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## 57/07/29 Corrigan, Hitchhiker Reach Wedler's Prison

Cleveland Press

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# Corrigan, Hitchhiker Reach Wedler's Prison

The Marilyn Sheppard murder case kept boiling from coast to coast today.

William J. Corrigan, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard's chief defense attorney, made an appointment at De Land, Fla., to interview Donald J. Wedler, 23, Florida convict who "confessed" the Bay Village crime.

Sheriff Rodney Thursby said he would permit Corrigan to talk to Wedler if the

prisoner agrees. He said Wedler insisted he killed Mrs. Sheppard — despite the verdict of Cleveland authorities that his story was a complete hoax.

Ernest J. Kolofolias, 32, a California merchant seaman,

also turned up at De Land. Kolofolias claims he was hitchhiking in Bay Village on the murder morning, and was picked up by a motorist with bloodstained hands who resembled Wedler.

Corrigan said earlier that he attached "no significance" to Kolofolias' testimony, since the seaman's original story placed his pickup at least 24 hours after the murder.

At Paradise, Calif., Erle Stanley Gardner, fiction writer and "chief justice" of the "Court of Last Resort,"

huddled with his colleagues to determine future steps in the case.

Harry Steeger, publisher of Argosy magazine, promoter of the "court," said he had received 10,000 letters, most of them urging further efforts to free Dr. Sam or give him a lie detector test. The letters, he said, included a long petition from Cleveland.