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THE COURT: Do you gentlemen desire to make any preliminary statement?

MR. CHATHAM: No Sir.

The District Attorney, for and on behalf of the State of Mississippi, then and there introduced the following testimony and evidence, that-is-to-say:

FOR THE PROSECUTION

MOSE WRIGHT,

a witness introduced for and on behalf of the State, being first duly sworn, upon his oath testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CHATHAM:

Q Will you please state your name to the Jury?

A Mose Wright.

Q Uncle Mose, where do you live?

A Money.

Q Is that Money, Mississippi?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And where is Money with reference to Philipp in Tallahatchie County?

A It is -- I think it is about north, maybe northeast.

Q Do you mean Philipp is north of Money?

A Yes, Sir, that is what I think.

Q How long have you lived in that community, Uncle

Mose?

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A Ever since '46.

Q And on August 28th, of this year, where were you living near Money?

A Where was I living?

Q On whose place were you living?

A Mr. G. C. Frederick.

Q And in which direction from Money is Mr. Frederick's place?

A East.

Q And about how far from Money is that?

A Three miles.

Q Uncle Mose, are you a married man?

A Yes, Sir.

Q How much family do you have?

A Oh, I have twelve.

Q You have twelve in your family?

A But they are not all with me, you know.

Q In August of this year, how many of your family were living with you there at your home, living with you and your wife there?

A There was only me, and my wife and three children.

Q There was you, and your wife and three children living there at that time.

A Yes, Sir.

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Q What kind of house do you live in, Uncle Mose?

A We live in a six-room house.

Q Will you tell the jury how those rooms are arranged?

A I think so.

Q Well, tell them, please.

A Well, the house in the east is a living room, and on the west there is a living room, in the front, you know, and there is a screened-in front porch facing north; and there is a kitchen between those rooms, and there is a door that enters into the east room, but it goes right on through to the south room, you know.

Of course, there is a partition there, and we have got to go through this door there, and it is the same way over on the other side. There is a west door that enters into the west room. And then we just go on around there and that is the way we enter the side of the other rooms there. That is where the bedrooms is.

Q From your explanation of the floor plan of your house, I take it that there are two rooms on the front, is that right?

A Two on the front, that's right.

Q And your house faces north, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

Q How close is your house to the road?

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A It is fifty some feet, I think, about fifty feet.

Q Are there any trees in your yard between your front porch and the road?

A Yes, sir.

Q Now, specifically on the night of August 27th, Saturday night, August 27th, who was there at your home at bedtime?

A Well, at bedtime, there was Curtis Jones, my grandson; and Wheeler Parker, my grandson; and Emmett Louis Till, my nephew -- I am his uncle; and Lillybeth Wright; my wife; and Maurice and Robert and Simon, my sons.

Q Uncle Mose, tell the jury about what time that Saturday night your family went to bed.

A. My wife was already in bed. Of course, myself and the boys, we went to bed about one o'clock. We had went to Greenwood that night, and we came in about one o'clock.

Q Had you, and your wife and all the members of your family been to Greenwood that night?

A My wife didn't go. It was just the boys that went.

Q And she remained at home, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you got back with them about one o'clock?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you immediately went to bed, is that right?

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A Yes, Sir.

Q Now, I want you to tell the jury in which room of your house did Emmett Till go to bed?

A Well, the east room, my wife and I sleep there.

Q Then we will call it the east front room, is that right?

A That's right. And there is a door that leads out to the side room there. That is where Emmett Till was.

Q And who went to bed with Emmett Till that night?

A Simon, my baby.

Q And Simon and Emmett Till were the only two people in that room that night?

A That's right.

Q Now, Uncle Mose, after you and your family had gone to bed that night, I want you to tell the jury if any person or if one or more persons called at your home that night, and if they did, what time was it?

A About two o'clock.

Q What was the first thing that attracted your attention to the fact that there was someone about your premises?

A Well, someone was at the front door, and he was saying, "Preacher - - Preacher." And then I said, "Who is it?" And then he said, "This is Mr. Bryant. I want to talk to you and that boy."

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Q Do you know Mr. Bryant?

A I just know him since he came up here. I couldn't see him that night so well, only with that flashlight there, and I could see that it was this other man, Mr. Milam. But I know Mr. Milam.

Q You know Mr. Milam, do you?

A I sure do.

Q And then what did you do?

A Well, I got up and opened the door.

Q And what did you see when you opened the door?

A Well, Mr. Milam was standing there at the door with a pistol in his right hand and he had a flashlight in his left hand.

Q Now stop there a minute, Uncle Mose. I want you to point out Mr. Milam if you see him here.

A There he is (pointing)

Q And do you see Mr. Bryant in here?

A (The witness pointed with his hand)

Q All right - - about how big a porch is this there on the front of your house, Uncle Mose? How wide is it?

A It ought to be something like about nine feet.

Q You would say it is about nine feet wide, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

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Q And does that porch run the full length of your house?

A That's right.

Q That is, it runs the length of those two front rooms, is that right?

A That's right.

Q And I believe you have already testified that it is a screened-in porch, is that right?

A That's right.

Q Now tell the jury, Uncle Mose, when you opened the door and looked out at that time, and you saw Mr. Bryant and Mr. Milam there, where were they standing?

MR. BRELAND: We object to that, Your Honor. He said that he didn't recognize them out there. He said he just saw the flashlight.

THE COURT: The objection will be sustained. The witness stated that he didn't recognize Mr. Bryant at that time.

Q When did you see those two men that night?

A That was about two o'clock in the morning.

Q But did you see them before you opened the door or after?

A It was after I opened the door.

Q And where were they standing?

A Mr. Milam was standing there at the door, and there was

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one man standing at the screen door, and Mr. Bryant was standing kind of out away from the door.

