

1:00 o'clock, P. M., July 22, 1954.

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FRED F. DRENKHAM, having been first duly sworn,
was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION OF FRED F. DRENHAN

BY DR. GERBER:

Q What is your name, please?

A Fred F. Drenkhan.

Q Where do you live?

A 477 Canterbury Road.

Q How old are you?

A Bay Village. Twenty-seven years old.

Q What is your work at the present time?

A Patrolman first class for the Bay Village Police
Department.

Q What are your assigned duties?

A Regular police duties, normal patrol, and protection
of the citizens and the property of the village.

Q Do you have any special duties with the police
department?

A No.

Q Are you the photographer for the police department?

A We all are trained in photography to a certain extent.
I have taken a great deal of pictures.

Q Calling your attention to the morning of July 4,

were you on duty at that time?

A Yes, on the morning of July 4 I was working midnight to 8:00 shift.

Q Did you receive a call, or did your office receive a call from anyone to go to the home of Dr. Sam Sheppard?

A Yes. I answered the phone at the fire station at approximately 5:57, received a call, first I didn't know who it was, but it was the Mayor. He identified himself and he informed me that we should come over to, he didn't state the house, but he said, "Come over right away, that something terrible had happened to Marilyn," and with that I asked him, "Are you at the Sheppard's?" And he said yes, and he said, "Get over here right away with the ambulance and the police and everybody." He said, "I think Marilyn has been murdered."

Q And who did you notify?

A After hanging up the phone I told Dick Sommer, the fireman on duty, to get the ambulance over there, and Roger Cavanaugh, and I went out to the car and I told Cavanaugh to take the other car and I led the way over.

Q You say that is Dick Sommer?

A That's right.

Q And Roger Cavanaugh?

A Right.

Q And who was the other person?

A Well, Dick Sommer got the volunteer fireman who was on duty that night, Ronald Callihan, to go along with him on the ambulance.

Q Now, is Dick Sommer a fireman?

A Dick Sommer is a permanent fireman, that's correct.

Q And Ronald Callihan is a volunteer fireman?

A Volunteer fireman.

Q And Roger Cavanaugh is --

A He is a part-time patrolman.

Q Then what happened?

A When I arrived at the Sheppard home I pulled up into the drive in back of the Mayor's car which was already set there. The Mayor and Esther Houk were standing at the door and letting me in. I entered in the house --

Q What door?

A That was the front door on the Lake Road side. That door enters into an entrance way, a hallway. Immediately as I entered I saw a doctor's bag upturned in the hallway, and leading off to the study that goes off to the right of this hallway. I glanced in and I saw -- I looked into the study and I saw Dr. Sam Sheppard half laying and half sitting in a large red leather chair. He had no shirt on, but a pair of trousers. At that time Mrs. Houk told me to go upstairs and see what I could do for Marilyn. She led the way through the kitchen, and I went

by her and on upstairs into this bedroom at the head of the stairway. There I saw who I presumed to be Marilyn Sheppard laying in the bed closest to the door. There was a great deal of blood about and her head was severely battered. I studied her for a moment and observed that there was no sign of life.

I immediately went downstairs and outside and on my police radio began to summon aid of a doctor. Someone at that time then informed me that Dr. Richard Sheppard was notified and was on his way up. I also then requested that the Chief of Police and Sergeant Jay Hubach be notified and he then come up right away. At that time the ambulance men, Callahan and Sommer, had already arrived and were getting the ambulance, or, the stretcher out of the ambulance to take it upstairs. I returned to the house and went into see Dr. Sam in the study, and I asked Dr. Sam what had happened. He appeared that he had been hit about the face on the right side, and he gave me a story, and very broken, that he remembered hearing Marilyn scream, that he remembered fighting someone down the stairs, that he remembered waking up in the water, and that he went upstairs again, and at that point he ceased talking and grabbed the back of his neck with both hands and turned his face away and did not say any more. I didn't press the issue

because along about that time Dr. Richard Sheppard arrived.

