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Riot Squad Shows Off Its Firepower

By DICK AMAN

The staccato burp of a .45 caliber submachine gun caught the crowd's attention. Tracer rounds cut through the air accompanied by the ear - splitting explosions of a pump action shotgun and automatic weapons fire.

Fifty yards from the scene of the gun fire a car was ripped to shreds and burst into flames. Two fire bombs went off sending huge gasoline - black clouds rolling into the air. Red, green and white tear gas floated over the scene. Police dogs barked and growled on command.

If you had been at the intersection of Owens and Lexington - Ontario Rds. yesterday afternoon you could have heard and seen all the above action and a bit more.

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The Mansfield - Ontario - Richland County Tactical Unit, the first of its kind financed by the Ohio Law Enforcement Planning Agency (OLEPA), presented a three - hour demonstration of riot control to a crowd of over 200 persons at the Mansfield Police Pistol Range located near Clear Fork Reservoir.

Guests at the demonstration included city and village officials, police officers from throughout the state, Ohio National Guard representatives and business leaders from the Mansfield area.

Police Range Looks Like War Zone

For the purposes of the demonstration, the area was sealed off by a road - block at the intersection of Owens and Lexington - Ontario Rds. Three buses carrying the guests from city hall to the range were stopped and searched by sheriff's deputies and Mansfield policemen in riot gear.

"You are now entering a riot area. Please remain in your seats while the buses are searched," the announcement over a police loud speaker said. Two officers boarded the buses and on each bus found a suspected saboteur (actually plain clothes detectives) whom they arrested, much to the astonishment of the passengers.

But the surprises were not over for the guests.

After this brief introduction to riot control, the crowd was taken to bleacher seats at the pistol range while some of the 56 officers who made up the riot unit demonstrated equipment.

Every offensive weapon in the tactical unit's arsenal was fired. The police .38 caliber pistol, .30 caliber rifles, Thompson submachine gun and shotguns were all explained and then fired at targets.

A junk car was used to demonstrate the firepower of the weapons. There was a rear of shots with glass and metal flying wildly, then the car burst into flames.

The tactical unit's tear gas arsenal was displayed. Hand-held grenades which dispensed colorful smoke in red, green and white clouds were exploded and a strong wind billowed the gas over the area.

One new item was a pepper fogger, a portable machine which weighs less than 20 pounds and dispenses pepper gas. Held by an officer, the machine looks like a prop from the Buck Rogers comic strips. A cloud of cry - irritating fog can be laid over a large area in a few seconds.

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A tear gas rifle which fires everything from gas canisters to flares was demonstrated. Thanks to a cooperative wind the officers were able to plan the direction of the gas so that the crowd was not affected by it.

Mansfield Police Capt. Raymond Karamski showed several items used against police forces in riots across the country. Some of the rather potent weapons included a baseball through which a number of spikes have been driven to make a damaging missile, fire - bombs, rock bombs and several other incendiary devices.

At the conclusion of the talk, two fire-bombs, which had been placed in a bale of hay were set off with tracer rounds. The gasoline explosions were small but effective.

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At one point in the program, while master of ceremonies Igt. Don Mullin was speaking, rifle fire erupted from a small garage on the range. Across the field from the police obstacle course more shots were fired. Officers in the blue fatigue overalls charged out of the field in an assault on a sniper position in the garage.

Slowly under covering fire (blanks) the gas - masked officers advanced the 150 yards which separated them from the garage. Gas canisters were thrown to screen the assault on the building, then one officer wormed his way to the window of the building and dropped a tear gas grenade in the window.

The snipers burst from the building and were pounced on by waiting officers, handcuffed and led away to a waiting police van. Police Patrolman Robert Flood and James Pfahler, a traffic department employe, were the snipers.

Police dogs were demonstrated. Sheriff's Captain Robert Dysart and Police Patrolman Thomas Lee led two dogs in commands then ordered the dogs to attack a heavily padded officer.

Before the demonstration a tiny French poodle was led onto the range as a joke. The small pup was ordered to attack the padded officer and as the pup stood eyeing the policeman, the officer fainted from "fright."

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The joint tactical unit was financed by a federal training grant of nearly $42,000. The grant was arranged through the Richland County - North Central Council of Governments and was the first of its kind awarded police agencies through the Ohio Law Enforcement Planning Agency.

Lloyd Shupe, OLEPA senior analyst, who was a guest at the demonstration, said he was extremely impressed with the unit.

"The most amazing thing about this organization is the cooperation between the law enforcement agencies. It is very rare that any two police agencies will agree on anything let alone join together in mutual cooperation as they have done in Richland County," Shupe said.

Sheriff's Captain Robert Dysart and his "Buck Rogers" pepper fogger at riot-control demonstration.

Photo by Terry Wolf

Patrolman Dave Garvey levels a tear gas gun.

