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## 55/01/08 Sam To Attend Mother's Rites

Cleveland Press

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# SAM TO ATTEND MOTHER'S RITES

*Press - 1-8-55*

## Sheriff Orders Handcuffs for Trip From Jail

For the second time since he was indicted for the murder of his wife, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard will leave his jail cell to attend a family funeral.

The 31-year-old osteopath today was granted permission by Common Pleas Judge Harry A. Hanna to attend the private funeral of his mother, Mrs. Richard A. Sheppard, at 3 p. m. Monday in the Saxton Funeral Home, 13215 Detroit Ave., Lakewood.

Dr. Sheppard's request to attend the rites at the funeral home and at the burial grounds in Sunset Memorial Park was made for him through his two defense attorneys, William J. Corrigan and Fred W. Garmone.

Last October, during the selection of the jury which tried and convicted Dr. Sheppard of second-degree murder, he was released from jail to attend the funeral of his wife's grandfather, Harry P. Blake.

### Must Be Handcuffed

Judge Hanna said he would grant the permission so long as the sheriff thought there was no danger in the move. Sheriff Joseph M. Sweeney, who was present when the request was made, said he would make the arrangements but would require that Sam be handcuffed to a deputy throughout the time he is away from jail.

Meanwhile, Coroner Samuel R. Gerber, winding up his investigation of the suicide of Sam's 64-year-old mother, said he would not return to the family the gun she used to end her life. The gun belonged to Dr. Stephen Sheppard and was not registered with any police force.

Lieut. Creatore Woods, of Rocky River police, who answered Dr. Steve's call at 12:35 p. m. yesterday that "we've had a suicide up here," said that Dr. Steve told him the gun had lain loaded in his home since he placed the six cartridges in the chamber the morning of July 4.

Dr. Steve told the officer that he kept the gun in the upper right-hand drawer of the dresser in his bedroom. Dr. Steve saw it there yesterday morning.

### Took Gun to Guest Room

His mother evidently slipped the gun from the drawer after the doctor had left for the day. She then returned to the guest bedroom she was occupying in the home at 19027 Inglewood Dr., Rocky River.

Then, while her grandson, Samuel (Chip) Sheppard, 7, was playing in the basement, she shot herself. Chip had been in his own home, but asleep, when his mother was murdered on July 4.

Also in the home yesterday was a maid, Mrs. Maggie Schumpert, who thought the shot was a noise made by Chip. Later, Mrs. Betty Sheppard returned from shop-

# Dr. Sam to Attend Rites for Mother

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ping and discovered the body.

The gun, a snub-nosed 38-caliber Smith & Wesson police revolver, is the same one that Dr. Steve said he carried with him on July 4 to the home of his brother.

At Dr. Sam murder's trial, Dr. Steve had testified that after he was called on the phone and informed of the murder, "I dressed and went to the closet and got my gun."

The gun and a suicide note were the only property brought into the coroner's office yesterday afternoon with the body of Mrs. Sheppard.

## Requires Gun Seizure

Dr. Gerber said that he would keep both the gun and the note as required by law. The gun, he said, could either be destroyed or turned over for police use, but as a suicide weapon, it could not be returned to the owner.

The note, the last move made by the white-haired handsome woman before sitting on the edge of the bed and placing the gun to her head,

contained 11 words:

"Dear Steve—I can't manage without Dad—thanks for everything—Mother."

Dr. Sam learned of his mother's death yesterday when he was visited by Dr. Steve, Mrs. Betty Sheppard and Mrs. Richard N. Sheppard.

He broke down and cried for several minutes. He inquired about his father, who is listed in fair condition in Bay View Hospital, ill with pleurisy.

Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, the father of the three osteopathic doctors, was informed of his wife's suicide last night by Dr. Steve and Dr. Richard.

After his mother's funeral, Sam's attention will return to his own case and the next legal step by his attorneys—an effort to free him on bond while awaiting hearing on a motion for a new trial before the Court of Appeals.

The Appellate Court is expected to hear the bail motion a week from Monday. Dr. Sam's attorney's yesterday dropped a motion for a new trial on grounds of new evidence. Judge Blythin granted a request for a continued stay of execution of Sam's life term.

Meanwhile, Assistant County Prosecutor Saul Danaceau, reported that he would oppose releasing Sam on bail. He said in his opinion two statutes would eliminate the legality of bail for the convicted doctor.