



CSU
College of Law Library

Cleveland State University
EngagedScholarship@CSU

[All Articles](#)

[Newspaper Coverage](#)

8-3-1954

54/08/03 Doctor Gets Hospital Checkup

Cleveland Plain Dealer

Follow this and additional works at: https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Recommended Citation

Cleveland Plain Dealer, "54/08/03 Doctor Gets Hospital Checkup" (1954). *All Articles*. 159.

https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage/159

This Book is brought to you for free and open access
by the Newspaper Coverage at
EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for
inclusion in All Articles by an authorized administrator
of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information,
please contact library.es@csuohio.edu.



CLEVELAND — Mostly cloudy, scattered thunder-showers, little change in temperature. Expected high today 82, low tonight 60.
See Page 16.

DOCTOR GETS HOSPITAL CHECKUP

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. BLAIR

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 neurosurgery consultant; Dr. Harry Slade, assistant visiting neurosurgeon at City Hospital; Dr. Alvyn W. Tramer,



Plain Dealer Photo by George Heinz

RETURNING to County Jail after a physical examination at City Hospital, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard (left) is hustled along by Deputy Sheriff Carl A. Rossbach.

(More Sheppard Case Photos on Picture Page)

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.

(Continued on Page 4, Column 3)

Doctor Spirited to Hospital for Examination

(Continued From First Page)

"Hi, Sam," one of the reporters shouted as the doctor was shoved into a police car that had roared 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."

"Can they beat 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 min-

utes, saying he had told his wife he would be home late.

Shortly before midnight Dr. Steve gave up his vigil and left, toting his medical kit. He talked for a half hour with Assistant Jailer Anthony McGinty before departing.

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

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

Detectives Bernard J. Conley, Henry E. Dombrowski, Elmer A. Roubal and Jerome C. Poelking 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 flashlights. For 15 minutes the flashlight-bearing sleuths converged in the northeast corner of the Sheppard garage.

At 8:30 p. m. their work was halted by 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 rope 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.

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

"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. After returning from Common Pleas Court, where his application for a writ of habeas corpus was denied, the doctor was "mugged" and fingerprinted at the station. He was then returned to County Jail.

Arthur E. Petersilge, another lawyer for Dr. Sheppard, entered the jail at 3:55 p. m. to see his client.

Mission Not Routine

Petersilge left at 4:30 p. m. and told 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."

When Petersilge arrived Mrs. Jane Collins Birns, wife of Alex (Shondor) Birns, racketeer recently convicted of federal income tax evasion, had to leave to permit the lawyer to see Dr. Sam.

Visited by Minister

Mrs. Birns had been visiting her husband in the visitors' room on the fourth floor of the jail.

Another visitor in the afternoon was Rev. Alfred C. Kreke, minister of Bay Methodist Church. He visited Dr. Sam for 20 minutes.

"He seems to be in good shape," Rev. Mr. Kreke told reporters. "He is showing some strain in his face, but, considering what he has been through, I would say he is holding up very well."

Rev. Mr. Kreke quoted Dr. Sam as saying: "If I could clear all this up and get my family out of this horrible situation I would gladly give my life, but I cannot go against the truth."

Reads Sermon

The clergyman said Dr. Sam had said he had read the minister's sermon of Sunday in which Rev. Mr. Kreke criticized the handling of the investigation of the murder of Sheppard's wife, Marilyn, before dawn of July 4.

He added that Dr. Sam had received some letters from friends and was encouraged that they believed him innocent of the murder.

At 7:15 p. m. Detectives William Lonchar and Harold Boyette entered to begin what was thought to be new questioning of Sheppard. Within a few minutes they hurried out and got into their police car, parked at the rear entrance of the jail.

They drove around the block and then pulled up to the front door to pick up Dr. Sam and his deputy escorts.

Announces Black-Out

Story earlier announced a black-out on news concerning the investigation of the murder.

"All the information now is coming from me," Story said. "There has been all kinds of yakety-yak going on and it has helped the other side. This now is to stop giving aid and assistance to the other side."

Story said the coroner's office, the prosecutors and the sheriff's office had all agreed to let him issue the results of investigation.

He said the black-out was not aimed at the newspapers.

Story said there would be no announcements of when Dr. Sam was to be questioned "or where or by whom, any more."

Admits Relations

Dr. Sam admitted to detectives who have questioned him intermittently since he was charged with first-degree murder Friday night that he had been intimate with pretty Susan Hayes.

Miss Hayes, 24, has told

authorities she had been intimate with Dr. Sheppard. He had denied this under oath. He changed his story, saying that, since Miss Hayes had told about the intimacies, he considered himself no longer bound to keep the secret.

Dr. Sam would not admit he had told Miss Hayes that he loved her or that he wanted to divorce Marilyn to marry the Rocky River medical technician.

Weigh Mayor's Testimony

Story said no decision had been made to request Mayor J. Spencer Houk of Bay Village.

Houk, at the public inquest, did not say he had viewed Marilyn's body on the morning of the murder. Yesterday, at the habeas corpus writ hearing, he said he had seen the battered body.

However, on July 4, Houk told a Plain Dealer reporter that he had gone up to Marilyn's room when he arrived and had become ill at the bloody sight. He returned downstairs, he told the reporter, and called police while his wife, Esther, determined that Mrs. Sheppard was dead.