

by Judge Robert H. Gollmar

With eight pages of od-curdling police photographs

## Testimony of Edward Gein

FRINZI: Your Honor, at this time we'd like to go back to the defense of the first part of the case, and as our next witness we'd like to call the defendant, Edward Gein.

THE COURT: Mr. Gein, will you come forward

and be sworn?

FRINZI: Now, Mr. Gein, before we start asking you any questions, I want to tell you, as your attorney that under the law of the State of Wisconsin you do not have to take the witness stand and testify in this case. You understand?

THE WITNESS: Right.

FRINZI: And I have gone over this with you several times, is that correct?

THE WITNESS: Right.

FRINZI: And if you don't take the stand and testify, the judge cannot come to any conclusions as to your guilt or innocence because you didn't testify in this case, and the judge cannot draw any inference of your guilt or innocence because you did not take the witness stand. You understand that?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

FRINZI: And I have gone over this with you several times?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

FRINZI: Knowing you have a right not to testify, what is your pleasure? What is your wish? You want to testify in this case on your behalf?

THE WITNESS: Yes. FRINZI: All right.

DIRECT EXAMINATION OF GEIN BY FRINZI:

Q. Will you state your name for the record please?

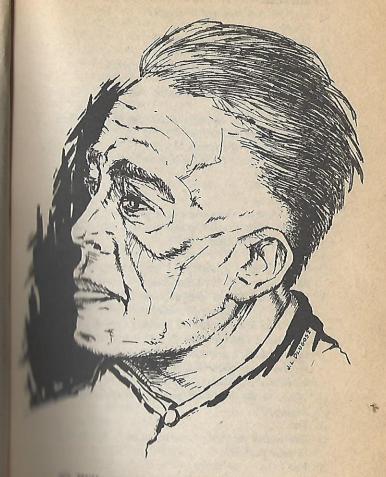
A. Edward Gein.

Q. And where do you live?

A. Well, at the present time in Wautoma.

Q. Now, how old are you?

### AMERICA'S MOST BIZARRE MURDERER



your state your name for the record, please?

A. Sixty-two.

Q. And are you married or single?

A. Single.

Q. How far did you go in school?

A. Eighth grade.

Q. Did you graduate from the eighth grade.

A. Yes.

Q. Did you go to any schools after that?

A. No.

Q. Now, Mr. Gein, on the sixteenth day of November, 1957, where did you live?

A. In the Town of Plainfield.

Q. Now, did you have a home there?

A. On a farm.

Q. Pardon?

A. On a farm.

Q. I see. And on this farm where you lived, will you tell the court whether or not you had any rifles or revolvers or pistols?

A. Yes.

Q. What, if any, of these types of weapons did you

have on your farm at that time?

A. One twelve gauge shotgun, one .22 Marlin repeating bolt action rifle, one single shot Stevens rifle, and one old style—I couldn't say—it was so old—what type it was. A .22 single shot too, rolling block, I guess they call it, and one old .22 revolver, short barreled, that wouldn't work, and a Mauser .32 automatic pistol.

Q. Now, in the past, did you at any time do any hunting?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you at any time have occasion to put bullets in your pocket?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, on the sixteenth day of November, 1957, would you tell the court what time you got up on that morning, if you remember?

A. Six o'clock about.

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Q. What, if anything, did you do after you got up?

A. I made my breakfast, and after that cleaned up the dishes—washed the dishes.

Q. What else did you do?

A. And, it was raining outside at that time—light rain—and it probably was half an hour till the rain died down.

Q. All right. What, if anything, did you do after the

rain died down?

A. Then I decided to go uptown.

O. Now, before you left your farm, will you tell the court whether or not you took with you any of these rifles or weapons that you had on the farm?

A. I did not.

O Do you know whether or not you had any bullets in your pockets?

A No.

Now, after you left the farm, where did you go?

A I took my—I was going to get kerosene. I had a kerosene stove. I took the kerosene can, and I put it in my car. And I wanted to get some antifreeze—permanent antifreeze—a gallon of that—so I took a class container and put that in my car.

And where did you go?

And then I drove up to Plainfield, and stopped to Mandard station to get the kerosene, and after that I drove to Mrs. Worden's place and parked front of her place of business.

when you parked your car in front of Mrs.

hardware store, did you park your car

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Hight in the open, yes.

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of the across from Worden's was a filling by Spees—a fellow by the name of that he was out there talking

with someone else. They always used to weigh deer there too. They had deer scales there.

Q. Now, do you remember what day the sixteenth of November was, in 1957?

A. The first day of deer season.

Q. All right. Now, would you tell the court why you did not buy the antifreeze at the gas station where you bought the kerosene?

A. Well, there was an advertisement in the paper a week before that there was a special price on permanent antifreeze at Worden's hardware store.

Q. Is that the reason why you went to the Worden

hardware store?

A. Yes. That same week I bought two gallons, and the next week I went up Saturday and bought another gallon.

O. Now, will you tell the court whether or not you were in the Worden hardware store on Friday, the day before, on the fifteenth of November, 1957?

A. No.

Q. When was the last time that you had been in the Worden hardware store before the sixteenth of November, 1957, if you remember?

A. That was the week before.

Q. That was the last time?
A. Right.

Q. Now, will you tell the court what happened after you got out of your car after you had parked it in front of the Worden hardware store? What happened then?

A. I took my kerosene can and I believe that glass jug at the same time and carried them in-no, I left the-I had the kerosene already. I took the glass container for the antifreeze.

Q. And where did you go with that? A. I went into Mrs. Worden's store.

Q. And what, if anything, did you do after you got into the store with the glass container?

A. I told her I wanted another gallon of that.

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Q. And what happened then?

A. She filled that up, and I took-I paid her, and took it out and put it in my car.

Q. After you put this glass container with the antifreeze in your automobile, what, if anything, did you do then?

A. And then I went back in because I thought that I wanted to trade my Marlin rifle for one that Mrs. Worden had in her store.

