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12-22-1954

54/12/22 Verdict Sets Off Frenzied 'Flash'

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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Cleveland Plain Dealer, "54/12/22 Verdict Sets Off Frenzied 'Flash'" (1954). *All Articles*. 36.

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VERDICT SETS OFF FRENZIED 'FLASH'

**Newsman, Telling World,
Push for Position**

People bumped into each other all over the place.

Photographers bulled their way around the corridors shouting: "Get out of the way, please!"

Newsreel and television camera lights flashed on and off.

Scrambling for telephones, teletype machines and vantage points, the press gallery at Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard's murder trial went to work.

The newsmen had heard the verdict and were aiming to report it to the rest of the world as fast as they could.

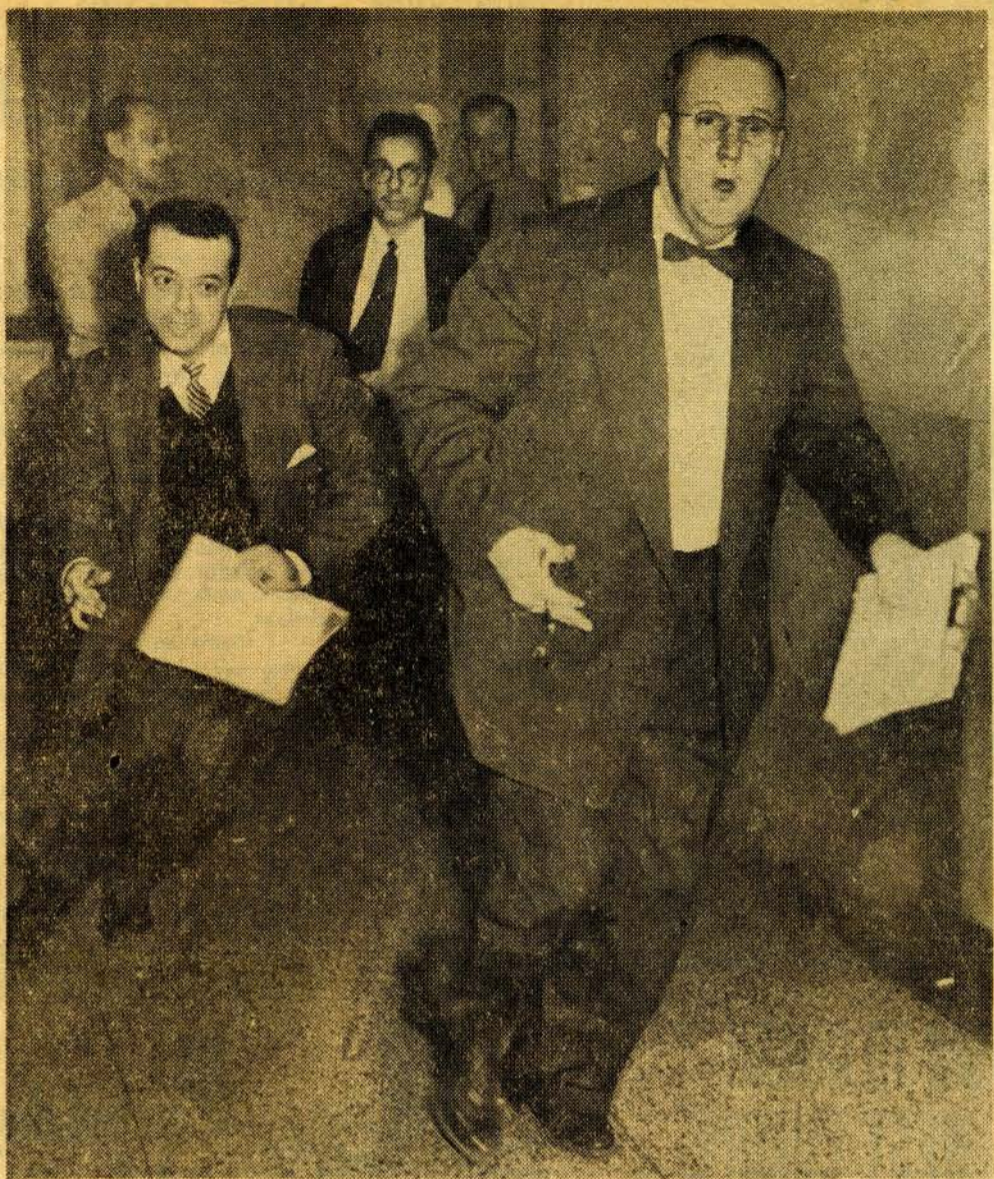
With the sudden surge of activity, the second floor in Criminal Court Building went into confusion, and that atmosphere drifted elsewhere in the building, too.

Newspaper personnel had deadlines to meet. Radio and television men wanted to be first on the air with the verdict. Everybody hurried.

The press gallery inside the little courtroom wanted to hear and see what Dr. Sam's reaction to the verdict would be. He was hustled out and up to his jail cell quickly.

Next quarry for the press were the members of the jury. Police hustled them off to their hotel, and they went closed-mouthed, too.

Bee lines were made for other principals in the trial. Some



REPORTERS' SPEARHEAD.

These newsmen led the way for their colleagues in a rush to the telephones when the verdict was announced.

talked and some refused to answer questions or make public statements.

All the while people kept bumping into one another.

Television and newsreel cameramen had set up a special area in an empty courtroom for interviews. Technicians spent days preparing equipment for use on short notice. They were ready for a smooth operation.

First to go before the cameras was Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, Dr. Sam's brother. Trouble started.

One set of lights failed. They were fixed. A fuse blew. It was fixed. Someone disconnected another battery of lights.

Dr. Richard Is Patient

Power for the electrical equipment went on the blink. It was fixed. Dr. Richard held one end of a tape measure while cameramen checked distances. He was patient.

People kept tripping over electrical cables on the floor. One technician stood up in a jury box chair and promptly fell down.

Finally the equipment was ready. He was asked three brief questions.

Following him were Assistant Prosecutor Saul S. Danaceau and the trial judge, Edward Blythin. Defense Attorney William J. Corrigan refused to take part.

Through all the confusion, the television units got their film and glimpses were flashed on television screens locally.

Later, the film programs were fed around the nation on the National Broadcasting Co. network, by WNBK; the American Broadcasting Co., by WXEL, and the Columbia Broadcasting System, by WEWS.

On radio, WGAR, with newscaster Charles Day reporting, announced the verdict in the same minute it had been returned by the jury. Day was broadcasting from the building.

Playing Cards Fly

Playing cards wore almost as thin as nerves in the five-day wait for the verdict.

Just before the buzzer sig-

naled the jury was prepared to report, five card games and one Scrabble game were in progress in the press corps camp.

desk was knocked to the floor, where the cards lay unnoticed in the rush when the players dashed for the little courtroom.

Afterwards, when the excitement had died, newsmen from out of town bid good-by to each other.

The radio and television technicians coiled their cables.

Custodians began cleaning up the mess.