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## 54/08/22 11 Of 12 Murders Pass Unnoticed

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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# 11 OF 12 MURDERS PASS UNNOTICED

## Last Killing Makes Head- lines Coast to Coast

About every four days, year in and year out, a homicide occurs in Greater Cleveland without causing a ripple on the face of the day's news.

Facts against 12 indicted slayers are being prepared for judge and jury during the Criminal Courts term opening Sept. 7, but hardly a man on the street could name any of the first 11 defendants. The 12th is Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, accused of premeditated murder of his pregnant wife, Marilyn, in their lakeshore Bay Village home on July 4.

An analysis yesterday of the criminal docket awaiting the end of the summer recess indicated a workload far heavier than average even without the Sheppard case, which could tie up a courtroom for weeks.

With the preliminary skirmishes over for a while and the prisoner apparently reconciled to no new bail attempt, the pace eased up for Criminal Court aides and detectives doing the leg work.

### Reschedule Vacations

Homicide detectives began re-scheduling postponed vacations and planning for normal days off for the first time since the city took charge of the investigation in mid-July.

Barring a major break, such as discovery of the missing murder weapon, the next weeks will be spent by detectives on checking out tips which were laid aside for more urgent work.

County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan's staff faces the monumental task of arranging and digesting the contents of something more than a five-foot shelf of books in the form of hundreds of investigative reports and volumes of statements and transcripts. But the pressure has eased up, and assistant prosecutors assigned to the case found time to clean up some neglected work.

neglected work.

Sheriff Joseph M. Sweeney stayed home on his physician's orders to speed recovery from an automobile accident in which his knee was gashed.

### **Osteopath Writes in Jail**

In his fourth-floor cell, the young osteopath spent the day uninterrupted by visitors with a pad and pencil before him. He was said to be jotting down his recollections of his personal life, extramarital and otherwise, for the benefit of his legal defense staff.

As he jotted, he probably pondered over the imponderable factors that allow 11 murders to pass almost unnoticed and the 12th to be emblazoned in headlines from coast to coast.

Courthouse aides were guessing that his fate would be rested with a jury instead of a panel of judges. They pointed to widely divergent viewpoints held by the public and the fact that a jury of 12 must be unanimous to convict.

The heavy docket, with the Sheppard case last on the list in the normal order of events, probably means the accused wife-killer will not stand trial until mid-October, if then.

### **Six First-Degree Charges**

Six defendants besides Dr. Sam are facing trial for first-degree murder. They are Robert Sanders, Robert Morris, Eugene Shelton, Willie M. Perdue, Marion Taylor and Gladys Pounds.

\* Frequently, time-consuming murder trials are avoided at the last minute when the defendant agrees to plead to a lesser charge.

Two other first-degree murder defendants have been judged to be insane and are in the Lima State Hospital for the Criminally Insane. They may not stand trial until pronounced sane.

Also awaiting trial are two second-degree murder cases and a first-degree manslaughter, besides the usual complement of other felonies.

To Common Pleas Judge Edward Blythin, presiding over the fall term, falls the responsibility for ruling on preliminary motions and parceling out the work. Judges Arthur H. Day and Parker Fulton will also be in the criminal branch until the end of the year.