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## 54/08/14 Irate Houk Confronts Steve; Calls Him Liar

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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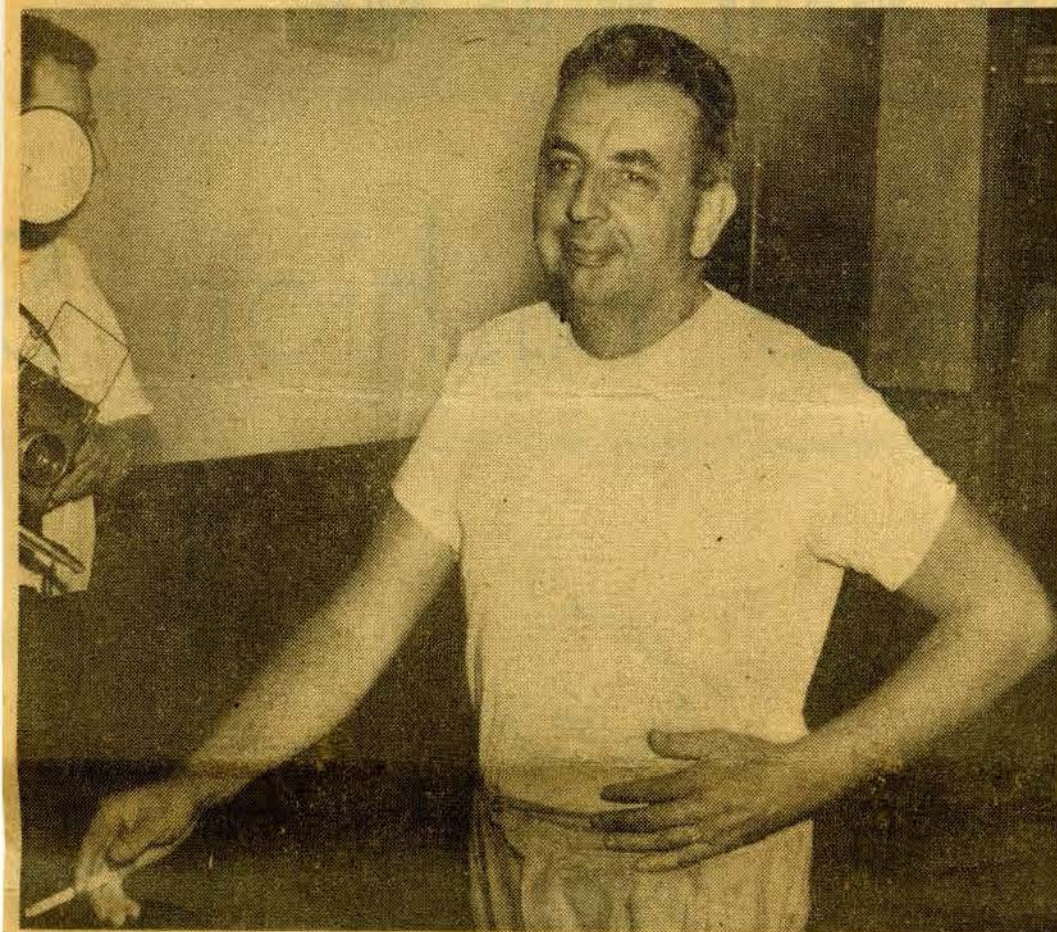
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SEVEN CENTS

# IRATE HOUK CONFRONTS STEVE; CALLS HIM LIAR



**COLD SHOULDER.** Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard (left) refused to ride in the same elevator with Mayor J. Spencer Houk (right, back to camera) after Houk was questioned by police. Also shown with his back to camera is Detective Adelbert O' Hara (middle).



**SMILING WEARILY,** Mayor J. Spencer Houk (left) leaves the office of Deputy Inspector James E. MacArthur after questioning in the Sheppard case.

## Didn't Love Victim, Says Mayor; Was No Suspect

Stopped before he could punch his accuser, the angry mayor of Bay Village, J. Spencer Houk, convinced police yesterday that he had no secret love for Marilyn Sheppard and was not responsible for her murder.

Mayor Houk called these charges "a lie," as he was put face to face with their author, Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard.

"Marilyn was one of the purest girls I've ever known," he added, according to those questioning him.

"If anyone had made advances to her, he would never be a welcome guest at her home after that," he said.

### Greatly Incensed

"Mayor Houk was greatly incensed," said Chief Frank W. Story. "We had some difficulty restraining him."

"Physically?" he was asked. "Did he take a punch at Steve?"

One of the detective quizzers broke in: "He walked right up to him," and illustrated by showing him hauling off to swing a well-clenched fist.

The tall, limping meat-dealer mayor, 43, was the latest "suspect" offered to police by the Sheppards and their attorney.

After six hours at Central Police Station, Mayor Houk, the neighbor, friend and fishing partner of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, 30, was taken home with no "suspect" label on him.

### Dr. Steve's Story

Dr. Steve had told Chief Story on Thursday that:

**MARILYN TOLD HIM** six months ago on "a professional visit" that the mayor had been in love with her for two years.

**NO INTIMACIES** had occurred between them, however, Marilyn is supposed to have said on this visit.

**HOUK AND MARILYN** had been together most of every day out in a boat, fishing, when the Sheppards and Houks took a Canadian trip last year, while the murdered woman's husband slept most of the day.

