

Jury to rule on construction union contempt in Keyport job site action

By SUE EPSTEIN

A seven-member jury will decide Monday in Freehold whether to hold a union local and one of its business agents in contempt of a court order, signed in August, that limited their activities at a Keyport construction site.

Superior Court Judge John Ricciardi is presiding over a quasi-criminal proceeding on contempt charges imposed against Local 825 of the International Brotherhood of Operating Engineers and one of its business agents, Jasper (Kenny) White.

In closing remarks yesterday, the attorneys representing White and Local 825 denied the actions by some union members, who threw rocks at construction workers, could be blamed on White or the union.

But Paul Feldman, the senior staff attorney in the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, told the jury the ac-

tions by union members on August 17 "defied the dignity" of Superior Court Judge Patrick McGann's court.

The union picketed a construction site on Route 35 in Keyport, operated by the George Harms Construction Co. of Howell Township, as part of a protest of the company's refusal to hire the union for work on its projects.

Two court orders were signed in August against the union and White, following several disturbances. Both restrained the union from interfering with the job site, limited picketing, and particularly prohibited the use of violence or harassment.

The first order was entered on Aug. 15, and amendments were added by McGann on Aug. 17.

Testimony at the trial and videotapes made by a firm hired by Harms revealed the construction company's employees, escorted by police, were traveling in a caravan to the job site early on the morning of Aug. 17 when they

stopped near the approximately 100 picketers from the union and were attacked by rocks and the men.

John R. Ford, who represents White, and Fred Klatsky, representing the union, told the jury the caravan stopped to taunt the picketers, and therefore initiated the violence that followed.

Feldman said the caravan stopped because the police could not open the gates to the job site to let the employees in.

Ford told the jury there was no evidence his client directed the violence that ensued or participated by assaulting the construction site foreman, Thomas Hardell, who testified he was kicked by White in the groin.

"There is nothing on the tapes to back him up, nor do the police who were with them," Ford said. "Hardell is certainly not believable. Mr. White wasn't even on the picket line."

Ford said White "did what he could" to comply with the court order.

"This man did not willfully and intentionally violate a court order. He certainly did not assault anybody," Ford added.

Feldman told the jury they could find that the union was guilty if they found the men "acted in concert" to try to prevent the Harms employees from going to work—a violation of the court order.

The dispute between the union and the company goes back to 1983, and includes several incidents of violence, as detailed in a civil suit filed by the company against the union in October.

The suit charged the union and others have shown a five-year pattern of intimidation, violence and vandalism that falls within the jurisdiction of the state's 1981 anti-racketeering law.

Family of 7 seized on drug counts

By KEVIN DILWORTH

An Orange family—both parents, three adult children and two juvenile daughters—have been arrested on charges they were trafficking cocaine out of their home, Police Director Charles Cobbert said yesterday.

He identified the suspects as Dreyfus Frederique, 57; his wife, Marie, 52; and their children, Magdalen, 22; Ricardo, 20; Gregory, 18; and two daughters, aged 14 and 17, all of North Essex Avenue.

Armed with a search warrant, police raided the Frederiques' home, near the Central Avenue School and off Main Street, shortly after 6 p.m. Wednesday, Cobbert said.

Inside, he continued, police found 33 vials of crack hidden inside a videotape recorder "with a phony front."

The entire family was charged with illegal possession of drugs, possession of drugs with the intent to distribute and selling drugs within 1,000 feet of a school, Cobbert said.

With the exception of Ricardo and Gregory, the family members were released on their own recognizance after being charged and booked at police headquarters, he added. They will remain free pending grand jury action.

Ricardo and Gregory Frederique, Cobbert said, spent the night in jail and were released yesterday on \$1,500 bail each after being arraigned before Municipal Court Judge Freddie Polhill.

The police director said authorities were alerted to drug trafficking at the Frederique home by neighbors.

A "three- to four-week-long surveillance" was made, an undercover agent bought drugs there, and the investigation resulted in the raid, Cobbert said.

The entire family's being arrested on narcotics charges "should serve as a lesson, to show just how a whole family can be affected by this type of illegal activity," he noted.



A car sits on the sidewalk in front of the Sandwichtown shop at 938 Broad St. in Newark after striking a pregnant woman, her husband and an off-duty Essex County Police officer

Three hurt in Newark as car jumps curb

By FREDERICK W. BYRD

A pregnant woman, her husband and an off-duty Essex County police officer were injured yesterday when an out-of-control automobile careened across a sidewalk and struck them on Broad Street in Newark.

The woman, Romona Zoraida, 19, of Roseville Avenue in Newark, was detained for observation at University Hospital in Newark. Her husband, Juan, 18, was released after treatment.

The police officer, Anthony Paradiso, 25, was released after treatment at Columbus Hospital in Newark.

The driver of the blue 1982 Oldsmobile Cutlass in-

involved in the accident, Nicholas Castellano, 77, of North Sixth Street in Newark, was issued a summons for reckless driving.

