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## 54/07/22 Bay Friends Recall Marilyn As Woman Liked by All

Cleveland News

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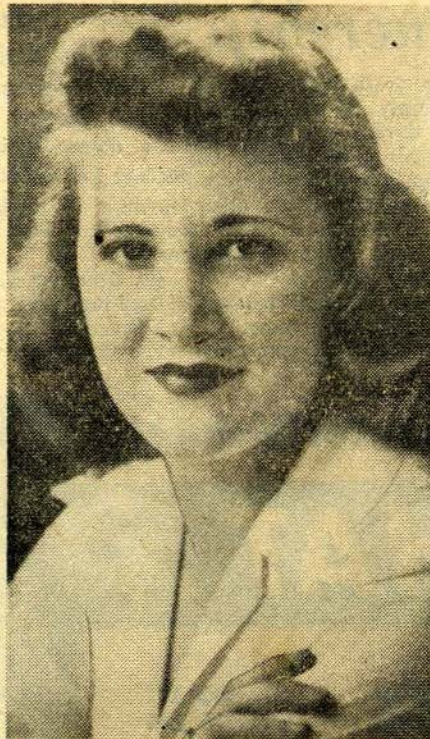
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Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard during senior year at Heights High.



Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard when she was in her early 20's.



Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard shortly before her tragic death.

## *Bay Friends Recall Marilyn As Woman Liked by All*

BY DORIS O'DONNELL AND DORIS MILLAVEC

Marilyn Reese Sheppard, the girl everybody liked, today is more vividly and persistently present in minds and hearts of her friends than when she was alive.

Today—the 19th day since the brutal bludgeon slaying—impressions of the young Bay Village housewife are condensed into concrete and erasable thoughts. The value of events and incidents brought to the surface today is destined for the microscopic focus of the coroner's inquest.



Marilyn's personality traits, mannerisms, things she said and did are illuminated in new lights by friends, acquaintances, and former classmates who awoke on the Fourth of July to learn she was the tragic victim of one of Greater Cleveland's most chilling crimes.

Once the initial shock of the news subsided after the startling tragedy, her friends, former high school pals and employes of suburban Bay View Hospital have found little to talk of but Marilyn Sheppard.

In death the 31-year-old mother has come dramatically alive, more almost than she ever did in her routine life of caring for her husband, Dr. Sam Sheppard, and son, "Chip."

Actually Marilyn Sheppard was not a dramatic person. Nor sophisticated. She was not the kind of girl who went in for slinky black satin. She preferred "simple broomstick skirts, cardigans, and Peter Pan collars."

#### A "Dependable" Pupil

Marilyn Sheppard was a dependable, reliable, restrained young woman.

She was friendly and outgoing with girls who had been constant high school companions at Cleveland Heights High. But in later years as the young wife of an aspiring and ambitious doctor she made few close friends. Where her husband was gay and extroverted, she was shy and subdued.

A Bay Village woman described Marilyn as a "Girl Scout" type of person. She was a wholesome, active person who liked basketball, swimming, water skiing. Yet despite her athletic tendencies, Marilyn Sheppard was a lady in the sense that her femininity never suffered or was submerged in tomboyishness.

Marilyn's mother died when she was a child. Her late grandparents—the mother and father of her own father, Thomas S. Reese of 4233 Silsby Rd., University Heights—were very close to her during the school period of her life. They died while she was in California after her marriage, and she came home for their funerals on two different times.

## Stepmother Silent

Her stepmother, a delicate, petite woman, has firmly refrained from entering publicly in the case. While polite to reporters, Mrs. Reese steadfastly refuses to be quoted. She repeatedly, she said, told reporters that everything she has to say was told to proper authorities.

She said Marilyn was a "normal, sweet child," and beyond that would not elaborate.

She said she and her husband can't take much more pressure. She refuses to say whether or not she or her husband have seen Dr. Sam Sheppard more than once since the crime.

Some Bay Village friends of the dead woman refuse to talk about the murder and her. A former golfing companion said "my husband and I agreed not to talk about it."

Others shake their heads. Some talk to reporters through locked screen doors in a protective and stunned attitude—as though they can't believe a murderer is in their midst.

## Recalls Her Work

A former Bay View Hospital employe remembers today the tedious typing chores Marilyn performed for her husband. Medical papers for osteopathic clinics and meetings were prepared by her at home.

