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54/12/22 Highlights of the Sheppard Murder Case

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Highlights of Sheppard Murder Case

Timetable From Eve of Slaying to Trial

The time: July 3. The place: The lake shore home of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard and his wife, Marilyn, 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village. The event: Prelude to murder.

Neighbors Donald and Nancy Ahern ate that Saturday night dinner with the Sheppards and stayed to watch the midnight movie on television. It was entitled "Strange Holiday."

When the Aherns left about 12:30 a. m. the 30-year-old osteopathic surgeon, clad in T-shirt and trousers, was asleep on a living-room couch. His pretty 31-year-old wife let them out and was never again seen alive except by her murderer.

The Timetable

This is the timetable since that Fourth of July:

JULY 4—At 5:40 a. m. Mayor J. Spencer Houk and his wife, Esther, receive a call from Dr. Sam Sheppard—"My God, Spen, come over — I think they've killed Marilyn." The Houks find Dr. Sam without T-shirt, clutching his neck in apparent pain, his wife brutally murdered in her bed upstairs. She was four months pregnant. Dr. Sam's older brothers, Dr. Stephen A. and Dr. Richard N., confine him in the family-staffed Bay View Hospital. Searchers find Dr. Sam's watch and jewelry discarded in brush behind the house.

JULY 5—Dr. Sam, from hospital bed, gives the first description of a "bushy-haired" assailant to County Detective Carl A. Rossbach. All other visitors are barred. Family retains Attorneys Arthur E. Petersilge and William J. Corrigan. Coroner's autopsy discloses 35 separate injuries to the head and face of the murdered woman by a missing weapon. Search of the house reveals complete absence of fingerprints. One palm print is found.

JULY 6—Coroner Samuel R. Gerber is denied admittance to the hospital room to talk to Dr.

Sam, who is fitted with an orthopedic collar. An earlier family announcement of a broken neck is modified to spinal damage.

Marilyn's Funeral

JULY 7—Dr. Sam is taken to Knollwood Mausoleum in Mayfield Heights for Marilyn's funeral. Rossbach is barred from the hospital room afterwards, but a stream of visitors, including Plain Dealer Reporter John G. Blair, gets in.

JULY 8—After threat of a public inquest Dr. Sam is questioned for three hours by Rossbach, Deputy Sheriff Dave Yetra and Bay Patrolman Fred Drenkhan. He refuses for the first time to take a lie detector test. He cannot account for his missing T-shirt. He posts a \$10,000 reward for conviction of his wife's slayer. Cleveland Detective Inspector James E. McArthur asserts two detectives, Robert E. Schottke and Patrick Gareau, are given a "run-around" in being barred from the questioning.

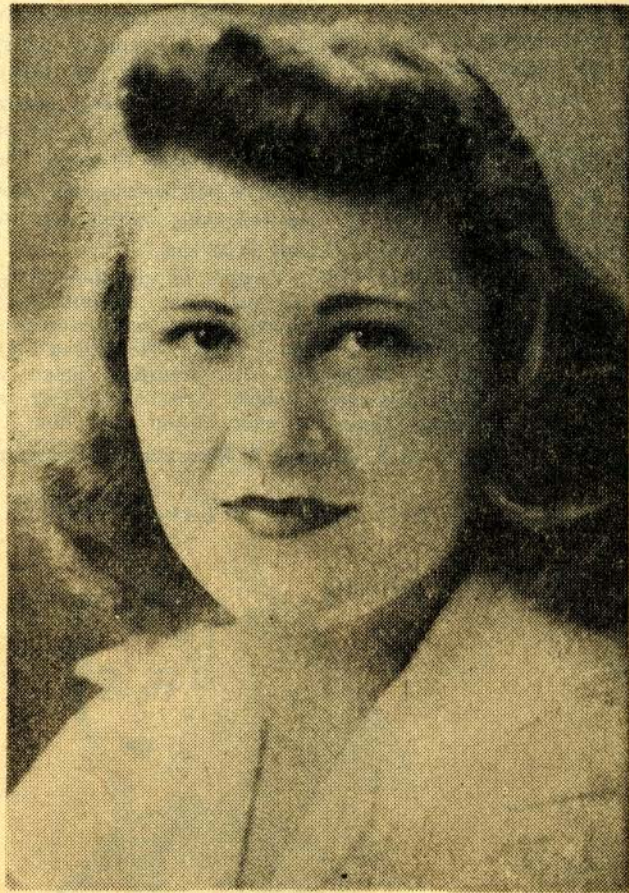
JULY 9—Search of the lake bottom by divers for the missing weapon is abandoned. Bay police jail three itinerant tree trimmers for questioning. Dr. Sam revisits his home for the first time since the murder.

