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54/12/10 Sam Denies Discussing Divorce

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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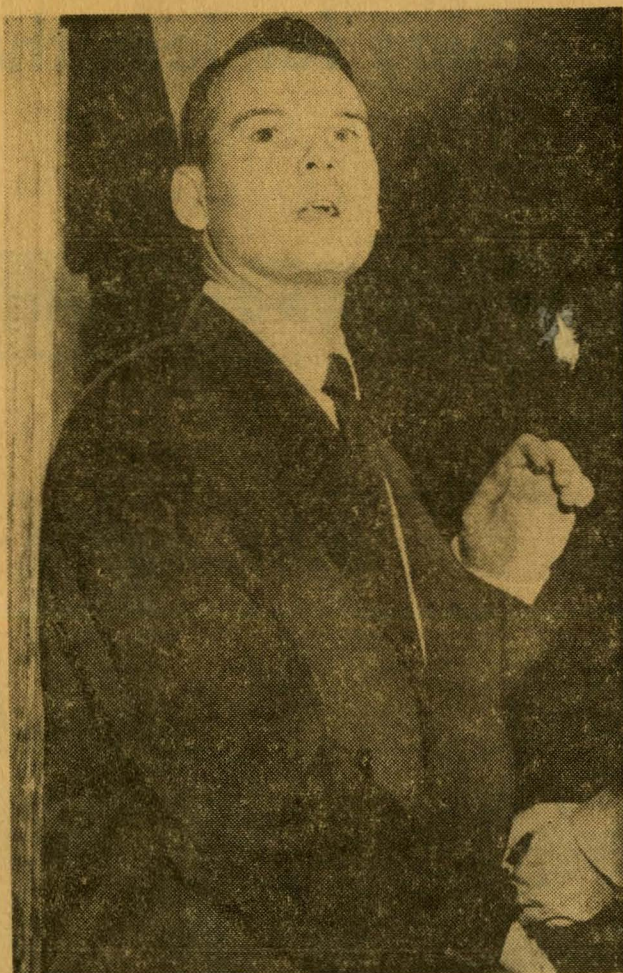
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SAM DENIES DISCUSSING DIVORCE

Retraces Life Up to Month Before Murder



AP Photo

LEAVING the witness stand, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard paused to wave to members of his family as he was led back to his cell at County Jail.



AP Photo

ON WITNESS STAND. Dr. Sheppard sits in the witness box after testifying at his trial for murder.

OSTEOPATH TESTIFIES NO ARGUMENT MARRED MARRIAGE TO MARILYN

Says 'Chip' Received Only 'Fairly Reasonable Licks;' Stays on Stand for Two and a Half Hours in First Appearance; Direct Questioning Resumes Today

BY TODD SIMON

No bad argument and never any talk of divorce with Marilyn marred their life together from their schoolday romance on, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard told his wife-murder jury from the witness chair yesterday.

The boy-faced osteopath, 30, rolled out his life story for two and a half hours starting at 1:38 p. m. He had got up as far as June, the month before the Fourth of July bludgeon killing in his Bay Village home, when court recessed.

This was just the start of Dr. Sam's direct testimony. He was expected to be on direct all today, before the week-end recess.

In his boyish high voice he denied beating "Chip," his son, except to give him "a few fairly reasonable licks on his back end." He said Marilyn wore no safety belt while water skiing.

Except for a tendency to go into tiniest details, with his chief attorney, William J. Corrigan, trying to rein him in, he seemed well controlled as his own prize witness.

He looked straight into the faces of the jurors as he replied. And he used language with an academic flavor. The athletic young six-footer who had been president of his high school class sounded like an honor student taking his oral exam before the faculty.

Love Story Unfolds

His story began with two head-on denials of the charges two state's witnesses had made—one that he had beaten "Chip" unmercifully and one that he had advised a relative of Mrs. J. Spencer Houk to fake a head injury to collect more insurance.

Then came his autobiography. He told his and Marilyn's love story and his medical schooling

Highlights of Testimony

Begin on Page 10.

and career, their enjoyment together of sports and civic work, and how they joined their local church.

"I was born in Cleveland Heights, O.," he testified.

"When? Well, with all this questioning in regard to 'in my own knowledge,' I hesitate to say, but it was 1923, Dec. 29th."

On his football, basketball and track achievements, he said: "I always considered myself as passable. I always made the varsity, but I was never a tremendous star."

Kidded by Schoolmates

He met Marilyn at Roosevelt Junior High School.

"At that time we displayed relative interest in each other," he said, "even though it was not great, and our schoolmates would kid us about one another."

Being a little older, Marilyn went to Cleveland Heights High ahead of him, but Dr. Sam said he would "receive an occasional report that she asked about me."

She and his father, Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, head of the osteopathic family, were in the

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Dr. Sam Denies Talk of Divorce

(Continued From First Page)

stands every time he played football.

He gave her his high school fraternity pin.

"We considered that meant we were engaged," he said. "Our parents and guardians did not think so, but we did."

