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Quizzed About His Purchases Of Narcotics

BULLETIN
Coroner Samuel R. Gerber closely questioned Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard late today on his purchase and disposition of narcotics. Dr. Samuel R. Gerber said he had not filed an accounting with the government for the amount of narcotics he had used for the previous year, but had accounted for his purchases.

BY HOWARD BEAUFAIT

His manner calm, his eyes covered by dark glasses, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard from the witness stand at an inquest late today swore to tell the truth about the murder of his pretty, 31-year-old wife.

The Bay Village osteopath's appearance on the witness stand sent a dramatic flutter through the crowded inquest room in Normandy School.

Under oath and in answers to questions by Coroner Samuel R. Gerber, the handsome, athletic husband told of seeing a phantom-like bushy-haired man bending over the battered body of his wife in their West Lake Rd. bedroom before dawn July 4.

Dr. Sheppard, wearing an orthopedic neck brace, walked briskly to the witness chair although he earlier appeared to be near collapse and rested in a first aid room at the school.

Police frisked the tall osteopath for a gun he had been carrying before he sat down in the witness chair. He said he stopped carrying the weapon several days ago.

He folded his hands in his lap, crossed his legs leisurely and bounced one foot up and down as he answered preliminary questions about his name, address and his return to Cleveland from a California osteopathic school in 1951.

He was questioned by Dr. Gerber.

Q.-How long have you lived at your present address?
A.-Approximately three years this month.

Q.-Where did you live prior to that?
A.-Before moving here we lived in Los Angeles, Cal. We rented a house here until we could purchase our own home.

Q.-Can you give me the address of the house where you rented?
A.-I don't remember.

Q.-Can you recall the street or the address?
A.-I can't recall the street or the address.

Q.-Don't you recall the name of the street in Rocky River?
A.-No, but it was the house of the football coach who was away for the summer.

Q.-Did you have a phone listed in your name?
A.-No, I don't think so.

Q.-Do you remember your Los Angeles address?
A.-Not exactly. We lived in two apartments there, one was near Mission Rd. right across the street from Los Angeles County General Hospital.

Q.-What year did you graduate from high school?
A.-1942.

Q.-From Cleveland Heights?
A.-Yes.

Q.-After that what school did you go to?
A.-That summer I acted as a playground instructor and then started at Hanover College in the fall.

Q.-That's Hanover College in Indiana?
A.-Yes.

Q.-In 1942?
A.-Yes.

Q.-What other schools did you go to?
A.-I went to Western Reserve University the following summer and I finished up at Hanover in the spring of 1944.

Q.-What's that, Hanover in the spring of 1944?
A.-Yes.

Q.-Where did you go then?
A.-To the College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

Q.-How many years were you there?
A.-Due to the intensified wartime program I went there four years straight with no vacation.

Q.-What were you going to study there?
A.-In the spring around May, 1948.

Q.-What did you do then?

Because of the wartime program and because I was fortunate enough to be one of the top interns I started training in December in Los Angeles County General Hospital.

Q.-That would be in 1945?
A.-No, in December or thereabouts in 1947. I was both an intern and a senior medical student.

Q.-When did you come to Cleveland where did you start practice?
A.-I practiced at Bay View Hospital. I was general...
surgery resident at the hospital.

Q—That brings you up to 1952?
A—Yes, I continued practice as a general surgeon.

Q—What year were you married?
A—I believe in February, 1945.

Q—Where were you married?
A—We were married in Hollywood, I believe it was the First Methodist Church, but I'm not absolutely sure.

Q—Was that your first marriage?
A—My only marriage.

Q—Now, when you were practicing in California, did you have a narcotics license?
A—Yes.

Q—Do you recall the registration number of the narcotics license?
A—I can't recall. I do recall that I confused it with the hospital laundry number.

Q—Now, when you came to Cleveland that number was changed to Ohio. Do you recall the Ohio number?
A—15481.

Q—Now, on July 1, 1954, did you file with the narcotics registration bureau a summary of the narcotics you had on hand?
A—I filed a summary only of what I had purchased, not of what I had on hand. That may be a mistake, but that's the way we do it.

Q—Did you keep a duplicate of that summary?
A—I believe I did.

Q—Did you get a return registration for the years '54 and '55?
A—I haven't yet.

Q—Do you possess a narcotics purchase book?
A—Not that I know of.

Q—Do you have a triplicate book required by the United States government?
A—Not that I know of.

Q—Now, going back to February, 1945, you married Marilyn Reese?
A—Yes.

Q—She was at that time a resident of Cleveland Heights?
A—Well, she had spent some time with her father in University Heights and quite a bit of time with her grandparents in East Cleveland.

