21 charged following probe of cocaine trade

Continued from Page 1
to appear. Five defendants were arrested Monday when they failed to
respond to the letters.
The conspiracy ring operated over
a five-year period, 1983-88.
ARTHUR STERLING Abrams, a
former Farmington Hills resident
who lived on Shlawassee near Tuck
in Farmington Hills until his arrest
on drug charges in December 1987,
was a key source for investigators.
He's listed repeatedly in a 27-page
federal grand jury drug indictment
announced in February by the U.S.
Attorney's Oflice in Detroit. Investigators described thim as an unindicted co-conspirator.
Abrams was described repeatedly

de de co-conspiration.

Abrams was described repeatedly in the indictment for selling or arranging the sale of kilogram-steed quantities of cocaine to many of the 21 listed in the indictment. A kilogram of cocaine is about 2.2 pounds.

On March 31, 1988, Oakland County Circuit Judge Steven Andrews sentenced Abrams to five years probation, 3600 in court costs and 200 hours of community service after he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to deliver a controlled substance.

Clip and Save=

"He was a central figure," said Lt.
James Tuttle of the Southeast Mitchigan Conspiracy Organization, a regional police organization, a regional police organization investigating major drug dealers in Michigan for the past 18 months.

"He was kind of a focal point of the conspiracy. He dealt with higher-ups and he dealt with people below him. A lot of the activity was focused around his house.
"There are still people who he was the said of the activity was focused around his house.

"There are still people who haven't been charged. You have to understand that we have to be able to prove a case. This basically will conclude the (18-month) investigation."

POLICE WOULD not reveal Abrams' current residence.

Abrams' current residence.
"I feel, in this case, we have done
our jab," Tuttle said. "What impact
it will have, I don't know. This is the
first time that we have made the decision to take this many defendants
to state court. We usually take it to
federal court. That's because the
systems are just different."
Defendants represented a broad
range of occupations, including two
attorneys, a construction company
owner and a part-time college pro-

fessor, none of whom, Eric Kaiser, SEMCO prosecutor, acting as assist-ant attorney general, would identify. "I don't think this was white collar

"I don't think this was white collar by manure, it just happens that happens that procession properties and the procession of their occupations, I'm not sure that hap part is significant. The thing that I have found about cocaine and other drug use over the last years is that it cuts across all occupations and economic strata."

The latest investigation focused on what investigators described as low-to-mid-level dealers.

"They're as critical as people at the Florida level or South American level because without them, traflick-ing doesn't exist," Kalser sald. "The deals were going on everywhere where they work, out in parks, out in the streets."

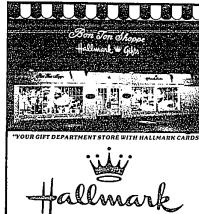
THE ATTORNEY general's office is hoping this case will be a deternent to those still trafficking. The case was originally referred by the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office to SEMCO, Kalser said. The defendants will be prosecuted at the state level.

"Essentially, what happened was that some hundreds of kilos (of co-caine) were brought from Florida to Mitchigan," Katser sald. "We prosecuted the heavier people in federal court and these were some of the people who were involved in a lesser way."

that some hundreds of kiles (of cocaling were brought from Florida to
Michigan," Kalser said. "We proceuted the heavier people in rederal
court and these were some of the
people who were involved in a lesser
way." "At the federal level, of the 22 arrested, 16 received convictions, four
had jury trials and two are awaiting
trial, SEMCO Sgt. Naymond white
said.

Those tried at the federal level in
cluded Florida defendants and Mich-

Dinser's



Cancer is one thing that will not go away if you ignore it.

DISCOUNT POP & BEER COKE, Tab. COKE, Tab. Squrf. Canada Dry Squrf, Boria, Dr. Papper Monds Med & Ginger Ale

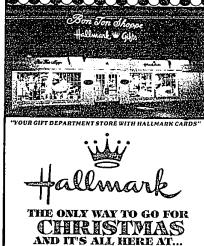
whiten Punch Maid 1.79 12-12 of 13.49 2 litter \$ 1.79 1 lister 1.79 Plus Deposit Plus Deposit 99¢

| No Coupon Necessary - No DiMIT - Good Nov. 22nd thrus Dec. the POP CANS FOR OFFICE OR SHOP — CALL FOR INFO 32434 Grand River 15349 Middlobelt 24344 Tolograph No 15 Mills 477-6479 421-5670 277-6479 Cip and Seve

Learn the early warning signs of cancer and have regular checkups. If you don't know the warning signs, call us.

1-800-4-CANCER
The Cancer Information Service

SHOES



Bon Ton Shoppe FARMINGTON CENTER NEWBURGH PLAZA
Grend River at Six Mile at Newburgh
Farmington Road FALL SALE 25-60% OFF On All Fall Merchandise



6911 Orchard Lake Road On The Boardwalk

737-9059



Give The Perfect Gift...

Coinsettias only from



NOT JUST A SELECT FEW BUT ALL 14 K CHAINS, CHARMS, BRACELETS