

VIDOCQ SOCIETY



JOURNAL
DECEMBER 2001

VOLUME ELEVEN
NUMBER FIVE

november 2001 case presentation

V.S.M. volunteers 13 years to secure posthumous pardon for Native American unfairly convicted 68 years before

Editor's Note: Richard Walton, V.S.M. presented the fascinating Jack Ryan case at the November 2001 meeting. In the finest Vidocq tradition, Walton turned a street corner conversation into a 13-year personal challenge to exonerate a man who had been unfairly convicted in connection with a double homicide six decades before.

By Richard Walton, V.S.M.

SACRAMENTO, Ca. — “Therefore, so that justice is maintained, I grant Jack Ryan posthumously a pardon based on innocence. Clemency is granted.” With these words and a signature, on April 15, 1996, California Governor Pete Wilson officially recognized a grievous wrong committed in the name of the State 68 years before and closed the books on a celebrated 1920's murder case.



1928 — Jack Ryan enters San Quentin Prison

and a corrupt prosecutor many decades before. The pardon also ended my 13-year effort to restore Ryan's honor and dignity.

The story began with a fall 1983 street-corner con-

(See “Ryan” on Page 4)



founder honored

Vidocq Society Commissioner and co-founder Bill Fleisher, V.S.M. is named one of the 76 smartest people in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA — Bill Fleisher, V.S.M. joined an exclusive fraternity in November when *Philadelphia Magazine* named him one of the City of Brotherly Love's smartest persons. The magazine, famous for its “Best of Philly” competitions, has featured Vidocq-related matters in previous issues.

To read what the magazine deduced about Fleisher and said about Vidocq see Page 3.



Happy New Year

The first meeting and case presentation for 2002 begins at noon on Thursday, Jan. 17 at the Down Town Club. To reserve seats for you and your guests please call the Society office at 215-545-1450 by C.O.B. Monday, Jan. 14th.

On Page 2

October 2001 — The Bechtel case: Wyoming woman, marathon runner, disappears in 1997.

September 2001 — The Ruff case: Utah security guard disappears in 1991 from his job at the world's largest copper mine.

Table of Contents — Complete listings.