

Budget bind seen costlly by Catania

By MARTHA VAN ATTA
Special to the Times

DOYLESTOWN — Delay in adjusting Bucks County's budget could cost \$60,000 to \$100,000, claims Commissioner Joseph Catania.

The nearly \$40 million budget was adopted Dec. 30, but the new administration can make changes until Feb. 15. Tax bills are due to go out March 1, but it takes at least a month to prepare them once the real estate millage is set.

"The longer it takes to get the tax money in, the less interest it earns," explained Catania, the Democratic commissioner now beginning his second term.

During the past week it was revealed many of the departments may have been short-changed, which could cost the county an additional 4 mills in taxes.

Catania has steadfastly contended the money is already in the budget.

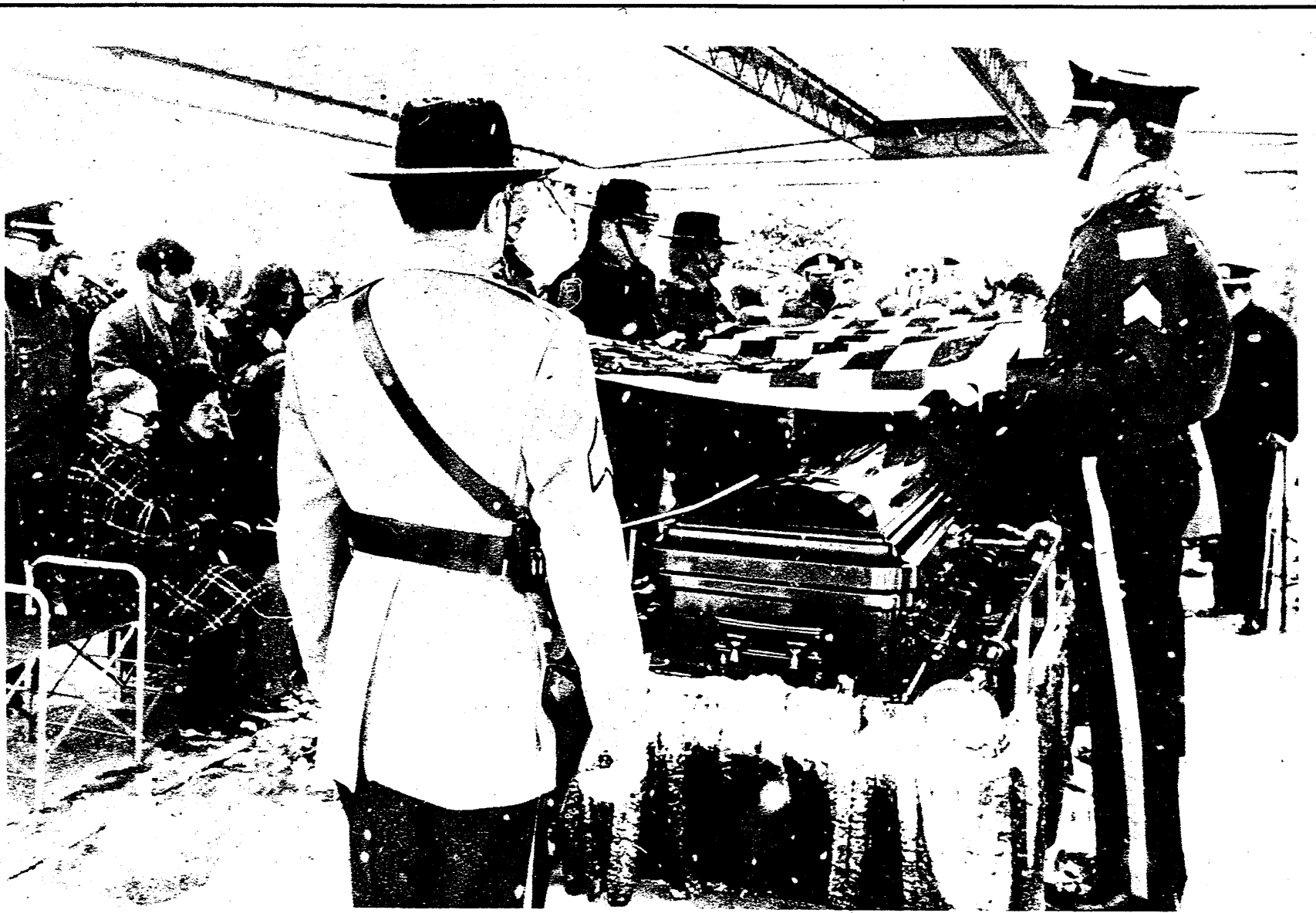
THE NEW REPUBLICAN commissioners, George Metzger and G. Roger Bowers, aren't so sure and have been reviewing the budget, department by department.

