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Report, July 23, 1954, Cleveland Police Department

Adelbert O'Hara
Cleveland Police Department

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Office MARCH 1996

ICE DEPARTMENT

CLEVELAND, OHIO

AS1

Case # 76629 A-51

MENTAL INFORMATION

DIST. _____

July 23rd. 19 54

EXAMINED BY _____ RANK _____

FROM Adelbert O'Hara, Detective TO David Kerr, Captain

SUBJECT Investigation of homicide of MARYLYN SHEPARD, Bay Village, Ohio

COPIES TO Files, Etc.

Sir:

With Detective McHugh further investigated the above crime, and were assigned to interview the following people, neighbors of the Shepards.

MRS. HELEN SCHUELE 28944 Lake Road, neighbor to the west of the Shepard home, and she relates that she was not close to either Mr. or Mrs. Sheppard, and knew very little about their activities, other than an occasional neighborhood party which both families would attend. She has no connection with the Bay View Hospital, and most of her connection with the Shepards was being neighbors. Further stated that she had never seen Dr. S. Sheppard exhibit a temper, but that he did occasionally become furious when his wife was not home on time. Mrs. Schuele permitted us to look at her furnace in the basement, which contained what appeared to be paper ashed, as she stated that yesterday they had burned all the papers around the home. Questioned her as to whether Dr. Sam Sheppard ever used her furnace to burn anything, as information had stated, and she states that Sam had never made any such request. The furnace room can be entered from a rear door similar to that of the basement door to the Shepard home, but Mrs. Schuele stated that she does not know of any occasion that Dr. Sheppard ever went into the basement of her home. Mrs. Schuele appeared to be very cooperative, and also states that she heard nothing unusual on July 4th.

MRS. CHRISTINE BRUSCINO 28950 Lake Road states that her family knew the Shepards, but were no close friends. She states that they had attended neighborhood parties on several occasions, and the Shepards had been at their home several times. At all of the parties attended, Mrs. Bruscano states, there was very little drinking, and all parties broke up early. Further states that she had always noticed that the Shepards had appeared to be a normal married couple, and had never noticed any hard feelings between the two. Further states that she heard nothing unusual on the morning of the 4th. of July, no noises or anything else, but did state that her son Anthony, age 21, who was with one JOAN ROLAND, on the night of July 3rd. and morning of July 4th., had been very angry over a statement that Joan Roland had made that the two were parked in the driveway of the Bruscano home some where around 3:30 A.M. July 4th., and that Joan Roland and Tony had seen no lights in the house (Shepards) while they were parked there. Anthony Bruscano was later interviewed by Sergt. Lockwood et al., and he says that Joan Roland may have said that, but all he can tell is that they passed the Sheppard home some time early in the morning of July 4th., and he states that he saw nothing. Tony also states that he is a good friend of Dr. Sam Sheppard and did not care to discuss the matter any further. Mrs. Bruscano appears to be cooperative.

SARA MAE LOOMIS 29128 Lake Road., school teacher at Glenview Grade School, Bay Village, Ohio, who resides with Mrs. Lucy Chamberlain, a widow who owns the above home. Miss Loomis states that she does not know Dr. Sam Sheppard, and only met Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard once and that was through the fact that "Chip" Sheppard was in her class at the school. Miss Loomis states that she knows nothing about the private lives of either of the Shepards, did not associate with them. She did state that she knew that Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard and Chip were out of town on the week end of June 15th.

CONTINUED.....

Respectfully

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

DIST DB ZONE

July 23rd, 1954

EXAMINED BY _____ RANK _____ 19 _____

FROM Adelbert O'Hara, Detective TO David Kerr, Captain

SUBJECT Investigation of Homicide of Marilyn Sheppard.

COPIES TO Files, Etc.

CONTINUED.....PAGE TWO.....

as ~~that~~ Chip was supposed to have come to school on the 11th. of June to get his report card, and Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard called on June 9th., requesting that Chip be permitted to get his report card the following week, as they were going out of town together. This information may have some bearing on information given to the Cuyahoga County Prosecutors Office by one JESSIE DILL who related to the prosecutors that she had met Marilyn on a beach near Painsville, Ohio, and during the meeting, Marilyn had confided that she had been having marital difficulties. Miss Loomis states that she can give no further information, and states that she heard nothing unusual on the morning of July 4th., having retired early. She is also almost positive that Mrs. Lucy Chamberlain, with whom she lives, can furnish nothing further.

