



CSU
College of Law Library

Cleveland State University
EngagedScholarship@CSU

[All Articles](#)

[Newspaper Coverage](#)

7-5-1954

54/07/05 (4th) Find Tooth Chips Under Body of Bay Doctor's Slain Wife

Cleveland News

Follow this and additional works at: https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Recommended Citation

Cleveland News, "54/07/05 (4th) Find Tooth Chips Under Body of Bay Doctor's Slain Wife" (1954). *All Articles*. 244.

https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage/244

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newspaper Coverage at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Articles by an authorized administrator of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact library.es@csuohio.edu.



FIND TOOTH CHIPS UNDER BODY OF BAY DOCTOR'S SLAIN WIFE



MRS. MARILYN R. SHEPPARD

Bay doctor's murdered wife



DR. SAMUEL H. SHEPPARD

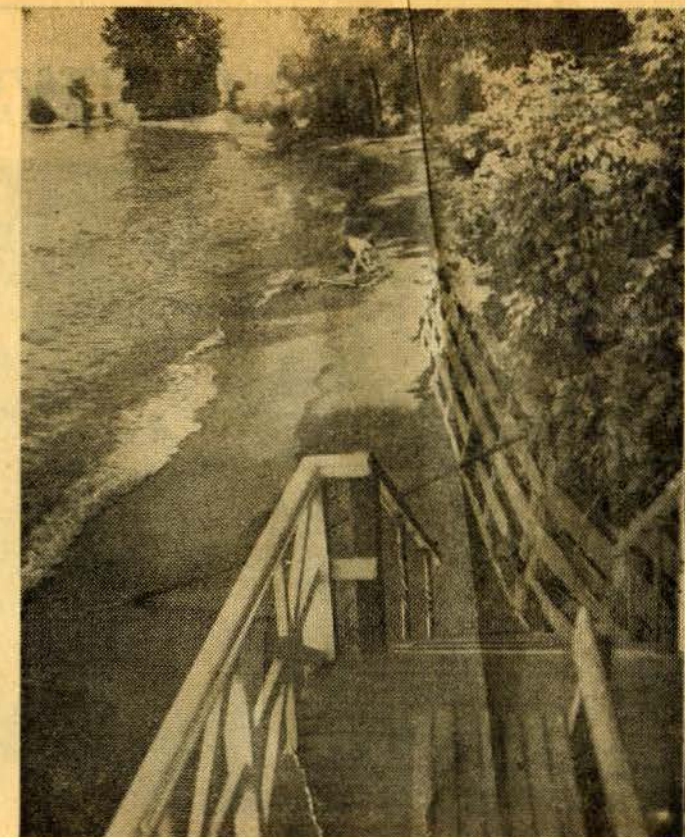
Bay doctor



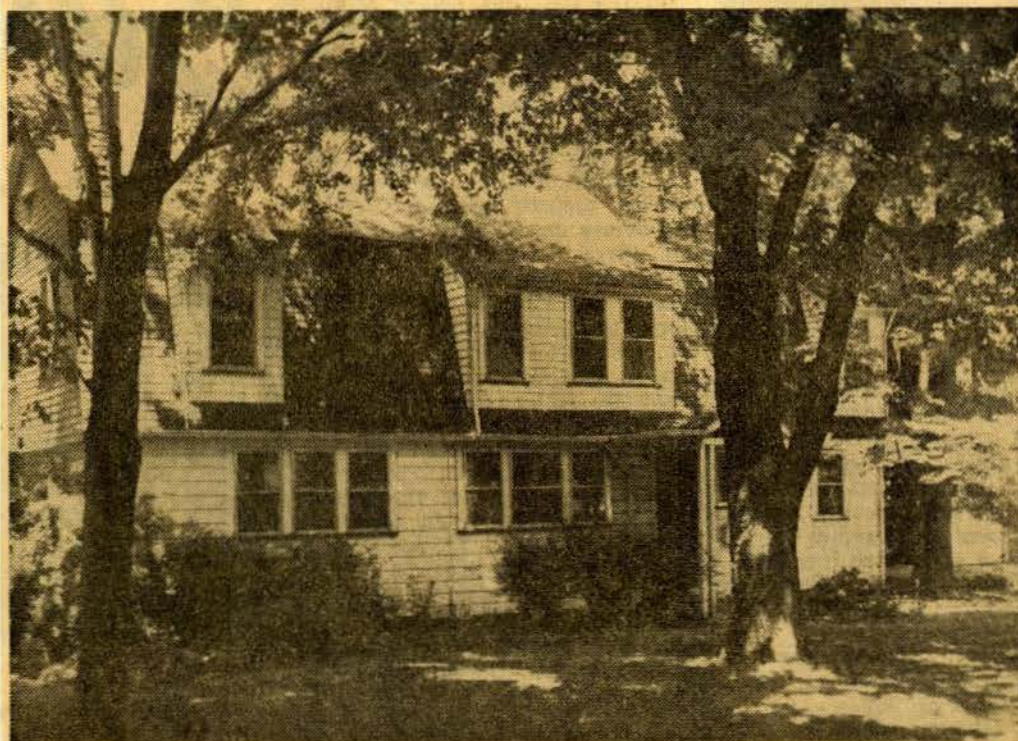
County Coroner Samuel R. Gerber inspects sunglasses found at scene of beach struggle between Dr. Sam Sheppard and wife's murderer.



