

Chessman Busy Man in Last 22 Years; 11 in Breaking Law, 11 Debating It

Sacramento—The man with the crooked nose and black, wavy hair has been busy for the past 22 years. He spent 11 years breaking the law and the other 11 debating it.

Caryl Chessman was born at St. Joseph, Mich., on May 27, 1921. He was stealing bread and milk at the age of 12 and cars at the age of 14.

The first entry in his criminal record came in 1937 when he was arrested on suspicion of auto theft, and suspicion of burglary. After a short term at Preston School of Industry, he was arrested again in 1938.

Sent to Quentin

In 1941 Chessman was sent to San Quentin prison on four counts of first degree robbery and one count of assault with a deadly weapon. He escaped from the California Institution for Men in 1942.

He was returned to San Quentin in 1944 with an additional new commitment of first degree robbery and released late in 1947.

Within days after Chessman's release, a "red light bandit" began terrorizing couples in lovers' lanes in the Los Angeles area. He impersonated a policeman by driving a car with a flashing red light.

Sometimes the bandit flourished a .45 caliber pistol, robbed the couples and vanished. But in other occasions, the masked man forced the girl to accompany him and brutally assaulted her.

Girl Kidnaped

On the night of Jan. 22, 1948, the bandit approached a young couple parked in an isolated place. He kidnaped a 17-year-old girl, attempted to rape her and forced her into acts of sex perversion during the three hours he held her captive.

The following night, police officers James Reardon and Robert May spotted a coupe that answered the description of the bandit's car and signaled it to pull over.

The coupe sped away with the patrol car in pursuit. During a wild 80-mile-an-hour chase, May radioed for help and fired on the fleeing car.

The coupe plunged through one roadblock and was about to evade another when Rear-

don rammed it broadside with the patrol car. Police arrested Chessman and a companion in the stolen car, which still contained loot of a robbery earlier in the evening.

Hollywood police announced the following morning they had accumulated enough evidence to link Chessman to the crimes of the red light bandit.

The car was stolen in Pasadena about the time the bandit began operations, a pen-type flashlight similar to the one used in the crimes was found in the glove compartment, and a .45 caliber pistol was found nearby.

Chessman answered the description of the bandit, although he was slightly taller. However, many of the victims identified Chessman as the guilty man.

Oral Confession

Two days later, police said they had obtained an oral confession from Chessman and declared the case was closed. When brought to trial a few weeks later, Chessman denied the crimes.

He argued that he was a victim of coincidence, mistaken identity and a police frame-up. He said detectives had tricked and beaten him into confessing the crimes.

Chessman spurned a court-appointed attorney and attempted to defend himself. A jury of 11 women and one man found him guilty on 17 counts of robbery, kidnaping and rape.

The jury invoked California's seldom-used "Little Lindbergh" kidnaping law and ordered the death penalty for two of the crimes.

Chessman entered death row at San Quentin on July 3, 1948—and his 11-year record of crime was over.

