

Welfare cheaters foiled by 'friendly' informers

By ED CHELLAND
And DICK STANLEY
Staff Writers

MOUNT HOLLY — The tide against welfare cheaters is rising in Burlington County as friends, neighbors, even relatives of welfare recipients turn informer.

"We get a lot of telephone tips and some unsigned letters and it is our responsibility to investigate the complaints," said county Welfare Board Director Robert F. Gallagher.

The indictment of 90 suspected welfare cheats and the arrest of 12 persons in early morning raids yesterday weren't the first results of the phenomenon and, apparently, they won't be the last. From 1972 to 1974, according to figures released by county officials, 106 cases involving 144 alleged cheaters were brought to trial. Thirty-nine cases had been prepared this year before yesterday's raids.

And some 319 cases are still under investigation, officials said.

"If you are a welfare cheater," said Gallagher, "be wary of your friends, neighbors and relatives." He said most of the county's information on cheats comes from persons who are very close to the suspects "and in many cases it is family."

Some tips prove to be unfounded, he admitted, but each must be probed and if fraud is suspected, one of his five investigators is assigned

to the case. In prominent past cases, said Gallagher, welfare cheaters have included a man who owned six race horses, a woman who had a swimming pool behind her home and some other recipients were found to own boats, more than one car and mobile home trailers that they failed to mention on their welfare applications.

Wednesday's raids were the work of Gallagher's investigators and Detective George Hornick, an investigator with the county prosecutor's office. Hornick reportedly gets some of his help from the local unemployment office and banks. When his cases are cemented, they go to the grand jury.

Those arrested yesterday were charged with failure to report outside earnings or other government assistance.

Marcelina Rasario, 44, of Browns Mills, mother of two children, for taking \$2,041 from March 1974 to November 1974 while working at Fort Dix and receiving unemployment benefits.

Mildred Williams, 32, of Willingboro, mother of four children, for taking \$4,153 from November 1973 to October 1974 while working for the Smith, Kline and French firm of Philadelphia.

Andrew Ehnat, 56, of Delran, for taking \$5,503 from 1970 to 1973 while receiving social security benefits.

Carolyn Fletcher, 35, of Willingboro, mother of three children, for taking \$5,118 from 1972 to 1974 while working in the Children's Home of Burlington County in Mount Holly.

Janice Daniel, 33, of Florence, mother of five for taking \$2,012 from 1972 to 1974 while receiving social security checks.

Wayne L. Hurst, 60, and his wife, Mary E., 54, of Hainesport, for taking \$2,941 from September 1972 to November 1973 while receiving social security benefits.

Virgie Haywood, 40, of Pemberton Township, a mother of five, for taking \$1,154 from 1971 to 1974 while working at the New Lisbon State School.

Sylvester Lipscomb, 27, of Burlington, father of two children, for taking \$1,737 from February 1974 to September 1974 while receiving GI benefits;

Desiderio Calderon, 56, of Beverly, father of five, for taking \$2,342 from 1973 to 1975 while working at Wall Rope in Beverly and collecting unemployment, and

Angelo Angelatas, 45, and his wife, Rita, 42, of Burlington, parents of three children, for taking \$6,538 from November 1971 to October 1973 while receiving social security benefits.

Gallagher said the county has a total of 3,579 Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) cases and 314 cases in the working poor program.

60 Islam followers still isolated at prison

By ROBERT JOFFEE
Staff Writer

Sixty inmates, all members of the Nation of Islam, are being kept isolated in a separate wing of Trenton State Prison nearly a month after an attack on a dissident Muslim faction left one prisoner dead and 10 injured.

The 60 are being held in "protective custody against any possible reprisals from the other inmates," said Ed Ramsey, a prison spokesman.

He said authorities do not know of any particular plan for reprisals, but added that some of the other inmates are resentful of the lockup.

Meanwhile, the prison is returning to "almost full routine," Ramsey said. The lock-up of all prisoners following the Oct. 16 clash has been eased in stages, he said, and "dining and recreation areas are back to normal, although not as many men are allowed in the dining room or recreation area at any one time."

