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57/07/23 Gerber & Co. in Florida to Quiz Suspect

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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Gerber & Co. in Florida to Quiz Suspect Will Sift Evidence in Sheppard Case

By GEORGE J. BARMANN

Plain Dealer Staff Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.,

July 23 (Tuesday)—Cuyahoga County Coroner Samuel R. Gerber and two other important figures in the Samuel Sheppard murder case, here to sift new evidence, expect to polish off the job by tonight.

They arrived here early today to interview a 23-year-old man who says he killed Marilyn Sheppard.

Gerber and the others, told that Erle Stanley Gardner had withdrawn the "court" from the case, expressed surprise. But their faces bore a smile as though they were not shocked.

Soon after their arrival, they conferred with Sheriff Rodney B. Thursby. It was Thursby who notified Cleveland authorities that his prisoner had confessed murdering Mrs. Sheppard.

Gerber seemed determined to settle once and for all the question of whether a confession made by a prisoner in a jail at nearby Deland that he killed Marilyn Sheppard had any basis in fact.

"We're going over there and find out what this is all about first thing in the morning," he asserted.

Accompanying Gerber were former Cleveland Detective Chief James E. McArthur, Deputy Sheriff David Yettra, and reporters from three Cleveland newspapers.

The group will go direct to the Deland jail this morning.

Awaiting them is Donald Joseph Wedler, who has told Florida authorities he was in a Cleveland suburb the night of July 4, 1954, and attacked a woman in a robbery attempt.

Gardner and the "court" believe the woman may have been Marilyn Sheppard.

It was not known whether Cleveland reporters would be allowed to speak with Wedler. However, when Gardner and his lie test experts gave lie tests to Wedler, newsmen were present.