MR. BRELAND: We object to that, if the Court please. He said that he didn't recognize him.

THE COURT: I believe the witness has stated that he did not see Mr. Bryant, that he didn't see him out there that night because it was dark.

THE WITNESS: I saw him but I couldn't see his face.

THE COURT: The objection will be sustained. He has stated that he didn't recognize Mr. Bryant.

MR. BRELAND: And we would like to ask the jury to disregard that statement.

THE COURT: You gentlemen of the jury will disregard the statement made by the witness about Mr. Bryant at this time.

Q When this man first called out to you that night, Uncle Mose, did he tell you who it was?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And who did he tell you it was?

A He said he was Mr. Bryant.

Q And do you see the man here in this courtroom now who was standing on your porch that night that said he was Mr. Bryant?

A Yes, Sir.

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MR. BRELAND: We object to that, Your Honor. He said that he didn't recognize him.

THE COURT: The objection at this time will be sustained unless the witness can say that he was able to identify him and recognized him that night.

Q Now, Uncle Mose, what did you say J. W. Milam had in his hand that night when you saw him there on your porch?

A He had a pistol in his right hand.

Q And what else did he have?

A And he had a flashlight in his left hand.

Q And what did he say to you?

A Well, he asked me if I had two boys there from Chicago?

Q And what did you say?

A I said, "Yes, Sir."

Q And will you tell the jury who those boys were?

A Wheeler Parker, my grandson, and Emmett Till.

Q How long had they been visiting in your home with you.

A They was there a week that same day.

Q No, Uncle Mose, after you told Mr. Milam that you did have two boys there from Chicago, and that they were there in your house, what did he say and do then?

A Then Mr. Milam said, "I want that boy that done the talking down at Money."

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Q And what did he do?

A Well, we went right over to the east room, the front room there, and I called, and he wasn't in there.

Q When you say "We", who do you mean by that? Who was there then?

A Mr. Milam and Mr. Bryant.

MR. BRELAND: We object to that, Your Honor. And we ask that his statement be excluded.

Q At any time after you first saw the man with Mr. Milam that you first could not recognize, did you later on recognize him in or about your house as being a man that you knew? Did you ever recognize him that night?

A That is the first time I remember seeing him.

Q Where was the first time you remember seeing him?

A In my house.

Q The first time you ever saw him was in your house?

A That's right.

Q And who was that man?

A Mr. Milam.

Q And who else did you see in your house?

A Mr. Bryant.

MR. BRELAND: Now just a moment, please - - -

THE COURT: Let Mr. Chatham ask a further question about that, if you will, please.

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Q Did you at any time that night recognize Mr. Bryant as one of the men in your house?

A Yes, Sir.

MR. BRELAND: We object to that, Your Honor. That is just a repetition of the question.

THE COURT: The objection will be overruled there. I believe he stated he didn't recognize him at first. Now let's find out if he ever did recognize anyone there that he could identify as Mr. Bryant.

Q Uncle Mose, do you see any man in this courtroom now who was with Mr. Milam that night at your house?

A Yes, Sir.

MR. BRELAND: We object to that, if the court please. That is purely a leading question, and having the party here present at this time and sitting in the courtroom, that would not be a proper identification anyway. And his statement to begin with, he said that he never recognized him.

THE COURT: I believe he said he didn't recognize him at the door. The objection will be overruled at this time.

Q And will you point that man out, Uncle Mose?

A Yes, Sir.

Q Well, point him out for the benefit of the jury.

A Yes, Sir.

Q And who was that man?

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A It was Mr. Bryant, he told me he was.

Q Now, after Mr. Milam and Mr. Bryant got in your house that night, tell the jury what you did.

A Well, we went to this first room, we went to the first bed there, and Emmett Till wasn't in there. And so I walked out the door into the side room there. Of course, there wasn't anyone sleeping in the first room. And then I passed another door, and in this second room there, we found him and Simon in bed.

Q Now, what, if anything, was said by Mr. Milam or Mr. Bryant to Emmett Till?

A Well, before we entered into the room, Mr. Milam said, "If this is not the right boy, then we are going to bring him back. If it is not the right boy, we are going to bring him back and put him in the bed."

Q Did you ask them what they wanted with the boy?

A No, Sir, I sure didn't.

Q And what did they do then?

A Then we come on to where this boy was in the room there, and he was there in the bed, and they told him to get up.

Q Who did?

A Mr. Milam said for him to get up.

Q And what did he have in his hand then?

A He had the pistol and the flashlight.

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Q And what did Emmett Till do?

A He got up and dressed. He sat on the side of the bed and dressed.

Q And what happened after that, Uncle Mose?

A Well, when he got up, and they started out, then he asked me if I know anybody there and I told him, "No, Sir. I don't know you."

And then he said to me, "How old are you?" And then I said, "Sixty four." And then he said, "Well, if you know any of us here tonight, then you will never live to get to be Sixty five."

Q And was that in the room where Emmett was in bed?

A That's right.

Q And then did they leave out of your house with Emmett Till?

A That's right.

Q Did they go out the same way they came in? When they left your house, did you go back to the door the same way you came in?

A No, Sir. We went through some room there, you know, the door was open, and we went through this other bedroom there. That is where we went through on the way back.

Q Was that the room where you and your wife sleep?

A Yes, Sir.

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Q And when you went through that room, did either Mr. Bryant or Mr. Milam have anything to say to your wife?

A Yes, Sir, they did.

Q And what did they say?

A Well, she had gotten up out of bed, and then he said to her, "You get back in that bed, and I mean, I want to hear the springs."

Q He said that he wanted to hear the springs?

A That's right.

Q And what did she do then?

A Well, she got back in bed.

