

12/87

3 convicted of bilking Cambridge woman must repay nearly half the \$113,000 they received for 'repairs'

By Paul Hirshson
Globe Staff

Three men were found guilty this week of bilking a 67-year-old Cambridge woman of about \$113,000 in a home repair scheme, but, according to police, the unidentified victim will get back almost half her money.

The scheme, according to police, lasted from March to August of this year and nearly depleted the woman's life savings.

It started when the men knocked on her door and offered to paint her home. After they began painting, police said, they convinced her that many other repairs were needed to the single-family house where she lived alone. Police would not identify the woman.

"A lot of the work they talked her into," said Cambridge Det. Sgt. Richard Bongiorno, "was in

areas where she couldn't inspect, such as on the roof and the chimneys and in the basement, where she was reluctant to go."

Convicted this week in East Cambridge District Court were Raymond Martin, 55, of Hudson, N.H.; George LaPlante, 42, and Patrick Dowling, 29, both of Lowell. The men were charged with larceny by false pretense and conspiracy to commit larceny by false pretense.

They were sentenced to suspended prison terms ranging from 2½ to five years, on the condition they pay back their victim. The men will make a substantial cash payment now, and will repay the rest at \$200 a month. In all, police said, the woman will get back about \$49,000.

The men will remain on supervised probation for five years, according to court officials.

The men did the work in the name of Martin Roofing Co. of Hudson, N.H., according to police. What work they actually did, according to city building authorities, was worth about \$8000.

According to Bongiorno, who with his partner, John K. Jones, tracked the men from Washington, D.C., to New Hampshire, "They would intimidate her ... would never give her estimates, they'd work on chimneys and the roof where she couldn't inspect it. When they gave her receipts and she'd question the amount, they'd threaten her with court action."

The scheme came to light, police said, when the victim confided her concerns to a friend, who asked police to investigate.

A fourth defendant in the case, James McArdle, 56, of Lowell, faces trial on Jan. 25.

BOSTON

BOSTON ATHLETIC CLUB 653 Summer St. 269-4300, 11:30-3, buffet style. Public Welcome.
BOYLSTON PARK CAFE at the Sheraton Boston 236-2000, Plaza level, offering a theme brunch, 10:00 AM—3:00 PM, reservations recommended.
MONTANAS (536-3556) 160 Commonwealth Ave., 11:30-3:30 Excellent Food, Live Jazz.
UNION OYSTER HOUSE (227-2750) 41 Union Street, Boston's Oldest Restaurant.
VINNY MARINO'S CASA (323-9505) 4161 Washington St., Roslindale. Italian cuisine. Deluxe Buffet \$5.95. All you can eat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
SEASONS (523-4119) At the Bostonian Hotel overlooking Faneuil Hall. Offering a brunch so nice we serve it twice. A la carte menu. SAT. (12-2 p.m.) & SUN. (12-3 p.m.)

BROOKLINE

CAPUCINOS (731-4848) 1370 Beacon Street, Brookline. Northern Italian Ristorante (527-2440) 1114 Beacon Street, Newton. Serving from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

CAMBRIDGE

CHRISTOPHER'S (876-9180) 1920 Mass. Ave. Live Jazz. 11:30-3:00.
"33 DUNSTER ST." (354-0636) Fabulous Buffet Brunch 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

COHASSET

HUGO'S LIGHTHOUSE RESTAURANT (383-1700). BOSTON MAGAZINES 'BEST BRUNCH'. On Cohasset Harbor with live jazz band. The best view, best buffet. Truly Boston's best brunch. 11-3.

HINGHAM

WHITON HOUSE (749-5325) Exit 14, off Rte. 3. Delightful Country Dining.

SANDWICH

DAN'L WEBSTER INN (888-3622) Old Village Center Brunch served in the sunlit conservatory \$4.95 to \$14.95. Beautiful setting, piano music, ★★ ★★ country inn.

MARBLEHEAD

THE LANDING (631-1878). Front Street. Leisure Dining Overlooking Marblehead Harbor.

