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Defendant's Exhibit 224: Sam Sheppard Statement

Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office

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State's
Ex 27

July 10, 1954
11:40 A.M.

Sheriff's Office
County of Cuyahoga

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, you are now being questioned and may be charged with the crime of Murder at a later date. The law gives you the right to make a statement if you so desire. Anything that you may say here may be used either for or against you at the time that you are brought to trial in court. Now that you understand these facts, do you wish to make a statement telling us the truth about the facts that caused your questioning at this time.

A. Yes.

Q. Has any drug or medicine been administered to you within the past twelve hours?

A. Just about twelve hours ago I did have a grain and a half of seconal which is a short acting barbiturate and should have no effect on me at this time.

Q. Is there any doubt in your mind but what you can sit here and give us a true statement of what you know that occurred in your home on the night of July 3d, 1954? at 28924 West Lake Road, City of Bay Village, Ohio?

A. I feel that at this time I can tell all that I know.

Q. Proceed.

A. After having a difficult morning and early afternoon at Bay View Hospital where I am in charge of the accident room and the head of the Department of Neuro-surgery, I made a couple of visits and then proceeded home. I arrived home at a time later than five o'clock, realizing this because I had hoped to work in the yard with my family and found that it was too late to do so. My wife informed me that we - correction - that she had planned to get together with Mr. and Mrs. Ahern that evening. We were to go to their home for a drink before dinner and then return to our home for dinner. We realized that there were a couple of business matters involving vouchers that we should record and we did this before leaving the house. We compared notes and my wife recorded the material on the Sheppard Clinic vouchers. We soon thereafter went down to the Ahern's and drove our larger car as I recall. The Ahern's were both working in the yard with their children and we instructed them not to stop but to continue with their work as we chatted. My son was playing with youngsters in the yard. Mrs. Ahern insisted on going inside shortly thereafter and Mr. Ahern instructed his young son how to continue the lawn mowing with their power mower. We shortly went into their kitchen and some type of mixed drinks were prepared. I am not absolutely clear in regard to the exact nature of this drink since we often have done this in the past and I could confuse one incident with another. Shortly thereafter, or after being there for a short time, I received a telephone call from the hospital in regard to a youngster that had broken his femur which is the thigh bone. I had received this call as a result of reporting their number to the hospital in regard to my whereabouts. The type of fracture was described to me and I decided that I had best go to the hospital and evaluate the situation. I asked Mrs. Ahern to find me a clove so that I could put this in my mouth and overcome any slight odor. I got into the car and proceeded to the hospital where I examined the youngster and the X-rays that had been taken. This youngster, as I recall, was visiting here and lives in an area near Youngstown. I believe it was the father with the youngster but I am not absolutely sure. I explained that the youngster should be treated in the hospital and we hoped could soon be transported to the Youngstown Hospital which I attend in the capacity of neuro-surgeon and traumatic surgeon. I then got in my car and returned toward my home, passing it since I did

Conrad Rosbach, M.D.
Robert Schaub, M.D.
William E. H. H. H.

Samuel H. Sheppard

STATE'S
EXHIBIT

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Not see signs of the Ahern's, my wife and the children. So I returned to the Ahern's home. Mrs. Sheppard shortly left to start the dinner. I and the Ahern's followed soon thereafter. I believe the children went with us but they may have run over by themselves, I really don't know. At our home Mr. Ahern and I chatted and the children played while the girls prepared dinner. The youngsters somehow evinced interest in my punching bag in the basement so I took them downstairs and placed a bushel basket under it so that they might reach the bag in order to hit it. I spent a moment or two with them showing them how it should be properly struck. I recall now that the children were fed in the kitchen before we ate. Shortly thereafter we four adults had dinner on the porch. It was quite breezy, the wind coming from the north generally, it may have been northeast or northwest but since the porch was cool, sweaters and jackets were in order and I put on my brown corduroy jacket. The others I am not sure of what they wore. I remember that my wife had baked pie which is my favorite dessert. The other types of food I can't truly remember.

