

Hatchet-wielding man shot by cop after wounding another in Orange

By KEVIN DILWORTH

A hatchet-toting Orange man was shot yesterday by police after he became irrational and lunged at an officer trying to calm him down, authorities reported.

Derrick Jones, 23, of Tremont Place was shot once in the stomach after he struck Sgt. Joseph Pilone four times with a foot-long hatchet, according to Police Director Charles Cobbert.

Both Pilone and Jones were taken to the hospital.

After being taken to the hospital, the suspect was charged with aggravated assault on a police officer and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, Cobbert said.

He noted that Jones will be arraigned at a later date, after he gets out of the hospital.

Pilone was treated at Newark Hospital in Newark for cuts to his forehead and right arm. He received 23 stitches to close a wound "over his left eye," Cobbert said.

Prior to the incident, the police director noted, authorities had spent nearly 1 1/2 hours trying to negotiate with Jones, whose mother had called police at 5:10 a.m., saying he "was causing trouble in the house."

When police arrived, both the mother, Clarida Jones, and her son acknowledged that the son was distraught. He had just returned to the Tremont Place residence from East

Orange General Hospital's crisis center, and he repeatedly stated that he had no intention of returning to the hospital, Cobbert added.

Police left the home shortly afterwards, with the understanding that Derrick Jones would control himself and that his mother would alert police if her son began to act up again, he continued.

At 6:40 a.m., the mother walked into police headquarters on nearby Tremont Avenue and complained that her son "was tearing up the house," Cobbert said.

Eight police officers responded to the scene this time. They found him in the basement, "acting violent and taking irrational," he continued.

When police tried to approach Jones, Cobbert quoted the man as telling them, "I'm going to kill anybody who comes down here."

A standoff lasted until 8 a.m., when Pilone told Jones, "Nobody is here to hurt you. We want to help you," Cobbert said.

As Pilone started to descend the basement stairs, Jones suddenly leaped at Pilone, "swinging the hatchet," knocking him backwards, "cutting him over his left eye," inside of his right arm and finally two other times with the back of the hatchet, the police director said.

Officer John Adelizio, while coming to Pilone's aid, "fired one shot, striking Jones in the stomach," according to Cobbert.

Glen Ridge contracts for stump cutter

The Glen Ridge Council last night awarded a \$14,241 contract to Fremgen's Power Equipment Inc. of Midland Park for a power cutter that will be used to remove tree stumps throughout the township.

The cutter was purchased to allow the township to provide its own tree-stump removal service. Mayor Edward Callahan said the township had been using an outside contractor and the cost of the service had become too costly.

Callahan added that the new cutter should pay for itself within two years. He estimated that the township can remove 100 trees per year, or 2 percent of the total number of trees.

In other business, the council discussed the increasing problem of recruiting ambulance volunteers. Council members said the existing staff is stretched to the limit, due to extensive overtime.

Callahan said the township's public safety is at risk if current conditions continue and the recruitment program falters. He noted it takes, on average, four minutes for a volunteer ambulance crew to answer an emergency call. However, it could take up to 30 minutes or more if the township had to contract with a private ambulance service.

Vincent Bellucio, township administrator, said a lot of effort is put into the volunteer program, with 120 to 140 hours required to train new recruits.

Elizabeth man shot to death in drug 'war'

An Elizabeth man was shot and killed and a girl reportedly wounded last night as a turf war among alleged drug traffickers continued in that city, authorities said.

The 8:15 p.m. shooting of the victim, whose identity was not immediately released, and a second unidentified victim described as a "young girl" came hours after authorities announced that a 21-year-old Elizabeth man shot to death Sunday night was a reputed drug dealer.

After responding to the shooting on Franklin Street last evening, police theorized that the attack was in retaliation to the Sunday violence. Few details were available of last night's incident, they said.

