

# Police break up year-old extortion plot

A burglary and extortion scheme involving seven carved ivory religious statues, stolen more than a year ago from a township home, was stopped by a network of local police and the Oakland County Organized Crime Unit.

Two arrests were made, with the possibility of more to follow, according to Sgt. Mike Madigan of the West Bloomfield Police.

Two-foot high religious figurines on bases — worth an estimated \$100,000 — were among items stolen from a Portpool address March 12, 1982. Two occupants — a man and woman

— were bound and gagged during the daytime burglary. In which three "clean-cut, suited men posing as federal Drug Enforcement Administration agents," forced their way into the home at gunpoint and ransacked the house, Madigan said.

JEWELRY, CAMERAS, a handgun and \$400 in cash were among the items stolen.

The owner of the house, who bought the statues as an investment in 1972, recently alerted West Bloomfield police that he had received several tele-

phone calls asking him if he were interested in buying them back for \$60,000.

The statues were traced to Florida, where, under police direction, a plot was hatched to return and sell them in the Detroit area.

Last Thursday in Flat Rock, police waited for and intercepted a car, whose driver and passenger allegedly had transported the statues from Florida.

THE CAR driver and passenger, Susan Marie Whitman, 31, and Lonnie Arthur Steven, 47, both of Taylor, were

arrested and arraigned on charges of receiving and concealing stolen property over the value of \$100 in Wayne County District Court.

Both stood mute and were released on \$5,000 personal bond. Examination is set for 9 a.m. Monday in Woodhaven District Court.

"The investigation is continuing," Madigan said. More arrests in Oakland County are expected.

The statues are seven of a matched set of eight which were created by a Pakistani artist over a 20-year period, Madigan said.

## Tracing personal history discussed

Arthur Kurzweil, author of "From Generation to Generation — How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Personal History," will be the featured speaker at the annual Spring Forum of the Women's Division of the Jewish Welfare Federation, 9:15 a.m. Thursday, April 21, at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.

For further information, contact Bertha Chomsky, assistant director of Women's Division, at 955-3939.

Kurzweil has uncovered hundreds of sources to help Jewish families with the major challenge of tracing their roots, a difficult task since many records have been destroyed. The lecture

and television interviewer will look at where we have come from and "Now that we have a better sense of where we've come from, what do we do with it?"

Spring Forum is one of the many activities of Women's Division, whose year-round focus is education, fund raising and service.

The event will be chaired by Annie Cohen of Huntington Woods, with associate chairman Barbara Zack of West Bloomfield. Among the many women involved in planning the event are Shirley Loewenthal, Southfield and Prina Basse and Leslie Friedman of Farm-

ington Hills, decorations: Huntington Woods resident Linda Soberman, invitation design; and Karen Singer of Southfield, Forum secretary.

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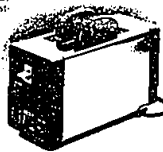
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to Riverfront	8:18	8:18	8:48
to Riverfront	8:45	8:45	9:15
to Riverfront	9:12	9:12	9:42
to Riverfront	9:39	9:39	10:09
to Riverfront	10:06	10:06	10:36
to Riverfront	10:33	10:33	11:03
to Riverfront	11:00	11:00	11:30
to Riverfront	11:27	11:27	11:57
to Riverfront	11:54	11:54	12:24
to Riverfront	12:21	12:21	12:51
to Riverfront	12:48	12:48	1:18
to Riverfront	1:15	1:15	1:45
to Riverfront	1:42	1:42	2:12
to Riverfront	2:09	2:09	2:39
to Riverfront	2:36	2:36	3:06
to Riverfront	3:03	3:03	3:33
to Riverfront	3:30	3:30	4:00
to Riverfront	3:57	3:57	4:27
to Riverfront	4:24	4:24	4:54
to Riverfront	4:51	4:51	5:21
to Riverfront	5:18	5:18	5:48
to Riverfront	5:45	5:45	6:15
to Riverfront	6:12	6:12	6:42
to Riverfront	6:39	6:39	7:09
to Riverfront	7:06	7:06	7:36
to Riverfront	7:33	7:33	8:03
to Riverfront	8:00	8:00	8:30
to Riverfront	8:27	8:27	8:57
to Riverfront	8:54	8:54	9:24
to Riverfront	9:21	9:21	9:51
to Riverfront	9:48	9:48	10:18
to Riverfront	10:15	10:15	10:45
to Riverfront	10:42	10:42	11:12
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