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54/07/10 Guest Again Questioned in Probe in Bay

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Guest Again Questioned in Probe in Bay

BY SANFORD WATZMAN

A man who was a guest of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard and his wife for three days preceding her murder and who also lived with the couple for "two or three months" in 1952 was questioned a second time yesterday by a second set of investigators.

Presiding at the hour-long locked-door session was Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon. Subject of the interview was Dr. Lester T. Hoversten, 43, an osteopath and a former colleague of Dr. Sheppard at Bay View Hospital.

As the conference proceeded, Dr. Hoversten said he was planning to return to Glendale, Cal., on Sunday. When Mahon asked him to remain in the Cleveland area for "a few more days," the osteopath agreed, it was reported.

"Personal Letters"

According to the prosecutor, Dr. Hoversten was asked to come in because, as a close friend of the Sheppards, he might help the authorities to determine whether there was any marital conflict between "Dr. Sam" and his wife.

As he earlier told Deputy Sheriff Carl A. Rossbach in a written statement, Dr. Hoversten said the Sheppards got along "very well," the prosecutor quoted him.

At the same time Mahon confirmed that he was holding certain "personal letters" that were written to the 31-year-old slaying victim by her friends and relatives. He added that Dr. Hoversten did not figure in the letters in any way.

Tells of Interview

This was the account of the interview given to newsmen by Prosecutor Mahon:

In 1944 Sheppard and Hoversten were classmates at a medical school in California. The latter obtained a position at Bay View Hospital in 1952 and came to stay with the Sheppards.

After several weeks he moved and then shared quarters with a group of Bay View doctors until October, 1953. In that month Dr. Hoversten joined the staff of another hospital in Dayton.

He continued to visit the Sheppards occasionally, arriving for

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SHEPPARD AFTER QUESTIONING. Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard sat in a car and toyed with flowers after visiting his house where his wife was slain.

GUEST OF DOCTOR AGAIN QUESTIONED

Ex-Colleague Says Couple Got Along 'Very Well'

(Continued From First Page)

his last visit a week ago Thursday. The following Saturday he went to visit other friends in Kent and was at their home when the murder occurred Sunday morning.

Dr. Hoversten, who is divorced and has no children, is now staying at the residence of Dr. Stephen Sheppard, Samuel's brother.

The 43-year-old man told the prosecutor he had never taken any romantic interest in Mrs. Marilyn R. Sheppard and was said to have remarked that "she was not the kind of woman who would go anywhere without her husband."

After the conference Dr. Hoversten walked next door to Central Police Station, where he added his palm print to the collection taken from other principals in the murder investigation.

Asked to Wait in Corridor

Present with Mahon at the interview were his first assistant, Thomas J. Parrino, and two Cleveland homicide detectives, Robert Schottke and Patrick Gareau.

The Cleveland policemen are still taking part in the inquiry, but are now working exclusively under the direction of Mahon.

When they attempted to question "Dr. Sam" at Bay View Hospital on Thursday, a member of the osteopath's family was said to have objected. Then Deputy Sheriff Rossbach reportedly asked Schottke and Gareau to wait in the corridor outside.

Details Men to Mahon

Asserting that his men had been given "the runaround," Detective Chief James E. McArthur threatened to remove the two men from the investigation, but he agreed later to detail them to Mahon's office.

In the letters held by Mahon, Mrs. Sheppard was admonished



GUEST IN THE HOUSE of Dr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Sheppard was a fellow osteopath, Dr. Lester T. Hoversten, 43. His opinion as to the compatibility of the couple was asked for yesterday by Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon.

to keep her family together and to remain "an ideal wife."

"After all," one of the letters said, "when we have children, the family unit must be preserved."

Dr. Sheppard was described by the writer as "too fine a man with a good brain, which certainly will make him realize how foolish his actions were."