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54/07/08 Husband Posts Reward: \$10,000 Set for Killer's Conviction

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Husband Posts Reward

\$10,000 Set for Killer's Conviction

Propped up in a bed in Bay View Hospital, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard today began answering the questions of a trio of investigators about the July 4 slaying of his pretty wife, Marilyn.

Just before submitting to the ordeal, he dramatically issued a formal statement declaring "I have lived an honorable life" and offered a \$10,000 reward for "the arrest and conviction of the murderer of my wife."

Dr. Sheppard's interrogators—Deputy Sheriffs Carl Rossbach and Dave Yette and Bay Village Patrolman Fred Drenkham—won admittance to the sick room only after a series of violent verbal clashes.

Lawyer, Coroner in Clash

Adversaries in the battle of words were William Corrigan, Cleveland criminal defense attorney retained by Dr. Sheppard's family, and Coroner Samuel R. Gerber.

Corrigan successfully blocked Dr. Gerber's demand that Dr. Sheppard be taken "downtown" for questioning either at the Criminal Courts Bldg. on the Morgue.

When the coroner issued a subpoena for Dr. Sheppard's "forthwith" appearance at a formal inquest at

Find Human Heads at Doctor's Home

Four human heads, one with flesh on it, were found today in the garage of Dr. Samuel Sheppard's home at 28924 Lake Rd., Bay Village.

The grisly finds, wrapped in newspapers and oil cloth, were identified as "anatomical specimens" used by Dr. Sheppard in his neuro-surgery studies and research.

the Morgue, Corrigan permitted his client to be questioned in the hospital room without his own presence—but suggested that Drenkham, a friend of the Sheppard family, be included in the questioning group.

Answers in Low Voice

Dr. Sheppard, who is the Bay Village Police Department surgeon, smiled wanly as the law enforcement officers entered his room and answered their inquiries in a low voice.

Before submitting to the questioning, he declared in his first public statement since discovery of his wife's murder that he had already given police "all the information I could" about the crime.

Any restrictions on his talking for the past four days, he said, had been imposed "by the doctors who have been attending me"—who were his father and two physician brothers.

While Dr. Sheppard was being questioned, his mother-in-law, Mrs. Jane Reese, stepmother of the murder victim, was closeted at the Criminal Courts Bldg. with Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon.

Check on Family Life

Mahon, who took command of the investigation when it seemed to be road-blocked by refusal of Dr. Sheppard's relatives to permit him to be questioned except at times and places they controlled, was apparently inquiring into the family life of the handsome young couple.

He also interrogated Mayor J. Spencer Houk of Bay Village, close friend of the couple, who was the first person Dr. Sheppard telephoned on the murder morning to blurt: "Come over, Spen . . . I think they've killed Marilyn . . ."

It was Mahon's terse order that Dr. Sheppard—recovering from the neck injury he claims was suffered when he grappled with the maniacal slayer—"come downtown to make a statement" that started the tense bedside debate at Bay Village Hospital.

When Dr. Gerber issued a subpoena commanding Dr.

Start Questioning of Bay Village Doctor in Murder of His Wife

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Sheppard's "forthwith" appearance at the Morgue for a formal coroner's inquest, Corrigan declared: "Absolutely not—this man is sick. He is in a hospital. He cannot be moved."

Then, Mahon reported, Corrigan agreed to "permit" questioning of his client in the hospital room "without a lawyer present, and for any length of time."

But actual start of the questioning was delayed while Corrigan and his co-counsel, Attorney A. Petersilge, conferred with Dr. Gerber for more than an hour outside Dr. Sheppard's hospital room door.

The coroner sent for another physician to examine Dr. Sheppard to determine if he could make a trip to either the Morgue or the Criminal Courts Bldg.

Waiting impatiently to start the interrogation was Deputy Sheriff Carl Rossbach, whose previous attempts to question Dr. Sheppard had been blocked by Corrigan and the osteopath's father and brothers, who operate Bay View Hospital.

Rossbach entered Dr. Sheppard's room earlier today to find Corrigan at the bedside. A few minutes later, the deputy stalked out and reported to Dr. Gerber. The coroner then signed the subpoena for Dr. Sheppard. "Serve it forthwith," he commanded.

But the service was prevented by Corrigan's intervention and conference with Dr. Gerber.

These developments came as Dr. Stephen Sheppard, brother-in-law of the slain clubwoman, told reporters that his brother

was eager and anxious to aid the investigation and was now physically able to withstand questioning.

He added that William J. Corrigan, prominent Cleveland criminal defense lawyer retained by the family, was "in complete charge from now on."

Mahon took over direction of the inquiry after a conference with Sheriff Joseph Sweeney, Bay Village Police Chief John Eaton and Deputy Sheriffs Rossbach and Dave Yettra.

At Mahon's request, Cleveland Homicide Bureau Detectives Patrick Gareau and Robert Schottke were assigned to the case.