According to Newark Police Director Claude Coleman, "The driver said he was attempting to park when his accelerator stuck, and the car went over the curb."

"The car hit the pedestrians and then hit the Sandwichtown shop at 938 Broad St.," the director added.

Aris Bel, who was selling lottery tickets in a booth inches from where the car struck, said, "I didn't see anything but I felt a tremble and heard a loud boom. Everything shook; it was frightening."

Man gets life in death of his pregnant lover

By DIANE CURCIO

A 44-year-old Plainfield man was sentenced to life in prison yesterday for the fatal stabbing of his pregnant lover in 1984.

Superior Court Judge Michael J. Degnan described the murder of 23-year-old Rhonda Daye as a "particularly heinous offense." She had been stabbed 31 times, and Degnan noted many wounds on her hands and arms showed she tried to fight off her attacker.

The judge stipulated that convicted murderer Gladstone Lloyd Messam must serve 30 years before he can be eligible for parole. Defense attorney Robert Brown urged the judge to sentence his client to no more than 30 years, stressing Messam "had a stellar background up until this time."

Messam is the former owner of the Subway Sandwich Shop on Sussex Street in Newark, where he met and employed the victim. He did not speak on his own behalf at the sentencing.

Essex County Assistant Prosecutor Gary Bogdanski argued it was "not appropriate to show any mercy" to Messam, because he committed "so depraved, so cruel and so heartless" a crime. Degnan said Messam's previously "law-abiding life" was a mitigating factor. He said, however, it was outweighed by the heinous nature of the crime and the need to deter others from such acts.

Before Degnan imposed sentence, he denied Brown's request to set aside the verdict and grant Messam a new trial. Brown argued the guilty verdict was not supported sufficiently by the evidence. As he maintained during the trial last month, Brown contended the police investigation was faulty.

He likened Messam to a person who has not eaten at a restaurant table, but is left with the bill because the waiter sees used plates around him. Brown said "there were other people around just as likely" to have killed

Daye. Messam's wife and brother were overlooked as murder suspects, according to Brown.

Bogdanski contended, however, there was much circumstantial evidence against Messam, and he had a motive. In his arguments before the jury, Bogdanski had said Daye wanted Messam to help support the child and threatened to expose their affair to his wife. She was four months pregnant when she was killed, according to the prosecutor.

Her body was found in an abandoned apartment in Newark, about eight blocks from the Subway Sandwich Shop. Bogdanski said only a man would have the strength to carry Daye's body through the window of the building.

Moreover, he said a notebook of Daye's writings was found in a car Messam used. In the notebook, Daye had written: "He (Messam) promised me happiness and peace of mind. . . . Now he treats me like a complete stranger. . . . He won't even help me get anything to eat to feed my unborn baby."

Ceremony will unfurl black pride

The Reid Temple Church of God in Christ in East Orange will celebrate Black History Month Sunday with a Black American Heritage Flag ceremony.

The ceremony will be held, between 11:30 a.m. and noon at the church at 154 N. Oraton Parkway.

The black, red and gold flag, with a wreath of fig leaves encircling a blunted sword, represents tradition, race and heritage, according to Melvin Charles, who co-designed the banner in 1967 with the late Gleason T. Jackson.

"It is important that we revitalize and support all symbols which foster pride and dignity in ourselves and our communities," noted the Rev. Walter E. Gorman, pastor of Reid Temple.

"We, as black Americans, see enough negative symbols in our community, such as drugs and delinquency. Today, there is a need to foster and demonstrate this symbolic pride to our children."

The Sunday event is free and open to the public. Charles will be a guest speaker.

Since its inception, "The flag has received the accolades of thousands of black Americans and has been unfurled in over 100 cities," explained Dianne Keel Atkins, the special projects coordinator at Reid Temple.

The flag has been flown in front of several municipal buildings in New Jersey, including East Orange, Newark, Atlantic City, Plainfield and Roselle.

The banner also has been unfurled in Washington, D.C., and cities in Alabama, Massachusetts, Ohio and Virginia. It also has been placed on exhibit at the Schomburg Museum in New York.

Brothers deny 'chop shop'

Two brothers charged innocent yesterday to the charges contained in an Essex County grand jury indictment accusing them of operating a "chop shop" in Irvington.

Last month, the grand jury handed up an indictment against Mark Minetti, 33, owner of MTS Towing on Chancellor Avenue in Irvington, and his brothers, James, 38, and Gary, 30. They were charged with receiving stolen automobiles and parts, and possession of motor vehicles with altered identification numbers.

Mark and Gary Minetti entered their pleas before Superior Court Judge Sidney Reiss, who continued their bail at \$350 in cash and a \$500 surety bond, respectively. James Minetti said he had not retained a lawyer, and his arraignment was postponed until Feb. 9. James Minetti remained free, having posted a \$350 cash bail.

Reiss set a tentative trial date for March 13. The charges against the brothers stem from raids made in October by the Essex County Auto-Task Force. Six truckloads of parts, tools and radios were confiscated when lawmen raided five garages in Newark, Irvington, Belleville and West Orange.

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