Q—Where did you meet her?
A—I met her in Roosevelt Junior High School.

Q—From that time on you and Miss Reese were friendly and planned to be married?
A—We were friendly in junior high school. She was a year or a year and a half ahead of me. She started to high school and we didn't see much of one another then, but when I went to high school we saw a great deal more of each other.

Q—She went to college after graduation.
A—Yes, she was there for the whole year of 1941 and then she went to Skidmore.

Q—When was your son born?
A—Seven years ago this spring?

Q—This past spring?
A—Yes.

Q—Any reason that you can give us for the death in having another child?
A—My wife had a rather difficult delivery. Following the delivery, her doctor felt it necessary to delay having more children right away.

Earlier a tan corduroy jacket owned by Dr. Sam was brought into the spotlight of the inquest but further clouded the mysterious murder of his attractive wife.
Mrs. Don Ahern, neighbor of the Sheppards who visited their home the night before the murder, testified that the Bay Village osteopath was wearing the tan jacket when she last saw him asleep on a downstairs couch approximately four hours before the murder.

The witness added that Dr. Sam was also wearing a white T-shirt under the jacket.

The T-shirt was missing on the morning of the murder and other witnesses testified that the corduroy jacket was found neatly folded across the end of the couch, which also appeared to be undisturbed on the murder morning.

Dr. Sheppard has told investigators that he thought he was wearing the T-shirt when he rushed upstairs to save his wife from a mysterious bushy-haired clubber.

Dr. Gerber said it was not explained why the couch was undisturbed, or why the jacket was folded and unwrinkled unless Dr. Sheppard had taken it off and folded it before rushing upstairs to his wife's side.

Mrs. Ahern also testified that she did not remember that Dr. Sheppard was wearing his wristwatch, fraternity ring or key chain when she saw him sleeping on the couch. The watch and other items of jewelry were found in a green bag hidden in bushes at the rear of the Sheppard home.

Before Dr. Sheppard took the witness stand to again tell his version of the shocking and baffling crime, Police Chief John P. Eaton of Bay Village testified he had heard "rumors" that the osteopath was "running around with other women."

The chief also testified that he had found letters in the Sheppard home written by Dr. Stephen Sheppard, a brother, and Mrs. Dorothy Sheppard, wife of another brother, urging Marilyn Sheppard not to go through with her intention to divorce her husband in 1951.

Mrs. Ahern, in reply to a question from Dr. Gerber, said that Marilyn had once confided in her that she knew about the wrist watch her husband had purchased for Miss Susan Hayes "but didn't think too much about it."

Mrs. Ahern added that the Sheppards had arguments, like any other married couple, but that Marilyn was only disturbed at the doctor's long office hours and his absence from home.

Before being summoned to the witness chair, Dr. Sheppard had been resting on a cot in the first aid room, his eyes closed.

In the inquest hearing room across the hall, crowded with Bay Village housewives, the suburb's mayor, John Spencer Houk, his wife, Esther, and 16-year-old son, Larry, were the first witnesses to testify.

Coroner Samuel R. Gerber, conducting the inquest, brought out the following highlights during the interrogation:

Dr. Richard and Dr. Stephen Sheppard, brothers of Dr. Sam, were permitted by police to go alone into the room were Mrs. Sheppard's body was sprawled on a blood-soaked bed, according to Larry Houk.

MAYOR HOUK TESTIFIED that Dr. Sam Sheppard called him at 5:50 a.m. July 4 and exclaimed: "For God's
sake, Spence, get over here quick. Someone has killed Marilyn."

MRS. HOUK TESTIFIED that the couch on which Dr. Sheppard said he was sleeping downstairs when his wife was being "clobbered" by an intruder on the floor above "didn't seem to be disturbed" when she arrived at the house with her husband.

Larry Houk also testified that on the morning of the murder he saw his mother, Dr. Stephen and Dr. Richard Sheppard and another person he did not know go into the bedroom occupied by a guest, Dr. Lester Hoversten.

"When they came out someone said that Marilyn had refused to make the bed in the guest room because she wished Dr. Hoversten would leave."

Dr. Hoversten was visiting other friends in Kent, O., when Mrs. Sheppard was slain.

Mrs. Houk followed her husband to the witness chair and told of the shocking scene she encountered as she entered the murder room at 6 o'clock Sunday morning, July 4.

"I walked about three feet into the bedroom," Mrs. Houk testified. "I saw Marilyn on the bed covered to the waist by a sheet. I went far enough to put my right hand on her wrist to feel her pulse ... It was numb ... I could not believe what I saw. She was covered with blood—in her hair and on her face."

