

'I SHALL RETURN,' HAGGERTY VOWS

By JACK DEMPSEY

Ex-judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. cleaned out his desk at Criminal District Court today but vowed, "I shall return."

The deposed jurist made it abundantly clear to newsmen he regards his court-ordered departure from the bench as no more than a temporary inconvenience.

Flashing his Irish grin and seeming in good spirits, Haggerty packed up his belongings and turned the courtroom, scene of last year's Clay L. Shaw trial, over to newly appointed Judge James L. Alcock.

THE LOUISIANA Supreme Court

forced Haggerty to step down after a long legal tussle stemming from Haggerty's arrest Dec. 17, 1969, in a vice raid on a stag party at a local motel.

Haggerty said he is appealing the case to the U.S. Supreme Court and is confident he will win reinstatement.

Asked by a newsman if he would be eligible to run for the post should his appeal fail, Haggerty answered:

"Yes, I would be eligible and I would indeed run."

HE STRESSED, however, that he is "not even entertaining the idea" that he might lose his court fight.

Haggerty packed up his books and other personal items, including a brass

nameplate with "Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr." in gold letters. He loaded the material into a friend's pickup truck and departed.

Judge Alcock, until yesterday first assistant district attorney under Jim Garrison, was appointed to the vacant Section C. judgeship by Gov. John J. McKeithen.

He spent his first day on the bench today and handled 15 magistrate cases without a hitch.

"YOU KNOW the law but the mechanics get a little confusing," said Alcock. "It'll take a few days to get into the swing of the job."

Alcock will hold court in Haggerty's

spacious courtroom for several days, then move into the tiny cubicle in the courthouse attic now occupied by Section I Judge Israel Augustine.

Judge Augustine gets the better room by virtue of seniority but he won't have it long, either. He has promised it to Judge Alvin V. Oser when the next vacancy occurs. Oser wants it because his late father, Judge Fred W. Oser, once occupied it.

So if Judges Oser, Augustine and Alcock have their way, another game of musical courtrooms is in the offing.

Ex-Judge Haggerty, however, has other ideas.

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