Q. What did you do?

A. So, I went back in and asked Mrs. Worden if I could look this rifle over.

Q. At the time you asked Mrs. Worden if you could try this gun, or rifle rather, where in relation to you was she standing? How far away from you was she?

A She walked up to where the rifles were, and I was standing—we were side-by-side.

Q At that time?

A. Yes.

O And what did you do?

I asked her if I could see that rifle.

And what happened then?

And she said, "Sure. It's my favorite type of rifle."

And what did you do then?

A Sa I reached in and removed it from under the thain that was in front of the rifle.

Where was this gun rack, or rifle rack located in the Worden store, if you remember?

A H was on the east side of the main room.

How is that gun facing? How was that gun Judg when you picked it up, if you remember? the back of the rifle barrel was resting against the wall, and the stock on the bottom of the case. What did you do after you removed this one will from the rifle rack?

her if it would handle all of the .22 the 22 short, the .22 long, and .22 long alle, and she said yes.

Q. And then what happened?

A. I believe I asked her if it would handle a .22 short, because there are quite a few rifles that only handle .22 shorts, some longs, and some chambered just for the .22 long rifle.

Q. And then what did you do?

A. And then I remember that I had been hunting squirrels the day before-red squirrels-and I felt in my pocket, and there was one or two shells. I couldn't say now.

Q. Will you tell the court whether or not you put those shells in your pocket that morning before you left your home, or whether or not they were in

your pocket?

A. They were in my pocket from the day before.

- Q. All right. Now, what did you do after you reached in your pocket and felt these shells? What did you
- A. I thought I would try it because my Marlin rifle wouldn't handle the .22 long rifle like it was stated it would.

Q. All right. What did you do?

A. So I took this .22 short and put it in the magazine.

Q. Now-excuse me, Mr. Gein. I'm going to give you Exhibit 17, and ask if you will show the court what you did on that particular morning to the best of your memory. Turn around so the judge can see you.

A. If I remember how this works.

Q. Will you describe to the judge what you are doing, as you did it, as you best remember, on November 16, 1957.

A. This is the magazine [indicating]. There should be a slot in here somewhere where the shell goes in. There should be a slot in here.

Q. Can you speak up so we can all hear you? THE COURT: He said, "There should be a slot in here."

FRINZI: [Frinzi handling rifle] There's a slot down here [indicating].

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SUTTON: Object to that as leading and suggestive. FRINZI: I'll withdraw that.

THE COURT: Well, he's apparently—go ahead. FRINZI: I withdraw that statement, Your Honor.

THE COURT: I didn't even hear it.

FRINZI: Will you speak up so we can hear, Mr. Gein?

THE WITNESS: I put the .22 short shell in here [indicating].

Q. And then what did you do? A. And slid this down [indicating].

FRINZI: Let the record show that the witness pushed the tube down into the port.

THE WITNESS: Now, this is something I don't know either.

FRINZI: Tell us to the best of your memory—the best you remember doing with that gun on the sixteenth day of November, 1957.

A You see now this is locked [indicating], there is a release on here [indicating]. Must be here [indi-

cating]

U Let the record show that the witness is pointing to the lever on the bottom of the trigger guard. Plause in proceedings while witness handling ri-[16] Will you tell us what you did on this particulor day?

Will, that day it was ready for loading, and now this hammer is back in here and she's locked

[indicating].

And, then what did you do? Hul after I put the shell in-

Mr. Gein. Go ahead. Describe what you did.

specialed—there she goes—I operated this acthat holds the shell in the chamber, but I have this locked—the magazine locked.

then what, if anything, happened? What, if happened after that?

May here slide will not operate [indicating]. when the shell enters the chamber of the

rifle—there's a clicking sound—and there was no sound, so I shoved this down, but before—to operate the slide you have to pull the trigger to release the hammer—if I had known this was underneath this [indicating], there's no need of pulling the trigger. That releases the action. So, I had to pull the trigger to release that, but after I pushed this down and operated the slide the shell went into the chamber.

Q. Then what happened?

- A. I couldn't pull the trigger because the gun would fire, and I turned the rifle in many positions looking for some release on the rifle. I may have had it this way [indicating], this way [indicating], or might even had turned it upside down looking for a release. And in doing this, and trying on here [indicating], I may have pulled this trigger, or it might have gone off by itself. I couldn't say.
- Q. All right. Now, at that time, did you hear any noise?
- A. Yes. There was a sound, oh, like a low-powered air rifle. Just a low sound.
- Q. You can sit down, Mr. Gein. At that time did you have occasion to look up after you heard this noise?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you have occasion to see Mrs. Worden?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And where was she in relation to you?
- A. About, I'd say, twelve feet from me.
- Q. And did you have occasion to see her?
- A. Yes. She was standing there.
- Q. What did you observe?
- A. She was standing there as if she didn't hear.
- Q. And then what did you observe?
- A. So I glanced down at the rifle again.
  Q. And which way was Mrs. Worden facing?
- A. She had been facing northwest.
- Q. Now, was her back to you, or was her face to you?

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- A. No. Her face was towards the north. Kind of northwest.
- Q. Was her back facing you then?
- A. That's right. Cornerwise. Slantwise.
- Q. And what did you next observe?
- A. When I was looking down I heard a sound like something striking metal—like a metal can or something.
- Q. And then what did you do?
- A. I looked up and Mrs. Worden was gone. I couldn't see her.
- Q. And then what did you do?
- A There was an island in between so I coudn't see her, so I stepped around this island and I saw her laying there.
- And what, if anything, did you do then?
- A I believe I laid down the rifle to see if she was hurt or what was wrong.
- Q And then what did you do?
- And then I saw blood there. So it came to my mind either the bullet had struck her when the rifle fired, or she had fell that way. I didn't know.
- Will you tell the court whether or not at any time you aimed the rifle at the person of Mrs. Worden?

  No. I did not.
- And what did you do after you observed this blood
- here on—well, I better explain this: from the on, whenever I saw blood, I'd either faint or about faint. I'd just like black out. So that is town to answer at this time.
- anything, did you do with the gun at
- believe I put the gun back, because as I
- recall in what position you put the gun the rack, if you remember?
- believe the same as the others.
- what, if anything, you did body of Bernice Worden? What is the

next thing you did when you saw Bernice Worden's body on the floor, if you remember?

