

SEX SESSION WIFE CRIED 'I WAS RAPED'

Make-believe crime wasted police time

A ST. Peter's woman who had sex with a casual acquaintance and then claimed she had been raped wasted more than 200 hours of police time.

Ramsgate magistrates were told on Tuesday that a photofit of the man all-

eged to have attacked her was issued by the police and published in the local papers and a man who matched the description was later held for questioning.

Diane Elizabeth Skelsey (30), of Beacon Road, admitted making a false statement to the police on 16 October last year.

She was put on probation for a year and ordered to pay £113.60 medical examination fees to the police and £30 costs.

Mr. Nicholas Burn, prosecuting, said police were called to Skelsey's home after she made a complaint of theft.

During questioning, Skelsey alleged she had been raped. She was taken to Margate police station, where she was interviewed by a WPC.

Mr. Burn said: "Skelsey then had the usual lengthy medical examinations necessary for an allegation of rape."

She made a 13-page statement, going into precise details of her attacker.

"As far as the police were concerned, they were investigating a rape.

But the story put forward was a work of fiction," Mr. Burn said.

Skelsey was given several opportunities to

retract her statement, but it was only when the photofit was issued that she decided to tell the truth.

On the evening of the alleged rape, Skelsey left her husband at home while she went to a local off-licence to buy some cans of lager and peppermints.

Mr. Burn said: "On her return, she came across a man she had known and fell into conversation.

"He invited Skelsey to his premises and it was there that they engaged in an act of sexual intercourse. There was no element of force," he said.

Skelsey returned home three hours later. Her husband asked her where she had been because she was so late.

"She came up with the story that she had been robbed," Mr. Burn said.

When the police arrived, Skelsey told them she had been raped.

Mr. Burn said: "As a result, 214 hours were wasted by police officers engaged in fruitless investigation.

"A totally innocent man who matched the description was detained in custody for five-and-a-half hours," Mr. Burn went on.