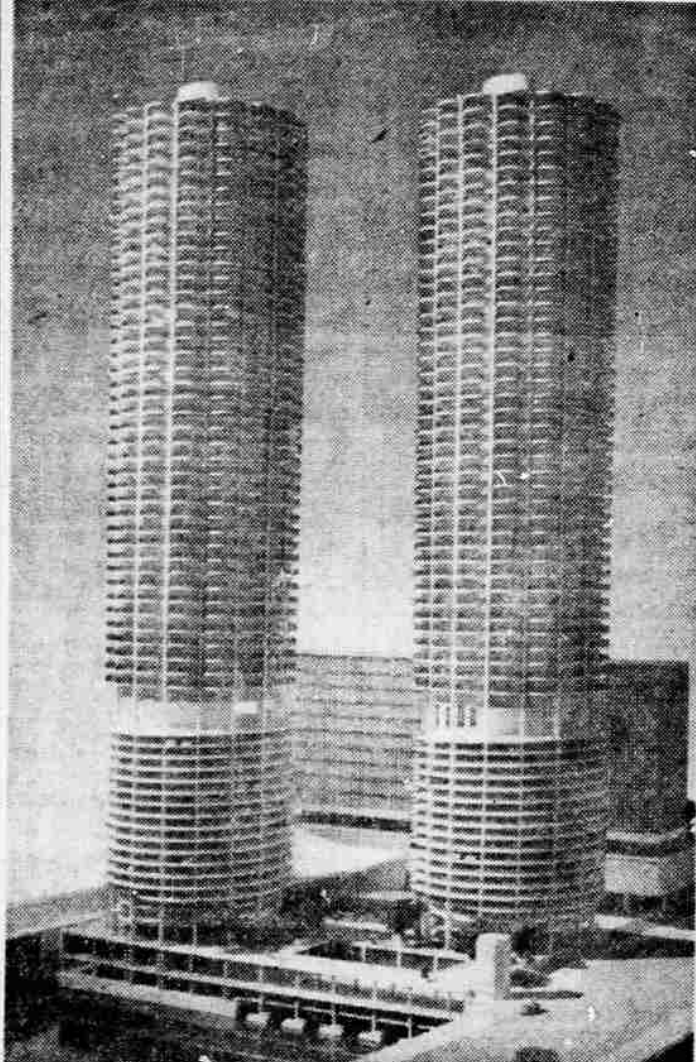
Not Obscure Years

The following 11 years were not so obscure for Caryl Chessman, who wrote a best seller, carried his case to the Supreme Court more than a dozen times, and broke eight appointments with the gas chamber.

The last reprieve was granted by California Gov. Edmund G. Brown on Feb. 19 as people throughout the world watched and took sides on the issue.

Now the people of the world watch again as Chessman's 60-day reprieve ticks away, and the California legislature begins considering the abolition of capital punishment.

The people of the world know the Chessman who became famous during 11 years on death row—but few know what the man with the crooked nose and piercing eyes did to get there.



BUILDINGS PLANNED—Shown is a model of the \$36 million twin 60-story apartment buildings planned for construction near the Chicago, Ill., Loop within the next year and a half. The project will be sponsored by the AFL-CIO building service employees international union. At 555 feet, it will be the tallest apartment house structure in the world. —(UPI Telephoto)

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MOVEMENT SUPPORTED — White and Negro students from the University of California at Berkeley join in a picket line in front of a Berkeley dime store in support of the movement for non-discrimination and equality being carried out in the South by Negro students at lunch counters of national chain variety stores. Similar picket lines are being formed daily in San Francisco in support of the same program. —(UPI Telephoto)

ACQUIT 'GUNMAN'

Denver — (UPI) — A Superior Court jury has acquitted Lowell Sell, 35, although the window washer admitted carrying a loaded, concealed pistol during an argument with union officials. The pearl-handled gun taken from Sell was a fully loaded water pistol.

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Adair Sector Has Aircraft Control, Warning Groups

Corvallis—(UPI)—Lt. Col. John E. Phillips, commander of the Adair Air Force station, said five Oregon and California aircraft control and warnings squadrons have been reassigned to Adair's Portland Air Defense Sector (PADS).

He said assignment of the radar surveillance units was a "paper" realignment of the area's air defense units pending assumption of full operational control of all subordinate units by PADS scheduled early this summer.

Interim period operational control and responsibility of the units will be retained by the 25th air division SAGE headquarters at McChord AFB near Tacoma.

Stations Listed

Five radar stations affected include those at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls; Mt. Hebo, Ore.; North Bend, Ore.; Red Bluff, Calif.; and at Klamath, Calif. Col. Phillips also announced that two Oregon fighter groups will come under administration controls of PADS on April 15. These will include the F-102-equipped 337th fighter group at Portland and the F-101-equipped 408th fighter group at Kingsley Field.

Final assumption of full operational control of the area's five surveillance and two fighter units by the Portland Air Defense Sector is tentatively scheduled for June 15.

Col. Phillips said the realignment was another step in the conversion to the SAGE (Semi-Automatic Ground Environment) push button air defense system.

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