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## 54/07/18 Army Mine Detector Used In New Search For Murder Weapon

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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# ARMY MINE DETECTOR

## USED IN NEW SEARCH FOR MURDER WEAPON

Hunt Today to Concentrate on Beach and Embankment Behind Sheppard Home; Comb-ing of Flower Beds Fruitless; Victim's Death Slow and Agonizing, Coroner Reveals

CPD BULLETIN 7-18-54

Bay Village Patrolman Fred Drenkhan late last night interviewed a 23-year-old Lakewood woman who told of noticing an "odd-acting" man who fitted Dr. Samuel Sheppard's description of his attacker loitering in her neighborhood.

The woman told Drenkhan she had seen a tall bushy-haired man near her home both before and after, but not during the week when Marilyn Sheppard was murdered. She said he always carried a red sweater over his arm.

Drenkhan said it was one of many similar "leads" volunteered by citizens since the murder. The woman walked into the Rocky River police station with the story. Drenkhan interviewed her there.

Army experts, using a magnetic mine detector, last night joined in the search for the missing weapon in the Marilyn Sheppard murder case.

First Lieut. James L. Faulks, 21153 Erie Road, Rocky River, and Sergt. Gerald Golden of New London, Conn., brought the device from Fort Hayes, Columbus, and immediately searched flower beds around the Sheppard home, 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village.

With Sergt. Golden operating the detector, six rusty building nails and a child's double-barreled "popgun" were dug up by Bay Village Patrolman Howard S. Smith. As the device registered iron or steel beneath it, Smith dug in with a spade.

### **Hunt Called Off for Night**

The search was called off for the night at 8:45 p. m. It will be resumed this morning at 10, with the hunt to be concentrated on the beach behind the house and the embankment leading to Lake Erie.

Assisting in the search were Patrolmen Frank Drenkhan and James Cowles and Police Chief John P. Eaton.

Sergt. Golden explained that the detector would locate only iron or steel. If the weapon was brass or copper the detector would not pick it up. It can pick up items buried two feet in sand or about 18 inches in grasscovered earth. It can also pick up items in shallow water.

### **Home for Week End**

Both Lieut. Faulks and Sergt. Golden are with the 554th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Control Detachment at Fort Hayes. Lieut. Faulks was coming home for the week end and brought Sergt. Golden to Bay Village after the army received the suburb's request for the detector.

Use of the detector was the latest development in the investigation of the murder of the 31-year-old pregnant wife of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, Bay Village osteopath.

Still at large today is the sadistic slayer who splintered Mrs. Sheppard's skull before dawn July 4.

### **Investigators Parley**

While investigators parleyed to co-ordinate efforts to solve the baffling mystery, the killer—madman or cunning plotter—remained a potential threat to the community.

That Mrs. Sheppard died a slow and agonizing death was revealed yesterday as investigators met at the Cuyahoga County Morgue.

Death of Mrs. Sheppard was not instantaneous, Dr. Samuel R. Gerber, county coroner, told the group.

### **Could Have Lived Hour**

Dr. Gerber estimated that Mrs. Sheppard lived from five to 30 minutes, while Dr. Lester Adelson, deputy coroner, said the victim could have survived an hour.

Dr. Adelson pointed out that the wounds on the front and top of Mrs. Sheppard's head would not have brought immediate death.

Mrs. Sheppard probably went into convulsions as she sobbed out her last moments of life.

### **Dr. Moritz at Meeting**

Dr. Alan R. Moritz, the nation's leading medicolegal expert, joined county and municipal officials at the Morgue meeting.

Dr. Gerber said that Dr. Moritz was brought up to date on the brutal crime at a two-hour closed-door conference at which unpublicized leads were discussed. The conference followed an hour-long briefing by Dr. Gerber and Dr. Adelson at which officials and newsmen viewed photographs of the victim and evidence.