A. I'm afraid I do not remember that.

Q. Do you remember anything else you did on that day you saw the body of Bernice Worden on the floor?

A. I do not.

Q. Did you at any time prior to November 16, 1957, tell Mrs. Bernice Worden that you wanted to go dancing with her?

A. No, I did not. I do not dance.

Q. Did you at any time prior to November 16, 1957, ask her to go to a movie with you?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever tell her-Bernice Worden-that you wanted to go roller-skating with her?

A. That was said in a joke after they had opened a roller-skating rink towards Hancock, Wisconsin.

Q. Do you remember when that was said?

A. No. That was a long time before.

Q. Do you know what the circumstances were?

A. I never roller-skate, because when I was young I tried roller skates that my brother had, and I fell on the floor and that cured me. I never tried it since. It was just a joke.

Q. Did you ever argue with Bernice Worden?
A. No.

Q. Did you ever have a fight with Bernice Worden?

Q. Did you ever have any bad words with Bernice Worden?

A. No.

Q. Could you tell the court to the best of your memory how many times you had been in the Worden hardware store?

A. Through the years it would be quite hard to tell. Q. How often in a week would you go there?

A. Probably once a month.

Q. Did you at any time see or have anything to do with Mrs. Worden away from the hardware store?

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A. No.

Q. Did you ever see her away from the hardware

A. I seen her on the street. That's all.

Q. Like any other person?

A. Right.

Q. Did you ever have occasion to go to her home?

A. No.

Q. It's your testimony you never went out with her socially?

A. Yes.

FRINZI: That's all.

CROSS-EXAMINATION OF GEIN BY SUTTON:

O. Mr. Gein, before November 16, 1957, am I correct, you had extensive familiarity with the workings of rifles, did you not?

A With the bolt action and single shot. O How long-when did you first-

PRINZI: Hold it. Hold it. I can't hear Mr. Gein. Mr Gein would you speak up loud enough so we can hear you?

THE WITNESS: With the bolt action and single that rifles. That's all.

MITTON: When did you first learn to shoot a

WITNESS: Oh, single shot, about eight wars old.

And intermittently from the time you were eight will this occurred when you were fifty-one years ald, you had handled rifles?

Va Single shot.

Was you laught the safety precautions in the use wapons?

Was a your normal procedure to finger the trigand a weapon when you were checking what and of shell it took? Med always.

were do that before?

A. I saved the life of one neighbor boy. He crawled through the grass, and he thought he had something in the barrel of this rifle, and he looked down the barrel from the muzzle end, and the hammer was back on the rifle, and I pushed it away.

Q. My question is: did you ever handle a rifle like that before with your finger on the trigger when you were checking to see what kind of shell it took?

A. No.

Q. You would never do that again, would you?

A. No.

Q. Why did you do it that day?

A. I suppose because I had to pull the trigger for the first time to release the mechanism.

Q. Did you murder Mary Hogan in the town of Bancroft in 1957?

FRINZI; Object. I'll withdraw the objection. He may answer.

THE WITNESS: No.

SUTTON: Now, the week before this occurrence, do you recall what you did on Monday or Tuesday of that week? Do you recall what you did the day before the fifteenth?

THE WITNESS: I believe I sawed wood Friday—

helped the neighbors saw wood-cordwood.

Q. Did you go into Plainfield on Friday at all? A. No.

Q. How about Thursday?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Any time that week do you remember going into Plainfield?

A. No.

Q. When did you purchase the two gallons of antifreeze that you already had?

A. That was the week before. Q. Where did you buy that?

A. Mrs. Worden's.

Q. Why didn't you buy three gallons?

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A. Because it was a two-gallon container—metal container.

Q. What were you going to use the antifreeze for?

A. Two of my cars—pickup and passenger car.

Q. And had you already installed the two gallons of antifreeze that you purchased?

A. Yes.

Q. In which? The pickup or the car?

A. Both.

Q. But you needed another gallon of antifreeze?

A. Yes.

Q. Was the antifreeze on sale when you went in the week before?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you deny having a conversation with Frank Worden about the opening of deer season?

A. I didn't have-

FRINZI: I didn't hear you, Mr. Gein.

THE WITNESS: I don't remember anything about that,

SUTTON: You don't remember having a conversation? You might have had a conversation about the forming of deer season?

A I'd say no, that I didn't.

O Do you deny asking Mrs. Worden to go rollerskating with you?

In a joke I said, "Let's go try out the new floor."

Was that the week before this happened?

A month or more before.

there any reason why you remember it?

The last that was a new roller-skating rink that

been put in. That's how the joke come.

In lang had you lived on the farm?

In the Town of Plainfield?

was — I believe since I was eight years old.

had you known Mrs. Worden?

personally?

steen or seventeen years old.

Q. You mean you were sixteen or seventeen?

A. Yes. That's right.

Q. How old was she then, do you remember?

A. I couldn't say.

Q. Was she also a young woman? Was that before she was married? Let me ask you that.

A. She was married to Worden then.

Q. Do you remember the circumstances of her marriage to Mr. Worden?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever tell anybody that you remembered the circumstances of her marriage to Mr. Worden?

THE WITNESS: You see, Mrs. Worden was married before we was up in that country, so I couldn't

say.

SUTTON: Well, that's not exactly my question. Do you ever remember telling anyone you knew about the circumstances of her marriage? Let me ask you this: did you ever tell anyone Mrs. Worden had stolen her husband from another girl?

A. I was told that.

Q. And you resented that, didn't you?

A. No.

Q. Do you know that the other girl allegedly committed suicide? Did you know that?

A. I was told that.

Q. And you remember that day, don't you?

A. Right.

Q. And you knew that in 1957?

A. Well, I never thought of that at that time.

Q. Isn't it a matter of fact that you held Mrs. Worden responsible for the death of that girl?

A. I don't believe I did.

Q. You don't believe you did? You might have? Is that it?

FRINZI: I can't hear that question.

