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FATHER OF DR. SAM DIES AT 64

Succumbs at Bay View at 10:25 P.M., 11 Days After Wife's Death

BY JOHN G. BLAIR

Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, 64, father of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, died last night at 10:25 at Bay View Hospital.

His death came 11 days after the suicide of his wife, Ethel Niles Sheppard. Mrs. Sheppard shot herself in the head Jan. 7.

Dr. Sam broke down and wept at County Jail when told of his father's death. His brothers, Dr. Richard N. and Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard, accompanied by their respective wives, Dorothy and Betty, broke the tragic news.

The brothers had hurried to the jail from the hospital. Chief Jailer Michael Uccello came from his home to admit them to the jail.

Dr. Sam Slumps, Sobs

Dr. Sam was in his fourth-floor cell listening to a portable radio when summoned to the visitors' room by Uccello. Uccello said Dr. Sam knew something was wrong when he entered the room.

"You must know why we are here," Dr. Richard said, putting a hand on Dr. Sam's shoulder.

"Dad passed away tonight," he added, quietly.

Dr. Sam slumped in a chair and bowed his head in his hands, sobbing.

The brothers arrived at the jail at 11:16 and left for home at 11:35 p.m.

Immediately after they left, Dr. Sam was transferred to the closely-watched observation cell in which he was placed following his mother's suicide. He had been returned to his regular cell block only a few days ago.
Already in serious condition with pleurisy and complications, the head of the osteopathic family declined steadily after his wife's suicide. His sons said the elderly doctor "lost his will to live" after his wife's death. Dr. Richard and Dr. Steve were summoned to the bedside, but did not arrive before their father died. Their wives accompanied them.

During Dr. Sam's trial for the bludgeon murder of his wife, Marilyn, July 4, the elder Dr. Sheppard became ill. A pleurisy condition became complicated. Following Dr. Sam's conviction the father's health deteriorated to some extent. Close friends said his wife's suicide would "finish him."

Last week Dr. Sheppard was transferred to the Cleveland Clinic for tests to determine if a malignancy existed in his lungs. Following reported negative results he was returned to Bay View, the institution which he founded and built.

The hospital was close to his heart. Until tragedy struck the family last July 4, Dr. Sheppard spent most of his time there. Despite his advancing age, he carried a full burden. During the trial he took over the surgery work of his sons so that Dr. Steve and Dr. Richard could lend moral support to Dr. Sam.

Dr. Donald E. Braunlich, an intern, was on hand when Dr. Sheppard died. He said the patient died "quietly" and was not in pain.

Earlier in the day Dr. Sheppard's condition, which had been "poor" for several days, took a sudden turn for the worse, Dr. Richard said. The doctor, who had remained lucid during his illness, lapsed into a coma.

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Succumbs at 10:25 p. m., 14 Days After Wife

(Continued From First Page)

His illness apparently figured in his wife's suicide. Mrs. Sheppard left a note which read:

"Dear Steve--I can't manage without Dad--thanks for everything, Mother."

The couple had been extremely close. Mrs. Sheppard suffered a stroke several months ago and was cared for by her husband at Bay View. When she recovered sufficiently she returned home.

When Dr. Sheppard first became ill she was readmitted to the hospital rather than remain at home alone.

Hanna May Rules

Later she left the hospital and lived at the home of Dr. Richard and Dr. Steve.

Apparently her loneliness for Dr. Sheppard was a contributing factor in her death. It was expected Dr. Sam would seek court permission to attend the funeral of his father. He was permitted to attend services for his mother, Jan. 6. Deputy sheriffs escorted Dr. Sam to the Saxton funeral home and to Sunset Memorial Park, where Mrs. Sheppard was buried.

During his trial he was permitted a visit to the bier of his years later.

The funeral would come to him as the family moved to Alpha, O, about 1905. He practiced for a year in this was the college his three sons attended before coming to Bay View Hospital on his staff.

Ardent Fisherman

Dr. Sheppard was a member of Al Koran Shrine and a charter member of A. A. Stephens Masonic Lodge in Bay Village. He was a trustee of the Euclid Avenue Association and for 30 years was a member of the Church of the Saviour in Cleveland Heights before moving to Bay Village.

Dr. Sheppard was a keen sports enthusiast, and his greatest interest was in fishing. Until a few years ago he spent much of his free summer time on fishing trips.

His wife had admitted that