That was the "tip" Dr. Steve took to Chief Story, the chief said, when he came in Thursday, after the Sheppards' previous prime suspect, Dr. Lester T. Hoversten, turned out to be not overseas but in his Glendale (Cal.) home, and flew here to offer information in the case.

Any last trace of a cloud over Dr. Hoversten has been blown away by the way his story meshes with other known facts, authorities said.

(Continued on Page 5, Column 1)

# DR. STEVE A LIAR, IRATE HOUK SAYS

## Denies Charge He Secretly Loved Marilyn

(Continued From First Page)

He told reporters: "I have no feelings at all against Dr. Sam and his father and regard them as my friends."

But he also said: "I cannot understand why anyone would refuse to take a lie detector test if he felt he was completely innocent."

Dr. Sam has refused all lie tests, either on the polygraph or with truth serum.

Dr. Hoversten took two lie detector tests to prove his words. Both were inconclusive. He turned out to be "a reactor," the type whose reactions may be strong on both "cold" and "hot" questions.

### Refused Truth Serum

A Sheppard finger once before pointed at Mayor Houk.

Dr. Sam on July 21 refused truth serum. He said he was afraid he might implicate some innocent man while under the drug.

On that day he told Mayor Houk that he was the person he feared he would accuse, it was learned.

In white T-shirt and blue hobby jeans, Mayor Houk was driven to Central Station at 10:20 a. m. by two detectives. Chief Story said emphatically he was

not under arrest, not booked and not charged with anything.

"He has undergone vigorous and intensive questioning," said Chief Story, "and then Dr. Stephen Sheppard was brought in to confront him with the statement he had made.

"After all this questioning and confronting we found no reason to hold Mayor Houk as a suspect in the murder.

"We told this to Dr. Stephen Sheppard. He said: 'I am very, very glad to hear that,' and that these things were accumulating in his mind and he felt it his duty to inform us of them.

"It has not changed our mind as to the position of the husband, Dr. Sam Sheppard. He is still, as he always was, the number one suspect.

"Dr. Stephen Sheppard had no evidences of intimacies, only surmises, he admitted."

After the Houk questioning was over in Detective Chief James E. McArthur's third-floor office, Dr. Steve was the first to walk out. Close-lipped, he walked to the elevator and pushed the buzzer.

Then Houk came out and went to the same place. No elevator had come, so the two were uneasily waiting almost side by side as newsmen and camera

flashes assailed them.

Dr. Steve spun on his heel and walked back toward McArthur's office. He took a drink at a water fountain. He dodged some more reporters.

By that time the coast was clear and he went back to wait for the next elevator after Houk's.

Chief Story said he told Dr. Steve: "In spite of the remarks made by members of the Sheppard family, and their lawyers, better than 40% of the work of this department is devoted to investigating other suspects beside Dr. Sam.

#### **Will Seek More Facts**

A further question period for Dr. Hoversten was scheduled for this morning in the office of County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan. Cullitan and John J. Mahon, his assistant in charge of the case will seek more facts.

Meanwhile Dr. Hoversten, 42, who was the house guest at the lake-front murder home from July 1 to within 12 hours of the bludgeon killing, was kept at Hotel Carter under police watch.

He and Dr. Sam were "confidants," Chief Story disclosed. They knew about each other's "dates," each other's careers in osteopathy and intimate feelings, he said.

He added more "other women" to the police list of Dr. Sam's girl friends.

Dr. Hoversten did not go out with the Sheppards while here in July. He gave the names and addresses of friends he had visited here on those days.

Dr. Hoversten observed nothing unusual, Chief Story said, about the relationship of Dr. Sam and his pregnant wife July 3, the day before she was found, her head hacked to a pulp, in her bed.

He had been working at Bay View Hospital until after noon. Then he left Bay Village for Kent, O., to stay overnight with Dr. Robert Stevenson and his parents and to golf with Dr. Stevenson on the murder morning.

What cleared him was the fact that the Stevenson dog came up to sleep in the third-floor room where Dr. Hoversten bunked. The dog made guttural noises. Dr. Hoversten could not sleep.

So he took the dog downstairs and locked it in the kitchen. Dr. Stevenson's mother heard him take the dog down and then return to bed. That was about 1:30 a. m., an hour after they had all retired.

#### **Get Mileage Figures**

The murder, 35 miles away, was committed about 3. Police also got mileage figures from Dr. Hoversten's speedometer that showed, they said, that he could not have made a fast trip to Bay and back that night.

Visiting day for the accused husband at County Jail brought him 10 visitors. Dr. Steve and his wife and Mrs. Richard N. Sheppard, another sister-in-law, and his father, Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, came.

Gervase M. Flick, 20, a protege of Dr. Sam who furnished one of the many Sheppard suspects—a hitchhiker—to police; Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Brown, 1861 Idlewood Avenue, East Cleveland, aunt and uncle of Marilyn; and Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Paine, 28913 West Lake Road, just across the street from the death home, and another friend were his other visitors.



**COMMON PLEAS JUDGE WILLIAM K. THOMAS** (seated) yesterday conferred with opposing lawyers in the Sheppard murder hearing scheduled for Monday morning. Left to right: Assistant County Prosecutors John J. Mahon and Thomas J. Parrino, William H. Corrigan, Fred W. Garmon and William J. Corrigan, lawyers for Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, Judge Thomas and Richard S. Weygandt, Bay Village law director.



**DR. LESTER T. HOVERSTEN** (left) talks to Police Chief Frank W. Story after taking two lie detector tests yesterday.