

Ller Shows in Court On Shark Indictments

Riverhead—The search for the last of three accused mob loan sharks indicted last week by a Suffolk grand jury ended yesterday when a 350-pound fugitive surrendered voluntarily.

John (Big John) LoFaro, 51, who gave his address as 19 Fairlawn Dr., Deer Park, appeared in County Court with his attorney, Kenneth Rohl of Babylon, as Rohl had promised last week. LoFaro was accused in two indictments of 44 counts of conspiracy, lending money without a license and charging illegal interest rates, all misdemeanors. He pleaded innocent to all counts before County Judge Thomas Stark and was released in \$2,500 bail to await trial. No trial date was set. If convicted on all the charges, he would face 44 years in jail and \$22,000 in fines.

LoFaro, who has no prior police record, was described by Assistant District Attorney James M.

Catterson Jr. as an ex-Babylon Town Highway Department employe who collected public welfare payments while plotting to set up lucrative loan shark rackets in Deer Park.

He was specifically charged in a 25-count indictment with conspiring to set up a Suffolk loan shark operation with Profaci mob lieutenant John (Sonny) Franzese of Herricks, the late Profaci enforcer Pasquale (Patsy G.) Guariglia of Brooklyn, and accused loan shark Anthony (the Frog) Frangipani in a 1962 Queens meeting.

Frangipani, who gave his address as 24 Arrowhead Lane, Setauket, was indicted last week with LoFaro and Felice (Philly) Vizzari, 44, who gave his address as 291 Grand Blvd., Deer Park. Frangipani has pleaded innocent to 25 counts of making loans without a license and is free in \$1,500 bail to await trial. No date has been set. Vizzari has pleaded innocent to 16 counts charging him with giving loans to individuals at excessive interest rates without a license. He is free on \$5,000 bail. No date has been set for his trial.

The Queens meeting, Catterson said, was a prelude to a conspiracy between Frangipani, Guariglia, LoFaro and bookmaker-turned-informer Michael (Mickey) Candela, who was named in the indictment as a co-conspirator but not as a defendant because of his cooperation with the grand jury. Authorities said the four men operated the racket that was exposed when loan shark records were seized at Candela's North Babylon home last December. The records showed loans of \$26,000 that resulted in "vigorous" (interest) payments of \$11,800 by borrowers. Authorities said receipts from the racket were turned over to Guariglia, who split the profits with Franzese. Franzese had invested \$1,500 in the operation, officials said.

LoFaro also was named in a 19-count indictment for lending without a license and charging illegal interest.

Nick AWOL in Snow; Dennison Just Late

Brentwood—Last night's snowstorm caused Nassau County Executive Nickerson to miss a talk with Suffolk Executive Dennison here on the newly created Nassau-Suffolk Regional Planning Board. Dennison got to the meeting of the United Communities Civic Association after it was cancelled. But officers quickly assembled about six members to hear Dennison outline the purpose of the planning board. Nickerson never made it at all. The association has tentatively scheduled another meeting with Dennison and Nickerson Monday night at the South Junior High School.



Newsday Photo by Rata
A SNAP FOR GINGER. Ginger, a German Shepherd owned by Ernest Watson, clammers up a slide in the Freeport schoolyard yesterday, to the smiling approval of his master—who isn't really sure whether Ginger is a sports enthusiast or training to climb after cats.

