



7-12-1954

## 54/07/12 Saw Bay Home Lighted at 2:30, Before Murder

Cleveland Press

### How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!

Follow this and additional works at: [http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper\\_coverage](http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage)

---

### Recommended Citation

Cleveland Press, "54/07/12 Saw Bay Home Lighted at 2:30, Before Murder" (1954). *All Articles*. Book 49.  
[http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper\\_coverage/49](http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage/49)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newspaper Coverage at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Articles by an authorized administrator of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact [library.es@csuohio.edu](mailto:library.es@csuohio.edu).

# SAW BAY HOME LIGHTED AT 2:30, BEFORE MURDER



"THESE PEOPLE NEED ME," Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard said today as he saw patients at Bay View Hospital for the first time since his wife's murder. Sheppard examined Miss Olive M. Bright, 29-year-old Rocky River woman, for whom he planned an operation to drain a brain cyst. (Story on Page 9).

## Passersby Report 3 Rooms Lit Up

Lights were on in the Sheppard home between 2 and 2:30 on the murder morning, The Press learned today.

The disclosure sent the investigation into the murder of Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard in a new direction.

Previously officials had been told Dr. Sheppard fell asleep on a downstairs couch at 11 p. m. and was awakened from a sound sleep by his wife's screams around 4 a. m.

Bay Village police had information from neighbors that the Sheppard home at 28924 Lake Rd. was in total darkness before 2 a. m.

Seeing the lights was reported by Mr. and Mrs. Jay L. Bender of 294 Ruth St., Bay Village.

"This is very significant," said Coroner Samuel R. Gerber, who placed the time of the killing between 3:10 and 4 a. m. "It is very unlikely that a burglar would enter a house where there were lights on."

The killing was reported by Dr. Sheppard at about 5:50 a. m. He said he had been injured and knocked unconscious twice while grappling with a maniacal murderer.

"We were coming home from visiting friends in Aurora," Mrs. Bender recalled. "Our six-year-old daughter, Gay, was with us. I remember noticing that there weren't any lights on in the homes on Lake Rd. until we got to the Sheppard house."

### Wore White Shirt

Mrs. Bender recalls the lighted rooms as the downstairs study, a living room light and a third light on upstairs.

Dr. Gerber said a light had been burning all night in a lamp on a dresser in a sitting room on the second floor, near the murder bedroom, but this was the first definite testimony that other lights were on in the house so close to the moment of murder.

Tests by Bay Village police indicated that, with that dim light, it would have been impossible for anyone to make out the form of a person clad in dark clothes in the bedroom — although a white shirt would have been visible.

### Recalls Three Lights

Dr. Sheppard described the assassin as tall and bushy haired, wearing a white shirt.

Mrs. Bender said she hadn't reported the light sooner, because "it wasn't unusual to see lights on at night there."

Dr. Gerber said he was increasingly puzzled by the inability of a fingerprint expert to find "even the ordinary prints that appear in any ordinary home" in the murder house.

Meanwhile, County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan rapped what he termed "bungling" of the investigation.

He said the killer's trail was permitted to "grow cold" while questioning of the husband of the slain woman was delayed

Turn to Page 8, Column 1

# Say Bay Home Lighted Near Hour of Murder

(Continued From Page One)

four days last week while he was confined to his family-operated Bay View Hospital.

Investigators today continued probing into the most intimate personal details of the lives of the 30-year-old osteopath and his wife in quest of information that might help solve the puzzling mystery.

Dr. Sheppard denied that there was any "jealousy" in his home.

He said many men had "made advances" to Marilyn, but that his personal reaction was that he was "quite pleased" that others, too, considered his wife attractive.

"I could understand why other men wanted to date her," he said. "But she handled such

situations very well. I had no reason to be jealous."

Marilyn, Dr. Sheppard told the murder investigators, had a pleasant way of fending off the advances of other men, with such remarks as: "Down, boy. . . ." "Be careful, now," . . . or, "Let's not break up a friendship over some silly chatter."

A handsome man himself, Dr. Sheppard had some discussions with his wife about his relations with other women, he told his questioners, but insisted that she accepted his honest assurances that there was no "other woman" in his life.

