



Witness Statements

Police Documents

7-5-1954

54/07/05 3:40pm, Nancy Ahern

Bay Village Police Department

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July 5, 1954.

The following is the statement of Nancy C. Ahern, White, Female, Age 33, with reference to the Homicide of Marilyn Sheppard.

NANCY C. AHERN: I talked to Marilyn on the telephone, and said I was going to the Shopping Center and could I get her anything. She said "Yes, she had just broken her Orange Juice Squeezer, and I could get her one if it was not out of my way, at the Shopping Center. On my way back home I dropped it off, and we chatted for a few minutes, and she asked me "Could we come over for supper?" I said, "Yes" We did not know just when Dr. Sam would be home, and we wanted to weed in the garden until the last minute, so we suggested they come up for a drink before dinner, and then we would go back to their house. They came approximately 6:30 or quarter to 7, something like that, and we went out in the kitchen, the four of us, Chip and the children were playing out in the yard, and I mixed some drinks, and we sat there talking until about 8:00 or 8:15, somewhere around in there, maybe a little later, I am not just sure, anyway, it was still light. Our conversation at first consisted of Dr. Sams sort of upsetting day with the little boy whose life he had tried to save. He felt pretty badly about it, and he was telling us a little bit about it. Then we got on the subject of Golf, and we were comparing Golf to Water Skiing and other sports, and Mrs. Sheppard was just beginning Golf and had shown quite an amazing aptitude for it, so I was telling Dr. Sam how wonderfully she had done the day before. He was quite proud to hear about it. Mrs. Sheppard thought she should get going to the house to see how her roast was. I went upstairs and got into some clean shorts, and the three children, Dr. Sam, Mr. Ahern and I went down in our car, since Mrs. Sheppard had taken their car and gone ahead. We arrived there about 5 or 10 minutes later. The men went down and checked the Beach to see if the waves were bringing in any sand, and we, Mrs. Sheppard and I, stayed in the kitchen, getting dinner together. We got the childrens dinner dished up and put on the kitchen table. Then we put ours on trays and took it out on the porch. It was rather chilly and windy, so Dr. Sheppard went in and put on his brown curduroy coat, and I grabbed a jacket from the Sheppards closet to put around Mr. Aher, a Red Sport Athletic Jacket, with letter on it, and it had Cream Colored Leather sleeves. After we finished dinner, Mr. Ahern decided he would take the Children up to our house and put them to bed, and bring the two dogs and put them with the children. While he was gone Mrs. Sheppard and I cleared off the table and did the dishes and she took Chip upstairs, while I stacked the dishwasher. Mr. Ahern came back and we all went into the Living Room to watch the Midnight movie, after deciding it was too late to go to a movie at Fairview. Dr. Sheppard brought the small radio down so the men could listen to the baseball game at the same time. Mrs. Sheppard sat with Mr. Sheppard in the big chair and I sat with Mr. Ahern in another big chair. The movie not being too interesting we all got a little drowsy, finally Dr. Sheppard went over on the couch on his stomach, wadded the pillow up under his chin to very sleepily watch some more of the movie. I climbed off of Mr. Ahern's chair and got the other armchair and brought it over alongside of his. When the movie was almost over, we looked at Mrs. Sheppard, and her eyes were opening and closing pretty sleepily. Dr. Sheppard had already put his head down on the pillow. Mrs. Sheppard said to him "Sam, come on and wake up so you can see the last of the movie". So he tried for a couple of minutes, then put his head back down, and I think he slept through the last portion between the last commercial and the final one. The minutes the end of the movie was over we got up and Mrs. Sheppard saw us to the door, Dr. Sheppard didn't stir. We said Goodbye and left.

n.c.a.

Q. When Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard came to the house for drinks could you described what both parties were wearing.

A. Mrs. Sheppard had on a pair of short white shorts, (not Bermuda) a blue shirt, plain, between Powder and slightly darker, mans styling, and I think it had long sleeves, which she had rolled up, a little blue and gray, small checked jacket. Dr. Sam had on brown and white Cord trousers, white sweat socks and brown loafers, a white "T" shirt, and a sort of Khaki colored jacket.

Q. Did Marilyn change her clothes from the first time you saw her that evening till the time you bid her goodnight?

A. No.

Q. Did Dr. Sam change his clothes from the first time you saw him that evening till the time you left and he way lieing on the couch?

A. Dr. Sam took his Khaki jacket off down inthe basement when he and Mr. Ahern and Michael were punching the punching bag In Dr. Sheppard's basement. When we went on to the porch to eat supper it was rather chilly and not remembering where he had left his Khaki jacket he came out in his brown Curduroy coat, which he was still wearing when he was asleep on the couch when we left.

Q. During the course of the evening approximately how much did you have to drink.

A. Dr. Sheppard had 2 Martinis, Mrs. Sheppard, Mr. Ahern and myself, not caring for them had the same number of Whiskey Sours at my home.

Q. Did you have anything to drink at the Sheppard home?

A. Nothing.

Q. Approximately what time did you bid Marilyn Sheppard goodnight and leave.

A. Approximately 12:10 A.M., arriving home approximately 12:10, retiring shortly thereafter, noticing the clock to be 12:20.

Q. Did you shut the rear door, from the porch to the living room after you had eaten dinner?

A. Yes, I brought the last of the dishes in, then turned the latch and put the night chain on.

Q. Approximately what time did Mrs. Sheppard take Chip up to bed?

A. Approximately 10:30, possibly 10:45. A short time later I looked for a hand mirror to adjust the Television. Went upstairs and Chip was brushing his teeth in his pajamas, and went into the bedroom to get me a mirror. I bid him goodnight and came downstairs.

Q. Approximately what time did Dr. Sam appear to fall asleep?

A. Approximstely 11:30

Q. When you left by which door did you leave?

A. The door facing Lake Road.

Q. Do you recall Marilyn closing and locking the door as you left her.

A. I don't recall.

Q. Where was the couch situated on which Dr. Sam was sleeping when you left that night?

A. It was situated north and south against the Stairway wall that leads from the Living Room upstairs. Dr. Sam was lieing on his stomach with his head facing the Lake and his feet toward the road. The light in the northwest corner of the living room was on, and as I remember there was a light also in the Den, but I do not know if there was a light in the upstairs hallway.

Q. During the course of the evening did you notice Dr. Sam wearing a Wrist Watch, Identification Bracelet, Key Chain, Ring, or any other visible jewelry?

A. No I did not.

Q. During the course of the evening did you notice Mrs. Sheppard wearing a Wrist Watch, Identification Bracelet, Ring, Ear Rings, or any other visible jewelry?

A. I do not specifically remember noticing her Watch, Wedding Band and Engagement Ring that particular night, but I can seldom ever remember seeing her without them.

Q. Is there anything else you can add to this statement?

A. No.

Q. Have you read the above statement, and is it true?

A. It is true.

Nancy C. Ahern

Paul F. Benbow PLL

Witness

Paul Kassebach

Witness

Statement taken by Esther Aldrich,
3:40 P.M. July 5, 1954, at Bay Village
City Hall.