11-10-1959

BVPD file on Richard Eberling

Bay Village Police Department

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SUPPLEMENTARY OFFENSE REPORT
BAY POLICE DEPT.

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Offense: Larceny
Serial No.: 55-95

Complainant: See below
Address:

(For list of items recovered see attached sheet signed by complainants.)

Additional Details of Offense, Progress of Investigation, etc.

Upon the arrest of Richard George Eberling the following complaint reports have been cleared and a number of the items recovered. Reports #55-50, 55-95, 56-172, 56-265, 57-63 have been cleared and the following Larcenies were either brought to our attention by Eberling or realized by the complainants since his arrest.

Herbert Richey, 29076 Lake Rd. One R.D. "Miss Demure". Four Sterling Silver serving spoons. Taken sometime in 1956 from house on Russell.

Alex Bruscino, Lane Dr. Four Three R.D. "Miss Huffle". "This Little Pig", Bitty Pennyfarthing. One Omega Wrist Watch. Taken from home on Lake Rd.


One Sterling Silver serving dish. Two diamond rings.

Donald Morrison. One Steuben Glass cigarette holder.

Donald Burney, 583 Humiston. One Amethyst Pin. $20.00 in cash.

Margorie Danielsen, 429 Canterbury. One R.D. "Toby Jug".

Helena Walsh, 521 Canterbury. One R.D. "Deess".

Earl Danielson, 26920 Osborn. One R.D. "Bonny Lassie". $10.00 in cash.

Harris, 28012 Osborn. Four or five Nylon hand towels.

This offense is declared: [ ] Unfounded [ ] Cleared by arrest [ ] Exceptionally cleared [ ] Inactive (not cleared) [ ]

Signed: Ronald B. DuPerow #6
Investigating Officer

Date: 11-10-59

Chief or Commanding Officer

State's Exhibit
The form is used by officers assigned to a case to report progress after three and seven days and weekly thereafter, also to report significant developments.
contacted Sgt. Sharer of the Shaker Heights P.D. and he told us to bring him over. Prosecutor Gareau was contacted and he said he would like to be there when the test was given. When we got to Shaker the Sgt. informed us that he had contacted his Chief and was told not to give the test because they didn't want to get involved without a request from the County. A typewritten statement concerning Eberling's connection with the Sheppards was taken by Prosecutor Gareau. All this information was to be given to the County Prosecutor by Gareau.

11-12-59, Thurs., County Prosecutor Corrigan told us to drop the whole thing so Chief Eaton talked to Dr. Sam Gerber, County Coroner, who stated that he wanted to talk to Eberling. At 1:00P.M., this date Lt. Hubach and myself took Eberling to Gerber's office and he talked to him until 4:30P.M., and then had Eberling dictate a statement. Gerber stated that he would arrange to have a Lie Detector test set up, or possibly a Sodium Penetrol test.

11-13-59, Gerber notified us that he had decided to not give the test. He said he believed Eberling and didn't think he was involved in the murder. Lt. Hubach contacted the Safety Director and explained the circumstances and the Safety Director said to go ahead and arrange a Lie Detector test at London Ohio with the BCI. Arrangements were made for Nov. 19 at 1:00P.M.
John P. Eaton of 550 Vineland Rd

Bay Village, Ohio voluntarily make the following statement about a statement that occurred

at the police station on Nov 12th 1959 at 3:00 PM

I understand that I am not compelled to make this statement and that I have no control over how it may be used and no promises are made to me because of it.

On the 12th of Nov at 3:00 PM Dr. Richard Sheppard came into the police station to inquire whether we had 2 of Marilyn Sheppard's rings or only one. We explained that Richard Eberling had originally taken the rings from Dr. Sheppard's house in 1958 but had removed the stone from one ring and thrown the ring away. Therefore we had only recovered one ring and one unset stone. Dr. Sheppard at that time stated that the rings were in a box which was stored in a closet in his home. He also stated that he employed Eberling occasionally when there was a lot of window washing to be done or storm windows to be taken down. The rings, a pitcher and other articles were taken at that time. During this time, Patrolman Fuehrer and fireman Andrew Cajka and myself were present and heard the statement.

I have read this statement, I understand it and I believe it is true. I have signed the last page and initialed the other pages.

