

TROUBLE IS ONE THING SUSPECT CAN'T SHAKE

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Things just seem to happen to **Edward** (Big Ed) **Hanserd** and he can't explain why.

Police report finding an arsenal of exotic guns in cars he drives, federal and local authorities seize nearly \$200,000 in cash from him, people try to kill him, and when his associates are killed or vanish, suspicion turns his way, all to the consternation of the former Detroit beauty shop owner.

"I just don't know," **Hanserd** said with a shrug recently, as he stood on the steps of the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice during a break in his Recorder's Court trial on a series of weapons charges.

Hanserd, 25, was convicted in two weapons cases and acquitted in another. One charge -- carrying a weapon with unlawful intent -- is still pending. He faces a maximum five-year prison term on both gun charges at his sentencing, which is scheduled for Thursday. He has no previous criminal record, but Charles Seller, assistant Wayne County prosecutor, said plea bargains were ruled out in the weapons cases.

"We take the man seriously," Seller said.

In little more than 1 1/2 years, **Hanserd** -- who stands about 5 feet 6 -- has been shot three times, arrested on four weapons charges and had the cash confiscated by the government as narcotics-related proceeds. One of his reputed enemies, Richard (Maserati Rick) Carter, was shot to death in a hospital bed and another, Demetrius Holloway, has vanished under mysterious circumstances.

Local and federal law enforcement officials suspect that **Hanserd** is involved in drug trafficking on Detroit's east side, but **Hanserd** said he is at a loss to explain such suspicion.

"I don't know," he said.

Asked about police talk of an ongoing battle with Carter's associates, **Hanserd** demurred: "It ain't no war -- they got all the soldiers."

Hanserd said the Big Ed nickname was hung on him by Carter's mother, but he said he did not know why.

He did not take the witness stand in the weapons trials to explain how various guns -- including an Israeli military .44 Magnum automatic pistol, a .44 Magnum revolver, a MAC-10 machine pistol and a 9mm pistol -- were found in his cars by police.

According to testimony in one case, **Hanserd** was arrested by police who chased a white BMW through the east side after a house near Outer Drive and Gunston was sprayed with automatic weapon fire.

The chase ended when the BMW crashed into three cars and **Hanserd** was found semiconscious on the pavement next to the open driver's door. Inside the car were the Israeli-made weapon and the MAC-10. The serial numbers of both weapons were drilled out, and shell casings at the shooting scene came from the Israeli gun, according to testimony.

In the pending case, police say a Korean-made 5.56mm semiautomatic assault rifle with a 30-shot clip was found in **Hanserd**'s car on Linwood and Richton, where he allegedly was threatening a man over a debt.

While **Hanserd** won't say much about his troubles with the law, he is voluble about his woes at the hands of others.

With little prompting, he related how he was wounded nine times in three shooting incidents, for which he blames Carter.

"There's a contract out on this man's life," his lawyer, Wilfred Rice, told visiting Judge Harvey Tennen, who heard the weapons cases without a jury.

"People out on the street want to kill him," Rice said. "They know he's working with homicide officers."

But Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Augustus Hutting said, "He's not working with police that I know of. We're certainly interested in Mr. **Hanserd**, but not for his help."

Last week, during the murder trial of Lodrick Parker in the Carter killing, lawyer Charles Rutledge testified that **Hanserd** was identified by police as one of the suspects in the killing.

Jurors in the Parker trial were questioned to determine if they knew of **Hanserd**.

Hanserd acknowledges that people suspect he may have had a hand in the Carter killing because of a feud between the two, "but I was in jail then on one of these gun charges."

Carter and an associate were charged at one time in one of the **Hanserd** shootings, but the cases were dropped when **Hanserd** refused to testify for the prosecution.

Hanserd also acknowledges that he has been linked with the disappearance of Carter associate Holloway from an east side hamburger stand on Nov. 12. Police are investigating a report that Holloway was shot and thrown in the trunk of a car, but some officers speculate he may have staged the incident to go into hiding.

"He's just gone," said **Hanserd** . "That's what I heard, he's just in hiding."

Hanserd said his problems date to an argument with Carter at **Hanserd** 's former E. Jefferson hair salon in the summer of 1987. He admits heaving a brick once through the window of one of Carter's car washes.

In February, **Hanserd** was driving a van through northern Louisiana when he was pulled over by state troopers for a traffic violation. The troopers found more than \$194,000 in the van, in a tote bag and a metal briefcase.

According to police reports, **Hanserd** said part of the money came from the sale of the beauty shop and two other east side Detroit properties. He said he was carrying cash because travelers checks were too expensive.

The cash was seized when a drug-sniffing dog reacted to it. **Hanserd** did not challenge an August federal court order forfeiting the money.

In September, **Hanserd** was stopped by Detroit police while driving a 1986 red Maserati convertible without license plates. The car was searched and more than \$2,200 was taken from **Hanserd** when a drug-sniffing police dog reacted to the money.

Again, he did not contest the forfeiture.

Between the two seizures, **Hanserd** was charged four times with carrying concealed weapons in various cars.

CUTLINE

Edward Hanserd

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