

00253

TROOPER JOSEPH D. KEPPICK, being duly sworn according to law, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

By Mr. Ertel:

Q. State your full name, please?

A. Trooper Joseph D. Keppick.

Q. How long have you been a Trooper?

A. 20 years.

Q. As a Pennsylvania State Policeman do you have a special assignment as far as identification and making of moulds and soforth?

A. Yes.

Q. What is that, can you describe it?

A. I make plaster of Paris moulds, I photograph accident scenes and criminal scenes. I also process crime scenes for fingerprints.

Q. Officer, did you have the opportunity to process the car of Kim Hubbard in this case?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you process it for fingerprints?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you able to get any fingerprints of any description?

A. No, Sir.

Q. Talking about fingerprints, will you describe, most people think of fingerprints are easy to get, what kind of surfaces do you normally have to have to get fingerprints?

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A. A smooth surface.

Q. Does time, from the time a fingerprint is put there until the time it is trying to be lifted, is that important in trying to lift the fingerprint?

A. Yes.

Q. Why?

A. It depends on body chemistry, it depends on atmospheric conditions, it depends on temperature.

Q. Is it possible to lift fingerprints from bodies?

A. It is possible.

Q. In this particular case were you able to identify, to get any fingerprints from the body?

A. No.

Q. Now, Trooper Keppick, were you at the scene on October 28, 1973 when the body or sometime after the body was found?

A. Yes.

Q. What did you do at that scene?

A. I photographed the scene and I made numerous plaster of Paris casts.

Q. Now, there have been quite a few photographs introduced into evidence, will you (Mr. Fierro) stipulate to the photographs?

By Mr. Fierro:

Yes.

By Mr. Ertel:

Q. Officer Keppick, did you have the occasion to

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examine the area between the lane, the farm lane and the feet of the victim?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you take some photographs of that area?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you describe what that ground was like there?

A. It was grassy and there were quite a few weeds.

Q. Did you examine that for footprints?

A. Yes.

Q. Were there any?

A. No, Sir.

Q. Now the cast were ..(Mr. Fierro) will you stipulate he made nine casts?

By Mr. Fierro:

Yes.

By Mr. Ertel:

Q. You made the casts 50 through 56, the footprint casts?

A. Yes.

Q. You saw those footprints, did you not, and poured the plaster into them?

A. Yes.

Q. And Doctor Miller assisted you?

A. Yes, he did.

Q. Did you make casts of all of the footprints that you thought were able to be cast?

A. Yes, Sir.

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Q. Did ou make other casts at the scene?

A. Yes.

Q. What were they of?

A. The tire tracks.

Q. First, can you describe where these tire tracks were, Officer Keppick?

A. They were approximately 27 feet from Sylvan Dell Road on the lane leading to where the body was found.

Q. Did you also photograph those particular tire prints prior to the time that you made the casts?

A. Yes.

Q. I show you marked as Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 9, can you identify that?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. What is it?

A. It is a photograph of a tire track.

Q. Is that one you made?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it the tire print youwere talking about which were approximately 26 or 29 feet from Sylvan Dell Road?

A. Yes.

Q. I show you marked as Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 10, can you identify that, please?

A. It is a photograph of another tire track.

Q. And again, where was that located, approximately?

A. That would have been located across, approximately the same distance from the road:

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Q. You mean in the opposite road where the tire tracks would be?

A. Yes.

Q. I show you marked as Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 21, can you identify that?

A. Yes, Sir, this was a photograph of the two plaster of Paris tire tracks. That was taken after this photo Exhibit No. 9.

Q. That shows the plaster of Paris already in the tracks is that right?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. I show you what is marked as Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 22, and ask you if you can identify that?

A. Yes, Sir, this is a photograph looking south from Sylvan Dell Road, it shows the lane leading down through the cornfield. In the foreground are numerous tanks and plastics that were used to cover the plaster of Paris casts and the tire tracks.

Q. I show you marked as Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 17, can you identify that?

A. Yes.

Q. What is it?

A. These show what appear to be tire tracks leading into the lane, down through the cornfield.

Q. Were you able to identify or make out the design of those tire tracks at all?

A. No, Sir.

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Q. Now...

By Mr. Fierro:

What Exhibit Number was that?

By Mr. Ertel:

No. 17.

