

LAWRENCE HOUK, having been first duly sworn,
was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION OF LAWRENCE HOUK

BY DR. GERBER:

Q What is your name, please?

A Larry Houk.

Q Larry Houk?

A Yes.

Q How old are you?

A Sixteen.

Q Where do you live?

A 29014 Lake Road, Bay Village.

Q Who is your mother and father?

A Esther Houk and Spencer Houk.

Q Spencer Houk is the Mayor of the City of Bay Village?

A That's right.

Q I want to take you back to July 3 of this year.

Now, did you see Dr. Sam Sheppard on July 3? That is
on a Saturday.

A No, I don't believe I did.

Q Did you see Mrs., Marilyn Sheppard?

A No, I didn't.

Q Were you home at about 6:00 o'clock in the evening
or thereabouts on Saturday?

A Yes.

Q Did you have dinner with your family at that time?

A Yes, I did.

Q Do you recall what you did after you had your dinner?

A I had a date that night.

Q You had a date that night?

A Yes.

Q Who was the girl?

A Miss Sally Lease.

Q What time did you return to your home?

A About a quarter to twelve.

Q What did you do then?

A Well, I imagine, after I had something to eat I went to bed.

Q Did you listen to the ball game or did you watch television?

A Oh, wait a minute, that, I watched a movie on T.V.

Q Do you recall the name of the movie?

A It was "Strange Holiday," I think was on.

Q "Strange Holiday"?

A Yes, something like that.

Q What time did you go to bed?

A Probably around 1:30. After the movie was over.

Q Were there any telephone calls to your house during the time you came home and 1:30?

A That would be hard to say. I don't think I can

remember.

Q Do you recall any?

A No, I don't recall any at all.

Q Did you hear any, the telephone ring, after 1:30 until the morning?

A Just the one that morning.

Q What time did you hear a telephone call?

A I don't remember at all. It would be around 6:00 because I wake up every morning about 6:00, because that is when I go to work usually.

Q Was it daylight or daybreak?

A I don't recall what it was out, I mean, I was just sleeping and heard the phone call.

Q Now, what did you hear?

A Just the phone ring was all.

Q Did you hear who answered it?

A No, it rang a couple of times and I was going to answer it, I was going to get out of bed, and then it stopped ringing.

Q What is the next that you recall?

A Well, then my father came home and came up in my bedroom and told me what had happened.

Q What did he tell you?

A Well, he came in and he was very, he was shaking then, very visibly, and he told me that a terrible thing had

happened, that they thought Marilyn had been killed, and he came back to check to see if we were all right.

Q Do you know what time that was?

A No, I don't.

Q Was it daylight or daybreak?

A It was daybreak then, just dusk, in the morning.

Q What did you do then?

A I remained in bed for a while until he called me downstairs.

Q How long did that take?

A Well, it was probably about ten minutes.

Q Ten minutes?

A Yes. He had gone downstairs and he called me down to ask me to lock the doors, just to stay there, not to stay there, but he told me to lock the doors and just be careful.

Q What did you do?

A Well, my sister came down then and I told her, and then I went up and got dressed and went over there.

Q What time was this?

A Well, I got over there I think it was just a little before 7:00, but I am not positive of that time at all because I didn't bother to look.

Q And what did you see when you got there?

A Well, I walked over and I saw my mom, and I am pretty

sure the ambulance was there, and I think, I went, she told me my father was down on the beach, so I walked down the steps to the beach, and then just down to the bottom of the steps, and they told me to go back.

Q Who told you to go back?

A My father. He was down on the pier at Huntington, they were checking the beach, I guess, and he told me to go back upstairs, so I went upstairs.

Q What else did you see, who was there when you got there?

A Chief Eaton was there. Of course, my parents, and I think Sergeant Hubach was there.

Q Did you see Dr. Sam Sheppard?

A No, I didn't.

Q Did you see Dr. Richard Sheppard?

A He came, I guess he had left and he came back again. I saw him when he came back.

Q What time was that?

A It was probably somewhere around 8:00. I am not too sure, because I had been there for quite a while before he came back.

Q Where had he been, do you know?

A I don't know. I assume that he had taken Sam to the hospital. I knew Sam had gone down. But I didn't ask him.

Q Then you think he arrived, came back to Sam's house about 8:00 o'clock or thereabouts?

A Thereabouts, yes.

Q Where was Stephen Sheppard?

A He came back with Richard.

Q When they came back what did they do?