After we had completed a leisurely dinner, Mrs. Ahern made some mention of a movie but we recognized that it was too late to attend a movie so we kiddingly suggested the television movie. The girls must have cleaned up the dishes while Mr. Ahern and I went into the front room. I am not clear on anything from dinner to the time we watched television together, but the dishes were cleared up. I think Mr. Ahern took his children home and put them to bed and my youngster must have been put to bed by my wife but I don't remember. Mrs. Ahern, my wife and I started to watch the television movie or program, I think it was a movie and as I recall now, Mr. Ahern sat over in the northwest corner of the room, that's the side toward the Lake, with a small radio turned on just loud enough for him to hear it and listened to a ball game which was in progress. The three of us watched the movie and Mr. Ahern reported the progress of the game a couple of times. He then either turned the game off or it had terminated and he came over to sit and watch television with us. My wife and I were sitting quite close in one chair and that's the last time I recall her in a relatively normal state, clearly. Mrs. Ahern seemed to be stimulated by our apparent affection and she sat on Mr. Ahern's lap for a short while.

S.H.S.
S.H.S.
Some time within the next few minutes, My wife moved to the chair next to me because the cramped position as a result of the two of us in the chair, she said strained her back. Mrs. Ahern also moved either before or after that. We chatted as the program progressed and I became tired, relatively drowsy. I moved to the couch in the living room, situated on the west wall of the staircase and the east wall of the ~~the~~ portion of the living room which protrudes toward the road. I lay down with my head toward the television in a prone position, holding my head and watching television. The television is on the north side of the room. My head was nearer the television set than my feet. It was toward the television set. There may have been a pillow helping to hold my head. I evidently became very drowsy and fell asleep. I recall wearing summer cord trousers, a T shirt, ~~white~~ mocassin type loafers with no shoe strings, I am not sure of the socks. I don't know whether I had removed my brown corduroy coat that I had put on earlier, or whether I did at this time or not. The next thing that I recall very hazily, my wife partially awoke me in some manner and I think she notified me that she was going to bed. I evidently continued to sleep. The next thing I recall was hearing her cry out or scream. At this time I was on the couch. I think that she cried or screamed my name once or twice, during which time I ran upstairs, thinking that she might be having a reaction similar to convulsions that she had had in the early days of her pregnancy. I charged into our room and saw a form with a light garment, I believe, At the same time grappling with something or someone. During this short period I could hear loud moans or groaning sounds and noises. I was struck down. It seems like I was hit from behind somehow but had grappled this individual from in front or generally in front of me. I was apparently knocked out. The next thing I know I was gathering my senses while coming to a sitting position next to the bed, my feet toward the hallway.

Patrick G. Sweeney Det
Robert F. Schoutz Det.
Cotton E. Rutledge
Care Rastback Det

Second Page

James A. Sheppard

S.H.S.

In the dim light I began to come to my senses and recognized a slight reflection on a badge that I have on my wallet. I picked up the wallet and while putting it in my pocket, came to the realization that I had been struck and something was wrong. I looked at my wife, I believe I took her pulse and felt that she was gone. I believe that I thereafter instinctively or subconsciously ran into my youngster's room next door and somehow determined that he was all right, I am not sure how I determined this. After that, I thought that I heard a noise downstairs, seemingly in the front eastern portion of the house. I went downstairs as rapidly as I could, coming down the west division of the steps, I rounded the ~~2~~ of the living room and went toward the dining table situated on the East wall of the long front room on the lake side. I then saw a form progressing rapidly somewhere between the front door toward the lake and the screen door, or possibly slightly beyond the screen door. I pursued this form through the front door, over the porch and out the screen door. All of the doors were evidently open, down the steps to the beach house landing and then on down the steps to the beach, where I lunged or jumped and grasped him in some manner from the back, either body or leg, it was something solid. However, I am not sure. This was beyond the steps an unknown distance but probably about ten feet. I had the feeling of twisting or choking and this terminated my consciousness.

The next thing I know I came to a very groggy recollection of being at the water's edge on my face, being wallowed back and forth by the waves. My head was toward the bank, my legs and feet were toward the water. I staggered to my feet and came slowly to some sort of sense. I don't know how long it took but I staggered up the stairs toward the house and at some time came to the realization that something was wrong and that my wife had been injured. I went back upstairs and looked at my wife and felt her and checked her pulse on her neck and determined or thought that she was gone. I became or thought that I was disoriented and the victim of a bizarre dream and I believe I paced in and out of the room and possibly into one of the other rooms. I may have reexamined her, finally realizing that this was true. I went downstairs. I believe I went through the kitchen into my study, searching for a name, a number or what to do. A number came to me and I called, believing that this number was Mr. Houk's. I don't remember what I said to Mr. Houk. He and his wife arrived there shortly thereafter. During this period I paced back and forth somewhere in the house, relatively disoriented, not knowing what to do or where to turn. I think that I was seated at the kitchen table with my head on the table when they arrived but I may have gone into the den. I went into the den as I recall, either before or shortly after they arrived. ~~My~~ The injury to my neck is the only severe pain that I can recall, ~~the~~ I should say, the discomfort in my neck. I didn't touch the back door on the road side to my recollection. Shortly after the Houk's arrived, one of them poured half a glass of whisky as they knew where we kept a small supply of liquor, and told me to drink it. I refused, since I was so groggy anyway. I was trying to recover my senses. I soon lay down on the floor. Mr. Houk and Mrs. Houk went upstairs, I am not sure of their actions. Mr. Houk called the police and the ambulance, this is in my recollection, and also my brother Richard. I am pretty sure that Mr. Houk called the police station from my study because he said "bring an ambulance" - correction - he referred to the need of any ambulance and maybe two. He also called my brother Richard. I remember my brother, Dr. Richard, speaking with me for a moment and looking at me. I believe Officer Drehnken spoke to me and asked how I had been injured. I can't recall my reply for sure. Soon thereafter I was on the floor trying to give my neck and head some support, when Dr. Stephen Sheppard examined me some time thereafter. Dr. Stephen Sheppard assisted me to his car, which I think was his station wagon, which as I recall, was just behind the Bay Village ambulance. I remember no other specific vehicles. I was transported to Bayview Hospital.

Patrick G. Pigeau, Det
Robert F. Schottky Det.
Arthur E. Poirier
Charles Krasback 10/1/64

Third Page

James H. Sheppard

I related some of the incidents to Mayor Houk and one or more of the Bay Village police officers. Later in the morning I was questioned by Dr. Gerber and at another time by two officers of the Cleveland Police Department, Officers Schottke and Gareau. Later, I believe, later in the day, I was again interviewed by Officers Schottke and Gareau in the presence of Chief Eaton of the Bay Village Police Department. At this time I was asked to explain some things that I had no explanation for. I was shown a green bag, a green cloth bag looked like heavy cloth. I thought it was eight or ten inches long and five inches wide. I was asked to identify it. It looked to me like a bag that is used to carry motor boat tools. This was similar to the bag, if not the same bag, that accompanied my Johnson outboard motor when I purchased it. I was also shown a watch that I identified as mine and questioned why there was blood on the band and crystal and why it had been found in this bag with some other articles in the weeds behind my house on the bank. I am not sure but I believe Officer Schottke said that there was also a ring and keychain, ~~XXXXXX~~ also in the bag but I don't believe that he showed me these articles. I told him, as I recall, that I had attended stock car races two or three days previously with my wife, Otto Graham and his wife, and I didn't mention the children as I recall, and was caught in a drenching rain, at which time I wore no coat or jacket but I don't think I explained this at that particular time. I since recall having inadvertently water-skiid with my watch on in the past few days and had noticed a great deal of moisture in the crystal. I had commented on this to my wife and some other people, I am not sure who. My wife planned to take the watch to Halle Brothers in the near future where she had purchased it.

I was subjected to a period of questioning, all of which I can't recall at this time but was reminded of this morning, and then the officers left.

Q. Did you ever have an affair with a Sue Hayes?

A. I wouldn't call it an affair but we have been good friends for some time, which was known to my wife.

Q. Had she been employed at Bayview Hospital?

A. Yes, I don't know the exact dates. She was employed there when I initiated my work at the hospital and she terminated her work there some time last winter or early spring in 1953. She returned some time later in that year and terminated her work again at the hospital some time early in 1954. She went to California.

