



7-16-1954

## 54/07/16 Probers in Sheppard Case Asked to Pool Evidence, Form Team

Cleveland Plain Dealer

Follow this and additional works at: [http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper\\_coverage](http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage)

**How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!**

---

### Recommended Citation

Cleveland Plain Dealer, "54/07/16 Probers in Sheppard Case Asked to Pool Evidence, Form Team" (1954). *All Articles*. Book 57.  
[http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper\\_coverage/57](http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage/57)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newspaper Coverage at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Articles by an authorized administrator of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact [library.es@csuohio.edu](mailto:library.es@csuohio.edu).

**PROBERS IN SHEPPARD  
CASE ASKED TO POOL  
EVIDENCE, FORM TEAM**

# Gerber Acts After Doctor's Attorney Asserts Family Will Not Submit to Further Questioning by County Prosecutor's Staff; Mahon Reopens Technician's Quiz in California

C.P.D.

BULLETIN

7-16-54

Mrs. Jessie Dill of Painesville was kept in protective custody in County Jail over night after new information came out in her fuller statement to Bay Village police.

She was quoted as saying the woman she saw on the Fairport Harbor beach in June spoke of "a boy friend," and Mrs. Dill recalled enough of the name for Bay police to recognize it, as well as other names Mrs. Dill recalled.

Coroner Samuel R. Gerber will call all authorities hunting the murderer of Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard to pool their evidence and knit themselves into a united team, starting today.

His unity plan came up last night just as the lawyer for Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, the husband, was protesting that "three or four groups shouldn't be investigating" the bludgeon slaying.

The lawyer for Dr. Sheppard and his family, William J. Corrigan, complained to the police chief of Bay Village, where the July 4 killer did his work. Corrigan kicked against the county prosecutor horning in on the case, according to the Bay chief, John P. Eaton.

From now on, the Sheppards will be counseled to talk only to "the sheriff or the Bay police, the proper authorities," Corrigan said.

Snapping back at that, Dr. Gerber said: "Corrigan should not try to tell city or county officials what they should or should not do. We know what we can do and must do under the statutes, and we are doing it. We are not going to let Corrigan run this investigation."

At the same time Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon launched a new set of clues and questions to Los Angeles to be fired at the mystery girl in the case, Miss Susan L. Hayes, 24.

Dr. Sheppard may have given more than a wrist watch to the pretty California girl, Mahon said, when he visited her there in March.

## Descriptions Match

District Attorney S. Ernest Roll of Los Angeles said he would call Miss Hayes in again for another quiz, not, however, until he has talked with two new links in the California chain in the case.

A woman who saw a tall, bushy-haired (partly bald in front), nervous man board a bus somewhere near the murder scene early on July 4 was interviewed by Bay Sergt. Jay H. Hubach while the unity argument boiled over.

She was Mrs. Beatrice Wolfe of Elberta Beach, near Vermilion. En route to a funeral in Union City, Pa., she dozed, then awoke near Sheffield Lake and shortly saw the man get on, fumbling out a bill of large denomination to pay his fare.

Dr. Sheppard described the killer as over six feet, bushy-haired and wearing a white shirt. Mrs. Wolfe's picture agreed with that. The bus was a Baltimore

(Continued on Page 6, Column 7)

# Bay Murder Probers Asked to Pool Evidence, Form Team

CPD

7-16-54

(Continued From First Page)

express. She left it in Cleveland. Hubach began checking bus lines. What bothered Corrigan, according to Chief Eaton, was the prosecutor's men probing along their own tack without telling police their results.

The prosecutor's job comes after the police build up a case, Corrigan was quoted as saying.

## Doctor "Upset"

Corrigan also told Chief Eaton that from now on none of the Sheppard family would submit to questioning by Mahon or others of County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan's staff, the chief said.

An eight-hour questioning on Saturday at the prosecutor's office "upset" Dr. Sheppard, Corrigan was quoted as saying.

Eaton said he replied to Corrigan and Attorney Arthur E. Petersilge, who came along, that Bay had a small, inexperienced police force and that he welcomed the help of the county officials.

Mayor J. Spencer Houk of Bay Village backed Chief Eaton.

"It has been reported to me that there is dissatisfaction with the way this investigation is being handled," Houk said. "For the record, I am perfectly satisfied with the way everyone has conducted his part in it."

Mayor Houk said he would be glad to have a "unity meeting," such as the coroner is proposing, if it would help.

## Discuss Case

Chief Eaton added that they then talked about the case so far. Corrigan, the chief said, admitted that whoever battered 31-year-old Marilyn Sheppard to death in her bed was not there for burglary.

Corrigan's theory, according to the chief, is that it was done by a mentally unbalanced person.

Eaton said he told Corrigan: "Most of what we have uncovered has pointed toward your client, but we are on the lookout for anyone who might have done it."

Miss Hayes' answers to the first set of questions fired at her showed she admitted to District Attorney Roll that she went to a wedding with Dr. Sheppard while he was visiting there.

She told a Los Angeles reporter that accepting a watch from the young, athletic surgeon was "her one mistake" in an otherwise decent relationship. The watch was to replace one she lost on the wedding date, Dr. Sheppard has explained.

He gave her no other gift, she has insisted, and they did not carry on a correspondence, said the transcript of her answers, which came to Mahon by mail.

All of Dr. Sheppard's movements in California are being traced by District Attorney Roll's men. That meant the 1944-48 period when he was studying medicine there and the time he lived there after he and Marilyn married—up to 1951—and the time he went there this year to a medical convention and then saw Miss Hayes.

## Satisfied With Story

Roll has said that he was "satisfied with the girl's story," but that he was going to check Mahon's new material.

Assistant County Prosecutor Thomas J. Parrino flew back here with palm and finger prints of George Warner Ennis, 36, embezzler who caused a one-day furore with a tale of being offered money to kill the Bay Village housewife and mother.

Ennis was held in Baltimore's jail. On probation for his crime here, Ennis is going to be asked for as a probation violator, said Richard J. McManus, chief probation officer of Common Pleas Court.

One partial palm print on Dr. Sheppard's desk in his apparently ransacked study was among the few clues caught fresh the morning of the killing at the lakeshore home at 28924 Westlake Road.

Baltimore police told Parrino they would check further into

Ennis' movements around the murder day. Ennis said, then denied, he was in Cleveland that day. The last of a half dozen addresses he gave here was in Westlake, neighbor city to Bay.

Leads in the murder hunt ran into dead ends by the dozen. Rough water kept divers from searching farther out on the lake floor for the bludgeon which smashed the victim's face and head.

Reddish stains on a ripped-up T-shirt found in the lake failed to test out as blood, Miss Mary Cowan, technician at the County Morgue, reported.

She had tested by three methods patches cut from the white rag. One method would detect blood even if it were diluted with 12,500,000 parts of water, Coroner Samuel R. Gerber said.

## Found Shirtless

Dr. Sheppard had a T-shirt on when last seen before the killing. Later, after what he described as a struggle with his wife's slayer and a chase down to his beach and a blackout on the shore, he was found shirtless.

A clew that pointed toward domestic trouble sent Bay Police Sergt. Hubach and Patrolman Fred F. Drenkhan to Painesville.

They interviewed Mrs. Jessie Dill there. She said a woman resembling pictures of Mrs. Sheppard had confided that she had tried to get a divorce four years ago in California, but was talked out of it by her husband's family.

There had been known to be a rift at that time between Dr. and Mrs. Sheppard, county officials learned from letters of the dead woman, and at that time the Sheppards did live on the West Coast.

## Saw Woman in June

Mrs. Dill said she had talked with this woman on the beach at Fairport Harbor the week of June 13.

She described the woman's beach blanket as mostly green with green or red stripes, her skirt as dark blue and her blouse as white or yellow.

Drenkhan and Hubach made another search of the dead woman's belongings at the home. They found nothing that resembled Mrs. Dill's descriptions, they said.

Later Mrs. Dill, upset and frightened, was brought to the Bay Village police station to add to her original statement about her conversation with the woman on the beach.

The maniac theory which Dr. Sheppard himself voiced Wednesday night turned out to be that which a psychiatrist had offered both to the Sheppard family and to Coroner Gerber earlier in the case.

## Skeptical of Theory

Mrs. Sheppard was a friendly, amiable person, Dr. Gerber said. The psychiatrist's theory was that some schizophrenic man—who could be just a tradesman or someone who saw her often—might have idealized her and "put her on a pedestal."

Then something happened, the theory ran, to disillusion the deranged admirer, and he decided she must be destroyed.

Dr. Gerber treated that theory skeptically.

Dr. Sheppard gave it as the one he thought most probable to fit the "bushy-haired" tall man with whom he said he grappled and who left his wife dead and him with an injured neck and a blackened eye the morning of the Fourth.