Q And did Mr. Milam still have the pistol in his hand then?

A He kept it in his hand all the time.

Q Before you got out of the house, Uncle Mose, or before Mr. Milam or Mr. Bryant got out of the house with Emmett Till, I want you to tell the jury if either you or your wife tried to induce them not to carry the boy out.

A Yes, Sir.

Q What did you or your wife say to them?

A MR. CARLTON: We object to that, Your Honor. That would be hearsay testimony.

THE COURT: If anything was said it would have been in the presence of the defendants. The objection is overruled.

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Q Go ahead, Uncle Mose, and tell us what was said.

A Well, my wife, she said that we will pay you whatever you want to charge if you will just release him. She said that we would pay them for whatever he might have done if they would just let him go.

Q And what did they say?

A They didn't say a word.

Q And did they remain there after that?

A Well, just for a few minutes, and then they walked out:

Q Where did they go?

A They entered a car and drove off towards Money.

Q And what did you do, Uncle Mose? Did you go to the front door when they went out of the house?

MR. BRELAND: We object to that. That is a leading question.

THE COURT: I want to ask all counsel to please refrain from leading questions so far as possible.

MR. CHATHAM: I am sure that rule will work both ways, Your Honor.

THE COURT: That applies to all counsel.

Q Uncle Mose, after Mr. Milam and Mr. Bryant left out of your house that night with Emmett Till, what did you do?

A Well, I came out towards the screen door, and I

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stood there on the porch.

Q Is that the screen door on the porch which you described at the beginning of your testimony?

A That's right.

Q And from that point, could you see out near the road in front of your house?

A I couldn't see very clear because there wasn't no light.

Q What, if anything, did you see out there when Mr. Milam and Mr. Bryant took Emmett Till out in front of your house?

A I saw a car moving off towards Money.

Q And which way was that car parked?

A It was parked towards Money.

Q Before Mr. Milam and Mr. Bryant got to the car with Emmett Till, did you hear them make any statement or ask anybody out there any question in that car?

A I sure did.

Q Will you tell the jury what that was?

A They asked if this was the boy, and someone said, "Yes."

Q Was that a man's voice or a lady's voice you heard?

A It seemed like it was a lighter voice than a man's.

Q Did you say it seemed like a louder voice?

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A Lighter.

Q And what did they do with Emmett Till after they received that response from the person who was in the car?

MR. BRELAND: If he knows, Your Honor.

THE WITNESS: Then they drove off towards Money.

Q Do you know what kind of an automobile it was?

A No, Sir. They didn't turn on no lights. I just heard it and I kind of saw it there in the dark. It was kind of dark, you know, and there was no lights on it.

Q The lights weren't burning on the car?

A No, Sir.

Q Did you watch the car as it drove off towards Money?

A Well, I stood on the porch there for maybe twenty minutes or more.

Q As far as you know, did they ever turn on any lights on the car?

A I never did see it.

Q Where is the next house situated and what is the closest house from your place in going towards Money?

A I reckon it is about two hundred yards from there.

Q Mr. Frederick lives up that way, is that right?

A That's right.

Q And the closest house from you is about two hundred yards going towards Money?

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A Yes, Sir.

Q And what about any house in the other direction?

A I guess about half the distance.

Q In other words, there is no other house close by you, is that right?

A That's right.

Q Now, Uncle Mose, have you since that night ever seen Emmett Till alive?

A No, Sir.

Q Did Mr. Bryant or Mr. Milam ever bring him back to your house that night?

A No, Sir, they haven't.

Q Or have they ever brought him back?

A No, Sir.

Q Now tell the Court and Jury when was the next time after they took Emmett Till away from your house that you saw him or his body.

A I saw him when he was taken out of the river. He was in a boat then. I don't know just which day it was.

Q Was that on the Wednesday following the Saturday night that they took him away from your house?

A That's right.

Q And when you saw Emmett Till there, was he living or dead?

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A He was dead.

Q Where was Emmett's body there at the point in the river where you went when you first saw him after that?

A They had him in a boat. He was in a boat there.

Q And who was there handling the boat, if you remember?

A They already had him out. There wasn't anyone handling it when I got there. It was already on shore.

Q It was already on the shore when you got there?

A That's right.

Q And who went with you over there, Uncle Mose?

A It was the Deputy Sheriff, I think. I don't know the names. There was two of them.

MR. BRELAND: We object to his stating what he doesn't know.

MR. CHATHAM: The old man is endeavoring to tell the truth. Do you object to that?

THE COURT: Counsel will please direct all remarks to the Court. These side remarks to each other are not necessary.

Q Then you don't know the Sheriff of this County?

A I just know him since I have been here is all.

Q Well, was Mr. Strider there?

A He sure was.

Q Do you know Mr. Garland Melton, one of his deputies?

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A I sure know him, too.

Q Was he there?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And was there a lot of more white people there?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And were there two or three young boys there?

A Yes, Sir.

Q Who came and notified you to come up there, that there might have been some person there for you to see?

A It was the Deputy Sheriff from Greenwood. I don't know his name.

Q You don't know whether it would have been Mr. John Ed Cothran or not?

A Well, I know Mr. Smith, the Sheriff. It wasn't Mr. Smith.

Q Who did you carry with you when you went up there? did any members of your family go up there with you?

A No, Sir.

Q When you got there, was the body of Emmett Till laying on the bank?

A It was in a boat.

Q I want you to tell the jury whether or not you could tell whose body it was?

A Yes, Sir.

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Q And who was it?

A Emmett Till.

Q During the time you were there where you first saw the body, did you notice whether or not the undertaker or any Deputy Sheriff took a ring off of Emmett's finger?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And was that ring taken off his finger in your presence?

A That's right.

Q What did you do after that, Uncle Mose, with reference to the body?

