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## 54/07/09 Doctor Balks at Lie Test; Retells Story

Cleveland News

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# Doctor Balks At Lie Test; Retells Story

BY HOWARD BEAUFAIT

Slight variations in Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard's version of the murder of his wife developed today as he returned to the scene of the July 4 crime to re-enact it for investigators.

County Detective Carl Rossbach, heading the investigation, revealed that the Bay Village osteopath had changed his story only in minor instances and that he had declined to take a lie detector test for the time being.

The distraught husband spent an hour and a half in his rambling lakefront home with Rossbach, Coroner Samuel R. Gerber and other police officers, re-enacting details of the crime as he said he saw them before dawn last Sunday.

The county detective said Dr. Sheppard was permitted to return to the home of his father after the second questioning session, but was advised to keep himself available for further interrogation.

Dr. Sheppard said he planned to return to Bay View Hospital immediately to look after his patients.

"We failed to refresh the doctor's memory on some points in the murder that we wanted to clear up," Rossbach said as they left the house.

Simultaneously a diver, William Virgin of Lorain, was lowered into Lake Erie in front of the house to search a 200 by 250-foot area for the weapon used to clobber the comely housewife to death in her bedroom.

Rossbach said he concluded three hours of questioning Dr. Sheppard at Bay View Hospital with the question:

"Will you submit to a lie detector test?"

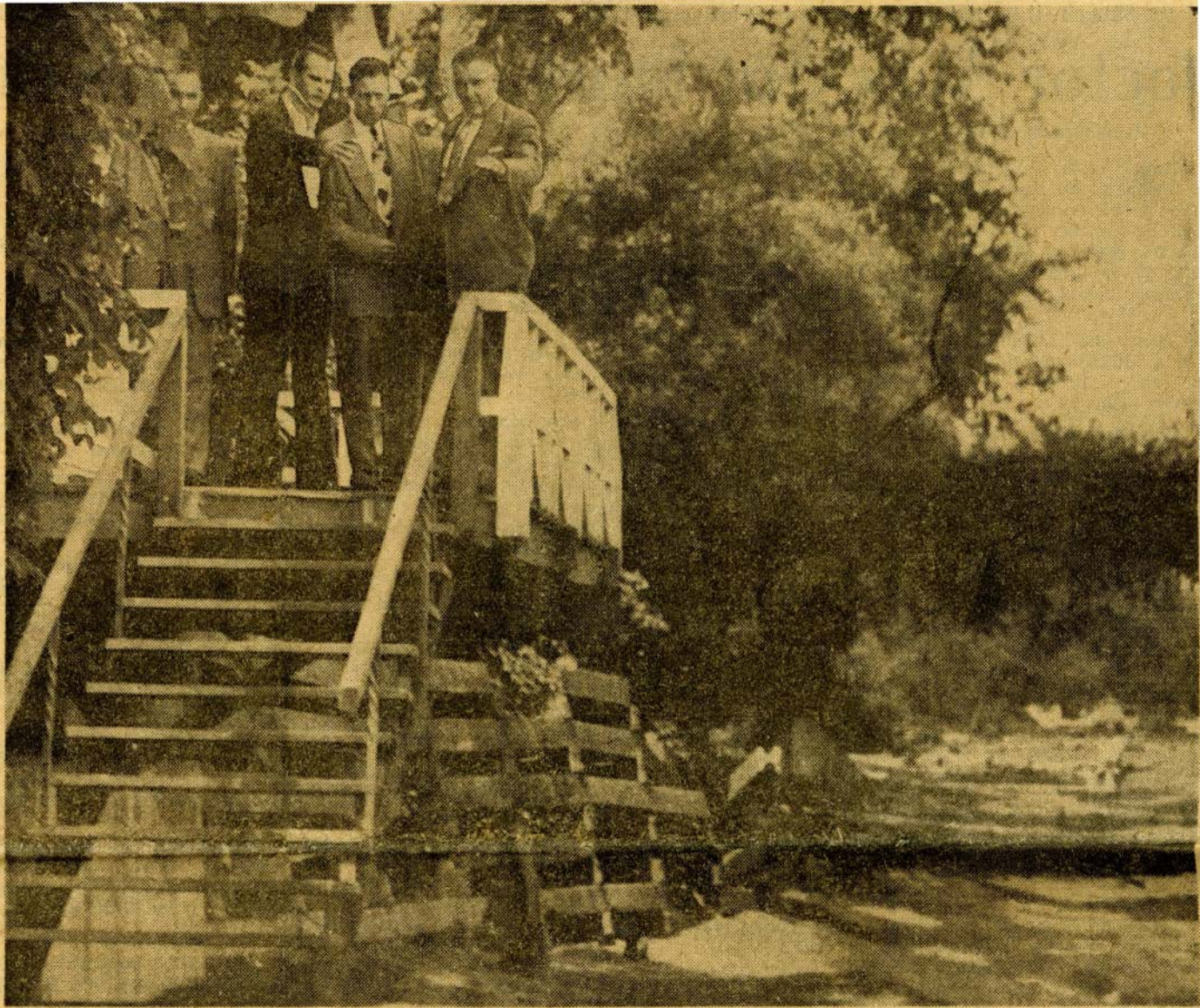
The detective said the husband of the murdered woman replied:

