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7-4-1954

# July 4, 1954, Initial Homicide Offense Report, Bay Village Police Department

Sergeant Jay Hubach Bay Village Police Department

Patrolman Fred Drenkhan Bay Village Police Department

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**COMPLAINT REPORT** BAY POLICE DEPT.

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1

Serial No. 54-194

Location 28924 L	ake Rd.		Nature of Complaint_	Homicide
200041011	J.Spencer Houk		Address	29014 Lake Rd.
Received byDren		Letter In Person Telephon	Time_5:57	A. M Date July 4, 1954
Officers Assigned	Drenkhan & Cavan	augh	····	
Details of Complaint	See Offense Repo	rt		
Disposition				
				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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			t ,	
4			:	

### **OFFENSE REPORT**

BAY POLICE DEPT.	Complainant	J.Spencer Houk		54-194
29014 Lake	Rd., Bay Vill	age, Ohio	Phone_Tr.	
OffenseHomicide	Reported	by		4 Lake Rd.
Place of Occurance 2892L	Lake Rd., Ba	y Village, Ohio		
Report Received by_Drenkhar	at 5:57 A.	M Date_July 4	19 <u>54</u> How Reported	Phone
Date and Time Offense Committee				
Persons Attacked Marilyn	Reese Sheppar	d, 31 yrs,(4-14-	23), 28924 Lake F	d., Bay Villag
Property Attacked				
How Attacked				
Means of Attack				
Object of Attack				
Trade Mark				
Vehicle Used				
_sons Arrested		No		

- - -

Details of Offense (State Fully All Other Circumstances of this Offense and its Investigation) In answers to a call from J.Spencer Houk arrived at the home of Dr.Samuel H.Sheppard, 28924 Lake Rd., and was met at the door by Houk. As I entered the Lake Rd. side door into a hall I saw a doctors medical bag on its end with the contents spilled on to the floor. This bag stood in front of a door on the right of the entrance hall which leads into a study. Dr. Sam.Sheppard sat in this room in a large red leather chair in a half sitting half laying position. Was told to go upstairs to Marilyns room and see what could be done. Mrs. Esther Houk the wife of J.Spencer Houk was also present when I arrived and she directed me into the kitchen which is just opposit the study across the hall to a stairway which goes up three steps to a landing, then down three steps in to the Con't

; offense is declared	:		Con·t		-	
nfounded		Signed		Date	 	. 4 .
Cleared by arrest			Investigating Officer			•••
Exceptionally cleared		Signed		Date		:
Inactive (not cleared)		Dignou	Chief or Commanding Officer			

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~	Address

living room, with the steeps leading upstairs from the center landing. On the first step I noticed a small pool of water. At the top of the stairs directly ahead was the bedroom of Dr. Sam & Marilyn Sheppard. Lying in the twin bed closest to the door was Marilyn Sheppard. She layed half-way down the bed with her fest under the cross bar of a four poster bed, her body was covered with bed clothing up to her lower naval, exsposing her midrift, a checkered blouse which she wore was pulled up exposing half of her breast. She had be beaten about the head, above the eyes with a object which left deep gables about a inch long about three or four being visable on her forehead. The room was covered with blood spots, the entrace door was spotted indicating that the door was

The shades where drawn, at the foot of the n when the assault took place. victims bed to the right was a chair on whei laged on the seat a pair of white shorts and a bra. On the back were two sweaters, a belt, and a pair of blue side On the floor be/shdechair was a pair of panities, a pair of white mocshorts. cisin slippers, and a pair of oxford blue tennis shops. The room contained a night stand with a telephone on it between the two beds, and a dresser on the Nothing in the room appeared to be disturbed. The blood appeared west wall. clotted on the wounds and the victim appeared dead. Returned downstairs and sumoned a Doctor, the Chief of Police and Sgt. Hubach, by Police radio, at which time I was informed by Houk that Dr. Richard Sheppard had been called and Returned to the house, the dining area, which mans at the end was on his way.

