

BY WITNESS:

I do.

BY THE COURT:

Young lady, I'm going to ask you -- you see, that's a microphone in front of you. And, that will not amplify your voice. It's just to record it. And, it's very important that the jurors hear what you have to say. So, I'll ask you to speak loudly; and don't just shake your head when you answer a question, because this machine records sound, only. You understand? And, there would be nothing on the record to indicate, later on, when the stenographer types that, which way you shook your head. The jury can see, and I can see, but sometimes we have to write this out later, and it may be a girl who didn't see you shake your head, who have to type this out, you understand?

BY WITNESS:

Yes, sir.

BY THE COURT:

So, take your time. If you want to rest any time, we'll rest. Don't be afraid. Just answer the questions. Mrs. Knoll will ask you some questions first, and Mr. Brouillette next.

KAREN SANDERS, who, after first being duly sworn, testified under oath, under direct examination, at the instance of and by counsel, Mrs. Jeanette T. Knoll, which testimony is as follows:

BY MRS. KNOLL:

State your full name and address to the court, please.

A. Karen Sanders.

Q. Where do you live, Karen?

A. Alexandria.

Q. And, how old are you?

A. 14.

Q. And, howmuch do you weigh?

A. 102.

Q. And, do you -- have you family or relatives that live in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Do you have grandparents?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, who's that?

A. Mr. and Mrs. Eric Sherman.

Q. Do you have an Aunt that lives here?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And what relation is she to your mother, if any?

A. Sister.

Q. And, do you have some cousins that are children of your Aunt's?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, is one of 'em Keith Laborde?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Are you and Keith and Sharon close?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Do you have a sister?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Is she an identical twin sister?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, what is her name?

A. Sharon Sanders.

Q. And, on May -- do you know whether or not Keith -- on May 9th, 1977

if Keith was married at that time?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, where was his wife on May 9, 1977?

A. She was in the Hospital.

Q. Do you know why she was in the hospital?

A. Yes, Ma'm. She's real diabetic and she was pregnant; she was having trouble with her pregnancy. And, so, they would put her in the hospital off and on.

Q. Okay. On May 9, 1977, where were you sleeping?

A. At my grandmother's house.

Q. Who is that?

A. Mr. and Mrs. Eric Sherman.

Q. And, where was her home located on that date?

A. Brouillette, down Brouillette.

Q. That's near Marksville, is that correct?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Is that in Avoyelles Parish?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, on May 9, 1977, did you see Keith between the hours of six and seven o'clock P.M.?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Were you with your sister?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, did Keith ask any favors of you during that period of time?

A. Yes, Ma'm. He asked to go clean his house, because his wife was coming home the next day. And, he wanted his house to be clean when she came home.

Q. And, where was his marital home located?

A. Fifth Ward.

Q. Did y'all do -- did y'all go to his house to clean it?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. What was some of the things that y'all did, Karen, to clean his house?

A. Well, we mowed the grass, and washed some clothes, and hung them out on the line. We washed a couple of dishes, and we just fixed the beds, and straightened up the house, and everything.

Q. Now, what time -- did Karen go with you?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Did Keith go with you?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. How did you get from your grandparents to Keith's home?

A. Keith brought us.

Q. How?

A. In his car.

Q. Do you know what kind of car he has?

A. Yes, Ma'm. It's a Malibu; 1968 Malibu.

Q. And, what color is it?

A. The top is white, and the bottom is blue.

Q. How many doors does it have?

A. Four.

Q. And, do you recall about what time it was that y'all finished cleaning his house?

A. Yes, Ma'm, it was about -- it was around nine o'clock.

Q. In the morning, or night?

A. Night.

Q. And, after y'all finished cleaning it, what did y'all do?

- A. Allright, we were going back to my grandmother's house, and Keith was -- didn't have enough gas, you know, in his car, to make it back to work the next morning. And, so we were going to stop at a station -- you know, a filling station, and get some gas for his car.
- Q. Allright, do you know where he stopped?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. Where is that?
- A. 7-11.
- Q. What kind of gas pumps do they have at the 7-11?
- A. Self-service.
- Q. And, where is that 7-11 located?
- A. On Tunica Drive.
- Q. In what town?
- A. Marksville.
- Q. And, did he pull up to the gas pumps?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. Did he bring the car to a stop at the gas pumps?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. Did he almost hit anybody when he pulled up to the gas pumps?
- A. No, Ma'm.
- Q. Allright, did anything unusual happen after he stopped at the gas pumps?
- A. Yes, Ma'm. There was this black guy standing at the corner, and we pulled up, and when we got out of the car, he was just staring, you know, at us. And, so, Keith walked over to the back, to put the gas in the car. And, he was just sitting there, and he was staring. And, so, Keith walked over there and asked, you know,

what's happening?

