

Tuesday Morning Session, 9:15 a.m., November 8, 1966

THE COURT: Good morning, ladies
and gentlemen.

THE JURY: Good morning.

THE COURT: Counselor Corrigan
or Spellacy?

MR. CORRIGAN: The State will call
Lieutenant Poelking.

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THEREUPON, the State of Ohio, further
to maintain the issues on its part to be main-
tained, called as a witness LT. JEROME POELKING,
who, having been first duly sworn, was examined
and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION OF LT. JEROME POELKING

By Mr. Corrigan:

Q Will you state your name, please?

A Jerome, J-e-r-o-m-e, Poelking, P-o-e-l-k-i-n-g.

Q Where do you live, sir?

A 1339 Brainard Road, Lyndhurst, Ohio.

Q What is your occupation or profession?

A I am a lieutenant in the Cleveland Police Department.

Q How long have you been a member of the Cleveland
Police Department?

A 24 years.

Q With what unit are you attached or associated in the Cleveland Police Department?

A The Scientific Unit.

Q How long have you been with the Scientific Unit?

A Eighteen years.

Q Calling your attention to July of 1954, were you then connected with the Scientific Unit of the Cleveland Police Department?

A Yes, sir, I was.

Q What were your specific duties in 1954 in connection with that unit?

A Crime scene investigation, fingerprint work.

Q Did you have occasion, sir -- withdraw that. Prior to becoming a member of the Scientific Identification Unit, did you have any special training, Lieutenant?

A Yes, sir. I was trained in the Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint course.

Q How long a period was that training?

A That was a 40-hour course.

Q And did you have any other training?

A No, just working in the units.

Q In 1954 how long had you been with the unit?

A Approximately six years.

Q Did you have occasion in July of 1954 to participate

in the investigation in connection with the matter here now on trial?

A Yes, I did.

Q When did you first participate in that investigation?

A July 23, 1954.

Q Now, sir, is there a man connected with your unit, or was there a man in 1954 by the name of Detective Grabowski?

A Yes, there was.

Q Now in connection with the matter here at hand, did Detective Grabowski have occasion to give you anything?

A Yes, he did.

Q Will you tell the Court and jury what he gave you?

A He gave me a photograph of a latent palm print that was taken from a desk in the living room.

Q What if anything did you do with that photograph of that latent palm print?

A I made a comparison with the palm prints of various individuals, one of which was Chip Sheppard and I found that it was identical with Chip Sheppard's palm print.

Q You say you made a comparison; had you at a prior date obtained a print of the palm of Chip Sheppard?

A MR. BAILLY: We will stipulate that it was Chip Sheppard's palm print.

A Yes.

Q Now, you testified that you went to the Sheppard

residence on the 23rd of July, is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q With whom did you go to the Sheppard premises at that time?

A Detective Dombrowski and Detective Roubal.

Q What if anything did you and Detective Dombrowski and Detective Roubal do at the Sheppard premises?

A Well, I made several photographs; and Detective Dombrowski made a search of the area for anything that could possibly be used in the solution of this case.

My primary duty was to take photographs and examine the premises for fingerprints.

MR. CORRIGAN: Mark these, please.

(State's Exhibits 52, 53, and 54 were marked for identification by the reporter.)

Q Handing you, sir, what has been marked for purposes of identification as State's Exhibit 52, can you identify that?

A Yes, sir, I can.

Q And what is that?

A This is a picture looking from the platform where there was a little bathing house, and looking down to the beach area, and it is a wooden platform with steps leading down to the beach area.

Q What beach area?

A In the rear of the Sheppard residence.

Q Did you take that picture, sir?

A Yes, I did.

Q Is that picture a fair and accurate representation of what you observed on that occasion?

A Yes, it is.

Q What is the date and the time that that picture was taken?

A This was taken on the 23rd. I don't know the exact time.

Q The 23rd of July?

A The 23rd of July.

Q Of what year?

A 1954.

Q Now, sir, handing you what has been marked for purposes of identification as State's Exhibit 54, can you identify that, sir?

A Yes, I can.

Q Will you tell the Court and jury what that is?

A This is a photograph of the stairway leading down to the beach house, I guess you would call it, and then from the beach house it leads down into the beach area.

This was taken behind the Sheppard residence.

Q And was that taken by you, sir?

A Yes, sir, it was.

Q Is that a fair and accurate representation of what you saw on the occasion that you took that picture?

A Yes, it is.

Q What date was that picture taken?

A This was taken on July 23, 1954, also.

Q Did you, sir, have occasion to do anything with regard to the bedroom and the upper portion of the Sheppard home, the bedroom immediately at the head of the stairs going up?

A Yes, I did.

Q Will you in more detail describe that room?

A I examined the room for fingerprints and the objects in the room.

Q Describe the specific room that you have reference to?

A This was right at the top of the stairs. It would be a continuation, as you got to the top of the stairs, you went straight ahead, the bedroom.

Q What was the furnishings in that room, as you can recall?

A Oh, there were two single beds. There was a rocking chair on the righthand side of the room; and there was some clothing on it.

And there was a stand in between the two beds, and a telephone and a pad, and a little clock was on the stand.

There was a bureau over to the left of the room, and there was a picture on it, and that's about it.

Q Will you describe the two beds that you observed?

A The two beds, well, as you walked into the room, the entrance-way into the room, the beds were to the left, and the bed immediately to the left was the bed on which the victim was found.

Q What type of beds were they?

A They were single beds. They had headboards on them; I imagine you call them colonial style beds.

They had four posters.

Q What did you do if anything with regard to that room?