Q. I show you marked as Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 18, can you identify that?

A. That is a similar photo taken from a slightly different angle.

Q. I show you marked as Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 23, can you identify that?

A. Yes, Sir, that is a photograph of a 1967 Oldsmobile.

Q. Where was that taken?

A. At the South Williamsport Garage, City Hall Garage.

Q. Did you take that photograph?

A. Yes.

Q. Would that be true of all of Commonwealth's Exhibits Nos. 26, 24 and 25, if you examine them, are they pictures of the same car taken at the same time by you?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. Now, do these photographs as you identify them, are they accurate representations of what you observed at the time?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. I show you marked as Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 94 can you identify that?

A. Yes, Sir, this is a plaster of Paris cast that I

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*Chick  
# 94 vs  
Shayz  
Photo # 21  
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445.*

had taken of a tire track.

Q. That was one of the tire tracks you said was on that lane approximately 26 feet in?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. (To Mr. Pierro.) Will you stipulate to the other ones?

By Mr. Pierro:

Oh, sure I will, you mean this man did take them, have him say that and I will stipulate to it and just give the numbers.

By Mr. Ertel:

Q. Nos. 91 through 94, were four casts made by you?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. I will repeat that, 91 through 94.

By Mr. Pierro:

It is stipulated.

By The Court:

Fine, proceed.

By Mr. Ertel:

Q. Did you bring with you an Exhibit to show the Jury how you went about this and how it works when you make a cast?

A. Yes, Sir.

(Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 104 marked.).

(Side Bar not made part of record.).

(Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 105 marked.).

By The Court:

What is the purpose of this?

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By Mr. Ertel:

Only to illustrate the method in which a print is laid and a print is picked up and how the Officer goes about doing it and how he would go about identifying points in the particular thing.

By The Court:

The testimony does not represent anything at the actual scene then, are only a demonstration?

By Mr. Ertel:

Yes.

By The Court:

Your specific objection?

By Mr. Fierro:

Well, your Honor, we have already stipulated to the things that this Officer did at the scene concerning the matters in evidence here and I don't think that anyother lecture or demonstration is necessary.

By The Court:

The objection is over ruled.

By Mr. Ertel:

Q. I will take Exhibit No. 104, and ask you to explain to the Jury, if you can, and maybe I don't know, can you explain it from there or do you want to come down here?

By The Court:

Do I understand this is what was done in this case? Establish that, Sir?



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By Mr. Ertel:

Q. Officer, in this particular case, what did you do as far as pouring the plaster?

A. What I had done in the case is similar to what I will explain in the demonstration.

By The Court:

That is what I understood your offer was?

By Mr. Ertel:

Yes.

By The Court:

Proceed.

By Mr. Ertel:

Q. You have three items in your Exhibit, was this one, that is obviously a clay, or moulding clay?

A. This is a moulding clay that I had rolled out to a flat surface, and I had then taken one of my shoes and inscribed my initials in the sole and I pressed it into the moulding clay which would be the same as pressing it into mud or natural terrain, that would show a footprint.

Q. Clay may or may not be better than the soil a person would have stepped in in another situation?

A. Correct. It is sufficient to show what could be brought out. Now, these initials were pressed into the moulding clay, the moulding clay was then casted.

Q. What do you mean by "casted"?

A. The plaster of Paris was mixed to base like consistency and poured over the moulding clay, allowed to dry for a sufficient

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time and then removed and the end result shows on the cast the initials that were put on the sole of my shoe.

By Mr. Fierro:

Your Honor, I renew my objection what this Officer is testifying about, it seems to me from his testimony that whatever he is explaining with the materials he used and the shoe off his own feet, was done under what appears to be ideal conditions and is not similar to the materials used or the evidence found or obtained to be used under the conditions at the scene, and therefore I say it is misleading.

By The Court:

Your objection is on the record, it is Over ruled, it is to this entire line of questioning.

By Mr. Ertel:

Q. I will hold the cast up that you made, and I don't know, can you come down here and bring the shoe with you?

A. (Witness leaves stand.).

Q. The clay represents the soil?

A. Yes, Sir.

By Mr. Fierro:

I object to that, that is not true in this case, now the clay cannot represent the soil.

By Mr. Ertel:

In his experiment it does represent the soil.

By Mr. Fierro:

That is precisely my point, it is going to mislead the jury. He is taking ideal conditions and obviously trying to implant that in the Jury's mind "This is what we got at the scene."

