

Kinmundy Boy Kills Two, Wounds Another

Norman Brimberry, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brimberry, residing on the late H. W. See farm southwest of this city, shot and fatally wounded Herbert Keen, 30, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Keen, of this city, and also Mr. Jake Onhauser, 70, a farmer residing east of Salem, Saturday afternoon in Bryan Memorial Park, Salem, Ill. The Soldiers' & Sailors' Reunion had been in progress there all week and the shooting took place just a little to the right of the seats facing the speakers' stand. Another gentleman, Mr. Clayton Haney, Sr., of Centralia, a railroad engineer, was wounded in the foot also.

Brimberry and Keen, who were cousins, in fact, they were what you would term double cousins (their mothers and fathers being brother and sister), had been on the outs for the past month or so. Keen was alleged to have accused Brimberry of courting his (Keen's) estranged wife and so the boys quarreled every time they met. The quarrels grew hotter each time. Keen had been to the Reunion Saturday morning where he met Brimberry and they quarreled again. This time, Brimberry was alleged to have threatened Keen's life. Upon Keen's return to Kinmundy, he immediately told Mayor C. S. Fox about Brimberry threatening his life and asked that Brimberry be taken into custody. Brimberry was wanted by the sheriff on the charge of breaking his parole and he was to be picked up on this charge.

Mayor Fox sanctioned the arrest of Brimberry and asked Keen to return to Salem with him that afternoon. And Keen, in company with his son, Laverne, and Mayor Fox went to Salem that afternoon with the intention of having Brimberry taken into custody. It was agreed between Keen and Mayor Fox that Keen would find Brimberry and entice him to a certain place on the grounds where Fox would have Sheriff Vogt in waiting. The boys had found one another and were leisurely walking toward the designated place when Brimberry sauntered over to Mr. Zina Breeze, one of Salem's City Patrolmen. He quietly slipped a gun from Mr. Breeze's holster and fired two shots. Keen, Onhauser and Haney slumped to the ground.

The shooting occurred within a few feet of Sheriff Vogt and Mayor Fox. As soon as they heard the shots, they dashed through the crowd but Patrolman Breeze already had Brimberry unarmed.

Two of the three injured parties were taken to the Salem hospital. Keen was dead when he arrived at the hospital. Onhauser died at about 5:30 that same evening. Haney was given first aid treatment and taken to the Centralia hospital.

The shooting took place at about 2:30. About 3 o'clock, Mr. Eugene Keen received a telephone message from Salem announcing the shooting and the death of his son. He departed immediately for Salem. Kinmundy was all astir. Something terrible had happened. It was almost unbelievable. Most everyone knew that Brimberry had erred in minor ways,

but no one could hardly believe that he would commit murder. Friends and relatives of the family were very much excited, wondering just what had happened. Soon the anxiety was relieved when Mayor Fox returned and told the whole story as he had seen it.

Keen's body was taken to the McMackin Funeral Home in Salem where it was prepared for burial. At the request of the family, it was later turned over to Linton & Beery, of this city, who brought it home.

Regarding the death of Keen the coroner's jury returned the following verdict, "Death was caused by a pistol wound inflicted by Norman Brimberry with murderous intent which we believe to be pre-meditated and recommend he be held pending action of the grand jury without bond."

Regarding the death of Onhauser, the coroner's jury returned the following verdict, "Death was caused by a bullet wound through the body inflicted by Norman Brimberry while shooting at Herbert Keen with murderous intent on Keen."

Funeral services for Keen were held in this city Monday afternoon at 2:30 from the Church of God and interment was made in Evergreen Cemetery. Funeral services for Onhauser were held at the same hour from the Hancock Funeral Home in Salem and interment made in Salem.

There are several different stories regarding the incident of the shooting. In a conversation with Patrolman Breeze, he made the following statements: "I was standing with my arms folded, talking with Clayton Haney, Sr. I felt my gun (38 caliber Colts) leaving its holster. I grabbed the holster and found the gun gone. I turned quickly and saw Brimberry ducking down and around me. I grabbed him with my arm under his chin and was reaching for his hand which held the gun with my other hand. He fired one shot before I could reach his hand, and the second shot when I was pushing his hand down. I then choked him with my arm until he dropped the gun. There were only two shots fired. Onhauser was lying between Brimberry and Keen.. It is my supposition, as well as that of Dr. Logan, that the bullet fired first went through Onhauser and then through Keen. Onhauser's body showed powder burns. The second shot struck Haney in the foot. Keen was about twenty feet from us. It all took place in about thirty seconds."