BY THE COURT:

Talk a little bit louder. I see one of those jurors is having trouble. Talk a little bit louder so we can hear you. Go ahead.

Q. Karen, do you recognize the person that was standing at the corner in the courtroom today?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. What color shirt is he wearing?

A. He's wearing a brown and white shirt.

Q. Is he sitting next to Mr. Harold Brouillette's left?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, what happened? Can you continue, please?

A. Well, Keith walked over there to the car, and asked him what was happening, and he says, you. And, Keith says, what do you mean, me? And, he says, you almost hit me with your car. And, Keith says, no, I didn't, you know. You were at the corner, you know, and the gas pumps are over there. I didn't almost hit you, with my car, you know, I couldn't possibly, you know. And, so, Keith says -- you know, he kept staring and everything. And, Keith says, Look, if you want to fight, we'll fight. But, I don't want to fight, you know, I don't feel like fighting. And, he says, I don't fight, I shoot. And, then he put out his hand to shake Keith's hand. So, Keith shook his hand with him.

Q. Allright, after that conversation, what did Keith do?

A. Well, he went to the pumps, and put the gas in the car... went over there to put gas in the car.

Q. Did you hear him ask if -- Keith's name?

- A. No, Ma'm, I had went into the store to pay for the gas.
- Q. Did you hear what name Keith was calling the defendant? /
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. What name was that?
- A. Simmons.
- Q. Did he ask Keith any other questions?
- A. He asked Keith if me and Shaon were twins, and Keith said yes. And, asked him if his -- let's see. I don't remember.
- Q. Allright. Did he ask Keith to take him any where?
- A. First, he asked us if he -- if we wanted to go to a party. And, we told him we didn't want to go to a party; that we had to be getting back to my grandparents' house, cause they'd be worried about us. Then, he asked if we'd take him home.
- Q. And, what did Keith say?
- A. He said he would.
- Q. What happened after that, Karen?
- A. Well, so, we got in the car, you know, Keith got on the driver's side, and I was sitting next to Keith, and my sister was getting in the car, and had gotten in the back seat. And, he asked my sister if she wanted to sit on the back seat with him. And, she said no, she'd ride up front with us. And, so, she got in the front and -- with us, and so, we were going down the road, and you know, tell us where to turn, and everything.
- Q. Who was giving the directions?
- A. He was.
- Q. Who is he?
- A. The black man.
- Q. Okay, and do you know what road he turned, he finally told Keith

to turn down?

A. Uh, no Ma'm.

Q. Alright, did you know when the car came to a stop?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. What happened at that stop, Karen?

A. Well, Keith pulled into this little place, you know, just kind of like a driveway, like, you know, it had a barn, like, and a gate, and he stopped and then started saying stuff, like, I'm a man, you're a man, and these are two young ladies. And, Keith started, you know, begging him to leave us alone, and not hurt us. And, Keith started getting scared. And, Sharon had started crying by then, and I was nervous, but I wasn't crying. I was trying to calm Sharon down. She was going into hysterics. And, Keith was trying to, you know, beg him to please leave us alone. That he had a wife and a baby, and not to hurt us, and, not to hurt him, and just to please leave us alone, and let us go.

Q. What did the defendant tell him?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Well, alright, was there any conversation about car keys, at that stop?

A. Yes. He took the car keys -- when Keith had stopped the car, -- well, he made Keith stop the car, and he took the keys from Keith.

Q. What was going through your mind at that time, Karen?

A. I was scared. My mind was kind of blank. I didn't know what to think. I was scared.

Q. Did the car leave that area?

A. Yes, Ma'm. He told -- alright, we went down -- he told us to go

Didn't  
have  
baby  
before





down, -- the black man told us to go down, you know, further down the road.

Q. Were you telling Keith anything?

A. Yes, Ma'm, I was telling Keith not to go.

Q. And, what happened?

A. And, Keith went anyway. And, he went anyway, and then...

Q. Talk louder.

A. Okay, I'm sorry. He went anyway, and he made Keith pull off at this other little road, and ...

Q. Alright, when the car pulled off, was it parallel or perpendicular to the road? Was it -- do you know what parallel is, Karen?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Was it parked parallel to the road, or was it parked...

A. Yes Ma'm, it was parked parallel to the road.

Q. Or parked away from the road?

A. It was parked parallel to the road.

Q. Was it facing anything?

A. Yes, Ma'm, it was facing a little river, or lake, or something. I don't remember what it was. It had water, though.

Q. Alright, Karen, were y'all on the road, or were you pulled off of the road?

A. We had pulled off the road.

Q. Where was the engine of the car pointing?

A. Toward the lake.

Q. Alright, at this stop, what happened?

A. He told Keith to get out -- well, first he took the keys from Keith, and he told Keith to get out of the car. And, so, Keith got out of the car, and he told us to undress.

