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54/07/07 Lips Form Word "Marilyn" as Doctor Views Wife's Body

Cleveland Press

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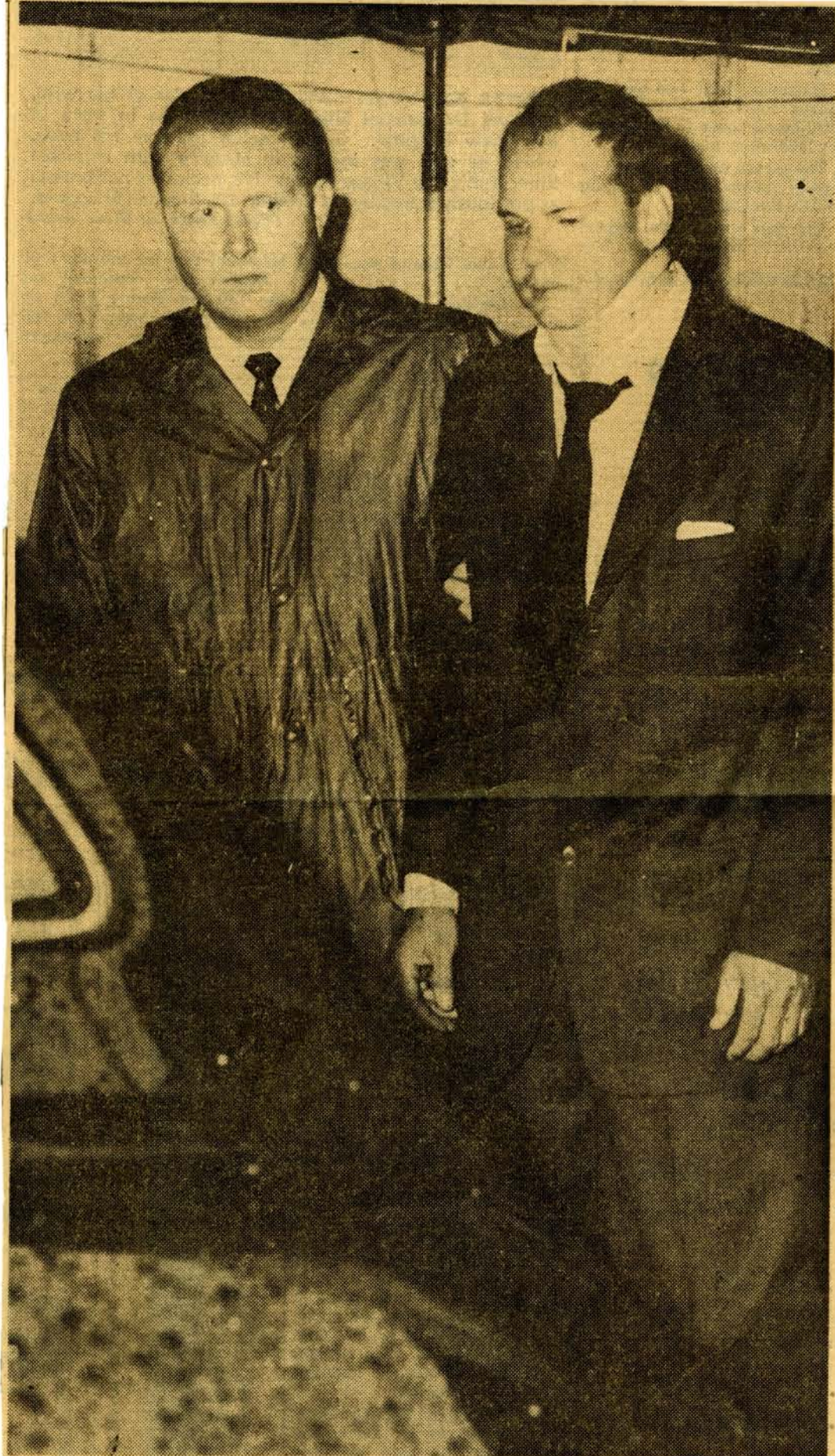
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AT WIFE'S FUNERAL. Dr. Sam H. Sheppard, his neck supported by an orthopedic brace, is assisted by Edward Saxton Jr. of the Saxton Funeral Home.

Lips Form Word "Marilyn" as Doctor Views Wife's Body

For ten seconds that seemed an eternity, Dr. Samuel Sheppard stood before the open coffin of his murdered wife, Marilyn.

Skilled embalmers had removed the brutal evidence of the savage strokes of the murder weapon with which she was struck 25 times or more Sunday morning in the bedroom of their Bay Village home.

The 30-year-old osteopath stared for the last time at the pretty face of his high school sweetheart. His face was white and tense above the orthopedic

collar that covered his injured neck.

Dr. Sheppard's lips seemed to form a single name: "Marilyn, Marilyn. . . ."

But there was no sound from his vocal chords.

Ten seconds . . . and then the coffin lid was lowered.

Dr. Sheppard turned away, leaning heavily on the arms of his brother, Dr. Stephen Sheppard, and a group of officials of the Saxton Funeral Home at 13215 Detroit Ave., Lakewood.

They helped him to a nearby room, where he sat limply in a chair.

There he sat, ashen white, with tears streaming down his bruised cheeks.

When it was time to leave, Dr. Sheppard rose numbly and went into one of the two cars which carried the little group of mourners—all close relatives—to Knollwood Cemetery for the interment.

Dr. Sheppard's charcoal gray suit was soaked by rain, but he seemed oblivious to the weather.

Inconspicuous in the little group of mourners was Sgt. Jay Hubach of the Bay Village Police Department. Wearing civilian clothes, he had been ordered to "observe" the funeral.