Cleveland Police Report, December 11, 1954, discussing several matters including a conversation with Bay View's Dr. Carver who was called to the Sheppard home on the morning of the murder

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Sir:

This date further investigated the homicide of MARYLIN SHEPPARD, and at this time went to the County Prosecutor’s Offices and with Mr. Mahon reviewed the circumstances of the case as known by DR. ROBERT CARVER, now residing at Box #888, Lakeside, Ohio (Telephone: Marblehead 2323). DR. CARVER states that he knew that the reason he was sent to the Shappard home on the morning of July 4th, 1954 is that a telephone call was received by Dr. Brill stating that Dr. Dozier and some interns should go immediately to the Shappard home. Dr. Carver continues that upon arrival at the hospital he went into the living room, returning to the den where he was pressed into service by Dr. Steve who asked for assistance in removing SAM to the station wagon. Dr. Steve was on SAM’S right side and SAM’S right arm was about STEVE’S shoulder. Dr. Carver was on the left side, and he had his arm about SAM supporting him under his arm, and DR. SAM had his left arm bent at the elbow, supporting his neck.

Further, that during the trip to the hospital there was no conversation of any kind, and although there may have been moaning from SAM nothing could hear was intelligible. Upon the arrival at the Bay View Hospital everything was pretty much as we knew it to be, and Dr. Carver states that he helped undress SAM, and that he accompanied him up to X-Ray. Although Dr. Carver states that he made no extensive examination of SAM’S neck, he did assist putting on the velvet collar, and at that time saw no swelling in the area of the right neck. Further, that that was the last time he saw SAM until after SAM had been discharged from the hospital and returned to work. Dr. Carver also said that he examined the X-ray plates while they were still wet, and that it did appear to him as if there was a chip fracture of the 2nd cervical vertebrae, but that it also could have been what he termed a “calcified tendon.” He admits he is no authority in this connection, and said that we should talk with a radiologist for more specific information.

He was questioned concerning distances required on X-ray exposures being taken and although he again admits he is no authority, he states that it is his understanding that the closer you get with the X-ray camera, the more the rays tend to shoot out at angles and therefore tend to exaggerate unduly any detail it intercepts. Therefore, conversely, the further away the X-ray camera is from the plate (with limitations because of the weakening effect caused by too great a distance) the more nearly parallel the X-rays are, and therefore the more exact they will show the detail.

Dr. Carver states that he has talked to DR. SAM and Attorney Corrigan on numerous occasions regarding the above story, and states that he is NOT under subpoena by the defense, nor does he think he will be called. The last time he conversed with Mr. Corrigan was on October 7, 1954 when he was called down to Bay View Hospital and questioned, as were all employees in the hospital at that time.

(Continued)
He was also questioned about a type of neurological hammer which has been brought to our attention by MRS. COONEY, who stated that both SUE HAYES and DR. CARVER knew about the hammer, describing an incident in which SUE spun the instrument about, claiming that "she was Dr. Sheppard." This has been checked with SUE HAYES who remembered the incident, but could not tell us what the instrument was. DR. CARVER states that to the best of his memory this incident did occur and that the instrument referred to is a common ordinary neurological hammer, with no modifications. He doesn't think that DR. SAM SHEPPARD had any such instrument which was different from the ordinary run of instruments, and from his description of what he recalls this instrument to be, it could not have been the instrument we have been looking for which was used to commit MARILYN'S murder.

Then had a conversation with JOHN MAHON concerning the possibility of using DR. SPENCER BRADEN, and the copy of DR. BRADEN'S report, which was in our regular police file, was turned over to MR. MAHON for his perusal over the coming weekend. It was tentatively agreed that he may be used on rebuttal but MR. MAHON is going to reread this report.

It was also suggested to the prosecutors that nothing concerning the fact that relatively new blood and blood spots can be removed from fabric by soaking in cold water, and it was agreed that this subject would be breached to DR. SAM SHEPPARD, and if the results obtained were not satisfactory that a rebuttal witness would have to be used in this connection.

Conversation also had with JOHN MAHON & TOM PARRINO regarding the missing T shirt, and it was suggested to MR. MAHON by MR. PARRINO & myself that this phase of the investigation has been unnecessary as the suspect was not wearing a T shirt at the time of the murder, but rather had taken it off sometime before the actual murder. In this connection it was thought that no mention of this possibility would be discussed in the first half of the closing arguments (which are to be made by MR. PARRINO), but to be saved until the last half of the closing arguments (by MR. MAHON) when there was no possibility of the defense disputing this claim.

It was requested by MR. DANACEAU that certain information concerning a somewhat similar case which had occurred about July 4th near Pontiac, Michigan. The circumstances of the case were that one JOAN BEATTIE, 3211 Dixie Highway, Pontiac, Michigan (OREGON 3-1912) had been severely beaten with a claw hammer by some unknown assailant (thought to be sometime in June 1954 at the time of the Marciano fight). Due to the similarity MR. DANACEAU wondered whether it had been checked out, or not. From my recollection, and I wasn't able to verify it at this time from our records, it would seem that there was an anonymous letter received sometime during this investigation containing such a reference.

(Continued)
On my instructions, following orders from MR. PARRINO, I had Detective Gareau contact MRS. DONNA BAILEY at her home in Montebella, Los Angeles, California, and he will make a report setting forth his conversation with this subject. She was instructed to send a special deliver, air mail letter to MR. PARRINO containing information he requested.

Contacted SERGT. JAY HUBACH at Bay Village, and asked of him whether he was present at the time of the fire in the Sheppard home in March, 1953, but learned that he wasn't. It was requested of him that he contact the chief of the Fire Department and ascertain what material was used to put the fire out (water, chemical, etc.). Further, that if water alone was used to find out whether the fire records showed the amount of water pumped into the house. He will do so and contact us Monday.

Then contacted MR. DONALD VOLK at his home and he stated that following my departure from the WEST SIDE CARPET CLEANING COMPANY yesterday, he found one record dated July 10, 1953, which indicated that was the time when the section of the living room rug was re-layed. He said that he was going to the office later today to check his 1953 records and will contact us at that time.

While talking to MR. VOLK learned that the name of the material used for rug cleaning is simply called a detergent, which they purchase from the CERTIFIED CHEMICAL COMPANY, RN 1-7811 and that the detergent used in cleaning rugs at the plant or in the home differs only to the extent that a material is added which speeds up the drying time when the cleaning is done in the home.

I then contacted MR. JOE CONWAY at the CERTIFIED CHEMICAL COMPANY and informed him that I would have MARY COWAN call immediately and with her knowledge of the materials she had been using to find blood in the Sheppard home, that she and MR. CONWAY could talk over the chemicals present in the detergent used on the Sheppard rugs. Actually, no direct reference was made to the word "SHEPARD" when talking with MR. CONWAY. After MISS COWAN questioned MR. CONWAY, she called back to say that she had made some tentative findings, but wanted to obtain samples of the detergent and conduct experiments of her own. She was satisfied at this time:

1) If the blood spot was old, ordinary cleaning would not remove it, however,
2) She doesn't know if it might alter this stain enough so that you would or would not get a positive to blood, also,
3) She is reasonably certain at this time that the detergent would NOT give a false positive for blood, but will experiment on this angle.

Respectfully,

[Signature]
Sergt.