This offense is declared:

Unfounded	Signed	Date
Tared by arrest		Investigating Officer
	Signed	Date
Inactive (not cleared)	-	Chief or Commanding Officer

SUPPLEMENTARY OFFENSE REPORT BAY POLICE DEPT.	OffenseSerial No
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of the entrance hall appeared in order except for a desk, which is on the north wall to the west of a large door leading out on to a porch on the Lake Eire or north side of the house. The desk appeared ransacked, three lower drawers being pulled out but not removed or disturbed to a great extent. The top of this desk which opens out to form a writing surface was open and appeared to be ransacked, enveloped, tax stamps and such where laying on the floor directly in front of the desk. The door leading to the porch was open. In the study where Dr. Sam.Sheppard sat in the red chair is a large office type desk, from which all the drawers were removed, except one. The drawers were on the floor and appeared to have been ransacked although the contents remained in the

On the floor behing the desk there was a gtrong box, some tools and Jers. a watch, which contained blood, this watch was later identified as belonging Questioned Dr. Sam Sheppard as to what had occured, to Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard. he stated that he rmembered hearing Marilyn scream, of going upstairs, of fighting down the stairs, of wkaing up in the water, of coming upstairs. He made these remarks in that order, none of them being tied together. He then turned his head and held his neck with both hands and said no more. He wore trousers right but no shirt, his face appeared to have been struck on the mention At this side. time Dr. Richard Sheppard, Dr. Sam. Sheppards older brother arrived and was taken upstairs where he examined harilyn and pronounced her dead at about He returned downstairs and examined Dr.Sam Sheppard.a 5:12 A.M. Cont. This offense is declared: Unfounded Π Signed Date Investigating Officer red by arrest \_  $\Box$ Date. Signed Chief or Commanding Officer  $\square$ Inactive (not cleared)

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The screened in porch on the north side of the house enters on to a lawn, approx imately 30 to 40 feet from the door of the porch there is a stairway leading to the beach, there were wet footprints or marks on the concret portion on the stairs. There was no indication of anything or shrubbery being disturbed on either side of the stairway. A beach house which is at the bottom of the stairs approximately 10 ft. above the beach, surrounded by a platform, with another flight of stairs leading directly to the sand did not appear to have been disturbed. At approximately 6:20 A.M. there was about 4 to 5 ft. of beach at the foot of the stairs, with a small swell rolling on the beach from the Northa east. The sky was clear and time breeze was not noticable. The beach showed

<u>signs of a st</u>	ruggl	e. On the	far west p <b>iér</b> ,	a "T"	shape	stone 1	bier, to	the
east of the Sher	opard	home , belc	onging to Metro	politar	Park	there w	were two	fisher-
men. Thses mer	n were	checked ou	it and found to	be Jin	n Crosl	ey and	his son	n, from
Normandy Rd., Ba	ay Vil	lage, O. ar	nd a freind who	was vi	siting	the o	ne Arthu	ur Baird.
They stated that	t they	arrived th	ne <b>re</b> at about 6	:00 A.1	i. and	had se	en two j	juveniles
playing on the p	oier.	These boys	s left short <b>y</b> y	and we	were i	mablə	to ascer	tain
who they were.	With	the consent	t of Cheif Eato	n, the	Clevel	and Po	lice Dep	ot. was
asked to assist	and t	he Coroner:	s office was no	tified	Dr.	Steven	Sheppar	rd, Dr.
Sams brother ar	rived	and took Di	r.Sam Sheppard	to Bay	view Ho	ospital	in his	own car.
Dr. Richard Sh	eppard	took"Chip	" Samuel Jr., D	r.Sam	Sheppar	ds boy	who was	s sleepir
in the room ups	tairs	next east o	of his parents	room of	n the a	same si	de of th	ne
This offense is declare	ed:		Con	nt.				
Unfounded		Signed				Date		
Ared by arrest			Investigating	Officer				
eptionally cleared		Signed				Date		
Inactive (not cleared)		-	Chief or Comman	nding Officer				

	Serial No54-194
J.Spencer Houk	
29014 Lake Rd.	
	lant

house or hall, the rooms being divided by a closet, after waking the boy to his home at 23346 Lake Rd., Bay Village, O. Mike Grabowski, from Cleveland Folice Dept. Bertitlon and I examined house for sign of entry, none could be found. Pictures were obtained on the house and rooms. Det. Robert Schottke and Patrick Pareau arrived and assisted in the investigation. Br. Gerber and Ray Keefe arrived and examined the body of Marilyn Sheppard, time of death was set at about 4:00 A.M. Dr. Gerber ordered body removed and taken to County Horgue, taken by Pease ambulance, 2914 Dover Rd., Weitlake, O. Examination of sheet under body disclosed teeth chips which were found to belong to the deceased.

