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7-31-1954

## 54/07/31 Killing Ripped Placid Existence of Villagers

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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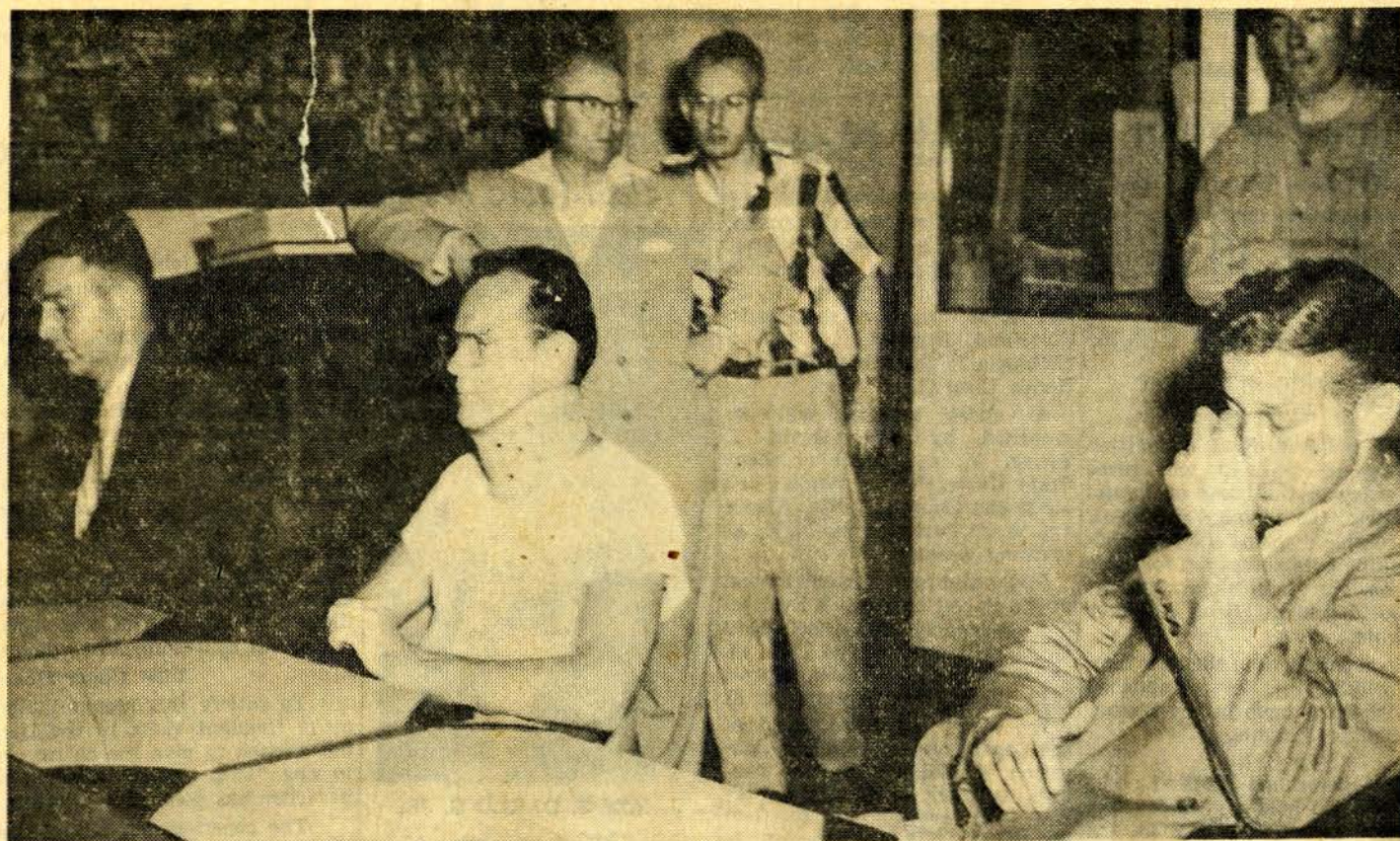
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**AWAITING BAD NEWS.** Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard (center, at table), with Bay Village Solicitor Richard S. Weygandt (left) and Patrolman Fred F. Drenkhan (right), is shown just before Acting Mayor Gershom M. M. Barber read the charge accusing Sheppard of the murder of his wife.

