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54/11/20 Spotlight Turns to Hoversten: Gets Chance to Refute 'Love' Report

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MSL

ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

SPOTLIGHT TURNS TO HOVERSTEN

Gets Chance To Refute 'Love' Report

BY HOWARD BEAUFAIT

Dr. Lester Hoversten, who according to state testimony was mentioned in rumors as one of the "potential lovers" of Marilyn Sheppard, will testify early next week when the state moves into its murder motive.

A California osteopath, Dr. Hoversten has denied he was infatuated with Marilyn Sheppard, and claims that he was injected into the case as one of the many suspects named by Dr. Stephen Sheppard, brother of the defendant.

Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon, directing the prosecution of Dr. Sheppard, on trial for the brutal murder of his wife, said that Dr. Hoversten would have been on the witness stand sooner but defense attorneys have delayed the trial with "repetitious questioning" of state witnesses.

When the trial is resumed Monday morning, Homicide Detective Robert F. Schottke will face further cross examination by Defense Attorney Fred W. Garmon.

In a matter-of-fact manner, Schottke from the witness chair poked a half dozen holes in Dr. Sam's story that a burglar murdered his wife.

Q. Did you ever have an affair with a Sue Hayes?

A. I wouldn't call it an affair but we have been good friends for some time, which was known to my wife.

Q. Had she been employed at Bayview Hospital?

A. Yes, I don't know the exact dates. She was employed there when I initiated my work at the hospital and she terminated her work there some time last winter or early spring in 1953. She returned some time later in that year and terminated her work again at the hospital some time early in 1954. She went to California.

Q. In what capacity was she employed at the hospital?

A. Laboratory technician.

Q. While at work you had considerable contact with her didn't you?

A. Yes.

Shown here are parts of the two statements which were read to the Dr. Sam H. Sheppard murder jury by Detective Robert Schottke. They are questions asked by Detective Schottke and the answers are those of Dr. Sam Sheppard.

Q. Do you know of any reason why someone else would take her life?

A. Possibly.

Q. Will you state the possibility?

A. Well, I don't know but I have heard of individuals who are maniacal enough that when they start something, an act like that, it becomes a compulsion, a means of satisfaction like the ordinary man has from an orgasm or something of that nature. She has spurned lovers, potential lovers.

Q. How many of those potential lovers did she have?

A. Three that I know of and I am pretty sure, more. I am certain that there were more.

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Tells of Hoversten Charge

Schottke testified that the day of the murder, July 4, Dr. Sam made his accusation against Dr. Hoversten during questioning at Bay Village Hospital.

"He said Dr. Hoversten was infatuated with Marilyn Sheppard, but he knew that his wife was faithful to him," the detective told the jury.

Later in a nine-page statement made to police at County Jail, Dr. Sheppard added that his wife had at least three "potential lovers." He said he offered their names to police as possible suspects.

Quizzed About Miss Hayes

Schottke said that Dr. Sheppard first said his relationship with Miss Susan Hayes was casual, but later admitted he bought her a watch, and that his wife was "upset" when she learned about it.

"Is it true, doctor, that on several occasions, when you were discussing your marital troubles, that you flew into a rage?" Dr. Sheppard was asked.

"Absoluey not, never," he re-

Continued on Page 2, Column 5

Hoversten To Testify Next Week

Continued From Page 1.

plied. He admitted that his wife was "quite jealous" because of his many contacts with women, "both patients and fellow workers" at the hospital.

In his statement, read to the jury by Schottke, Dr. Sheppard said that his wife "spurned lovers, potential lovers." He was asked how many potential lovers she had, and he replied: "Three that I know of, and I'm pretty sure more."

Houk Also Accused

Aside from Dr. Hoversten, Mayor J. Spencer Houk of Bay Village, was also accused of being in love with Marilyn Sheppard by Dr. Stephen Sheppard. The mayor denied it and a lie test supported his denial.

Schottke testified that an examination of the Sheppard home failed to substantiate Dr. Sam's story that a burglar had committed the crime.

The detective said that Dr. Sam first said there were two burglars, but later change it to one. When he was first questioned he said he was knocked out by one of the two burglars as he stood in the hall outside his wife's bedroom.

Later he said he went into the room and was "clobbered" there by the man who was "working over" his wife.

Schottke said that when he told Dr. Sam that "the evidence points very strongly to you, and in my opinion you are the one who killed your wife," Dr. Sheppard said, "Don't be ridiculous."

"What was the tone of his voice when he said that?" Schottke was asked.

"The same tone as in answer to all our questions. It wasn't angry and was rather unemotional," he said.

In cross-examining the Cleveland detective, Fred W. Garmone, co-defense counsel for Dr. Sam, emphasized that Schottke had come to the conclusion that the victim's husband was her murderer after less than an hour's investigation of the crime itself.

The rest of the six hours Schottke and his partner, Patrick Gareau, remained in Bay Village on July 4 was spent in questioning the defendant and talking with other police officials, a detailed account of their activities showed.

Says No Tests Were Made

Schottke admitted under prodding by Garmone that the green bag in which Dr. Sam's jewelry was found near the beach and the corduroy jacket he had been wearing several hours prior to the murder had not been subjected to scientific tests.

Garmone attempted to show that the wrist watch, ring and key chain were handled by dozens of people when he asked Schottke to leave the witness box to demonstrate the manner in which each item was lifted for examination.

In a number of other instances Garmone was foiled by prosecution objections to questions asked Schottke. One of these came when Garmone demanded that the detective furnish the defense with copies of reports made of Dr. Sam's two questionings on July 4.

Repeats Concealment Charge

Schottke maintained that they were official police reports and therefore not subject to public scrutiny. While the argument about the report was going on, Garmone repeated the defense's charge of concealment heard many times during the trial. At adjournment the issue was still not settled.

In his prolonged questioning of Schottke regarding the first visit to Dr. Sam's room at Bay View Hospital, Garmone asked:

"At that time didn't Dr. Sheppard say that he had worried about his son's welfare after finding his wife's battered body?"

"Chip's name was never mentioned," Schottke replied.