He came in and looked at Dr. Sam and we said, "Upstairs right away, don't worry about Dr. Sam." I directed him upstairs and he led the way and I followed immediately behind. He went upstairs and made his examination of Marilyn Sheppard and then returned downstairs and went to Dr. Sam Sheppard.

Q Can you relate the time to these events?

A Well, the call came in at 5:57. It couldn't have been more than three minutes that it would have taken us to get there. We would have been there at approximately six o'clock. Dr. Richard Sheppard apparently arrived right about 6:10. I discussed, after Dr. Richard Sheppard arrived there, with the Mayor that we needed help on it, and that I wanted to call the coroner's office in the Cleveland Homocide in on it, which he agreed. I told him that I felt that I should wait until the Chief gets here to verify it. Well, the Chief arrived, I imagine it must have been about 6:20 or 6:25, then, that I had the conversation with the Chief. It was approximately 6:30 when I made my initial call into the coroner's office and to the Cleveland Police Department.

Q Can you fix the time that Dr. Sheppard got there, Dr. Richard Sheppard?

A Dr. Richard Sheppard, at approximately 6:10.

Q Can you fix the time that Dr. Stephen arrived?

A Not very well. He entered while I wasn't about.

I would venture to say it was somewhere right around 6:20.

Q Could you fix the length of time that Dr. Richard Sheppard was upstairs in Marilyn's bedroom?

A On his initial examination I wouldn't say it would be more than --

Q Dr. Richard.

A Dr. Richard Sheppard, I would n't say he made his examination last more than three minutes.

Q Would that be completed by 6:15?

A I think we probably were down, he returned downstairs by 6:15.

Q Did Dr. Richard Sheppard request any assistance or request anything when he ran upstairs to make the examination?

A Yes. I followed the doctor up, Dr. Richard Sheppard, and as we went up the stairs he turned around and asked for some knives. I don't know who was behind me, but they were grappling, looking for knives, and on the rack, right by the sink there was a magnetic type rack that held sort of kitchen knives.--I grabbed three of those knives, or two of those knives, and handed them to him and followed him upstairs.

Q What did he intend to do with them?

A I assumed at the time there that he meant to open

her chest and massage her heart. I read a little bit about it.

Q He didn't say he was going to do that?

A No, he didn't say anything. That was only my thought at the time.

Q Then after 6:15 can you give us the activities of Dr. Richard Sheppard in relation to time?

A No, I can't. I was not with him at that time. I know certain things transpired, that they checked Chip and he apparently informed Dr. Sheppard that Marilyn was dead. At the time I made my original call into Cleveland Dr. Sam Sheppard was lying on the floor with his head down, and I recall I had to step over him to get the phone in the study.

Q Now, did Dr. Richard Sheppard and Dr. Sam Sheppard have any conversation in your presence?

A Not in my presence. I wasn't there when Dr. Richard Sheppard examined Dr. Sam Sheppard in the study or informed him as to what happened.

Q What did Dr. Richard Sheppard do then after he came downstairs?

A I believe he went right into the study with Dr. Sam.

Q Did Dr. Richard Sheppard use the telephone in the study?

A I cannot say.

Q Did Dr. Richard Sheppard disturb the conditions in the study?

A I cannot say.

Q Of what was originally present?

A I cannot say. The only one I know that did disturb the condition was Dr. Steve.

Q Dr. Steve?

A That was later on prior to taking the picture of the study.

Q What was the disturbance that was in the study that Dr. Steve Sheppard made?

A Well, as I was preparing to take a picture at one particular shot of the study, Dr. Steve entered, Dr. Stephen Sheppard, and I believe the Chief of Police was with him, John Eaton, and as he went to use the phone he stepped over this desk drawer that was setting on top of another desk drawer next to the desk, and either his toe caught this drawer and tipped it over, dumping the contents out. He apologized and there was nothing then that could be done. I took the picture as it was and noted that it had been disturbed at that particular point.

