

Beginning

Q. That's all, thank you.

BY THE COURT:

You have to go back outside; you can't stay in the room.

You understand?

BY MR. KNOLL:

Your honor, at this time, we call Sharon Sanders to the stand.

BY THE COURT:

Allright. Be sworn, raise your hand. Do you solemnly swear, that the testimony you're about to give in this case, will be the truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you GOD?

BY WITNESS:

I do.

BY THE COURT:

Have a seat. young lady, you'll see a microphone in front of you. That will not make your voice louder. This is just to record what you say. And, I'll ask you -- the machine records sound. Don't shake your head, when you answer. You have to say something, so the machine can catch the answer. You understand? And, the lawyers have to hear what you're saying, and by all means, these jurors, in the box. We don't mind if you shout a little bit. Just so we hear what you say. Don't be afraid. Let's talk loud enough so everyone can hear.

MISS SHARON 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:

Sharon, state your full name to the Jurors, please.

A. Sharon Sanders.

- Q. And, how old are you, Sharon ?
- A. 14.
- Q. Where do you live?
- A. Alexandria.
- Q. And, how much do you weigh, Sharon?
- A. 97.
- Q. 97 what?
- A. pounds.
- Q. Sharon, do you have a sister?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. What is her name?
- A. Karen Sanders.
- Q. And, how old is she?
- A. 14.
- Q. What type of sisters are y'all?
- A. Twins.
- Q. Does she look like you?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. Are y'all identical twins?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. And, do you have any family living in Marksville, Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. Who are your grandparents?
- A. Mr. and Mrs. Eric Sherman.
- Q. What is his first name?
- A. Eric.
- Q. Okay. And, do you have any cousins?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

✓ Q. Do you have a cousin by the name of Keith Laborde?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, how close of a cousin is he? In degrees? I mean, like first, second, third, fourth...

A. First.

✓ Q. How — is your mother related to Keith's mother?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, how are they related?

A. Sisters.

Q. Do you frequent — do you come to Avoyelles Parish?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Do you come often?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, when you come, do you see your cousin, Keith?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, your other cousins?

A. Yes Ma'm.

Q. Do you see your grandparents?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Have you ever been married? Sharon?

A. No, Ma'm.

Q. Sharon, on May 9, 1977, were you in Marksville, Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Where were you at approximately, between six and seven o'clock P.M. that night?

A. At my grandparents' house.

- Q. Does that mean, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Sherman?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. And, where was their home located at that time?
- A. Brouillette Community.
- ✓Q. And, on that night, was your sister with you?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- ✓Q. And, did you see your cousin that night, between that time?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- ✓Q. Doyou know whether or not your cousin was married on May 9, 1977?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. Did you see his wife on May 9th?
- A. No, Ma'm, she was in the hospital.
- Q. Why was she in the hospital?
- A. Because she was pregnant, and she had real bad diabetis.
- Q. Okay, did Keith ask any favors of you and your sister, that night?
- A. Yes, Ma'm, he asked us to go clean his house, because his wife was coming home the next day.
- Q. Did you and your sister answer, or do that for him?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. Allright, did in fact, y'all go over to his house?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. Who took you there?
- A. Keith.
- Q. Do you remember what kind of car Keith had?
- A. Yes, Ma'm, it was a 1968 Malibu.
- Q. What color is it?
- A. The top of it is white, the bottom blue.
- Q. How many doors does it have? 91

A. Four.

Q. Where is Keith's marital home located?

A. Fifth Ward.

Q. And, did y'all in fact clean the house for Keith?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. What was some of the things you did to help him clean the house?

A. Wash dishes and wash the clothes and we mowed the grass and ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{nite} we cleaned up the den and the bed rooms and the bath room.

Q. About what time did y'all finish?

A. Nine o'clock.

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

A. Then, we were going to my grandparents' house, and Keith had to get some gas in the car, to go to work the next morning. So, we stopped at 7-11.

Q. Where is this 7-11 located Sharon?

A. On Tunica Drive -- on Tunica Drive and Main.

Q. And, in what town?

A. Marksville.

Q. Did he -- what kind of gas pumps do they have at the 7-11?

A. Self-service.

Q. And, did Keith pull up at the gas pumps?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Did he bring the car to a stop?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Did you notice, whether or not, he had almost hit anybody before he brought his car to a stop?

A. No, Ma'm.

Q. Allright, when -- after he brought the car to a stop, what happened,

Sharon, was there anything unusual that happened?

