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54/12/10 Police Offered Him 'Deal' to Confess, Sheppard Says

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POLICE OFFERED HIM 'DEAL' TO CONFESS, SHEPPARD SAYS



Dr. Sam



Mrs. Anne W. Foote Mrs. Beatrice Orenstein James C. Bird Frank G. Moravec Frank J. Kollarits Mrs. Luella Williams Mrs. Lois Mancini
Howard L. Barrish Mrs. Elizabeth Borke Edmund L. Verlinger Mrs. Louise K. Feuchter William C. Lamb Jack N. Hansen

Sometime in the course of tragic human events a man must come face to face with a jury that is to decide his liberty, imprisonment or death. Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard has reached that judgment day at his murder trial. He talked directly to the six women and seven men in the jury box. Jurors looked back at him, but their faces told him nothing—neither belief nor disbelief for the story he was telling. Who can tell what a jury is thinking? Experts in criminal trials have often tried, and failed.

Manslaughter Charge Proposed, Jury Told

BULLETIN

Cleveland homicide detectives questioned him for 11 hours and offered him an indictment for manslaughter if he would confess, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard charged late today. He said "I couldn't confess to something I didn't do, and I could stand the ordeal of the questioning because Marilyn was with me."

Dr. Sam also charged that during the marathon police grilling, detectives forced him to look at photographs of the battered body of his wife. "I was forced to look at them momentarily, then I closed my eyes," he said.

BY HOWARD BEAUFAIT

A quantity of narcotics were missing from a medical bag shortly after his wife was beaten to death, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard testified late today at his murder trial.

It was the first time the defense had injected a possible motive into the brutal crime—theft of drugs by a crazed killer.

The Bay Village doctor told the jury that a box of emergency morphine ampules and a bottle of demerol, synthetic morphine, were missing from his bag, found by police upset in the hallway of his home.

Shortly after this testimony the boyish-faced defendant electrified the courtroom when he announced he felt the spirit of murdered Marilyn Sheppard "was standing in my corner right now."

The state contends that a check by federal narcotic agents showed no drugs were missing from the doctor's home the day of the murder, July 4.

Under questioning by William J. Corrigan, chief defense counsel, Dr. Sam said he returned to his home from Bay View Hospital July 9 with Coroner Samuel R. Gerber and County Detective Carl Rossbach.

He said the officials asked him to look around and see if anything was missing. He checked his medical bag, which he contends had been ransacked by a murderous burglar, and found the morphine gone.

He accused Rossbach of attempting to "trick" him when he was asked if a packet of surgical instruments was also missing. He said Rossbach had deliberately

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Drugs Missing After Murder, Sheppard Testifies

Charges Police Used '3d-Degree Methods'

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removed the instruments. The doctor also charged that Cleveland detectives used third-degree methods in questioning him, "used profanity, indicated I was the dirtiest, most low-down individual." He said they also insulted his family and his profession.

Before the defense moved into a possible drug-crazed killer motive, Dr. Sheppard gave an entirely new version of events the night his wife was beaten to death in her bedroom.

The doctor's voice was tight and high pitched as he relived for the benefit of the jury the dark hours of the morning of last July 4 in his Bay Village home.

Dr. Sam said he was asleep on a downstairs couch. His wife was sleeping in a second floor bedroom.

Tells of Hearing Cry

"The first thing I recall was hearing Marilyn cry out my name once or twice," he said slowly. "This was followed by moans and noises of some sort. My drowsy recollection was that I should go to Marilyn as soon as I could.

"I descended the stairway . . . I could visualize some sort of a light top as I tried to go to Marilyn. I felt I was struck from behind . . . My recollection was cut off . . . The next thing I knew I was in a sitting position next to Marilyn's bed, facing the hallway I recall vaguely recognizing my wallet on the floor."

In all previous accounts of the murder scene events, Dr. Sheppard has said he was knocked out and came to in the hallway, just outside the door to the bedroom in which Marilyn was knocked out.

Mentioned First Time

The defendant in previous accounts also had not mentioned the "moans and noises of some sort" coming from the upstairs bedroom.

The courtroom and final version of the brutal slaying was drawn from the witness by questions of his chief counsel, William J. Corrigan.

Marilyn and I weren't the only ones that could be loving and she sat on Mr. Ahern's lap.

"I recall I would be more comfortable on the couch, being somewhat tired. I watched television for a time and must have fallen asleep."

He testified that between the time he fell asleep and the time he was awakened by Marilyn's cries, he had a recollection that he was aroused by his wife who notified him she was going to bed.

Calls Inquest "Persecution"

At one point in his testimony, Dr. Sam attacked the inquest conducted by Coroner Gerber into the crime.

"I felt I was being subjected to persecution beyond all conception," he told the jury. "Now I am being given the benefit of a court of law, allowed to represent myself and present the facts as I know them."

