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The Sam Sheppard Case: 1954-2000

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Letter 27

Redacted

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MSL

ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

Board of Pardon and Paroles,
Columbus, Ohio.

RECEIVED

DEC 30 1957

OHIO PARDON &
PAROLE COMMISSION

To whom it may Concern:

On December 8, 1957, I wrote a letter to the President of our United States making a request on behalf of Dr. Samuel Shipyard, D.O. ⁹⁸⁸⁶ that he might be released from Prison, or, at least, be given another fair trial, and the reply came today from the ^{V.S.} Dept. of Justice, referring this address to me so I am making my plea to you, that something be done for this man, to release him from Prison. I have written several letters, in the past, to his Brathers, to the Warden of the Prison where he is, and now the last one to the President, and it seems as if no one can do anything about it. In all of them, I have professed my belief in his innocence, to the crime of which he was accused, and I always believe he is innocent. I also, believe he is a good man and I think it is unjust to keep him a

Prisoner, at this time of year, when every one should be happy and rejoicing, this man sits with a broken heart, and weary soul, thinking that no one believes in him, and as I think of his sad story, my heart is heavy, also.

I have prayed every night, for him, since he was sent out to Prison, and I shall continue to do so, until he is released, or until I die, whichever comes first! This man is innocent, I feel it in my heart and soul, and some day, all are going to know it, and how absurd all they are all going to be, but that is not going to help all those wasted years, he has spent in Prison! Please, can I not make you people who feel you were just, in conviction of him, change your feelings, and beg his Pardon? Can I not make you see how he may feel, as

he spends day after weary day, behind those gray Prison walls, with no hopes of ever again being as you and I, free! to walk and then and live as we do, to know once again, what it is like to be an athlete! May God in Heaven have mercy on your souls, if you do! Change your hearts, and set him free! The one thing I would like to do is to see him free.

and also be able to talk to him! Could I make
a request, on this night of nights, that I might
be able to see this man, and talk to him?

Please, it would be the nicest Christmas gift
I ever had, if I could but see, and talk to this
Poor Misunderstood Soul! Please let me know if
this could be made possible. I shall wait anxiously
for your reply. I would feel as proud as if I
were talking to a King. Thanking you, and with
prayer in my heart, I am most sincerely,

Messick R. #2. Mich.

December 30, 1957

[REDACTED]
Mesick, Michigan

Dear [REDACTED] In Re - Samuel Sheppard No. 98860

Your recent letter has been received and carefully read.

Our records show that Samuel Sheppard was charged with first degree murder, tried to a jury which returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the second degree and he was sentenced to the Ohio Penitentiary. Under the Ohio law, his case will become eligible for a parole hearing after he has served ten full years of his sentence. This Commission does not have the authority to grant him a parole hearing prior to that time.

This Commission does not try or re-try cases and we must assume that each and every person has a fair and impartial trial in the Courts. Apparently, the members of the jury believed beyond a reasonable doubt that Samuel Sheppard was guilty of second degree murder and returned the verdict accordingly.

Your letter has been placed in his file as a part of the record and we assure you that every consideration his case merits will be given to it when he becomes eligible for a parole hearing.

Yours sincerely,

OHIO PARDON AND PAROLE COMMISSION

CEM/LB

Clarence E. McLeod, Chairman