Q. Alright, what did you do when he was doing this, making Keith get out of the car, and telling you little girls to undress?

A. Well, I opened the door like I was going to run, and ...

Q. Alright, was Keith in the trunk already? When you did that?

A. He was putting Keith in the trunk.

Q. Was there any conversation from the defendant when he was putting Keith in the trunk, and you girls in the car?

A. Yes, Ma'm, he said that before we could get the gun out of -- you know, if we had a gun -- before we could get it out of the glove compartment, that he could shoot us both before we could even get the gun out of the glove compartment.

Q. Did you believe him?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, what did he do with Keith?

A. He put Keith in the trunk.

Q. Did you have a gun in the glove compartment?

A. No, Ma'm.

Q. After the -- after he put Keith in the trunk, and said this about the gun in the glove compartment, what did you do?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Alright, did he come upto the car again?

A. Yes, Ma'm. He came up to the car again, and he told me to get in the back seat. And, so I had gotten in the back seat. And, so, he told us to undress, and that's when I tried opening the door, like I was going to run, and he told me that I'd be stupid to run, because he could kill me before I even got two feet away.

- Q. Did you believe him?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. What did you do when he said that?
- A. You know, I didn't run. I stayed. You know, I didn't try to run.
- Q. What happened after that, Karen?
- A. He told -- she -- I see this one is going to give me some trouble, so he put me in the trunk with Keith.
- Q. Alright, when you got in the trunk, what emotional state were you in, Karen?
- A. Well, I was shaking; I couldn't talk, and Keith, you know, was trying to calm me down; he kept telling me to pray to God that we were going to come out alive, and all. I was just going into hysterics, and Keith...
- Q. Did you have any thoughts about your sister?
- A. Yes, Ma'm, that's what got it right there. Cause I knew she was going to be raped. And, I knew there wasn't nothing I could do about it. You know, it just hurt me that I couldn't do nothing about it.
- Q. Were you praying?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. And, did he close the trunk after he put you in there with Keith?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. Could you get out of the trunk?
- A. No, Ma'm.
- Q. Were you having any difficulty breathing and -- in the trunk?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. What was Keith telling you about that?

- A. He was telling me to take small breaths and to just keep praying to GOD that we was going to come out of it alive.
- Q. Allright, could you hear anything from the defendant and your sister, after you was locked up in the trunk?
- A. The only thing I could hear was Sharon crying and begging him to leave us alone. She couldn't breathe and that it hurts.
- Q. Was this repeated sounds, or -- that you've heard of that, what you've just said?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. Did you hear that more than once?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. After -- what happened after you heard these sounds from your sister?
- A. What do you mean, what happened after...
- Q. Well, did she -- was she placed in the trunk again, or what happened?
- A. Yes, Ma'm. He opened the trunk, after he was through raping her, he put her in the trunk with me and Keith.
- Q. Were all three of you/<sup>in</sup>there at the same time?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. Did he close it?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. Could you get out of it?
- A. No, Ma'm.
- Q. Were y'all having a difficult time with all three of y'all in the trunk?
- A. Yes, Ma'm. Then, the dust was coming in through the trunk.
- Q. Was the car in moving motion?

A. Yes, Ma'm. After he closed the trunk, you know, we were going down this dirt road, and we were having a hard time breathing, cause Keith has a small trunk, and we were having a hard time breathing, with all the dust coming in the trunk.

Q. What emotional state were you in, Karen?

A. I was upset and everything. And, Sharon, especially, was upset. She was crying, and trying to calm her down. I was scared to death. I didn't know what was going to happen next. I thought he was going to kill us. And, I was scared; and Sharon was scared, and Keith was scared, but mostly all we did was mostly pray.

Q. Alright, did the car come to a stop?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. What happened when the car came to a stop? To the third stop?

A. He took me out of the trunk. And, yes, he says, you, and I pointed to myself, and I said, me? And, he says, yes, get out of the trunk. And, so, I got out and he closed the trunk back. And, so, he made me get on the back seat and told me to undress. And, you know, at first, I didn't, till he started undressing, and he put a gun on the roof of the car, and — so I started getting scared, you know, cause he had a weapon. I was scared he was going to kill me, if I didn't do like he asked. So, I started undressing. And, so then...

Q. Did he move the gun from the roof?

A. Yes, Ma'm, after he was, -- you know, took off his pants and boots, and everything, he took the gun, and put it in his boot.

Q. Alright, the defendant undressed?

A. Yes, Ma'm, he didn't take off his shirt. All he took off were his pants and...

Q. Allright, was he totally undressed from the waist down?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. At that time, did he have any conversation pertaining to any money?