Inactive (not cleared)		Chief or Commanding Officer
_sceptionally cleared	Signed	Date
red by arrest		Investigating Officer
Unfounded	Signed	Date
This offense is declared	l:	Cont.
Lake Rd., neighbo	or to east and	from Karl R.,Helen F., Karl Jr., & Gretchen
were taken from	the Sheppards.	. Statements were taken from Charles Bryson,28838
5:40 A.M.July 4,		neppard asking them to come over right away. Stateme
wife Esther, of 2	29014 Lake Rd.	They stated that they received the call at approx.
the Aherns. The	first persons	to be called were Mayor J.Spencer Houk and his
that Marilyn Sher	opard saw them	out the front door. Statement were obtained from
living room, the	bed setting al	ong the stair way wall which leads upstairs and
the Lake during t	the evening. I	Dr.Sam Sheppard was asleep on a day bed in the
approximately 12:	DO AM, July 4,	that Nancy Ahern had lock the door leading to
visited the Shepp	oards durning t	the evening of July 3, Saturday and had left at
estigation dis	sclosed that Na	ncy and Don J.Ahern, 29146 Lake Rd., Bay Villagr

SUPPLEMENTARY OFFENSE REPORT	Offense	Homicide	Serial No	54-194
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Schuele, 28944 Lake Rd., neighbors to west. Although Karl & Gretchen Shuele came home at approximately 2:00A.M. July4, none could add any information relative to the case. Statements were obtained. Statments were taken from Dr.Richard Sheppard, 23346 Lake Rd., Bay Village, O, Dr.Richard A. Sheppard, 23048 Lake Rd. Bay Village, Ohio, Dr.Sam Sheppards father, and Dr.Steven A Sheppard, 19027 Englewood Dr. Rocky River, O. Interviewed one Robert L.Reese, 3694 Walter Rd., North Clmested, O. and wife who

adledgedly threatened Dr.Sam Bheppard after his bon died on the operating table as the results of a auto accident, July 3, 1954. Statment obtained and subject released.

jained statment from one James Gorman, 23809 Frank St., North Olmsted, 0. See Sgt. Hubach report.

Received information from Paul Whitmer, 6904 Fuller, Cleveland, Ohio, Joe Tronti 4028 E.53 St. Clev.C. and John Tronti, 8904 Fuller, Clev.O. that they were fishing on pistr neaest to Sheppard home in Huntiggton Park, atly 4, and that abou 1:00 A.M. three white juveniles came onto the pier and asked about pienic ground Jerry Schumacher, 18yrs, 1818 W47st Clev.C. came into station and reported that he and his companions Bill Hearns, 48th and Cleinton, Clev. O. & George Tenaglia, 5211 Tillman, Clev.O. were on pier July 4, about L:00 A.M. and spoke to three fisherman mentioned above. Statement taken from Shumacher and released. Tenaglia questioned and related same story.

This offense is declared:

Unfounded	Signed	Date
ired by arrest	-	Investigating Officer
	Signed_	Date
Inactive (not cleared)		Chief or Commanding Officer

SUPPLEMENTARY OFFENSE R BAY POLICE DEPT.	Compla	Homicide inant		
I	Additional Details	of Offense, Progress of Inves	tigation, etc.	
July 4th 195	4 Contacted S	Sgt Boland of the Ker	nt, Ohio P. D.	to check
Upon Do <b>rtor</b>	Hoverston's	story as to arrival $\epsilon$	etc., at Dr. Ste	evenson's
residence of	189 North Cl	hestnut St., Kent, Oh	110.	
See Hoversto	on's statement	t.		
	·			
	·			
			<u> </u>	
This offense is declared:		TUUNDOOD Cont		
Unfounded	Signed	JHHubach, Sgt. Investigating Officer	Date	7-4-54
Ced by arrest	Signad		Date	-
Inactive (not cleared)	Signed	Chief or Commanding Officer	<i>D</i> ale	

and seven days and weekly thereafter, also to report significant developments.

