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54/12/29 Sheppard Has Spagetti on 31st Birthday

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News 12-29-54 Sheppard Has Spaghetti on 31st Birthday

Spaghetti and meatballs featured the County Jail menu today as the jail's star boarder, Dr. Sam H. Sheppard, marked his 31st birthday.

There was no celebration of the event for the man who insists he is innocent of the Independence Day killing of his wife, Marilyn.

Deputy sheriffs reported that Dr. Sam kept his poise and did not seem disturbed over the lack of celebration of his birthday. He spent the day quietly in his fourth floor cell either reading, napping or playing pinochle with cellmates.

This contrasted grimly with Sam's 30th birthday last year climaxed by a small dinner party in his home at 28924 W. Lake Rd., Bay Village, according to his oldest brother, Dr. Richard N. Sheppard.

"Sam never made much of his birthday," recalled Dr. Richard, "but I do believe we all gathered at his house that evening. His birthday comes so close to Christmas that we generally combined the two."

Dr. Richard said his memory was hazy of Sam's 30th birthday but he recalled their parents, brothers and sisters-in-law went to Sam's home that evening.

Mrs. G. R. Brown, aunt of the murdered wife, said:

"Sam was too busy as a rule for birthday celebrations. Because of the closeness of Christmas we always combined his Christmas and birthday gifts."

Meanwhile, jurors who convicted Dr. Sam a week ago were considering a joint statement explaining how they arrived at their verdict. William C. Lamb, juror No. 4, said confusion had been caused by a few jurors who decided to violate an oath of silence.