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identity of the body that was brought to your funeral home, do you?

A No, Sir.

MR. BRELAND: That is all.

(WITNESS EXCUSED.)

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MAMIE BRADLEY,

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

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. SMITH:

Q Your name is Mamie Bradley?

A Yes, Sir.

Q Where do you live, Mamie?

A Chicago, Illinois.

Q Mamie, did you have a son, who, in his lifetime was known as Emmett Till?

A Yes, Sir.

Q How old was Emmett?

A Fourteen years of age.

Q Is his Father living today?

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A No Sir. He died in the service.

Q He died in service?

A Yes, Sir.

Q Do you remember the date of his death?

A Yes, Sir; the 2nd of July, 1945.

Q Where was he when he died?

A In the European Theatre.

Q Mamie, in the first part of September, 1955, or the last part of August, were you advised that your son; Emmett Till, had been in some difficulty or trouble down here?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And who advised you of that?

A The Mother of Curtis Jones; Mrs. Willa Mae Jones

Q And how did she advise you? Was it by telephone?

A Yes, Sir.

Q Where was your son at that time?

A He was visiting my Uncle, Mose Wright, in Money, Mississippi.

Q And when did he come down here?

A He left Chicago, Illinois, on the 20th of August.

Q And I believe he was supposed to come home shortly thereafter, is that right?

A Yes, Sir. He was going to stay two weeks.

Q Now, later, after you got that information, was a

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body sent to Chicago that was supposed to be the body of your son, Emmett Till?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And where was that body first seen by you?

A At the A. A. Rainer Funeral Home.

Q Did you observe the body there?

A Yes, I did.

Q And where was the body when you saw it there at the funeral home?

A The first time I saw it, it was still in the casket.

Q Did you see it later on?

A Yes, Sir. I saw it later on after it was removed from the casket and placed on a slab.

Q At the time it was still in the casket, had anything been done to the body then, if you know?

A No, Sir. The seal had never been broken the first time I saw the body.

Q When the body was placed on the slab, was anything done then? Had anything been done to the body after it was removed from the casket?

A The only change was that the body had been clothed.

Q It had some clothes on then?

A Yes, Sir.

Q Mamie, I wish you would state to the court and jury

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whether you could identify the body you saw there at the funeral home as that of your son, Emmett Till?

A I positively identified the body in the casket and later on when it was on the slab as being that of my son, Emmett Louis Till.

Q Will you please tell the court and jury how you looked at it and what you did in identifying it?

A I looked at the face very carefully. I looked at the ears, and the forehead, and the hairline, and also the hair, and I looked at the nose and the lips, and the chin.

I just looked at it all over, very thoroughly. And I was able to find out that it was my boy. And I knew definitely that it was my boy beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Q Mamie, when your husband, the father of Emmett Till, was killed overseas, were his effects sent to you?

A Yes, Sir, they were.

Q I will ask you if in those effects there was a ring?

A Yes, Sir, there was a ring.

Q What kind of a ring was it? What color was it?

A The ring was white, or it looked like some kind of white metal.

MR. BRELAND: Now, Your Honor, we now object to the testimony of this witness with reference to the effects, or what is purported to be the effects of her dead husband

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being sent to her, without showing just who, when and how those effects were sent.

THE COURT: Yes, I believe there would have to be a prior connection on the identification of the ring, I think.

MR. SMITH: All we are trying to do, Your Honor, is to identify the ring that the boy had on.

THE COURT: You can proceed a little differently, I believe.

MR. SMITH: Yes, Sir.

Q Mamie, I will ask you if your son had a ring and frequently wore a ring that was sent along in the effects of your husband that you got?

A Yes, Sir.

MR. BRELAND: We object to that, Your Honor, for the reason that she said that the effects were sent to her that were supposed to belong to her dead husband. But it hasn't been shown in evidence anything about the identity of those effects.

THE COURT: The objection is overruled.

Q I now hand you a ring, Mamie, that has engraved on it "May 25, 1943", with the large initials "L.T.", and I ask you if that was among the effects that were sent to you which were purported to be the effects of your dead husband?