A. Oh, yes, Ma'm. You see, he had said something about money, or something. So, I had a feeling that he was going to take Keith's money. Keith needed the moneh more than I did. So, I gave Ten Dollars, hoping that it would buy our way out.

Q. What did you tell the defendant about...

BY MR. BROUILLETTE:

I object, your honor. What did you tell the defendant about...

Q. ..the money. I'm not telling her what she said about the money; what did she say about it?

BY THE COURT:

She can answer that. Go ahead.

A. What did I say about the money?

Q. Yes.

A. I gave him the money. I said, here take this. Keith, you know, lost his wallet, and I was keeping his money for him. And,...

Q. Did he take it?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, why did you give him ten dollars? What was your strategy in giving him ten dollars?

A. Well, I was hoping that it would buy our way out of it. I mean, you know, buying -- maybe if I gave him the money and every thing, he might leave us alone, you know, not hurt us, or kill us.

Q. What did he do after he took the ten dollars?

A. He raped me.

Q. Allright, where were you in the car when he raped you?

A. In the back seat.

Q. And, what position were you in? Karen?

A. Well, he made me put one leg on -- where you rest your head on the front seat, you know, that head piece; he made me put one leg there, and he made me put the other one on the back seat you know, where the window is, and he put my leg there. And...

Q. Allright, and did his penis enter your vagina?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Did his penis climax in your vagina?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, after he climaxed, what happened then?

A. Uh...

Q. Was it painful to you, Karen?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Did you tell him it was painful?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Were you telling him anything else?

A. Yes, Ma'm, I was telling him I couldn't breathe, and to please leave us alone. And, to please not hurt us, and, you know, that I couldn't breathe and..

Q. Did he listen to you? Well... let me ask you this? Did he stop? Did he stop raping you when you said that?

A. No, Ma'm.

Q. After he climaxed, what happened, Karen?

A. He got up, and I started getting dressed, and when I was getting dressed, he took a knife and he grabbed me around the neck, like this, and asked me if I had ever had my neck cut. I said no.

And, he just left me alone. Let me finished getting dressed.

Q. Were you -- did you tell him anything after you said, no?

A. I started begging him to leave us alone; and please not to hurt us.

Q. After that, what happened?

A. He opened the trunk, and he took out a gas tank of Keith's, that he had in his car, and he took it out, and he -- and he took it out, and told us to think about it, whether or not we were going to tell or not. And, you know, and about he had buddies, and if -- and that his buddies, you know, would get us, and everything, if we said anything. And, told us to think about it. And, he could have killed us... he could have shot us, or could have blew us up, or he could have put us all in the trunk, and pushed us down into the river.

Q. Did you believe him when he said that?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Did you hear any air leaking from that tire, at that point?

A. Yes, Ma'm. He had the trunk open at that time, and he walked over there to the side of the car, and -- I didn't actually see him, you know, with a knife, and punching, but we knew what had happened, because we heard -- me and Keith heard, you know the air escaping from the tire.

Q. Do you remember whether or not there was any conversation as to a hose?

A. Oh, yes, ma'm. He was looking for a hose, but Keith didn't have one. And, so, he just put the big tank back in the car.

Q. What happened at this point, Karen? This was the third stop, and this conversation about the gas can and the hose, and the threats...



what happened then?

A. He put the tank back in the car, and everything, and he closed the trunk again. And,...

Q. Who was in the trunk, if anybody, when he closed it, that time?

A. Sharon and Keith. He made me ride with him.

Q. Alright, can you -- did you ride with him?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, what -- why did you ride with him?

A. Cause I was scared.

Q. Why were you afraid?

A. Because I saw the gun and the knife, and he had put Karen and Keith in the trunk, and I was scared.

Q. Alright, what happened then, Karen, the car moved?

A. No, Ma'm, not at that point. Then, alright, when we got in the car, -- yes, Ma'm -- I'm not sure about that. But, I know at that point, he had asked me if I had ....

Q. You can collect your thoughts, Karen, if you want to try to calm down a little bit. Alright, did you off and stop again?

A. Yes, Ma'm, I believe so. I'm not too sure about the stops, right now, but I know that ...

Q. What...Okay, go ahead.

A. that we had stopped and then he asked me if I had ever done it on my knees.

Q. Did you know what he was talking about, when he asked you if you had ever done it on your knees?

A. No, Ma'm, not at first.

Q. And, what did you tell him?

A. No.

Q. And, what did he tell you?

A. He says, well, you are now.

Q. Alright, and then, what happened?

A. And, so, we were on the front seat, this time, and he made me...

Q. Did he make you get undressed again? Did he make you get undressed again?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, what position did you get in this time, Karen?

A. He made me get on my knees on the front seat...

Q. Were you facing any of the car doors?

A. Yes, Ma'm, I was leaning on the passenger side, kind of like this, holding on to the door.

Q. When you were in this position, did his penis enter your rectum?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, was it painful?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Did you scream?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Did you tell the defendant anything?

