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54/08/04 Police End Quiz as Doctor Wins No-Talk Strike

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The Cleveland Press

The Newspaper That Serves Its Readers

Final

NO. 24032

CLEVELAND, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1954

Phone CHerry 1-1111

56 Pages—7 Cents

POLICE END QUIZ AS DOCTOR WINS NO-TALK STRIKE

Chief Indicates Case Stronger Than Previously

Cleveland's top detectives today admitted defeat in their efforts to obtain any "helpful information" from Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard about the July 4 murder of his pretty wife, Marilyn.

They abandoned all efforts to interrogate him after the osteopath went on an "I won't talk strike" in his County Jail cell.

Police Chief Frank W. Story reluctantly announced that the four-day quizzing of the 30-year-old osteopath charged with the brutal slaying of his wife, had "produced nothing of value."

"It's a waste of time to question him any further," Story said. "I've ordered a halt to the questioning. We're not going to get any information from him."

Despite Dr. Sheppard's self-imposed wall of silence, the police chief said, "we have a stronger case than we did a week ago."



STAR WITNESS SUSAN HAYES relaxes in the Rocky River sunshine while awaiting police call to testify in the Sheppard murder case. (Story on Second Front Page.)

—Press Photo by Clayton Knipper

Dr. Sheppard's refusal to discuss the case, Story said, "forces us to proceed from a different angle."

"He's not trying to help either himself or the police," the chief snapped.

Police Confident

Story indicated that police are "more confident than ever" of the strength of their circumstantial evidence pointing to Dr. Sam as the murderer of his wife one month ago today.

Story disclosed that Homicide Capt. David Kerr had reenacted Dr. Sheppard's version

The town's been talking of the Sheppard case for 30 days. Page 10.

Doctor now has five lawyers. Page 4.

of his wife's slaying in the murder home yesterday, and found it "implausible."

Kerr lay down on the couch on which Dr. Sam said he was dozing when he heard Marilyn cry out in terror for help. The homicide captain then leaped to his feet and raced up the stairs.

As he went, he said, he brushed against a light switch and flipped it on. "It seemed the natural thing to do," he related.

But Dr. Sheppard said he had not turned on the light as he ran up the stairs. At an inquest into Marilyn's murder, he testified that he wasn't sure where the light switches in his home were located.

Coroner Samuel R. Gerber timed Kerr with a stopwatch.

He noted that it took him six seconds to run upstairs, and

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Defense Attorneys William J. Corrigan and Fred Garmone late today brought the news to Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard that his refusal to answer questions had "worn down" the homicide squad, and police had decided to abandon the unsuccessful quizzing.

They also brought the murder case defendant two letters—one from his mother, another from a friend in Detroit; three magazines—Pic, Speed Age and Hot Rod; three packs of pipe tobacco, each a different brand; an electric razor and a portable radio.

Quiz of Sheppard Is Ended by Police

(Continued From Page One)

40 seconds to deliver 27 hard blows on the bed with a heavy round object—a "facsimile" of the missing murder weapon.

The osteopath chose this one-month anniversary of his wife's murder to refuse to discuss even the weather with questioning homicide detectives.

Dr. Sheppard sat stolid and expressionless, wearing his protective neck collar, listening impassively to the steady barrage of questions.

He calmly read a Bible while the detectives talked, rarely replying.

"On advice of counsel," he said occasionally, "I refuse to answer any more questions concerning the case."

Then his eyes went back to his Bible. He didn't bother to acknowledge hearing most of the questions.

Dr. Sheppard maintained his stony silence even when asked repeatedly: "Did you ever hear of an attorney going to the electric chair?"

Meanwhile, his battery of attorneys—now increased to five—continued their efforts to block the legal proceedings which are slowly bringing Dr. Sheppard towards trial on the charge of premeditated murder of his pregnant wife in their home at 28924 Lake Rd., Bay Village.