The feuding between Catania and the other two commissioners began hours after their inauguration, Catania seldom misses a chance to criticize them.

"They should be here right now working on the budget," Catania said yesterday.

Metzger and Bowers spent Monday and Tuesday in Harrisburg attending a "School for New Commissioners," sponsored by the State Association of County Commissions.

Catania was also among the missing Monday. He hadn't returned yet from his trip to Miami, Fla., for the Super Bowl game.



Staff photos by Colvin Soltiday



More than 1,000 police officers came to pay honor to slain Riverton Patrolman Thomas Whitelock yesterday in Lakeview Memorial Park. Palmyra Patrolman Howard Norcross (left), whose life Whitelock saved in a shootout, is helped back to his car after the services.

1,000 police give comrade final tribute

By BILL O'DONNELL
Staff Writer

CINNAMINSON — The snow fell quietly at Lakeview Memorial Park when Riverton Borough Patrolman Thomas Whitelock — slain by a mentally disturbed man — was buried yesterday with full police honors.

More than 1,000 officers from departments as far away as Connecticut and Maryland joined family and friends to pay tribute to a fallen comrade. In the cold afternoon the policemen stood at attention, their arms held in crisp salutes, as a bugler from the Philadelphia Police department played taps and a salute was fired into the cold air.

There is a bond between policemen that death can not separate.

"If you had a brother and he was killed, what would you do?" questioned a patrolman from Willingboro. "We don't say police officer, we say brother officer."

DESCRIBED BY his chief, Raymond Garman, as a man who "ate and slept police," Whitelock was shot to death last Wednesday with his own service revolver by Michael Logan of Lippincott Avenue, Riverton, an admitted drug user and former mental patient.

On that day Whitelock and Palmyra Patrolman Howard Norcross responded to a call from Logan's mother, Florence, who reported her son was attempting to emasculate himself.

During a scuffle at the bottom of a flight of side stairs Logan managed to grab Whitelock's holstered revolver.

The deranged man shot Norcross once, but then Whitelock, unarmed, threw himself in front of the wounded officer, allowing Norcross to fire his gun and kill Logan.

LATER NORCROSS said Whitelock used his body as a shield in what he called a "selfless act."

Although still recovering from his serious wound, Norcross, walking with the aid of a cane, stood silently near the coffin at the cemetery. His head was often bowed as he reached with his hands to wipe his eyes. He is scheduled to return to Zurbrugg Memorial Hospital in Riverside today for further treatment.

Memorial services for Whitelock began at 8:30 a.m. in Riverton. Over 200 police cars from departments throughout the state joined in a motorcade that began at the borough's police headquarters, traveled down to Palmyra and returned to Riverton.

Later, at 10 a.m. the officers, walking three abreast, marched from the Merion Caterers on Route 130 to the

(Continued on Page B2, Col. 4)

Falls sewer checks OK'd ...period

By JAMES LABIG
Staff Writer

FALLSINGTON — The two feuding "majorities" of the Falls Township Sewer and Water Authority agreed on one thing last night — the signing of checks.

The move means the authority probably will not be cut off by Fidelity Bank.

But the fight is still on, with no solution to the problem in sight.

The authority, normally a five-member board, now has six members, thanks to two appointments (one on Dec. 31, the other on Jan. 5) by two different majorities of the township's board of supervisors.

The disputed appointees makes the authority split evenly, with each three-member faction claiming to be the true majority and each having its own solicitor.

In a registered letter from Fidelity Bank, the bank announced it was cutting off the authority and refusing to honor signatures from either side until the matter was resolved.

