

SURGERY, PUNISHMENT AHEAD

Trouble Piles Up For Jeanette, 16

A girl, 16, said last night on the eve of major surgery that she expects to pay for her part in the kidnaping and robbery of a Mission Beach couple.

The girl is Jeanette Knisely of 3768 Bay-side Walk, Mission Beach. She is in a private hospital for removal from her intestines of a safety pin which she said she swallowed while in Juvenile Hall.

The operation is scheduled for this morning. The girl said the pin is open.

After swallowing the pin, Jeanette was removed to The County Hospital. She then was taken to the private hospital by her mother, who obtained a room and telephone for the girl. She is not under guard.

AWAITS PUNISHMENT

In a telephone conversation with a reporter, Jeanette said:

"I want to get out of this trouble, but I don't expect to get off scot-free. I'm willing to take my punishment."

A district attorney's complaint charges that on the night of Jan. 2 Jeanette and two youths kidnaped and robbed a Mission Beach couple and held them captive for seven hours while threatening them with knives and guns.

The victims finally were released un-harmed. They are Fred Levi Zahler, 56, a used car dealer, and his wife, Rose Evelyn, 55, a first grade teacher. They live at 705 Yarmouth Ct., Mission Beach.

One of the alleged kidnapers, Charles Harrison Cooper, 19, of 631 Rockaway Ct., Mis-sion Beach, is in the county jail in default

of \$50,000 bail. He will be arraigned in Superior Court Feb. 14.

The other boy, John Robert White, 16, of 2880 Burgener Blvd., Clairemont, also was taken to Juvenile Hall.

Jeanette denied she tried to kill herself by swallowing the pin. She said in the interview that she accidentally gulped it while trying to hide it in her mouth. Juvenile Hall inmates are not allowed safety pins, she said.

"They (the authorities) don't believe me," the girl said. "They think I tried to kill myself."

In the conversation, Jeanette admitted her part in the kidnaping and robbery of the Zahlers. She further admitted she held a gun and a knife on the couple. But she said she didn't know Cooper's plans.

FRIENDS ABOUT 2 WEEKS

"I thought those people were just going to be tied up," the girl said. "I didn't know he (Cooper) wanted to kidnap them. Then it seemed like he wanted to kill them."

Jeanette said she had known Cooper only about two weeks and that she became involved with him because she was sorry for him.

"He said he had just gotten out of Tracy (a California Youth Authority institution) and that he was wanted in another kidnaping," the girl said.

"The girl said her mother is broken hearted and 'so is my guy—the guy I wanted to marry.'"

She refused to name this boy, but said he is 19 years old.

New Director Of Welfare Begins Duties

Homer E. Detrich Promises Efficient, Effective Program

Homer E. Detrich, 38, yesterday began his duties as San Diego County's new director of public welfare.

He has been a district director in the Los Angeles County department of charities the past three years.

Detrich was appointed to his post Jan. 14 by the Board of Supervisors. He received the highest rating of 67 candidates for the position in a nationwide recruitment and examination program. He will be the first director of public welfare to serve under a reorganized department approved by voters last June.

"The people have a right to expect an efficient and effective welfare program," Detrich told a reporter yesterday. "That's exactly what I'm here to see that they get."

SUPPORT WELCOME

Detrich said a welfare program can be only as strong as its community support. He said he will welcome continuing interest of the public in the program here.

The 25-member welfare advisory committee established by the charter amendment voted in June will be helpful in that line, Detrich believes. The supervisors last Monday appointed 20 of its members.

Detrich said he has no idea when he will meet with the committee.

"I am very pleased with the good wishes I have received from many of the community people here," Detrich said.

He said his wife and three children, sons 14 and 13, and a daughter, 11, will move here as soon as living arrangements can be made.

"We intend to buy a home, and to become a part of this community and its activities as soon as possible," Detrich said.

"I intend to stay here and make my career in San Diego."

CALIFORNIA NATIVE

Detrich was born in Le-moore, Calif., and has lived in Los Angeles since 1937. He is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles and has a master's degree in social work from the University of Southern California.

Detrich has been responsible in Los Angeles for the direct administration of all public as-sistance programs for a case load of 6,000 cases requiring an annual budget of nine million dollars. His district included the southeastern portion of Los Angeles County.

He received the Haakon VII Medal of Freedom from Norway and the Roll of Honor Medal from the old Polish government for his post-World War II work in the care and repatriation of displaced persons and refugees.



Latham Kidnap Case Bail Cut To \$10,000



Abe J. Kahn, 64, smiles at photographer as he is admitted to county jail by Deputy Fred Cleveland to serve first of eight weekends in jail for violation of probation on income tax evasion.

