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54/09/13 Leaves to quiz Sheppard N.J. suspect

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Leaves to Quiz Sheppard N. J. Suspect

Homicide Detective Pat Gareau flew to Trenton, N. J., late today to interview a prisoner who "confessed" the murder of Marilyn Sheppard.

The trip was authorized by Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan after attorneys for Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, under indictment for his wife's murder, charged that the authorities had "closed their minds" to the possibility that any other suspect might be guilty.

Gareau was one of two Cleveland homicide detectives who, while investigating Mrs. Sheppard's murder on the morning of July 4, told Dr. Sam: "We think you did it."

Police Chief Frank W. Story said that the Trenton confession story "sounds like another hallucination."

"But we'll check it out," he added.

"We'll wait until we get a report from the FBI before deciding anything," said Police Chief Frank W. Story. "So far, the 'confession' sounds like another hallucination."

The claim that he killed Mrs. Sheppard—although he didn't remember why or how—was made by Billy O. Williams, 27, auto thief awaiting extradition to Tampa, Fla., to face a kidnap charge.

Williams has refused to waive extradition to Tampa, but told Dr. Stephen Sheppard, brother of Dr. Sam, he was willing to be brought to Bay Village to see if the scene would refresh his memory.

Assistant Prosecutor John J. Mahon said there have been

several "crackpot confessions" of Mrs. Sheppard's murder. Each, he said, was investigated, and dismissed as impossible.

Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, Dr. Sam's other brother, expressed satisfaction that Williams' story was being investigated. He said Dr. Stephen was satisfied that Williams thought he was telling the truth, but added: "Whether or not the man is credible is a question to be resolved."

Attorney William J. Corrigan, Dr. Sam's chief defense counsel, said Williams should be brought back to Cleveland for questioning.

Dr. Sam was obviously unhappy about having to spend at least another week in jail

because completion of the hearing on his bail application was postponed until 9:15 a. m. Friday before Common Pleas Judge Edward Blythin.

Dr. Richard visited Dr. Sam at the jail today, but was prevented from bringing him a supply of chewing gum. "Against the rules," said Chief Jailer Mike Uccello. The brother was permitted to give Dr. Sam cigarettes.