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54/07/31 Find New Suspect, Dr. Steve Asks

Cleveland Press
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As dusk fell last evening, Press Reporter Bill Tanner sat in an automobile in front of the white home of Dr. Stephen Sheppard at 19027 Inglewood Dr. in Rocky River.

Tanner was there because Dr. Sam Sheppard was in Dr. Steve's home and he (Tanner) had been assigned to keep track of Dr. Sam's movements.

Dr. Steve came out on the porch, waved to him, looked around and went back into the house. Tanner walked up on the porch, rang the door bell. Dr. Steve answered it.

For the next five minutes Dr. Steve and Tanner discussed in a friendly manner the Sheppard murder mystery. Here are the high points of their conversation:

TANNER: I suppose you wonder why I'm out here.

DR. SHEPPARD: No, I don't wonder. I know why you're here. But you're wasting your time. Why don't you go out and get yourself a real story?

TANNER: Why am I wasting my time here?

DR. SHEPPARD: Why, nothing is going to happen tonight, Weygandt (the Bay Village solicitor) has told us that nothing will happen tonight.

TANNER: Oh, have you been in touch with Weygandt?

DR. SHEPPARD: Of course we have, what do you think we are, a bunch of dummies? Do you want a good headline for tomorrow?

TANNER: Sure. What would it be?

DR. SHEPPARD: Where is ________? (He mentioned the name of a friend of Dr. Sam Sheppard.

TANNER: Okay, where is he? He's in Europe or on his way there now, isn't he?

DR. SHEPPARD: I think he's in Mexico. Anyway, why don't the police know where he is? I've asked them and they don't know. Why make Sam the No. 1 suspect? Why not get another one?

TANNER: Well, the police say they have checked out —'s alibi and that he definitely was in Kent, O., the night of the murder.

DR. SHEPPARD: Well, maybe so, but look at who gives him the alibi. The old man is deaf, the old lady is blind and the son used to date Sue Hayes. And Kent's only...
Find Another Suspect, Dr. Steve Suggests

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35 miles from here, about an hour's drive.

TANNER: Do you think --- did the killing?

DR. SHEPPARD: No, I don't say that, I don't say he's the one. But why only Sam? Why not someone else? Of course you guys (The Press) are out on a limb. We'll see that it's sawed off.

TANNER: What do you mean?

DR. SHEPPARD: Well, you all felt that Sam was the guilty one. But now that you can't get the authorities to agree with you, you're going to try to prove he's guilty. We can take all you can dish out, we're rolling with the punches, then when the time comes, WHAM!

TANNER: No, you're not seeing it right.

DR. SHEPPARD: Oh, yes I am. We've been in scraps before. We fought the medics. You've got yourself out the window. When the time comes we'll blow it off. You don't care who committed the murder. You don't care whether or not it was Sam. You just want to justify your position.

TANNER: Oh, no.

DR. SHEPPARD: You want to get another good story?

TANNER: Sure.

DR. SHEPPARD: Talk to Dr. Elkins. He'll tell you he found blood in Sam's spinal fluid, he found the same injuries that I found. Or talk to the technician who read the X-rays. When she told the Cleveland detectives she found the same data that I reported they blew their tops and accused her of being coached by me. Talk to Sam's dentist. He'll tell you that Sam couldn't have inflicted those injuries on himself. Ask him. Or go to the minister to whom Sam and Marilyn first revealed her pregnancy. He'll tell you they were elated. He knew about it before I did. Don't sit here, go out and get yourself a real story.

At this point Mrs. Stephen Sheppard appeared in the doorway. “Telephone, Steve,” she called out. Dr. Sheppard said “So long” to Tanner and went into the house.