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70/04/06 Dr. Sheppard is Dead

Cleveland Press

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Dr. Sheppard Is Dead

By HASKELL SHORT,
Press Ohio Bureau Chief

COLUMBUS — Dr. Sam Sheppard, the Bay Village osteopath who figured in one of the nation's most sensational and controversial murder cases, died unexpectedly today in his suburban Columbus home. He was 46.

He had been ill for three days with what Dr. Sheppard himself diagnosed as influenza.

"Last night he was shaking violently. This morning about 7 a.m. he died," said his sobbing bride of six months, the former Colleen Strickland, daughter of Dr. Sheppard's wrestling partner.

"He had been sick a few days," the

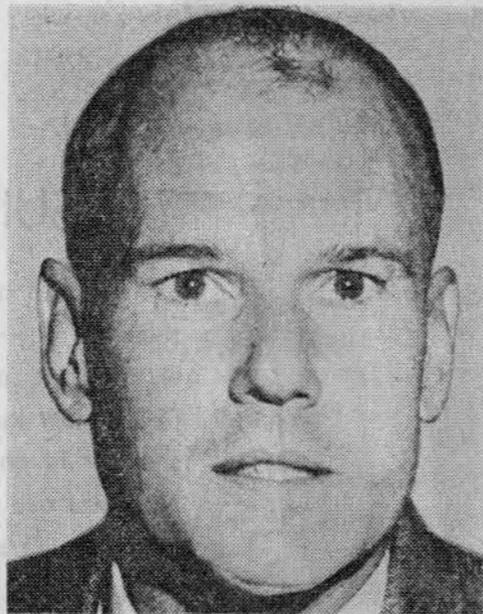
third Mrs. Sheppard said. "He thought he had the flu or something like that. He had all the symptoms of flu."

FRANKLIN COUNTY CORONER Robert A. Evans said Sheppard had given himself a shot of an unknown drug last night as part of his self treatment.

Relatives said Sheppard died on the floor, twisting in agony, with his mother-in-law trying to save him with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Mrs. Strickland said she believed Sheppard had suffered from internal bleeding, saying that she smelled blood when she breathed into his mouth in a desperate effort to save his life.

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Sam Sheppard

Bailey: "I Knew He Was Dying"
Press 4-6-70

Press Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—"I'm not surprised," said F. Lee Bailey, the attorney who won Dr. Sam H. Sheppard's acquittal in a second murder trial, when he learned of Sheppard's death here today.

"I knew he was dying," Bailey said. "He told me recently he had cancer and did not have long to live."

He said Sheppard told him he did not want to go through the long agony of death by cancer.

Ariane Had Hint of Trouble
Press 4-6-70



DEATH SCENE—Mrs. George Strickland (back to camera) points behind Colleen Strickland Sheppard to the place in the dining room where Sheppard died today. (UP)

Dr. Sam Sheppard

Dies in His Home

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"He thought he had the flu but last night he became violently ill and we wrapped him in blankets and kept him lying on the floor," said Mrs. George Strickland.

"He has been drinking some lately but he wasn't on any drugs as far as we knew," she said.

DR. SHEPPARD'S BODY was taken to the Franklin County morgue at Ohio State University for an autopsy. Detectives were at the home of wrestler George Strickland where Sheppard lived and maintained an office. Police said their investigation was routine.

The death immediately raised speculation that Dr. Sheppard may have been a victim of cancer.

His brother, Dr. Stephen Sheppard, had claimed during Dr. Sam's imprisonment for the slaying of his first wife, of which he later was acquitted, that injections given him during voluntary tests on cancer virus may have resulted in Dr. Sam's contracting cancer.

MRS. STRICKLAND, mother of the Dr. Sheppard's young widow said "Sam told us he had cancer because of that."

"He told us at one time he would not live another year when we first got together a year ago."

The pretty, young 20-year-old blond widow described a happy married life after they were married in Mexico last Oct. 21.

"He was an excellent husband in every way. He was so kind, so wonderful. Just three weeks ago, for no reason at all except his love for me, he bought me a little ocelot."

IT WAS DURING a trip to California last fall for wrestling matches with Strickland, a Columbus professional wrestler with whom Sheppard became associated last year, that the romance between Sam and Strickland's daughter blossomed, and she became his third wife.

His first wife, the former Marilyn Sheppard, was bludgeoned to death in their Bay Village home on July 4, 1954, a killing that made Dr. Sam a household word. They had a son, Chip.

While serving a life sentence for her slaying which he denied he struck up a mail romance with blond Ariane Tebbenjohanns of Dusseldorf Germany. She came to this country and they were married in July 1964 three days after he was released from prison and ordered a new trial.

THEIR MARRIED LIFE was tempestuous and ended in divorce last year.

But the former Mrs. Sheppard is being consulted by the Strickland family concerning funeral and burial plans for Dr. Sam.

"We have talked with Ariane and his

brother Dr. Richard Sheppard about funeral and burial" the mother-in-law said.

Dr. Sheppard went to Columbus to establish a practice after divorce from his second wife.

The young widow of Dr. Sam whose career as a surgeon was broken by his first murder trial and subsequent 10 years in prison said Dr. Sheppard's practice was beginning to grow in the Columbus area.

Before going to Columbus Dr. Sheppard practiced briefly in Youngstown at a Youngstown osteopathic hospital. He later resigned from the hospital staff after two malpractice suits were filed against him.

Dr. Sam's death removes another of the central figures in the 1954 murder trial that focused world-wide attention on Cleveland and resulted in the U. S. Supreme Court calling the trial a "Roman carnival."

Others in the dramatic trial who preceded Dr. Sam in death included his mother and father, his attorney and the trial judge.

Survivors include his two brothers Drs. Richard and Stephen Sheppard and his son Samuel H. Jr. (Chip).

Ohio Penitentiary records show that Sheppard was returned from the Marion Correctional Institute, a penitentiary branch, for an examination when his brother, Dr. Stephen Sheppard, claimed Sam may have developed cancer from the tests.

Samples of the sore tissue were examined by Dr. W. H. Walker, chief prison surgeon, on June 24, 1961, and specimens of tissue were also biopsied at Ohio State University Hospital and at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus. Slides also were sent to the Sloan-Kettering Cancer Research Institute in New York, the foundation making the tests.

"MEDICAL EXAMINATION including biopsy of a swollen area in the left breast region of inmate Samuel H. Sheppard indicates no evidence of cancer nor any relationship with the cancer project in which inmates participated," the prison report shows.

"The pathology report was consistent with an inflammation of the small ducts in the breast," Corrections Director M. C. Koblenz said the record shows.

He said reports of the medical examination, including Dr. Walker's negative finds, were given to the Sheppard family, the same procedure in medical matters followed for any prisoner.

Medical officers reported the swelling in the breast had been aggravated on May 11, 1961, while Sheppard took part in a wrestling match at Marion, where he was a member of the team and an assistant coach.