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*Better  
Conditions*

without using the same conditions as are at the scene.

By Mr. Ertel:

We will show the conditions at the scene were better than what these are.

By Mr. Fierro:

Then I should not object, but I still do.

By The Court:

Your objection is on the record to this entire line.

By Mr. Ertel:

Q. Officer, taking these, what does this show in relation to the shoe, is this the same as the shoe?

A. Yes, Sir, looking at the shoe, and looking at the cast is known as positive, what you see here on the cast. You see initials here, they are not very plain, probably from where you are sitting, but if you examine them closely you can see my initials on both the shoe and the cast.

Q. Now, on the bottom of the cast there is a word that comes out, these are new shoes, are they not?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. Had you worn them at all?

A. Yes, Sir, there is some indication of wear there.

Q. Now, what is the difference between what is called <sup>class</sup> "characteristics" and "accidentals"?

A. Class characteristics are those characteristics made by the manufacturer, and accidents are those that have been put in either accidental or even purposely, they are not made

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by the manufacturer.

Q. Just for an illustration purpose, show the Jury what a class characteristic is of this thing?

A. The heel portion is a good example of a class characteristic.

Q. Well, for instance the words "B.F. Goodrich" that shows on the cast and on the shoe, is that a class characteristic?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. You made an accidental just for illustration purposes, did you not?

A. Yes.

Q. Where is that?

A. "J.K" on the soil.

Q. Did that come also on the positive that you have?

A. Yes.

Q. That is what is called an accidental characteristic?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. Can the same thing be done with tires?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. That what is marked as Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 105, again you are using modeling clay just for representation of the soil, is that correct?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. You obtained, is this a new tire tread when you got it?

A. Yes.

Q. And the plaster of Paris cast, did you also make that?

A. Yes, Sir.

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Q. How, now will you explain how you did this?

By The Court:

Q. Is this similar to what was done at the scene, the procedure?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. Proceed.

By Mr. Ertel:

Q. Proceed?

A. Again, we have modeling clay that I rolled out to near flat surface, and I got a cut-away piece of tire from Bastian's Tire Sales and placed it over the modeling clay, depressed right into the modeling clay and then cast the modeling clay.

Q. How did you put that into the modeling clay, what pressure did you put on?

A. I used my truck, I took the steel band off and put it around the tire and placed the modeling clay on the ground and this around the tire of my truck and drove over it.

Q. Now, the modeling clay under ideal conditions would represent the soil, is that correct?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. And that represented the, what made the imprint, is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, I got with the particular cast you made, I note when you poured it over the top of it, whichever way you did it, on the top of the clay which would be the earth, there are portions

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of the material in the cast itself in the positive, is that correct?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. Why is that?

A. The portion of the modeling clay had gone, had seated itself, a portion of the modeling clay had seated itself between the treads, and, of course, when the cast was removed from the modeling clay, the portion of the modeling clay stayed between the treads.

Q. Now, in the actual situation would you clean that modeling clay and clean that dirt out?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. If it were out in the mud, that would be mud, and it would be cleaned?

A. Yes.

Q. Then you have the plaster of Paris cast would be the same as the particular tire, is that correct?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. Now, again are the class characteristics on the tire and accidental characteristics?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you have class characteristics on the tire?

A. Yes, Sir, the tread.

By Mr. Pierro:

That is not a tire, we are talking about a whole tire in this case, and this man is showing a fragment.

The accidental characteristics would come from an entire tire, not

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a three inch segment this man is holding.

By Mr. Ertel:

We are prepared to show they came from the entire tire in the actual case, this is only an illustration.

By The Court:

Proceed.

A. There were little cuts made in this tire cut-away, a portion of a tire cut-away, which were put in there to show accidental characteristics, the same as my initials were put on the shoe.

By Mr. Ertel:

Q. Can you show those particular cuts, just to illustrate to the Jury where they are and where they show on the plaster cast?

A. On the plaster cast there is an accident characteristic, and I am pointing to right here, it is a depression in the cast.

Q. I am pointing to the one on the plaster cast, is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you point that out on the actual tire section?

A. Yes, Sir, right here.

Q. That would have to be turned around, would you, turn the section around so it matches exactly. They show on both, is that right, on the tire tread and also it, would you show that to the Jury?

