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Wednesday Morning Session, December 15, 1954.

(9:15 o'clock a.m.)

Thereupon the defendant, further to maintain the issues on his part to be maintained, called as a witness MARY BROWN, who, being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

By Mr. Corrigan:

Q Will you please state your name?

A Mary Brown.

Q Is it Mrs. Mary Brown?

A That's right.

Q Is your husband living, Mrs. Brown?

A Yes, sir.

Q And what is his name?

A Gilford R. Brown.

Q Where is your husband employed?

A In Halle Brothers.

Q And how long has he been with Halle Brothers Company?

A About 25 years.

Q Where do you live?

A 1861 Idlewood Avenue, East Cleveland.

Q How long have you lived at that address?

A Almost all my life.

Q Were you born in Cleveland?

A Yes, sir.

Q Were you related to Marilyn Sheppard?

A Yes, sir. I was her aunt.

Q Are you related on her mother's side?

A That's right.

Q Are there any other sisters or brothers?

A No, sir.

MR. CORRIGAN: There is so much
noise out there.

THE COURT: I don't know where
it comes from.

MR. PARRINO: It is in the hall,
Judge. I will see if I can quiet them down.

MR. CORRIGAN: Tell them to be
quiet.

Q Now, Marilyn's mother died when she was how old?

A Six years old.

Q And after her death did you have much to do with Marilyn?
Did you see her very much?

A Yes, very often.

Q Do you recall when she was young and kept company with Sam
in their high school days?

A Yes, sir.

Q Did they come to your house?

A Yes, sir.

Q That is, both of them. How would they come there?

A Quite often on their bicycles after they had been out riding.

Q Did your association with those two young people continue?

A Yes.

Q And for what length of time?

A At least 15 years, probably more than that.

Q Did your father and mother live with you?

A Yes, sir.

Q And what was your father's name?

A Harry P. Blake.

Q And that was Marilyn's grandfather?

A Yes, sir.

Q When did your mother die?

A In 1948.

Q And when did Marilyn's grandfather die?

A On October 26th of 1954.

Q During this trial?

A Yes, sir.

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Q Now, did Sam and Marilyn spend -- after their married life and after they came to Cleveland in 1951, did they spend any time at your house?

A Very often for dinner, evening. Probably once a week.

Q Once a week?

A Yes, sir.

Q And did you spend any time at their house?

A Yes, sir.

Q Out on Lake Shore Boulevard?

A A great deal of time.

Q That is, you were very close friends?

A Yes, sir.

Q Now, do you recall that at various times you stayed at their house?

A Yes, sir.

Q And that started when, Mrs. Brown?

A In 1951.

Q Do you recall the occasion of 1951, when you stayed at their home?

A Yes. In November of that year when they went to Colorado Springs.

Q And how long were they gone, do you remember?

A It was a long weekend, from Thursday until Monday evening.

Q And the occasion of your staying there was what, for what purpose?

A To take care of Chip.

Q Now, then, do you recall the next time that you spent any considerable time at their home?

A Well, there were many weekends. One was the following New Year's eve of '51 and '52, and in September of 1952 when they went on a fishing trip to Canada.

Q And you stayed there then?

A For a week, yes, sir.

Q And when was the next time that you recall?

A In October of 1953, when they went to Los Angeles for three weeks.

Q And that would be October of 1953, that was last October?

A That's right.

Q And when was the last time that you stayed any considerable length of time?

A In March of 1954, for about three and a half weeks.

Q And did you see them after March, 1954?

A Yes.

Q And how frequently did you see them after March, 1954, until the day of Marilyn's murder?

A Probably once a week at our house.

Q Now, of course, you had the occasion to observe these people constantly over those years, didn't you?

A Yes, sir.

Q And did you form opinions about Sam and Marilyn?

- A Yes, sir.
- Q Did you form opinions about their regard for one another?
- A Yes.
- Q And will you tell the jury what your opinion is, based upon the observation that you made of these two people over those years?
- A I thought they were very, very much in love, very happy together.
- Q Now, in July -- or in June, did you go away?
- A Yes, sir.
- Q When did you leave the city?
- A I believe it was the 21st of June.
- Q And while you were away, did you receive a letter?
- A Yes, sir.
- Q Who was the letter from?
- A From Marilyn.
- Q From Marilyn?
- A That's right.
- Q And do you know when that letter was written?
- A It was written on the 30th of June.
- Q On the 30th of June?
- A That's right.
- Q Do you have the letter?
- A No, I don't.
- Q Where is the letter?

