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7-4-1955

55/07/04 Dr. Sam Recalls Last July 4, Says: I Miss Marilyn...Grieve

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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Dr. Sam Recalls Last July 4, Says: I Miss Marilyn... Grieve

BY JOHN G. BLAIR

"I miss Marilyn and grieve her loss each and every day."

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard told of his reactions yesterday on the eve of the first anniversary of the murder of his wife.

A year ago this morning the brutal slaying of the Bay Village housewife was discovered. Dr. Sheppard was found injured. The extent of the injuries was a bitterly-fought issue at the osteopath's trial last fall.

"It was a hard year for Dr. Sam," William J. Corrigan, chief counsel for Dr. Sheppard, said yesterday.

Tells How He Feels

During the year Dr. Sam was charged with murder, indicted and convicted. His mother, Mrs.

Ethel Sheppard, took her own life, shooting herself in the head while staying in the home of another son, Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard. Not long afterward Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, father of Dr. Sam, died.

How does Dr. Sam feel about the tragedies suffered by his family on this first anniversary? From his cell on the fourth floor of the County Jail, he told the Plain Dealer:

Quotes Stranger's Comforting

"July 4th reminds us of the day we as American citizens were given certain rights. It is strange that this same day marks the date following which more than one of these rights were denied a respectable American family and individuals.

"A recent letter from a

stranger expresses this quite well: 'But you must know that there are large numbers of people who believe you are innocent and who wish you complete success in your fight for freedom. I know you will soon be vindicated, Doctor. I must believe that in order to believe in America.'

"I miss Marilyn and grieve her loss each and every day."

The note was written on one of Dr. Sheppard's prescription blanks and was signed: "Dr. Sam."

Faith in the eventual "vindication" of Dr. Sheppard was expressed by Corrigan.

Has Faith in Dr. Kirk

Corrigan visited the prisoner yesterday morning and said Dr. Sam had commented that anyone reading the report of Dr. Paul L. Kirk, California criminologist who investigated the case for the defense, "could not come to any other conclusion

but that Dr. Sam Sheppard is innocent."

Dr. Sheppard's appeals on his conviction and on the denial of a new trial by Common Pleas Judge Edward Blythin are being studied by the Appellate Court here.

The three judges of the court, Julius M. Kovachy, Joy Seth Hurd and Lee E. Skeel, are concentrating on the case.

Home Now Up for Sale

The rambling home of Dr. Sam and Marilyn at 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village, has been newly painted and is up for sale.

Today will probably be like the July 4 holiday that was expected a year ago until tragedy struck.

No matter what the outcome of court actions pending and possible, the life of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard will never again be the same as when he dozed off on a couch in his comfortable lakefront home a year ago last night.