"I understand that instrument and in my emotional state and as sick as I am, it would show some disturbance . . . I might later on."

Rossbach said he was not satisfied with the answers the doctor

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Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, with neck in orthopedic collar, points to the spot on beach below, where he said he was knocked unconscious by prowler who murdered his wife. With him on the rear porch of the Sheppard's beach house are (left to right) Deputy Sheriff Dave Yettra, Patrolman Fred Drenkhan of Bay Village and County Detective Carl E. Rossbach.





**Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard who gave an exclusive interview to The News today.**



# Doctor Acts Out Story, Rejects Lie Test

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gave to many of his questions.

Dr. Sheppard, his injured neck encased in an orthopedic brace, insisted he saw the killer of his wife, a tall man with bushy hair, standing by her bedside as he was struck from behind by a second man.

The doctor and his family have offered a \$10,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the murderers of his wife.

## Newsman Banished

When Dr. Sheppard arrived at his house this morning he was accompanied by his attorney, William J. Corrigan, and Arthur E. Petersilge, attorney for the Bay View hospital owned by the Sheppard family. Their arrival caused a minor traffic jam along West Lake Rd. Hundreds of neighbors and curious motorists stopped in front of the house.

"Marilyn wouldn't like all these people here," Dr. Sheppard told Corrigan who requested Patrolman Howard Smith to order all newspaper photographers and reporters off the property.

The osteopath was then taken into the house and was asked to examine it closely to determine if anything that could have been used as a weapon was missing.

Dr. Sheppard appeared calm when he arrived at the house, but his composure was visibly shaken when he was taken to the blood spattered room where his wife's life ended in violence.

Next he was asked to take investigators over the escape trail, down a flight of steps leading from the cliff edge to the beach and boathouse below.

He said it was there he grappled with his wife's slayer a moment before he was knocked into unconsciousness. He said he came to later in the water and the killer was gone.

Rossbach said one of the major questions which remains unanswered concerns the missing T-shirt worn by Dr. Sheppard the night of the murder.

"How do you account for your T-shirt being missing?" Rossbach said he asked.

"I don't remember wearing one . . . Maybe the man I saw needed a T-shirt . . . I don't know," Dr. Sheppard was said to have answered.

"How would your shirt fit a man as big as you described? I want you to tell me the truth. Tell me whether you did or did not kill your wife?" Rossbach said.

## Put Head In Arms

The detective said at this point Dr. Sheppard put his head in his arms, cried and replied:

"My God, I didn't!"

Rossbach said he learned from the handsome, athletic osteopath that his marriage to attractive Marilyn Reese Sheppard, 31, nearly ended in divorce in 1950.

Mrs. Sheppard had not adjusted to the life and hours of a doctor

and contemplated a separation, the detective said Dr. Sheppard told him, but changed her mind because of their 7-year-old son, "Chip."

## Tells of Buying Watch

Rossbach said that Dr. Sheppard admitted taking another woman, a former employe of Bay View Hospital, to a wedding where she lost her watch.

"He said the woman was disturbed and to set her at ease he bought her another watch, without his wife's knowledge," the detective said. "Later his wife found out about it and took him to task, but the doctor said she was not too upset."

