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The Sam Sheppard Case: 1954-2000

7-23-1954

Letter 15

Redacted

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MSL

ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

7/23/54

10:25 A.M.

Theory in Shepherd Murder Case:-

MOTIVE:-

Marilyn Shepherd had threatened within family circles in recent weeks, again, of securing a divorce.

Believe there is some credence in stranger (Mrs. Dill) talking to Marilyn Shepherd in Fairport Harbor. Again subject of divorce.

Elements of divorce would result in casting bad name upon Shepherd family and their primary interest, Bayview Hosp.

Hospital is now a successful operation. It is the completed dream of its founder. The founder has a jealous attachment to his work and the success of it in the future. Shepherd name will remain on Hospital staff for many years.

Commission
of crime:-

While Marilyn Shepherd in bed sleeping and Dr. Sam Shepherd sleeping on couch down stairs, another member of Shepherd family (a doctor -) entered the home, and went to Marilyn's room without disturbing Dr. Sam. Killer proceeded in the commission of the act, was overcome with intense hatred for victim. Dr. Sam arose as result of muffled cries of victim. Proceeded up the stairs. Saw back of killer, and was struck by the killer's fist, and possibly tumbled down the stairs part way. Was stunned as result of blow and fall.

E.G.

hence his injuries. Killer did not use murder instrument of Dr. Sam because of close blood relationship, and no desire to dispose of him.

Killer knows he is recognized, but because of blood relationship further knows that persuasion can be used on Dr. Sam. Upon Dr. Sam's recovery, family angle persuasion is used. Dr. Sam because of estrangement with wife, close ties by blood, and interest in protecting family name becomes an accessory after the fact, by aiding Killer in preparing a bungled job of making scene of murder appear to be done left by a crazed dope addict or amateur burglar.

The abandoned jewelry was left by frightened burglar who suddenly realizes as he flees that same could be traced to him later.

Killer and Dr. Sam dispose of finger prints.

MISSING

weapon +

T. SHIRT. :-

Killer was wearing operating room coat at time of commission of crime, possibly white uniform beneath it. Same were removed together with Dr. Sam's T-shirt which may possibly been spattered by blood spouting from ~~being~~ wife as he murdered her, or when he came upon Killer.

These whites were disposed of through hospital laundry without slightest indication of suspicion.

Murder instrument was returned to hospital also, and cleaned with surgical soap
Eos. etc.

Conclusion:

Ruse of Dr. Sam being attacked second time not true. hurried plans after cleaning finger prints and dumping medical bag, opening draws, disposal of jewelry, of Dr. Sam again grappling with killer on beach being subdued and recovery by licking of cool Lake water on him.

Killer left premises to return home or to hospital.

Some minutes later Dr. Sam returns from beach and makes phone call to Magna.

Sequence of known events then follow.

Killer is extremely jealous individual of an accomplished dream, possibly even to the point of insanity on this one particular theme, Bayview Hospital, established Shepherd name in osteopathy and neuro-surgery.