A. Yes, Sir. What you see on the tire you see on the

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cast.

Q. Did you make another one just for illustration purposes?

A. Yes, Sir, in the lower righthand corner it would be.

Q. Both on the cast and tire tread?

A. Right, right here.

Q. Now, these are accidental?

A. Yes.

W. What is the class characteristics in a tire?

A. These waving lines are manufacturer's class characteristics, that is as you see it there, that is mostly all class characteristics made by the manufacturer.

Q. Generally, the more worn a tire, the more accidental characteristics you get?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. I understand I was blocking Juror No. 1, in case he wants to look at it. Come down here and point out the accidentals, please, purposely put accidentals?

A. There is a little cut-away here and a little cut-away is reproduced on the cast. There is another cut-away near the lower righthand portion of the tire, the cut-away is reproduced on the cast, you can see it.

Q. (Mr. Ertel goes to other end of Jury Box....)

By Mr. Fierro:

Your Honor, it appears as we are having triple demonstrations.



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By The Court:

The objection is sustained. Let's proceed, Gentlemen. You can stand back further if there are any further demonstrations.

By Mr. Ertel:

The light is very poor, your Honor.

Take the stand.

(Witness returned to stand.)

By Mr. Ertel:

Q. Now, Officer Keppick, the tire casts and foot casts you checked were, they were Exhibits Nos. 50 through 55 and 91 through 94, did you collect them yourself?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you put your initials on them to identify them?

A. Yes.

Q. To whom did you turn those over?

A. Corporal Houser.

Q. Were they returned to the Barracks?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. Where were they kept?

A. They were kept in the locker.

Q. You have looked at these since coming up to Court, have you not?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Are they made the, are they the same castings that you made?

A. Yes, Sir.

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Q. Now, I have no further questions.

CROSS EXAMINATION

By Mr. Fierro:

Q. Mr. Keppick, are you telling us that whatever plaster casts you made concerning whatever is in evidence, that they are perfect?

A. No.

Q. Well, the things that you have just demonstrated to the Jury are just about perfect, aren't they?

A. I think it was a reasonably good demonstration of what plaster of Paris casts can bring out.

Q. It was almost perfect, you could even see where you scratched your initials on the sole of your shoe?

A. Yes, Sir, it does do a tremendous job.

Q. Are you saying whatever may be in evidence here, the casts you made, they came out perfectly?

A. No, Sir.

Q. If we find that there are some of these accidental characteristics that you talked about that are not on these plaster of paris casts, are, what are you going to say about that?

A. This could be made from almost anything. Our expert from Harrisburg could probably explain better than I.....

Q. I am not asking you about Harrisburg expert, you are testifying as to an expert what you did here and about accidental and class characteristics, I am asking you again what if some of these casts that are in evidence do not show the accidental characteristics that you talked about, would you say you

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made a poor cast?

A. No, Sir.

Q. Why would you say they would not be there?

A. It would depend on the terrain, most everything would be reproduced.

Q. But if they are not there, you would say it would depend on the terrain and what other conditions?

A. Yes, Sir, if part of the portion would, of the plaster of Paris was not properly laid into the impression, then you would not get a good reproduction.

Q. But I am talking about the impressions you made, now obviously the demonstration and, the demonstration that you made in front of the Jury and what you did at the scene are two different things?

A. Yes, but what I did on both occasions are similar.

Q. It may be similar, but the one was made under ideal conditions, that is the demonstration?

A. Yes, Sir.

All right, and the conditions at the scene you would not consider that they were not ideal.

Q. All right, even if they were ideal, would you be able to explain why if it happens that in the course of testimony that certain accidental characteristics of the objects in evidence do not appear in the cast, would you, can you explain why?

A. There could be an air bubble in the cast that would

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not reproduce anything beneath it.

Q. Anything else?

A. There could be a stick or a leaf over the impression that would blur anything beneath it or cover it up.

Q. Anyother reason?

A. None that I know, no, I don't know of any.

Now, I am not an expert in identifying plaster of Paris casts as far as making positive identification.

Q. You are just an expert in making them?

A. I have been trained in making plaster of Paris casts.

Q. Well, you notice that you have already given the Jury two samples of why it is possible that accidental characteristics would not appear when made at a natural scene, you didn't have that to contend with in your demonstration like leaves, bubbles and so on, you didn't have that to contend with, did you?

