



CSU
College of Law Library

Cleveland State University
EngagedScholarship@CSU

[All Articles](#)

[Newspaper Coverage](#)

8-12-1954

54/08/12 Dr. Hoversten Tells More

Cleveland Press

Follow this and additional works at: https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Recommended Citation

Cleveland Press, "54/08/12 Dr. Hoversten Tells More" (1954). *All Articles*. 178.

https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage/178

This Book is brought to you for free and open access
by the Newspaper Coverage at
EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for
inclusion in All Articles by an authorized administrator
of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information,
please contact library.es@csuohio.edu.





The Cleveland Press

The Newspaper That Serves Its Readers

Final

50 Pages—7 Cents

NO. 24039

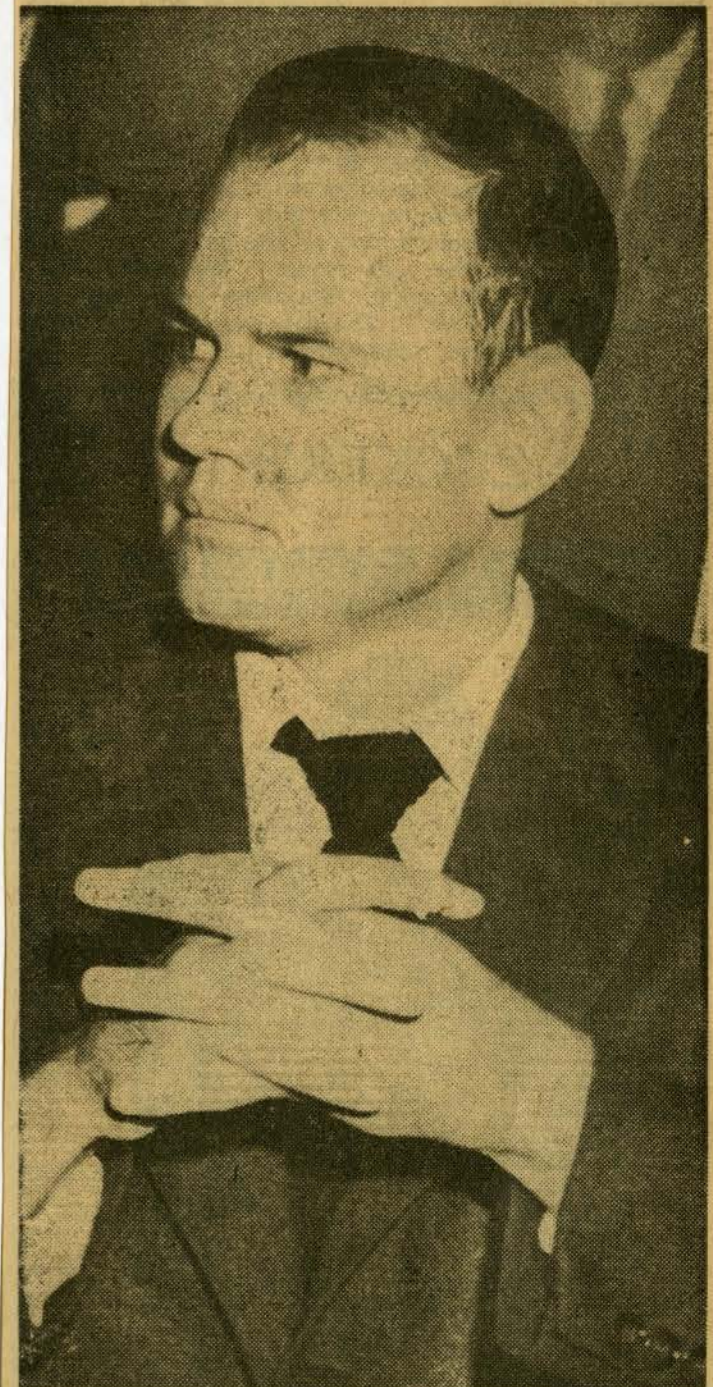
CLEVELAND, THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1954

Phone CHerry 1-1111

DR. HOVERSTEN TELLS MORE



Sheppard Guest
Flies Here With
New Information



THE MYSTERIOUS "SANDY" in the Sheppard murder case was identified today as Mrs. Sandra Kelly, happily married wife of Indianapolis pitcher Bob Kelly. Mistakenly described as "another woman" in the life of Dr. Sam, Mrs. Kelly actually was a close friend of the murdered Marilyn. With her husband, she had visited the Sheppards here and in California. (Story on Page 3).

