's home?

A Yes, I did, once.

Q With your husband?

A No, all alone.

Q How did you happen to go up there?

A Well this was as I remember. It was after the kidnaping already and they had great habit of always inviting people and I never had any use for him and never liked him and one occasion she came to me and said she was taking a trip to Germany. This was after the kidnaping

and she said, "Mrs. Hahn will you come and take a look at my wardrobe and I figure as long as she is one of my customers. I didn't ask about their private affairs and she said to me "Mrs. Hahn why don't you come one afternoon while my husband is <sup>not</sup> here." I told her, "Your husband can be there when I come." She said, "Yes, but we can talk better this and that" and one afternoon I went there. I said, "I take it one afternoon when I get off" and I took the boy and I make it one afternoon and she showe me her wardrobe and then about six or seven o'clock in the evening her husband came back and I felt funny, as long as he don't like me and I felt funny and I tried to get out of the place and they said, "Why don't you stay?" and I said, "When the Mrs. away what you going to do?" and he never look at me and he said, "Well I suppose I got to give her some money along." and I say, "She has a very nice wardrobe ." I was suprised, she comes from a place it was country. She bought evening gowns and she had all good clothes. They all come from good store. There was no dress under \$20. She had 15 or 16 of them.

Q Where had she bought them do you know?

A I don't know. This I couldn't tell but I know the goods, but when I buy something I like good clothes so I could see right away and I was in that line business before and know something about materials and goods. I said, "What you doing with evening clothes?" She

Said "I probably going here and there". and I thought ain't it funny where she goes she needs eveing clothes. Then I ask him, "Well Mr. Hauptmann, how much you give the Mrs. when she take trip?" I had to say something, when he didn't like me. And he said, "I think \$1000 enough for her." and I said, "She got ticket already and got such clothes and he give her \$1000, it is very good, and then there was nothing said and I went home.

Q Didn't you go up there with your husband once?

A No.

Q Did your husband call for you that night?

A No, they brought me home with the car.

Q Didn't you and your husband go with Hauptmann to his house one time in the summer of 1932 when his wife was away in Europe?

A Yes. This was the time on the way back from Rye Beach when we went there.

Q What happened that time when you stopped in the house?

A Well when we went in there he showed us what he had. You know the apartment and surroundings and the radio was -- First he brought us -- He bought a radio, a Stromberg-Carlson, and he showed us it was the latest with phonograph and it is all mechanical and he explain it to us and I said, "My, you must have paid pretty good price?" and he said something about 600 dollar, 675 or something like that. I know for poor people it is very good and I don't say anything else and

he brought us down and showed us the building, a garage and he showed us the garage and he showed us electric installment when he brought us in the bedroom. He showed us he had lights made to the garage from the bedroom and where the bed was he had some electric buttons and it would light up the garage in case somebody was break in or anything happen. He showed us that.

Q Did he show you where you press the button?

A Yes. He said, "See I don't even have to get out of bed. If anything should happen I push the button and it light up the whole outside."

Q Did he show you the button? Did he show you the garage  
\* lit up?

A Yes, he did.

Q Did you see it was lit up?

A Yes I see that outside it was light.

Q Did you go out and look in the garage?

A I looked in the garage too, in time he showed us that.

Q While you were in the house he pressed that button?

A Yes.

Q From the bedroom window you could look out and see the  
garage?

A Yes.

Q Did you see it lit up?

A Yes, I didn't see inside of garage lit up but all the surrounding.

Q There were lights in the yard?

A Yes. In fact it lit up the whole garage all around.

Q You say you never liked Hauptmann?

A No and he didn't like me.

Q What made you suspicious of Hauptmann?

A Well I tell you, I had a fight with him once. He came in the place when the Mrs. was in Europe, so he came one evening with this Hans Kluppenberg together and he said to me he always invite me to this seashore where their place, it was in City Island --

Q Hunter Island?

A I was never there I don't know and I always refuse, I never went. So he said to me one evening he came in the place, he was with Hans Kluppenberg, and I think four years I am polishing one cake stand every night and he come up at that time and see me polish that stand. He said, "Oh Mrs. you are so dumb, you are so dumb. You don't know how to live, to live or to exist." So I looked around, I think my God this is nerve to say anything like that. I thought what business of this yours and he laugh so hysterically and I got scared, I said, "What you mean by it?" and he said, "Why don't you do what I do, make money easy." I said "Tell me how you make it." He said, "Well I play the stock market and I make just as much as if I work." "I said, "Well if you are lucky go ahead. I am lucky my business." and he walk out.