Park Department Almost Depletes Funds for Wages

By ELLEN McCLAHRAN

Financial difficulties have cropped up in yet another city department, now striking the park department which will apparently run out of money for employes' salaries early in October.

Payrolls can be met only through Oct. 2, Park Superintendent Frank Burton said at last night's park board meeting. President John Brown was the only park board member present. Absent board members were Benjamin Cujka and Jack D. Middlebrook.

Two city councilmen, Robert E. Boling and Richard A. Porter, were on hand to discuss the financial problems with Burton and Brown.

Only $7,700 remains in the account for park employes' salaries at this time. That account covers the salaries of 30 park employes, one of whom is a night patrolman. Burton's salary is not drawn on this account.

Projecting payroll demands to the close of the year, the account would show a deficit of approximately $14,600, Burton said.

Boling quoted a potential deficit of $35,000, based, he said, on reports from the city auditor's office. That figure, Boling amended, may be misleading since it apparently includes projections of salaries for seasonal employes, who will not remain on the payroll.

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Burton expressed hopes additional payroll money could be "found."

"There is no money to be 'found,'" Boling replied. "None has been 'lost.'" Boling indicated the park department "had been warned" last spring that payroll funds would be insufficient if seasonal help were hired.

The parks department was not consulted by council about payrolls needs before allocations were made, Burton charged. He stressed it was impossible to operate over 200 acres of city parks with fewer employes.

Brown suggested the possible use of $17,000 in the park department's capital improvements fund to meet payrolls for the remainder of this year.

Boling presented a letter from City Solicitor Robert K. Ruth indicating capital improvement funds cannot be used for payroll purposes.

"You mean we have money in the capital improvements fund to put in sides and swings and climb - arounds and no money to pay men to put them in?" Brown asked.

Brown implied that if no additional payroll money is obtained, all or most of the department's 30 employes may be laid off for the remainder of the year.

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Asked if 30 full - time employes were actually necessary during the winter months, Burton affirmed the need, explaining that much painting and repair work is carried out during the off - season. Further, he said, his department maintains six buildings for year - round use in various parks.

No official action was undertaken at last night's one - hour meeting, since Brown was the sole representative of the board present. Boling said a meeting of the council finance committee, which he heads, and the park board would be called early next week to go over the financial situation once more.

80-Unit Apartment Building Approved

By TERRY MAPES

A zoning variance to permit construction of an eight - story, 80 - unit apartment building for the elderly was approved yesterday by the city zoning board of appeals.

The building will be built at 55 Marion Ave. by Mansfield Memorial Homes, Inc. The variance was required because the proposed height, parking spaces and rear yard size were in violation of the city zoning code.

The board approved the variance on the condition that more hard - surface parking area be provided. Plans called for only 54 parking spaces on the opposite side of Blymyer Ave., but Jerome Kaplin, executive director of Memorial Homes, said the requirement could be complied with.

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Memorial Homes plans to apply for federal funding of the construction project, estimated to cost $1.25 million. Completion is not expected for two and a half years.

Regional Planning Commission Director Edward T. Meehan called it a highly desirable development and urged approval by the board. He said the building would stop downtown blight from spreading to the southwest. The area is well - suited for high density housing, especially for the aged because it is adjacent to the downtown, he added.

The board sought legal advice from City Solicitor Robert K. Ruth on another matter, that of a two - family dwelling at 400 Lawn Ave. which was built in violation of city setback requirements. A decision on a variance was delayed until Sept. 24.

Atty. Robert Mabee, representing Peter Ruppenthal, owner of the property, told the board that Ruppenthal had unintentionally erred when he first presented plans for the building to the city permit department. He had listed a setback of 28 feet, but had measured the distance from the curb instead of from the property line. Actually the setback is only 13 feet.

City inspectors did not verify the measurements, nor was the error discovered when an inspection was conducted at the time the footers were put in.

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Neighbors, represented by Atty. Loyal Demiller, told the board that they had complained to the permit department early in the construction but were assured that the setback was adequate because it corresponded with the plans submitted.

When construction was nearly completed, another complaint was registered. This time the measurements were checked by city inspectors and found to be in error. Construction was ordered stopped.

Mabee admitted that Ruppenthal was wrong, but he contended that the error was compounded by the neighbors not being more vocal in their complaints earlier and by the city's failure to verify the measurements.

He urged the board not to force his client to move back the $35,000 brick building. Instead, he suggested Ruppenthal be required to beautify the lot with trees and landscaping.

The board voted to delay the decision two weeks until the solicitor has given an opinion about where responsibility for the error lies. Ruppenthal was instructed not to continue construction.

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In other action yesterday, the board approved a variance permitting Edward Schuler to have a courtyard between the garages on a two - family dwelling at 558 Bailey Ave. and rejected a petition by Donald Smith, 132 Bartley Ave., to enclose a porch.

The board also passed a motion appealing to city council to adopt a new zoning ordinance as quickly as possible.