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A yes, Sir.

Q What was your husband's name?

A Louis Till.

Q In other words, his initials were "L.T."?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And after you got this ring along with his effects, what happened to it?

A I kept the ring in a jewelry box, but it was much too large for the boy to wear. But since his twelfth birthday, he has worn it occasionally with the aid of scotch tape or string. He had to have something else on with it to make it fit his hand tightly enough.

But usually though it was kept in his personal jewelry box. And on the morning of September - - or of August 20th when he got ready to board the train, he was looking in his jewelry box to get some cuff links, I think it was, and when he looked in the box there, he saw this ring, and he put it on his hand, or on his finger, and he shook his hand, to make sure that it would stay on there and not fall off.

And I remember that I casually remarked to him I said, "Gee, you are getting to be quite a grown man." And then he said to me - - -

Q Now don't tell what he said. But did he then put

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the ring on his finger?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And he left Chicago with it, did he?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you definitely say that was the ring that he left there with?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And that was the ring he had when he came down here to Mississippi?

A Yes, Sir.

Q Now Mamie, I have here a picture which has been introduced in evidence as Exhibit 1 to the testimony of Mr. Strickland here in this trial. And I hand you that picture and ask you if that is a picture of your son, Emmett Till?

A Yes, Sir.

Q That is him, isn't it?

A Yes, Sir.

MR. SMITH: If the Court please, just one minute - - these pictures have never been shown to the jury, and I wonder at this point if you might let the jury look at them.

THE COURT: They can have them. They have been introduced in evidence.

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(The two exhibits, Exhibits 1 and 2 to the testimony of Mr. Strickland are given to the members of the jury for examination.)

MR. SMITH: You may take the witness.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. BRELAND:

Q Mamie, where were you born?

A I was born in Webb, Mississippi.

Q You were born in Webb, Mississippi?

A Yes, Sir.

Q That is a little town just two miles south of here, is that right?

A I can't tell you the location.

Q But it is about two miles south of Sumner, isn't it?

A I don't know.

Q When did you leave Mississippi?

A At the age of two.

Q Then you have just been told that you were born in Webb, Mississippi? You don't remember, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

Q What was your mother's name?

A Alma Carthan.



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Q Was she born in Mississippi?

MR. CHATHAM: We are going to object to this, if Your Honor please. This is highly immaterial in this case, and I am sure we want to get through with this trial some time.

THE COURT: I think we are going a little far afield. But I will let the witness answer that question.

THE WITNESS: Yes, Sir.

Q Do you know who left with you when you left Mississippi?

MR. SMITH: We object to that, Your Honor. That has nothing to do with this case at all.

THE COURT: The objection is sustained.

Q When you can first remember, where were you living?

A In Argo, Illinois.

Q How far is that from Chicago?

A Approximately thirteen miles.

Q And how long did you live there at Argo, Illinois?

MR. SMITH: If the Court please, we are going to object to this line of questioning. It is highly immaterial and has nothing at all to do with this case.

THE COURT: The objection is sustained.

Q When did you move to Chicago?

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

THE COURT: The objection is sustained.

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Q What is your age, Mamie?

A Thirty Three.

Q When your son, Emmett, left home with the intention of coming to Mississippi, when was his mind made up to come to Mississippi?

A One week previous to the day he left.

Q Did you and him talk about it?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you discussed it together between you, did you?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And how many times did you discuss it with him?

A I probably wouldn't be able to tell you that.

Q Well, about how many times?

A Several times at least.

Q Did you go with him to the train when he left Chicago?

A Yes, Sir.

MR. SMITH: We object to that, Your Honor. That has nothing to do with this.

THE COURT: The objection is sustained.

Q Mamie, did Emmett ever have any trouble up there in Chicago? Was he ever in any trouble up in Chicago?

A No, Sir.

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

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THE COURT: The object is sustained

Q By the way, did you have any insurance on Emmett Till?

A Yes, Sir.

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

THE COURT: I am going to overrule your objection to that question.

Q Did you have any life insurance on him?

