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2 Seized with Drugs; Old Wenonah Plant Is Held to Be Source

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Of the Times Staff

WENONAH—An abandoned pill factory in Wenonah was the subject of an intensive investigation by law enforcement officials Friday after two men were arrested in Ocean City for possession of about \$5,000 worth of illegal prescription drugs. Ocean City detectives arrested Robert McLaughlin, 21, of Malvern, Pa., and John Myers, 21, of Paoli, Pa. Police said the two admitted the pills had been obtained from the factory.

N. J. Aide Seeks to Air 'Problems' at Delsea

FRANKLINVILLE — A state official is tentatively scheduled to meet Tuesday night with Robert J. Gerardi, superintendent of Delsea Regional High School, and other county school administrators to talk over some of the alleged problems at Delsea Regional High School.

James Lake, assistant director in the state Office of Equal Educational Opportunity, said the meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. in Delsea High School. Lake added the department is waiting official word from Delsea on the meeting it requested.

He said the intent is to "cool tempers, get together and talk over some of the problems." Black leaders in Gloucester County asked educational commissioner Carl L. Marburger to convene a meeting of county educational officials to ease what they termed a "racial powder keg."

The racial climate, they contended in telegrams sent to Marburger and Gov. Richard J. Hughes earlier this week, borders on that which led to riots in Newark, Plainfield and Detroit.

Mrs. Irene H. Smith of Wenonah, state and county chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), said black students were "extremely upset" over the lack of black teachers, black guidance personnel and courses in black history in the county's schools.

The Delsea board twice canceled two previously arranged meetings with the black community, Mrs. Smith said. Delsea Regional has about 1,400 students from Franklin and Elk townships. About 17 percent are black.

The telegrams were signed by Mrs. Smith; Mrs. Frances Martin, president of Franklin Township NAACP; Mrs. Bertha Fleming, chairman of the Community Action Committee's educational committee, and Rhonda Fleming, a black youth representative.

Infant Deaths Show Decline In County

Gloucester County recorded 62 infant deaths among 2,733 live births in 1968 for a mortality rate of 22.7 per 1,000, the state Health Department said today.

The figures represented a decrease from 1967 when there were 68 infant deaths among 2,719 births for a 25.1 rate per 1,000, the department added.

Statewide, there were 2,469 deaths for 21.6 per 1,000, among 114,101 births in 1968. This was also lower than the 2,578 deaths or 22.2 per 1,000 among 116,019 in 1967, the department said.

These Gloucester County municipalities reported infant deaths last year: Pitman and Deptford, eight each; Monroe and Paulsboro, seven each; Woodbury and Westville, five each; Mantua and Glassboro, four each; Woodbury Heights and Clayton, three each; Swedesboro, two, and Franklin, Greenwich, Harrison, Logan, Washington and West Deptford townships, one each.

9th Division Camp

from Division killed 12 Communists

without suffering casualties in an ambush the U. S. troops staged northwest of Saigon. Ninth U. S. Infantry Division elements killed nine Communists and suffered one dead and six wounded in fighting 32 miles west of Saigon.

American B52 Stratofortresses dumped 540 tons of explosives on suspected Communist troop concentrations in Tay Ninh and

Binh Duong provinces north of Saigon early today.

The Viet Cong's National Liberation Front (NLF) said Friday its troops had killed or put out of action 330,000 Allied troops, including 145,000 Americans, in the first six months of the year.

U. S. military reports from Saigon said 275,166 Americans have been killed and wounded in the 3½ years of the war between Jan. 1, 1961 and last July 5.

Pills Cover Floor
They said bottles of pills had been smashed and, in some cases, were strewn three inches thick on the floor of the cinder - block building.

The pills were identified as barbiturates, amphetamines, anti - smoking and weight-reducing drugs.

Police said the factory has been out of operation since 1960 and had been broken into previously.

A state police narcotics official said extra precautions have been taken at the factory to insure the protection of the remaining stores of drugs.

Officials Concerned

"Our main concern is the disposition of the drugs," the official said. "We have contacted county and state health officials to get the drugs out of the building and disposed of."

He said the pills had previously been condemned and are of no commercial value. He added, however, the material could be worth \$100,000 on the illicit drug market.

"There would be no problem getting \$100,000," he said.

An Ocean City detective said the equipment located in the plant contained "everything needed to start an illegal operation." He referred to mixing equipment and pill presses.

The factory has been boarded up for some time but last year, officials said, three children broke into the building and did a great deal of damage.

Matter Pursued

A state official said the matter will be pursued further and final action "will be taken."

A State Police narcotics investigator said he removed as much material as he could Friday. He said some of the material was in 25-pound containers.

Chief James Miller of Wenonah police said he contacted county health officials some months ago to have the drugs removed.

"They said they would look into it," Miller said this morning. "Nothing was taken before. The building had adequate locks on it. We've had no problems in the past."

Miller said he had been trying to get the factory cleared out for some time. Extra police patrols were used to keep the building under surveillance.

A state narcotics official said, "It's a shame the drugs were left like that. It's a hell of a source."