

Turner Case Gives Geisler Challenge

Hollywood — The case of Lana Turner's 14-year-old daughter provided a new challenge to Jerry Geisler, Hollywood's most famous attorney and regarded by many as one of its finest courtroom performers.

The portly, balding Geisler will represent Cheryl Turner, who killed her mother's former gangland boyfriend, Johnny Stompanato, Friday night in Beverly Hills.

Geisler, who has figured in many of the most spectacular court cases in filmland history, had little to say about

the Turner case, except that he regarded it as "justifiable homicide" and "there is no justification for a trial."

Geisler's career as one of the West's leading criminal attorneys has spanned nearly half a century. During that time he has gone to court and won cases for such clients as comedian Charlie Chaplin, director Busby Berkeley, and actor Errol Flynn.

The attorney also has represented such prominent actresses as Marilyn Monroe and Bette Davis in divorce cases. But he once was quoted on the subject of divorce as saying divorces were too easy to obtain.

Word Is Law

Geisler's word was law for the stars he represented, even to the point of having them remain silent. When he gave that advice to actress Shelley Winters, she paid him the tribute "He can out-act any actor in town."

Geisler has a standing rule "never to refuse an anonymous phone call. I never permit my switchboard to ask

who's calling while I'm on a big case. Sometimes you learn information that is extremely valuable.

"It's the breaks you get that have a lot to do with a law suit."

Geisler's list of clients reads like a who's who in Hollywood. But he also has represented such notorious characters as the late Bugsy Siegel — when he was charged with

Huntington Youth Dies From Injuries

Boise — Lloyd Eugene Faircloth, 18, Huntington, Ore., died in a Boise hospital Sunday of injuries suffered Saturday afternoon when a Jeep in which he was a passenger left Fox creek road 15 miles east of Huntington and overturned.

Three other teen agers in the Jeep, one of them the victim's sister, Elizabeth, escaped serious injury.

State police said the vehicle went over a 20-foot embankment.

murder — and the late great attorney Clarence Darrow — when he was charged with taking a bribe while defending accused saboteurs of a Los Angeles newspaper building.

There have been occasions when Geisler decided against court trials, including the case of producer Walter Wanger, when the latter was charged with shooting agent Jennings Lang. Wanger went to jail.

As he said of other cases, Geisler said one reason the Wanger matter didn't come to trial was that "no good could have come of a sensational trial over a small sentence."

In other cases, however, Geisler used all his courtroom techniques to win cases for Berkeley — accused of manslaughter after a 1935 auto accident — and Chaplin, who faced a morals charge.

In the Chaplin case, feeling was high against the comedian before the trial. But when the jury returned a verdict acquitting Chaplin, the crowd in the courtroom cheered.



DISTRAUGHT — Actress Lana Turner sobs as she arrives at police station in Beverly Hills, Calif., where her daughter, Cheryl, 14, was booked for murder of Lana's underworld boy friend, Johnny Stompanato.

Bad Luck Dogs Star, Throughout Career

Hollywood — Lana Turner, moviedom's original sweater girl who was billed for years as "the most flaming star since Clara Bow," has been dogged by personal misfortune during her 21 years in the Hollywood limelight.

At 38, Miss Turner has been married five times, to four husbands. She has had several broken romances.

She lost several children through miscarriages during two of her marriages. Her only child, Cheryl, who stabbed Johnny Stompanato to death last night, ran away last year and then a few months later suffered a broken back in a fall from a horse.

Miss Turner was a Hollywood high school girl of 17 when a friend of producer Mervyn Le Roy saw her sitting on a drugstore stool sipping on an ice cream soda. She was taken to a studio, given her first part and soon ballyhooed by Hollywood press agents as a "sweater girl."

Born Julia Jean Turner on Feb. 8, 1920, in the little mining town of Wallace, Ida., Miss Turner changed her first name to Lana for her movie career. Her father, Virgil Turner, was a mining man. He died when she was 9, and her mother, Mildred reared her alone.

While still a school girl, Lana made her first public appearances, as a high school cheer leader. She wore a tight sweater and her hair was red.

She showed the same cheer leader sparkle in her film appearances in her first movies, "They Won't Forget," "The Adventures of Marco Polo," "Loves Finds Andy Hardy," and "Two Girls On Broadway."

Early in 1940, she appeared in a movie with band leader Artie Shaw.