SEVEN MORE TO GO

Tax Evader Begins Weekend In Jail

By JOE BROOKS

Abe J. Kahn, 64, a cafe and bar manager, last night started serving the first of eight consecutive weekends in the county jail for violating probation on an income tax evasion sentence.

He was booked in the jail at 6 p.m. under a commitment order issued by U.S. District Judge Carter, who revoked Kahn's probation Jan. 15 because he had been convicted last Oct. 1 on two bookmaking charges. Kahn was ordered to violate no law as a condition of probation.

He will be released from jail at 6 p.m. Sunday. The same procedure will be followed on subsequent weekends through March 22.

Kahn was affable when he arrived alone at the jail in contrast to his probation hearing in U.S. District Court, when he sought to elude photographers, Kahn, who was wearing a blue suit, burgundy sport shirt and navy blue sweater posed for pictures outside the rear door of the jail.

Kahn was lodged in Tank 7, on the second floor of the jail, which contains 50 other prisoners. He was given a mattress to sleep on, since the tank has only 30 bunks.

"He'll be treated like any other prisoner," said Capt. Leland McPhee, chief jailer, who supervised Kahn's booking.

Kahn was asked how he felt about going to jail. "I dunno," he said. "The judge felt it would do me good, so that's that."

Kahn pleaded nolo contendere (no contest) in 1952 to a charge of evading \$70,414 in income taxes in 1945. He was given a suspended sentence and fined \$5,000.

He was convicted Oct. 1 of failure to pay federal taxes on horse racing bets and failure to purchase a \$50 federal bookmaking tax stamp. He was fined \$10,000 and placed on probation. He is appealing the conviction.

Carter said at the probation hearing he had taken Kahn's health into consideration in giving him the weekend jail sentences instead of a straight jail term. Kahn introduced af- (Continued on page a-20, Col. 6)

Two Defendants Fail To Raise Reduced Sum

Superior Judge Hewicker yesterday reduced to \$10,000 the bail on two women facing retrial in the Latham kidnaping case. The defendants, Mrs. Beatrice V. Winn, 58, and Mrs. Lucille Whisenand, 36, were unable to post the new bail immediately. Their attorneys indicated they doubt the women will be able to raise the bonds.

Meanwhile, Deputy Dist. Atty. William T. Low, the prosecutor, said he has been instructed by Dist. Atty. Keller to proceed with plans to retry the women on the scheduled date, March 11.

Reduction of bail below \$25,000 was opposed by Low, who filed an affidavit setting forth the past history of Mrs. Winn. This included a charge of assault with a deadly weapon in 1944. This charge later was dismissed.

Mrs. Winn, a Bonita housewife, and Mrs. Whisenand, a suspended U.S. Customs Service employee, have been in jail since Sept. 15. They are accused of kidnaping and attempting to murder Mrs. Ruth E. Latham, 52, by burying her alive in the Imperial County desert Sept. 12.

The women had been unable to post the \$50,000 bail set originally when they were indicted by the county grand jury.

Mrs. Winn and Mrs. Whisenand went through a 36-day trial in December and January. The jury finally reported Jan. 28 that it was deadlocked hopelessly at 7 to 5.

It later was learned by The San Diego Union that the vote favored acquittal.



Mrs. Whisenand and Mrs. Winn paid attorneys to defendants at liberty under bail if they paid a fee to a bondsman. The fee on a \$10,000 bond could be \$1,000. Sheela and O'Laughlin said they received a \$2,000 gross fee to defend Mrs. Whisenand. They said approximately \$1,400 of this amount was expended on expenses connected with the defense.

36-DAY TRIAL

This information could not be placed before the first trial jury by the prosecution because the defense did not call character witnesses for Mrs. Winn.

ACCUSED OF ASSAULT

The prosecution contends Mrs. Winn arranged the kidnaping of Mrs. Latham from the Latham home, 903 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., because the Latham and Winn families were feuding over a business venture, the jury finally reported Jan. 28.

MAKE PLEAS

John R. Sorbo, attorney for Mrs. Winn, asked Hewicker to reduce her bail to \$5,000. John F. O'Laughlin and Barton C. Sheela Jr., attorneys for Mrs. Whisenand, asked that her bail be set at \$2,500.

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Low's affidavit set forth that

Mrs. Winn was given a preliminary hearing April 12, 1944, on the assault with a deadly weapon charge. She was accused of wounding a Mrs. Pauline Winn, who lived in the Winn home with her baby. (Continued on page a-20, Col. 8)

MOUNTAIN SNOW FINE BUT BEWARE OF STORM

Cloudy but dry weather was promised today for thousands of motorists who will drive into the mountains to frolic in the snow.

