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## 54/09/29 Blood Trail Found at Home of Dr. Richard n. Sheppard

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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# Blood Trail Found at Home of Dr. Richard N. Sheppard

BY JOHN G. BLAIR  
AND WILLIAM L. MACKEY

Mysterious fresh blood stains were found on the porch of Dr. Richard N. Sheppard's Bay Village home more than a month after Marilyn Sheppard was murdered, it was learned yesterday.

A trail of blood led up the porch steps, across the corner of the porch to a garage side door and down steps into the garage.

Bay Village police who investigated said the blood evidently had been deliberately dripped on the porch in an effort to "plant" evidence.

Dr. Sheppard, brother of Dr.

Samuel H. Sheppard, accused of Marilyn's murder, said the blood was discovered Aug. 7 by his wife, Dorothy, as she came out to sweep the porch.

## Blood Tested

Bay police said William J. Corrigan, Dr. Sam's defense chief, had pathological tests made to determine the nature of the blood, whether it was human or from some animal.

Corrigan, reached at his home late last night, said the pathologist's report he had ordered indicated the stains were made by animal blood.

"It was very definitely a plant," the defense attorney said.

He said he was not presently "at liberty to voice an opinion" about who might have placed the blood spots at the Sheppard home. The spots appeared to have been dropped from an eyedropper, he said.

Dr. Richard Sheppard said he and his family had left their home, 23346 West Lake Road, Bay Village, the evening of Aug. 6 to go to the home of his father.

The father, Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, lives at 23048 West Lake.

Returning before dark, the Sheppards did not notice any stains on the porch.

## Stains Photographed

The next morning, after Dr. Richard had left to go to Bay View Hospital, Mrs. Dorothy Sheppard, came out of the house to sweep the porch and discovered the bloody trail.

She telephoned her husband, who called Corrigan. Bay police were called to the scene and photographed the stains.

Dr. Richard N. Sheppard said he thought the blood stains were a crude effort to plant evidence.

He said that the afternoon before he had discovered four men building a "tree house" in a large tree in an adjacent vacant lot.

The "house" was built in a crotch of the tree, and Dr. Sheppard said it appeared that it was being constructed to afford someone a perch from which to look into a bedroom and a large screened-in porch at the lake side of the house.

## Builders Fail to Return

Since the discovery the men have not returned to the scene, the doctor said.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Elnora Helms, 12211 Brookfield Avenue S. W., who once a week cleaned Dr. Sam's home, 28924 West Lake, said she had made a statement to Cleveland police about a blood trail found in the murder house.

Mrs. Helms said she had told police she believed that a reported trail of blood found in widespread parts of the house was from the Sheppard's female dog, Koko. The dog was re-

portedly in season some weeks prior to the murder, and Mrs. Helms said the pet was given the run of the house.