SUTTON: Did you ever tell anyone you thought Mrs. Worden was a bad woman because of that? THE WITNESS: No.

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Q. When you went into this store, did you take in a glass container?

A. Yes.

Q. By a "glass container," what do you mean? Was that a bottle, or what?

A. Well, you'd call it a jug.

Q. A jug? And Mrs. Worden, where did she fill the antifreeze from?

A. In the office from a steel barrel.

O. And then you paid her for it?

A. Yes.

Q. And then you left the store, is that right?

A. To put the jug in my car.

Where did you put it in your car?

I believe the back seat, on the floor.

Now, you said that you wanted to trade in one of your guns on this one?

A Right.

Why didn't you bring that down to the store with

A Recause I wanted to try it out first-check it.

Check it for what?

To ask whether it could use the three caliber, the hort, the long, or long rifle, because I wanted a life that would handle all three.

You had no rifle that would handle all three?

Had you didn't bring your gun with you?

Worden you went back into the store, did you tell
Worden you were thinking of trading your
on that one?

how that that was the usual procedure?

then what did she say to you?

- Q. I mean, what did she say to you when you told her you wanted to trade in your rifle on that one? Did she say something to you about it being her favorite rifle? Did you testify to that on direct?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you just forget that a minute?
- A. You see, you confuse me a little bit there.
- Q. Did she say that or didn't she?
- A. She said that before, yes, when I asked if it would handle all three cartridges, the short, long, and long rifle.
- Q. What did she say?
- A. She says, "Yes, it will. It's my favorite weapon-or
- Q. And, you didn't believe her, is that it?
- A. Well, I doubt if anybody would believe everything just by saying so, especially when I was told that the rifle that I bought-that Marlin would handle all three, and it didn't.
- Q. What kind of a coat were you wearing that day, Mr. Gein? Do you remember?
- A. Summer jacket.
- Q. Where were the shells?
- A. In my overall pocket.
- Q. And you had put them there the day before? A. Yes.
- Q. And you had been hunting squirrels the day before?
- A. Red squirrels.
- Q. Did you shoot any squirrels the day before?
- A. I believe I did. One.
- Q. Now, was Mrs. Worden there when you took the shell out and inserted it into the weapon?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did she say anything then?
- A. At that time she was looking out the window, towards the north.
- Q. She had her back to you then?
- A. Well, on a slant.
- Q. Did she see what you were doing with the gun?

### A. I doubt it.

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- FRINZI: Wait a minute. I want to get that answer. THE COURT: "I doubt it."
- SUTTON: Did you tell her you were going to put a shell into the gun?
- A. No.
- Q. And, as you described, you had difficulty putting the shell into the weapon?
- A. Right.
- Q. Why was that?
  A. Because this magazine is different than the one on my Marlin.
- Q. Did you ask her anything about that?
- A. No.
- O. About how long would you say it took for you to figure out how to put the shell into the weapon?
- A Three-four minutes. O And during that time, during that three or four minutes, where was Mrs. Worden?
- A I would say at that time she was looking out the window at her son-in-law's Chevrolet-new Chevrolet.
- Where was that?
- Parked over by the Gambles store.
- Could you see that from inside the store?
- And how did you know that was her son-in-law's new Chevrolet?
- Who said so.
- You had more conversation in the store then? You never asked before.
- What did she say about that?
  - The said, "I see Bud has a new car. I do not like the Chevrolet."
- What did you say?
  - I didn't say anything.
  - I were trying to put the shell into the gun?
  - you stand up again and take the rifle hands, please? [Witness picked up rifle] the time you were attempting to put the

shell into the weapon, was the gun in substantially the same position it is in now?

A. I believe I was working with the magazine here [indicating].

Q. And you are right-handed, aren't you?

A. Yes.

Q. So I presume that you used your right hand to manipulate the magazine?

A. Rigt.

Q. Would you do it again as you did when Mr. Frinzi was cross-examining?

FRINZI: Direct examining. SUTTON: When Mr. Frinzi had you on direct examination.

THE WITNESS: Well, you pull it all the way up [pulling out magazine tube]. You have to with this rifle.

Q. And then you put the shell in?

A. Right.

- Q. And it took you three or four minutes to figure it
- A. This works altogether different than my Marlin. Q. But, it took you three or four minutes to figure that out?

A. You see-

Q. That's right, isn't it, Mr. Gein? It took you three or four minutes to figure it out? FRINZI: Now, just a minute.

THE COURT: Wait a minute. He's trying to

figure-

THE WITNESS: It took that long because thu locks different than mine. Then I operated the action but no shell came in. You can hear a clicking sound when the shell goes into the chamber.

SUTTON: Were you holding the weapon as you are now?

A. Yes.

Q. With regard to where you were standing, where was Mrs. Worden standing when you were down this?

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A. While I was doing this she was standing over there. [Witness pointing] Slant. Q. That's where the window is?

A. Right.

Q. Were you facing this direction?

Q. And she had her back to you and she was looking out the window?

Well, she was on a slant. Q. And then what happened?

Then you have to lock this in like that [indicating] It's altogether different than the Marlin.

O Go ahead. What happened then?

Then, you see, before—to operate the action you have to pull the trigger if it's cocked before. When I operated the slide that naturally cocked the gun and locked it.

Just as you are standing now you did it? Well, I was just demonstrating now.

That's what I want you to do to the best of your recollection.

MINZI: Just a minute. Just a minute. Let's get understand. I think he should be-

INTON: I object to this. I'm examining the

He can have redirect.

Just a minute. I'd like to ask that the inform the witness as to his question—that him to demonstrate as best he knows howand it on the sixteenth of November, 1957.

COURT: I don't know whether that's what sand or not.

Of course that's what I want. Ask him then.

COURT: All right.

You have been demonstrating just what the sixteenth of November, haven't you,

WITNESS: No.

have you did it on the sixteenth of

A. That's quite hard to remember after almost eleven years, but I'd say I probably—like I says, it probably took three or four minutes that I figured out to push this button and slide it.

