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Ohta Murder Trial To Prove Expensive To S.C. County

Ohta Family (murder of)
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The trial of John Linley Frazier, 24, accused slayer of five will get under way as the first month in 1971 nears an end. The Jan. 25 court proceeding will be expensive, probably will have spectacular aspects, and will have the attention of the world's press.

The County Administrative Officer estimates the cost at about \$25,000. If the case is moved to another county, the cost is expected to double.

The trial, as it now stands, will see the staccato delivery of District Attorney Peter Chang pitted against a more flamboyant defense attorney Jim Jackson, who has already made headlines by calling his client "crazy".

Frazier stands accused of the Oct. 19 murders of eye surgeon Dr. Victor Ohta, 45; his wife Virginia (Toby), 43; their sons

Derrick, 12; and Taggart, 11; and Dr. Ohta's secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Cadwallader, 38. All were bound, shot, then dumped into a swimming pool and the Ohta mansion set ablaze.

The bodies were found by firemen who responded to the fire.

Frazier was caught after informants from the hippie community went to the District Attorney's office two days after the murders.

The outside press has tried to cast a Mansonesque flavor to the multiple killings here, but thus far the accused has not acted in the erratic manner of the defendants in the Sharon Tate murders in Los Angeles.

On a few occasions on which Frazier has appeared in public, he shunned photographers and newsmen, and in court appearances seemed to be detached, saying little.

Defense attorney Jackson still has the options to request a change of venue or change the innocent plea to innocent by reason of insanity. At this writing, he has done neither and has said that he has not made a decision on the matter.

Frazier was indicted by the grand jury Oct. 20 following the testimony of more than 20 prosecution witnesses.

Death Penalty Criticism

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