Sheppard Takes Stand To Relate Death Night Story

CLEVELAND (AP)—Dr. Samuel Sheppard goes back to the witness stand today to tell his story of the fearful night of July 4 when the wind howled outside his home and a killer walked within.

This is the climax of his long trial on a charge of murdering his wife.

His life may depend on what he says today, and how he says it, and the effect of his words on the jury. He is testifying now in his own defense.

When he finishes, three state's attorneys will be waiting to cross-examine him, to attack his story. The prosecution alleges that Sheppard killed his wife, and that his affairs with other women impelled him to the crime.

It was a prowler, he says, who battered Marilyn to death as she lay in bed that stormy night. And the killer, lurking in the dark, struck him down when he heard her screaming and rushed into the room, he says.

LOVE STORY

Moreover, he is telling a story of love and romance that goes all the way back to the time when he and Marilyn were high school sweethearts.

Sheppard, 30, a slim, dark-haired osteopath, testified in a high-pitched, slightly nasal voice. He gave every evidence of marble calm.

Once or twice, the shadow of a smile flickered across his face. Once or twice, he swallowed and drew a deep breath before answering a question put by his chief defense counsel, grey-maned William J. Corrigan.

Sheppard seemed eager, anxious to talk. The judge, sharp-nosed Edward Blythin, admonished him against giving "too many of these details."

Corrigan did not attempt, in the main, to have Sheppard tell his story in sequence, starting from the time the doctor met and fell in love with Marilyn Reese, as he said, when he was "13 or 14."

EMPHASIZED

Instead, the attorney pushed swiftly into areas with the prosecution has emphasized, he asked:

"Did you tell your wife that you had bought Susan Hayes the watch?"

Susan Hayes, the state contends, is the "other woman" in the doctor's life. She is pert, pretty, 24 years old, a former laboratory technician in the hospital where Sheppard works. She has admitted intimacies with him that extended over some 15 months. Sheppard brought her a watch in California last spring after she lost her own.

"Yes, sir, I did," Sheppard replied. "The only difficulty was that she insisted that I don't put it on my expense account and make my brothers pay for it. I thought I should."

Q—Now then, when she learned about the watch and the incident—you told her about it, didn't you?

A—Yes. I considered it an expense account.

BEFORE

Q—When you got back home in March was there any difference in the life that you took up after March than there had been before?

A—"My wife and I hoped that she was pregnant, and we were happy for that reason.

(A maid in the Sheppard home testified, earlier in the trial, that when they returned from California they began sleeping in separate beds.)

Q—Now there was some information given to the jury about talk of divorce between you and Marilyn . . . Will you tell the jury whether there was any talk of divorce?

A—No, sir, there wasn't. Do you want me to enlarge on that?

Corrigan said he did not, and that if anybody else did, they could ask him, He repeated:

Q—Was there any serious disagreement between you and your wife?

ANSWER

A—I wouldn't say there was any serious disagreement between Marilyn and myself at any time.

Much of Sheppard's testimony was about the romance that started when he was still in junior high school.

He described his tender attitude toward her when they knew she was going to have a child.

All this was designed to undermine the state's contention that Sheppard had a motive for murder.

At the end of the day, lawyers on both sides were non-commital about the possible effect of Sheppard's testimony.

ARRESTED

TOKYO (AP)—Police arrested Masao Yaji, 24, on the eve of his wedding and recovered 89 stolen articles, including electric kitchen gadgets, women's clothes, a mahjong set and timber to build a home. Yaji said he wanted his bride to have nice things.

Highway Group Plans Meeting

Les Swarthout of Burns, Oregon, President of the Three Flags Highway Association, has issued a call to all association members and supporters to meet in Riverside, California, January 7 and 8, for the annual convention. Convention headquarters will be at the Mission Inn.

Association supporters are well pleased, reports President Swarthout, with the volume of new improvements in the alignment of U.S. 395 during the past year and with the assurances from state highway executives that more improvements can be expected in 1955. It is expected that the major portion of the convention will be devoted to ways and means of coaxing the tourists to use the Three Flags route enroute north for a summer's vacation and to enticing the tourists who hale from the Pacific Northwest and the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, to use the Three Flags route as they journey southward for a winter vacation.

Accident Kills Bonanza Man

A Bonanza man lost his life Thursday morning after he had stopped on the highway south of Dorris to put tire chains on a truck. Apparently the brakes on the truck loosened and the vehicle rolled onto his body, authorities stated.

The victim, Delmer Young, 32, Bonanza, was returning from Oakland, California where he had delivered a truckload of Christmas trees.

About 23 miles south of Dorris on Highway 97, Young, unable to negotiate the snow - packed road further, pulled onto the shoulder to put tire chains on when the accident occurred.

Dr. C. R. Drader, deputy coroner at Dorris was called to the scene of the accident and brought the body to O'Hair's Memorial Chapel.

Young resided at Bonanza with his wife Dora Mae, and two small children.

Funeral services will be announced later by O'Hair's.

APPEAL

MOSCOW (AP)—The Russian Orthodox Church appealed today in the government newspaper Izvestia for Christians of the world to support Soviet proposals for a European security system. The appeal criticized Western plans to rearm West Germany.

Senator Says Republicans Demand Ike's Candidature

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Millikin (R-Colo) said today there already is an "irresistable demand" among Republicans for President Eisenhower to become a candidate again in 1956.

