

Urologist recalls 62 years

By ELSPETH BEIER
When Dr. George Sewell gave up his practice Aug. 1 after 62 years as a prominent urologist in the Detroit area, he went home and oper-

ated on the hedges around his Beverly Hills home.
"I can't imagine what I'll do with my time now, but at least my yard, my piano and organ playing and

my Detroit Tigers might improve," said the 84-year-old specialist.
Dr. Sewell, who has seen countless changes in the practice of medicine over his career, says he has loved every minute of his life. He was willing and prepared to go on seeing his patients except for the bugaboo of insurance.

"I gave up my quarters in my son George's office because the my malpractice insurance went out of business and at my age only Lloyd's of London would pick it up. With legal things the way they are, no doctor can be in practice without insurance," said Dr. Sewell, who never has been threatened with a suit.
"I left my son in charge of my old patients," he added.

DR. SEWELL, at one time the head of urology at both Receiving and Harper hospitals, has had many rare moments in his career. He was the first doctor to give the Schick test in Detroit and was also one of the first physicians to treat the specifics of venereal disease. He wrote the plan of treatment for what were called "the social diseases" in pre-World War I days and it was adopted by the State of Michigan.

He helped Dr. Bill Cassidy do the first cystoscopy (insertion of a light into the bladder).
"It was very difficult then because Edison had not yet invented a cool light and we were afraid of burning the tissues," he said.

DR. SEWELL, whose office was in Detroit's David Whitney building for many years—until his son George "took me into his practice" in Pleasant Ridge, is a native of Windsor, Ont.

After trying his hand at pharmacy, he enrolled in the Detroit College of Medicine (later absorbed by Wayne State University) and was graduated in 1912.
He interned at Harper Hospital

for two years and briefly at Herman Kiefer Hospital where he met his wife Leota.

"I never succumbed to the nurses at Harper, but in only a few days at Kiefer, I succumbed to my wife," he laughed.
He went into practice with the Board of Health and did not specialize in urology until his service in World War I, when he was assigned to that problem area.

"At that time if you studied in Europe, people really thought you were something pretty smart, so I went abroad for studies after the war," he explained.

He continued his "social hygiene" work and his Board of Health clinic, handling up to 800 patients a day until he was 60. He continued privately as an active surgeon until he was 75.

DR. AND MRS. Sewell, 31801 Arlington Road, both take pride in their five children. Two of their sons are physicians specializing in urology. Dr. Guy Sewell of Grosse Pointe and Dr. George R. S. Sewell of Bloomfield Township.

Often asked how he managed to persuade "the boys" to go into urology, the doctor attributes his success to sailboats.

"At our summer place in Amherstburg in Ontario, I always let them build as many sail boats as they wanted. I told the lumbermill man to give them any materials, but to surely stress the cost . . . and I would pay the tab. They both love to work with their hands, still," he explained.

Chief among the dramatic changes Dr. Sewell has observed during his long career is "the miracle of antibiotics. We used to have to remove a kidney, but with new medication we save a lot," he said.

Dr. Sewell's philosophy of life is outlined on a wooden plaque in his den bearing the beginning words of an unknown author: "So live that when thy summons comes"

Man convicted of kidnapping

OAKLAND COUNTY — A 20-year-old Detroit man convicted in June of the kidnapping, armed robbery and rape of a 60-year-old Troy woman has been sentenced to life imprisonment by an Oakland County Circuit Court judge.

Leon Almond, sentenced by Judge Richard D. Kuhn Tuesday, received a life prison term for his conviction on the charge of armed robbery and life imprisonment for the conviction of rape.

Kuhn also sentenced Almond to a minimum of 40 years and a maximum of 60 years for the kidnapping conviction.

By state statute, Almond will serve the sentences concurrently and may be considered for parole in approximately 20 years. Each of the three-count convictions carries a maximum term of life in prison.

