

# Labor Department cuts construction firm fine

A \$10,400 fine levied against a construction company stemming from a fatal crane accident in Canton Township has been reduced to a \$200 fine by the Michigan Department of Labor's construction safety division.

The construction worker, Chuck Kennedy, 23, of Livonia, was the second son in his family to be killed while working with a crane operated by Actelli and Peterman Poured Wall Co. of Farmington. In July, Keith Molin, director in the department of labor, charged the company with "willful" violation of state safety standards in the June 17 accident.

However, Nate Nordin, review officer for the construction safety division, said that in reviewing the case, it was decided that the penalty levied was too high.

The charge, "willful" violation of Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act (MIOSHA), was changed after the company appealed to a "serious" violation of the act.

The company accepted the new decision, Nordin said, and paid the \$200 fine.

THE REDUCED charge and much lower fine was ordered, in part, Nordin said, because state investigators erroneously based some of their findings on the poor safety record of another construction company in Flint which is also named Actelli.

The MIOSHA regulation which Actelli and Peterman of Farmington didn't comply with was a 1975 stipulation that the swing radius of a crane's counterweight must be roped or barricaded to prevent anyone from walking

into its path. Kennedy was crushed when he walked between the rotating counterweight and the frame of the crane.

After the accident, a labor department official said that the company had been cited previously by a MIOSHA inspector for failing to shield other moving parts of the crane's machinery. However, Nordin said that a check revealed no inspection had been made at an Actelli and Peterman site since the MIOSHA requirements went into effect in 1975. As a

result, a \$400 fine for the alleged violation was dropped.

Because there were no inspections made until the accident occurred and because of the company's small size, Nordin said, it was decided that a \$200 fine would be sufficient.

Kenneth Kennedy, father of the fatally injured young man, still works for Actelli and Peterman. When informed of the reduced fine, Kennedy said he had no interest in the proceedings.

## Holiday activities slated at schools

Throughout the Christmas season various Farmington schools will be featuring special activities.

A full agenda is slated for tonight with a holiday festival being sponsored at Wood Creek Elementary, 28400 Harwich, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Also on Nov. 8 is a winter concert at Harrison High School, 2995 Twelve Mile, to begin at 8 p.m. at Power Junior High School, on Gill north of Eight Mile, at 8 p.m.

Farmington High School will sponsor a Christmas concert on Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. The school is located at 33000 Thomas, just north of Shiawassee.

A holiday assembly will be at Larshire Elementary on Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The school is located at 23800 Tuck.

Dec. 14 will be a busy evening of celebration with five of the area schools hosting activities.

Kicking off the activities will be a gymnastic show at Beechview School, 2850 Westmeath, beginning at 10 a.m. and lasting until 2:30 p.m. Also that day will be a holiday assembly at Kenbrook, 32120 Bonnet Hill. The activities last from 10:40 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.

Grace School will have an international holiday festival at 1:30 p.m. The school is at 28940 Shiawassee. North Farmington will sponsor its holiday concert at 8 p.m. The school is located at 32900 Fourteen Mile. East Junior High School will have its winter concert at 8 p.m. at Harrison High School, 2995 Twelve Mile.



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