Q Who else was in the room when this happened?

A I feel very certain that it was the Chief that followed him in.

Q Besides you and the Chief and Dr. Stephen Sheppard?

A I don't believe there was anybody else. I don't recall.

Q Had Dr. Sam Sheppard been taken out of the room at that time?

A That's right. This happened somewhere after eight o'clock. Dr. Sam -- Dr. Steve had apparently taken Dr. Sam to the hospital and returned by then.

Q Now, getting back to the time that Dr. Richard Sheppard came down to the first floor from the second floor, which you stated was 6:15, who came in and what did Dr. Steve Sheppard do, to your knowledge, from then on -- Richard Sheppard I mean.

A To my knowledge he apparently went in and made an examination of Dr. Sam. Now, at that time I had no more contact with the doctors other than to see them occasionally when they, I believe, when they took Sam out, Dr. Sam, and when they brought Dr. Chip, I mean, Chip downstairs, that is Sam, Jr.

Q Who brought Chip downstairs?

A I wasn't there at the time, but they were standing in the entrance hall, I believe it was Richard Sheppard, Dr. Richard Sheppard, and I believe Mrs. Stephen Sheppard, Dr. Stephen's wife.

Q Dr. Stephen Sheppard's wife?

A Yes, and I believe Esther Houk was there at the time.

There was a little bit of confusion at the hallway there. They had him bundled up there and were just leading him out. I had just returned from downstairs and had entered the house again.

Q What time did Dr. Stephen Sheppard and Esther Houk get there, to the best of your knowledge?

A To the best of my knowledge it must have been about 6:20. Now, I don't know, but I would assume that was approximately the time.

Q Did you see what Dr. Stephen Sheppard did, other than upset this thing?

A No, I didn't.

Q Did you follow Dr. Stephen Sheppard and Dr. Richard Sheppard, either collectively or singularly, around the house?

A No, I didn't.

Q Do you know whether or not they went around the house alone?

A No, I do not know that either, if they walked around the house alone at all.

Q What else did you see and do?

A Well, from 6:30 on --

Q Yes, from 6:20 on.

A From 6:20, well, as I say, I had conversation with the Chief relative to calling in aid. We made the call

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NO
DISTURBANCES
ON
THE
BEACH.
(DRENKMAN)

to Cleveland. I then was told to call back at 7:30. So in the meantime I had walked downstairs and looked at the beach. I saw no disturbances on the beach. I saw three people on the far east pier, or the far west pier, that is east of the Sheppard home. I returned upstairs at which time I came across Sergeant Hubach and we discussed the fishermen, and he informed me that he had sent Dick Sommer and Ronald Callihan over to get their names and addresses. We didn't think that that was such a good idea anyway. So at that time I left.

Q Where did you go to?

A I went over to the pier to talk to these fishermen.

Q You say you left, you mean you went to talk to the fishermen?

A Yes, I left in the cruiser and went over toward Metropolitan Park and circled the park to see if there were any strange cars. At that time the park man, maintenance man, was opening the gate, he let me in on the north side. I went in and parked and went over and talked to the fishermen.

Q Where was Cavanaugh at this time?

A Cavanaugh was getting the Chief and I had also requested that he get the camera. That apparently was where he was at. I don't know. I had no sight of him.

Q Now, did you go into the living room?

A That is an L-shaped living and dining room. Now, the living room I don't recall. The dining area part I do. We did go in there. The door leading from the dining area into the porch, that is on the lake side, was open. To my knowledge no one had touched it.

Q The room that Dr. Sheppard was lying on the floor is the study that you are talking about?

A That's right.

Q And that is where you were in that room?

A I was in that room.

Q Did you use the telephone in there?

A Yes, I did.

Q Who did you call?

A I called Cleveland and I called the coroner's office.

Q Do you know what time that was?

A It was about 6:30 that I made those calls.