STAR ATTRACTION in Lakeside Courthouse today, Dr. Sam Sheppard appeared the first time without his orthopedic collar since he was charged with the murder of his wife, Marilyn. It marked the third public hearing since his arrest.

Sheppard Guest Flies Here With New Information

An irate osteopath "mystery man" in the Marilyn Reese Sheppard murder case flew back to Cleveland from Los Angeles today and immediately began "telling all I know" to the police.

Dr. Lester T. Hoversten, 42, was placed under police guard as he dictated a "full statement" detailing what he saw and heard while he was a guest of Sam and Marilyn Sheppard during the three days before her brutal slaying.

His tongue was loosened, officials said, when he learned that the Sheppard family and their attorneys had made repeated demands that he be regarded as a suspect.

The top directors of the 39-day-old murder investigation quizzed Dr. Hoversten for three hours immediately after he stepped off a plane early this morning.

He spent the morning and afternoon dictating his detailed statement to homicide detectives.

Police Chief Frank W. Story said Dr. Hoversten had provided "very important new information which strengthens the case against Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard."

"He fills in some gaps in the case and closes the door for all time on the theory that he should be a suspect," Story said. "His presence and testimony blow away the defense smokescreen."

May Ask for Lie Test

Story said Dr. Hoversten may be asked to take a lie detector test at the conclusion of his statement "if it seems advisable."

As this development came, Dr. Sheppard, charged with the July 4 murder of his pregnant wife, was taken from County Jail in handcuffs to Lakeside Courthouse for a hearing on his claim that he could not receive "fair treatment" in Bay Village Mayor's Court.

Dr. Sam, being led out of the courtroom, told his brother, Dr. Richard Sheppard: "Say hello to mother . . . tell her I am fine."

House Guest Three Days Earlier

Dr. Hoversten was a house guest at the Sheppards' lake front home at 28924 Lake Rd. for three days prior to the murder of Mrs. Sheppard.

"He came back from California voluntarily, at our request and at our expense," Story said.

Police waited three hours at Cleveland-Hopkins Airport because his plane was late.

Dr. Hoversten was angered when told that the suggestion had been made by the Sheppard family and their lawyers that his actions were "peculiar" and he should be considered a suspect in the case.

Questioned by Top Officials

Dr. Hoversten was then whisked to Hotel Carter, where he was questioned for three hours by Cuyahoga County's top law enforcement officials—Story, Detective Chief James McArthur, Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan, Coroner Samuel R. Gerber, Assistant Prosecutor John J. Mahon, and Homicide Capt. David Kerr.

As the session concluded, Dr. Hoversten expressed a desire to return to California, but was asked to remain here.

"He's free and he isn't free," Story explained. "He's

Two "special visitors" were permitted to see Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard in the County Jail this afternoon. They were the Rev. Alfred C. Kreke, pastor of the Bay Methodist Church, and Fred Garmone, one of the doctor's five lawyers.

not really in custody, but there's a policeman with him. I'd say he's a material witness whose testimony greatly strengthens the case."

Story said Dr. Hoversten "gave us some interesting new information." The chief declined to "disclose that information to defense lawyers through the newspapers."

Dr. Stephen Sheppard, Sam's brother, came to Central Police Station and was closeted with Story

Turn to Page 11, Column 1

Hoversten, Guest of Sheppards, Gives New Evidence

(Continued From Page One)

and McArthur for an hour and a half.