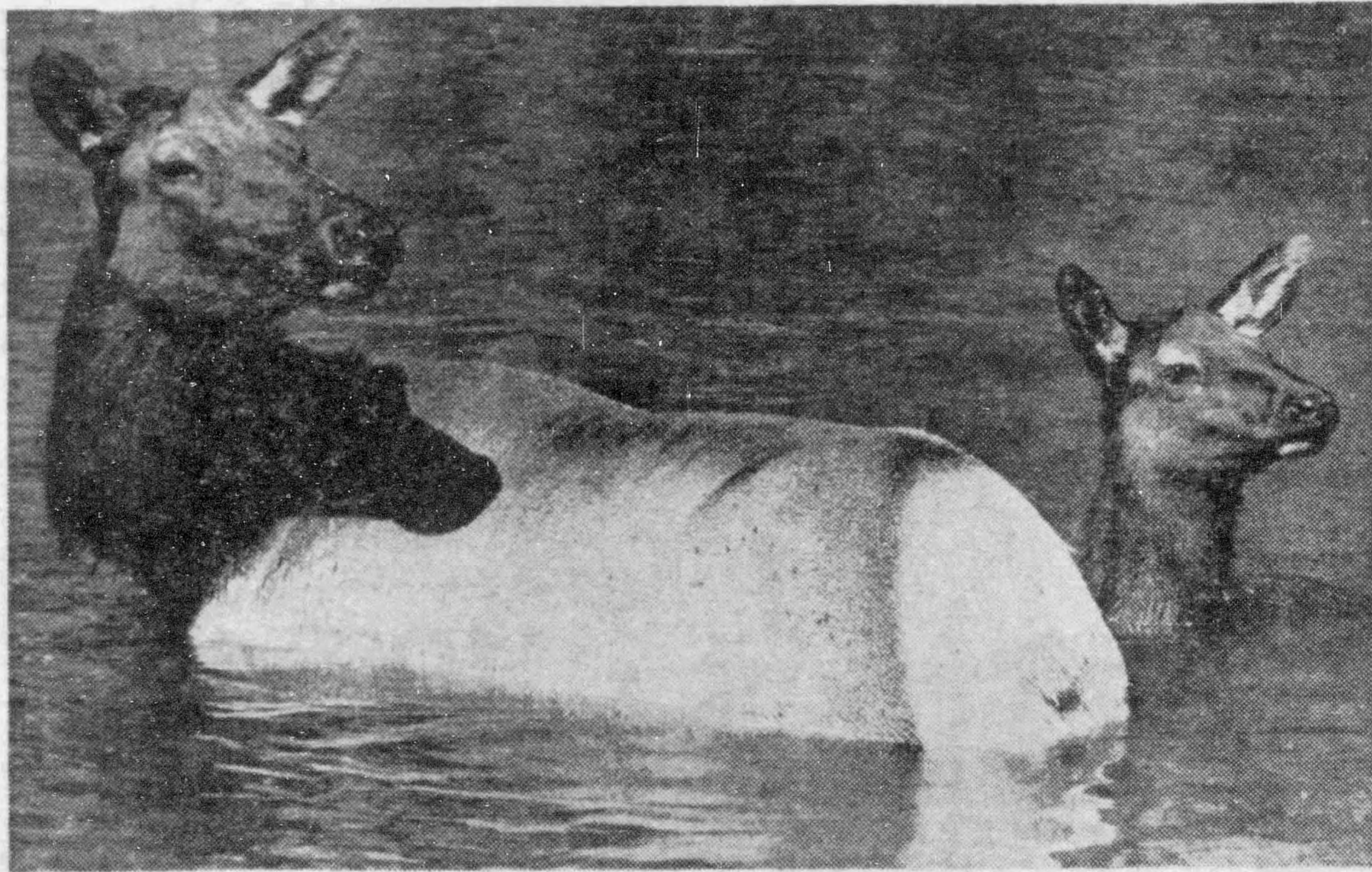
Cites Drug Use In Slay Denial

New York—George Whitmore, cleared last week of charges that he murdered career girls Janice Wylie and Emily Hoffert, had denied the slayings while under the influence of a so-called "truth serum" during his five-month stay in the prison ward of Bellevue Hospital, his former lawyer said yesterday.

Jerome Leftow, the court-appointed lawyer who represented Whitmore for eight months after his arrest in April, 1964, said yesterday: "During one of my visits with him, he told me he had been given 'truth serum.' He said he had been asked about the Wylie case, and that he had denied killing the girls. The psychiatrists confirmed this (to me.)" The "truth serum," as Whitmore called it, was sodium amytal, a drug that tends "to loosen certain inhibitions to the expression of thoughts and feelings," according to a psychiatrist. Whitmore, 20, was sent to Bellevue in May for a psychiatric evaluation to determine whether he was sane. Police said he had confessed to the two murders, but Whitmore said he had been coerced into confessing by police. The Bellevue report, issued in October, found Whitmore an aloof, guarded person but one who was capable of telling right from wrong. There was no mention in the single-page report of sodium amytal having been administered to him. Last week, the charges against Whitmore were dropped when another suspect was arrested.

Dr. Arthur Zitrin, the head of Bellevue's psychiatric service, said last night that sodium amytal is "commonly employed as part of a general psychiatric workup." He said that he did not know if it had been used in examining Whitmore, but that if it had, "its use had nothing whatever to do with the determination of whether he had committed a crime. That is not the hospital's concern." Zitrin said that the drug's reputation as a "truth serum" is undeserved and that a person could make untrue statements while under the drug.

Leftow, who represented Whitmore from his initial arraignment until after his November, 1964, conviction on charges of assault and attempted rape, said that although hospital psychiatrists confirmed having questioned Whitmore about the Wylie-Hoffert case, they had not told him they planned to do so. Whitmore, who is now represented by three volunteer attorneys, faces trial April 5 on another murder charge. Police said he confessed to that murder, too, but Whitmore also has repudiated the confession.



CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK. This photo of a doe and her offspring, caught in a look-alike moment at the Bronx Zoo by Newsday photographer William Senft, has been accepted for display at the 20th International Nature Photography Exhibition at the Chicago Natural History Museum. The exhibition opens Sunday and runs until Feb. 21.

Housing Aides to Get Break on Funds

Oyster Bay—The town housing authority, operating since its creation 17 months ago as an informal group whose only source of funds came from its five members' pockets, was expected to get a formal boost today with a \$13,000 budget from the town board.

The funds will be used to pay the salaries of an executive director and a secretarial and clerical staff and to set up quarters in the Hicksville annex of the town hall. Since it was formed 17 months ago, the authority has been centered in the Plainview insurance office of its chairman, Mac Singer. Its memos and reports have been typed by Singer's secretary and all expenses incurred by the members while visiting blighted areas in the town have been borne by the members.

"We've probably spent about \$1,000 among us, but

it's been a strictly voluntary thing," said Singer, who lives in Old Bethpage. "There was no request from the town for us to do this, and we did not expect to be reimbursed for it." Singer said he and the other authority members have been conducting informal preliminary studies, mostly in the hamlet of Oyster Bay, to recommend improvements in the town's most substandard areas.

"Our big job will begin shortly when we undertake a detailed survey of the entire town," said Singer. The town board is expected to pass a resolution calling on the authority to prepare a townwide study after it approves \$13,000 for the authority's administrative budget today. Singer said the survey would take about six months and would be financed separately by the board. The study, he said, will recommend rehabilitation and demolition of

slums and plans for low-rent and elder-citizen housing. The housing authority is to report directly to town board which, in turn, will act on the findings by directing the building department to oversee renovation or demolition of slums or by having the development and planning action department apply for federal and state housing funds.

Authorization of the housing unit's budget and townwide survey has the joint support of Supervisor Michael N. Petito, a Democrat, and of Councilman Edward J. Poulos, GOP majority leader of the town board. But, as usual, each claimed credit for the moves. Poulos announced that he will submit the budget and survey resolutions today during the board's regular executive session. "That's fine," said Petito, "but it was my idea to get the authority rolling by finally giving it a budget."