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54/07/15 Painesville Woman's Story Opens New Sheppard Quiz

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MSL

ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

PAINESVILLE WOMAN

OPENS NEW SHEPPARD QUIZ



MRS. JESSIE DILL
Questioned in Bay Village slaying

Says Doctor's Wife Wanted To Get Divorce

BY HOWARD BEAUFIT

A Painesville woman late today sent police off at a new tangent in their search for the mysterious slayer of Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard.

The new witness in the murder case was Mrs. Jessie Dill, 23, mother of two children. She was questioned in the Painesville police station for two hours by Bay Village police.

Mrs. Dill told reporters she had met a woman she is positive was Marilyn Sheppard on the beach at Fairport Harbor Monday, June 14.

"She seemed to be unhappy and asked me where my husband was," Mrs. Dill said. "I told her I was divorced and she said 'that's what I ought to do.' She said she had attempted to divorce her husband in California four years ago but his relatives had talked her out of it."

Mrs. Dill gave police and reporters the name of a man mentioned by the woman she identified as Mrs. Sheppard. The man had not previously entered the murder investigation.

Mrs. Dill said the woman she identified as Mrs. Sheppard told her she was to have a baby, and she was afraid if she divorced her husband her 7-year-old son, Chip, would be taken away from her.

Sgt. Jay Hubach of Bay Village, who talked with Mrs. Dill, said her story would be "important if it checked out." There were other details of the story he could not reveal.

Mrs. Dill told reporters that she forgot the Fairport beach encounter until she saw Mrs. Sheppard's picture in newspapers after her murder. Then, she said, she called the home of Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, father-in-law of the slain woman, in Bay Village, and a woman answered the phone.

"Rock" Identified

"I told her the story and she said she would take care of it," Mrs. Dill related. "Bay Village police told me that Dr. Sam Sheppard gave them my name which I had given the woman who answered the phone."

Earlier in the day the Marilyn Sheppard murder mystery took another odd turn with identification of "Rock" whose name and address were found on a piece of paper in Dr. Sam Sheppard's wallet.

The pencilled notation made by Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, Bay Village osteopath, led Los Angeles detectives working under the direction of The News, to George Rock, who is currently playing with the Spike Jones Orchestra in Atlantic City.

Other late developments in the puzzling murder of the attractive housewife were:

Coroner Samuel R. Gerber announced a T-shirt found in Lake Erie near the Sheppard home was negative to extensive blood tests.

Search for the missing weapon used to batter Mrs. Sheppard was stepped up in the lake and area around her house.

Reached by a News reporter at the steel pier in Atlantic City, Rock at first expressed bewilderment that his name was found among Dr. Sheppard's possessions.

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Later, he said Miss Susan Hayes was his cousin and she must have sent the names and addresses to Dr. Sheppard while she was staying at his home in Encino, Cal., a suburb of Los Angeles.

Miss Hayes, attractive 23-year-old medical technician, was identified as the friend for whom Dr. Sheppard bought a wrist watch while attending a wedding with him in California last March.

Miss Hayes' name and present address in Los Angeles were also found scribbled on the same document, above that of Rock's, in Dr. Sheppard's wallet.

Rock said it was his impression that Miss Hayes had been corresponding with Dr. Sheppard since she came to Los Angeles from Cleveland six months ago.

Never Met Sheppard

Rock is recalled by thousands of Spike Jones fans as the trumpet player who also sang the popular holiday song, "All I want for Christmas are my two front teeth."

"I never saw or met Dr. Sheppard," Rock told The News. "I knew there was some connection between him and my cousin, but how close it was I cannot say.

"Susan Hayes stayed with us two or three weeks when she came to California and later moved over to Downey, a suburb of Los Angeles, to live with Mr. and Mrs. Dorothy

Shabala."

Rock said that Susan had no dates when she was staying with him and his wife in Encino.

T-Shirt Tested

Dr. Gerber said that benzidine and phenolphthalein tests had proven there was no blood on the T-shirt retrieved from Lake Erie. The tests were difficult, the coroner said, because of the length of time the shirt was in the water and the many rust and dirt stains covering most of the garment.

The T-shirt was identified by County Detective Carl Rossbach as similar in size to, but different in trade mark from, those worn by Dr. Sheppard.

A T-shirt worn by Dr. Sheppard at the time of the murder later disappeared. He said it probably had been torn from his body by the man he said he saw standing over his wife's battered body.

Found on Lake Bottom

An extensive search for the shirt had been made for 11 days. One closely resembling it was found snagged to a wire on the sandy bottom of Lake Erie, 20 feet from shore, and 50 feet from the Sheppard beach at 28924 West Lake Rd.

