

Thereupon the State of Ohio, further to maintain the issues on its part to be maintained, called as a witness ELNORA HELMS, who, being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

By Mr. Danaceau:

Q Will you please give your name?

A Elnora Helms.

Q And you are married?

A Yes, I am.

Q What is your husband's name?

THE COURT: Could you give me
the name again?

THE WITNESS: Elnora Helms.

Q Is there an "s" at the end of the name?

A Yes.

Q And I believe I asked you what your husband's name is?

A Will F. Helms.

Q Where do you live?

A 12211 Brookfield Avenue.

Q And you work at housework, do you not?

A Yes.

Q You do housework?

A Yes.

Q And you were employed by a Mr. and Mrs. Sam Sheppard?

A Yes.

Q At Bay View?

A Yes.

Q Or Bay Village? Excuse me.

A Yes.

Q When did you first start to work for Dr. and Mrs. Sheppard?

A You mean Dr. and Mrs. Sam Sheppard?

Q Yes.

A February, 1952.

Q Had you worked for any of the other Sheppards?

A Yes.

Q And for whom did you work?

A Dr. Richard and his wife, Sheppard.

Q That is Senior or the --

A No.

Q The brother of Dr. Sam?

A Yes.

Q And how often did you work?

A One day a week.

Q And how would you get out to the home, the Sheppard home?

A Greyhound Bus Line.

Q And at what time would you get there?

A About 8:15.

Q And was there any particular day of the week that you were to be there?

A Mostly Wednesday.

Q Once in a while Mrs. Sheppard would give you some other day and you would come down that day?

A Well, if I missed Wednesday, as a rule, she asked me to come in on a Saturday.

Q Now, do you recall a fire that occurred at the home?

A Yes, I do.

Q Was that about a year or so ago?

A Yes.

Q And after the fire, do you recall young Chip going to school?

A Yes, I do.

Q Now, when you would get there in the morning during the last year, let's take it, would the family be up when you would get there?

A Mrs. Sam and Chip would be up.

Q And was that true on all occasions?

A No. Once she was ill.

Q One day she was ill?

A Yes.

Q And can you tell us about when that was?

A April 28th, 19 -- of this year -- '54.

Q And what happened when you got there?

A Well, I went to the Lake front -- I mean the street door and knocked and banged and tried the knob, and the door was locked, I couldn't get in, so I went around to the den door and knocked and banged and no answer, so I went around to the French doors on the other side of the house, and that is when Dr. Sam heard me.

Q Then he came down from bed?

A Yes.

Q How was he dressed at the time?

A He had on trousers, and I don't think he had anything on from the waist up.

Q And he opened the door and let you in?

A Yes.

Q Mrs. Helms, do you recall one occasion last spring when there was some difficulty with the dog Koko?

A You mean as far as the --

Q Being in heat?

A Yes.

Q And leaving blood around?

A Yes.

Q Will you describe to the Judge and jury just what that was?

A Well, she became in heat, and, of course, she had the free run of the house, and she went and got in Mrs. Sam's bed and ruined the bed, in fact, both beds, the double bed and one of her twin bedspreads, and she had to soak them and

wash them out, and she had blood all over the stairway, all over the kitchen, all over the hall, everywhere, because she had the free run of the house. Also the garage, because we had to tie her out there between the house and the garage, and she used to come in the basement to see me when I'd be downstairs ironing.

Q So she caused a mess down there, too?

A Well, she was in heat, so it was -- everywhere she went during that time.

Q And can you place the time more specifically than we have had it thus far?

A Well, I will do the best I can. I can't exactly remember the date and the time.

Q Yes, I know.

A ✓ But it was during the time after she came back from California, I'd say around in April or the last part of April or somewhere around in that vicinity.

Q And after that had happened, did you have a job washing and cleaning?

A Well, I always washed the floor after I got through ironing, and I'd have to clean it up.

Q And what is the fact as to whether or not you cleaned it up, including the stairway?

A ✓ I washed the stairway down, the kitchen and the floor where it was noticeable, but not the rugs.

Q With the exception of the rugs, you washed it all up, is that correct?

A When I was there, yes.

Q And that was around April of this year?

A I'd say April or somewhere in that vicinity. I couldn't say definitely, but to my knowledge, it was around in April, somewhere in there.

Q Now, Mrs. Helms, after this tragedy that occurred -- by the way, before I get to that -- did you work on the Wednesday prior to July the 4th?

A No, I did not.

Q Did you call Mrs. Sheppard?

A Yes, I did.

Q And what occurred that prevented you from working?