LAST NIGHT, after a lengthy discussion, all six members agreed to a solution to the money question — a resolution was unanimously adopted requiring at least one signature from each faction on the checks.

Both sides and their solicitors agrees this should satisfy the bank and enable the payroll to be met and other necessary bills to be paid.

Many other questions are still unanswered. One faction has asked the board of supervisors to expand the authority to seven members, leaving both Clifford Owles and Mrs. Jean Keller, the two disputed appointees, on the authority and naming yet a seventh member.

So far, the supervisors have not acted on that request.

C.W. "Bud" Benz, the chairman of one of the factions, said if the supervisors don't act soon, he may ask the supervisors to disband the current six-member board and have the supervisors take over the operations of the authority.

Burlington-Bristol bridge rests completely with the county freeholders, who have the power to authorize a feasibility study and construction.

So far, the freeholders have not taken an official position on going ahead with a new bridge, but unofficially, they have frowned on the idea.

Meanwhile, the three bridge commissioners, who have been facing substantial opposition from Burlington City and Bristol residents, saw another setback to a new bridge Monday when the two Burlington County assemblymen who sponsored the law that would permit the commission to build a replacement bridge came out against the idea.

In a four-page letter to Freeholder Director Harold L.

Colburn the assemblymen, George H. Barbour and Charles B. Yates, urged the county to reject a new bridge.

They said the scope of the proposed bridge has mushroomed far beyond the original proposal, the project's estimated cost is unrealistically low, and that the toll level needed to pay off the bridge would drive users to competing bridges. They suggested that everyone involved take a "fresh look" at the project.

Colburn, however, said he had already decided against the bridge before the announcement by Barbour and Yates. "I am pleased that the legislators are joining us in expressing doubt about the bridge," Colburn said.

He said he would like to meet with the bridge commis-

sioners to review the repair plans for the existing bridge.

Commission chairman George W. Lee said a new Burlington-Bristol bridge is still needed, but that higher authorities have not fulfilled the obligation.

He said the county freeholders now have the burden to determine who should proceed with planning a new bridge. "We await their recommendations and action," he said.

Commissioner John E. Dimon said that long ago, the freeholders had given approval to the idea of a replacement bridge and that the commission proceeded in good faith from there.

Now, he added, the mood of the populace has changed, but the need is still the same.

A new Burlington-Bristol Bridge appears to be all but dead

MOUNT HOLLY — The Burlington County Bridge Commission apparently has all but given up hope for a replacement for the present two-lane Burlington-Bristol Bridge and is going ahead with plans to repair the present structure.

Bridge Commissioner John E. Dimon said specifications for the repair work will be ready in 30 to 40 days. He said planning for the needed repairs to the 47-year-old bridge has been underway for months.

The commission yesterday also withdrew its bid for part of the Burlington Ammunition Plant site which it had wanted for the new bridge. Burlington City was against the sale because it wanted the site left intact for industrial development.

The bridge commissioners said the future of a new

People

Billy Martin's daughter convicted

Kelly Ann Martin, daughter of New York Yankee baseball manager Billy Martin, faces up to six years in jail after being convicted yesterday of drug trafficking by a military tribunal in Barranquilla, Colombia. Sentencing is expected to be imposed within days.

Miss Martin was arrested at the Columbian airport last Nov. 16 as she was preparing to fly to Miami. She was charged with having 450 grams of cocaine. She pleaded innocent to the charge.

Miss Martin accused the customs officials who arrested her with attempted rape, but they charged that she tried to bribe them "including offering to have sex with them."

The authorities said Miss Martin apparently had established contact with a "big fish" in Colombia-U.S. drug trafficking.

Rita's scene was too real

Rita Hayworth, movie goddess of the 1940s, needed help getting off a TWA jetliner when it landed in London on a flight from Los Angeles.

"Miss Hayworth started shouting and waving her arms about. She didn't want to leave the plane," a TWA spokesman said.

The actress' representative said Miss Hayworth was "simply totally exhausted" but later regained her strength at her hotel.