In Sunday's shooting, the dead man was identified as Robert Pretlow, a resident of the Pioneer Homes public housing complex. Police were seeking a suspect in the case. According to Detective Daniel Geddes, the Sunday

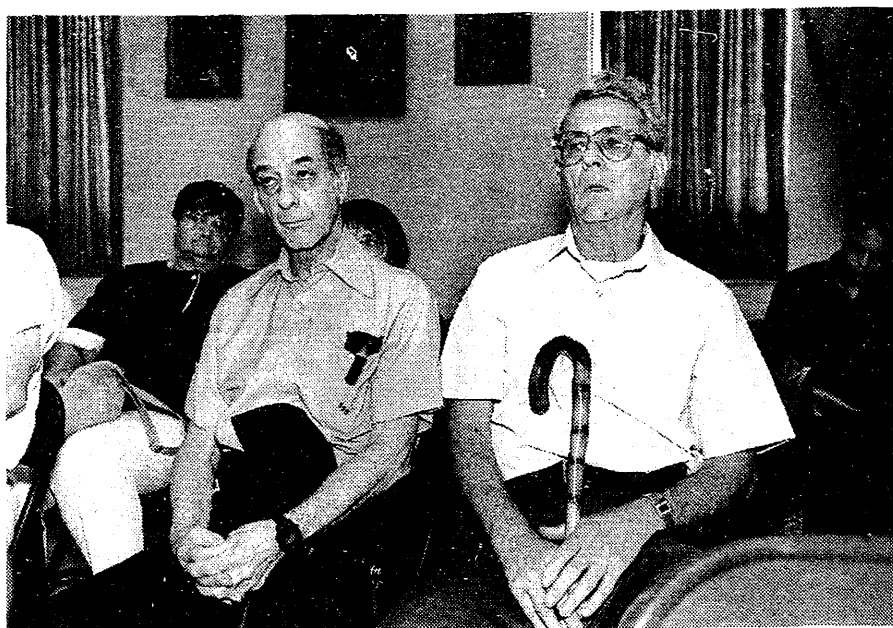
incident occurred about 10:45 p.m. on First Street, between Bond Street and Magnolia Avenue. He said police were interviewing witnesses, and have not yet determined the circumstances surrounding Pretlow's death.

The detective said Pretlow recently had been released from jail, where he was being held on drug charges stemming from an incident earlier this year.

Geddes said Pretlow was taken to University Hospital in Newark, where he was pronounced dead about 11:15 p.m. The detective said Pretlow had been shot several times and died of a bullet wound to the head.

The type of gun used in the shooting has not yet been determined.

"There was no altercation prior to the shooting," Geddes said. "What may have happened earlier in the week, I don't know."



Joseph Giunta, left, and Ray Palmer, both residents of East Newark, at a borough council meeting listen to a plan to cut back handicapped parking spaces

PARKING PROBLEMS East Newark to review handicap spaces

By CARYL R. LUCAS

East Newark Mayor John Smith last night sought to ease the concern of handicapped residents whose parking privileges are under review by municipal officials seeking to prevent misuse of the reserved spaces.

"There are 12 additional residents who have requested handicapped spaces," said Smith. "They feel the special spaces are being abused and were given out in the past for political reasons."

Within 60 days, Smith said, officials will evaluate responses to a questionnaire distributed last night to people seeking the parking privileges at a special hearing as part of the review of the borough's existing nine parking spaces for the handicapped.

"We are trying to do things legal and fair," said the mayor, explaining that officials are required to review the parking privileges every two years under a borough ordinance.

At last night's hearing, Smith told residents that the council will evaluate parking privileges individually and eliminate any for which residents cannot show just cause.

Borough officials will take action after reviewing the questionnaires and medical documentation submitted by holders or seekers of the special parking. Councilman Ed Serafin said. "Those who are entitled will be allowed to keep their spots," he said. "We will be as fair as possible to these tenants."

Joseph Giunta, 71, of Second Street, later said he feels that officials are handling the matter properly.

"They should investigate the parking and take it

away if necessary," said Giunta, who became disabled after suffering a stroke. "There are some people who are abusing their space. They don't need it."

