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54/08/21 Sift Rumors On Sheppard Social Life

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Sift Rumors On Sheppard Social Life

Detectives Look Into Scores of Tips About Doctor's Activities

Activity in the Marilyn Sheppard murder investigation bogged down today as detectives continued their slow, methodical check of dozens of rumors and tips furnished by Greater Clevelanders.

Most of the "tips" concerned the social activities of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, the victim's husband who is being held in County Jail awaiting trial on a first degree murder charge.

October Trial Seen

Checking on many of the tips and rumors had been delayed while detectives concentrated on strengthening their evidence and obtaining the witnesses called before the County Grand Jury Monday and Tuesday.

The 30-year-old osteopathic surgeon and sports enthusiast has been arraigned before Common Pleas Judge Arthur H. Day on the first degree murder indictment returned by the jury, but will probably not face trial until early October.

At the arraignment, Dr. Sam pleaded "not guilty" through his attorney, Fred W. Garmone, and is being held without bail. The attorney's failure to request bail took county prosecutors by surprise.

While detectives continued their check today, neither police nor jail authorities could confirm reports that Dr. Sam had seriously talked of committing suicide at least once since his original arrest on July 30.

Although reports at County Jail indicated that Sheppard had mentioned this action in his talks with police officers, Capt. David E. Kerr, chief of the police homicide squad, said he had never heard of such conversation.

Deputy Sheriff Harvey Weitzel termed the suicide reports as "silly" and said no reasons had been advanced for taking special precautions regarding the prisoner.

Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, older brother of Dr. Sam and an associate of his at Bay View Hospital, said he could not believe that the reports were true.

"He has never mentioned any such thought in his conversations with me or other members of our family during our numerous visits to the jail," Dr. Richard explained.

Has Many Visitors

The last of these visits occurred yesterday when Dr. Richard and his wife, Dorothy; Dr. Stephen, another brother, and his wife, Betty, and Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, father of the three men, were permitted to see him briefly.

Other visitors on Friday were David S. Phillips, 37, of 24883 Electric Dr., Bay Village, a long-time friend of the family, and Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Brown, of 1861 E. Idlewood Ave., East Cleveland. Mrs. Brown is an aunt of the murder victim.