

CAYUGA/SENECA

Cayuga Man Sentenced For Selling Coke to Cop

By SHAWN CAREY
The Post-Standard

AUBURN — His one-week reprieve expired, a village of Cayuga man was sentenced Thursday to four to 12 years in prison for his part in selling cocaine to an undercover police officer in 1989.

Ricky Lee Winters, 24, of RD 1, Box 582, Cayuga, pleaded guilty May 10 to third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance (cocaine).

The charge stemmed from a May 3, 1989, incident in which Winters and his co-defendant in the case, Glenn Cicora II, sold 1.3 grams of cocaine to an undercover investigator, from the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, said Cayuga County District Attorney Paul Carbonaro.

Winters was arrested Oct. 23, 1989, on charges of criminal sale of a controlled substance. Carbonaro said he had sold the cocaine to the police officer, Carbonaro said.

But on June 28, Winters' originally scheduled sentencing date, his attorney, Nancy Maruk, made a motion to withdraw her client's guilty plea.

Winters claimed that he discovered three men who were present when the drug deal was made, and said they would testify that it had been Cicora who actually sold the drugs to the undercover officer.

Cayuga County Court Judge Peter Corning said he felt the story was "preposterous" and that it "appeared to be an effort to avoid the proceeding." However, the judge granted Maruk one week to come up with sworn affidavits from the three people described as witnesses to corroborate Winters' version.

On Thursday, Maruk told Corning she had contacted two of the

they did not witness the drug sale and one said he was at work when it occurred.



CRAIG JACKSON/The Post-Standard

Fire Fight

Auburn firefighters spray water on a fire Wednesday night at a single-family home at 35 Park St. No one was in the house when the blaze was reported shortly before 11 p.m., said Auburn Fire Chief Mike Harmon said. The house is owned by Gerald Sroka, who rented it to David Cook, Harmon said. The fire gutted a first-floor kitchen and adjacent room in the rear of the house.

Liquor Store Robber Sent To Prison

By SHAWN CAREY
The Post-Standard

AUBURN — A Rochester man convicted last month of robbing a Columbus Street liquor store was sentenced Thursday in Cayuga County Court to six to 12 years in state prison.

Cayuga County Court Judge Peter Corning sentenced Reginald Darnell Copes, 24, of 265 Chili Ave., who agreed to a plea bargain June 21.

The bargain called for Copes to plead guilty to a charge of attempted first-degree robbery for a Nov. 11 holdup at Ron's Columbus Discount Liquor Store. He had been charged with first-degree robbery in connection with the incident.

Three counts of second-degree robbery and one count of second-degree assault against Copes were dropped.

The terms of the plea bargain recommended that Copes serve a minimum of six years in prison and maximum of 12.

"I've agreed with that, and that's just what I'm going to do," Corning said at the time Copes entered his guilty plea.

Copes admitted that he was the masked gunman who robbed and assaulted 66-year-old clerk Basil Deitrick at the liquor store.

"I pointed a starter pistol at him," Copes told the court June 21. "During the fight I hit the clerk with a liquor bottle and took the money (\$200 from the store cash register and about \$200 more from Deitrick's wallet.)"

Deitrick suffered a fractured skull during the incident, but has since recovered, police said.

Cayuga County District Attorney Paul Carbonaro said Copes, who was arrested May 29 at his Rochester home, also committed three other Auburn robberies between October 1989 and February of this year.

The series of holdups began Oct. 12 when Copes walked into the Byrne Dairy Store at West Genesee Street and Warren Avenue, pointed a large-barrel handgun at a clerk, demanded cash and made off with \$875, police said.

Copes robbed the dairy store again on Oct. 21, when he made off with \$112, police said.

The liquor store robbery followed in November, and then, on Feb. 3, Copes robbed a Jreck Sub shop on West Genesee Street, Carbonaro said.

The district attorney said Copes has relatives in Auburn and that his crime spree coincided with family visits.

Copes was convicted in 1983 of second-degree robbery and served four years in prison, Corning said Thursday.

CALENDAR

FRIDAY, July 6

SENIORS CANUS WEEKEND

The Auburn Senior Citizens are going to Orillia, Canada, for the Canus weekend today and returning on Sunday, July 8. The bus will leave the P & C parking lot today at 8 a.m. Cost is \$100, which includes two nights, bus and two meals.

BOOK SALE — Skaneateles Library will hold its 11th annual book sale today and Saturday, July 7, on the library lawn, Genesee Street (U.S. Route 20). Skaneateles, beginning at 9 a.m. each day.

The PIONEER
E. Genesee St., Auburn
-Serving-
Sundays - 12 Noon on
Phone 252-9721 (Closed Mondays)

Around the Edge



GARY WALTS/The Post-Standard

Andy Hills paints the trim around his neighbor's cottage Thursday on Wellesly Island near Thousand Islands State Park. Hills is a part-time house painter.

Brutus Councilors Explain Reasons They Resigned

By TONI GUIDICE
The Post-Standard

BRUTUS — Three town councilmen who resigned unexpectedly Monday released a statement Thursday listing 10 reasons why they quit.

Kenneth Graham, James Sullivan and Ray Swim outlined incidents they said led to their departure. The three, all Republicans, gave verbal resignations to Brutus Town Supervisor Ann Petrus on Monday just four hours before the council was set to meet.

The action left the town without the council majority and will probably force a special election to fill the vacancies, Petrus said.

In their statement, Graham, Sullivan and Swim cited lack of communication from the town supervisor on matters pertaining to town business prior to council meetings.

The three also said meetings and discussions on town matters were scheduled by Petrus without board consent or knowledge. They also opposed recent discussions con-

cerning the burning of American flags, which the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled is a constitutional right.

"The Supreme Court has upheld language and most recently burning of the U.S. flag as an expression. We don't agree, but this will not be overturned at town level," the statement said.

Graham, Sullivan and Swim said they were frustrated dealing with "the ol' boys' network" and "powerful political families/individuals" who were "earnestly attempting to control all efforts within the town."

Apathy among the majority of Brutus residents was cited as another concern. Only "30 to 40 people in Brutus have been the spokespersons for all matters," the release said.

The three councilmen said they had received harassing telephone calls at their homes and that concern for themselves and their families was a motivating factor in their resignations.

Smith Corona to Lay off 120

By JOHN S. TONELLO
The Post-Standard

CORTLANDVILLE — Smith Corona Corp. announced plans Thursday to lay off 120 supervisors and managers at its Cortlandville plant, bringing the number of employees furloughed this year to 570.

The layoff is the third at the plant since January and was spurred by what company officials called sluggish sales of typewriters and word processors.

Smith Corona will employ about 1,250 after the cut, said David Verostko, director of employee relations.

Some workers said they weren't surprised by the company's plan to immediately lay off the 120 employees.

"This had to come," said one 27-year employee, who asked to remain anonymous. "Management was due."

Employees at the plant were notified of their termination Thursday and today, Verostko said.

Some employees coming out of the plant Thursday afternoon said morale is still good despite the lay-

offs of the past six months. But even workers who have more than 20 years of tenure wonder if their jobs are secure.

"I don't know if there's any protection," said Fred Shelu, a shop worker who has been with Smith Corona for 24 years. He said he was not affected by Thursday's announcement.

Employment at the plant has ranged from 4,200 in 1979 to 850 in 1984.

The demand for Smith Corona machines manufactured in Cortlandville has been weak since late last year.

"It's the same reason plaguing us as the rest of the consumer goods market," Verostko said.

The company announced Monday that it will likely cut its dividends because of an unspecified loss for the fourth quarter, which ended June 30. The loss, which officials called "small," was its first since going public in July 1989.

The company, based in New Canaan, Conn., reported a net income of \$34.4 million for the first three quarters of the fiscal year.

Safety the Copilot at CNY International Air Show

By J. TROUT LOWEN
The Post-Standard

FULTON — Despite a rash of fatal accidents at air shows recently, this weekend's aerobatic exhibitions at the Central New York International Air Show in Fulton should touch down without a hitch, participants and organizers said.

In the past five weeks, six pilots performing in air shows in the United States and Canada have died in fatal crashes, including three separate accidents Sunday in Buffalo, Ottawa and Ontario.

While there is cause for concern, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Fred Farrar, proper precautions have been taken to ensure the safety of the performers and spectators at the Oswego County Airport on state Route 176 near Fulton.

"It is a concern, yes. But it would be a much larger concern if a large number of spectators had been injured," Farrar said, adding that not one spectator has been injured in any of the accidents.

Leo Loudenslager, designer and pilot of the Bud Light 200, which will be performing in this weekend's events, agreed.

Loudenslager, the winner of seven national and one world aerobatic championship awards, said pilot inexperience is probably to

blame for the recent accidents.

"Much of this is going to be seen as people who need more training and experience," Loudenslager said.

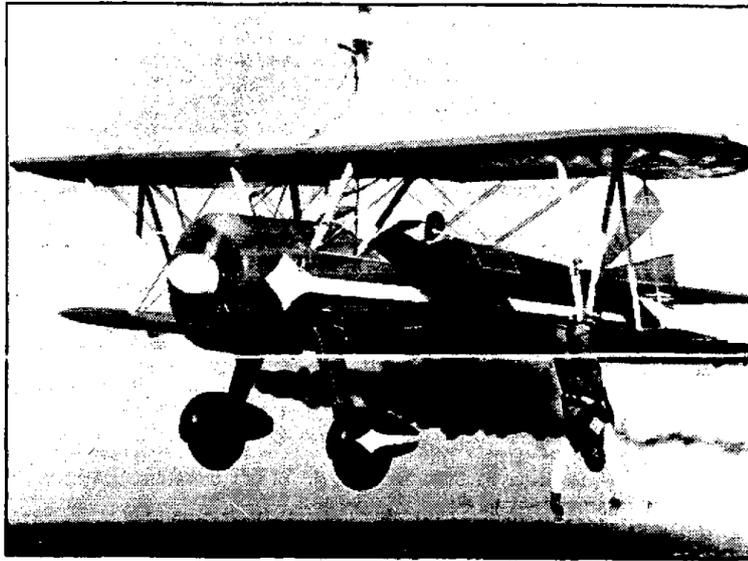
Farrar said the FAA has not found any similarities in the accidents, which happened in different types of planes at different shows.

Loudenslager, who has been performing in air shows for nearly two decades, said he knew only one of the pilots involved in the recent accidents. Because there are fewer than 20 experienced air show pilots performing regularly, the fact he didn't know many of the ones who died points to their inexperience, he said.

"It's a very small community and so when we don't know someone we ask 'who is this person and where did they get their experience,'" he said.

Although no new regulations have been written in response to the fatalities, the FAA, the performers and the producers are in the process of upgrading pilot safety regulations, Loudenslager said.

Performing aerobatic stunts featured in air shows does not require a special license, however, pilots do have to obtain a statement of aerobatic competency from the FAA, said Lauren Gates, the FAA inspector overseeing the Fulton show.



Wing walker Bill Fitzsimmons dangles from the wings of a biplane piloted by Ron Shelly during an earlier version of the Central New International Air Show. Another wing walker will be featured at this year's show, which opens Saturday.