

DOROTHY SHEPPARD, having been first duly sworn,  
was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION OF DOROTHY SHEPPARD

By Dr. Gerber:

Q What is your name, please?

A Mrs. Richard N. Sheppard.

Q And your given name?

A Dorothy.

Q Where do you live?

A 23346 West Lake Road, Bay Village.

Q How long have you lived in Bay Village?

A Five and a half years.

Q Your husband's name is Richard, he is connected with  
Bay View Hospital?

A That's correct.

Q Marilyn Sheppard was a sister-in-law of yours?

A Yes.

Q Calling your attention to the morning of July 4,  
1954, will you relate to me the events as they occurred  
and affected you?

A Yes, sir. We were awakened about 6:00 o'clock in the  
morning of July 4 by a telephone call from Mayor Spencer  
Houk of Bay Village. Richard took the call and I knew  
something was wrong. He turned to me and said, "Spencer  
says something terrible has happened at Sam's, they think

Marilyn is dead." And, "We don't know about Sam." Richard immediately dressed and told me to call dad, that is, Dr. Sheppard senior, and tell him to go immediately to the hospital to await, what we didn't know, and to call Dr. Steve, that is Dr. Stephen Sheppard in Rocky River, and tell him to go immediately to Sam's home. I did that and went over to bring my mother-in-law back to our home. Do you want me to continue?

Q Yes, please.

MR. SAUL DANACEAU: Won't you take a sip of water there?

A I am all right. I dressed hurriedly. Our ten year old child had heard the disturbance and had come into the room and was quite disturbed because she had heard us talking. I told her I was going over to get her grandmother, and that I would lock her in the home and not to let anyone in under any circumstances, other than the family. I got into my car, went over to Dr. Sheppard senior's home, which is on the other side of Bay View Hospital. My father-in-law was just walking into the house, and told me that the door was open, to go on upstairs to mother. I went upstairs and mother was dressing. She seemed a little surprised to see me and said, "What has happened?" I didn't know what she knew, and I just told her what I had told dad on the phone.

Mother was quite broken up. Dad had merely said something was wrong at Sam's. So I took mother to my home.

89 We started out of the driveway and met my husband bringing little Sam back to us. We turned our cars around, or he turned his car around there, the driveway, and we went over to our home and proceeded to get Chip dressed and see that he had breakfast with our children, trying to keep a ring on our own thoughts because of the four children present. Dr. Steve and Betty, his wife, came, Dad came, we drank a cup of coffee. The majority of the day was composed of dazed thoughts and constant reporters and numerous and many loyal friends, and we appreciate.

Betty and I asked permission from the police department and waited your o.k. to go to the home and pack clothes for Chip. We went up in the morning sometime around 10:30 or 11:00, about that time. We went up there into Chip's room, packed up his clothing. We had a police officer, I have seen him here, I do not know his name, he is not a Bay Village man as far as I know, with us every step of the way at all times. Packed his clothing, a few particular clothes that he wanted, or that we thought he would like, went downstairs and were given permission to remove a quantity of food that had been purchased for a picnic that we were having at

Sam and Marilyn's that afternoon for the interns. We were thinking of spoilage and that it should be removed. We were given that permission, took the food, and little Sam's clothes and went back to our house. Would you like to ask me something now?

Q What time approximately was it when you said you met Dr. Richard and Chip coming back into the house?

A The phone call was at 6:00, about 6:00,<sup>on</sup> my alarm clock. It would be guessing on my part. I should imagine around 6:30, a quarter to 7:00, someplace around in there.

Q You had been over to your mother-in-law's house?

A I was over to get her.

Q And you came back?

A Bring her, yes.

Q This was between your mother-in-law's house --

A It is very close.

Q Is only the difference of the hospital?

A That's correct.

Q The lot on which they live and you live?

A Yes.

Q And you drove?

A Drove.

Q Were you and Marilyn friendly?

A Very friendly.

Q Did Marilyn confide in you?

A Marilyn would talk to me as she would to a big sister.

Q Did she tell you about any difficulties with Dr. Sam?

A I wouldn't call it difficulties, Dr. Gerber. I would say that it was adjustments, little things. She would turn to me as the older sister. We were quite close in that, we both lived in the village. Marilyn had a little time adjusting to the demands that a doctor's wife has. The times that you will think that dinner can be served at a certain time, and your husband is called to the hospital, some of the times that you encounter that it is a little hard to understand, and then again it may be that you are planning to do something and your husband is called on an emergency case. And I tried with my experience and being older and having gone through all this adjusting before she did, that perhaps some of the things I could tell her and help her would make her adjustments easier.

Q She did tell you, though, that there was some misunderstanding, that she wasn't getting along at that particular time?

A No, doctor, I did not say that.

Q I say, she told you that?

A No, she did not, doctor.

Q Did you write her a letter or several letters on occasions?

A We were quite a family that thought a great deal of each other in correspondence, and I did write to her as I would write to any of my family at any time.

