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54/12/22 Susan is Mum on Conviction

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SUSAN IS MUM ON CONVICTION

Hoversten 'Sorry' to Hear Verdict, Calls It Waste

Freckle-faced Susan Hayes had nothing to say about Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard's life sentence.

But Dr. Lester T. Hoversten, one-time friend of Dr. Sam, said he was "sorry to hear it."

Susan, who testified to intimacies with Dr. Sam here and in California, was asked by her father, E. C. Hayes, if she had any comment for the Plain Dealer.

From the lips once kissed by Dr. Sam came only:

"No comment."

Hayes himself wanted nothing to do with it. He also replied: "No comment."

Hoversten Wanted Acquittal

Reached at Glendale, Cal., Dr. Hoversten told the Plain Dealer: "I would like to have seen Sam acquitted.

"Sam is the type of fellow who would be far more value to his son, his family and his fellow men practicing his profession and not behind prison bars."

Sees No Basis for Guilt

Dr. Hoversten added:

"I have no basis to think Sam is guilty.

"I am still at a total loss to understand how he could possibly do it, what could have motivated it.

"I never saw Sam in a rage."

Dr. Hoversten said that if Dr.

"NO COMMENT" was Susan Hayes' reaction to word that Dr. Sam had been sentenced to life imprisonment for Marilyn's murder. Susan admitted intimacies with Dr. Sam.



Sam murdered his wife it must have been something "not premeditated, not planned."

"I think even if he did it, it couldn't be anything more than manslaughter," he said.

Sympathy for Family

"My heart goes out to Dr. Sam's father and mother and his son, especially. Fortunately Chip is young enough so that he will not bear as much grief as others in the family."

"If Dr. Sam is innocent, it is

doubly tragic," Dr. Hoversten added. "I don't know how he could have done it. I'm at a loss to understand it."

Dr. Hoversten cited Dr. Sam's "marvelous training" and said he "hated to think of an excellent surgeon like Sam going to waste behind prison bars when humanity needs him."

Books Passage for Europe

Dr. Hoversten said he had passage booked for Europe on Jan. 13 and was hoping the Cleveland police would release his passport by then.

He plans to continue medical studies in Europe.

Mrs. Julie Lossman, another woman in Dr. Sam's life, said: "I just don't want to say anything."

Asked if she were not interested, Mrs. Lossman replied: "Not now."