A. Yes, Ma'm, we got out of the car, and my sister went in the store to pay for his gas, and then me and Keith walked to the back of the car, and this black man was standing on the corner, and he was sitting there staring at us, giving me and Keith a mean look, and everything. So, Keith walked over there and asked him what was happening, and he said, you. Keith said...

BY THE COURT:

He said, what?

A. You.

BY THE COURT:

You?

Q. You could hear this conversation? Sharon?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Could you see the Defendant and Keith?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, were you watching them, and listening?

A. Yes, Ma'm, as I was standing right on the side of him.

Q. Alright, and continue, please.

A. And, Keith says, what do you mean, me? He says, well, you almost hit me. Keith says, I didn't almost hit you. I pulled up to the gas pump, and you were standing by the corner. And, so, Keith says, I don't want to fight, but if you want to fight, I'll fight. And, the black man, says, I don't want to -- he says, I don't fight, I just shoot. And, so, they stood there a few minutes, and he put out his hand to shake, with Keith, so they shook hands, and made friends.

Q. Alright, now, Sharon, do you see the person that Keith was talking

to in the courtroom, today?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Could you tell me what color shirt he has on?

I 19
?
A. Brown and -- it's a brown and tan shirt.

Q. Who is he sitting next to?

A. Well...

Q. Well, is it the attorney in the brown suit, Mr. Brouillette?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Okay. And, after they shook hands, Sharon, what happened?

E
A. Well, Keith walked over to the pumps and put gas in the pumps --
in the car, and [?]the black man followed, and Keith put gas in
the car, and they started talking about people they knew, and,
they just talked a while about people they knew, and everything.

Q. Did you hear whether or not -- what name Keith was calling
the defendant?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. What name?

E
A. Simmons.

Q. Did you hear whether the defendant asked Keith his name?

A. No, Ma'm.?

Q. ~~But you heard him call the defendant Simmons?~~

Slog
A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, after they talked, did he ask the -- the -- did the defendant
ask Keith any questions?

C
A. He asked if we were twins, and Keith told him, yes. And then
he asked if we wanted to go to a party. And, Keith said no, that
we had to be getting back to my grandparents' house cause they'd
be worried.

Q. Did he have any other questions then, of Keith?

A. He asked Keith if he could bring him home.

Q. And, what did Keith tell him?

A. Yes, Ma'm, yes.

Q. When Keith said that he'd take him home, Sharon, did you approve of that?

A. No, Ma'm.

3 Q. What did -- did you become afraid at that time?

A. Yes, Ma'm, but I didn't say anything, because -- I couldn't tell Keith anything, because the blackman was standing right there, and I didn't want, you know, make him mad or to offend him, or anything. So, I didn't tell Keith anything.

Q. Had you known the Defendant before that?

A. No, Ma'm.

Q. Had you seen him before that time?

A. No, Ma'm.

Q. Alright, did you -- Did -- what happened after Keith said that he was going to take the Defendant home?

?
A. Keith and Karen got in front seat, and then he got in the back seat, and I was standing by the door in the front and the front seat. And, he asked me if I wanted to ride in the back with him, and I told him no, that I would ride in front with Keith and Karen. So, I got in the front seat with Keith and Karen. Q

Q. Okay, when you got in the front, did you communicate your fear to your sister any kind of way?

A. Yes, Ma'm, I kept nudging on her, and everything, crunching on her.

Q. Allright, what happened after y'all left the gas pumps?

A. Okay, then he was telling Keith, where to go...

Q. Was Keith listening to him?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Allright, continue, please.

A. Okay, and so he kept telling Keith where to go, and he made him turn down Little California Road, and then, and then he made him stop in front of an old barn like thing, and he sat there — and when we stopped he was saying to Keith that he was a man, and Keith was a man, and we were two women. And, he asked me if I was a woman, and I told him no. And, then...

Q. Did he reply anything to you, Sharon, when you said that no, you weren't a woman?

A. No, Ma'm. *confused*

Q. Okay, not — now let me back up with you. Before, when he started turning down Little California Road, before he turned down Little California Road, did you notice the tone of the Defendant's voice?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. How did it impress you before he turned — before Keith turned down Little California Road?

A. It was friendly.

Q. Allright, when Keith turned down Little California Road, and stopped, what was the tone and the attitude of the Defendant at that time? How did it impress you?

A. Well, it was getting rough, and he was getting more violent. 3

Q. Allright, and then after — at this first stop, after this conversation about you and the girls — you and your sister being

Lead's
two women and them being two men, did you notice what happened to the keys of the car at that time?