Signature
OFFICIAL POLYGRAPH REPORT  
OHIO STATE BUREAU of CRIMINAL  
IDENTIFICATION and INVESTIGATION  
London, Ohio

To: Mr. John P. Eaton  
Chief of Police  
350 Dover Center Road  
Cuyahoga County  
Bairn Village, Ohio

ATTENTION: Lt. Huback  
DATE OF REPORT: 11-20-59  
DATE OF TEST: 11-19-59

Following is a report of the findings of a Polygraph Examination, given by the Ohio State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, upon the request of your office. This examination has been given with the express understanding that it is being used relative to a criminal investigation being conducted by your office, and is to be used for official purposes only. Authorization cannot be granted for the use of this report in connection with a Civil Proceeding.

Hugh L. Lepetit  
Superintendent

B.C.I. File No. 9283

Reference: Murder

Subject: Richard Eberling w/29

Official findings:

After a careful study and analysis of the lie detector graphs of the above named subject, we do not find evidence of deception on his graphs in answers to relevant questions concerning the offense in question.

Examiner  
Examiner
1. Is today Thursday? - Yes
2. Were you born in the United States? - Yes
11. Do you intend to tell the truth to the questions asked you during this test? - Yes
12. Do you know who killed Marilyn Sheppard? - No
13. Did you kill Marilyn Sheppard? - No
4. Do you live in Cuyahoga County? - Yes
14. Are you positive that the Sheppards' changed bedrooms before Marilyn's death? - Yes
15. Did you ever enter the home after Marilyn's death? - No
25. Are you afraid to take this test? - No
16. Are you positive that you deposited your own blood in the Sheppard residence prior to Marilyn's death? - Yes
8. Are you wearing a white shirt? - Yes
3. Do you live in Chio? - Yes
17. Are you positive that the French door to the study was left unlocked? - Yes
18. Do you know what weapon was used to kill Marilyn? - No
27. Is the statement you gave to the Police the truth? - Yes
28. Have you lied to any questions during this test? - No

This test was repeated three times.
Following is the voluntary statement of Richard George Eberling made 4 years ago, single, who resides with his mother Christine Eberling at 3961 Bradley Road, Westlake, Ohio telephone Tr-1-0243 regarding the larcenies perpetrated by him in numerous homes in Bay Village dating from 1955 up to the present date.

Now Richard George Eberling is knowing that anything you say may be used either for or against you in event that you are brought to trial for these larcenies and knowing that you are not compelled to make this statement, you are willing to tell us what you know concerning these larcenies.

RICHARD GEORGE EBERLING: I first started to steal in a Rocky River home in 1953. During 1954 I took nothing until 1955, while working at Herbert Richmond's on Euclid Ave., I took one Royal Dalton Figurines and four (4) Silver sterling serving spoons. Then in the Spring of 1955 I removed the diamond bracelet, one (1) Toby jug, and two (2) Tiny Figurines, "Little Nell," and "Tiny Tim" from Charlotte Baumans' residence at 483 Lake Forest Drive. At the same time working the Bruegman home I removed a figurine named "Janice." (This was the Crate's home on 29610 Wolf Road). A short time later in the Rosenberry home at 28324 Lincoln I took one (1) Diamond ring. While working the Bruscino home on Lake Road on several occasions I removed Figurines and one (1) Omega wristwatch. Then in the late fall doing windows at Clark's home at 28218 West Oviatt I removed a Piggy Bank containing a few dollars in change. Doing windows in the Meyer's house on 610 Canterbury, I removed $46.00 from the premises. Working at William's at 31004 Nantucket I removed one Figurine "Little Darling." Then while working at William's on Lake Road, I removed three (3) Figurines but replaced them. In 1956 while working at the C.M. Ela residence on 1176 Upland I removed a small diamond pin slightly damaged and some diamonds missing. Then at Dr. Kingsley's I removed two (2) Royal Dalton Figurines "Jasmine" and "Balloon Man" and one (1) Stuben Glass Goblet. At various times within the space of a few years, I have taken two (2) diamond rings, one (1) silver bowl, one (1) vase, Irish and one (1) Irish pitcher, from the home of Dr. Richard Shepard on Lake Road. Last spring, 1958, in the home of Don Morrison on Humiston Drive I removed one (1) Stuben Glass Goblet. At the home of Don Morrison on Humiston Drive I took two (2) (1) diamond pin and $20.00 in cash from the residence of Donald Burney at 583 H umiston. I removed one (1) Figurine from a home in Bay (East Side) this home recommended me to a home on Osborn which I can point out to you but that is unknown by name at this time. To the best of my knowledge and ability this is all the places I have been involved inif there are any other's that are brought to my attention by the Police or that I recall they will be discussed and handled at the time.

Q. Do you have in your possession any of the above mentioned items?
A. No. I have turned most of the items in to the Police.

Q. In this you state "most" of the items. What didn't you turn in?
A. Some of the jewelry pieces I dismantled and in doing so I destroyed stones and mountings which I threw in the rubbish and picked up by the Westlake rubbish man.

