

Grand Jury May Probe 1955 Divorce in Washoe

The Washoe County Grand Jury was asked by District Judge Thomas O. Craven Friday to investigate the 1955 divorce of playboy Tommy Manville's ninth wife which she claims is no good.

District Attorney William J. Raggio said this morning the request had reached his desk and that he had consulted with Manville's New York attorney James Dempsey. Information, he said, would be reviewed and forwarded to the grand jury. Raggio said he has been unable to reach jury foreman Lee Frankovich.

Judge Craven asked for the probe Friday after denying Anita Rodney-Eden Manville's motion to nullify the divorce. Her attorneys promptly filed a civil suit to set aside the divorce.

Both the motion and Friday's suit charge Anita's twin sister,

Juanita Ingraham, impersonated Anita to obtain the divorce. Anita claims she was in Nevada only about 30 days of the required six weeks residency.

The suit names the asbestos millionaire and his current wife, Christina — who's Mrs. Manville No. 11 — as defendants along with Anita's later ex-husband, actor John Sutton, and one Pat Gaston.

The divorce confusion has been going on since 1960 when Anita first stated publicly that something was wrong with the 1955 divorce.

Local officials reviewed her claims at that time and said they found nothing. Later Sutton had his 1957 marriage to Anita annulled in Santa Monica, Calif.

In her suit, Anita charges her sister was forced into posing as her for the divorce because of threats from Manville.