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54/08/07 Drug Theft Theory in Murder Ripped

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Drug Theft Theory in Murder Ripped

The defense theory that Marilyn Reese Sheppard was murdered by a dope addict in quest of narcotics was punctured today by Raymond J. Ripberger, Cleveland chief of the Federal Narcotics Bureau.

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, charged with the savage July 4 slaying of his pregnant wife, originated the drug-crazed murderer suspicion.

"This theory," the 30-year-old osteopath said, "is supported by the fact that a large amount of narcotics was stolen and by the vicious nature of the attack."

But Ripberger said his agents had spent three days making a "thorough check" of the narcotics records of Dr. Sam, Bay View Hospital, and the Sheppard Clinic in Fairview Park.

"All their narcotics supplies are accounted for," Ripberger said. "We discount theft of dope as a possible motive for the murder."

Meanwhile, Dr. Sheppard made a bitter complaint about his treatment as a County Jail prisoner.

"They only let me shave on certain days," a friend quoted him as saying. "There's only one wastebasket for the entire cell block, and the washroom facilities are atrocious."

The complaint was reported by Gerry Flick Jr., 20, of 3137 Rocky River Dr. Flick, a Colgate University student whose father is an osteopath, visited Dr. Sheppard at County Jail yesterday.

Later, Flick was closeted with homicide detectives at Central Police Station for eight hours. He volunteered a number of theories to them which would "clear" Dr. Sam if proved.

The student said Dr. Sam is "disgusted with jail conditions."

"His main gripe seems to be

that he's not used to so much dirt," Flick said.

Given Lie Test

Flick returned to the police station this morning, and was given a lie detector test.

Purpose of the test, investigators said, was to "verify if his story is authentic."

Flick said he was a friend of both Sam and Marilyn Sheppard, "and felt it was my duty as a citizen to tell what I thought would be useful."

"My information brings a new male suspect — possibly two—into the picture," Flick told reporters after his interview with detectives. "My leads would help police to connect a man with the murder and also locate him now."

During his visit to Dr. Sam, the college student brought him some "hot rod" magazines and a Journal of Osteopathy.

The "scientific task force" of the homicide squad toiled through the night and early morning, painstakingly going over the bloody trail which the killer of Marilyn Sheppard "tidied up" to cover his tracks.

Trace Blood Clinks

Detective Chief James McArthur said "blood specks have been found in various parts of the Sheppard property."

He declined to say whether this indicated that the killer's trail was being followed out of the house at 28924 Lake Rd., Bay Village, as well as down the stairs from the murder bedroom, and about the other rooms.

Detectives were observed on



GERRY FLICK, 20, college student, reported Dr. Sam Sheppard "disgusted" with his stay in the County Jail.

hands and knees, examining the home's front door and the area leading to the beach on which Dr. Sheppard said he was knocked unconscious by the maniacal killer.

Quiz Another Nurse

The police quest for "other women" in the recent past of the accused osteopath continued to embarrass both his friends and some who never even met him.

In Detroit, Mrs. Margot Pebbles, 32, a former Army nurse, was taken to police headquarters for questioning after her husband, a former Army colonel, provided officers with an "anonymous tip."

The husband, police said, had read the authorities were looking for a woman named "Margo" who associated with Dr. Sheppard in Los Angeles four years ago, and knew that his

wife had been in the West Coast city at that time.

Mrs. Pebbles was released after insisting that she never knew Dr. Sheppard.

Has No Connection

Cleveland Homicide Detectives Peter Becker flew to Detroit to quiz Mrs. Pebbles. He returned "completely satisfied that she has no connection with the case."

Los Angeles police are still trying to locate "Margo" and "Dottie," West Coast friends of Dr. Sheppard's when he was on the staff of Los Angeles County General Hospital.

McArthur said a woman who was reportedly parked in a car with Dr. Sheppard in Huntington Park, near his home, has not yet been located.

The report came from Earl D. Tiedmond, former Bay Village policeman, who said that he did not see any clothes on the woman.

McArthur pointed out that, "with the clothes women wear these days," this might mean merely that she was wearing a sleeveless dress.

Assistant Prosecutor John J. Mahon, after studying a detailed police report on the investigation to date, said: "There is a strong circumstantial case against Dr. Sheppard."

He said the authorities had set no date for presenting the case to the Grand Jury because "there is a definite possibility that the investigation will develop fresh evidence."