

# Family lives in shadow of mom's drug charges

By TERESA BANAS

"As far as I know, I'm going to change my last name," he said in broken hesitation. "It's hard living under it right now."

Those are the words of Michael Langowski, eldest son of Roberta Langowski, a Redford woman arrested last week in Michigan's largest heroin bust. Since last week's arrest, Mrs. Langowski, 39, has been released on bond. But for her family of five sons, there has been no release from the stigma.

As one son admitted, they're just trying to live around it right now. Life goes on, including attending school with no excuses.

That's what a visit to the home one day this week revealed. When school ended, the boys returned one by one. Each asked if their mother was home (she had been out for the afternoon). After a snack, a few drifted out with friends to indulge in an after-school sport.

The television was playing in the family room, a comfortably decorated atmosphere with a bird cage, fish tank and colorful sombrero hanging from the wall.

"Just being themselves is helping them get along," said Lionel Delarosa, Mrs. Langowski's brother.

Two family pets, a German shepherd and a smaller poodle-like dog, romped in the room vying for attention from the group.

MRS. LANGOWSKI was arrested by federal agents last week in Detroit. The arrest led to a search of her house, where 22 pounds of heroin were found. She was charged with its possession and distribution.

It has been reported that she and 10 others were arrested on drug charges in September 1976. But those charges were dismissed for insufficient evidence.

It was also reported that Mrs. Langowski shared the home with Richard Canales, who was later sentenced to 15 years in prison for drug charges.

While the Langowski children denied another man shared the home, Canales' name is listed as one of two homeowners. The other is Mrs. Langowski's mother, Christine Delarosa, who lives with the family.

ACCORDING TO Michael Langowski, 20, some of the kids have been harassed—"pushed around." He worries that fights may break out. There's also been some mocking from people on the street.

Although they are faced with prejudicial treatment from some neighbors, he says they have maintained a high morale.

There's also been some personal changes in his life, which he directly attributes to the charges against his mother. He was recently dropped from his job at Korvette's Department Store, where he was employed since last September. The action took effect last Monday.

The other four sons attend Thurston High School and Pierce Junior High. Rene Rodolosi, Pierce principal, says he is not aware of any harassment in the school building. "Apparently, they're doing the best they can under the circumstances."

"The staff has been very silent about this," he added. "We don't even talk about it."

Rodolosi describes the younger of the two sons as a "very fine young man. I understand he's a fairly good student and relatively quiet."

"THE SECOND ONE is a little bit more active, a little faster than a normal child to express his opinion. But nothing that can be labeled incorrigible."

Michael says they don't talk about the incident at home, but sympathy from friends has helped.

However, one of the most startling reactions to last week's incident came up in a visit from a neighbor, who brought over a shotgun shell, pointed it at Michael and said, "This is for you."

Another neighbor on the block says he hasn't noticed anything disturbing at the home on Meadow Park, other than occasional loud noises emitted from cars pulling into the Langowski driveway.

"It's a quiet street," he said.

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