In a check up of the last part of this story at the Hancock Funeral Home, they stated that Onhauser's body did show powder burns and that the bullet entered the body from the front just under the ribs and came out the back, near the third vertabrae, which showed that the bullet was travelling downward. Their supposition was that the bullet which killed Onhauser was the one which hit Haney.

In a conversation at McMackin's we were told that the bullet entered Keen on the left side between the last two ribs and came out on the opposite
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THE MURDER

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side just above the tenth rib. And there was a bullet burn on the left side of the body, just under the arm. These statements were verified by Linton & Beery.

Brimberry was questioned by State's Attorney Ward Holt immediately after the shooting. He stated that he intended to kill Keen. He also made other statements which are withheld from publication. He said that he would not sign these statements, but would tell them to the Judge when he came.

State's Attorney Holt has issued a call for a special session of the grand jury to be held Friday of this week, and Brimberry will be arraigned before Judge Jett the same day. If he should enter a plea of 'guilty', in all probability, he will receive his sentence on this day.

The people of Kinmundy feel that this is the worst tragedy that has befallen us for several years, and we are truly sorry that it happened. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to this family, to the motherless and fatherless boy, who was holding to his daddy's hand when he fell, and to both mothers and fathers, and especially to the mother and father whose trouble has not yet ended.

OBITUARY OF HERBERT KEEN

Herbert George, eldest son of Eugene and Cora Brimberry Keen, was born in Kinmundy, Marion County, Illinois, May 22, 1904, and entered into eternal sleep at Salem, Illinois, Saturday, July 28, 1934, at 2:30 P. M., age 30 years, 2 months and 6 days.

While yet a very small lad, Herbert entered the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brimberry, in this city, where he remained until young manhood. He was the source of much joy and comfort to these aged grandparents, and, in turn, was ever ready and willing to share their burdens and lavish affection upon them.

He received his education in the Kinmundy Public Schools, and the associations which he made in the classroom were ever cherished by him. After leaving school at an early age, he entered the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad Co., being located at different points on the Illinois Division. He was in the employ of this company, at Kinmundy, at the time of his passing.

He was united in marriage to Miss Inez Newcome, of Farina, Illinois, who preceded him in death June 27, 1928. One son was sent to bless this happy union. He was given the name, Laverne. He, too, has been tenderly cared for in the home of his great grandmother since his mother's death.

On January 12, 1929, Herbert was married to Miss Alvena Hall, of Kinmundy, Ill. She, with the following near relatives are left to mourn his passing: a son, Laverne; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Keen; two aged grandmothers; five sisters, Mrs. Dora Jenkins, of Farina, Ill.; Mrs. Martha Hall, of Dawson, Ill.; Mrs. Christine Followell, Mrs. Hazel Guyler and Miss Mable Keen, of this city; three brothers, Charles, Cecil and George, also of this place.

He will be sadly missed not only in the home, but by his friends and fellow workmen.

The funeral services were held from the Church of God Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. Fred C. Mery, officiating. Interment was made in Evergreen Cemetery.

Kinmundy Man Is Indicted for Murder

Norman Brimberry Expected to Be Brought to Early Trial.

SALEM — (Special) — Norman Brimberry, 32, Kinmundy, was indicted on two murder charges Friday by the Marion county grand jury. The indictments were for murder in the slaying of Herbert Keene, 30, Kinmundy farmer, and for murder and assault in the death of Jake Onhauser, 65, farmer living near Salem.

Brought before Circuit Judge Thomas M. Jett, Brimberry pleaded not guilty to both charges. Asked when he wished a trial Brimberry replied:

"It doesn't make any difference to me."

Asked consecutively if he had retained a lawyer, had any money with which to hire a lawyer to defend him, or any friends who might furnish the money, Brimberry replied "No".

Judge Picks Attorneys

Judge Jett appointed two attorneys to defend him. They are Hugh Murray, Jr., Centralia, and Basil Wilson of Salem.

No date for the trial was indicated, but State's Atty. Ward Holt has indicated that he will seek a trial as soon as possible after Brimberry has been given a reasonable time to confer with his attorneys. The regular court session will not be held until the last Monday in September.

