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54/07/12 Trail Of Blood Found In New Check At Home

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

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DEALER

FINAL

1954

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SEVEN CENTS

TRAIL OF BLOOD FOUND IN NEW CHECK AT HOME

House Is Barred; Hospital's Staff Faces Quiz

BY JOHN G. BLAIR AND
PAT GARLING

A trail of blood left by the killer of pretty Marilyn Sheppard was traced yesterday in her Bay Village home by Coroner Samuel R. Gerber.

Bloodstains on the back porch and on the stairs leading to the bedroom where Mrs. Sheppard was hacked to death before dawn July 4 were found by investigators.

What may be blood was around the night latch of the back door—the door that was reported to have been locked by a neighbor on the night of horror.

Medical Technologist Mary E. Cowan of Dr. Gerber's staff was summoned to the rambling suburban home, 28924 West Lake Road, in the afternoon.

Scrapes Off Samples

Miss Cowan scraped samples of the blood off the porch floor and the stairs. Samples of the smeared material around the night latch were also taken.

Police theorized that the blood found may have dripped from the weapon used by the slayer to chop Mrs. Sheppard's face and head with 25 savage blows.

Dr. Gerber revealed that he had barred Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, 30, husband of the slain woman, from his own house.

Orders House Closed

The coroner said he had ordered the house closed to all but official investigators.

It was reported by police that some members of the Sheppard family visited the home Saturday night and asked permission to obtain clothing. They were turned down.

Dr. Gerber said that the blood found was "not typeable," but that the discovery was significant in that it pointed to the possibility that the murder weapon had been carried out of the house.

Systematic questioning of all Bay View Hospital employees will be started this morning by Bay Village police.

Staying With Father

Doctors, nurses, interns, service and maintenance employees will be quizzed in an effort to learn of any disgruntled former patients or employees.

Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, father of the injured doctor, said his son might visit some of his patients undergoing treatment at the hospital. The son is staying at his father's home, adjacent to the hospital grounds.

Chip, 6½-year-old son of the Sheppards, will leave today to go to camp, as planned by his mother before tragedy struck the family.

Bay Village Mayor J. Spencer Houk postponed all police vacations until after the Sheppard murder is solved.

Deputy Sheriffs Carl A. Rossbach and Dave Yettra, with Bay Village Police Sgt. Jay Hubach and Patrolmen Fred Drenkhan and Howard Smith, spent five hours in the house yesterday afternoon.

Trail of Blood Discovered in Home

(Continued From First Page)

They tramped along the sandy beach to nearby Huntington Park, about 150 yards to the east of the comfortable Sheppard home. They walked through the park to West Lake Road and back to the house, where they again were shut up with Dr. Gerber and other investigators.

Yettra left the house carrying a parcel wrapped in newspaper. While he refused to say what was in it and Rossbach said it was "papers," it was believed the investigators took with them a T-shirt belonging to Dr. Sheppard.

This was reported to be for the purpose of comparison if and when the missing T-shirt worn by the osteopath the night of the murder is found.

The missing T-shirt remained one of the biggest mysteries in the baffling case, events of which

resemble a masterpiece of crime fiction.

Pace of the investigation slowed. Instead of rapid-fire, drama-packed action, plodding detective work now seemed the hope of bringing a solution to the murder.

Today will be the eighth day since the discovery of the murder of Mrs. Sheppard at dawn on what had been planned as a gay holiday of water skiing by staff members of Bay View Hospital, operated by Dr. Sheppard and his family.

It was a period of frustrating delay as a result of investigators' inability to question Dr. Sheppard in detail about happenings in the house overlooking Lake Erie.

After a few brief question periods while the doctor was still in a dazed condition, interrogation was halted when the Sheppard family called in William J. Corrigan, noted criminal lawyer, to

advise the injured osteopathic neurosurgeon.

It was not until after Dr. Gerber threatened to hold a public hearing and subpoena Dr. Sheppard that investigators gained access to the doctor.

But under exhaustive questioning—nine hours on Saturday—Dr. Sheppard stuck to his story.