Millikin, who heads the Conference of All GOP Senators, discounted in an interview any major split in the party because of the attack by Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis) on the President—a view generally shared by other Republicans and by some Democrats.

"I don't expect any split in the Republican party and neither do I expect any third party movement," Millikin said. "There already is an irresistible demand that the President be a candidate for another term and I don't think he can be beaten if he runs."

McCarthy accused Eisenhower Tuesday of a "shrinking show of weakness" against Red China and blasted at the President for congratulating Chairman Watkins (R-Utah) of the committee which recommended McCarthy be censured. McCarthy said afterwards he plans to remain in the Republican party "at the present time."

GOP National Chairman Leonard W. Hall said yesterday a personal survey of Republican sentiment has convinced him that, as a result of the McCarthy criticism, "the President will find even greater unity and support among Republican members of both the Senate and House during the next two years."

Millikin, who voted in favor of one count but against the final resolution approved by the Senate to condemn McCarthy's conduct, said he agreed with Hall that there will be "a tightening and consolidation of Republican lines both in Congress and throughout the country during the next two years."

Sen. Goldwater (R-Ariz), who opposed the Senate rebuke of McCarthy, said he doesn't foresee "any great split" in the GOP.

Sen. Flanders (R-VT), who wrote the original censure resolution, said that increased support for Eisenhower among members of his own party "would seem to me to be a normal result of the kind of attack the junior senator from Wisconsin made."

Farm Surplus At New Record High

WASHINGTON (AP) — Farm goods stored under the price support program now total nearly seven billion dollars, a record high.

Reporting this Thursday, the Agriculture Department said federal investment in the surpluses as of Oct. 31 was $6,634,107,000 and more commitments since then have pushed the figure close to the seven-billion mark. The amount was $4,544,897,000 a year ago.

The Oct. 31 figure included $2,525,834,000 in loans advanced to farmers for products stored under support programs and $4,108,273,000 in farm goods owned outright by the government.

Biggest item in the Oct. 31 inventory was wheat worth $2,098,700,000, followed by $1,231,942,000 in cotton and $1,167,471,000 in corn.

QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds

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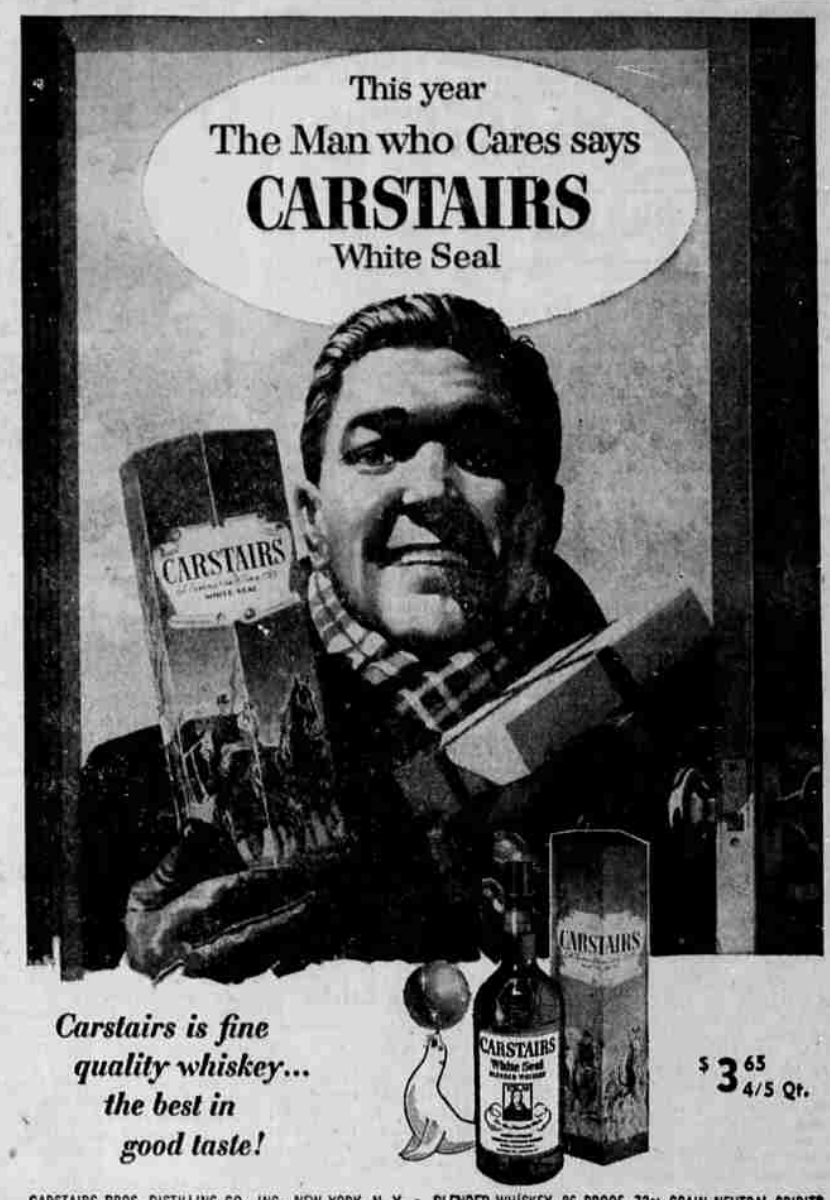

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