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54/07/27 Corrigan Ejected Amid Cheers

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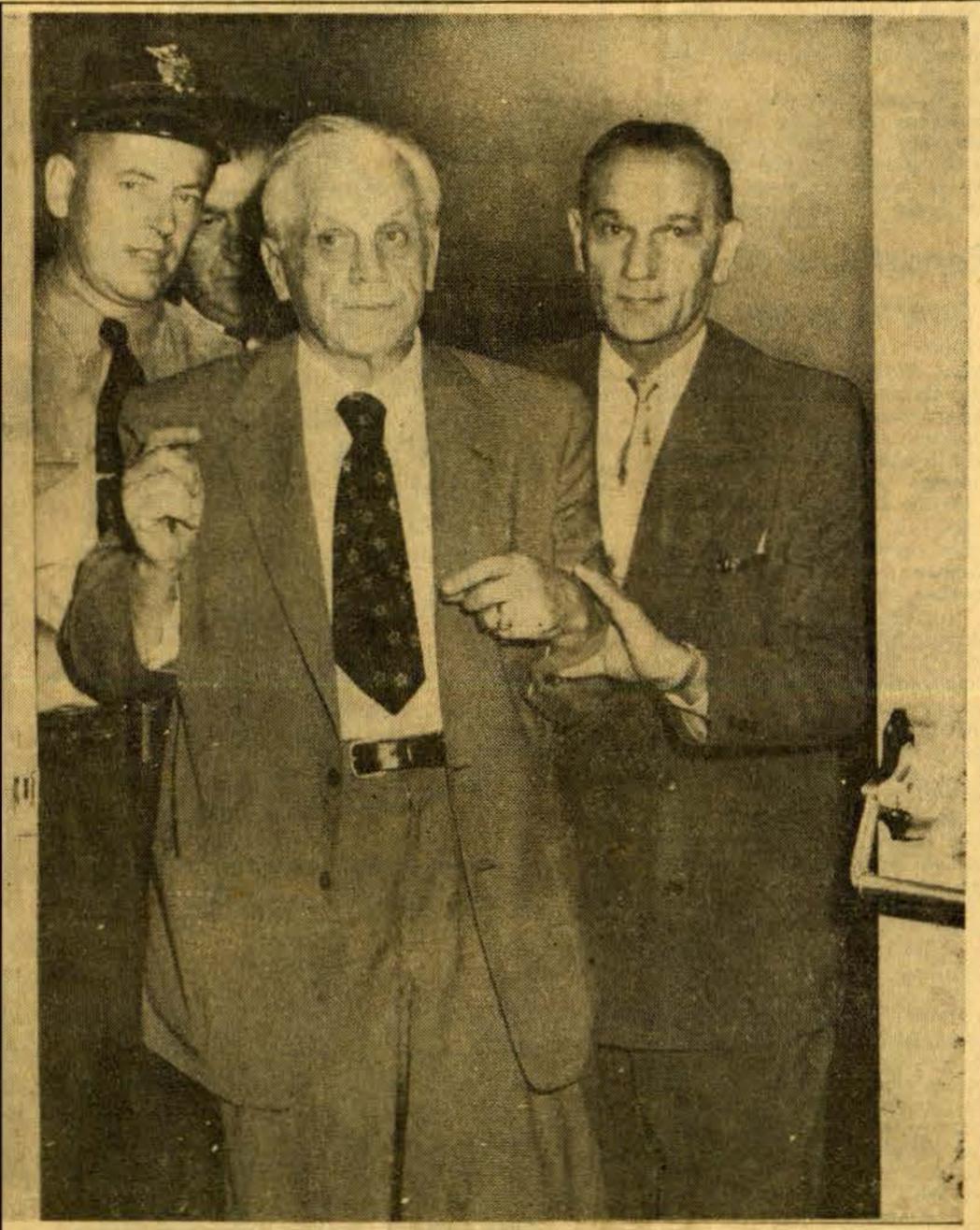
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CORRIGAN EJECTED AMID CHEERS

Move Follows Running Clash With Gerber

CPD 7-27-54



WAY OUT OF AN INQUEST. William J. Corrigan (center), criminal lawyer advising Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, is shown as he was removed from the hearing yesterday in Normandy School in Bay Village by Patrolman Gerhard J. Deutschlander (left) and Deputy Sheriff David Yettra upon orders of Coroner Samuel R. Gerber. This picture was taken by Plain Dealer Photographer Dudley Brumbach. (More Sheppard inquest photos on picture page.)

Inquest Is Recessed; Ousted Lawyer Vows to Sue Over Incident

BY JOHN G. BLAIR

Spectators cheered wildly yesterday as William J. Corrigan, criminal lawyer representing Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, was half dragged from the room in the closing moments of the Marilyn Sheppard murder inquest in Bay Village.

