



Crime and Punishment

Berwick St. John

Petty Sessions

Edith Ellen Carter, 18, of Crook Hill, Alvediston, was charged with stealing four rings value £17, the property of Mrs M A Parham, at Alvediston, between March 1st 1928, and June 30th, 1930. Defendant pleaded guilty.

Mrs Parham said the girl was in her employ up to March 1930. In June of this year, witness missed some rings from a jewel case, and she reported the loss to the police.

Supt. Barrett said the girl disposed of two of the rings by giving them to two men.

The Chairman said he thought the circumstances should be explained by the men.

Frederick James Burt, of Berwick St John, said he and another man were skylarking with the girl, and he took a ring from her, and put it in his pocket. He had the ring in his possession for 18 months.

Supt. Barrett: "You didn't report to the police". Burt said he did not take much notice of the ring, and did not think it was valuable.

The Chairman: "You didn't ask the girl where she obtained it?" - Witness: "No".

Sidney F Cooper stated that he also took a ring from the girl's finger at the time of the skylarking. He did not take it intentionally.

The Magistrate's Clerk (Mr G Lush): "Why didn't you give it back:

Witness: "She never asked me for it."

Supt. Barrett stated that the other rings had not been recovered. The defendant informed the police that she had thrown the rings away. After hearing Miss Davis, a Welfare worker, the Bench adjourned the case for a month with the view to the girl entering a home. The Chairman said that if the accused did not consent to go to a home she would have to come up for sentence.

Burt and Cooper were not allowed their expenses.

Western Gazette Friday 21 August 1931