A Well, they came in the house and they stood by the door to the living room, and they were walking, and they went upstairs again.

Q They came in the house?

A Yes.

Q Which door did they come in?

A The one, the front one.

Q Which do you call the front one?

A The one that goes by the kitchen, where the hallway, where the den is, and the kitchen.

Q The door on the road side or the lake side?

A On the road side.

Q The road side. And what did they do then?

A Well, I remember they came, they stood by the entrance of the living room and they were talking.

Q Who with?

A I think it was one of the policemen, but I can't remember who it was. My mother was there.

Q Did you hear the conversation?

A I was standing right there, but I can't remember anything that was said.

Q Did you hear any part of it?

A Oh, yes, I heard the conversation.

Q What was it, can you recall anything that was said?

A Well, I think Steve mentioned once, asked about Sam's neck, and Steve mentioned something about, I can't, something about that he thought a vertebrae or something in the back had been busted, I can't remember.

Q This was at 8:00 o'clock in the morning?

A Well, when they came, now, I think it was 8:00 o'clock, but I am not sure, because I have no recollection of time at all.

Q Was I there when they came?

A No, you weren't there.

Q Do you know what time I got there?

A I thought you got there around 8:30, but I wasn't sure.

Q What else was said in that conversation? Did he go into any details about this vertebrae?

A No, he didn't. I just asked him, my mother had told me that Sam when I asked her, she said Sam was holding his neck, was having trouble with his neck, and then I asked Steve what the trouble was, and he just said he thought it was a broken vertebrae.

Q Was there any discussion as to how it happened?

A Not that I recall.

Q What else did they talk about?

A That is the only thing that I can remember.

Q Did they talk about Chip?

A I think that, I am not sure whether he mentioned him or not, but I recall hearing that Chip had been taken from the room and was taken down to Richard's.

Q Did they say anything about the dog?

A Not that I remember.

Q Did you see the dog?

A No, I didn't.

Q Do you know where the dog was when you got there?

A Not when I got there. I heard later that he was out in the yard or over at the next door neighbor's, but I did not know where he was when I got there.

Q Did you see the dog?

A No.

Q You didn't that morning?

A No, not that morning.

Q Not in the house? Did you see him either in the house or on the outside?

A No.

Q What did you notice when you got into the house?

A Well, there was, I noticed the drawers in the living

room were pulled out, and in the den, I went in the den and I noticed those were out.

Q Did you touch anything or handle anything during the time you were in the house?

A I tried not to. I may have, but I don't believe I did.

Q You tried not to. Did somebody instruct you not to?

A I don't remember. I just, I think one of the policemen told us, told me not to touch anything at all.

Q Was Sam Sheppard still at home when you got there or had he been --

A He had been taken.

Q He had been taken away?

A Yes.

Q Did Richard and Steve say where they had taken him to?

A I think they mentioned taking him down to the hospital.

Q No. Did they say where they had taken him to?

A (No response.)

Q What do you mean by they must have taken him down to the hospital, did they mention it?

A Well, I am not sure of this, but I think that I asked them and they said he was taken down to the hospital.

Q You asked them, that is what you think you recall,

you asked them where he was and they told you they had taken him to the hospital, is that it?

A Well, I am not sure whether I asked them or not, but I knew he was down there. They probably told me. It was one of them.

Q Did you go in the kitchen?

A Yes.

Q Did you touch anything or disturb anything?

A As I said before, I tried not to.

Q No, the kitchen I am talking about now.

A Well, it was the same in the whole house. I tried not to touch anything. I may have laid my hand on something maybe, I might have touched the table along there.

Q The table?

A Not the table, but underneath the cupboards there.

Q What room are you talking about now?

A In the kitchen.

Q In the kitchen?

A Then I may have touched the sink when I was in there.

Q Did you go upstairs?

A Yes, I did.

Q What did you see?

A Well, I went up, I followed the doctors up, and I

went down the hall. I don't know whether they were looking for something, I don't recall just what they went up for, just checking around.

Q They went upstairs, the two of them, Dr. Steve and Dr. Richard went upstairs?

A Yes.

Q At the time they came back you followed them up, is that the idea?

A Yes.

Q Where did they go?

A Well, they went down the hall and they went into the far room where Dr. Hoversten had been sleeping down at the other end.

Q They went down the hall and went into the room where Dr. Hoversten had been sleeping?

A Yes.

Q Did you go with them?

A Yes.

Q Did they do anything in that room?

A No, they just looked around.

Q Did they handle anything or did they pick up anything?

