

Cops told to cut back patrols at TPH



SALLY LANE

Recalling Shahn's heritage

I can't remember when I first knew Ben Shahn because it's hard to think when I didn't.

He died when I was a sophomore in college, in a year when most dorm rooms were decorated with the peace dove poster he'd done for the McCarthy campaign.

That paunchy clown of his, the one in the harlequin suit, hung in one of the rooms at my school, opposite a poster for the Festival of Two Worlds at Spoleto. That was one side of him, along with colorful posters for the opening of Philharmonic Hall at Lincoln Center or a new ballet by Jerome Robbins or Martha Graham.

His commentaries on the civil rights and anti-war movements punctuated my high school years. The one I've never forgotten, called "I Think Continually of Those Who Were Truly Great," reproduces a Stéphen Spender poem in that familiar calligraphy, with the names of murdered civil rights workers worked into the air in a hazy script.

BEN SHAHN was a Roosevelt man — both a follower of the president and a resident, from 1939 on, of the town named for FDR.

Tomorrow night at 7 p.m., to celebrate the opening of its 1983 season, the Original Trenton Coffeehouse will host a symposium on Roosevelt artists and the heritage of Ben Shahn. His wife, Bernarda Bryson Shahn, and his son, Jonathan, will be joined for the discussion by three of the artists who were his neighbors and colleagues: Jacob Landau, Gregorio Prestopino and Stefan Martin.

The discussion, organized by artist and Mercer County Community College art teacher Mel Leipzig, is free and open to the public. Located in the basement of the First United Methodist Church at Broad and Front streets, the coffeehouse is a good place for the kind of discussion I think it will be — no name tags, long-winded introductions or efforts to impress.

The artists who settled in Roosevelt have kept up the tradition of involvement that Ben Shahn embodied, whether he was lending his talents to union organizing drives or voter registration or political campaigns.

Talking to an interviewer in the '50s about his European travels to study the masters, he said: "I had seen all the right pictures and read all the right books, but still it didn't add up to anything. . . I like stories and people. The French school is not for me."

"PRINTS AND POSTERS of Ben Shahn," a paperback collection of 102 of his graphics brought out last year by Dover Publications, includes plenty of evidence to support that statement in a handsomely printed format. The introductory essay is by Kenneth Prescott, now of the University of Texas, who knew Shahn well when he lived here and directed the New Jersey State Museum.

The urge to deal with stories and people is evident throughout the book. The 1958 poster, "The Passion of Sacco and Vanzetti," is a dual portrait whose bottom half is entirely covered with Shahn's lettering of the closing statement at the trial. By contrast, his 1948 commentary, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find," is one of the funniest and nastiest political attacks you can imagine, and the only words used are song sheets on the piano Harry Truman is playing while Tom Dewey drapes himself a la Lauren Bacall.

A 1935 work, "Prenatal Clinic" is the sort about which Shahn wrote, "My type of social painting makes people smile. The height of the reaction is when the emotions of anger, sympathy and humour all work at the same time."

In his own book, *Shape of Content*, Ben Shahn wrote that a work of art " . . . was made to contain permanently something that was felt and thought and believed. . . For him, freedom meant being " . . . free to be painstaking if I want to, to be responsible, to be involved; to be free to exercise whatever intellect I may have, and I consider both discipline and craft indispensable to freedom."

By MICHAEL SHIELDS
Staff Writer

The chief executive officer at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital has ordered the state security forces who patrol the hospital's grounds and environs to cut back their patrols of neighboring areas.

The head of the state Policeman's Benevolent Association local that represents the 14 Department of Human Services police officers at TPH criticized the decision yesterday, and accused the TPH administration of using the order to "harass" him for his outspoken union activities.

"I won't play politics with them, so they hurt my officers," said Patrolman Trent A. Davis, president of PBA Local 113 and an officer at the Sullivan Way facility.

Chief Executive Officer Irene Salay denied the charge, and called the change in policy an "administrative decision."

"I want him on the grounds doing his job," she said. "His view of his job is different from that."