A Yes, Sir.

Q How much did you have?

A About four hundred dollars straight life.

Q You had about four hundred dollars insurance on him?

A I had a ten-cent policy and a fifteen-cent policy, two weekly policies, and they equalled four hundred dollars.

Q You had two policies that equalled four hundred dollars?

A Yes, Sir.

Q How long had you had those policies out on him?

A Almost from his birth.

Q With what companies were they?

A Well, Metropolitan - - -

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

THE COURT: The objection is sustained.

Q To whom were those policies payable?

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

THE COURT: The object is overruled.

THE WITNESS: Will you repeat the question, please?

Q To whom were those policies made payable? Who was the beneficiary in those policies?

A I was the beneficiary on one and my Mother was on the other.

Q Were they both for four hundred dollars each?

A Well, one was for a hundred and ninety three dollars, I think, and one was a little bit more. It was approximately four hundred dollars on the two of them.

Q And have you collected on those policies?

A No, Sir.

Q Have you tried to collect on them?

MR. SMITH: We object to that, Your Honor. That is highly irrelevant.

THE COURT: The objection is overruled.

Q Have you tried to collect on those policies?

A I have been waiting to receive a death certificate.

Q Have you contacted the insurance companies about the policies?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you and your mother, both, have done that?

A Yes, Sir, together.

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Q Now, Mamie, what newspapers do you subscribe to in Chicago?

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

THE COURT: The objection is sustained.

Q Do you read the CHICAGO DEFENDER?

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

THE COURT: The objection is sustained.

MR. BRELAND: Your Honor, I think this is important because I have some exhibits that I want the witness to identify.

MR. CHATHAM: If the Court please, I think it is perfectly obvious what he is trying to get at. And I think counsel should be counseled not to ask any more questions like that.

THE COURT: The objection is sustained. Now, will you gentlemen of the jury step back in the jury room a moment, please.

(The jury retired to the jury room, and the proceedings continued in the absence of the jury.)

Q Do you subscribe to the CHICAGO DEFENDER?

A No Sir, I don't subscribe to the paper, but I do buy it and read it.

Q You buy it and read it?

MR. SMITH: If the Court please, we want the record

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to show that we object to all this line of questioning.

THE COURT: The jury is out of the room, and the Court has already sustained your objection.

Q Have you been reading the CHICAGO DEFENDER since the trial of this cause?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And also since the incident happened that has been referred to here?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you have been getting it, have you?

A Yes, Sir. I read it every week, anyway.

Q And you read everything in it, do you?

A I wouldn't say the entire thing.

Q I mean, you read everything in it referring to this incident, do you?

A No, Sir. I haven't read the paper all through since I found out the child had been found dead.

Q Did you read the paper of Saturday, September 17th?

A I would have to look at it to see.

Q I will hand it to you, the paper of that edition.

(A paper is shown to the witness.)

A I haven't even seen this one, I don't think. This is the national. I might have seen the other one. You see there are two DEFENDERS. But the national, I haven't

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seen.

Q These papers are edited by colored people, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

Q I will hand you a portion of that particular paper, that edition of that particular paper, and ask you to look at the photograph and see if you have seen that?

A I have seen this picture but not in this paper. I saw a much smaller picture in another copy of the DEFENDER.

Q But is that a likeness of the picture you did see?

A Yes, Sir.

Q Have you a photograph of your son, Emmett Till, with you?

A Yes, Sir, I have.

Q And have you got it on your person?

A It is with my Father in the witness chambers.

Q When was that photograph made?

A Two days after Christmas, 1954.

Q 1954?

A Yes, Sir.

Q Did you have several of those photographs made?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And did you furnish any of those photographs to members of the press?

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A Yes, Sir.

Q And that was for photographic purposes to put in the papers, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

Q Now I hand you a paper -- this is not a Chicago paper; this is the MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR - - and I will ask you to look at that photograph in the upper left part of the paper and state whether that is a copy of that photograph you furnished the press?

A Yes, Sir. I have a copy of it with me if you would like to see it.

