

HURON UNDERCOVER NARCOTICS TEAM

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1993 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared By
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Unit Commander

HURON UNDERCOVER NARCOTICS TEAM

OVERVIEW

1993

The Huron Undercover Narcotics Team (H.U.N.T.) is a multijurisdictional task force charged with the investigation of controlled substance crimes in the Counties of Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle. H.U.N.T. was formed in October 1990 following the realization by area law enforcement officials that persons involved in the drug trade often crossed jurisdictional boundaries. This in turn often made it difficult for law enforcement using traditional techniques and limited manpower to interdict these activities.

The formation of H.U.N.T. was made possible by the contributions of state and local government and a grant of federal money through the Michigan Office of Drug Control Policy. In July of 1992, after nearly two years of operation, however, H.U.N.T. faced the devastating loss of federal money. Local and state law enforcement leaders, community leaders and private citizens then banded together and raised additional local and state money for the unit. This action also convinced the Office of Drug Control Policy to restore a portion of the lost federal money. Because of this action H.U.N.T. is the least dependant on federal money of all the rural drug teams in Michigan.

H.U.N.T. has had a steady increase in the statistical numbers, which are termed, performance indicators. The unit has had a 32% increase in the number of complaint investigations since 1991, which was the unit's first full year of operation. Over the same time period the unit has had a 72% increase in the number of persons arrested, and an incredible 99%

increase in the value of controlled substances removed from the streets of our communities.

While the arrest and successful prosecution of "drug dealers" is H.U.N.T.'s primary duty, the unit is involved in other activities in the areas of education and prevention. H.U.N.T. members have been involved with the D.A.R.E. programs in Presque Isle and Montmorency Counties. Unit members are involved with the Alcona Students Substance Abuse Prevention Program. H.U.N.T. publishes a quarterly newsletter, the ON TARGET, which is distributed to school districts within the four county area. The newsletter is designed to make educators aware of dangerous drugs and trends that may adversely affect their students.

H.U.N.T. is also intimately involved with the law enforcement community in the area as well as on the state and federal level. Locally during the last year H.U.N.T. has been able to provide information, manpower, and equipment to local agencies for crimes ranging from Breaking and Entering to Murder for Hire. Unit members are ever mindful of the need to procure and forward information of criminal activity to the proper agency.

With the continued support of the community the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team can continue to be a viable arm of the local law enforcement community. With the hard work of the dedicated officers assigned to the unit, the performance indicators should continue to show increases.

HURON UNDERCOVER NARCOTICS TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sheriff Department Representatives:

<i>Douglas Ellinger, Sheriff</i>	<i>Alcona County</i>
<i>Thomas Male, Sheriff</i>	<i>Alpena County</i>
<i>Daniel Braun, Sheriff</i>	<i>Montmorency County</i>
<i>Terry Flewelling, Sheriff</i>	<i>Presque Isle County</i>

Prosecuting Attorney Representatives:

<i>Thomas Weichel</i>	<i>Alcona County</i>
<i>Dennis Grenkovicz</i>	<i>Alpena County</i>
<i>Vicki Kundinger</i>	<i>Montmorency County</i>
<i>Donald McLennan</i>	<i>Presque Isle County</i>

Police Chief Representatives:

<i>Roger Anderson, Chief</i>	<i>City of Alpena</i>
<i>Roger Marsh, Chief</i>	<i>City of Onaway</i>
<i>Gar Robinson, Chief</i>	<i>City of Rogers City</i>

Michigan State Police Representatives:

<i>F/Lt. Robert Krafft</i>	<i>Alpena Post</i>
<i>Insp. Edmund K. Burke Jr.</i>	<i>East Lansing C.I.D.</i>

HURON UNDERCOVER NARCOTICS TEAM

Executive Board

Donald McLennan

Thomas Male

Robert Krafft

Vicki Kundinger

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Secretary/Treasurer

Legal Liaison

Personnel Committee

Terry Flewelling

Robert Krafft

Dennis Grenkowicz

Finance Committee

Thomas Weichel

Barry Getzen

Dennis Grenkowicz

Daniel Braun

Terry Flewelling

1993

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

<i>Criminal Investigations</i>	133
<i>Intelligence Reports</i>	173
<i>Arrests</i>	111
<i>Arrests Counts</i>	175
<i>Drug Seizures</i>	\$1,139,698.00