However, the U.S. Weather Bureau advised drivers to be ready for an early start home. It said another storm may reach the area tonight, bringing rain along the coast and snow in the mountains.

Snow conditions yesterday were:

Cuyamaca—Two feet of snow on the ground; melting fast; all roads open but chains advised at night.

Laguna Mountain—Two feet of snow on ground; melting fast; all roads open but chains advised at night.

Palomar Mountain—Ten inches of snow on ground; melting fast; all roads open but chains advised at in Palomar State Park.

Julian—Six inches of snow on ground; melting fast; roads open with no chains required in the daytime.

School Board Visits 14 Sites For City Schools

Members of the Board of Education yesterday toured 11 elementary and three junior high school sites which administrators estimate will cost 10 million dollars to develop.

Seven of the sites are in eastern Clairemont, four are in Mission Village, two are in Del Cerro and one in Allied Gardens. Most of the developments are contemplated by 1960.

The tour was a regular board meeting. George Geyer, associate superintendent, said he plans to submit formal recommendations for some of the sites to be acquired. Geyer was in charge of the tour.

Geyer said the Clairemont sites, all east of Tecolote Canyon, were being studied preliminary to entering into option agreements. He said development of at least one site will have to start this year.

At Mission Village the board was shown three elementary sites and one junior high site. A 27-million-dollar bond issue approved Nov. 6 provides for one elementary school in the area.

Geyer said the district has obtained verbal agreement for acquiring one of two Del Cerro sites visited. The site is a block and a half west of College avenue near Del Cerro avenue.

Board members were told 314 students are transported from Allied Gardens to Montgomery Junior High School at 2470 Utric St. The school district owns an Allied Gardens site north of Greenbriar avenue.

One tour stop was at the school system's new maintenance building and warehouse on Highway 395, south of Genesee avenue.

SAN DIEGO VISITORS

Michigan Dairies Buy Personality

By FRANK RHOADES

Men who do the best job of milking dairy cows are making \$5,000 a year in Michigan because the thing they are selling is personality.

"It definitely takes a certain temperament to get the best milk production out of a cow," Howard H. Colby, a retired Detroit brewer who now operates a dairy, said in an interview here yesterday.

"The milkers are well aware of this fact and they are cashing in on it—to the extent that they are the ones who are making the money out of the dairy business."

Colby, who usually includes San Diego in an extensive winter holiday with his wife, denied at El Cortez Hotel that he maintains his 250-cow dairy as a hobby. The dairy farm is at Romeo, "8 miles northeast of Detroit."

In addition to four milkers—all with top personalities—Colby hires three to seven agricultural workers at comparable wages, ships a ton and a half of raw milk daily and does well to break even, he said.

Billings, Mont., Grows Without Problems

Billings, Mont., a city of 70,000 has doubled in population in the last 10 years but has experienced none of the public service problems experienced by many other rapidly expanding communities in the West.

So said Larry O. Bennett, a Billings drug store operator, in an interview yesterday at the El Cortez Hotel.

Winter Climate Appeals To Roamers

"We seldom fail to include San Diego in our winter vacation—this year it's for three months," I. H. Robitcheck, a retired Minneapolis manufacturer, said in an interview here yesterday.

"There are two reasons for

Legislators' Pay, Expenses Listed

Pay and expenses of state legislators for the years 1955 and 1956 were announced yesterday by State Controller Kirkwood at Sacramento.

Highest amount received by any legislator for the two-year period was \$22,617, representing two years' pay at \$6,000 a year and the remainder in expense, including mileage. It was collected by Assemblyman Lindsay (R-Loomis), who has 10 counties in his district.

Assemblyman Schrade (R-El Cajon) received \$19,517 for the two years.

Assemblyman Hegland (D-La Mesa) was listed as receiving \$18,263.53.

Assemblyman Lovell (R-San Diego) received \$15,701.10.

Mrs. Wanda Sankary, who was in the Assembly during the two-year period, was listed with \$14,868.80.

Sen. Kraft (R-San Diego) was listed with \$16,780.10.

Legislators are paid \$6,000 a year salary, plus expenses while the Legislature is in session and while on interim committee work. They also receive mileage. Not included in the totals listed by the controller are the \$1,000 annually allowed assemblymen and senators for secretarial hire

Traffic Death Toll Lowest In 3 Years

San Diego County's traffic fatalities last month were few—only one—crash on private property during any month in the last three years, the coroner's office reported yesterday.

Coroner Gallagher said 10 persons died in county traffic accidents last month.

"Apparently, a campaign by law enforcement officers, courts and newspapers is paying off," Gallagher said. "Each month since November the number of traffic deaths has been about cut in half."

