

Drug charges will go to county court

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Charges of unlawful possession of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver against Jackson Township resident Forest Hablett, 75, were bound over to Luzerne County Criminal Court at a preliminary hearing March 10 before District Magistrate James Tupper.

Hablett had been arrested February 11 after a search of his home by state troopers and Jackson Township police turned up 123 bags of heroin with an estimated street value of approximately \$4,000, 529 unknown pills and \$9,928.95 in cash from a safe and a green rubber boot in Hablett's locked bedroom.

Hablett had been released on \$20,000 bail after his arrest. Represented by attorney Joseph Yeager, Hablett did not testify in his own defense.

Arresting officer Trooper David Hahn of the Pennsylvania State Police Wyoming Barracks described how police had searched the one-story, two-bedroom home and basement, finding the pills and cash in the safe and the heroin in a green rubber boot on the floor between a dresser and the closet.

Hablett had indicated which bedroom was his and given police a key ring containing a key to the room's deadbolt lock, Hahn said. "The pills were in prescription bottles with various names on their labels," Hahn said.

Two types of heroin packets, wrapped in a paper bag, were in the boot: bags with a red design and bags with a blue design, he said.

The 75-year-old man was found in possession of heroin and other drugs

Police field-tested one bag of each type for heroin, with both samples testing positive, he said.

When police arrested Hablett, who had been sitting in a chair during the search, "a ten-pack of very small plastic envelopes of suspected heroin fell from his person to the floor as he stood up," Hahn said.

The 10-pack on Hablett hadn't been visible to police during the search, Hahn said.

During cross-examination by Yeager, Hahn said that police hadn't found any drug paraphernalia or materials used to dilute the strength of heroin. The police laboratory hasn't yet identified the pills, Hahn said.

He said that police confiscated a list of names and telephone numbers, but couldn't ascertain its purpose. Police also found "numerous checks" from different people, whom Hablett said owed him money, Hahn said.

Yeager asked Tupper to drop the charge of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

"All that my client is guilty of is simple unlawful possession," he said. "The commonwealth is proceeding on a theory but has nothing additional to show that there was any delivery or intent to deliver."

Tupper denied the motion and bound both charges over to Luzerne County Criminal Court.

Hablett remains free on \$20,000 bail.



FOREST HABLETT - left Magistrate James Tupper's office after charges of possessing drugs with intent to distribute were bound over to county court.

Lake-Lehman slates '94 kindergarten registration

The Lake-Lehman School District will hold Kindergarten registration and screening for eligible kindergarten students on March 21-25.

District policy states that a child must be 5 years of age on or before September 30, 1994 in order to register for kindergarten for the 1994-95 school year. Kindergarten in the Lake-Lehman School District is an all-day program.

A pre-Kindergarten Survey Clinic will be conducted at the same time as registration. The valuation will consist of the following screening areas: Hearing, Speech and Language, Vision, Motor Perception and Coordination and Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

Parents are asked to bring all necessary immunization records to school at the time of registration. No child will be admitted to Lake-Lehman School District until proof of immunization is presented to the school nurse. Parents are required to furnish proof of age before entrance to kindergarten. Please bring your child's Birth Certificate along with his/her Social Security number.

Registration will be held in the Lake-Lehman Elementary Schools according to the following alphabetical schedule of the last name:
Lehman-Jackson
Monday March 21
8:30-9:30 - (A-B)
9:30-10:30 - (C-F)

10:30-11:30 - (G-I)
11:30-12:30, Regis. Closed
12:30-1:30 - (J-L)
1:30-2:30 - (M)

Tuesday, March 22
8:30-9:30 - (N-P)
9:30-10:30 - (Q-R)
10:30-11:30 (S)
11:30-12:30 - Regis. Closed
12:30-1:30 (T-V)
1:30-2:30 - (W-Z)

Lake-Noxen
Wednesday, March 23
8:30-9:30 - (A-B)
9:30-10:30 - (C-F)
10:30-11:30 - (G-I)
11:30-12:30 - Regis. Closed
12:30-1:30 - (J-L)
1:30-2:30 (M)

Thursday, March 24
8:30-9:30 (N-P)
9:30-10:30 - (Q-R)
10:30-11:30 - (S)
11:30-12:30 - Regis. Closed
12:30-1:30 (T-V)
1:30-2:30 - (W-Z)

Ross
Friday, March 25
9:30-10:30 - (A-F)
10:30-11:30 - (G-M)
11:30-1:00 - Regis. Closed
1:00-2:00 - (N-S)
2:00-3:00 - (T-Z)

L-L Taxpayers to meet March 17

The Lake-Lehman Taxpayers Association will hold a special meeting, Thursday, March 17, 7:30 p.m. at Lehman Township Municipal Building. For further information call 298-2015.

Post office council will keep eye on service

In an effort to establish better communications with its customers, the United States Postal Service in the Back Mountain Area has organized a Customer Advisory Council. The committee, made up of representatives from various segments of the community, meet regularly to discuss a myriad of topics.

The purpose of the council is to work closely with community representatives to improve relations with the postal service and

to better meet customers needs.

In a work session atmosphere, committee members express new ideas, discuss problems and suggest recommendations and improvements.

Because of a customer recommendation, the 800 number complaint line in the Harrisburg Area was established. The post office's newest product, peel and stick stamps, also a suggestion, is now a customer favorite. Ex-

tended hours over the holiday season was another idea from a council member.

The Dallas and Harveys Lake Post Offices adjusted lunch time hours to better serve their rush hour customers. Many suggestions have been put into effect while others are on the drawing board.

The postal service, in planning for the future, realizes that community involvement is crucial to

improving service and customer satisfaction. It is anxious to have our customers perspective of the USPS and to act on their thoughts.

This council is not limited to the Back Mountain Area but has been implemented nationwide. Anyone interested in serving on a council in their area for a one year period, should contact Chairman Raymond Ceconi, Postmaster, at the Dallas Post Office for more information.

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