DAVIS SAID the order was a "diservice" and predicted that an increasing number of patients at the hospital will take advantage of it to escape or wander away.

He said he intends to notify residents of the areas where routine patrols are to be eliminated about the change, and seek their support in having it overturned. Meantime, he added, he'll instruct the PBA members to continue their patrols in direct violation of the order.

"As far as I'm concerned, it is not a lawful order," he said in an interview yesterday. "I'm going to advise my men to ignore it."

He promised that he would "be the first person to violate this memo."

The memo is an inter-office communication dated May 9 from Nicholas Lipsey, chief of police at TPH, which reads:

"ROUTINE PATROL will include grounds and consist of Stuyvesant Ave., to Cornwall Ave. to Hilvita Blvd. to Sullivan Way to Camp Conquest, back to Lower Ferry Road to Stuyvesant.

"Cadwalader Park, Route 29, West State Street, Parkway Ave. and Fernwood will not be considered routine patrol."

Davis estimated that the order is intended to eliminate about 70 percent of the area the police normally patrol, including areas where escaped patients have been found.

Lipsey declined comment on the memo, and referred all questions to his superiors.

The PBA president, who heads the organization representing 105 police officers who patrol 17 state facilities, noted that the officers are certified by the state and have full police powers. All are trained at the State Police Academy in Sea Girt or at county police academies, he said.

At present, two police cars patrol the grounds of the hospital and the surrounding roads by day, one at night, looking for patients who intentionally escape or wander away from the "open facility."

DAVIS SAID "at least" five patients walk away from the state hospital every day, "and

sometimes as many as five or six on a shift."

Some of the patients have committed violent criminal acts — including murder, rape and assault — and should be considered dangerous, he noted.

He said it is "very easy" for patients to climb the fences around the facility or else walk through one of the four gates there.

Responding to complaints of overcrowding from hospital nurses, many doctors will grant patients "grounds passes" that allow them to leave their wards, Davis said. Once outside, "there's nothing to say you can't walk out that gate," he added.

A nearby liquor store is a favorite, and dangerous, place patients like to visit, he said, because the alcohol they buy there and at times bring back to the hospital can harm people already being treated with powerful drugs. That store lies beyond the area designated by the memo as a patrol area, he said.



FIRE ONE! — The Middlesex Militia demonstrates its cannon at a ceremony marking the donation of the Harry Kels Swan Collection of the American Revolution to Washington Crossing State Park. See C3 for another picture.

Staff photo by Hermon Laesker

Lawyers: Bucks won't be drained by pump pullout

By ROSE KELLY
Special Writer

DOYLESTOWN — A new political group opposed to the building of the Point Pleasant Pumping Station called a press conference yesterday to say that Bucks County would have little or no financial liability if it pulled out of the project.

Mike Kraus, president of Bucks County Partnership Inc., an offspring of Del-AWARE Unlimited Inc., presented letters written to him from two prominent lawyers to back up his statement.

The lawyers were Roger Robinson, former counsel to the late Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York and now an attorney for Bethlehem Steel Corp., who was present at the press conference, and Mark P. Widoff, a former Pennsylvania state consumer advocate.

They analyzed the contracts between Philadelphia Electric Co. (PECO), Montgomery County and the Neshaminy Water Resources Authority (NWRA), which is building the pumping station, and concluded that PECO and Montgomery County would have no claims for damages against Bucks County if the project was canceled. They said Bucks wouldn't be responsible for the bonds floated by the NWRA.

If Bucks, which is currently renting the project properties from NWRA, stopped paying rent, NWRA would simply take back the land, they said. In the worst-case scenario, according to the lawyers, those involved would have to prove that they were entitled to monetary damages.

"THERE IS NO significant liability to Bucks County taxpayers that will arise from a decision on the part of the County of Bucks to withdraw from the Point Pleasant project," said Kraus. Kraus is also a board member of Del-AWARE Unlimited, a group that is opposed to the pumping station.

