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57/07/22 Marilyn Was Desperate in Final Days of Her Life

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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Marilyn Was Desperate ✓ in Final Days of Her Life

P. Dealer 7-22-57

By SANFORD WATZMAN

Marilyn Sheppard was a desperate woman in the final weeks of her life.

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, her husband, was waging a cold war at home. After his affair

SECOND OF A SERIES

with Susan Hayes he opened new fronts on which to humiliate her.

The pregnant mother sought allies wherever she could find them, asking one friend to intercede with the "other woman."

Mrs. Sheppard told another person she would "ruin" her husband in case of a divorce.

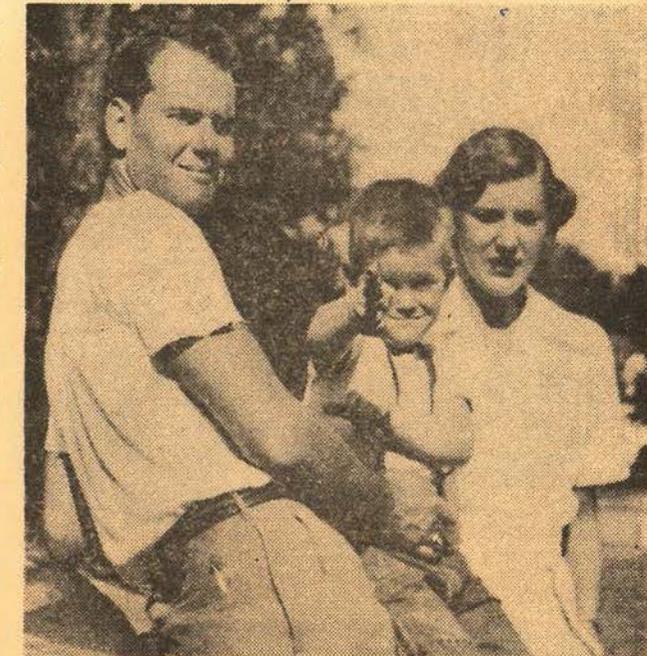
This was the background for the murder, as related in official police homicide reports made public for the first time.

Contradict Defense

These documents contradict repeated assertions by the defense that the Sheppards lived happily together to the end, having surmounted earlier marital difficulties.

They also show that Marilyn Sheppard was far from reticent about her shaky marriage, as has been widely supposed. Her pride was gone, washed down in tears.

One woman who knew this was a secretary for the Sheppard brothers. She told police she mistakenly opened a letter, postmarked Los Angeles and



This was the family of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard before tragedy struck. Dr. Sam is shown with his wife, Marilyn, and son, Chip. (Photograph taken from police files.)

addressed to Dr. Sam. The writer was Miss Hayes.

When she saw the communication was personal she stopped reading, the secretary related. She asked her husband to apologize for her to Dr. Sam for the error.

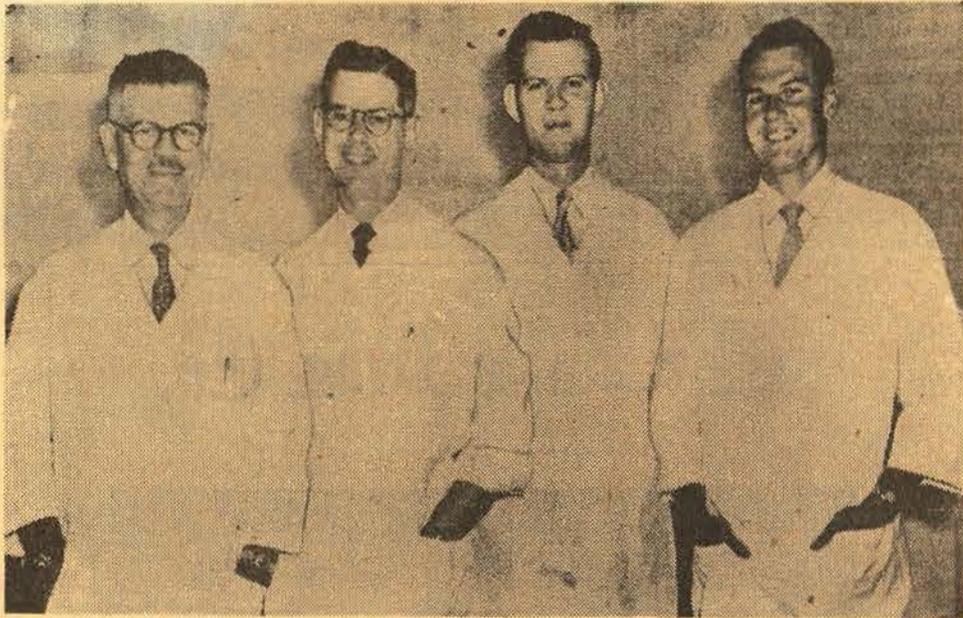
This was done, and Dr. Sam told her not to open any letters mailed to him from Los Angeles.

