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54/07/26 Gerber Delays Quiz Of Sheppard's Son

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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GERBER DELAYS QUIZ OF SHEPPARD'S SON

CPD

7-26-54

Family and Doctor Facing Recall at Inquest

Young "Chip" Sheppard, 6, who slept through the hideous murder of his mother, Marilyn, in the next room, will not be called to testify at Coroner Samuel R. Gerber's inquest — "not for the present," the coroner announced late yesterday.

But Dr. Gerber will recall some of the witnesses he has questioned under oath already, he added. These will include members of the Sheppard family, and probably one will be the slain woman's husband, Dr. Samuel H.

The coroner held a strategy session at his office with Detective Chief James E. McArthur. He also requested his legal counsel for the inquest, Chief Assistant County Prosecutor Saul S. Danaceau, to check some fine points in the Ohio coroner's code.

McArthur Gets News

That was apparently after McArthur got some news from a Cleveland team of probers in California.

The news was that Miss Susan Hayes, 24, medical technician and a friend of Dr. Sheppard, had switched her story and that her account of her relationship with Dr. Sam did not jibe with what he had said at the inquest.

That would indicate that new questions were being formed for the husband of the murder victim.

Thomas J. Parrino, assistant county prosecutor who is combing the West Coast with a Cleveland detective, Robert F. Schottke, told the United Press: "The information I am sending to Cleveland may come out in the inquest tomorrow."

Homicide Capt. David E. Kerr who believes a good, thorough police questioning is usually worth 1,000 test tubes of laboratory facts—is due here today to take charge of field investigation.

He cut short his Cuba vacation to get into the case.

Other facts turned up and confirmed by Dr. Gerber yesterday were:

THE DEAD WOMAN left no will.

NO INSURANCE POLICY apparently was in force on her life.

THE DEATH HOME was purchased Aug. 1, 1951, for an indicated \$31,500, and it was put in Marilyn Sheppard's name.

THE \$15,500 MORTGAGE was paid off in just 2 1/2 years.

One of the mysteries Dr. Gerber and police want to solve is

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DELAYS QUIZZING

SHEPPARD'S SON

CPD 7-26-54 But Gerber Says Family and Doctor Face Recall

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what is or may be missing from the home, and especially from the bedroom where the pregnant woman was beaten to death.

Nobody has been able to give an accurate catalogue of what was normally in that room, Coroner Gerber said, outside of the big articles of furniture.

On the inquest witness list for today are Thomas S. Reese, father of the bludgeon victim, and Dr. and Mrs. Richard A. Sheppard, parents of her husband.

The coroner's inquiry is likely to run beyond today, Dr. Gerber indicated, with the recall of previous witnesses. It is being held in Normandy School, Normandy Road, Bay Village.

Others of the dead woman's family may be questioned apart from the official inquest, said Dr. Gerber.

The boy, called "Chip," or "Young Sam," was being brought here from a Pennsylvania summer camp by Mrs. Stephen A. Sheppard, an aunt who has already testified, for his appearance at the coroner's hearing.

Suggests Psychiatrist

Last week it was suggested by County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan that an expert child psychiatrist like Dr. Oscar B. Markey might be able to unearth from the mind of "Chip" some facts he might not have remembered for detectives.

He might recall, Cullitan said, some sound or cry which he heard only dimly on the murder night, and facts about the home now puzzling the detectives.

Two Cleveland detectives, Harold Boyette and John Popovic, were making a check in the home yesterday while their boss, Deputy Inspector McArthur, was conferring with Dr. Gerber.

Contemplates No Action

The board president of Bay View Hospital, where the Drs. Sheppard are on the staff, A. H. Laning, said the hospital contemplates no action as a result of the slaying of Dr. Sam's wife.

"Up to now there is no evidence that Sam was in any way involved," said Laning, recently back from an Alaska vacation, "except that this happened to a member of his family.

"He is a member of a wonderful family and a respected member of the staff. A person such as that couldn't have done this.

"I would not appeal to him to take a lie detector test. That is up to Sam and to his attorney. The doctor hasn't been given a break since this happened."