

On Av. U, the Tickets Fell Like Rain

By MARY CONNELLY

Parking tickets have been fired broadside from the 61st Precinct stationhouse at 1423 Av. U, Brooklyn, since The Post exposed the cops' own illegal parking practices Tuesday.

A few of the tickets landed on the cops' private cars, which had been monopolizing metered spaces, but most were served on teachers parking near their schools, shoppers who let meters run out and commercial drivers—including a Post route man—who were trying to make deliveries in congested streets.

This reporter got a summons within the precinct for making an improper right turn.

At PS 43, 1401 Emmons

Av., where legal space is hard to find, teacher Carole Tacher Cohen looked in disbelief at one of the two tickets she found on the windshield of her shiny orange Volkswagen.

"The other ticket says I'm parked in a no-parking zone and I am," she said. "But this one says I have an unregistered vehicle. How can I have an unregistered vehicle? I bought the car two weeks ago and there's nothing wrong with it, there are both my stickers on the windshield!"

Capt. Arthur Katz, the 61st Precinct commander, denied that his men were getting even with either the community or The Post. "Your story said the community wants the parking meter law en-

forced," he said. "We're enforcing it."

Along Avenue U, however, and wherever cars were ticketed in the area, police officers could be heard telling ticket recipients to blame The Post.

The story had disclosed that dozens of metered spaces were being occupied all day, every day, by cops who weren't feeding the meters. Merchants near the stationhouse, in the main shopping area serving the Homecrest neighborhood, between Sheepshead Bay and Kings Highway, had told The Post the parking shortage was costing them customers.

Residents, too, were angry. After the story had appeared on Tuesday, a woman watch-

ed a cop putting dimes in a meter by a yellow Plymouth and then buttonholed a reporter standing nearby.

"They always park in my driveway and I'm damn mad," she complained, declining to give her name. "Look at the garbage in the street. There's no such thing as alternate-side parking. Just because they're police is no excuse."

All day yesterday, knots of residents gathered near the stationhouse talking grimly of the ticketing blitz.

At one point, as Katz emerged from the stationhouse, a man across the avenue shouted at him: "Vendetta!"

The man identified himself as Frank P. Loria, a local resident and a business rep-

resentative for District Council 9 of the Painters Union. He described the scene earlier:

"There were so many cops in the street here this morning I thought they must be having a parade for cops and the crooks must be having a field day. All the delivery trucks got hit, trucks for the butcher, the pork store, the fruit store—and one cop made the fruit man take all his fruit in off the street. Just because the police don't want to walk a few blocks."

Howard Kaplan, a Pepsi-Cola driver, said he was one of the deliverymen ticketed. "They're showing police power," he said. "Why take it out on us? Why not clear it