Q. Were you holding the gun like that? A. As I'm right-handed, I would.

Q. Now, we have gotten past that point to the fact that you have gotten the gun into-the bullet into the gun. Now, you're having difficult with the trigger, right?

A. Right.

Q. Mrs. Worden is standing sideways looking out the window, right?

A. Off this way [indicating]. Q. You're looking at me, right?

A. Right.

Q. And that's the way you were in the store?

A. That's when I pumped the shell and was operating it, right.

Q. Now, demonstrate to me how you held the weapon as you were trying to work the trigger. I don't want you to turn, Mr. Gein, I want you to show me how you did it, not the judge. Show me how you did it.

A. That's what I was just going to show you. This way. [Witness turning to the right a little]

O. Why?

A. You see, after almost eleven years, it's pretty hard to show exactly how I stood almost eleven years ago. Everybody should admit that.

Q. But you do remember that you turned?

A. Yes. I may have been standing this way after I loaded it [indicating], but I was facing you be cause we were talking and I naturally turned that way, and I hate to point this at people.

THE COURT: Go ahead. If it isn't emply it's somebody else's fault. I'll blame you, Sheriff.

FRINZI: Hold it. Before we do any more demon strating, I value my life. I'd like to have one of the firearms guys back there check this gun. This gun.

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was used. Can I be excused a minute to check it out to see if there are any bullets in here? [Wilimovsky checking gun] Judge, if anything happens we can blame the State of Wisconsin. Mr. Wilimovsky says there is nothing in the gun.

THE COURT: Okay. Leave it there until he asks

you a question. Go ahead, Mr. Sutton.

SUTTON: Before we get back to that, I refreshed my recollection on something. The weapon you were going to trade in on this one, which of the caliber shells didn't it fire?

A Twenty-two long rifle would jam.

And you were interested in buying a gun that would shoot that caliber? The shell you put in here was a .22 short, wasn't it?

A Right.

How would that prove to you it would shoot a .22 long?

A You see, there's a difference in rifles. Some will take a .22 short but no long, and some are chamhard just for the .22 long rifle.

And you wanted one which shot the .22 long?

All, the short, long, and long rifle.

Naw, will you stand up again, please? Take the in your hands. Now, would you lean it the wall in back of your chair as it wasmallar to the position it was in-when you first In the store? Now, you went up and picked the weapon up, is that right?

have't been mentioned in any-in the court so far, but there was a chain across and full length in front of the rifles, and

shotguns, I guess. what happened then?

and it out you'd have to take it this way out from underneath the chain.

and did you do that?

where was Mrs. Worden when you did

A. She probably would be just where the judge is sitting down. Standing there.

Q. And, was this the point where you had the conversation with her?

A. Yes.

Q. What did she say to you at this point?

A. This was the point when I asked her about if it handled all three.

Q. And she said, yes?

A. Yes.

Q. And what did you do then?

A. Just looking the rifle over then. That's all at that time.

Q. And then what happened?

A. Well, she walked over then.

Q. Did she walk over by the window?

A. Yes.

Q. In what direction is that?

A. Northwest.

Q. In a northwest direction she walked?

A. That's right.

Q. And then what did you do?

A. I just demonstrated that once already.

Q. I know, and I'm sorry to belabor the point, but I'd like you to demonstrate it again. This time facing the right direction.

A. Well, reaching in the pocket, putting the shell in and if you don't push this so it goes down, it

won't chamber the shell.

Q. And this took you three to four minutes, and during this time she was over by the window, that right?

A. You operate-

Q. Is that right, Mr. Gein? That took you three four minutes while she was over by the window!

A. You're wrong.

Q. Well, what happened?

A. I stated before that I operated the action, and we shell went in the chamber.

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Q. All right.

A. Then I didn't see any release, so the only way to do it is point it down and pull the trigger.

Q. Point it toward the floor?

A. Right.

O And that's what you did in exactly that position, or as close as you can recall?

A. That's right.

Then how did you shoot Mrs. Worden if she was standing over there?

A She wasn't standing there.

Where was she standing?

A She was standing where I told you. She was northwest of me.

1) She was by the window when you shot her?

A Facing the window. I still don't know how it works. [Witness handling gun]

All right. As you were bringing the gun down, you say the gun accidentally discharged, right?

And you looked up when you heard the report?

You saw Mrs. Worden standing up?

then you looked down again, and you looked

heard that noise.

I I may sit down.

thing striking metal like; something rattling—

was the counter in this relation to where you were standing.

""" an island in front here where things

mit on. There were things on it too.

The were things on it too.

The side door, the door to the—where

sould be over here at the north end of the

Mrs. Worden's body come to rest?

- A. Northwest from me where I was standing on the
- Q. That was quite a lengthy distance, would you say, from the door to where the truck was? A. Oh-
- Q. Let me ask you this: was it on the same side of the store as where the door to the truck was?
- A. You see, in back through that doorway was where they overhauled tractors, and I guess, loading and things like that, and then off on the side there was a room to park a truck or car-off south from there.
- Q. Well, my question: was that door on the opposite side of the store from where Mrs. Worden's body came to rest as you described the shooting?
- A. That would be east. That goes in the back part.
- Q. Let me ask you this: did her body come to rest close to where the door was to the truck area? A. No.
- Q. Some distance away from that?
- A. Right.
- Q. Then what did you do after you heard the noise of something hitting metal?
- A. I went over to see what it was-what caused it.
- Q. Now, by "went over" would you describe what you mean by that? Did you walk directly, or dul you go by-
- A. I had to walk around the back—to the end of the island. I couldn't see her from where I was.
- Q. With relation to the counter, where was her body
- A. That would be northwest. Yes, northwest.
- Q. Was the counter between you and her body? A. Yes.
- Q. And, by "island," could you tell us what you mean by that?
- A. They generally call them, in hardware store islands, where they put on canned goods store they call them islands. It's like a table, most of them have shelves.