A The Wednesday I was supposed to work, I called her Tuesday evening and explained to her I had to be a witness downtown, and I would try to be there another day if it was satisfactory with her. She asked me would I come in Saturday because she was having company for the 4th.

Q That would be Saturday, July the 3rd?

A Yes.

Q Did you get there Saturday, July the 3rd?

A No, I didn't.

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Q Did you call her?

A I did.

Q When?

A On Saturday morning around ten after ten, ten after or fifteen after ten. It was after ten.

Q And did you talk to her?

A Yes, I did.

Q And you gave her an explanation?

A I did.

Q You did not work that day?

A I didn't.

Q Now, coming to sometime after this tragedy that occurred in the home with respect to Marilyn Sheppard, did you go through the bedroom and examine all the objects to see if anything was missing?

A I did.

Q And who was with you at that time?

A Mr. Rossbach and Mr. Yetty.

Q Yettra?

A Yettra, and a Bay Village policeman was there.

Q Do you recall his name?

A I don't know his name.

Q And when was this, to your best recollection?

A I'd say approximately a week or two after the accident, somewhere in that vicinity.

Q And you went through all the drawers?

A No, I did not.

Q What did you do?

A I just went in the room and looked -- they asked me to look for the furnishings or pictures or anything of that nature. I wouldn't know what was in her drawers, anyway.

Q I see. You never went in her drawers?

A I never went in her drawers.

Q Well, you looked around there. You had been in that bedroom many times before, had you not?

A Yes, I did.

Q Did you notice anything at all missing, as far as the objects that you looked at?

A There was nothing missing.

MR. DANACEAU: You may inquire.

Just a moment.

By Mr. Danaceau:

Q Do you recall this trip that was made to California in the spring of this year by Dr. Sam Sheppard and Marilyn Sheppard?

A I do.

Q Now, before they made that trip, what bedroom did they occupy?

A The double bed.

Q In what room was that?

- A That was next to the garage. Oh, it had a little dressing room. Dr. Sam's dressing room was first, and then the bedroom was on the other side facing the street.
- Q And what was the room with the twin beds used for at that time?
- A To my knowledge, it was used for guests.
- Q When did Dr. Sam Sheppard and Marilyn Sheppard first begin to occupy the bedroom in which the twin beds were?
- A Oh, approximately a week or two after they came back.
- Q From where?
- A From California.

MR. DANACEAU:

You may inquire.

CROSS-EXAMINATION OF ELEANORA HELMS

By Mr. Garmone:

- Q Mrs. Helms, about how long were you in the employ of Marilyn and Sam?
- A Approximately two years and a half.
- Q And your work consisted of one day a week, is that right?
- A Yes.
- Q Now, were there times when you arrived at that home around 6:00 or 6:30 in the morning so that you could get away earlier?
- A It would be that of the bus time but not of our schedule.
- Q Well, would you get there sometimes earlier than 8:00?

A It might have been once or twice, as long as it was daylight.

Q And on those occasions you found the door open, didn't you?

A Yes. She called me or I would call her and she would tell me which door she would leave open.

Q And didn't she on many occasions or on occasions leave the door that faces the road open?

A That was left open once, I think, to my knowledge.

Q And didn't she on occasions leave the door that leads onto the front porch and into the living room open?

A No, that was never open.

Q Never open. Now, about what month was it that the dog was in heat?

A About what month?

Q Yes.

A I would say approximately April, around in April. I couldn't say definitely.

Q And she had free run of the house, didn't she?

A Yes, she did.

Q And didn't Marilyn and you join sometimes along with Chip in washing off the blood spots that she would drop around the house?

A Chip never helped.

Q Did Marilyn help?

A She would take a tissue and wipe it up, and when I would come up to wash I washed it up.

Q You washed it up?

A Yes.

Q Now, you said on direct examination that you would clean up after she had dropped these spots, is that right?

A That's true.

Q You would clean up those points where it was noticeable, is that right?

A That's true.

Q You wouldn't walk around the house looking for any blood, would you?

A No.

Q Now, what was the color of that carpet?

A Sort of a reddish-wine color.

Q And was there an occasion that Marilyn had stated to you, "Well, we won't bother with the rug because the blood blends in with the color of it"?

A Well, she didn't mention the color of it, and we just noticed that it blended in and we never bothered with it.

Q Never bothered with it?

A No.

Q Now, you testified before the Grand Jury, did you not?

A I did.

Q And there wasn't asked anything of you in the Grand Jury about the blood that was dropped by the dog, was there?

MR. DANACEAU:

Just a moment,

please. Objection.

MR. MAHON:

Objection.