Fired at Cousin

The men were allegedly shot by Brimberry last week at the Marion County Soldiers' and Sailors' reunion when he snatched a .22 caliber pistol from a city officer and fired at Keene, his cousin, whom he had accused of "running around with" his estranged wife.

Brimberry is an ex-convict, having served a term at Pontiac reformatory.

Brimberry Pleads Not Guilty

Norman Brimberry was arraigned before Judge Jett of the Circuit Court in Salem Friday and entered a plea of "not guilty". This is merely one of the formalities of law when an accused person wants a trial.

The trial will be held sometime later, but just when we are unable to say at the present time.

Ex-Convict To Deny Murders

Kinmundy Man Expected to Plead Not Guilty in Marion Court.

SALEM — Norman Brimberry, 26 years old ex-convict of Kinmundy, has indicated that he will plead not guilty Thursday when he goes on trial for his life in Marion county circuit court here, charged with the slaying on July 28 of his cousin, Herbert Keene, 30, also of Kinmundy, and Jake Onhauser, 65, farmer living near Salem.

Brimberry shot the two men when he became enraged at Keene while at the Marion county Soldiers' and Sailors' reunion here. Accusing Keene of "running around with" his estranged wife, Brimberry snatched a .22 caliber pistol from the holster of a Salem policeman and of fatally wounding both men and also wounding Clayton Haney, Sr., 52 years old Centralia engineer.

State's Atty. Ward Holt of Marion county has announced his intention of asking the death penalty for Brimberry. A charge of murder has been filed in the Keene slaying and a charge of either murder or manslaughter will be pressed in the Onhauser death.

Bystander Fatally Wounded

The double killing, which occurred while more than 7,000 persons were on the reunion grounds, squared Brimberry's old feud with Keene. Onhauser was fatally wounded when the Kinmundy farmer sought to shield himself from his cousin's wrath by dodging behind Onhauser. As Onhauser dodged, Brimberry fired and the bullet went through Keene's body in the left side and lodged in Onhauser's side.

After being lodged in the Marion county jail shortly after the double slaying, Brimberry said he was glad that he killed Keene but was sorry that he killed Onhauser and wounded Haney.

Indicted By Special Jury

Brimberry was indicted a week

after the shooting by a special jury impanelled to consider the case. Brought before Circuit Judge Thomas M. Jett of Hillsboro, Brimberry, a paroled convict from Pontiac, pleaded not guilty and asked a jury trial.

Sheriff H. E. Vogt of Marion county was seeking Brimberry for parole violation at the time the ex-convict whipped the gun out of the holster of Zina Breese, Salem city officer, and opened fire.

EX-CONVICT SENTENCED FOR MURDERS

**Kinmundy Man to Serve
35 Years for Salem
Reunion Slayings**

PLEADS GUILTY

By Staff Correspondent

SALEM—Norman Brimberry, 26, Kinmundy ex-convict, Thursday afternoon was sentenced to 35 years in Illinois penitentiary at Menard, following a plea of guilty on indictments charging him with the murder of his cousin, Herbert Keene, 30, of Kinmundy and John Onhauser, 65, of near Salem.

Judge William Wright of Effingham, who passed sentence on Brimberry after a two and one-half hour hearing, also ordered that Brimberry throughout the length of his term must pass each April 27 in solitary confinement. The court did not indicate its reason in selection of the date.

Apparently certain of conviction, with an array of eye-witnesses to be presented by the state, the defense entered the plea of guilty and sought mercy of the court in hope of averting sentence to the electric chair.

Policeman's Gun Used

The plea was made immediately after opening of the hearing at 2:30 p. m., but witnesses were presented both by the prosecution, in an effort to prove the crime premeditated, and by the defense, in an effort to show extenuating circumstances.

Ten witnesses were called by State's Atty. Ward Holt of Marion county Zilna Reese, Salem city policeman, chief witness for the prosecution, described how at a soldiers' and sailors' reunion here on July 28, Brimberry rushed up to him, snatched away his pistol and began firing it. Reese said he grappled with Brimberry, and was holding him about the neck when the two shots were fired.

Planned to Kill Self

Clayton Haney, Sr., 52 years old Centralia engineer, told how, when he saw Brimberry seize the policeman's gun, Keene grabbed Onhauser by the arms and held the older man in front of himself as a shield. Brimberry's first bullet, Haney said, struck Onhauser near the heart, passed through his body emerging near the lower spine, and struck Haney in the foot. Haney used a cane in walking to the witness stand. Brimberry's second bullet struck Keene in the left side of the chest, passing out of his body through the right side.

