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54/11/06 Progress to Date in Sheppard Trial

Cleveland Press

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Progress to Date in Sheppard Trial

Marilyn Reese Sheppard was murdered in a matter of minutes on the morning of July 4.

Her husband, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, has been on trial for three weeks, charged with the crime.

How far has the trial progressed?

* * *

Selection of the seven-man, five-woman jury and the housewife alternate was completed last Wednesday.

The jury has visited the murder scene at 28924 Lake Rd., Bay Village.

Prosecutor John J. Mahon and Associate Defense Counsel Fred W. Garmone have made their opening statements.

The first prosecution witness—Dr. Lester Adelson, deputy coroner—was still under cross-examination by Defense Counsel William J. Corrigan when court adjourned yesterday for the week end.

* * *

Here is the ground still to be covered:

The prosecution has at least 25 witnesses to call. Several—notably Bay Village Mayor J. Spencer Houk, Coroner Samuel R. Gerber, Susan Hayes, Dr. Lester Hoversten, Homicide Detectives Robert Schottke and Patrick Gareau, and the detectives of the Cleveland Crime Laboratory—expect detailed, lengthy cross-examination.

The defense, if it fails to have the case dismissed for “lack of evidence” when the state rests, plans to call “every witness who can aid our side.”

Chief defense witnesses will be Dr. Sam himself; his brothers, Dr. Richard N. and Dr. Stephen Sheppard; his sisters-in-law, Dorothy and Betty Sheppard; his father, Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, and staff members of Bay View Hospital.

* * *

How long will the trial last?

Mahon estimates “at least a month.”

Corrigan says “as long as necessary.”

* * *

Most first-degree murder cases tried at the Criminal Courts Bldg. are normally completed in less than three weeks.