Q. Do you or did you know at the time the approximate value of these items that you took?
A. Yes and no. The jewelry and silver I didn't know but the other items I did.

Q. But you did know that they had some value, speaking of jewelry and the silver?
A. Yes.

Q. When you took these items from the above named homes what did you do with them?
A. I took them home to 3961 Bradley Road, Westlake, Ohio.

Q. Why did you take these items?
A. Frankly, I don't know why but I know that isn't the answer.

Q. What did you intend to do with these items?
A. Just keep them.

Q. Have you ever been arrested before?
A. No except for speeding.

Page of 4/2 pages

November 10, 1959
What is the extent of your education?

A. High School Graduate from Westlake and Cleveland College courses.

Q. When you took these items from these homes did you know you were of age, doing wrong? This is at 5611 Bradley Road, Westlake, Ohio, with reference to a

A. Yes. I live from the home of Dr. Richard Sheppard, at 2336 Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio.

Q. Have you been fairly treated by the Bay Village Police in this with the case of J. J. Barnitz. The law gives you the right to make a statement which may

A. Yes, sir. I agree against you at the time of trial in court. Now that you understand,

Q. Do you have anything else to add to this statement?

A. Within the last few years, with the mounting of these thefts, I wanted to go to these people and make complete restitution but just kept

Q. Have you read the above statement and does it appear to be true, of your knowledge and ability? Dish, and one Red Oak China Vase and Pitcher from Mr.

A. Yes, I did. I believe I was in the Spring of 1957 at one home where

I was out with them. I continued to pack up on one off for then and then

by the last week of March of 1958, Mrs. Sheppard called me and asked to have her breakfast and bathroom stocked. I went to the house by my employer, Ed Wileborn. I

Page 13 of 18. Pages are not left blank. The walls and closet in the master suite there were checking. There were two boxes containing the personal belongings of Marilyn Renee Sheppard.

I was an old cardboard box. I replaced the broken box on the shelf as

WITNESS, why pack it up and not pack it in such a way that the personal belongings of Marilyn Renee Sheppard

It was an old cardboard box. I replaced the box back on the shelf at

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WITNESS, why pack it up and not pack it in such a way that the personal belongings of Marilyn Renee Sheppard

The above statement taken by Jay H. Rubach, Lt. at the Bay Village Police

Station on November 10, 1959 at 1300 P.M. took then for Dr. Richard Sheppard's house

Q. That was the occasion of your visit to the home of Marilyn Sheppard?

A. I personally had started to work for Dr. Sam and Marilyn Sheppard after she called on the phone the fall before she was murdered. I then went to work for them

November 10, 1959
The following is the statement of RICHARD GEORGE EBERLING, W/H, 29 years of age, Single, who resides at 3961 Bradley Road, Westlake, Ohio, with reference to a Larceny from the home of Dr. Richard Sheppard, at 2336 Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio.

Q. Now RICHARD GEORGE EBERLING, you have been arrested and may be charged with the crime of Grand Larceny. The law gives you the right to make a statement which may be used for or against you at the time of your trial in court. Now that you understand this, do you choose to make a statement telling the truth about the facts that brought about your arrest?

RICHD GEORGE EBERLING, Yes.

I have been working off and on for a period of six or seven years, cleaning walls and windows and storm windows for Dr. Richard Sheppard and his wife. In the early Spring I removed one silver dish, and one BeBock Chine Vase and Pitcher from Dr. Richard's dressing room, I believe it was in the Spring of 1957. No one was home and I just walked out with them. I continued to work on and off for them and then one day about March of 1958, Mrs. Sheppard called me and asked to have her bedrooms and bathrooms washed down. I went to the house with my employee, Ed Wilbert. I started and finished washing the walls and closet in the master suite. When I cleared out this closet in the master suite, this was Dr. Richard's personal closet, I ran across several boxes containing the personal belongings of Marilyn Reese Sheppard. I found one box containing two diamond rings which I removed and put them in my pocket. This box had writing on it which said "Marilyn Reese Sheppard personal property." It was an old cardboard box. I replaced the boxes back on the shelf as I had originally found them. Then I took the rings home with me and I had a larger small ring and took the stones out of it and I discarded the setting by throwing it into the trash can at home. Then I took the big stone out of the bigger ring and saved the setting with the remainder of the stones in tact. These stones about which I am talking are diamonds. I saved the stones and also the bigger setting because I did not have time to dismantle the other stones in this bigger ring. I put them in a bag and then put them in my dresser behind the drawer. They remained there until Sunday night, November 8, 1959, when Capt Wilbur of the Westlake Police brought me to my house and I voluntarily took them out and turned them over to the police.

