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54/08/18 Sam arrested at dinner, but finishes meal

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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Sam Arrested at Dinner, but Finishes Meal

Kin Display No Emotion;
Collar in 'Luggage'

BY PAT GARLING

Reporters' and photographers' cars swarmed into the Bay View Hospital parking lot at 5:30 p. m. yesterday to mark the imminent arrest of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard.

The cars, pointed toward the grassy hill leading up to the home of Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, the suspect's father, arrived 15 minutes ahead of the sheriff's deputies, Carl Rossbach, Harvey Weitzel and Joseph Osowski.

When the deputies arrived, Osowski at the wheel, the waiting newspapermen ran up the grassy slope in a pack.

The elder Dr. Sheppard answered the door.

"Is Dr. Sam here?" the deputies asked.

"Yes. He's in the kitchen eating his dinner," the father replied, admitting Weitzel and Rossbach.

Find Sam in Kitchen

The deputies reported finding Dr. Sam in the kitchen. He got up to go, but was told to take time to complete his meal. The deputies noticed the doctor was having cherry pie, one of his favorite dishes, for dessert.

While he was eating he was advised that the grand jury had indicted him for first-degree murder. Dr. Sam did not take long to finish his meal.

Neither his mother nor his father or Dr. Sam himself displayed any emotion in the 15-minute wait in the house.

The doctor's mother hurried about gathering clothing which Sam later took away in a tan paper shopping bag. She also wrapped oranges and bananas for him.

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Arresting Deputies Find Dr. Sam at Dinner Table

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The leather orthopedic collar which Sam almost always wore the first six weeks after his wife's slaying was placed in the shopping bag.

Called to Phone

The telephone rang. Dr. Sam's father answered and said: "It's for you, Sam."

"We know about it," Dr. Sam said after listening on the telephone a second or two. "The men from the sheriff's office are here now."

He did not identify the caller.

Before leaving the house Dr. Sam was handcuffed to Rossbach in the front hall.

His mother kissed him goodbye. His father grasped his hand and said: "Take care of yourself, son."

Neither parent followed their youngest child beyond the front door, which closed behind the deputies as they led him down the steps to the car.

The motor was running and Osowski had the door open waiting for them.

Dr. Sam's visage was as somber as his charcoal gray suit, the same he wore when he left County Jail only 29½ hours before.

Ignore Crowd

He did not once look directly at any of the reporters or photographers. Unlike the time of his first arrest July 30, no member of the family, not even Sam himself, made any comment on the presence of the crowd of trespassers on the door stoop.

Hiding the handcuffs was a tan leather jacket draped between the locked wrists of the two men. The jacket was the same Dr. Sam wore at his original arraignment at the Bay Village City Hall.

Weitzel carried the shopping bag. All that could be seen of its contents was a red sweat shirt on top, which the doctor later put on after his arrival at County Jail.

Osowski slammed the car door when all were in and wheeled down the long drive to West Lake Road, where two Bay Village policemen, alerted beforehand, halted traffic to permit the deputies to take to the highway without difficulty.

The trip to the jail was made swiftly. Members of the following pack reported speeds as high as 65 miles an hour in their pursuit.

Dr. Sam was silent on his trip. Rossbach reported there was "no conversation."

At the jail the prisoner removed his clothes and showered. He changed to red sweat shirt and blue hobby trousers before being led back upstairs to his old cell on the fourth floor.

The murder suspect had spent a good part of the day at the home of his brother, Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard, in Rocky River, where he enjoyed the company of his seven-year-old son, Samuel R. (Chip) Sheppard.

He later told his attorney,

William J. Corrigan, that he had been very happy to have the opportunity the \$50,000 bail had afforded him to be with his boy.

The murder suspect returned to his father's home for dinner at 5 p. m. in a car driven by his brother, Dr. Richard N. Sheppard. Close upon his heels were the newsmen who had received word of his indictment.