The residents of Bucks County will

get the chance May 17 to vote on the county's participation in the building of the pumping station, which is the tail end of the Central Bucks water diversion project, designed for flood control, water supply and recreation. The entire project includes eight dams which are already built, two more dams that are unbuilt, two county parks, the pumping station and a treatment plant. All the land for these projects is owned by the NWRA and leased to the county.

Although the referendum is non-binding, all three county commissioners have agreed to abide by the results.

One of the key issues during the campaign has been the question of liability. The pro-pump groups, including two county commissioners, Elaine P. Zettick and Andrew Warren, say that the county will be liable for millions of dollars because of breached contracts if it pulls out. The anti-pump groups say this isn't so.

UNTIL YESTERDAY, those against the pump showed no documentation by any professional counsel to support their opinion. The pro-pump groups have given the opinions of two investment firms that deal with underwriting municipal bonds. Both said the liability to Bucks County would be high. On the pro-pump side, the Bucks County Vote No Citizens Coalition also called a press conference yesterday — to say that its female volunteers had been subjected to a campaign of harassment, topped by a telephoned bomb threat to its Doylestown headquarters yesterday.

Susan Kelly, president of the group, said the volunteer heard a man's voice say over the phone: "There is a bomb planted in your building and it's set to go off in half an hour." Doylestown police were notified and the building was temporarily evacuated, but no explosives were found.

E. Windsor: Park and pay

By MICHAEL SHIELDS
Staff Writer

EAST WINDSOR — Just when you thought it was safe to park in East Windsor near the bus station . . .

For the second day in a row, wreckers from Marut's Sunoco on Route 130 rumbled onto the parking lot of the Twin Rivers Shopping Center yesterday morning and hauled away cars that had been parked there for more than three hours.

At this rate, Donald Marut is going to be a rich man by the end of the week.

On Tuesday, Marut had four wreckers tow 52 cars from the lot off Abbington Drive, which is owned by A&S Properties Inc. The company's owner, identified by Marut as a Mr. Schwartz, called the service station owner and requested he tow away the

Towing tycoon Donald Marut cleared \$800 yesterday by charging motorists a \$40 fee if a regular wrecker hauled the car away, and \$50 if his flatbed truck did the job.

cars. Starting at 11 a.m., "We were cleared up by 1 p.m.," he said. Tuesday's towing lasted from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

THE LOT, which is conveniently located near a Suburban Transit bus

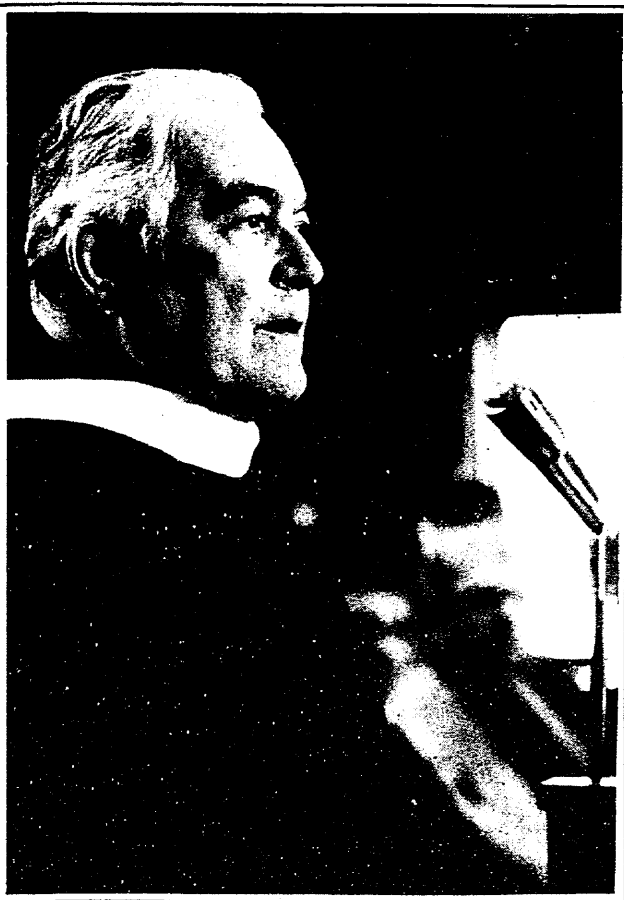
station that many commuters use to get to New York, has signs to notify drivers that cars parked on the lot more than three hours will be towed away, Marut said.