A. I told him it would hurt. And, I told him, that if he was going to do it, to do it in the front, cause it hurt too much in back.

Q. And, did he do it in the front, then?

A. Yes, Ma'm, but it hurt too much in the back. So, I told him, if he was going to do it, to do it in front, I mean in the back, cause it hurt too much in the front.

Q. So, it hurt too much in the front, and you asked him, if he had to do it again, to do it in the back? What did he tell you at that

time, Karen?

A. He told me he'd do it the way he wanted to do it.

Q. And, how did he want to do it? What did he do then?

A. He made me get on my knees, and he did it through the rectum.

Q. Did he climax in your rectum?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Alright, after that, Karen, was that painful to you?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, after that, what did you do?

A. After that, he made me sit on the side of him.

Q. And, did you sit on the side of him?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Why?

A. Cause I was scared.

Q. Did he ask anything else of you, Karen?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. What did he ask you? Did he ask you whether or not you had sucked, Karen? Is that his exact words?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, what was your reply to him?

A. No.

Q. And, what did he tell you, when you said that?

A. That I was, now.

Q. And, what did he do to himself? Was he dressed, or undressed?

A. He was dressed. He just took it out of his pants.

Q. Did he take his penis out of his pants?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, what did he do with your head?

A. He kept making me do my head up and down like that.

Q. And, was his penis in your mouth at that time, when he was motioning your head, up and down?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, was his penis lodged in your throat?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Were you gagging?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Was it difficult for you to breathe?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Were you asking him to stop?

BY MR. BROUILLETTE:

Your Honor, it's leading. She's leading the witness.

Q. Your Honor, it's obvious, because the child's extremely upset, and can hardly testify; and I think that leading is appropriate at this time. She's a young child, and ...

BY THE COURT:

I understand, but, restrict the leading. You can phrase the question some other way.

Q. Were you having any difficulty with this oral sex act?

A. Yes, Ma'm, I was choking, and I was spitting and everything. Cause he kept lodging it into my throat.

Q. Did he finally stop?

A. I started crying and I started begging him to leave us alone. So, he just let me stop.

Q. Then, what happened then, Karen?

A. We went a little further and he says, oops, it looks like we have a flat tire. And, so he opened -- no, he got out of the car and

I told Keith, I said, Keith, you know something, you have a cheap car.

Q. Why did you tell Keith that?

A. I was trying to get on the good side of him, and didn't want to upset him, you know, make him mad, or anything, to where he'd do it again. So, I was trying to get on the good side of him, and kind of hindering him.

Q. Was there any conversation about y'all names?

A. Yes, Ma'm, he made me write...

Q. At what point was that -- did that take place, Karen?

A. After he had raped me the second time.

Q. Was that before or after the oral sex acts?

A. After.

Q. Will you tell the Jurors what happened about that incident?

A. He asked me to write our names down on a piece of paper. And, so, I opened the glove compartment, and I tore a piece of paper, and -- in the glove compartment, and I wrote our names down, and then he took the paper and he put it in his pocket.

Q. And, you all left that area?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Alright, and then after y'all left, can you continue, please? Where were y'all heading, do you know?

A. First, I didn't. But, we came out on the Alexandria Highway, and he went to the Ceme... St. Joseph Cemetery and he stopped and he opened and got out of the car, and he opened the trunk, and he let Keith and Sharon out of the trunk.

Q. Can you tell the Jurors the conversation that took place there between the defendant and you three?

A. Yes, Ma'm, he asked Keith and Sharon if they had thought about whether or not they were going to tell, or not; and that if he went down, that we were going to go down with him, because of his buddies, and everything. That he might go down, but his buddies would get us.

Q. What was their reply to that?

A. Whose, ours?

Q. Um-hum.

A. We told him we weren't going to tell; we weren't going to say nothing. Then, he said something about a lot of dead people here, huh? And, we said yes, and he said, well, y'all could be one of 'em, if y'all go to the cop or something. He says, y'all can't easily go to the cops, cause for all y'all know, myname is Jessie James.

Q. Did you believe what he had told you about his buddies?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. After this conversation at the Cemetery, did y'all leave?

A. Yes, Ma'm. We were trying -- alright, we went by -- well, I don't know the street, but by the Mobile Station, or something, and we were trying to find a tire, but he was going to make Keith steal the tire. And, Keith didn't want to. He just wanted to get home. He didn't want to steal the tire. So, we headed toward the bus station, and down that road, he made us go all the way down, and turn around, and about a couple of houses, before we got to the end of the road, he got out -- well, before he got out, he said, something about, I have to go make an important phone call to my buddies, and let them know what went down. And, he -- and he got out of the car, and we went home

Q. Did you believe what he had said right before he got out?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. What did y'all do after he left?