The spokesmen for the actress said she intensely dislikes flying, that the flight was crowded and that this contributed to her nervous strain. She was half-lifted down the airport steps and was driven straight into London without passing through customs or immigration control.

Miss Hayworth considered the scene at the airport a "closed chapter."



RITA HAYWORTH ... helping hand

A Ford loses by a hair

President Ford's daughter, Susan, has lost an amateur ski race by only one-100th of a second. She covered the icy course at Vail, Colo., in 60.44 seconds yesterday, a hair over restaurant employe Jan Anderson's time of 60.43 seconds.

The race, which drew 130 entries, was the second for Miss Ford on a slalom course after a practice run on Monday.

A Bicentennial winner

Shelley Smith, a 17-year-old high school senior from Cresco, Iowa, has won the Bicentennial seniors competition sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals in Williamsburg, Va.

She defeated 102 other contestants in the finals to win a first-place award of a \$10,000 scholarship. She plans to attend the University of Minnesota to study law.

Competitors had to write a "Bicentennial Minute," and Miss Smith selected Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Each of the 102 contestants received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Japan-U.S. ties seen closer

Japanese Emperor Hirohito's visit to the U.S. last year contributed to closer ties between the two nations, according to John D. Rockefeller 3d, board chairman of the Japan-U.S. Society of New York.

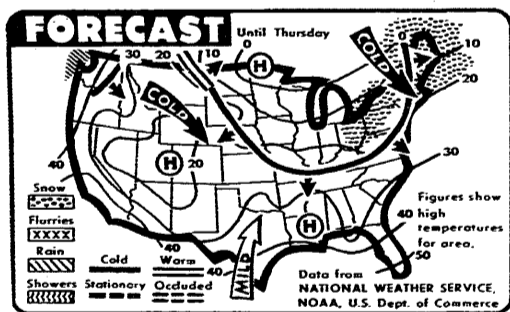
Rockefeller, who is also chairman of the Rockefeller Fund, made the remark in a courtesy call on Prime Minister Takeo Miki in Tokyo. Rockefeller is in Japan to attend opening ceremonies of the International House of Japan (Kokusai Bunka Kaikan) in Tokyo.

Miki expressed thanks for the U.S. good will accorded to the emperor and empress during their tour. Rockefeller is to leave Japan for South Korea next Saturday.

— GEORGE W. ROBINSON

Weather outlook

Snow is forecast from Ohio to the Northeast for today with cold weather expected over most of the nation.



More snow 50-50 bet

The National Weather Service forecast for today said there was a fifty-fifty chance that the area would get another inch of snow on top of yesterday's inch and a half.

Temperatures today were expected to reach the mid to upper 30s, but northwest winds up to 25 miles per hour were expected to drop the temperature tonight to below 20.

A high of about 30 was forecast for tomorrow as skies begin to clear for Friday and Saturday.

The extended outlook is for lows Friday and Saturday of about 15 degrees and highs in the mid to upper 20s.

Milder weather Sunday, with a high of about 40, is expected to be accompanied by still another chance of snow.

A Weather Service spokesman said the reason for this pattern of mild, snowy weather followed by clear, frigid weather is a series of low pressure systems moving slowly across the area from the west.

For example, the same low pressure system expected to drop snow in New Jersey today dropped as much as three inches in Kentucky and Ohio last night.

Snow fell yesterday throughout the Great Lakes area and in the Appalachians, but the Great Plains, the Rockies and the far West remained clear and dry.

Temperatures across the nation ranged from 14 below zero at Gunn-

son, Colo., to 73 at San Diego, Calif.

Weather conditions as reported by the National Weather Service, Trenton: Temperature, 27 degrees; humidity, 95 per cent at 8 a.m.

Sea level barometer: 29.99 inches and falling at 8 a.m.

Wind direction and velocity: South 2 MPH.

Low temperature this morning: 25.

Sun rose today at 7:17 a.m. and sets at 5:04 p.m.

High tide at Trenton 6:39 a.m. and 7:15 a.m.

Highest temperature at Trenton this date: 64 (1959).

Lowest temperature at Trenton this date: 2 (1879).

Normal for this date 32.

Yesterday's extremes: High, 29; low, 21.

Degree days yesterday, 40; total for the month, 74; total for the season to date, 2259.

