



CSU
College of Law Library

Cleveland State University
EngagedScholarship@CSU

[All Articles](#)

[Newspaper Coverage](#)

9-11-1954

54/09/11 Check on confession in Sheppard killing

Cleveland Press

Follow this and additional works at: https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Recommended Citation

Cleveland Press, "54/09/11 Check on confession in Sheppard killing" (1954). *All Articles*. 551.

https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage/551

This Book is brought to you for free and open access
by the Newspaper Coverage at
EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for
inclusion in All Articles by an authorized administrator
of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information,
please contact library.es@csuohio.edu.



Check on Confession in Sheppard Killing

Cleveland authorities may send an investigator to Trenton, N. J., to check the account of a 27-year-old prisoner who has "confessed" the murder of Marilyn Sheppard.

Assistant Prosecutor John J. Mahon said today he is awaiting an FBI report on the man before deciding whether to give his version any credence.

"We will definitely check out every aspect of this case," Mahon said.

This was a reply to an accusation of William J. Corrigan, chief defense counsel for Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, indicted for the murder of his wife, Marilyn.

The confession was made by Billy O. Williams, six-foot tall Negro, held for extradition to face a kidnap and auto theft charge at Tampa, Fla.

During a coroner's inquest, Dr. Sheppard testified he believed the killer he said he struggled with in his home at the time of Marilyn's murder was white.

Williams made his original confession in a letter to Dr. Sheppard's relatives. He said he was in Cleveland for 13 days prior to July 4, and left the

next day in a car he stole in Florida in January.

Dr. Stephen Sheppard, brother of Dr. Sam, flew to Trenton to interview Williams. He was also interviewed by Arthur A. Salvatore, Trenton attorney, at Corrigan's request.

Salvatore said Williams said he was confessing because "I don't want to see an innocent man burn." Although he refused to waive extradition to Florida, Williams expressed eagerness to return to Cleveland to see if he could find the missing murder weapon.

"I sometimes do things that I don't remember until I'm told about it later," Williams said, explaining his inability to give certain details of the crime, or to say what the weapon was.

Williams received shock treatment for a psychopathic disorder while in the Army. The car he stole in Florida was owned by a doctor, and contained some narcotics.