

THOMAS S. REESE, being first duly sworn was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION OF THOMAS S. REESE

By Dr. Gerber:

Q What is your name, please?

A Thomas S. Reese.

Q Where do you live, Mr. Reese?

A 4233 Silsby Road, University Heights.

Q You lived in Cuyahoga County practically all your life?

A In Cuyahoga County?

Q Yes.

A I have.

Q Most of that time you have lived where?

A Well, I was born in East Cleveland. I lived there until I went to college and then I was married and lived in an apartment on Eddy Road and moved to another double house off of Shaw Avenue and then up on Terrace Road. I then lived in an apartment on Shaker Heights for a while and then moved to Silsby Road.

Q You are in business in Cleveland?

A I am.

Q What is the name of your business itself?

A Dinoc Company.

Q What is your connection with that business?

A I am the vice-president of the business.

Q Are you the father of Marilyn Reese Sheppard?

A Yes, sir, I am.

Q When was she born?

A She was born April 14, 1923.

Q Is her mother presently living?

A No, her mother is dead.

Q What was the age of Marilyn when her mother died?

A Oh, about five or six years old.

Q Have you since remarried?

A Yes, I have.

Q What is your wife's first name?

A Jane.

Q How long since you remarried?

A Well, I was married in 1930, I believe and that would be 23 years.

Q After Marilyn's mother's death did she continue to reside with you?

A No. Both Marilyn and I moved into my mother's home on Stanwood Road.

Q And after that did Marilyn go to school in East Cleveland?

A I believe she did. And then about a year or slightly longer after I was married she came to live with me and then

she went to Cleveland Heights school.

Q Did Marilyn live with any other persons other than you and your wife?

A No.

Q At a later date?

A No. Well, I don't believe I understand your question.

Q Did she live with her aunts or anyone else?

A No, she did not live with them. She visited them of course, but she did not live with them.

Q Marilyn then went to Cleveland Heights High School?

A That's right.

Q And she graduated in what year?

A I would not be able to answer that right off-hand. I don't know exactly what year it was.

Q She graduated in approximately 1942?

A I would say so, yes.

Q How old was she when she graduated?

A I believe she was 18.

Q Then did she go to school?

A Yes, she did. She went to Skidmore College.

Q To the best of your memory can you recall when she became acquainted with Sam Sheppard?

A Well, she became acquainted with Sam Sheppard while she was going to Cleveland Heights High School.

Q Did Marilyn later marry Sam Sheppard?

A She did.

Q Will you give us please the details of what you can recall about that marriage and what occurred?

A Yes, I will. Marilyn had been going with Sam for some time and at that time she had left college and was working I believe at the Life -- Time magazine and she came to me I believe it was in February and said that she wanted to get married, she wanted to marry Sam and Sam at that time was in California. I said, "Well, Marilyn, if that is what you want to do we will arrange to do it." So I took Marilyn out to California.

Q Will you speak up a little louder, I can hardly hear you?

A I am sorry. I took Marilyn out to California and the wedding ceremony was performed, I had some additional business to attend to and I stayed there I believe a week, maybe a little longer and then came back home.

Q And then Marilyn married Sam Sheppard as far as you know while he was still in college?

A Yes, that's correct.

Q And do you know where they went to live?

A Well, I would not recall the exact address, but it was sort of a terrace, an apartment terrace which was quite close to the Los Angeles County Hospital.

Q Did Marilyn communicate with you after you arrived

back in Cuyahoga County?

A You mean after she was married?

Q After she was married.

A Yes, yes. She would write to me and I would frequently call her on the phone and talk with her.

Q The communication either by letter or telephone, did that occur frequently?

A Well, it depends on what you may call frequently. Maybe once a month, thereabouts.

Q Did she inform you as to how she was getting along, what was happening in her married life?

A Well, there was no mention of that. She would give me the news.

Q Did she during that time tell you that she was having any difficulties with her husband?

A No, sir, she did not.

Q Did she ever tell you that she was having any difficulties with her husband?

A No, Marilyn never told me that.

Q Did she inform you about her first baby?

A Well, yes, sure.

Q Was she happy about it when she informed you?

A Oh, of course, she was happy.

Q When did you see Marilyn while she was still in California?

A Well, I had occasion to go back there on business. I can't recall the exact date. However, Marilyn at that time was pregnant and was expecting her baby in about a month.

Q What other time did you see her in California?

A Then I had occasion to go back to California again, I think it was '47 or '48, thereabouts, and the baby was approximately a year old.

Q Did you see her after '48?

A No, I did not see her again until after she came back to Cleveland.

Q And during the time that she lived in California did she visit Cleveland?

A Yes, she was back once or twice.

Q When did she come back?

A To Cleveland?

Q To Cleveland.

A I believe it was in 1951.

Q Now, during the time that she either visited you or you visited her, did she tell you how her married life was getting along?

A No, she never discussed that.

Q After she moved or returned to Cleveland, did you see her frequently?

A Well, I would see her quite often, but then I would

call her up and talk to her.

Q How many times a month or a year did you see her after she moved back?

A Oh, I would say maybe three or four times in a year.

Q And during those times do you know whether or not she was happy or unhappy?

A Well, to the best of my knowledge she was happy.

Q In 1954, did you see Marilyn?

A '54.

Q Subsequent to January 1, 1954, this year?

A Oh, yes, yes.

Q Do you recall how often you saw her?

A I would say three or four times.

Q Did you see her before she went to California in February?

A You mean immediately before?

Q At any time?

A Well, I can't recall. I saw her, but I don't remember how long it was prior to her going to California.

Q Did Marilyn ever ask of you money at any time?

A She never asked for money. When they were still married, of course Sam was in school and I helped them out financially all the time they were in California.

Q Since Marilyn has been back, in 1951, have you helped them out financially?

A No.

Q She never made a request?

A No.

Q Did you see Marilyn when she returned from California in the latter part of March of '54?

A No, I did not. I talked to her on the phone. I didn't exactly see her.

Q Did she tell you anything about the trip to --

A Well, when I did see her afterwards I just asked her casually if she had a nice trip and she said she did. There wasn't any particular discussion about it.

Q When and where did you see her at this time that you mentioned?

A She was out there early in March.

Q Out where?

A In California.

Q Yes.

A She returned, well, she returned in March and I had a boat which I just purchased and she stopped in to see me on the boat. It must have been early in May.

Q Where was the boat located?

A The boat was located at the Cleveland Boat Service or dry dock.

Q Where is that located?

A That's about 53rd or 54th and Lake Shore Drive, east.

Q This was early in May?

A Yes.

Q Did she come by herself or was she with someone?

A The first time I believe she stopped in, she and Chip came down. They had been out visiting somewhere and they stopped in on the way back to the west side.

Q Do you recall what day that was?

A No, I am sorry, I cannot recall.

Q Was it a weekday or Saturday or Sunday?

A It was on a weekday. I am reasonably sure that was in the evening.

Q In the evening. When did you see her again?

A Well, probably about a week later or thereabouts that she and Sam and Chip came down to the boat one Sunday afternoon and stayed there to help me with getting the boat in shape.

Q Could you give me the date approximately?

A Well, I would say that was somewhere in the vicinity of the middle or third week in May.

Q Was it before Decoration Day?

A Yes.

Q Shortly before Decoration Day?

A Yes, it was.

Q When did you see her next?

A The next time I saw her was a week before the 4th of

July when she and Sam and Chip came down to the boat. By that time my boat was in the water at Lakeside Yacht Club. They came down about the middle of the afternoon and stayed through the evening and we went to dinner together.

Q Where is the Lakeside Yacht Club?

A That's about 49th, East 49th and Shoreway.

Q Where did you go to dinner?

A At a Chinese place up on Superior, right under the bridge there about 38th Street, I don't know the name of it.

Q Who else besides you and Marilyn and Sam and Chip were there?

A At the dinner?

Q At the dinner.

A My wife was there.

Q Anyone else?

A No, I don't think there was.

Q Was there anyone else on the boat?

A Yes, there was.

Q Who was that?

A Well, it was a man who was helping by the name of Robert Dow.

Q How do you spell that name?

A I think it is D-o-w or D-o-w-d.

Q And what does he do?

A He is an electrician and he was doing wiring on the boat for me.

Q You employed him or he was just offering service?

A He was just helping me out as a friendly gesture.

Q Had he been there prior to the time that Marilyn and Sam and Chip arrived?

A Yes, I think he was.

Q He stayed during the time of their visit?

A Yes.

Q He did not go along to dinner with you?

A No, he did not.

Q At this time, before Decoration Day, did you have any conversation with Marilyn and Sam or Marilyn and Chip?

A Well, only, it was the first time she had seen this boat and we of course discussed the boat and just general conversation.

Q How was she, was she happy and contented?

A She appeared to be.

Q Did she say anything about being pregnant?

A No.

Q Did you have any discussion with her on Sunday prior to July 4th when she visited with Sam and Chip?

A Well, a discussion of what sort, Dr. Gerber?

Q Of any sort, of anything?

A Well, only the general conversation that you have when you are visiting with people.

Q Was she happy at that time?

A Yes, she appeared to be very happy.

Q Did she say anything about her pregnancy at that time?

A Not to me. She told my wife about it and requested that my wife not tell me about it. She wanted me to tell me herself.

Q Is that the first time to your knowledge that you knew anything about the pregnancy?

A At which time.

Q A week prior to July 4th, the Sunday prior?

A No, I didn't know then, because my wife didn't tell me, Marilyn requested that she wanted to tell me herself and she evidently had no opportunity, due to the conditions on the boat to tell me.

Q When did you first find out that she was pregnant?

A I found out she was pregnant when I arrived at the Bay View Hospital the morning after this all happened, or the morning it all happened and Dr. Richard Sheppard asked me if I knew she was pregnant and I said no, I didn't and then he told me that she was.

Q On July 4th, did someone call you with regard to the death of your daughter Marilyn?

A They called my wife.

Q And who was it that called?

A Dr. Stephen Sheppard.

Q At what time of day was that?

A Well, I believe it was around 6:30 in the morning.

Q Did you talk to Dr. Stephen Sheppard at that time?

A No, I did not. I was on my boat.

Q How did you find out then?

A My wife and my son and my brother-in-law and sister-in-law came right immediately down to the boat and told me.

Q About what time would this be?

A I would say that was shortly before eight in the morning.

Q And then what did you do?

A I was just in the process of getting up and I immediately dressed and we went right over to Bay View Hospital.

Q What did you do over there?

A We contacted Dr. Richard Sheppard and Dr. Richard Sheppard told me sketchily what had occurred and said that Sam was hurt and is in the hospital and he asked if I would like to see him and I said if he is able I would and I went in to see him.

Q What did he tell you?

A Well, I was of course upset at the time and I don't

know as I can repeat the conversation verbatim, but I went into the room and my brother-in-law went in with me. I went over to the bed and took his hand and said, "My God, Sam, what has happened?" And he was, his face was swollen up and his eye closed and he had this collar-like affair on and he was rolling back and forth in the bed and he said that they had killed Marilyn and he had heard her cry for help and he had run up the steps and he had been hit up there and had grappled with these parties or party and then ran down the stairs after them and heard the noise out on the porch and ran out on the porch and ran down to the beach and again grappled with these people and was knocked out, knocked unconscious down there. I asked Sam were they white or negroes and he said I couldn't tell. Then I made some remark to the effect of keep your chin up and we will get to the bottom of this and as he was obviously under a severe emotional strain and apparently in some pain I thought it was --

Q Did he tell you that he was knocked out in the bedroom?

A I don't think he said in the bedroom. I think he said at the top of the steps when he was getting ready to go into the bedroom.

Q Did he say he was knocked out at the top of the steps?

A Yes, he said he was hit and knocked down at that

point.

Q Did he say he was rendered unconscious?

A No, he didn't say that. I mean we didn't go into any detail on it.

Q When you asked him whether they were white or colored, did he give you any description?

A No. No, he just said I couldn't tell.

Q Did he say whether there was one or two?

A I am not positive whether he said there was one or two. I was under the impression the way the conversation went that there were two.

Q What about that pier, did he say that there was one or two at the pier?

A No, he did not say whether there was one or two. He just said he was knocked out down there.

Q Did he say that he recognized anything on the beach?

A No, we did not discuss it in that detail Dr. Gerber.

Q Did he say where he was hit when he was upstairs?

A No, he did not say where he was hit. He just said he was hit.

Q Did he say that he was hit anything, any object?

A No, no, all he said was he went up to the top of the steps and when I got up I was hit.

Q And did he relate, to the best of your memory, did he relate anything else in regard to this event that

happened?

A No, no. As I say, my conversation with him that morning was very brief and under severe stress on both of our parts.

Q Did Dr. Sam ever tell you that he cried or yelled for help at any time?

A No, he did not.

Q Called for help?

A No, he did not tell me that.

Q Would you mind repeating for the record the name of the brother-in-law?

A Mr. Worth Munn. He lives on Skidmore Drive in Gates Mills.

Q Was he with his wife?

A You mean when he went to the hospital?

Q When he went to the hospital?

A Yes, yes, he was.

Q Who went in the room with you?

A Dr. Richard Sheppard and Mr. Munn.

Q Was Mr. Munn in the room when you talked to him?

A Yes.

Q Was Dr. Richard Sheppard in the room when you talked to him?

A Yes.