A. We went straight to my grandmother's house.

Q. Do you know whether or not y'all had a flat tire?

A. Yes, Ma'm, we had a flat tire all the way from where we were, to the Cemetery, all the way back to my grandparents' house.

Q. Karen, who was the first one of you three to mention something about this incident?

A. Me.

Q. And, how long after was it?

A. Two weeks.

Q. And, why did you wait that long before saying something?

A. Cause I was scared that if we really and truly did say something, that he -- his buddies, you know, would -- were going to get us, and maybe even him. We were scared.

Q. Well, what made you say something?

A. Cause I was scared to go to school. I was scared to do anything. Go even to the house next door. I was scared to be anywhere. Cause I was afraid that I might see him, and the same thing would happen; and it was just -- I just couldn't get it off my mind. So, I had to tell somebody.

Q. Who did you tell?

A. My first cousin.

Q. And, did you eventually tell the law enforcement people?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Karen, has the rape had any affect on you since then?

A. Yes, Ma'm. Can't sleep at night, and don't trust even my own

family, when we go somewhere, like riding around, you know, or something, I don't trust my own family; I can't sleep at night. We stay in the house, cause we're afraid to leave the house or anything.

Q. Have you had any nightmares about this?

A. Well, one night, I woke up, and I thought I saw somebody in my room, and woke everybody up, and the family, and then I'd dream about it a lot of times; go to bed thinking about it.

Q. We tender.

KAREN SANDERS' who, after first being duly sworn, testified under oath, under cross examination, at the instance of and by counsel, Mr. Harold Brouillette, which testimony is as follows:

BY MR. BROUILLETTE:

Miss Sanders, when the car pulled up to the 7-11 that evening, did I understand that Keith asked you to go pay for the gas?

A. Yes, Ma'm -- Yes, Sir.

Q. Did you immediately get out of the car, and walk to the store?

A. No, sir, not right away. But, a few minutes later I walked in and paid for the gas.

Q. Was-- what was the first thing that was said, when the car stopped at the pumps?

A. Well, that's when Keith had walked over there and asked him what was happening, or what was going on, or something like that.

Q. Did you get out of the car, also?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, you say, Keith walked over to where he was standing, is that right?

A. Right.



Q. Did you and your sister stay by the car, or did you go with him?

A. We stayed in back of the car.

Q. And, it was after that that he asked you to go in and pay for the gas?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, did the black man ask Keith his name?

A. I don't know, I had went in the store, and paid for the gas.

Q. Did Keith ask the black man his name?

A. I don't know. I remember him calling him Simmons when I came out of the store. They were calling each other -- he was calling him Simmons.

Q. But, you don't know whether Keith asked him his name?

A. No, sir.

Q. What day of the week was this, Karen? Do you remember?

A. Monday.

Q. Then do you remember that that was the day after Mother's Day?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. The day before, Mother's day, were you in Alexandria, or were you with your grandparents?

A. I-I think I was with my grandparents, I'm not sure.

Q. Did I understand you to say that the black man first asked about going to a party?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Alright, was that after you had gone in to pay for the gasoline, or before?

A. I believe it was after.

Q. So, when you got back from paying for the gasoline, they were talking -- Keith was talking to him?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, what did you do? Did you walk up to where they were, or did you go get in the car, or ...

A. I walked to where they were.

Q. And, what conversation did you hear between them.

A. They were -- all they were really talking about was the people they knew, you know, like Keith would say, do you know him? And, he's say, yes. And, he would ask if Keith knew some people, and that's what they were talking about, back and forth.

Q. Do you remember any of the names of the people they talked about?

A. No, sir.

Q. Then, who brought up the matter of a party? Did the black man talk about a party?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he say where there was a party?

A. No, sir.

Q. Then, did you say that he asked Keith to take him home?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, Keith agreed to it?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did Keith ask him where he lived, before he agreed to it?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did the defendant tell him he would show him where he lived? Or he would tell him where he lived, or did they discuss at all, where they were going to go?

A. No, sir, all Keith said, was asked Keith, is if he'd bring him home. And, Keith said, yes. And, he was giving directions, you know, telling him which way to go.

Q. Was it a different direction from where y'all were going?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did Keith ask him how far he lived?

A. No, sir.

Q. And, Keith had no idea where he was headed?

A. No, sir. I don't guess. I don't know.

Q. You said that, on the way back, while you were driving, your sister and Keith were in the trunk, and the defendant said something about a flat tire?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Had you known anything about a flat tire before that?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You knew it was flat before that?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he act like he was surprised when it was flat?

