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## 54/11/05 Defense Hammers at Murder Films

Cleveland Press

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# DEFENSE HAMMERS AT MURDER FILMS

## Keep Screen in Court for Re-Showing

Dr. Lester T. Adelson, deputy coroner, returned to the witness stand at Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard's wife murder trial today to face defense cross-examination about the blows that killed Marilyn Reese Sheppard.

Chief Defense Counsel William J. Corrigan surprised the prosecution by a detailed quizzing of the state's lead-off witness.

He reviewed the 35 wounds inflicted on the Bay Village clubwoman by the missing murder weapon on the morning of July 4.

At Corrigan's request, Dr. Adelson kept his projection screen and Kodachromes of Marilyn's wounds in the courtroom for a possible second showing.

Corrigan—like the prosecution—sought to emphasize the fiendish brutality of the crime.

But his motive was to lay the background for the defense claim that Dr. Sam is a gentle physician, dedicated to saving others from pain, totally incapable of such a deed.

### Ahern to Follow on Stand

When Adelson steps down from the witness stand, his place will be taken by Don Ahern, friend and neighbor of the Sheppards.

Ahern and his wife, Nancy, also called as a witness, will be asked by Assistant Prosecutor John J. Mahon to describe the last evening in the life of the murder victim, and to spell out several of the case's mysteries:

**THE MISSING T-SHIRT**—When the Aherns left the Sheppard home at 12:30 a. m. July 4, Dr. Sam was asleep on a downstairs couch, wearing a white T-shirt. The shirt had disappeared when he reported his wife's murder almost six hours later.

**THE FOLDED JACKET**—Dr. Sam was wearing a curdroy jacket when he dozed off. Hours later, the jacket was found neatly folded on the couch.

**THE LOCKED DOOR**—The Aherns recalled locking the door leading to the Lake Erie beach when they left the home. The door was unlocked when the murder was reported.

Mahon, in his questioning of Adelson, intentionally avoided another mystery—the nature of the missing murder weapon.

The prosecution plan is to present the "undisputed facts" to the seven-man, five-woman jury that will decide Dr. Sam's fate before bringing in expert opinions on controversial points.

### Women Jurors Avert Eyes

Three women members of the jury were visibly affected late yesterday when the courtroom was darkened and a screen set up for Dr. Adelson to show seven color slides of Marilyn's head and hand wounds.

They averted their eyes from the vivid display, and squirmed as if anxious to leave the room.

Dr. Sam sat behind the screen, spared from watching the pictures, but listening attentively to Dr. Adel-

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Highlights of first testimony -----Page 29  
Dr. Sam spared from horror pictures -----Page 28  
Deputy coroner describes wounds -----Page 28  
Relatives to visit Dr. Sam in jail -----Page 28  
Pictures -----Pages 28 and 29



Press 11-5-57

# Dr. Sam's Defense Hammers at Colored Murder Films

## Corrigan Says Blows Impossible for Doctor

*Continued From Page One*

son's crisp medical description of the lacerations and blows that battered Marilyn's brain.

The defendant sobbed several times during the screening, and dabbed at his eyes.

He was comforted by his brother, Dr. Stephen Sheppard, who sat beside him.

Dr. Stephen was permitted to remain in the courtroom by special dispensation of Judge Edward Blythin after other relatives of Dr. Sam scheduled to testify for the defense were barred from the courtroom under the "separation of witnesses" rule.

But Dr. Stephen had been ordered to remain among the spectators, and he reluctantly returned to the back of the courtroom when the lights came on again and the display of colored slides was over.

### Brings Head Model

Dr. Adelson brought a model of Marilyn's head, with the murder wounds showing, but it was not introduced in evidence.

First bit of evidence taken from the murder home at 28924 Lake Rd., Bay Villiage, to be exhibited in the courtroom will be Dr. Sam's jacket.

Mahon said it probably would be introduced during the testimony of the Aherns.

Waiting to testify after the Aherns are Bay Village Mayor J. Spencer Houck and his wife, Esther. They were the first persons summoned to the scene by Dr. Sam on the murder morning.



**END OF THIRD WEEK OF HIS MURDER TRIAL** finds Dr. Sam H. Sheppard maintaining outward composure, except for occasional outbursts of tears. He's shown handcuffed to Deputy Sheriff James Kilroy, waiting for the elevator from the second floor courtroom to his fourth floor jail cell at the Criminal Courts Bldg. This was after the court sessions at which the colored photos of his wife were shown to the jury.