

Money 'borrowed' to make truck payment, report says

Kingston Twp. patrolman faces theft charges

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

TRUCKSVILLE - Money "borrowed" from the Kingston Township Police evidence locker was to be used to make a payment on his truck, patrolman Robert Weiss told chief James Balavage, according to court documents.

Patrolman Robert Weiss, 37, of Harris Hill Road, Shavertown, has been suspended without pay pending the outcome of an investigation into his alleged removal of \$106.90 from the evidence locker in late March, discovered May 20 by a fellow officer, according to arrest warrant affidavits on file with District Magistrate James Tupper.

Weiss was arrested June 6 by Luzerne County detective lieutenant Gary Sworen and was released on his own recognizance on \$500 bail.

Patrolman Robert Parrish reported the money missing to Balavage May 20 after finding the envelope open and only \$9.15 left when he checked on it for the victim, who had asked police to return it.

Weiss told Balavage he had borrowed the money in late March when he was working the 10 p.m.-6 a.m. shift to pay a bill on his Chevy Blazer truck and intended to pay it back. Weiss said he had taken about \$85 in bills and \$20 in change, according to court documents.

Police were holding the money as evidence after Weiss arrested two people and confiscated a total of \$116.05, along with a fax/phone, cash register, pry bar and

two knives November 22, 1994, the court documents said.

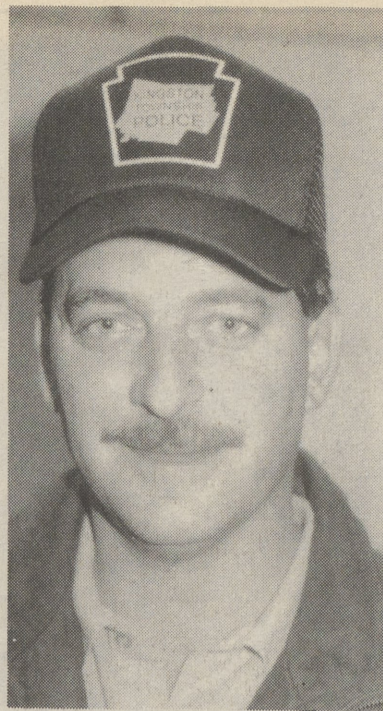
Weiss inventoried the items, sealed the money in an envelope and locked it in the evidence room behind the sergeant's office.

He has been charged with one count of theft by unlawful taking, a misdemeanor which carries a maximum penalty of a \$5,000 fine and/or up to two years in jail, Tupper said.

Tupper said he will recuse himself from the case because he knows Weiss, and has asked Luzerne County to appoint another magistrate to hear the case.

The township is also conducting its own investigation, involving Balavage, manager Jeff Box and the township supervisors.

The supervisors, who are waiting for advice from solicitor Ben R. Jones III, could act on Weiss's case as early as their next regular meeting June 14, Box said.



ROBERT WEISS

The Home Rule Charter gives the township manager authority to hire, fire or discipline employees without formal action by the supervisors, he added.

Weiss has served seven years on the force and would have earned \$26,432 plus overtime this year, Box said.

Wendy's seeks OK for drive-up window

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS - If the zoning hearing board and developer Larry Claudia can hammer out several details, the borough will be minus a car wash and an empty lot, but will gain a Wendy's Restaurant.

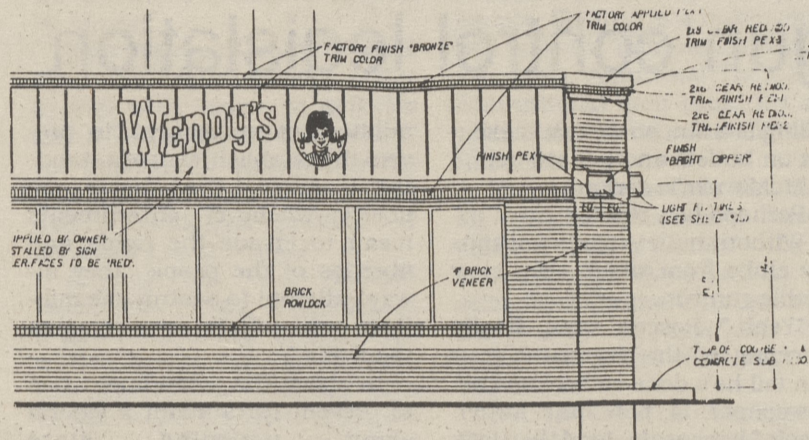
Claudia, of Fallen Oaks Associates in Binghamton, NY, has a purchase contract for the Robo Wash and the site of the former Dallas Agway, which he wants to develop into a 2,720 square-foot Wendy's fast food restaurant with drive-in service.

"We would like to begin construction as soon as possible and open in early fall," he said.

He is seeking a variance for the drive-in window, which the borough's zoning code doesn't provide for in the business district.

"The drive-in window is expected to generate at least 50 percent of our income," he said, illustrating its necessity.

The entrance and one exit are



planned for the Route 415 side of the property, with a second exit on Mill Street, Claudia said.

Wendy's manager Steve Kepik said the restaurant will generate 15 full-time and about 30 part-time jobs, with between eight and 12 employees working each shift. Hours of operation will be 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Neighbors Edward and Rita Ancas and Joe Stec testified they are concerned about additional traffic on Mill Street, noisy cars and possible noise from the drive-in window's speakers.

"Mill Street in less than 20 feet wide," Stec said. "If one car is parked on the side of the road, you have to maneuver around it and block traffic. Parking is allowed on both sides of the road."

Mill Street has no posted speed limit sign, Edward Ancas added. His dog was recently hit by a car.

Rita Ancas asked Claudia if he could erect a privacy fence or plant shrubbery as a barrier along the property line. Her bedroom window will overlook the parking lot, she said.

"We know this is a different type of business," Claudia said. "We'll work with you if you want left turn only signs posted at our Mill Street exit."

Claudia said he doesn't have any plans yet for the section of property which housed the landmark Agway building, heavily damaged during flooding in the spring of 1994.

The board told Claudia to meet with his engineers to discuss reducing the size of the signs, safety of entrances and exits and erecting protective fencing or planting a shrub buffer area along the property line.

The hearing will continue June 21 at 7 p.m.

Chopper makes soft landing in field

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP - The pilot of a helicopter spraying for caterpillars may credit his flying skill with the craft landing unharmed, but his passenger credits someone else.

"There was a third passenger

on that chopper," said passenger Frank Wagner. "That Invisible Man was the one who got us down safely."

Wagner, a Dallas Township supervisor who coordinates a private caterpillar spraying program for area residents, was pointing out landmarks with pilot Ted Ohlmer. They were about 400 feet off the ground, spraying Country Village Trailer Park in Franklin Township when the carburetor malfunctioned, causing the motor to cut out.

"Ted said he was going for the road, but I told him those rock ledges don't bend so easily," Wagner said. "I suggested he head for the clearing behind the trailer park."

Things happened very quickly, he added.

"All I had time to do was say 'Oh, my God!' I was sure scared," Wagner said. "We bounced twice when we landed."

Ohlmer, a 22-year veteran pilot who learned to fly in the Army, said he thought he had another 10 minutes of fuel left when the

"All I had time to do was say 'Oh, my God!' I was sure scared."

Frank Wagner
Dallas Twp. supervisor

motor quit. "It happened too fast for me to be scared," he said. "I steered to the open area and landed it on a hummock covered with thick brush."

His initial inspection showed some damage to the spray gear, which hangs on the bottom of the bird.

Both men said they weren't hurt.

By 6 p.m. Ohlmer had managed to get the chopper airborne and fly it several hundred yards downhill to a level gravel area, where he had parked his truck and helicopter trailer, and land it on the trailer.

Asked if he'd go up in the heli-



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

TYING UP LOOSE ENDS - Ted Ohlmer secured his helicopter to a trailer after making an emergency landing June 7 while spraying for caterpillars in Franklin Township.

copter again, Wagner fired back. "I have to. Ted is from California and doesn't know his way around here. Someone has to tell him where to spray."

Weight Loss Surprises Researcher

WASHINGTON - A nutritional researcher's plan to end world hunger became side tracked when people eating his "hi-tech" chewable food tablet lost weight. The reason for the weight loss is still somewhat of a mystery, but some results have been significant.

The original formula was developed by National Dietary Research and has now been improved with an appetite control ingredient along with a lipotropic (fat fighting) ingredient developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The revolutionary new formula is called **Food Source II** and provides an effective way to lose weight fast.

So why are some people losing weight with Food Source --- lots of weight? According to Dr. William Morris, director of research and development at NDR, the Food Source Plans allow you to lose weight without giving up your favorite foods. "While controlling calorie intake is important to lose weight, with the FS Plan there are no forbidden foods," says Morris.

Dr. Morris says that he has received some incredible success stories from people who have lost 70 pounds or more with the Food Source Plan. One woman from Niagara Falls, New York lost over 70 pounds without giving up her favorite foods which included chocolate, pizza and chicken wings. Although her results may not be typical (individual weight loss varies), the FS Plan is an excellent way of confronting the problem of obesity. According to an article published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* you don't even have to reduce the amount of food you eat to lose weight, provided that you limit the fat.

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Gator Run Saturday aids Gate of Heaven School

The 1995 Gator Run will be held Saturday, June 17 starting at 9:30 a.m. at Gate of Heaven School in Dallas.

The 5-mile run will be on a loop course on paved and dirt roads. There are several hills along the scenic route, and split times will be supplied at each mile marker. An electronic timing device and digital display will be at the finish line.

Trophies will be awarded to the top male and female finishers, and medals to the top finishers by age group. Walkers are also welcome. Each entrant will receive a high-quality race t-shirt.

There will be an entry fee of \$12 which can be paid at registration. Checks should be made to Gate of Heaven PTG. Registration will take place from 8 to 9 a.m. the day of the race. You may fill out the form on this page and bring it as your entry form.

Runners are not allowed to be accompanied by animals, or to wear headphones. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed.

Proceeds from the race will benefit the students at Gate of Heaven School. For information, call Kurt Moody at 675-6190 or Jay Tanner at 675-6512.

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