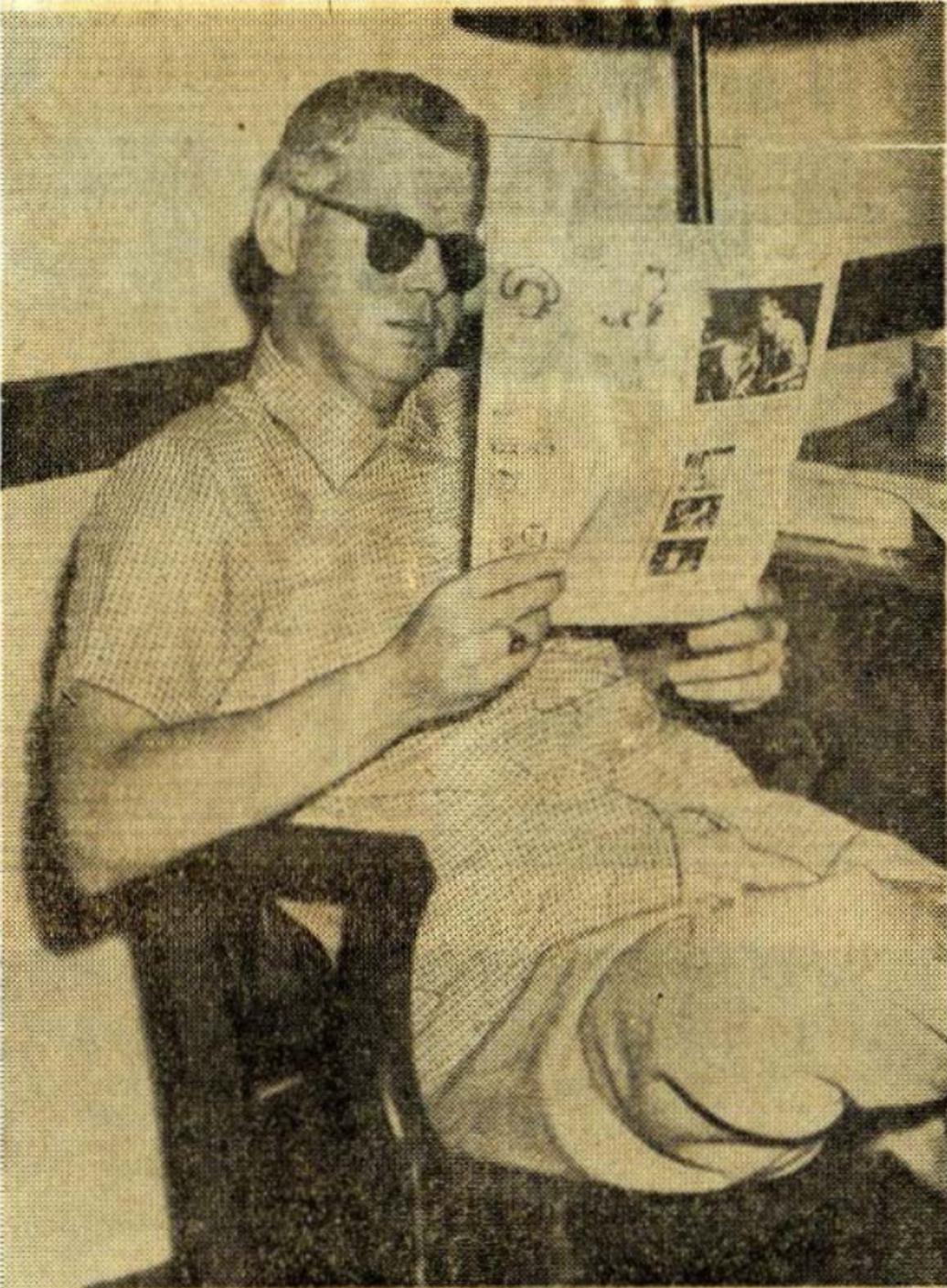
The retrieved garment was ripped down the left side seam. It was stained with rust colored material and badly discolored with mud and sand.

Dorothy 11723 Julius
Downey
Topaz 2-7338

This notation was found on a automobile bill of sale in Dr. Samuel Sheppard's billfold. Police identified the address as that where Susan Hayes, former Bay View Hospital technician, stayed.

Rock
4949 Libbit
Encino ← Still writing ??

This notation was found also on the bill of sale. The News traced this address to George Rock, a cousin of Susan Hayes.



Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard, brother-in-law of the slain Mrs. Marilyn R. Sheppard, was awaiting questioning by prosecutors when T-shirt was found in Lake Erie.

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