A What is that?

Q What did you do after that with reference to Emmett's body? What did you do with his body?

A Well, we taken it back. The undertaker man took it back to Greenwood.

Q And what undertaker man was that, Uncle Mose?

A Mr. Miller.

Q Is that Chester Miller?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And he is the undertaker man over at Greenwood?

A That's right.

Q And he is the man who took the body from the point on the river where you first saw it there?

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A That's right.

Q And where was it that you next saw Emmett's body after Chester Miller took it away from the river?

A After he took it away from the river, I didn't see it any more.

Q Did you supervise the arrangements for the burial of Emmett's body?

A That's right.

Q And where did you have it sent?

A At Money. Where I live, we have a church and graveyard there.

Q And did they bury the body there?

A They sure didn't.

Q What did they do with the body?

A They carried it back to Greenwood.

MR. BRELAND: We object, Your Honor. He has already said that he didn't see it any more.

THE COURT: The witness can only state what he knows, Mr. Chatham.

Q Did you give any instructions to the Sheriff, or to the undertaker man, or to anybody as to where the body should be sent for burial?

A That's right.

Q And where was that?

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A At Money.

Q But you say they didn't bury the body at Money?

A They sure didn't.

Q Well, did you give anyone instructions as to where the body was to be sent for burial?

A Yes, Sir. I called the boy's Grandmother in Chicago, and she told me - - -

MR. BRELAND: We object to that, Your Honor.

THE COURT: The witness cannot repeat any conversation that was not made in the presence of the defendants.

Q After you had this conversation, what instructions did you give as to where the body was to be sent for burial?

A I said not to carry it to Greenwood and bury the body there, and I made other arrangements.

Q Did you give the undertaker man there at Greenwood any instructions as to where he was to send the body?

A MR. BRELAND: We object, Your Honor. He said that he didn't see the undertaker.

THE COURT: I don't think he testified as to that. I think he said that he had not seen the body after it had been taken away.

MR. BRELAND: Well, find out if he saw the undertaker.

MR. CHATHAM: Mr. Breland, we will conduct this examination, if you don't mind.

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THE COURT: You gentlemen will have to direct your remarks to me.

Q Uncle Mose, what I am trying to get at is this: Where does Emmett's Mother live?

A In Chicago.

Q Now will you tell the jury whether or not, whether you gave any instructions to anyone to send the body up to Chicago?

MR. BRELAND: We object to that. We object to the leading form of the question.

THE COURT: Will you rephrase your question, Mr. Chat-ham?

Q After the body had been brought to Money, where did you tell the undertaker to send the body from Money?

MR. BRELAND: We object to that, Your Honor. He hasn't said he told him anything about that.

THE COURT: If he told him, he can testify to that.

Q Did you tell the undertaker where to send the body?

A I didn't.

Q Now, Uncle Mose, getting back to the point where you saw Emmett's body there on the river, what river was that?

A Tallahatchie.

Q Will you give the jury some idea as to about where on Tallahatchie River the body was when you saw it that Wednesday morning?

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A It was in a boat and the boat was out of the water.

Q And was it between some towns? What communities or towns was it between or near?

A It was between Philipp and Tippo.

Q And you stated you were present there when Miller took the ring off of Emmett's finger?

A I was looking right at him, that's right.

Q And what did Miller do with that ring?

A He put it on the seat there when he taken it off.

Q Do you mean the seat in the funeral coach?

A That's right.

Q Was that ring ever given to you?

A That's right. I asked for it.

Q When did you ask for it?

A Shortly after they got the body in the coach.

Q And did he give it to you?

A That's right.

Q Now I hand you a ring, Uncle Mose, and I ask you to tell the Court and Jury if that is the ring that Chester Miller took off of Emmett's finger and gave to you that morning?

A Yes, Sir, it is.

Q How long did you keep the ring after that?

A Until we got home.

Q And then what did you do with it?

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A I gave it to the Sheriff.

Q Sheriff who?

A To the Deputy. I don't know his name.

Q Was that a Deputy in this County?

A LeFlore County.

Q And until today that is the last time you saw this ring, is that right?

A That's right.

Q And you say you gave it to the Deputy in LeFlore County?

A That's right.

MR. CHATHAM. TAKE THE WITNESS.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. CARLTON:

Q Mose, I believe you testified on direct examination that Emmett was sleeping in the east room right behind your bedroom, is that correct?

A That's right.

Q And also that he was in the bed with your son, Simon?

A That's right.

Q Who was next to the wall in that bed?

A Simon.

Q And how close was the side of the bed where Emmett was to the doorway into your room?

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A The head of the bed was jammed up against the wall and the door was right there.

Q And who else was asleep in that room?

A Robert and Maurice.

Q I believe on direct examination, he testified there was nobody in there but Simon and Emmett.

A Well, that is the way it was. They was in there with Emmett.

Q Do you mean you are changing your story now from what you said awhile ago?

A I didn't say it.

Q You didn't say that those were the only two in that room?

A They was the only two in the bed, and I didn't say in the room.

Q Well, who else was in the room?

A Robert and Maurice. They was both in the bed.

Q Those are both your boys?

A That's right.

Q How old are they?

A Robert is fourteen and Maurice is sixteen.

Q When they came to your house that night, as you say, and called out, "Preacher - - Preacher", where was Mr. Milam?

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A He was standing right at the door.

Q And as soon as you opened the door, you saw him?

A That's right.

Q Now, will you get up and show the jury just how he had the pistol and the flashlight in his hands, as you say?

A He had the pistol right in this hand (indicating).

Q He had the pistol in his right hand?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And how did he have the flashlight?

A In this hand (indicating).

Q And he had the flashlight in his left hand, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And where was the flashlight pointed?