FORFEITURES

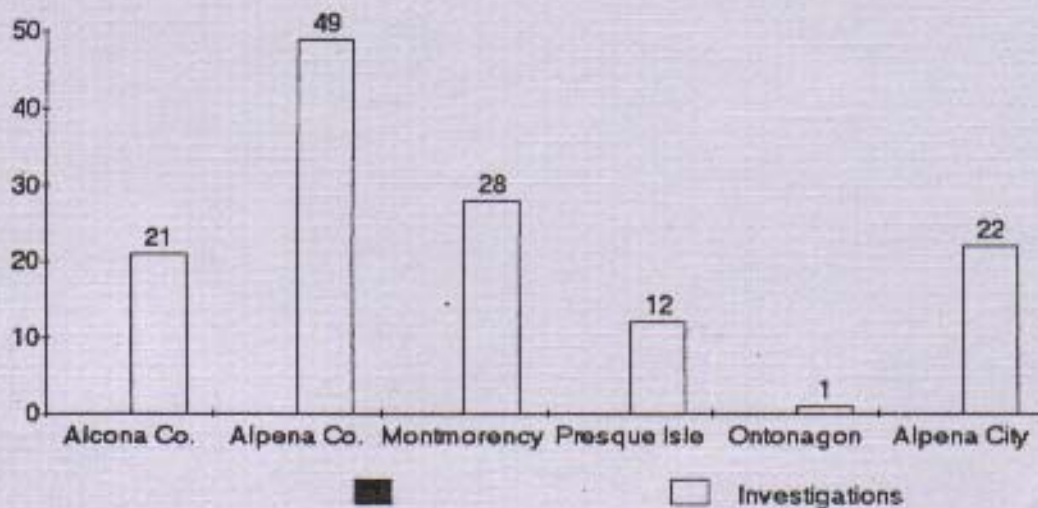
in 1993 the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team generated \$17,732.70 in forfeiture income through seizures and interest earned on the Adjudicated Forfeiture Account. Most of the proceeds, \$11,360.84, were derived from an auction of forfeited property which was held in May of 1993.

Currently, there is approximately \$35,000.00 worth of items, seized in 1993, that are pending forfeiture action in the 26th Judicial Circuit Court. There is an additional amount of approximately \$150,000.00 in cash and property that is pending forfeiture action in the United State District Court in Bay City. This action is the result of the Gary McDonald methamphetamine distribution case investigated by the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team and adopted by the Drug Enforcement Administration. The unit will receive approximately half of the final settlement.

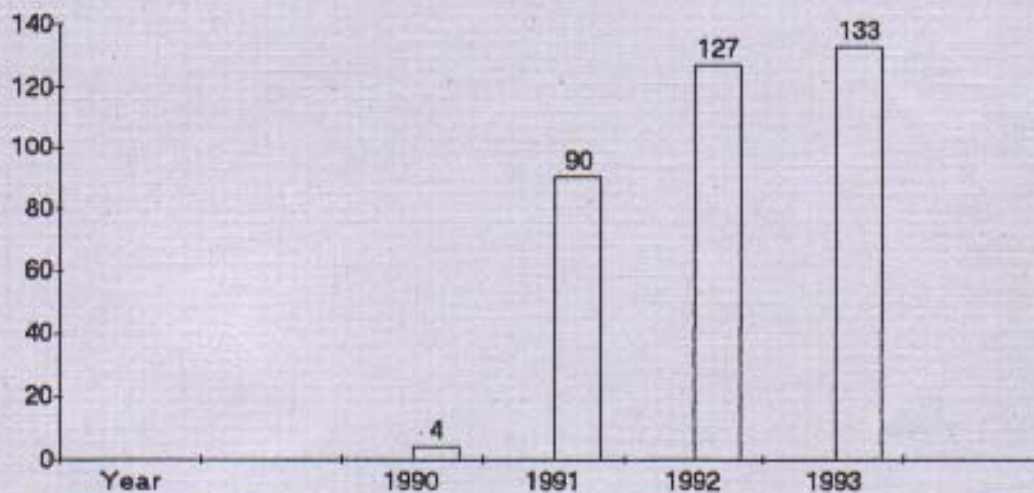
Adjudicated Forfeiture Account expenses for 1993 totaled \$5,587.35. The expenses included the purchase of surveillance equipment, storage expenses associated with storage of seized items, and the towing of seized items.

