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54/08/07 Youth Quizzed In Murder Probe

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YOUTH QUIZZED IN MURDER PROBE

GAVE TIPS TO POLICE, HE SAYS

Sheppard 'Admirer,' 20,
Pays Surprise Call on
Physician at Jail

Gervase M. Flick, 20-year-old admirer of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, early this morning completed a long statement given homicide detectives investigating the Marilyn Sheppard murder.

"I gave them several leads," the slim, reddish-haired youth said as he left Central Police Station.

He would not discuss the nature of the leads he gave police in an eight-hour quiz session. Flick said he was to return today for further questioning.

Son of Doctor

Flick, son of a doctor on the Bay View Hospital staff, said he was in town visiting his home on July 4 but left later in the day.

The youth's questioning began shortly after he paid a surprise visit to Dr. Sam in his County Jail cell.

At that time he told the Plain Dealer he knew Dr. Sam "as a fine water skier and as a good car driver."

"But I know him best as a great doctor," he added.

Driven to Home

Apparently the youth went to Central Station after seeing Dr. Sam around 3 p. m.

He completed his statement and left the station at 1:15 a. m., being driven to his home, 3137 Rocky River Drive N. W., by Detective Arthur Pagel.

Flick said he was taking pre-medical courses at Colgate University and hoped to become an osteopath. He attributed to Dr. Sam the influence encouraging him to take up osteopathy.

His father, Dr. Gervase C. Flick, is a radiologist at Bay View.

Calls Self "Gerry"

A sister, Shula, who also works at the hospital, said early today that "our whole family admires Dr. Sam."

The statement given by the bespectacled young Flick, who calls himself "Gerry," was carefully gone over and corrected by him before he signed it.

Questioning him were Detective Lawrence Doran and Detective Sergt. Fred O'Malley.

The youth returned here three or four days ago, his sister said. He is taking some chemistry courses at Western Reserve University, she added.

Objections Rejected

Earlier, legal objections to Monday's preliminary hearing on the first-degree murder charge against Dr. Sam were brushed aside.

The Court of Appeals rejected the petition for a writ of prohibition filed by attorneys for the 30-year-old osteopath held in County Jail.

But Sheppard attorneys immediately started plans to erect a new roadblock in the form of an affidavit of prejudice. The lawyers said they would file the affidavit today against Gershom M. M. Barber, Bay Village Council president, whose right to conduct the hearing was established by the appellate court ruling.

Woman Is Cleared

The affidavit, which would be ruled on in Common Pleas Court, might delay the hearing beyond 10 a. m. Monday in the Bay City Hall.

While legal jousting was continuing, an attractive 32-year-old Detroit woman was cleared of any connection with Dr. Sam.

Mrs. Margot Pebbles was released by Detroit detectives after

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Youth Quizzed in Murder After Visiting Doctor's Cell

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voluntarily taking three lie detector tests.

The pretty brunette was questioned by Detective Lieut. Thomas Cochill, executive lieutenant of the Detroit homicide bureau, after a tipster had called police there saying she was the mysterious "Margo" sought in connection with the case.

Denies Knowing Doctor

The tipster said Mrs. Pebbles knew Dr. Sam and had spoken of her acquaintanceship with the doctor. Detective Sergt. John Ware and Detective John Zimmerman talked to Mrs. Pebbles at her apartment, and after she denied knowing Dr. Sam she agreed to go to Detroit police headquarters for more questioning.

Cleveland police were informed, and Detective Peter Becker flew to Detroit to join in the questioning.

After taking three tests on the polygraph, Lieut. Cochill said Mrs. Pebbles was "cleared entirely." The first two tests were said to have been inconclusive, but the third definitely bore out her denials.

Lieut. Cochill pointed out that Mrs. Pebbles was single at the time the mysterious Margo was said to have dated Dr. Sam in Los Angeles.

"This woman has nothing to hide," Lieut. Cochill said.