A It was out like this (indicating with his hand).

Q Do you mean it was out in front of his body, in front of the other hand in which you say he had the pistol?

A That's right.

Q Was there any light in your house that night?

A No light.

Q Did anybody ask you to turn on a light?

A No, Sir - - Well, they asked me to.

Q Did anybody ask you to turn on the lights?

A Yes, Sir.

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Q But you didn't turn on the lights?

A No, Sir.

Q Were there ever any lights turned on in your house while those men were in there?

A No, Sir.

Q How many flashlights were in there, in your house that night?

A I didn't see but one.

Q And where did he keep that flashlight while he was in your house?

A It was right in his hand.

Q He held it right in front of him all the time?

A That's right.

Q Did he ever turn it up and shine it in his face?

MR. CHATHAM: In whose face?

Q Did he ever turn it in his own face?

A Well, he had it something like that when we was going through the house (indicating with his hand).

Q Who was in front of you as you were going through the house?

A Well, me and Mr. Milam was side by side.

Q And this other man was behind you, is that right?

A He was behind.

Q And did he always keep the flashlight out in front of him?

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A That's right.

Q Did he ever shine it in his face?

A Well, I could see from the light, you know, how it will shine out from the side like that.

Q But did he shine it in Emmett's face?

A Yes, Sir, he did.

Q Did he ever shine it in Simon's face?

A I don't know about that. He was on the back there.

Q When you went in the room where Emmett was, was Emmett asleep?

A That's right.

Q Who wakened him up?

A He told him to get up and put his clothes on.

Q Did he have anything on at the time when he was in bed? Was he sleeping with clothes on?

A I think he had on his shorts and maybe a shirt. I don't think he had pajamas.

Q And when he told him to get up and put his clothes on, what did he put on then?

A He put on a shirt and trousers.

Q Did he put on any shoes?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And he got dressed, did he?

A That's right.

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Q What kind of clothes did he put on?

A I can't remember what kind.

Q Well, you stated that you were there looking at him, didn't you?

A That's right.

Q And you were standing right there, weren't you?

A That's right.

Q And there Mr. Milam was standing there in front of your door, when you opened your door that night, you saw him right there at that time, did you?

A That's right.

Q And where was this other man that you say was there who went through the house with you?

A He was standing back behind Mr. Milam.

Q Could you see him standing there then?

A No, Sir, I didn't see him right then.

Q Then how could you see him when you say that you saw him standing back there then?

A Well, he was on the porch.

Q But the light wasn't on, was it?

A That's right.

Q When you opened the door and saw Mr. Milam there and saw this other man standing behind him, could you see the car out there then?

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A No, Sir, I didn't see the car.

Q Well, how could you see the man standing back there if you couldn't see the car?

A Well, like I said, he was up on the porch.

Q And you say the light wasn't on?

A That's right.

Q But it was so dark out there that you couldn't see the car?

A I couldn't see the car out in the road, no.

Q Was there anybody else there at that time?

A There was one man who stood there at the screen door.

Q How was he standing?

A Well, he was standing kind of with his head down like this here (demonstrating) peering. He was trying to hide, it looked like.

Q In other words, you think he was trying to hide to keep you from seeing him?

A That's right.

Q And I believe you told me before that you thought he was a colored man, isn't that right?

A He acted like a colored man.

Q Where was this second man when you walked into this other room, this other front room?

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A Well, all three of them was almost together.

Q Who was in that other bedroom near the company room?

A There was Wheeler Parker, my grandson, and Curtis Jones.

Q And when you started through the house, you looked at them, did you?

A That's right.

Q Well, how did you know what boy they were looking for?

A I heard someone say that this boy had done something, or had done some talking down at Money. I think that was on Thursday or maybe Friday.

Q You already knew about it, did you?

A That's right.

Q Had you talked to Emmett about it?

A I sure did.

MR. SMITH: We object to that, if the Court please.

THE COURT: The objection is sustained.

Q Did you punish Emmett for that?

MR. SMITH: We object, Your Honor.

THE COURT: The objection is sustained.

Q When you went into the company room, you went into the second room on the east side, is that right?

A The south side.

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Q And that would have been the side towards Money, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And there is a door going from the company room into that room, is that right?

A That's right.

Q And there is no door between your room and the company room?

A That's right.

Q There is a chimney there, isn't that right?

A That's right.

Q And there are some pictures there on the mantel, is that right?

A That's right.

Q Whose pictures are on the mantel there?

MR. SMTIH: We object to that, Your Honor. That has nothing to do with this case at all. It has no bearing on this matter whatsoever.

THE COURT: Unless it is shown to be pertinent to this trial, the objection is sustained.

Q Was there anybody sleeping in the second room there at all?

A There sure wasn't.

Q That is a bedroom there too, isn't it?

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A That's right.

Q And then you go from that room into the room where Emmett was sleeping?

A That's right.

Q And back of that room in your house, back from where Emmett was, you go into a place which is something like a hallway, between there and the dining room, isn't that right?

A That's right.

Q And there is a little place in there on the east side between the dining room and the kitchen, isn't that right?

A That's right.

Q And the kitchen is over on the left side as you are going through there?

A Yes, Sir.

Q By the way, do you have electricity there?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you have an electric refrigerator, do you?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you also have electric lights, do you?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you say that one of the men asked you to turn the lights on that night?

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A Yes, Sir.

Q But you still didn't turn the lights on?

A I sure didn't.

Q Did you ever see this man that you pointed out as Mr. Bryant, did you ever see the light shining on his face that night?

A I did not..

Q Had you ever seen him before that night?

A Not to know him.

Q Had you ever been in his store?

A I never have.

Q And the first time you ever saw him was in the courtroom this week, wasn't it?

A The first time I saw his face, that's right.

