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Cleveland Plain Dealer

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McArthur to Check on Jury Candidates in Sheppard Case

Cleveland Detective Chief James E. McArthur and his staff will be asked to investigate the backgrounds of 75 jury candidates selected in the Sheppard murder case, Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon announced late yesterday.

Mahon said the aid of city detectives on juror checks is sought "as a matter of routine" in important first-degree murder trials. Defense attorneys are expected to conduct an investigation of their own.

"We don't interview the prospective jurors personally," Mahon said. "Generally we check official records to determine their eligibility. In any panel of 75, only 50 or 60 are qualified to serve and the rest are ruled out or are excused for one reason or another."

Questioning of members of the

panel will begin Oct. 18, when Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard goes on trial in Common Pleas Court for the alleged murder of his wife, Marilyn. The judge, prosecutor and defense attorney will take part.

The 75 names were drawn from the jury wheel at Lakeside Avenue Courthouse in the morning. Sheriff's deputies will serve them with notices to appear for the trial.