

## POLICE / COURT DIGEST

### Police Reports

**ANTIQUES RECOVERED:** Police recovered \$50,000 worth of antiques this week at a Lawrence store where the valuables allegedly had been sold by an employee of a Queens store.

The antiques — paintings, figurines, cut glass, lamps and statues — were recovered at Lerman's Gallery on Central Avenue. Charged with possession of stolen property was Paul Smith, 30, of 385 Bayview Ave., Inwood, who worked for a Jamaica store where the antiques originally were on sale, police said. Smith was released in care of probation authorities after a District Court appearance yesterday. Lerman's Gallery was not charged.

**"POLICE" HOLDUP:** A Queens man told police that he was robbed of \$115 Monday by a man representing himself as a police officer.

Charles Roberts, 35, said he was approached about 8:30 p.m. on an Inwood street corner by a man who flashed a badge, then pushed him up against the wall and took the cash, which he accused Roberts of holding as numbers-game proceeds. When Roberts protested, he told Det. William Cooper, the man fled in a brown Ford with New Jersey plates.

**GAS STATION HEIST:** A Hempstead man is being held on robbery charges stemming from two service-station incidents, one in Baldwin and one in Hempstead, police said.

Charged with attempted robbery and first-degree robbery in the two incidents was Marvin Pitts, 26, of 80 W. Marshall St. Hempstead Village Police Officer Donald Lee said he arrested Pitts after he tried to rob a Clifton Street gas station, whose owner chased him and identified the car. That incident took place about 9 a.m., two hours after the robbery of a Grand Avenue service station in Baldwin. Pitts was held in \$25,000 bail after a District Court appearance.

**GREAT NECK ROBBERY:** A Great Neck woman said a man robbed her of a \$10,000 ring and \$50 in cash in the driveway of her home Monday afternoon.

The victim, Annette Kantor, 69, of 30 Strathmore Rd., said the unknown man came up behind her and put his hands over her eyes as she got out of her car. She said he fled after the robbery.

**OWNERS ARRESTED:** Two brothers, owners of a Suffolk restaurant, were charged Monday in connection with a \$90,000 loan from a private company more than a year ago.

Charged in a Nassau District Court warrant with second-degree grand larceny and criminal possession of a forged instrument were Edward Rubenstein, 39, of 50 Wilmington Dr., Melville, and Leslie Rubenstein, 49, of 98 Wichard Blvd., Commack. Det. Chris Poppe of the Nassau forgery squad said the two are owners of Austri Corp., the corporate owner of the Australian Country Inn and Gardens in Northport. The Rubensteins also own another restaurant, Poppe said, which was not immediately identified.

Poppe said the two took out the loan from the Council Commerce Corp. of Jericho, a private commercial finance company, in May 1983, forging their father's name to the application and then not paying the loan back. Their attorney, Brad Becker of Mineola, declined to comment on the case. The two appeared in District Court yesterday and were released in their own custody for a later arraignment.

### The Courts

**BEATING CHARGE:** Michael Franzese, 33, 7 Craig St., Jericho, and Frank Castagnaro, 40, of 7 Central Ave., Amityville, were indicted on second-degree assault charges for hiring a third man to beat Thomas Trimboli on Sept. 21, 1981, according to Nassau County District Attorney Denis Dillon. The hired man, identified as William Reese, 22, of 995 Sunrise Hwy., Babylon, pleaded guilty to assault in 1982 and is serving a 1½-to-four-year term. Franzese is the stepson of reputed crime-family underboss John Franzese.

Both Franzese and Castagnaro pleaded innocent at their arraignment before County Court Judge Paul Lawrence, who released each man on \$15,000 bail. If convicted, each could get up to seven years in prison.

Franzese currently is free on \$300,000 bail in a pending federal racketeering case in Manhattan, and Castagnaro, a Huntington gas-station operator, is under indictment in Suffolk County on charges of stealing \$68,000 worth of gasoline from the Mobil Oil Corp.

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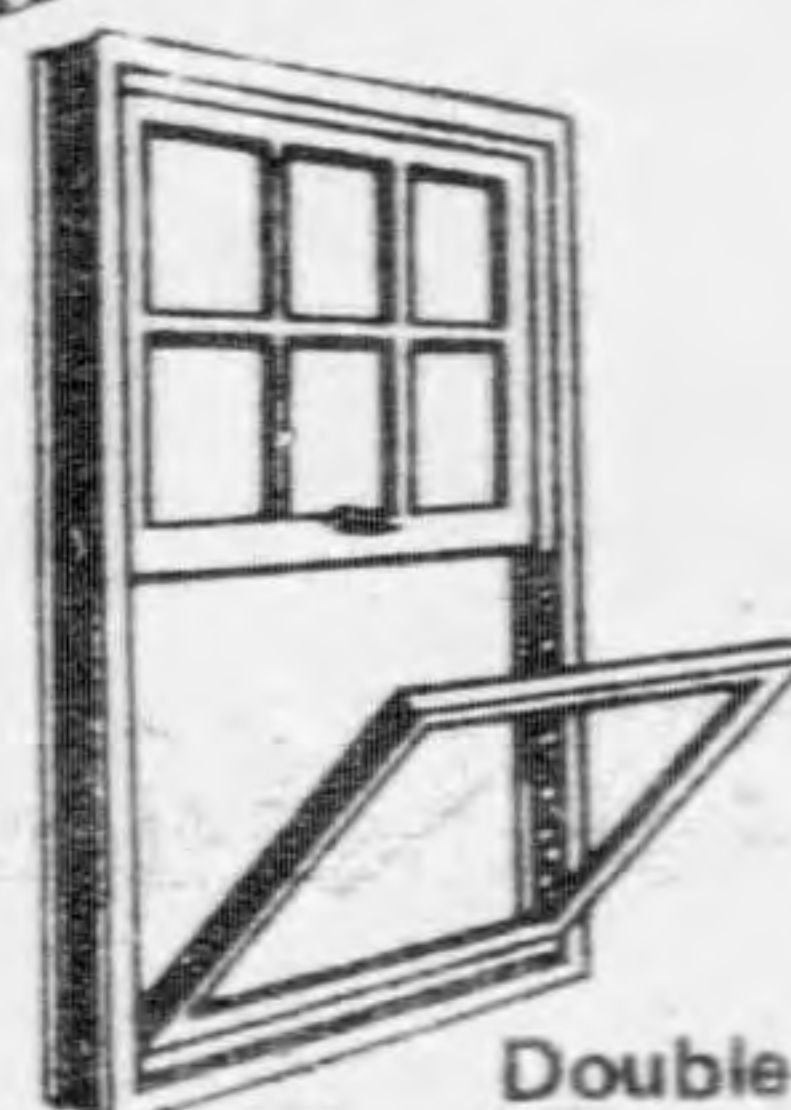
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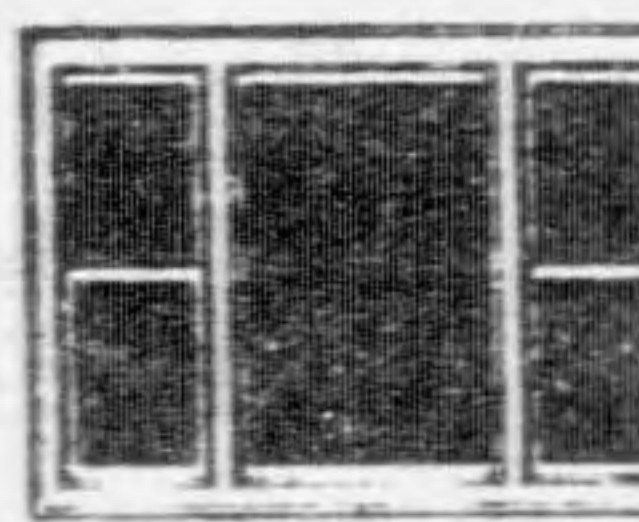
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