A few weeks later, on April 15, 1954—the murder occurred July 4—Marilyn Sheppard suddenly confronted the secretary and demanded the letter. The wife said Dr. Sam had told her about it.

The police report goes on, paraphrasing the secretary's story:

"She wanted this letter as
(Continued on Page 11, Column 1)

Marilyn Was Desperate in Final Hours, Reports Disclose



Dr. Richard
A. Sheppard
(Deceased)

Dr. Stephen
A. Sheppard

Dr. Richard
N. Sheppard

Dr. Samuel
H. Sheppard

The Sheppard osteopathic family had postal cards engraved with this photograph in the late 1940s. (Photograph taken from police files.)

★ From First Page

evidence because Sam had asked her for a divorce and (his father) was against it because it would ruin the family name...

"Marilyn also stated that if she would divorce Sam she would drag his name through the newspapers and ruin him professionally and financially.

"She did state that he was having another affair... that Dr. Sam had hurt her so much that she was now beyond being hurt again but would sit back now and watch him suffer."

This testimony and the other

Refuses to Comment

Defense Lawyer William J. Corrigan refused to discuss the contents of this article when he was telephoned by the Plain Dealer yesterday. Associate Defense Council Arthur E. Petersilge could not be reached for a statement.

incidents recorded here were never offered in court. Prosecutors leaned backward in evaluating the evidence so as not to afford Dr. Sam a ground for a retrial.

● Sought MD

Other documents tell how Marilyn Sheppard sought a medical doctor to attend her at childbirth. Her husband was an osteopathic neuro-surgeon at Bay View Hospital.

Two women related this story in separate interviews. They said Mrs. Sheppard confided in them when they went golfing with her on July 1 and 2, 1954.

"Marilyn said that Sam Sheppard was running around with women again, and she wished he would grow up and act... according to his position and profession," a police report on these interviews said.

Mrs. Sheppard told one golfing partner that this latest woman in her husband's life was now in the habit of visiting her home.

On one occasion, Mrs. Sheppard related, she and her husband were preparing to go out. But the other woman appeared, driving off with Dr. Sam in his sport car. Mrs. Sheppard said she waited more than an hour and a half until they returned.

One lead that police were unable to nail down came from William Flood, a private detective. He told homicide men that in September, 1953, he received a telephone call from a "Mrs. Sheppard on Lake Road, Bay Village."

The caller said she wanted to retain Flood, but not in a "domestic case." She made an appointment for the next day. Later she telephoned again and canceled it.

Flood made a brief note—merely writing "Mrs. Sheppard" and the time set for the appointment. He turned this over to homicide investigators.

"Sam Sheppard... riding up and down in front of her house." Shortly afterward she reached him by telephone and warned him she would call police if he did not stay away.

In the course of this conversation, she went on, Dr. Sam asked her to speak to his attorneys. She agreed.

That night, she said, she was interviewed at the home of chief defense counsel William J. Corrigan by Corrigan, associate defense counsel Arthur E. Petersilge and Dr. Sam.

The discussion turned to the events immediately preceding the murder. According to the homicide report:

"Jessie Dill then asked (Dr. Sam): 'Didn't Marilyn shake you and wake you up when she went to go upstairs?'"

"Sam replied: 'She may have called me when she came down to get a sandwich.'"

"Jessie stated that Sam stopped talking abruptly when he made this last statement, and Mr. Corrigan gave him a

The woman had never called him again.

Another story that intrigued the homicide men was told by Mrs. Jessie M. Dill, 25, of Painesville. She said she met a woman who might have been Mrs. Sheppard at the Fairport Harbor bathing beach on June 14, 1954.

This woman told Mrs. Dill about her husband's infidelities. Although Mrs. Dill passed a lie detector test and some points of her story were checked out, it could not be definitely established she had talked with the murder victim.

Mrs. Dill's statement was reported in the newspapers at the time. Subsequently, she gave another statement to police, to this effect:

On July 29, 1954, she saw

dirty look and Mr. Petersilge immediately changed the conversation."

If this account were to be accepted, it would constitute the only time in the murder investigation that Dr. Sam told of seeing his wife alive after 12:30 a.m. on July 4.

He said on the witness stand that he fell asleep on a couch at that hour, while his wife and neighbors watched television. The next time he saw

Marilyn Sheppard, Dr. Sam testified, she was dead.

TOMORROW: Cleveland police penetrate a blackout on part of the evidence.