8-14-1954

54/08/14 Near Fight, Cry of Lie, End Steve's Accusation of Houk

Cleveland Press

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The bespectacled, serious-faced man in the brown suit and Panama hat stepped off the elevator on the third floor of Central Police Station.

Looking straight ahead, he walked past the closed door of Detective Chief James McArthur.

The door opened, and Clarence Hawkins, veteran secretary of the Detective Bureau, looked out. “In here, Dr. Sheppard,” he called.

Dr. Stephen Sheppard, 34, stepped into the room and one of the most dramatic moments of his life.

The young osteopath didn’t change expression as Bay Village Mayor J. Spencer Houk, who had considered Dr. Steve a friend until short days ago, leaped to his feet and shook his fist. “You liar!” the 42-year-old mayor blurted.

Dr. Steve’s eyes wandered about the room, taking in McArthur, Homicide Capt. David Kerr and Detective Adelbert O’Hara.

On the green wall was a framed quotation about “Loyalty.” It was loyalty to his younger brother, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, 30, that brought Dr. Steve into this scene.

Glancing out McArthur’s window, he could see the grim gray sandstone of the County Jail, where Dr. Sam sat in a cell block—charged with the July 4 murder of his pregnant wife, Marilyn.

Dr. Steve was in this room because he had pointed the finger of suspicion at Mayor Houk, Sam’s close friend. In an effort to free his brother, he had splashed serious aspersions on the reputation of his murdered sister-in-law.

* * *

The seeds of the emotion-packed confrontation were planted Thursday, when Dr. Steve paid a surprise visit to police headquarters.

He wanted to “provide some new leads,” he told McH-
"come downtown" voluntarily—else.

The startled mayor came volun-
tarily to the police station to change from his "T-shirt and

ugly blue slacks.

After giving the tree-shrouded, murder home at 32821 Lake Rd. as the police
car started downtown. He was

welcomed to this home by a

frontline phone call from Dr.

Sam, with whom he is co-own-
er, Sam's
defense resorted to the defense. But

the morning of July 4.

Crime of July 4, he refused the

demand of Coroner Samuel R.

Gerber and Cleveland homicide

demand of Coroner Sam. On

July 4, he refused the

questioning as a

sufficient for grilling as a

suspect in a

murder investigation, on

the accusation of Dr. Stephen Sheppard...

Astonished by Order

Houk, who was home at 28924 Lake Rd.,

Sam's

and McArthur slept on

Friday morning, McArthur

jotted down notes as

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