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Bay Still Divided
On Guilt of Sam

BY HOWARD BEAUFAIT

Bay Village once again has settled back into its green well-to-do calm. But its scars are deep.

It was a year ago today that the quiet west shore suburb was struck by the lightning of an extraordinary crime of violence—the murder of Marilyn Shepard.

The village swept to notoriety last July 4 in the thunderclap of headlines that swept its name around the world. Its 12,000 population of average men and women was divided over the guilt or innocence of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard.

There are those today who will tell you—
"They got the right man. He killed his wife all right... His story about a burglar was the bunk."

"Sam Sheppard couldn't do such a thing. Why, he was devoted to saving life, not taking it away. He loved Marilyn."

And then occasionally the visitor to Bay Village will hear one of its residents say thoughtfully:
"I just don't know. Many of the facts are compatible with Sam's guilt—but they could also indicate his innocence."

And there you are.

It is doubtful if anyone will ever know for sure what actually happened in that rambling, white house at 28924 West Lake Rd., a year ago today...

Live Down Notoriety

In the ensuing year while Bay Village has been trying to forget its harsh notoriety, much talk and many events have run away under the bridges of time.

Dr. Sam was convicted of the brutal killing of his wife by a jury that was praised for its diligence. His lawyers are still engaged in a $100,000 legal fight to break the verdict, get him a new trial and save him from the Ohio Penitentiary... His mother committed suicide without mentioning his name... His father died of an internal hemorrhage.

Susan Hayes has gone back to California to mend the broken pieces of her life.

County Detective Carl Ross—Continued on Page 4, Column 5
barch, who spent so much time and energy trying to penetrate the mystery of the crime, died of a heart attack.

Outwardly, the passing year has not changed the six-foot handsome, romantic fellow known as Brother Sam. He looks about the same today as he was a year ago. He still wears a sweating, blue slacks with an elastic waist and a white T-shirt. In cell block A with him are 21 other prisoners, including four bank robbers, a couple of thieves, and a miscellaneous group of other criminals.

A few days ago, when he was 31 years old, Dr. Sheppard's case was argued at the Ohio Penitentiary. He has now been in prison for 26 days. But it is "lost time" and does not count against his life sentence which must be served in the Penitentiary.

Occupies Small Cell

The six-foot hunk, 31-year-old doctor of osteopathy occupies a cell that is barely seven feet square. He wears a sweat shirt, white slacks and an elastic waist belt. In cell block B with him are 21 other prisoners, including four bank robbers, a couple of thieves, and a miscellaneous group of other criminals.

Three boys who are sons of God. Mrs. Peyton said her son had resigned a church job, had been employed in a plant, but returned Friday to West Virginia.

"Leslie thought he needed the setting of a church to mend himself," she said. "I have three boys who are sons of God."

At the age of 30 he was a dash-ranger, romantic, handsome fellow with an income of $33,000 a year as an osteopathic surgeon. At 21 he was a broken man, convicted of a capital crime and serving a life sentence for painting.

House Mirrors Tragedy

Today, on the anniversary of his wife's death, Dr. Sheppard's thoughts, too, must return to the white home on the lakefront where he spent some of the happiest and most tragic times of his life. At the age of 30 he was a dash-ranger, romantic, handsome fellow with an income of $33,000 a year as an osteopathic surgeon. At 21 he was a broken man, convicted of a capital crime and serving a life sentence for painting.

The scene of violence, horror in Marilyn Sheppard's bedroom, whether it was created by her husband or a murderous burglar, must flash again before the eyes of her husband today, as it will every fourth of July as he lives. Dr. Sam is not lonely.
Visited by Family

His brothers and their wives see him once a week and bring him fruit, pipe tobacco, magazines and books. Mrs. Guilford Brown, an aunt of murdered Marilyn Sheppard, also visits the prisoner regularly.

Dr. Sam’s spectacular case has also attracted two ministers who never heard of him until he was engulfed by the criminal business at his Bay Village home. They are the Rev. Drew Roberts and the Rev. Leslie Peyton. Neither have churches.

Rev. Roberts, 33, a serene man with a full black beard first appeared at the County Jail last Feb. 6 and was there with Dr. Sam from 6:10 p.m. to 8:10 p.m. He has been there at least once a week ever since and usually brings a large bag of fruit.

Rev. Roberts is employed in the tool and die department of the Ford plant at Walton Hills. After work he said he has about 20 people to whom he gives spiritual consolation.

Prays with Dr. Sam

“God leads me where to go,” he said. “God told me to visit Dr. Sam through fasting and prayer.”

The prisoner and the minister call each other Brother Roberts and Brother Sam. While Rev. Roberts said he started out as a “Free Baptist,” he has now taken up the doctrines of the Seventh Day Adventists.

Dr. Sam and Brother Roberts open their meeting in a private interview cell by kneeling in prayer. They close the meeting in the same manner.