

Car held by Bethel police



1967 Pontiac Firebird involved in Bethel police story is shown at the present owner's home in Woodbury.

By Valerie Roth
News-Times staff

BETHEL — A privately owned car in the custody of the Bethel Police Department was illegally used and sold after the department seized it in an arrest. The News-Times has learned.

A Danbury policeman says he bought the car, a 1967 Pontiac Firebird, from the department, and that he gave a \$200 check for the car to Bethel Police Chief Richard X. Carlo.

The alleged financial improprieties of the Bethel Police Department are currently the subject of a one-man grand jury probe. Carlo admitted in April to the News-Times he falsely billed the town for overtime not worked by his officers.

Public records show the police seized the Firebird belonging to John Mayoral of New Milford in a 1973 drug bust and used the car for at least five months in 1974, even though the courts had not granted it the right to do so.

Records also show a judge ordered the car returned to Mayoral in February 1974, but instead the car was sold to a Danbury garage that was supposedly storing the car since Mayoral's April 1973 arrest. It was in

fact being used for undercover work by the Bethel police for several months.

Motor vehicle records show the Danbury garage, which is no longer in business, sold the Firebird in August 1975 to a Brookfield resident, who has since moved to Woodbury and who still owns the car.

Through public records and documents The News-Times has traced the history of the Firebird as follows: On April 26, 1973, John Mayoral, formerly of New Milford, was arrested by Bethel and New Milford police in a joint drug raid. Bethel Police impounded Mayoral's car because Mayoral allegedly used the car to sell drugs in Bethel. The three Bethel charges against Mayoral were never prosecuted, but he was convicted on two New Milford drug charges.

On May 4, a week after Mayoral's arrest, Bethel police attempted to legally take possession of Mayoral's Firebird by filing an "in rem" proceeding.

"In rem" is a Latin phrase, meaning "against the thing." Filing a proceeding "against a thing or things" is how police departments can legally seize property that may have been involved in a crime. A car that has had an in rem

Inflation rate jumps another 1.4 percent

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a virtual replay of January's torrid inflation, consumer prices soared another 1.4 percent in February, the government reported today.

Last month's increase in the Labor Department's Consumer Price Index matched the 1.4 percent rise in January for a compounded annual rate of some 18 percent. The culprits again were sharply higher gasoline and home heating oil prices and mortgage interest rates, the report showed.

An 18 percent rate for the entire year would be the worst inflation since World War II price controls were lifted in 1946 and a considerable jump from last year's 13.3 percent inflation.

"It's virtually identical, with the exception of apparel being a little more moderate," Labor Department economist Patrick Jackman said of the February report. "I would look for mortgage interest and energy to continue rising. I don't really foresee

any improvement until June or July, not even a blip to below 1 percent."

Price increases averaged just over 1 percent each month last year.

The Labor Department also reported that inflation continued to take its toll on earnings.

Average weekly earnings fell 1.4 percent from January to February as inflation and a drop in the number of hours worked overpowered a modest 0.5 percent rise in hourly earnings. This left inflation-adjusted earnings 6.5 percent below the level of February 1979.

Spendable earnings, which is the money a married worker with three dependents has left after Social Security and federal income taxes, also fell 1.4 percent. It was the ninth consecutive monthly decline, leaving earnings 7.3 percent below their level a year ago.

It was January's surge in prices that convinced the Carter administration to adopt measures that could bring consumers some relief toward year's end.

President Carter has pledged a new, broad-based attack on inflation that includes a cut in federal spending this year and next, credit controls to cool the consumer spending spree and better enforcement of the administration's voluntary wage and price guidelines.

But the details still are being worked out. And once in place, the program is not expected to have an immediate effect.

February's 1.4 percent increase, like January's, was the largest one-month jump since August 1973. At that time prices shot up 1.8 percent after then-President Richard M. Nixon lifted price controls and beef costs went sky high.

City businessman dies in California

By Bob Chuvala
News-Times business editor



Robert S. Young

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Robert S. Young, 41, president of Fairfield Processing Corp. in Danbury, Conn., died unexpectedly in his sleep yesterday morning while on a business trip in Anaheim.

Young was attending a trade show in Anaheim with several business associates. The family withheld announcement of his death until today so that his parents, now living in Florida, could be notified.

