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MSL

ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

Press, 3rd, Sept. 17, 1954

Dr. Sam's Witnesses Testify in Bay Murder

Here are highlights of today's testimony in the Dr. Sam Sheppard bail hearing:

Leo Stawicki, 48-year-old truck driver for the American Steel & Wire Co., was questioned by Attorney Fred Garmone. Stawicki lives at 4511 E. 49th St., Cuyahoga Heights.

He testified that about 2:15 a. m. on July 4 he and two of his brothers were returning from Port Clinton when they saw a "bushy-haired" hitchhiker on Lake Rd. in the vicinity of the Sam Sheppard home.

He also swore that on Aug. 11 at 8 p. m. he went to County Jail and officers put five men in a lineup and asked him if he could pick out the hitchhiker he saw on the highway.

Didn't Fit Description

"Dr. Sam Sheppard was the second man from the left in the lineup," said Stawicki. "He did not fit the description of the bushy-haired man I saw on the road that night."

Q: Since then have you seen a picture in one of the daily papers of a man who did answer the description of that person?

A: Yes.

Q: Was this man whose picture you saw in the paper in the lineup at the jail on Aug. 11?

A: No.

Assistant County Prosecutor John Mahon cross-examined the truck driver.

Q: What time did you leave Port Clinton?

A: About 12:30.

Q: By a big tree, standing in a driveway. If anyone was going west they couldn't have seen him because of the tree.

Q: How far was he from the highway?

A: About eight feet.

Q: Were there any street lights out there?

A: I don't know.

Q: Was he white or colored?

A: White.

Q: Did the lights shine on him?

A: Yes. I had my bright lights on and first saw him from about 100 feet.

Q: How fast were you traveling?

A: 35 or 40 miles an hour.

Q: You later saw a picture in the newspaper which you say resembled the man you had seen?

A: Yes.

Q: Whose picture was that?

A: Flick. (Gervas C. Flick Jr., son of a Bay View Hospital osteopath, is a friend of Dr. Sam Sheppard.)

Q: Was that the man you saw that morning?

Looked Like Hiker

A: I wouldn't say it was him, but the fellow looked like him. I have never seen him in person.

Q: Well, isn't it true you saw a police officer in Bay Village that also looked like him?

A: Yes, except that the police officer had a mustache.

Judge Edward Blythin then questioned the witness.

Q: When did you first read about this murder in the newspapers?

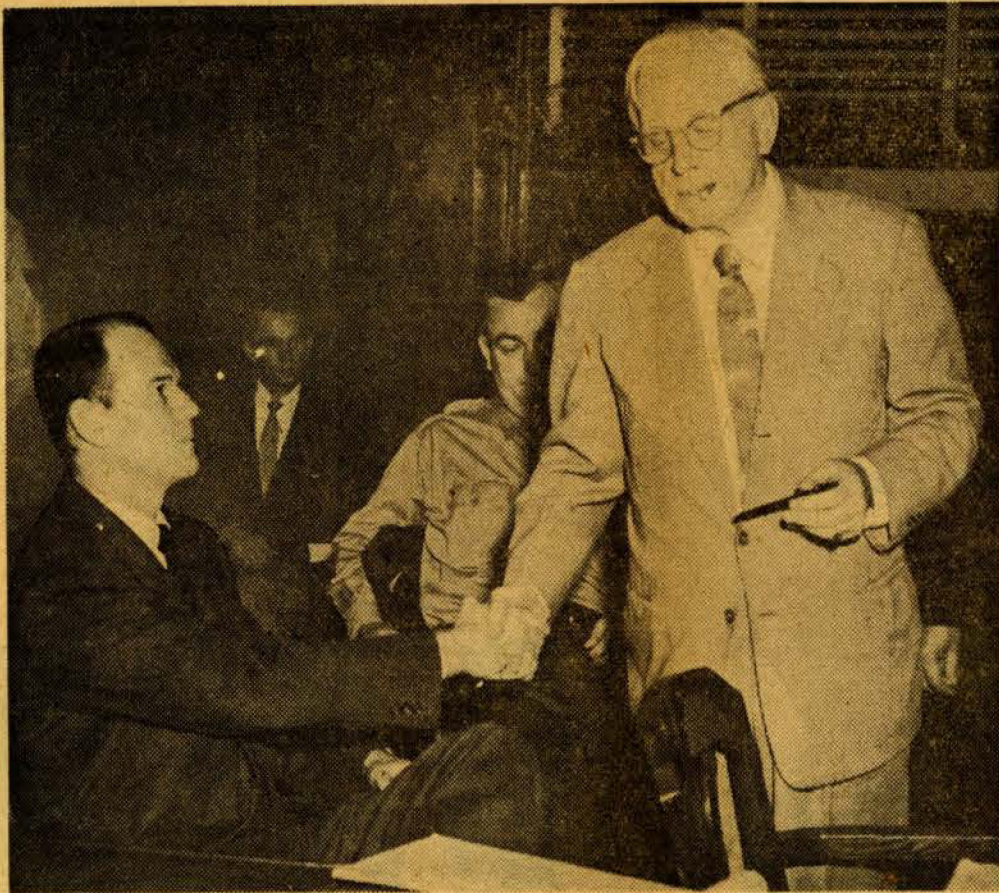
A: Oh, three or four days after. I don't read the newspapers very much, just the headlines. I do a lot of fishing.

Q: Didn't the people talk about it the following day, before you read about it? Didn't they mention it to you?

A: Yes.

Q: Then why didn't you report it before the following Saturday?