The Adjudicated Forfeiture Account balance on December 31, 1993 was \$31,924.35

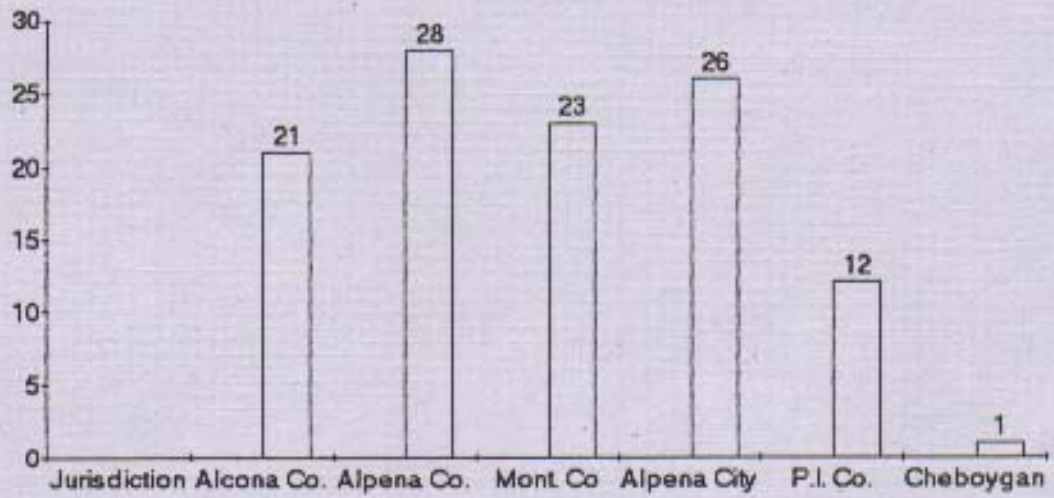
Investigations by Jurisdiction
1993



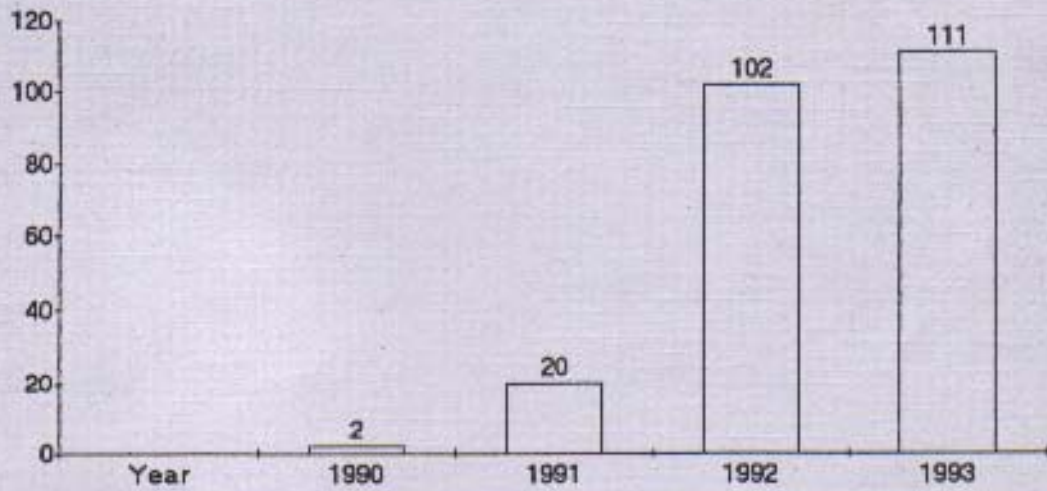
Comparison of Number of Investigations
1990 Through 1993



