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Dr. Sam Saves Inmate's Life on Prison Operating Table

By JAMES T. KEENAN, *Press Columbus Writer*

COLUMBUS—Dr. Samuel Sheppard, former Bay Village osteopath convicted of killing his wife, was credited today with saving the life of a fellow prisoner who had just undergone an emergency appendectomy.

Ohio Penitentiary hospital records show that the patient, John McCormick, a Pittsburgher serving life for murder, choked when he was coming out from under the anesthetic.

He had no pulse and his heart apparently had stopped. The surgeon had left the room, in the belief the patient was making a normal recovery.

Dr. Sheppard, on duty as a nurse, removed the ob-

struction from McCormick's throat and massaged the man's chest until his heart started beating again. There was no chest incision made.

Warden Ralph Alvis would not comment on Dr. Sam's feat, but prison officials confirmed that McCormick's hospital record on the operation recited the incident.

(In Cleveland, Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, Dr. Sam's brother, said he had known of the case, but added that "those things do happen in the operating room—it was just part of his work." Dr. Richard also said that he understood his brother "is doing a very creditable job down there and they respect his ability and his

knowledge.")

According to men inside the penitentiary, this is what happened in the prison operating room some time about the end of June:

McCormick, 34, a "trusty" who drives a prison truck outside the penitentiary walls, was rushed to the prison hospital suffering appendicitis. Dr. Sam was a nurse in the operating room—his regular prison assignment.

A routine operation was performed and the surgeon left the room. Dr. Sam was attending McCormick as he came out of the anesthetic. Suddenly the man choked and vomited.

Something caught in his throat and he stopped breathing. He had no pulse.

According to others present at the time, Dr. Sam put his fingers down the man's throat and cleared the obstruction. He then pounded and massaged the man's chest until the heart action was resumed.

Today McCormick is completely recovered. The story is known throughout the penitentiary. Dr. Sam is still assigned as surgery nurse.

Sheppard, whose 1954 conviction for the murder of his wife, Marilyn, has been upheld by all Ohio courts, is seeking review of his case in the U. S. Supreme Court.