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54/07/31 Part-Time Law Chief Set Arrest

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Part-Time Law Chief Set Arrest

Weygandt's Order Shifted Course of Sheppard Probe

Despite the intense interest of top officials of Cleveland and Bay Village, it fell the lot of a part-time law director to play perhaps the most important role in a murder case which has stymied police for nearly four weeks.

It was Richard S. Weygandt, a man who has never been involved in a criminal case, who made the decision for the arrest of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard. His decision proclaimed a new phase in the brutal July 4 slaying of the physician's pretty wife, Marilyn.

Studied Evidence Long

Weygandt completed his task of sifting evidence in the murder shortly before 9 o'clock last night. He then issued a brief statement, announcing his belief that "there is probable cause to believe Dr. Sam Sheppard guilty of the murder of his wife."

Weygandt was appointed Bay Village's law director two years ago, shortly after he moved from Westlake to his present home at 579 Huntmere Dr., Bay Village. He was appointed to the position by Mayor J. Spencer Houk, a close personal friend.

Despite his friendship with the mayor, however, Weygandt had never met Dr. Sheppard, another close friend of the mayor, before the murder investigation.

Chief Justice's Son

Weygandt earns his living as a member of the legal department of the New York Central System. He is the son of Chief Justice Carl V. Weygandt of the Ohio Supreme Court, but has had virtually no actual courtroom experience.

Weygandt neither drinks nor smokes. He is married and the father of a son and daughter. Until this week his biggest job as law director had been to advise both sides in an intra-community battle over the proposed erection of an industrial laboratory at West Lake Rd. and Clague Rd. in the suburb.

Although his courtroom experience is limited, the 36-year-old law director showed no signs of hesitancy during the brief proceedings at the arraignment. The hardest part of his job—that of authorizing the arrest—had been completed.

Weygandt reached his decision after more than two days of conferences with Cleveland, Bay Village and county officials, among them County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan, County Coroner Samuel R. Gerber, Chief Frank W. Story, Chief of Detective James E. McArthur and Homicide Capt. David Kerr.



Bay Village Law Director Richard S. Weygandt (in doorway) is shown here as he held a press conference at his front door and announced he had made a decision to arrest Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard.