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57/05/17 Kerr Sees Sales Stunt in Argosy Move for Dr. Sam

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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Kerr Sees Sales Stunt in ^{P. Dealer} Argosy Move for Dr. Sam ✓

Capt. David E. Kerr turned a cold shoulder to Erle Stanley Gardner when the mystery author asked him to help reinvestigate the Sheppard case, the homicide chief revealed yesterday.

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Kerr related that Gardner in January wanted him to serve on a "board of experts" attached to "The Court of Last Resort," a creation of Argosy Magazine.

"I told Mr. Gardner, who is a friend of mine," the captain said, "that I couldn't give him any assistance because I had full confidence in our courts and because I felt that Dr. (Samuel H.) Sheppard had had a fair trial."

"What they're doing is strictly promotional," Kerr said of the Gardner group. "They're selling Argosy magazines. If members of the Sheppard fam-

ily have any new information they can come to us. They don't have to run to Gardner."

Tips are still being received on the killing and are being checked out by his men, the captain continued. He said only two weeks ago a "new lead" advanced by a person in southern Ohio was looked into and found to be groundless.

"The courts have spoken in this matter, but we're willing to keep checking when new light might be thrown on a case," the officer asserted.

Coroner Samuel R. Gerber, who has also had contact with Gardner, told the Plain Dealer:

"I feel the right man is in the penitentiary. However, if the 'Court of Last Resort' can answer some of the questions that were never answered, more power to it."

So far the "court" has relied chiefly on the lie detector. Examinations were given to four of Dr. Sam's relatives, all of whom were said to have "passed" the tests.

Dr. Sam himself, who is serving a life sentence in the Ohio Penitentiary for the bludgeon killing of his wife, has now indicated a willingness to submit to a polygraph examination.