NATICK

THE DESIREE (235-2468 or 653-5000) at The Hilton Inn at Natick. Serving 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

NORWOOD

CARLA'S A restaurant and Cafe, 769-9000, 171 Nahatan Street, Norwood Center. Sunday Brunch 12-3:30. "A Touch of Manhattan" on Nahatan. Reservations suggested.

REMSKOE

after police matched plastic fragments with pieces of his truck's grill.

Vissa is scheduled to appear Jan. 8 at Wareham District Court for a pretrial conference on his appeal.

Ex-aide sues Langone in dispute over cafe

Globe City Hall Bureau

A West End woman who once served as administrative assistant to former Boston city councilor Frederick C. Langone is suing Langone for \$600,000 in damages for allegedly failing to provide her with an ownership interest in a Haymarket district cafe for which he has acted as attorney.

In a complaint filed in Suffolk Superior Court two weeks ago, Gail A. Fasano, 30, charges that she performed "certain work and labor as a design and management consultant" for establishing Cafe Internationale, which opened last summer in the Bostonian Hotel building.

#3

Councillor David Sullivan

January 7, 1985

whereas:

It has come to the attention of this City Council that due to excellent criminal investigation police work by two Cambridge Police officers three men were found guilty of conducting a flim-flam construction scheme which involved a 67 year old Cambridge woman, and
whereas:

This scheme ~~later~~ which consisted of these men talking the woman into much unneeded work in areas of ^{her home} ~~where~~ which she couldn't inspect to ensure that the work was in fact done, and

whereas:

Through the tireless efforts of
 Detective Sergeant Richard Bongiorno and
 Detective John E. Jones the three suspects
 were apprehended, ~~and~~ tried and found
 guilty of kidnapping this elderly, resident
 of \$ 113,000, and

whereas:

These individuals received suspended
 prison terms ranging from 2 1/2 to 5 years
 on the condition that they pay back their
 victim, making a substantial cash payment
 immediately and while making regular monthly
 payments to her

Now Therefore Be It

Resolved:

That this City Council go on record
 attending its sincere appreciation to
 Detective Sergeant Richard Bongiorno and
 Detective John K. Jones for their successful
 completion of this criminal investigation and
 for their ability to bring these suspects
 to trial, and be it further

Resolved:

That the City Clerk be and hereby
 is requested to forwarded suitably en-
 grossed copies of this ~~without~~ resolution
 to the re Affairs and to the Chief

(4)

of Police and Chief of the entire
City Council and for inclusion
in these ^{affairs} personnel file.



City of Cambridge

3.

COUNCILLOR DAVID SULLIVAN

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 7, 1985

- WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that due to excellent criminal investigation by two Cambridge Police Officers, three men were found guilty of conducting a flim-flam construction scheme which involved a 67 year old Cambridge woman; and
- WHEREAS: This scheme, which consisted of these men talking the woman into much unnecessary work in areas of her home, which she couldn't inspect to ensure that the work was in fact done; and
- WHEREAS: Through the tireless efforts of Detective Sergeant Richard Bongiorno and Detective John K. Jones, the three suspects were apprehended, tried and found guilty of bilking this elderly resident of \$113,000.; and
- WHEREAS: These individuals received suspended prison terms ranging from 2½ to 5 years on the condition that they pay back their victim, making a substantial cash payment immediately while making regular monthly payments to her; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its sincere appreciation to Detective Sergeant Richard Bongiorno and Detective John K. Jones for their successful completion of this criminal investigation and for their ability to bring these suspects to trial; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to these officers and to the Chief of Police on behalf of the entire City Council and for inclusion in their personnel files.

In City Council January 7, 1985.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 8 members.
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul E. Healy".
Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

Order # 3

S-9

C.D. Sullivan re: resolutions on the investigative efforts of Detective Sergeant Richard Bongiorno & Detective John K. Jones in bringing three suspects to trial for bilking a 67 year old Cambridge woman.

In City Council,

January 7, 1985

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