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AMSEC 08 -- Murder Weapon

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WEAPON

The weapon that killed Marilyn Sheppard was never found. In this investigation, this issue was re-addressed.

- A. The following information was obtained from the Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Coroner's office:

Property Inventory - Re Marilyn Sheppard Case 76629 - Exhibit 49

Listed under property inventory:

1 dark stained wood (mahogany?) rocker with cane seat broken out.

Listed under heading Additional items submitted as evidence in Sheppard Case:

1 piece of curved wood which appears to be broken from free end of rocker of rocking chair.

Listed under Fingernail scrapings from left hand (TE 95) Stereomicroscopic Study:

Thumb: 1 wood splinter with blood stain (?) (apparently wood is from tooth pick used in removal - coroner's office note)

Index, middle, and ring finger reveal only brown crusted material apparently blood.

Tested on July 7, 1954, by Mary Cowan, Exhibit 49.

Fingernail scrapings from right hand

Middle: 3 pieces of wood (from toothpick used in removal?) Tested by M. Cowan

July 5, 1954, Exhibit 49.

B. Weapon

The following information was obtained from a report written by Dr. A. J. Kazlauckas, a physician and surgeon retained by William J. Corigan to assist in the defense of Dr. Sam Sheppard. Exhibit 50.

"Nowhere in the record do I find any investigation made of these lacerated, abraded, and contused wounds in reference to possible findings, such as, wood particles, paint, grease or metallic particles, either by close examination or by microscopical demonstration."

- C. No weapon has been identified. There has been speculation by investigators and forensic experts that the weapon was a flashlight or a tool such as a pry bar.