Q Did they ask any questions that you can recall?

A When I left the room Mr. Munn remained behind for a few moments. At a time like that it is hard to evaluate time, and he left for a moment and then came on out with me.

Q Did Richard remain in the room?

A While we were talking with Sam?

Q Yes.

A Yes, he did.

Q Did he come out with you or did he remain after he left?

A No, I think he stayed there with Mr. Munn, he and Munn came out together.

Q Mr. Munn is married to your sister?

A That's right.

Q What is your sister's name?

A Henrietta.

Q Did Dr. Sam tell you anything about Marilyn at that time?

A Well, only that she had been killed.

Q Did he tell you how?

A No, he did not. He just stated flatly that she had been killed.

Q Did he say what happened to her?

A No, he did not say what happened.

Q Have you had any conversation with Dr. Sam alone,

independently of your daughter?

A Well, yes, Sam has stopped down at the boat, stopped at the Yacht Club a few times on his way coming back from I believe he went to Youngstown or somewhere down state and he would stop in occasionally and had a talk with me, but I don't believe that we were completely alone at any of those times. There was usually other people present, as there was pretty near always somebody with me on the boat.

Q Independently of your daughter. Your daughter was not present on these occasions?

A No.

Q Did he ever seek any advice from you in any way whatsoever?

A No. He never asked me for any advice.

Q At any time that you can recall did he seek advice in any business or any other confidential matter whatsoever?

A No, I can't recall anything of that sort.

Q The times that Dr. Sam stopped to see you you worked on your boat, is that it?

A Well, no, both times we would eat dinner at the Yacht Club and he would come in and sit down and we would talk for a while and then he would go right back to the west side.

Q Did you see him drive up on either of these occasions?

A No, I did not.

Q Was he with anyone on either of these occasions?

A Not to my knowledge. No, I am sure he was not with anyone.

Q Did you see him drive?

A Yes.

Q Was there anyone in the car when he drove you?

A No, no.

Q After you saw Dr. Sam Sheppard in the hospital and talked to him have you seen or talked to Dr. Sam Sheppard since then?

A Yes, I have talked to him.

Q When and where?

A Well, you say talked to him, I talked to him over the telephone, he called me I believe it was a week ago Friday.

Q A week ago this past Friday?

A That's right and he asked me he said they were going out to the mausoleum to make some arrangement about a crypt for Marilyn and asked me if I could be present. That was about eleven o'clock I believe and that they were going out at two o'clock. I told him I would try to get there. He called back again in about five or ten minutes and he said that they had postponed it until Monday and he also said at that time he said at that time

he said that he would like to come down and spend some time with me on the boat and said, well, at that time I told him I would try to get over there. I got to thinking it over and I talked to my sister and she said she had made the arrangement as far as the mausoleum went and I got to thinking it over and under the circumstances I decided that it would be best if I did not see Sam until the air was cleared so I called him back Saturday morning and told him that.

Q This past Saturday morning?

A No, that was a week ago.

Q Was that the only contact that you had with Dr. Sam Sheppard?

A You mean since then?

Q Since the funeral?

A Yes, yes. Of course, I saw him at the funeral home. I mean not the funeral home, at the mausoleum.

Q Have you been in contact with any of Dr. Sam Sheppard's relatives?

A No, I have not.

Q When you were first notified on July 4th, did you go directly to the hospital?

A Yes.

Q You did not go to anyone's home?

A No, we went directly to the hospital and then from

the hospital I went over to the elder Dr. Sheppard's home.

Q Did Dr. Sam Sheppard tell you at any time that he could identify the assailant or assailants?

A No, no, he did not tell me that. As I say I asked him the question of whether they were white or negro and he said he couldn't tell.

Q Has anyone -- have any of the Sheppard family or anyone representing the Sheppard family talked to you since the death of your daughter, other than what you have mentioned here?

A Well, my wife and the elder Mrs. Sheppard and I believe Dorothy Sheppard, talked together and arranged, made the funeral arrangements.

Q Other than that has there been any occasion when you talked other than making the funeral arrangement?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Do you wish to add, is there anything that you can add that would contribute to the solution of this case?

A No, Dr. Gerber, I don't think there is. I think I have told all I know about it.

Q Do you know of any person whom Marilyn would take into her confidence?

A Well, you say do I now know of any person that Marilyn would have --

Q Yes.

A Yes, my sister Henrietta, she talked to her confidentially.

Q You mean Henrietta Munn?

A Mrs. Munn, that's right.

Q How did you learn of this?

A Well, after all this occurred my sister told me about it.

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