

ALLEGED BOSS IN DRUG DEALS FACES ASSAULT. GUN CHARGES

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Sunday, July 23, 1989

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Reputed east side Detroit drug boss **Edward** (Big Ed) **Hanserd**, who has an arrest record that indicates a preference for semiautomatic guns and bulletproof vests, faces assault and weapons charges that could send him to prison for 30 years.

Hanserd, 26, has been targeted by special units of the Wayne and Oakland prosecutors offices as a habitual criminal following his arrests. Although he has had several run-ins with authorities, he has been convicted only twice for relatively minor weapons charges.

But the officials say they will try to use the habitual offender law -- which would allow judges to double any prison terms given **Hanserd** -- against the Detroit man, whom they consider a serious menace.

Hanserd, who bears the scars of several assassination attempts, and several companions were arrested June 10 after what Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Thomas Trzcinski said was a "fortuitous traffic stop."

The only man in the car without a bulletproof vest, according to Trzcinski, was Reggie Edwards, 19. Instead, Edwards wore fresh wounds after being slashed with razors and beaten with a baseball bat, electrical cord and rubber hose at a house on the northeast side over a \$140 drug debt, according to court testimony.

"I see so little regard for life," said Recorder's Court Judge James Roberts during a bond hearing Friday for **Hanserd**'s codefendant Paris Pettiford, 19. "Life doesn't seem to count anymore. Nothing is sacred."

Less than a week after the Detroit incident, Oakland County authorities seeking **Hanserd** on a probation violation warrant arrested him as he left Northland Mall. Police said he was carrying a .45-caliber semiautomatic pistol and wearing a bulletproof vest.

Hanserd was then ordered held in the Wayne County Jail without bond on the probation violation.

The latest arrests could mean a long stretch in prison for **Hanserd**, who in the last two years has gotten probation on two weapons convictions, survived being shot nine times in three incidents, been identified as being suspected of involvement in the slaying of Richard (Maserati Rick) Carter, and walked away from more than \$560,000 in cash seized as suspected drug proceeds.

Standing 5 feet 6, **Hanserd** said last year that he was tagged with the "Big Ed" nickname by Carter's mother for reasons he does not understand.

Law enforcement officials familiar with him say **Hanserd** is given to rash outbursts and ready to challenge much bigger men with little provocation.

Yet according to court records, he has coolly walked away from a small fortune in cash seized by police over the past two years. In the most recent of three cash seizures, **Hanserd** told Berrien County Sheriff's deputies in April that the Samsonite suitcase they found in the two-day-old Ford Bronco he was driving contained underwear and socks. But a drug-sniffing dog reacted to the suitcase, prompting deputies to search it and confiscate its contents: 52 pounds of cash totaling \$369,113.

According to previous interviews with **Hanserd**, police accounts and his lawyer, **Hanserd** is lucky to be alive.

Attorney Wilfred Rice, during a trial last year, said **Hanserd** had a contract out on his life and had survived "being gunned down on the streets three times."

In one of the incidents, Maserati Rick Carter was charged in 1987 with shooting **Hanserd** and a companion with a machine gun. The case was dropped when **Hanserd** refused to testify.

He also survived two other attacks, and last year eagerly pointed out to a reporter the scars on his legs and chest where he took the slugs.

Hanserd was in jail on a weapons charge when Carter was shot in the face and killed while in a hospital bed recovering from a wound he sustained a gunfight.

Hanserd's lawyers, Rice and Cornelius Pitts, declined comment on the latest charges but prosecutors plan to charge him as a habitual offender.

"He's a repeat felony offender arrested with a gun, and as such we consider him serious indeed," said Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Larry Bunting.

Under the state's habitual offender law, **Hanserd**'s sentences can be doubled because of his two previous felony convictions. If convicted, the doubled sentences -- 20 years for the assault and 10 years for the weapons offenses -- could be served consecutively because he is on probation.

CUTLINE:

Edward Hanserd

Caption: Photo

Memo: SHORTER VERSION IN METRO FINAL EDITION, Page 14A

Edition: METRO EDITION

Section: NWS

Page: 3A;

Record Number: 8901300186

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