

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

DIRECT EXAMINATION

By Mr. Parrino:

Q Will you state your name, please?

A Henry E. Dombrowski.

Q Where do you live, Henry?

A 2648 East 111th Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

Q You are a member of the Cleveland Police Department?

A Yes, sir.

Q How long have you been in the department?

A I have been in the department since July of 1942.

Q What are your specific duties at the present time?

A At the present time, I am assigned to the Scientific Identification Unit in the laboratory section, where you make examinations and comparisons of various evidence that is submitted by members of the Cleveland Police Department.

Q And how long have you been doing that particular work?

A Since May of 1946.

Q What training did you receive outside of high school,

Bureau for the performing of the work that you do?

A We have a chemistry bench equipped with various chemicals that might be needed for whatever analysis is required at the time. We have a number of microscopes. We have various other scientific instruments, such as the refractometer. We have analytical balances. We have the spectrograph, and various small chemical apparatus, scientific apparatus.

Q You have a fully-equipped laboratory?

A Yes.

Q Now, Officer Dombrowski, when did you first go to the home of Sam Sheppard?

A On July the 23rd, 1954.

Q And upon whose orders did you go there?

A Sergeant Lockwood requested that we come to the home.

Q And what time of the day was it that you went there for the first time?

A We arrived at the home at approximately about 9:15 a.m.

Q Was anyone with you?

A Yes. Detective --

Q Who was that?

A Detective Ruble and Detective Poelking.

Q And who is Detective Ruble?

A Detective Ruble is another one of the members of the laboratory, and Detective Poelking is assigned to the

Scientific Identification Unit, but is a member of the fingerprint unit section.

3 Q In other words, various persons in your bureau have specific duties, is that correct?

A That's right, sir.

Q Now, what, if anything, did you have with you when you went out there that day?

A At that particular time we had various vials and filler papers, an ultra-violet light, and chemical re-agents that we thought might be used at the scene.

Q Now, describe in a general way what you did there upon your arrival.

A First we were told exactly what the premises were, taken through the premises, shown around, and then we started to examine stairs and rooms for any trace of any evidence that might be used in connection with this crime.

Q And who showed you around?

A There was Sergeant O'Malley, and there was Detective O'Hara. There were about three or four other officers in the place at that time.

Q Then you made a tour of the home first, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And after you made a tour of the home, what did you next do?

A Then we got down -- we had portable spotlights with us, and we were using those spotlights in examining for the

room -- in examining the room and the stairway and the various portions of the home for any minute evidence that could have been overlooked that would be revealed with the greater illumination.

Q And would you describe these portable spotlights, please?

A Oh, they are about -- they are self-battery contained. They are about 15 inches long, about five inches square.

Q And what is the power that those spotlights provide?

A I couldn't give an exact wattage on the bulbs. They have two lights. They are a reflector beam light, that is a dim light, and a bright light.

Q In what way did you use those spotlights?

A We used those to illuminate exactly the spot that we were looking at so that we could see the minutest of particles in there, in the area that we were examining.

Q What part of the home did you examine first?

A The first thing, we took a general look around the room upstairs, that is, the room where the body was discovered.

Q Just generally?

A That's right.

Q And where did you go after that?

A After that we went down the stairway heading from the second floor down to the first floor.

Q And what did you do in the process of going in that way?

A We examined the stairs, that is, the treads and the risers, and there we noticed brown spots that had the appearance of blood.

Q And on how many steps did you see that appearance?

A We found that on a number of -- we found that on five of the ten treads that were in the stairway, and on a number of the risers. In other words, there were in all 26 drops of blood that were located on that stairway.

Q Were you using the flashlight when you made the -- the spotlight when you made this observation, sir?

A Yes, sir.

Q Now, how many steps are there leading from the second floor to the landing?

A To the landing, that is, there are 10 treads and 11 risers.

Q Now, after you made that examination of those stairs what, if anything, did you do when you got to the landing and the steps leading from the landing to the ground floor?

A We then went over to the kitchen side and examined the stairs that go from the landing into the kitchen.

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- Q And what did you find, if anything?
- A On that side we found that there were two treads and three risers, and there we found that there were no drops of blood located on the treads, that is, the two treads, and on all three risers we had located a total of 12 drops of blood, what appeared to be blood.
- Q Those are the three risers that lead to the landing, is that right?
- A That's right, sir.
- Q On the kitchen side?
- A Yes.
- Q Now, did you make an examination of the appearance of those steps and treads on the opposite side of those three steps?
- A Yes, we did.
- Q What, if anything, did you find?
- A On the living room side, we found that there were two drops on the edge of the first tread and there was one on the second riser.
- Q And how did you discover those spots?
- A We also used the spotlight to give us the illumination.
- Q Now, did you make an examination there of the living room at that time?
- A Yes. There was several -- there was a door that was checked in the living room and then there was the doorway leading

out to the north porch.

Q Now, on that occasion, or that day, did you make an examination of the floor in the living room for any similar spots that you had found on the stairway?

A On the carpeted floor?

Q Yes.

A There were several stain-like areas that were examined. However, there was nothing that was positive in there.

Q On that particular occasion?

A That's right, sir.

Q Now, into what other part of the house did you go on that first occasion?

A We went down into the basement.

Q And what did you find there, if anything?

A Well, we found -- on the stairway we found nine drops of what appeared to be blood on the basement stairs.

Q Where is that stairway located?

A That stairway is located directly beneath the stairway going to the second floor, and the door from the kitchen is at the northwest corner of the kitchen, the doorway leading down to the basement.

Q And how many stairs are there at that point?

A There are eight treads on that stairway, and the risers are not what you would call exactly a riser because it's a slanted thing with the portion under the tread above it

being open with just the back closed in by boards being nailed up straight across the angles of the treads, back end of the treads.

Q And will you describe what, if anything, you found on those basement stairs?

A We found the nine drops that appeared to be blood on the basement stairs.

Q Now, relative to those drops on the basement stairs, did you do anything?

A We ran a benzidine test on the drops on the basement stairs.

Q On what drops did you do that?

A We checked all of those drops with the benzidine test.

Q Now, will you please tell this jury what the benzidine test is?

A The benzidine test is a method of checking suspected spots that are suspected of being blood, whether they are blood -- could be blood or not. If the test is negative, it eliminates the possibility that the spot is blood. It is a quick, rapid means that can be checked right on the spot, to check whether a spot is blood or not.

Q In other words, if my understanding is correct, benzidine is a testing solution, is that correct?

A That's right. It's a reagent.

Q And did you have the benzidine with you on that occasion?

A Yes, we did.



Q And how do you carry that solution?

A We carried it in a glass-stoppered reagent bottle.

Q Now, you say that you made the benzidine test on those basement steps, is that correct?

A Yes, sir.

Q Now, will you describe to the jury generally how you made that test?

A We have cotton tipped applicators which we had with us at the time.

Q Describe what that looks like?

A It is a circular stick, oh, about a sixteenth or an eighth of an inch in diameter; they are six inches long, and the tip of it has a piece of cotton wrapped around it, just a little cotton tip. We would moisten this cotton tip into a saline solution, that is, a salt solution made up in the laboratory.

Q Now, you say you make up this saline solution yourself?

A Yes.

Q And a saline solution is a salt solution?

A Yes.

Q And you take this cotton tip and you immerse it into the saline solution first, do you?

A We use the technique of having a dropper in the saline solution and taking a drop of the saline solution and dropping it into the cotton tip. Then we would take this

cotton tip that is moistened and gently rub it over the edge, around the edge of the suspected spot. We would then take a drop of benzidine solution --

MR. CORRIGAN: Pardon me,  
Mr. Dombrowski. You used the word "we."  
Were there more than you doing this?

THE COURT: Yes.

THE WITNESS: Yes. There were  
three of us, Detective Ruble, Poelking and  
myself.

MR. CORRIGAN: Ruble, Poelking  
and yourself?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

Q And who was doing the applying?

A Well, Detective Ruble and I worked together on each and every one of those. In other words, I was there. One man might be holding the swab at this time, the other man might drop a drop.

Q I see. Continue.

A We would then drop the drop of benzidine solution on to the cotton tip. Then we would take and add a drop of hydrogen peroxide. If you get a positive reaction, you would instantly, within a second or two, get a blue-green color appearing on your swab. If it was negative, you would get no color, or it might appear a considerable time later.

Q Now, as you did this on these suspected spots, what happened exactly?

A We would instantly get this blue-green color.

Q And what would that mean?

A That the spot could be blood.

Q Now, would that benzidine test tell you whether that was human or anti-human blood?

A No, it wouldn't tell you whether it was animal or human blood.

Q So that from that particular test you come to a conclusion, in your opinion, whether or not it is blood or is not blood, is that correct?

A That's right, sir.

Q Now, had you ever performed that test before while a member of the Cleveland Police Department?

A Yes. That's quite a commonly used test that we use regularly, because it is rapid and the solutions are always on hand, and it eliminates going through intricate tests of spots that you could eliminate in a hurry if they were not blood.

Q I see. You have been doing that for a period of years, then, is that correct?

A That's right.

Q Now, as you did complete this test, to what color did these spots turn?

A That is, the spot on the cotton tip applicator --

Q Yes.

A -- would turn a blue-green color.

Q Blue-green?

A Yes.

Q What did that indicate to you, sir?

A That the spots could be blood.

Q And in how many instances did you have that finding on the basement steps?

A In nine instances.

Q Now, Detective Ruble, are there other substances that would react in the same way, in your experience?

A It is possible to encounter other substances that might give you that same reaction.

Q For instance?

A Well, there are some chemicals that might give the reaction. However, in the method that we --

MR. CORRIGAN: I object unless  
he used them.

THE COURT: Yes. Did you use  
them in this case?

THE WITNESS: No, sir.

THE COURT: It is not important  
here.

MR. PARRINO: All right, Judge.

Q Now, did you make that same test that day in other parts of the home?

A Not that particular day, no, sir.

Q Did you do anything else there relative to those spots in the basement that day?

A Yes. There was a spot, one of the larger and what looked to be heavier spot --

Q And where was that spot located?

A That spot was located on the third tread from the bottom on the basement stairs.

Q Now, were there some pictures taken there that day, Officer Dombrowski?

A Yes, sir, there were.

Q And by whom were those pictures taken?

A Detective Poelking.

Q You say he is a member of the same unit that you are?

A Yes, sir.

MR. PARRINO:

Will you mark

this, please?

(State's Exhibit 60, being a photograph, was marked for identification.)

Q Showing you what is marked for identification as State's Exhibit 60, do you recognize that scene, sir?

A Yes, I do.

Q And what does that represent?

- A The basement stairs that I was just talking about.
- Q And does that picture fairly represent the scene as it appeared to you that morning?
- A Yes, it does.
- Q I see certain circles on these steps. What does that represent, sir?
- A Those circles represent the areas that were tested with the benzidine solution.
- Q And who put those circles on the steps?
- A They were put there by me or Detective Ruble in my presence. We were both working together at that time.
- Q What substance did you use to make those circles?
- A Just ordinary chalk.
- Q Now, how many spots did you say there were on those basement stairs, suspected blood spots, that is?
- A Nine.
- Q And are all those nine shown in this picture?
- A No, not all nine are shown in this picture.
- Q How many are?
- A Seven are shown, and there is one that is not circled, but it shows as a white spot here on the third step, which is the spot from which we had removed a sample of the suspected spot.
- Q And was there another spot other than that somewhere?
- A Yes. There's another spot somewhere here. The shot of

the picture, the angle, doesn't show it most likely.

Q Now, does this picture show, referring to State's Exhibit No. 60, show the spot that you have described a moment ago as the larger area of what appeared to be blood?

A Yes, it does.

Q And on what step is that, please?

A That is on the third step from the bottom.

MR. PARRINO: I wish to offer  
State's Exhibit No. 60 at this time, your  
Honor.

MR. GARMONE: No objection.

THE COURT: It will be received.

(State's Exhibit 60 was  
received in evidence.)

MR. PARRINO: Will you step  
down here just a second, officer?

(Witness leaves witness stand.)

MR. CORRIGAN: Running from the  
top, is that step number six?

THE WITNESS: The sixth from  
the top, yes, sir.

MR. CORRIGAN: The sixth from  
the top?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

MR. PARRINO: Take the back of  
this pencil, please, and show the jury the spot

that you are referring to.

THE WITNESS:                      The white spot  
appearing here near the edge, like a square  
spot below the two white circles.

MR. PARRINO:                      Just point to it,  
without speaking, down at this end, please.

(Witness complies with request.)

MR. PARRINO:                      May I show this  
to the jury at this time, your Honor?

THE COURT:                        Yes.

(State's Exhibit 60 passed among the jury.)

Q            Now, you say you did something relative to the spot that  
you found on the third stair from the bottom?

A            Yes, sir.

Q            And what did you do?

A            We took a clean knife blade and cut out the piece of wood  
on which the blood spot was located, suspected blood spot  
was located.

Q            And what did you do with that piece of wood then?

A            That was carefully put into a vial and then taken to the  
police laboratory.

Q            And by whom was it taken there?

A            Taken by myself.

Q            And what did you do with it when you got to the police  
laboratory?



A We entered it onto the books, record books, and then later on made a further examination of that spot.

Q Of that spot on the wood?

A That's right, sir.

Q And when did you make that further examination?

A That was made some time after August 11th.

Q Where did you make that examination?

A In the police laboratory.

Q What examination did you make?

A I made a precipitant test on that to determine --

Q Now, just a moment, please. You say you made a precipitant test?

A Yes.

Q Now, will you generally state to the jury what you mean by a precipitant test?

A It is possible to get a prepared extract of a serum that is specific for human blood or any particular type of animal blood. The particular precipitant that we had in the laboratory was specific for human blood.

Q Now, will you tell the jury what the purpose is of making a precipitant test?

