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Dr. Sam Naps, Reads in 8th Month

BY JAMES FLANAGAN

Eight months of County Jail routine have had little outward effect on Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard except that he sleeps more and has changed his reading habits from light to more serious subjects.

The 31-year-old osteopath, convicted of killing his pregnant wife in their Bay Village home, is still dapper, even in prison clothes.

Dr. Sam according to his jailers, keeps in trim by daily and determined walks along a 30-foot corridor in the cell range. He wears denim slacks and a T-shirt.

He Never Complains

“He’s quiet and never complains,” said Sheriff Joseph M. Sweeney, “He sleeps a lot. Sometimes we have to wake him for lunch at 11:30 a.m.”

During his wakeful hours he plays pinochle with cell mates, or reads.

“My reading consists mainly of surgical books, journals and historical novels,” the handsome prisoner wrote to a reporter in reply to a question.

During the first months of his imprisonment he read hot rod magazines and romantic mystery novels of the 25-cent variety.

It has been four months since Dr. Sheppard was found guilty of the brutal murder of the woman he professed to love. He still refuses to see or talk with reporters and sends most of his notes back with a curt: “No comment. SHS.”

Today a reporter sent him a note asking what he reads and how a man of athletic nature stands up under long confinement. A note came back, written in ink on a prescription form.

“Only the effect of a clear conscience and continued drive for truth has enabled me to maintain both physical and mental health.”

Dr. Sam’s daily routine starts at 5:30 a.m. He is awakened by deputies, shaves and showers. Next he has breakfast, coffee, bread, cereal. Then back to sleep. The big meal of the day is served in County Jail at 11:30 a.m., and the prisoner eats it all.

The afternoon is spent napping, playing cards, reading. Supper of sandwiches and a beverage is at 4:30 p.m. His cell door is locked at 9 p.m., but he reads for a while by the light that comes from the corridor.

Dr. Sam’s sisters-in-law and brothers, Dr. Stephen and Dr. Richard N., still lead a parade of 6 to 12 visitors to his cell each Friday. Only one brother comes at a time, since one must remain on duty at their Bay View Hospital.

Mr. Flanagan,

Only the effect of a clear conscience and continued drive for truth has enabled me to maintain both mental and physical health.

My reading consists mainly of surgical books, journals and historical novels.

Sam H. Sheppard

Note which Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard sent to News Reporter James Flanagan.