



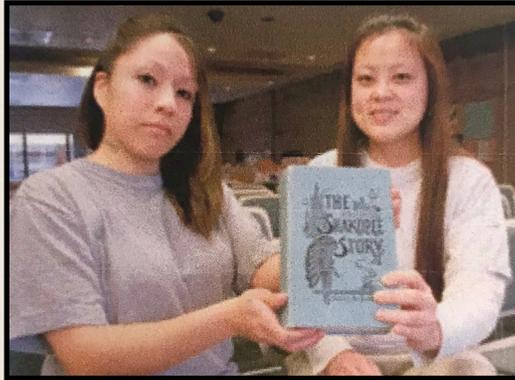
Teen Murderer Flees Jail to See the Smashing Pumpkins 1998

17-year-old Pamela D. Keary really wanted to see the Smashing Pumpkins.

She was serving a 12-year sentence for second-degree murder.

She joined 100,000 fans to see the show at the Hennepin Avenue block party.

She was arrested at midnight and removed to the segregated unit.



In 2009, clerical staff and inmates from the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Shakopee helped prepare and edit *The Shakopee Story*, 3rd Printing. It is available from the Shakopee Heritage Society.

“We are not saints. We are just a bunch of hurting, broken people looking for a way to put the pieces of our life back together again.

G.R.



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SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



Ruth Gardner

1933

...maybe!



Ruth Gardner 1933

Ruth Gardner. Or Laura Jensen. Or Ruth Redtke, or Ruth Warner.

She escaped from the State Reformatory for Women in Shakopee on February 20, 1933.

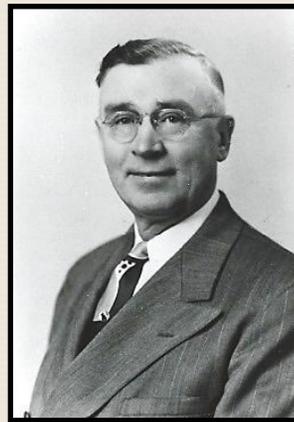
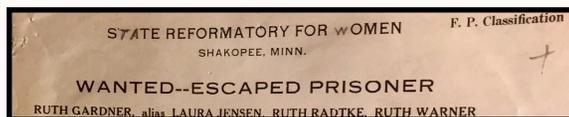
Ruth was 22 years old, 5'6 5/8" and 109 pounds. She has light brown hair, hazel eyes, and a sallow complexion.

Ruth was a clever forger. She operated in Ohio, Michigan, and Minnesota.

She always presented her victims with a fraudulent letter from an insurance company. The forged check was usually for about \$70.

If you find Ruth, apprehend and deliver her to an officer of the Minnesota State Reformatory for Women in Shakopee.

You will get a \$25 dollar reward!



John P. Wermerkirschen was the sheriff who captured a woman from the Shakopee Reformatory in Shakopee after fleeing for 8 hours in 1948.

On right is the inmate card for Lucille Keppen, who was the oldest inmate at age 93. After she was freed, her first plan was to go to Perkin's in downtown Shakopee!

The facility is now the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee and is located at 1010 West Sixth Avenue in Shakopee. It is the only women's prison in Minnesota, and was started in 1920.



Thumbing a Ride 1948

On August 21, 1948, at 8 p.m., a woman escaped from the Reformatory in Shakopee.

She was working in the fields, and made her way to the Holmes Street Bridge and crossed to the north end.

She started to thumb a ride.

John P. Wermerkirschen pulled up, and the woman got into the car. As he drove, John P. Wermerskirchen asked her name.

"None of your business!" she responded. "What is YOUR name?"

The driver answered, short and sweet, "You'll be surprised. I am the sheriff."

Her ride ended shortly after...back to the reformatory!



Lucille Keppen Released from Prison at Age 93 in 2007

"Does it hurt?" Lucille said. "I really want it to hurt because you hurt me so deeply, and I was so good to you."

Lucille Keppen, age 88, shot Stephen Flesche in 2002.

The inmates nicknamed her Grandma.

When she got out at age 93, the first thing she wanted to go to was Perkin's!

Lucille was the oldest prisoner of the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Shakopee.