Precipitation last 24 hours: .13 (Equivalent Snow Fall 1.4").

USGS river gauge at Cathoon Street Bridge: 14.90 feet and rising.

Reports from other cities:

Albuquerque	FAIR	51	21
Altoona	SUNNY	49	28
Boston	CLOUDY	36	27
Buffalo	SNOW	30	12
Charleston, S.C.	FAIR	53	31
Charleston, W.V.	SNOW	36	21
Charlotte, N.C.	FAIR	46	24
Chicago	CLOUDY	25	14
Cleveland	SNOW	24	15
Denver	FAIR	60	32
Detroit	SNOW	29	12
Fargo	CLOUDY	30	10
Helena	SUNNY	40	20
Houston	FAIR	62	38
Indianapolis	SNOW	27	14
Jacksonville	CLOUDY	58	32
Las Vegas	SUNNY	65	34
Little Rock	SUNNY	53	30
Los Angeles	SUNNY	84	52
Louisville	SHWRS	35	20
Miami Beach	CLOUDY	72	52
Minneapolis	CLOUDY	25	10
Mobile, Ala.	PTCLDY	25	20
Moist. St. Paul	CLOUDY	25	20
New Orleans	PTCLDY	58	40
Omaha	PTCLDY	43	23
Philadelphia	CLOUDY	36	20
Phoenix	SUNNY	72	46
Pittsburgh	CLOUDY	30	15
Portland, Me.	PTCLDY	29	15
Raleigh	CLOUDY	44	26
Rapid City	PTCLDY	49	24
Reno	SUNNY	54	32
St. Louis	CLOUDY	44	24
St. Prbg Tompa	PTCLDY	72	42
Salt Lake City	FOGGY	36	17
San Francisco	FAIR	53	33
Seattle	PTCLDY	51	40
Washington	CLOUDY	40	25

PUC hikes depend on who's there

By RICH KIRKPATRICK
Associated Press

HARRISBURG — Millions of dollars in rate hikes can go one way or the other before the Public Utility Commission, depending on which commissioners are present.

Two similar rate cases were decided differently yesterday.

One utility got one part of its two-step increase, meaning immediate additional rates of up to \$4.86 monthly for some customers.

The other was told it couldn't have either part now, but was offered about a quarter of the total to tide it over. But a clause was added to the temporary rate increase exempting about 65 per cent of the utility's customers, a utility spokesman said.

Why the difference? The full commission — with Democrats in control 3-2 — was present for the case where both parts were suspended. When the other case was decided two Democrats were missing and Republicans had control 2-1.

PHILADELPHIA Electric wanted to begin charging its customers about \$3 more a month beginning today, under a two-step \$94.5 million rate hike.

In a 3-2 party line vote yesterday morning, the PUC suspended the entire proposal for six months.

To help the company meet immediate needs, the PUC said it would agree to a temporary \$24.3 million rate hike.

But to get that, the company has to agree to limit the increase to those customers who use 500 kilowatts or more of electricity. A PE spokesman said about 65 per cent of its residential customers use less than that amount.

CUSTOMERS WHO use between 500 and 700 kw per month would pay about 60 to 75 cents more per month, instead of the \$1.50 proposed under the first step.

Company officials said they are studying the PUC's counter offer, authored by Democrat Helen O'Bannon.

Later yesterday, the Pennsylvania Gas and Water Co. had a two-step \$11.1 million hike before the PUC. The increase was to become effective today.

But when the vote was taken, two of the three Democrats were absent.

Chairman Louis Carter had to leave early because of a serious illness in the family.

Michael Johnson was called away to handle some other PUC chore just before the vote.

THE TWO Republicans — James McGirr Kelly and Robert K. Bloom — voted with Mrs. O'Bannon to suspend the \$5.1 million second part of PG&W's request.

But when Mrs. O'Bannon tried to have the first part suspended, Kelly and Bloom refused to second her motion.

Three votes were needed for any action.

Without the vote, the utility was able to put the \$6 million first step into effect automatically.

Some 108,000 customers in nine northeastern counties today begin paying between \$4.08 and \$4.86 more per month if they have gas heat. Nonheating customers will pay from 53 to 74 cents more.

