

7-20-1954

54/07/20 Getting Away With Murder

Cleveland Press

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

Follow this and additional works at: http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/sheppard_maxwell_articles

Recommended Citation

Cleveland Press, "54/07/20 Getting Away With Murder" (1954). *Articles cited in Sheppard v. Maxwell*. Book 15.
http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/sheppard_maxwell_articles/15

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Newspaper Coverage at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Articles cited in Sheppard v. Maxwell by an authorized administrator of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact library.es@csuohio.edu.



Getting Away With Murder

AN EDITORIAL

What's the matter with the law enforcement authorities of Cuyahoga County?

Have they lost their sense of reason?—or at least inexcusably set aside the realization of what they are hired to do, and for whom they work?

If ever a murder case was studded with fumbling, halting, stupid, uncooperative bungling—politeness to people whose place in this situation completely justified vigorous searching, prompt and effective police work—the Sheppard case has them all.

Was the murder of Mrs. Sheppard a polite matter?

Did the killer make a dutiful bow to the authorities and then proceed brutally to destroy the young child-bearing wife?

Why all of this sham, hypocrisy, politeness, criss-crossing of pomp and protocol in this case?

Who is trying to deceive whom?

From the very beginning of this case—from the first hour that the murder became known to the authori-

ties by a telephone call from the husband to the town mayor—from that moment on and including this, the case has been one of the worst in local crime history.

Of course the trail is cold. Of course the clues have been virtually erased by the killer. Of course the whole thing is botched up so badly that head or tail cannot be made of it.

In the background of this case are friendships, relationships, hired lawyers, a husband who ought to have been subjected instantly to the same third-degree to which any other person under similar circumstances is subjected, and a whole string of special and bewildering extra-privileged courtesies that should never be extended by authorities investigating a murder—the most serious, and sickening crime of all.

The spectacle of a whole community watching a batch of law enforcement officials fumbling around, stumbling over one another, bowing and scraping in the presence of people they ought to be dealing with just as firmly as any other persons in any other crime—that spectacle is not only becoming a stench but a

serious threat to the dignity of law enforcement itself.

Coroner Sam Gerber was never more right than when yesterday he said that the killer must be laughing secretly at the whole spectacle—the spectacle of a community of a million and a half people brought to indignant frustration by Mrs. Sheppard's killer in that white house out in Bay Village.

Why shouldn't he chuckle? Why shouldn't he cover up, shut up, conceal himself behind the circle of protecting people?

What's the matter with us in Cuyahoga County? Who are we afraid of? Why do we have to kow-tow to a set of circumstances and people where a murder has been committed?

It's time that somebody smashed into this situation and tore aside this restraining curtain of sham, politeness and hypocrisy and went at the business of solving a murder—and quit this nonsense of artificial politeness that has not been extended to any other murder case in generations.