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8-12-1954

54/08/12 Dr. Sam's House Guest Returns

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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Recommended Citation

Cleveland Plain Dealer, "54/08/12 Dr. Sam's House Guest Returns" (1954). *All Articles*. 177.

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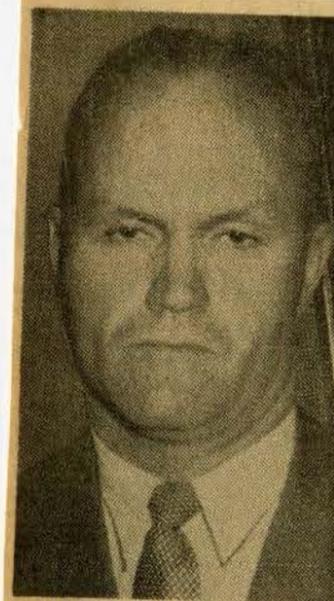
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CLEVELAND—Sunny, continued cool today. Fair, cool tonight. Expected high today 73, low tonight 52. See Page 26

DR. SAM'S HOUSE GUEST RETURNS

DR. HOVERSTEN TALKS TO POLICE IN HOTEL; ARRIVES FROM COAST



IN CLEVELAND TODAY for questioning on what is considered important new information in the Sheppard case is Dr. Lester T. Hoversten.

Osteopath Reported Irked by Family's Hints on His Role

Top investigators in the Sheppard murder case huddled early today with an important witness, seeking new information on the relationship between Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard and his dead wife, Marilyn.

The Plain Dealer was informed that Dr. Lester T. Hoversten, who was a guest in the Sheppard home in Bay Village before the July 4 clubbing murder, flew in from California and was "ready to talk."

Dr. Hoversten, also an osteopath and a close companion of Dr. Sam, was reportedly aroused because the Sheppard family and defense lawyers had tried to bring his name into the investigation.

Named by Dr. Steve

He had been named, both directly and by implication, by Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard, Dr. Sam's brother, as a likely subject for questioning after Dr. Sam was jailed on the first-degree murder charge.

Dr. Hoversten, who also knew the Sheppards when they lived in California, was at the Sheppard home up until July 3, the day before the killing.

He went from there to Kent, O., that day, investigation showed, and detectives said early in the case they were convinced his alibi held water.

County Corner Samuel R. Gerber and Homicide Chief David E. Kerr were closeted early today at Hotel Carter, presumably questioning a witness in the case, the Plain Dealer learned.

learned.

"Not at Home"

Efforts to reach by telephone those two and Police Chief Frank W. Story and County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan failed, but they were definitely placed "not at home."

The Plain Dealer's informant said Dr. Hoversten would be rechecked about Dr. Sam's and Marilyn's relationships.

Although he had been checked out in the probe, police felt he had not told all he knew of the couple and their relationship earlier under some sort of gentlemen's agreement.

There had been published reports that Dr. Hoversten had left this country for a year's study in Germany, but it was recently established he had been in California, where he had gone from Kent, until he came here today.

Still Another Girl

Still another girl, "Sandy," and the information that his murdered wife "took second place to his work" came to light out of the past of Dr. Sam yesterday, California police disclosed.

Police here and in Los Angeles began the hunt for this 1949 girl companion of the young osteopath now in County Jail, charged with clubbing his wife to death in her bed.

"Sandy's" name came out of a guest book which Dr. Sam himself had given to Dr. and Mrs. George L. Hampton, "his

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Los Angeles Police Reveal 'Another Girl' in Sam's Life

(Continued From First Page) west coast parents." The Hamptons live in Pasadena.

Talk Interrupted

Marilyn confided that Sam was "beginning to become difficult," in a 1951 conversation, Mrs. Hampton said, according to the International News Service. But that talk, she said, was interrupted and not resumed.

Fifteen times the Sheppards dined with the Hamptons. Last year Dr. Sam called them two or three times, but did not visit them.

On Aug. 7, 1949, Dr. Sheppard brought "Sandy" to their home, Mrs. Hampton told Lieut. Richard L. Jamison of the Pasadena police. Sam introduced her to them as "a friend of Marilyn's from Cleveland," Mrs. Hampton said.