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- Q. How high was that?
- A. Oh, 3 1/2 feet or so.
- Q. So you walked around the island? A. Yes.
- Q. Was her body on the other side of that island?
- Q. So her body was not in back of the counter? THE COURT: Are the counter and the island the same thing?
- THE WITNESS: No, they're different.
- SUTTON: The counter and island are two different objects, right?
- THE WITNESS: Right.
- SUTTON: And you testified that where you shot her was behind that island?
- FRINZI: Wait a minute. Object to that question. This is not the testimony.
- NUTTON: Then he can say no.
- IRINZI: Just a minute. Don't tell him what to I got an objection, and object to the form of the median as assuming a fact not in evidence.
- THE GOURT: Well, I think your phrasing is Mr. Sutton. Rephrase it, please.
- WITTON: At the time you shot Mrs. Worden, you standing on one side of the island, right?
- MINZI: Just a minute. Object on the same ground there is a conclusion in the answer. He's assuma fact not in evidence.
- COURT: Well, I think so too. I think you and at it without using that phraseology.
- Fortunately we don't have a jury. This be prejudicial error.
- COURT: Well, you're not prejudicing the
- I know that, Judge.
- COURT: All right, try it again.
- With regard to the island, Mr. Gein, wou shot Mrs. Worden where were you
- Just a minute. Mr. Gein, don't answer.

THE COURT: The trouble is "at the time he shot." There's an implication of a conclusion there.

SUTTON: The gun was in your hand, according to your testimony, and you pulled the trigger, and the gun went off, right?

FRINZI: Wait a minute. If he wants to ask questions—that's a triple question, not a double question. I'm going to object.

THE COURT: I think you can go back to your other phrasing of it, Mr. Sutton, and leave out this "he shot her" part.

SUTTON: When the gun went off, Mr. Gein, where were you standing with relation to this island you're talking about?

FRINZI: If he knows. SUTTON: If he doesn't know, I assume he wouldn't answer.

THE WITNESS: East of that.

SUTTON: And, where was Mrs. Worden?

THE WITNESS: I believe that's been gone over half a dozen times.

THE COURT: We may have to go over it again. SUTTON: With relation to the island, where was she?

THE WITNESS: She was on the northwest side of the island.

- Q. Was she on the other side of the island?
- A. Right.
- Q. Now, where you were standing when the gun went off, where was the counter—the store counter?
- A. By her office.
- Q. Well, in what direction from where you were standing?
- A. That was north.
- Q. That was almost, would you say, directly north of where you were standing?
- A. Right.
- Q. So, if I understand your testimony correctly, we the time the gun went off and at the time that 146

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Mrs. Worden disappeared, she was standing northwest of this island you testified to?

FRINZI: Just a minute. Object to the form of the question as assuming a fact not in evidence. There is nothing here that the body disappeared.

THE COURT: Yes. He said so. Disappeared from his sight.

FRINZI: He should state so in his question.

THE COURT: Oh, I think-

FRINZI: The appelate court wouldn't understand

THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Sutton.

SUTTON: At the time the gun went off and Mrs. Worden disappeared from your view, she was standing on the other side of that island, right?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

O And about fifteen or twenty feet east of the counter, is that right?

A West.

Which direction was she from the counter?

IRINZI: Why don't you answer the question?

IHE COURT: He asked what direction she was
the counter.

SUTTON: Do you deny that she fell in back of the

THE WITNESS: I do.

All right. Then what did you do after you went

Looked at her.

Was she facedown on the floor or was she faceup?
Well, you'd call it faceup.

The was faceup?

Whe was laying on her back?

All right. And you testified that you saw blood?

led you see a lot of blood?

Hood, I couldn't say how much.

- Q. And where was the blood coming from, could you tell?
- A. No.
- Q. Was there blood by her head?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And then you took the—strike that. Did you take the gun around the counter with you when you went to look at her body?
- A. I can't remember that.
- Q. And then you went and put the rifle back in the rack?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you put it underneath the chain?
- A. I can't remember that.
- Q. But you do remember putting it in the rack?
- A. Either over it or under it.
  Q. And then what did you do?
- A. Well-
- Q. Did you move Mrs. Worden's body then?
- A. That's where I can't remember too well.
- Q. Well, search your recollection. Do you remember moving her body?
- A. I can't remember that.
- Q. Let me ask you this, Mr. Gein: Do you consider yourself a good shot with a rifle?
- FRINZI: Objected to, Your Honor.
- THE COURT: He may answer.
- THE WITNESS: At that time I was seeing double. SUTTON: Oh, you were seeing double?
- A. If I looked close up I'd see double. If I looked through rifle sights or something I'd have to wear glasses.
- Q. Did you have glasses on?
- A. No.
- Q. You remember that?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You're sure of that?
- A. Right.
- Q. When you went over and looked at Mrs. Worden body did you know she was dead?

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- A. No.
- Q. Did you realize that she had been shot?
- A. I saw blood, that's all.
- Q. Did you think to get a doctor?
- A. I'd say no to that.
- Q. Did you think that there was any connection between the fact that you had been handling that weapon and it discharged, and the fact that she was laying on the floor with some blood?
- A. Yes
- So then did you take her body around behind the counter?
- A. No.
- O You're sure of that?
- A Yes.
- O Did you take her body out to the back of the store where the truck was?
- A That I don't remember.
- When did you see your car again?
- A The same day.
- When do you remember seeing the car again?
  The same day. That's all I can answer.
- Well, how long after what happened in Mrs. Worden's store?
  - Probably an hour.
- Where did you see it, do you remember?
  - What hathered then?
- What happened then?
  - don't remember driving home?
  - member being home.
  - do you remember being home with Mrs.
- remember that.
- these pictures, Mr. Gein. Do you remem-
- looking at photographs] Some of these
- the pol to answer, Mr. Gein, so the

reporter can mark it down. [Witness looking at photographs and shaking head with long pause in proceedings] Would the court reporter indicate on the record that the witness nodded his head in a negative manner?

SUTTON: Object. I have no idea what he means.

