

CAPTIVE IN A CAVE ?

An innocent-looking Victorian villa in Lewisham - like hundreds of others in this South London borough. None of the neighbours knew that its back garden hid a strange story. First inkling that something was amiss came when a next door neighbour found a note pushed through the fence. It claimed that beneath the garden shed of inventor John Bridal, a girl was held captive in a underground room.

The girl, 28-year-old Marjorie Jordan - seen here at Brighton, trying to forget it all - alleged in the note that she had been kidnapped by 26-year-old Bridal. Police take the young inventor into his shed to investigate the girl's story. Down this manhole is the room where Marjorie Jordan alleges she was kept, against her will, for 105 days. It opens on to a shaft which descends 14 feet to the room of whose existence only Bridal and Marjorie knew. Constructed with great ingenuity, it is roughly fitted out as a living room, with electric cooking and electricity, table, chairs, radio, and Marjorie Jordan's bed.

After inspecting the strange room, police photograph the motor-cycle on which Bridal admits he brought Marjorie from her home. "But I didn't kidnap her", he declares as police take him to the station. "You can't on a motor cycle". Except for the first days he said she was there willingly, helping with his inventions. Now the Public Prosecutor is deciding whether to take any action.