THE COURT:

Objection sustained.

Q Now, Sam and Marilyn occupied the east room, the double bedroom, is that right?

A Yes.

Q That was prior to their going to California?

A Yes.

Q And when they returned from California, then they occupied the room that contained the twin beds?

A Yes.

Q Wasn't there said to you by Marilyn and Sam that they were changing rooms because Marilyn was pregnant?

A No. Mrs. Sam said to me that Dr. Sam had an awful bad cold when he came back and that he couldn't get rid of it, and that's the reason why they moved in there.

Q Moved into that room?

A Yes.

Q Now, was that the first time that room was occupied by Marilyn and Sam during your period of employment?

A As far as I know.

Q Now, during the period that room was occupied, Marilyn was visited by Mr. Houk, wasn't she?

A Yes, she was.

Q And that was a short time prior to the 4th day of July,

wasn't it, Mrs. Helms?

A That was the day she was ill in bed.

Q Well, wasn't it during the month of June?

A No. It was April.

Q April?

A Yes.

Q Now, how long had they been at home and occupying that room prior to that visit by Mayor Houk?

A I'd say maybe three weeks. I don't know. Four weeks.

Q And had Mayor Houk been there previous to that occasion that we have designated as being sometime in April?

A You mean to have coffee, or something like that, in the kitchen?

Q Yes. Had he been there?

A Oh, yes, he had been there and had coffee.

Q And on the occasions that Mayor Houk was there, Sam had already left for the hospital, hadn't he, most of the time?

A That, I couldn't say, but I do know he came and had coffeee, whether Dr. Sam was there or whether he wasn't.

Q Now, going back to the day in April that Marilyn was sick, she was upstairs in her bed?

A Yes.

Q Mayor Houk came in, didn't he? He came to the home that morning, didn't he?

A He did.

Q Sam had already left for the hospital, hadn't he?

A That's right.

Q And when Mayor Houk came in he didn't stop and talk with you, did he, Mrs. Helms?

A No, he didn't.

Q He went right upstairs to the bedroom, didn't he?

A Yes, he did. He spoke to Chip and went on upstairs.

Q Well, he didn't make any inquiries as to what room Marilyn was in of you, did he?

A He did not.

Q Now, after he went upstairs to the room, how long would you say he was in that room before you next saw him?

A I would say about a second or a half a second, or something like that.

Q Was there some conversation?

A I heard voices. It sounded like a conversation. It couldn't have been him answering himself, I don't know, but I did hear a low murmur, voice.

Q You heard a low voice?

A Yes, I did.

Q And then did Houk later come down from the room?

A He did.

Q And was there anything said on that occasion by the Mayor to you?

A No. He spoke to Chip.

Q What did he say to Chip?

A He says, "Chip, your mother is sleeping and tell your mother I'll see her later."

Q Now, when Mayor Houk came to the home, he had more or less free run of the home, didn't he?

A That, I couldn't say.

Q Well, were you there on occasions when he would go in and prepare breakfast?

A I never was there when he did that, no.

Q You never was there when he did that?

A No.

Q You were talked to by Officer Rossbach and Yettra, were you not?

A Yes, I was.

Q And during their inquiry of you after the 4th of July, did they ever inquire of you about the blood spots that you have testified before this jury this morning on?

A No. That came up later.

Q Came up later?

A Yes.

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Q Now, during the period of your employment you had the occasion to observe Sam and Marilyn together, did you not, around the house?

A Yes.

Q You never saw Sam mistreat Marilyn, did you, Mrs. Helms?

A No, I did not.

Q You have never seen him lose his temper in the home, have you?

A No.

Q And from your observations of Sam, he always displayed an even temper, isn't that a true statement?

A To my knowledge.

Q During the course of your observations, during the period of your employment, there was an atmosphere of affection between Marilyn and Sam, wasn't there, Mrs. Helms?

A Yes, there was quite a bit of affection. I do know -- see -- I wasn't around Dr. Sam as much as I was Mrs. Sheppard. See, Dr. Sam was always busy, and when I got there a lot of times he'd be sleeping. Next, he'd be on his cases.

Q But you did notice an atmosphere of affection between the two of them?

A Yes.

Q Now, when was it that Rossbach first took you to the home to make an observation of the bedroom?

A I'd say it was a week or two after the accident.

Q Had you had some conversation prior to that day with Rossbach?

A Yes. He came to my home.

Q And took a statement from you?

A No.

Q Didn't take a statement?

A No.

Q Did he ever take a statement from you?

A No, he never took a statement from me.

