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# THE SOUTH AMBOY CITIZEN

Vol. 97 No. 20 South Amboy Thursday, May 24, 1979 Advertising Less Than 75% 10 cents

## Pulaski Employees Stand Firm To Holdup Man, Trap Him with "Smoke" Bag

Employees of Pulaski Savings & Loan and South Amboy police joined in courage and effective action 1:30 p.m. Tuesday to put a quick end to a bank robbery attempt at that institution's offices at Washington Rd. and Davis Lane. The robber had not gone a dozen steps beyond the back door of the bank with a cash sack containing over \$10,000 when the police revolvers of Paul Newman, James Holovacko and Kenneth Szatkowski were levelled upon him and a defiance of their order to stop would have meant his being gunned down.

The officers had no doubt that the man before them was a bank robber, that they were not aiming guns at an innocent person, for there was starting to exude from the bag he was carrying a telltale "smoke." Pulaski Savings & Loan officials had provided their bank with the latest recourse against bank robbers, a cash-carrying sack that is impregnated with reactive chemicals so that it will give off a revealing "smoke" before carried very far. It is placed at hand for their tellers to use when handed a note that the man before them is a bank robber and they had better hand over the cash he wants lest they be killed.

The man who identified himself to police as Dennis Newman, 36, of Brigantine, was given such a bag and money in compliance with his note that he carried death-dealing explosives he would use. The note also advised the tellers, Florence Pawlowski and Pearl Urbank, the bank building was seeded along its outside wall with an explosive which would go off with demolishing effect if attempt was made to intercept him in his getaway.

The tellers were not to be intimidated. Even as the robber was pulling away from the window with his cash, a burglar alarm was sounding to Sgt. Robert Kelly in police headquarters and Ptl. Holovacko was rushed to the scene and Ptl. Szatkowski advised by radio to join him. They saw Newman heading for a group of cars with the telltale sack and with the whisp of "smoke" starting to come

out of it. Newman had demanded the keys of an employee's car. But he was not to be reaching the escape by auto area.

The robber had opened his course by demanding to see the bank manager, Walter Urbank. This would have taken him inside the bullet proof glass around the teller cage area that police could not shoot at him if he were intercepted in his act of getting his sack of money. But Ms. Pawlowski and Urbank would have none of it, took the risk of defying Newman for whatever weapons he might have on him and refused to move away from where they could trip the burglar alarm pedal. This forced Newman into a decision to be on his getaway with the money and depend on the force of the warnings in his note to clear his way.

With respect to provision in his note to clear his getaway, the man left a



NO PLACE NOT TO BE IN. That is the opinion of Mrs. Marie Gdula's fourth grade South Amboy Elementary School class as Sgt. Augie Charmello shows them the accommodations available at the city jail as part of the Police Week tour of the department's facilities.

## DOWN'S DEFENSE: CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS NEVER CREATED

In defense of his client, Robert Downs, 36, Portia St., against charges entered by Code Enforcement Officer Fred Kurtz, that Downs had proceeded with construction at the Portia St. address after a permit was rescinded and had added an electric feeder service to an out building without a permit, John Vail, South Amboy, held before Municipal Judge Joseph C. Hoffman Monday a violation of the Code Enforcement ordinance adopted Feb. 9, 1974, existed because the Council had never created a Construction Board of Appeals. Vail noted the Code provided such a Board of five members with one member an architect or engineer and others qualified as plumbers or electrical subcontractors. Vail said neither he nor his client knew of such a Board of Appeals being in existence, so Downs did not have the recourse provided for him in an ordinance.

Bernard Shihar, New Brunswick, acted for the city as a special prosecutor. Shihar had Kurtz recount the code enforcement officer's difficult dealings with Downs. Kurtz noted a permit was issued Downs on plans submitted Jan. 30 to enclose a garage structure adjoining a dwelling on the site but on account of the weather, make installations that would, in effect, be making the garage a second residential structure on one lot. Kurtz recounted that on Feb. 20 he went to 363 Portia St. to observe what was being done. This led to a letter Feb. 21 advising Downs the essence of the permit was being exceeded. But, when this elicited no response, a second letter, Feb. 27 was sent with return receipt card demanded. The permit for protective exterior work with no interior work was rescinded.

Vail questioned if this was anything more than attempt

to verify the permit against the exact wording of the code.

Kurtz recalled it was when he found an underground electric line coming from under newly laid blacktop to a circuit breaker in the garage that the code enforcement office called on City Attorney Clark Convery to take Downs to court for his defiance. Superior Court Judge Furman rejected as "hearsay" an affidavit in the matter but allowed Downs pledge to be backed with a variance in 90 days that would cover everything Downs testified a duly licensed electrician had installed the circuit breaker.