As the tumult subsided in the Normandy School auditorium-gymnasium, Coroner Samuel R. Gerber indefinitely recessed the inquiry into the brutal hack-murder of Dr. Sheppard's 31-year-old wife before dawn July 4.

Ejection of Corrigan culminated a running clash between the lawyer and Dr. Gerber which had flared up intermittently since the inquest started Thursday.

Corrigan had been warned earlier in the day that he would be ousted from the room if he persisted in trying to enter remarks into the inquest record.

Quizzes Sister-in-Law

High point in excitement in the three days of testimony came as Dr. Gerber was questioning Mrs. Dorothy Sheppard, wife of Dr. Richard N. and a sister-in-law of the murdered woman.

Mrs. Sheppard was reading a letter she wrote the victim while "Dr. Sam" and Marilyn were living in Los Angeles on Aug. 28, 1950.

At this point Corrigan stood up and went to Alfonso Romito, court reporter, and began instructing Romito to enter some remark into the record. Romito later said it was something about the inquest scene being something like a hippodrome.

Asked to Sit Down

Corrigan was asked to Coroner Gerber to sit down, but the lawyer asserted he was paying for the stenographer.

Assistant County Prosecutor Saul S. Danaceau interjected that, no matter who was paying the stenographer, Gerber was in charge.

Dr. Gerber warned Corrigan again to sit down or be ejected.

When Corrigan persisted, Dr. Gerber motioned to Deputy Sheriffs Carl A. Rossbach and Dave Yettra to oust the lawyer. Bay Village Patrolman Gerhard J. Deutschlander and Yettra

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each took one of Corrigan's arms and hustled him toward the door.

The veteran of many courtroom battles stiffened in their grasp and had to be half dragged out of the room.

Applause Breaks Out

As the lawyer was escorted from the room the crowd broke into applause and cheers. The outbreak, apparently in approval of Corrigan's ejection, reverberated through the schoolroom and halls.

As Corrigan left the scene he continued talking loudly. Outside in the hallway, he was joined by Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, "Dr. Sam's" father, and the two walked down the sidewalk from the school.

Then, noticing that the spectators were leaving the school, Corrigan returned to the hallway, where he was besieged by reporters and excited, giggling women.

Corrigan was asked to make a statement over a radio station's tape recorder.

"I have no announcement to make over the radio," he said.

"Why don't you let Dr. Sam take a lie detector test? one woman shouted at Corrigan.

He ignored the question as he addressed reporters, saying:

These people are supposed to

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Corrigan Is Ousted at Inquest; Threatens Suit

(Continued From First Page)

be Americans. Haven't they heard of the Bill of Rights?

"Some day some of these people or their children may be in a situation where they might want to know the Bill of Rights."

Corrigan waved his hand at the women swarming around him: "These people are all hostile."

He added that the outcome was not of particular importance to him because he was "an old man."

Threatens to Sue

Then he said he was going to sue the persons who forced him from the room.

"I'll have them in court," he said. "I may not get a nickel out of it, but I'm going to sue."

Corrigan said that if the inquest were reconvened he would be on hand.

"Even if he throws me out again," he added grimly.

Dr. Gerber indicated that he had no immediate plans to reconvene the inquest. But if it is done it will be at the County Morgue, 2121 Adelbert Road S. E., and not in Bay Village, he said.

Women clustered around Dr. Gerber as he recessed the inquest. Several hugged him, some patted his back and others clasped his hand.

Stellar Attraction

The three-day session had been a stellar attraction for the suburbanites. They flocked to it attired in shorts and sun dresses. Many a dish went unwashed and many dinners were late as housewives attended the inquest.

The session brought out several new items of interest in the investigation of the killing of

the attractive Marilyn Sheppard, found dead abed, her face and head chopped 25 times by some unknown lethal weapon.

Mrs. Nancy Ahern, who with her husband, Don, was a dinner guest at the Sheppard home, 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village, the night of the murder, returned to the stand.

She revealed that Marilyn had told her that Dr. Sam was contemplating getting a divorce.

She told how Marilyn had reported a conversation with Dr. Randall J. Chapman, Los Angeles osteopath. Mrs. Sheppard was a guest in the Chapman ranch home near Monterey, Cal., while she and Dr. Sam were on the West Coast last March.

Divorce Weighed

Dr. Chapman was said to have told Mrs. Sheppard that Dr. Sam had told him about considering a divorce. However, Dr. Sam concluded that Marilyn "was right for him" and that he was going to try to make a go of the marriage.