A Mr. McArthur has it.

MR. CORRIGAN: May I have it,
Mr. McArthur?

MR. PARRINO: It's downstairs.
We'll get it.

Q And how did that letter get out of your possession?

A Well, I gave it to Mr. Severino with the idea that he would not publish it or do anything about it unless he had Dr. Sam's consent and yours.

MR. PARRINO: I object. Just
a moment, please.

THE COURT: No, no. You
have answered the question.

Q Now, then, did the police interview you?

A Yes, sir.

Q And where did that interview take place?

A In a police car up in Rockefeller Park.

Q And did they also interview your husband?

A Yes, sir.

Q And you told them substantially what you have told here today?

A That's right.

Q Now, you lived about 23 miles away from where Dr. Sam and Marilyn lived, didn't you?

A Yes, sir.

Q And did you make that trip quite frequently back and forth?

A Yes.

Q And they came to your house?

A Yes, sir.

Q And did you go to their house without invitation?

A Yes, many times.

Q And did they come to your house unannounced?

A Yes.

Q And that was the association you had, and there was no feeling that you had to call up to make an arrangement before you went to the house?

A No.

Q And that is the way it was with you.

Were you present when there was some talk between Sam and Marilyn about smoking?

A Yes, sir.

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me Q And will you tell the jury what you remember about that?

A Well, Sam said that he would give her a fur coat if she would refrain from smoking.

Q Do you know where that conversation took place?

A Out at the house, their house.

Q Out at their house?

A Yes, sir.

Q And do you know when it was, about?

A I believe, as far as I can recollect, the early part of last year.

Q Did you have occasion to make an observation about the fact that Marilyn and Chip and Sam would go away to various things together and enjoy one another's company?

A Yes, sir.

Q What do you know about that?

A Basket ball games, football games, out in the boat.

MR. CORRIGAN: I think that is all,
if I have that letter. I will wait.

THE COURT: Are you gentlemen
going to wait for the cross-examination until
you get the letter?

MR. DANACEAU: Well, yes.

MR. MAHON: Yes.

MR. DANACEAU: It has been brought up.

We certainly want to see it.

Q

Handing you this letter --

MR. CORRIGAN:

Will you mark this?

(Defendant's Exhibit 24-A,
being an envelope, and
Defendant's Exhibit 24-B,
being a letter, were marked
for identification.)

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Q Will you look at it and see if you recognize the handwriting on that letter?

A Yes, sir.

Q What is your answer?

A Yes, sir.

Q And whose handwriting is it?

A Marilyn's.

Q And when was that letter received by you?

A On July 3rd.

Q You were at that time where?

A In Gattenburg, Tennessee.

Q I have never seen it so I want to look at it.

That was 1954?

A Yes, sir.

Q And this letter was -- McArthur, Detective McArthur, did he go over this letter with you?

A No, sir, he did not.

Q He did not?

A No, sir.

Q The last time you saw it was when Severino got it from you, is that so?

A Yes, sir.

Q Was it published in the newspaper?

A Yes, sir.

MR. CORRIGAN:

I introduce it in

evidence.

MR. DANACEAU: No objection.

THE COURT: It will be received.

(Defendant's Exhibit 24-A
and 24-B received in
evidence.)

MR. CORRIGAN: Cross-examine.

I think now, as long as I introduced
it in evidence, I shall read it to the jury.

"Wednesday. Dear Mary and Bud."

Q Bud is who?

A My husband.

Q She called him Bud?

A That's right.

MR. CORRIGAN: (Continuing)

"Sorry I had to" -- you'll have to be alongside
me -- "Sorry I had to" --

MR. DANACEAU: No, that isn't
correct, Mr. Corrigan. I think you are in
error there. I suggest you let her read it.

"Sorry I didn't."

A "Sorry I didn't get to say goodbye to you."

Q "Sorry I didn't get to say goodbye to you. Can't remember
where we were" --

MR. DANACEAU: When we were.

Q "When we were."

A "Where we were."

Q "Guess where we were? I'm at 1861 'Grandpa sitting.'
Carol has gone to lunch."

Who is Carol?

A A lady that lives with us, Carol Kirkwood.