A Not that I recall.

Q Did they look in the closet in that room?

A I don't believe they did.

Q Did they look in the chest of drawers in that room?

A I don't think so.

Q Was the light burning in the room when you went in there?

A I don't believe there was.

Q What did you see on the floor in that room and what did you see in that room?

A Well, the bed was unmade and the covers were back, and I think there were some clothes on the floor.

Q Did you touch or handle anything in that room?

A No.

Q Did anyone touch or handle anything in that room, in that particular room?

A I don't believe so.

Q Was there any conversation while you were in that room?

A I am not sure whether this occurred in the room or later, but we had mentioned the bed being unmade, and somebody said that Marilyn had refused to make the bed. We were curious whether they had slept there or not.

Q Curious as to who slept there?

A Dr. Hoversten.

Q Dr. Hoversten?

A Yes.

Q What else was said?

A Well, somebody said, it was at the time or later,

that Marilyn had refused to make the bed for him, for some reason, that she was tired of having him sleep there or something like that, and she wouldn't make the bed for him. But I don't remember whether it was said in the room or mentioned later.

Q Was there any other conversation that related to that particular room?

A Not that I remember.

Q Did anyone open the grip that was in that room, the medical grip?

A I couldn't say. I don't believe so.

Q Did anyone go into the closet in that room?

A Somebody may have, but I am not positive on that either. I am trying to think where the closet was.

Q Isn't the closet on the right-hand side where you go in next to the bed?

A Well, it would have to be there.

Q Just about one or two steps away from the door jamb as you walk in on the right?

A I can't recall the closet door at all, I mean, if somebody may have opened it, I am not sure whether I saw somebody looking in. I was thinking it was over on the left or straight ahead on the left when you walk in.

Q Did anyone touch anything in the room that leads into this Dr. Hoversten's room?

A I don't believe so.

Q Where did you go after you left that room, you and the two Dr. Sheppards?

A Well, my mother was with us, too, and I think there was somebody else, but I can't recall that either. We went back down the hall and then we went into the room where Marilyn was.

Q All of you?

A Well, I stood right at the door, and the two doctors went in.

Q What did they do in that room?

A They were discussing something. I can't remember just what it was.

Q Was your mother in there at that time?

A No, I think she remained out in the hall.

Q Who else was with you at that time, do you recall, was it a policeman or fireman or some other citizen?

A I think there was somebody, I think there was more than the four of us, but I can't remember who it was.

Q Did you go up there, all of you, for any particular reason?

A I don't know what they went up there for, they started up for some reason, to look around, and I just followed them up.

Q Did you go into Chip's room, or did you look into

Chip's room?

A I looked into Chip's room, but I didn't go in.

Q Did you go into the room where Mrs. Sheppard was killed, did you go in there?

A I stood in the doorway, maybe just partially through, but I didn't go all the way in.

Q But the two Dr. Sheppards were in that room?

A Yes.

Q Did they do anything in that room, touch anything, handle anything in that room?

A I don't think they did. I think they just stood there. They didn't move around in the room. They just went in and just stood there.

Q The body was still there?

A Yes.

Q Did they pick up any clothes?

A No.

Q Did they handle any chairs?

A No, I don't believe they did.

Q Did they pick up anything on the chest of drawers?

A I don't believe they did, but I couldn't say.

Q Did anyone sit down on the other bed?

A No.

Q Did anyone handle anything on the night stand between the beds?

A No. Nobody went over that far. Just stood there by the door.

Q Did anyone go into the bathroom?

A I don't believe so.

Q Were you up there at any time alone?

A No.

Q Did you notice the couch in the living room alongside the stairway?

A Yes, I did.

Q How early in the morning did you notice that?

A Well, the time I had gone, wait a minute, maybe, well, I would have noticed it when I went, when I went upstairs, because that is the only time I was in that part of the living room.

Q Did you go upstairs through the living room and not through the kitchen?

A I think I went up through the kitchen.

Q Did you notice the couch whether it was disarranged or disordered or anything?

A No.

Q Did you notice this jacket, corduroy jacket?

A No, I didn't.

Q You didn't see a corduroy jacket?

A No.

Q Did you notice anything, any wet footprints or

anything?

A No. I remember looking for them, too, and I didn't see any.

Q Did you notice any sand in the upholstered chair, the leather upholstered chair in the study?

A No.

Q Did you notice any water?

A No.

