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57/07/24 Dr. Sam in Jail Said Marilyn 'Understood'

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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Dr. Sam in Jail Said Marilyn 'Understood'

7-24-57
By SANFORD WATZMAN

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard painted a tableau of harmony at home when detectives quizzed him in County Jail. The suspect was under arrest—almost a month after the murder.

A glimpse into his cell is afforded the public for the first time through police reports that were released to the Plain Dealer by Chief Frank W. Story.

In the interrogating sessions Dr. Sam:

ASSERTED that his wife, Marilyn, was confident of holding his love. This contradicted

FOURTH OF A SERIES

other evidence developed by police, as revealed in an earlier article in this series.

Refused Photos

AGREED he should take a lie detector test, but feared his lawyers would desert him if he did.

REFUSED to scan photographs of the murder scene to refresh his memory.

Q—Wasn't (Mrs. Sheppard)

resentful of your friendship with another woman?

A—No, she wasn't. Marilyn during the first years of our married life would not have understood about me and Sue (Miss Susan Hayes), but later on she developed an understanding which surprised even me.

This was taken from a report by Detective Sgt. Harold C. Lockwood in which he reconstructed his questioning of Dr. Sam on the night of July 31—some 24 hours after the arrest.

(Later, on the witness stand, the prisoner praised Lockwood for the courtesy he had shown.)

"He admitted they were pretty close to (divorce) in 1950, but states he does not think that Marilyn was serious about any talk of divorce recently," Lockwood related in another report.

(Continued on Page 4, Column 3)

Sam in Jail
Said I, lyn
Understood'

Maintained Wife Was Sure of His Love

★ From First Page

"He still maintains that Marilyn recognized that she held her husband's love and would not lose him to Sue or anyone else."

"Accepted" Affair

(A few weeks before she died Mrs. Sheppard disclosed to a friend that Dr. Sam "had asked her for a divorce," according to another police document.)

Detective Peter J. Becker, who questioned Dr. Sam immediately prior to the session with Lockwood on July 31, said he was told by the prisoner:

MRS. SHEPPARD accepted the affair with Miss Hayes "as one of those things."

HIS WIFE encouraged him in California to "look up Susan and have yourself a good time."