He testified that a week after the murder he indicated to Mayor J. Spencer Houk of Bay Village that he "intended not to rest until we get to the bottom of who murdered Marilyn."

He said the mayor told him about "slurs and gossip" that were going around the suburb about him.

"Marilyn in My Corner"

"I told Houk Marilyn was beside me and she was standing with me," Dr. Sam testified.

"Do you feel she is in your corner now?" asked Corrigan in a dramatic voice.

"Absolutely. She is standing in my corner right now," Dr. Sam replied.

Corrigan drew from the witness testimony that he had cooperated fully with police in the early days of the investigation, when he was recovering from injuries suffered at the hands of the slayer of his wife.

Tells of Hospital 'Hassle'

"In the hospital there was quite a hassle over my bed," he said. "Dr. Gerber was on one side and Attorneys Petersilge and Corrigan on the other . . . I was very disturbed. My wife was dead



DR. SAMUEL H. SHEPPARD
On witness stand

and I wanted to do what I could to help. But Corrigan said I was in no condition to be vigorously examined and in no condition to protect myself from being trapped."

Dr. Sam testified he was questioned almost continually from 1 p. m. until midnight on July 31 by pairs of Cleveland detectives. He then was asked to explain the type of questioning undertaken by the detectives and said that Detective Peter Becker used profanity continuously and indicated "that I was the dirtiest, most low-down individual that he had ever encountered."

"He also made comments on both of my brothers, which I considered very unfair. He also insulted my family and my profession," Dr. Sam said.

A loud argument then ensued between defense and prosecution

Corrigan asked Dr. Sheppard to examine the belt, shoes, slacks, shorts and white wool socks he wore that night.

The witness said he could find no blood on the belt or socks, but he did point out a spot on the sole of the right shoe "that could be blood."

Before he actually approached the murder scene, Corrigan asked the defendant how many times he had told the story of the events of July 4 before telling it in the courtroom. Dr. Sam ticked off at least a dozen times he had related it to police, Coroner Samuel R. Gerber, deputy sheriffs, and his own relatives.

Dr. Sam at this point in his recital left the witness box at his attorney's request, to point out to the jurors on a photograph of his Bay Village house the upstairs room occupied by his house guest, Dr. Lester Hoversten.

He said Dr. Hoversten arrived for a visit on July 1, but left before the murder to visit other friends at Kent, O.

In the days immediately before the murder, Dr. Sam recalled in considerable detail for the jury a "celebration dinner" at Dr. Stephen Sheppard's home at which Marilyn's unborn baby was discussed.

Decided on Baby's Name

"Steve and his wife were extremely pleased. We decided to name the baby, if it was a boy, Stephen," he said.

July 3 was a "busy, difficult day" at the Bay View Hospital, Dr. Sam said. A child had been brought in who had been run over by a utility truck.

"The boy's heart had stopped beating," he said. "The father was hysterical. I ran and took the youngster. We restored the heart beat by opening the chest and stimulating the heart. We kept the boy alive for an hour, then he expired. We placed a needle at the base of the brain and drained off a large amount of blood."

Dr. Sam, under Corrigan interrogation, also recalled several other emergency operations he had performed in the early days of July.

The first person he notified of the murder he said was Mayor J. Spencer Houk who lived nearby. Then he said the mayor, his wife and police arrived.

Speaking through tightly

working around the house.

"I can recall wearing the jacket on several cases of emergency when my work around the house was interrupted," he said.

He said one of these occasions was between Christmas and New Year Day in 1953, when he was called to the scene of an accident on West Lake Rd., just west of Huntington Park.

During most of his testimony, Dr. Sam has been a free-speaking witness. He has talked in profuse detail about trivial things in his life.

clenched lips, Dr. Sam testified that he collapsed when informed of Marilyn's death.

"I remember my brother Dr. Richard coming into the den," he said. "He told me Marilyn was gone. I remember falling to the floor."

The defendant described conditions in the home at that time as "being a mass of confusion." He said he could only vaguely recall Dr. Steve suggesting that he be taken to the hospital, his trip to the hospital and his arrival there.

He said the only person he could clearly remember seeing when he arrived at the hospital was his father.

Can't Remember Talking

"Do you remember saying in the X-ray room: 'I had to get to Marilyn, I heard Marilyn scream, I tried to get to Marilyn but I couldn't do it,'" Corrigan asked.

"I remember feeling it, but I don't remember saying it," Dr. Sam replied.

Shown a pair of canvas gloves found on the Sheppard property on July 4, on which a blood spot was found, Dr. Sam explained that in his type of work it was not unusual to get blood on his clothing or anything he might be carrying.

He said the gloves were kept in various places around the house and that he often carried them in the pocket of a dungaree work jacket which he wore when