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7-4-1954

## July 4, 1954, Cleveland Police Report, Detectives Gareau and Schottke arrive at the murder scene at 8:05am

Patrick A. Gareau  
*Cleveland Police Department*

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## POLICE DEPARTMENT

CLEVELAND, OHIO

## DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

A47

IST. ZONE Det. Bureau

July 4th, 19 54

EXAMINED BY

FRANK

7 5 54

FROM Patrick A. Garsau, Det., # 10990 David E. Kerr, Captain.

SUBJECT Investigation of the Homicide of MARILYN RESE SHEPPARD, of 28924

COPIES TO Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio.  
Sir:

At 8:05 A.M., this date, while assigned to car # 478 with Det. Schottke, received an office assignment to assist the Bay Village Police Dept., in the investigation of a Homicide at the Dr. Sheppard residence, 28924 Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio. Upon arrival at the scene, met Dr. Samuel Gerber, County Coroner, Police Chief, John Eaton, Sgt. Hueback, Ptl. Drenkin #1, and Cavanaugh # 14, of the Bay Village Police Dept. and together investigated.

At the scene, our attention was directed to an upstairs bedroom situated at the top of the stairway, on the second floor. In the bedroom, which contained two beds, twin size type, we found the body of a white female, laying on top of the bed nearest the door. The body was laying on its back, the head resting about in the middle of the bed and pointed in a southerly direction; the legs were bent at the knees, resting underneath a horizontal post that extended the width of the footboard, the lower part of the legs were dangling over the bottom edge of the mattress, pointed in a northerly direction; the arms were in a horizontal plane with the body, bent at the elbows and the hands were resting on the stomach.

Examination of the body of the victim showed numerous, deep lacerations of the forehead and head and the upper part of the body was covered with blood. The victim was clothed in a white, short-sleeve, pajama top, open in front, breasts exposed; a pair of pajama bottoms that were on the right leg and 'bunched' at the right knee, exposing the lower privates. Underneath the body, as it was being removed from the bed, two broken tooth facings were found, laying on the bed in the region where the small of the back was resting, by Dr. Gerber and Det. Schottke.

Learned the victim to be MARILYN RESE SHEPPARD; 31 years of age white, married, of 28924 Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio, pronounced dead at the scene at about 6:30 A.M. by Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, conveyed to County Morgue by private ambulance where an autopsy was performed, which revealed approximately twenty-seven lacerations about the head and forehead, death resulting from skull fracture due to violence.

Examination of the bedroom revealed a large blood spot on the pillow at the head of the bed on which the victim was laying; a larger blood spot on the bed under the victim's head; numerous blood spots on the south wall; numerous blood spots on the north wall and curtains, and numerous blood spots on the east wall, closet door and entrance door that was apparently open at the time of the Homicide. On a chair located at the corner of the north and east walls, we found the following clothing: a pair of white, ladies' shorts, a pair of ladies' blue shorts, a white brassiere, and over the top of the left corner of the chair, we found one beige, long sleeve, men's sport shirt. None of the furniture had been disarranged and apparently no signs of a struggle in the room.

Examination of the downstairs of the house revealed several drawers in the downstairs doctor's office, pulled from the desk and over turned.

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## POLICE DEPARTMENT

CLEVELAND, OHIO

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DIST. ZONE Det. Bureau

July 4th, 19 54

EXAMINED BY \_\_\_\_\_ RANK \_\_\_\_\_

FROM Det. Gareau, # 1099

TO \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT Homicide of MARILYN REESE SHEPPARD.

COPIES TO \_\_\_\_\_

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A bag of surgical instruments were found overturned in the hallway outside of the Doctor's office. On the floor in front of the desk in the Doctor's office was found a lady's yellow gold wrist watch with a yellow gold stretch band. Three drawers were pulled from the desk in the living room and overturned.

Several exposures were taken at the scene by DET. Grebowski.

We went to Bay View Hospital and interviewed Dr. Sam Sheppard and he stated that last night, they were entertaining guests, Mr. and Mrs. DON AHEARN, od 29146 Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio and at about 12:00 A.M., he became sleepy and he layed on the sofa in the living room, at the bottom of the stairway, leading upstairs, and fell asleep. He further stated that he awakened suddenly when he heard his wife screaming. Dr. Sheppard stated that he ren up the stairs to his wife's bedroom and as he got to the top of the stairs, he saw a man and also heard someone else working over his wife, and the man that he saw, struck him on the side of the head with his fist and knocked him unconscious. He stated that when he came to consciousness, he heard someone making noise downstairs and he ran down and saw a man run out of the rear door and he ran after him. He stated that this man ran down the stairs leading to the beach and he pursued him and when he got onto the beach, he tackled him and started to straggle with him and struck him with his fist. Dr. Sheppard further stated that he was knocked unconscious again and when he became conscious, he was laying on his stomach in the lake and that he noticed that it was daybreak. He stated that he went back up to the house and went to his wife's room and attempted to administer to her and he found that she was dead. He stated that he called mayor JOHN S. HOUK, of Bay Village, bf 29014 Lake Road on the telephone and told him to come over because he thought that his wife was dead and that someone killed her. Dr. Sam Sheppard fubther stated that the Mayor came to his house and also his brother, Dr. RICHARD N. SHEPPARD, and the Police and he was taken to Bay View Hospital. Dr. SAM SHEPPARD was treated by Dr. STEVE SHEPPARD, brother of the victim, who reports him to be suffering from concussion of the brain and possible fracture of the vertebrae in the rear of the neck.

