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7-6-1954

54/07/06 (4) 7:55pm, Dr. Richard N. Sheppard

Bay Village Police Department

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July 6, 1954

The following is the statement of Dr. Richard Sheppard, W.M. age 37 residing at 23346 Laek Rd., Bay Village, Ohio with refernece to the Homicide of Marilyn Sheppard.

1954

Dr. Richard Sheppard: At approximatley 6:00 A.M. on Sunday morning (July 4) I received a phone call from Spen Houk at my home. He said, Rich get up here as fast as you can, Sams been hurt and Marilyn may be dead. Their may have been some other statment at the time but thats the substance of what was said. I immediately woke my wife and began dressing as quickly as possible and at the same time told her to call Dr. Steven and have him come to Sams house, and to call my Dad, R.A. Sheppard and ask him to go to the Hospital, Bayview, with the idea in mind that he could be on the scene at the Hospital pre-paring for any emergency that I m ght bring in. I left the house and drove as fast as I could to Dr. Sams house, I should judge 10 to 12 minutes from the time I received the call I arrived at Dr. Sams home. There was a police cruise~~r~~ or two in the driveway when I arrived. I grasped my medical bag and ran into the house. On entering the hallway, I saw Dr. Sam's medical bag spilled out on the floor infront of the library door. Mr. and Mrs. Houk and two or three police officers were present. I looked into the library and saw Dr. Sam half-sitting, half-reclining in one of the library chairs, holding his neck with both hands, and groaning. I asked where Marilyn was and was told she was upstairs in the bedroom. I ran through the kitchen, and up to the landing. At which point I turned and asked the officer who was following me to get me any kitchen knife that was handy. He pulled two off a magnetic rack over the sink, gave them to me, and I ran on up the steps into the bedroom directly across the hall from the top of the stairs. There I found Marilyn in bed, in the first bed of tw~~o~~in beds. She had apparently slid partially down in the bed and her feet were protruding almost to the knees. Sheet and some of the bedclothes covered the body, from the breast down, but not covering the ends of the feet. The pajama tops were open and the back pulled up. The face was unrecognizable. She was lying on her back. There were multiple lacerations on the upper face, temples, and forehead, particularly the left forhead. Eyes were swollen shut and face covered with blood which had clotted. The head was lying in the center of a large blood-soaked area on the sheet. I took her pulse and listened to the heart beat with a stethoscope. I found no evidence of heart action and concluded she was dead. ~~The body-~~ There was still some evidence of body warmth. The kitchen knives were brought along with the idea in mind that cardiac resusitation (an attempt by making an incision in the chest wall and massage of the heart as well as artificial respiration being able to restore heart action) might have been of some value. It was obvious to me on seeing the body that this was impossible, due to the fact that sh~~e~~ had been dead for more than 15 to 20 minutes, or longer. The rest of the room, walls, and bedroom door were splattered with blood. There was no other puddle or ppol of blood in the room that I saw. I returned down stairs and replaced the kitchen knives, went into the library to see what I could do for Dr. Sam. The library was a schambles, the desk drawers having been pulled out, their contents poured on the floor in disarray. I talked to Dr. Sam. He asked how Marilyn was. I tolk him there was nothing I could do. That she was dead. He cried, "O no. O God, No." And slid onto the floor on his face, crying and moaning. At about this

Cuyahoga County Coroner's
Office

MARCH 1996

Case # 76629

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[Signature]

time I saw Dr. Steve and we both ran back upstairs to see Marilyn. The sheet was raised and it was apparent that there were no obvious injuries to the body below the face. She did not apparently have her pajama bottoms on. Someone suggested that we not disturb anything, therefore the body was not moved or turned other than holding the wrist for the pulse. The sheet was dropped back on the body. I suggested to Dr. Steve that he return to the library and get Dr. Sam into the hospital as soon as possible. And that I would get little Sam and take him to my house. While we were upstairs we had glanced into the child's bedroom and saw that he was sound asleep. I awakened little Sam with some difficulty, gathered a few of his clothes, a robe, slippers, and shoes, sneakers, and took him to my home and left him in custody of my wife. Told her briefly of the situation as I had found it.

