

# Youth Confesses Brutal Beating Of Housewife At Home

## Admits He Has Urge to Hit Women

### Was Under Bond In Another Case of Assault

Spinach in the cuff of his trousers led to the arrest last night of a 19-year-old youth who admitted a brutal attack on an Indianapolis housewife.

Richard A. O'Brien, currently under bond in another assault case, was to be arraigned today on a charge of assaulting and beating Mrs. Margaret Todd, 27, of 621 N. Grant Ave., last night as she emptied garbage outside her kitchen door.

"I have never done anything to anybody but hit them," police quoted the youth as saying after his arrest by a merchant policeman.

While a dragnet of seven patrol cars and numerous foot patrolmen scoured the neighborhood a merchant policeman, Paul Franklin, was attracted by a man at Emerson Ave. and 10th Sts. with a quantity of spinach stuck in his pants cuff.

**Identified by Victim**

Arrested, O'Brien was taken to the scene and identified by the victim.

Mrs. Todd told police she was alone at the time of the assault and had stepped from her kitchen to empty some garbage into a can when she was struck from behind. She said the youth struck her brutally about the face, head and shoulders as she kicked and screamed.

She said O'Brien apparently was trying to enter the back door but she kept him from doing so by kicking and scratching. He fled down an alley.

Detectives said O'Brien admitted an urge to hit women and told them he spent considerable time peering into windows and otherwise prowling.

"I don't know what happens to me," he was quoted as saying. "I have never done anything but hit people."

O'Brien was accused of beating a housewife on Drexel Ave. several months ago as she alighted from a bus. He has also been arrested in a robbery case and was once fined \$1 and costs for reckless driving.

Detectives were questioning him in connection with other unsolved assault cases.

**DOUGLAS U. S. BOUND**  
SOUTHAMPTON, England, Dec. 2 (UP) — Ambassador and Mrs. Lewis Douglas left today for the United States aboard the Cunard White Star liner Queen Elizabeth.

**STRAUSS SAYS:**



MEET

Terri Lee

quote  
"The Best Dressed Doll in America"  
end of quote

AND MEET

MRS. R. HAAS  
Terri Lee Doll Representative

Saturday,

December 3rd

Mrs. Haas will be here to tell you all about Terri Lee — how she is sculptured from wonderful unbreakable Plastic — to explain how to shampoo her hair and restyle it — to show you Terri Lee's complete wardrobe — including the barbecued pajamas — the net formals. Girl Scout and Brownie uniforms, ice skating outfit, and many more.

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(Doll shown Above 195)

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TOYS SIXTH FLOOR

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## Police Skeptical Of Murder Tip

### Messamore Linked To Triple Slaying

Indiana state police waited skeptically today for further word from a phone caller who said he had a hot tip on the disappearance of a family of three nearly a year ago.

Lt. Robert H. Shields said a man called from Chicago and identified himself as a former cellmate of William D. Messamore, English, Ind., who is serving a 28-year term in the federal prison for a Kentucky bank holdup.

Lt. Shields said the caller informed him that Messamore confided to him the slaying of Thomas Vandiver, his wife and his stepdaughter.

### Thrown Into River

Police said the caller told Lt. Shields that after the slaying the bodies were thrown into the Ohio River. But police believed if that were true, the bodies would have been found.

The caller told Lt. Shields he was coming here today and would contact state police. But they doubted he would.

The Vandiver family disappeared while living with Messamore after their own home burned. Messamore often was questioned about their disappearance but said he knew nothing about it.

### Councilman Launches Rent Decontrol Move

## Held Prisoner in Hospital, Patient Charges Kills Wife, Girl In Drunken Rage

Dr. Charles Myers, superintendent of General, said he was starting an immediate investigation.

He said it was in keeping with the law that a patient not classified as charity be asked to make some arrangement to pay when he is admitted.

"However, we can't hold him until he pays," Dr. Myers said.

He said the doctor, a private physician, was "in the wrong" if he had refused to sign the release for financial reasons. He also said the business office had erred in the case.

He said Mr. Hawkins would be released immediately and be allowed to make arrangements to settle the bill.

The "prisoner-patient" said he'd be glad to pay the bill and commented:

"I've lived here for 27 years paying taxes and this is the first time I've ever used this hospital. I'll be glad to get out."

**WHAS to Broadcast Indiana Central Tilt**

Radio station WHAS of Louisville will broadcast the Indiana Central-University of Kentucky basketball game tomorrow beginning at 8 p.m. (EST).

Coach Angus Nicholson and his 19-year-old sister Thelma saw the shooting.

"Daddy and mother were arguing," Bonnie Faye told the sheriff. "He shot mother first. Then Jean started screaming, so he shot her too."

"Donald was standing behind me. I don't think daddy meant to shoot Donald."

## Mechanic Sought; Son, 9, Wounded

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 2 (UPI)

Pale and trembling, 9-year-old Bonnie Faye Bean today told authorities how her 50-year-old father, in a fit of drunken rage, shot down her mother, sister and twin brother last night.

The little girl was so bewildered and shaken that she scarcely realized that the rifle blasts had killed her mother, 25-year-old Mrs. Fannie Bean, and sister, 11-year-old Doris Jean.

Bonnie Faye's twin, Donald Ray, was sent to a hospital with a bullet wound in the abdomen and his condition was critical.

While Sheriff Jimmy Thompson patiently learned the story of a terrible five minutes from the little girl, his deputies were searching for the father, W. F. Dean, a mechanic.

Bean was last seen as he walked away from the house after the massacre, muttering, "I'm going to kill myself."

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STRAUSS SAYS:

STORE HOURS TOMORROW, SATURDAY, 9 TILL 6



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Rust

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Shown above—Apolda knit suit—straight cut pants—elastic back waist band—suspender crossed and stitched in back—Noveltie knit shirt—long sleeves—

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