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VERDICT JUST, IN-LAWS ASSERT

Marilyn's Father Relieved Long Trial's Over

Tears which relieved the long strain of waiting and mixed emotions met the second-degree murder verdict against Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard yesterday among members of his dead wife's kin.

Brothers Keith and Thomas Weigle, cousins of Marilyn Reese Sheppard, said they regarded the jurors' verdict as "just."

Thomas Weigle also reported Marilyn's father, Thomas S. Reese, had expressed himself as being relieved and of the opinion the jury had come to a just conclusion. Reese would say only "No comment" when asked for his reaction by reporters.

Aunts Break Down

Keith Weigle said Marilyn's aunts, Mrs. Worth E. Munn and Mrs. Keith E. Weigle, broke down and cried.

"I had believed there would not be a first-degree murder conviction against Sam," Thomas Weigle, who testified against Marilyn's husband, said.

"Right now it is Christmas time, my feelings on Sam are mixed and I wish the whole thing had never happened."

"We knew Sam and liked him, but he acted like a guilty man," said Keith Weigle. "The jury acted intelligently. The murder was done in a rage and the verdict in my mind was never first-degree."

Chip Alone for Christmas

The verdict meant for the first time in his life Samuel (Chip) Sheppard, 7-year-old son of Dr. Sam, would mark a Christmas without either his father or his mother.

The boy is in the custody of

Dr. Sam's brother, Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard of Rocky River.

Some of Marilyn's kin had wished to gain custody of the child early in July, but had been restrained by members of the Sheppard family, who said Chip had to remain to be questioned by authorities in connection with the case.

Reese, the boy's grandfather, declined comment when asked what action he might take in connection with Chip's custody.

Dr. Sam in all probability will name Dr. Steve as guardian of the child. Any action disputing this measure would have to proceed through Juvenile Court.