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City Hall or Sam -- Our Gal Alice Seeks Scoop

Lake Park Lakewood Park 6/16/66

By TOM SHAUGHNESSY

Our gal reporter Alice Weiss isn't telling how she locked up the biggest news scoop in town last week.

"It's a big, dark secret," Alice smiles mysteriously.

Her copyright story telling that Sam Sheppard is going to sue the Cleveland Press and its former editor, Louis B. Seltzer for \$141 million, made front pages from New York to Los Angeles.

Alice's scoop was based on a letter written by Sheppard's attorney, F. Lee Bailey, to one-time Press Editor Seltzer.

Bailey confirmed the lawsuit during a radio interview last weekend, but said it will not be filed until after Sheppard's retrial.

A VICTORY in the retrial, which County Prosecutor John T. Corrigan said will take place this fall, will likely help Sheppard's suit effort.

Several news reports last week said no, Sam Sheppard wasn't going to sue. One story inferred the Bailey letter was stolen from the Sheppard home "a year or two ago."

"That's silly," says Alice. "Now why would I have to steal anything from the Sheppard home."

The slim, sun-tanned brunette is practically one of the family.

HER HUSBAND, Dr. Paul Weiss, was chief of surgery at

the Sheppard's Bayview Hospital for three years and is still a member of the hospital staff.

The 34-year-old osteopath trained under Sam's brother, Dr. Steve Sheppard, and Steve is godfather to the couple's five-year-old son, Mark.

Alice was invited to the Sheppard home for the celebration following last week's Supreme Court decision reversing the 1954 conviction against Sam.

"How could the letter from Lee Bailey have been stolen two years ago, when it's still there now?" asks Alice.

Alice, who grew up in Florida and met her husband, a Philadelphian, in North Carolina, got started in the news business in high school.

SHE WROTE and directed a half-hour radio show for teenagers in Miami. At the University of Miami and the University of Florida she majored in radio and television writing.

After graduation she spent a year at the typewriter in a New York ad agency. After getting married she went to work for a book publisher doing thumb-nail sketches for book jackets.

She's been on the North Olmsted beat for the Sun-Herald since last November. The family lives at 4072 Canterbury Rd. Youngsters are Beth, 8, and Mark.

Alice says the Sheppard story is her first 'real big one,' but says she once penned a jingle that got play around the country.

"IT WAS one of the verses for the cigarette ad, 'Be happy, go Lucky,'" she explains.

Alice says she loves to write but admits it's hard work everytime she sits down at the typewriter.

"Still it beats doing dishes," she laughs.

She says not revealing the news source of the Sheppard story is "a newsman's prerogative."

But just wait and see what happens," she smiles.



ALICE WEISS