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70/04/06 Marilyn's Aunt Shocked by News

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Recommended Citation

Cleveland Press, "70/04/06 Marilyn's Aunt Shocked by News" (1970). *All Articles*. 59.

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Marilyn's Aunt Shocked by News

The aunt of Marilyn Sheppard today expressed shock and sorrow over the death of Dr. Sam Sheppard.

But Mrs. Helen Weigle said she still believes he killed her niece.

"I feel very badly," said Mrs. Weigle. "I remember Sam as a member of the family and the nice person he was. But he changed."

"I AM SO SHOCKED," she continued. "I said just a few days ago how strange that we hadn't heard anything of Sam. You know he seemed to keep himself in the papers."

She recalled that she had last seen him during his second trial for the murder of her niece.

"He was always friendly to me," she said. She said during the trial he had introduced her to his second wife, *A r i a n e*, and asked court aides to see that Mrs. Weigle got a good seat.

While he was in prison Sheppard wrote to the Weigle family asking that they believe in him and telling them he couldn't have murdered Marilyn.

But throughout the trials the Weigles remained steadfast in their belief that Sam



Mrs. Helen Weigle

had killed his wife.

"WE SAT THROUGH all the trials," said Mrs. Weigle. "And there was no doubt in my mind that he did it in a fit of temper."

Mrs. Weigle, who said she has a heart condition, said if she is able she will attend the funeral.

"I t h i n k probably they will bring Sam here to bury him," she said. "His mother and father are at Sunset Memorial."

Mrs. Weigle added, "I remember Sam as a good fellow and a nice young man. What happened along the road, I don't know."