"He is the most egotistical man I ever met," she said. "I hate him!"

Within a few weeks, she had eloped with Shaw.

"Love is similar to hate," she explained at the time. "Ask any doctor."

The marriage lasted until September, 1940, when she won a divorce from Shaw after testifying in court.

"It was fight, fight, fight, fight, all the time. And often he wouldn't even talk to me."

Two years later, Miss Turner married Stephen Crane, then a tobaccoconist, after an evening of dancing. Soon after, the newlyweds discovered his divorce from Carol Kurtz of Indianapolis was not final. Lana got an annulment.

Rewards Crane

Crane pleaded for her to re-marry him. When she refused, he took an overdose of sleeping pills. He recovered and they were remarried on March 14, 1943. Their daughter, Cheryl, was born July 25, 1943, and she divorced Crane on Aug. 21, 1944.

Four years later, Lana was married again, to the thrice-divorced millionaire sportsman Henry J. (Bob) Topping. This time she did not elope.

The wedding ceremony took place at the home of publisher, William Wilkerson, the man who had discovered her on the drugstore stool 11 years earlier.

The marriage lasted only four years, during which Miss Turner suffered several miscarriages.

A year after she divorced Topping, she married actor Lex Barker in Italy, in 1953. They were divorced last June. Miss Turner charged Barker, a former screen Tarzan, with "extreme cruelty," which included using profane language and once striking her in the face at the breakfast table.

Curious Flock To Lana Turner's Home

Hollywood — The curious flocked to actress Lana Turner's home in Beverly Hills Sunday to stare at the front of the fashionable home where the film star's boyfriend was killed.

A amateur photographers snapped pictures of the house while others sat in parked cars discussing the stabbing of Johnny Stompanato, 32, by Lana's 14-year-old daughter, Cheryl.

A boy on a bicycle yelled to another, "What are all those cars doing here?" The other answered, in a voice loud enough to be heard inside the house, "Lana Turner lives there. Her little girl stabbed a man."

A car carrying a couple and two children pulled up. The man looked at a newspaper and said, "Yeah, this is the house."

Brakes screeched as motorists rounded a curve and were confronted by the parked cars and idling people. There were several near collisions.

Indonesian Rebels Man Machine Guns

Singapore — Indonesian rebels manned machine guns overlooking the beaches of Padang today in expectation of a Jakarta government invasion aimed at wiping out their shrinking position in central Sumatra.

United Press Correspondent Robert Udick reported from the rebel capital at Bukittinggi that rebel troops fully expected at least four government-held ports.

He said revolutionaries clad in green jungle uniforms were melting into the forests along the coast to try to defend against an invasion which could crush the whole rebellion against the Jakarta government.

Murder Charge Due In 'Thrill Slaying'

North Hollywood — Formal murder charges were expected to be issued today against an 18-year-old drama student who confessed to the "thrill-slaying" of his teenage girl friend.

Cary Jon Johannesson, a theatrical arts major at Valley Junior college, was jailed Friday after he directed police to the nude body of 15-year-old Phyllis Meltzer of Reseda in the seat of his disabled hot-rod.

The youth said he "got a thrill out of choking a girl" as he recounted how he strangled his girl friend following a quarrel in his parked car on a remote "lovers lane."

Stompanato Rated High With Wealthy Women

Hollywood — Johnny Stompanato, handsome man-about-Hollywood, "had a way with wealthy women," a police intelligence officer said.

A one-time bodyguard for mobster Mickey Cohen, the 32-year-old Stompanato had been arrested only once — and that time he won his case on appeal. A judge once referred to him as a member of Cohen's "Band of 40 Thieves."

Police intelligence said they never had any complaints that Stompanato had borrowed sums of money from wealthy women and failed to return them, but "he had a way of advancing from a Ford to a Cadillac without working."

The Cohen associate was

arrested in 1949 on a vagrancy charge when he was found on Hollywood's Sunset Strip sitting in a parked Cadillac. It was the same area where Cohen had been wounded and one of his henchmen killed a few days previously.

He was sentenced to 60 days and fined \$250, but an appeal in 1950 freed him on grounds of insufficient evidence.

Stompanato was the son of a Chicago jeweler. He graduated from school in Woodstock, Ill., where a brother, Carmine, still lives. His parents are dead. Police in Woodstock said Stompanato, who had no record in their community, had been back to visit his father several times before he died.

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