Thirty persons were traffic victims in the county during November. In December, 18 persons were killed on city and county roads. Last month's record was the best since January, 1954, when nine traffic fatalities were recorded.

Five of those killed last month were pedestrians: one person died in an auto-truck crash, one in a two-car crash, two on a motorcycle, and one when a truck went off the road.

Gallagher reported 155 cases had been handled by the coroner's office during the month. Of these 113 were natural deaths, 23 were accidental other than traffic, eight were sui-

Car Crashes, Plunges Off Cliff; Driver Held

A San Diego mechanic was arrested for drunken driving, hit and run driving and driving without a license yesterday after his car struck a parked vehicle and plunged over a 40-foot cliff in Ocean Beach.

The mechanic, Robert R. Ashton, 41, of 4439 Granger Ave., was arrested at Scripps Hospital after being treated for a possible broken nose he suffered when the car went off the cliff.

Officers said Ashton struck a parked car on Cable street between Niagara and Narra-gansett streets. He then proceeded south on Cable until his car plunged through a guard rail and down the cliff.

Five other persons were arrested in the city and county yesterday on suspicion of drunken driving. They were:

A. F. White, 29, a sailor attached to the aircraft carrier Essex, James W. West, 48, a clerk at 2418 Washington St., Jerry St. Robinson, 22, a sailor attached to the destroyer Chicago, Mrs. Louise Andrews, 43, a housewife of 222 S. 28th St., and Ben J. Priddy, 24, a grocery clerk, of 214 Encanto St., Chula Vista.

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Arraignment Set For Assault Suspect

A sheet metal worker, accused of striking a San Diego policeman on the head with a two-pound sledge hammer, has been bound over to Superior Court for arraignment Feb. 15 on assault charges.

Malcolm Hamilton Jr., 26, of 789 El Cajon Blvd., is accused of striking officer John P. Butler, 28, of 2067 Thomas St., when Butler answered a call to investigate a report of two men fighting in Pacific Beach. Hamilton is free on \$1,000 bail.

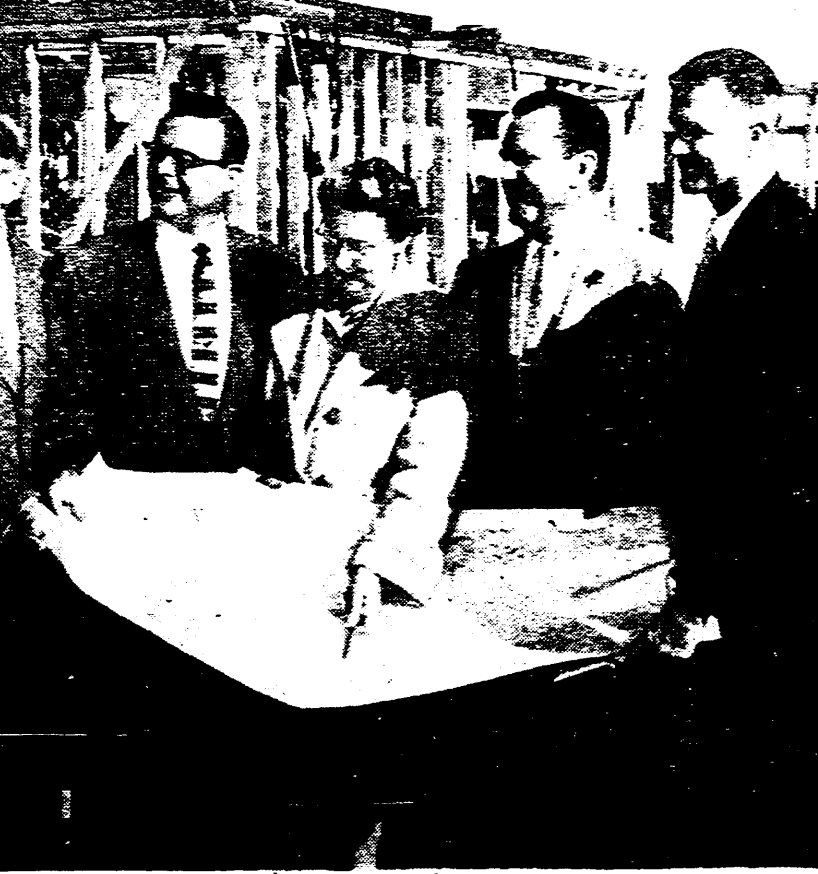
DENNIS THE MENACE



OFF THE RECORD



"Stop showing your ignorance of the sport, Pezzy—how many times must I tell you it's pronounced 'steering'?"



East Clairemont school map is held by Board of Education members Frank Lowe, Richard Giralva, Mrs. Mildred Hale, William Elser, Kenneth Rearwin.