Q Did he ask you to go to Hunter Island that night?

A No he asked me several time before but that night he came in and he said, "See I invite you so many times out and you wouldn't come."

Q Did he invite you alone?

A Well no he invite us both. In fact he always refuses and on one occasion Fred went. I said, "Fred why don't you go. Fred he has a car, he can invite you, you can go swimming there and have an afternoon for yourself. That is the reason why he went and I believe on the way back he brought him into his house then I don't know."

Q Do you remember when the Lindbergh child was kidnaped?

A Yes I do.

Q How do you know about it did you read it in the paper?

A My who wouldn't, I had the radio going every day. It was every half hour on the radio.

Q Do you know whether Hauptmann came to your place that particular time?

A Yes.

Q Wasn't there one time he didn't come for several weeks?

A Yes.

Q When was that?

A This I couldn't remember but I remember once this Hans Kluppenberg said to us, "Mr. Hauptmann had a bad leg."

Q The time he was away for several weeks was it that time Kluppenberg told you and your husband that he hurt his leg?

A No, my husband told me. He didn't tell me. This Hans.



Kluppenberg told my husband that he sprained his ankle or something like that, that he is under doctor's care.

Q Did you ever speak to Hauptmann about his leg when he came back?

A No I didn't.

Q Did you discuss the Lindbergh case with Hauptmann?

A Yes I can tell you one thing I remember, one day when the baby was found out in the woods and I had the radio playing and it was the United States Navy Band on and there was an interruption with the subject came out that the baby was found dead in the woods and Mr. Hauptmann was sitting in the place/<sup>and</sup>there was a girl friend with them.

Q What is her name?

A Paula, dark, skinny girl.

Q You don't know her last name?

A No, and they were sitting in the restaurant, they just came in. I just came from upstairs and I said, "You see" just that time nobody is there but my husband and myself because the girls and counterman because after four o'clock and another counterman comes in six o'clock. I was upstairs and my husband wait on them and he puts food in there and he went away because news just came out the baby was found dead in the woods and you know Mr. Hauptmann look so white, anyway has such white look and he is always such funny fellow he never look at anybody so I didn't pay any

further attention and I notice one thing they didn't eat no more and then I remember my husband said to Paula, "Why don't you take a cup of black coffee? You don't feel so good." And she said, "No if I take cup of coffee I can't sleep." and there was other customers there and all sudden they get up and went away.

Q Did she ever speak to you about her going away visiting relatives in Kingston?

A No.

Q Kluppenberg ever mention it to you?

A No, but I remember the time when they took a trip down south in 1931.

Q When did you last see Hauptmann?

A I seen him last I think it was the beginning of 1933 somewhere, we had heavy snowstorm, it was snowing that day, cold and snowing.

Q In your restaurant?

A Yes, it is peculiar because I went to dentist on 84th St. and Lexington Ave. and it happened once in a while they come in my place and if they see I was going out they invite me but that day they see I ready to go out, not I expect it, but I was used to it like and they didn't say anything and I didn't have money and grab a cab and didn't have money and had to come back for money and when I was down 84th St. they stand in front of me and he look at me and she look at me and I smile and said, "Hello" and that is all, last time I see all them.

Q How does it happen he discontinued coming into your place?

A I don't know. I think too, maybe, it was something they had in the car they didn't want me to see. Well in fact he never like me anyway, he never did.

Q Did he ever have this blond girl in there with him, this Anita?

A No, all I seen was all these men and just this Paula.

Q Did he ever bring any woman in the place?

A No, yes, he brought several women in here but they are couples, man and wife, but I don't know them.

Q Did your husband tell you about seeing a large sum of money up at Hauptmann's house?

A Yes.

Q When did he tell you that?

A That night when he came home. He said, "Marie". I know a party by name Fisch and he said, "Marie, that Fisch you know some friends of yours?" I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "My, Hauptmann had so much money there. He is a foolish man to have it around," and he said somebody give it to him to take care of it by name Fisch and I wonder if this party you know." and I met them a couple of months after and I ask them if they know Hauptmann and they said, "No". I knew it wasn't right party.

Q When was it your husband told you about this money?

A Well I told you before. They went Hunter Island and they stop for a beer and on the way back they brought him

back to his house and showed him that money.

Q That was in the summer of 1932?

A Yes.

Q Your husband told you that he wanted to report Hauptmann  
to the police because he was suspicious of him?

A Yes.

Q That was in 1932 after he had seen the money?

A That was on several occasions. He never trusted him  
either.

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