Wrote Every Day

They wrote to each other every day, he went on, while he was at Hanover College in Indiana for two years and then at the College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons in Los Angeles.

He found out that her father "was going to come out on a business trip" and "my father had been asked to come out and teach surgery at the graduate school." That was in 1945.

"By chance the two trips jibed," he said, "and I thought that was a pretty good opportunity. So I wrote her father a letter and I wrote Marilyn a letter.

"We were married in a church in Hollywood."

Next year they drove back here "together in an old Model A Ford" on their first visit home.

Difference "Political"

When he talked about the split between osteopaths and "orthodox physicians" Corrigan said: "Don't go into a long explanation. Can't you tell it briefly?"

It is a "political difference only," said Dr. Sam, and he went on to tell the history of osteopathy from its founder, Dr. Andrew Taylor Still.

There is no difference today on methods of treatment, he said.

"Though there is a political difference, a harmony is displayed," he said.

His father, he testified, loaned him the money to buy the lake-front house at 28924 West Lake Road. He said he still owed his father that money.

The furniture came from relatives. Marilyn, he explained, was interested in "authentic, early American furniture" and

got advice on what to buy from an aunt, Mrs. Worth E. Munn, and a neighbor, Mrs. Karl R. Schuele.

Marilyn sewed the slip cover for the couch on which he slept before the murder. His mother helped with that.

Corrigan took him over the "talk of divorce" matter in one quick question.

And Dr. Sam went over the Susan Hayes affair as fast as a racer in a "guar."

"Was there talk of divorce between you and Marilyn? Tell if there was any talk of divorce between you and Marilyn," said Corrigan.

Blythin Interrupts

"No, sir."

Then Dr. Sam volunteered: "Do you want me to enlarge upon that?"

"What?" asked Corrigan.

"He asked," said Assistant Prosecutor Thomas J. Parrino, who was sitting closer to the witness, "whether you want him to enlarge on that."

"No, I don't want him to enlarge on that. If anyone wants



DR. SAM'S minister, Rev. Alfred C. Kreke, testified on behalf of the defendant.

him to enlarge on that, let them ask it," retorted Corrigan.

Dr. Sam was still saying: "Well . . . uh . . ."

Common Pleas Judge Edward Blythin warned: "Wait a minute."

The questioning went into "disagreements." Marilyn found the always-welcome boys playing basketball, playing in the clubroom over the garage, sipping cokes in the house, a little too much.

Then came the California trip.

Q—And it was on that trip you met Miss Susan Hayes as she testified?

A—Yes, sir.

That was all the time Corrigan gave to Dr. Sam's seven days with the 24-year-old medical technician there.

As for the watch the defendant gave Miss Hayes, because she lost one on a San Diego trip, Corrigan asked if he told Marilyn about it.

"Yes, sir, I did," Dr. Sam answered. "The only difficulty was that she insisted that I don't put it on my expense account and make my brothers pay for it. I thought I should. I considered it an expense account."

Mentions Twitching

Dr. Sam said he first learned Marilyn was going to have a baby "by the end of March."

"We hoped she was pregnant," he said.

Twice then he found her arms, hands and face twitching and a slight froth at her mouth in her sleep, he testified.

"I placed bedclothes in her mouth to keep her from biting her tongue," he said.

He decided she was smoking too much. She stopped for a month and switched to a filter-tip cigarette.

Nobody smoked upstairs, Dr. Sam testified. That was to make capital of the "butt found in the toilet bowl" on the murder morning.

Truth "Quite Poor"

Marilyn's teeth were "quite poor," said Dr. Sam.

"She had broken a tooth off completely at the gum line on a piece of beefsteak," he said.

That was aimed at the two tooth chips found in her bed. The defense story is that she must have bit the hand or finger of a sex-attacker, the "bushy-haired" burglar Dr. Sam will get to today.

Marilyn was "extremely helpful," said Dr. Sam, in his medical work. She typed his surgical reports. The Sheppards "elected to pay her by the hour, as we would a technician or stenographer," he said.

"She took great pride in this little bit of money she would get irregularly, because she would say, well, that was hers, and she would save that and do things with that, particularly for me. She bought me a pipe for Father's Day, for instance, with money she earned.

Hid It Around House

"She would hide it around the house in various places."

Dr. Sam said he became police surgeon in Westlake and Bay by writing to the authorities. Westlake's Council acted on that. Bay Village did not need Council action for it.

In charge of emergency cases at the only hospital between Lorain and Lakewood, Dr. Sam said that was a natural way to handle the large number of accident cases out of the roads there.

He and not Marilyn had belonged to a church here first, he said. When he transferred from Church of the Saviour, in Cleveland Heights, to the Methodist Church in Bay Village, Marilyn had never been baptized, he said. He said she was therefore baptized at home and she too became a church member.

"How old was Marilyn when her mother died?" Corrigan asked.

"I believe about as old as 'Chip' is now," said Dr. Sam.