Dr. Sam Questioned

JULY 10—Dr. Sam is questioned in County Jail for nine hours without substantially changing his story, again refuses to take a lie detector test.

JULY 11—Investigators find bloodstains in the house and order the home closed to all except official visitors.

JULY 12—The Plain Dealer first names Miss Susan L. Hayes, 24, former Bay View Hospital technician, as the "other woman" in Dr. Sam's



MARILYN SHEPPARD

life. In a telephone interview from California she denies involvement with him. Dr. Sam begins to care for his patients again and is revealed to be armed with a revolver.

JULY 13—Susan Hayes, questioned in Los Angeles by District Attorney S. Ernest Roll, insists her relationship with Dr. Sam was only casual and says she saw him twice when he visited there in March.

JULY 14—George W. Ennis, a probated felon, telephones the Plain Dealer from Baltimore, Md., telling of a murder plot. Baltimore police pick him up, and Assistant County Prosecutor Thomas J. Parrino leaves to interview him. A T-shirt is found on the lake bottom near the Sheppard home. Petersilge rules out lie detector tests for all members of the Sheppard family.

JULY 15—Ennis story is discredited. T-shirt is found not to be Dr. Sam's. Corrigan complains of multiplicity of investigations, says his client will talk only to Bay police and sheriff's deputies.

JULY 16—Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze proposes that the Cleveland police be given complete charge of the investigation.

JULY 17—All investigating agencies examine evidence held at the morgue. Dr. Alan R. Moritz, Western Reserve University crime analyst, enters the case in an advisory capacity. An army magnetic mine detector is brought here from Columbus to aid in search for the missing weapon.

JULY 18—Mine detector turns up only rusty nails and other scrap metal.

Asks Cleveland's Help

JULY 19—Dr. Moritz confers with Dr. Sam in private, asks him to submit to a "truth serum" test. Bay City Council votes a \$5,000 investigation fund, asks Cleveland police to come in.

JULY 21—Cleveland police take over the investigation. Homicide Captain David E. Kerr is summoned back from a Havana vacation. Dr. Gerber issues subpoenas for a public inquest at Normandy School, Bay Village.

JULY 22—Inquest opens. Dr. Sam reveals he spent a week in March with Susan Hayes in the Los Angeles home of Dr. Arthur Miller while Marilyn stayed at the Dr. Randall J. Chapman ranch in Monterey, 375 miles away.

JULY 23—Inquest continues. In Los Angeles, Dr. Dorothy Marsh, a poker party guest in March in the Miller home, says Dr. Sam and Susan were "amorous." Schottke and Parrino arrive in San Francisco to talk to California witnesses.

JULY 24—Plain Dealer reveals Mayor Houk took a lie detector test on July 13.

JULY 25—Susan Hayes tells Schottke and Parrino of her relationship with Dr. Sam.

Corrigan Ejected

JULY 26—Corrigan is forcibly ejected from the inquest after an argument over the court reporter. Inquest recessed indefinitely without hearing from "Chip" Sheppard, Dr. Sam's six-year-old son. Susan Hayes offers to return here to give a statement.

JULY 27—Susan returns, is questioned for three hours in Police Chief Frank W. Story's office.

JULY 28—Story and others confer on arrest of Dr. Sam. Says Story: "We don't have the evidence now to make an arrest."

JULY 29—Bay Solicitor Richard S. Weygandt studies transcript to see whether an arrest is justified.