"Sandy" became number six in the police catalogue of Dr. Sam's "dates" in his nine years of marriage.

Mrs. Hampton said Sam and Marilyn argued often but not violently.

Feels He Was "Spoiled"

"Every time," she told Lieut. Jamison, "Marilyn gave in."

"In my opinion 'Dr. Sam,' as they call him, was spoiled," she told a correspondent for the Plain Dealer.

But she added that he was "a mighty fine fellow" and said he did not have a violent temper.

The last few times the Hamptons saw Dr. Sam, she said, he seemed "preoccupied, absent-minded, quiet," and "took little part in the conversation."

Met at College

Dr. Hampton is now on the staff of McGinnis Industrial Hospital in Pasadena.

He is an osteopath who met the Sheppards when Dr. Sam was studying at the College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons in Los Angeles in 1945.

Dr. Sam was to leave his cell this morning to appear at another court hearing in Room 7 at Lakeside Courthouse.

There his attorneys were to try to balk Bay Village's Council president, Gershom M. M. Barber, from holding a preliminary first-degree murder hearing on the ground that he is "prejudiced."

Seven witnesses had been mustered by the accused husband's attorney, William J. Corrigan. Three were reporters. Two were Bay councilmen.

Against that array, Bay Solicitor Richard S. Weygandt had Barber and two other Bay councilmen.

Merrick to Decide

Common Pleas Judge Frank J. Merrick will decide the prejudice issue. Only principals, witnesses, attorneys and newsmen will be let into the room, which Judge Merrick chose for crowd control.

In his cell Dr. Sam has quit wearing the high, stiff therapeutic collar which has become familiar to the public, Sheriff Joseph M. Sweeney said.

His story is that a marauder, the killer, slugged him into a blackout twice on the murder night, injuring his neck.

A box of nuts was brought to the prisoner by his brother, Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard, and Stephen's wife. The Sheppards took away from him, after 20 minutes' stay at the jail, a bundle of dirty laundry.

Three Chinese prisoners, held for United States immigration officers, were added to the group in Dr. Sheppard's cell block.

Dr. Sam has played cards with

some of the other inmates, Sheriff Sweeney said. Most of the time he sticks to his bunk. He reads all the newspapers each day and listens to the ball game and other programs on his small portable radio by his bed.

One of his lawyers, Fred W. Garmone, also called on Dr. Sam for about 20 minutes late in the afternoon.

Police Chief Frank W. Story slapped at Defense Attorney Corrigan's criticism that other suspects were being ignored while "the police try to make a case only against Dr. Sheppard."

Corrigan's latest suspects were two neighbor men, one recently killed in a highway accident and one now gone to Michigan, and a one-time house guest at the Bay death home, 28924 West Lake Road.

"We have made an effort to find a goodly number of others," Story retorted. "The only other really serious possibility has been completed cleared."

"We are convinced we have the right man in jail. And we have gained some important information from witnesses and from scientific investigation which we are going to keep closely guarded so we don't spoil the case."

Story said he still had no plan to try questioning Dr. Sheppard again. The prisoner withstood all his quiz teams for days, finally ignoring their questions and reading a Bible as the unanswered queries flew around him.

Should Judge Merrick declare in favor of Dr. Sam's prejudice affidavit today, some lawyers said Bay Village could take that decision to the Court of Appeals.

That could tangle up these preliminaries until the case went to the grand jury.

County Prosecutor Cullitan was studying a fat sheaf of police reports, the final fruits of all investigations so far into the bloody killing of July 4.

Chief Story said two more major witnesses were still to be questioned again.

Homicide detectives had made a card file of all names involved in the case, indexed to show how they figure in the complex history of the 30-year-old Bay surgeon and the pregnant woman found slain in her lake-front home.

Those subpoenaed for this morning's "prejudice" hearing were as follows:

SHEPPARD WITNESSES — Mrs. Leah Jacoby Montgomery, Press suburban reporter; James Flanagan, News crime and court reporter; John Fisher, News reporter; Bay Councilmen George J. Serb and Clifton A. Gielow; Robert L. Swanker, former Bay service director, now city engineer there, and Chester T. Brennan, a manufacturers' representative now out west.

BAY VILLAGE WITNESSES — Councilmen Lester W. Schaffer and Dale A. Smith.