FRINZI: Ask him. SUTTON: I ask you again. Do you remember what those pictures portray?

A. I know what they portray, but I don't remember seeing anything like this.

Q. You don't remember seeing that at your farm? All right. You may put the photographs down. Do you remember eating supper that evening?

A. That was to Lester Hill's place.

Q. What time did you go over there? Do you remem-

A. That was after dinner, but I couldn't exactly say. His daughter-

Q. It was after dinner?

A. Yes.

Q. Where did you eat dinner?

A. To home. His daughter and her brother, and two brothers—came to my place.

Q. They came to your place?

Q. Did you tell them that anything had happened to Mrs. Worden?

A. No.

Q. Why not?

A. I couldn't say.

Q. You had no reason for not telling them?

FRENZI: He already answered he couldn't say Your Honor. Object to the question as repetitive. He already answered the question.

THE COURT: I think he answered.

SUTTON: Were you afraid that you'd be appro-

hended by the police? FRINZI: Object on the same grounds. He already answered. He said he can't say.

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THE COURT: Well, the court doubts if it's a proper question.

SUTTON: Mr. Gein, when you took the rifle out of the case, could you recall whether the safety mechanism was on or off?

THE WITNESS: It must have been off because

the action worked.

O. Did you manipulate at all the safety mechanism during the time you handled the rifle?

Q Did you recollect these events as you testified to them today in October of this year, 1968?

A. Would you explain that?

Q Yes. Last month did you remember these events that you testified to?

Yes, I believe so.

O Have you remembered these events continuously since they occurred?

A For a quite a few years.

IRENZI: What was that answer?

THE WITNESS: For quite a few years.

MITTON: Did you remember them on the night of Womenber 16, 1957, when you were arrested?

All the events?

It wents you testified to today, the manipulation of the gun-of the rifle-and the other things you tellind recalling today.

I'm sure of it.

In you recall having a conversation with Dr. The Winnebago County jail on Octo-11, 1968? [Dr. William Crawley, a psychia-

duln't tell Dr. Crawley any of these things, and you?

answered his questions.

his questions were about what happened Worden's store weren't they?

ask me very many questions as I - sunber

Q. You admit that you didn't tell him anything about this loading of the gun, and having the difficulty putting the bullet in, and wanting to test it to see whether it took .22 shorts, and having your finger on the trigger and having the weapon go off? You didn't tell him any of those things, did you?

FRINZI: Just a minute. Object to that question. The question was whether he admitted to Dr. Crawley these things. It's an improper question, Your Honor. SUTTON: Did you tell him about those things? THE WITNESS: No.

Q. Do you remember the night of November 16, 1957, and having a conversation with Deputy Dan Chase about what had happened in Mrs. Worden's store?

A. At the jail. Wautoma jail.

Q. You didn't tell him anything about this either, did

A. I believe I tried to, but they wouldn't listen.

Q. You say you told them that you put in the .22 short and all of those things?

FRINZI: Just a minute. Object to the question. That was not his statement. He said he didn't ask him about it.

THE COURT: He said he tried to tell them but

they wouldn't listen.

SUTTON: Now, you testified that ever since you were a little boy the sight of blood caused you to black out?

A. Yes.

Q. Is that animal blood as well as human blood?

A. Well, it would have been the same.

Q. When you went hunting for squirrels or deer, an animals, did you black out when you would blood?

A. I didn't hunt deer.

Q. Well, the squirrels that you shot, the one squired you shot the day before, when you shot it, did a bleed?

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A. I left it lay where it fell.

Q. Did it bleed?

A. I didn't go up to see.

Q. Because you were afraid you'd black out if you went up to see it?

A. I couldn't answer that.

O. Did you ever dress an animal and prepare it for-after killing it?

A. My father and mother done that.

Q. Were you ever present when that was done?

Seldom.

On occasion were you, though?

A. Right.

Did you pass out then, or black out, I mean? There was a lot of blood then, wasn't there, under those circumstances?

A Not small animals, no.

Well, did you experience this blackout when you would see any blood when your father was doing

When we'd butcher I'd always walk out in the field or something like that, away from it.

Vour mother died in 1945, is that correct?

I believe so.

From 1945 to 1957, did you ever have occasion to butcher any animals, small or large? A No.

Do you deny that you mutilated Mrs. Worden's buly as those photographs show it?

Many pause] I don't remember it, but-

If you did do it, is that the first time you ever did withing like that?

MINIT Object to the question. TION: I mean to an animal.

I believe that question has been answered. he doesn't remember.

COURT: He said he didn't remember doing

IN Do you deny you ever butchered an yourself?

FRINZI: He already answered that. Object on the grounds that it's repetitious. Mr. Sutton asked if he butchered animals, large or small, and he said no.

THE COURT: That's been covered. He said he

didn't butcher any animals.

SUTTON: Other than your amnesia relating to the events after Mrs. Worden was shot in the Worden store, were there any other times in your life that you have had amnesia or that you have no recollection of the events that happened?

FRINZI: I'll object to that, Your Honor. It's not

within the province of this witness. If he— SUTTON: Have you experienced this type of amnesia before? Do you know what I mean by "amnesia"?

THE WITNESS: Yes. THE COURT: He says yes.

FRINZI: If he had amnesia, he wouldn't know. The very statement begs the question.

THE COURT: No, he may answer.

THE WITNESS: When I was to Central State—to give you a little example—I wheeled in a patient for examination in the operating room, and he had a rectal examination and they put an expander which caused bleeding, and I almost passed out then. That was Dr. Laramore there and Dr. Schneider.

SUTTON: Other than that, can you tell the judge whether you ever experienced amnesia as you testified

you did on November 16, 1957?

FRINZI: Object to the form of the question, Your Honor. There's nothing in the record where he said he experienced amnesia on November 16, 1957. He testified to certain questions that were put to him. SUTTON: Well, all right. I'll withdraw that. Mr.

Gein, you recall these events that transpired on the morning of November 16. About what time did this

happen?

FRINZI: I'll object to the vagueness of the question.

What are we referring to?