C
A. Yes, Ma'm, he asked Keith to give him the Keys...of the car, so Keith handed him the keys. And, then, after he said that, he gave Keith the keys back, and he told Keith to go further on down the road, and he was demanding and telling him, in a violent voice, so Keith started going down, but he was hesitating and me and my sister kept asking Keith please not to go. And, Keith was just, you know, going, shshsh..you know, like that. And, he was hesitating, and...

Lead
Q. Keith was trying to keep y'all quite?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Y'all didn't know why he was doing that?

A. No, Ma'm. And, we kept saying, please Keith, don't go.

Lead
Q. Were you emotional at that time?

A. Yes, Ma'm I was.

Q. What were you doing?

A. I was crying.

Q. Alright, continue, please.

A. Okay, and so, he told Keith to go on further down the road. And, Keith was sort of hesitating. So, he was ~~commanding~~ commanding Keith to go a little further on down the road. So, Keith did. And, he made Keith stop at a little like lake thing, and he told Keith to park the car there. And, so, Keith did. And, he asked Keith to give him the keys. So Keith gave him the keys. And, he told Keith to get out of the car.

Q. Did Keith get out?

A. Yes, Ma'm. And...

Q. Where -- what was the condition of you and your sister at this time?

A. Practically hysterical, and I was crying and everything. And, I was nervous and everything. I was just going hysterical.

Q. Were you afraid of the defendant at that time?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Why were you afraid of him at that time?

A. Because of his voice was getting, and we didn't know what was going to happen to us, and we thought that he might -- that he was going to kill us.

Q. Did you know why Keith was listening to him or not?

A. No, Ma'm.

Q. Alright, continue, please.

A. Okay, he made Keith stop the car, and he took the keys from Keith, and when he told Keith to go and walk to the back of the car. So, Keith did, and he got out, and when he got out, and me and Karen were on the front seat, and he told us that if we reached for a gun -- if we tried to get a gun in the glove compartment, ^{complained} that he had one too, and he could shoot us even before we could get it out of the glove compartment.

Q. Alright, what did you think when he told you that, Sharon?

A. I thought, he really did have a gun, and I was scared he really would kill us.

Q. What did you and your sister do at that time?

A. Well, then, he told us to undress. So, I had on a button-up shirt.

Q. Alright, let me back up. What did he do with Keith at that time, Sharon?

- A. When he walked back to the car, he opened the trunk, and he told Keith to get in the trunk.
- Q. When -- what went through your mind, when you saw your 18 year old cousin being put in the trunk by the defendant?
- A. I thought that he was going to kill us.
- Q. Alright, go ahead, please.
- A. Okay, so he closed the trunk, and he came back up, and he told my sister to get in the back seat. And, so she got ...
- Q. Did she get in the back seat?
- (A.) Yes, Ma'm. So, she got on the back seat and she was about to run. She opened the door like she was about to run, and then he said, it looks like this one is going -- is giving us a little bit of trouble. He told Karen to get out of the car, and he opened the trunk, and he made Karen get in the trunk.
- Q. Alright, did he close the trunk? When she got in it?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. And, you were in the car, then, with the defendant?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. And, you were by yourself in the car?
- A. Yes, Ma'm.
- Q. Were you still dressed at that time?
- A. Well, I had my shirt off.
- Q. Okay, and then what happened after your sister was in the trunk with Keith? What went through your mind when both of 'em were locked up in the trunk?
- A. I thought then, for sure, we were going to be killed.
- Q. Alright, continue, please.
- (A.) Okay, and so, he walked back up there, and he told me to finish

taking off all of my clothes.

Q. Did you?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, why did you?

A. Because I was scared, and I thought that if I didn't do it, that he would kill us.

Q. Alright, go ahead. Continue, please.

A. So, I got out of the car, and took off the rest of my clothes, and he told me to get on the back seat and lay down.

Q. Did you?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, then what happened?

A. And, then he got on top of me... (crying)

Q. Okay, what position did he have you in, Sharon?

A. He had one leg on the back windshield, and then he had the other one on the back of the front seat.

Q. And, how did he rape you?

A. What do you mean?

Q. Did he rape you vaginally, or rectally?

A. He raped me to the front.

Q. Okay. When he was raping you, did he say anything to you?

A. No, Ma'm.

Q. When he was raping you, did he say anything?

A. No Ma'm.

Q. Well, he wasn't talking when he was raping you?

A. No, Ma'm.

Q. Was he having trouble raping you?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Why?

A. Because it wouldn't go in, all the way in. He kept cursing.

Because he was mad, it wouldn't go in all the way.

