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54/09/15 'Confession' In Bay Case Flops

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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Plain Dealer, 'CONFESSION' IN BAY CASE FLOPS

Wed., Sept. 15, 1954

Prisoner Quiz Dropped;

Dr. Steve Visits Police

Billy O. Williams, the Trenton (N. J.) prisoner who "confessed" the murder of Marilyn Sheppard, has no real knowledge of the case and "definitely" did not commit the crime, Homicide Capt. David E. Kerr reported late yesterday.

The Cleveland officer made the announcement after a long-distance telephone conversation with one of his men, Detective Patrick L. Gareau, who made an airplane trip to Trenton to question Williams.

Gareau was ordered by Capt. Keer to return to Cleveland. Williams, charged as a fugitive, is being held in Trenton for extradition to Tampa, Fla., where he reportedly was involved in a kidnaping and automobile theft.

According to Capt. Kerr, the Trenton prisoner is known to have been on the east coast about the time Mrs. Sheppard was murdered. He could disclose no information about the crime to support his contention that he killed her, the captain said.

Reports Struggle

Meanwhile, there were these other developments in the case:

DR. STEPHEN A. SHEPPARD, whose brother, Dr. Samuel H.—the victim's husband—is awaiting trial for the murder, came to Central Police Station with new information possibly related to the killing.

A BAY VILLAGE teen-ager who reported a struggle with an intruder in his home was examined by Dr. Steve last night in an effort to determine whether his injuries were similar to those suffered by the murder defendant, who maintains he was struck down by a "form" who invaded his home at the time of the slaying. The youth later told the Plain Dealer that the doctor drew no parallel.

Dr. Steve conferred with Capt. Kerr about recent burglaries in Bay Village. The officer said he would send two of his men to the suburb to check the information.