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Sheppard Goes to County Jail for New Questioning

Murder Case Probers Seek More Details

By Howard Beaufait

Dr. Samuel Sheppard appeared at County Jail today for a new siege of questioning in the week-old mystery slaying of his attractive wife.

The Bay Village osteopath walked into the sheriff's office on the fourth floor of Criminal Courts building accompanied by his attorney, Arthur E. Petersilge and a brother, Dr. Stephen Sheppard.

County Detective Carl Rossbach said he had asked the husband of the brutally-murdered woman to come to the jail for further interrogation by him and Assistant County Prosecutor Thomas Parrino.

Dr. Sheppard had previously been questioned only in the presence of his attorneys and relatives at Bay View Hospital and his home where his wife, Marilyn, 31, was beaten to death, 28924 West Lake Rd., Bay Village.

The tall, athletic osteopath has steadfastly denied implication in the crime although Rossbach told him his account of the murder was "not satisfactory" and that he was a suspect.

At County Jail Dr. Sheppard was separated from his attorney and brother. He was taken to a small questioning room adjoining a fourth floor cell block.

Homicide Detectives Robert Schottke and Pat Gareau were summoned to be present at the interrogation.

After two hours and 40 minutes of grilling, Rossbach called for a stenographer to reduce Dr. Sheppard's statement to writing.

Assistant County Prosecutor Gertrude Bauer took shorthand notes of the doctor's present version of the murder. By consent of the county detective, Attorney Petersilge was allowed to be present while the statement was written and signed.

Contents of the question and answer document were not immediately made known, but a deputy said Dr. Sheppard had not changed his story that a tall man with bushy hair who had an unknown motive had bludgeoned his wife.

Rossbach said that questioning of Dr. Sheppard at his home yesterday had developed discrepancies but they were of a minor nature.

The osteopath appeared calm and confident as he walked into the jail elevator. His brother asked that they not be bothered by newspaper photographers.

Attorney Petersilge told reporters that he had asked County Commissioners to handle the $10,000 reward offered by the Sheppard family for the arrest and conviction of the murderers of Mrs. Sheppard. So far the reward has turned up no important clue to the mystery.

Six Youths Picked Up

The surprise development at County Jail came as Lakewood and Bay Village police picked up six youths who vaguely answered descriptions of persons seen in the vicinity of the Sheppard's lakeshore home last Saturday night.

Three Lakewood youths were picked up in an old model car in which police also found a pipe blackjack. It was sent to Coroner.
Samuel R. Gerber for examination for bloodstains.

Three tree trimmers held by Bay Village police were ruled out as murder suspects after three fishermen who saw a trio of men near the Sheppard beach failed to identify them.

Dr. Gerber said that examination of a wrist watch worn by Dr. Sheppard showed definitely it was flecked with blood. Blood was also found on the right trouser leg of a pair of summer pants the doctor was wearing last Sunday.

“We know that Mrs. Sheppard’s blood type was O and the RH negative factor, but we are unable to type the blood found on her husband’s watch and trousers,” Dr. Gerber said.

A short brown fibre found in Mrs. Sheppard’s hand, also examined in the morgue laboratory, cannot be identified, the coroner said. Strands of hair found in the dead woman’s hands proved to be her own.

Doctor Is Shocked

When Rossbach told Dr. Sheppard he was a suspect in his wife’s murder he said the doctor replied: “You don’t think I killed her, do you? My God! Do you think I would do that when we were expecting our baby.”

Police Chief John P. Eaton of Bay Village said diving operations had been called off after a day-long search of the lake in the vicinity of the Sheppard house had failed to locate the missing weapon used to beat Mrs. Sheppard 27 times about the head and face.

The weapon, Dr. Gerber said, is probably a tire iron, wrench or square piece of heavy metal about 18 inches long.

William J. Corrigan, criminal attorney, accompanied Dr. Sheppard and investigators as they went back over the scene of the crime and asked the osteopath to re-enact what he said happened before last Sunday morning.

“This man is so innocent it is a shame to put him through this ordeal,” Corrigan said. “If I had the least inkling that my client was guilty he would not be out here and he would not be talking to police.”