

'INNOCENT' PLEA OF 2, SENTENCED

Benjamin Terry to Reformatory
for Theft—Veras to "Pen"
for Shooting a Man.

TERRY'S DRAMATIC PLEA DAMPENED BY RECORDS

Claim of Child's Death Shat-
tered—Veras Denies Intent
to Shoot Merchant.

Protesting their innocence, and insisting that grave mistakes were made by the juries which found them guilty, two prisoners convicted at the November term of district court, were brought before Judge Dancer yesterday for sentence. Benjamin Terry, better known in police circles of a half dozen cities as "Dago Ben" was ordered committed to the state reformatory at St. Cloud under an indeterminate sentence of from one to five years. A like term at the Stillwater penitentiary was given Harry Veras.

Terry was found guilty of stealing a \$35 diamond ring from Mrs. Bertha Kuettel as she was getting on a street car Oct. 27. Veras was convicted of shooting Morris Daneiko Oct. 7.

Adds Dramatic Touch.

Terry's training as an actor, the profession he claimed at his trial, enabled him to add a touch of drama to the court proceedings yesterday. As the court was preparing to impose sentence, he stepped forward with bowed head and handed Judge Dancer a black bordered mourning envelope. With emotional voice he explained that it was a letter from his wife in Chicago telling of the death of their only child. Judge Dancer read the letter.

In the meantime Mason M. Forbes, first assistant county attorney, began a hurried search of the trial record. He found that Terry had testified that he was married last May. When questioned the prisoner admitted that the child died at birth.

Although Terry denied that he had ever been arrested but once before, his police record photograph and description was produced, showing that he had run afoul of the law in Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis and other cities, and that there now is a reward standing for his arrest, offered by the Chicago police.

Prisoner Rebuked.

Judge Dancer administered a stern rebuke before committing the prisoner to the reformatory.

Harry Veras walked into the store of Morris Daneiko, 523 1/2 West Michigan street the night of Oct. 7 and ordered Daneiko to hand over his money. Before the latter could comply, Veras fired a revolver at him, the bullet entering the body just below the left breast.

At his trial Veras denied that the shooting was intentional and said the firearm was accidentally discharged while Daneiko was explaining its mechanism. He had gone into the store to buy a revolver, he testified.

Yesterday he hung to his original story, despite the fact that the state offered evidence to show he had purchased the revolver from another dealer.