Sheriff H. E. Voght said that Brimberry, while in jail, declared that he had intended to kill Keene, then himself.

Brimberry's aged mother took the stand in her son's behalf, testifying that he left home when 14 years old because of trouble with his father.

Fought Over Wife

Raymond Mullany, Kinmundy constable, declared that Brimberry had been guilty of improper relations with Keene's wife, and offered the court his opinion that that was the basis of a feud that had been

known for some time to exist between the two men.

Brimberry, taking the stand in his own behalf, said that strained relations had existed since the occasion of a beer party at Keene's house in January, 1933, when he kissed Keene's wife. Mrs. Keene was working on the picnic grounds on the occasion of the reunion, and the two men quarrelled when Keene warned Brimberry to "stay away" from Mrs. Keene, the prisoner said.

Brimberry Given Sixty Years

The trial of Norman Brimberry for the killing of Herbert Keen, was held Thursday and he was found guilty. He was sentenced to serve 35 years in the penitentiary. He was then arraigned on a manslaughter charge for the killing of Jake Onhauser, was found guilty and was given 25 years on this count. He is to serve one day each year in solitary confinement.

BALDOCK FOUND GUILTY

Mr. J. A. Baldock was arraigned in court Friday on the charge of 'assault with a deadly weapon' and was found guilty. He plead his own case. It is his intention to take an appeal on the case and he was given until October 16, to make such appeal.

2 FLEE PRISON THRU GREASED HOLE IN WALL

Steal Auto After Duping Guard

Search was under way yesterday for two convicts, one from Chicago, who escaped from the Southern Illinois Penitentiary at Chester, robbed a Chester man of his money and automobile, and were last sighted speeding northward from Chester on route 3.



Crylen when sentenced in '41

The two convicts used a rubber sheet stolen from the prison's psychiatric department and greased with ointment stolen from medical supplies to squeeze their way to freedom Saturday thru a 9 by 14 inch opening.

Both Worked in Cell House

The hunted men are Phillip Crylen, 30, sentenced to one year to life for armed robbery in 1941 from Chicago, and Norman Brimberry, 43, of Salem, Marion county, serving a 1 to 10 year sentence for burglary and larceny and a 35 year murder sentence.

Both men had been working in the prison's north cell house, which houses psychiatric and dangerous criminals. Crylen is 5 feet tall and weighs 186 pounds. Brimberry, 5 feet 5 inches, weighs 140 pounds.

They told a new guard, Laverne Kessel, of Ava, they had to go into a tunnel to replace some electric bulbs. Inside the tunnel they pried off bars from a window to another room. They had apparently secreted the rubber sheet and ointment in the room earlier.

The small opening had been used to run pipes outside the prison. The two convicts ripped out these pipes, lined the opening with the greased rubber sheet, and wriggled thru the wall to the prison farm outside.

Uses Knife to Rob Victim

James Petrowske, a Chester shoe worker, was in the kitchen of his home near the penitentiary preparing for a hunting trip when the two convicts burst thru the kitchen door. Brimberry grabbed a hunting knife Petrowske had placed on the table, thrust the point against Petrowske's side and demanded his money and keys to his car standing outside the house.

Petrowske's call to a deputy sheriff was the first news prison officials had of the escape.

Crylen, who lived at 2618 Wentworth av., had been one of six "stripper" bandits whose practice was to rob motorists of money and clothing, and to sell the stolen apparel to junk dealers.

Training School Alumni

Crylen had also served in the Illinois State Training School for Boys in Kane county. He was sentenced to one year to life on six counts of armed robbery and one to 20 years on seven other counts. He was paroled Dec. 18, 1947 and returned to prison for parole violation March 31, 1949.

Brimberry was first sentenced for burglary and larceny in September, 1930, and paroled in December, 1932. In 1934 he shot and killed John Onhiser during a quarrel at the annual Salem Soldiers and Sailors reunion and was returned to prison for parole violation and on a 35 year murder sentence.

Warden Jerome J. Munie, who was transferred from the state prison at Pontiac two months ago, declared there had been "laxity and negligence" and said an investigation is under way.