He refused to discuss the interview with reporters, but Story announced:

"We discussed in great detail their version of what happened. They still believe Sam is innocent.

"Dr. Steve told us other things which we will work on very diligently. We don't conceive it to be our duty to try to convict Dr. Sam Sheppard as an individual. We are trying to determine who committed a murder and bring him to justice."

Story said he considered Dr. Stephen "sincere," but agreed with McArthur that "we have no valid reason to change our opinion that the right man is in jail."

Confer With Cullitan

Following their huddle with Dr. Stephen, Story and McArthur had a one-hour conference with Prosecutor Cullitan. They would not reveal the nature of

their discussion, other than that it was "about the case."

The Sheppard family and Defense Counsel William J. Corrigan had asked the police to "check more thoroughly" into Dr. Hoversten's knowledge of the crime.

His "voluntary return" was hailed by Dr. Richard N. Shepard, Dr. Sam's older brother.

"I'm happy that he's available so that we can get the full picture of what occurred on that whole week end," Dr. Richard said.

Dr. Hoversten's return was also "welcomed" by the authorities.

Mahon said that Dr. Hoversten was "more willing to talk now than he was previously" because of his indignation at what the Sheppards and their attorneys had said about him.

"He was almost anxious to come back when he discovered that someone was trying to make him a fall guy," Mahon said.

Checked Out Four Times

Mahon added that Dr. Hover-

sten had previously been "checked out four times" and his veracity completely established.

Dr. Gerber said Dr. Hoversten was a "very important witness" in filling in the background of the murder victim's last days of life.

It was a coincidence that brought Dr. Hoversten, a long-time friend of Dr. Sam's who was apparently disliked by Marilyn, into the murder investigation picture.

A former staff member at Bay View Hospital, Dr. Hoversten's employment at a Dayton hospital had been terminated July 1. He had been dismissed at the end of a probationary period, according to Dr. Melvin Schubert of the Dayton hospital.

Dr. Hoversten wrote Sam Sheppard that he would "drop in" for a visit before driving back to Glendale, Calif.

Left for Kent

He arrived on the Thursday before Marilyn's murder. He left to visit Dr. Robert Stevenson at Kent on the Saturday before the Sunday morning tragedy.

During Dr. Hoversten's visit, Larry Houk, son of Bay Village Mayor J. Spencer Houk, heard Marilyn remark that she objected to him "sleeping here all the time."

Dr. Stevenson took a lie detector test when questioned by police as to his certainty that Dr. Hoversten was asleep in his Kent home at the time of



DR. LESTER T. HOVERSTEN, house guest of Sam and Marilyn Sheppard before her murder, was back in Cleveland today to "aid the authorities."

the crime.

Dr. Hoversten voluntarily returned here after the murder, staying a few days at the home of Dr. Stephen Sheppard, Dr. Sam's other osteopath brother.

After Dr. Hoversten's departure, the Sheppard family asked the authorities to "re-check" his movements. Dr. Richard made this request as late as yesterday in a talk with Press Reporter Bill Tanner.

When Dr. Sam Sheppard returned to his County Jail cell from the hearing at Lakeside Courthouse, he found three "fan letters" waiting for him. One was addressed to: "Dr. Samuel Sheppard, TEMPORARILY at the County Jail."

The Lakeside Courthouse hearing was on Corrigan's affidavit of prejudice against Bay Village Council President Ger-shom M. M. Barber.

Wearing the same gray suit he wore to his wife's funeral, Dr. Sheppard did not wear the protective neck collar that has become his trademark since the crime.

While the witnesses testified, Dr. Hoversten sat in a downtown hotel room, dictating a "full statement" about his

knowledge of the once private lives of Sam and Marilyn Sheppard.

Dr. Hoversten was the second witness flown here from California in the Sheppard murder investigation.

First was Miss Susan Hayes, 24, former Bay View Hospital technician, who contradicted Dr. Sam's sworn inquest testimony that he never had intimate relations with her.

Their transportation and hotel bills are being paid out of the county prosecutor's funds.