CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET
DIVISION OF PERSONNEL
B.S.A.

DATE April 11, 1966

Full Name THORPE, WILLIAM JAMES
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

Address 489 Collins Street

City West Chester State Pennsylvania

Age 26 (This is important and should be exact)

Approximate age ________ (To be used ONLY when exact age is not known)

Religion Prot. Nationality

Occupation 6th Grade Teacher at Main St. Elementary School

Education Grad. West Chester State College

Weight 170 Color W Height approx. 6'

Color of hair Black Color of eyes BROWN

Outstanding characteristics or interests

Married or single Married Children None
(Number, ages, and names, if possible)

Wife's name

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

Unit # City State Office Date Reg'd. Date resigned
Troop 274 Upland, Pa. SM 11/65 4/66

Special recognition

Recommended for Confidential File for following reasons:

Committed to Probate Home, Ilion, New York, to serve a sentence of 2 to 10 years for raping a 12 year old girl.

Information taken from letter of
April 5, 1966 from
W. E. Corder

Signed Scout Executive

GC-224331
Mr. W. E. Corder  
Scout Executive  
Valley Forge Council, No. 507

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your letter of April 5, and the enclosed newspaper clippings concerning William James Thorpe, Scoutmaster of Troop 274. We have placed this information in our files and have taken steps to have his name deleted from the troop roster.

The information you provided will enable us to identify Mr. Thorpe should he ever again attempt to register in the scouting program.

I am sure you realize that this leaves Troop 274 without any registered unit leader. Undoubtedly, someone is taking over in this position. In order for the unit to continue to receive program inserts in Scouting Magazine, it will be necessary to advise this office of the name of the new unit leader. This should be done by filing with us an additional enrollment for this individual in his new position. Please do not file a separation notice as we have already dropped the current leader.

Sincerely yours,

PERSONNEL DIVISION

Howard Boyd  
Director of Registration

April 11, 1966
April 5, 1966

Mr. Howard P. Boyd,
Director Registration Service
National Council - BSA
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Dear Howard:

We wish to place William James Thorpe, 489 Collina Street, West Chester, Pennsylvania, on the Confidential file. On March 30, 1966 Thorpe was committed to the Broadmeadows Prison, Delaware, Co., Pennsylvania to serve a sentence of 2 to 10 years for raping a 12-year-old girl.

He is a graduate of West Chester State College and was a sixth-grade teacher in the Main Street Elementary School. He is married-age 26 - no children. He is approximately 6 feet tall - 170 lbs. - black hair - brown eyes. He is currently listed as Scoutmaster of Troop 274, sponsored by the Upland P.T.A., Upland, Pennsylvania. That charter expires November 1966. Attached are two newspaper clippings regarding Thorpe's actions.

If there is more information needed, please advise me.

Sincerely yours,

W. E. Corder
Scout Executive

Enclosures
Teacher Accused Of Attack

UPLAND — A sixth-grade teacher at the Main Street Elementary School has been charged with rape and contributing to the delinquency of a minor as a result of alleged interactions with one of his 12-year-old students.

William J. Thorpe, 26, of the 900 block of N. Mouri Street, West Chester, was arraigned before Upper Providence District Magisterial District Judge, John L. Culkin, on charges of rape, endangering the welfare of a child, and corruption of minors.

Chief County Detective Roger J. Dyer said the investigation began last fall when the child, who is now 13, told her father about the alleged abuse.

The child's father reported the incident to the school district, which in turn notified the district attorney's office.

The district attorney's office asked that Thorpe be held without bail for court appearances.

On Tuesday, Thorpe was arrested at the school by county detectives who had searched the area for several days.

Detectives declined to reveal any details of the case.

The school board, aware of the situation, had already placed Thorpe on administrative leave pending the investigation.

In other news, the board has authorized a search of the school's computer systems to ensure the safety of students.

The board voted to hire a new principal for the upcoming school year.

UPLAND — The school board has fired James T. Rich, 46, of the 700 block of W. Main Street.

Rich was dismissed following an investigation into allegations of inappropriate behavior with a student.

The school board said Rich had been found guilty of misconduct and neglect of duty.

Rich's attorney, James L. Whitaker, said he plans to appeal the decision.

The school district will now begin the process of hiring a new principal.