SUTTON: What time were you handling the weapon and the gun went off?

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THE WITNESS: Probably half past eight.

Q. In the morning? A. Right.

Q. What is the next thing you remember that day?

A. That would be when this Darlene Hill and her brother Bob and her little brother came to my place. That's the plainest I can remember.

What time was that?

A. That was right after twelve o'clock, I'd say.

Q. Noon?

Noon.

Q. So, I'm correct that you do not remember any event that transpired between approximately 8:30 in the morning and 12:30 in the afternoon on November 16, 1957.

A. Except what I testified to.

Q. Except what you testified to, is that right?

A. Right.

Q. Do you remember anything about the cash register in the Worden store?

FRINZI: Objected to as immaterial. That case was

dismissed, Your Honor. THE COURT: Well, he may answer if he remem-

bers anything about it.

THÉ WITNESS: The only thing, when I paid

her, she put money in. SUTTON: How many bullets did you have in your pocket when you went into the Worden store?

A. That I couldn't say.

Q. Well, could you say that they were all the same caliber?

A. Yes.

Q. Were thy all .22 shorts?

A. Yes.

Q. You had no .22 longs?

A. For squirrels I used shorts.

Q. You had no .22 longs with you?

A. No.

Q. Was it your intention to test the weapon to see

whether it took .22 long shells and .22 long rifle shells?

A. I didn't have any with me.

Q. So that was not your intention?

A. So I couldn't test it.

Q. That's my point. Was that your intention? Did you want to test that rifle to see whether it could shoot .22 longs and .22 long rifle bullets?

A. I couldn't test it without shells.

Q. Did you want to test it?

A. Remember, I said I asked her.

Q. But, you didn't believe her when she told you, did you?

A. No.

FRINZI: Object to that as argumentative.

SUTTON: Did you tell— FRINZI: Wait a minute.

SUTTON: Let me finish my question.

FRINZI: You finished your question. I want the court to rule.

THE COURT: As far as the original question you asked, the court will sustain the objection as argumentative.

SUTTON: Did you tell me earlier in crossexamination, Mr. Gein, when Mrs. Worden told you it took the three caliber bullets, you didn't believe her because they told you that was true in your other gun?

FRINZI: Object to that question as repetitive. He's gone over that before.

THE COURT: He may answer.

THE WITNESS: Will you repeat that, please? SUTTON: Read it back to him. Do you understand what I mean?

THE WITNESS: I'd say yes.

Q. And that is why you inserted the .22 short, right? A. Yes.

Q. Am I correct that you have stated that you were interested in determining whether the rifle could

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take .22 shorts, .22 longs, and .22 long rifles, but you didn't have any .22 long shells, did you?

And you didn't have any .22 long rifle shells, did you?

A. No

And as a matter of fact that is not why you loaded that bullet into that rifle at all, is it Mr. Gein? FRINZI: Objected to as argumentative.

SUTTON: That's all.

FRINZI: I got a couple redirect questions. THE COURT: All right.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY FRINZI:

Mr. Gein, how old were you at the time that your folks had this meat market? If you remember.

A Around five.

Q You were five years old?

L Yes.

Now, what, if any, activity did you see across the street from the Worden hardware store at the time you arrived there?

A. Mr. Spees and another person.

And what were they doing, if you remember?

I believe they were getting a deer scale ready for weighing.

Pardon?

A Getting a deer scale ready for weighing deer.

Now, Mr. Gein, did you ever see anyone shot before your eyes prior to November 16, 1957?

1 No

When did you first decide to test this rifle in the Worden hardware store? Was it after you bought the antifreeze?

SUTTON: Object. Leading and suggestive.

FRINZI: Tell us when.

THE WITNESS: Yes, after. That would be after.

Q Pardon?

A. After.

What was your reason, originally, for going to

the Worden store on the sixteenth day of November, 1957?

A. For the antifreeze.

Q. To buy antifreeze?

A. Yes.

FRINZI: That's all.

THE COURT: Is that all, Mr. Sutton?

SUTTON: No. I have a question.

RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY SUTTON:

SUTTON: After you bought the antifreeze, you decided to test the weapon to see whether it would fire .22 short, .22 long, and .22 long rifle bullets?

FRINZI: Objected to. That's not the evidence here. SUTTON: I'm asking him whether that's true or

FRINZI: That was not his testimony. This is recross-examination.

THE COURT: I'm going to sustain the objection. That's not a proper question.

SUTTON: Did you make that decision, Mr. Gein, after you had taken the antifreeze out to the car?

FRINZI: Object to the form of the question. We don't know what he's referring to. What decision?

SUTTON: The decision to test the rifle. FRINZI: Objected to, Your Honor.

THE COURT: He may answer.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

SUTTON: You thought of that while you were putting the antifreeze in your back seat? THE WITNESS: Yes.

Q. And then you went back into the store? A. Yes.

Q. And then you discovered the bullets in your pocket?

Q. So when you made the decision to fire the rifle, you didn't even know you had bullets in your pocket?

FRINZI: Objected to. SUTTON: That's all. FRINZI: I want a ruling.

### AMERICA'S MOST BIZARRE MURDERER

THE COURT: Objection sustained. You're armang to the court through the witness.

FRINZI: He goes too fast for me, and I'm from

big city. THE COURT: I have no doubts.

FRINZI: He does that when it's going against I have one more question.

THE COURT: All right.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY FRINZI:

Mr. Gein, you see Dr. Schubert in court here and you see Dr. Miller?

Right.

And, it was a month after November 16 that you told them what you testified here today about what happened in the Worden store?

I believe so.

Following the testimony of Edward Gein the Mense presented an expert on firearms who tried demonstrate that the shooting was accidental.

# Testimony of Frank Worden

ember 13, 1968. Even murder trials are not smally too dramatic, but on this day a stir went bough the courtroom with Sutton's opening mement:

My first witness this morning is Mr. Frank Worden, and he has indicated both on this occasion and nuperous other times in the past when I have been up bere and attempted to talk to him, tremendous hostil-