

An Unexpected Case of Employee Theft

You *really* have to see the list of goods that prosecutors say a bookkeeper bought with the \$6.9 million she stole from her employer. Be warned, though, the devoted Halloween enthusiast's loot is quite frightening.

From 1999 to 2006, Angela Platt worked as a staff accountant for J & J Materials, a construction materials company based in Rehoboth, Massachusetts. Her annual salary was about \$40,000.

In 2000, however, Platt began to write checks from company accounts to herself in amounts that initially ranged from \$2,000 to \$5,000 but eventually grew to nearly \$50,000, prosecutors say.

By the time the theft was discovered, by another bookkeeper hired to assist her, Platt had stolen more than \$6.9 million, prosecutors say.

Platt recently agreed to plead guilty to one count of interstate transportation of stolen property, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Here is the list of goods prosecutors say Platt purchased during her shopping spree with the stolen funds:

- A 104-acre ranch in West Haven , Vermont , on which she built a log cabin, with a heated saltwater swimming pool, and two barns, one of which housed a commercial-caliber arcade;
- A four-bedroom Colonial-style house on five acres of land in Foster, Rhode Island with a home movie theater;
- Thirty acres of undeveloped coastal land in Harrington, Maine;
- Timeshares in Disney World and at the Harborside Resort Condominium on Paradise Island in the Bahamas;
- Eight show horses
- Five all-terrain vehicles, five snowmobiles, three commercial farm tractors and a motorcycle;
- A fleet of motor vehicles, including a:
 - 1964 Antique Ford Thunderbird;
 - 1995 International 470 Ramp Truck;
 - 2003 Chevy Silverado;
 - 1996 Pontiac Grand Prix;
 - 1986 Chevy Scottsdale pickup truck;
 - 1928 Ford;
 - 2002 Toyota Tundra;
 - 2003 Toyota Highlander;
 - 1928 Ford two-door sedan;
 - Clark CMP-18 Forklift;
 - Replica 1923 Ford Model-T customized into a novelty car dubbed the "Green Goblin," with a body fashioned as a green fairytale-looking monster;
 - 1986 Jaguar XJS;
 - 1972 Mercury Montego;
 - 1992 Dodge Dakota;
 - 1985 Honda MC Model F70;
 - 1998 Honda V3W;
 - 1977 Chevy Vega;
 - Replica 1927 Mack truck;
 - 1927 Ford Roadster;
 - 1931 Plymouth;

- 1937 Chevy Panel Car with a body mural depicting the movie characters "Bonnie" and "Clyde", along with faux bullet holes and a portrait on the rear tire compartment of Platt's husband dressed in 1930's-era gangster attire holding a Thompson sub-machine gun;
- 1982 Buick LeSabre station wagon retrofitted as a hearse with a 700-horse power, exposed-chrome engine, a body mural depicting a graveyard scene with Halloween iconography that cost approximately \$20,000; and
- 1920s-era beer truck custom-made based on a toy model, at a cost of over \$100,000.

A devoted Halloween enthusiast, Platt also purchased various cinematic props to decorate her home for Halloween, including a twenty-foot tall, smoke-emitting dragon that sported hydraulically-powered wings and a booming dragon roar. Platt also purchased six talking trees like those in the Wizard of Oz, at a cost of \$3,000 each, and a life-size ceramic statue of Al Capone (seated, smoking a cigar).

Platt also spread some of the money around, prosecutors say. In the West Haven area, the Platts became renowned for their practice of walking into a restaurant and picking up the tab for every patron. For her brother's wedding, which was scheduled to take place in June 2006 before it was cancelled, Platt placed deposits to reserve rooms for over two hundred guests at luxury hotels, limousine service for all guests, a \$15,000 fireworks show, \$60,000 worth of flowers, a \$1,000 wedding cake, and performances at the wedding by singer Bert Bacharach and the "River Dance" Irish folk dance troupe, prosecutors say.

In September 2006, *Boston Globe Magazine* published a piece on the case and created a slideshow of all the loot. The magazine reported that Platt had turned over much of the loot to the owner J & J Materials before federal authorities moved in to prosecute the case.

Source: U.S. Justice Department