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56/12/22 Dr. Sam Loses Hospital Post

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Press 12-22-56

Dr. Sam Loses Hospital Post

Assigned to Mill Pending Probe of Prisoner's Death

By ED HEINKE, *Press Columbus Writer*

COLUMBUS—Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, serving a life sentence for the slaying of his wife, Marilyn, has been transferred from the Ohio Penitentiary hospital "pending an investigation" of the death of a convict from rubbing-alcohol poisoning.

The dead prisoner was William (Bilmont) Miller, 57-year-old editor of the Ohio Penitentiary News, the prison newspaper.

Although the death occurred Thursday, prison officials kept their investigation secret until today.

Dr. Sam, one of four male nurses involved in the probe, the poisoning at 2 a. m. Thursday, has been assigned to the planing mill.

Warden Ralph Alvis confirmed the transfer of Dr. Sam and the three other convict workers from the hospital but said, "Our investigation is not to find out Dr. Sam's connection with this, but to find out all the facts about Miller's death."

Drank Rubbing Alcohol

Miller was serving time on a grand larceny conviction in Hamilton, O. He and a fellow prisoner, Fred Grambo, drank rubbing alcohol Dec. 14, Alvis said. Both were taken to the hospital when they became violently ill.

At the hospital, Grambo recovered. Miller died from

"Sheppard and three other male nurses in the hospital were brought into this when it was suspected that the hospital had been the source of what these two men drank," Alvis said. "Doctors thought they had been drinking sodium pentothal — which is available only at the hospital.

"When it was positively determined they had been drinking rubbing alcohol, Sheppard and the others were exonerated on being the source," Alvis said.

Two of the hospital aides, but not Sheppard, he added, are still in confinement while an investigation is being

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Death Probe Costs Dr. Sam Hospital Job

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made of "juggling hospital records."

It was reported by one prison official that the "juggling" of the hospital records in the case involved concealment of the fact that convict nurses in the hospital used stomach pumps on Miller and Grambo.

"Is Dr. Sam exonerated on the unreported use of a stomach pump on Miller and Grambo?" the warden was asked.

"No, he is not," Alvis replied. "That is still under investigation."

He said that Grambo

worked in the prison gymnasium, where he might have stolen the rubbing alcohol he and Miller drank.

Miller entered the penitentiary on his current sentence in September of last year. He had a record of being in Ohio Penitentiary and others almost continuously since 1925. In 1950 he was arrested in Cleveland on a burglary charge and returned to the penitentiary as a parole violator.

Dr. Sam is serving a life sentence for the murder of his wife, Marilyn, in Bay Village in 1954.