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Additional Details of Offense, Progress of Investigation, etc.

Sam's father, by the late Dr.Ralph Vorhees, Eyes, ear, andnose doctor, who died in 1942, his widow gave them to Dr. R.A.Sheppard who inturn gave tham to Dr.Sam
later found to be Labaptory specimins that were gaven to Dr.R.A.Sheppard, Dr.
ay leading upstairs by Ray Keefe mandant of the Coroners Office and I. These were
a complete human head, in the garage in a small storage space under the stair
Der of peices of what appeared to be human body parts were found, along wit'
Thursday, July 7, 1954, while searching Dr.Sam Sheppards home on Lake Rd. a
is brother Dr.Stewen Sheppard.
Rossbach,Yettra and mayself were refused a interview with Dr. Sam Sheppard by
That Dr. Sam Sheppard appeared coherent at all times. At Bayview Hospital
arm freely and there was definite lack of reflexes on that side of his body.
colum of Dr. Sam or indications to indicate it as he could not use left hand or
ce. at the Sheppard home. Dr. Elkins stated that there was injury to the spinal
Carl Rossbach & Da e Yettra, Coroner Dr. Gerber & Ray Keefe of the Coroners Offi
along with Fr.Mahon, Fr. Pureno, of the Prosecutors Office, Deputy Sheriffs
Nednesday, July, 7, 1954 met with Dr.Charles W.Elkins MD, 1820 Hanna Bld Cleve

This form is used by officer assigned to a case to report progress after three and seven days and weekly thereafter, also to report significant developments.

Inactive (not cleared)

Dr. Sam Sheppard stated that sometime in the middle of the night he was awaken by his wife Parilyn calling Sam, Sam. That he got up, thinking that it was another convulsion from which she had been suffering from since she had become prggnant. He went up stairs and at the head of the stairs he could see a form, the upper part of which was white, standing at the foot of the bed in the room in which Marilyn and he occupy. Marilyn was making little gurgling noises. As he entered the room he felt that he must have been struck. The next thing he knew was that he was looking at his badge, which he carries in his wallet, that it was refecting light from some place. He picked it up and stood up. He then looked at Marilyn and examined her be taking her pulse at the threat. He was stunned and dazed but realized she was dead. He then went to Chips room(Sam Jr.) and locked in at Chip. He didn't touch him but was aware that he was alright. He heard a noise downstairs and we nt down entering into the living room. As he wenketowards the dining area he saw a dark form outlined by the door leading to the porch an the Lake side of the house. He chased this form out of the house and down the steps to the beach. As this form, which was in dark clotning, and was taller than he with bushy hair seemed to slow down on the beach and wait for him he came upon it with intentions of "really letting him have it". The next thing he knew he was wallowing in the surf with his face towards the beach. He got up and went upstairs to the house and on upstairs to Marilyns room where he looked at her and covered her a little with a sheet because it came to him that she was always modest and it wasn't right for her to be like she was. He then went downstairs and tried to think of who to call, Mayor Houk was the only number he could think of so he called him. He could not recall where he was when the Houks arrived. He could not stated if it was right or dark when this took clace but outside there was light from someplace, enought that he could distinguish objects.

He was told that he was a susrect and that he would have to explain many things. He could not explain about his "T" Shirt or why his watch was found on the bank the way it was. He was asked to submit to a lie detector test which he refused because of his knowledge of it, and now it ope erated, that he would have a reaction because of **his** nearness to the tradgedy.

This interveiw lasted 35 hours.

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Additional Details of Offense, Progress of Investigation, etc.