S. ILLINOIS MANHUNT IS SPREADING

Escaped Convict Who
Murdered Two Men at
Salem in 1934 Is Still at
Large.

LAST REPORTED
SEEN IN SPARTA

Norman Brimberry, 43,
Serving 60-Year Sen-
ence, Slips Through Hole
in Menard Prison Wall.

By Associated Press

CHESTER, Ill. — A manhunt spread today for a two time murderer who slipped through a small greased hole of an Illinois prison wall. A companion who shared the escape has been recaptured.

Still hunted is Norman Brimberry, 43, who killed two men at a 1943 Soldiers and Sailors Reunion at Salem, Ill. He was sentenced to serve a total of 60 years.

Warden Jerome J. Munie said Wednesday morning the latest report on Brimberry was that he was let out of a car outside a Sparta hotel Monday night, that he was armed only with a hunting knife and that he had no money.

The warden said a farm hand reported a man of Brimberry's description hitched a ride into Sparta with him and got out at the hotel.

Earlier the two convicts entered a family's car stalled on Highway 3 in a rainstorm but left when convinced it would not run. In the car Brimberry tried to stop Mrs. Arthur Hausdorf from weeping by saying:

"Don't worry lady, we're not going to hurt you."

Two small children of the St. Louis family slept through it.

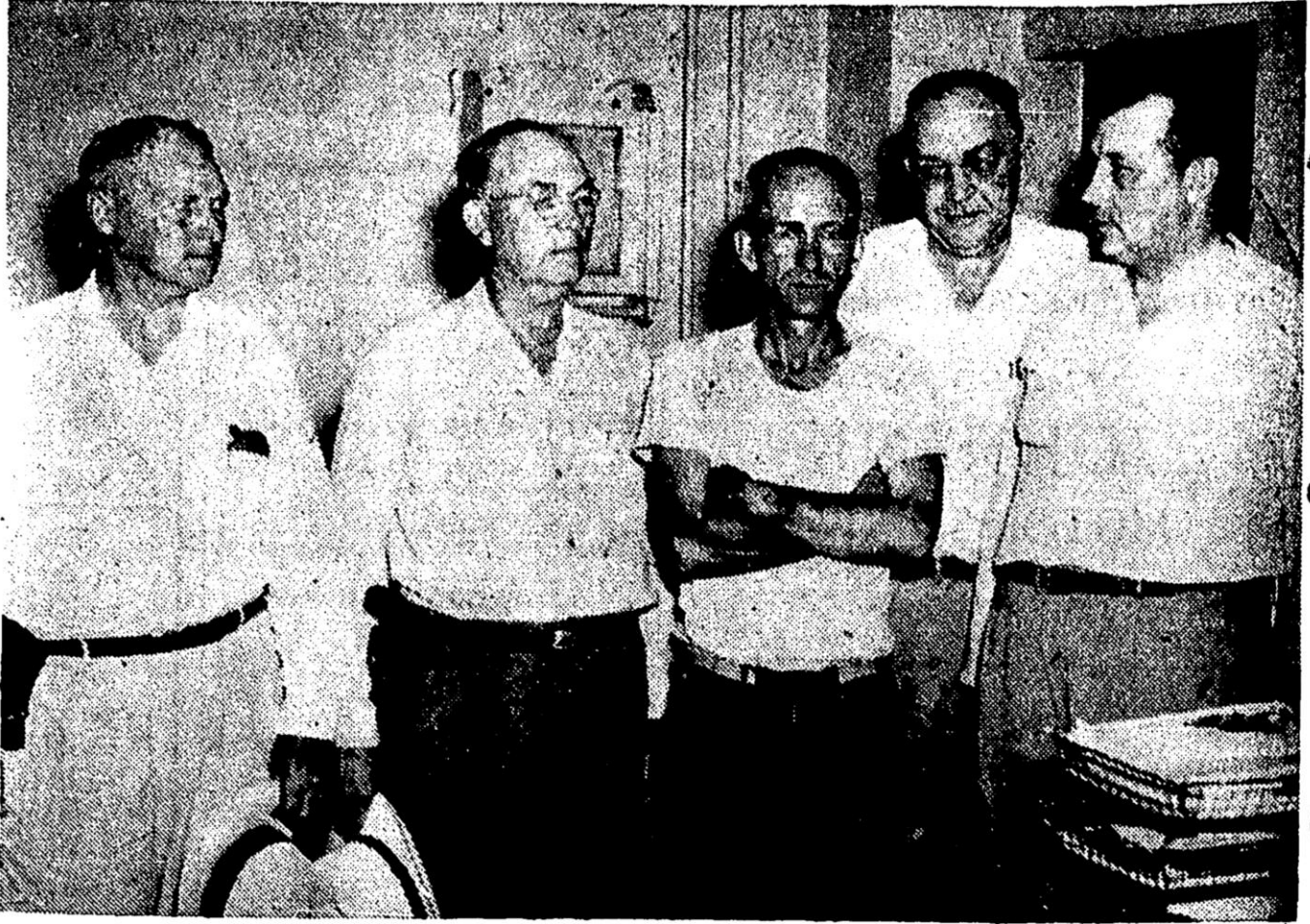
Hausdorf later directed police back to the area. One convict, Philip Crylen, 30, was found in a barn and gave up quietly. He said he last saw Brimberry entering a passing car.