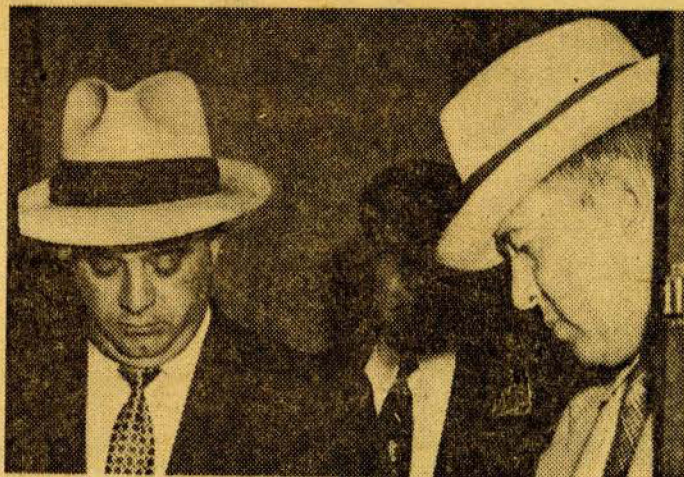
Asks Writ Dismissal

Bay Village Law Director Richard S. Weygandt filed a demurrer asking dismissal of Chief Defense Counsel William J. Corrigan's writ of prohibition, obtained late yesterday from Appellate Judge Joy Seth Hurd.

The writ bars Bay Village Council President Gerstom M. M. Barber from presiding at Dr. Sam's preliminary hearing on the first degree murder charge, which is set for Saturday.

Timothy McMahon, Corrigan's associate, agreed at a conference this morning with Weygandt and Appellate Judges Hurd and Julius Kovachy that trial of the petition for a permanent prohibition, set for 10 a. m. Friday at Lakeside Courthouse, could be before the two judges. Their colleague, Judge Lee Skeel, is vacationing at Cape Cod.

But Weygandt insisted that an out-of-town judge be called in to complete the panel—unless the two judges accept his



LAST QUESTIONERS of Dr. Sam Sheppard before Chief Frank Story halted the "grilling" today were Detectives Peter Becker (left) and John Doyle. The osteopath wouldn't talk.

written arguments and dismiss the case.

Will Call Houk

McMahon said he would call Bay Village Mayor J. Spencer Houk as a witness at the hearing. Houk, a personal friend of Dr. Sheppard, precipitated the legal fracas by disqualifying himself from signing the murder warrant or presiding at Dr. Sam's arraignment.

Corrigan contends that Barber is "without legal authority" to conduct the hearing, which will determine whether Dr. Sam is held for Grand Jury indictment.

Mahon Backs Bay Aide

Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon said he would support Weygandt in opposing the writ.

"This," Mahon said, "is the first instance I can recall of an attorney filing a writ of prohibition against a court."

Dr. Sheppard's legal staff now includes Corrigan; his son, William H. Corrigan; McMahon; Fred Garmone, another

well known criminal defense attorney, and Arthur E. Peter-silge, attorney for Bay View Hospital and the Sheppard family.

The osteopath stuck firmly to his decision not to talk—even ignoring an inquiry about the color of his trousers—de-

spite reminders of his avowed willingness to "do everything in my power to help solve this terrible murder."

Dr. Sheppard and his family have offered a \$10,000 reward for arrest and conviction of the slayer.

Despite the doctor's "dummy up," authorities said newly discovered circumstantial evidence helped strengthen the case against him.

"We've gone into court with much weaker cases," one top investigator commented.

"There is sufficient evidence to indict and convict," another said. "Dr. Sheppard's account of his struggles with an apparition that killed his wife is implausible."

Gag Rule Intensified

Chief Story intensified his "gag rule" on other participants in the investigation to prevent disclosure of "important new findings" to the defense.

It was apparent that law enforcement authorities and the defense attorneys have concluded that final disposition of the murder charge against Dr. Sheppard must rest with the

courts — either a jury or a panel of three judges.

Corrigan has indicated that he will seek a change of venue because of the intense interest in the case in the Greater Cleveland area. The prosecutor's office plans to oppose such a bid.

Police discounted the claim attributed to an intoxicated Lorain steelworker that he had killed Mrs. Sheppard. The man was arrested by Lorain police and taken to Central Police Station here for questioning.

Earl D. Tiedmond, 27, of 466 Huntmere Dr., Bay Village, a former Bay Village policeman who was discharged after a probationary period, made a statement to homicide detectives. They said it had "no particular bearing" on the murder inquiry.

Tiedmond now works for the Cadillac Tank Plant.

Defense Counsel Garmone went in to see Sheppard at the County Jail immediately after Detectives Peter Becker and John Doyle terminated an hour and 45 minutes of virtually "talking to ourselves."