One Bay Village housewife who had been trying for weeks to get together with Marilyn for lunch said she chided Dr. Sam for "working her too hard."

Marilyn, although she had a cleaning woman, was an average housewife, doing her own laundry, and neighbors recall there was plenty because of the Sheppards' athletic activities.

Marilyn Sheppard was not a fre-



quent visitor at Bay View although she was once a patient there for a minor affliction. She was particularly pleased when girls from the hospital office stopped to visit her, as though she didn't expect attention.

Her relationship with her son, "Chip," was particularly close, and if she were the model housewife, "Chip"—according to friends—was and is a model son. Both mother and son were devoted to each other, and "Chip" is described as "older than his years," with none of the frivolity and mischievousness of most boys his age. In fact he wouldn't get up in the morning until told he could.

Through the county where Heights High school classmates have scattered during the past 13 years, old classbooks and old memories are being dusted off.

Mrs. Dorothy Albrecht Laufersweiler, 600 Cahoon Rd., Bay Village, said "too much emphasis is placed on school ties" as Sam and Marilyn saw former classmates infrequently.

"Marilyn took me to a benefit card party at the hospital once," Mrs. Laufersweiler said, "but we didn't see much of each other."

Mrs. Laufersweiler said "she was everybody's ideal in school, and extremely nice to people she knew."

Members of the 1941 Heights class seem unable "to imagine anyone saying an unkind word—except through jealousy—about Marilyn."

#### Known for Generosity

Mrs. James M. Bodfish, 18056 Blandford Rd., used to spend weekends at Marilyn's home when they were in school.

"Marilyn was very generous. She was always loaning clothes—you know how high school girls do—and she would give away sweaters she tired of. And everyone liked Sam too. All the fellows said he was so even-tempered. He never got angry with anyone." Mrs. Bodfish saw the Sheppards,

at a Grantwood Country Club high school reunion dance in May. She had heard rumors their marriage was troubled, but "I didn't see how they could be true. They seemed so happy. Sam said the water skiing season opened next day, and invited us to join them. But when we learned the temperature was 42, we laughed off the invitation."

Mrs. Robert L. Wells, 1767 Edgefield Rd., Lyndhurst, was at the same dance, and heard the same rumors of disharmony "about the time they had a fire at their house."

She knew both at Heights, and had "smoothed over a little tiff" once.

#### Victim Was Popular

"Marilyn seemed to have everything. She was popular. She never talked about people behind their back."

Sam, younger than Marilyn and a year and a half behind her in school, seemed "somewhat more settled" than other boys his age, Mrs. Wells said.

"But when I saw him at a party about two years ago he had changed more. He seemed more worldly, smooth. I told him he had acquired quite a doctor's manner."

Mrs. Robert E. Hartman, 1819 Pleasantdale Rd., said she thinks Marilyn first noticed Sam in junior high. She said it was because of Sam that Marilyn selected post-graduate courses, and also graduated with a June class instead of a February one.

"Rumors are the kind of things that might be said about any marriage," Mrs. Hartman said. "I didn't take much stock in them."

Harry W. Nicholl, 8851 Lynn-

haven Dr., Parma Heights, dated Marilyn in high school, and said she "was awful nice."

"She was terrific, one of the nicest girls in school. I can't imagine anyone having anything against Marilyn," said Justin R. Baum, 14621 Cedar Rd., Cleveland Heights, another classmate. "She wasn't supercilious, although she could have been."

"Words don't describe how wonderful she was," said Mrs. Harry Weeks, 1528 Edgefield Rd., Lyndhurst. "I double-dated with Marilyn and Sam. They were absolutely perfect together."

Mrs. Robert A. Beckstrom, 4004 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Heights, said she was a "pretty, sweet girl."

The Heights High classbooks of 1941 and 1942 list strings of club activities for both Marilyn and Sam, describing Sam as "tall, dark and handsome" and the "perfect class president." He headed his sophomore, junior and senior classes. "Popular Sam really belongs as class president" the caption said.

Marilyn was described as the "shining light of the corridors" in a picture of her with five classmates.

He was photographed with fellow Hi-Y Clubbers with the photo caption: "Don Juan and His Lady-Killers."

Both Marilyn and Sam are in the picture of corridor guards. They appear with staring, unsmiling faces, perhaps a grim forecast of the tragic end of their idyllic schoolday romance.