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54/08/09 Sheppard Bed, Couch, Seized In Murder Hunt

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SHEPPARD BED, COUCH SEIZED IN MURDER HUNT

Bay Hearing Ruling Put Off To Thursday

BY HOWARD BEAUFIT

The twin bed on which Marilyn Sheppard was beaten to death with 27 vicious blows was taken from her Bay Village home today to be held as evidence in the circumstantial murder case against her osteopath husband.

Coroner Samuel R. Gerber who ordered the bed confiscated also had the couch, on which Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard said he was sleeping at the time of the crime, removed to County Morgue.

As the death house furniture was being moved, Common Pleas Judge Frank J. Merrick granted a defense motion to continue an affidavit of prejudice hearing until Thursday at 10:15 a. m.

Defense Attorney William J. Corrigan told the court he did not have sufficient time to subpoena witnesses for the hearing on the affidavit.

Agrees to Continuance

Bay Village Law Director Richard S. Weygandt told Judge Merrick that Corrigan had as much time as he had to prepare for today's hearing, but agreed to the postponement.

Corrigan said witnesses are necessary to prove his contention that Bay Village Acting Mayor Gershom M. M. Barber was not qualified to arraign Dr. Sheppard on a first degree murder warrant because he had made prejudicial remarks about the osteopath.

The murder arraignment has been held in abeyance until the prejudice issue has been disposed of by Judge Merrick.

Barber, who is normally president of Bay Village Council, is acting in a judicial capacity for Mayor J. Spencer Houk who is a close personal friend of the Sheppards and a material witness in the murder case.

Mayor First at Scene

Mayor Houk, summoned by Dr. Sheppard, was the first to arrive at the murder scene early July 4. The Sheppard home is at 28924 West Lake Rd., two doors from the Houk home.

The couch Coroner Gerber had removed from the home to the morgue is also part of the circumstantial evidence against

Continued on Page 5, Column 1

'Murder' Bed Is Seized

Continued From Page 1

the murdered woman's husband.

Dr. Sam said he slept on the couch all night and ran up stairs when he was awakened by his wife's moans. Investigators said, however, a sport jacket was carefully folded across the couch and the sofa did not appear to have been slept on at all.

Described Marriage As Happy

Immediately after the murder the handsome osteopath described his marriage as happy. He said he was elated because Marilyn Sheppard was going to have another baby.

But investigators said they have turned up at least five other women in the life of Dr. Sam, and a close relative of the dead woman cast further doubt on the happy marital status.

The relative told police that in 1950 Dr. Sam wanted a divorce so he could marry another woman. The osteopath's relatives have sworn that it was Marilyn who was unhappy because she had difficulty adjusting to a doctor's hours and life. Dr. Sam's relatives said they talked Marilyn out of a divorce at that time.

Refused to Answer at Quiz

Marilyn Sheppard's relative, who asked that her name not be disclosed, said that she was disappointed in Dr. Sam's behavior since the murder.

Dr. Sheppard has refused to answer questions about the crime put to him by homicide detectives on the grounds that he has been advised not to talk by his counsel.

"That's not the Dr. Sam we knew," said the relative. "The man we knew would never have dodged an issue and he would have shunted aside any criminal lawyer as soon as his feet were on the ground."

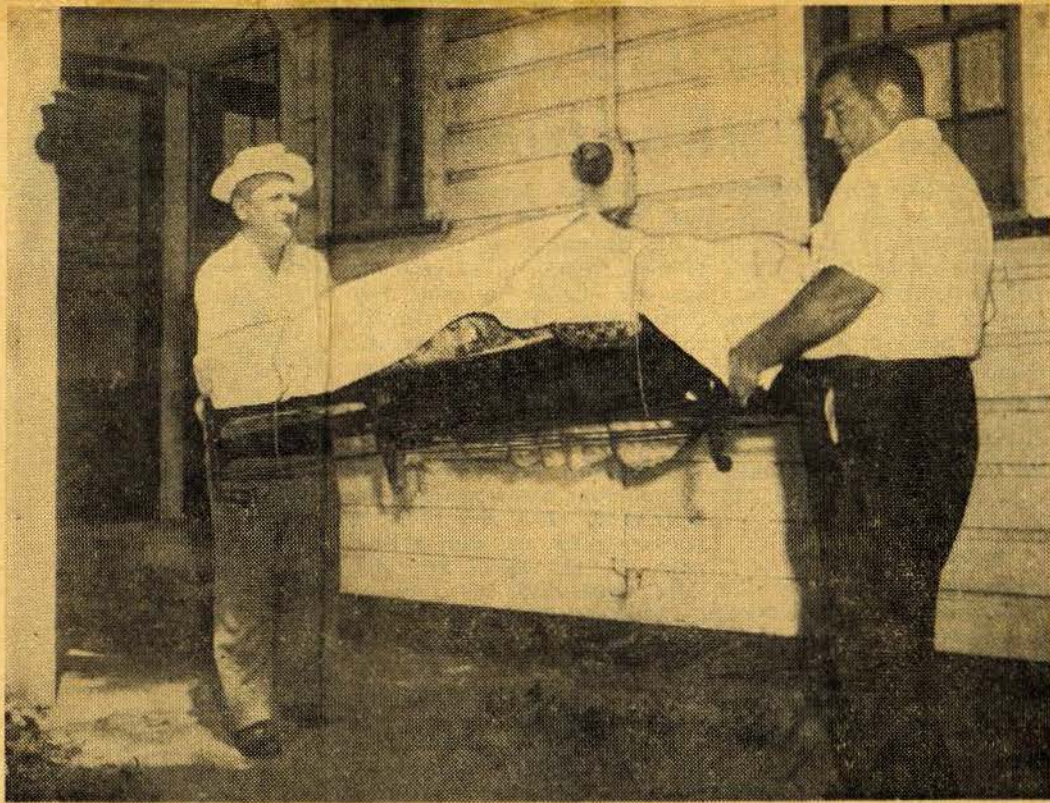
Deputy Inspector James E. McArthur said that the woman relative's statement had been made some time ago to police.

Drop Quiz of Sheppard

McArthur said that detectives had dropped their efforts to question Dr. Sheppard and "are building up their case outside without talking to him."

Asked if he thought he had the guilty person in jail, the inspector replied: "We feel confident we have."

Dr. Sam was visited by his brother, Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, at County Jail this morning. The brother brought the prisoner several loose lemon drops he said his 10-year-old daughter had sent to her uncle. Deputies, however, refused to permit the candy brought into the jail because it was loose and not in its original package.



County Employees Frank Zager (left) and Regis Kennedy take Dr. Sam Sheppard's couch out of the first floor home at 28924 West Lake Rd., Bay Village.