

Illicit Drugs Stolen From Abandoned Pill Factory, 2 Men Fined

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WENONAH, July 11.—An abandoned pill factory on a lonely stretch of land in this Gloucester County community was under investigation Friday by authorities as the source of \$5000 worth of illicit prescription drugs found on two young men arrested in Ocean City Thursday.

Firemen Ignore Newark Court, Stay Off Jobs

NEWARK, July 11 (AP).—Nearly all Newark firemen failed to show up for the night shift Friday night in defiance of a court injunction.

Fire Director John P. Caulfield said that approximately 85 percent of the night shift stayed off the job and vowed to call in the National Guard and State Police to protect the city.

The rank and file members of the 850-man department took the job action in a pay dispute with the city and the officers of the department.

MANPOWER CUT

Officially all units were operating. But they were working with sharply reduced manpower.

Heavy absenteeism was reported in the First Fire Battalion area, which encompasses part of the Central Ward and Vailsburg. The area contains many rundown, crowded tenements.

All officers in the area reported for work, but only 17 men in a normal complement of 32 were manning four firehouses.

No night firemen reported for work and 15 of the 32 members of the day shift left when their tour of duty ended at 6 P. M.

Ocean City police said Robert McLaughlin, 21, of Melvern and John Myers, 21, of Paoli, Pa., revealed after intensive questioning the they had obtained the drugs from the pill factory.

EACH FINED \$200

The two men led Detective Capt. Norman Young to the building, where thousands of bottles filled with prescription drugs still stand although the factory was abandoned in 1960.

The two were fined \$200 each, given suspended six-month sentences, and placed on a year's probation.

Wenonah Police Chief James Miller said the factory has been under surveillance but occasionally persons have attempted to break into the building and steal barbituates and anti-smoking, weight-reducing and amphetamine pills.

AUTHORITIES CONTACTED

"We've contacted local, county and state authorities to see what action can be taken," Miller said. "We've been told the matter will be looked into."

Miller said the owner has proposed tearing the building down and disposing of the drugs. Nothing has been done yet, however.

Authorities said it would be difficult to place an exact value the drugs would have on the illicit trade market. One police officer said it "would probably run well over \$100,000."

McLaughlin and Myers were sentenced in Ocean City Municipal Court.

Wenonah Factory Source of Stolen Drugs



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