

Cleared of raping teen-ager

Feb. 3

A man called "Psycho" who claimed that the teen-ager he was charged with raping "wanted it" was acquitted yesterday by a Common Pleas Jury.

Thomas "Psycho" Roberson, 23, of Robinson Street near Buist Avenue in Southwest Philadelphia, claimed he had consensual sex with the 19-year-old woman to celebrate the birthday of his daughter while his wife and newborn were still in the hospital.

The young woman erupted in wails when jurors delivered the not-guilty verdict to Judge Petrese Tucker.

The women, who once rented a room in the house with Roberson and his wife, said Roberson was drunk celebrating the birth of his daughter when he broke through the bathroom door March 9, 1994, and threatened to plunge her head into the toilet and drown her unless she submitted to sex.

She said he ripped off her underpants, raped her on the bathroom floor, then dragged her to the bedroom and raped her again.

Police found the ripped underpants but defense lawyer A. Charles Peruto Jr. argued that the panties were just like many others in the house-chewed by the woman's dogs.

"She wanted it," Roberson told jurors. "She pulled me down."