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55/06/22 Sheppard Taboo At Crime Parley

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SHEPPARD TABOO AT CRIME PARLEY

Visiting Experts 'Blacked Out' Because of Appeal

Like going to Washington and not seeing the Capitol, some of the world's crime experts gathered in Cleveland this week are hearing no official discussions of the city's most publicized murder case.

The Marilyn Sheppard murder is one of the few of the more celebrated cases omitted from the agenda of the Science of Law Enforcement Institute at Western Reserve University.

Many of the out-of-town visitors are asking questions, but are getting no answers because of the discussion black-out imposed by County Coroner Samuel R. Gerber.

Still A Court Matter

"We aren't talking about the Sheppard case or any of its ramifications because it is now under the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeals," Dr. Gerber, whose office is one of the sponsors of the session, explained.

Other Cleveland major homicides are being discussed in fine detail to demonstrate the important role the scientific investigator plays in police work.

George H. Hatherill, commander of the criminal investigation department of Scotland Yard, yesterday gave the 75 institute students a detailed description of the Yard at work.

He pointed out how punishment for various crimes had diminished through the years.

Even as late as 1808 a boy of 7 and his 11-year-old sister were hanged for theft. On one day in 1816 40 persons went to the gallows for petty crimes.

"In spite of the severity and barbarity of these sentences, it did not prevent crime or decrease the criminal population as was intended," the commander explained.

This came, he noted, only after the establishment of an efficient police system, particularly in London with its vast population, in 1829.