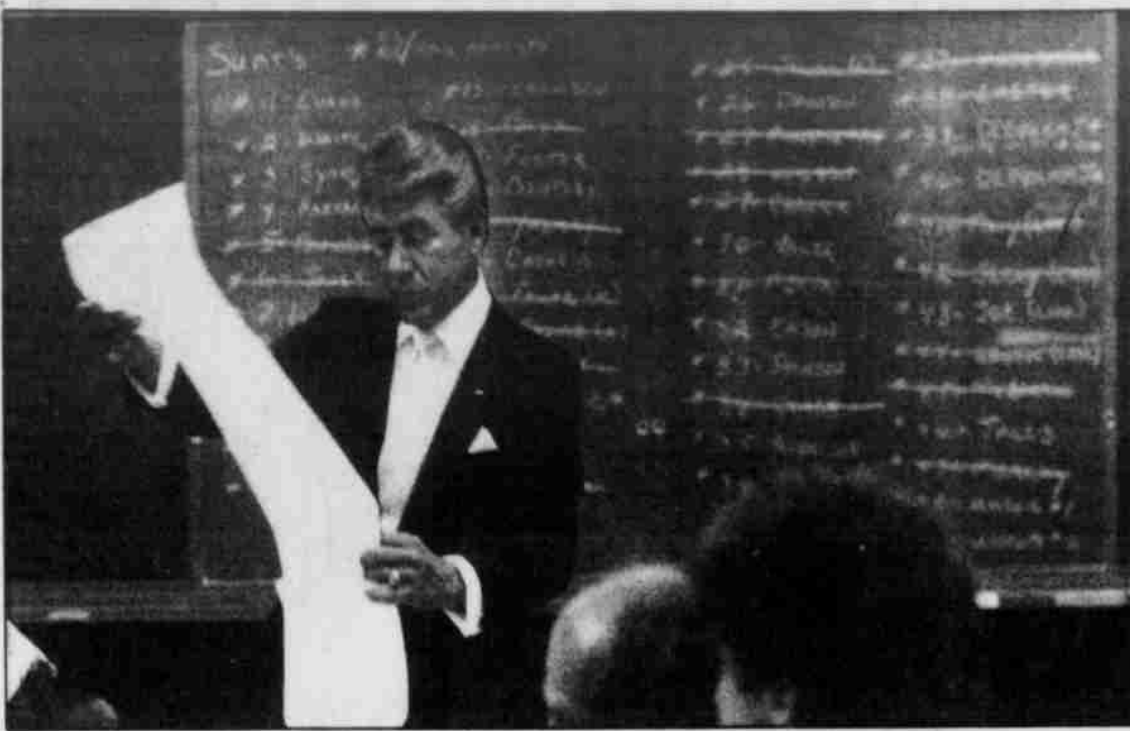


'Operation Steamclean'



FBI's Kenneth Walton: "In terms of the number of defendants, this is the largest undercover operation in FBI history."

How police say sting worked

By BRIAN FLANIGAN  
Free Press Staff Writer

Operation Steamclean was an instance of Detroit FBI agents devising an undercover operation that had never been tried on such a large scale.

"It had been done once previously in New York, but not to this degree," Kenneth Walton, special agent in charge of the Michigan FBI office said Monday.

"But we felt we had to try putting our people out there, because our premise in starting the operation was a recognition that an estimated one-third of auto thefts reported in Detroit in 1985 were fraudulent insurance jobs."

Working under the supervision of Special Agent Steve Grelecki, Walton said four agents went undercover in February 1985 and "set themselves up as brokers who represented to people that they could get rid of a car and make sure it was never seen again."

Initially, Walton said, agents worked through "party

store owners, gas station employees and mechanics who had been identified to us as possible middlemen. They were familiar with the community and, when somebody mentioned they'd like to get rid of their car and collect the insurance, the middleman would (set) something up with us."

Working by telephone from their offices in the McNamara Building in downtown Detroit and then at follow-up meetings in bars, scrap yards and gas stations, Grelecki's agents "quickly branched out and were dealing with cars from all over the place," Walton said.

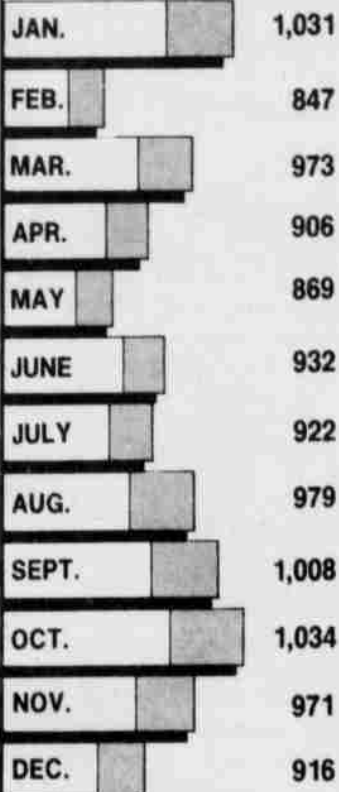
After agreeing to dispose of a car, he said, the agents would get the car owner's keys and registrations from either the owner or a "middleman," drive the vehicle to the FBI offices in downtown Detroit, photograph and tag it and then take it to a secret parking lot.