Lucy Baio of Second Street opposed the review and pending action. She attributed the issue to complaints by residents who have difficulty finding parking near their homes. "They leave nasty notes on my car," she said. "I have trouble with my neighbors."

Baio said her husband, Vincent, has Parkinson's disease.

"We have had the space two years," he said. "Now and then I drive, but we need the space. I can't walk more than three feet."

Afflicted with an acute case of arthritis, Dianne Pagano said she dreads the thought of losing her parking space.

"Sometimes it is hard for me to even walk," said the Third Street resident, stressing that her car is not driven by anyone else. "If they take one space, they should take them all."

Following the hearing, the mayor informed the council that the Valley National Bank will allow residents to park in its parking lot after business hours beginning next month. The borough will charge users a parking fee, he added.

In addition, the borough is finalizing negotiations with the state Department of Transportation to lease property under the Stickley Bridge for residential parking, according to Smith.

While he said the borough's parking woes are slowly improving, the mayor maintained that officials have a long way to go in providing adequate parking.

Livingston buys insurance by installments

The Livingston Council will pay the AFCO Insurance Co. of Parsippany for automobile insurance under an installment plan to help ease the burden of meeting a 10 percent increase in premiums.

The \$740,000 policy requires nine payments of \$8,222 each over a 12-month period and a finance charge of \$8,324. The one-year policy provides coverage up to \$500,000 per vehicle with a \$5 million umbrella. It expires July 1.

The council also adopted a \$152,000 bond ordinance for a new computer system for the finance department. The money, including \$8,000 appropriated earlier from the mu-

nicipal budget, will finance the computer system and work stations.

In other business, Councilman Joseph Fiordaliso called for stiffer penalties for littering and suggested hiring students part time to remove debris from municipal property.

"It's time for us to display our pride in Livingston," said Fiordaliso. "I encourage residents and business owners to do their share in keeping Livingston a litter-free community."

Councilman Jeffrey Dollinger suggested the council work with the Appearance Committee of Livingston toward enforcing existing ordinances.

Bloomfield bonds to finance self-insurance

A \$3 million bond ordinance to finance a municipal self-insurance fund was adopted by the Bloomfield Town Council last night.

While Bloomfield has been self-insured for three years, it will become the first community in New Jersey to

cover its self-insurance through bonding, according to town administrator Barry Evans.

Evans added that between \$150,000 and \$200,000 a year has gone into an existing self-insurance fund and it has slowly built up. The administra-

tor said that, for the most part, the fund "will pay for itself."

According to the last quotes solicited from a private insurance company last year, Evans said Bloomfield would be avoiding premiums of about \$480,000 a year.

The fund would cover general liability, police and public official liability and an umbrella catastrophic liability. Fire, property and automobile coverage are taken care of through private companies. Workers compensation is also a self-insurance program, but it is separate from the existing self-insurance liability fund and will remain separate from the new coverage program.

The town expects to have a bond sale either in August or September.

2 Newarkers seized as heroin traffickers

Essex County Police arrested two Newark men and confiscated 31 decks of heroin following a drug transaction on a street corner, a spokesman said yesterday.

James Lamont Banks, 20, of South 17th Street and Donald Barnes, 18, of Morris Avenue were nabbed at 10:20 p.m. Sunday when police officers gave chase on foot after observing the drug deal at 15th Avenue and South 11th Street, officer Joe Ramulli said. The heroin was found in a brown paper bag, he added.

The suspects were taken to the county jail in Newark, where they remained without bail last evening. Both men were charged with possession of the drug, with intent to distribute, within 1,000 feet of a school.

Firebomb is thrown at Indian restaurant

An incendiary device was thrown against the front of an Indian restaurant in Iselin Sunday, causing smoke and heat damage to the front of the building.

Woodbridge police Sgt. Rudy Modesto said authorities are treating the occurrence as a "bias incident," an example of prejudice against a member of another ethnic group.

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