

## CONFISCATED NARCOTICS TURN OUT TO BE EXPLOSIVE

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Friday, July 24, 1987

Author: BRIAN FLANIGAN and BILL MCGRAW Free Press Staff Writers

Drug Enforcement Administration agents Thursday tested one pound of suspected drugs confiscated from **Chester Wheeler** Campbell, convicted murderer and reputed hit man for drug dealers, only to discover the powder wasn't a narcotic.

"It was a very high-powered explosive called iremite," said William Coonce, special agent in charge of the Detroit DEA office.

The explosive was just one part of an arsenal confiscated from Campbell, 57, after his arrest Wednesday by DEA and FBI agents outside his west side Detroit home.

For more than 10 years, law enforcement officials in Wayne and Oakland counties have characterized Campbell, who is on parole on federal weapons charges, as an enforcer for drug dealers.

The DEA and FBI "just decided it was in the best interests of the entire community to take this guy down and get him off the street," Coonce said.

One of the three federal informants who were used to justify a search warrant of Campbell's car and home "has led to the recovery of narcotics with a street value of over \$50 million" and "the arrest and conviction of at least 25 individuals," according to an affidavit filed in U.S. District Court in Detroit.

CONFISCATED from Campbell's car and home were two shotguns, 10 handguns -- one equipped with a silencer -- and the ingredients for a remote-controlled firebomb, federal officials said.

Among the handguns seized was a .22 caliber pistol designed to resemble a ballpoint pen and a .44 caliber Magnum semi-automatic pistol loaded with exploding bullets, the officials said.

Agents also found heroin, cocaine, marijuana, \$10,000 in cash, a notebook containing the names and addresses of Detroit drug dealers and hundreds of records of apparent narcotics transactions, officials said.

Campbell, who has served time in prison on murder, robbery and drug charges, is being held without bond, officials said.

\*\*\*\*

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 6A;

Index Terms: DRUG

Record Number: 8702040788

Copyright (c) 1987 Detroit Free Press