## Killing Ripped Placid Existence of Villagers

BY GEORGE J. BARMANN

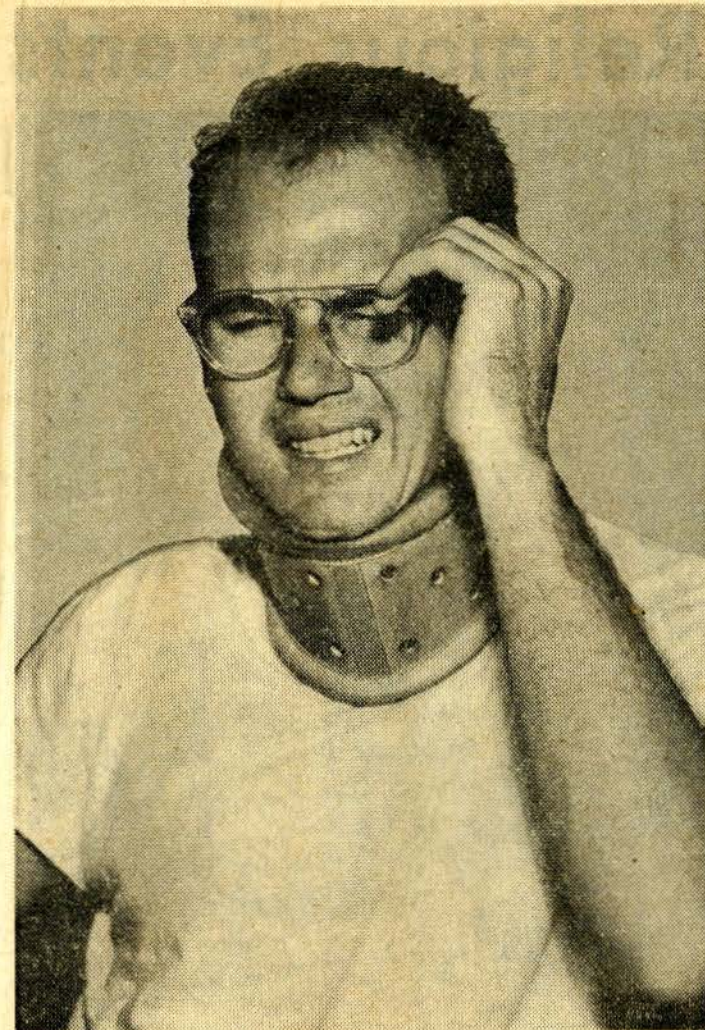
Bay Village, Ohio. A quiet residential community to the west of Cleveland, on Lake Erie. Population: 9,000. this would be an accurate description of the little suburb, where by day the chief news is the commuter rush and the travels of shopping women and by night the only sounds are those of the waves on the shore, the wind in the high trees and the wet-like notes of truck tires on West Lake Road.

And so it was on July 4 when Marilyn Reese Sheppard, shopper, clubwoman, water skier and doctor's wife was beaten to bloody death in her bed.

