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They Shared Duties, Pleasures of Life

BY ROBERT CUBBEDGE

Stunned residents of Bay Village at first refused to believe a brutal murder and beating had marred the holiday gaiety of their tight-knit little community.

But the news spread like wildfire and today there is but one question on everyone's lips: How could anyone want to harm people as wonderful as Dr. Sam Sheppard and his pretty wife, Marilyn."

Mrs. Joseph Howell of 23728 Bruce Rd., Bay Village, a close friend of the Sheppards, expressed the sentiments of all.

Enjoyed Life to Fullest

"They were a beautiful couple," she commented. "Oh, not just in physical appearance, but in their wonderful spirit. They lived life to its fullest and enjoyed every minute of it."

Mr. and Mrs. Don Ahern, who spent the last night of Marilyn's life with the Sheppards, termed them "a devoted couple, and especially happy because Mrs. Sheppard was going to have another child."

Mayor J. Spencer Houk and his wife, Esther, first to arrive on the murder scene, described the Sheppards as "vital, wonderful people

—the best kind of friends anyone could have."

"Dr. Sam," as he is called at the hospital is a virtual legend among his patients. Employing the most modern of medical technique, time and again he has performed seeming miracles in what seemed like hopeless cases.

Massaged Child's Heart

Only Saturday, he revived an 18-month-old child in a delicate emergency heart massage operation after the child had been crushed under the wheels of a truck.

The tiny boy died 20 minutes later, however, even as Dr. Sheppard worked frantically on a cranial incision to relieve brain pressure.

But for the strain and tension of the operation, Marilyn might be alive today.

"That was the last thing Sam talked about before he fell asleep on the couch," Ahern said. "He remarked about how tired he was and how much he wanted to save the child's life."

Mr. and Mrs. Ahern and Mrs. Sheppard stayed up to listen to the baseball game and to watch a

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ZEST FOR LIVING

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television movie, "Strange Holiday." Then the Aherns left and Marilyn retired for the night.

Dr. Sheppard was well-known for his ability to sleep—and to sleep hard. Apparently he heard nothing, no prowlers or any noises out of the ordinary. That's why he heard nothing until Marilyn's piercing screams shattered the early-morning air.

Dr. Sheppard is a member of one of Cleveland's most prominent medical families. His father, Dr. R. A. Sheppard, and his brothers, "Dr. Steve" and "Dr. Richard" form the nucleus of the medical staff of Bay View Hospital.

Father Is Chief of Staff

The brothers are called by their first names to avoid confusion at the hospital. Their father is chief of staff of the hospital, which he founded, and the brothers serve on an equal basis as senior members of the staff.

Dr. Sheppard and his wife were high school sweethearts at Cleveland Heights High. He was an outstanding football player, and a gold football he received as a three-year letterman was among effects stolen from the murder-room.

Mrs. Sheppard was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S.

Reese of 4233 Silsby Rd., Cleveland Heights.

The two were married in 1945 in Los Angeles, where Dr. Sheppard served his Internship. He went on to become a brain and heart specialist and supervised both departments at Bay View.

Excelled in Saving Lives

Dr. Sheppard handled almost every serious accident emergency case admitted to the hospital. He is credited with outstanding work by other doctors at the hospital in his success at saving lives.

So interested was he in his work that he flew home by chartered plane from a vacation last month at Put-In-Bay in a futile attempt to save the life of a small child run down by a car.

Dr. Sheppard worked hard and he and his family played just as hard, friends said.

Their chief form of relaxation during the summer months came from swimming and boating in the lake behind their home.

Sam, Marilyn and seven-year-old Sam Jr., nicknamed "Chip," all took turns on a pair of water skis towed around by the 14-foot outboard motorboat the Sheppards owned jointly with the Houks.

The doctor had taken up a new

hobby recently, despite misgivings from his wife. It was sports cars.

He recently joined a sports car club, along with the Howells. He piloted Joseph Howell's standard-make MG in a road race during his vacation at Put-In-Bay. It was his first venture at racing.

Who Killed Marilyn?

For his personal use, Dr. Sheppard drove either a low-slung Jaguar or an ancient, but expertly-conditioned Lincoln Continental.

Still the big mystery is, "What caused Marilyn's death?"

Was it a dope addict looking for narcotics? Was it a prowler who slipped past the sleeping doctor only to be surprised by his wife? Or was it a demented patient, or the disgruntled relative of a patient, motivated by the desire for revenge.