



8-5-1954

54/08/05 Fingerprint File Started In Bay Probe

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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

Cleveland Plain Dealer, "54/08/05 Fingerprint File Started In Bay Probe" (1954). *All Articles*. 382.
https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage/382

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newspaper Coverage at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Articles by an authorized administrator of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact library.es@csuohio.edu.

FINGERPRINT FILE STARTED IN BAY PROBE

Police Hope to Catalogue All Visitors to Doctor's Home; Recheck House

Detectives went hunting the finger and palm prints yesterday of every neighbor, baby sitter, caller or patient who had been in the house where Marilyn Sheppard was clubbed to death.

They went knocking on doors in the mass fingerprinting campaign. They were even tracking down the "dates" who came to 28924 West Lake Road to sit up with the baby sitters.

Meanwhile a drafting team from the traffic engineer's office was making a scale drawing of the home, showing exactly where every object is now, from the furniture to each bit of paper strewn on the floor where Dr. Sheppard's desk drawers were dumped.

Another crime lab team brought in a bottle of distilled water to soak out spots—maybe blood—which may give them a map of the killer's movements after the murder.

Glows in Dark

"Black light" lamps have picked out the spatters. Blood—and some 30 other substances, including cola drinks, saliva, many vegetable juices—glow in the dark under those lamps.

The spatters need chemical testing to prove they are human blood. Police Chief Frank W. Story said he doubted whether these traces would yield enough to show they matched Marilyn's blood type, which is "O-Rh negative."

This end of the investigation rolled ahead as police quit trying to question Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, the 30-year-old husband now waiting court action on his murder charge.

Dr. Sheppard stopped reading the Bible when the questions were shut off. He took up Hot Rod, Speed Age, another magazine for hot rod fans, and Pic.

Criticizes Police

He told his pastor, Rev. Alfred C. Kreke, minister of the Bay Methodist Church, that he went silent because:

POLICE SEEMED DETERMINED to get him and were not at all interested in any other solution or angle.

THEY ASKED THE SAME QUESTIONS over and over and he did not feel like answering them again a fourth or fifth time.

Dr. Sam had a portable radio brought to him with the magazines, his pipe and three packages of tobacco.

Jailer Michael Uccello reported Sheppard was quietly enjoying those, his high orthopedic collar off, sitting on his bed and reading most of the time.

(Continued on Page 6, Column 1)

Launch Fingerprint Check of Visitors to Doctor's Home

(Continued From First Page)

"He stays mostly to himself," said Uccello.

Sheppard does not mix with the auto thief, the panderer and the probation violator who share his cell block, said the men at County Jail.

"Waste of Time"

Uccello said the prisoner took the head-supporting collar off "except when he is going out or is going to talk to someone." Dr. Sam says he has needed it ever since some "figure" hit him from behind on the murder morning, July 4.

Chief Story announced:

"We have abandoned talking to this man because of his uncooperative attitude. He will not discuss anything with us, whether it pertains to the case or not.

"It's just a waste of time and effort. We will have to proceed from other angles to perfect our case."

Tomorrow a visiting appellate judge, Oscar Hunsicker of Akron, will join Appellate Judges Joy Seth Hurd and Julius M. Kovachy to hear Dr. Sheppard's lawyers try to knock out the first-degree murder warrant and the preliminary hearing sched-

uled for Saturday at 1 p. m.

Argue Qualifications

Defense lawyers argue that Gershom M. M. Barber, the accountant who serves as president of the Bay Village Council, is not qualified to hold the hearing and to bind the defendant over to the grand jury.

If that move fails the Saturday hearing will go ahead. But Richard S. Weygandt, Bay law director, will then ask a continuance to Monday, it was reported by Saul S. Danaceau, chief assistant county prosecutor, who will go to court with him.

Police believed they had picked a hole in Dr. Sheppard's story of the killing when Homicide Capt. David E. Kerr timed both the doctor's run upstairs and the vicious flailing of a bludgeon for 27 hard blows.

It took Kerr six seconds to enact Sheppard's purported dash up the 14 steps. The doctor said he awoke hearing his wife screaming: "Sam! Sam! Sam!"

But it took a minimum of 40 seconds to beat the mattress where the 31-year-old victim lay.

Said Coroner Samuel R. Gerber, who held a stop watch on Kerr: "If she screamed it would have been at the first blows. Taking six seconds you still have more than a half minute in which his wife is being beaten."

Chief Story said: "He could have got up there before the lethal blows were struck."

Story said he resented the sympathetic souls who were "acting as if we were giving this man a third degree."

Thanks Pastor

"We have been bending over backward to treat him gently," the chief said. "We might be accused of 'coddling' him instead."

The prisoner, according to his spiritual adviser, Rev. Mr. Kreke, "is unhappy about the publicity his family is getting." Rev. Mr. Kreke said Dr. Sam thanked him for the Bible and told him that certain passages



DR. SAM'S PASTOR, Rev. Alfred C. Kreke, is shown leaving County Jail, where he counseled with Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, charged with first-degree murder of his wife Marilyn. The minister said Dr. Sam quit talking to detectives when they kept thrusting pictures of his slain wife before him and seemed determined to prove him the killer.

had given him help and that he was marking certain pages and verses.

The Methodist minister said he must remain neutral and the suspect's consoling spiritual counselor rather than ask him to do anything like taking a lie detector test or truth serum.

"If he is not guilty he and his family and the hospital (Bay View Hospital, where Dr. Sam his father and brothers practice) have gone through a lot unjustly," the clergyman said.

Complains on Pictures

The pastor said Dr. Sheppard complained about detectives always "thrusting before him pictures of his murdered wife."

"Sam told me he had gone through too much of that and couldn't take much more," said Rev. Mr. Kreke at the County Jail door.

After he preached a sermon sympathetic to Dr. Sheppard and his family on Sunday, the minister said, telephone callers protested.

One who talked with his wife, Rev. Mr. Kreke said, accused him of "condoning adultery" because he defended Dr. Sheppard, whose liaison with Miss Susan Hayes, 24, medical technician, has become a part of the case.

Six detectives working under Capt. James Hamilton, head of the intelligence division of the Los Angeles department, were trying to find a mysterious "Margo" or "Margaret," an early girl friend of the doctor.

Divorce Considered

It was while he was seeing her about 1950 that his wife was writing to a relative here that she was considering a divorce. In that letter she disclosed, it was learned, that her love needs and her husband's were not the same.

County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan said he had not yet received a full report on what police had turned up.

"And the bundle has to be all wrapped up before it goes into the (grand jury) hopper," Cullitan said.

No grand jury action is likely, he indicated, before the preliminary hearing and a bindover.

A 39-year-old Lorain ex-convict who got drunk and "confessed" killing Marilyn Sheppard was released by Cleveland police to Lorain authorities early in the day after questioning.

He had said: "Sam didn't do it; I killed her." Then he denied there was any truth in his "confession."

On parole, he was expected to be declared a parole violator in Lorain County just as an earlier "confessor," George Ennis, was here.