



Witness Statements

Police Documents

7-8-1954

54/07/08, John P. Eaton

Bay Village Police Department

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CITY OF BAY VILLAGE

350 DOVER CENTER ROAD

BAY VILLAGE, OHIO

JULY 8TH 1954.

This is the statement of John P Eaton, age 60, who resides at 550 Vineland Rd Bay Village concerning events that happened after the death of Marilyn Sheppard on July 4TH 1954.

I am the Chief of Police of Bay Village and on the morning of July 4th 1954 at about 6 A.M. I was on Maple Drive in Bay Village working on my tractor. At that ^{time} /patrolman Cavanaugh drove up and informed me of the murder. I went with him to the Sheppard residence on Lake Rd arriving there about 6:10 A.M. At that time Mayor Houk's car, the other police car the ambulance and other cars were there. When I arrived I believe that Dr Sam Sheppard was still there but he left for the hospital shortly after I arrived and I did not talk him or examine him at that time. I first went up to Mrs Sheppard's room and verified the fact that she had been murdered. I then came down and talked to the Mayor and got a quick summary of the facts. He told me what Sam had related to him about hearing a scream and that when he went upstairs someone struck him and knocked him out. I instructed one of the men to call the coroner's office and tell him of the facts and also to call the Cleveland Bu. to see if they would give us any help.

About this time the Mayor and I made a survey outside to see if anything was out of order. We went down the steps to the boat house at the time observing what appeared to be wet foot prints coming up the stairs. The boat house walk was bare of any thing. There were three persons on the West pier in Huntington Park. We walked toward them along the beach. The only marks that were on the beach were the tracks of two men and a dog. These we later learned belonged to the two firemen who drove the ambulance and who made the same trip we did. We talked to two men and a boy there who had arrived about 5:45 A.M. They said two teenagers were on a pier further East, but left shortly after they arrived.



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purse wh ich was on the shelf near the sink in the kitchen.

On mond_{ay} thwe house and grounds were searched again several times. and the garage was searched for some kind of weapon. Dr Sam Sheppard claimed there was money in a secret part of his purse. I found \$60.00 there. He als o claimed a pocket secretary in his desk had some money in it. A second search of this revealed \$100.00. Arrangements were made to try magnetson the bottom of the lake for a m^etallic weapon. These were tried but mo success. Then a firm of divers were given a contract to search the lake bottom . This f^orm is the "Commercial Diving Service" and they went ot work on Fri. July 9th 1954. The lake had been too rough up to this point. They found nothing. A riding crop was found in the den. This had a long four cornered blade sheathed in it which had stains on it. This was turned over to the coroner. Upon Thrs. during another search of the bureau in the room facing Lake Rd and the 2nd from the East. \$20.50 were in one of the drawers. Also a part of a dividend check which had stains on it. This was turn^ed over to the coroner. Another search of the bank back of the house is being ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{conducted} today (July 14th 1954) and the divers will make another search, covering part of the same territory searched before and continuing further out. Many suggestions have been recieved relative to this case and as far as is possible these have been checked or are being checked for information. These with the duties of keeping the police Dept. organized and supplying man power for the details necessary to be checked have taken up all of my time.



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We returned to the house and checked further. I am not sure whether it was before or after the trip to the beach that Mayor Houk and I woke up the Schuel'es who live one door west to inquire. They said they heard nothing. I then went back down to the Beach house and checked again. On the west side of the boat house and at the south end of the board platform which is approx. 8" to 10" above the ground at that point I saw a pair of white canvas gloves partly pushed underneath. When I picked them up I saw a pair of brown leather gloves a little further underneath. I took them to the station where they remained until Wednesday when they turned them over to the coroner.

During the afternoon a search of the bank was made by a group. About half way down and approximately 20 feet East of the steps a green cloth bag was found. It contained Dr Sam Sheppard's wrist watch which appeared to be smeared with blood, his fraternity ring and key chain. The two Cleveland homicide men and myself went to the hospital to see Dr Sam. The watch had stopped at 4:15. Shottke asked him about his jewelry which he said he was wearing the night before. He also identified the bag as a tool bag that came with his Johnson outboard motor. He was told where they were found and claimed to remember nothing about them. The tools that may have been in the bag were on the floor near the desk in the den. Mrs Sheppard's wrist watch, also blood stained was on the floor near the tools. Earlier in the day shortly after Dr Gerber had arrived he wished to go to the hospital. I took him there and left to change clothes. When I came back Dr Gerber came out of the hospital and had Dr Sam's clothes which he turned over to me. These I inventoried and locked up. Later I turned them over to the coroner. The rest of the day I spent searching the house with others. \$32.00 was found in a copper mug on a shelf in the den. No money was found in Mrs Sheppard's

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