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54/08/18 Dr. Sam Writes His Own Story

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I am not guilty of the murder of my wife, Marilyn. How could I, who have been trained to help people and devoted my life to saving life, commit such a terrible and revolting crime?

DR. SAM WRITES HIS OWN STORY

Since his imprisonment July 30, Dr. Sam Sheppard has been pondering "a statement of my position."

He scribbled several starts in his County Jail cell prior to his brief 30-hour liberty on bail.

Back in the same cell last night, he meticulously corrected the final draft in a conference with his attorneys, William J. Corrigan and Fred Garmone.
‘Loved Wife, Rejoiced at Second Child’

Here is the text of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard’s first public statement on his present predicament, obtained by The Press from a member of his family.

I am not guilty of the murder of my wife, Marilyn. How could I, who have been trained to help people and devoted my life to saving life, commit such a terrible and revolting crime?

I was severely injured in the encounter with her murderer and I am still suffering from the effects of those injuries. Dr. Hexter, who examined me for Coroner Gerber on July 4, reported that I was injured in the right side of the forehead, both eyelids of my right eye were contused, that I could open my mouth only about 50% and there were cuts inside my mouth; that there was an injury to my right chest, and that the cremasteric reflexes were absent and there was an absence of abdominal reflexes.

The absence of these reflexes indicated an injury to the brain or the spinal cord. I was examined by Dr. Charles Elkins, who found evidence of a definite injury to my spinal cord. These injuries were inflicted upon me by the murderer of my wife and for a time rendered me unconscious.

“Have Told All I Know”

I have told the police and other officials who questioned me all I knew about the murder of my wife. I have done this freely and willingly because I am more interested in the capture of my wife’s murderer than any other person on this earth.

I loved my wife; we rejoiced that we were to have a second child, all the scandal and gossip to the contrary. We had even given our unborn child a name and had named it Stephen Allen. The last three months of our married life was perhaps among the happiest that we enjoyed together.

I related all I knew to the coroner, the police at Bay Village, the detectives from the County Sheriff’s office and the police of the City of Cleveland. Some of the police from Bay Village and County Detectives Carl Rossbach and Deputy Sheriff David Yettra seemed to be genuinely interested in solving the crime but the Cleveland police seemed to have made up their minds that I committed the crime and concentrated in solving the crime by securing a confession from me. I was questioned on July 4 and 5 by a number of officers.

Tells of Questioning by Police

On Thursday, Detective Rossbach and Yettra questioned me for three and one-half hours. This was in my room and no other person was present except Officer Drenkhan, of the Bay Village police force.

On Friday, July 9, I went to my home with Mr. Rossbach, Mr. Yettra and Coroner Gerber and re-enacted for them all my actions of the evening of July 3 and the morning of July 4. They examined me with the greatest care and without interference on the part of anyone. This activity lasted about four hours.

After that they asked me to go to the sheriff’s office
The State of Ohio, etc.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

Of the term of APRIL

In the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and Fifty-Four

The Judges of the Grand Jury of the State of Ohio, within and for the body of the County aforesaid, on their oaths, IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF OHIO.

The Indictment

On or about the 4th day of July, 1954, at the County aforesaid.

The Final and Presentment, That

S. H. SHEPPARD

was guilty, purposely and of a deliberate and premeditated malice killed Marilyn Sheppard.

THE INDICTMENT ITSELF, the object of weeks of investigation, names Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard as the murderer of his wife Marilyn—in a crime of "deliberate and premeditated malice.

Excerpts From Dr. Sam's Statement

I am not guilty.
(Signed) S. H. SHEPPARD.

and make a written statement. I agreed, and the next morning, July 10, I arrived at the sheriff's office at 8 o'clock and remained there until almost 5 p.m. without eating lunch. I was questioned by Mr. Rossbach, Mr. Yettra, Assistant County Prosecutor Parrino and Bauer, and Detectives Schottke and Gareau of the Cleveland Police Department.

I made a long written statement which is a matter of record and is in possession of the sheriff of this county.

Tells of Inquest Appearance

On July 22, 23 and 26, the coroner held a public inquest in the gymnasium in Normandy School in the City of Bay Village. All the television stations, radio stations, newspapers from Cleveland and other cities had representatives there, both reporters and photographers.

I was informed, and did not have to be informed because I knew it, that inasmuch as I had cooperated with the police and given them my statements and in view of the unwarranted vicious and unfavorable publicity that I had received and the editorials that had been written about me, one of which called upon the police to give me the third degree, I would be justified in claiming my constitutional privileges.

This I refused to do, and on July 23 and 26, knowing that I would be subjected to an unfriendly examination, I waived all my rights and appeared before a hostile, scoffing crowd and for five and one-half hours I answered under oath every question that was asked me.

From July 4 to July 31 I lived at my father's house. I was barred from my own home and the home of my son, and have been ever since barred from it. I have been barred not by the order of any court, but by the police. The police knew where I was at all times, but on the night of July 30 I was arrested at 10 p.m. and brought before a magistrate that has now been determined to be a biased and prejudiced person.

I was deprived of counsel and was thrown into jail, and when my attorneys appeared at the jail they were refused admission.

Links Arrest to Dope Suspicion

I have since learned that the timing of my arrest and the reason that I was held incommunicado from my attorneys was because someone had the idea that I was addicted to dope and all that had to be done to solve the crime and get a confession from me was to hold me until the craving for dope would break me down.

During the succeeding week I was spirited out of jail at night, taken to the City Hospital, where I was examined by Dr. Braden in the presence of Dr. Greene, the medical officer of the Cleveland Police Department.

I am informed that this was on the order of the chief of the Cleveland Police Department.

During the week after my arrest I was questioned by relays of Cleveland detectives hour after hour, as long as 12 hours at a stretch, and the entire questioning had only one purpose, to secure a confession from me of a crime I did not commit.

It was only after hours and hours of such questioning and when the questioning became insulting and abusive that I refused to submit further.

I am not guilty.

(Signed) S. H. SHEPPARD.