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The Sam Sheppard Case: 1954-2000

7-5-1954

Statement given to BVPD by Spencer Houk

Patrolman Fred Drenkhan
Bay Village Police Department

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July 5, 1954.

The following is the statement of J. Spencer Houk, White, Male, Age, 42, with reference to the Homicide of Marilyn Sheppard.

J. Spencer Houk:

I was awakened by the phone ringing. It was Sam Sheppard. He said "Spen, my God, get over here quick, I think they 've killed Marilyn." I said "What?" He said "My God, get over here quick" I called to Esther. We immediately put on some clothes, got in the Station Wagon, and drove over to Sheppard's house. We opened the door and walked in, and found Sam half sitting and half laying in a chair in the Den on the right side of the hallway. I asked him what happened. He said "I don't know, I don't know", " But some one ought to try to do something for Marilyn". With that, Esther ran upstairs and found Marilyn, laying in the bed. She felt her pulse, and could feel no beat, and returned downstairs and told me to call the Police and Ambulance, right away. I then called the Police Department, telling them to come up with the ambulance immediately and then called Dr. Richard Sheppard, and told him to come up right away. I asked Sam if he could tell me what happened He said that all that he knew was that he was sleeping on the couch and awoke hearing Marilyn's scream. He started up the stairs and something hit him and he remembered scuffling with somebody. The next thing he knew he came to down on the beach, came back upstairs and said he tried to do something for Marilyn and then called me.

Q. When you first saw Dr. Sam how did he appear to you?

A. He appeared dazed, was holding the back of his neck. He said I think my neck's broken.

Q. Were there any visible injuries that you could see?

A. I noticed a lump on the right side of his head, just above the eye.

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

A. I know that he had trousers on, no shirt or undershirt, and I don't know whether he had shoes on or not.

Q. What were the condition of his clothes?

A. I honestly did not notice.

Q. When Esther came downstairs, did she say anything relative to the condition of Marilyn?

A. All I remember her saying is "you better call the ambulance and Police quick"

Q. Did you before the Police arrived go upstairs and see Marilyn?

A. I don't know whether it was before or just after.

Q. What was the condition of the Den when you arrived.

A. It was disorderly. There were some drawers out and on the floor, lying around, and generally disorganized in the vicinity of the Doctor's desk.

J. S. H.

Q. From the time you first arrived, till the time the Police arrived did you move or disturb anything from the way you had found it?

A. No.

Q. When you called for the Police where was the phone located, from which you called?

A. It was on the desk in the den.

Q. In using it, did you disturb anything on the desk?

A. I had to look up Dr. Richards telephone number which I did in the Directory.

Q. Did you sit down on the Desk chair?

A. I don't believe I did.

Q. When you first arrived at the house, was the front door open or closed, or/and unlocked?

A. It was closed, but unlocked.

Q. Did you rap or ring the door bell before you entered?

A. Neither, I just opened the door and walked in.

Q. Is there anything else you can add to this statement?

A. No, I believe that is all.

Q. Have you read the above statement, and is it true?

A. *J. Spencer Houk*

Esther Aldrich *J. Spencer Houk*
Witness

Statement taken by Esther Aldrich,
1:40 P.M., July 5, 1954, at Bay Village
City Hall.