Q And was it after that conversation, then, that you were taken out to the Sheppard home and asked to look into the bedroom?

A After I was down here.

Q After you were down here?

A Yes.

Q Well, when you came down here, who were you interviewed by?

A Mr. Parrino.

Q Anyone else?

A Not that day, no.

Q Did they inquire from you when you came down here and you were interviewed by Mr. Parrino about the blood spots that you have just finished testifying to this jury about?

A The blood spots came up after it was in the paper.

Q After it was in the paper?

A I discovered it in the paper, and that is the reason why

the blood spots came up.

Q I see, but you never were asked about it, were you, prior to that time?

A No.

Q Now, when you went to the bedroom did you go inside?

A Yes.

Q And you made an observation, is that right, of the things that were in the room?

A The furnishings, yes.

Q And from the best of your recollection, you didn't notice anything missing?

A That is correct.

Q And isn't it a fact, Mrs. Helms, that that was the only room that you were asked to go into to make the observation that you have just described?

A Well, we walked through the house upstairs. We went in Chip's room.

Q What other room?

A The room that they used to sleep in, we went in there. I didn't go all the way into that room, though. I went in as far as the dressing room.

Q Well, then, after you had finished going in as far as the dressing room, were you taken away from the home?

A You mean as far as the outside into the garage?

Q No. Were you taken to the garage?

A Yes.

Q And you made an observation in the garage?

A We were looking for --

Q Well, did you make an observation in the garage?

A I didn't go downstairs. We went upstairs -- what I mean, we just passed through downstairs.

Q Passed through and went upstairs of the garage?

A Yes.

Q And were you asked on that occasion whether there was anything missing, to the best of your recollection?

A No. I wouldn't know what was missing up there.

Q You wouldn't know what was missing?

A No.

Q Mrs. Helms, you were never taken into the den of that home, were you?

A No. I went as far as the door.

Q Just as far as the door. And you were never asked by Rossbach or Yettra to determine whether there was anything missing from the den, were you?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Not to your knowledge. Now, these blood spots that you have described, Mrs. Helms, that was a frequent happening during the period that the dog was in heat, wasn't it?

A Oh, yes, for quite a while.

Q And the spots were up in Marilyn's room?

A Yes.

Q And that was the room that she occupied after she came back from California, is that right?

A The dog went not only into that one room. The dog went --

Q Well, there was spots in that room, was there not?

A There were spots in every room.

Q And there were spots in the room that has the little dressing room before you go into the bedroom?

A Yes.

Q And on that bed in the east room, were there considerable spots on the bed clothing?

A On the spread.

Q Now, you saw spots on the staircase leading from the upstairs down to the kitchen, did you not?

A Yes.

Q And you saw spots on the staircase that led from the upstairs into the living room, did you not?

A Yes.

Q And I believe you testified that you saw spots in the basement?

A Yes.

Q All over the basement?

3 A Well, as far as I was, I saw spots.

Q As far as you were. And some of those spots were on the stairs that lead down to the basement, weren't they?

A Oh, yes.

Q And wherever you noticed them, you washed them off, is that right?

A I didn't wash the basement, no.

Q You didn't wash the basement?

A No, I did not.

Q Now, Mrs. Helms, will you tell the Court and jury whether you observed any spots out on the porch leading to the front yard?

A Well, I never went out on that porch, only -- I was out on that porch three times the whole time I was there, and I couldn't say about the porch, but I can say about the rest of the house where I was. The dog had the free run of the house, and there was blood spots everywhere the dog went for the time that the dog was in heat.

Q In heat. And that would be all over the house?

A Yes.

Q Did you ever go out in the garage?

A Yes.

Q Did you see any of the spots in the garage?

A During the time that I was in the garage, the dog wasn't in heat then.

Q Now, during the time that you worked for Mrs. Sheppard

and Dr. Sam Sheppard the dog was in heat a number of times, was she not, Mrs. Helms?

A Twice.

Q Twice?

A Yes.

Q And the events that you describe that happened in April of 1954, they also happened on the other occasion when she was in heat, didn't they?

A Yes.

Q Now, there is a cement drive that leads into the garage entrance. To the best of your recollection, on either of the two occasions that the dog was in heat, did you see any blood that led into the garage?

A Well, I can recall the last time, because we had to tie the dog, so, therefore, that is the reason why I noticed it, because Mrs. Sam had to keep the dog tied between the -- on the tree by the garage, or either by the porch there where the flowers were.

Q And there was blood that led -- on the cement that was in the vicinity of the garage, is that right?

A Yes.

Q I have one more question, Mrs. Helms.

Now, were you interviewed by the police department in August of this year?

