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54/09/17 Fumbling in slaying described

Cleveland Press

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Fumbling in Slaying Described

How Bay Village police fumbled the first day's investigation of the murder of Marilyn Sheppard was described today at Dr. Sam H. Sheppard's bail hearing.

The testimony was given by Bay Village Police Chief John Eaton and Patrolman Fred Drenkhan.

Eaton said he arrived at the Sheppard home to "take charge" of the murder investigation, but "hardly noticed" Dr. Sam.

He said no one asked him for permission to remove Dr. Sam to Bay View Hospital—"the first thing I knew he was gone."

"Think He's Lying"

When a Cleveland homicide detective told him Sam's version of the murder, Eaton said he replied: "I think he's lying."

But he never questioned Dr. Sam himself, he said, "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."

Eaton called the case "the most important we ever had" in Bay Village.

Drenkhan testified that he had been friendly with Dr. Sam, and was present at the osteopath's questioning by county detectives at the request of the Sheppard family.

He was the first policeman to arrive at the scene on the murder morning.