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Other Suspects

The Sam Sheppard Case: 1954-2000

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7-6-1954

## Statement given to BVPD by Esther Houk

Patrolman Fred Drenkhan  
*Bay Village Police Department*

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### Recommended Citation

Drenkhan, Patrolman Fred, "Statement given to BVPD by Esther Houk" (1954). *Other Suspects*. 14.  
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July 6, 1954.

Statement of Esther Gerhardt Houk, of 29014 Lake Road, Bay Village, Female, White, Age, 41, with reference to the Homicide of Marilyn Sheppard.

ESTHER GERHARDT HOUK: I heard the phone, and Spen awakened me and he said "You better come quick, Sam just called and said some one tried to kill Marilyn" So I grabbed some clothes. We jumped in the car and went right over. Spen opened the front door. We saw Sams medicine <sup>bag</sup> first in the hall. We heard Sams voice in the Study and dashed in there. Spen said "My God, what happened, Sam?" He lifted his head and I saw his face. He said "Someone should do something for Marilyn, and I can't think". I dashed upstairs I saw her all I thought of was that someone had to do something for her. Her arm was off the bed so I put my hand down to feel her pulse. I didn't feel any pulse, I saw her stomach and it looked blue. I ran downstairs immediately and I told Spen "My God, call the Police, the Ambulance, everything". Sam was mumbling and I thought someone should do something and he wasn't quite capable so I went out to the kitchen to get some whiskey. I found it and poured him a big drink. I took it back and told him to try and drink that. He said "No, I've got to think, and I can't think now, I don't want that". I said, "Well, shouldn't this help?". He said "No, I don't want that". Then he said "Is Chip alright?" I went upstairs and looked in Chip's room. Everything looked perfectly alright and he was curled up looking like he was sleeping fine. I came right down and the ambulance and police had arrived. I went out to the ambulance. I remember telling them that I did not believe they could get the stretcher through the kitchen door, and that I did not think it would do any good anyway. Dr. Richard Sheppard arrived shortly after. Again I became concerned about Chip and went back upstairs to see if he was alright. At that time I noticed Dr. Richard Sheppard having the Stethoscope at Marilyn's chest. I went in Chip's room and looked at him again and came out as Dr. Richard was coming out of Marilyn's room. I said "Lets get Chip out of here immediately, shall I take him to my house?". Dr. Richard said "No, get his clothes together I'll take him down to my house". We both walked into Chip's room. I was going to awaken him and I remembered he was very modest and fussy about any woman dressing him, and I did not want to get him the least upset at that point so I told Dr. Richard he had better dress him. Chip was wearing a head and chin strap for some Orthodontic purpose. We both tried to get it off. He was still asleep on his feet. We took the strap off and Dr. Richard said "We don't have to dress him". I said "No, we don't really have to dress him because it is warm". Dr. Richard took his clothes and took him downstairs. He stopped when someone asked him a question, so I took Chip outside. As we walked up the drive he noticed the ambulance and asked if they had blown the siren. I said "Yes" He said "I didn't even hear it". Then he asked "What's wrong"? I said "Your Daddy has a bad bump and they are taking him to the hospital". With that I put him in Dr. Richard's car. As I put Chip in Dr. Richard's car I noticed that Dr. Steve had put Dr. Sam in his car. I returned to the house to see if there was anything else I could do.

Q. What was Dr. Sam wearing when you first saw him?

A. A pair of light Cord pants was all I noticed.

Q. What was the condition of his clothes?

A. When I first saw him I only remember his face. When I came back down from upstairs, and after telling Spen to call the Police and Ambulance, and after getting a drink for Dr. Sam, when I came back in I noticed he had on light Cord pants, with a very slight discoloration on one leg, other than that I did not notice anything.

