7-5-1954

54/07/05 (2nd) Bay Doctor's Wife Murdered

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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BAY DOCTOR'S WIFE MURDERED

Husband Describes Fight With Intruder

WOMAN FOUND IN BED AT HOME WITH HEAD HACKED BY 25 BLOWS

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, dazed, calls Mayor and Mrs. Houk; Desk ransacked; bag of jewelry found near house; weapon missing; boys join in hunt.

Chopped in the head and face by 25 savage blows, Mrs. Marilyn R. Sheppard, 31, was found murdered in bed yesterday in her home, 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village.

Her husband, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, 30, prominent osteopathic neuro-surgeon, was discovered beaten and dazed in the living room of the rambling suburban home.

Motive for the killing was not determined, although police recovered a bag of personal jewelry belonging to Dr. Sheppard from weeds behind the house.
BAY VILLAGE MURDER.

Mrs. Marilyn R. Sheppard, 31, (above, middle) was found slain early yesterday in her home, 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village (below). Dr. Samuel R. Sheppard (above, left), her husband, was found beaten in the home and told police he struggled with an unknown intruder. The couple's son, Samuel, Jr., 6½, (above, right) was asleep in a bedroom next to the one in which Mrs. Sheppard's body was found.

(More Photos on Picture Page)
Ransacking of Dr. Sheppard's medical bag and his desk in a study led detectives to theorize that someone might have been after narcotics.

Mrs. Sheppard's face had been hacked, apparently by some sharp instrument. She was virtually unrecognizable, police said.

Mayor J. Spencer Houk of Bay Village and his wife, Esther, made the gruesome discovery at 5:40 a.m. after being telephoned by the distraught husband.

Mrs. Houk ran to an upstairs bedroom of the house, where she found Mrs. Sheppard lying face up on a blood-soaked twin bed.

The walls and door of the room were splattered with blood. Pajama pants worn by Mrs. Sheppard had been pulled down on her legs, which straddled a bedpost. The top was pulled up to her waist.

Mrs. Houk felt the pulse of the woman, four months pregnant and the mother of a son, Samuel, Jr., 6½, who was asleep in a bedroom next to the one in which Mrs. Sheppard was found slain.

The Sheppard's Irish setter was running around the living room when Mayor and Mrs. Houk entered the front door, which was open when they arrived.

Sleeping on Couch

Dr. Sheppard told Dr. Samuel R. Gerber, Cuyahoga County coroner, that he was asleep on a couch at the bottom of the stairs when he suddenly awoke.

He said he had a vague feeling that he had heard Mrs. Sheppard screaming.

Running upstairs, Dr. Sheppard told the coroner from his bed in Bay View Hospital, where he was in "good" condition, the physician was met by someone.

Dr. Sheppard said he was hit on the back of his neck and stunned.

He said his next recollection was running in the back yard of the home, overlooking Lake Erie.

Dr. Sheppard said he remembered running after someone down the stairs to a beach house on stilts above their private

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He awoke his wife and hurried to the Sheppards' home. Dr. Gerber said Mrs. Sheppard had not been sexually assaulted. He performed an autopsy soon after arriving at Dr. Sheppard's hospital.

**Sussex Face Bruises**

Dr. Sheppard suffered face bruises. X-rays were taken to determine if he had received a skull fracture.

Houk said he found Dr. Sheppard slumped on the living room leaning against an armchair. He performed an autopsy soon after arriving at Dr. Sheppard's hospital.

**Dog's Silhouette Mystery**

Neighbors reported they heard no disturbance in the silence.

Failure of the couple's dog, Kock, to bark was one of the unanswered mysteries of the bizarre case.

Alex Brunecke, 3006 West Lake, said that usually the dog's barking would have been heard before the dog was found lying on the sand.

**Houk's Son**

Houk's son, Lawrence, 16, on which Mrs. Sheppard was found lying on the sand.

**Houk's Face Bruises**

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