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54/08/03 Doctor Gets Hospital Checkup

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spirited from jail
for exam by four
physicians at city

"nothing seriously wrong," story reports after
sheppard complains of pain; corrigan protests removal as father and brother seek whereabouts; dr. steve later demands visit

by john g. blaire

dr. samuel h. sheppard last night was suddenly spirited away from county jail and taken to city hospital for a physical examination, which found "no serious disability."

the "cloak and dagger" actions of detectives who sought to smuggle him out of the jail to evade reporters set off a series of repercussions, including:

vigorous protests from william j. corrigan, dr. sam's lawyer, over the removal of his client from the jail without notice to him.

demands from dr. stephen a. sheppard, a brother of dr. sam, that he be allowed to visit the alleged wife-slayer to see if he had been beaten by police.

search for dr. sam by his father and another brother, dr. richard a. sheppard and dr. richard n. sheppard.

reports "no protest"

police chief frank w. story revealed that he "finally" got dr. sheppard examined by four doctors specializing in orthopedic and neurological fields.

story said the prisoner "made no protest" about the examination despite his earlier refusal to be examined by two of the physicians who were on hand last night.

asked if dr. sam consented, story replied: "he made no protest. i don't know whether he consented or not."

examining sheppard were dr. spencer braden, a police department neuurosurgery consultant; dr. harry slade, assistant visiting neurosurgeon at city hospital; dr. alyna w. trampey, and dr. samuel h. sheppard.
acting chief of orthopedic service at City, and Dr. George P. Greene, police surgeon.

Story said Dr. Sam had complained of neck pains yesterday morning. He said it became the duty of Sheriff Joseph M. Sweeney to have the prisoner examined.

“And we arranged to have it done by experts,” Story added.

The exact diagnosis will not be known until today, the chief said. The doctors will submit written reports to him.

Story said there “was nothing seriously wrong” found in the examination, which did not include any psychiatric tests.

Shortly after 7:15 p.m. Deputy Sheriffs Carl A. Rossbach and Dave Yettra ran down the front steps of the Criminal Court Building, 1560 E. 21st Street, pulling the handcuffed osteopath after them.

Waves to Reporter

They sought to evade reporters who had been waiting at the rear door of the jail to observe the arrivals and departures of figures in the baffling mystery.

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Doctor Spirited to Hospital for Examination

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"Hi, Sam," one of the reporters shouted as the doctor was shoved into a police car that had reared to a stop in front of the building.

Dr. Sam waved to the reporter as the car sped south on E. 21st Street.

It was 10:40 p.m. when Rossbach and Yettra re-entered the building by the front door. Photographers’ flash bulbs served notice that the secret was out.

Protests to Sheriff

Corrigan lodged an immediate protest with Sweeney when he learned Sheppard had left the jail. He demanded that his client be returned.

This put him in the position of asking that Dr. Sam be released from the jail in the morning and demanding his return there at night.

Yesterday morning, Corrigan unsuccessfully sought a habeas corpus writ to free the Bay Village doctor accused of killing his wife, Marilyn, July 4.

The lawyer termed the action a violation of the law. He said police had no right to take Dr. Sam from the jail without informing him.

Prepares to Stay

Alarmed by the report that Dr. Sam had been taken from the jail, Dr. Steve appeared at the back door at 9:30 p.m. and said: "I'm staying here until they bring Sam back."

"All the hell out of him?" Dr. Steve asked. "You beat a person long enough and he'll confess to anything."

He was refused admittance.

After he learned Dr. Sam was back in his fourth-floor cell, Dr. Steve left for a short period. He returned in about 15 minutes, saying he had told his wife he would be home late.

Shortly before midnight Dr. Sam was up in his vigil and left toting his medical kit. He talked for a half hour with Assistant Coroner Anthony McGinty before departing.

Meanwhile, flashing off and on of lights in the Sheppard home, 28924 West Lake Road, where Mrs. Sheppard was found dead, her head bashed 25 times, attracted attention.

Scientific experts conducted a series of tests to find blood stains, aided by weird lights that glow through the suburban darkness.

Detectives Bernard J. Conley, Henry E. Dombrowski, Elmer A. Roubal and Jerome C. Pleckiing were seen in the house overlooking Lake Erie.

Prowl Inside House

Lights were turned off in the house, and the detectives prowled around aided by flashlight. For 15 minutes the flashlight beam was seen in the northeast corner of the Sheppard garage.

At 8:30 p.m. their work was halted when the appearance of Dr. Sam's father and a brother, Dr. Richard N. Sheppard.

The elder doctor went to the front door of the house while the brother waited outside the fence that encircles the desolate home.

As the father knocked, lights went on in the house and Conley came to the door. The father asked if Dr. Sam was inside, and Conley replied that he was not.

Shouts for Son

"Sam, Sam," the father shouted in the door, but received no answer.

"Are you making scientific tests," Conley told the father and Plain Dealer Reporter William L. Mackey, who had sidled up to the door.

"You'll have to get off of the property," Conley told the two, who then retreated.

"I thought when you arrested a person he was supposed to stay in jail," the father said as he and his son drove away.

Early today the detectives halted their work at the house.

The excursion to City Hospital was the third time yesterday that Dr. Sheppard left his cell.

"Mugged" at Station

Sheppard was taken to Central Station earlier in the day at 4:30 p.m. at a Division of Plain Pleas Court, where his application for a writ of habeas corpus was denied, the doctor was "mugged" and fingerprinted at the station. The police then returned to County Jail.

Arthur E. Petersilge, another lawyer for Dr. Sheppard, entered the court at 3:30 p.m. to see his client.

Mission Not Routine

Petersilge left at 4:30 p.m. and reporters his mission was "something more" than a routine visit.

He was asked how Dr. Sam was feeling and replied: "Put yourself into his place. You wouldn't feel very happy about this situation."