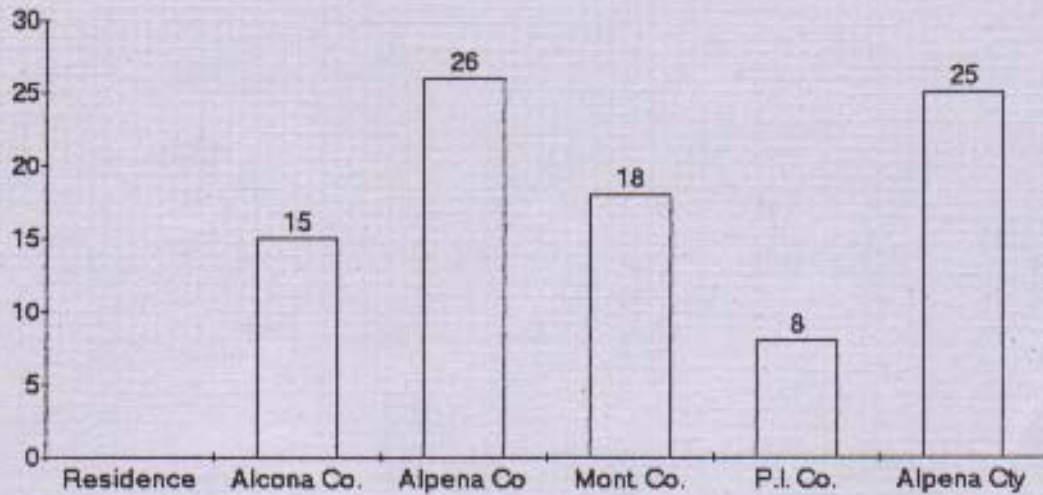
Arrests by Jurisdiction
1993



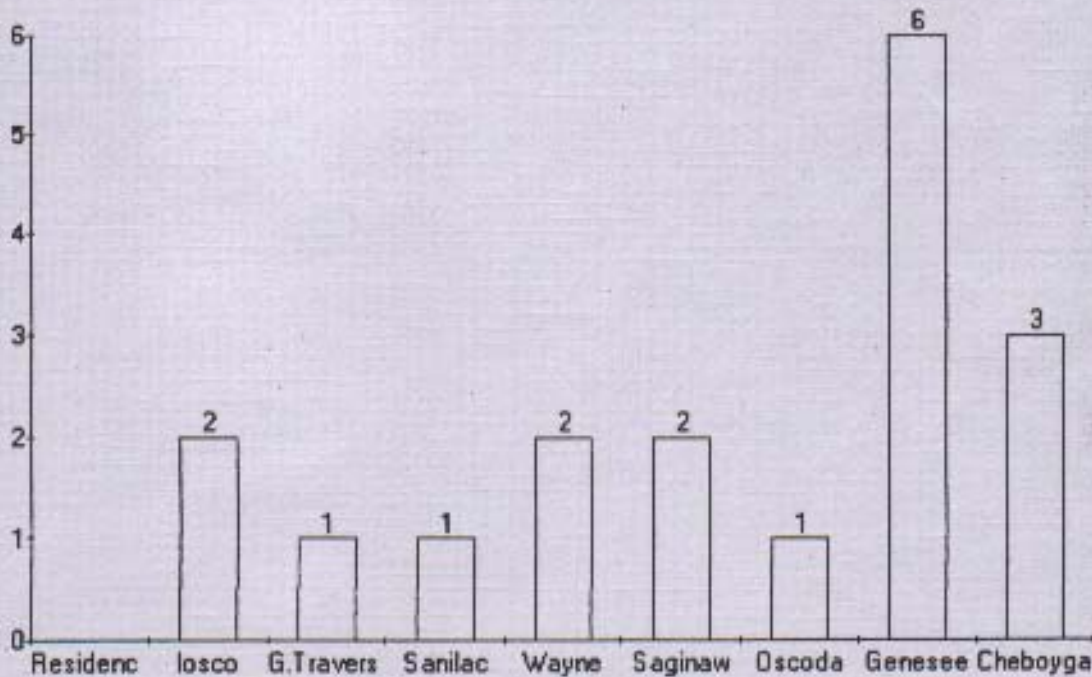
Comparison of Number of Arrests
1990 Through 1993



Residence of Arrested Subjects
Subjects Residing within H.U.N.T.'s Jurisdictional Area



Residence of Arrested Subjects
Subjects Residing outside H.U.N.T.'s Jurisdictional Area



SIGNIFICANT CASES

1993

McDonald/Vrooman/Wirgau/Shafto

Alpena/Presque Isle Counties

The most significant case in 1993 was the Gary McDonald methamphetamine distribution case. The case originated in July 1992. It involved the purchase of methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana from Gary McDonald, and others associated with him, by a confidential informant and an undercover officer. The case culminated in the execution of a Federal search warrant in May 1993 at the residence of Gary McDonald. Gary McDonald, Carl Wirgau, Nancy Vrooman, and Todd Shafto were arrested on 47 different felony counts, ranging from Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine, Cocaine, and Marijuana to Possession of a Weapon During a Drug Transaction.

Approximately \$35,000.00 in personal property was seized at the time of the execution of the search warrant. In addition real property and cash accounts were seized by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Both seizures are pending forfeiture action in the respective courts.