Deputy Inspector James E. McArthur said additional blood stains had been found "in various portions of the Sheppard property."

McArthur would not elaborate on this, refusing to say where on the property the blood was found, whether it was in the garage, beach house, grass or elsewhere.

Bay Law Director Richard S. Weygandt and six other investigators last night visited the Sheppard home for more than an hour, leaving at 10:15 p. m.

Others in the home at 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village, were Cleveland Detectives Patrick A. Gareau, Robert E. Schottke, Harold Boyett and William Lonchar, and Bay Police Sergt. Jay Hubach and Patrolman Fred F. Drenkhan.

Map New Move

Timothy F. McMahan, defense attorney who lost a plea for the writ of prohibition against Barber, said he and William J. Corrigan, chief Sheppard counsel, had decided to attack Barber on new grounds within an hour after the appellate decision was given.

"I think the man is prejudiced," McMahan said of Barber. "From what I've read in the newspapers, the statements he has made clearly indicate his prejudice."

An affidavit of prejudice must be filed at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing in question. Then it goes to any common pleas judge for a ruling.

The 30-year-old osteopath was arrested July 30, and Monday is the last day for a preliminary hearing under the law. McMahan was asked what the status of the warrant would be if a new postponement were forced.

Decision Unanimous

"Now you're getting argumentative," he said.

In a unanimous decision, the three-man Appellate Court held that Mayor J. Spencer Houk rightfully disqualified himself from sitting in judgment on any facts in the Sheppard case and that Barber, both under the city charter and state law, was empowered to conduct mayor's court under the circumstances.

The court also held that the same basic question was disposed of Monday by Common Pleas Judge Frank J. Merrick, who upheld the validity of the warrant issued by Barber against Dr. Sheppard.

The defendant has an adequate remedy at law in an appeal from the Merrick decision, the higher court ruled.

Sustains Argument

Judges Joy Seth Hurd, Julius M. Kovachy and Oscar Hunsicker, the latter assigned here from Akron, pointed out that a writ of prohibition should issue only "with great caution in the furtherance of justice and only where there is no other regular, ordinary and adequate remedy."

The court sustained the argument of Weygandt, who quoted the city charter giving the Council president all powers of the mayor "when the mayor is absent from the municipality or unable for any cause to perform his duties."

Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon told the court that Mayor Houk would be "a very material witness" against Dr. Sheppard in the event of a preliminary hearing or trial.

Barber was the only witness

attempt" to get around an appeal from Monday's decision.

McMahon likened the Bay court under Barber to the "people's courts" of Communist lands.

McMahon was backed by Associate Counsel Arthur E. Peterzilge and William H. Corrigan, son of the chief of the defense staff. Advising Weygandt were Assistant County Prosecutors Saul S. Danaceau, Mahon and Thomas J. Parrino.

While Dr. Sam was visited by relatives at County Jail, detectives continued their incessant search for evidence in the case. Detectives were observed measuring the windows of the Sheppard home, where Marilyn was hacked to death in her bed.

Clarifies Reports

Mayor Houk, who was questioned by police Thursday night at Central Station, said he had told police nothing more than

he had told before.

He said reports that he had withheld information were not true.

Dr. Sam was examined in the jail by Dr. Charles W. Elkins, who reported him "in fairly good shape," according to a brother, Dr. Richard N. Sheppard.

Dr. Elkins, who examined Dr. Sam soon after the murder and reported a neck injury, said the examination yesterday "did not alter my opinion that he was in-

jured and is now recovering."

He would not say if he was asked to make the examination by the Sheppard family.

Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard, an-

other brother, and Dr. D. L. Backline, a Grove City (Pa.) osteopath, also visited Dr. Sam to examine him. There was no report on their findings.

put on the stand in the 90-minute hearing and was questioned briefly by McMahon.

"Evasive Attempt"

Weygandt, who relied solely on a statement to the court, labeled the action "an evasive