A I think I was.

Q And did that interview take place at your home, Mrs. Helms?

A Yes.

Q And on that occasion didn't you tell the police department about the blood incident relating to the dog that was in heat?

A I did.

Q Now, while you wiped away all the spots of blood that came within your view around the house, you never bothered about cleaning the rug, is that correct?

A No.

MR. GARMONE: That is all.

Thank you.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION OF ELNORA HELMS

By Mr. Danaceau:

Q Mrs. Helms, did you ever talk to any of these gentlemen who have been questioning you?

A Yes. I talked to Mr. Corrigan and Mr. Jerome.

MR. GARMONE: Garmone.

THE WITNESS: Garmone.

Q And you have told them all about these things that you have testified to today, haven't you?

A Yes.

Q The dog and the spots and everything else?

A I did.

Q And when was this?

A It was after it had been in the paper. I read about the blood stains they had found.

Q And where did this conversation with Mr. Corrigan and Mr. Garmone take place?

A I went down to Mr. Corrigan's office.

Q Who asked you to go down to Mr. Corrigan's office?

A I was telling my employer about it, and she asked would I mind telling Mr. Corrigan about it, because she were interested in finding out who hurt Mrs. Sam.

Q And who is your employer?

A At that time Mrs. Richard Sheppard was.

Q Mrs. Richard Sheppard asked you to go down and see Mr. Corrigan?

A Would I mind.

Q And did you?

A I did.

Q When you first started to work there -- by the way, how long has the dog Koko been there?

A With Doctor -- I mean with Mrs. --

Q With Mrs. Sheppard, yes.

A Ever since I was employed there.

Q It is a female dog, isn't it?

A Yes, it is.

Q ✓ And when you first started working there, what is the fact

as to whether it would bark at you when you came?

A Yes.

Q Did it always bark at you?

A No.

Q Or later on, after you got to know the dog and the dog got to know you, did it stop barking?

A It did, yes.

MR. DANACEAU: That is all.

RECROSS EXAMINATION OF ELNORA HELMS

By Mr. Garmone:

Q The dog was a friendly dog, wasn't she, Mrs. Helms?

A Yes, she was friendly.

Q Now, Mr. Danaceau has asked you a question about whether you had talked to me and Mr. Corrigan. You talked to me on the occasion that we met in Mr. Corrigan's office, is that right?

A Yes.

Q And didn't that meeting come as a result of an article that you had read in the paper?

A Yes.

Q About some blood spots being found all over the home?

A Yes.

Q And after you read that article, you called to Mrs. Richard N. Sheppard's attention the dog being in heat, is that right?

A Yes.

Q And she asked you whether you would go down to Mr. Corrigan's office and relate what you know about the dog being in heat?

A Yes.

Q And about where the dog had left his spots in the home of Marily and Sam, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And that article, you read about the blood spots having been washed away?

A Yes. Something similar that I can recall. The main thing that I noticed in the article was about them finding blood, and I happened to remember that the dog was in heat at the time, or just before the time, somewhere in that vicinity.

Q Up until that particular day had either Mr. Corrigan or myself ever talked to you about the subject of the blood that was found in and about the home?

A You hadn't talked to me at all.

Q Hadn't seen you, is that right?

A That's correct.

Q And it came about as a result of your conversation with Mrs. Richard N. Sheppard?

A That's right.

Q That was based on an article that you read in the newspaper about the blood in and around the home and having been washed

away?

A

Yes.

MR. GARMONE: Thank you very much, Mrs. Helms.

MR. DANACEAU: That is all. Thank you.

THE COURT: Could I have just one question?

You have referred to the washing of this blood. Do I understand that that was about somewhere near the month of April?

THE WITNESS: It was sometime in April, or the last of April.

THE COURT: It was always in that period of time, had nothing to do with the 4th of July or anywhere near it?

THE WITNESS: No --

THE COURT: You say --

MR. GARMONE: Just a minute. We object to the form of the question.

THE COURT: Yes. I think I shouldn't say --

MR. GARMONE: And I take exception to the manner in which the Court --

THE COURT: The Court will withdraw it.

MR. GARMONE: And will the Court

instruct the jury to disregard it?

THE COURT: Please let the
Court ask the lady a question, Mr. Garmone.

It was not anything that happened near
the 4th day of July one way or another?

THE WITNESS: No, because I
hadn't been there.

THE COURT: That is all. Thank
you.

(Witness excused.)

MR. GARMONE: May I call back
Mrs. Helms for one question, please, that just
came to my mind?

THE COURT: Yes, if she is
available.

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