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54/10/01 Blood Profile Letter from Marsters to Gerber re: Blood Stains on Watches

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LEONARD C. HANNA HOUSE
CALVINA MACDONALD HOUSE
OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT

October 1, 1954

Dr. Samuel R. Gerber, Coroner
Coroner's Office and Laboratory
2121 Adelbert Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Gerber:

Some time ago Mary Cowan and I working together performed M and N groupings on the blood stains which she lifted from Sam Sheppard's and Marilyn Sheppard's watches in my presence. Recently I have looked over Mary's notes on our tests and believe they represent accurately the procedures and results observed.

Very briefly to summarize what we did, a series of 8 tubes was set up of which 4 were with anti-M and 4 with anti-N anti-serum. In each series of 4 there was stain from both his watch and her watch, together with 2 different controls: one with nothing added other than known cells and the other with known cells added after the anti-serum had been first laid on the watch back and then removed. The reaction showed positive in all tubes with the exception of the 2 tubes containing anti-M anti-serum and blood stains from Sam Sheppard's and Marilyn Sheppard's watches. This indicated that the blood stains on the watches were neutralizing anti-M and not anti-N. In the anti-N series the stains did not interfere with the agglutination of the N cells in the anti-N tubes. Therefore the group of the blood on both watches was M. As you know from our previous report, Marilyn Sheppard's blood was group M. The presumption is very great, then, that the stains on the watches are Marilyn Sheppard's blood. The possible presence of some other individual who might have blood group M would modify this presumption according to whether or not they had lost any blood and other circumstances.

Respectively submitted,


Roger W. Marsters, Ph.D.
Director, Maternity Rh Laboratory

RWM:dhf