The towing tycoon cleared \$800 yesterday, he said, by charging motorists a \$40 fee if a regular wrecker hauled the car away, and \$50 if his flatbed truck did the job.

Marut made about \$2,000 on Tuesday.

Of the 22 cars towed yesterday, two belonged to people who had to pay on Tuesday, Marut said. He declined to reveal their identities last night.

"I don't have any names," he said. Although some of the motorists who returned home to find their cars missing on the first day of the towing blitz were upset, "there weren't any problems at all" yesterday, he noted.



Staff photo by John A. Pietras

Notre Dame University's president, The Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, speaking at Rider College yesterday.

Hesburgh's lament 'Something terrible is happening'

By GALE SCOTT
Staff Writer

LAWRENCE — At the University of Notre Dame, there is a standing affectionate joke about the school's president, Theodore M. Hesburgh.

Question: What is the difference between Father Hesburgh and God?

Answer: God is everywhere. Father Hesburgh is everywhere but Notre Dame.

Hesburgh's travels took him to Rider College yesterday where he added another honorary degree to the total that helped him bump Herbert Hoover out of the Guinness Book of World Records in 1982.

The trip gave Rider's faculty a sample of the speaking style that has put Hesburgh in such demand. "Something terrible is happening to America," he said.

HE DECRIED the state of education in the nation today.

He compared the United States and Europe to South Africa in its treatment of the less fortunate.

He called on the nation to spend vast resources on educating the nation's poor, while later praising the nation as a country of volunteers, private organizations and private schools.

He mixed mild street language, imitating today's under-educated graduates, with classical Latin "Opus justitiae pax — the work of justice is peace."

"Father Ted," as his students call him, is as much a national figure as a university president. He was the featured speaker at Rider's Education Day Convocation yesterday morning.

Hesburgh has been president of the Indiana-based Catholic university since 1952. He has tried to resign several times, most recently in 1981. But he has always changed his mind when asked to stay.

DESPITE HIS tendency over the years to take controversial stands — ones criticized both from the left (as when he forbade campus demonstrations in the '60s) and from the right (for his recent involvement in world hunger and anti-nuclear causes) Hesburgh has

endured.

Hesburgh's message yesterday was about education and human rights. It was a mixture of beatitudes, platitudes and controversy, delivered in a low-key, anchor-man style of speaking that appeared to win over the audience.

Putting the group at ease with a reference to his own gratitude to Rider for sending Notre Dame "a member of its own family, our basketball coach Digger Phelps," Hesburgh went on to urge a return to tougher educational standards. He said Coach Phelps won his respect most for his attitude toward education. "Everyone of his team graduated and half have been black," he said.

Race was a recurring theme in Hesburgh's talk, as he spoke of the need to educate "the four million minority children that this country's ghettos produce every decade."

"They can repeat phrases, but they cannot express themselves," he said. "They are completely innocent of any knowledge of mathematics and science. They have no values, because they have had no example — and lack of values is itself an example," he said. "Their future is hopeless. For the wealthiest country on earth to allow this is a very dismal picture. Something terrible is happening to America."

HESBURGH SAID he agreed with three recent national reports whose statistics showed that students are substituting "soft" subjects like driver education and family life courses for "hard" subjects like languages, science and social studies. He urged educators to insist on a return to traditional instruction, even for those "soft" subjects.

"I tell my students if they want to learn about marriage and the family they can't do any better than to read 'Kristin Lavransdatter,'" he said, referring to Sigrid Undset's 1935 epic novel about life in medieval Norway.

"Students don't need a thick manual about sexual intercourse," he said.