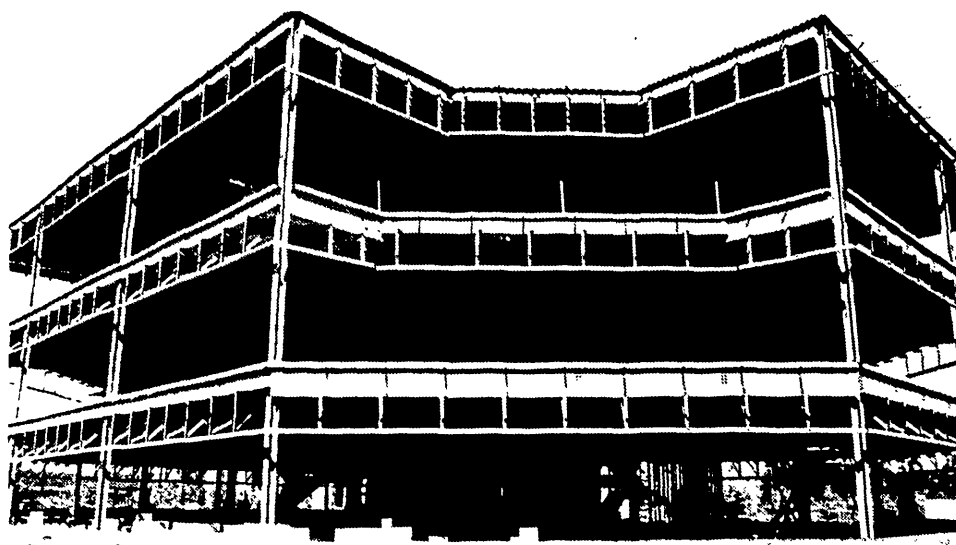




A steel frame rises at the Rahway construction site

Rahway Center resumes building

By LISA PETERSON

Work has resumed on the Rahway Corporate Center project which was stalled for two years after the original developer went bankrupt, according to city officials.

One of the new developers of the corporate center on a 14-acre site behind Rahway City Hall is Chase Manhattan Bank. The bank is completing a three-story office building that was started in 1986 by the original developer, Rahway Corporate Center Inc.

After the frame of the structure was built by Rahway Corporate Center, no further work was done. Last month, however, Chase broke ground for its project and construction of the building resumed.

Chase Trans-Info (CTI), a subsidiary of Chase Manhattan, will move its eastern regional headquarters to the Rahway center from Union Township. The firm is the nation's largest freight bill processor and also provides transportation consulting, audit and management information services.

Rahway Mayor Daniel Martin said CTI will occupy about half of the 40,000-square-foot building on a five-acre portion of the corporate center site. The remainder of the building will be leased.

CTI is scheduled to move to Rahway in January, Martin said and will be hiring about 150 new employees, mostly for computer, accounting and clerical positions.

"That looks excellent," Martin, adding a group of three

developers has an option on the remaining nine acres of the corporate center and is doing a market analysis as well as a conceptual site plan for the property.

The mayor said the developers, Marshall Weinerman and Robert Gelber of Rahway and John Strama of Atlanta, appear to have in mind the same use for the property as originally planned when Rahway Corporate Center started construction.

"We want a hotel and convention center there, another office building and residential condominiums," Martin said. "It looks promising that the developers will go along with what we want there."

Weinerman and Gelber, who have offices on St. George Avenue in Rahway, are the owners of the Summit Hotel in Summit. Strama is the president and controlling partner of Ridgeway Development Corp., which has offices in Toms River and is headquartered in Atlanta.

Martin said if a hotel, convention center, office building and condominiums are built on the site, the entire project, including the CTI headquarters, would represent some \$40 million in development.

The 14-acre tract, located at Main Street and Milton Avenue, is a former urban renewal site that had been vacant for about 15 years before the original corporate center development got under way.

Buildings on the corporate center site will be architecturally compatible with the city hall, most office and firehouse, the mayor said.

Marzulli singles out grand jurors as the 'conscience of community'

By DIANE CURCIO

Superior Court Assignment Judge John A. Marzulli is a vociferous protector of the grand jury system and enlists into his cause every person who he selects to serve on the 23-member panels.

Last week, Marzulli chose two new panels which will sit in Newark for about six weeks. The judge tells the jurors they will "function as the conscience of the community."