Testifying Monday in his own defense, Downs said he had owned the property since 1974. Vail had Downs report of a need to blacktop an area 70 ft. by 30 ft. with pictures showing conditions causing a need to replace

## WARN HEADS SCHOOL BOARD

Judith Warn was elected president of the South Amboy Board of Education's reorganization meeting Tuesday. Richard O'Brien was chosen vice president. Both were elected by unanimous votes.

Alice Kupper, Thomas Tice and Edward Szatkowski Jr. were sworn in as new members and Margaret McCarthy to a new three-year term.

George Ollowski Jr., Perth Amboy, was retained as Board attorney and Seaman Seaman & Oshly, Perth Amboy, as board auditors.

The board will continue to meet on the last Monday of the month except when such Mondays are holidays, then the meeting will be on the Monday before

## NEW VOTE WITHIN YEAR ON BUILDING SCHOOL SET BY STATE

A letter from Dr. Irving Peterson, of the Facilities Planning Division, of the State Department of Education, advised the South Amboy Board of Education May 16 that a recently \$122,000 matching funds grant from the Building Aid fund must be used in a referendum on a building or renovation project by May 2, 1980. And the new board of education taking office must have a building or renovation project ready to submit to Trenton for approval by Jan. 2, 1980. And Dr. Peterson cautioned the \$122,000 would only become payable to the board if the voters approve the building plan to be submitted.

Dr. Peterson stipulated the \$122,000 could not be applied to building or renovating on the John St. site or structures, in that State Education Commissioner Fred Burke and his office have found disfavor with more investment in school facilities at the location.

John O'Leary, superintendent, reported on work completed to date on the Phase III of the Economic Development Administration project, digging out for draining and the installation of the foundation for the elevator and stairwell. Asked how big the elevator will be, he said just enough to accommodate a wheel chair.

Approval for payment of Wiedersum Associates, Totoway, architects on the EDA project of \$20,427.70 for work to date was voted, also to Rietolo Construction Inc., Belleville, of \$41,025.27. O'Leary reported that

## SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

A special meeting of the South Amboy City Council will be held Thursday, May 24 at 7:30. On the agenda will be personnel and payment of bills.

## Zoning Violation Charge Upheld

Municipal Judge Joseph C. Hoffman Tuesday fined Michale Szraga Jr., 308 John St., South Amboy, \$300 and \$10 for operating an auto repair shop at 230 Gordon St. in a residential zone without a variance. Complaint was filed by Josephine Rehfuss, 240 Gordon St., a householder in the residential zone. Szraga pled "not guilty," sought to get the proceedings put off until he could get his lawyer, but Judge Hoffman advised him he had had two postponements and that was enough.

Ms. Rehfuss told the court she had observed lights in the closed Szraga garage late as 10 p.m. and by the flickering of her TV set assumed that interference was coming in from a welding operation. She said he took pictures of a car left to be worked on and of "junk" scattered around such as would apply to an automotive body or repair shop.

Szraga cross-examined her extensively and drew admission she had never seen what went on behind the walls of his garage. But she denied having any kind of household appliance that would set up an electrical field to cause the flutter in her TV set.

Pauline Rydzenski, 216 Gordon St. and Irene Slusarek, 228 Gordon St., supported the testimony of Ms. Rehfuss and had report of seeing an auto wrecker's truck pushing a car onto the Szraga premises. Ms. Slusarek told of auto repair activity going on at Szraga's for six months. The women had dates to quote as to their suspicions of welding, but Szraga noted they could not stipulate a continued and truly offensive noise coming

from his premises. Szraga put Daniel Murray Jr., Parlin, a young man coming regularly to the garage, on the stand to tell of never seeing welding going on or of observing a cutting torch, such as used in welding work, at the site. But Murray admitted observing jacks and other implements that could be used in car work.

Szraga himself said he would only answer to the specific date of Ms. Rehfuss complaint, Apr. 27, when there was nothing as charged going on. He protested the long quoting of dates and times by the complainant and her witnesses.

But, as the court found defiance of a zoning ordinance was obviously involved, Szraga was fined, then given a suspended sentence on the condition all activity but just housing a car cease.

Szraga had applied for a variance in March, then withdrew it on the grounds the use he wished existed at the site before zoning

## FIRE DEPT MEETING CHANGED

The regular monthly meeting of the Executive Board of the South Amboy Fire Dept. has been changed to Tuesday, May 29th at the Mech. Fire House, 100 p.m.

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