

Crump Case Goes to Jury

By J. T. MAXWELL

A District Court jury today began deliberations in the Ray Crump Jr. murder case.

Crump's lawyer, Mrs. Dovey Roundtree kept repeating to the seven women and five men of the jury yesterday that "this little man" could not be the "5-foot, 8-inch Negro male" described in the police lookout last Oct. 12 after the shooting of Mrs. Mary Pinchot Meyer, 43, on the Chesapeake & Ohio canal towpath.

Asst. U. S. Atty Alfred Hantman produced the only surprise of the trial: he waved before the jury the shoes Crump had worn that day, emphasizing the built-up heels.

"There's at least two inches of heels on these shoes," he said, and pointed out that Crump was measured by police at five feet five and a half inches.

"So it adds up to five feet seven and a half inches and do we quibble over half an inch?" he asked in his rebuttal statement to the jury, after Mrs. Roundtree had had her last chance.

PHANTOM

Mrs. Roundtree also repeatedly reminded the jury that the gun that killed Mrs. Meyer (a .38 caliber revolver, according to a ballistics expert) had never been found, despite a search of the area by police, Army mine detector teams and Navy divers probing the Potomac.

"Where is the gun?" she asked. "We have been given a phantom here, and the gun went away with that phantom as he made his escape."

She attacked the maps of the area by which police witnesses showed that all exits from the murder area were closed within three minutes after the shooting.

"But these exits are official," she said. "There are many various little paths."

USES MAP

Mr. Hantman went to the map and pointed out that a fugitive trying to flee the area by other routes than the two exits blocked by police "would have had to swim the 60-foot canal and scale an eight-foot bank and wall."

Crump, 26, of 1908 Stanton Terrace, was apprehended

near the scene less than an hour after the shooting. According to police testimony, he explained his presence and his soaking wet condition with a story that he had been fishing, had fallen asleep, and had slid into the river losing his catch and his gear.

"If Ray Crump didn't shoot Mary Meyer that day on the towpath, why do we have this story of fishing when there is no sign of fish, gear, or bait box?" Mr. Hantman asked. "I call that a fish story."

Mrs. Meyer, a friend of Jackie Kennedy and niece of former conservationist and Pennsylvania Gov. Gifford Pinchot, had been taking her customary noontime stroll along the towpath from her studio at 3325 N-st nw when she was slain.

Mr. Hantman pointed out the bloody evidence at the scene which showed she put up a furious struggle, even after the first shot had passed thru her brain, before the second shot

severed the aorta and she died. He emphasized the testimony of the coroner and the gun expert that both shots were fired at contact, and from behind her.

"This was not wild firing, just malicious mischief," he said. "It was brutal, intentional murder."

He asked the jury to find Crump guilty of first degree murder "and decide any penalty you see fit."

The jury, if it should find Crump guilty of first-degree murder, may unanimously recommend the death penalty, and it is mandatory. A unanimous recommendation of life is mandatory, too. Guilty, but with no recommendation, puts the choice of penalty up to District Judge Howard Corcoran.

The jury also may find Crump guilty of second-degree murder, according to the instructions Judge Corcoran said he would give, which carries a minimum two-year jail term and a 15-year maximum.

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