7-17-2018

54/07/17 'Crime Doctor' Charts Murder Motive Hunt

Cleveland News

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
https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage/247
Scientists Gets 'Advisor' Role With Probers

BY SANFORD SOBUL

Dr. Alan R. Moritz, the nationally-famed "Crime Doctor," will serve in an advisory capacity to both city and county authorities during the current Marilyn Sheppard murder probe, Coroner Samuel R. Gerber announced today.

"He will be available to assist anyone who seeks his help," Dr. Gerber added.

Earlier, Dr. Moritz, who entered the investigation earlier at the invitation of county officials following an open letter proposing it in The News, led a discussion of possible murder motives.

The discussion highlighted what Gerber described as an "administrative conference" of all city and county officials participating in the murder probe.

Meeting Clears Air

At its conclusion, Gerber told reporters:

"The air is now clear and everyone knows what everyone else is doing."

Gerber said everyone present agreed to work together in the investigation but that no one was being placed in charge. He said this was necessary because each party had obligations and requirements under state law which could not be delegated to someone else.

Discussion of possible motives was taken next after the police viewed more than 50 pictures taken at the scene immediately after the murder.

The pictures, including several color slides showing the young mother's bruised and battered body which had been hacked 27 times by the brutal killer, were shown at County Morgue by Coroner Samuel R. Gerber.

The pictures brought to light for the first time that:

MRS. SHEPPARD'S killer was a right-handed person.

MURDEROUS ATTACK was launched as killer approached from the door-side of the victim's bed.

FOOTPRINTS FOUND on beach behind the Sheppard home were those of a person who leaned heavily on right foot.

CLOSET DOORS several feet from the murder bed were splattered with blood.

DRAWERS IN a living room desk were opened by killer but contents apparently undisturbed.

LEFT PAJAMA LEG was off whereas right pajama leg was pulled down.

The pictures also showed that Mrs. Sheppard, 31, had suffered two blackened eyes and a broken nose in the killer's vicious attack. Most of the 27 lacerations of her skull were on the front part of her head.

Photo Shows Folded Jacket

One of the pictures taken shows a folded jacket believed to have been worn earlier by the victim's husband, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard. The jacket was shown to reporters.
Sheppard, was folded neatly and propped against the wall on a couch on which he was sleeping. Police believe this photo to be significant since the jacket, which the surgeon may have been wearing because of the cool night, was found at the opposite end of the couch from where a pillow was found.

While the meeting was being held to co-ordinate investigation of the brutal murder:

**POLICE CHIEF** John P. Eaton sought the loan of an Army mine detector for use in the continuing search for the murder weapon.

**DR. SHEPPARD** told reporters he had "new information" to give Eaton in connection with the murder probe.

**GERBER AND POLICE CHIEF** Frank W. Story rejected a proposal that the Cleveland Police Department take over control of the probe.

In rejecting the proposal, Story assailed county and Bay Village officials for permitting promising leads in the investigation to be "pinched off" and questioning of the victim's husband to be delayed.

"I don't know why we should be asked to take over the investigation at this late date," Story told reporters as he entered the meeting.

Story made it clear that he was attending the meeting called by Gerber only as an "observer."

Others at the meetings at County Morgue were County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan and his two top aides, John J. Mahon and Thomas J. Parrino; County Sheriff Joseph M. Sweeney; County Detectives Carl E. Rossbach and David Yettra; Mayor J. Spencer Houk of Bay Village; and Police Chief John P. Eaton, Sgt. Jay Hubach and Patrolman Fred Drenkhan of the Bay Village police.

Story said he was opposed to having his department take over the murder probe because he questioned whether it had the authority to do so and because of the manner in which it has been handled to date.

"Why should we take over an investigation in which every promising lead has been pinched off," he declared.

Story said the biggest mistake in the investigation was made by police in not exercising their full authority and taking into custody a man because they were warned that they would be responsible for his condition.

**Shuns 'Fall Guy' Role**

"I can't see why we should be the fall guy for this investigation," Story declared. "Why should we be put in a position where the general public can say: 'Why even the Cleveland Police Department couldn't solve the murder,'" Story added.

The others participating in today's meeting have been involved in the probe since its inception early on the morning of July 4 when Mrs. Sheppard's brutally battered body was found in the bedroom of the family home at 28924 West Lake Rd. in Bay Village.

Her husband, an osteopathic surgeon, has told police that he fought with the murderer and finally was knocked unconscious on the Lake Erie beach behind the couple's home.

Dozens of leads have been checked during the past two weeks but the murder weapon has never been found and the identity of the killer is still a mystery.