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Cleveland Plain Dealer

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C.P.O. 7-13-54

# 'MYSTERY WOMAN' SAYS SHEPPARD VISITED HER ON LOS ANGELES TRIP

Former Technician at Bay,  
Reached in California,  
Tells of Watch Gift

BY JOHN G. BLAIR AND  
PAT GARLING

"Mystery woman" in the Sheppard murder case was revealed early today as Miss Susan Hayes, 24, former Bay View Hospital medical technician, living at Downey, Cal.

Miss Hayes told the Plain Dealer that she was the woman who was given a wrist watch by Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard when he was attending a medical convention in Los Angeles last March.

Her name entered the investigation of the brutal hack-murder of Marilyn Sheppard on Saturday.

Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon said Dr. Sheppard was asked about his friendship with the woman in a nine-hour questioning at the Criminal Court Building.

#### Tells of Call

"We intend to go into this further," Mahon told the Plain Dealer. "We intend to talk to the woman about her relationship with Dr. Sheppard."

Miss Hayes told the Plain Dealer that Dr. Sheppard "called me" when he was in Los Angeles.

She said that she did not get in touch with the handsome osteopath first, but that he telephoned her at the place she was living.

The young woman, whose home here is at 1680 W. 210th Street, Rocky River, said Dr. Sheppard asked her to go to a wedding of a friend of the doctor's.

While at the wedding Miss Hayes lost her watch, she told the Plain Dealer by telephone. She did not explain how she lost it.

#### Describes Respect

But she added that Dr. Sheppard gave her a new watch to replace the one she lost.

Asked if she knew if Dr. Sheppard's wife, who accompanied the osteopath on the trip west, was aware of her meeting with the doctor at the time, Miss Hayes replied: "I don't know."

She said that the doctor had never given her any other gifts, but that she knew and respected him while she was here.

Miss Hayes said she had heard of the killing of Mrs. Sheppard before dawn July 4. Her parents had been sending her newspaper clippings about the tragedy, she said.

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(Continued From First Page)

Dr. and Mrs. Sheppard drove to California in March in a 1952 Mercury and bought the Lincoln Continental which was found in their garage the morning of the murder.

Miss Hayes went to California last February, it was learned.

Authorities investigating the bizarre case late last night discovered Dr. Sheppard is carrying a .38-caliber, snub-nosed revolver "for protection."

The discovery was made when Dr. Sheppard, accompanied by his two brothers, Dr. Stephen A. and Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, visited the house where Mrs. Sheppard was chopped to death by 25 savage blows on the head and face.

The trio of osteopathic doctors had asked to obtain clothing for Dr. Sheppard from the house. Dr. Samuel R. Gerber, Cuyahoga County coroner, has barred Dr. Sheppard and all but official investigators from the home.

"I told him it was a dangerous thing to carry," Dr. Gerber said of the revolvers.

Dr. Sheppard said a Bay Village officer had suggested he carry the weapon for protection. He said he had had it for two days.

After a half hour of haggling the Sheppards were admitted to the house and under police escort took suits and other clothing out.

#### Releases Jaguar

Dr. Gerber also released to Dr. Sheppard his Jaguar sports car and a jeep owned by the Sheppards, which is used by Bay Village in road emergencies and for civil defense purposes.

Shortly before this Mr. and Mrs. Robert Knitter, 785 Kenilworth Road, Sheffield Lake, appeared at the Bay Village police station with a description of an "ugly, clean-shaven man" they saw the murder morning near the Sheppard home.

Knitter said the man was of medium height, weighed about 170 pounds, had large eyes and nose, was clean shaven but had long sideburns. The stranger's hair was cut close around the base of the head, but the top was bushy like a crew cut grown in.

#### Walking Near Cemetery

The couple said he was 32 to 42 and was walking near the Bay Village Cemetery, a short distance west of the Sheppard home at 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village.

Knitter said they saw the man as they drove home about 3:30 or 4 a. m. The stranger was walking toward the Sheppard home on the north side of the road.

Lakewood Patrolman Richard B. Adler was summoned to the station and, with the aid of the Knitters, made a sketch of the man.

Using the description and sketch, Bay Village Sergt. Jay Hubach and Patrolman Fred

Drenkhan said a check would be made on a West Sider who police said "would be capable" of butchering Mrs. Sheppard.

#### Visits Patients

While at his home to obtain clothing, Dr. Sheppard told Plain Dealer Reporter Reed Trask that he did not know what the reaction of the public would be when he meets persons as he resumes his practice.

He said the only public he had met since the morning when Mrs. Sheppard was found chopped to death in her bed were his patients at Bay View.

Dr. Sheppard visited several yesterday, trying to immerse himself in work to blot out the grim memories of a week ago.

He said he was "still a patient" himself. He spoke of his wife and himself as "we."

Deputy Sheriffs Carl A. Rossbach and Dave Yettra again visited the Sheppard home yesterday. After a short time inside, they departed with the word to newsmen: "There's nothing new, boys."

#### Check Another Report

They later checked out a report of Mr. and Mrs. Jay L. Bender, 294 Ruth Street, Bay Village.

Bender and his wife, Doris, said they were driving home about 2:15 the morning Mrs. Sheppard was killed.

Mrs. Bender said she noted a light on in the study of the rambling suburban home overlooking Lake Erie.