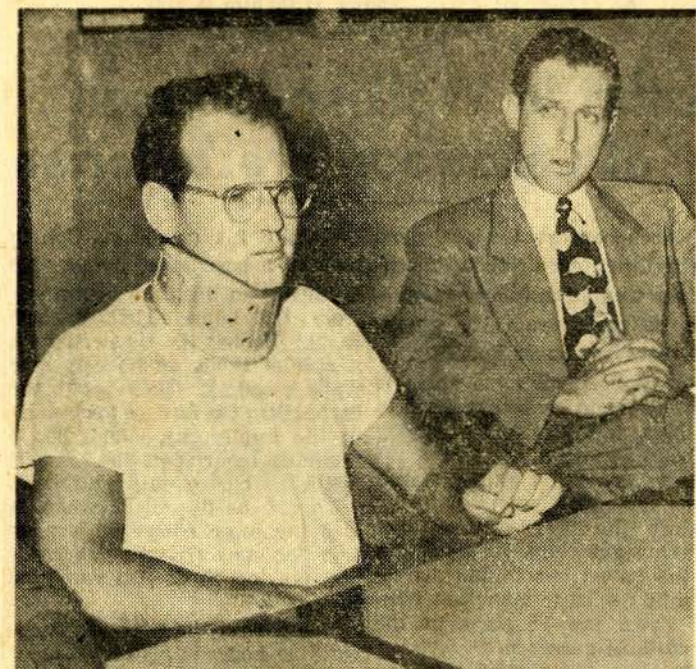
Her cries were not heard any farther than the still dark windows of her home at 28924 West Lake Road, but the shout of her husband, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard—"For God's sake, Spence, get over here quick; I think they're killed Marilyn"—ripped the village apart with black and mysterious murder.



**A HEAVY SUEDE LEATHER** windbreaker was donned by Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard immediately after his hearing ended. A moment later he was handcuffed to Patrolman Fred F. Drenkhan, jr., for the trip to County Jail. Here Patrolman Gerhard Deutschlaender (left) and Lieut. Clifford Mercer, both of Bay police, help him on with the garment. During the hearing in the overheated room Dr. Sheppard wore a T-shirt.



**A GRIMACE** crossed the face of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard immediately after his hearing in Bay when he learned that he could not wait at the City Hall for his counsel, William J. Corrigan, but would be taken to County Jail. This picture was made immediately after his whispered plea to be permitted to stay in Bay until joined by the lawyer.



**ARRAIGNMENT'S END.** A moment after this picture was taken, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard (left) was handcuffed to Patrolman Fred F. Drenkhan, with whom he is seated, for removal to County Jail.



R. Gerber said it must have been a sharp object, possibly even a heavy piece of wood. But it has not been found. Searchers vainly looked on the bottom of the lake in the weed-filled cliff above. A mine detector failed to locate a burial place.

#### Another Mystery

And another mystery: Samuel H., jr., called "Chip," the couple's 6½-year-old son, slept through it all in another upstairs bedroom, and the Sheppard's pet dog, KoKo, failed to sound an alarm. When Mayor Houk arrived KoKo was running around the house. The dog appeared to have been injured.

And, worst of all, there was no motive to be found at first.

"Spence" Houk—he is the doctor's friend, the "Spence" the doctor telephoned—started the investigation with a call to Bay police. "Dr. Sam" gave his first description of the killer: tall, bushy hair, white shirt." The doctor stayed some days in the hospital, which his family helped found and operate.

William J. Corrigan, noted Cleveland criminal lawyer, came on the scene for the Sheppards. Investigators were unable to question "Dr. Sam" in detail. Blood stains and all kinds of "clews" and tips were checked. The pace slowed down. Plodding, frustrating work and delay marked the day-to-day case.

#### Posts \$10,000 Reward

Marilyn was buried July 7. After the funeral Plain Dealer Reporter John G. Blair was the first newspaperman to talk to "Dr. Sam." Wearing his metal and leather neck brace, familiar later to the public, the doctor promised "full co-operation," and he posted a \$10,000 reward for the killer.

"Dr. Sam" refused to take a lie detector test in a nine-hour questioning at the Criminal Court Building on July 10. Later he turned down a proposal he submit to a "truth serum" examination. Then it was discovered the doctor was carrying a .38-caliber snub-nosed revolver "for protection." He was told to put it down.

A "mystery woman" entered the case out in Downey, Cal. She turned out to be Miss Susan Hayes, 24, former Bay View medical technician. She was first reached by the Plain Dealer. "Dr. Sam" saw her in Los Angeles in March and gave her a wrist watch to replace one she lost. Authorities went out to the coast to question her and others there.

#### Pool Information

About this time city, county and suburban police joined forces and pooled information. Greater Clevelanders all seemed to be playing amateur detective.

