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54/08/26 Corrigan to sue to remove Sheppard home's padlocks

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1954

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Corrigan to Sue to Remove Sheppard Home's Padlocks

A suit to knock the public padlocks off the Sheppard murder home will be filed, William J. Corrigan, chief counsel for Dr. Sam, said yesterday.

"I will file when I get around to it," said the defense attorney.

Asked if he had hired a private investigator or scientific expert to go over the house, his answer was: "I won't tell you."

Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon stayed firm on keeping the home at 28294 West Lake Road, Bay Village, in the hands of police and county authorities.

"He might bring a replevin ac-

tion if the home belonged to Sam," said Mahon. But the house was in the name of the murdered Marilyn

Up to Probate Court

"If it was hers Sam has an equitable interest, but Probate Court would have to hand it over," Mahon said.

Corrigan denied a rumor that "the defense has abandoned the theory that the killer was a burglar."

"We have neither given out nor given up nor abandoned any ideas," he said.

Police were saying that the neat "ransacking" evidence in the doctor's study—a few drawers pulled out and a few papers

scattered—was too unconvincing to hold up in a jury's eyes.

"No burglar would pick a house like that one, either," said a homicide officer, "with a through highway on one side and the lake on the other, with no clear means of escape."

Corrigan also said the defense had not decided whether to try the case before three judges or before a jury.

Judges to serve in the criminal branch of Common Pleas Court in the coming term are Edward Blythin, Arthur H. Day and Parker Fulton.

One unusual fact here was

that Judge Blythin will be there and presiding although he is due to run for re-election in the fall. It had been an unwritten rule of the court that no judge up for election would serve in criminal court in his campaign year.