Q Now, let's go back to Mr. Milam - - you testified that he was standing in the doorway of your house with a pistol in his right hand and a flashlight out in front of him in his left hand, is that correct?

A That's right.

Q And the flashlight was sticking out in front about six or eight inches, about six or eight inches in front of the pistol, is that right?

A I don't know about that. I didn't measure it.

Q Had you ever seen Mr. Milam before that night?

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A I never had.

Q Did you ever see the lights flashing on his face that night?

A Sure. He had it up to his face. That is the way I know him.

Q Mose, you talked to me over at this law office over here (pointing with his hand) last week, is that right?

A That's right.

Q And do you remember this gentleman here, Mr. Breland, being present at that time?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And do you remember Mr. Henderson being present there that day (indicating another gentleman)?

A That's right.

Q And this gentleman over there in the blue coat, Mr. Kellum, was he present that day also?

A That's right.

Q You remember him being there, do you?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And isn't it a fact, Mose, that you on that day told each one of those gentlemen and me that the only reason you thought this was Mr. Milam in your house that night was due to the fact that he was a big man and had a bald head? Isn't that true?

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A That's right.

Q And the first time that you ever saw him was in this courthouse later on when they came into the courtroom, isn't that right?

A I don't believe I understand.

Q The first time you ever saw him was in this courtroom, isn't that right?

A No Sir. I knowed him that night.

Q And the reason you say you know him is because the man had a bald head, isn't that right?

A Well, I noticed his face and his stature. And I knowed his face just like I see him there now.

Q Then you have changed your story from what you told us the other day, haven't you?

A They was at my house.

Q And the only thing you saw at your house, the only man you saw, was a bald headed man, is that right?

A That's right.

Q Mose, isn't it a fact that before you saw Mr. Milam up here, you saw Mr. Milam's picture in the newspapers, that is, before he came in here and you saw him up here? Isn't that true?

A I don't know whether I have or not. I can't remember.

Q Now isn't it a fact that you told me and these other

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gentlemen here last week that you saw him in the newspaper before you saw him here in the courtroom?

A I don't remember saying that.

Q Do you deny that?

A I don't remember.

Q What were Emmett's initials, Mose?

A I don't know.

Q Are his initials "L.T."?

A That is his Daddy's name, Louis Till.

Q But are they Emmett's initials?

A That is Louis Till, his Father's initials.

Q But they are not Emmett's initials, is that right?

A That's right.

Q Now, you say you saw a car out there when you first came out on the porch, and you say you saw it first when they went out there with Emmett, is that right?

A I saw it when they went out there with the boy. I could see something black up on the road.

Q But you say you couldn't see a car out there on the road when you first opened the door?

A That's right.

Q But you could see a man standing out there?

A When I first came on the porch there, sure, I saw him.

Q Now, this car you say you saw out there afterwards,

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was the car pulled up to your porch or was it out on the road?

A It was in the space between the road and my house.

Q It wasn't up in the gravel road, was it?

A No, Sir.

Q And it is just about fifty feet out to the gravel road, isn't that right?

A It is something like that.

Q And what kind of trees are in the yard there?

A Cedar trees and Persimmon trees.

Q And those trees are about thirty or forty feet from the road, isn't that right?

A No, Sir.

Q Then how far are they?

A I guess about maybe ten or twelve feet, something like that.

Q Is there plenty of room for a car to pull off there?

A There is plenty of room for a car. I park there.

Q And you saw the car parked there, did you?

A When it pulled off.

Q Then you didn't see a car before it pulled off?

A I didn't see it before he pulled off.

Q Then you didn't see Emmett get into the car, did you?

A I didn't see that.

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MR. CHATHAM: If the Court please, I would like to ask Mr. Carlton to please give the Witness time to answer his questions.

THE COURT: The Witness will have plenty of opportunity to answer the questions. And I must ask Counsel to direct all remarks to the Court.

Q You didn't see Emmett get into the car, did you?

A I did not.

Q And you didn't see anybody put him in the car, did you?

A I did not.

Q And you did not see either one of these men who were at your house get into the car, did you?

A I did not.

Q And you didn't see anybody in that car when it drove off, did you?

A I did not.

Q Did you see any headlights on the car?

A There wasn't no lights on.

Q Did you see any tail light on the car?

A I did not.

Q When they opened the door to get in the car, did any lights turn on?

A I didn't see it.

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Q How many folks were in that car?

A I don't know.

Q Was this voice you say you heard out there the voice of one of these three men you had already seen there?

A It was just a voice. They took him out there, and somebody said, "Is this him?" and then a voice said, "Yes." But it wasn't one of them.

Q And the only reason you thought Mr. Bryant was there that night was because somebody came up there and told you or said that he was Mr. Bryant, is that right?

A That's right.

Q How old is Emmett Till?

A Fourteen.

Q What grade was he in?

A The 9th.

Q And how did he walk? Did he walk natural?

A He walked right.

Q Did he walk good?

A That's right.

Q And how did he talk?

A Well, he had a stammering speech. Sometimes he couldn't get a word out.

Q Did you understand him all right?

A Yes, when he got it out.

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Q And he could make you understand him, is that right?

A That's right.

Q And how tall was he?

A Well, it looked like Emmett was about five feet and three or four inches.

Q And how much did he weigh?

A One hundred and fifty.

Q Did he look like he was pretty well grown? Was he a pretty good sized man?

A He looked like a man.

Q When this car drove off from there that night, how many people were in there when it drove off?

A I don't know.

Q Well, you say you stood there and watched it drive off, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

Q Was the moon shining?

A It was not.

Q There was no light there at all?

A No light.

Q And you didn't turn on the lights in your house?

A That's right.

Q And you say you stood there for about twenty minutes before you did anything?