Q. Did his penis penetrate your vagina at all? Sharon?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Was it painful? ,

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. What were you telling the defendant?

A. Kept telling him it would hurt; and I was begging him to please leave us alone. And, his body was all the way on me, and I kept asking him to get up a little so I could breathe. And, I kept begging him not to hurt us, or anything.

Q. Did he climax?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Then, after he climaxed, what happened?

A. Okay, then, he gave in, he got off of me, and he told me to get back dressed. So, I got out of the car, and I got dressed. And, he told me to walk to the back of the trunk. So, I walked to the back of the car, and he opened it, and he told me to get in. And, so, I got in, and he -- and when he was trying to close the trunk, I had my knees propped up, so he wouldn't close the trunk.

Q. Okay, now, when you went back to the trunk, and you got in, were Keith and Karon still in the trunk?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Was it hard for y'all to -- for all three of you to fit in the trunk?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Allright, now would you continue please? What happened after you got in the trunk?

A. Okay, and I had my knees propped up, and it was hard for him to close the trunk, but he kept sitting on it, and banging on it. So, finally, I just put my knees down, and when I got in the trunk, Keith just told us to pray to GOD, and that we'd come out of it allright, if we'd just pray to GOD. He told us to take little breaths and not to talk to get more oxygen.

Q. Was it difficult to breathe with y'all in the trunk?

A. Yes, Ma'm, there was dust coming in all through the back of the trunk, and we could hardly even breathe.

Q. Were you praying, Sharon?

A. Yes, Ma'm, we all prayed.

Q. Allright, after the — after he put you in the trunk, did he lock it?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, did you notice, whether or not the car moved?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Did it come to a stop again?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. What happened after the car came to a stop?

A. He told my sister to get out of the car... out of the trunk. And, so, when she got out, he closed the trunk again.

Q. Did he lock it?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Allright, did you notice — did you hear anything, or can you tell us what happened when he took your sister out, and y'all were locked in the trunk?

A. Well, I kept hearing her saying it hurts; and to please leave us alone.

Q. Could you hear, whether or not, she was crying, or screaming?

A. Yes, Ma'm. She was moaning, and she was crying.

Q. Sharon, after — could you tell whether or not, after y'all were locked up in the trunk, if he had raped your sister? ?

A. Yes, Ma'm, by the way she was moaning, and crying. And, she kept saying, she didn't know which way she liked it best, through the front or through the back.

Q. Alright. Did the — after he — do you recall, whether, after he took your sister out of the car, if the car moved again?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, was your sister in the trunk at that time?

A. No, Ma'm. She was still in the car.

Q. And, did the car come to a stop again?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Did he open the trunk at any time?

A. Yes, Ma'm, he opened the trunk, and he told us that we could play it good or bad; that if we told that he was going to call some of his buddies, and his buddies would take care of us. And, that he could have shot us, or blew the car up, or he could have just dumped us in the lake.

Q. Did you believe him, Sharon?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, did he take anything out of the trunk at that time, when he had this conversation with you?

A. Yes, Ma'm, he was looking for — he wanted to find a siphon hose, and he took out a big green army tank, gas tank.

Q. Can you tell us what you remember about this incident with the gas tank, or what went on at this stop, to the best of your memory?

A. (heard no answer)

Q. Were you frightened at that time? Sharon?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Is it hard for you to remember what went on at that time?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

can't remember anything

lead Q. And, after he took -- did he put the gas can back in the trunk?

BY MR. BROUILLETTE:

Your Honor, she's leading the witness.

Q. Did you notice what he did with the gas can?

A. Yes, Ma'm, he put it back in the trunk.

Q. And, what happened to the trunk after he put the -- the door of the trunk after he put it -- the gas can back in the back-- in the trunk?

A. He closed it.

Q. Do you know whether or not it was locked? Could you get out of the trunk?

A. No Ma'm.

Q. Okay, did he keep Karen with him?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, what happened then?

A. And, that's when I heard her say that she didn't know which way she liked it best, to the front or to the back, and she was moaning.