"Marilyn is the only woman I ever loved or will love," he insisted.

Assistant Prosecutor John J. Mahon said several persons who have been questioned in the case for information about the once private lives of the Sheppards would be asked to submit to lie detector tests.

"It is a fundamental proposition that anyone telling the truth would have no fear of taking a lie detector test or assisting the authorities in any way," he said.

Assistant Prosecutor Thomas Parrino said the investigators were "beginning to develop some pretty 'concrete ideas.'" The lie detector tests were being suggested, he said, because of some discrepancies in various statements.

Dr. Sheppard himself stuck to his previous refusal to take a lie detector test. "Because of the emotional strain I have suffered," he said, "the lie detector would be very unreliable. . ."

### Maid Questioned

Mrs. Elnora Helms, 43, of 12211 Brookfield Ave., a maid who worked one day a week at the Sheppard home for the past two and a half years, gave a statement to Parrino today.

"They were like sweethearts," she said, describing the relationship of Dr. Sheppard and his slain wife. "They had no problems that I knew anything about."

Mrs. Helms said she and Mrs. Sheppard worked together in cleaning. She had high praise for her former employer.

Parrino said Mrs. Helms gave him "some information, but nothing of a startling nature."

ously denied this when questioned.

Dr. Sheppard said during a nine-hour interrogation Saturday at the Criminal Courts Bldg. that Marilyn, who was four months pregnant at the time of her death, had learned of her approaching parenthood two months earlier, when ex-

amined by her father-in-law, Dr. Richard A. Sheppard.

Eaton said maintenance men who cleaned nearby Huntington Park will be interviewed to see if they have any information that might help.

Cullitan said he and his staff had not been called in on the early phases of the investigation. In fact, he said, they learned about the murder only by reading the newspapers.

Mahon added that "the psychological time" to press the questioning of Dr. Sheppard was immediately after the slaying, while the vivid memories

were fresh in his mind.

Dr. Gerber pointed out that Dr. Sheppard was quizzed immediately after the murder, and gave virtually the same account he now is repeating.

"This," Dr. Gerber added, "is the first time in my 19 years as coroner that the prosecutors have ever taken part in the investigation of a crime before an indictment was returned, with the exception of some police cases and others that the prosecutor initiated."

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ahern, friends of the Sheppards, who were at the home until possibly four hours before the murder, were questioned separately by Parrino today at the prosecutor's office.



**FRIEND** Donald Ahern arrives at Criminal Courts Bldg. to repeat account of evening party at Sheppard home.



**MRS. NANCY AHERN** told prosecutor how she and husband spent social evening at Sheppard home.

## Will Visit Hospital

Deputy Sheriff Carl Rossbach and Bay Village Police Chief John Eaton planned to question staff members of the Bay View Hospital and Bay Village neighbors of the Sheppards.

An effort also will be made to contact a former hospital employee. Dr. Sheppard said he drove her to a wedding in 1950 and later bought a watch to replace one she lost there. This gift, he said, was questioned by Mrs. Sheppard, but it was "no major disagreement."

Dr. Sheppard told Rossbach the woman now is married and living in California.

Dr. Gerber ordered that no one but investigators be permitted to enter the Lake Rd. murder house. The ban includes Dr. Sheppard and members of his family.

Bloodstains on the back porch and the stairs leading to the second floor bedroom were analyzed carefully, but the tests answered none of the case's puzzling questions, Dr. Gerber said.

Nothing of significance had resulted from analysis of a pair of pigskin gloves owned by Dr. Sheppard found near the beach house, the coroner said.

## Sand Found in Shoes

He added that sand had been found in Dr. Sheppard's shoes, worn at the time of the slaying. This substantiated part of Dr. Sheppard's account of how he chased the assassin down to the beach, where he said he was knocked unconscious in a desperate struggle.

Investigators also were running down "all possible leads" on anyone who might have had a real or imaginary grievance against Dr. Sheppard and his wife.

One voluntary informant suggested that a former patient was disgruntled, but the former patient named vigor-