

Drug organization reached into suburbs

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

Their drugs may have been sold throughout Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties, but the defendants indicted by a federal grand jury this week all lived in Pontiac.

"These people epitomize drug kingpins," said Oakland Prosecutor David Gorey, one of 11 federal, state and local agencies represented at a press conference Tuesday in Pontiac.

The agencies were part of a drug and homicide task force that enabled authorities to follow defendants — and trace drug shipments — across local and state boundaries.

Fifteen defendants — young men from Pontiac — were cited by a federal grand jury in Detroit on Aug. 12, in indictments sealed until this week.

All are charged with conspiring to distribute cocaine or heroin, with maximum penalties ranging up to life in prison.

Identified as the head of the drug organization was Willie Adams, known as "Tootman" on the streets, who authorities said has been trafficking drugs in Pontiac since 1982. Adams, 31, was released on personal recognizance Tuesday following a hearing in U.S. District Court.

Adams and his associates imported large amounts of cocaine and heroin from Califor-

nia, Texas and New York, according to U.S. Attorney Saul A. Green, one of those present at the conference.

All the defendants were characterized as "lieutenants or above" within the organization which police said were linked to 15 homicides in Pontiac. They are accused of supplying "street dealers," who sold drugs in smaller quantities.

Their base may have been Pontiac, but many of their customers came from more affluent suburban communities, said Larry Miracle, deputy chief of the Pontiac police. "This is not merely a Pontiac problem," he said.

Of the 15 indicted, only five

had been arrested as of Tuesday. Authorities said they were originally part of the infamous Young Boys, Inc., gang that originated in Detroit.

Undercover drug officers, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the investigation is not finished. Each of the defendants indicted is likely linked to "at least three or four" other people who may yet face criminal charges, they said.

Over the years the dealers used various means to transport the drugs across state lines, said one undercover officer. "The drug trade was likely hurt by the UPS strike," he quipped.

Police unclear on Kevorkian presence

When Janet K. Good died peacefully Tuesday, her husband and other members of the family were present in her home, according to Farmington Hills police.

But there are conflicting reports on the presence of Dr. Jack Kevorkian, a family friend and outspoken advocate of physician assisted suicide.

Nobody in the report mentioned seeing Kevorkian in person.

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Parades, special events to celebrate Labor Day

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW
STAFF WRITER

The official theme of the 1997 Clarkston Labor Day parade is "preserving heritage strengthens the community," but unofficially it's fun.

"We'd prefer (the participants) at least have some entertainment value," said organizer Tom McCloskey. "It's supposed to be a fun thing."

The parade begins at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 1, at Clarkston Middle School (where Grand Marshal Virginia Walter taught school 60 years ago) and proceeds down Walden to Main to Miller to the St. Daniel Church parking lot.

In the Village of Franklin, Labor Day activities begin with coffee and doughnuts bright and early at 7 a.m. on Monday.

That's followed by a horseshow at 9 a.m.; food, midway and Art on the Green opening at 9:30; a bake sale at 11 a.m. and the parade itself at noon (lineup begins on Evelyn Court at 11:30 a.m.).

But the fun doesn't end there. An Indonesian Martial Arts Demonstration starts at 12:30 p.m.; followed by a band concert in the gazebo at 1:30 p.m. and jousting at 2 p.m.

Prior to the Clarkston parade, a pancake breakfast will be held in Depot Park in downtown Clarkston. Sponsored by the Independence Township Fire Fighters Association, the breakfast is a fund-raiser for local

charitable organizations. Hours are 7-10 a.m., rain or shine. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3.50 for children 12 and under.

McCloskey said there are two main rules for parade participants this year: Finish the parade and don't throw candy.

Last year a group of marchers halted and dispersed on Miller Street, leading one motorist to believe the way was clear to drive through, McCloskey said.

Participants may distribute candy and other treats this year but are asked not to pitch it into the crowd. "The logic there is we're going to end up with somebody hurt," McCloskey said. Besides, the bigger kids out-muscled the little kids for the candy and spectators wound up in the street.

The lineup is expected to include the Clarkston High School marching band and maybe the Waterford-Kettering High School marching band. Also lined up are the Oakland County Sheriff's Department mounted unit, at least six fire departments, a 4-H group with horses, the Gold Wing motorcycle riders club, the Shriners and some residents driving their classic cars.

"We only have two politicians this year," McCloskey said. "That's good." They are state Rep. Tom Middleton and state Sen. Mat Dunskeiss.

Bringing up the rear, so to speak, will be Clarkston Rotary President Barry Hranach and Vice President Jeff Lichty carrying shovels.

Sample low-fat foods at OU

Oakland University's Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute is hosting its third annual Food Sampling and Silent Auction on Thursday, Sept. 18.

Dress for the evening is casual. Auction starts at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

Cost is \$5 per couple or \$3 per person. To register, or for other information, call Jan Penbody-Kraatz at (248) 370-3188.

The public may bring a lowfat dish for six than is 10 percent or less in fat. Register by Sept. 5.

Janet and Ray Good were married on Christmas Day, 1941.

An autopsy was performed



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