



Witness Statements

Police Documents

7-5-1954

54/07/05 6:05pm, Don Ahern

Bay Village Police Department

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July 5, 1954.

29146 Lake Road,

The following is the statement of Donn J. Ahern, White, Male, Age 40, with reference to the homicide of Marilyn Sheppard.

Don J. Ahern: I was advised by Mrs. Ahern about 3:00 o'clock of the afternoon of Saturday, July 3, 1954, that we probably would be going to the home of Dr. and Mrs. Sam Sheppard for dinner that evening. As I recall there was another telephone call between my wife and Marilyn Sheppard about 5:00 o'clock on the afternoon of the same date, in which they made final arrangements for the dinner and also invited Dr. Sam and Marilyn Sheppard to come to our house for Cocktails at 6:00 P.M. Both Dr. Sam and Mrs. Sheppard and their son Chip arrived shortly after 6:00 P.M. From that time until shortly after 8:00 P.M. the four of us had perhaps 2 Cocktails apiece. We discussed the progress of Marilyn's Golf game relative to the assistance that my wife had given her. Dr. Sam seemed very happy that she had fared so well in the game. Also Dr. Sam discussed a number of cases that he had had at the hospital during the day. Shortly after 8:00 P.M. we all left and went to the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Sam Sheppard. While my wife and Marilyn Sheppard prepared dinner Dr. Sam Sheppard and myself entertained the children briefly down in the basement, practicing on the punching bag and we also went down to the boat house and looked over the beach, and talked about the possibility of skiing on the following day. At that time he indicated that there would be a number of interns from the hospital coming up for skiing the following day, Sunday, if the wind subsided and the water would be smooth. At about 9:00 o'clock we began eating dinner. The adults eating on the porch, and the three children in the kitchen. At the conclusion of dinner which was approximately 10:00 P.M. we all came inside. Mrs. Sheppard and my wife proceeded to do the dishes and Dr. Sam Sheppard and myself rested briefly on the porch. At 10:30 I took our two children home and put them to bed, and returned to the Sheppards not later than 10:45. At that time we all gathered in the living room and began watching a T. V. movie and also continued to listen to the Cleveland Indian, White Sox baseball game. At approximately 11:30 Dr. Sheppard who was very tired from the days activities down at the hospital decided to lie down on the couch, and went to sleep almost immediately. Although Mrs. Sheppard was very drowsy she continued to watch the movie and also listen to the baseball game until about 10 minutes after 12 when the movie terminated. At this time Mrs. Ahern and I decided it was time to go home and Mrs. Sheppard walked to the door with us. However, before actually leaving Mrs. Ahern locked the living room door leading to the porch on the lake side. As we left, Mrs. Ahern suggested to Mrs. Sheppard that she go to bed immediately because she was still very drowsy and felt that she would not wake up completely. Just before we left it was quite obvious that Dr. Sam Sheppard was sleeping very soundly and definitely did not know that we were leaving. Upon saying goodnight to Mrs. Sheppard we got in our car and drove directly home and retired immediately. At about 6:10 the following morning July 4th, 1954, Mayor Houk called our residence and advised Mrs. Ahern of the murder of Marilyn Sheppard early that morning. We both dressed immediately. At about 6:20 in the morning we received a telephone call from one of Dr. Sam Sheppard's brothers also advising us of the same information as we had received from Mayor Houk. Sometime between 7:00 A.M. and 7:30 Mayor Houk and Jay Hubach arrived at our house and a general discussion ensued in which Mrs. Ahern and I were asked pertinent questions relative to the previous evening. Mrs. Ahern and I walked down to the Sheppard residence and were asked questions both by members of the Press and Detective

relative to our association with Dr. and Mrs. Sam Sheppard and events of the previous evening. Mrs. Ahern and I proceeded down the steps to the boat house but were advised by members of the police or detectives not to go down on the beach.

Q. When Marilyn Sheppard came to the house for drinks would you describe what she was wearing.

A. As I recall, she had on white shorts. I think she had on a blue or a green flowered blouse, white beaded mocassins, and ankle socks.

Q. Was Marilyn Sheppard wearing a Wrist Watch, Identification Bracelet, Ring, Ear rings or any other visible jewelry?

A. I think she was wearing a watch. Other than that I do not know.

Q. Did you observe whether Marilyn Sheppard had changed any of her wearing apparel that night from the first time you saw her until you bid her goodnight?

A. I did not, but I might add that she was still wearing the same shorts that she had been wearing that night.

Q. When Dr. Sam Sheppard came to the house for drinks would you describe what she was wearing?

A. He was wearing light brown striped Cord slacks, brown Sneakers white sweat socks, a white "T" shirt and a Khaki jacket.

Q. Was Dr. Sam Sheppard wearing a Wrist Watch, Identification Bracelet, Ring, Key Chain or any other visible jewelry?

A. He may have been wearing a wrist watch, I do not recall having seen his key chain which has a Football and I think a Fraternity Pin on it, but I do not recall seeing it.

Q. Did you observe whether Dr. Sam Sheppard had changed any of his wearing apparel that night from the first time you saw him until you left and saw him laying on the couch?

A. Yes, he had removed his Khaki jacket and during the course of the meal and up to the time that he decided to sleep on the couch he was wearing a brown Corduroy Sport Coat. At the time that we left Dr. Sam did not have his Corduroy jacket on but it was visible near the couch but I don't recall just where. As we got up to leave I did observe that Dr. Sheppard was wearing a white "T" shirt, brown striped Cord slacks, brown Sneakers and white sweat socks.

Q. While at the home of Dr. Sam and Marilyn Sheppard did you have anything to drink?

A. We did not.

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

A. The couch was situated next to the stair wall facing north and south, in the living room. It is my recollection that Dr. Sheppard was lying on his back with his head to the south.

Q. Do you know the location of the lights that were burning when you left that night to return to your home.

A. When we departed it is my recollection that there was still a light on in the living room, in the study, and also in the kitchen.

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

A. We left by the front, the door on the Lake Road side.

Q. Did Mrs. Sheppard close the door after you left?

A. Yes, she did.

Q. When you were leaving did you notice any strange automobiles, or anyone loitering around?

A. No, there were no other cars in evidence on the property, or parked along in the vicinity. Nor were there any persons.

Q. Can you tell us at this time where Samuel Reese Sheppard Jr., also known as "Chip" was on the night of July 3rd, 1954, when you returned from your home, about 10:45 P.M?

A. As I returned to the Sheppard residence and came into the living room Chip was coming down the stairs, clad in pajamas, and asked his mother, Marilyn, some question which I did not understand, but she informed him to go back up to bed, which he did immediately.

Q. Do you know where Chip's bedroom is located?

A. Yes I do, it is East of his parent's bedroom and on the north side of the Hall. The parents bedroom being in the northwest corner of the upstairs.

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

A. Relative to Sam Sheppard, in my opinion, he is not of the emotional makeup to even make it possible for him to do what was done to Marilyn Sheppard, because I have observed Sam in all kinds of situations. I have been with him in discussions, where they have developed into minor arguments. I have been at parties within, have observed his reactions, and he does not have the capacity, capabilities of such brutality. He was certainly very fond of Marilyn, his wife, and I am sure quite proud of the fact that she was an expectant mother.

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

A. Yes it is true

Don J. Ahern

[Signature]
Witness

[Signature]
Witness

Statement taken by Esther Aldrich,
6:05 P.M. July 5, 1954, at Bay Village
City Hall.