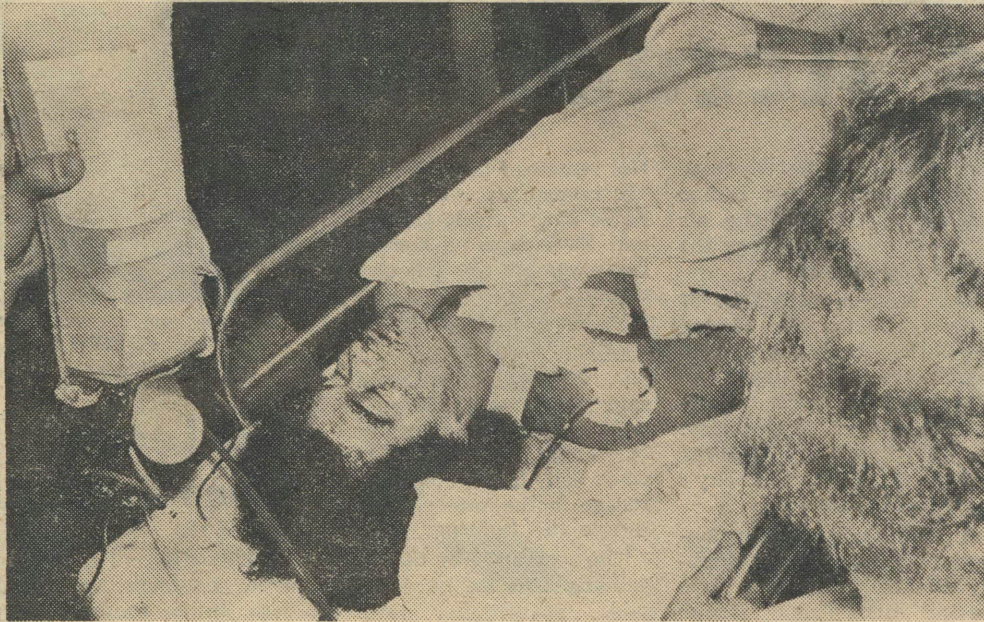
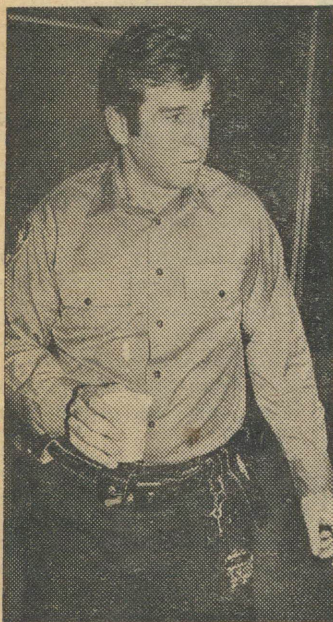
Continued on Page 12



Post Photo by Nury Hernandez

CAROLE COHEN

One day, two tickets.



Wounded mugging suspect Manolo Caballero, 16, is wheeled into X-ray room at Morrisania Hospital while Officer Thomas Brachini, 32, (left) awaits word on condition of his wounded partner, Officer Harry P. Flores.

Post Photos by Nury Hernandez

Wounded Cop Kills A Suspect

By MARC KALECH and CY EGAN

A policeman who killed one mugging suspect and seriously wounded a second after he was shot through the neck while arresting the two in The Bronx last night was reported out of danger today.

Doctors at Morrisania Hospital said the bullet that pierced the neck of Officer Harry P. Flores, 29, had missed vital areas and he was in fair condition after emergency surgery.

Flores, a six-year veteran of the force, was wounded about 9:15 p.m. when one of the two suspects pulled a gun and opened fire while Flores and a partner, Officer Thomas Brachini, 32, were arresting them after an eluded street holdup in the High Bridge section.

A third suspect in the mugging escaped and is being sought by police, who gave this account:

Flores and Brachini were on radio car patrol at Montgomery Av. and 176th St. when they were stopped by a young Hispanic man who told them he had been robbed on the street.

While questioning the victim, the policemen spotted three suspects nearby and chased them for three blocks to the hallway of an apartment building at 1760 Andrews Av., near 175th St.

Inside, the officers found two suspects crouching on the hallway floor. The third had fled. After ordering the pair to lie spread-eagled on the floor, the policemen began handcuffing them when one pulled a pistol from beneath his arm and fired two shots.

One bullet hit Flores in the neck and the other narrowly missed Brachini, who pounced on the gunman and grappled for the weapon while his wounded partner drew his service revolver and emptied it at the suspects.

The gunman was killed and his companion fell wounded with two bullets in the abdomen. Flores staggered to the street where he was helped into a car by a neighborhood resident, Manuel Rodriguez, of 1710 Andrews Av., and driven to the hospital.

The wounded suspect, later identified as Manolo Caballero, 16, of 135 W. 175th St., The Bronx, was taken to the same hospital. A fingerprint check was being made to determine the identity of the dead suspect.

Diamond Heist An Inside Job?

A masked bandit who stole \$150,000 worth of diamonds and \$3000 in cash from a midtown diamond cutting company last night may have been familiar with the operations of the firm, police said today.

Detectives said they did not know how the bandit got into the 14th-floor offices of Sam Gross and were questioning persons who work in the building at 15 W. 47th St.