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# Mine Detector Used in Bay Hunt

(Continued From First Page)

Some 20 slides were shown on a screen in a crime chalk-talk. X rays of the victim's hacked head were exhibited.

## Suffered 35 Injuries

In all, the comely housewife and popular member of the suburb's younger set suffered 35 separate injuries to her head and hands.

While Mrs. Sheppard's brain was "pulpified," according to Dr. Adelson, she suffered no fractures of her hands, feet or ribs.

Her slayer must have been virtually drenched in blood above the waist, the conference was told.

Mrs. Sheppard's hands held strands of her own hair—apparently torn out as she thrashed in agony. It was thought she put her hands up to her head automatically to ward off the savage bludgeoning.

## Sets Time of Death

Hour of Mrs. Sheppard's death was set between 3 and 4 a. m. by Dr. Gerber. Some rigor mortis had set in when Dr. Gerber examined the body around 8 on the morning of July 4.

Adding strength to the theory that Mrs. Sheppard lived for some time after the chopping attack was the amount of blood found on her twin bed in a second-floor bedroom.

Dr. Gerber said Mrs. Sheppard must have lived for some time to account for the bleeding. While there could have been some "leakage," heart action and blood pressure would have been necessary to explain the extent of bleeding.

At 8 a. m. the blood on the bed was dry and Mrs. Sheppard's blood had clotted, Dr. Gerber said.

Dr. Gerber said that it had now been determined that Dr. Sheppard, after being "clobbered" when he ran upstairs to aid his wife, fell with his head in the bedroom and legs in the hallway.

At first it was reported Dr. Sheppard had been struck as he came up the stairs.

Dr. Sheppard told investigators that he awoke on a downstairs

couch, hearing his wife moaning. He had fallen asleep listening to the baseball game on the radio with his wife and a neighbor couple, Mr. and Mrs. Don J. Ahern.

## Back Door Locked

The Aherns departed around midnight after noting Mrs. Sheppard was drowsy. Mrs. Ahern locked the back door of the house and Mrs. Sheppard saw the visitors out the front door.

In the two weeks since the tragedy was discovered at 5:50 a. m., there has been little real progress in solving the case.

Investigators were hampered in their work by the delay in questioning Dr. Sheppard. It was not until Dr. Gerber threatened to hold a public inquest and subpoena Dr. Sheppard that the probers got a detailed story from the osteopath.

## T-Shirt Unexplained

But even this offered little aid in the search for clues. Dr. Sheppard could not explain what had happened to the T-shirt he wore when he fell asleep and that was missing when he was found sprawled on the living room floor by Bay Village Mayor and Mrs. J. Spencer Houk.

A T-shirt found snagged on a retaining bar or the concrete pier of Mr. and Mrs. Karl R. Schuele next door was thought to be the missing garment. Tests failed to show any blood and investigators still do not know if the T-shirt is Dr. Sheppard's.

## Theory on Weapon

The murder weapon was described by Dr. Gerber as possibly weighing from two to 10 pounds. He said that it could not be an ax or a metal-edged ruler judging by the wounds in Mrs. Sheppard's head.

These wounds were of varied shapes and sizes—one was 2½ inches in length.

Dr. Gerber theorized that the murder weapon had various edges or surfaces. Mrs. Sheppard was hit by different sized surfaces. Dr. Gerber said.

Attending the conference besides Gerber, Adelson and Moritz were County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan and his assistants,

John J. Mahon and Thomas J. Parrino; Sheriff Joseph M. Sweeney and his deputies, Carl A. Rossbach, Harvey Weitzel and Dave Yettra; Mayor Houk, Bay Village Police Chief Eaton, Sgt. Jay Hubach and Patrolman Drenkhan of the suburb, and Cleveland Police Chief Frank W. Story.

## Story Is "Observer"

Chief Story said that he was there "only as an observer." Services of the Cleveland police department in solving the case had been offered by Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze, but Dr. Gerber indicated that the investigation will continue on the basis to date.