Dwelling Too Close to Street

TOO CLOSE — It wasn't until this double at 400 Lawn Ave. was nearly completed that city building inspectors found it violated setback requirements. Neighbors say the brick building is unsightly and want it moved back to the legal distance, but owner Peter Ruppenthal has petitioned the zoning board of appeals for a variance allowing it to remain. (Photo by Terry Wolf)

School Milk Prices Reduced

Milk prices for school pupils are coming down again — thanks to an extension of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's milk subsidy program.

City school officials have been advised by Wade Bash, chief of the School Lunch Division of the Ohio Department of Education, that "the milk agreement has been extended by continuing resolution until Oct. 15" . . . and that" it is anticipated that an appropriation bill will be passed by that time."

Milk prices in St. Peter's Cafeteria were reduced to four cents today. Children earlier had paid seven cents.

Mrs. Rose Kirri, cafeteria director, received word of the subsidy extension yesterday while city schools did not learn of it until this morning.

Milk prices in city school lunchrooms will be reduced on Monday. Pupils again will pay four, instead of seven cents, price of snacks for kindergarten pupils which had been 10 cents will be cut to a nickel because of the drop in milk prices, City Schools Supt. Robert E. Glass said.

St. Mary's School officials, and some others in the county, have not yet received official word of the subsidy extension.

Up and Down The Street

Musicians Sought

Mansfield - OSU students who are proficient at singing or playing an instrument are being sought by Music Instructor Richard Sonicori.

He advises that freshmen may try out for choral or instrumental positions the week of Sept. 14 — before upper classmen get back on campus — or if they do not make it then tryouts will be held again when classes start.

Welcome Letters

New students who are registered to attend Mansfield - OSU classes this fall soon will get letters of welcome. Dr. Robert Gibson, director, said first of his letters to the students will go into the mails this week.

Rovers to Meet

Upwards of 30 former Boy Scouts and Scout leaders, who formed the Frank R. Stahl Rover Crew in Mansfield in the 40s, will get together for their annual reunion Saturday at the home of R. H. McMullen, 1048 Briarwood Rd.

The meeting, which will mark the 30th reunion of the Rover Crew, will include a camp - style cookout, beginning at 4 p.m. The Crew is modeled over the Rover Crews of England and is named for the late Mansfield fire chief and prominent scoutmaster and council official.

Outlook 'Fair'

The Ninth Annual Art Fair on the Square, slated from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., tomorrow in Central Park, has a "fair weather friend," the weatherman.

The outdoor show, sponsored by the Mansfield Fine Arts Guild, should be helped by comfortable temperatures and a very low chance for rain. (The alternative rain date — just in case! — is the following Saturday.)

Students Given More Say-So in OSU Decisions

COLUMBUS (AP) — The Ohio State University Board of Trustees have granted students an expanded role in university decision making.

The trustees approved a recommendation from president Novice G. Fawcett Thursday that three students be added to the Council on Academic Affairs and three to the Research Council.

And plans for creation of a university ombudsman to field individual grievances from members of the academic community were also completed.

In addition, Fawcett submitted recommendations for reorganization and realignment of the central administrative structure of the university.

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"A university, to be vital, must have a responsiveness to the evolving needs of the people which it serves," he said. "It is my responsibility as president to effect realignment . . . which I believe will be most responsive to the needs of the university."

The administrative changes include making the provost and vice president for academic affairs the executive head of the Office of Academic Affairs, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and the Office of the Coordination of Minority Affairs.

Child Day Care Center Aided By 5 Churches

A second downtown child day care center primarily to serve working low - income parents will be established this fall with the corporation of five churches.

The committee representing the five churches announced yesterday the day care facility will be located at First United Methodist Church, 12 North Diamond St.

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This day care center will be operated by the five - church committee in cooperation with the Citizens for Child Development, a non-profit social welfare organization.

Churches participating in the venture are First United Methodist, Trinity United Methodist, St. John's United Church of Christ, Shiloh Community Baptist and Main Street United Methodist.

Citizens for Development, working with the First Christian Church, 300 West Third St., also will begin a similar day care operation at that church on Oct. 30.

Henry Albers, president of the board of First United Methodist, said the board voted unanimously to offer the church's facilities to house the day care center.

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As is the case with First Christian Church, the day care facility at First United Methodist will be able to accommodate up to 20 children, ages three to five years. Part of the financing for the two centers will come in the form of allowances for day care services made available to eligible welfare parents. However, the day care program is open to the general public, with fees determined according to the economic status of the individual family.

It will take an estimated $46,000 annually to run the two centers.

Mrs. Connie Hess of Lexington will be the director of both centers. An opening date for the First United Methodist center will be announced.

The five - church committee, under the direction of the Rev. William Seith, pastor of Trinity United Methodist, made a two - year study into the need for child day care services in the downtown area. The committee rated the need as a top priority project.

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