Q. Alright, now. Did the car move after that?

A. Let's see. No Ma'm, I don't think so.

- Q. Allright, well, what happened after he finished raping Karen?
- A. Well, then, we got a flat tire.
- Q. How do you know that?
- A. Cause he asked Keith if he had — if he had an extra tire in the car, and Keith said he did, except it didn't fit. And, Karen got out, and said, Keith, you have a cheap car. And, then, — he didn't open the trunk to ask us. And, when the car started going again, and then when he let — then we stopped again, and he let me and Keith out of the trunk, and we were at the Cemetery.
- Q. Allright, do you know what cemetery, where that cemetery is located, and what town?
- A. Marksville.
- Q. Do you know the name of the Cemetery?
- A. St. Joseph.
- Q. And, what conversation did the defendant have with y'all at the time, at St. Joseph's Cemetery?
- A. He asked us if we had made up our mind about if we were going to tell, or not. And, Keith said, yes, that we weren't going to say anything. And, he said, if I go down, y'all go down with me. And, that he was going to go home and call his buddies, and let 'em know what was going on.
- Q. Did he make any reference to his name?
- A. Yes, Ma'm, he says, as far — Keith was still calling him Simmons; and he said, Keith, do you believe everything you hear? And, he says, as far as y'all know, my name is Jessie James.
- Q. Did y'all — then what happened after that conversation?
- A. Well, then he said, there's a lot of dead people here, huh? And, we said, yes. Well, he said, y'all could be one of 'em, if y'all

tell, if y'all open y'all's mouth to anybody.

Q. Did you believe him, Sharon?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Alright, did y'all leave the Cemetery then?

A. Yes, Ma'm. He let us out of the trunk, and me and Keith got in the front seat, and Karen sat in the back, and the Defendant was in the back seat, too. And, then he asked Keith if he wanted to steal a tire. And, Keith told him no, that he didn't want to steal a tire. And, so, he told us to bring him home. So, we passed by the Canal Station, and then we went back by the bus station, the road on the side of the bus station. And, he made us go all the way down, and then he made us come all the way up, and then stop a little ways from then; about three houses down, we stopped.

Q. When he got out, did he say anything else to you?

A. Yes, Ma'm. He said, he had to go home and make a few for -- few phone calls to his buddies, and let them know what was going down. And, he said, as far as we knew, his name was Jessie James.

Q. Did you believe him, when he said he was going to make a few phone calls to his buddies and let them know what went down?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. And, what went through your mind when he told you that, Sharon?

A. I was scared, and I wasn't going to say anything, cause I was scared that he might really call his buddies, and they might really kill us.

Q. What happened after y'all let the defendant out of the car, when he left?

A. Well, we went back to my grandparents' house on the flat. And, when we were driving up, they were coming, they were at a neighbor's house, and they were passing -- driving past the neighbor's house, coming and look for us.

Q. Can you cut the record a minute, please madame Clerk?

We tender the witness, your honor.

SHARON 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, the -- when the car pulled up at the gas pumps, was the defendant sitting, or was he standing?

A. He was standing.

Q. Was he standing toward the corner or toward the store?

A. He was standing, I think he was facing towards the store.

Q. But, alright -- let's see. He came in from -- what side of the pumps was the car parked? You came in from town, I suppose, didn't you? Was it parked on the left side of the pumps or the right side?

A. The left.

Q. The left side. And, was he --

BY THE COURT:

That's your left side you're talking about?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was he further left, towards the road, or was he towards the store?

A. I don't remember.

Q. You're not sure where he was? Did you get out of the car when

Keith did?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, Karen walked to the store?

A. To pay for the gas.

Q. Now, did the defendant walk toward you and Keith at that time, or did Keith walk toward him?

A. Keith walked toward him.

Q. Had Keith said anything to you about him before that?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you wonder why Keith walked toward him? Did you know why he was going to talk to him?

A. Yes, sir. Because the defendant was sitting there staring at us, and giving us a mean look. That's why Keith walked over there.

Q. Had Keith -- he had -- had Keith mentioned anything to you about that?

A. No, sir.

Q. But, you had also seen the man standing there?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, did you hear him say, you almost hit me?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, then, what did Keith say at that time?

A. He said, I didn't almost hit you. I pulled up to the pump, and you were standing on the corner.

Q. Then, there was a discussion about fighting, was there?

A. Yes.

Q. Who said what?

A. Keith says, I don't feel like fighting right now, but if you want to fight I'll fight.

Q. Had the black man said anything about fighting?

A. No, sir.

Q. You were living with your grandparents at that time?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, do you know how long you had been there?

A. No, sir.

Q. Was it more than a week, or more than a month, or...

A. It was about a month, I think. I'm not sure.

Q. You were going to school in Marksville, at that time?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, you had transferred from where?

A. Alexandria.

Q. From Brame School?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, that was -- you don't remember when that was? You said about a month before this, is that what...

A. I don't know.

Q. It was during the middle of the school semester, though, was it?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Miss Sanders, did you see a pistol at any time?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see a knife at any time?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did the defendant, at any time, grab you, or hurt you?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did he, at any time, threaten you?