A. No, sir.

Q. He said something like, oops, we have a flat tire?

A. Yes sir.

Q. And, you said something about cutting a tire with a knife. Did you think that this is what happened, or did you see him cut the tire, or...

A. Well, you see, after he raped me, and I was getting dressed, and he held me like this around the neck, and put the knife to my throat, and asked me if I had had my neck cut, and I said no, and he just left me alone. I finished getting dressed, and he opened the trunk, and he walked over the side of the car, and we heard air escaping from the tire. So, we automatically thought that's what had happened. Since he did have a knife, and

all of a sudden, you know, we hear air coming out of the tire.

Q. Well, your sister and Keith were still in the trunk at that time, and you were outside of the car, or were you in the car?

A. I was outside of the car.

Q. So, when you automatically thought that he was letting -- you thought that he had stuck the knife into the tire?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you have any idea why he would want to do that?

A. No, sir, I don't know what he was thinking of. You know, I don't know why he'd do it, I don't know.

Q. Did you-- was there any discussion about sticking a knife in the tire, at any time?

A. No, sir.

Q. It was at the time that he made a reference to the tire being flat that you talked to Keith about it? When you said something about, you have a cheap car? Was that at the same time that he said, oops, the tire is flat?

A. Yes, sir, when we got out of the car to see if Keith had a spare. And, Keith didn't have a spare. And, I said, Keith, you have a cheap car. That's when I said that Keith had a cheap car.

Q. Well, the trunk was open at that time?

A. No, sir. I don't believe.

Q. Well, how did he find out if there was a spare?

A. He asked Keith, and Keith told him no, that all he had was a real big tire, and but he didn't know if it would fit on the car. And, he says, well, we're not even going to try it.

Q. Did the defendant ask you for money?

A. He didn't ask for money. He had said something about money and

Keith, and I gave him my ten dollars that my Momma had given me, and told him that Keith had lost his wallet, and I was keeping his money; and I gave him the money. And, I was hoping, that you know, it would kind of buy our way out of it.

Q. So -- was the defendant smoking pot that night?

A. No, sir.

Q. Was he smoking cigarettes at all?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you recall about how long you had been living with your grandparents, when this happened?

A. About three months, I believe. I'm not really sure.

Q. You'd been going to school at the Marksville Middle School?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Had both you and your sister, been suspended from school in Alexandria, or was it just one of you?

A. Both of us.

Q. Karen, I asked you a few minutes ago, if Keith asked the defendant his name, and you said you didn't hear that. Do you remember at the hearing we had on July 7th, when Mrs. Knoll asked you that same question?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you recall saying, "yes"? He did ask him his name?

A. No, sir.

Q. You don't recall that?

A. No, sir.

Q. When the four of you arrived at the Cemetery location, what happened first? Did the defendant get out of the car and open the trunk, or...

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he tell you to get out of the car, also, or...

A. No, sir, he didn't tell me nothing. I just got out when he got out.

Q. And, about how long did you stay at that location?

A. I don't remember.

Q. The four of our got out of the car, and he opened the trunk? And, your sister and Keith got out, is that right?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was anything said about the flat tire at that point?

A. No, sir.

Q. And, he told Keith to drive?

A. He gave Keith back the keys. He told Keith to drive. So Keith did the driving.

Q. So, Keith got in the Driver's seat, your sister got in the front seat, and you and the defendant got in the back seat?

A. Right.

Q. Do you remember -- were you sitting on the right side or the left side?

A. I was sitting on the left side.

Q. Then, you said you remembered going by a service station?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, there was some discussion about getting a tire for the car?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know if Keith was looking for a service station that might be open to get a tire?

A. Yes, sir, he was trying to see if the service station was open so he could get his tire fixed.

Q. Was there any discussion about maybe going to his father's house in Marksville?

A. Who, Keith?

Q. Yes.

A. No, sir.

Q. Did anybody suggest that?

A. No, sir.

Q. After the defendant was out of the car, y'all had driven away, he was still on this flat tire, is that right?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was there any other effort made to get a tire at that point?

A. No, sir, we just went straight home.

Q. You testified that when the car turned down the Little California Road, that the defendant changed and he became angry. Is that right? What did he do or say to indicate this to you?

A. He just kept raising -- he was raising his voice and saying, like, and telling us, you know, where to turn, and he started raising his voice and everything, you know. He raised his voice, and it scared us, you know, when he started raising his voice like that.

Q. After you turned down the Little California Road, be...the four of you, was there any further conversation about people that they knew?

A. Yes, sir. Well, that was -- on the way to Little California Road, that's what they talked about. You know, people they knew and stuff like that. You know, just people they knew.

Q. Friends that they both had?

A. I don't know if they were both friends they had, but I know, you

know, they were just talking about people they knew, and stuff like that.