Rossbach said he told Dr. Sam if he could answer a half a dozen puzzling questions he would be convinced he had no part in the death of his wife. The questions he outlined were:

**WHAT HAPPENED** to the T-shirt?

**WHY DIDN'T** the Sheppard dog, Koko, an Irish setter, bark at the murderous intruder? (Dr. Sheppard said "the dog was not the barking kind.")

**WHY DID** the prowler Dr. Sheppard said he saw leave the house by unlocking a rear door and fleeing toward the lake, when the front door, leading to West Lake Rd., was open?

**WHY DIDN'T** the prowler see Dr. Sheppard sleeping on a downstairs couch when he would have to pass him to get upstairs?

**HOW DOES** Dr. Sheppard explain why the house was "so neatly" ransacked?

**WHAT IS THE** explanation for Dr. Sheppard's watch, stopped and water logged at 4:15, his fraternity ring and key chain being found in a cloth bag in the bushes at the rear of the Sheppard home?

**A PROWLER** or burglar would need only one or two blows to quiet your wife. How do you explain that he used 27 violent blows?

Rossbach said Dr. Sheppard failed to give what he considered satisfactory answers to these questions.

## Asked About Corrigan

The county detective also asked Dr. Sheppard why he had so quickly employed William J. Corrigan, well known criminal attorney.

"I didn't employ him," Dr. Sheppard said. "My family did. Somebody heard a remark and the family thought it should be done in a hurry."

Dr. Sheppard revealed during the examination that he did not hear his wife "scream" the morning of the murder as friends had reported.

"What woke me up on the couch was a loud voice saying—'Sam! Sam!'" he said.

Rossbach said that the Sheppard's son, Chip, had been questioned closely about what he may have heard or seen on the murder morning, or the evening before, but could offer nothing of value to the investigation.

## Boy Slept Through Slaying

The boy went to bed Saturday night at 10:30 and slept through the night until he was awakened by his uncle, Dr. Richard Sheppard, the next morning after the murder had been discovered.

Dr. Sheppard left his hospital room and was reunited with his son late yesterday at the home of his father, Dr. R. A. Sheppard, 23048 West Lake Rd.

There Dr. Sheppard's palm print was taken to compare with a print found on a desk in his living room. The desk had been rifled.

Police also took palm prints of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ahren, neighbors who visited the Sheppards the night before the slaying.

## Have Special Significance

Rossbach said that if the Aherns or the doctor's prints do not match it would lend credence to the story that a stranger had invaded the home and committed the crime.

While the Aherns were visiting, they said Dr. Sheppard fell asleep on the living room couch. Asked by Rossbach why he spent the night there, a cold evening, without covers, Dr. Sheppard replied:

"On a warm night my wife would let me sleep on the sofa. But on a cool night she would wake me. This night I remember vaguely that she did wake me. I started to get up, but fell over on my side

and went back to sleep."

Dr. Richard said this morning that his brother showed the strain of the lengthy questioning, "but it did him good to get away from the hospital and see his boy and dog."

## Conference Is Held

Before returning to the scene of the crime with Dr. Sheppard, County Detective Rossbach conferred with Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon who is conducting an independent investigation of the crime.

Rossbach made a complete report to Mahon on the result of the long grilling of the dead woman's husband.

Mahon said he had interviewed Mrs. Thomas S. Reese, stepmother of Marilyn Sheppard, Mayor J. Spencer Houk, of Bay Village, the suburb's Police Chief John P. Eaton and Sergt. Jay Hubach of the suburb. He plans later to talk to the Aherns.

The prosecutor said he was not satisfied with the official "fumbling" investigation, but so far had learned nothing of value on his own.

Mahon said he had examined personal letters written to Mrs. Sheppard but they likewise offered little of value to the probe.

## Asked Reconciliation

The letters, apparently written several years ago when Mrs. Sheppard contemplated leaving her husband, urged her to reconsider.

"This isn't something that affects you and Sam because you both have a responsibility in Chip," one letter said. Another said:

"Something I had to learn is that men are little boys who hate to grow up. Seems like the end of the world. Our faith in a power greater than ourselves and our understanding of the frailties of human beings to withstand temptations at times and the will to preserve the family unit, do help give us the necessary strength."

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