I believe at this time I went to the hospital to determine Dr. Sam's condition. X-rays studies had been ordered, and sedations had been given, and found him not in imminent danger, and the situation in control there. I then returned to Dr. Sam's house with Dr. Steve in his car. Dr. Sam had told us that he had been hit by someone and later thought he chased someone to the beach, apparently lost consciousness there, came to in the water, returned to the house, found Marilyn, and called Mayor Houk. On returning to the house, both Dr. Steve and I went into the living room and found the secretary desk there, also with its drawers partially out, and various contents strewn on the floor. We disturbed nothing, and moved nothing. We looked around the outside of the house, down at the beach house, and briefly along the beach. Police officers were also searching the beach and grounds. ~~Was~~Examined the summer house, and the upstairs apartment above the garage with Chief John Eaton. I returned to the front porch of the home and talked with Mrs. Houk and various officers, and the Mayor, waiting for the arrival of the coroner, Dr. Gerber, and the Cleveland police. Shortly after their arrival they asked us to leave the house and porch entirely. I went out on the lawn for a brief time while Dr. Gerber and the police looked through the house. Shortly thereafter Dr. Gerber left with Chief Eaton for the hospital to see Dr. Sam.

Dr. Steve and I also returned to the hospital, where I was present at some of the interrogation of Dr. Sam by Dr. Gerber. I saw my Father who obtained the clothing of Dr. Sam for Chief Eaton and Dr. Gerber, as well as the contents of his clothing. I believe that during the first part of the interrogation I was present, and I believe I stepped out at that time. I believe the next time I returned to the house was some time later when it was decided to get permission to remove some addition clothing for little Sam.

Q. Which hall did you enter upon your arrival upon the scene?
A. The Lake Road entrance.

Q. You observed Dr. Sam half-sitting, half-reclining in a chair in the library upon your arrival?
A. Yes.

Q. Could you tell us how he was dressed when you saw him?
A. Shoes, trousers, and nothing from the waist up.

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- Q. What was the condition of the clothing, dry or wet?
A. I don't believe I touched the clothing at that time.
- Q. Does Dr. Sam own a dog?
A. Yes.
- Q. Where was the dog when you arrived there?
A. I did not notice the dog at all.
- Q. You viewed the body of Marilyn Sheppard?
A. Yes.
- Q.. What time was she pronounced dead?
A. Approximately 6:15 , or 6:12 a.m.
- Q. By wh om?
A. It was not an official pronouncement as such. I was so terribly shocked at seeing her I don't believe I looked at my watch, but it was at this time approximately, that I made the decision that she had expired.
- Q. Do you know anything about the private life of Dr. Sam and his wife?
A. Yes, I think I do.
- Q. Would you say they lived an average, normal life?
A. Yes, within the realm of his duties.
- Q. What would you say as to his temperament?
A. I would say Dr. Sam is kind, well-liked, and a gentle man.
- Q. Did they appear to be a devoted couple?
A. Yes.
- Q. Would you say the dog is a good watch dog or vicious?
A. I would say he is not a good watch dog nor vicious/
- Q. Do you know of anyone that he may have had any trouble with?
A. I know of no one.
- Q. was there anything else disturbed in Dr. Sam and Marilyn's room beside the bed in which she was lying?
A. Nothing else disturbed. The other bed ^{had been} and laid back but had not been slept in. ms
- Q. Would you say that there was no evidence of ~~of~~ a struggle other than on the bed?
A. None, other than on the bed.
- Q. Did Dr. Sam and Marilyn as a rule neglect to lock and secure their doors?
A. Yes, particularly when they were home.
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Q. Was he in the habit of lying down on a couch while entertaining company?

A. Yes, ~~with~~ ^{when} neighbors and friends are present

Q. Was he an unusually sound sleeper?

A. Yes, he very definitely was.

Q. Is there anything else you can tell us?

A. No.

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

A.

yes it is true

Signed Richard H. Lippert

Witness Dave Gettra

Witness Carl Lorschach

taken by ldo
7:55 p.m.