Q -- "with one of our friends."

A "Went to the Alcazar."

Q "Went to the Alcazar I guess."

Maybe you better read it.

A "Chip and I got here about noon and Carol said she'd be
back about three o'clock."

Q Don't read it too fast now so the jury can hear it and
understand it.

A "I fixed lunch and H.P. had a four minute egg, toast and
honey, and? -- I think I'll have to put my glasses on
myself. -- "and apricot and milk. Ate every bit of it."

Q Wait, Mrs. Brown. When you read down that way your voice
is lost. Would you come down here and read it?

A Yes.

Q Stand in front of the jury.

(Thereupon witness leaves witness stand and stands
in front of jury.)

THE WITNESS: Right here?

MR. CORRIGAN: Yes, right in

front of them. Face the jury.

THE WITNESS: (Continuing)

"Chip and I had cold cuts, sandwiches, milk, crackers and hard boiled egg with banana and some prunes. H.P. said he would nap. It's about 2:10 now, but he is talking now so this is rather incoherent because I'm chatting too. Sounds like you are baking. I read your three letters. And where is mine? I wish we could have come down but Sam has really been busy lately. We have had wonderful weather, quite cool, a little cool for swimming and we don't like that. Looked like rain when we drove over but now the sun is out.

"Chip is playing with the kids next door in their back yard. Paul has shorts on and I think his legs are fatter than mine.

"Funny Mrs. Nussel never called up -- showed up. Are you sure she understood the date? I guess they are getting along all right though. H.P. looks quite good I think and his voice seems quite strong."

Q Who is H.P.?

A My father, Harry Parsons.

Q Harry Parsons?

A Yes.

(Continuing) "We are going to the stock car races with Otto and Bev tonight. After their program we'll meet them. We are taking Chip and they are taking Dewey. Otto is a bug on racing.

"The Bay folks you know are all fine. Roger is a daily visitor and has been cutting our lawn. He spent a week at Camp Perry. The high school sent him to Boy's State. I forget what office he held.

"We have been playing golf twice a week at North Olmsted. I really love it but Sam thinks I'm insane and should be home working.

"Hold your hats, some news. If all goes well you should be an aunt and uncle again in December. I'm sure maybe you guessed as I have put on weight but I wanted to wait to tell people as long as I could as it makes the time seem shorter. Still sounds long though. Did you guess? Some of the family, in fact most, don't know yet. Guess I should tell H.P. today. Maybe it will perk him up. Maybe. I don't want Chip to know yet as I can just hear the questions so we'll wait a while for that. After seven and a half years

I'll really have to begin all over again. I need so much stuff, but can borrow a lot. You'll have to bone-up with my baby book as we'll really need a baby sitter. How's that for a bombshell exploding in the middle of your vacation? I'm surprised too to tell the truth. I just told H.P. and all he said was 'No!! Ha.

"The house is very neat and clean and H.P. says Carol is very good to him. Runs errands, and so forth. Said they had lamb chops for dinner and they were good. She really is very nice.

"I'm in the midst of arranging a luncheon at Stouffer's Westgate next Tuesday for the Auxiliary to get the new officers installed. I'll go out as president and Dorothy takes over. It's all hers. I'm glad to be through.

"Grandpa just got his own milk and crackers. I was on the phone. I'll try to go over next week again. Write to us. How are you doing on my things? Hope you can get them. The darn popsicle man just came and I have a half a popsicle as Jimmy and Paul split one so Chip had to. Tastes cool though.

"Have a wonderful time. You deserve it.
All is well here. Wish we could be with you.
Some day we will.

"Love, Marilyn.

"Hope you can read this. Pepper and Coke
say 'Hi.'"

MR. CORRIGAN: You may cross-examine.

CROSS-EXAMINATION OF MARY BROWN

By Mr. Danaceau:

Q Mr. Severino is a newspaper man, is he?

A Yes.

Q Cleveland Press?

A Cleveland News.

Q Cleveland News. I beg your pardon. And you gave him
this letter, did you not?

A Yes, sir.

Q You knew he was a newspaper man?

A I did.

MR. DANACEAU: That is all.

MR. CORRIGAN: Did he get it
from you to print in the newspaper?

MR. DANACEAU: Objection.

THE COURT: Objection sustained.

MR. CORRIGAN: That is all.

Thank you, Mrs. Brown. (Witness excused.)