



AP File Photos

Dr. Sam Sheppard smoked a pipe as a young F. Lee Bailey talked to reporters during the retrial that freed the doctor.

New 'Fugitive' Case Evidence

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cleveland — The coroner's office has found hair and fabric samples that might help prove Dr. Sam Sheppard was wrongly imprisoned for the 1954 murder of his pregnant wife.

The Sheppard case inspired the television series and movie "The Fugitive" about a doctor falsely accused of killing his wife.

The items, which have never been subjected to modern forensics tests, were located in a locked safe, Cuyahoga County Coroner Elizabeth K. Balraj said Wednesday.

Sheppard's son, Sam Reese Sheppard, has asked a judge to rule that his late father is innocent and was wrongly imprisoned for 10 years in the murder of his wife, Marilyn.

Dr. Sheppard was acquitted at a retrial in 1966 — when he was represented by a young F. Lee Bailey — but died in 1970 at age 46.

Common Pleas Judge Ron Suster held a hearing yesterday on the evi-

dence. He had ordered prosecutors and the coroner to search for evidence in the 42-year-old case.

There are indications in the coroner's reference files that other slides of microscopic materials from the crime scene may have survived, said Assistant Chief Prosecutor Carmen Marino.

Marino said he has obtained seven volumes of files from the Bay Village Police Department. But the Sheppard files once held by the prosecutor's office and the Cleveland police remain missing, he said.

Sheppard's son has asked that unidentified blood found on a basement wall in the Sheppard home be tested to determine whether its DNA make-up matches that of Richard Eberling, 66.

Eberling, a one-time handyman at the Sheppard home, is serving a life prison term on a separate murder conviction. He has denied killing Marilyn Sheppard but was brought to the county jail last week to submit a blood sample.



Sam Reese Sheppard

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