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54/09/08 Own Sleuth Put On Case By Corrigan

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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CLEVELAND — Partly cloudy and cooler today and tonight. High today 78, low tonight 53.
See Page 29.

113TH YEAR—NO.

OWN SLEUTH PUT ON CASE BY CORRIGAN

Lawyer Won't Disclose
Name of Detective;
Bail Hearing Set

BY SANFORD WATZMAN

A private detective has been hired to track down the murderer of Marilyn R. Sheppard, Defense Counsel William J. Corrigan said yesterday.

The lawyer, who is defending Mrs. Sheppard's husband on a first-degree murder charge, would not disclose the name of his undercover man. He also declined to specify how long the investigator had been at work.

"I will say this much," Corrigan asserted. "Pete Merylo has nothing to do with this case."

Peter J. Merylo is a retired Cleveland detective who devoted many of his years on the force to an unsuccessful hunt for the torso killer of Kingsbury Run.

Aided Corrigan

He has joined forces with Corrigan since leaving the department and setting up his own agency. In 1951 he aided the lawyer in winning an acquittal for Joseph Gogan, Lakewood industrialist who was accused of murdering his wife.

"I wouldn't take on this assignment," Merylo said last night. "I don't think I could be of much help to Dr. (Samuel H.) Sheppard."

A \$10,000 reward has been posted for the person who brings Marilyn's killer to justice. Although the money was put up by her husband and members of his family, Dr. Sam himself was indicted for the crime and is now awaiting trial.

Besides Corrigan's sleuth, five public agencies have taken part in the investigation. All of the five—Bay Village police, Cleveland police, the county prosecutor, the coroner and the sheriff—reported last night they had received no inquiries or information from the private detective.

Can't See Reports

Cleveland Police Chief Frank W. Story and Deputy Inspector James E. McArthur, in charge of the detective bureau, said the hired sleuth would not be permitted to peruse official reports on the case if he made the request.

"Any tips that he might supply would be investigated thoroughly," Chief Story said. "We've done that with all information that has come to us. But our reports are available to the county prosecutor only."

Maurice A. Pinkerton of the Pinkerton Security Bureau (no connection with Pinkerton's National Detective Agency, Inc.) is another private detective who worked on an aspect of the Bay Village case, it was learned.

Hired by Reese

Pinkerton said he was retained by Thomas S. Reese, father of the murder victim, "for about 10 or 11 days after the killing."

"I didn't have any investigative duties," he related. "I just watched Reese's home because he had had a number of crank telephone calls. I have never been engaged by the Sheppards or anybody else other than Reese on the matter of the slaying."

Meanwhile, Corrigan announced he would subpoena

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Plain Dealer

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1954

Private Detective Put on Case by Corrigan

(Continued From First Page)
"about a half dozen" witnesses for a court hearing later this week that was requested by defense attorneys in an attempt to free Dr. Sheppard on bail from County Jail.

The hearing was set for 3 p. m. Friday by Common Pleas Judge Edward Blythin, but the judge said he would postpone it until Saturday morning if witnesses came in to give testimony.

Lists Two Witnesses

According to Corrigan, two of the witnesses will be Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard, brother of the defendant, and Bert R. Winston, foreman of the grand jury that indicted Dr. Sam.

Stephen will be called to testify about the treatment he gave his brother shortly after the killing, Corrigan said. Dr. Sam has maintained that he was seriously assaulted by the person who murdered his wife.

Winston, the lawyer continued, will be asked to explain this remark, which was quoted in the newspapers: "The pressure on us has been enormous."

The foreman made that assertion when reporters inquired

whether cranks had asked him to reveal the evidence that was heard by the grand jurors.

Burden on Defense

Dr. Sam went free on \$50,000 bail Aug. 16 after Common Pleas Judge William K. Thomas ruled that no evidence had been presented to him that would warrant keeping the osteopath in jail without bond.

Now the defense has the burden of countering the presumption of guilt implied by the indictment. The defendant was rearrested shortly after the grand jury acted.

The date of Dr. Sheppard's trial still remained uncertain. Judge Blythin said he would not schedule it until the bail question had been disposed of.

Six other first-degree murder defendants, who have been in jail longer than Dr. Sam, will have their day in court first.

Sets Trial Dates

Judge Blythin set these trial dates for the six:

ROBERT SANDERS and EUGENE SHELTON—Sept. 27.

WILLIE M. PERDUE and MISS GLADYS POUNDS—Oct. 4.

ROBERT M. MORRIS and MARION W. TAYLOR—Oct. 11.

After conferring with attorneys for the six, Judge Blythin announced that they all indicated they would not enter a plea and would demand trials by jury.

If none of these defendants change their minds, the trial of Dr. Sam would be put off far beyond the target date of Oct. 18, which was selected by Judge Blythin as "tentative."