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54/11/05 Letters Reveal Dr. Sheppard Had Fears of 'Death Plot'

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Letters Reveal Dr. Sheppard Had Fears of 'Death Plot'

BY SEVERINO P. SEVERINO

A fear that a "crackpot" might make an attempt on his life in the courtroom was revealed in one of Dr. Sam Sheppard's private letters today.

From his jail cell he wrote his slain wife's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Guilford (Bud) Brown, that "we never know what might happen to me."

"I want you to take complete charge of Marilyn's things," Dr. Sam wrote in a preface to his expression of fear.

Refers to Son, Chip

In another letter Dr. Sam spoke tenderly of his son Chip—"he's the greatest little guy in the world," and stressed his intentions of being a good father.

"I only wish Marilyn was here and my life taken if one had to go," he said in a closing paragraph of the same letter.

Here is the full text of the letters:

Dear Mary & Bud:
Was happy to see you today as ever.

Things here are about the same. I'm not sure which of the packages you sent up, but thanks anyway. They take everything apart and put it in a bag. Messages and notes are often mixed up.

Glad you saw Sy Rosen and Art Payne was here too.

Mary I want you to take complete charge of Marilyn's things. It's hard to think about but that's what I want. There is no rush but we never know what might happen to me and so it should be definite. Some crackpot could shoot me in the head on one of these court visits for all we know. Enough of that.

Cites Son's Adjustments

Steve says Chip is all set for school in R. R. That is going to be best for many reasons I think. He sure has made a terrific adjustment over there and that's where he should stay I think. What do you think about it?

The game Sy Rosen brought has been the center of attention since it got here. All "the boys" have been trying to work it out. I haven't tried as the reading and writing have kept me busy.

Will close. Love to H. P. and all.

Sam

Likes to Eat Fruit

Dear Mary & Bud:

Just ate a banana and am starting on one of the pears. Had some of the grapes this afternoon after you left. It all is so fresh and good I can hardly stop eating it. Thanks to Granddad too! Tell Granddad that all the pipe smokers here say the Cros-

by Square is the best. I'm not sure which of you sent the Crosby Square but I know it was his idea.

You folks must have some idea of how much your visits mean to me because of your regularity. I know that it is not without difficulty that you both make it each week with Bud at the store and all. As I stated in one of my letters to mother I think you both with my immediate family feel part of this whole thing with me and are with me during every hideous phase.

There are so many inner thoughts and feelings I want and need to express to you that can't be written but they'll have to wait for a while. These relate to plans Marilyn and I had for the future and things she had hoped for.

Sends Word to Son

When you see Chip tell him hello for me. He's the greatest little guy in the world! He'll never get the deal that Marilyn did when she was left without a mother. This you know but I don't only mean Betty and Steve. I mean as soon as I am able he'll have his father with him and behind him in every way. This you'll never have to remind me of.

Have you met Fred Garmone again yet. Guess you saw him at the hearing. Seems to be a nice guy.

Well, guess that's all. Wanted to let you know that I think of you folks a great deal and particularly Granddad. Thank God his little Chip is still with us. I only wish Marilyn was here and my life taken if one had to go. No use wishing such things, tho.

Love to all,
Sam.

P.S. Hope you'll be able to read the sermon by L. V. Real that I sent to mother. It has been a great comfort to me.

Love again,
ss

be definite. Some crackpot could shoot me in the head on one of these court visits for all we know. Enough of that!
Steve

Parts of letters from Dr. Sam H. Sheppard written from his County Jail cell to Marilyn Sheppard's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Guilford (Bud) Brown.

and particularly Granddad. Thank God his little Chip is still with us I only wish Marilyn was here and my life taken if one had to go, I use wishing such things tho.
Love all