MRS. NANCY AHERN 29146 Lake Road, who had already testified at the Inquest held by Coroner Gerber, and she relates that her husband and herself were very close friends of the Dr. Sam Sheppards, visited each other very often, and were the people who were with the Sheppards on the evening of July 3rd. at the Sheppards home. She reiterated her story as originally told, of having cocktails at her home, and then all four, the Sheppards and Aherns had gone to the Sheppards home, for dinner, and they had spent the balance of the evening with the Sheppards, leaving around midnight, and of having locked the door leading to their back yard and porch. Mrs. Ahern further stated that she had never seen Dr. Sam Sheppard drink to any excess, drinking mostly beer after his meals. She does state that Sam loved attention, and did pay attention to women, but states that she had never seen him make any over affectionate approaches to any women. She states that most women were attracted to Sam Sheppard, but she further states that the group which she associated with were not heavy drinkers, and there never were any parties that got out of hand. She did state that the Sheppards also belonged to other dance groups, but as to the type of parties the other groups held, she was no familiar. Mrs. Ahern then stated that she learned of Marilyn being pregnant about 2 weeks prior to the murder, and Marilyn appeared to be very happy about the pregnancy. We questioned Mrs. Ahern as to how Dr. Sam Sheppard felt about his wife's pregnancy, and Mrs. Ahern relates that Marilyn had always said that she wanted children, but related that Sam was not in favor of a larger family because of the added responsibility and expense. At this point she related that Sam Sheppard was very close with his money and would not permit Marilyn to buy new furniture and other things for the house, although he would spend money on things that he thought were needed for his pleasure. We questioned Mrs. Ahern as to whether she knew or not that Dr. Sam Sheppard was Sterile and she stated that Marilyn had mentioned that he thought the constant x-ray work that he did may have temporarily caused sterility, but she did not know for certain whether Dr. Sam was sterile. This question had been brought up when there had been a discussion as to why there were no other children in the Sheppard home. Mrs. Ahern states that the following incident was not related to anybody up to this point, but she believes that it should be known now. She relates that she had gone to the home of Marilyn Sheppard one day some time ago and noticed that Marilyn seemed to be depressed, and during a discussion Marilyn had told her about Sam having an affair or an infatuation with a girl that was presently in California, and while they the Sheppards were in California she knew that Sam was seeing this girl, a former Clevelander.

CONTINUED.....Respectfully

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

DIST DB ZONEJuly 23rd. 1964

EXAMINED BY _____ RANK _____ 19

FROM Albert O'Leary, Detective TO David Kerr, CaptainSUBJECT Investigation of Homicide of Marilyn Sheppard.

COPIES TO _____

CONTINUED..... PAGE THREE.....

and also knew that he had purchased a wrist watch for this girl which had cost about \$80.00. Mrs. Ahern states that Marilyn discussed this for some time, and relates that she (Marilyn) knew of another girl that Sam was infatuated with prior to the above mentioned girl. Mrs. Ahern states on questioning, that she is not certain whether Marilyn believed that Sam was having a serious affair, but was certain that Marilyn was very disturbed about the matter, and really did not want to believe it, as she was definitely in love with Sam Sheppard. Further states that Marilyn told her that she believed that Sam's hard work in school to get his education gave him very little fun in his boyhood and teens, and that Sam would learn sooner or later to grow up, that he was still just a boy, and that she (Marilyn) would have to put up with his actions until he had matured. Mrs. Ahern appears to be very cooperative at this time, as she stated that she was sorry that she had not given this information before, but she was uncertain as to what authorities to relate the above conversation that she had with Marilyn Sheppard.

MRS. BETTY BULLOCK 29202 Lake Road., relates that she had retired at about mid night on July 3rd. and had heard nothing unusual. She states that she knew the Sam Sheppard family but only casually, had never associated with them and can relate nothing about their private lives. She states that Dr. Sam Sheppard had taken care of an injury suffered by her daughter while the daughter was in school, but outside of that, she had no other business or social connection with the family.

MRS. LUCY WOLFE 29216 Lake Road, relates that she met the Dr. Sam Sheppers once at a dance, and cannot recall of having seen them since that time. She can give no further information, stating that she had ~~XXXXXXXX~~ been in bed early on the night of July 3rd., and heard nothing unusual.

MRS. HELEN GREENMAN 29318 Lake Road, states that she and her husband do not know the Sheppard family, and were in Pennsylvania on the July 4th. weekend.

MRS. EDWARD T. CROWE 29255 Lake Road, states that she and her family do not know the Sheppard family, and retired about midnight and heard nothing. There is a house in the rear of this address, but the people in this house moved into the home less than two weeks ago.

