

TEEN-AGERS HELD ON DRUG CHARGES

20 Seized at a Candy Store in Queens—Heroin Found

By BARBARA CAMPBELL

Twenty Queens high school students were arrested on narcotics charges yesterday in a candy store a block away from their school.

The police said that the students were enrolled in Martin van Buren High School, at 232d Street and Hillside Avenue in the Bellerose section of Queens, a predominantly middle-class section. The arrests were made at 231st Street and Hillside Avenue.

The police said that they had found six glassine packets of heroin on the floor of the candy store and four more packets in the pockets of 17-year-old Curtis Walton, who lives at 177-49 Leslie Road, St. Albans.

The other 19 teen-agers, ranging in age from 13 to 17, including four girls, were charged with loitering for the purpose of using narcotics, a misdemeanor. Four of them—from 13 to 15 years old—will appear in Family Court on Monday. The rest were arraigned last night in Criminal Court.

Other Arrests Made

Several arrests have been made in the candy store in recent months, according to the police, including nine in January.

Earlier yesterday morning plainclothes detectives, two men and a woman, made another arrest near a city high school. They arrested 17-year-old Wanda Richards at The Sandwich Corner, 34 Irving Place, directly across from Washington Irving High School. The policemen said they had seen Miss Walton pass a glassine packet of heroin to a teen-aged girl with school books sitting at a table in the luncheonette.

The detectives added that they had seen Miss Walton drop three packets on the floor. When she attempted to retrieve them, according to the police, she was arrested.

Sixty-four packets of heroin, worth \$5 each, were found in her possession when she was searched at the 13th Precinct station, the police said. She was arraigned yesterday on a charge of selling narcotics, a felony.

The police raided a "drug factory" yesterday in a Harlem apartment at 108 East 101st Street and arrested 55-year-old Evangelista Bonella and José Melendez at the apartment.

According to the police, Mr. Bonella, who is a grandfather and Mr. Melendez, who lives at the 146 West 80th Street, operated a drug factory that grossed between \$4,000 and \$5,000 a week. The drugs, heroin and marijuana, police said, were sold to neighborhood schoolchildren.

Mr. Bonella and Mr. Melendez were charged with felonious sale of narcotics, possession of narcotics implements and possession of a dangerous weapon—a .22-caliber revolver that was allegedly found in the apartment.

Judge Arthur H. Goldberg of Criminal Court set bail for each at \$10,000. A hearing will be held on March 18.

Center to Reopen

In another narcotics-control move yesterday, Deputy Mayor Robert M. Morgenthau announced that a controversial Phoenix House narcotics center in Far Rockaway, Queens, would be reopened. It was closed last October—after only being open for several days—because of opposition by members of the community to narcotic addicts living in the area.

Mr. Morgenthau said community leaders who had opposed the facility originally had changed their minds after visiting a Phoenix House in Brooklyn.

Another narcotics facility is threatened with closing—the Synanon House at 35 Riverside Drive. It is not an addicts therapeutic community but an intake center for addicts who are sent to Synanon in Santa Monica, Calif. Plans are being made, according to Edward Siegel, a member of the Board of Synanon, to sell the building, which houses eight staff members and two teachers.

The intake center has forwarded more than 3,000 East Coast addicts to California in the eight years it has been open. They are flown out by Synanon the same day they come in.

The Medical Examiner's office reported one heroin-related death yesterday. A 33-year-old man in Manhattan, who was not fully identified, died of abscesses caused by dirty hypodermic needles.

The total of heroin-related deaths according to Dr. Michael Baden, assistant chief teen of these died directly from acute reactions to heroin and nine died from infections caused by dirty needles. Fifteen, Dr. Baden said, died by shooting or stabbing or falling from buildings while attempting to burglarize buildings under the influence of heroin. Two of the fifteen were suicides.

Nine hundred heroin-related deaths occurred last year, and Dr. Baden estimated that at least two-thirds were from acute reactions to heroin.