

Town Glare Withers Barge Plan

By CYNTHIA FANTO

Staff Writer

Persons visiting six barges off a section of Lord's Drydock in North Bergen are being harassed by township police, says Mrs. Audrey Boyer who holds the lease to the waterfront property.

Mrs. Boyer complained yesterday that police stationed in a squad car have been buttonholing persons she says are artists as they arrive at or leave the barges, questioning them and — in a few cases — stopping them from boarding the barges.

Some people are stopped five and 10 times a day, she said, and are asked their names, addresses and occupations. No one has been forced to show identification, she said.

"The barges are perfectly clean and no one — with the exception of one couple — is living there," Mrs. Boyer said. She said the barges are to be used for artist studios or galleries.

Township inspectors have said the barges are unsanitary, unhealthy, and present a fire hazard.

Barge owners had planned, Mrs. Boyer said, to paint the barges white in the spring, to install plumbing, and to comply with all health codes. The winter weather has delayed these actions, she said.

Sanitation Probe

Township Police Chief George Lehman yesterday said an investigation has been launched to see if health codes have been violated and to determine possible fire hazards.

But, he said, "There has been no harassment. It's not true."

Commissioner Joseph Jialdini, director of public safety, said, "we actually frown on people living on barges."

He would not say what police activities in that area have been.

"Has anybody been arrested?" he asked. Then he replied to a negative answer, "Then I don't know what it's all about."

Mrs. Boyer, who lives in New York City, rented the portion of the dock from the state Department of Conservation and Economic Development. She has, in turn, rented mooring space to people she says are artists.

Township officials have expressed dissatisfaction with. (Continued on B-3, Column 2)

Manager Gets Shudders

(Continued from Page B-1)
the arrangement and are awaiting word from Frank Kelly of the conservation department as to whether the 20-day revocable lease Mrs. Boyer holds will be terminated.

Sarubbi said word from the state may come today.

What they will do now that township officials are pressing the state to revoke Mrs. Boyer's lease is now in doubt, she said.

Activity came to a near stand-still yesterday, as few people visited the barges. A bus which had been converted into living quarters was moved off the property. A police squad car was stationed at the site.

"Artists need studios," Mrs. Boyer said, pointing to what she called a shutdown of artist lofts in New York City.

She said the artists are all willing to clean the barges, and she has had no adverse reaction from townspeople.

All barges brought into the area are floating and were formerly in good use on the waterway, she said. As to fire hazards, a barge she has been living on during warm weather the past four years is furnished with four fire extinguishers. Besides, she said, no stoves are being used on the barges.

Mrs. Boyer, who said she spent some \$4,000 in leasing and insuring the land and paying a watchman, claims a local contractor wants to force her out by purchasing and developing the area.

She said Sarubbi Contractors — a firm owned by Mayor Angelo Sarubbi — made soundings on the site a month ago.

Mayor Sarubbi said yesterday he is not involved. He said the sounding was made by John Luciani's firm which has recently completed negotiations to purchase a portion of Lord's Drydock for proposed construction of \$10 million in ratables.

"He (Luciani) is a prospective buyer and developer," Sarubbi said.