A. Yes, sir, he threatened us about, you know, if we told, that his buddies would, you know, would take care of us.

Q. Now, this was after you say that he had sex relations with you, that he said that?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Before he had sex relations with you, did he threaten you at any time?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did he have any other;..any kind of a weapon, a rock, or a brick, or a bottle or anything?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did he ever hit you at any time?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did he tell you that he would hurt you, if you did not have sex relations with him?

A. No, sir.

Q. You said that when the car turned down the Little California Road, he became violent. What do you mean by that? What did he do or say?

A. Well, Keith was sort of hesitating, and he kept saying, Keith, go. He kept telling Keith to go, and his voice was getting, you know, and he was getting mad, and he kept telling Keith to go, demanding Keith to go further.

Q. There was some reference about a cheap car, and a flat tire. I didn't quite understand that. What did you say about a cheap car?

A. Well, we had a flat, and Karen, my sister, got out of the car, and said, Keith, you have a cheap car.

Q. This was the second time the car had stopped, or the first time?

A. It was the second time.

Q. The second time. Was she teasing him, or something, when she said

"a cheap car"?

A. I don't know. —

Q. Do you know what she meant by that reference?

A. Well, I think she was just trying to get on the best side of the defendant. I don't know, really.

Q. But, she said this to Keith, is that right?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Would this have been before Keith was put in the trunk?

A. No, sir, this was after.

Q. Keith was in the trunk at that time?

A. Yes, sir. And, so was I.

Q. And, where was Karen when she said this?

A. She was in the car.

Q. She was in the car with the black man?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, you and Keith were in the trunk?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, she said, Keith, you have a cheap car?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Could you hear when she said that allright?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. The trunk was locked?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did she, at any other time, talk to him, while she was in the car, and he was locked in the trunk?

A. Yes, sir, the first time we stopped, and me and Karen were both out of the car, and Keith was in the trunk, and she kept screaming and asking Keith if he was alright.

Q. Was she outside by the trunk, at that time, or was she in the car?

A. She was in the car.

Q. You were with Keith when he walked up at the gas pumps and started talking to him, you were right there?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you recall what the conversation was, after they talked about having a fight? What conversation came after that?

A. Well, they were talking about people they knew.

Q. Do you remember any of the particulars, who they talked about?

A. No, sir.

Q. But, do you remember if there was some people that they both knew?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. At the time -- the first time the car stopped on the Little California Road, was there some discussion about the keys of the car?

A. Yes, sir, he asked Keith to give him the keys of the car.

Q. And, what happened?

A. Keith gave him the keys of the car.

Q. Did Keith get out of the car at that time?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did he open the door of the car?

A. I don't really remember, because I was sitting by the dash board, and I was kind of nervous and everything. I really don't remember.

Q. Do you remember Keith handing him the keys?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. But, you don't remember if Keith opened the door?

A. No, sir.

Q. And, you don't remember if he got out of the car?

A. No, sir.

Q. About how long did the defendant keep the keys before he gave them back?

A. It wasn't that long. It was about — I don't know; it was about five minutes, I think, I ain't sure.

Q. Did the defendant, at that time, ask you, if you were a lady?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, what did you answer?

A. No.

Q. When he asked you if you were a lady, what did you think that meant?

A. I didn't know. I was so nervous and scared and crying, and everything. I didn't know. I wasn't thinking.

BY THE COURT:

Were you dressed in a skirt, or in pants?

A. In pants.

BY THE COURT:

In pants.

Q. When he gave the keys back to Keith, what did he say at that time?

A. He told Keith to go up further — he told Keith to go further up the road.

Q. Did you understand any reason for this changing places?

A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know about how far you traveled from the first stop?

A. It wasn't that far.

Q. Would you say, less than a mile, or about a mile, or...

A. About a mile.

- Q. When Keith was in the trunk, and both of you were in the car, your sister was in the back seat, and you were in the front seat?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And, is that -- did he tell her to get in the back seat?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And, he told you to get in the front seat?
- A. Well, we were both on the front seat, and he told us to undress. So, I just unbuttoned my shirt. And, he told Karen to get on the back seat. And, I stayed on the front seat.
- Q. And, is that when you said, Karen acted like she was going to run?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Just what did she do?
- A. She opened the door, and she almost got out, and then she stopped.
- Q. Where was he, at that time?
- A. I think he was standing by the front door.
- Q. He wasn't in the car?
- A. No, sir.
- Q. Did he take his clothes off at that time?
- A. No, sir.
- Q. At the time of the sex relations with you, did he take off his clothes?
- A. No, sir, he just unzipped his pants.
- Q. When Keith got in the trunk, what position did he get in? Did he get on the side, or did he lay across, or do you recall?
- A. He layed across.