Friday July, 9,	1954 Al	ong with	Deputy Sheriff	Rossbach &	Yettra and	Dr. Gerber
Coroner, Attorne	y's Pet	ersigge	nd Corrigan and	Dr. Sam S	heppard a v	isit was
made to the Shep	pard ho	me at 28	24 Lake Rd. Dr.	Sam Shepp	ards story	remained
the same. Dr. S	am Shep	pard exa	ined his medica	l bag, the	contents w	ere found
to be intact exc	ept for	a small	case containg 3	or 4 Ampl	Ns, 🛓 grain	of Morphin
and a black pla	stic ca	se conta	ning 2, 2Two gr	am hypo ne	edles which	could not
be located.						
Continued invest	igation	along W	th Sg <b>t.</b> Hubach,	See combin	ed report.	
· .						
This offense is declared	1:					
Unfounded		Signed			Date	
red by arrest			Investigating Of	ncer		
_∡ceptionally cleared		Signed	Chief or Commandia	ng Officer	Date	
Inactive (not cleared)						
			icer assigned to a case to r kly thereafter, also to report			

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Inactive (not cleared)			
Exceptionally cleated		Chief of Commanding Officer	
Laceptionally cleared		SignedChief or Commanding Officer	Date
red by arrest		Investigating Officer	
Unfounded		SignedJHHubach, Sgt FFDrenkhan, Pat	•Date7/14/58
This offense is declared	:		
Pat. Larry	Adler	came out and made such sketch. T	his is on file.
drawing sk	etch o	f this description.	
At this ti	ne Lal	ewood Police Dept. contacted in re	gards to someone
color, bus	ny eye	brows, long sideburns.	
short slee	ved sl	irt. Wide nose, bushy crew cut ha	ir light auburn in
between 32	-42 ye	ars of age, wearing dark blue trou	sers, light colored
		d walking East toward Cleveland.	
		ast the cemetary and they noticed	
a sandwich		y estimate the time to be between	
		ove out to Bearden's Drive In wher	
		upon leaving the movie at 2:30 A.M	·
		vicinity of cemetary.	Cheatre In Cleveland
		ing to their home from Loews State	
Lake, Ohio	came	in to report that on the early mor	ning of July 4th
		Richard and Betty Knitter of 785 K	

and seven days and weekly thereafter, also to report significant developments.

GEN. DISCRIPTION

50. HEIGHT - 170 LBS. LARGE EYES & NOSE MAL MOUTH +-EARS - OLEAN SHAVEN - LONG IDE BURNS - MAIR OUT CLOSE AROUND BASE F HEAD - OUT GROWN CREW OUT - BUSHY YE BROWS. ORESSED IN DARK TROUSERS +-13-BT SHORT SLEEVED SPORT SHIRT. WALKED ORMAL - ABOUT MIDDLE AGED POSSIBLY 12 10 42 YRS. OLD

AS DISCRIBED TO ME BY MR. MRS. KNITTER OF 785 KENNIL WORTH SHEFFIELD LAKE.

ptl. Rehard B. Adler # 22 2 Keuch Police

THIS PARTY WAR SEEN IN THE VICINITY OF HE SHEPPARD'S HEME ON JULY 472. AT HE SHEPPARD'S HEME ON JULY 472. AT IBOUT 3: 30 - 5:00 A.M. SUBJECT WAS IN THE MARTH SIDE OF LAKE ROAD WALKING EAST.



## SUPPLEMENTARY OFFENSE REPORT BAY POLICE DEPT.

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## Additional Details of Offense, Progress of Investigation, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_

I was called at my home at about 6:10 A.M. July 4th, 1954 by Fire Chie
alter Moch and told to go down to the Sheppard residence that there
w as some kind of trouble down there. Took possibly ten minutes to
arrive at the scene. Upon arrival I was not by Richard Sommers and
Ronald Callahan, firemen o perating ambulance, and Dick said to me;
"get hold of yourself - it's harilyn - she's been murdered". Went
inmediately to Lake Road entrance to house and upon entering hallway
was met by Mrs. Esther Houk who directed me through the kitchen toward
the s tairway which leads upstairs. Before entering the kitchen I no-
ticed a bag, medical, which was upended and contents durged out upon th
- floor. From the kitchen there are three steps up to landing and then
there are three steps down into the living room. / This landing there
are stairs which goes up and directly North from front of house and lead to upstairs
hallway off of which all bedrooms and bathrooms are accessible. The
bedroom directly at the top of the staars and on the North side of the
house was the Doctor's and his wifes bedroom. Upon entering the room
noticed blood splattered all over door which was standing open. There
were twin, four poster, beds in this room the one closest to the door
of entrance being the one upon which the body of Marilyn was laying
face up, her head being about three feet from the head of the bed and
her legs, bent at the knees, were protruding over the end of the mat- tress but under the cross piece.
This offense is declared: Unfounded Signed June June June Date J-21-54 Cleared by arrest I
ptionally cleared SignedDateDate
Inactive (not cleared)