Q And you mentioned in that letter that there would be adjustments that she would have to make in order to get along with the doctor at times?

A Perhaps I may have. If you have such a letter, I would appreciate seeing what I wrote.

Q I don't have the letter.

A I don't know what I may have written. I have a terrific amount of correspondence, not just personal.

Q Can you recall ever saying anything specific either orally or in writing about advice to Marilyn about getting a divorce or not getting a divorce?

A I can't remember anything so specific as that. Adjustments that one must do and how you must accept the responsibilities of a child, and the adjustments of married life.

Q Did she ever mention divorce to you?

A I don't believe Marilyn ever mentioned divorce to me in a serious frame of mind at any time.

Q But she did mention it, she did mention divorce, whether it was serious or not serious?

A I think that word could have been used, anyone's term, in any group of people, I doubt that there would be people here who wouldn't use that word. It is a term.

Q Did she ever complain to you about Dr. Sam's attention to other women?

A No.

Q What about back in 1951 or 1952 did she ever complain about his attentions to other women?

A I believe that once when Marilyn was home in the summertime for two months with Chip that she was, oh --

MR. DANACEAU: Upset?

A Not upset. I heard that.

Q Disturbed?

A No, not disturbed either.

Q Unhappy?

A Not unhappy, but you let me think my words, I would appreciate it. I will rephrase that and perhaps we will get around the words that you want to interject.

Q No, no one wants to interject words.

A Marilyn and Chip were home one summer for a couple of months, and Sam was in Los Angeles in school. There was a school dance I believe in Los Angeles at the college, and someone arranged for Sam to take a girl to this dance in order to go. It was a college function, and Sam wrote her and told her that he was going to this

91

dance. And we more or less were kidding her a little bit about the fact that if you had been there you would have got to go, and she felt that maybe she missed something. It wasn't something that I believe that she should have been too alarmed about or would have been too alarmed about at any time.

Q Were you present at a Halloween party in 1951 where Marilyn angrily left the party because of the fact that Sam was paying attention to one Susan Hayes?

A Marilyn did go home from a Halloween party, not angrily, though. Marilyn, as I recall, was tired and ready to go home and when Marilyn wanted to do something she usually went ahead and did it.

Q At this same party were you present when Susan Hayes took Dr. Sam's pipe and smoked it?

A I don't recall that.

Q Do you know a Dr. Ward?

A I know of a Dr. Ward, yes.

Q Do you know a Mrs. Ward?

A Yes.

Q Weren't you present when Mrs. Ward stated publicly that Marilyn Sheppard went home because Susan Hayes was paying too much attention to her husband?

A I don't recall a public statement to that effect.

Q Did you hear Mrs. Ward make some nasty sarcastic

remarks about Susan Hayes in regard to the things that she was doing to Marilyn, because of her attention to Dr. Sam?

A Dr. Gerber, I make a practice of keeping away from people with nasty remarks as much as possible.

Q You were present at that party?

A I was present at that party.

DR. GERBER: (Addressing audience.) You will have to refrain from any noise whatsoever. Otherwise, we will have to clear the room.

Q How long did you remain at this party, this Halloween party?

A I should imagine for the majority of it. I cannot recollect that now.

Q Over how large an area did this party exist?

A What do you mean, sir?

Q Well, was it in a big room or little room, what size room was it in?

A About a 50 foot square room.

Q There were how many people at this party?

A I have no idea of judging that now.

Q Was there a good number of people, a hundred or two hundred or three hundred?

A I imagine under a hundred.

Q Was it possible or probable that some events or happenings could have occurred without having attracted your attention?

A Undoubtedly. I am not an eagle-eye.

Q Did Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard make any other statements or have any other conferences with you in regard to divorce from Dr. Sam Sheppard?

A No, sir.

Q Did she ever tell you that Dr. Sam Sheppard was seeking a divorce from her?

A No.

Q Did she discuss with you Dr. Sam Sheppard's attention to a woman in Los Angeles while he was in school?

A No.

Q Didn't she ever discuss with you his attention to a lady by the name of Margo?

A I don't know a Margo.

Q Did she ever discuss with you attentions by Dr. Sam to a lady by the name of Huttleson?

A No attentions by Dr. Sam to a lady by the name of Huttleson. That was the name of a girl who lived in a nearby apartment to theirs, a very good friend.

Q Did she ever discuss any incidents that occurred at the Chapman home in California?

A Only telling us what a lovely ranch home they had.

Q Did she discuss with you the happenings that occurred there in March of 1954?

A The only thing that Marilyn told me after she returned was describing the home because she knew I might be interested in the architecture or the design, the interior of the home.

Q Did she tell you anything about Mr. Chapman telling both Dr. Sam Sheppard and Marilyn Sheppard never to return to their home, never to visit them anymore?

A No, she did not.

DR. GERBER: That is all.

Thank you.

- - -