THE SEEMINGLY schizophrenic behavior stems from the philosophical differences between the Democratic and Republican commissioners.

The Democrats are opposed to the two-step rate filing, started by PE in 1970. As practiced until now, the system assured utilities of getting immediate approval of the first part while the second part was suspended. Both parts usually were investigated further.

Mrs. O'Bannon talked yesterday of seeking a regulation to ban the two-step process. She said it is unfair to the consumer since the PUC needs more time to hold hearings and study the first steps.

The utilities turned to the two-step system because the PUC was taking almost a year to decide rate cases.

Mrs. O'Bannon said she hopes the PUC will cut the regulatory lag.

"IT'S GOING to bust everyone around here and require additional staff . . ." she said.

Carter noted that he wanted the PE case taken care of by May.

Meanwhile, Kelly decried the PUC's new attitude. Commenting during the PE case yesterday, he said it seemed to him that the PUC was letting utilities reach "the brink of losing their credit ratings" before granting rate relief.

He said he feared the PUC was "shooting from the hip."

He warned that the financial markets are looking closely at the PUC's actions. The wrong course would hurt the utilities when they try to sell bonds and stocks, he indicated.

The wisest choice, at least in the PE case, is to continue to use the two-step method and give the utility adequate rate relief, Kelly said.



Mrs. Josephine Whitlock leaves the cemetery after husband's burial.

Staff photo by Calvin Sotilodiv

Policeman's final tribute

(Continued from Page B1)

Snover-Dore Funeral Home.

It took the officers almost an hour to file past the coffin, which was guarded by the four remaining members of the Riverton force.

Before marching a mile in the snow from the funeral home to the cemetery at 1 p.m. the officers heard the Rev. Leonard Anderson, pastor of the Cinnaminson Baptist Church, say of Whitlock, "He gave his life to shield someone else, but in fact to shield us all."

"I am sure you feel as I do, almost

speechless because of the suddenness and wastefulness. . . We thank God for him. We thank God for you who serve the community," the Rev. Mr. Anderson continued.

At the graveside services, Whitlock's wife, Josephine, and his mother, Anna May, held each other tightly for support while an honor guard, composed of officers from Riverton, Palmyra and Cinnaminson, held an American flag over the coffin.

THE FLAG WAS folded and presented to Josephine Whitlock by

Chief Garman. Mrs. Whitlock clutched the flag and wept quietly.

In addition to his wife and mother, Whitlock is survived by a son, Thomas Anthony, 18 months, a daughter, Gina Marie, 5, and a sister, Barbara Jean Kazen of Holland.

A graduate of Camden County College with an associate degree in law enforcement, Whitlock was a senior at Glassboro State College where he majored in law and justice courses.

Funeral arrangements have yet to be completed for Logan, whose body remains in Rancocas Valley Morgue, according to police.

Lie test restrainer asked

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — The Dauphin County district attorney asked the State Supreme Court today to stop Gov. Milton J. Shapp from giving lie detector tests to Pennsylvania's state police commissioner and his deputy.

Dist. Atty. LeRoy Zimmerman said publicity on the tests would prejudice the case against Commissioner James D. Barger and his deputy, Roy O. Wellendorf. Dauphin County Court has ordered that both officers be criminally charged in a scheme to delete references to trooper drinking

from accident reports.

The petition seeks a preliminary injunction against the tests, which Atty. Gen. Robert P. Kane said could be administered this week. Shapp ordered the tests to determine whether Barger and Wellendorf told a special grand jury the truth in denying roles in the record altering plan.

Kane was not available for comment and it was not known whether the tests have been administered.

Shapp said last week the tests would help him decide the futures of

Barger and Wellendorf. He said the tests would have no bearing on the criminal case against them.

While formal criminal complaints have not yet been filed, Zimmerman was directed to charge Barger with conspiracy to tamper with public records and perjury before the grand jury that investigated the record doctoring plan.

Wellendorf will be charged with perjury and Maj. Charles Buchinsky, director of the Bureau of Patrol, will be charged with conspiracy to tamper with public records and solicitation to tamper with public records.

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