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A That's right.

Q Now, let's go up there to the morning on the river, Mose. When you went up there, how many folks were in the car that you went up there in?

A There was three.

Q Do you know who they were?

A I don't know their names. They said it was the Deputy Sheriff of Greenwood; Mr. Cothran, I think.

Q Did you stop anywhere on your way up there?

A We stopped at Philipp.

Q Why did you stop there?

A They stopped to inquire where the body was?

Q You stopped there at Philipp and then you went on up the road to where the body was?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you went with them up there?

A I sure did.

Q When they parked the car there, what did you do?

A We all got out and walked down to the river.

Q You got out of the car and then walked down away to go down to the river where the body was?

A Yes.

Q Could you see the body in the river?

A I couldn't see good. It was in the boat.

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Q There wasn't any trees or anything like that from where the car was parked to where the body was, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you could look to where the body was from where the car was parked?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And did you walk down to where the body was with Mr. Cothran?

A I sure did.

Q And did he ask you on the way down there if that looked like the boy's body?

A I can't remember now whether he did or not.

Q Then you were close to him, were you, when you first decided it was Emmett's body?

A I was standing right up over him.

Q And you didn't say anything to him when you were about fifteen or twenty yards back from the boat, you didn't say that it looked like him when you were that distance away?

A I don't remember.

Q You didn't tell Mr. Cothran that before you got down to the boat.

A I don't remember.

Q Do you mean to say that you did not tell him that it

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looked like Emmett when you were some distance away before you reached the boat?

A I can't remember.

Q On the river down there, what was done with the boat?

A What was that?

Q Was the boat still in the water?

A It was out of the water.

Q It was out of the water just like it had been pulled out on the bank out of the water?

A It was just kind of pulled out, Yes, Sir.

Q And how was the body in the boat there?

A It was in the boat.

Q Well, was it laying face down or on its back?

A On its face.

Q And what part of his body was up towards you as you were coming up there to the boat?

A His head.

Q And all you could see lying there in the boat was just his head and back, is that right?

A They turned him over, and then I saw all of it.

Q Now wait just a minute, Mose - - when you first came up there, all you saw was just the head and back, is that right?

A That's right.

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Q When you got down there, did you have any conversation with the officers there after that as to whether that was Emmett or not?

A I can't remember.

Q Who turned the body over?

A I can't remember that either. But someone turned it.

Q Someone turned the body over, is that right?

A That's right.

Q And then you looked at him, did you?

A That's right. That is when I began viewing him.

Q And you were sure that was Emmett Till?

A That's right.

Q When did you first see this ring?

A The same day that he was taken out there, I saw him on the boat there, and that is the first time I seen the ring.

Q As I understand, you brought him down from Chicago with you didn't you?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you brought him down on the train with you, is that right?

A That's right.

Q And I believe, as I understand it, you left there on Saturday morning and arrived Saturday afternoon, is that

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correct?

A That's right.

Q Then you saw him with that ring, didn't you?

A Well, he didn't wear it all the time. He didn't wear it every day. I think they had to put some tape around it, or something. It was too big.

Q Do you mean to say that he was there in your home all week and you didn't see that ring?

A I sure didn't.

Q Then you had never seen that ring before?

A No, Sir

Q Did it have tape on it then?

A It didn't then.

Q But you say it was too big?

A That's right.

Q Just how do you know that it was too big?

A Well, I know when they got it off his finger, well, it was all swollen, and it was slipping off then.

Q But you didn't really know it was too big, did you?

A It was too large.

Q But you had never seen it before, is that right?

A I never seen it.

Q And you don't know of your own knowledge that it was Emmett's ring, do you?

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A Yes, Sir, I do.

Q Just how do you know that, Mose?

A Simon and Robert told me.

Q Somebody told you it was his ring, is that right?

A Simon and Robert told me.

MR. CARLTON: I would like to ask the Court to disregard that.

MR. BRELAND: If Your Honor please, we ask the Court to instruct the jury to disregard the statement that he knew it was Emmett's ring.

THE COURT: You gentlemen will disregard the statement that he made where he said that he knew it was Emmett's ring.

MR. SMITH: If the Court please, Mr. Carlton asked the witness the question, himself, and the witness was just replying to his question.

THE COURT: Will you ask the question over again, Mr. Carlton. I didn't get the response to that particular question.

MR. CARLTON: Inasmuch as the Court has told or instructed the jury to disregard his last statement, I will pursue another line of questioning.

Q Now, Mose, you say that the only reason you identified that man there that night as being Mr. Bryant is that he said he was Mr. Bryant, is that right?

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A That's right.

Q And you also say that the only reason you identified Mr. Milam as being there that night is the fact that he is a big man and bald headed, is that right?

A That's right.

Q Now, Mose, isn't it a fact that you told these same four gentlemen that I have pointed out previously - - those three gentlemen over there and myself - - that you told them that the only reason that you could identify that body in the boat as being Emmett Till was because he was smooth faced?

Isn't it a fact that you said because the body didn't have any whiskers and was smooth faced, and because Emmett was missing, then you identified that body there in the boat as being Emmett Till? Isn't that correct?

A I didn't mention no missing.

Q Mose, do you deny that you made this statement to Mr. Breland, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Kellum and me that the only reason you could identify that body in the boat as being Emmett Till was because he was clean faced or smooth faced, and because Emmett Till was missing.

A I did not say it.

Q You did not make that statement?

A No, Sir, I did not make it.

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Q Mose, when you were talking to those four defense lawyers over there in Mr. Breland's office, did we treat you nice?

A I think so.

MR. CHATHAM: We object to that, Your Honor. He is leading the witness and telling him what to say.

THE COURT: The objection will be sustained. I will let you ask him how he was treated, but let him state it, himself.

