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Press 8-12-54

Coast "Parents" Bare Sheppard Split

By HENRY D. OSBORNE
Press Special Writer

PASADENA, Aug. 12 — A sharp split in the marital relations of Sam and Marilyn Sheppard during their West Coast visit last March was disclosed today by a couple Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard called his "California parents."

It was during this visit that Dr. Sheppard was intimate with Susan Hayes, 24, former Bay View Hospital laboratory technician, while his wife, Marilyn, was with friends at a Monterey ranch 350 miles away. Dr. Sheppard is now charged with his wife's murder in their Bay Village home.

The friends who related the Sheppard family discord to Pasadena detectives were Dr. and Mrs. George L. Hampton, who recalled attending Sam and Marilyn's wedding in 1945 and a reception at the swank Town House.

Recalls Doctor's Visit

During his last West Coast visit, Mrs. Hampton said, Dr. Sheppard came to her home for lunch one day, driving his new Jaguar sports car.

When she asked where Marilyn was, Mrs. Hampton continued, Dr. Sheppard replied that his wife was at the Dr. Randall Chapman ranch in the Monterey mountains, and added angrily: "Why don't you write her and see if you can get her to come down here—I can't . . ."

Mrs. Hampton said she was "shocked" by his statement, but didn't inquire into it. She did write a note to Marilyn, she said, but it was returned because of a faulty address.

Tells of Difficulties

The friend recalled Marilyn as a "very loyal, quiet and lovely girl" who at one time confided to her that "Sam was getting difficult, but she was confident she could handle him . . . and that 'he won't be able to get by with everything he thinks he may' . . ."

Mrs. Hampton reluctantly added: "We did hear that Sam was chasing around with other women the last year he was here, but I don't like to say anything like that because it was only hearsay . . ."

It was in 1950, just before the Sheppards moved back to Cleveland from Los Angeles, that Marilyn considered obtaining a divorce, but was dissuaded by relatives "for the sake of Chip," her only son.

Mrs. Hampton told me the Pasadena detectives misunder-

stood her description of how Dr. Sheppard brought a woman identified only as "Sandy" to dinner at her home.

The police version was that the doctor came alone with "Sandy," introducing her as "a friend of Marilyn's" who was on the West Coast looking for a job.

Mrs. Hampton said both Sam and Marilyn came with "Sandy," and the other woman was a Cleveland classmate of Mrs. Sheppard's.

"Sandy" was identified as Mrs. Sandra Kelly, wife of Bob Kelly, pitcher for the Indian-

apolis Indians baseball team.) The Hamptons met Dr. Sam through their son, Dr. Robert Hampton, who was a member of Dr. Sheppard's class at the Los Angeles College of Osteopathic Physicians.

Sam Called Handsome

"All women thought Sam was handsome," Mrs. Hampton said, "and he could have the pick of any he wanted to take out."

Before Marilyn came west to

marry him, Sam wrote her every day, Mrs. Hampton said.

Dr. Robert Hampton, who was Sam's college roommate, said Dr. Sheppard was "a terrifically sound sleeper who virtually died when he went to bed—nothing would or could disturb him."

The Sheppards frequently brought Chip to visit at her home, Mrs. Hampton added, and he called her and her husband "grandpa and grandma."