

Drug Raids Snag Additional Suspects

By Ron Reeves
Sentinel Staff Writer

The law's narcotic net snagged additional suspects yesterday afternoon.

Officials said the total now tops 20, with more arrests expected soon. The raids were launched Wednesday night.

"We have several warrants still outstanding," said Sgt. James Marston of the sheriff's office.

In addition to arresting suspects named in the warrants, numerous other persons are being picked up as the raids progress. Several other narcotics arrests have been made which

'Cyclist Hurt In Collision

Dennis James Finch, 24, of 1961 Redwood Drive, suffered apparently moderate injuries yesterday when the motorcycle he was riding collided with an auto on Redwood Drive north of Glen Canyon Road.

The Highway Patrol said Finch was northbound and had entered a right hand turn when his bike hit broadside an auto coming out of a private driveway.

Finch was transported by his father to General Hospital.

Neither Finch nor the driver

have no direct connection with the undercover investigation.

The clamp-down originated with an intensive investigation by the Santa Cruz Police Department. It spread to include sheriff's deputies, investigators from the district attorney's office and state narcotics agents. Undercover workers were able to make large drug purchases, officials said.

One of the key investigators was Jeff Markham, a state agent. Markham said he spent the past three and a half months living among the drug users in order to gather evidence.

"It was one of the most harrowing experiences of my life," Markham stated. "These guys, the ones on 'speed,' are dangerous. They're maniacs. They are the kind of guys that, if you should bump them accidentally with your auto on the road, they would jump out and shoot you right there," he stated.

Detectives said they are confiscating a large number of guns, knives and other weapons, which is a change from earlier narcotics raids. Sheriff Doug James said they have gathered in at least 14 guns and a quantity of ammunition. There has been no violence during the arrests.

Markham said the suspects

armed themselves "to protect themselves from their fellow pushers."

Some of the arrests are proving to be embarrassing to the county as the suspects were living in a Water Street house which is owned by the county. Supervisors have recently launched into a drive trying to persuade property owners not to rent houses to hippies or suspected drug users.

Additional arrests by the sheriff's office include: John Wilson, 30, for sale of marijuana, and John Lytton Young, 26, for possession of marijuana for sale and being in a place where narcotics were used. Detectives said they were arrested at 3750 Zayante Road, Felton.

Arrested at 5515 Zayante Road were Carrie Michaels, 21, possession of marijuana, and James Michaels, 28, and Donald Hallock, 31, being in a place where narcotics were used. Detectives said Maria Angelotti, 20, of 132 Eighth Avenue, surrendered herself on warrants accusing her of selling marijuana and maintaining a place where narcotics were used.

David Laverne, 20, of 1361 Seventh Avenue, was booked for the sale of marijuana and dangerous drugs, and Leon L. Amos, 33, of 114 Oak Lane,



Scotts Valley, was booked on a charge of selling dangerous drugs.

Lawmen and the district attorney are busy now identifying and organizing the mass of evidence confiscated, including the weapons and quantities of narcotics. Sgt. Marston said large amounts of marijuana and hashish have been seized.

A wide assortment of items, ranging from guns and ammunition to water pipes, has been confiscated during the current crack-down on narcotics suspects. From left to right Lt. Charles Scherer from the Santa Cruz Police Department, Assistant District Attorney Martin Drobac and Sheriff Doug James survey a portion of the loot. More arrests were made yesterday and additional arrests will be made. The raids stem from an undercover investigation launched by the police department.

Three Enlist In Naval Reserve