

7 ARRESTED IN TRIPLE SLAYING

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Seven men were charged Thursday in a triple slaying on Detroit's northwest side in early March, a month in which police have recorded 30 homicides in 12 days.

Police Thursday also were investigating the latest violence, a double homicide on the city's west side and the shooting death of a man found tied up in a car on the northwest side.

The seven charged in the March 2 triple slaying were part of a drug ring based on the city's west side, police said.

Marlin Underwood, 21, Stacy Gist, 22, and Duuan Summers, 20, were found dead of multiple gunshot wounds in a home on Coyle Street just south of Puritan. Paul Doniver, 20, was shot in the back but survived.

According to homicide Inspector Gerald Stewart, the target of the execution was Underwood, who Stewart said "used to be known to the group."

The seven -- who Stewart said peddled cocaine, heroin and other drugs -- are suspects in other killings, he said, without specifying which ones.

He said police have been watching the suspects "for a while." Stewart said Gist, survived by a six-week-old baby; Summers, who was Underwood's girlfriend, and Doniver were at the wrong place at the wrong time.

STEWART DECLINED to say what weapons were used in the slayings.

According to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, the seven suspects are:

- * Frederick Hammond, 41, and Willie Merriweather, 32, each charged with three counts of first-degree murder; three counts of conspiracy to commit murder; one count of assault with intent to commit murder; one count of conspiracy to commit assault with intent to commit murder, and one count of using a firearm in commission of a felony.
- * **Mark McCloud** , 19; Larry **McCloud** , 30; Scott Crump, 19, and Bryan Sinclair, 18, each charged with three counts of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder and one count of conspiracy to commit assault with intent to commit murder.
- * James Wilkins, 40, charged with one count of being an accessory to murder after the fact.

According to Stewart, Hammond and Merriweather did the killing, while the five others had "some kind of connection. . . . All had various roles."

THE SEVEN WERE arraigned Thursday before 36th District Magistrate Wendell Murphy. Hammond, Merriweather and Larry **McCloud** were remanded to Wayne County Jail without bond; **Mark McCloud** , Crump and Sinclair had bonds set at \$200,000; Wilkins had bond set at \$100,000.

All are from Detroit except **Mark McCloud** , who has a Southfield address.

Preliminary court examinations were set for March 20.

The three latest homicides being investigated Thursday bring the month's total to at least 30, including three youths age 16 and under, according to a Free Press tally of police records.

There were 21 homicides March 1-12 last year, none involving youths 16 and under, according to the tally.

Asked if there were a reason for the March surge in slayings, Stewart said: "I have no idea. If I did I'd stop it."

He also said there was no drug war under way that might explain the slayings.

IN THE LATEST bloodshed, Kenneth Mitchell, 17, was found dead in the gray Ford Fairmont parked near Norfolk and Sorrento on the city's northwest side. He was found around 7 a.m. by a passerby. No arrests had been made Thursday.

Mark Gardner, 21, and Garcia McDaniel, 28, were found fatally shot Wednesday night in a home on the 9900 block of Meyers. Police described the west-side home as a narcotics pad.

Gardner was dead at the scene of a gunshot wound to the head. McDaniel died later at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital of multiple gunshot wounds, according to a Wayne County Morgue official.

CUTLINE

Hammond

Merriweather

Caption: Photo

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