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The body was in the position so that her legs were toward the North and herehead toward the South. The head was very gloody and showed indications of many severe lacerations about the forehead mostly over left eye. There was clotted blood coming from the mouth. There were no apparent signs of life. The body was clothed by a shirt or blouse of vari colored checks which was pulled up over the chest. The arms were at her side, the left one being bent at the elbow over her stomach. A sheet was over part of the left hand and her lower extremities.

A hasty perusal of the room at this point disclosed no disorder or signs of a struggle. The shades of the windows to the North were pulled. The window on the North side but to the extreme West was partly open. There was a screen on this window. Upon a rocking chair in the corner of the room nearest the death bed there were several articles of clothing. On the seat were a pair of white shorts and a bra. Upon the back of the chair was another pair of blue shorts and a tan or biege shirt with rolled up sleeves. Under the shirt were two sweaters one of which was baby blue in color. There was a pair of moccasin type loafers, light in color, next to rocking chair.

At this point started a search of the entire premises. Went down stairs to the living room. Here I noticed secretary desk on North side of wall and to the West of doorway leading to the lake. The desk had the appearance of being ransacked. Three lower drawers were left ajar and top of desk was in disaray. There were papers, tax s tamps, etc., on the floor. Went out N rth door, which was halfway open, onto large screened in porch and out screen door, which was op en all the way, into back yard and down the stairway to the beach house at which point I was joined by Dick and Ronald. At foot of stairs at beach there was an a strip of sand about two or three feet from the concrete retainging wall which was not awash from the rough water. At this point there were not any visible signs of footprints or a struggle. There were some fisherman on the pier at Huntington Park and Dick and Ronnie walked over to talk to them regarding anyone they may have seen upon the beach. Returned upstairs to yard where I talked to Fred Drenkhan and we discussed the situation while we walked into the porch. It was at this time that I first noticed the water spo ts. After getting a first hand run down of case thought it would be better to question fishermen myself. Started down to beach again at

WUICH-flm	e - 1 - r	an 1nto	Unler John Haton and Mayor Hou	k wno were just
This offense is declared	l:		Sall C - Al	
Unfounded		Signed_	HAMMAN AT	Date
C ·ed by arrest		-	Investigating Officer	
Exceptionally cleared		Signed_		Date
Inactive (not cleared)			Chief or Commanding Officer	
				The set of a sub-

SUPPLEMENTARY OFFENSE REPORT	Offense Homicide Serial No. 54-194
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	returning from beach. They said that they had already talked to fishermen. At this point I went out to police cruiser and radioed the station to put out a broadcast to all surrounding cities and villages to pick up and hold all transients or s uspicious persons on the highway.
	After making this request the Mayor walked up and we talked about this case and in discussion of what happened the night before he siad that he thought the Ahearns were over that night. The Mayor and I drove over to the Ahearns to talk to them. Shortly after arriving there was called to check out some transients brought in by Avon Lake, <b>B</b> .D.
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Wes busy for some time checking out numerous transients brought in by other departments. Upon returning to the scene one more was told that Cleveland Homicide and Bertillion had been over the scene and gotten pictures. At this time the chief detailed me to the hospital. Was relieved of this duty about 4:10 P.M. Returned to station to see what had developed and then went back to the house. It was at this point that I first entered the Doctors study. While making a telephone call I noticed that a woman's wrist watch was laying on the top of the desk. This watch had the appearance of blood on it. I mentioned this to the Chief and as I showed it to him I noticed that the watch was at 11:30. I am sure the watch was running at this time and Fred Drenkhan can verify this.
This offense Unfounded ired by Exceptiona Inactive (no	arrest Investigating Officer Date