Q When you say you called Cleveland --

A I called the Cleveland Detective Bureau.

Q Now, relative to this combination living room and dining room, did you see any disturbances there?

A In the dining area there is a secretarial type desk that sets on the north wall to the west of this door leading out on to the porch. That desk had three drawers pulled out. The portion that forms the writing surface of this desk was laid down open, and there were

papers scattered over the floor in front of the desk.

Q Was there anything scattered on the top of the desk?

A From my observation it appeared in confusion.

Q Was there any other confusion in that room?

A No, the room seemed in order.

Q Did you see the couch alongside in the living room alongside the stairway opposite the fire place?

A Yes.

Q What did you notice about that?

A The couch seemed to be in very good order, I mean, no disturbance.

Q Did you notice a corduroy jacket?

A That's right, there was a corduroy jacket at the foot, nearest to the stairway.

Q Was it disturbed?

A It did not appear to be.

Q Did you look at it?

A No, I didn't. To examine it?

Q Did you examine it?

A I didn't touch it.

Q You didn't touch it?

A No.

Q Did you notice anything disturbed other than the bed in which Marilyn Sheppard was lying in, in that bedroom?

A No. There were clothes, there was clothing sitting on

a rocker that was at the foot of her bed and that clothing laid there in order as if someone had laid it there and had not been disturbed.

Q Were they women's clothing?

A They were women's clothing.

Q Can you recall what this clothing consisted of?

A There was a pair of white shorts and a bra and a pair of blue shorts hanging over -- those were hanging on the seat -- hanging up on top of the rocker there were blue shorts, there were two sweaters, there was a belt. There was a white man's type shirt. On the floor there were two pair of shoes and a pair of panties.

Q Panties, what type panties?

A Lady's panties.

Q Was this disturbed?

A That would be the only thing that would appear, if it was set on the chair that might have been off. But it was just laying there at the bottom of the chair.

Q The two pairs of shoes, were they male or female shoes?

A I would say female. One was definitely a white moccasin that would be a female. The other was a blue tennis type shoe, oxford. By the size, I would say they were female.

Q Now, did you notice a chest of drawers in the room?

A On the far northwest corner.

Q Was that disturbed?

A No.

Q Was the top of it disturbed?

A Not that I could see. It appeared very clean and orderly.

Q Was the other bed, the other twin bed disturbed?

A No, that appeared that no one had slept there. The bed was folded open as if someone was going to get into it and go to sleep. But there had been no indication that anyone had laid there or sat there.

Q Did you notice the pillow?

A That's right, there was no indication on the pillow.

Q Did you notice the telephone stand between the beds?

A That's right. The telephone stands, there was a telephone, and pad of paper, a Kleenex and a small alarm clock.

Q Was that disturbed?

A I wouldn't believe so. It seemed in normal order for a night stand, possibly, between two beds.

Q Did you notice anything in that room that was out of the ordinary with the exception of course of the dead body?

A No, I would say no, other than the general condition of the room, the bloodsplattered about, but the room seemed

like a normal bedroom.

Q Tell us about the blood splatters?

A There were blood splatters on all four walls. The majority of them being on the door that leads into the bedroom. It would indicate that it was in an open position when the blood was splattered about.

Q You mean the door to the bedroom was in an open position?

A That's correct.

Q Did you have any conversation with Sam Sheppard that morning?

A Other than the original conversation that I had previously stated, no. I did see Dr. Sam later on in that day and took a picture of him, but I had no conversation.

Q Did you go into the room next to the Hoversten bedroom, do you recall?

A Hoversten's bedroom is on the east side of the house, and then there is, it would appear a dressing room, and there is a desk in there, and a type of high-boy and a cedar chest. I didn't go in there at the time, no.

Q Did you go in later?

A Right, that's right.

Q How much later did you go in?

A Oh, it was possibly somewhere between 6:30 and 8:00 o'clock.

Q What did you notice when you went in there?

A As far as the condition of the room?

Q Yes.

A It appeared all right. The bedroom, where the bedroom bed was set, there appeared that someone had slept there previously and had not made their bed. There were suitcases about the floor. The room was kind of disorderly you might say.

Q When the Chief got there what time would you say that would have been?

A Approximately a little bit after 6:20. Maybe about 6:25.

Q At that time, Sam Sheppard, Dr. Sam Sheppard had already been taken away?

A That I can't recall just exactly when he had left. I cannot say.

Q Do you know for a fact that Dr. Richard Sheppard and Dr. Stephen Sheppard had gone away with Dr. Sam Sheppard and Chip and do you know whether or not they had returned?

A Yes, I know they had returned because they were about then a good deal of the morning.

Q What did they do?

A Well, I was busy taking photos and I paid very little attention to what they were doing, where they were. I was

in the house most of the time.

Q You made a call to the Cleveland Police Department and you were told to call back, is that what you said?

A Yes. They were changing shifts or platoons.

Q And did you call back?

A I called back at 7:30 and spoke to Captain Hawshield.

Q Then what happened?

A I informed him what had happened, that we felt we needed some help, and he said they would be certainly glad to come out, and as the platoons were changing they would want to send their day trick out, the men coming in on the day shift, and they would have somebody out and they would also have somebody out from the Bertillon Division to take photos and dust for prints.

Q Did these people respond from the Bertillon and the Homocide?

A Yes, the Bertillon men arrived there first, and I introduced myself and showed them around the property as to what was what. He arrived about the same time I was starting to take photos and I accompanied him around the ground there while he took some pictures.

Q Then what happened?

A Then it was a short while later two Cleveland detectives arrived, I believe it was Shottke and Gereau, and I again accompanied them about.

Q What did the Cleveland detectives do?

A They, Detective Shottke went upstairs and started his investigation at the bedroom and Detective Gereau began to gather some information as to the physical evidence about the scene, and outside about the house.

Q Did you offer them any aid or assistance?

A We told them we were just as green, and we were there to help them as much as we could.

Q Did you go over to the hospital to talk to Dr. Sheppard?

A No, I didn't.

Q What did you go to the hospital to see Dr. Sheppard for?

A I went there to take a picture of his face. That was some time in the afternoon, approximately two, two-thirty, three o'clock.

Q Did Dr. Richard Sheppard and Dr. Stephen Sheppard consult you about moving Dr. Sam Sheppard?

A No.

Q Did he consult anyone, to your knowledge?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Did you take a picture of Dr. Sam Sheppard?

A At the hospital I took a facial picture of him.

Q What did you do when you got out to the hospital, tell us what happened?

A Well, we walked down the hallway and Dr. Sam was down in the last room in the west wing, and I can't recall now who was there talking to him. It might have been the Cleveland detectives, I don't know. We informed Dr. Stephen Sheppard that we wanted a picture of him and he said, "Well, that is all right." He was resting in there. We went in. Possibly we might have said, "How are you?" or something like that, but other than any conversation relative to what had happened we carried on none. We took our pictures. Sergeant Hubach was there. We took the picture and left.

Q Do you know whether or not anyone else had taken a picture of Dr. Sam in bed?

A I don't believe anybody else did. Not to my knowledge. I don't know.

Q Do you know whether or not one of the Cleveland newspaper photographers took a picture of Dr. Sam?

A I don't know.

Q Did you see in the newspapers a picture similar to the one that you took?

A I thought that was my picture.

Q Are you sure, do you know now that it was your picture or wasn't it your picture?

A I am pretty sure it was my picture.

Q Did you give it to somebody?

A No, I didn't, because I ran out of film and I had borrowed some film packs from Bud Yassanye, he is the Plain Dealer photographer, he lives out in this area, and that was his film pack that I had used, I believe.

Q Did you give anyone a picture or anyone a negative, any newspaper?

A No, I didn't.

MR. GERBER: That will be all.
