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Press 5-17-57

Sheppards Changed Minds About Lie Tests

By BILL TANNER

Willingness on the part of the Sheppard family to undergo lie detector examinations is a reversal of attitude expressed by Dr. Sam and his brothers in July, 1954.

At that time, in the days following the murder of Marilyn Sheppard, the brothers repeatedly said they were advised by counsel not to take the tests.

It was announced this week that Dr. Stephen Sheppard and his wife, Betty, and Dr. Richard Sheppard and his wife, Dorothy, took lie tests in Chicago early this month. They "passed," according to the testers, men who make up Argosy magazine's "Court of Last Resort."

And, according to mystery writer Erle Stanley Gardner, Dr. Sam Sheppard has expressed his willingness to take a lie test in hopes of "proving" that he told the truth on the witness stand when he denied murdering his wife. He is serving a life term for the murder.

Argosy magazine has taken up the Sheppard case in an attempt to increase its circulation.

A search of Press files on the Sheppard murder investigation shows that Dr. Sam's reason for refusing a lie test shortly after the murder was that he was "too upset emotionally."

Later he said he would not object to a test given by some neutral party, other than the Cleveland Police Department.

When Dr. Alan Moritz, head of pathology at Western Reserve University, offered to give Sam a so-called "truth serum" test, he declined because he did not want to "take a chance on implicating innocent people."

A "truth serum" test is given while the subject is under sedation.

Attack Lie Tests

One of the most scathing attacks on lie detector tests made during the Sheppard investigation came from Dr. Sam's attorneys, William J. Corrigan and Fred J. Gar-

mone.

In a statement they issued in reply to newspaper coverage of the investigation, the attorneys cited an Appellate Court opinion against the use of the lie detector as court evidence.

Cite Difficulties

The opinion pointed out that there are too many unknowns involved in operating the machine, such as the part that race, environment, age, habits and past experience may play in the emotional response of the subject.

A lie detector measures the subject's emotional reaction to questions on the theory

that a lie produces a greater reaction.

Corrigan and Garmone also cited a New York Times editorial which said: "No machine can detect a lie."