In his instructions, Marzulli explains a grand jury is "designed as a means of screening complaints in order to bring to trial a person accused of an offense on proper grounds, as a means of protecting a person from unsupported and unsound accusations."

More than 7,000 indictments are returned each year in Essex County, where 33 percent of the state's violent crimes occur. There are usually five grand juries hearing evidence presented by Essex County assistant prosecutors simultaneously.

The judge often receives notes from prospective jurors asking to be excused. But he is extremely reluctant to grant their requests.

"Every citizen has a right to the protection afforded by the grand jury system. We can only have it if you are willing to make the sacrifices necessary to perform that service. If you don't get enough people willing to make those sacrifices, you won't have a grand jury."

Every time Marzulli picks 23 county residents to serve, he gives them a short civics lecture, explaining the functions of a grand jury.

Unlike a petit jury, which decides a defendant's guilt or innocence, a grand jury determines whether there is probable cause to bring someone to trial.

Grand jury service is not as confining as petit duty. A grand juror can sit, stand, walk around the room, excuse him or herself for a moment. If the juror misses a portion of the testimony, there is an opportunity to review it the next day by reading the tran-



Superior Court Assignment Judge John A. Marzulli addresses 23 new members of the Essex County grand jury

scripts. But Marzulli emphasizes the grand jury is bound by secrecy: No one outside of the panel must ever learn what was said inside the grand jury room.

A petit jury must be unanimous to return its verdict, whereas the grand jury needs only 12 consenting votes to make a determination.

The 23-member panels sit from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. usually three or four times a week, so employers can sometimes alter a worker's hours to accommodate grand jury service.

Law enforcement officers comprise the bulk of the witnesses appearing before a grand jury. They give sworn testimony of the crime and can be questioned by the panelists, again unlike a petit jury.

A grand jury is designed as an "investigative body," Marzulli stressed, adding, "They do not assist the prosecutor. The prosecutor assists them."

The grand jury system is one of the civil liberties "my forefathers got for me over the centuries. They died and fought and bled and gave up their property so I would have the right. And I fear giving it up."

"I have confidence in myself as a judge that if I was assigned to decide whether or not you should go to trial I know I would do it correctly. But it's a lot of power to impose upon an individual and I am not sure that that type of power might not eventually become corrupted," said the judge.

Marzulli rejects the notion that a grand jury is merely a rubber stamp for the prosecutor's office.

He notes the last panel to be dismissed returned 54 indictments and 44 no bills, meaning in the latter cases they did not find sufficient cause to bring the accused to trial.

"It amazes me how good and responsible grand jurors are the moment they take their oaths of office," said Marzulli.

When the judge released the latest panel, the foreman said, "I have renewed respect for the process that we become a very important part of." The foreman said his panel consisted of a "very congenial and hardworking group" which "dug into things. We had, I think, very fruitful discussions."

Marzulli explains, "I keep saying if somebody else wants to give it up, let them. I don't want my grandchildren blaming me because they don't have the rights that I have because I didn't think they were important enough to protect."

Cop staffing is at issue

From preceding page

were not born of a manpower shortage. "Even if I had all the cops I wanted still agitate for one-man patrols," Coleman said, adding the department wanted to put an additional 50 officers on the street before the end of the year.

Time constraints and a state mandate to train 50 special police officers prohibited the department from running two recruit classes during the summer months as it had been planned. "We ran one class for the officers and a class for the specials," Coleman explained.

"This year we had the money, but didn't have the time," Coleman said, adding it takes time to recruit, select, investigate then train the prospective officers. "They spend 20 weeks in school."

"We're not cutting back and we're not laying off," Coleman said. "But we've been down for a long time and we can't make it up overnight."

Pam Goldstein, a spokeswoman for Major James, said he is committed to increasing the number of officers and the visibility of the Newark Police Department.

"He will continue to put more men and women in the academy," Goldstein said, describing the classes as some of the most stringent in the country. "Newark is one of the best-trained, both physically and mentally, professional departments in the country."

Pair is apprehended in Orange drug raid

Orange vice squad detectives arrested two people and confiscated 30 vials of crack in a drug raid at William Street and Greenwood Avenue, Police Director Charles Cobbett said.

Shawn King, 18, of South Harrison Street, East Orange, and Alonzo McKay, 18, of William Street, Orange, were arrested Thursday night at the intersection which Cobbett called a "hot drug spot."

King and McKay have been charged with possession of cocaine with the intent to distribute and conspiracy to violate New Jersey narcotics law.

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