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INEZ GARCIA RAILROADED BY SEXIST JUDGE & JURY

Judge Revokes Bail

Inez Garcia, who last March shot the man who had participated in raping her, was convicted October 4 of second-degree murder by a jury which had been instructed by the judge to ignore the testimony about rape.

Judge Stanley Lawson, of Monterey County Superior Court, revoked bail and had her immediately remanded to Monterey County Jail to await sentencing. This was in spite of the fact that defense attorney Charles Garry announced that he would appeal the verdict. Ms. Garcia had been out on bail previous to and during the trial.

The time lapse between the rape and the shooting was established to be about seventeen minutes, "enough time," said one juror, "for her to get over it."

The prosecution had denied from the beginning of the trial that any rape took place, but toward the end of the trial was forced to concede that "it may have happened." This was a potentially damaging admission for the prosecution's case, especially since the main perpetrator of the rape was the prosecution's star witness. However, the position of the judge, and apparently of all the jurors, was that the rape was irrelevant anyway, and that the brutal assault by two men, followed by a telephoned threat telling her to get out of town, was no excuse for her to go after them with an equalizer. town, was no excuse for her to go after them with an equalizer.

The jury was unable to reach a verdict on Fred Medrano, who had been beaten by the two men just before the rape and was being beaten again by them when Ms. Garcia fired a rifle at one of the two, 300-lb. Miguel Jimenez.

Ms. Garcia had been living in Soledad for about two years with her 11-year old son, working occasionally at farm labor and making regular visits to the Soledad prison to visit her husband there.

She shared a house with Fred Medrano in a convenience arrangement which the prosecution unsuccessfully tried to twist into evidence of "unchaste" character on the part of the rape victim.

On March 19, Miguel Jimenez and Luis Castillo came to the house allegedly looking for Medrano. While they waited for him to come home they drank wine and made abusive remarks to Ms. Garcia. When Fred Medrano returned, a fight ensued and the two visitors inflicted a beating on Medrano. Inez demanded that they get out, and when they went out the door she followed to make sure that they were really leaving the premises. They grabbed her and took her behind the house, where Jimenez held her down and Castillo raped her. The two men then went on their way.

Inez, trembling with shock and rage, went back inside the house. A few minutes later, a phone call came in from (cont. back page)



Women Demand Freedom for Inez

On October 21, the day Inez Garcia was scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Stanley Lawson, nearly 200 women crowded the courtroom and the hall in the Monterey County Courthouse to show support for Inez. Most of the women waited for two hours in the hall, with only a few allowed inside, where Lawson was delivering pig lectures and saying that he thought the verdict should have been first-degree murder instead of second-degree. He pronounced the indeterminate sentence of five years to life imprisonment for Inez, with a provision that she be brought to him after four months "observation" for him to re-sentence her. She is to undergo psychiatric "diagnosis" at the California Institute for Women, hundreds of miles from her closest supporters, serving this barbaric and unjust sentence while the slow process of her appeal begins to grind.

This procedure has the implicit acquiescence of her defense attorney, Charles Garry, who held a press conference after her conviction but issued no public demand for her to be let out on bail pending appeal.

On the day of her sentencing, Garry made a motion that Inez be sent to a diagnostic facility. This motion was denied, but apparently the only disagreement between Garry and Lawson was the location of the psychiatric assault. Garry's position, maintained throughout the trial, that his client borders on "incompetence," has met with growing fury by Inez's supporters.

Garry's routine motion that she be allowed bail was denied, as were other motions that she be granted a new trial and that the conviction be lowered to manslaughter.

One woman was evicted from the courtroom (cont. on page 3)