He said college classes resumed last Monday, primary and secondary school classes resume next Monday, and vocational programs resume Nov. 24.

Twenty prisoners, most of whom are members of the dissident New World of Islam faction, remain in "protective custody" in the Vroom Unit at Trenton State Psychiatric Hospital, where they were sent after last month's disturbance.

The prison wing housing Nation of Islam members is at the opposite end of the building from another wing which usually is used as a lock-up. Ramsey said the Muslims have their own exercise yard, and "the only major privilege they don't have is a dining room."

Malpractice suit filed for abortion

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Doctors performing a hysterectomy on a 32-year-old woman discovered she was pregnant and aborted the fetus without consulting the woman or her husband, according to a suit filed against the doctors.

Sources close to the case said the woman found out she was pregnant only after the May 16, 1974, operation, when she was told by a member of the hospital staff who had been present during surgery. A hysterectomy removes a woman's reproductive organs.

Attorneys for Margaret Steckel and her husband, Kerry, 32, filed the suit Wednesday in Lehigh County Court, alleging malpractice, negligence and carelessness against Allentown Hospital and three physicians.

The suit contended Mrs. Steckel, who has two sons and a daughter, experienced irregular menstrual cycles and suffered abdominal pains in early 1974.

The court document alleges Dr. Henry Fetterman, one of the defendants, diagnosed an ovarian cyst and ordered the surgery.

"I can't say a thing about it. My attorneys told me not to," Mrs. Steckel said yesterday in a telephone interview from her Allentown home.

The suit claimed the fetus—allegedly male—was 16 centimeters in length and weighed 120 grams. That would mean it was about 6 1/2 inches long and weighed just over a quarter pound.

"We are not aware of the suit so we can't comment on it," said Orlando Bowen, administrator of Allentown Hospital.

The physicians were also unavailable for comment. The others named in the suit are Dr. Thomas Tucker II and Dr. Robert McQuire.

The suit says Fetterman was in charge of the operation and the other physicians attended.

Democrats to meet
The Women's Division of the Mercer County Democratic party will meet Thursday, Nov. 20, at 8 p.m. at the Trenton Polish-American Democratic Club on North Olden Avenue.

State agrees to delay in teacher bias case

The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights has agreed to delay action on discrimination charges filed by a Hamilton Township teacher until State Commissioner of Education Fred Burke has ruled on the case.

Henry Gill, Hamilton Township School Board attorney, had asked that a temporary restraining order be issued by Superior Court Judge George Y. Schoch to prevent the state Civil Rights Division from acting in the case of Dorothy Agress before Commissioner Burke had made a ruling.

However, the Civil Rights Division voluntarily agreed to await the decision and a 3:30 p.m. hearing in Judge Schoch's chambers was called off yesterday.

Mrs. Agress, a second grade teacher who was involuntarily transferred from the Sayen School to the Mercerville School 18 months ago, has

pressed discrimination charges before both the Civil Rights Division and the state Department of Education.

A hearing officer in that department has ruled against her claims. A final ruling is expected from Burke.

The Civil Rights Division had previously agreed to investigate Mrs. Agress' charges.

She has charged her transfer was based on Sayen Principal Larry Poinsett's personal dislike and anti-Semitism. Mrs. Agress is Jewish.

The state hearing examiner has agreed with the school board contention that Mrs. Agress was transferred because of the need for a "strong" teacher in the Mercerville School. And that a morale problem at the Sayen School had been caused as a result of friction between Mrs. Agress and an unnamed Sayen School teacher.

DEP, Hopewell reach truce on Washington Crossing Park

By J. STRYKER MEYER
Special to The Times

HART'S CORNER — The dispute between the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Hopewell Township officials over \$700,000 worth of improvements to the Washington Crossing State Park apparently ended last night.

John Kraml Jr., supervisor of design and construction at DEP, presented its proposal to the Hopewell Township planning board and answered questions from officials

and park-area residents who had come to the meeting ready to continue their disagreement with DEP.

By the end of the night, however, Kraml had planning board officials, Police Chief Mathew J. Maloney and some outspoken residents conceding that the latest DEP park plan including the controversial placement of a new entrance, appeared to be O.K.

"I was glad we had this meeting," said Maloney, "because it settled all of the questions I and most everyone else had about the new park plans."

25 miles off Long Beach Island

New ocean sludge site proposed

By BARBARA A. HASTINGS
Staff Writer

A site 25 miles off the coast of New Jersey's Long Beach Island has been proposed for massive sewer sludge dumping.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a division of the federal Department of Commerce, has proposed the coastal site, in an area where waters are considered the cleanest off New Jersey, near the area which is a major tourist and vacation center.

NOAA proposed the site as an alternative to the Sandy Hook dumping area, which may be closed within a year because of increasing pollution problems.

The Sandy Hook dumping area is only 10 miles from shore. While state officials are concerned about pollu-

tion off Long Beach Island, one said that "farther is better." The area 25 miles off Long Beach Island is also deeper than the Sandy Hook site, he said.

NOAA made its recommendation to the regional office of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which is expected to hold hearings next March.

But the proposal is expected to draw tremendous opposition from both commercial and sport fishing interests. Once the sludge is dumped in an area, it takes years before it is safe for fishing, according to marine scientists.

One of the reasons the site off Long Beach Island is attractive for sludge dumping, according to sources, is that the tides 25 miles out are believed to rarely move toward shore. The currents are not generally pointed to-

ward shore, and the sludge would move outward rather than inward.

Comprehensive marine studies are to be conducted to determine if the sludge would move the 25 miles to the coastline.

The Sandy Hook site currently has over a billion gallons of sludge dumped there annually, and the need is expected to triple in five years.

New Jersey is faced with the dilemma of more sewer treatment facilities being constructed in the state, and yet not enough land with proper soil conditions to allow on-land dumping, experiments being conducted in a portion of the New Jersey Pinelands, have been inconclusive.

The ocean dumping at Sandy Hook has generated substantial opposition from Long Island, N.Y., where residents claim the sludge is moving towards their beaches.

In a related matter, the EPA said, Camden can continue to dump its sludge 35 miles off Ocean City, Md., but that state's attorney general, Francis B. Burch, said Maryland will sue to block issuance of the permit.

Armed youth robs woman in restaurant

Mrs. Eula Snell, 40, was working alone in her restaurant, the Barbecue Pit, 642 Stuyvesant Avenue, when a youth armed with a gun robbed her at 5:23 p.m. yesterday, she told police.

The robber lifted a section of the counter, walked behind it, told Mrs. Snell to freeze and ordered her to empty the money from her register, police said.

"Don't give me any pennies," the man reportedly told her.

Then he fled with an undetermined amount of money, Mrs. Snell told Patrolman Ira Brittingham.

Christmas Trees DIRECT FROM OUR FACTORY TO YOU AT... Wholesale Prices

Own our unique Insta-shape® TREE...it's:

- Beautiful and realistic.
- Fully assembled
- No branches to insert or shape.
- Safe and fire-retardant
- Economical and long-lasting
- Steel trunk and sturdy stand
- No mess and reusable carton
- 5-year warranty.



INSTA-SHAPE AS SEEN ON TV!



\$10 Christmas Coupon \$10

\$10 FREE

\$10 free in merchandise of your choice with purchase of any tree \$29.95 or more.

Offer expires on 11-21-75

TT-16-13-16

\$10 \$10

The Christmas Tree Factory Outlet

2180 NOTTINGHAM WAY
MERCERVILLE, N.J.

Store Hours:

Mon-Sat 11am-9pm
Sun 11am-6pm

(609) 890-0019



EWING - 1400 PARKWAY AVE.
HAMILTON - 1750 WHITEHORSE AVE.
PRINCETON NORTH SHOPPING CENTER ROUTE 206
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY