



A CERTIFICATE OF MERIT, for voluntary service rendered in the interests of fire prevention, has been presented radio station KFJL by Robert B. Taylor, state fire marshal. Making the presentation to Alan Abner, station manager, (center) is Robert Rohle, (right) from the state fire marshal's office. Standing by is Fire Chief Roy Rowe, whose weekly program over the station for the past 80 weeks was the basis for awarding the certificate.

## Famed Dress Designer Dior Looks More Like Banker

By MARC PURDUE  
PARIS (U)—Christian Dior, with his conservative double-breasted suits, sober ties and impassive face, looks just like the man behind the mahogany desk in the loan department of a big bank.

Yet this quiet, balding, slightly paunchy one-time farmer is "fashion's creative genius," the man who's tossed another bomb into Paris fashion's H-line bomb.

It's called H-line because that's what the new form is supposed to resemble: narrow shoulders, flattened busts, waistlines at the hip. Skirts are full, pleated or tight.

There was no cheering for his idea in the United States, where women seven years earlier had enthusiastically adopted his "New Look." But curves are more important in America than in France, and there was loud applause at his showings here. If that's an indication, the ideas might win acceptance and start another fashion era.

It wouldn't be the first time for the 40-year-old Dior, the unchallenged leader of the French fashion trade in 1947, immediately after the war.

He burst into this bitterly competitive world on its ear with the revolutionary "New Look."

In one season he became dictator of high style and never since has anyone come near topping him from that profitable pinnacle.

Dior denies any intention of making fashion sensations.

In a book he wrote about three years ago he said styles go in cycles with a complete revolution about every seven years.

The "New Look" now is seven years old. So we come to the current question: Is he trying to effect a change singlehandedly or just get out in front of an inevitable?

"Changes just come about and many things contribute when everybody is ready for them," he has said. "They are not forced by any one designer. They can't be."

This year Dior left skirt lengths alone. He already had his fling at

hemlines: lengthening them in the "New Look" and shortening them last year to 16 inches from the floor.

He has little patience, however, with the people who keep measuring the distance between skirts and floor.

"Too many fashion writers seem to think there is a fixed standard for skirt lengths—so many inches this way or that. We designers are not scientists working with statistics. We work with the eye and by feeling."

Christian Dior's father, a wealthy chemicals manufacturer, planned a career in diplomacy for him, but the family fortune was wiped out in the depression and Christian had to leave the school of political science. He opened an art gallery in Paris, but a serious illness forced him to give it up and retire to the country.

At 30, he returned to Paris without work or money, but one of the paintings from the gallery saved him. He sold a picture by Raoul Dufy and lived on the proceeds.

He stayed with a friend who was sketching designs for hats and dresses. He persuaded Dior to do some. They sold, and "with the presumption of ignorance," Dior settled on designing as his livelihood.

He connected with a smart fashion magazine as an artist, then went to work for the House of Piquet as a "modelist." When the war came, he was mobilized as a private. After it ended he worked as a farmer until he could get back to Paris and a job with Lelong.

In 1947, Marcel Boussac, a plutocratic cotton manufacturer and racehorse owner, put up the money for Dior to open his own establishment. Success came overnight.

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## Lawyer Asks Hearing For Defendant

CLEVELAND (U)—Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, charged with battering his pretty wife to death, leaves his tiny jail cell today to appear at a court hearing into the legality of his arrest.

The hearing is on his lawyer's application for a writ of habeas corpus to free the osteopath, who spent the weekend being questioned by homicide detectives and conferring with Defense Attorneys William J. Corrigan and Arthur E. Peterilge.

## Citizens Watch As Store Robbed

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. (U)—Passers-by watched last night as three men carried 250 suits out of a clothing store, loaded them in a car with Rhode Island tags and drove away.

Police said it wasn't the routine mercantile transfer the witnesses thought. The burglars got away with merchandise worth \$15,000.

Common Pleas Judge Frank J. Merrick, who hears the application, has barred spectators from the small lakeside courthouse.

The legal action, instituted by Joseph M. Sweeney, who must bring the prisoner into court and show cause why he is held.

Corrigan contended the warrant served on the handsome, athletic osteopath, charging first-degree murder of his 31-year-old socialite wife, was illegal because it was issued by Bay Village Council President Gershom M. Barber.

The suburb's mayor, J. Spencer Hook, said he stepped aside because he is a material witness in the four-week-old case. Barber signed the warrant as acting

mayor and the 30-year-old osteopath was arrested Friday night.

Corrigan said that a mayor or justice of the peace cannot delegate his authority in the issuance of a warrant, and therefore Sheppard was being kept in his 4-by-8 foot cell illegally.

Barber said he did nothing illegal, and the suburb's charter provides that the Council president becomes the acting mayor in the mayor's absence.

After about six hours with Sheppard yesterday, detectives indicated very little had been accomplished in adding to his account of the July 4 morning when his wife Marilyn was found in her blood-soaked bed with 27 bone-deep wounds about the head.

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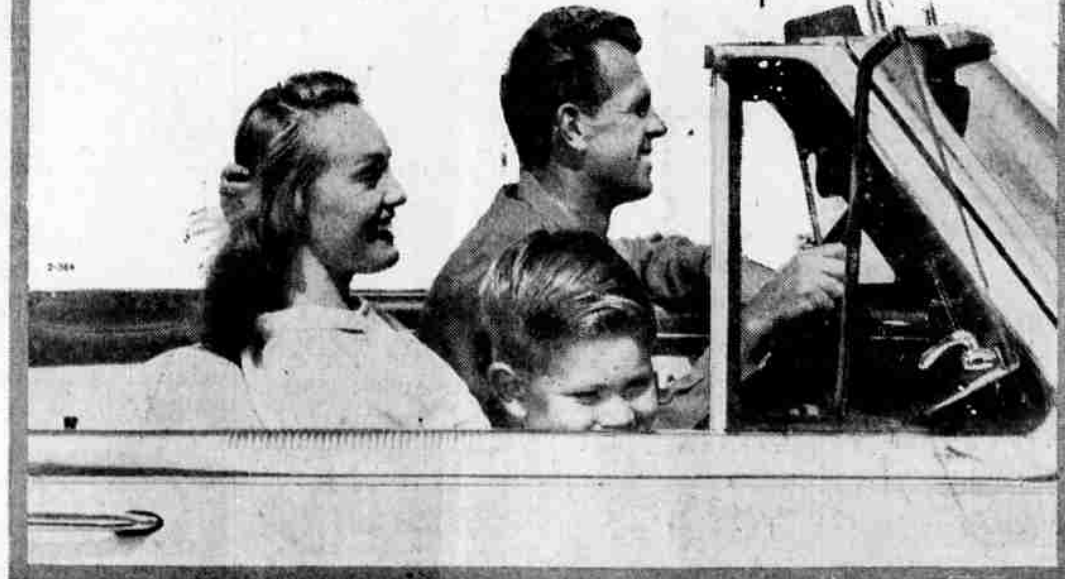
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Homicide Chief David E. Kerr quoted the osteopath as saying: "On advice of counsel, I will not talk about anything to do with the murder."

In his previous accounts of the fatal holiday morning, the osteo-

path said that while dozing on a downstairs couch he heard his wife scream. Then he ran to their bedroom and was "clobbered" by a "white form" with whom he grappled afterwards in a chase outside.

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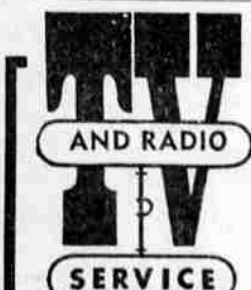


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