A I examined it for fingerprints, and I examined the headboards and the beds themselves, and the side walls, and I was able to obtain one fingerprint from the headboard of the victim's bed.

Q And will you tell the Court and jury what method you used in examining for fingerprints?

A I used powder and a camel hair brush, and I used a white powder first on the headboards so that I would have contrast. It was a dark colored headboard.

And after I developed the print and took a photograph of it, and then for the purposes of lifting the print I then proceeded to use a dark powder over it, so that I would have contrast when I used it in placing it on my identification card, which is a white color.

Q Now, sir, having you what has been marked for purposes

of identification as State's Exhibit 53, can you identify that, sir?

A Yes, this is a headboard of the victim's bed, and it indicates a fingerprint at the top of the bed, and this is the fingerprint that I just discussed.

Q Is that State's Exhibit, sir, a fair and accurate portrayal of what you observed there on that day?

A Yes, it is.

Q And that picture was taken on what date?

A The 23rd.

Q Now, you testified that that headboard, or on the headboard depicted in that picture you found a fingerprint, is that right?

A Yes.

Q Were you able to determine what finger of the hand that headboard related to?

A Yes, after I made my comparisons.

Q What finger of the hand?

A The left thumb.

Q Will you point out on the photograph where on the headboard you determined that left thumb to be?

A Right there.

Q Is that the face of the headboard?

A Yes, it is. Here is the mattress here. I would say it is the face because the wall is behind it.

Q For the record would it be fair to say that that is approximately in the middle of the top of the face of the headboard?

A No, it is more to this side.

Q More to the left?

A Well, to the left as we are looking at it, yes.

Q Did you have occasion, sir, to take the fingerprints of the defendant Doctor Sam Sheppard?

A No, I did not take his fingerprints. I compared his fingerprints.

Q Did someone in your unit take his fingerprints?

A Yes, they did, Detective Roubal.

Q You made a comparison between his fingerprints and the fingerprint you found on the headboard?

A Yes, I did.

Q What if anything were your findings?

A I found that the fingerprint found on the headboard was identical with Doctor Sam Sheppard's left thumb print.

MR. BAILEY: We will stipulate that.

MR. CORRIGAN: At this time, your Honor, I would like to offer into evidence State's Exhibits 52, 53, and 54.

MR. BAILEY: No objection.

THE COURT: They may be received.

Q Now, sir, calling your attention to the staircase

leading from the lower portion of the house to the upper portion of the house, did you have occasion to conduct an investigation in and around and about that staircase?

A Yes, I did.

Q Do you recall whether or not there was any banister along that staircase leading upstairs?

A Yes, there is.

Q What if anything did you do with regard to that banister?

A I examined it for fingerprints.

Q What if anything did you find on that banister?

A I found no legible prints of value.

Q You indicated that Detective Roubal and Detective Dombrowski and yourself participated in this investigation on the 23rd, is that correct?

A Yes, sir.

Q Will you tell us specifically what you did as a team aside and apart from what you already testified to?

A Well, we examined the staircase, and, of course, the room, for blood, things of that nature, and after they determined the various substances that they found were blood, they had me photograph these areas for them.

Q Now, what did you as a team do with regard to photographing these areas?

A Well, at night they used a process, a luminol process,

which when sprayed on blood it flouresces, the blood will flouresce.

After they discovered the various spots on the rugs and other areas around there, they would then have me photograph the area, and then they would indicate where these spots were.

Q What if anything did they do so as to mark or indicate where the spots were?

A They circled them with chalk.

Q And then a picture was taken of the circled area?

A Yes.

Q -- with the chalk?

A Yes.

Q Do you know, sir, whether or not any of the spots that appeared to be blood were lifted?

A I couldn't tell you that. As far as lifting, no, I don't think so. I'm not sure.

Q At any rate, you didn't do it?

A No, I did not do it. If it was done, they did it.

MR. CORRIGAN: No further questions
of this witness.

THE COURT: Counselor Bailey or
Sherman?

CROSS EXAMINATION OF LT. JEROME POELKING

By Mr. Bailey:

Q Lieutenant, when you found a thumb print near the top of the headboard, almost at the top of the headboard, did you make tests of the upper rim of the back of the headboard to see if the fingerprints were --

A Yes, I did.

Q Did you find any?

A There were some smudges back there. There were a few ridges, but not enough to make a positive identification. There were points in there that did match up with some of the points of Doctor Sheppard's other finger, left index finger.

Q The findings as to the top or back were consistent with the notion that he might have had his hand on the top?

A Definitely, yes.

Q Do you have any way of knowing when that print was put there?

A No.

Q How long will a fingerprint continue to be traceable on a surface such as you found?

A Oh, that is a matter of opinion.

Q I am asking your opinion.

A It could stay there for a day, it could be there for

two days, it could be there for a month, it could be there--
I have experimented with some prints and found them there
after three and four weeks.

Q And you were there on July 23rd?

A Right.

Q Now, Lieutenant, if you were assigned the duty of
attempting to find any latent fingerprints which this watch
might now contain, what would be the best method for dis-
charging that duty?

A Well, there is nothing contaminating on this watch?

Q No, I am sure it contains my prints.

A I would use the powder.

Q That is the best method?

A I would say so, yes.

MR. BAILEY: No further questions.

THE COURT: Counselor Corrigan
or Spellacy?

MR. CORRIGAN: No further questions,
your Honor.

THE COURT: You are excused,
Lieutenant.

Counselor Corrigan or Spellacy?

MR. SPELLACY: Sergeant Henry
Dombrowski.