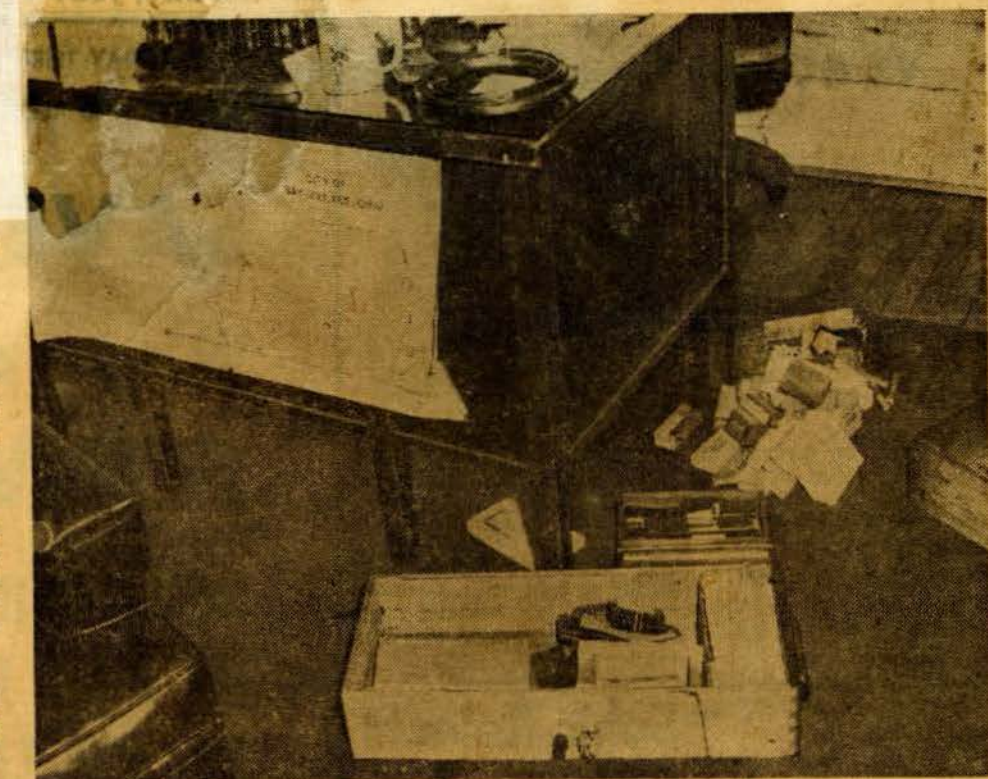
Harped at Test

"We continually harped at the fact that, if he were innocent, why has he steadfastly refused to submit to a polygraph examination," Becker wrote.

In explaining that this would cause the defense attorneys to drop his case, Dr. Sam "stated he thought that even at this late date it looked like he should submit and that he would talk to his attorney about it," Becker continued.

"When we attempted to show him the first photo of his wife in bed he covered his face with his hand and refused to look at further pictures.

"We explained that seeing the scenes as they actually were might help him to recall these



Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard recalled the night of the murder only vaguely when detectives discussed it with him in County Jail. He refused to inspect official photographs that might have assisted him in the effort, interrogators said. The picture above, giving a view of the "ransacked" home, was taken from police files.

events that he was hazy about, but he still maintained that he 'couldn't recall'."

Dr. Sam was insisting that a "maniac" must have murdered his wife and that the demented person also "clobbered" him.

Becker exhorted the prisoner to be more specific and to use words more descriptive than "visualize" and "silhouette."

While he refused generally to discuss the events of July 4—on the admonition of counsel—the suspect:

"... Conversed freely ... but seemed to hesitate and select his words for the various answers," Becker said. "He gave us the impression of having been very well coached.

"He did seem to become quite aroused when we accused him

of being a pampered 'baby' who has subjected his family to all the notoriety he has, mainly because ... he was covering up and (was) not man enough to face the music.

"He seemed to give considerable thought to the fact that in the event he is the guilty party it would be a lot easier to tell about this crime and have a chance at a lesser indictment."

Detective Harold E. Boyett reported on Aug. 1:

"At various times he would become apparently nervous.

"One time while discussing the beating Marilyn took and that she was hit repeatedly, and it was demonstrated how the beating possibly took place, he would wince every time that a simulated blow was struck at

a point on the floor across the room from him."

Lockwood's questioning the day before had ended on this note:

"It seemed strange, but we thought we were gaining his confidence to a point where he was talking very freely ...

Lost Confidence

"However, the conversation swung around to his and Marilyn's visit to (Los Angeles) ... and although he completed his narration he was heard to murmur as if to himself: 'I've got to be careful.'

"Following this, he asked to be excused from further questioning because he was tired. We were never able to fully recover the free responses he had been giving us."

Defense Attorneys William J. Corrigan and Arthur E. Petersilge gained admission to the jail the next day.

Until Aug. 3, when the quiz sessions ended, police and the lawyers competed for the prisoner's time—with jailkeepers acting as the mediators.

Dr. Sam's first encounter with Cleveland's veteran police interrogators came on the day of the murder in Bay View Hospital. Corrigan was called into the case at that point.

The Cleveland detectives recommended that Dr. Sam be transferred to the prison ward at City Hospital. This advice was turned down by the authorities in Bay Village.

Reports were made by the interrogating teams to inform

Reports were made by the interrogating teams to inform each other of the ground covered and the reaction that was being obtained.

TOMORROW: Other suspects.

Dr. Steve Says He Is Not Surprised

A brother of Samuel H. Sheppard said last night that Cleveland officials went to Florida to interview Donald J. Wedler just for appearance.

Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard, Dr. Sam's brother, told wire services he was not surprised at the he was not surprised at the conclusions reached by Coroner Samuel R. Gerber.

Dr. Steve said he did not know if Wedler was guilty, but he felt officials could have checked out Wedler's story more thoroughly.

The brother also expressed disappointed that Erle Stanley Gardner was leaving the state, but said he felt Gardner was not yet finished with the case.