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54/08/11 New Quiz Faced By Vital Witness

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Police to Check Findings in Murder Probe

Police will question an "important witness" in the Marilyn Sheppard murder case regarding "new information" linked to the Bay Village bludgeon slaying, it was learned last night.

The woman is believed to have intimate knowledge of recent relationships between Marilyn and her husband, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, accused of hacking her to death July 4.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles police intelligence officers were preparing to question a woman—not a girl friend of Dr. Sam's—in connection with the case.

Was Close Friend?

The woman may supply information regarding the Sheppards when they lived in California. She is reported to have been a close friend of Dr. and Mrs. Sheppard and of their acquaintances, but has not figured in the case heretofore.

Her knowledge covers the period of 1944 to 1948, when Dr. Sam was attending the College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons at Los Angeles, and from 1948 to 1951, when the doctor was an intern at the Los Angeles County General Hospital.

Los Angeles police have been checking the background of Dr. Sam while he was living there. They have talked to instructors who taught him at the college in an effort to determine his temperament.

Double Check Case

Police here continued to touch up fine points of their investigation, considered about completed.

Pitted against William J. Corrigan, crack criminal lawyer, with a reputation for thoroughness, investigators are double checking to eliminate any ragged edges in their case, largely circumstantial.

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Corrigan complained last night that police would not listen to leads he might offer on possible other suspects.

Suggests Inquiry

He told the Plain Dealer a man recently killed in an automobile accident who was said to hold a grudge against the Sheppard family. Corrigan suggested that the background of the man, who lived near Dr. Sam's home, be investigated.

Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, a brother of Dr. Sam, suggested police recheck the story of a doctor formerly at Bay View Hospital, who figured in the case earlier.

He also urged that police look into a news report about a man carrying a meat cleaver and .22-caliber rifle who held a family of five captive for 13 hours near Washington.

Quoted By Police

The man was quoted by police, according to the Associated Press, as telling his prisoners, "I'm wanted for murder and won't hesitate to kill any of you.

County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan conferred with Police Chief Frank W. Story and Deputy Inspector James E. McArthur. They turned over to Cullitan a file on the case.

Participating in the conference were Assistant Prosecutors John J. Mahon and Saul S. Danz.

The officers told Cullitan that they believed they had gathered sufficient evidence for a warrant against Dr. Sheppard of killing his wife before dawn on the Fourth of July in the Sheppard home, 207 West Lake Road, Bay Village.

Cullitan has held that there is no need for haste in taking the case to the grand jury.

There is little disposition to rush the case to the grand jury before the preliminary hearing of William J. Corrigan, crack criminal lawyer, who has charged that police conspired against Dr. Sheppard.

This hearing awaits disposal of an application for an affidavit of prejudice against Gerahm M. Terry, former assistant prosecutor, and of Dr. Sam's family, who presided over the grand jury last week at City Hall.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles police have been checking the background of M. Barber, the preliminary hearing was scheduled for tomorrow morning at 10:15 before Common Pleas Judge Frank J. Merrick, who sits in the courthouse.

Corrigan has charged that Barber is biased against Sheppard, and has a vendetta against the Sheppard family. He has complained last night that the prosecutor was "biased against" the Sheppards.

The preliminary hearing was before the superior court or Dr. Sam's father, Richard Hexter, president, before whom the preliminary hearing was slated to be held.

Hearing on the affidavit request is scheduled for tomorrow morning at 10:15 before Common Pleas Judge Frank J. Merrick, who sits in the courthouse.

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