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54/07/13 If Sheppards' Dog Could Talk Bay Mystery Might Be Solved

Cleveland News

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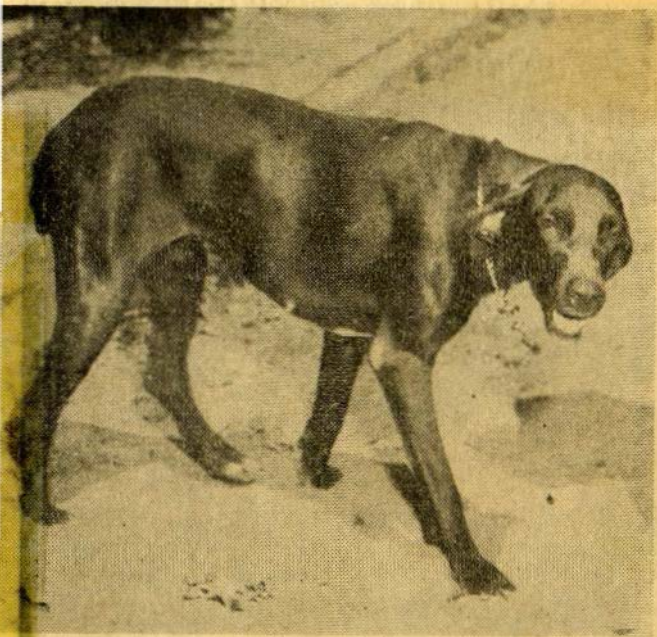
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7-13-54

CLEVELAND NEWS, T



Ko-Ko, the Sheppard watchdog that won't bark at reporters.

If Sheppards' Dog Could Talk Bay Mystery Might Be Solved

At least two witnesses know the secret of the Sheppard murder

mystery. One is the murderer himself. The other is a rust-colored, nondescript dog.

Ko-Ko is the dog's name -- a three-year-old mongrel, part Irish

setter and part Doberman pinscher. The household pet of Dr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Sheppard, it alone is believed to have seen and heard the fatal beating of pretty Marilyn Sheppard.

According to first reports, the dog barked loud and long at the sight or sound of strangers.

Silent But Friendly

However, the dog was strangely silent the morning of the murder a week ago Sunday. Even now, it seems broken in spirit—wary of strangers, but friendly after any display of affection.

Both Ko-Ko and Dr. Sam are quartered now at the home of the doctor's father, Dr. Richard A. Sheppard. The dog neither barks nor growls at reporters calling at the home.

It responds quickly to anyone who calls its name. It will stay with anyone who will pet it, leaving only when called back into the house.

First arrivals on the scene of the murder reported the dog running loose in the livingroom of the Sheppards' home. He apparently was loose in the house while his mistress was beaten to death and his master fought off the attacker.

Dog's Hip Injured

Ko-Ko may have been injured in the struggle although Dr. Sheppard cannot recall his presence. He limped all the next day from an injury to his hip. How he suffered the injury still is unanswered.

Dr. Sheppard has advanced the theory that the dog may have been drugged. ?

Who Released Dog?

Another question which has puzzled the police is: "How did the dog get loose?"

The dog was locked in a kitchen when Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ahern, neighbors of the Sheppards, left the home after spending the evening with them.

Ko-Ko holds the answers to the entire mystery. Unfortunately, he can't reveal them.