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54/08/04 Marilyn's Murder Has Kept Town Talking for a Month

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MSL

ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

Marilyn's Murder Has Kept Town Talking for a Month

board replicas of Dr. Sam's orthopedic collar on their necks.

It's been a month today since Marilyn Sheppard was found bashed to death by a killer's raging blows. Has there ever been a month quite like it in Cleveland?

Talk of the town? How can you escape it? No one has really wanted to escape being drawn into conversation and conjecture and controversy about the Sheppard case which pales anything on the crime fiction stands.

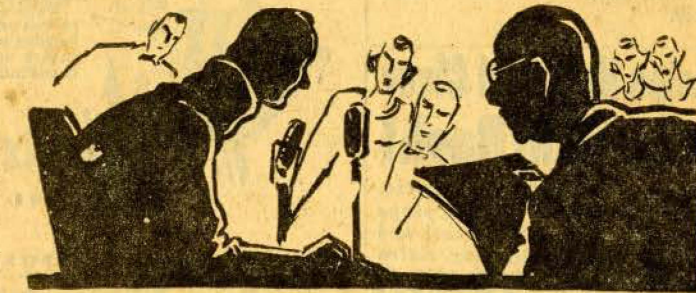
At breakfast and over cocktails, it's "Dr. Sam" and "Susan Hayes" and "Lawyer Corrigan" and "why the delay?"

On buses, in shops, on street corners, it's "lie detector" and "third degree" and "habeas corpus."

Certainly never in the history of the neat little proud-of-our-quiet-homes Bay Village, scene of the baffling murder, has life been so upheaved by one happening.

Jammed Traffic

Traffic jams along deliberately narrow Lake Rd. in Bay are old hat during summer



months because of traditional traffic to and from beaches and lake shore beauty spots.

But never before traffic jams like these of the last month during which thousands of morbidly curious West and East Siders have made Bay their Mecca.

At an agonizing 10 and 15 miles an hour they creep along, singling out the Sheppard family-controlled Bay View Hospital, esconced in a hulking brick building, once a mansion, along the lake.

They peer at the homes of Dr. Sam Sheppard's father, Richard Sr., also conveniently

on Lake Rd.; Bay's Mayor J. Spencer Houk, the man to whom several hours after Marilyn Sheppard was killed, Dr. Sam phoned and cried:

"My God, Spen, they've killed Marilyn!"

Bay Overwhelmed

But the greatest traffic jam is out front of Dr. Sam's own Lake Rd. home, scene of the bloody slaying, scene of futile searches for weapons and intruders and motives.

Traffic was bad enough at first. Then police roped off the property and that made things worse. The place could be

spotted more easily.

Bay's handful of police couldn't hope to do much more with the traffic than they could with solving the killing. "We're not experienced in things like this," they justifiably complained.

And names that once meant nothing except in Bay's narrow confines now were being spotlighted, headlined, not only in Cleveland but from coast to coast.

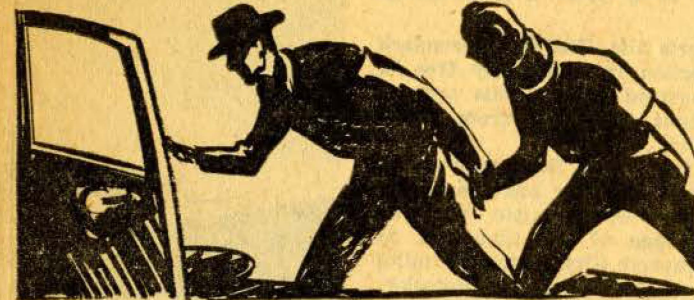
Cost \$50,000?

Mayor Houk, just a little more than a month ago only a butcher and part-time mayor, has become a big figure in the Sheppard case, a man whose modest political career may now be jeopardized.

Sgt. Jay Hubach and Patrolman Fred Drenkhan of Bay—who had heard of them? Bay Law Director Richard S. Weygandt suddenly found himself thrust into a big legal tussle with the fiery Criminal Lawyer Bill Corrigan.

Who can say what the Sheppard murder investigation has cost the county just in this one month. Would \$50,000 be a close guess?

Figure in the salaries of Bay officials and police. And Detective Capt. David Kerr and his 15 homicide detectives. And Police Chief Frank Story, Chief of Detectives James McArthur. A big part of their



time in the last month has been devoted to this case.

Then there are the county officials like Coroner Sam R. Gerber, several prosecutors besides Thomas Parrino, several sheriffs' deputies.

The inquest, one of the few held here in 20 years, at Bay's Normandy School caused more pilgrimages to the suburb, more controversy and more expense as court stenographers recorded more than 600 pages of proceedings.

The bringing back of Rocky River's Susan Hayes, vivacious former Bay View lab technician, from California to testify of intimacies that Dr. Sam had denied threw fresh light on the background of Sam and Marilyn's married life and tossed more fuel for community conversation into the already roaring fire.

And through it all, indelibly in the minds of the community

has been the picture of the mystery man, tall Dr. Sam Sheppard, ever wearing his orthopedic collar.

You think even children haven't felt the impact of the Sheppard case? Across town from Bay, on Scarborough Rd. in Cleveland Heights the other day, several small fry were playing.

"I want to be Dr. Sam!" each was hollering.

They were wearing card-