A. No, but you might say a leaf was there and it was reproduced or a stick was there and it was reproduced, but to find anything beneath it, this would hinder anything that could be found beneath it, if there was a leaf or piece of stick over it.

Q. If you made such good casts at the scene, we should be able to tell the Jury that those casts should show all of the accidental characteristics of whatever the object is?

A. This would have to be explained by Trooper Krebs.

Q. Not you?

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A. If for some reason it did not show.

Q. Then somebody else is going to have to explain why something does not show concerning something you made, is that correct?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. Well, is that the same with fingerprints, I mean can't you explain that either?

A. Explain what?

Q. Well, you said that you found no fingerprints in the Defendant's car? Will it take somebody else to explain that?

A. No, Sir.

Q. Can you do that?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. You examined this car thoroughly presumably?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. Whatever techniques you used, I am not interested in, you say you are an expert, I will agree concerning fingerprints, so that I suppose you went over the interior of the car?

A. Yes.

Q. You are talking about a smooth surface, which is where a fingerprint adheres, there is certainly a lot of smooth surfaces inside of a car, isn't there?

A. Yes.

Q. You were specifically looking for Jennifer's, Jennifer Hill's fingerprint, weren't you?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. You didn't find any?

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A. No, Sir.

Q. You found other fingerprints, unless you wanted to ignore them, you found them, didn't you?

A. No, Sir, I didn't find anything.

Q. Not even the Defendant's?

A. No, Sir.

Q. Did you find smudges?

A. Yes, Sir, there was quite a few smudges, but nothing with any ridge formations characteristics.

Q. On the inside of a car, how long would a fingerprint last under normal conditions?

A. Under normal conditions, according to my studies, the best time to work or lift a fingerprint or apply any solution to a fingerprint is between 24 and 36 hours.

Q. Will they last after that?

A. Yes, Sir, they may, depending upon moisture, depending on body chemistry, depending on the surface.

Q. Well, if there were any fingerprints, let's say on the glass on the inside of a car, either the windshield or side windows, how long would you expect them to last under normal conditions?

A. Indefinitely.

Q. You did check the glass?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. Found no fingerprints?

A. No, Sir. The entire car, glass and soforth was very dirty and this hinders any processing in obtaining finger-

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prints.

Q. Does it make, outside of being difficult, if a fingerprint is there you would find it though, wouldn't you?

A. Yes, Sir, if it can be brought out at all.

Q. When you say that you processed the car, was that only for the purpose of finding fingerprints or looking for other evidence?

A. I was detailed to process the vehicle and photograph the vehicle, process the vehicle for fingerprints and photograph it.

Q. Not for anyother reason?

A. No, Sir.

Q. When you say that you found no footprints between the edge of the farm lane and the feet of the girl, you described the area as being somewhat grassy?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. Does that make it impossible to obtain a footprint?

A. Yes.

Q. It does?

A. Yes.

Q. Doesn't it even create any impression in the ground?

A. There was no impression that was of any value that I could see.

Q. When you say "of any value", do you mean by that you saw something but You didn't think it was valuable? -

A. There was no impression there that I could see of any value, I saw nothing.

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*How did he  
get a suspect  
print under  
loopy of where he  
was standing?*

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Q. Was that entire area grassy?

A. Yes, it was.

Q. No dirt?

A. No, Sir.

Q. Weren't there corn stalks there in that area?

A. Very many.

Q. What?

A. Very many.

Q. Were they growing in the grass, out of the grassy area?

A. I would like to see a picture to see how close the corn stalks were.

Q. I believe you have the pictures up there, don't you?

A. No, Sir. The picture here show this is a picture looking inward toward the corn field.

Q. What number are you talking about?

X A. No. 2. It shows heavy grass leading up to the feet of the victim.

Q. This is No. 1?

A. This is similar, but taken at a closer distance to the victim.

Q. I don't think we have one showing the edge of the road  
By Mr. Ertel:

Yes, we do.

By Mr. Pierro:

The edge of the road to the feet?

By Mr. Ertel: This one shows.

*Mr. Ertel  
Ertel's  
Sketches  
Photo*



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By Mr. Fierro:

No, it doesn't, so don't make the statement.

By Mr. Ertel:

It does.

By Mr. Fierro:

Let the Jury decide what it has.