Q And you don't have more than one photograph of that picture with you?

A I have one copy of three different pictures.

Q You have three different pictures with you?

A Yes, Sir.

Q Have you got any more of those at home?

A Yes, Sir.

Q In other words, you could use one copy here, and you wouldn't be deprived of anything by having one copy in the record? You would still have a copy for yourself?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you could have more copies made of those if you wanted them, is that right?



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A Yes, Sir.

MR. BRELAND: If the Court please, we would like for those to be produced here at this particular hearing so that she might identify those photographs she might have with her.

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

THE COURT: Can you get the photographs?

THE WITNESS: Yes, Sir. My Father has them in the witness room.

MR. SMITH: What is your Father's name?

THE WITNESS: John Carthan. And he has the pictures with him. They are in this coat.

MR. BRELAND: Tell them to bring John Carthan to the courtroom and to bring his coat with him.

(After a short period, an envelope is produced and handed to the witness on the stand.)

Q Mamie, will you take out those photographs that are in that envelope?

A Yes, Sir. (Three photographs are given to Mr. Breland by the witness.)

Q Mamie, you have presented to counsel for the defendants what purports to be three separate photographs of your son, one of which has a woman in it taken with him. Is that you?

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A Yes, Sir.

Q Can you tell the court and jury the last one of the photographs made, if they were made at different times?

A All of these pictures were made on the very same day.

Q They were all made on the same day?

A Yes, Sir. As a matter of fact, there was one more picture made at the time, and I believe it is one where a picture was taken where he was lying across the bed and looking this way, but unfortunately, I do not have one of those with me.

Q Mamie, I hand you now what purports to be a photograph of some person. Will you state whose photograph that is?

A That is a photograph of Emmett Louis Till.

Q That is your son?

A Yes, Sir.

MR. BRELAND: We would like to have that marked as an exhibit for identification, please.

THE COURT: All right.

(A photograph is marked as Exhibit 1 to the testimony of Mamie Bradley for identification by the reporter.)

Q Mamie, I believe you stated that the photograph on the front page of that PRESS-SCIMITAR, in the upper-

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left-hand corner of those photographs, of the group of photographs there, that it is a photograph of your son?

A Yes, Sir.

Q Was that a picture that was made from one of the photographs that you have testified about?

A Not one of these three that I have shown you.

Q But it was one taken at the same time?

A Yes, Sir.

MR. BRELAND: This is on the front page of the edition of the MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR of Thursday, September 15th, 1955; and we offer that photograph in the upper left-hand corner on that front page of that paper as Exhibit 2, for purposes of identification by this witness.

THE COURT: All right.

(A photograph is marked as Exhibit 2 to the testimony of Mamie Bradley for identification by the reporter.)

Q Mamie, I hand you a paper, being page 19 of the CHICAGO DEFENDER, on the date of September 17th, 1955, which has purports to be a photograph of some person.

Will you look at that and state whether or not that is also a photograph of Emmett Till or the person who was shipped back to Chicago that you saw at the funeral home there?

A This is a picture of Emmett Louis Till as I saw it

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at the funeral home.

Q That is a picture of the body as you saw it in the funeral home in Chicago, Illinois?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And being the picture of the same body which you then identified as Emmett Till?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And which you now identify as that of Emmett Till, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

MR. BRELAND: Now, if Your Honor please, we ask that this be marked as Exhibit 3 to the testimony of this witness for the purposes of identification.

THE COURT: All right.

(A photograph is marked as Exhibit 3 to the testimony of Mamie Bradley for identification by the reporter.)

Q Mamie, do you state to the Court that the photographs which you now have identified as Exhibit 1 to your testimony for purposes of identification, and the photograph which you identified in the PRESS-SCIMITAR as Exhibit 2 to your testimony for purposes of identification, and the photograph in the CHICAGO DEFENDER, under date of September 17th, 1955, as Exhibit 3 to your testimony for purposes of identification, are a likeness of those photographs

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of those scenes? And do you state that they are true pictures of the scenes you saw?

A Yes, Sir.

THE COURT: Have you finished with your examinations?

MR. BRELAND: I believe we have, Your Honor. And we submit that these are proper at this time.

THE COURT: Have you finished with your examination of this witness outside the hearing of the jury?

MR. BRELAND: Yes, Sir.

MR. SMITH: Your Honor, we think this is highly incompetent, this whole part of the case. And as far as the pictures being introduced here, nothing has been shown as to the way they were taken or the manner in which they were taken, and nothing of that kind has been shown or proved. No one has testified to the competency of the photographs. And we say that they are highly incompetent.

THE COURT: With reference to that, I believe the witness testified that the pictures taken - - that one of them is a picture of her son that was taken shortly after Christmas, and I believe the witness testified that it is a true likeness of her son during his lifetime.

And she also testified that the picture taken

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in Chicago after his death portrays a true picture of what what she saw there at that time.

Now, the Court is going to admit these pictures in evidence - - that is, one picture there that she produced, so that the jury may see the likeness of Emmett Till during his lifetime.

And the Court is going to let be introduced in evidence the picture made in Chicago after his death. It will be cut from the paper, and the paper itself will not be any part of the exhibit.

And another thing, there will be no reference to any newspapers to which this witness may subscribe in Chicago, or any reference to what she may read. And there will be no reference or anything said about any newspapers or pictures other than this picture which she has identified as being a picture of her son taken after his death as she saw it there in Chicago. That picture will be permitted.

And there will be no reference to any other pictures or newspapers, or any reference as to what this witness may have read or subscribed to whatsoever. These pictures that the Court is permitting to be introduced in evidence are for the benefit of the jury, so that they may see a likeness of Emmett Till during this lifetime, and

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also a likeness of his body, as the witness stated, as she saw it in Chicago after the body was returned to Chicago.

MR. BRELAND: There is one other thing, Your Honor, that I think we ought to go into before the jury returns, and I think possibly there might be some objection to it.

THE COURT: Well, whatever you have for this witness of that nature, then let's get it out while the jury is still out.

MR. BRELAND: All right, Sir.

Q Mamie, you said that you discussed your son's trip down to Mississippi several times with him before he left your home in Chicago, is that correct?

A Yes, Sir.

Q Did you caution him how to conduct himself and behave himself while he was down here in Mississippi before he left there?

A Yes, Sir.

Q Now, you have quoted in the press - - I don't know whether you said it or not, but the press report shows it in quotations that you are supposed to have made, in these words, now listen carefully, and it says: "I told him several times before he left for Mississippi that he should kneel in the street and beg forgiveness if he ever insulted a white man or white woman." Now, did you tell him that?

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A Not those exact words.

Q Well, what did you tell him?

A I will give you a liberal description of what I told him. I told him when he was coming down here that he would have to adapt himself to a new way of life. And I told him to be very careful about how he spoke and to whom he spoke, and to always remember to say "Yes, Sir" and "No, Ma'am" at all times.

And I told him that if ever an incident should arise where there would be any trouble of any kind with white people, then if it got to a point where he even had to get down on his knees before them, well, I told him not to hesitate to do so. Like, if he bumped into somebody on the street, well, and then they might get belligerent or something, well, I told him to go ahead and humble himself so as not to get into any trouble of any kind. And I told him to be very careful how he walked in the streets at all times.

Q And did you direct his attention as to how to act around white people, and how to conduct himself about a white man? The paper says that you cautioned him about his behaviour before any white men. Did you call his attention to that?

A Yes, Sir.



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Q And did you specifically indicate to him and caution him not to do anything to any white man so as not to bring on any trouble?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And from the newspaper quotation, the newspaper report says that you did that several times, is that true?

A I did. I impressed it on him very carefully as to how he should act while he was down here.

Q He had been in Mississippi before, had he?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And he had visited here close to Sumner before?

A Yes, Sir, with that same uncle.

Q And that was after he got to be a big boy, was it?

A I think he was about nine years old then.

Q And those are the only two times that he has been in Mississippi, so far as you know?

A No, Sir. He came down here once when an infant, about fifteen months old, maybe something like that. I know he was a small baby.

And then I think he came down here again while he was very small, maybe four or five years old. And then he was down here when he was about nine, and then this last trip.

Q And did you caution him in those conversations you

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had with him not to insult any white women?

A I didn't specifically say white women. But I said about the white people. And I cautioned him not to get in a fight with any white boys. And I told him that, because, naturally living in Chicago, he wouldn't know just how to act maybe.

Q Prior to his coming down to Mississippi, and prior to his leaving Chicago, while he was living there in Chicago, had he been doing anything to cause you to give him that special instruction?

A No, Sir. Emmett has never been in any trouble at any time.

Q And he has never been in a reform school?

A No Sir.

Q And he never had any trouble in any way with any white people?

A No, Sir.

Q I believe you live on the south side in Chicago, is that right?

A Yes, Sir, on the south side.

Q And that is the part of Chicago referred to as the black belt, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And the people in the community, are they all

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colored people or white people?

A There are a few white people living there.

Q And they have their homes there, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

THE COURT: Now is that all?

MR. BRELAND: Yes, Sir.

THE COURT: Now, the objections to all that testimony will be sustained, and there will be no questions along that line whatsoever. And since the Court has ruled on the pictures, the objection to all the testimony is sustained. And there will be no further reference to it, and there will be no questions asked concerning that after the jury comes in.

(The jury returned to the courtroom, and the proceedings continued with the jury present.)

Q This is Mamie Bradley, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you are the Mother of Emmett Till?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you live at Chicago, Illinois, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you live on the south side of Chicago, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

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Q And did your son, Emmett Till, leave your home there in Chicago at any time to come to Mississippi in the month of August?

A Yes, Sir.

THE COURT: I think all that was in, Mr. Breland, before the jury retired. But you may proceed with the examination.

Q And your son did leave your home in Chicago with the expectation of coming to Mississippi, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And you didn't come with him?

A No, Sir.

Q Now, I hand you what purports to be a photograph of your son. Is that a photograph of your son?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And that is a true and correct photograph of your son at the time it was taken?

A Yes, Sir.

Q And when was that picture taken?

A This was made in my home two days after Christmas of 1954.

Q Right after Christmas of 1954?

A Yes, Sir. It was on about the 27th of December.

MR. BRELAND: We now ask that this photograph be identified which has already been marked as Exhibit 1 to the

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testimony of this witness for the purpose of identification.

Q Now I will hand you what purports to be another photograph. Will you look at it and tell the court and jury what this is?

A This is a picture of my son after he was sent back to Chicago dead. This is the way I saw him the second time. He had his clothes put on his body then. When I saw him the first time, he didn't have any clothes.

Q And how much time elapsed from the time you first saw him without clothes until you saw him in the likeness of that photograph there?

A I saw the one with his clothes on and without the clothes on the same day. Perhaps a half an hour or an hour had elapsed. I am not clear on that.

Q And was the first view you had of your son there before the clothes were put on the body a likeness of the photograph shown here? That is, was it like the picture shown in that photograph?

A The face, Yes, Sir.

Q And everything was the same except that clothes had been put on the body the second time you saw him, is that right? That is, it was the same as it was when you saw him the first time when he had no clothes on, is that right?

A No, Sir. The first time I saw him, he had a hole in

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his head up here ( indicating with her hand), and that was open. And he had another scar. I can't tell you exactly where it was. It was either over the right eye or the left eye. I can't remember just now.

And he had a gash in his jaw, and his mouth was open and the tongue was out. That is the first time when I saw him without his clothes on. But from this picture here, it seems like his mouth has been closed, and that gash was sewn up, and that place in his forehead up there has been closed up. That is the way it looks to me.

Q Then the photograph there is a better picture of him than the way it was when you first saw him, is that right?

A Yes, Sir.

MR. BRELAND: This is the photograph that we asked to be marked as Exhibit to the testimony of this witness for purposes of identification. You may take the witness.

MR. SMITH: That is all, if the Court please.

(WITNESS EXCUSED.)