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54/07/10 Green Years Were Good for Marilyn, Sam

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By RICHARD McLAUGHLIN

Marilyn Reese and Sam Sheppard met as students at Cleveland Heights High School. They were both attractive, charming, and popular, and they quickly became fixtures around the school.

Sam—tall, dark-haired and handsome, an outstanding athlete—was something of a model youth, a typical all-American, clean-cut boy. Marilyn—pretty in her sweaters and short plaid skirts, brown hair curling to her shoulders—was interested in athletics, too, won her "H" for varsity girls' sports.

Marilyn graduated from Heights High in 1941, Sam in 1942. Editions of The Caldron, the school annual, for those years contain pictures and statistics about the two, recording their activities and achievements.

Record Reveals Popularity

Sam was president of his class in his sophomore, junior and senior years. He quarterbacked on those rugged Tiger football teams, played basketball. He ran the quarter-mile and was on the mile relay team in track, helping spark the Tigers to the state championship in 1941.

Sam did other things, too. He was a corridor guard for three years. He was a H-Y member and president. He took part in intramural sports, was a noon movie guard. He belonged to the H-Club, of course, and was a member of the Student Council his senior year.

Marilyn all through high school belonged to the Girls Athletic Assn., a group which managed girls' sports. The varsity letter she won entitled her to membership in the Yellow Jackets, and she was president in her final year.

She Was Active, Too

She was a corridor guard, like Sam, and a member of the Student Council. She was a Cadet, a group which assisted in gym classes and after-school sports.

Marilyn also belonged to the Modern Dance Club, Riding Club, Boosters Club and Friendship Club.

The 1942 Caldron reported:

"A mysterious, bewitching garden, complete with highlights and latticework, was the scene of the 1942 Senior Prom."

"After the somewhat confused Grand March, led by Dick Crosby and Mary Harp, Sam Sheppard and Marilyn Reese, gardenias and patriotic programs were distributed to the dancers. ..."

"Another prom and another unforgettable memory."

It wasn't just a high school romance. Sam Sheppard and Marilyn Reese were married while he was a student at the College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons at Los Angeles. Dr. John O'Meara, head of the osteopathic division of the Los Angeles County General Hospital, where Dr. Sheppard served as an intern for four years, said today:

"They seemed an ideally suited couple. They were very well adjusted. He had a high scholastic record, was an outstanding intern and a darned good guy. We all liked him and were sorry to see him go back to Cleveland."

Dr. Sam and Marilyn returned here about four years ago to become active in Bay Village community life. And then came 1954 and the morning of the Fourth of July...