Q. You don't see the edge of the lane in the photograph you are holding, which is No. 2?

A. When I took this picture, I took it for the purpose of showing that the area leading from the lane to where the body was found.

Q. You do not see the edge of the road?

A. I was standing on the road. It is possible that you cannot really see the traveled portion of this road because it is grass all of the way up through there.

Q. Well, in any case so the Jury will know, Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 2 shows what you say is substantially most of the area between the feet of the victim and let's say the edge of the lane?

A. Yes.

Q. When they see this, this is Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 2, you are saying because of this, because of this grass and some weeds there, you could obtain no impression and saw no footprints?

A. Yes.

Q. Even though I will ask you to assume that the Defendant was carrying this girl who weighed about 120 or 125

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you saw no footprints?

A. Right.

Q. I show you what has been marked as Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 24, which I believe you said you took?

A. Yes.

Q. That is a picture of the Defendant's car, I guess in the Borough Hall in South Williamsport?

A. Yes.

Q. And except for the fact that the rear tires have been removed, it does show in particular the damage to the left front fender, doesn't it?

A. Yes, it does.

Q. That is accurate, isn't it?

A. Yes, Sir. *State police altered*

Q. At least the way you took it, and you know that

that is the way, at least from your investigation, this is what the car looked like with respect to damage on October 19th, isn't that right?

A. It is the way it looked when I took it on November 2nd.

Q. Don't you know that damage was there on October 28th?

A. No, Sir.

Q. You don't even know that through your fellow Officers?

A. From what I heard through my fellow Officers, this had been changed, some of the damage had been corrected or taken out.

Q. By whom?

*These tires were entered as evidence in the courtroom. They disappeared.*

*State police altered evidence here.*

Trooper Keppick.

A. I don't know.

Q. You mean it was <sup>ROSE</sup> on October 19th?

A. Yes, Sir, that is the impression I had.

Q. That is even better, in other words whatever this Jury is looking at concerning the Defendant's car, the damage to the left front fender, as far as you know it was even worse on October 19th than it appears here in this photograph?

By Mr. Ertel:

I object to this.

By The Court:

The objection is sustained.

By Mr. Pierro:

Q. In that picture you took, is the hood damaged?

A. Yes.

Q. Is there any damage on one of the left side doors in that picture?

A. There appears to be some dents and scratch marks.

Q. Do you know anything about car colors, can you identify that car's color?

A. Light green.

Q. Just light green?

A. Yes.

Q. You are not using the word "metallic" or "acrylic" or anything like that?

A. No.

Q. You are just saying light green?

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A. Yes.

Q. By the way, you said that whatever tire prints you made were taken about 27 feet, that would be south of Sylvan Dell on the farm lane?

A. Yes.

Q. Well, the farm lane itself leading up to the area where the body was found, is how long?

A. Approximately from the roadway about 127 feet.

Q. 127 feet?

A. I did not, again, I did not take these measurements.

Q. This is your estimate?

A. It is my estimate.

By Mr. Ertel:

Pardon me a moment; I think he misunderstood the question, is that the estimate of the entire length of the lane or to the body?

By Mr. Fierro:

I said to where the body was found. Change the question!

By Mr. Ertel:

Okay.

By Mr. Fierro:

Q. Is it still the same, about 127 feet south of the Sylvan Dell Road to the area where the body was found, that, would that be the approximate length of the farm lane?

A. No, Sir.

Q. What would it be?

A. It is over 300 feet.

*Check all newspaper articles up until 1915 arrest. They have the body 100 ft off highway.*

*Keppick heard the question right, Ertel's the one who didn't hear it right or maybe he broke in to change the question!*

Trooper Keppick.

Q. Now...

A. Now, this, again, is hearsay, I read this from Corporal Barto's report.

Q. Well, you have some idea, you have been a Police Officer long enough?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. That you can estimate the lane?

A. These measurements seem to be accurate.

Q. Let's go back from the edge of the Sylvan Dell Road, what is the length of the farm lane to where the body was found?

A. 127 feet.

Q. And your tire prints were found 27 feet off of, and that would be south, apparently, from the Sylvan Dell Road?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. That leaves another 100 feet of farm lane, moving towards where the body was found, is that correct?