Mahon said his order to "come downtown" voluntarily or to the Morgue under subpoena also applied to Samuel (Chip) Sheppard Jr., six-year-old son of the murder victim.

"In my 23 years of criminal prosecution, I have never seen such flagrant stalling as in this case by the family of Dr. Samuel Sheppard," Mahon said.

The stalling, he said, was in the refusal of Dr. Stephen Sheppard, the osteopath's



DRAMATIC SCENE as Deputy Sheriffs Carl Rossbach (center) and Dave Yettra enter Dr. Samuel Sheppard's room at Bay View Hospital with subpoena after bedside clash with Attorney William Corrigan. On guard at door is Bay Village Patrolman Cy Lipaj.

brother, to permit the injured husband to be questioned except at times and under conditions dictated by himself.

"We have tried to be humane in this inquiry," Dr. Gerber said. "We expected cooperation from the family, but don't seem to be getting it. We'll now have to use the strong arm of the law."

Dr. Gerber, Mahon and Rossbach wanted to have the murder victim's husband retell his story of how he was asleep on a downstair couch, when he heard his wife scream in the upstairs bedroom.

Dr. Sheppard said he ran up the stairs, to be assaulted by a man who struck him from behind. He said he later recovered consciousness and chased the intruder, engaging in another struggle in which he was injured.

What infuriated the investigating officials was the fact that, after Dr. Sam Sheppard attended his wife's funeral yesterday, he received a steady stream of callers in his hospital room—but the police were barred.

The callers included Attorney Corrigan and Arthur A. Petersilge, the family's lawyer.

Dr. Stephen Sheppard denied any interference with the investigation.

"If we were trying to interfere," he said, "we wouldn't

Mrs. Jane Reese, stepmother of Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard, today said she has "complete confidence that the county officials will clear up this horrible matter." She said she had no further comment on the delay in the probe of Mrs. Sheppard's death.

have let anyone talk to him. But he's already been interviewed four times by the authorities, and told them everything he knew.

"Our chief concern is for his health. He's certainly been injured, having been knocked unconscious. He's confused and unable to remember much. He'll possibly be able to remember more after his condition improves.

"It's fantastic to think that we're trying to impede the investigation. We tried to protect Sam physically so he could get well as soon as possible and be of more help."

The coroner said the family's shielding of Dr. Sheppard from questioning for several days had produced "a major stymie" in the inquiry.

Mahon entered the case because he was indignant about the slowdown of the inquiry.

"The state is already preparing its case against the killer of Mrs. Sheppard," he declared.

"No interference with the investigation must be tolerated."

Mahon directed a lengthy new search of the murder home at 28924 Lake Rd. late yesterday. The search disclosed no new evidence.

Among the paper-backed mystery novels found strewn about were these titles: "I Killed My Wife," "Blood on My Hands," and "Blood in Your Eye."

Chief Eaton hired professional divers to explore the Lake Erie bottom off the Sheppard beach front in quest of the still missing weapon with which the pretty clubwoman and Sunday school instructor was bludgeoned to death. A magnetic device failed to retrieve anything from the water.

However, the divers, Bill Virgin and Frank D'Agostino of Lorain, were unable to go down because of rough waves. D'Agostino said it was "very unlikely" that they would find the weapon, but the quest might "help satisfy public opinion."

A piece of pipe found some distance from the beach house was discounted as having any connection with the crime.

Dr. Gerber said the T-shirt worn by Dr. Sheppard when he dozed off on the couch, but missing when he first reported his wife's murder, was still being diligently sought.

Dr. Stephen Sheppard suggested that Sam Jr. be questioned by Bay Village Patrolman Fred Drenkham, who is acquainted with the boy.

This suggestion brought a retort from Mahon: "They're not going to dictate to us whom they want to talk to."

"Took It Pretty Hard"

Bay Village Sgt. Jay Hubach, who accompanied Dr. Sheppard to his wife's funeral, said the family had kept the conversation on subjects other than the murder. "He took it pretty hard," Hubach said. "He sobbed most of the time."

Dr. Samuel Sheppard, in a brief hospital room interview with reporters, said he wanted to give as much help as possible to officials seeking to catch the maniacal killer.

Before Dr. Gerber and Mahon interposed objections, Rossbach had arranged to "call Dr. Steve at 11 a. m." to "see if it would be all right to question Dr. Sam today."

Dr. Stephen Sheppard had told reporters that the interrogation would be at his home, 19027 Inglewood Dr., Rocky River, and all newspapermen would be barred from the premises.

Dr. Gerber said the murder

inquiry was "one of the most unusual cases" in his 19 years as coroner.

"Here is a witness surrounded and shielded by his own family of doctors," Dr. Gerber said. (Dr. Sheppard's father and two brothers, all osteopathic physicians, run Bay View Hospital together). "It's a situation that's got to be straightened out immediately."

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