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54/08/13 Sheppard Wins Court Plea; Police Question Houk Again

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SHEPPARD WINS COURT PLEA; POLICE QUESTION HOUK AGAIN

Dr. Hoversten Is 'Cleared' by Lie Detector

BULLETIN

Police Chief Frank W. Story joined the questioning of Mayor J. Spencer Houk late today. He immediately summoned Dr. Stephen Sheppard to the session to confront Houk. Story said after three hours of questioning the Bay mayor police had learned nothing of value.

Bay Village Mayor J. Spencer Houk appeared at police headquarters today for further questioning in the Marilyn Sheppard murder investigation.

Deputy Inspector James E. McArthur said he had ordered the mayor to come in for a new statement, but refused to disclose developments that made it necessary.

"I want to talk to that man," the inspector said.

McArthur said that Houk was "brought in" by homicide detectives.

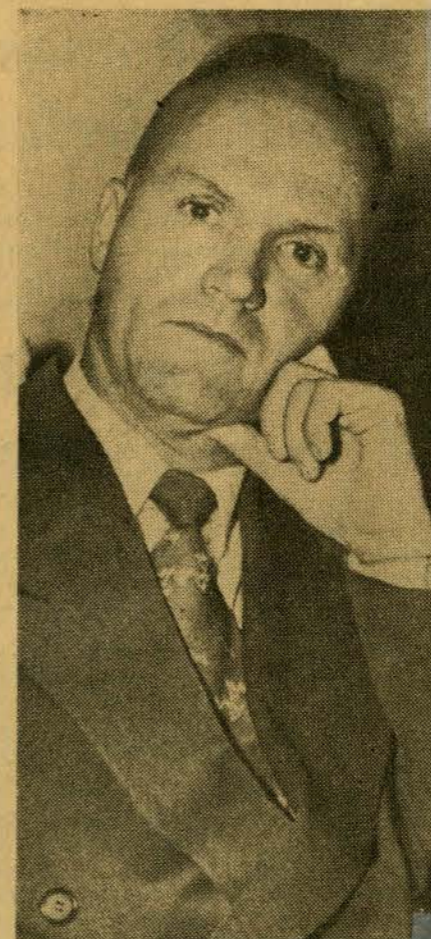
Houk was questioned steadily for three hours by McArthur and two homicide detectives. At the end of that time a transcript of the mayor's testimony at the coroner's inquest was brought into the closed door session.



Dr. Lester T. Hoversten takes lie test.



"Why would an innocent man refuse the test?"



"I want to clear up these rumors about me."

No New Story Indicated

There was no indication that Houk had changed his original version of what he saw and did at the Sheppard home the morning of the murder.

It was reported that Houk, close friend and neighbor of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, was questioned about statements made about him by Dr. Stephen Sheppard and Dr. Lester T. Hoverssten.

Mayor Houk appeared haggard and nervous. He was taken first to the office of Capt. David E. Kerr, head of the homicide bureau, and was questioned there by Kerr and Detective Adelbert O'Hara.

Later the mayor was taken to Inspector McArthur's office and questioned there behind a locked door.

As the mayor answered a barrage of questions about his knowledge of the Sheppard fam-

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Houk Is Questioned By Police Again

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ily affairs, Dr. Hoversten came to the police station and submitted to a lie detector test.

Dr. Hoversten, a house guest at the Sheppards until a day before the murder, flew here from his California home to give police information they said had "materially strengthened" the case against Dr. Sam Sheppard.

Dr. Hoversten said he had not only agreed to take the test, but had "demanded it."

"I can't understand why anyone who is innocent would refuse to take the lie test," he said. He did not mention by name Dr. Sheppard who declined to take the test early in the investigation on the grounds that his emotional state would make an accurate finding impossible.

Investigators said that two lie tests had shown no deception by Dr. Hoversten and he had been cleared completely.

Dr. Hoversten said he had returned to Cleveland "to clear up a number of things, especially rumors started by the attorneys and members of the Sheppard family who have been trying to put me in the murder picture, although I can't understand why they would."

Police Chief Frank W. Story said that Dr. Hoversten had been completely "absolved of any connection with this crime" and had given police a truthful account of everything he knows about the marital difficulties of Dr. Sam and his wife.

The lie test was given to the Californian by Bernard Conley, police laboratory assistant.

Houk, a Bay Village butcher, made three previous statements to police. He was the first person to arrive at the murder scene the morning of July 4 after he received a call from Dr. Sam.

The mayor denied a statement attributed to him by Police Chief John Eaton of Bay that Sam and Marilyn Sheppard quarreled violently and that "Marilyn was in fear of her life."