

Final 6/11/66

New Trial Is Ordered For Dr. Sheppard

Convicted Of
Murder In 1954

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP) — There will be a new trial for Samuel H. Sheppard, whose much-publicized first trial in 1954 ended in conviction for second-degree murder in the bludgeon slaying of his first wife, Marilyn.

Cuyahoga County Prosecutor John T. Corrigan gave his decision on a new trial Friday after studying the U.S. Supreme Court ruling Monday which said Sheppard did not receive a fair trial in 1954.

Sheppard, who served nine years in prison before getting out on a federal court order in 1965, told newsmen he will welcome a second trial.

"I know I can prove my innocence," Sheppard, 42, said after listening to Corrigan's statement on the radio. "I am eager to attain complete vindication."

His only concern, he said, was that it would be an "ordeal for Ariane and other members of my family."

Ariane, 35, a blonde German divorcee, married Sheppard after his release from prison. She was at his side during the news conference on the lawn outside their brick row-apartment home in suburban Rocky River.

Prosecutor Corrigan told newsmen he decided on a new trial because he thought that "society has been the victim of a heinous crime, and it demands redress. Society demands a fair, impartial, objective trial for the defendant before his peers."

Sheppard, who has steadfastly maintained his innocence, said he did not think the state "had a case at all."

"I wonder if the case won't be thrown out of court," he declared. "Where are the facts? Where is the chain of evidence?"

"We will have a tremendous amount of evidence to prove my innocence," he said. The one-time osteopath declined to discuss what new evidence the defense might present.

Marilyn Sheppard, 31, was found bludgeoned to death in her bed in suburban Bay Village on July 4, 1954.