

Arrest Clears Indicted Man of Robberies

Capt. Andrew Aitken of Jefferson Park police said an ex-convict admitted yesterday that he committed two armed robberies for which another ex-convict was arrested Feb. 27, later indicted, and jailed pending trial.



Chapman (top)
and Hammond

Aitken credited two of his detectives, John McHugh and Frank Cardinale, with establishing the innocence of the first man arrested, despite "positive identifications" by two victims, and with finding the confessed robber, James Hammond, 47, yesterday in his home at 7650 Phillips av.

Aitken said steps would be taken Monday to obtain freedom for Joseph Chapman, 53, of 1016 Ainslie st.

Cafe and Store Robberies

On Feb. 16 gunmen took \$66 from Mrs. Nell Vander Bos, 3627 Olcott av., in the restaurant at 6328 Milwaukee av. where she is a waitress. The next day a robber took \$100 from Henry Kalom, 1328 Monroe st., Evanston, in his drug store at 5500 Milwaukee av. Witnesses were Mrs. Ruth Kraus, 5506 N. Menard av., a pharmacist, and Kenneth Huebner, 4353½ N. Ashland av.

Aitken said a picture of Chapman, who was paroled in 1961 after serving 33 years in Stateville prison for killing a holdup victim in 1918, was picked from police files by Kalom and that later Mrs. Kraus and Kalom viewed Chapman and identified him.

Pair Doubt Identifications

Cardinale and McHugh said they were suspicious of the identification. Chapman insisted he was home at the time of the robberies.

Cardinale said anonymous information led to a near north side tavern where he found a revolver had been left by Hammond on Feb. 17. The detectives then obtained a picture of Hammond from police files and it was identified by Mrs. Vander Bos, Kalom, and Mrs. Kraus. They repeated their identification following Hammond's arrest.

Chapman wept happily as he heard the news in his cell. He said his outlook on life was changed by the execution of his brother, Harry, after a gun battle in Ohio in 1936 in which two policemen were slain. Chapman decided then to follow "the straight and narrow," he said.

After his parole Chapman married his brother's widow, Burnice.