A It is to determine whether the blood is human or not.

Q And did you make such a test?

A That's right, sir.

Q Now, how did you make that test?

A I made an extract of that stain in a physiological normal saline solution.

Q And how did you do that?

A I added a few cc's of saline solution to a test tube into which I dropped this wood including the suspected spot.

Q Now, how large was this piece of wood that you took out of the stair, about?

A It was approximately three-eighths of an inch square.

Q And what did you place into the tube first, the saline solution or the wood with the suspected spot on it?

A The piece of wood with the suspected spot.

MR. CORRIGAN: Will you pardon me? I didn't get the size of the piece of wood.

THE COURT: Three-eighths of an inch.

MR. PARRINO: Three-eighths of an inch.

MR. MAHON: Three-eighths of an inch square.

Q When you say three-eighths of an inch, you mean three-eighths in each direction?

A That's right, yes, sir.

Q You placed the wood into the tube, then the saline solution into the tube, is that correct?

A Yes, sir.

- Q Then what did you do?
- A I then let that soak for two days, keeping the rack with the test tube with the solution in it in the refrigerator.
- Q And was the tube open or closed?
- A No, it was covered.
- Q It was covered?
- A Yes.
- Q With what did you cover the tube?
- A I covered it with a glass beaker or a small beaker.
- Q And you say you placed all of that into a refrigerator?
- A Yes, sir.
- Q You have those facilities in your department, do you?
- A Yes, sir.
- Q And after two days you did something else, is that correct?
- A Yes, sir.
- Q What did you do?
- A I then took the precipitant, dried serum, the anti-human precipitant serum, broke the vial -- it's in a sealed vial.
- Q Will you tell the jury what anti-human serum is and where did you get it?
- A The particular serum that we used was obtained just several months before this test was made from the Highland Laboratories, Los Angeles. It was bought there through the City Purchasing Department. And it has an expiration date on it of March 8, 1959.

- Q And on what day was it that you were making this specific test?
- A It was approximately about the middle of August.
- Q Now, what did you do with this anti-human serum?
- A I broke the vial -- also with the packet we get a vial containing distilled water -- I broke that vial and dissolved the serum into the distilled water that is supplied with the serum for that purpose, made a solution of the serum.
- Q Yes.
- A I then took -- after the serum went completely in the solution, I took two-tenths of a cc of the serum and placed that into a test tube, a small centrifuge type tube.
- Q Now, you say you took two-tenths of a cc of this solution that you had prepared with the anti-human serum, is that correct?
- A That's right, sir.
- Q And you took that and you placed it where?
- A And ran it into the bottom of the test tube.
- Q What test tube do you refer to?
- A A clean fresh test tube that had been cleaned. There was nothing else in there.
- Q All right.
- A I did that with several other test tubes. In other words, there was five test tubes in all that I put that serum in.
- Q Then what did you do?

- A Then I took out the solution of the suspected blood spot from the refrigerator and pipetted off the clear portion from the top of that solution.
- Q What do you mean by that?
- A I have a very fine capillary pipette that we insert into the liquid, the tip of it into the liquid, and then draw out the solution from the test tube.
- Q This was the test tube into which you had placed the wood?
- A That's right, the suspected spot.
- Q All right. Then what happened?
- A Then I added that to the top, gently flowed it over the serum, the test tube that contained the serum, the anti-human serum.
- Q First you placed this anti-human serum into a test tube?
- A Yes.
- Q Then you took some of this other solution that was in the tube with the wood in it, is that correct?
- A That's right, sir.
- Q And you slowly placed this second solution into the anti-human solution, is that correct?
- A That's right, sir.
- Q And what, if anything, occurred?
- A I gently flowed it on top so it would not mix but the two liquids would form sort of a line in between.
- Q Yes.

A And then I observed the test tube and noticed that in about five minutes there started to appear a white line in between the junction of the two liquids in that test tube.

Q Now, when you say this white line appeared in between the junction of the two liquids, exactly what do you mean by that?

A I mean that the lower portion was the serum that was put in and the upper portion was the liquid from the test tube that was gently flowed on to that, just so that it wouldn't mix but just join together, one would be laying on top of the other. The serum being a heavier liquid, it would be at the bottom.

Now, we observed that after five minutes there would form what we call a precipitate, or precipitant, and this was observed by a white cloudy line appearing at that spot.

Q Now, had you performed that test before, sir?

A Yes, I have.

Q And what did that precipitant reveal to you?

A Well, it revealed that the blood -- that the liquid that I had added to the top of this serum contained human blood.

MR. PARRINO: I think I can  
adjourn, your Honor.

MR. DANACEAU: If the Court  
please, we have a witness that we intended  
to have this afternoon. He has just arrived,