

MOTORCYCLE CLUB MEMBERS INDICTED

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Friday, October 16, 1987

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A federal grand jury in Detroit has indicted 22 members and associates of the **Highwaymen** Motorcycle Club on racketeering charges, saying they ran a drug distribution ring that intimidated rivals through shootings, kidnappings, robberies, threats, bombings and arson.

Officials said it was the first time in Michigan that what they called an "outlaw motorcycle club" had been charged with drug racketeering.

Longtime fixtures in southwest Detroit, the **Highwaymen** "have terrorized many citizens for many years," said Detroit Police Cmdr. Daniel McKane of the 4th (Fort-Green) Precinct.

Highwaymen were forced to commit murder, rape or another violent crime -- in the presence of another member -- before they could advance to the rank called the "lightning rod" level of the club, U.S. Attorney Roy Hayes said.

The 15-count indictment, announced Thursday, is the result of an investigation by Detroit police and federal agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Internal Revenue Service.

"I think it's a sign to the extent people will go to sell cocaine and to profit and to be greedy," said Hayes, who displayed a black leather jacket emblazoned with the **Highwaymen** 's "colors" of a winged skull wearing a cap.

THE INDICTMENT, which includes a period from 1975 to the present, charges that several defendants established a laboratory in Alabama that was capable of converting more than 75 pounds of coca paste to powder.

Over time, investigators seized a total of more than 14 pounds of cocaine, one pound of phencyclidine (PCP), \$165,602 in cash, \$38,448 in jewelry, five homes and one business worth an estimated \$230,000, 11 vehicles, and about 120 mostly semiautomatic firearms, valued at an estimated \$15,000.

Most of the drugs were sold to fellow bikers, officials said.

Jason Dean Gray, 42, of Detroit, described as a past president of the club, is the first defendant named in the indictment. Said to be one of the three masterminds of the **Highwaymen** 's drug ring, Gray is accused of shooting at the DEA special agent in charge of the case as the agent drove to work one day in 1986. The agent was not injured.

According to the indictment, Gray and various other defendants placed a bomb in a rival's car in 1984, but the intended victim survived.

All but two of the 22 defendants were in custody late Thursday. They face maximum penalties ranging from 15 years to life in prison.

In addition to Gray, those named in the indictments are: Leonard Moore, 39, Detroit; J.D. Thornton (not available); Hollis Wayne Allen (n.a.); Marta Scott Dreher, 30, Detroit; Joseph Whiting, 34, Detroit; Brent Pitman, 44, Detroit; James Wynn (n.a.); Ronnie Early, 34, Detroit; Anthony Hartley, 26, Taylor; J.W. Jones (n.a.); Valentio Mendez, 46, Detroit; Joe Noble, 34, Lincoln Park; Kathy Adams, 30, Detroit; Jill Early, 32, Melvindale; Rose Allen, 30, Detroit; Doug Ward, 44, Taylor; Colin Bowens (n.a.); William Dean, 48, Southgate; Larry Walker, 40, Detroit; Larry Joe Hollander (n.a.); Anthony Clark (n.a.).

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 7B;

Record Number: 8702190174

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