Mrs. Houk said that Dr. Sam Sheppard appeared dazed and when she poured him a drink of whisky in the kitchen he refused it, saying:

"No. I don't want it. I've got to think."

"When my husband asked him what happened, Dr. Sam said he did not know, that he would have to think," Mrs. Houk testified.

She said that she put her arm around Dr. Sam, "like a mother comforting a child—he was not wearing a shirt and his shoulders and back were dry."
Dr. Sheppard, according to Mayor Houk and his wife, gasped that he had been sleeping on a downstairs couch when he was awakened by his wife's moans and that when he got to the bedroom he was "cllobbered" by someone and the next thing he knew he was "in Lake Erie."

At the afternoon session Bay Village Patrolman Fred Drenkhan and Police Chief John P. Eaton testified.

Drenkhan said he received a call from Mayor Houk to come to the Sheppard house at 5:57 a.m. July 6 and there saw the lifeless and battered body of Mrs. Sheppard. The patrolman testified that Dr. Richard Sheppard arrived at about 6:30 a.m. and spent two or three minutes in the murder room.

"Then he came down at about 6:15," Dr. Gerber asked.

"Yes?"

"Did he ask for any assistance?"

"Yes, he asked for knives. I went into the kitchen and grabbed three knives."

"Did you know what he was going to do?"

"I assumed he would open up her chest and massage her heart."

Chief Eaton testified briefly that he had also been at the Sheppard home that morning, but left to drive Dr. Gerber to Bay View Hospital to see Dr. Sam.

Other developments in the 18-day old murder mystery were:

**THE HOMICIDE** unit of the Cleveland police department, under the direction of Police Chief Frank W. Story and Detective Inspector James E. McArthur took over complete control of the investigation on an around the clock basis.

**ASSISTANT County Prosecutor** Thomas Parrino and Homicide Detective Robert Schottke flew to Los Angeles, Cal., to question Miss Susan Hayes and Mrs. Dorothy Shabala, who formerly worked for the Sheppard osteopathic family at Bay View hospital.

**ARREST** of a suspect was believed imminent.

**THE SHEPPARDS' 6½ year-old son**, Chip, who slept in an adjoining room in their home at 28924 West Lake Rd., Bay Village, while his mother was being clubbed to death, was subpoenaed to appear at the inquest.

Scheduled for the inquest witness stand were Mr. and Mrs. Don J. Ahern, neighbors of the Sheppards, who visited them the evening before the murder.

Inquest subpoenas were served on Dr. Samuel Sheppard, his two brothers, Dr. Richard and Dr. Stephen, and their wives.

Coroner Gerber decided to hold an inquest and place all witnesses under oath after Dr. Sam Sheppard had refused to submit to a truth serum test under the direction of Dr. Alan R. Moritz, pathologist and crime expert of national reputation.

Under Ohio law the coroner has the authority to hold inquests into homicides and all unexplained deaths, but he has rarely exercised his right.

Dr. Gerber said an inquest was necessary because he felt important information was being withheld in the Sheppard case. He said the inquest would work hand-in-hand with the main investigation now being handled by Cleveland police "in the hope of developing important leads that might lead to a solution of the crime."

Meet Attorneys

The coroner said he was happy that Cleveland's crack homicide team was taking over the probe. He said the investigation now would be handled in the same manner as the coroner's office and the Homicide Bureau have successfully handled 100 murder cases a year.

An hour before the inquest opened, the Sheppard family met with their two attorneys, William J. Corrigan and Arthur E. Peter...
Fred O'Malley, to work around the clock on the murder.

The Cleveland officers first read all reports gathered by County Detective Carl Rossbach, the county prosecutor's office and Bay Village police. Then they went to the murder scene to see firsthand where the crime was committed and where the scanty clues were found.

In the future all tips and information gathered by investigators will be channeled through the Cleveland homicide unit. Interrogation of all suspects, likewise, will be handled by the Cleveland Detective Bureau.

Bay Invites Probes

Bay Village Council authorized expenditure of $5,000 and invited Cleveland's crime experts to step into the bogged-down and confused probe. Miss Hayes, a pretty medical technician, and Mrs. Shabala, with whom she lives in a Los Angeles suburb, were previously questioned about their association with Dr. Sam Sheppard by a Los Angeles district attorney.

Miss Hayes admitted that Dr. Sheppard had bought her a wrist watch last March to replace one she lost while attending a wedding party with him. Both Dr. Sheppard and Miss Hayes insisted their relationship was only "casual."

Dr. Gerber said the inquest would inquire more closely into Dr. Sheppard's friendship with Miss Hayes.