Story said that he did not relish the idea of taking charge of the case, which he said now is "cold."

Dr. Moritz will act as a consultant without pay in the search for the slayer, Dr. Gerber said.

## No One to Be in Charge

"The air has been cleared and everyone intends to co-operate with each other," Dr. Gerber said.

"As a result of the meeting we hope something will result to give us a solution," he added.

The investigation will continue with no one person in charge. Each of the agencies involved had obligations to search for the truth in the case and will continue to do so, Dr. Gerber said.

Cleveland detectives will participate to some extent but only upon a written request. That the requests be in writing was asked by Chief Story.

## Two Drivers Quizzed

Bay Village police continued their efforts to find a bus driver who may have picked up a man resembling the intruder described by Dr. Sheppard. The "bushy-haired" man boarded a Baltimore-bound bus near the Sheppard home, according to Mrs. Beatrice Wolfe of Elberta Beach, near Vermilion.

Drivers of two buses were traced and did not remember the "nervous" man. Only the driver of a third bus remains to be checked.

## Fingerprints Lacking

Police have been puzzled by the lack of fingerprints and other clues usually found at a scene of a crime. It was thought that the killer took time after the slaying to wipe away telltale prints and clean up some of the blood from the victim.

The 30-year-old husband of Mrs. Sheppard yesterday said he believed the killer would be caught.

"In view of the horrible nature of the crime, I do not believe that whoever committed it will be able to keep it concealed," Dr. Sheppard said in a written statement released through his attorney, Arthur E. Petersilge.

## Sheppard's Theory

Dr. Sheppard said he did not care to answer a question that asked whether he felt that he had been treated fairly in the investigation.

"In order to even imagine a motive for a crime as horrible as this it is necessary to visualize an individual who is either psychotic or under the influence

of narcotics or alcohol," Dr. Sheppard said in discussing his theory for a possible motive for the murder.

"This theory is supported by the fact that a large amount of narcotics was stolen and by the vicious nature of the attack.

"Ordinary robbery would not be sufficient to explain a crime of this sort, but it is a fact that over \$100 in cash was stolen from our wallets, in addition to the narcotics which were taken."

Here, Dr. Sheppard reiterated his story about the loss of narcotics and money—factors which investigators have put little emphasis upon.

## Cites Obligations

About his plans for the future, Dr. Sheppard said he had none except to care for his patients and to "raise our son the way I know my wife, Marilyn wished."

"I feel these obligations most strongly because of the great and continual active help, support and encouragement she always gave me," he said.

He added that the son, Chip, 6½, had been informed of the manner of his mother's death.

Dr. Sheppard pointed out that he had offered a \$10,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the slayer.

"I can only hope that whoever is responsible for this horrible crime will be convicted and punished," Dr. Sheppard said.

## Charged With Violation

George W. Ennis, 37, yesterday was held in \$2,500 bail on charges of probation violation in Baltimore, the Associated Press reported.

Ennis was arrested Wednesday after he telephoned the Plain Dealer from Baltimore with a story of being offered money to kill Mrs. Sheppard. He admitted to Baltimore police and to Parrino, who flew to Baltimore, that it was a hoax.

Authorities asked that Baltimore hold Ennis for violating provisions of his probation. He pleaded guilty last November to embezzling \$317 and stealing another \$60 from the Spacarb Co. here. Sobriety was mandatory under the probation terms. Ennis said he had been drinking when he made the hoax call.





**SEARCHING** for the weapon used to hack Marilyn Shepard to death, an army mine detector was used last night at the Sheppards' Bay Village home. Above, left to right: First Lieut. James L. Faulks of Rocky River, Sergt. Gerald Golden of New London, Conn., and Bay Village Patrolmen Howard S. Smith and Fred Drenkhan. Below: Studying photos of evidence in the case are (left to right) Dr. Samuel R. Gerber, county coroner; Cleveland Police Chief Frank W. Story and County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan.