

Hazen leaves undersheriff job, future in doubt

By ROBERT KIPPER
OAKLAND COUNTY—Undersheriff Leo Hazen ended his 26 years of service with the county sheriff's department Friday.

Caught between Sheriff Johannes Spreen, who wanted former Detroit police commissioner John Nichols as his undersheriff, and a committee of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, which was unwilling to create a new position for Hazen—the 50-year-old policeman is, for the time being at least, jobless.

A new administrative position for Hazen could be found or created, in the future. Monday, however, the county undersheriff's office will be occupied by Nichols.

HAZEN'S EMPLOYMENT status with the county—which has been in limbo for almost a month—was settled Friday when commissioners on the Personnel Practices Committee decided they couldn't justify creating

'Spreen is playing politics with a man who has been on the force 23 years' Commissioner Paul Kasper (R-23)

the position of jail administrator to keep Hazen employed.

It was almost a month ago when Sheriff Spreen announced his decision to replace Hazen—a longtime political rival—with Nichols who is a longtime friend and police associate of Spreen's.

Spreen gambled that the Personnel Practices Committee, which has been reluctant to approve Spreen's requests for more personnel, would reverse itself and approve the extra position so that Hazen wouldn't be stranded.

However, if, as the sheriff insisted, his desire was to have both Nichols and Hazen on his "team," his maneuver failed.

Asked by the Personnel Practices Committee to make a recommendation on the matter, the county administrative division said Friday that creating a jail administrator was unnecessary duplication. Someone else already has that responsibility, if not the title, the administration said.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS agreed, asking only that the administrator investigate if something else could be

found so that Hazen can return to the county someday.

Commissioner Paul Kasper (R-23), of Bloomfield Hills, defended the committee's decision.

"It was an act of responsible government," he said. "We don't want to spend \$23,000 (Hazen's expected salary if transferred) on a job that isn't needed."

Kasper accused Spreen of "playing politics with a man who has been on the force 23 years." He said the sheriff wanted Hazen out but attempted to make it appear he didn't.

"He wanted to use commissioners to soften the blow of having Hazen fired," Kasper charged.

Hazen had little to say when contacted Friday. He said Sheriff Spreen informed him only that morning that the waiting period was over: Nichols would be undersheriff on Monday.

Although he sounded sad, Hazen didn't criticize Spreen. He said he

might have something more to say in several days.

Parting, would be difficult, Hazen said.

"I have seen this place grow from a

department of 40 men to one with 280 men. I was instrumental in building the jail facility. I couldn't help but have feelings about the department and the people that work here."

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News from the campus

BAND MEMBERS

Six area residents are members of the MSU Spartan Marching Band, which will perform at halftime in seven football games this year.

In the 250 member band are: Jerry Vincent, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Vincent, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Vincent, a sophomore majoring in music education, Dennis Wozniak, son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Wozniak, a sophomore majoring in biochemistry. Both Vincent and Wozniak are 1973 graduates of Troy High School.

The following students from Birmingham are also members: Harry Hirt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hirt, Jr., and a junior majoring in medical technology and a 1972 graduate of Andover High School; Michael Fisher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Fisher, and a freshman at the University. He graduated from Seaborn High in 1973.

Ken Erickson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Erickson is a 1971 graduate of Groves High School. He is a senior majoring in mechanical engineering.

Brad Ethington, a 1972 graduate of Seaborn High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Plut J. Ethington and a major in biochemistry.

EXTENSION CENTER FACULTY

The appointment of four area residents to the regular instructional staff at the University of Michigan-Dearborn was announced Oct. 18.

Edward H. Honors of West Bloomfield will be a lecturer in chemistry. Theodore G. Sill of Farmington was named adjunct lecturer in Humanities (Larry D. Bell of Birmingham has been named lecturer in industrial and systems engineering; and Denis L. Royston also of Birmingham was appointed adjunct lecturer in professional engineering.

WSU THEATER FELLOWSHIPS

Eric Barr and Linda Conner Baldwin have received a Hilberry Theatre Fellowship at Wayne State University to participate in theatre production while working toward a graduate degree in the field of theatre.

They will be working with 21 actors, 16 technicians and five administrative assistants, representing 18 states. Eric Barr, son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Barr of Bloomfield Hills, returns to the Hilberry after a year of study with Ecole Jacques LeCoeq, the French mime artist, in Paris. Barr is a 1972 BFA graduate of WSU and is pursuing an MFA degree in directing while at the Hilberry. Besides numerous appearances on the Hilberry and Bonstelle stages, Barr has taught sign mime for deaf theatre and has directed a deaf theatre presentation of "Garden Party" for the WSU Student Theatre.

Linda Conner Baldwin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alger Conner of Farmington, holds a Hilberry fellowship as a technical assistant. A 1973 graduate of WSU, she has worked with the Detroit Music Hall and the Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater.

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