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54/08/21 Report Sheppard Pondered Suicide

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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MSL

ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

REPORT SHEPPARD PONDERED SUICIDE

Police Say He Talked of
It While in Jail

BY TODD SIMON

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard has seriously talked about committing suicide at least once since his wife, Marilyn, was murdered, it was learned yesterday.

He talked about it to police, a police source disclosed, while he was confined to County Jail.

There is no special guard on Dr. Sam in his cell on the fourth floor of County Jail, although there are always at least two sheriff's deputies on duty there to watch only two cell blocks, Jailer Michael Uccello said.

Uccello said he would check into the report of suicide talk, however, and would keep the suspected husband, 30, under closer watch if necessary.

Visited by Relatives

The suicide talk did not harmonize with the "Sam is in good spirits" bulletins which were being issued by members of the Sheppard family.

Some of them visited him after his plea, "not guilty," was entered at his arraignment before Common Pleas Judge Arthur H. Day in the morning.

Jailers blocked and kept at their downstairs desk a package of raw carrots and salt which Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, Sam's father, brought. They did allow him to receive the fruit which the father took to him.

(Continued on Page 5, Column 2)

REPORT SHEPPARD PONDERED SUICIDE

(Continued From First Page)

"He loves raw carrots," said the senior osteopathic doctor in the family. He did not protest at the jail rule which kept the vegetables from going to Sam.

Uccello said carrots were for-



bidden "because we always went by that rule." He went on:

"If we let them have vegetables then pretty soon they'd want to make a salad. They'd want salt and vinegar and olive oil and other vegetables.

"They get vegetables in the food we serve them, and the judges have the menu worked out by the dieticians at Western Reserve University."

The senior Dr. Sheppard took the carrots home with him.

Dr. Sam's legal field marshal, William J. Corrigan, dumbfounded those at the morning arraignment by not asking for a hearing on a request for bail for his boyish, lanky client.

He had said he would do that, and had said he would bring in witnesses to fight for Dr. Sam's chance to go free on bond while the first-degree murder charge is pending before trial.

County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan's staff practically dared Corrigan to make the fight for

bail. They said he would have to expose Dr. Sam to cross examination if he tried such a fight.

Corrigan was asked why he first said he would put up a struggle for bail and why he then reversed his plan.

"No comment," said Corrigan. "I'm not trying this case in the newspapers."

Another fact was learned about the big, blue outboard motor the osteopath-surgeon had in his beach house tackroom. It was used on the aluminum boat which Sam and Bay Village Mayor J. Spencer Houk owned jointly.

Brothers Arrive

Dr. Sam bought it as a birthday present for Marilyn, the Plain Dealer learned from police, although he was the one who used it most.

After the brief arraignment at Criminal Courts, Dr. Sam's brothers, Drs. Richard N. and

STAYS MUTE AT ARRAIGNMENT. Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, accused of intentionally murdering his wife, Marilyn, ignored everybody except his attorneys and did not utter a word in the brief court proceedings.

Stephan A. Sheppard, and Stephen's wife, Betty, were allowed to see him in jail, and so were two of his lawyers.

At the regular afternoon visiting hours came Dr. Sheppard, Sam's father, with his gifts of fruit and carrots; David S. Phillips, 37, an electrical engineer of 24883 Electric Drive, Bay Village, long a friend of the family and especially, he said, of Steve; then Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Brown, of 1861 Idlewood Avenue, East Cleveland, bringing historical novels, and finally Dr. Richard N.'s wife, Dorothy.

Mrs. Brown is an aunt of the victim.