A. Correct.

Q. On which you found no tire prints?

A. Correct.

Q. None whatsoever?

A. No tireprints.

Q. Well, if you found no tire prints, tell us whatever else you may have found?

A. There were bulldozer cleat prints.

Q. Anything else?

A. Nothing, not to my knowledge, nothing else.

Q. How far did this bulldozer cleat prints go?

A. I believe they went the entire length of that lane.

*This stopped 46' short of highway*

*Keppick - Sylvan Dell Road  
27 feet - 100 feet  
127 feet - 127 feet*

Trooper Keppick.

WHY ARE THERE FOOTPRINTS IN THE CASTS 468.

Q. Did they totally destroy the road surface?

A. No, Sir.

Q. All right, now if you assume that those cleat prints were made and there was testimony that it was made well, sometime before 3:00 in any case, if a car went up that alley, would it not leave some sort of impression?

I don't know.

I don't know?

No.

Q. Did you see any footprints on that lane?

A. Sir.

Q. What composition was that lane?

You are speaking of the grassy area?

No, the farm lane, you know?

Yes.

made  
sh  
fell  
me  
the  
concrete?

comp. soil, dirt, grass, macadam,

A. Grass.

cks were cast

was di. we indication of foot prints in the tire casts.

Q. You are saying that you also found footprints or indications of them in the area where you obtained the tire prints?

A. Yes, Sir, they are right in the casts.

Q. They are?

A. Yes, Sir.

Foot  
prints  
- how many  
- how many

Q. That would be 27 feet south of the Sylvan Dell

Road?

Trooper Keppick.

*only one  
cast here  
I know  
print in  
of location  
this  
testimony #69.*

A. Yes.

Q. How many footprints did you find in that area?

A. Of course, as I say, I am not an expert in identifying casts.

Q. No, but you made them?

A. It seems plain there are approximately three different shoe prints in the casts.

Q. Of where you obtained this tire print?

A. Yes.

Q. Is this farm lane above the 27 feet area that we are talking about, is it entirely all grass, is none of it dirt?

A. Yes, Sir, it is all grass all of the way up through there.

Q. Where vehicles may use that lane, aren't there some sort of ruts or definitions in the ground that show where a vehicle run through that lane?

A. Yes, Sir, there is, the grass has been where the tire tracks would have been, the grass has been stomped down some.

Q. How about where this tractor chewed up the ground, didn't that reveal dirt and uproot the grass?

A. Just where the cleats were pushed into the ground, you can see where they were depressed in the ground.

Q. Where they did depress in the ground, they would uproot the grass and turn up earth, wouldn't they?

A. No, Sir, just a straight line across is what I saw.

Trooper Keppick.

Q. Now, the tire prints that you made in this 27 feet are also contained several other types of footprints?

A. Yes.

Q. That is all.

RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION

By Mr. Ertel:

Q. Officer Keppick, this particular spot where you made the casts of the tires, was that foreign material to that area?

A. It appeared to be.

Q. In other words, it was a clump?

A. Yes.

Q. The rest of this area was basically grassy throughout the lane?

A. Yes.

Q. Thank you.

RE-CROSS EXAMINATION

By Mr. Fierro:

Q. This mud and dirt was described by somebody else, now you are saying it is foreign, is this the only type you know of in the United States?

A. No, Sir, I base this on the fact that when I had lifted the casts from the earth there was grass underneath.

Q. The type of mud, soil, clay, or whatever it is, is that so uncommon to this area?

A. I don't know, I am not...



Trooper Keppick.

Q. Well, you have just said it is foreign to this or that?

A. It appeared to be foreign because the dirt was flopped over grass.

Q. The soil in itself, have you ever seen such soil in this area?

A. Yes, it didn't seem to be anything unusual.

Q. That is all.

By Mr. Ertel:

That is all.

(Excused from witness stand.).

By Mr. Ertel:

It has been stipulated that Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 81 was a soil sample obtained from the Dye-Tex Corporation by Corporal Barto as testified to by, as would be testified to by Corporal Barto and also by Mr. Kremser.

TROOPER ALFRED R. GOMB, being duly sworn according to law, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

By Mr. Ertel:

Q. State your full name?

A. Trooper Alfred R. Gomb.

Q. Your occupation?

A. Pennsylvania State Police, Montoursville.

Q. How long have you been a Trooper?

A. This is my 14th year of service.

Q. Trooper, in this particular case, did you have