Q. In what capacity was she employed at the hospital?

A. Laboratory technician.

Q. While at work you had considerable contact with her didn't you?

A. Yes.

Q. To what extent?

A. She did a great deal of the technical laboratory work on all of the doctors' patients in the hospital and was the only technician practically that readily answered emergency calls on accidents or emergency surgical cases. I might ~~also~~ also add that she was considered during her stay one of the authorities when special work was necessary.

Q. Is it true that you socialized a lot with her?

A. In the hospital, yes. I wouldn't call it socialized. We talked, we became good friends.

Q. Nothing more than good friends?

A. No.

Q. What was the occasion for you purchasing a wrist watch for her?

A. She was in California at the time I was there in March of 1954 and I had asked her with some of her friends to accompany me with a group of doctors and wives to a dinner, at which time or during the evening she lost her wrist watch. I paid the check for the dinner which, incidentally amounted to more than the wrist watch was worth and knowing that she could not afford to purchase another one, I purchased one for her which was consistent with the one that she had lost, in price range.

Q. Did your wife Marilyn know that you were contemplating purchasing this wrist watch or did she know immediately thereafter?

A. My wife didn't know of this until in casually discussing the trip some time during our trip home, that is, me and my wife, or after we had reached home shortly, at which time she became somewhat upset, failing to understand the intent. I wish to add, I told her of this voluntarily.

Q. The night of July 3d, 1954 when you reached the top of the stairs, after you heard Marilyn's outcries, you say you saw someone standing beside the bed occupied by your wife, were they standing or stooping over the bed?

A. I don't recall seeing anything from the head of the stairs, it happened so rapidly, it must have been when I entered the room and I don't know whether they were standing or stooping.

Q. Immediately upon entering this room, did you have an opportunity to make some examination of your wife?

A. No.

Q. Why?

A. Because as I told you, I seemed to be immediately engaged in grappling with someone.

*What
a
D*
Q. Do you know what portion of the body of this person you were grappling with that you had hold of?

A. I don't recall holding any portion of the body in the bedroom.

*old
intru*
Q. You stated that you were assaulted from behind when you entered the room or immediately thereafter?

A. I felt that I was engaged from a direction somewhere within 180 degrees in front of me and yet seemingly was struck from behind as I stated above.

Patrick C. Sullivan, Jr. Eighth Page

James H. Thompson

By ~~DETECTIVE~~ Detective Robert Schottke:

- Q. At the time you were assaulted on the beach, what was the condition as to light or darkness?
- A. As I related before to Mr. Robbbach, it was just lighter than dark, it was not as dark as darkest night. There was a light seemingly starting, about the best way I can put it, as though daylight was just barely beginning.
- Q. At the time when you and this man were tussling or fighting on the beach, about how many feet of beach was there?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. At the time when you were fighting with this man, could you feel any water in which you were fighting?
- A. I can't say for sure but it seemed like the beach was firm, as though it had been washed over and packed somewhat.
- Q. At the time when you woke up, will you explain your position on the beach as to this retaining wall, how many feet you were from this retaining wall?
- A. I don't know, I can't say, but I think I can say that I was between the easterly end of that retaining wall and the steps, but I cannot say how far I was north-southwise.
- Q. At the time when you woke up on the beach, will you tell us as to the condition of the wind and the waves?
- A. It seemed that it was somewhat windy and the waves were moderately high, I'll say too high to water ski and not too high to fish, not real high but moderately high.
- Q. Is there anything else that you can tell us about this, Doctor?
- A. Not that I can think of now. I wanted to say that I have come here of my own free will to help you in every way that I can to solve this tragedy and I hope that you will give me the opportunity to give you any additional information when and if I shall be able to remember it or find it.
- Q. Have you been treated fairly during the course of this questioning?
- A. Yes, absolutely.
- Q. Have you read the above statement and is it the truth?
- A. yes it is the truth

WITNESS

Patrick A. Gorman Det

WITNESS

Robert Schottke Det

WITNESS

Arthur E. Zytunski

WITNESS

Carl Rossbach reply

This statement taken by Gertrude Bauer and concluded at 4:15 o'clock P.M., Saturday, July 10th, 1954.