Patrolman Fred Drenkham checks blood-splattered bed on which Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard was brutally murdered in mysterious attack.



Beach behind Dr. Sam Sheppard home where he said he fought the killer down the stair steps.



Sheppard home at 28924 Lake Rd. in Bay Village is scene of holiday tragedy.

Grappled With Brutal Slayer, Physician Says

Chips of two human teeth turned up today as the most important clues to the brutal bludgeon murder of the attractive wife of a Bay Village osteopath.

The tell-tale bits of teeth were found under the battered body of Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard who was found early yesterday in the bedroom of her home at 28924 West Lake Rd., in the western suburb.

Coroner Samuel R. Gerber discovered the two chips when he examined the murder room. They presumably came from the teeth of the mysterious slayer as the victim fought for her life.

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, 30, husband of the slain woman, is recovering in Bay View Hospital from head injuries and bruises he said were inflicted by his wife's assailant.

In another important development in the mysterious crime, Dr. Gerber ordered a police guard stationed at Dr. Sheppard's hospital room.

The coroner said he acted as a precaution against further violence when he learned that a former patient had "threatened to get Dr. Sheppard."

Mrs. Sheppard, surprised as she slept in her second floor bedroom, was hacked more than two dozen times with a blunt instrument.

Dr. Sheppard told a harrowing story of grappling and battling with the mysterious invader in a fight which ended at the foot of a 50-foot cliff in front of the house.

The osteopath said he lost consciousness several times and "came to" in Lake Erie.

Dr. Gerber and Bay Village police said many baffling aspects of the murderous assaults remain to be cleared up. It was the worst crime to strike Cleveland's west shore in many years.

The coroner and Cleveland homicide detectives, Patrick Gerau and Robert Schottke, agreed that robbery apparently was not the motive.

A possible theory, the officers said, was that a prowler was in search of narcotics when Mrs. Sheppard awoke and discovered him.

Injuries Described

At the hospital Dr. Stephan A. Sheppard, brother of the injured doctor, said his brother had multiple lacerations, contusions and abrasions of the face and head.

"The entire right side of his face is swollen and the right eye is swollen shut," he said. He has deep lacerations inside the right cheek, internal injuries about the chest and abdomen, and a concussion which has resulted in exten-

Continued on Page 6, Column 1



SAMUEL H. SHEPPARD JR.

Tooth Chips Are Found In Murder

Continued From Page 1

ive muscle spasms of the back and neck."

Following the beating, Dr. Stephan Sheppard said his brother was given a collar brace which makes it possible to support the head and save himself from pain.

The body of Mrs. Sheppard, mother of a seven year old son, Samuel Jr., was found sprawled across one of the two twin beds in the bedroom she shared with her husband at the west end of the spacious, rambling home.

Mrs. Sheppard was expecting another baby in five months.