Finally, Cleveland took charge of the murder investigation. Coroner Gerber's inquest opened in Bay Village's Normandy School on July 22 and "Dr. Sam" was termed the "number one suspect."

Miss Hayes came more prominently into the case at the inquest, where Dr. Gerber questioned "Dr. Sam" about their relationship. A parade of witnesses crossed the stand, including Mayor Houk and "Dr. Sam's brothers, Dr. Stephen A. and Dr. Richard N., and their wives, and the parents of both "Dr. Sam" and Marilyn.

#### Attorney Ejected

The inquest ran less than three days in Bay Village. It ended dramatically July 26 when Attorney Corrigan was ejected by Coroner Gerber after a running war of words. The coroner transferred the hearing to his

#### Most Exciting Case

From that moment on, when the Bay Village police sped to the scene under the fading lights of Cahoon Park at 5:50 a. m., all of Greater Cleveland became captured by what turned out to be the most exciting case of murder here in decades.

"Strange Holiday" was the title of a television movie that Marilyn and their neighbor guests, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ahern, watched in the Sheppard house the night before the crime while Dr. Sheppard slept on a couch.

"Strange Holiday" it was in Bay Village.

That first morning Mrs. Sheppard, who was 31, was found on her twin bed upstairs in the rambling shore home. Her head and face were beaten with 25 savage blows. Her husband, 30, osteopathic neurosurgeon of Bay View Hospital, was discovered beaten and dazed in the living room downstairs.

#### Found in Weeds

A number of Dr. and Mrs. Sheppard's personal effects were scattered in the home and on the premises. Mrs. Sheppard's wrist watch was found on the floor of the doctor's office-study on the first floor. His was discovered in a cloth bag with other jewelry in the weeds behind the house.

There was blood on both watches.

"Dr. Sam," as his friends and patients called him, told investigators at once, and he stuck to that testimony in all the questioning and at the inquest, that he awoke on the couch to hear his wife screaming. He ran up and saw a man at her bedside, who "clobbered" him from behind.

Regaining consciousness later, he said, he was taking his wife's pulse when he heard a noise downstairs. He rushed down and saw a man going out the back door to a screened-in porch. The doctor pursued him down a 50-foot flight of steep stairs to the beach, where he tackled him in the sand. Again struck down, Sheppard said, he awoke on his stomach, lying in the water.

#### Telephoned Brother

"Dr. Sam" struggled up to the house and telephoned a brother, Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, and Mayor J. Spencer Houk of Bay. He took his wife's pulse again and found she was dead. He covered her partly nude body with a sheet and returned to the living room, where he was discovered.

At this point one of the big mysteries of the murder was recorded. The Aherns, the night-before guests, said Dr. Sheppard had worn a T-shirt when he fell asleep on the couch. He was bare from the waist up when the mayor found him. "Dr. Sam" could not account for this.

Another big question was the murder weapon. Coroner Samuel

East Side office. Bay Villagers were deprived of a further show.

But before it was over, "Dr. Sam" had testified two days, recalling little of the murder morning and denying any wrong with Miss Hayes.

Excitement in the case leaped when Miss Hayes, on July 27, flew here from Los Angeles for questioning by Cleveland authorities.

#### Gives Lie to Testimony

Suspicion of Dr. Sheppard was heightened by her admission to police that she had been intimate with him during his stay in Los Angeles last spring. Her statement gave the lie to his testimony at the inquest that their relationship had been casual.

Next day, Cleveland police officials and the county prosecutor conferred with Bay Village authorities on whether admittedly inconclusive evidence in the case warranted the arrest of Dr. Sheppard on a murder charge.

Later, Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan held that the responsibility for making the arrest would have to be assumed by the Bay Village officials. Mayor J. Spencer Houk, under pressure to order the arrest of his close friend and neighbor, took to his bed with a sedative.

Meanwhile, Bay Village Solicitor Richard S. Weygant studied the evidence to determine whether an arrest should be made. His statement last night to Houk brought the climax.