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Basically Good Girl, Say Susan's Parents

PRESS 7-28-54
Susan Hayes was described by her parents today as a "basically good girl who made a mistake."

Interviewed at the family residence, 1680 Wagar Rd., Rocky River, Elbert C. Hayes and his wife, Honore, revealed they were thinking of moving to another city and taking Susan with them.

"We hope to take Susan with us and rehabilitate her," said the father, a big, handsome man in his mid-50's. "We did our best to bring her up right, but she has made serious mistakes. We hope she'll be closer to us in the future."

Protected Her Family

Both father and mother attributed the original reticence of Susan, the other woman in Dr. Sam Sheppard's life, to discuss the murder case to a desire to "protect her family."

Hayes said he and his wife had telephoned Susan three or four times a week since her involvement in the case had been revealed, and asserted he advised her to "tell the truth, regardless of who is hurt."

"If Susan hadn't wanted to

tell the truth, absolutely nothing the police could have done would have dragged it out of her," the father said.

The strain on parents in a case of this sort was dramatically told by Hayes when he said:

"The biggest decision I ever had to make in my life was yesterday, when I had to decide whether to meet Susan's plane at the airport, and whether to go down to the Police Station to see her.

"I finally decided we couldn't do any good at the airport or at the Police Station."

He said Susan telephoned from the Police Station to express sorrow "for all the trouble I've caused."

Hayes had only praise for the Sheppard family, saying, "All of the Dr. Sheppards I know are honorable men." He said Dr. Stephen Sheppard had removed his gall bladder several years ago.