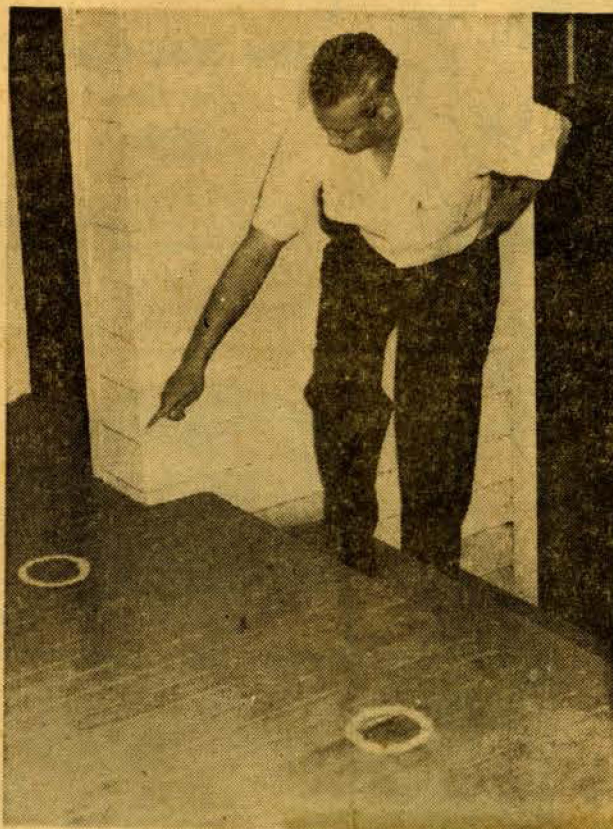
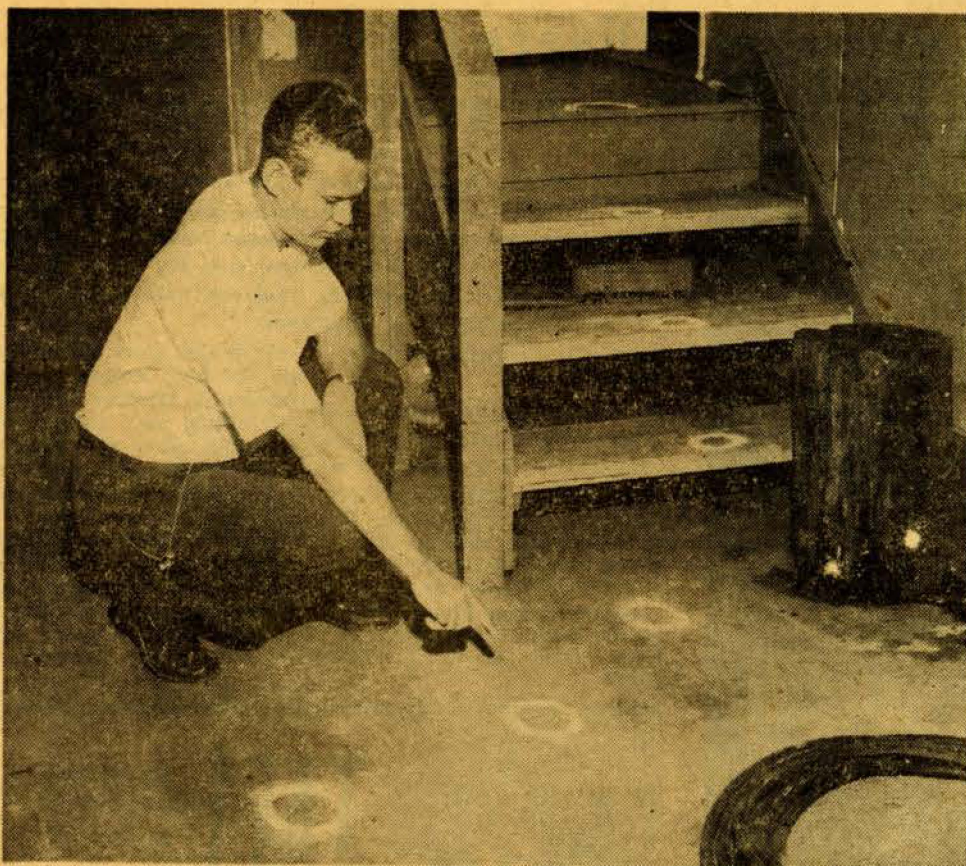
## Maid Tells of Questioning

Mrs. Helms said she had on several occasions wiped up spots from the stairs leading to the second floor, where Marilyn was murdered.

The maid said she was questioned by police on two occasions. On the second visit the detectives took a typewritten statement from her.

Deputy Inspector James E. McArthur, asked about blood reported to have been found in the Sheppard home through the use of "black light," commented: "It wasn't dog's blood."

Mrs. Helms said she told the Sheppard family of the dog's condition after reading newspaper accounts of the trail of blood in the home.



**BLOOD STAINS** found on steps leading into his garage and on the garage floor are pointed out by Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, brother of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard.

**CHALKED CIRCLES** show blood stains found on the front porch of Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, 23346 West Lake Road, Bay Village. Dr. Sheppard points to the spots.