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# Nine Nazis Captured In Terror Bombings



Menlo Park Police Chief Victor Cizanckas with guns, ammo, powder, Nazi symbols seized in ring roundup

Examiner Photo

NORMAN LEVING →

# Peninsula Policeman Nails Gang

By Norman Levine

An undercover Menlo Park policeman brought about the arrests yesterday of eight men and a woman for more than 30 terroristic bombings in the South Peninsula.

The policeman posed for three weeks as an American Nazi sympathizer who hated his "Communist pinko" police chief.

Chief Victor Cizanckas, who even worked up phony police files for the undercover man to "steal," gave Officer Armand Lareau, 25, full credit after 40 Peninsula police seized the suspected bombers in their homes.

Thirty guns and 75 pounds of black powder were confiscated — along with Adolf Hitler's picture, swastikas and a copy of Hitler's Mein Kampf.

The arrests were aimed at solving a months-long series of bombings directed at such targets as Concerned Citizens for Peace, an anti-war group and backers of the highly unorthodox Mid Peninsula Free University which has home classes on sex, non-violence and worldwide politics.

## OUT OF TOWN

Friday night, before yesterday's raids, Cizanckas sent Lareau out of town with his wife and the baby girl born to her while her husband was infiltrating Nazi sessions.

Lareau will be kept out of reach until the trials.

"That's how serious the case is," Cizanckas said.

Lareau, two years on the Menlo force and still talking with the New England accent of his native Worcester, Mass., got the assignment because he already knew one suspect.

Most of the Nazi meetings were held at the home of James McGee, 34, a dental technician at 1001 University Dr., Menlo Park. McGee and his wife, Donna, 32, were among the eight arrested.

## ORDEAL BY GUNS

Once during an early meeting, Lareau stood unflinching as guns were pointed against his head to test him out.

"I told them the chief was a Commie pinko and those people bought it," Lareau said.

Asked to steal documents from police files as proof of his role of a Communist hater, the 160-pound, black-

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haired Lareau took his problem to Cizanckas.

The chief worked up a fake file and had Lareau take it to the next meeting.

Others under arrest:

John Ross Mirto, 24, a technician of 644 California St., Palo Alto, reported by police to be selling guns and ammunition as a sideline.

J. D. Cooney, 50, a chemical engineer of 353 Waverly Dr., Menlo Park, who was arrested last year for passing out right-wing literature at Menlo Atherton High School. He later got into a scuffle with Belmont's Mayor Morton Podolsky during a United Nations Day tree-planting ceremony.

Donald K. Smith, 22, a shipping clerk and roommate of Mirto.

Robert Lake, 24, a clerk of 962 15th Ave., Redwood City.

Walter LeMar Peddy, 24, a painter of 1085 15th Ave., Redwood City.

Douglas Scott Neher, 18, a service station attendant of 119 Nevada St., Redwood City.

Steven Brent McLean, 20, of 171 Lucero Way, Menlo Park, who went to the police station and gave himself up late yesterday.

They were jailed primarily on two charges:

- Advocating, teaching and aiding and abetting crimes of sabotage to effect political change.

- Conspiring and preparing to bomb and throw tear gas at a meeting last Thursday of the Mao Tse-tung class at Palo Alto Unitarian Church. The attack didn't come off.

Police from Redwood City, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Mountain View and Los Altos took part in the raids.

Among the weapons seized was an illegal semi-automatic rifle; seven other rifles ranging from a short carbine to a

high-powered hunting weapon; five shotguns, five pistols and automatics. Several dozen boxes of ammunition were confiscated.

## ARMS IN HOMES

Most of the arms were found at the homes of Cooney, Neher, Mirto and McGee.

Also seized was a slingshot with a heavy, carved-out handle.

Chief Cizanckas said Neher also will be charged with possession of stolen goods because records and personnel files taken in a burglary were found in his home.

Cizanckas is issuing a special commendation for Lareau's work and said he would seek an award for him from the Bay Area Police Association.