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54/07/06 Move to Quiz Bay Doctor

Cleveland Press

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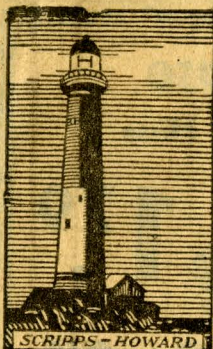
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NO. 24007

CLEVELAND, TUESDAY, JULY 6, 1954

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MOVE TO QUIZ BAY DOCTOR

BULLETIN

Deputy Sheriff Carl Rossbach said late today that he would attempt to resume questioning of Dr. Samuel Sheppard at Bay View Hospital tonight, regardless of objections of his family and Attorney William Corrigan. Rossbach was accompanied by Assistant County Prosecutor Thomas Parrino as "a legal adviser."

Discovery of a "new clew" brought a quick huddle late today of officials directing the investigation of the holiday slaying of Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard, 30-year-old Bay Village clubwoman.

Coroner Samuel R. Gerber said the clew was "a piece of inorganic material" found in the upstairs

murder room. It was contained in a small brown envelope.

Dr. Gerber said it would have to be examined under a microscope before it was known whether or not it had "any particular significance."

The conference of investigators was joined by Thomas Parrino, assistant county prosecutor.

Gerber said Parrino was there "in an advisory capacity," and denied that the prosecutor's presence indicated an early break in the case.

Others at the conference were Bay Village Police Chief John Eaton and Deputy Sheriff Carl Rossbach. Dr. Gerber also conferred with Mayor J. Spencer Houk of Bay Village.

The investigation centered on a search for two missing objects:

Investigation of the brutal holiday slaying of Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard, 30, centered today on a search for two missing objects:

THE MURDER WEAPON.

THE T-SHIRT worn by her husband, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, 30, at the time he said he grappled with the killer.

Chief Eaton ordered purchase of nine powerful magnets.

As soon as the magnets are assembled on an aluminum bar, he said, they will be loaded on a boat and dragged along the Lake Erie bottom near the beach

of the Sheppard home in an effort to find the murder weapon.

Dr. Gerber described Mrs. Sheppard's slaying as "definitely a murder of anger."

The killer, he said, was "intent on giving her a severe beating and inflicting injury. He rained blow after blow on her with savage fury."

There were no indications in the murder bedroom or elsewhere in the house that the victim, a bowling enthusiast and clubwoman, had fought back.

Bay Village police said six persons had been picked up for questioning. All were released. A seventh

Turn to Page 4, Column 1

Move to Quiz Doctor in Wife's Death

(Continued From Page One)

Itinerant was held for further questioning, but was not considered a "good suspect."

Dr. Sheppard, reported to have a broken neck in Bay View Hospital, expressed hope that he would be able to attend his wife's funeral tomorrow.

The neck injury was disclosed by his brother, Dr. Stephen Sheppard. The hospital is operated by Dr. Richard A. Sheppard and his three osteopathic physician sons, Samuel, Stephen and Richard.

Dr. Stephen Sheppard said his brother would be unable "emotionally and physically" to stand further police questioning for several days.

Rossbach said his interview with Dr. Sheppard in his hospital room last night was interrupted by William Corrigan, a prominent Cleveland criminal lawyer.

Chief Eaton, too, was rebuffed when he attempted to talk to Dr. Sheppard again today. He was told the patient was "in no condition" for further interrogation.

Corrigan, Rossbach said, beckoned him into the hallway, had advised that the questioning should be discontinued.

No Statements Advised

Before the interview, Rossbach said, a brother of Dr. Sheppard had advised him that "their retained counsel had advised them that Dr. Sam should make no statements, inasmuch

as he was under sedatives." Friday was given as the "probable time" he could be interviewed again.

Just before the attorney concluded the interrogation, Rossbach continued, Dr. Sheppard gave the first vague description of the intruder with whom he said he grappled in his home at 28924 Lake Rd.

"He said the assailant was taller than himself (the doctor is about six feet)," the deputy said. "He said the man was of medium or average weight, wearing a white shirt, and had bushy hair. That's all he could tell me."

Told of Darkness

Earlier, Dr. Sheppard had told investigators it was "so dark" at the time that he couldn't identify his assailant. Another time, he said he'd know the man if he saw him again, and termed the killer "dark-complexioned."

Police considered the description so vague that no pickup order based on it was put out.

Material found under the slain woman's fingernails was being analyzed by the coroner's office to determine if it offered any clue to the identity of her slayer.

Mrs. Sheppard, four months pregnant, was found beaten to death in the second-floor bedroom of her home. Her husband, who also had been physically injured, said he had been asleep on a downstairs davenport when he was aroused by her screams, and ran upstairs to be attacked by her assailant.

Dr. Sheppard said he was knocked unconscious, reviving later to pursue the killer out to the beach, where he was knocked out again.