We returned to the scene and searched the grounds about the Sheppard home and about fifteen feet south of the beachhouse, located at the foot of the stairway leading from the Sheppard property to the beach, in dense underbrush, a boyscout that was assisting in the seach, found a green felt bag and looking in this bag, we found a yellow gold, self winding, wrist watch, a college fraternity ring, and a key chain with a football, keys, knife, and a gold metal ~~heart~~ hearttag bearing the initials 'S? S'. Examination of the watch revealed blood stains in the gold stretch band and water inside of the face of the watch.

With Police Chief Eaton, we returned to Bay View Hospital and questioned Dr. Sheppard with regard to his personal property and he could give no explanation about them. Dr. Sheppard then told us that he stopped to look at his wife after he was knocked unconscious upstairs and perhaps

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## POLICE DEPARTMENT

CLEVELAND, OHIO

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1ST. ZONE Det. Bureau

July 4th, 19 54

EXAMINED BY \_\_\_\_\_ RANK \_\_\_\_\_

FROM Det. Gafedu, # 1099

TO \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT Homicide of MARILYN REESE SHEPPARD

COPIES TO \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE THREE

the blood got on the watch band when he looked at his wife upstairs before he came down to discover the man run out the back door. He further stated that at this particular time when he became conscious upstairs, he saw his billfold laying on the floor and he picked it up and put it in his pocket. Dr. Sheppard did not volunteer this last bit of information until we questioned him with regard to the men not taking his wallet from his pocket when they had taken his jewelry as he had claimed. We examined the clothing that was taken from Dr. Sheppard when he was brought to the hospital and we found that his clothing was still wet and his wallet was in his right rear trouser pocket and in this wallet we found three one dollar bills and a check for One Thousand Dollars. The pocket in which the wallet was located had stains from the leather wallet, apparently caused by the water when his clothing got wet. There was a pair of brown leather loafers and a pair of wool white sweat socks, these articles were also wet. We questioned Dr. Sheppard about money and the check still remaining in the wallet and he could give no explanation for this.

We returned to the scene and searched the premises for a white Tee Shirt that Dr. Sheppard was supposed to have worn, but could not find it on the premises. We searched the garage for any possible weapons and in the trunk of a Jaguar that had the keys in the trunk lock, we found two special chrome plated wrenches in a tool bag. These wrenches are about fifteen inches long and are quite heavy. They are about an inch wide and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick. These wrenches were turned over to Dr. Gerber for comparison with the laceration marks. The personal property of Dr. Sheppard, ring, watch, etc. also turned over to Dr. Gerber. The time indicated on the watch which was stopped was 4:15 A.M.

Interviewed Mayor JOHN S. HAUKE, 29014 Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio and he stated that he was called by Dr. Sheppard at about 5:50 P.M. and that he and his wife went to Dr. Sheppard's house after calling the police and he found Dr. Sam Sheppard seated in his Downstairs office mumbling incoherently and in a dazed condition, stating that he heard his wife scream and ran to her assistance and went on to state substantially what Dr. Sheppard had told us.

Interviewed Mr. and Mrs. DON AHEARN 29146 Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio and Mr. AHEARN stated that Mr. and Mrs. SAM SHEPPARD went to their house at about dinner time and had a few cocktails and the group went to the Sheppard's and remained there until about 12:10 A.M. this morning when they had gone home. Mr. AHEARN stated that at about 12:00 A.M. Dr. Sam Sheppard stretched out on the sofa in the livingroom and went to sleep. He further stated that Mrs. SHEPPARD went to the door with them as they departed and Mrs. SHEPPARD told them that she was tired and that she was going to go to bed. Questioned Mr. AHEARN with respect to his knowledge of any ill feeling between the Sheppards and he stated that he thought them to be very much in love with each other.

We learned from a confidential source that DR. LESTER T. HOVERSTON of 1100 North Mission Rd., Los Angeles, Calif., a school chum of Dr. SHEPPARD was staying with the SHEPPARDS over the holidays and Dr. HOVERSTON was supposed to be infatuated by MARILYN SHEPPARD and that

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## POLICE DEPARTMENT

CLEVELAND, OHIO

## DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

DIST. ZONE Det. Bureau

July 4th, 1954

EXAMINED BY \_\_\_\_\_ RANK \_\_\_\_\_

FROM Det., Gareau, # 1099

TO

SUBJECT Homicide of MARI LYN SHEPPARD

COPIES TO

PAGE FOUR

his advances were spurned by her. It was learned that DR. HOVERSTON lived at the SHEPPARD home for quite some time when he was a resident physician at Bay View Hospital. We learned further that Dr. HAVERSTON departed from the SHEPPARD home sometime yesterday afternoon before Dr. SAM SHEPPARD returned home in the evening from his duty hours at Bay View Hospital, to keep a golfing date at Kent, Ohio. While at Bay View Hospital on our second visit, Dr. HAVERSTON called from Kent, Ohio and I spoke to him and requested that he return to Bay Village and report to Chief Eaton to answer some questions.

We questioned Dr. SHEPPARD with reference to the rumor of Dr. HAVERSTON'S infatuation and he stated that he was aware of the rumor and said that perhaps it was true and he further stated that several men liked his wife but that he was thoroughly convinced of her faithfulness.

When we arrived at the scene this A.M., we searched the beach for evidence and we found imprints of a woman's bare feet in the sand and an exposure was made of a footprint by S.I.B.

Learned further that Dr. SAM SHEPPARD has 4 bruises on the inside of the right lower cheek and that he has several teeth chipped.

Respectfully,

*Patrick A. Gareau*  
 Patrick A. Gareau, Det., # 1099

Cuyahoga County Coroner's  
 Office MARCH 1996

Case # 76629 A-47