



CSU
College of Law Library

Cleveland State University
EngagedScholarship@CSU

[All Articles](#)

[Newspaper Coverage](#)

8-8-1954

54/08/08 'Admirer' Refuses Lie Test

Cleveland Plain Dealer

Follow this and additional works at: https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Recommended Citation

Cleveland Plain Dealer, "54/08/08 'Admirer' Refuses Lie Test" (1954). *All Articles*. 155.

https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage/155

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.



REFUSES LIE TEST

Osteopathy Student Balks After Tale of Suspect in Sheppard Case

A 20-year-old admirer of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard yesterday refused to take a lie detector test to back up his story about a possible new suspect in the Marilyn Sheppard murder.

Gervase M. (Gerry) Flick, an osteopathy student, was asked three times by Deputy Inspector James E. McArthur to take the polygraph test but refused.

"We cannot attach any significance to his story whatsoever," McArthur said.

Flick left Central Police Station after being questioned by detectives.

Tells of Hitch-Hiker

The youth had told police that on July 4—the morning of which Mrs. Sheppard was found brutally hacked to death in her home, 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village—he was driving to Erie, Pa.

He said that he picked up a well-dressed hitch-hiker near Conneaut and that the man discussed the Sheppard killing with him. Flick let the man off in Erie, where the hiker was going to get a train to New York.

Flick concluded that the man was the murderer since he had knowledge of the killing before any widespread reports had been made in newspapers or on the radio or television.

Waits Until Aug. 6

McArthur pointed out that Flick had waited until Aug. 6—Friday—to come forward with his tale.

Flick visited Dr. Sam in his County Jail cell Friday afternoon and later talked to members of the Sheppard family before going to see McArthur. He said he came to the police at the suggestion of William J. Corrigan, one of Dr. Sam's lawyers.

"He is either an individual who wants to join the parade or is hoping to divert attention from a man whom he admires very much," McArthur said.

Offered Use of Car

Flick told police that Dr. Sam had offered to let the youth use the doctor's Jaguar sports car while the osteopath was in jail, McArthur added.

The youth was a personal friend of Dr. Sam and his murdered wife, the detective chief added.

Flick was asked to take the lie detector test because he was told it was necessary to evaluate what he was telling police, McArthur said, but refused to take the test.

The youth, whose father, Dr. Gervase C. Flick, is a radiologist at Bay View Hospital, lives at 3137 Rocky River Drive N. W. He has been studying at the Kirksville School of Osteopathy in Missouri.

Corrigan Visits Home

Corrigan meanwhile visited the Sheppard lake-front home briefly. Arriving at 4:30 p. m., he was accompanied by Fred W. Garmone, another of Dr. Sam's battery of lawyers.

They wandered about the property for five minutes and immediately left when met by a Plain Dealer reporter.

The lawyers said they were just looking around. Corrigan pointed out that some garage

(Continued on Page 13, Column 4)

'ADMIRER' TURNS DOWN LIE TEST

Youth Refuses After Tale of Bay Murder Suspect

(Continued From First Page)

windows had been broken and suggested that someone might have done this recently.

Earlier in the day Sheppard's counsel had filed an affidavit of prejudice against Gershom M. M. Barber, president of the Bay Village Council. Barber was slated to hold the preliminary hearing on the first-degree murder charge against Dr. Sam tomorrow morning at 10 at the Bay City Hall.

The affidavit charged that there was "bias and prejudice" on the part of Barber. It said that Barber was interested in the case and that he had made statements, public and private, "indicating his opinion of the guilt of the defendant."

"Disqualified"

It further alleged that Barber had said Dr. Sam received preferred treatment at the hands of Bay Village officials.

"Barber is disqualified to hear and determine the case," the affidavit contended.

The affidavit also said that at the time Dr. Sam was charged Barber refused to wait for Dr. Sam's counsel at the City Hall, but ordered the osteopath to jail "although he knew that the counsel for the accused was on his way."

Common Pleas Judge Frank J. Merrick will conduct a hearing on the affidavit at 10:15 tomorrow morning in Room 1, Lakeside Avenue Courthouse.

Spectators Barred

Dr. Sam will be brought from County Jail to the hearing.

Judge Merrick said no spectators would be admitted. Only lawyers and newsmen will be permitted to attend.

Barber issued the first-degree murder warrant when Mayor J. Spencer Houk of Bay Village disqualified himself from the case because he was a material witness.

The Council president then acted in his place and was to have conducted the hearing tomorrow to determine if "probable cause" exists to bind Sheppard over to the county grand jury.

Normal Time Limit

Under the law a person must be given a preliminary hearing within 10 days after the issuance of a murder warrant. Tomorrow is the time limit normally set under this provision.

However, the affidavit of prejudice takes precedence over the hearing. Even though more than 10 days elapse, the warrant is still in effect and the hearing is to be held after disposal of the affidavit issue.

Judge Merrick may rule that Barber is prejudiced. In this case the preliminary hearing could be transferred to another suburban mayor's court or to the Cleveland Municipal Court.

Checks Narcotic Records

Raymond J. Ripberger, head of the federal narcotics bureau here, said he had checked the narcotic records at Bay View Hospital. He also said he had talked to Dr. Sam and his brothers, Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard and Dr. Richard N. Sheppard.

"In the overall picture, I cannot see that the narcotic situation has anything to do with the murder," Ripberger said.

He said he would make a complete report to Dr. Samuel R. Gerber, county coroner, who requested the check.

Meanwhile, Dr. Sam was reported unhappy in his fourth-floor cell at the jail. Flick said

the doctor thought that sanitary conditions could be better.

Sheriff Joseph M. Sweeney said Dr. Sheppard was "just another prisoner" and would have to adjust himself to jail life.

Chased off Lawn

Bay Village police last night chased 20 curiosity seekers off of the Sheppard lawn. The curious had ducked under the rope that encircles the property and were wandering around when Patrolman Gerhard Deutschlander appeared and ordered them off.

A light—apparently forgotten by an investigator—glowed from a second-floor window.

In Los Angeles police still had not found the mysterious "Mar-

go" sought for questioning about her reported friendship with Dr. Sam while he was living there in 1950.

Despite wide publicity on the search, Margo had not come forward to tell her story.