Police said Gross, 51, and an employee, Alaeff Sholomo, 35, were alone in the office shortly before 8:30 p.m. when the bandit, who wore a stocking mask, entered and demanded money and gems.

Hearings Set on Nursing Bills

By ROBERTA B. GRATZ

A sweeping package covering nursing home abuse involving fraud, medical care and enforcement will be examined by a legislative subcommittee beginning May 1.

Assemblyman Alan Hevesi (D-Queens), who heads the Health Committee's panel on health care, said in Albany today the subcommittee expected many of its proposals to become law by the end of June.

The subcommittee will hold hearings on seven proposals. They include measures to tighten financial disclosure regulations concerning nursing homes, to establish legally-enforceable standards for judging Medical care and to overhaul the creaky, scandal-ridden medicare reimbursement system.

Other proposals would institute heavy money penalties for fraud carried out by those in the nursing home industry, provide stricter enforcement of all laws in the field, expand patient rights and establish a state patient advocate.

"The feeling is," Hevesi said, "that the atmosphere is very good for passage this session. The legislation won't

cover all the problems, but it is a beginning."

Hevesi said there was general agreement about the problems that need solving, but not about how to go about it. The hearings will examine specific suggestions for corrective legislation.

All Assembly bills dealing with the nursing home industry will pass through Hevesi's subcommittee. And an agreement has been reached with the Senate Health Committee, headed by Tarky Lombardi Jr. (R-Syracuse), to consider the measures following Assembly action.

"This is an interim package," Hevesi said. He noted that the Moreland Commission on nursing homes has undertaken a long-term study which is "absolutely required

to determine the direction the state will go in taking care of the elderly."

"But we also recognize," he continued, "that there are patients who need protection now."

The Moreland Commission was appointed by Gov. Carey, shortly after he took office in January. Its chairman, Morris Abram, said that by the time his group concludes its investigations, he may recommend a complete revamping of the system by which care is provided the elderly.

Hevesi said his group was "not competing with Moreland. Their mandate is a long-term one, also dealing with possible federal changes, philosophical questions on care for the elderly and continuing investigations."

2 Fires at Trade Center

Two small fires broke out in Tower 2 of the World Trade Center today. The fire marshal's office termed them suspicious.

The fires were discovered at 9 a.m. One was in a cart in a porter's closet on the 10th floor. The other was a cardboard box in a stairwell on the 49th floor.

Both fires were quickly extinguished. But heavy smoke forced a number of persons to leave their offices.

The state commission, headed by Assemblyman Andrew Stein (D-L-Man.), went out of business March 31 when both Carey and the Legislature refused to re-

Continued on Page 29

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Continued from Page 3

up in a nice way instead of running crazy?"

A Post deliveryman, bringing papers to newsstands at the Brighton Beach BMT subway station on Avenue U a block and a half from the stationhouse, was ticketed Tuesday and again by the same cop at noon yesterday.

Both times he had halted his station wagon in a bus stop for the moment it took to drop his bundles of papers. He'd never been ticketed there before, but yesterday he was told he'd be arrested if he paused in that bus stop again.

When he returned yesterday evening, he wasn't arrested. Instead, a different cop made him park a block and a half away and carry newspapers weighing about 90 pounds in two round trips.

Reporter Stopped

This reporter was stopped by officers on Avenue U Tuesday afternoon, after the story had appeared, when she returned to discover that although there were nine cars with police identification parked by expired meters, law-enforcement in the area was looking up.

At least seven cops had been putting dimes in meters and six other cops had tickets on their car windshields. A previous tour had discovered 44 cars with police identification, all parked by meters with their flags up, and not a ticket in sight.

The reporter was recognized and greeted again yesterday during a tour which confirmed Katz' claim that he had ordered his men to remove all police identification from their private cars and park them legally.

Feeding the Meters

Katz said it would take some research to determine how many tickets had been issued, but the reporter could find only one car displaying police identification, a dark red Chevrolet Impala parked by an expired meter off Avenue U on 14th St. Most meters in the area were being fed.

Leaving the area, the reporter stopped her car at a red light on Avenue U only a few feet from a cop talking to a man just getting into his ticketed car. "You saw The Post," the cop said. "Yeah, I read the article," the man replied.

A few minutes later, the reporter made a right turn from the center southbound lane of Ocean Parkway into Avenue X, first getting a go-ahead wave from the motorist in the right-hand lane. Both cars were stopped at a red light when this arrangement was made. Traffic was light. The turn was executed with caution and without trouble.

"You almost caused an accident back there," said Officer James Boylan of the 61st Precinct, cruising in a squad car, as he stopped the reporter seconds later.

While Boylan was writing out a summons, his partner ordered Burt Horn, a driver

for Levy's Rye Bread, to move his delivery truck to a different street. Then he wrote out an "unregistered vehicle" ticket for a car parked on Av. X at First St. The car did have an expired registration sticker, but the recent date of its motor vehicle inspection sticker indicated that the registration must be in order.

"They're just building up animosity here," said Marie Pilagonia, who owns a store on Avenue X and was standing nearby. "If there ever was a patrolman in trouble here, I doubt they'd get help. It doesn't take long to alienate a community, but it takes a long time to make up for it."

In Their Defense

Police defending their own parking practices point to their contract with the city, which states, "It is the intent of the [Police] Dept. to make available . . . city-owned property and on-street locations . . . as parking facilities for the personal cars of patrolmen."

Howard E. Morse, director of community relations for the Patrolmen's Benevolent Assn., conceded that this was not a firm promise. "All it says," he agreed, "is that the department is bound to have such an intent."

Miss Pilagonia snorted at the cops' argument. "When we get tickets," she said, "the cops tell us, 'If there's no parking here, don't bring your car, leave it at home.' Why don't they follow their own advice?"

Teachers at PS 216, 350 Av. X, reportedly have been ticketed in the blitz. So have teachers at PS 52, across the street from an apartment house at 3903 Nostrand Av.

Steve Raucher, who lives in that building, said he had parked his car Tuesday night

in a zone where it's illegal to park between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on school days.

Yesterday morning he overslept. "I got a ticket there for the first time since school opened last September," he reported. "I saw the cop ticketing four other cars, too."

At PS 43, where Mrs. Cohen's registered Volkswagen was tagged "unregistered," at least a dozen teachers were ticketed yesterday. Principal Louis N. Del Vecchio, who says he's been pleading for years for an authorized parking zone, was dismayed.

'Don't Misunderstand'

"Don't misunderstand me," he said. "The 61st Precinct has been 1000 per cent in our corner and Capt. Katz has been 1000 per cent cooperative. But why are our parking violations suddenly getting their undivided attention?"

"They hadn't been ticketing our cars, and I assumed that was because they understood our problems, until yesterday we got clobbered."

Teacher Pearl Minsky said only fast action had kept all the teachers' cars from being papered at the start of the blitz Tuesday. "We escorted the police officer into the school as soon as we saw him," she said, "and kept him talking until some of our cars became legal at 11 a. m."

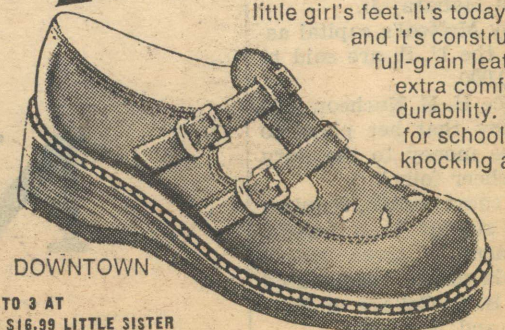
"Then some of us got in cars that still weren't legal and went riding ahead of him until he disappeared. He only wrote four tickets Tuesday."

Mrs. Minsky said she had escaped ticketing again yesterday the hard way. "My car overheated," she said, "and I took it to a garage near the school, and the man said he thinks my whole radiator is blown, but at least I'm parked!"

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