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55/01/07 Dr. Sam's Mother Was Kindly to All

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Dr. Sam's Mother Was Kindly to All

BY DORIS MILLAVEC

Mrs. Ethel Sheppard, who today found life's crises unbearable, was always a source of comfort and sympathy to her friends in their personal problems.

Shielded by her family from the glare of publicity during the trial of her son, Mrs. Sheppard never saw Dr. Sam in jail, never saw her son on trial.

She never responded to letters of sympathy sent to her by her best friends, although when I interviewed her during the trying trial days, she said the letters enabled her to endure the experience.

"Always gracious, but graciousness doesn't explain everything," Mrs. James G. Murray, 1335 Yellowstone Rd., Cleveland Heights, said today in describing her friend of 28 years.

Born 65 years ago in Paris, Ill., Mrs. Sheppard was Ethel Niles before her marriage to Dr. Sheppard, the son of a Methodist minister at Paris.

Before her marriage to Dr. Sheppard she taught high school Greek and Latin after her graduation in 1912 from Hanover College.

She and Dr. Sheppard came to Cleveland from Upper Sandusky where they spent the early years of their marriage.

Always interested in her husband's work, Mrs. Sheppard was

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MOTHER

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active in women's auxiliaries of osteopathic organizations.

She was particularly interested in the dietary end of the hospital organization and, in the early years of Dr. Sheppard's establishment of a Euclid Ave. hospital, would launder the linens at home herself.

Mrs. Sheppard's interests were varied, according to Mrs. Murray.

Active in Alumnae

She had been particularly active in Alpha Delta Pi Alumnae organization here, formerly serving as state president.

The women members of her family had been identified with the organization for three generations and her two daughters-in-law also were members.

She was a member of Shaker Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and until recently of the Cleveland College Club.

She maintained her interest in Hanover College from which she was graduated in 1912. She was a contributor of money, interest and time and once was nominated for a trusteeship.

"Mrs. Sheppard had a deep,

abiding kindness. She was very tolerant. She was very thorough in her approach to any problem, looking at all sides. She was the last person I would expect to do what she did today. It was just too much for her," Mrs. Murray said.

In her only interview with a newspaper reporter after her son and family became the focus of nationwide newspaper attention, Mrs. Sheppard said that she never read newspaper accounts of the trial. The family told her the highlights of the daily happenings.

Had Confidence in Son

A gentle-voiced, white-haired woman, she quietly expressed confidence at that time in her son's innocence and identified her role as that of the family stabilizer.

Although reluctant to emerge from the protective shadows of silence, Mrs. Sheppard was gracious even to this newspaper reporter, answering questions politely and smiling apologies when she did not wish to reply.

"I hope that I shall see you again—under more pleasant circumstances," she said as she closed the interview at Westlake

Rd. home next door to Bay View Hospital.

During his trial, Dr. Sam Sheppard often fingered and re-read a small pamphlet on poise which had been sent to him by his mother.