

# Ex-Peorian Sentenced to 10 Years, Fined \$10,000 on 2 Vice Counts

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CLEVELAND — A federal jury Thursday returned a verdict of guilty for Elmer Poos, 34, on charges of interstate prostitution activity, and the federal judge sentenced Poos to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty on two counts yesterday afternoon and the judge sentenced Poos to five years on each count, to run consecutively, and \$5,000 fine on each count.

Poos' attorney, Robert Jones of Peoria, asked that Poos be freed on bond pending appeal to the U. S. Court of Appeals at Cincinnati, but Federal Judge Ben C. Green refused.

The former Peorian, living at 829 Bourland Ave., when he was arrested last summer, was the first of 13 persons to go on trial on charges of violating federal law by engaging in interstate prostitution activity.

Indictments against the 13 were returned by a federal grand jury last November after the FBI smashed a widespread prostitution ring.

**POOS WAS specifically** charged with traveling from Peoria to Cleveland between Jan. 7 and Jan. 12, 1966, and with making four other trips

from Peoria and Springfield to Cleveland in 1965 and 1966, with the intention of promoting prostitution.

Federal law makes it a crime to travel from one state to another with the intention of violating state prostitution laws.

A principal witness against Poos at the trial which began Jan. 18 in Cleveland was Mrs. Peggy Deaver, 37, who testified that she first met Poos while she was working in a Peoria house of prostitution in 1963.

She testified Poos and she had lived together for several years, and that he asked her to leave Cleveland and go back to Springfield to work as a prostitute.

Mrs. Deaver told the court she stopped working for Poos after she had reason to believe he was living with her 22-year-old daughter, Penny, in Peoria.

Testifying last week, Mrs. Deaver said she had believed her daughter was in school in Chicago, but that an FBI agent called the girl in Peoria and she talked with her on the phone. Mrs. Deaver subsequently testified against Poos at the November federal grand jury that indicted him and 12 others.

Following the conviction of Poos in Cleveland yesterday, U. S. Attorney Nathaniel Jones said the government will proceed rapidly with charges against the other 12 in the alleged ring.

No trial date has yet been set for the trial of Eugene F. Heron, 34, the other Peorian indicted on similar charges. The FBI is still seeking two other Peorians, Philip Lance, 35, and Theresa Williams, 35.

POOS has served time in prisons in Illinois and Missouri and has a long arrest record in Peoria and Springfield, including arrest on charges of grand larceny, auto theft, attempted armed robbery, carrying a concealed weapon and assault with a deadly weapon.

At the time the FBI arrest



ELMER POOS

alleged members of the interstate prostitution ring last November, Bureau director J. Edgar Hoover said the ring had engaged in prostitution activities in the states of Illinois, Ohio and Tennessee.