Dr. Gerber said her death was caused by 25 severe head wounds inflicted possibly by a square-edged blunt instrument.

The murder weapon was not found. Lake Erie was being dredged today in further search for it.

The master bedroom of the home was flecked with blood spots indicating the maniacal fury with which the killer struck his victim.

Doctor Phoned Mayor

First word of the crime came at 6 a. m. Sunday when Dr. Sheppard phoned the Bay Village Mayor, J. Spencer Houk, who lives two doors west at 29014 West Lake Rd.

"For God's sake, Spence, get over here quick. I think they have killed Marilyn."

Houk, his wife and son rushed over. They found Dr. Sheppard bruised, distraught and dazed. They summoned his brother, Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, who also lives nearby at 23346 West Lake Rd.

Dr. Richard Sheppard said he went to the bedroom and found Mrs. Sheppard already dead.

A green cotton bag was found at the foot of the wooden flight of stairs leading from the cliff to the beach below. The bag contained Dr. Sheppard's gold wrist watch, a gold watch chain and gold football charm and the doctor's keys, all bloodstained. His eye glasses were found nearby on the beach.

Narcotics Not Touched

Dr. Gerber said there was a small supply of narcotics in Dr. Sheppard's bag on the desk in his den. It was not touched. Several drawers in the desk had been pulled out and contents disturbed, but nothing appeared to be missing.

The Shepard's seven-year-old son slept through the nightmare of murderous fury in a room only a few feet from the murder room. His door was not closed, Dr. Gerber said.

The boy was awakened Sunday morning by his uncle, Dr. Richard Sheppard and taken to his home without being told what had happened to his mother and father.

Doctor Tells of Slaying

From Dr. Sheppard, after he had been given a sedative to ease the pain of his injuries, and from other witnesses interviewed, police said they learned the following story of events that preceded Mrs. Sheppard's murder:

Saturday night neighbors came to call at the Sheppards. They were Mr. and Mrs. Don Ahern and their small son, of 29146 West Lake Rd. The two families sat in the downstairs den and listened to a radio account of the stadium ball game. When that ended they watched a television film, "Strange Holiday."

Mr. and Mrs. Ahern left shortly after the film ended. They said Dr. Sheppard, weary from working long hours at the Bay View Hospital, had fallen asleep on a couch in the downstairs living room.

The Aherns said Mrs. Sheppard also appeared to be sleepy.

Awakened by Scream

Somewhere between 5 and 6 Sunday morning, Dr. Sheppard said he was awakened by a scream. He said he recognized his wife's voice. The house was dark.

He said he jumped off the couch in the downstairs living room and ran up the stairs to the second floor. When he got to the top of the stairs at the entrance to his wife's room he saw one or two men, he couldn't be sure which,

then something struck him on the back of the neck. He lost consciousness.

When he regained consciousness the osteopath said he ran downstairs and saw a man running out the door toward the lake. Next he remembers scuffling with the man at the bottom of the cliff, near the water's edge. Then he said he was hit again and came to in the water.

Unconscious Second Time

Dr. Sheppard said he returned to the house, saw his wife's body and then lost consciousness again. His next conscious act was to call the Houks.

Bay Village police said they received their first call at 5:55 a. m. Sunday. Patrolman Fred Drenkhan was first at the scene. He found the mayor there with the two doctors.

A search was immediately instituted for the murder weapon. When it could not be located on the grounds of the Sheppard home, or in the summer house where tools are stored, several swimmers volunteered to search the sandy bottom of Lake Erie.

The Sheppards had a house guest who was not there Saturday night. He was Dr. Lester P. Hoversten, of Los Angeles, a medical school classmate of Dr. Samuel Sheppard.

Dr. Hoversten had spent the day visiting other friends in Kent, O. He was reached at a golf course there and told of the slaying of Mrs. Sheppard.

Dr. Gerber said that Mrs. Sheppard's wounds had all been confined to the front, sides and back of her head. Her body had not been otherwise molested or mistreated.

Police said Dr. Sheppard's watch, found in a green bag 15 feet south of the doctor's boat house in dense undergrowth, had stopped at 4:15. It was also filled with water which police could not explain.