

# County Narcotic Bureau Drug Busts: \$440,000

the City of Santa Cruz ranking second in drug cases and Watsonville third.

Santa Cruz had 64 cases and Watsonville had 36.

Capitola reported 6 six cases, Scotts Valley had seven and three took place on the UCSC campus.

The report points out that conviction rate for those arrested ranks somewhere in the 90 per centile area.

Most of those prosecuted by the bureau ended up in a diversionary program (31 per cent), were placed on probation (33 per cent), were sent to the state prison (13 per cent), or were sentenced to the county jail (15 per cent).

A small 6 per cent were found innocent and 45 people are still waiting court action.

Those arrested were chiefly marijuana possessors. The next highest violations occurred with heroin, and cocaine ranked third.

A large portion of those arrested were caught with a combination of drugs

A break down of those arrested showed that most of the offenders were adult males.

The report points out that the bureau must first search out the methods of operation for the various dealers before it can make an arrest.

The most vulnerable time for the drug dealer is when the narcotics changes hands.

For example, when a smuggler brings the dope into the county and first sells it to the dealer, narcotics agents have a good chance of making an arrest.

Another changing of hands occurs when the dealer cuts the narcotic, repackages it and delivers it to another dealer farther down the line.

The narcotic will be cut and repackaged again and again until it reaches a street level dealer.

It is at these points of transfer, that it is sometimes possible to infiltrate the organization with the use of informants and undercover agents, according to the report.

The bureau has spent over \$5,400 in actual purchase of narcotics and nearly \$3,000 in confidential informant expenses.

Though not included in the report, Sheriff Al Noren pointed out that one of the reasons the bureau is unable to catch the big dealers is because it does not have a large "flash wad" to use in purchase of drugs.

He pointed out that "you don't go out and try to buy \$500,000 worth of narcotics with a \$10 bill and say I'll pay the rest later," he said.

The report also notes that it is preparing a central narcotic index file of offenders in the county.

Currently 82 persons have been identified as major dealers — or those who sell multipounds of marijuana or multi-ounces of narcotics.

A total of 1,100 people have been identified as those involved in drug cases.

The bureau also works in cooperation with the Tri-County Organized Crime Information Council and the California Narcotics Information Network to provide information on local drug dealers and traffic through the area.

The report also points up that the bureau has recovered \$10,000 worth of stolen goods. While Noren termed the program a success at county budget hearings, the report notes that some of the bureau's goals still remain goals.

The county narcotics bureau has seized more than \$440,000 worth of illegal drugs and narcotics during the past year ending April 30.

But while that amount seems sizeable, the total effect of the haul on the area's drug traffic remains to be determined.

According to a recent sheriff department report, the bureau has taken a total of 490 pounds of marijuana, 7 pounds of hashish, 6 pounds of hashish oil, 503,095 units of amphetamines, 11,108 units of LSD, heroin, cocaine, peyote, barbituates and a \$20,000-per-ounce drug known as a methamphetamine.

But since the total size of drug trafficking and the availability of drugs in the county is still unknown, the bureau can't be sure it is getting at the root of the problem or only nipping off

the top of a large growth, according to the report.

Deputies have noticed, however, that it is becoming increasingly more difficult to purchase large quantities of narcotics and dangerous drugs in the area.

Prices of the narcotics also are becoming steeper.

These signs point to a reduction in the availability of drugs in the area, according to the report.

Founded in 1972, the narcotics bureau relies on specially trained undercover agents to work drug cases in the area.

In a one year's period the squad worked a total of 282 cases.

Out of these, 130 arrests resulted.

Most of the cases took place in the unincorporated areas with

## Sentinel

Tuesday, July 8, 1975 Page 15

### United Fund Chairman

Bob Gray, vice - president and manager of Felton office of County Bank, is the division chairman of Business - Geographic in this fall's United Fund drive for northern Santa Cruz County. That division's goal is \$750, or a 33 per cent increase from 1974. The overall north county goal this year is \$175,000. The United Fund drive is to raise funds for 12 organizations in the area, including Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Salvation Army, Boys' Club, Visiting Nurses Assn., American Red Cross and others.



## Court Calendar

Thursday July 3, 1975

Municipal Court III

Judge Richard Kessell

Delores Ruth Tutt, 54, 815 Pacific Ave., was fined \$65 for disturbing the peace.

Tobin George Rodgers, 20, Sacramento, was fined \$375 and given a 30 - day suspended jail sentence for drunken driving.

Geraldine Marcella Worden, 44, 19D Blake Lane, Scotts Valley, was fined \$375 and given a 30 - day suspended jail sentence for drunken driving.

Alfred Villarreal Serrano, 26, Half Moon Bay, pleaded guilty to drunken driving and was fined \$315 and given a 30 - day suspended jail sentence.

Henry Wallace Toren, 46, 621 Cathedral Drive, Aptos, was fined \$345 and given a 30 - day suspended jail sentence for drunken driving. He must pay \$30 to attend a traffic safety course.

Richard Wayne Rohrbough, 19, 726 Lorenzo Ave., Boulder Creek, was fined \$345 and given a 30 - day suspended jail sentence. He must pay \$30 to attend a traffic safety course.

Michael Anthony Sanchez, 19, 640 Mountain View Drive Ben Lomond, was sentenced to one year jail for possession of stolen

drunken driving. All but five days of the sentence were suspended.

Monday July 7, 1975

Superior Court I

Visiting Judge Frank S. Petersen

Robert Thomas Gillis, 27, Salinas, was placed on three years probation, sentenced to one year jail, fined \$300 and told to make restitution for felonious hit and run. He was driving a vehicle which hit a pedestrian Jan. 31 on Ocean Street in Santa Cruz and was arrested after he fled the scene.

### Soquel Trailer Park Proposal Faces Planners

Review of a proposal to set up a 100-space recreation trailer park off Olive Springs Road near Old San Jose Road and adoption of the county earthquake safety element of the general plan will be the main items of business when the county planning commission meets Wednesday at 7 p.m.

A request from the Las Cumbres subdivision to try a new type of road surfacing material instead of concrete will be considered by the commission.

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three-year grant program offered by the state.

Officials have noted that next year the county will have to decide whether it wants to keep the narcotics bureau operating and whether it wants to take the full expense of a county narcotics bureau.

## Mid-County