She said that another light—described as dim—was on in a second floor room. Police said this apparently was the night light in the sitting room.

#### Reports to Guest

The downstairs light was the first indication of activity in the home after the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Don J. Ahern, 29146 Westlake, who had been dinner guests of the Sheppards.

Mrs. Ahern said last night that she believed the light was on in the study when the couple departed soon after midnight. She did not know if it was turned off.

Late in the afternoon Mrs. Elvora Helms, 12211 Brookfield Avenue S. W., was brought to the Sheppard home. Mrs. Helms

cleaned once a week at the house, she said, always on Wednesdays.

Taken through the Sheppard home, Mrs. Helms could not say if anything was missing.

Earlier, Mrs. Helms had been questioned by Assistant County Prosecutor Thomas J. Parrino. She told Parrino the Sheppards were "like sweethearts."

Parrino also took statements from Mr. and Mrs. Ahern. Ahern was questioned for nearly an hour and his wife for 15 minutes about occurrences the night of the murder.

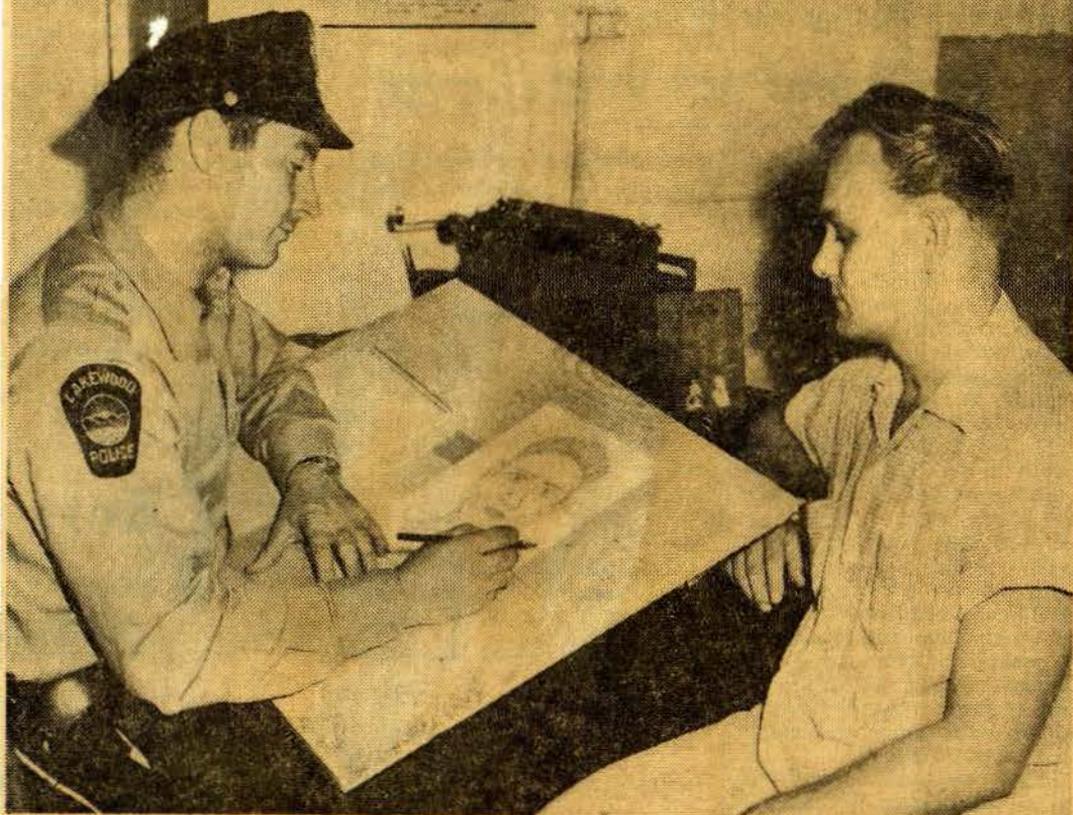
County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan said that the investigation had got off to a slow start and that the killer's trail had grown cold while officials sought to question Dr. Sheppard.

Earlier in the day Dr. Lester T. Hoversten, who had been a house guest of the Sheppards, was permitted to enter the house and obtain clothing belonging to him. Dr. Hoversten was in Kent visiting friends the night of the slaying.

Still missing as the mystery entered its ninth day were the murder weapon and the T-shirt which Dr. Sheppard had worn earlier in the evening when he fell asleep on a couch while listening to the baseball game on the radio.

Acting as individuals, Cuyahoga County Commissioners Henry Speeth, Joseph F. Gorman and John F. Curry agreed to administer the \$10,000 reward posted by Dr. Sheppard for the arrest and conviction of "the murderers" of his wife.

The money will be placed in escrow with a bank, Arthur E. Petersilge, Sheppard family lawyer, said. The commissioners acted as individuals to decide who shall receive the money after Assistant County Prosecutor Saul Danaceau advised them they could not do so in their capacities as commissioners.



**POLICE ARTIST SKETCHES SUSPECT.** Top: Patrolman Richard B. Adler of Lakewood sketches the likeness of a new suspect in the murder of Marilyn R. Sheppard as Robert Knitter gives a verbal description of the man. Bottom: At the left is Don J. Ahern and his wife, Nancy C., last known persons to see Mrs. Sheppard alive, who yesterday retold their story to Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon. At the far right is Patrolman Adler's completed drawing.