Q When you were making this trip, this tour, with the doctors Sheppard, where else did you go? As I got it, you went upstairs, you went to where Marilyn was on the bed, you went into the room adjacent to where Dr. Hoversten was sleeping --

A Well, first we went down through that to Dr. Hoversten's room, and then we came back in the room.

Q You can only get into Dr. Hoversten's room by going through the other one, is that right?

A Yes.

Q You went through this room, that is on the right-hand side, on the road side of the house, is that right?

A That's right.

Q You went into that room?

A Yes.

Q Did you notice how many pieces of furniture were in that room?

A The first room?

Q Yes.

A I thought it was empty, but I am not sure. There might have been a chair or something there.

Q Did you notice the chest of drawers against the wall?

A Against the west wall?

Q Against the east wall.

A Is it the east wall? No, I didn't notice.

Q Did you notice a desk on the south side of the room on the road side?

A No.

Q Did you notice the lamp?

A No.

Q Did you notice the chair?

A I said, I might have, my impression was it wasn't completely empty, but I always thought of it as having a bed in it.

Q You mean otherwise because it didn't have a bed in it it was empty, is that it?

A That was my impression. It wasn't completely empty, I don't believe. I did recall a chair in it.

Q You went through the door into Hoversten's room, all of you went in, that is at least the four of you, is that the idea?

A Yes.

Q Then you came back out through this room that you entered first into the hallway, and then you went into Marilyn's room?

A Correct.

Q Now, who went into Marilyn's room, the two Dr. Sheppards?

A Yes.

Q Your mother went downstairs?

A I don't remember just what my mother did.

Q Did she leave or did she stand there at the doorway the way you said you were standing?

A She might have been behind me, but I don't remember whether she was there, I don't recall.

Q Where was this other person who was with you?

A I am not positive there was another person. I thought there was somebody else went up with us.

Q At that particular time there were only two people in Marilyn's bedroom when her body was on the bed, and that is the two Dr. Sheppards?

A As I recall.

Q Steve and Richard?

A Yes.

Q Now, where did you go?

A Well, I left and went downstairs.

Q They stayed up, you came down alone?

A Yes.

Q I don't want to put words in your mouth. You came down alone?

A Yes, I did. I came down first by myself.

Q And who remained up there then? Where was your mother at this time?

A She might have still been upstairs, I don't remember, but I went out to the car then and sat down, and they came out afterwards.

Q Did you notice the Dr. Sheppards come down?

A No.

Q Did you notice what happened to the Dr. Sheppards after that?

A No, I don't remember.

Q You say you went out to the car?

A Yes.

Q Then what did you do?

A I sat down.

Q You sat down in the car?

A Yes.

Q Whose car is this?

A Our car, our station wagon.

Q Your own car?

A Yes.

Q The Houk car, is that the idea?

A Yes.

Q Then how long did you stay there?

A I must have remained there for maybe a half hour.
Their paper was delivered there.

Q Their paper was delivered then?

A Yes, by the time I got in the car and I was reading
their paper.

Q Who delivered, who delivers their paper?

A I think it was a boy by the name of Fritz up the
street.

Q Fritz, last name?

A Yes.

Q What is his last name?

A That is his last name.

Q Fritz is his last name?

A Yes.

Q Now, I want to try and refresh your memory. If I
tell you that I arrived at 8:00 o'clock, what would be
the relationship to the time that Dr. Steve and Dr.
Richard came back to the house?

A Well, as I remember, I thought it took you quite a
while getting there.

Q I am telling you I arrived at 8:00 o'clock, I know
that definitely.

A Then they probably got there around 7:30.

Q They were there at least a half hour before I got there, is that the idea?

A Yes.

Q When I arrived there they were not there. What happened to them?

A Well, they may have left by then.

Q Did you know Chip?

A Yes.

Q What kind of a child was Chip?

A Well, he was, what do you mean by what kind of a child?

Q Well, was he a well-behaved, well-mannered child?

A Yes, very well. He was very well brought up, I would say, I mean, he is very courteous and has manners.

Q Did he do the ordinary things that any other child his age that you noticed would do, play the same way, act the same way?

A Yes, he seemed perfectly normal. He played indians all the time. He was very fond of indians.

Q Who did he play with?

A He didn't have too many friends on that side of the road, because it was hard for any friends to come down and cross Lake Road to him. He usually played by himself in the yard.

Q He played by himself. Did he appear frightened?

A How do you mean frightened?

Q At any time did he appear afraid of people, frightened of people?

A No, not at all.

Q Did you ever go water skiing?

A Quite often.