Q. Had you ever seen these rings before you took them for Dr. Richard Sheppard's home?
A. Yes. I had seen the large dimer ring lying on Marilyn Sheppard's dresser in Dr. and Marilyn Sheppard's home before Marilyn was murdered. I believe it was the fall before she was murdered.

Q. What was the occasion of your visit to the home of Marilyn Sheppard?
A. I myself had started to work for Dr. Sam and Marilyn Sheppard after she had called me on the phone the fall before she was murdered. I then went to work for them, washing their windows and storm and making the fall change-over from screens to storms. While doing this work, from inside, I had occasion to notice these diamond rings on the dressing table in their bedroom. I admired this ring at that time but I didn't take it.

Q. Did you do any other work for Dr. Sam and Marilyn?
A. Yes. In the early part of the summer, that would be in the last week of June 1954.

Q. What did you do for them at that time?
A. I washed the windows and made the spring change-over, inserting the screens.

Q. Do you recall what date you performed this work?
A. It was the early part of the week of the Sunday preceding her death.

Q. Did anything happen to you while you were there?
A. Yes, I cut my finger in an effort to take the storm window out of the window by the kitchen sink and in doing so I went about my work throughout the house and down into the basement and at various times dripped blood in various parts of the house.

Q. Was anyone present while you were there at the Sam Sheppard house on this occasion?
A. No, I was alone.

Q. Where were you the morning Marilyn Sheppard was murdered?
A. The evening before we had guests at our house. They left about 11:30 P.M. I then went upstairs to bed, shut the door and locked out the window, opened it and went to bed. We have tenants living at the house on the same floor and in my bedroom and they were up when I went to bed. I believe their names are Stanley and Joyce Trubow who now reside in Lakewood and Clarence. The next morning I arose at 7:00 A.M. and went to St. Peter's Church in North Ridgeville. Later that day in the evening I heard of Marilyn's death over the radio.

Q. Why didn't you take the bigger ring apart as you did the smaller ring that you stole from Dr. Richard Sheppard's home?
A. I had decided that the next time I was called to work at Dr. Richard's home, I would replace the ring and other stones back in their original box.

November 10, 1959
C. Is there anything else that you can tell us about this crime?
A. No.

C. Have you read the above statement and is it true?
A. Yes.

The following is the statement of Mr. Donald O. Price, of Roy Village, Calo, relative to a fire that took place at the home of W. B. Price, Roy Village, Calo., on April 26, 1955.

I live in the same building with W. B. Price, and his wife. They have three children, and my sister, Betty, lives with them. The building is a small one-room structure, and it filled the kitchen and living room with smoke and fire. I called the insurance company and they said to have the living room and the kitchen done before my folks got home and that day (November 11, 1955), when my folks got home, I called Dick Sterling, who had taken the damage. He arrived on Tuesday, April 26th, with his helper, and they cleaned the kitchen and that he would clean the living room and dining room. Patrick, the helper, did the cleaning and moving things around. He took two china vases, a Royal Dalton figurine, called "Janes," which belonged to me, and a large brush and a large broom used for decoration purposes which were on a shelf near the fireplace. When I went to the living room, he asked me if the figure was a Royal Dalton. I told him it was, "He put those things on a chair and then cleaned. After he was all through cleaning he insisted on nothing everything back as he had found it. After he did that he gathered everything up and he and Ben left."

I called his house immediately and a man answered the phone and he said Dick had always misplaced things like that and that it probably turned up in the next few weeks. I called my sister, Beverly, at the office and told her it was gone, and I mentioned to her that maybe Sally Bolson was right that Dick couldn't be trusted. Beverly sent a letter to Ben Sutter and asked me to give a message that if anyone came to the house looking for them to tell them that they were working on the case.

Ben came back again a short time and said that Dick had got word that a Colton was missing and that he had been sent back to look for it. He looked but couldn't locate it.

Q. Did Sterling come to your house, or did you call him.
A. He called.

Q. What did you intend to do with these items?
A. Just keep them.

Q. Have you ever been arrested before?
A. No, except for speeding.

Page 1 of 6 pages

November 10, 1959
Richard George Eberling, window washer, 3961 Bradley Road, Westlake, Ohio, arrested for removing property from various homes in Bay Village, Westlake, Rocky River, North Olmsted, Cleveland Heights and Fairview. Most of the property has been recovered and now is in the custody of Rocky River Police. The money has not been recovered. Richard Eberling desires to make a statement in regard to the property taken from the home of Dr. Richard Sheppard and also makes a statement in regard to the times that he washed windows at the home of Dr. Sam Sheppard.

