0-19 (Rev. 9-7-56)

Story About Mrs. Roosevelt Kept Out Of Confidential, Its Attorney Testifies

HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 27 (AP) "Vicious stories" about Eleanor Roosevelt and Marilyn Monroe were kept out of Confidential Magazine because they could not be authenticated to the satisfaction of the publication's legal staff, attorney Albert DeStefano testified today.

DeStefano is a member of the New York law firm of Becker, Ross and Stone, which represented Confidential and checked the magazine for libel obscenity, the attorney testified at the publications's criminal libel trial.

DeStefano said the story on Mrs. Roosevelt, widow of the late President, was rejected because it was "a vicious story that went back several years." The witness said that former Confidential editor Howard Rushmore was anxious to print the story and the law firm carried on "a running battle" with him for months.

DeStefano said the same thing occurred with the Marilyn Monroe story. DeStefano was placed on the stand to prove the former editor's judgment on story material was bad.

He said that Rushmore in 1955 wanted Confidential to take on the movie industry and had even written an editorial titled "Hollywood Against Confidential" but DeStefano said he argued the publication out of using it on grounds Hollywood was too big and powerful to challenge.

DeStefano followed to the stand Marjorie Meade, who denied ever contacting stage and film producer Paul Gregory, the prosecution witness that accused her of trying to "blackmail" him into keeping a story out of Confidential.

Mrs. Meade was the principal witness as the criminal libel trial resumed but a volunteer witness, Bob Scofield, was in court and said that as a former assistant manager of Grauman's Chinese Theater he was prepared to testify that a story about film star Maureen O'Hara cuddling in the theater was "hogwash."

He said he was willing to testify under oath that Miss O'Hara did not enter the theater with a man and did not engage in ardent love-making in a rear row seat.

Scofield said that between January and March, 1954, an usherette told him "Miss O'Hara" and a man were in the theater but he said that when he checked the couple he was positive the woman was not Miss O'Hara. Her escort identified her as a North Hollywood school teacher.

Mrs. Meade, niece of Confidential publisher Robert Harrison, was one of four witnesses put on the stand by Defense Attorney Arthur Crowley in an attempt to impeach Gregory's testimony.

Gregory testified earlier in the trial that Mrs. Meade had asked for between $750 and $1000 to keep from publication a story about him. The producer gave the date of the alleged "blackmail" attempt as Sept. 16, 1955, and the place as Sherry's Bar.

Ernest Goldenfeld, owner of Sherry's, testified that the bar was not completed at that date. Mal Sibley, employe of the Beverly Hills Hotel, testified that on that date Mrs. Meade signed a bar check at the Polo Lounge of the hotel.

Mrs. Jackie O'Hara, not related to Maureen O'Hara, testified she was with Mrs. Meade the entire day.

Mrs. Meade then was placed on the stand and testified that on the date Gregory claimed to have met her she had lunch at the Beverly Hills Hotel, met Mrs. O'Hara and went shopping with her.

Tolson
Nichols
Boardman
Belmont
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Nease
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

Wash. Post and Times Herald
Wash. News
Wash. Star
N. Y. Herald Tribune
N. Y. Journal-American
N. Y. Mirror
N. Y. Daily News
N. Y. Times
Daily Worker
The Worker
New Leader

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