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ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

She Calls Watch From Doctor "Generous Gesture"

By AL OSTROW

"It seemed like such a generous gesture . . ."

That was the recollection today of Miss Susan Hayes, 24, of how Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard gave her a wrist watch to replace one she lost at a wedding party in Los Angeles last March.

Miss Hayes formerly was a medical technician at Bay View Hospital, operated by Dr. Sheppard and his family.

She now lives at Downey, Calif., with Mrs. Dorothy Shabla, also a former Bay View employee.

The watch Dr. Sheppard gave her was a Lady Elgin, which costs at least \$71.50.

How did the 30-year-old osteopath, who was then in Los Angeles attending a convention, accompanied by his wife, happen to give her such an expensive gift? Miss Hayes gave this explanation in a telephone conversation with this reporter:

"My friend, Mrs. Shabla, was celebrating her birthday. Dr.

Sheppard came over. His wife wasn't with him.

"There was some talk about going to a wedding. I didn't know the people. I went along, with Dr. Sheppard. There were several other couples in the group. I didn't consider it a date.

"At the wedding, I discovered that my pendant watch had fallen off and was lost. I felt pretty bad about losing it, and said something about how badly I needed a watch in my work. Dr. Sheppard saw how upset I was about it.

"Very Nice of Him"

"Some time later—I don't remember whether it was the next day or a few days later—he came out and gave me the new watch. I thought it was very nice of him."

And that, Miss Hayes said, was about the last she thought about the watch—until it suddenly brought her into the official investigation of the murder of Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard.

Dr. Sheppard told Deputy Sheriff Carl Rossbach that he had not told Marilyn about buying the watch for Miss Hayes, but his wife learned about it. He said he didn't know who told Mrs. Sheppard, but it caused a "minor family argument—nothing serious."

Mrs. Sheppard's own wrist watch was found on the floor in her husband's downstairs study after the murder. It was stopped at 3:15. Dr. Sheppard's watch, found in a green bag on the house grounds, was stopped at 4:15.

"Sounded Scared"

Miss Hayes is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert C. Hayes of 1680 Wagar Rd.,

Rocky River.

"Our daughter called us at about 1 a. m. today," Mrs. Hayes said. "She sounded scared, and said she wished she were home. She said the watch gift didn't mean anything. There was nothing between her and the doctor."

Miss Hayes worked at Bay View Hospital, where she was trained as a technician, for several years, with a few months out to work for a downtown

physician, until she went to California for a visit early this year. She decided to stay there after obtaining a job at the same clinic where Mrs. Shabla works.

She now lives with Mr. and Mrs. Shabla.

"It's a nice watch," Miss Hayes said, "but all the trouble it's causing me!"



RECIPIENT of gift watch from Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard was Miss Susan Hayes, former Bay View Hospital technician. Now living in Southern California, Miss Hayes said the watch was replacement for one she lost attending a wedding with the 30-year-old osteopath. This photo was taken a few years ago during a style show in the Westlake Hotel.