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All Trials Big Ones to Mahon

The brevity of Prosecutor John Mahon's opening statement—a little less than 30 minutes—as the state launched its murder case against Sam Sheppard belied the amount of time Mahon put into its preparation.

"To me a big trial is the same as a small trial," Mahon said. "When it is time for my opening statement I usually

stay up until about 3 in the morning thinking it out and making notes."

Mahon confessed his preparations were interrupted a good many times on this opening statement eve by phone calls congratulating him on his election day victory, making him a Common Pleas Court judge.

"But I didn't mind at all," he smiled.

There was no huge mob hanging around as the Sheppard jury visited the murder scene—the Sam and Marilyn Sheppard home at 28924 Lake Rd. in Bay—yesterday afternoon.

But there were a couple dozen spectators at all times, a few new ones arriving as other little clusters left.

Some were neighbors of the Sheppards—like Cappy Bryson, the retired lakes captain, and Mrs. Peg Hutchinson, and the Bob Critchfields, who'd been swimming at the Sheppard beach only the Saturday before the murder, and Ralph Bazold.

They stood along the ropes edging Dr. Sam's house, watching the jury as it filed into the house from the chartered bus, craning their necks at a roaring helicopter hovering overhead with a Press cameraman in it, shivering in the cold wind as reporters and photographers worked.

And they looked over the other curious folks who stopped to see what was going on—"the outsiders" as these Bay residents called them, because they didn't live in the closely-knit suburb.

Dr. Sam Sheppard took a good, hard look at the broken branches which were twisted from big trees by the week end snowfall. As he walked to the house, handcuffed, he looked at this damage more than at his shingle-sided home.

On the lake side of the

house a big branch had fallen down across the stairway leading to the beach, smashing sections of the white railing on either side of a landing halfway down.

For some reason Dr. Sam gave this damage no notice as he filed down to the water with the jurors, lawyers and other members of the official court party. The defendant was hatless and wore a checkered topcoat.

"It wouldn't surprise me if a submarine came up out of the lake and started taking pictures," one reporter remarked as he arrived at the Sheppard home and saw hordes of cam-

ermen around with a helicopter hanging above the house.

Police Chief John Eaton of Bay called to the attention of officials the fact that Sheppard's Lincoln standing forlornly in the double garage had water in the radiator, no anti-freeze, and was in danger of freezing up.

The chief had several of his men stationed on the property, keeping correspondents and cameramen away from the house. And Eaton himself gently ejected a couple of news gals who had slipped under the ropes.

James Bowers, 3206 Clark Ave., was the CTS bus driver who drew the assignment of driving the Sheppard jury to the murder scene in bus No. 3103.

"I was glad to get it," he said. "It is very interesting to do a thing like this."

Bowers said the jurors were very quiet all the way out (he took through Lakewood via Lake Ave., a street barred to buses).

"I did hear the women talking but I couldn't hear what they were saying," he reported.

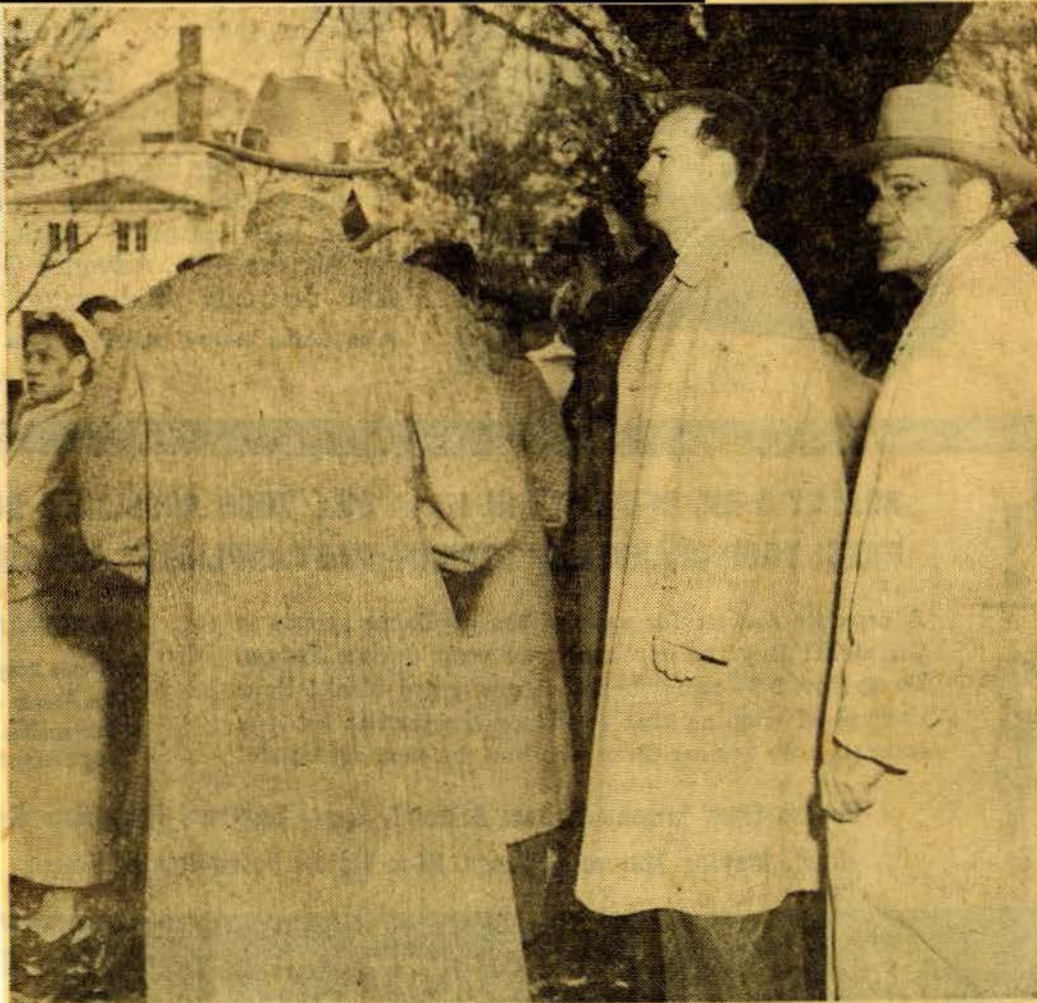
Most of the conversation was about the snow damage done to trees and wires, Bowers said.

The jurors got a good look at Bay View Hospital, for Bowers had to put on his brakes for traffic in front of the institution.

Dr. Sam's brother, Dr Richard Sheppard, stood outside the ropes all during the hour the jury visited Sam's home. He patiently explained how all the rooms were laid out and expressed concern over whether the house was being heated properly, with the weather turned cold.

And he pointed out the basketball backboard above the garage doors.

"Sam and the high school boys would shoot baskets together," he said. Half-a-dozen small garage windows under the backboard were broken, apparently from poorly aimed shots.



THE JURY PASSED A CEMETERY on their bus trip to the scene of the murder. A Sheffield Lake couple has reported seeing a bushy-haired man lurking near the tombstones of this Bay Village burying grounds before dawn on the murder morning.

HIS FACE COMPOSED, Dr. Sam lingers a moment in the crowd of jurors that plodded through his yard. Nearby hovers Deputy Sheriff Dave Yettra. The accused osteopath wept at one point inside the house on this, his first visit since July 9.