I was called to the home of Dr. Richard Sheppard by Mrs. Dorothy Sheppard to give an estimate on cleaning to be done in the house, which did not materialize at that time, back in the early 50's. Then when Sam Sheppard moved into Bay from California, Mrs. Richard Sheppard referred me to Marilyn Sheppard and we did work then for Dr. Sam Sheppard. Soon after we were called back to Richard's house and then did some work for him.

Then in the fall of '53, I believe, the Sam Sheppard house had been complete/redecorated because of a fire that had destroyed some of the house. Everything had been completed except cleaning of the windows. Marilyn Sheppard called and ordered her windows to be washed in the fall and the fall change-over made. At that time I removed the screens and put them in the basement from the majority of the windows. At the same time she ordered her windows done once a month. I did these windows three or four times in the following months. Then because I was quite busy I skipped them March, April and May.

Mrs. Sheppard called and asked that we do her windows the latter part of June so that they would be clean for company that she was having. She didn't mean party, she mentioned company. Back in the fall of '53 when she contracted the monthly service she told me to use the rear door of the library which was always unlocked. She explained that that was for the milkman and the different delivery men and also for Chip when he came home from school, saying to the effect that he wasn't old enough to carry a key.

When doing this spring change-over or summer work, I had worked in the home two days in a row only part of each day to complete the job. While working in the kitchen I had quite a bit of difficulty in getting one of the storm windows out as the two little pieces of metal had broken off that unlocked the storms. I used a screw driver and a pliers to grab a little piece of metal that would unlock this storm window. In doing so the screw driver slipped and I cut my finger, badly enough that it bled for a while. I had taken all the storms out, the combinations, and had washed them the day before, left them sitting by their windows, then I left the kitchen window still last because they were the hardest to get out. Then I went to the basement and started to take the screens around through the house to their windows and put them in. During this time when I was in all parts of the house from the second floor to the basement at different intervals, blood dripped from my finger.

The first day I had seen Mrs. Sheppard and talked to her outside in the late afternoon about Sam's new Lincoln Continental which she was unhappy about. I then left by the rear door of the library. I went back the next day and let myself in. During the course of the afternoon Mrs. Sheppard returned, asked me what the amount would be. I told her $28.00. I believe it was in that neighborhood, and she said that she would mail a check. After I completed my work I left by the same door as I had come in which was the library door facing the lake. I had used the basement door at different times in the course of these two days. I don't believe I locked it because it was hard to open and shut.
Then in 1956 or 57, Dr. Richard Sheppard's wife called and wanted cleaning done as they were going to change the carpeting from their mother's house to their home on the first floor. I took care of the carpeting. Dr. and Mrs. Sheppard were gone during the majority of the day, and I had then taken one Belleek vase and one Belleek pitcher and one sterling dish. I walked out of the house with them.

Then in 1958 we were called back in the early part of 1958 to clean different bedrooms and bathrooms. At the same time they had Allen Decorating, papering and painting the kitchen and some other rooms. When I had completed cleaning Dr. Sheppard's main bedroom and library, I cleared his closet out and washed it down, and in doing so, on the shelf to my right I had noticed several boxes, one old box and, I believe, one metal box in black. I believe in the metal box, or it could have been the other one, there was a list saying what the contents of the boxes held. On the outside of the one box it was written personal property of Marilyn Sheppard. Opening one box I noticed Marilyn Sheppard's cocktail or dinner ring and what I believed to be her engagement ring. I picked them up and put them in my pocket and walked off with them. I had seen this one dinner ring earlier in Dr. Sam Sheppard's home setting up on Marilyn's dressing table. That was in the fall after their fire when I was doing their storm windows. I did not pick it up, I just noticed it, and for that reason I knew it was Marilyn's ring. I then took the engagement ring, which I presumed it was as it resembled one, took it apart, saved the stone and threw away the mounting. I had taken the large stone out of the dinner ring and put them in my dresser and just left them there.

As time went on, it started to bother me for two reasons. One, that the stones belonged to a dead girl, and secondly as to the trouble I could get into or cause in case something should happen to me and the stones would be found. I decided that the next time I was to wash windows in Dr. Sheppard's home I would take the rings and the stones and just put them back in their place and let them figure it out. That's it.

I turned the rings over to the Rocky River Police and they in turn turned them over to the Bay Village Police Dept. to the best of my knowledge. I also called Mrs. Sheppard and told her what I had done, and she was extremely relieved to know that the rings were back. I don't believe that she knew the rings were gone.

(signed) ___________________