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54/08/09 Victim's Kin Hits Actions Of Sheppard

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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Plain Dealer,
Monday, Aug. 9,
1954

PLAIN

7 MORNING, AUGUST

VICTIM'S KIN HITS ACTIONS OF SHEPPARD

Says Physician Asked for Divorce in '50 to Wed Another Woman

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard asked his wife, Marilyn, to divorce him in 1950 so he could marry another woman, a close relative and confidant of the murdered Bay Village woman last night told the Plain Dealer.

The relative took sharp issue with some earlier impressions given of Marilyn and criticized Dr. Sam's actions since Marilyn was found hacked to death July 4 morning—six weeks ago yesterday.

Sheppard will make one—and possibly two—court appearances today.

At 10:15 this morning he will be present at a hearing on an affidavit of prejudice sought by his lawyers against Gershom M. M. Barber, Bay Village Council president.

Charge Delays Hearing

Barber was slated to preside this morning at a preliminary hearing on the first-degree murder warrant issued against the doctor. However, the charge of prejudice made against Barber forced postponement of the preliminary hearing.

Should the prejudice affidavit be denied by Common Pleas Judge Frank J. Merrick in time, Bay officials plan to hold the preliminary hearing this afternoon, at a time to be set by Barber.

Spectators have been ordered excluded from the prejudice hearing in Room 1 of the Lakeside Avenue Courthouse, with only attorneys and newsmen allowed to be present.

Spends Day Reading

William J. Corrigan, Sheppard's chief counsel, refused to say whom he planned to have subpoenaed for the prejudice hearing.

Dr. Sam spent the day reading in his fourth-floor cell at County Jail. The osteopath was not questioned by investigators.

He has balked interrogation with the stock statement that he has been advised by counsel to refuse to answer any and all questions.

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Marilyn's Kin Says Doctor Asked for Divorce in 1950

(Continued From First Page)

The handsome Bay Village doctor had no visitors. No member of his counsel conferred with him.

Working on Outside

"We are building up our case on the outside without talking to him," Deputy Inspector James E. McArthur said.

Asked if police thought they had the guilty man in jail, McArthur replied: "We feel confident that we have."

McArthur said police had not yet matched the palm print found on a desk in the Sheppard home, 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village, on the murder morning. He added that detectives were still taking palm prints of persons who might have been in the Sheppard home.

Kin "Disappointed"

County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan said grand jury action would await outcome of the court maneuvering now under way between Corrigan and his associates and Bay Village officials.

Dr. Sam's actions since the murder brought from Marilyn's close relative, a woman who asked that her identity be withheld, the comment: "We are disappointed in his actions."

"Since the murder Sam Sheppard does not seem to be the same man we knew, the man who spoke what he thought, the man who never dodged an issue, the straight-forward, aggressive man we recognized and admired," she said.

Woman Unknown

"The Sam Sheppard we knew would have been expected to shunt aside any criminal lawyer as soon as his feet were on the ground. He would have come out with a two-fisted investigation of his own. He would have cooperated fully."

The relative said:

"It was not Marilyn who sought a divorce in 1950 when she and her husband resided in California.

"Rather it was Dr. Sam who asked her to divorce him. Marilyn said at that time that Sam wished to marry another woman and remain in California. The name of that woman is unknown to us.

Tells of Childbirth Fear

"Marilyn had never complained of any alleged difficulty to adjust to her husband's life as a doctor.

"Marilyn had a fear of childbirth. She did not want another child. Sam had expressed a desire for another child.

"Despite reports of her joy at learning of her pregnancy, Marilyn was disturbed. She was troubled by her knowledge of an adverse RH factor which endangered any child she bore.

"Secondly, there was in her mind a foreboding generated by knowledge that her own mother had died in pregnancy, although her mother's death was attributed to meningitis following an operation unrelated to the pregnancy.

Became Troubled

"She confided on one of her visits here when she and Sam were yet residing in California that Sam troubled her exceedingly by informing her every time he went out with another woman.

"And while she was here he wrote and told her in letters that he was dating other women. Marilyn was seriously troubled. She wondered why he would hurt her so by telling her of each of those affairs.

"Marilyn was not a shy, reticent girl as she has been pictured in some accounts. She was an excellent dancer, athletic, bright, attractive and popular. She had a host of friends.

Accepted Duties

"The rearing of Chip, their son, was largely Marilyn's job alone. She related that Sam had told her it was her job and that the care of the house was her duty. She accepted those obligations, and Marilyn and Chip were close companions.

"Other matters relating to Marilyn and her husband we do not wish to reveal publicly at

this time, although we have told the authorities.

"We wish to say that we are gratified at the efforts of the Cleveland Police Department and other law enforcement agencies engaged toward a solution of the crime.

Silent in Grief

"We have been silent in our grief," the woman, who helped rear Marilyn, added.

"But the time has come when it is apparent people are forgetting that Marilyn was a very dear member of our family, that we loved her and that she was violently and horribly murdered. She is unable to speak for herself."

McArthur said not all of the information given to the Plain Dealer was known by police. He refused to say what was known.

Authorities are expected to check the story closely for any new evidence.

Hunt "Margo" in West

Los Angeles police have been asked to trace a mysterious "Margo" who was linked to Dr. Sam in 1950 when the osteopath and Marilyn resided in California.

Detectives Adelbert O'Hara, James McHugh visited the Sheppard home briefly yesterday morning.

In the late afternoon and early evening, motorists clogged West Lake Road as they slowed down to gawk at the desolate home overlooking Lake Erie. Some pulled to the side of the road to take photographs of the residence, shorn of its once-happy occupants.