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## 54/08/04 'I Face Toughest Day, ' Says Susan

Cleveland News

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# 'I Face Toughest Day,' Says Susan

BY DORIS O'DONNELL

Susan Hayes today is girding herself for the toughest moments in her young life.

If and when the Bay Village osteopath, Dr. Sam Sheppard, goes on trial for the murder of his 31-year-old wife, Marilyn, Miss Hayes will be one of the state's witnesses.

The ordeal of baring her secrets on the witness stand is causing the former Bay View Hospital technicians anxiety and worry.

"What will happen to my reputation?" she said. "I can't bear to think how facts will be used against me."

Resting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Hayes, 1680 Wagar Rd., Rocky River, Miss Hayes is like a numb person slowly coming back to life. The last month has been a nightmare.

She said when Los Angeles police first got in touch with her she couldn't imagine what everything was about. As correspondents for New York, Chicago and other big-city newspapers surrounded her, she became more and more confused.

"Then the trip home and more reporters," she said. "You can't imagine how you reporters frightened me. This big pack of reporters coming at me was almost too much."

Then after her dramatic flight here, she was virtually a prisoner in an air-conditioned Hotel Carter suite for six days. Her companions were Policewomen Irene Neal, Delphine Kniola, and Florence Kodidek.

Although policewomen were under orders not to discuss the Sheppard case with attractive Miss Hayes, it was she who asked them questions. Her questions, she said, mainly were con-

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# Dreads Day Ahead, Susan Hayes Says

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cerned with legal technicalities.

"I learned that if he (Dr. Sam) had committed the crime, he could have pleaded guilty to temporary insanity," she said.

Miss Hayes who has been described as the "mystery woman" and the "other woman" in the Sheppard case, avoided calling the imprisoned doctor either "Sam" or "Dr. Sheppard."

After Miss Hayes left Hotel Carter Monday night, she dined with friends, and returned to her parents home for the first time in more than six months, she said she decided to talk late yesterday with newspaper reporters, to "get it over with."

## Dodges Personal Questions

She refused to answer point-blank any leading, personal questions about her love affair with Dr. Sheppard.

"I've told the police everything. I didn't hold anything back," she said.

She said her plans are to remain "available" for further questioning by either County Prosecutor Frank Cullitan or Police Chief Frank Story.

"Do you know," she asked, "whether it's true a newspaper had offered \$1,000 for my story? Mr. Cullitan mentioned it to me."

"I think that's silly. I wouldn't take any money nor say anything more except to the police," she said.

## Plans to Go Back

"I can't wait until this is over," she mused. "I'm going back to California to work."

She loves California, she told me as we drove around the Rocky River Beachcliff section yesterday afternoon. Besides dinner with friends the previous night, it was her first fling at freedom in weeks, she said.

I was as much surprised to be driving her around as she was to be with me. After all, I had been camped outside her Carter suite, No. 733, for hours hoping to catch her strolling down the corridor, last week.

Then yesterday I parked outside her apartment. While observing people going and coming, I saw a slim, reddish-haired girl coming out the door. It was Susan. She invited me up to her apartment.

Instead I suggested a drive. She ran upstairs for cigarets and to tell her mother where she was going.

## Thoughts Far Away

Miss Hayes, during the car interview, frequently let her mind drift off to happier months in California. It was evident she is anxious to return. Her clothes are at the home of a friend, Mrs. Dorothy Shabala, who had also worked at Bay View Hospital.

"I suppose Dorothy could send them to me, but I told her to keep them as I was coming back," she said.

She commented that she hadn't saved much money, spending her salary mostly on clothes. She said she'd like her parents to return with her, and that she had asked them a long time ago to move there.

While we chatted lightly, we both knew there were important questions on our minds.

"You can ask me. But I can say 'no'," she said.

## Not Sure of Love

"Did you ever love him?"

"I really don't know," she said. "How can I say now?"

"What about the murder?"

"What I think?" she said. "I'm confused. People expect me to know."

She thought for a moment, then said: "I can't believe he did it."

She said, "Marilyn was never jealous of me," and she never knew the Sheppard family wanted her fired from the hospital.

While Susan Hayes lives with her problems, the big problem of facing a jury, hostile defense attorneys and public opinion, she also faces a more disturbing problem.

It's her parents, she said.

She hated returning home under these circumstances. She has hurt them, and she has hurt her father's family back home in Illinois.

"My parents have not asked me one word about this mess," she said. "And I haven't said anything. Some day the time may come."