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54/07/08 Start Quiz of Doctor in Murder of Bay Wife

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Husband Puts $10,000 Up for Slayer

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard today offered a $10,000 reward for "the arrest and conviction of the murderer of my wife."

The announcement was made in a typewritten statement, signed in ink, distributed to reporters by his attorney, William Corrigan. "I was severely injured when I was attacked by the person who murdered my wife and I am still suffering from shock and pain," the statement declared. "I have never refused to talk to any authorities and give them all the information that I could."

Dr. Sheppard said he had "related the incidents as nearly as I could remember them" to Bay Village and Cleveland police, Coroner Samuel R. Gerber, a sheriff's deputy, and Bay Mayor J. Spencer Houk. "I have lived an honorable life," he declared, stating he and his family had authorized their attorney to make the dramatic reward offer.

START QUIZ OF DOCTOR IN MURDER OF BAY WIFE

Four days after the murder, law enforcement officials today started questioning Dr. Samuel Sheppard about the brutal slaying of his wife, Marilyn.

The questioning came after a tense bedside debate at Bay View Hospital.

Adversaries in the verbal clash were William Corrigan, Cleveland criminal defense attorney retained by Dr. Sheppard's family, and Coroner Samuel R. Gerber. Corrigan blocked a demand of Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon that the injured Dr. Sheppard, recovering from neck wounds he claimed were suffered in a grapple with the maniacal killer, "come downtown" for interrogation.

When Dr. Gerber issued a subpoena commanding Dr. Sheppard's "forthwith" appearance at the Morgue for a formal coroner's inquest, Corrigan declared: "Absolutely not—this man is sick. He is in a hospital. He cannot be moved."

Then, Mahon reported, Corrigan agreed to "permit" questioning of his client in the hospital room "without a lawyer present, and for any length of time."

But actual start of the questioning was delayed while Corrigan and his co-counsel, Attorney A. Peters, conferred with Dr. Gerber for more than an hour outside Dr. Sheppard's hospital room door. The coroner sent for another physician to examine Dr. Sheppard to determine if he could make a trip to either the Morgue or the Criminal Courts Bldg.

Waiting impatiently to start the interrogation was Deputy Sheriff Carl Rossbach, whose previous attempts to question Dr. Sheppard had been blocked by Corrigan and the osteopath's father and brothers, who operate Bay View Hospital.

Rossbach entered Dr. Sheppard's room earlier today to find Corrigan at the bedside. A few minutes later, the deputy stalked out and reported to Dr. Gerber. The coroner then signed the subpoena for Dr. Sheppard. "Serve it forthwith," he commanded.

But the service was prevented by Corrigan's intervention and conference with Dr. Gerber.

The dramatic development came immediately after Mahon took control of the murder investigation and issued an abrupt ultimatum: Dr. Sheppard must come downtown to the prosecutor's office "voluntarily to make a statement concerning the crime."

If the osteopath refuses, Mahon said, a coroner's inquest will be convened at the Morgue immediately, and Dr. Sheppard will be subpoenaed and compelled to testify.

Dr. Gerber, with a dozen subpoenas in his pocket, went out to Bay View Hospital in Bay Village to serve the ultimatum on Dr. Sheppard and his family. "I'll subpoena the whole family if necessary," Dr. Gerber said. "I'll subpoena the whole family if necessary," Dr. Gerber said.

Turn to Page 2, Column 1
DOWNSTAIRS COUCH on which Dr. Sam Sheppard says he was dozing when awakened by wife's scream is examined by Coroner Samuel R. Gerber (left) and Assistant Prosecutors John J. Mahon and Thomas Parrino.

DRAMATIC SCENE as Deputy Sheriffs Carl Rossbach (center) and Dave Yetta re-enter Dr. Samuel Sheppard's room at Bay View Hospital with subpoena after bedside clash with Attorney William Corrigan. On guard at door is Bay Village Patrolman Cy Lipaj.
Start Questioning of Bay Village Doctor in Murder of His Wife

(Continued From Page One)

Gerber said.

These developments came as Dr. Stephen Sheppard, brother-in-law of the slain clubwoman, told reporters that his brother was eager and anxious to aid the investigation and was now physically able to withstand questioning.

He added that William J. Corrigan, prominent Cleveland criminal defense lawyer retained by the family, was "in complete charge from now on."

Mahon took over direction of the inquiry after a conference with Sheriff Joseph Sweeney, Bay Village Police Chief John Eaton and Deputy Sheriffs Rossbach and Dave Yetta.

