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54/08/04 Doctor Balks, Quiz Halted

Cleveland News

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THE WEATHER

TONIGHT — Partly cloudy and warm. Low, 65.

TOMORROW — Cloudy, warm and showers. High, 85.

U. S. Weather Bureau Official Forecast

CLEVELAND NEWS

"A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY"

FINAL

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CLEVELAND, OHIO, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1954

Wirephotos, Exclusive Evening News of the Associated Press and International News

DOCTOR BALKS, QUIZ HALTED

Won't Reply To Queries in Murder Case

BY HOWARD BEAUFIT

Shielding himself behind a Bible and refusing to talk about anything, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard today won a temporary victory over homicide detectives.

Police Chief Frank W. Story said questioning of the osteopath was halted for the time being while investigators "try something else" in their search for a solution to the brutal slaying of Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard.

The chief charged that Dr. Sam's silence was stubborn and "coached" by his attorneys.

"Dr. Sam just doesn't want to help the investigation. Continued questioning of him at this time is a waste of time," Story said at a noon press conference.

As detectives withdrew from the prisoner's County Jail cell, Capt. David E. Kerr, head of the homicide bureau, rehearsed the crime and timed Dr. Sheppard's alleged movements on the morning of July 4 when it was committed.

Kerr "Runs Through" Murder

Kerr stretched out on the downstairs couch of the Sheppard home where Dr. Sam said he was sleeping when his wife was attacked by a mysterious clubber. He ran up the stairs, as the doctor said he did, went through the motions of striking an imaginary victim on the head and face 27 times.

Kerr reported to Chief Story the actual murder consumed a minute and a half and it took him six seconds to get off the couch and climb the 11 steps to the bedroom.

"Clammed Up"

Chief Story said that the time schedule was made in an effort to dispute the story of Dr. Sheppard and provide another link in the circumstantial evidence case against him.

At the time Dr. Sheppard "clammed up," in the language

of police headquarters, he was being questioned about "other women in his life. He refused to talk about his love life, the murder, or even his residence in California where several of his "amours" are said to have occurred.

Detectives asked about the handsome Bay Village osteopath's association with "Dollie," "Margo" and a Rocky River woman whose name they withheld.

Snubs His Questioners

At the same time, homicide detectives took a statement from Earl D. Tiedmond, former Bay Village patrolman, who said he saw Dr. Sam sitting in a car with a girl in Huntington Park in May, 1953.

When questioned about the "other women" detectives said Dr. Sam picked up a small Bible in his County Jail cell and read to himself, ignoring their presence.

When he does talk it is only to say, "I can't answer that on advice of counsel."

On the witness stand at the coroners inquest into the
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mysterious July 4 murder relatives of Dr. Sheppard were asked if his wife had not threatened divorce and complained about her husband's association with "Dollie" and "Margo" in California while he was studying to be an osteopath. The relatives denied that Marilyn Sheppard had complained about her husband's infidelities.

Despite Dr. Sheppard's silence, Chief Story said he was "more hopeful now of a solution that we were a week ago on the basis of new information . . . I can't tell you what it is."

Two 'Confess' Crime

Meanwhile the homicide investigation has had three distractions. Two men "confessed" to the crime and were held to be crackpots by detectives after listening to their stories.

An unidentified man was placed under the lie detector at police headquarters and questioned about an alibi he gave for one of the early suspects in the case. Story said the test indicated the man was telling the truth.

One of the "confessors" was a drunk who had quarreled with his wife and wanted to impress her with his importance, police said. The second man to confess was also intoxicated and he called Cleveland police from a Lorain tavern. "Sam didn't do it—I killed her," he said. Police brought him in for questioning when he became abusive over the phone.

Denied his freedom on a writ of habeas corpus, Dr. Sheppard's attorneys filed a writ of prohibition to prevent Bay Village Council President from holding a preliminary hearing for the prisoner next Saturday.

The second writ filed in the Court of Appeals brought a statement from Bay Village Law Director Richard S. Weygandt that he would file a demurrer challenging the later writ.

Appellate Judges Joy Seth Hurd and Julius M. Kovachy said they would hear the demurrer tomorrow.