Q Did you ever go water skiing with the Sheppards?

A Yes.

Q Who else was in the party when you went water skiing?

A Well, there was quite a few boys that were there.

Jim Redinger, Stan Feely. Tom Gustason. Alex Bursino.

Q What about girls, women?

A The girl across the street, Jean Dino.

Q Anyone else?

A Well, there wasn't any younger girls.

Q I am talking about older girls.

Q The Sheppards had friends come down.

Q Who were these friends?

A The Aherns were there. The Grahams. He had, I didn't notice them this year, but last summer he had a couple of friends come out from Cleveland.

Q Were there any single girls?

A (No response.)

Q Do you know Sue Hayes?

A I have seen her, but I never met her personally.

Q Where did you see her?

A Down at the hospital.

Q Did you ever see her at Sam Sheppard's house?

A I may have but I don't remember.

Q Did you ever notice whether or not Dr. Sam Sheppard and Marilyn Sheppard argued or fought with each other?

A I had never seen them myself. I had heard once that they had, but that is strictly rumor.

Q What did you hear?

A Well, one night an older boy, a brother of Jim Redinger had seen Dr. Sheppard sitting down -- this is strictly rumor now, this is what I heard.

Q Go ahead.

A That he had seen Dr. Sheppard sitting down on an adjoining driveway to this older boy's girl friend, he was just sitting there racing the motor and Tom Redinger came out and asked him what the trouble was, and he said he had an argument with his wife, that he was just sitting there racing the motor and swearing to himself, I don't know, just sitting there talking to himself.

Q Where was this in relationship to the Sheppard home?

A It was on Lake Road out on the east end. It is quite a ways, I would say, a mile or two anyhow from the Sheppard home.

Q What is the boy's name?

A Tom Redinger.

Q How do you spell that?

A R-e-d-i-n-g-e-r.

Q R-e-d-i-n-g-e-r?

A Yes.

Q And he lives on Lake Road?

A Yes. He isn't home. He is away at camp now, I think.

Q When was this, this occasion that you were talking about?

A It was quite some time ago. I imagine it was last summer.

Q Have you personally, have you observed or have you not observed how Marilyn Sheppard and Dr. Sam Sheppard got along?

A My opinion was they had gotten along very well. I have seen them skiing and things, and at night, more or less talking.

Q When you went over at night time was everybody happy and contented?

A Well, I hadn't gone over very often. Maybe a couple of nights, me and the next door neighbor and I had gone over and just sat and chewed the fat with him for a while. Or I had gone over alone maybe a couple of times and talked to him or see Sam about something.

Q Did you ever see Sam Sheppard get angry?

A I had heard, he got angry at us one day when we were skiing. We had a little accident. And he was also angry at us the time, well, we used to sleep in a house, we have a group of fellows, and we used to sleep in that little couple of rooms over his garage, and a few of the boys had gotten in trouble one night and they were out and had stolen some stuff, and they were coming back there afterwards, see, very late. Well, it was early in the morning, and at that time Sam was rather surprised and he told us that we wouldn't be able to use it any more.

Q How did he display his anger?

A Well, he just, well, you wouldn't say he was real angry. He was kind of just sort of miffed that these boys had done this to him.

Q Did you ever see him blow his top?

A No.

Q Do you know what you mean by blowing your top?

A Yes.

Q Did you ever see him display temper?

A No. He always impressed me as a rather even-tempered sort of person, I mean, I never went off the handle as some people would.

Q Is there anything that you could contribute that I didn't ask you, that I may not have asked, anything that

you can think of?

A Well, nothing more than I felt to myself that he was a very even-tempered person, and that I had never seen him -- we had given him times when he was angry at us through skiing over there and playing basketball and such that he might have gotten mad, but very sensible about it, using his head.

Q How many ski ropes were in existence?

A Well, they varied at times. There was two that I know of, and I think there were three, I think the one was busted.

Q When you say busted, what was busted about it?

A That I can't remember. It was a heavy rope, a thicker rope, he may have just put it away because it was a rather big ski rope.

Q Was it the rope that was broken or was it the handhold that was broken, what was it?

A Well, I don't remember, I remember asking about it, and I think one of the boys said it was broken, or something to that effect. I don't remember just what it was. I know that it wasn't down there.

Q Who did these ski ropes belong to?

A Well, one belonged to me, and the other two were his.

Q His, who do you mean by his?

A Sam.

DR. GERBER: That is all.

We will adjourn until 1:00 o'clock.

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