Q. And, this was on the Little California Road, they were talking about their mutual acquaintance, so to speak?

A. Yes, sir, and he was also -- the black man was also talking about how good he could rap, you know, that's how he got out of most of his troubles, cause he rapped real good, and that's why he never was in any trouble, you know. He always got out of it, because he rapped real good, and everybody always believed him...

Q. Do you remember the names of any of the friends that they talked about, when they were going down the Little California Road?

A. No, sir.

Q. Now, was this conversation-- was this after he had gotten very angry?

A. No, sir, this was before.

Q. Well, when did he first started getting angry?

A. When we were turning down Little California Road.

Q. Where was Keith when the discussion came up about the money?

A. In the trunk.

Q. And, did he talk to you about the money, or did he talk to Keith about the money?

A. He talked to me.

Q. Did he, at any time -- was there any conversation with Keith in the trunk, while he was in the car?

A. What do you mean?

Q. Did he ever try to talk to Keith in the trunk, while he was in the car?

A. When he was in the car, did he try to talk to Keith? p/155



- Q. Did he try to talk to Keith in the trunk, yes?
- A. No, sir.
- Q. Did you do that at any -- did you do that at any time? Did you try to talk to anyone in the trunk, while you were in the car?
- A. No, sir.
- Q. You told him that Keith had lost his wallet, is that...
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And, then, you gave him ten dollars from your wallet?
- A. I didn't have a wallet. I had it in my pocket.
- Q. In your pocket?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You said that the defendant was looking for a hose, and there was a gas tank in the trunk?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Was the gas tank taken out of the trunk?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And, then, was it put back in?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And, two people were in the trunk, at that time?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Was the gas can put at the back part of the trunk? Or on the side, or was it on top of the people, or under them, or what? Do you recall?
- A. I don't remember; it was on the side of Keith, and that's all I know.
- Q. Do you remember that there was a tire in the trunk.
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. A tire and a gas tank. Do you remember anything else in the trunk?

A. There was a crow-bar, or something. I don't know what it is.  
I think it was a crow bar; I'm not sure what it was.

Q. A piece of iron of some kind?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who wrote the names down Miss Sanders?

A. I did.

Q. And, where did you get a piece of paper?

A. Out of the glove compartment of Keith's car.

Q. Was there also a pencil or a pen in there, or...

A. Yes, sir, but I don't know where I got it. I don't know if it was in the glove compartment, or if it was on the dash, or on the seat. I don't remember where I got the pencil; but I had the pencil.

Q. Were Keith and your sister in the trunk at that time?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. So, it was only you and the defendant in the car?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, he asked you to write both of your names?

A. All three of our names.

Q. All three of your names?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, you wrote the correct names?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, you handed him the piece of paper?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, what did he do with it?

A. He put it in his pocket.

Q. Was there any conversation between you and the defendant, about

you going to live with him?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. When did this take place?

A. When we were on our way to the Cemetery.

Q. And, it was just you and he in the car, is that right?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, what did he say?

A. He was talking about some of his brothers or sisters, or something, who had whites living with 'em. Like his brother was married to a white, or his sister, somebody, was married to a white; and that we could do the same. And, I told him no. And, you know, he just kept talking about his brothers and sisters being married you know, to whites, and so forth.

Q. Did he ask you if you wanted to live with him?

A. No, sir, all he said, was, that we could do the same.

Q. And, you told him you didn't want to?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you remember, on one of the stops of another car going by?

A. Yes, sir, that was on the second stop, where he had raped my sister. He was putting Keith in the trunk -- I don't remember if it was me and Keith in the trunk, but one of us was getting in the trunk, and a car had passed by.

Q. So, the trunk was open, and somebody was getting in it?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, a car went by?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did anybody make any effort to flag the car, or...

A. No, sir.

Q. And, did you say that his words were something, like, if I go down, y'all will go down with me. Is that what you said?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know about what time it was that you got home that night?

A. Yes, sir, it was about twelve o'clock, somewhere around in there. I don't know the exact time.

Q. And, I think you said that y'all had gotten through cleaning the house about nine?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, so, you would have been at the 7-11 at about, what, between nine and nine-thirty, something like that?

A. Well, I believe -- Oh, I don't know, I believe so. I don't know. I just know we got through cleaning the house about nine.

Q. And, you were back at your grandparents' house at about twelve?

A. Somewhere around there. I don't know the time when we got back.

Q. Now, nothing was told to your grandparents this night, about any of this?

A. No, sir.

Q. That's all the questions I have at this time.

BY MRS. KNOLL:

Your Honor, the state has no further questions.

BY THE COURT:

Allright, that's all, young lady.

BY MR. KNOLL:

Your honor -- can you cut the record just a moment, please?

(DISCUSSION OFF RECORD)

BY MR. KNOLL:

...with the exception of, we would ask that the jury be permitted