At Mahon's request, Cleveland Homicide Bureau Detectives Patrick Garee and Robert Scholte were assigned to the case.

Mahon said his order to "come downtown" voluntarily or to the Morgue under subpoena also applied to Samuel (Chip) Sheppard Jr., six-year-old son of the murder victim.

"In my 23 years of criminal prosecution, I have never seen such flagrant stalling as in this case by the family of Dr. Samuel Sheppard," Mahon said.

The stalling, he said, was in the refusal of Dr. Stephen Sheppard, the osteopath's brother, to permit the injured husband to be questioned except at times and under conditions dictated by himself.

"We have tried to be humane in this inquiry," Dr. Gerber said. "We expected cooperation from the family, but don't seem to be getting it. We'll now have to use the strong arm of the law."

Dr. Gerber, Mahon and Rossbach wanted to have the murder victim's husband retell his story of how he was asleep on a downstairs couch, when he heard his wife scream in the upstairs bedroom.

Dr. Sheppard said he ran up these stairs, to be assaulted by a man who struck him from behind. He said he later recovered consciousness and chased the intruder, engaging in another struggle in which he was injured.

What infuriated the investigators was the fact that, after Dr. Sam Sheppard attended his wife's funeral yesterday, he received a steady stream of callers in his hospital room—but the police were barred.

The callers included Attorney Corrigan and Arthur A. Peterslage, the family's lawyer.

Dr. Stephen Sheppard denied any interference with the investigation.

"If we were trying to interfere," he said, "we wouldn't have let anyone talk to him. But he's already been interviewed four times by the authorities, and told them everything he knew."

"Our chief concern is for his health. He's certainly been injured, having been knocked unconscious. He's confused and unable to remember much. He'll possibly be able to remember more after his condition improves."

"It's fantastic to think that we're trying to impede the investigation. We tried to protect Sam physically so he could get well as soon as possible and be of more help."

The coroner said the family's shielding of Dr. Sheppard from questioning for several days had produced "a major style out" in the inquiry.

Mahon entered the case because he was indignant about the slowdown of the inquiry.

"The state is already preparing its case against the killer of Mrs. Sheppard," he declared. "No interference with the investigation must be tolerated."

Mahon directed a lengthy new search of the murder home at 2824 Lake Rd. late yesterday. The search disclosed no new evidence.

Among the paper-backed mystery novels found strewn about were these titles: "I Killed My Wife," "Blood on My Hands," and "Blood in Your Eye."

Chief Eaton hired professional divers to explore the Lake Erie bottom off the Sheppard beach front in quest of the still missing weapon with which the pretty clubwoman and Sunday school instructor was bludgeoned to death. A magnetic device failed to retrieve anything from the water.

However, the divers, Bill Virginia and Frank D'Agostino of Lorain, were unable to go down because of rough waves. D'Agostino said it was "very unlikely" that they would find the weapon, but the quest might "help satisfy public opinion."

A piece of pipe found some distance from the beach house was discounted as having any connection with the crime.

Dr. Gerber said the T-shirt worn by Dr. Sheppard when he dozed off on the couch, but missing when he first reported his wife's murder, was still being diligently sought.

Samuel Sheppard Jr., six-year-old son of the murder victim, also was to be questioned by police today.

Dr. Stephen Sheppard suggested that Sam Jr. be questioned by Bay Village Patrolman Fred Deenihan, who is acquainted with the boy.

This suggestion brought a retort from Mahon: "They're not going to dictate to us whom they want to talk to."

"Took It Pretty Hard"

Bay Village Sgt. Jay Hubach, who accompanied Dr. Sheppard to his wife's funeral, said the family had kept the conversation on subjects other than the murder. "He took it pretty hard," Hubach said. "He sobbed most of the time."

Before Dr. Gerber and Mahon interposed objections, Rossbach had arranged to "call Dr. Steve at 11 a.m. to "see if it would be all right to question Dr. Sam today."

Dr. Stephen Sheppard had told reporters that the interrogation would be at his home, 19027 Inglewood Dr., Rocky River, and all newspapermen would be barred from the premises.

Dr. Gerber said the murder inquiry was "one of the most unusual cases" in his 19 years as coroner.

"Here is a witness surrounded and shielded by his own family of doctors," Dr. Gerber said. (Dr. Sheppard's father and two brothers, all osteopathic physicians, run Bay View Hospital together.) "It's a situation that's got to be straightened out immediately."