Young and his brother Roy began producing polyester fibers 11 years ago in an aging wool and fur plant started by their father Samuel in 1942. The two brothers turned the business into a multi-million dollar operation that

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Shah's transfer 'undermines trust' in hostage issue

By The Associated Press

The shah's escape to Egypt will make resolution of the American hostage issue "extremely difficult," Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh said today as thousands of fist-waving Iranians demonstrated outside the U.S. Embassy.

Ghotbzadeh told a news conference in Tehran that the ousted monarch's transfer from Panama has undermined trust in the hostage negotiations and may make the new Parliament less favorable to a settlement.

But he said the shah's flight to Egypt was a "moral victory" for Iran because it showed Iran's extradition case against the former monarch was strong.

Ghotbzadeh also said Iran will not try to extradite the shah from Egypt because Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is a "puppet of Israel and the United States."

He predicted a "tremendous amount of unrest" in Egypt because of the shah's presence.

The foreign minister said the reason the ruling Revolutionary Council has not issued an official statement on the shah's transfer to Egypt is because the new circumstances are being debated among council members.

Meanwhile, legions of Iranians filled the streets around the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, shaking clenched fists and chanting slogans condemning the

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Early birds

Presidential p... Connecti...

By Tom Ahern
News-Times public affairs editor

With his swing through Danbury last night, Republican George Bush made the final appearance by a presidential candidate in Connecticut prior to today's first presidential primary.

Polls, which opened at 6 a. m., close at 8 p. m. in what shapes up as half of a do-



News-Times photo by Carol Kull

George Bush, Republican candidate for presidential nomination, signs a poster last night at the Chatham Oaks on West Street in Danbury in the candidate's final appearance in Connecticut before the primary today. Bush considers himself on "home" territory in Connecticut.

City businessman dies in California

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distributes the PolyFil brand polyester world-wide.

Young was active in the local business, civic and educational communities. He was a founding member of Western Connecticut State College's Corporate College Council and a member of the council's board of directors for the past two years.

He also distributed millions of stuffed toys to children's hospitals around the country during the past several years. The toys came from toy-making contests co-sponsored by the National Grange and Fairfield Processing. As part of that distribution effort, Young frequently appeared on national telethons to announce the toy donations.

The toys were stuffed with the PolyFil discovered by Samuel Young while experimenting with polyester fibers in 1967. The Youngs moved the business from Taylor Street to a former hat factory on Rose Hill Avenue, taking over the six-story building. The company then opened a series of regional warehouses around the country and built several other plants in Danbury and Newtown.

"We've been very fortunate," Young once said in an interview. In his company checkbook he kept "mementos of the old days," including a letter from a bank threatening to foreclose on his house in 1970.

"It helps me remember where I came from so I never get too carried away with myself," he said then.

As the business grew and prospered, the Young brothers branched out into local real estate, buying large tracts of property in Brookfield, Newtown and Danbury. Three years ago they teamed up with a Canadian development firm and proposed building a million-square-foot regional mall in Newtown's Hawleyville section. The plan was opposed by the communities, and new plans now call for a large corporate office park on the site.

Young was born in Brockton, Mass., Sept. 9, 1938, the son of Samuel and Mary Young. The family moved to Danbury when he was three years old.

He is survived by his wife, Rita Ginsberg Young; two sons, Jonathan Young and Douglas Young; his brother and a sister, Mrs. Charlene Dannin, all of Danbury.

The funeral will be conducted Thursday at the United Jewish Center, Danbury, at a time to be announced.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the United Jewish Center Endowment Fund or to a charity of the donor's choice.

The Shure Funeral Home, 543 George St., New Haven, is in charge of arrangements.



Socialite's lawyer told to relinquish letter

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — The lawyer for the Virginia schoolmistress accused of killing Scarsdale Diet doctor Herman Tarnower has been ordered to relinquish a 10-page letter his client

said he believes the killing was the result of a lovers' triangle. He suggests that Mrs. Harris lost Tarnower's affections to Lynne Tryforos, the doctor's nurse.

Mary Lail consoles her children, Slade, 9, left, and Brandon, 8, upon their return from the hospital after treatment yesterday afternoon. The boys were on the school bus in the background which collided with a state dump truck almost in front of the Lail home in Duluth, Ga. Both drivers and 26 elementary school children were