Watch St. Louis Roads

Munie said the hunt now has fanned out 75 miles with approaches to St. Louis being watched.

"We're not going to let up," Munie said, "until we get him or we're satisfied he's out of this area."

GOING BACK TO PRISON



Norman Brimberry (center, arms folded) is shown at the Mt. Vernon police station Friday while en route back to the Menard state penitentiary. Brimberry, who escaped from Prison Aug. 30, was captured at Kinnundy Thursday night. In the picture are three prison officers and Mt. Vernon Police Chief Verner Pigg. Left to right—Lt. Ben Athmer, Lt. Abe Maynor, Brimberry, Chief Pigg and Capt. Leonard "Smokey" Wood. (Leltzell Photo)

2ND ESCAPED CONVICT SEIZED IN ILLINOIS

One of Pair Who Forced Way
Into St. Louisans' Auto
Spotted by Cousin.

Norman Brimberry, who escaped Aug. 30 from the Southern Illinois Penitentiary at Menard, surrendered quietly last night when he was recognized as he walked down a street of his home town, Kinmundy, Ill. Kinmundy is about 70 miles east of St. Louis.

He was seen by a cousin, George Keene, who notified Justice of the Peace Harvey Brown. Brown made the arrest and Brimberry, who was serving a life term for murder, was taken to the Marion county jail at Salem, 12 miles away.

Kinmundy officials said Brimberry told them he had been in town for the last three days attempting to locate his parents.

Brimberry and Philip Crylen, a Chicagoan serving a sentence for armed robbery, got away from prison by using a rubber sheet, greased with ointment stolen from medical supplies, to squirm through a 9-by-14-inch opening in the penitentiary wall.

Crylen was arrested two nights later near Baldwin, Ill., after he and Brimberry had forced their way into a stalled automobile during a rainstorm. The automobile was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hausdorf, 3106A North Sarah street, and their two young children.

The Hausdorfs managed to escape from the two convicts by obtaining a ride from a passing motorist, and later led authorities back to the scene. Crylen was found hiding nearby in a barn.

Norman Brimberry, Escapee Of Menard Surrenders To Local Authorities

Norman Brimberry, 43, who escaped from the Southern Illinois Security Hospital at Menard on August 30th, was 'Picked up' last Thursday evening in Kinmundy by Justice of the Peace, Harvey Brown, Eugene Keen, Jr., and Melvin Geiler noticed a stranger prowling in the Northeast part of town but could not recognize him in the dark. So they went to seek the services of Harvey Brown, our local Justice of the Peace. They thought that it might be Norman.

Mr. Brown went with Mr. Keen and Mr. Geiler. As they drove eastward on Sycamore Street, they noticed the man turn in to the Cecil Harvey yard. Brown accosted him and merely asked him to state his business. He was honest in replying that he was looking for the Brimberry Home. At that, Harvey said, "You're Bud Brimberry." The stranger answered, "You've got me cold."

At that, Harvey brought Bud down and put him in the city jail. He then notified the parents of Norman, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brimberry, who came to town and spent some time with their son before the sheriff came for him.

After being taken into custody, the first thing Norman asked for was something to eat. He was given a good meal. He told his folks that he had been around here for three days and had slept during the day around the old coal mine north of town. He was very weary and his feet were sore as he told them that he had walked all the way from Chester to Kinmundy. He did not offer the least resistance when being taken into custody.

Norman was returned to Menard on Friday.