A: I didn't think anything of it then. I read about it in the papers then and thought the doctor did it. But then I thought maybe he didn't, and



DR. SAMUEL H. SHEPPARD shakes hands with Chief Defense Counsel William J. Corrigan, arriving in courtroom for resumption of hearing on osteopath's plea for bail.

I'd better report it.

Testimony of Patrolman Fred Drenkhan of Bay Village was brought out in questions by Defense Lawyer W. J. Corrigan.

Q: Where were you when you got the call to go to Dr. Sheppard's home?

A: At the fire station.

Q: Who was at the house when you got there?

Mayor Was There

A: Mayor J. Spencer Houk, Mrs. Houk and Dr. Sam Sheppard.

Q: Were you present Thursday afternoon about 1 o'clock in Sam Sheppard's room at Bay View Hospital?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Who else was with you?

A: Deputy Sheriffs Carl Rossbach and David Yettra and no one else.

Q: How long were you there?

A: Approximately 3½ hours.

Q: Did you question him all about his connection with this affair?

A: Yes.

Q: Did he answer all your questions readily?

A: Yes, he did.

Drenkhan testified that he and Dr. Sam had been friends for several years. He admitted that he was present at the Thursday afternoon questioning because the Sheppard family wanted him to be there.

Larry Houk, 16-year-old son of Mayor Houk, was the next witness.

Q: Did you know Dr. Sam and his wife very well?

A: Yes, we were good friends.

Corrigan politely requested Larry to take the gum from his mouth. He did so.

Larry testified that after the murder he and a group of other boys helped police search the Sheppard grounds. He said they found a green bag about seven feet from the steps, about 15 feet up from the boat-house, in the bushes. Dr. Sam's watch and some jewelry were in this bag.

Mrs. Nancy Ahern, neighbor of the Sheppards, repeated earlier testimony of the long friendship between the two families and told of the dinner the evening of July 3, when the Aherns were guests of the Sheppards.

Mrs. Ahern said that while she and Marilyn were arranging the kitchen after the meal Dr. Sam went to the garage for some glue to repair a toy airplane for his young son, Chip.

Q: Was he wearing a jacket?

A: Yes.

Q: And a T-shirt?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you lock the door after dinner?

A: After dinner, when we came in, I closed and locked the door and put on a night chain. It was windy and I didn't want the door to blow open.

John Eaton, Bay Village po-

lice chief, testified that he arrived at the murder scene at 6:15 a. m.

Q: When you arrived did you see Dr. Sam?

A: He was in the den, I glanced at him as I went by, I hardly noticed him, that's the only time I saw him.

Q: You took charge that morning?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Where did you go?

A: I went to the murdered



WITNESSES AT BAIL HEARING were Mrs. Helen Schuele, next door neighbor of Sam and Marilyn Sheppard, and Jean Disbrow, 16, their former baby-sitter. Both testified they had no personal knowledge about Mrs. Sheppard's murder.

Dr. Sam Cries

During this part of her testimony Dr. Sam held his hands over his face. Tears flowed, he breathed heavily and finally he pulled out a large white handkerchief.

Prosecutor Mahon cross-examined Mrs. Ahern.

Q: When you left was Dr. Sheppard still asleep?

A: Yes.

woman's room, then came downstairs and talked to the mayor and Dr. Richard Sheppard.

Q: You learned Dr. Sam had been in a struggle with someone in his house.

A: I was told that by the mayor, that was his story.

Q: During the day did Detectives Schottke and Gareau of the Cleveland Police Department say that Sam is the man who did it, you don't have to look any further.

A: They said words to that effect, that he did it.

Q: In the afternoon you, Schottke and Gareau went to Dr. Sam's room in Bay View Hospital?

A: Yes, sir, they went in and talked about 10 or 15 minutes.

Q: In that conversation did they not accuse him of killing his wife?

A: They told him the physical evidence pointed to him.

Mahon Questions Eaton

Cross-examination of Chief Eaton by Mahon:

Q: Did you find at the Sam Sheppard home any evidence of forcible breaking or entering?

A: We did not.

Q: Did anyone ask your permission for Sam to be taken to the hospital?

A: No one asked me. The first thing I knew he was gone.

Q: What did Detective Schottke say to you after he questioned Sam Sheppard?

A: He said the physical evidence led him to believe that Dr. Sam might be guilty.

Q: Did you say to Schottke, "I think he's lying?"

A: I did say that because I thought so.

Q: Did you ever talk to Sam Sheppard about this murder?

A: No, I never questioned Sam about it.

Q: Why didn't you?

A: Because I had more experienced men under me and because more experienced men came in from the outside, and besides that I had other things to do.

Q: Wasn't this murder an important case in Bay Village?

A: It was the most important we ever had.

Youth Testifies

Miles Davis, 17, of 375 Kenilworth Rd., Bay Village, was called to testify.

Q: Did a rather unusual circumstance happen to you on Sept. 13, 1954?

A: I received a phone call about 10 minutes to 10 that night from a neighbor. As I went upstairs, I heard something drop downstairs and went down to see what was going on. I kicked open the door to my mother's room and saw this man. I grappled with him for about two or three minutes.

Q: Did he have a weapon?

A: Yes.

Q: What was it?

A: I disarmed him as we were drappling. He escaped and I found out later when the

police arrived and more lights were on that it was a monkey wrench.

Q: Have you been called in any further since this experience by police to be questioned any more on this?

A: No.

Cross-Examined

Mahon asked: "Did you have this weapon in your hand?"

A: No.

Q: Did you pick it up?

A: No.