



Not even the "uncensored" Richard Pryor could shake these young cadets of military discipline from their post. Motionless in a battle of silence they carried out their duties with a militant honesty at last week's Memorial Day service held at Grants Tomb in Manhattan. (Coreen Simpson Photo)

1300 laid-off at Brooklyn Navy Yard

By LaMONT FLANAGAN
Special to Amsterdam News

Seatrains Lines, Inc. has closed its Brooklyn Navy Yard installation and laid-off 1300 employees, most of whom are Black or Hispanic.

According to Stephen Russell, executive vice-president of the company, Seatrain plans to diversify its operations into energy-related areas.

However, the company would continue to haul ocean freight and chartering ships which provides about 60 percent of its revenue.

Five years ago, the company temporarily closed its shipbuilding operation in Brooklyn laying off 3,000 employees. Part of the reason for the closing was that the building of large tankers is no longer a viable business.

The massive lay-off caused economic chaos in the Fort Greene area which is predominantly Black. The closing was eventually avoided because of political pressure from Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and Congressman Fred Richmond who obtained economic assistance for Seatrain from the government.

The company was able to remain in business because the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce guaranteed re-payment of 90 percent of \$77 million of Seatrain's bank loans in May, 1975.

Seatrain began to venture out of the shipbuilding business in August, 1976, when it purchased Texas-based Pride Re-

fining Co. for \$30 million in notes and preferred stock. The investment proved to be a key element in the company's 112 percent earnings jump recorded in 1977.

One year ago, Seatrain purchased three small mining companies in West Virginia for 1.1 million and 10 million tons of coal reserves. During the time Seatrain was making these multi-million dollar energy-related purchases, it was slowly repaying the government guaranteed loan. By the middle of last week, the \$77 million loan only had been reduced to 69.7 million, a sum which the company re-financed last week with Chase Manhattan Bank.

The primary purposes of the refinancing was to extend the repayment dates on the government-guaranteed loan from 1979 to 1983. "The loan was originally given to make certain there were jobs in the Brooklyn Navy Yard," said a company spokesperson. "We needed additional money to complete the two supertankers then in construction and the loan was for that purpose." The tankers are complete and Seatrain has not received any new sizable government-guaranteed loans since 1975, according to the spokesperson.

The closing of Seatrain Lines will increase the already high unemployment rate among Blacks in Brooklyn. Seatrain was the highest employer of minorities in the Fort Greene area and its closing will mean more hardship for a community struggling for economic stability.

Bedford murder suspect's wife released

The release of the wife of one of the four suspects in the recent upstate Bedford Hills murders led to speculation that she is cooperating with the Westchester District Attorney's office to provide him with sufficient evidence to enable him to bring an indictment against them.

Although she was not one of the participants in the alleged crimes which resulted in the death of four persons, she was arrested driving her husband's car in which a camera from one of the victim's home was stolen.

But since a wife can't be made to testify against her husband, sources intimated that any information she may render won't involve her husband.

Arraigned in Brooklyn Supreme Court, Justice Franklin Morton's court on Monday, the quartet were held on robbery charges resulting from their stickup of a birthday party in Brooklyn in which 50 guests were disrobed and robbed.

Alerted by a neighbor, police grabbed them as they left the apartment which they had shot up.

Jimmie Lee Allen and Jeffrey Davis of Plainfield, N.J. and Junius Gray and Levi Moore of Brooklyn were held in \$100,000 and \$50,000.

Gray's wife, Gladys, of 69 Crystal St.,

Brooklyn, was released in \$2500 bail last week on a charge of possession of stolen goods.

She is due back in Brooklyn Criminal Court today (Thursday) for further hearing on the charge which is a misdemeanor.

Westchester DA Carl Vergari has as yet to file a charge of murder against the foursome.

When the murders were first discovered, rumors spread that police were seeking members of the Rastafarian sect, a religious group based in Brooklyn who regard the late Ethiopian leader Haile Selassie as their God.

But the arrest of the quartet in the party robbery changed the picture entirely.

Now the police think that the perpetrators used wigs whose hair style resembled that worn by Rastafarians.

Death over dog

Mrs. Dolores (Red) C. Peartree who was stabbed to death during an argument over a dog was buried in Calverton National Cemetery on Long Island. She is survived by her husband and sons. The police are still seeking the killer.

Vincent refuses allegations

By PETER NOEL
Amsterdam News Staff

Charles Vincent, head of C.A.V. Enterprises has refuted allegations that he no longer has financial clout over the office building on West 125 Street.

Mr. Vincent denied reports that the Manufacturers Hanover Trust Bank on the first floor had taken over the building. "The bank is not the owner. It only handles all the mortgages. Nowhere will you find any instrument showing anyone as owner of the building other than the C.A.V. Enterprises," Mr. Vincent said.

Mr. Vincent also said that he closed the second floor, which housed Vincent's Place cafe, because "it was not a profitable floor." But according to Miss Vivian Doldron, Banquet Manager at C.A.V. Enterprises, she is honoring all banquet, catering and disco functions previously contracted with her department.

"Some people are concerned about their bookings. Vincent's Place is no longer open but all functions contracted will be honored on behalf of Manufacturers Hanover Trust," Miss Doldron said.

Weekend Weather

THURSDAY: Temperatures between 60 and 80 degrees. Chance of showers.
FRIDAY: Temperatures between 60 and 80 degrees. Chance of showers.
SATURDAY: Temperatures between 60 and 80 degrees. Chance of showers.
SUNDAY: Temperatures between 60 and 80 degrees. Chance of showers.
MONDAY: Fair



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