



7-6-1954

## Statement given to BVPD by Esther Houk

Patrolman Fred Drenkhan  
*Bay Village Police Department*

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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.

Q. Describe in detail what you saw when you went upstairs to Marilyn's room.

A. I saw what appeared to be water footprints on the steps, and as I reached the top of the stairs I saw in the bedroom immediately in front of me, Marilyn, lying on the bed. I saw her face and head in a large pool of blood, I noticed the deep gashes in her forehead. Her arm was lying palm up, off the side of the bed, so I put my hand down to take her pulse. As I took her pulse I noticed her stomach looked slightly blue. Her Pajama tops were pushed up to her neck. There was one lock of hair clotted with blood. With that I immediately ran downstairs.

Q. Did you move or touch Marilyn, her clothes, or bedclothing in any way?

A. Other than touching her wrist I touched nothing.

Q. Where were there any visible burning lights upstairs?

A. There was a table lamp lighted in the front room upstairs.

Q. Was the door to Chip Sheppard room open or shut?

A. It was open

Q. What was the location of Chip's bedroom with relation to his parent's bedroom, or where Marilyn was found?

A. It was the first room to the East.

Q. What was the condition of the first floor of the Sheppard home?

A. The bag was upturned in the hall. The desk drawers were all upturned. A small trophy was broken on the floor in the Study, where Sam was sitting. The kitchen did not seem to be touched. It wasn't until after Chip was taken out that I noticed the Living Room. The desk drawers were pulled out. The doors to the Beach were wide open, and the screen was flung completely back on the porch to the ground. I noticed water on the porch floor.

Q. When you first arrived where was Coke the Sheppard dog?

A. I believe that when Spen opened the door Coke went out. The next time the door was open Coke came in and went into the kitchen to his bed.

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. Yes, I have read it and it is true.

Esther Gerhardt Houk

W. S. Aldrich

Witness

W. S. Aldrich

Witness

Statement taken by Esther Aldrich,  
2:45 P.M. July 6, 1954, at Bay  
Village City Hall.