His brother said Dr. Sheppard's broken neck was disclosed by an X-ray. He will have to wear a steel and leather neck brace for six to eight weeks, Dr. Stephen Sheppard said.

Has Other Injuries

His other injuries included bruises on the entire right side of his face, his upper jaw, his right eye closed by swelling, and the base of his skull badly swollen and two teeth broken.

Coroner Gerber said Mrs. Sheppard apparently died between 4 and 5 a. m. It wasn't until 5:50 a. m. that Dr. Sheppard telephoned Mayor Houk, a friend who lives nearby, to give the first report of the tragedy.

Dr. Gerber said the theory that Mrs. Sheppard may have been murdered by a drug ad-

dict seeking narcotics from her husband's medical supplies had been discarded.

Morphine sulphate had been found in the doctor's bag, the coroner said, and other sedative drugs had been found in the home, although not where Dr. Sheppard recalled leaving them.

Search Intensified

Dr. Gerber said the search for the murder weapon and Dr. Sheppard's missing T-shirt would be intensified.

Mrs. Sheppard's injuries—repeated blows on the head and face, possibly as many as 25—could have been inflicted by a fireplace tool, a carpenter's instrument, or a piece of wood, Dr. Gerber said.

The coroner said tooth fragments found near Mrs. Sheppard's body had been identified as coming from her own mouth.

Dr. Gerber said there was no evidence that anyone had broken into the home. Mrs. Sheppard's wristwatch was found on the floor in her husband's first floor study. Dr. Gerber said there were apparent bloodstains on Dr. Sheppard's trousers.

Private Rites Tomorrow

Private funeral services for Mrs. Sheppard will be held tomorrow.

Her only son, Samuel Jr., 6, was informed of his mother's death—but not the manner of

her slaying—yesterday. The boy was asleep in an adjoining room when his mother was murdered, but was not awakened.

Chief Eaton said a palm print found on Dr. Sheppard's desk had not resulted in any positive lead.

Eaton added that no footprints had been found around the home, or any indication of jimmied windows or tampered door latches.

The police chief said he had "many questions" to ask Dr. Sheppard, and would insist on having him examined by another physician if his brothers refused to permit interrogation by Friday.

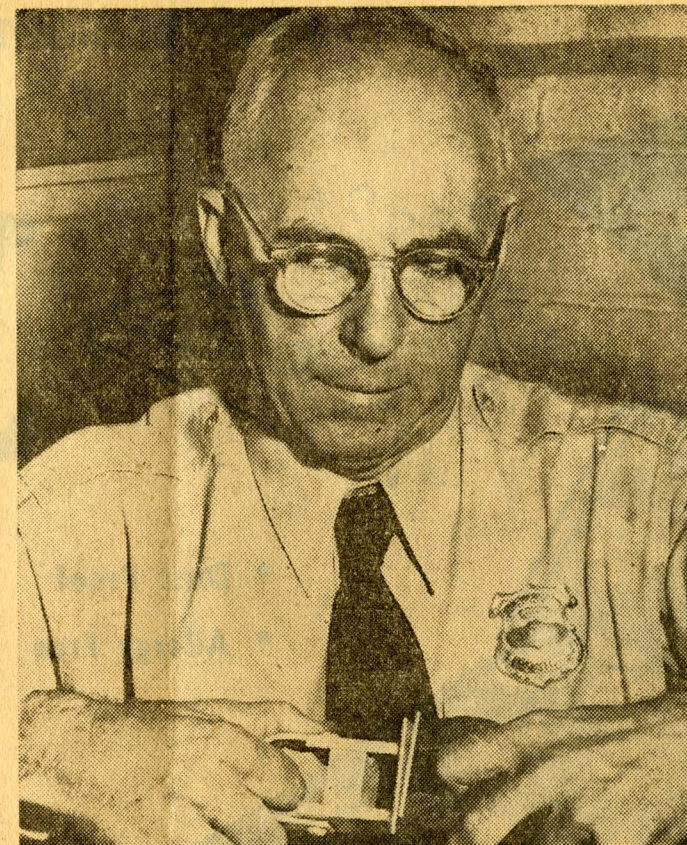
A red-stained rag found in Dr. Sheppard's Jaguar car was identified as a towel. It was being analyzed to determine whether the stains were blood.

Water in Watch

Rossbach said Dr. Sheppard's explanation of water in his wristwatch was that he had gone to a stock car race last week, and "got caught in a downpour... the watch hasn't been running properly since then. Apparently I got some moisture in it."

Friends and relatives said Dr. Sheppard, who worked hard at his medical practice, had a habit of dozing off and sleeping very soundly.

He said he could recall nothing of what happened between the time he dozed off, about 11 p. m., and when he was awakened by his wife's screams.



ONE OF MAGNETS with which he hopes to recover from Lake Erie the weapon which killed Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard is examined by Bay Village Police Chief John Eaton.