Q. Now, at that time, you were in the front seat of the car, weren't you?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. When your sister got in the trunk, did she also lay across? Or do you know?

A. Well, they were both lying like this, when I got in the car... when I got in the trunk.

Q. Now, do you recall an automobile going by?

A. Yes, sir, when he was putting me in the trunk, I saw the headlights of a car passing by.

Q. When he was putting you in the trunk?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. So, the trunk was open at that time, was it?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, your sister and Keith were both in the trunk?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, the car was parked on the right side of the road, or on the left, or was it off the road?

A. Well, it was off the road, and it was pointing towards the lake.

Q. Was it like it was like on a driveway, or was it -- was it turned away from the road, or was it parallel to the road?

A. It was turned off the road.

Q. And, this car was going by about the time that you were getting in the trunk?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. When you got back to town, -- the trip from Little California to town, you were in the trunk with Keith, is that right?

A. Yes.

Q. And, Karen was in the car?

A. Yes, sir,

Q. And, you recall the car stopping and, when the trunk was opened, you ~~was~~ at the Cemetery? Is that it?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. About how long did the car stay at the Cemetery, before it left?

A. About five minutes.

Q. Did -- were all four of you out of the car at that time?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, who decided that y'all were going to leave? How did it come about? Well, now, we're going to leave. Did he say, we're leaving now, or did Keith say, Let's go, or...

A. Well, I don't remember.

Q. You don't remember. Was there any discussion about a flat tire at that time?

A. NO, sir.

Q. You got in the front seat with Keith, and Karen got in the back seat with the Defendant?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did anybody tell anybody where to sit?

A. No, sir.

Q. Now, after the car left the Cemetery, there was some conversation about a tire, wasn't there?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Rolling on the rim of the -- you were rolling on a flat tire at that time?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, what was the conversation about a tire?

- A. He asked Keith if wanted to steal a tire. Keith told him no, that he didn't want to steal a tire.
- Q. Was Keith trying to find a place to get a tire, do you know?
- A. No, sir, I don't.
- Q. When you left the Cemetery, did the defendant tell him which way to drive?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Did he tell him to go by the Canal Station?
- A. I don't know, but the road we were on, was on the side of the Canal Station.
- Q. Was there some talk about a tire at the Canal Station?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Who said anything, do you know who said anything?
- A. The defendant, that's when he asked Keith if he wanted to steal a tire.
- Q. And, Keith said, no?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. So, do you remember what direction the car turned at that time?
- A. I think it turned right.
- Q. Was there anymore discussion, that you remember, about a tire, after that?
- A. No, sir.
- Q. Was there -- there was no discussion about stealing a tire anywhere else that you remember?
- A. Not that I remember.
- Q. When the defendant got out of the car, did he say that this is where he lived?
- A. No, sir.
- Q. You didn't know if he was getting off at home? Well, he just

said, let me out here, is that all?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you remember anything about looking for a hose?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where did this take place?

A. It was the third time we had stopped. And, he opened the trunk, and he asked Keith if he had a hose. And, Keith said, he didn't know if he had a hose. So we were looking for a hose. And, then we couldn't find one.

Q. Well, did everybody get out of the trunk to look?

A. No, sir, he made me and Keith stay in the trunk.

Q. And, did y'all try to -- y'all looked for a hose?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was there any light in the trunk at any time?

A. Yes, sir, there was a little light -- there was a little light bulb in the trunk, and it was taped.

Q. And, would it go on when the trunk was open, or was it on when the trunk was closed, or...

A. Well, the trunk was closed, and you had to hold it, before the light would come on.

Q. Do you remember when -- do you know if Keith asked the defendant his name, when you were at the 7-11?

A. No, sir.

Q. You don't remember that?

A. No, sir.

Q. You were there for the entire conversation, weren't you?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know, certainly, that he didn't ask his name, or you just

don't remember if he asked his name?

A. I don't remember if he did or not.

Q. You do remember that Keith started calling him Simmons?

A. Yes.

Q. You heard that?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know how he found out what his name was?

A. No, sir.

Q. Before you moved to Brouillette, before you went to live with your grandparents, you lived in Alexandria?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. With your mother?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Why did you change schools?

A. Because we were having some problems in Alex, and we just wanted to try it down here, see how we would like it down here.

