

A GREAT GROUP FOR POKER, HE SAYS

Judge Puts Shaw Jury on Poolside Parade

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NEW ORLEANS—Standing poolside at a luxurious midcity motel after the last alternate juror had been sworn in Wednesday for the Clay L. Shaw trial, Judge Edward Haggerty Jr. grinned and mumbled to an acquaintance:

"Boy, would I like to get this bunch in a poker game! There's nothing like a captive group like this bunch, the way I play poker."

"This bunch" was the all-male panel of 12 jurors and two alternates who will sit in judgment of Shaw, New Orleans civic leader charged by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison of conspir-

ing to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

If the judge's remark rings unreal in the retelling, that is only because the scene in the patio of the Rowntowner Motel had to be seen to be believed.

"Better show than Mardi Gras ever was," observed a police reporter.

Director and producer of the show was Judge Haggerty, who had announced earlier from the bench that he had decided to reverse a guideline previously laid down that no pictures of the jurors would be permitted.

The judge said one picture-taking session would be allowed after all, but that he would be present to

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make certain it was conducted with decorum.

If the photographers would assemble at the jurors' motel in 45 minutes, he would have them ready to pose.

"I want to give them 45 minutes to get on clean shirts and put on ties so they won't look like the Scopes monkey trial jury," the judge explained.

Not only photographers but the entire trial press corps as well flocked to the motel for the noon-time tintyping. So crowded did the patio become that more than one onlooker came dangerously close to being nudged into the pool.

The judge ordered the jurors to march down from their upstairs rooms. They filed solemnly, self-consciously into the patio, except for one man who was unable to contain his laughter.

Judge Haggerty fussed over the seating arrangement as if the jurors were the centerpiece for a banquet. He gestured. He frowned. He delivered rapid-fire commands. He sent deputies scurrying for additional chairs when he discovered there were not enough.

Photographers closed in impatiently. "Let's get 'em seated first," the judge said. "If you want later, I'll walk 'em around the pool for you." He later made good on that promise, to the delight of television cameramen.

Once the judge was satisfied with the seating arrangement and the jurors' appearance, he raised his hands skyward, stepped back—almost into the pool—and boomed:

"All right, fire away."

Smiles Broadly

"You mean roll 'em, don't you, judge?" quipped a telecaster.

The judge smiled broadly.

He later announced that

photographers and newsmen could visit one of the rooms where jurors are being quartered and another room which has been converted into a small-scale gymnasium. The judge calls it "their exercise room."

In it are a treadmill, weights, a vibrator, barbells and a chinning bar.

Criminal Sheriff Louis Heyd said the exercise

equipment is being rented for \$125 a month. It was installed, Judge Haggerty confided, after one juror said eight members had asked that eight horses be rented one weekend so they could go riding.

Another juror had proposed reservations on a golf course last Sunday for all members seated up to then.

Judge Haggerty re-

vealed, in one of his asides, that he is putting the jurors on a mealtime budget. He said he made the decision after one juror consumed six dozen oysters before dinner the other evening. "But, as we say down South, they'll till be eating high on the hog," he said.

Asks About Cocktails

What about the cocktails that have been allowed jurors during the evening while they awaited completion of the panel?

"With testimony starting tomorrow, their water is cut off as of now," the judge replied.

First order of business today will be a hearing on three motions which the judge estimated will require not more than one-half hour. Two deal with simple technicalities. The other asks that an out-of-state defense witness be given immunity from prosecution by Garrison to return here to testify.

After the motions are disposed of, Garrison personally will deliver the prosecution's opening statement. Judge Haggerty said he would permit the defense a half-hour recess to determine whether one of Shaw's lawyers will reply to Garrison's outline of the state case with an opening statement in behalf of the defendant. Testimony will follow.