MRS. BLAINE BISHOP 29225 Lake Road, states that she and her husband do not know the Sheppard family, retired early on the 3rd. of July, and heard nothing unusual.

MRS. ARTHUR HOLTON 29219 Lake Road, stated that she and her family do not know the Sheppard family, and heard nothing.

VERN STEWART 29139 Lake Road--no one home at this address.

MRS. DAVID OSBORNE 29227 Lake Road, states that she does participate with the Sewing Guild at Bay View Hospital, but does not think that she knows Dr. Sam, as her contacts at the hospital have been with Dr. Richard and the father. She has no knowledge of the Dr. Sam Sheppards family life, and states that she heard nothing unusual.

~~XXXX~~ 29059 Lake Ave.--no answer.

MRS. LEROY J. LINN 29059 Lake Road., and she states that she only met Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard once, does not know the Doctor, and knows nothing about the Dr. Sam Sheppard family life. Retired early and heard no unusual noises.

CONTINUED.....

Respectfully

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

DIST. DEZONE

July 23rd 19 54

EXAMINED BY _____ RANK _____ 19 _____

FROM Adelbert O'Hare, Detective TO David Kerr, Captain

SUBJECT Investigation of homicide of Marilyn Shepard.

COPIES TO _____

CONTINUED.....PAGE FOUR.....

We then were assigned to investigate the following information that had been received by this department, relative to the above crime.

#26---Information through search of study of Dr. Sam Shepard in which the name of JEAN BYRNE 1613 Robinwood Ave., Lakewood, Ohio was found written on a scrap of paper. Went to this address, where we interviewed MRS. MARIE HAGAN, who states that Jean Byrne did reside at her home up until two years ago when she left after being married to a F.N.U. CHURCH. She states that she did hear that Jean was working at Huron Road Hospital at present, and that Jean had been employed at Bay View Hospital for three years, being in charge of the Record room at that Hospital. Mrs. Hagan also states that Dr. Sam Sheppard did brain surgery on Jean, after Jean had suffered a concussion. She states that the only time she ever saw Dr. Sheppard was when he visited the house after Jean was released from the hospital. She does not believe that Jean ever went out with Sam Sheppard. REQUEST THAT HURON ROAD HOSPITAL BE CONTACTED TO SEE IF JEAN CHURCH IS EMPLOYED THERE AND QUESTION THIS SUBJECT.

#28 --Information that one ERNEST FARR 30021 Lake Road, was supposed to have seen a light or lights in the Shepard residence at about 4:00 A.M. July 4th, 1954. Mr. Farr states that he was driving home and passed the Sheppards residence at that time, but cannot positively state whether he saw light or not. He states that he volunteered this information the day following the crime, but also states that he cannot be certain that he saw any lights.

#30--Received information that one NANCY MOYER 479 Kenilworth Road, Bay Village Ohio, had heard a remark that Marilyn Shepard had told some girls that "Chip" her son was illegitimate. We interviewed Nancy Moyer, age 17, white, single, who is employed as a Nurses Aid at the Bay View Hospital for the past three years. THIS YOUNG LADY WAS VERY RELUCTANT TO TELL US ANYTHING SAYING THAT AFTER THE MURDER, THE HELP AT THE HOSPITAL HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER AND AGREED THAT NO ONE SHOULD TELL ANY OF THE AUTHORITIES ANYTHING ABOUT DR. SAM SHEPPARD. Miss Moyer finally stated that one JEAN DISBROW, who resides directly across the street from Marilyn Sheppards home, and is known to be very friendly with Marilyn Sheppard, had told her (Nancy Moyer) that Marilyn was driving several girls to a basketball game during the 1952-1953 Basketball season, and Jean was among them, and Marilyn had told these girls that "Chip" her son was an illegitimate boy, but the girls had understood that she had meant that Chip was not the son of Dr. Sam Sheppard. Miss Moyer stated that this was common knowledge among a number of girls that worked at the hospital. DETECTIVE MASO HAD CHECKED AT THE HOME OF JEAN DISBROW 28919 Lake Road, AND FOUND THAT THE FAMILY WAS OUT OF TOWN AND WOULD NOT BE HOME UNTIL SUNDAY OR SATURDAY. WE WILL CHECK FURTHER ON THIS MATTER. REQUEST THAT NANCY MOYER NOT BE INTERVIEWED FURTHER AT HER HOME AND TO BE LEFT ALONE FOR A FEW DAYS AS SHE WILL CONTACT ME IN EVENT SHE LEARNS ANYTHING FURTHER.

Respectfully