Mrs. Ahern said Marilyn also spoke of Dr. Sam being interested in a young woman in California. Dr. Sheppard has admitted he stayed in the same Los Angeles home with Susan Hayes, 24, former medical technician at Bay View Hospital.

The neighbor said she asked Mrs. Sheppard if she was not upset by Dr. Sam's gift to Miss Hayes of a wrist watch. Marilyn replied that she wasn't, but had protested against Dr. Sam's plan to charge the watch as a business expense.

Not Keen on Second Baby

Mrs. Ahern also brought out that Dr. Sam was reportedly not enthusiastic over his wife having a second baby. Mrs. Sheppard was four months pregnant when she was killed.

Mrs. Sheppard was quoted by Mrs. Ahern as saying she did not think Dr. Sam was "all for it" while discussing the coming baby. Marilyn was quoted as saying Dr. Sam "enjoyed things pretty much as they were now."

Marilyn herself was said to have wanted a child. Previous testimony in the inquest pointed to Marilyn having difficulty adjusting herself to being tied down by the couple's first child, Chip, now 6½.

Chip Is Excused

Chip was excused from testifying at the session by Dr. Gerber. The coroner said he could not see what might be added by the child's testimony at present. Chip slept through his mother's murder in a bedroom next to the one in which she was slain.

Dr. Sam's mother, Mrs. Ethel Sheppard, told the inquest that Marilyn spoke of her husband's indiscretions while they drove to the office of Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, father of the osteopath.

It was on this visit to the elder Dr. Sheppard that Marilyn learned she was pregnant.

Dr. Sam's mother said that Marilyn mentioned Dr. Sam's dating Miss Hayes.

Asks of Miss Hayes

While the mother said Marilyn was not upset about this, she was reported asking her mother-in-law if she knew when Miss Hayes was returning here from California. The mother said she had not even known that Miss Hayes had left.

After learning of her pregnancy, Mrs. Sheppard was described as "very happy about it" as she drove home with her mother-in-law.

Others appearing were Thomas S. Reese, father of Marilyn; Richard A. Lease, administrator of Bay View Hospital; Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, Dr. Sam's father, and Dr. Richard Hexter, physician who examined Dr. Sam at the hospital soon after he was taken there July 4.

Tells of Victim's Concern

Dr. Sam's father related that Marilyn was concerned about Miss Hayes and that she thought Susan was trying "to make" the handsome osteopath.

He said he investigated after Marilyn said she thought Dr. Sam might have been out with Susan instead of making certain house calls.

The elder doctor said he never informed Marilyn of his investigation, in which he "didn't find anything wrong at the time."

Reese said he learned of his daughter's pregnancy on the day of the murder. Marilyn had planned to tell him later.

Black Eye Described

Dr. Hexter's description in technical terms of a black eye suffered by Dr. Sam in the battle he has said occurred after he discovered his bludgeoned wife evoked laughter at the morning session.

As the spectators laughed at Dr. Gerber's question "Would you call that a black eye?" Corrigan interjected a statement.

"There is laughter," he said, addressing Herman Toll, the court reporter. "Mr. Toll, put that down that there is laughter."

Later Corrigan again asked that laughter from the onlookers be noted in the record.

"Put down laughter from the

audience," he instructed Toll.

"Don't you put anything in the record except what the coroner tells you," Danaceau broke in.

"He is my stenographer, too," Corrigan replied.

"You are only a spectator; you are not to participate in these proceedings," Danaceau shot back.

"This is my stenographer," Corrigan continued. "I am taking the record."

Danaceau replied: "You may take the record as far as the coroner's record is concerned, but you are here merely as a spectator."

"It is my record, too, Mr. Danaceau," Corrigan put in.

"In your private record you can put in whatever you want to," Danaceau said.

Puts End to Discussion

"I will put in what I want to in the record," Corrigan shouted.

"—in your private record," Danaceau said.

Dr. Gerber broke in, addressing Toll: "You are directed to remove anything at all either now or previously that Mr. Corrigan has asked you or Mr. Petersilge has asked you to put in the record, by either one of them."

"Now listen to me a minute," Corrigan shouted.

"There won't be any more discussion," Dr. Gerber said.

"I want to ask a question," Corrigan said.

"There won't be any more discussion," the coroner added.

Jury Action Put Off

At the Criminal Court Building it was reported Common Pleas Judge Arthur H. Day would not discharge the county grand jury this Thursday as originally planned.

The jury could possibly consider the Sheppard murder, it was said.

As the inquest recessed, testimony had been taken from 17 persons, including Dr. Sam himself. Dr. Sam's story of the tragic night was the stellar attraction of the quiz, which started after Cleveland officially took over direction of the investigation.

Dr. Gerber's ruling will not be made until the inquest is adjourned. The date of adjournment has not yet been determined.