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July 4, 1954 Sheriff's Office Summary of Marilyn Sheppard Homicide

Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office

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Dave Yettra & Carl Rossbach, Deputy
Sheriff's
Joseph M. Sweeney, Sheriff

July 18, 1954

Homicide

REPORTED: Sunday, July 4, 1954, 5:57 A.M. INVESTIGATED: July 4th to 18th, 1954

SUBJECT: Homicide, Bay Village, Ohio.

LOCATION: Second floor bedroom, Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Sheppard home, 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio.

VICTIM: Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard, age 31 years, white, housewife, 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio.

TIME & DATE: Approximately 4:00 A.M. Sunday, July 4, 1954.

PRONOUNCED DEAD: By Dr. Samuel Gerber, Cuyahoga County Coroner at 8:00 A.M.. Later removed to County Morgue, Pease Funeral Home ambulance.

ARRESTS: None.

WITNESSES: None.

REPORTED BY: Dr. Samuel Sheppard (Husband).

INVESTIGATED BY: Chief John P. Eaton, et al Bay Village, Ohio Police Department, Members Cleveland, Ohio Police Department Homicide Unit & Bertillon Unit, assisted by Deputy Sheriff's Dave Yettra and Carl Rossbach.

OFFICER IN CHARGE: John P. Eaton, Chief.

REPORT MADE BY: Carl Rossbach & Dave Yettra.

DISPOSITION: Pending.

At 9:00 A.M. Monday, July 5, 1954, Deputy Sheriff Dave Yettra and I, on an office assignment, responded to 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio.

On arrival there learned this address to be the home of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, his wife, Marilyn and a son, Samuel Sheppard, Jr., age 7 years.

Found Chief of Police John P. Eaton and other members of the Bay Village, Ohio Police Department, Cleveland, Ohio Homicide Detectives Gareau & Schottke, Dr. Samuel Gerber, Cuyahoga County, Ohio Coroner, on the scene.

Investigation discloses that Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard, wife of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, an Osteopathic Physician, affiliated with Bay View Hospital, 23200 West Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio was found lying in bed face up, her head severely battered, sustaining approximately twenty-seven head and face wounds, which caused her death.

At about 12:10 A.M. July 4, 1954 when Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ahern, 29146 West Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio had departed for their home, Dr. Sam Sheppard, who had fallen asleep on the living room couch, was apparently not awakened by his wife, Marilyn. How long he had been sleeping, is unknown, when at an early hour he was awakened by what he states was an out cry, "Sam, Sam", coming from the upstairs. He immediately ran up to his bedroom, which was also occupied by his wife, Marilyn, when he saw what he states was a tall figure standing beside his wife's bed, at this point he feels that he was assaulted on the back of the neck which rendered him unconscious, shortly there after he regained consciousness and found himself in a sitting position on the bedroom floor, his feet extending out into the hall with his wallet at his feet and due to the fact that he had a Westlake, Ohio Police Badge pinned to the wallet this attracted his attention in the dark. He then allegedly made a hasty examination of his wife by attempting to take her pulse at wrist and then went to his son Samuel Sheppard, Jr., also known as Chip, who occupied the bedroom adjacent to the one occupied by the victim and her husband. Before Dr. Sam Sheppard could examine his son he heard a noise on the first floor. He immediately ran down the stairs into the L shaped living room, where he allegedly saw a figure described about 6 ft. 3in. wearing a light colored shirt and had bushy hair, parted on left side, and appeared to be white. Passing through the front door to the porch and then through the screen door across the lawn then a stairway leading to the beach or beach house which has approximately fifty concrete and wooden steps also three landings. Dr. Sam Sheppard pursued this figure to the bottom of the stairway, where the figure appeared to have slowed down or practically stopped as if awaiting him, Dr. Sam then allegedly tackled the figure and both fell to the beach where he was again rendered unconscious.

Sometime there after he regained consciousness and upon coming to he was lying on his stomach, face down with his head facing south or toward the concrete retaining wall, his feet toward the north or the lake side. The water wallowing over him, he was unable to state how long he had been in the water.

Upon getting up he went up the steps to the house. He then went to his bedroom, attempted to take the victims pulse at the neck and also felt her cheek, that she appeared to be dead, he then covered the lower part of her body. He then went to his study on the first floor and notified Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Houck, who reside at 29104 West Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio, this was at about 5:45 A.M.

Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Houck arrived shortly thereafter and they then called the Bay Village Police Department and Dr. Richard Sheppard, Jr. and his wife, who reside at 23346 West Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio, who arrived there about 6:15 A.M.. Later Dr.

Stephen Sheppard, who resides at 19027 Englewood Dr., Rocky River, Ohio and his wife arrived.

At 6:00 A.M. Patrolman Fred Drenkhan #1 of the Bay Village, Ohio Police Department arrived and summoned an ambulance. Chief John P. Eaton and Sergeant Jay Hubach, also Dr. Samuel Gerber, Cuyahoga County Coroner.

Upon the arrival of Chief Eaton who took charge the Cleveland Police Department Homicide and Bertillon Units were called to assist with the investigation.

Upon their arrival and after photos and search for any possible evidence was made the Coroner ordered the body removed to the County Morgue.

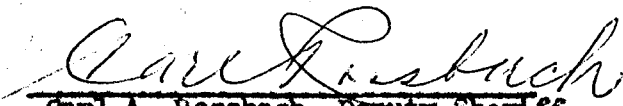
Dr. Samuel Sheppard who complained of a severe pain in the back of the neck and who bore evidence of a swollen right eye, cheek and upper lip at the right corner of the mouth was taken to Bay View Hospital by Dr. Stephen Sheppard, where he was placed under sedatives and held for further observation.

Search and inquiries were made throughout the vicinity in and around all buildings, beach, etc.

But so far have been unable to learn anything which might lead to the motive, weapon used or a "T" shirt, which was worn by Dr. Sam Sheppard at the time he fell asleep on the couch while watching a television program with his family and friends.

Will continue on same.

Respectfully,


Carl A. Rossbach, Deputy Sheriff

CAR:mab