JULY 30—Dr. Sam is arrested at 10:15 p. m. at the home of his father, Dr. Richard A. He pleads not guilty before Acting Mayor Gershom M. M. Barber, who signs the arrest warrant when Mayor Houk disqualifies himself. Dr. Sam is jailed by midnight, and Corrigan is barred from seeing him.

JULY 31—Dr. Sam refuses examination by physicians. He is questioned by teams of detectives in relays for 12 hours.

AUG. 1—Corrigan and Petersilge beat detectives to the jail, delay questioning for hours.

AUG. 2—Writ of habeas corpus is denied by Common Pleas

Judge Frank J. Merrick. Dr. Sam is given a physical examination at City Hospital, revealing "no serious injury." Susan Hayes returns to the home of her parents in Rocky River after three days in seclusion in a Hotel Carter suite.

AUG. 3—Police give up the attempt to question Dr. Sam when he refuses to answer questions.

Check Visitors to Home

AUG. 4—Police begin to catalogue all visitors to the Sheppard home in an effort to pin down the palm print.

AUG. 5—County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan threatens to send the case to the grand jury next week if Corrigan forces his hand "with new legal road blocks." Mrs. Julee Lossman tells of "hugs and kisses and nothing more" with Dr. Sam.

AUG. 6—Court of Appeals denies Dr. Sam a writ of prohibition.

AUG. 7—Gervase M. Flick, 20-year-old admirer of Dr. Sam, tells of having picked up near Conneaut early July 4 a hitchhiker who told him of the murder. Flick refuses to take a lie detector test.

AUG. 8—Marilyn's relatives tell police Dr. Sam wanted to divorce her in 1950.

Furniture Removed

AUG. 9—Dr. Gerber removes some furniture from the murder home.

AUG. 11—Dr. Lester T. Hoversten flies in from California and is closeted with police in a hotel.

AUG. 12—The Sheppard family drops Dr. Hoversten as a suspect and points to a Bay Village man.

AUG. 13—Mayor Houk, charged by Dr. Steve, faces his accuser after six hours of interrogation and is prevented from punching him.

AUG. 15—Houk takes two more lie tests and is cleared. Dr. Steve had balked when asked to take such a test.

Sam Free on Bond

AUG. 16—Dr. Sam walks out of jail on \$50,000 bond, an almost unprecedented occurrence under the circumstances. Inspector McArthur threatens to pull his men off the job.

AUG. 17—Dr. Sam goes back to jail. The grand jury shortly before heard its last witness and returned an indictment charging him with first-degree murder.

AUG. 18—Dr. Steve releases Dr. Sam's statement, which concludes: "I am not guilty."

AUG. 19—Dr. Sam is arraigned and pleads not guilty before Common Pleas Judge Arthur H. Day.

AUG. 23—Chief Story figures that Cleveland police spent 5,400 man hours on the murder case.

Sure of Fair Trial

AUG. 27—Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon asserts Dr. Sam can get a fair trial despite the publicity given the case, a statement in reply to Corrigan, who had asserted Dr. Sam could not.

SEPT. 7—Corrigan reports he has hired a private detective to work on the case.

SEPT. 10—Dr. Sam again seeks his freedom on bond.

SEPT. 14—A Trenton (N. J.) man asserts he murdered Marilyn. Police describe him as a fugitive from justice and discount his claim after investigation.

SEPT. 20—Judge Edward Blythin of Common Pleas Court rejects Dr. Sam's bid for freedom and sets the trial date for Oct. 18.

Judge Blythin Chosen

OCT. 6—Corrigan hires former Deputy Coroner Anthony J. Kazlauckas, expert pathologist, who is expected to offset testimony to be given by the coroner's office.

OCT. 7—Blythin begins plans for news coverage of the trial.

OCT. 11—Blythin will be the trial judge, it is announced.

OCT. 14—Blythin orders the arrest of an 80-year-old man who allegedly mailed vitriolic letters to prospective jurors. The possibility of a mistrial is mentioned in this respect.

OCT. 18—Dr. Sam's fight for his life begins. Dr. Steve reports Sam's morale "good." The first juror is tentatively seated.