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54/09/19 Oct. 18 Seen Probable Date for Start of Sheppard Trial

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Oct. 18 Seen Probable Date for Start of Sheppard Trial

Trial of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard starting on or about Oct. 18 appeared probable yesterday as the legal skirmish on the question of his freedom on bail neared an end.

The October date was indicated by the work load on the court calendar. Common Pleas Judge Edward Blythin is expected to announce a definite trial date at the expected conclusion tomorrow of the bail hearing.

Barring last-minute disclosures, the Bay Village osteopath appeared likely to remain in County Jail while awaiting trial on a first-degree murder charge in the July 4th slaying of his wife, Marilyn.

Venue Motion Seen

Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon said he contemplated calling no rebuttal witnesses "at this time" because the defense had produced nothing pertinent to rebut.

Mahon has contended that the

only witness who could set aside the presumption of guilt in the indictment and entitle the defendant to consideration for bail is the defendant himself.

After the bail question, a motion for change of venue is anticipated from William J. Corrigan, defense chief, in a move to have the trial heard elsewhere than in this county. The prosecutor's staff will argue for deferment of a ruling on the motion until an attempt is made to seat a jury, the ultimate test of whether a fair trial can be had.

Courthouse observers professed to see groundwork being laid for a jury trial rather than a panel of judges in the emotional scenes evoked by the bail hearing.

The sheriff's office will require three of the remaining weeks before the trial to summon a venire of 75 prospective jurors.