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## 55/ 04/27 Kirk Describes Tests Tried in Sheppard Case

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**MSL**

ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

# Kirk Describes Tests Tried in Sheppard Case

Experiments with human teeth extracted by various dentists . . . tests of blood-soaked shoes and clothing . . . checks on various "possible murder weapons."

These were described today by Prof. Paul L. Kirk of the University of California in an affidavit supporting his conclusion that Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard did not murder his wife, Marilyn.

Kirk began his statement with a recitation of his own qualifications to sit in a laboratory 2500 miles away and attempt to reconstruct a Bay Village crime.

He graduated from Ohio State University in 1924, won a master of science in chemistry degree from the University of Pittsburgh a year later, became a doctor of philosophy in biochemistry at the University of California in 1927.

## Worked on A-Bomb

During World War II, Kirk said, he aided in the development of the atomic bomb. He said he set up the criminology course he teaches at the University of California, and did investigative work for numerous officials—including Earl Warren, chief justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, when Warren was a district attorney.

Kirk said he is the author of "at least 150 original papers" on scientific investigation, including three books, one of which is a standard guide "to the use of physical evidence by persons engaged in law enforcement."

Here are some of his Sheppard case experiments described by Kirk:

**TEETH:** He obtained "a considerable number of human teeth" from dentists. Seven were mounted on a brass bar. The teeth were broken in a manner which suggested that

Marilyn Sheppard's broken teeth were caused by an outward pull, rather than a downward blow.

## Tried Different Weapons

**POSSIBLE weapons:** Kirk experimented with a ball pein hammer, 15-inch steel bar, 20-inch brass rod, two-foot brass rod and two-cell flashlight.

**DUMMY SKULL:** A dummy skull, formed with a wood block, sponge rubber and a sheet of plastic simulating human skin, was struck with each "possible weapon" to determine how the blood would have spattered.

**BLOODY CLOTHING:** The same set of coveralls were worn in all experiments with blood spatters. Very little blood was thrown onto the clothing: "It shows that the murderer could well have escaped without having accumulated enough blood to drip or leave any blood trail whatever from that source."

**SHOES:** A shoe was soaked in blood, then immersed in water. Blood was still visible in three places on it.

## Trip Blood Trail

**TRAIL OF BLOOD:** To test the theory that the "trail of

blood" in the murder home dripped from the death weapon Kirk tested a large bread knife, a monkey wrench, brass bar, hammer, and chunk of wood. "Not a single drop was described in the trails in the Sheppard house that indicate it to be comparable in size or appearance with the drops formed in this experiment," Kirk noted.

**WATCH BAND:** A metal watch band was daubed with blood, then washed off. It was then impossible to type the blood—as the prosecution claimed had been done with a similar exhibit at Dr. Sam's trial.