

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, FRIDAY, JULY 19, 1963

7 GET REWARDS IN SOLVING OF TRIPLE KILLING

Seven persons, among them two Chicago women, were named yesterday as recipients of rewards totalling \$33,350.13 for their parts in the solution of the 1960 murder of three Riverside women in Starved Rock State park and the conviction of Chester (Rocky) Weger.

Weger, 24, a dishwasher in the park's lodge was sentenced to life imprisonment on April 3, 1961, for the killing of one of the women, Mrs. Lillian Oetting, 50. He is confined in the Illinois State penitentiary at Joliet.

Attorney Gets Most

A lion's share of the reward money, \$11,500.13, will go to Harland Warren, state's attorney of La Salle county at the time of the triple crime, who "was primarily responsible for bringing the investigation to a satisfactory conclusion," according to the reward announcement.

Awards of \$5,500 each will go to two La Salle county deputy sheriffs who worked




Dummett (left) and Warren

with Warren on the case—William Dummett of Ottawa, and Wayne Hess, who lives near Utica. The same amount will be given to Stephen J. Kindig, 31, a former Chicagoan.

Kindig, until recently a lie detector operator for the Chicago firm of John E. Reid & Associates, examined Weger and other park workers on the lie detector in September, 1960.

Afterwards, he told authorities, "as far as I'm concerned, Weger is your man," altho Weger had taken and passed earlier lie detector tests administered at the state police crime laboratory.

Women Get Money

The Chicago women, named to receive \$2,675 each in reward money, are Mrs. Charles Kowalko, 2729 Pine Grove av., and her sister, Miss Kate Rosenthal, 1359 Lake Shore dr.

The women, with a 12-year-old child, were in the park's St. Louis canyon, where the killings occurred, a few days before the murders when they were approached by a jacketed man answering Weger's description who asked them the time. Their story of the encounter was given to THE TRIBUNE, and was relayed to authorities. Later, they identified Weger from photographs as the man.

Mrs. Charles J. Ocepeck of La Salle received \$5,000 for calling the attention of officials to the similarity between the triple killings, in which the victims' hands were bound, and a 1959 rape-robbery in a nearby state park.

Mrs. Oetting was the wife of George H. Oetting, general su-

Mostly Malarkey



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"Does it make any sense to you, dear?"

Owner of V Is Charged

The owner of a warehouse at 422 North av., where more than \$5,000 worth of stolen toasters were found Wednesday, surrendered yesterday in the aftermath of raids by police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Jerome Schaller, 5021 Sutherland ct., Skokie, surrendered to Damen avenue robbery detectives. He was charged with receiving stolen property, and is to appear on July 23 in Felony court.

Schaller was released on \$5,000 bond.

Others Are Named

Bonds for two other men, arrested in connection with the raids, were set at \$2,000 each yesterday by C. S. Bentley Pike, United States commissioner.

They were Frank Luciani, 63, of 7464 Grand av., Elmwood Park, and Charles Degand, 32, of 3654 N. Wayne av. Luciani was arrested after nearly \$50,000 worth of stolen property was found in his home.

Luciani is a supervisor of internal audits for the Illinois Bell Telephone company. The other victims were Mrs. Mildred Lindquist, 50, wife of Robert Lindquist, vice president of the Harris Trust and Savings bank, and Mrs. Frances Murphy, 47, wife of Robert Murphy, vice president of Borg-Warner corporation.

The husbands' companies each contributed \$10,000 to the reward fund, another \$5,000 was posted by the operator of the Starved Rock lodge, and contributions from friends plus interest made up the remainder.

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