Q. What kind of problems?

A. Well, we weren't getting along too good in school.

Q. Had you been suspended?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Could I have about five minutes, your honor?

BY THE COURT:

Yes, I was going to suggest that it's about time for the coffee. So, I'll give the Jury a five or ten minute recess. As soon as you get your coffee, you come back in.

(RESUMING AFTER MID-AFTERNOON RECESS)

BY THE COURT:

Allright, the record will show that the court reconvened in its

Criminal Jurisdiction this 19th day of July, 1977, following a mid-afternoon recess. The record will show the twelve jurors and the two alternates have filed back in the courtroom; the defendant is present, accompanied by his attorneys. And, the District Attorney and his First Assistant are present, representing the State. Would you waive polling the Jury?

BY MRS. KNOLL:

State waives polling, your honor.

BY MR. BROUILLETTE:

We waive polling.

BY THE COURT:

Allright, both sides waive polling the Jury. At the time of recess, Sharon Sanders was being cross-examined by the defense lawyer, Mr. Harold Brouillette. Have a seat.

(SHARON SANDERS STILL UNDER CROSS EXAMINATION
BY MR. HAROLD BROUILLETTE)

BY MR. BROUILLETTE:

Miss Sanders, the day after the incident that we've talked about, did you and Keith and your sister talk about it?

A. No, sir, we were trying to forget about it.

Q. Did you go to school that next day?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever tell anybody about it? Were you the first person to tell anybody about it?

A. No, sir.
about

Q. And, how long was it before anyone decide -- besides you and Keith and your sister, found out anything?

A. Two weeks.

*Change
Questioning*

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BY THE COURT:

Two weeks? —

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you finish out the schoolyear, here in Marksville?

A. No, sir. Well, the police came and got us at school, and they brought us back. And, everybody was wanting to know why the cops came and got us at school, and everything, and the teachers were always asking us about it, and everything, and my sister called my momma to come get us, cause we didn't want to go the rest of the year.

Q. On the night in question, there was a gas tank in the trunk, you said?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was there anything else in the trunk? Any tools, or any jacks, or...

A. Yes, sir, there was a tire and there was a jack.

Q. A tire and a jack?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Anything else that you remember?

A. There was something that Keith was trying to open the trunk with. But, I don't know what it's called.

Q. That's all the questions I have at this time, your honor. I'd like to reserve the right to recall the witness if necessary.

BY MRS. KNOLL:

Sharon, I just have a few other questions.

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

BY MRS. KNOLL:

When the defendant told you to undress, why did you undress?

A. Because I was scared.

Q. Why were you scared?

A. Because he had put my sister and Keith in the trunk, and I was scared that if I didn't do it, he would kill us.

Q. Has the raping of you by the defendant...

BY MR. BROUILLETTE:

Your Honor, I object to the conclusive manner of ... that's what this court is to determine, is whether or not there's going to be..

Q. Allright, I'll rephrase my question, your honor.

BY THE COURT:

Allright.

Q. Since this incident with the defendant, has it had any affect on you, Sharon?

A.q Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Canyou explain to the Jurors what affect it has had?

A. Yes, Ma'm. Well, we can't ever get to sleep at night; and we always have to take valium before we can go to sleep, because we can't fall asleep at night. We could always sleep in the dark before it happened, but now, we always have to have a light on. And, a good friend of ours, that we've known for about four or five years, took us down to the store, and we got scared, and we made him take us home. And, we can't go no where, except, you know, from my grandmother's house to my Aunt's.

Q. Are you fearful about going anywhere now?

A. Yes, Ma'm.

Q. Why are you fearful?

A. Because I'm scared that something else might happen to us.

Q. Sharon, did you believe that if you talked that the defendant -- he, or some of his buddies would hurt you or kill you?

BY MR. BROUILLETTE:

Your Honor, that's a leading question.

BY THE COURT:

Sustained; it's a good objection.

Q. Why didn't you talk for a period of two weeks, Sharon?

A. Because I was scared, that if we did, that his buddies would kill us.

Q. I have no further questions, your honor.

BY THE COURT:

Anything more, Mr. Brouillette?

BY MR. BROUILLETTE:

Not at this time, your honor. *Why are you talking now?*

BY THE COURT:

Okay, that's all, young lady. Subject to recall, we'll put her back under the rule.

BY MR. KNOLL:

Your Honor, we'll call Karen Sanders.

BY THE COURT: "

Do you solemnly swear, that the testimony you're about to give in this case, will be the truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you GOD?