In November 1993 all four subjects pled guilty to one count of Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine, Cocaine, and Marijuana. In early 1994 Gary McDonald was sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of 10 years in Federal Prison. Nancy Vrooman was sentenced to a term of 8 years in Federal Prison. Carl Wirgau was sentenced to a term of 5 years in Federal Prison, and Todd Shafto was sentenced to a term of 15 months in Federal Prison.

Bidlake/O'Dell/Clark

Alcona/Iosco Counties

In October 1993, the Alcona County Sheriff Department put H.U.N.T. officers in touch with a confidential informant in the Mikado area of Alcona County. That informant introduced an undercover officer to Dana Bidlake. Bidlake sold marijuana to the undercover officer. Bidlake offered to sell the officer more marijuana at a later time. Several other persons were in the residence and they all appeared to be under the influence of controlled substances.

While in the Bidlake residence the officer observed an infant child who was obviously neglected. H.U.N.T. officers then determined that the welfare of the child outweighed the possibility of further marijuana purchases. A search warrant was then executed at the Bidlake residence the following morning. Bidlake was in the process of filling and weighing bags of marijuana at the time the officers entered the house. The infant child was still in the house. Bidlake was obviously under the influence of some substance and combative. The child was then removed from the house. After a short time Bidlake said that he had traded some poor quality marijuana to his next door neighbor in exchange for a smaller quantity of better marijuana.

H.U.N.T. officers then conducted a "Knock and Talk" at the residence of Donald O'Dell. He consented to a search of his residence and the officers seized one pound of marijuana. O'Dell said he was just storing the marijuana for Bidlake. He also said that Bidlake had obtained the marijuana during the breaking and entering of a hunting camp in the area.

H.U.N.T. officers then re-interviewed Dana Bidlake about the breaking and entering. He said that he had in fact taken the marijuana from a hunting camp not far from his house. He took a H.U.N.T. officer and an Alcona County Sheriff Dept. deputy to the scene of the break in.

The officers then obtained a search warrant for the hunting camp and a large garage. During the search officers located several additional pounds of processed marijuana, growing equipment, and a stolen four wheeled motorcycle. The person who used the camp, Donald Clark, was then contacted. During questioning he admitted that he grew marijuana at his father's hunting camp.

All three subjects were charged with controlled substance violations. Bidlake also confessed to several breaking and enterings in Alcona and Oscoda Counties. Donald Clark was also charged with Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property over \$100. Donald O'Dell fled the area and was located in Saginaw County. At the time of his arrest several items of property stolen in Alcona County were recovered. He was also charged with Breaking and Entering.

Perry Gangler

Alcona/Sanilac Counties

In May 1993 the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team received information from the Strike Team Investigative Narcotics Group out of West Branch that a large amount of marijuana was growing on Federal Forest land in southwest Alcona County. Officers from H.U.N.T, S.T.I.N.G., and the United States Forest Service searched the area and found nearly 400 marijuana plants planted in Kirtland Warbler Habitat on Federal Forest land. Officers from H.U.N.T., the Forest Service and the Alcona County Sheriff Department then conducted surveillance of the plot and eventually arrested Perry Gangler when he came to tend the plants. At the time of his arrest Gangler had fertilizer, gardening supplies, and a video camera to film the progress of the plants. Gangler had come to tend the plot because the plants were all covered with white frost caps. Following the arrest of Gangler two Federal search warrants were executed in Sanduskey, MI. Additional marijuana was confiscated. The investigation revealed that Gangler was working for another man from Sanduskey who was known to Federal authorities as a major marijuana grower. That person in Sanduskey employed numerous people to grow marijuana for him in several areas of the State of Michigan. The investigation is pending disposition in Federal Court.

The preceding cases show the great diversity of drugs available within the H.U.N.T. multijurisdictional area. H.U.N.T. has the capability to impact that availability. H.U.N.T. has also been able to impact other crimes within it's jurisdictional area by providing information, manpower and equipment to local and state police agencies.

During 1993, in addition to working with all the police agencies within it's jurisdictional area, H.U.N.T. has worked in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the United States Attorney's office in Bay City, the United States Postal Inspector's office in Detroit, the Straits Area Narcotics Team, the Bay Area Narcotics Enforcement Teams, the Strike Team Investigative Narcotics Group, the Flint Area Narcotics Group, and the E.L.C.I.D. Gaylord Criminal Investigation Team.