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Witness Helps Murder Case, Chief Says

BY HOWARD BEAUFAIT

Dr. Lester T. Hoversten will be asked to submit to a lie detector to test accuracy of valuable new statements he has made in the Marilyn Sheppard murder mystery.

This was disclosed today as Police Chief Frank W. Story revealed that Dr. Hoversten, a California osteopath, had "materially strengthened" the first degree murder case against Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, husband of the slain woman.

Dr. Hoversten, a house guest at the Sheppards' Bay Village home the day before the murder on July 4, flew to Cleveland last night at Chief Story's request and was placed under a police guard at Hotel Carter.

The lie detector test had previously been given to Dr. Robert Stevenson of Kent, O., who said Dr. Hoversten was at his home 35 miles from Cleveland at the time the murder was committed.

Police Call Brother

After Dr. Hoversten made his latest statement to police, Dr. Stephen Sheppard, brother of Dr. Sam, was summoned to police headquarters for questioning by Chief Story and Deputy Inspector James E. MacArthur.

After a two-hour session with Dr. Stephen, the police chief said:

"The Sheppards still are convinced that Dr. Sam is innocent. I told Dr. Steve that we do not think it is our duty to convict Dr. Sam as an individual, but we are trying to determine who committed this murder and to convict that individual. We still have no valid reason to change our present opinion about Dr. Sam."

Chief Story said previously that he was convinced that he had "the right man in jail."

Tells of "Resentment"

Dr. Stephen Sheppard had earlier injected Dr. Hoversten's name into the murder investigation and had complained that police did not thoroughly check his alibi for the murder day.

Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, another brother of the accused osteopath, said he "always thought

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Lie Test Is Sought For Dr. Hoversten

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Dr. Hoversten was a friend of the Sheppard family," but that he heard recently that he "harbored a deep resentment against the Sheppards."

Top investigators in the murder probe talked to Dr. Hoversten until 2 a. m. He faced further questioning this afternoon.

Dr. Hoversten's new state-

ment proves one thing, Chief Story said, "that we have been on the right track right along."

Close Friend of Dr. Sam

Dr. Hoversten was a close friend of Dr. Sheppard. He had been visiting the Sheppards for four days and left July 3 to visit Dr. Stevenson in Kent, O.

The California doctor was reported angry because Dr. Stephen Sheppard had brought his name into the murder investigation on several occasions since Dr. Hoversten left Cleveland.

Present at the questioning of Dr. Hoversten were Chief Story, Capt. David E. Kerr, head of the homicide bureau, Deputy Inspector James E. McArthur, Coroner Samuel R. Gerber, County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan and Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon.

Mahon said that Defense Attorney William J. Corrigan had "thrown out a smoke screen" by insinuating that Dr. Hoversten had left the country and was not available for further questioning.

Story refused to disclose the nature of Dr. Hoversten's new statements, but it is believed they concerned the marital status of the Sheppards and "other women" in the life of Dr. Sam.

Dr. Hoversten, who attended osteopathy college with Dr. Sam in Los Angeles, came to Cleveland early in July primarily to attend a lawn party the Sheppards planned for July 5.

But he left to keep a golf date in Kent on July 3, and spent the night there. He was playing golf when Cleveland police located him and informed him that Mrs. Sheppard had been murdered.

Chief Story said that Dr. Hoversten voluntarily returned to Cleveland last night for further questioning, but that his expenses were being paid by the Police Department.

Earlier the name of Mrs. Sandra Kelly, formerly of Cleveland, was inadvertently drawn into the investigation.

Mrs. Kelly, the former Sandra Nussel, whose parents live at 1895 Brightwood Ave., East Cleveland, lived with the Sheppards in 1949 and saw the Sheppards socially here and in California where Mrs. Kelly's husband, Bob, a pitcher for the Indianapolis baseball team, trained. She said she "was just a good friend of the Sheppards." She now lives in Indianapolis.

Mrs. George L. Hampton, wife of a Pasadena osteopath, told an International News Service correspondent that Dr. Sam brought "Sandy" to her home in August, 1949.