

PEOPLE

A prior commitment

Michael Franzese, 23, of Roslyn, is marrying Maria Corrao, 24, on June 22 and Michael's father would like to attend. But John Franzese, better known perhaps as Sonny, is serving a 50-year term in Leavenworth penitentiary in Kansas for conspiring to rob banks. Judge Jacob Mishler, the chief judge of the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District in New York, could solve Franzese's problem. And so Franzese has petitioned Mishler—who presided at the conspiracy trial—to grant him a furlough. In his petition, Franzese, who has been in Leavenworth since 1970, quotes St. Thomas Aquinas, "So every father of a family governs his household," and asks the court to "... allow a moment of dignity in an existence largely shorn of that quality." Richard Martin, Mishler's law clerk, said the judge never has had a similar petition and that an inmate usually makes such a request to the warden. He said the judge probably would decide on the request next week. Leavenworth warden Gary R. McCune, reached by phone, said Franzese had not asked him for a furlough. "I don't know Franzese," McCune said, "but anyone doing 50 years for bank robbery wouldn't get a furlough even for an hour."

Pogo (1949-1975)

Pogo, comic strip opossum, is shrinking into oblivion July 20, after 27 years of cavorting with his comrades in the Okefenokee swamp. Selby Kelly, who took over the strip when her husband, Walt, died two years ago, told the New York Post yesterday that she's dropping it because newspapers have been shrinking their comics in recent years to save space.

"The detail that's put into the Pogo strip doesn't warrant its being shrunken down so small. It can't be appreciated. I tried making everything as simple as I could—less background, fewer words, but that isn't carrying on the tradition. Kelly used an enormous amount of detail. "People say the lettering is so small they couldn't read the words... When I saw some of them down to three-column width, I nearly flipped. I decided there wasn't going to be any relief in the future."

Walt Kelly started the Pogo strip in 1949, basing it on a minor character he had drawn in the 1920s for a comic book. At its height, the strip appeared in more than 400 newspapers. The number now is down to about 200, Mrs. Kelly said.

Bicentennial

Patricia Kennedy Lawford has been named to the New York State Bicentennial Commission. She was selected to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Anthony Tishka of Bridgehampton.

Compiled From News Dispatches

Train Kills 'Quiet' Boy, 14, First Time He Cuts a Class

By Mary Sue Price

Syosset—Joseph DePalmo, 14, skipped a class for the first time and apparently was on his way home yesterday morning when he was struck and killed by a fast-moving train at the Syosset-Woodbury Road crossing.

The train's engineer, Dominic Molese, said the boy had been running on and off the track toward the train as it approached, according to Nassau police officer William Brill. Molese reportedly thought the youngster was playing "chicken" with the train by trying to remain on the tracks until the last minute and assumed the boy would jump aside before the east-



DePalmo

bound train could overrun him, police said. According to Molese, Brill said, the boy simply did not jump out of the path of the oncoming train before it could be stopped.

Impact Hurls Boy's Body

The impact sent the boy's body about 70 feet east of the intersection in which the accident occurred around 10:30 AM.

George Thune, a Long Island Railroad official, said the crossing gates were down and the warning lights were operating properly at the time of the accident.

Members of the boy's family, who were baffled by his absence from school, and school officials, who described Joseph as hard-working and reliable, gave the impression that "playing chicken" was inconsistent with his past behavior.

Debbie, Joseph's 18-year-old sister,

said he had never skipped school before. "He might have forgotten his trumpet," she said, "but it wasn't home. We thought he might have forgotten his lunch, but it wasn't in the refrigerator. Or maybe he was sick and walking with his head down. It was pouring rain." She spoke by telephone, from the family home at 17 Lucille Dr.

'Quiet and Hardworking' Youth

At South Woods Junior High School, where Joseph was an eighth-grade student, principal Howard Pierson said the youngster was "quiet and hardworking."

"He was a good student which doesn't mean he might not do irresponsible things on occasion. But I have no reason to anticipate bizarre behavior from this student," said Norman Schwartz, assistant superintendent of secondary education in the Syosset school district.

Layoffs Shock Labor Staff

By Maureen O'Neill

After 12 years in his job of advising the unemployed, Irving Hammershlag, at 47, was confident of the future. And his future included paying off the mortgage, sending one son to college and another to high school, and booking a Bahama cruise with his wife to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary.

But Hammershlag was among 85 of the State Labor Department's 280 manpower service workers on Long Island who got pink slips in yesterday's mail.

Despite seniority rights under the Civil Service law and the growing need for their services because of increasing unemployment, they are the victims of a cutback in federal funding. On June 30, 400 of the service's 2,700 workers in the state are being let go, some of



Hammershlag

them with more than 25 years on the job.

"I could never dream this would happen," Hammershlag said. "It leaves me in a lurch and I feel terrible, terrible for everyone."

The scenes at employment offices yesterday were described by workers as "chaotic, bedlam and shock,"—not because the layoffs were unexpected, but because so many long-time workers were fired.

Confusion among the workers about Civil Service procedures apparently resulted in the layoffs of senior workers. Department employees were asked last month to name any of 42 locations in the state where they would be willing to relocate if a person holding the same type job there had less seniority. The system is called "bumping." But many workers, believing that they could take a step backward in their own areas, instead of relocating, limited their selections.

Dominick Salvatore, 41, of 79 Capitol Ave., Williston Park, is being terminated from his \$16,800-a-year job as

director of the Work Incentive Program in Hempstead, where he has 30 persons working under him finding jobs for the disadvantaged. Salvatore, with the department 14 years, said, "I didn't know until yesterday that I had refused a job in Utica because I didn't select Utica and that's where the job was." Although he selected the New York City and Long Island area, he said that he would have put in for Utica had he known "it had to be that or no job."

Hammershlag, who lives at 256 E. Chester St., Long Beach, and finds jobs for Nassau County's handicapped, could not learn where he might have been sent if he had said that he was willing to relocate in any of the 42 locations. Now making \$14,900 a year, he would have willingly stepped down a grade for a lesser salary.

William O'Toole, administrative director for the state Labor Department, said that "this is a distressing thing for all of us and I don't want to sound hard about this, but the fact remains that whichever way it was implemented, some persons would have to go."

Nassau Settles Death Suit

A \$2 million lawsuit brought by the mother of a black, mentally retarded, Freeport youth who was shot and killed by a white policeman in 1971 was settled out of court yesterday for \$7,500.

Nassau County will pay the money to Marie Dunston of 115 Harrison Ave., the mother of Larry Blaylock, who was shot to death in Roosevelt as he ran from a stolen car. Police said at the time that the youth had turned "as if to shoot," and that Nassau County Ptl. Frank Parisi fired, killing him. The youth later was found to have been unarmed.

Mrs. Dunston filed suit in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn almost three years ago, alleging that her son's civil rights had been violated. The suit, which sought \$2 million from Parisi and \$1 million from Nassau County, contended that her son was killed

"solely because he was born with black skin and not as a consequence of criminal conduct on his part." The damage claim against the county was dropped later, but the county defended Parisi.

Mrs. Dunston's attorney, Robert Rivers of Westbury, called the \$7,500 settlement a victory, saying it was "tantamount to an admission of guilt." But Louis Schultz, the attorney who represented Parisi and Nassau County, said there was "no admission of wrongdoing."

"This was a question of practicality," Schultz said. "We settled this because of the nuisance, though I hate to say that about a boy's life. There is no indication of wrongdoing on the part of the county or on the part of the police officer."

A Nassau County grand jury that heard the case shortly after the shooting declined to indict Parisi, and Par-

isi, who left the county police force in 1973, now works as a detective with the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., police department. He was not available for comment.

The trial was to have begun in Brooklyn yesterday. "I came with my papers, subpoenas and witnesses," Rivers said. "We were ready to go. It was Mr. Schultz who initiated the settlement."

Family friends who participated in a series of demonstrations touched off by the shooting, during which five policemen and several civilians were injured, criticized the settlement. One of them, Christopher Sprowal, a neighbor, said it was a "small price" to pay for what happened. And the slain youth's brother, Arthur, said the \$7,500 "seems like such a small amount of money, not that a larger amount of money would bring my brother back. It seems so unfair, so unfair."