Q Well, how were you treated over there, Mose?

A I was treated all right.

Q Were you treated just about like the State's attorney treated you when he talked to you?

A That's right.

Q Did anybody threaten you over there?

A They did not.

Q And were you told there in that office that all we wanted to know there was just what you knew about it?

A That's right.

MR. SMITH: If the Court please, we will admit - - we know these five gentlemen here, and we will admit of our knowledge that Mose was not mistreated and that he wasn't brow-beaten, and we will admit that all that is true. We admit that. We know they wouldn't do a thing like that.

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THE COURT: All right, I think that is enough.

Q Mose, on this Wednesday night that the incident happened in Money, where were you?

A At church.

MR. SMITH: We object to anything that happened on Wednesday night, if the Court please. That has nothing to do with whatever is involved in this lawsuit.

THE COURT: I think it calls for a conclusion and would be hearsay evidence. And I think it is objectionable there unless it is further qualified.

Q Now, on the Wednesday night before this incident, on the Wednesday night down there at Money - - -

MR. SMITH: If the Court please, we object to anything that happened on Wednesday night.

THE COURT: I will let Mr. Carlton ask the question before I rule on any question or on any objection to a question.

Q On the Wednesday night preceding the night that Emmett Till disappeared from your home, where were you?

MR. SMITH: We object to that, Your Honor.

THE COURT: The objection is overruled.

Q Where were you, Mose, on the Wednesday night before Emmett Till disappeared from your home?

A At the church.

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Q And who was at church with you?

A Oh, there was a good many people there. I can't recall.

Q I mean, who was with you from your family group in your house?

A My wife.

Q Were the boys with you?

A No, Sir.

MR. SMITH: It the Court please, we object to all questions that have to do with anything that happened prior to the night that Emmett Till disappeared. That has nothing to do with the case at all.

THE COURT: The objection will be overruled. He can state that. But the witness is not going to be permitted to state something that he doesn't know of his own knowledge.

Q Were your boys at church with you that night?

A They was not.

Q Was Emmett Till at church with you that night?

A No, Sir.

Q Do you know where they were?

THE COURT: Just of his own knowledge now, not by hearsay.

THE WITNESS: I sure don't.

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A My wife.

Q Where were the boys? Where were your boys?

A They stayed at home.

Q The five of them stayed there at home? That is, your three boys and Wheeler Parker and Curtis Jones?

A That's right.

Q Did you go back to your house that night after you bought the gasoline?

A I don't think so.

Q When did you next come back to your house after you left there that night to get some gasoline?

A I reckon it was about eight o'clock Sunday, something like that.

Q Did you leave any adult, any grown person, there with your boys during that time you were gone?

A I sure didn't.

Q About what time did you leave to go to the store after the gasoline?

A I reckon it was about forty minutes after it happened, I guess, as near as I can remember.

Q And you say it happened about two o'clock, is that right?

A Something like that.

Q Then that would make it about a quarter to three

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when you left your home to get some gasoline?

A Maybe something like that.

Q And you say you left there at that time and didn't come back there to your house until about eight o'clock Sunday morning?

A I guess it was about that.

Q And you left the boys there - - you left them there for about five hours by themselves, is that right?

A I guess something like that. I don't know exactly.

) I didn't keep time.

Q Tell me, Mose, if Emmett Till had not disappeared, would you have identified the body in the boat as Emmett Till?

A What do you mean? Do you mean the same identification I had before?

Q If Emmett Till had not been missing, would you have thought that was Emmett Till's body in that boat?

A With the evidence I had on him?

Q Yes.

A Yes, Sir.

Q And because he had this ring on his finger, I take it, and because your boys told you that was Emmett's ring, is that right?

A That's right.

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Q But you had never seen the ring before?

A That's right.

Q And all you know about the ring is what your boys told you, is that right?

A That's right.

Q Was this a dark night, Mose, that these men came to your house?

A That's right.

Q And there was never any light in that house that night except from just one flashlight, is that right?

A That's right.

Q And it was so dark that you couldn't even see the car out in your front yard, is that right?

MR. CHATHAM: Your Honor, I think that is about the third time he has gone over that. We will be here all week if he keeps up that type of questioning.

THE COURT: I will ask you to please limit your questioning and not repeat questions, if possible to do so. But we will let him ask that question.

Q My question was, Mose, - - it was so dark that night that you couldn't even see a car in your front yard, is that right?

A I couldn't make out what it was, what kind of a car it was.

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Q And you don't know whether it was a Ford or a Chevrolet, is that right?

A That's right.

Q And you don't know whether it was a truck or whether it was just a car, is that right?

A That's right.

Q All you know is that some vehicle was out in front of your house and that it drove off towards Money after these men went out of your house, is that right?

A I saw something dark out there, but I couldn't make out what it was.

Q And you don't know whether it was a car or a truck, do you?

A Well, when it passed the trees, I saw something dark. But I couldn't make out just what it was, what kind it was.

Q Was there more than one car there?

A I don't know if there was more than one. I just seen one car.

Q Which way was the car facing?

A Towards Money.

Q Could you see that it was facing towards Money?

A Yes, Sir. They didn't ever have to turn around at all. They just drove right off with it.

Q Could you see that it was facing towards Money?

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A That's right.

Q Do you mean to say that you could see it was facing towards Money, but you couldn't tell whether it was a car or a truck out there?

A That's right. I saw it when it passed the trees, when it was going towards Money. I could see it then easy.

Q Then what kind of a car was it if you could see it so easy?

MR. SMITH: If the Court please, he has already testified to that.

THE COURT: I think that question has been covered.

MR. CARLTON: That is all.

MR. CHATHAM: I think that be all we have with this witness.

(WITNESS EXCUSED.)