ALMOND AND AN ALLEGED co-defendant Billie Coffee, 23, of Detroit, were accused of the March 26 abduction of the Troy woman from the Oakland Mall in Troy.

The victim, testifying before a five-man, nine-woman jury, said during the two-week trial that she was taken from the parking lot at about 1:30 p.m. and taken to Fraser where her husband works. They ordered her to cash a check, but the bank was closed.
The woman said her watch,

rings and credit cards were taken by Coffee who later presented them to her husband, demanding an \$800 ransom.

Later, the woman testified, she was released from her automobile at Long Lake and Woodward in Bloomfield Hills.

Almond was stopped by police minutes later in Royal Oak after a high speed chase, police testified.

THE VICTIM'S HUSBAND also testified that he was driven around for about four hours while Coffee tried to find his partner in Troy. The man was released, about 7:30 p.m. at a downtown Pontiac hotel, he said.

Coffee was charged with armed robbery and kidnapping in the incident. However, the jury became "hopelessly deadlocked" on the charges against Coffee.

Kuhn declared a mistrial in the Coffee case. The Oakland County prosecutor's office has confirmed plans to retry him, perhaps in the early fall.

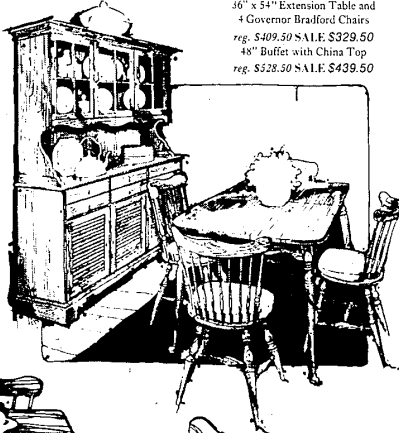
Almond, who received his "like a perfect gentleman," according to the observer, was given credit for the 130 days he has already spent in jail. He was taken to the Southern Michigan Prison in Jackson Tuesday.

Coffee remains in the Oakland County jail in lieu of a \$100,000 bond.

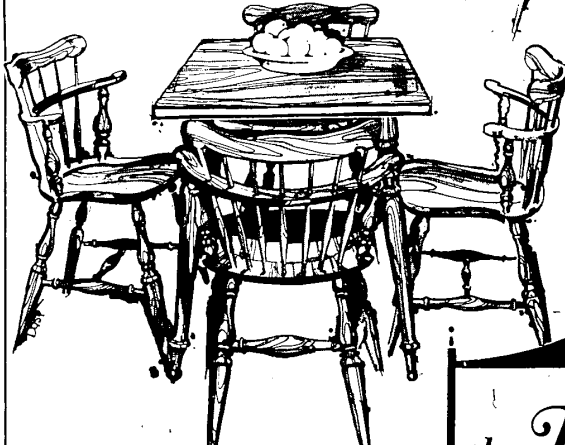
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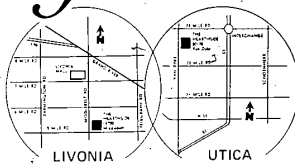
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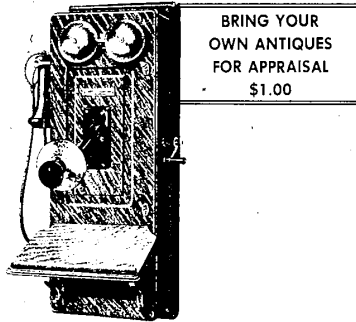
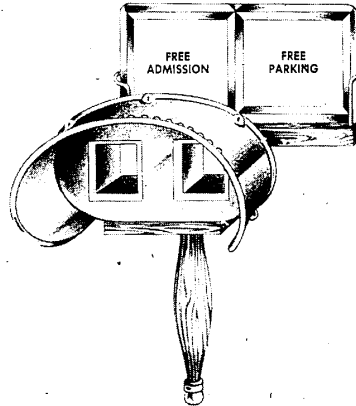
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