Testimony Reiterated

Told by investigators that he was a suspect in the case, he reiterated previous testimony that he awoke from his sleep on a couch in the living room hearing his wife screaming.

Running upstairs, Dr. Sheppard saw a man at his wife's bedside before he was "clobbered" from behind.

Later regaining consciousness, the doctor said, he was taking his wife's pulse when he heard a noise downstairs and rushed down. He saw a man going out the back door to a screened-in porch.

Tells of Chase

Pursuing the man, Dr. Sheppard said, he chased him down a 50-foot flight of steep stairs to the beach, where he tackled the intruder in the sand.

Again struck down, Dr. Sheppard said, he awoke on his stomach, lying in the water and soaked.

Struggling up the stairs, Dr. Sheppard telephoned his brother, Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, and Mayor Houk. He then went up to the bedroom and took his wife's pulse and found she was dead. He covered her partly nude body with a sheet.

Returning to the living room, he slumped in a chair and then slipped off onto the floor.

Mayor and Mrs. Houk arrived first to find the house a scene of one of Ohio's greatest modern mysteries, and Dr. Sheppard shirtless.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ahern, 29146 West Lake, who had been supper guests earlier on the tragic night, said Dr. Sheppard had worn a T-shirt when he fell asleep on the couch while listening to the baseball game.

Under questioning Saturday at the Criminal Court Building, Dr. Sheppard could not explain what had happened to the T-shirt.

Other Puzzlers

Other unanswered questions concern:

DEMEROL—a synthetic morphine—reported to have been taken from Dr. Sheppard's medi-

cine kit, found upturned in the vestibule of the house.

MONEY which Dr. Sheppard has said was missing from his and his wife's wallets.

BLOODSTAINED wrist watches belonging to both—how they were stained and by whom.

JEWELRY — including the watches — found in a green cloth bag in weeds behind the house.

But the major clues sought by investigators remain the same as when the murder was discovered—the weapon and the T-shirt.

Still No Motive

Dr. Gerber said yesterday: "We are still without a motive for this vicious crime."

Possibility that \$1,000 will be added to the \$10,000 reward offered by Dr. Sheppard for the

arrest and conviction of the "murderers" of his wife was seen.

Dr. Charles A. Purdum, secretary of the Cleveland Academy of Osteopathic Medicine, said that a reward had been suggested within the academy, but that formal offer awaited collection of the money. Dr. Sheppard is a member of the academy.

Arthur E. Petersilge, Sheppard family lawyer, said the Cuyahoga County commissioners would take up his request that they act as arbiters in any claims for the reward offered by Dr. Sheppard.

Details of placing the funds in escrow await action today by the commissioners, Petersilge said.

Latest of numerous "suspects" picked up by Bay Village and other authorities was a 35-year-old woman who was held last night on an intoxication charge at County Jail.

"Confesses" Murder

The woman telephoned Drenkhan at 12:30 yesterday morning as he was questioning neighbors of the Sheppards at the Bay Village City Hall.

Confessing to the murder, the woman told Drenkhan that she did it because she had to have demerol—being allergic to morphine.

Drenkhan got her to describe herself. While he kept her talking from a Pearl Road cafe, Cleveland police were dispatched to the tavern and picked her up.

Preliminary questioning indicated she was not a good suspect.

Clues to a man seen lurking in the shadow of trees near the Sheppard home on the night of the murder failed to bring a break in the case.

Two brothers, Leo and Charles Stawicki, had told Bay Village police they saw a man in the glare of their headlights as they drove home from Marblehead about 2 or 2:30 a. m. on July 4.

The description given by the brothers varied. That given by Leo had similarities with the description given by Dr. Sheppard. Both said the man was over six feet tall and wore a white shirt.

Both Stawickis concurred in that the man they saw had "bushy hair."

Police released a 43-year-old East Sider arrested Saturday night for drunk driving near the Sheppard residence. A length of pipe had been found under the car seat. The man said he carried it for protection.

A steady stream of cars slowed down before the Sheppard home throughout yesterday. Curious occupants gaped at police cars parked in the yard and pointed at the residence.

Even off shore many boats sailed near the private beach to afford seagoing gawkers a closer view.