The agents handled 163 vehicles during the course of the investigation.

170 face charges in car-theft sting

1985 DETROIT STOLEN AUTO INSURANCE FRAUD

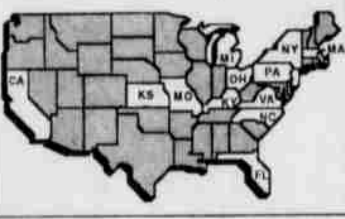
Monthly frauds (police estimate)



Total thefts reported  
Insurance frauds

TOTAL REPORTED THEFTS	37,958
TOTAL INSURANCE FRAUDS (est.)	11,388
TOTAL ACTUAL THEFTS (est.)	26,570

Locations of vehicle theft reports



SOURCES: FBI, Detroit Police Department and auto insurance companies

FRAUD, from Page 1A

ance claims could be filed, Walton said.

Some of the claims were not merely for the vehicles, but also for items purportedly left in them, such as fur coats and expensive watches, he said.

"The newest car we got was a 1985 Corvette with 486 miles on it," he said. "The oldest was a 1969 Cadillac. We also got two motorcycles, five converted vans and a 40-foot motor home."

The undercover agents paid an average of \$75 to the owner of the car or a "middleman" who arranged the deal, Walton said. About 35 of the defendants have been identified as "middlemen," most of them "mechanics, gas station owners, scrap yard operators and party store owners," Hayes said.

On numerous occasions, Walton said, his agents "were paid to dispose of the vehicles, because they were in such poor mechanical condition that they had to be towed."

In 30 instances, Walton said, his agents had to tow the vehicles from the homes of the owner or the "middleman."

OFFICIALS SAID the middlemen were organized in loosely knit groups

based primarily on geography, such as a group of party stores in the metro Detroit area, or a college campus or town in another state.

"That's the major reason why this thing stretches into 11 other states and Ontario," Walton said. "We've got students who were reporting their car stolen in other states, when they actually were driving them to here on vacations or semester breaks and disposing of them."

At 7 a.m. Monday, FBI agents in Michigan and "six other offices around the country" began arresting 50 of the defendants who "either have previous criminal records or we believe might try to flee the jurisdiction," Walton said. "The other defendants will be mailed summonses to appear before a U.S. magistrate."

Walton praised his undercover agents as well as "the aggressive posture taken by the U.S. Attorney's office, particularly Assistant U.S. Attorney Janice Terbush."

"This was a perfect example of cooperation between our offices to address a problem that is denting all our pockets by causing ever-increasing auto insurance and theft rates," he said.

Butcher, baker, police; warrants cut wide swath

By BRIAN FLANIGAN  
Free Press Staff Writer

The 170 defendants in the FBI's auto insurance fraud case "represent a complete cross section of our society," Kenneth Walton, special agent in charge of the Michigan FBI office, said Monday.

"We've got a butcher, a baker... we don't have a candlestick maker, but we've got a greeting card manufacturer."

The defendants are charged with mail fraud or related charges.

Three defendants are Detroit police officers: Anselm Foster, 34, a nine-year veteran assigned to the 14th (Schaefer) Precinct; Rodney Starks, 31, a nine-year veteran assigned to the 12th (Palmer Park) Precinct, and Queenie Hunter, 29, an eight-year veteran assigned to the 10th (Livernois) Precinct.

Starks is charged with aiding and abetting mail fraud by selling vehicle information from the police department's LEIN (Law Enforcement Information Network) computer to the undercover agents.

A Detroit police spokesman said Chief William Hart will recommend to the Board of Police Commissioners that the three patrol officers be suspended without pay.

Another defendant is Steven Phillips, 34, a two-year veteran assigned to the jail division of the Wayne County

Sheriff's Department.

Walton said Chief Hart and Wayne County Sheriff Robert Ficano "cooperated fully with our investigation after we informed them of the circumstances."

ALSO CHARGED is Leroy Young, 54, the president of Local 26 of the Amalgamated Transit Union. Young represents an estimated 1,000 bus drivers at the City of Detroit's Department of Transportation.

At least three Detroit Public Schools employees are among those charged, including Prentiss Hall, 42, head of the guidance counseling department at Crockett Vocational Center, a schools spokesman said.

Officials said other persons charged are an admissions officer at a Detroit mental health clinic, a pizzeria owner, the owner of an electronics firm, a Michigan Department of Social Services employee and an analyst who works for the City of Detroit's Municipal Parking Department.

Also charged are two employees of the U.S. Social Security Administration, the owner of Chami's Men's Wear at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, autoworkers, a market administrator for Michigan Bell, a hairdresser, a customer service representative for Manufacturers Bank and numerous college students, many of them residents of other states.

the indicted

The following people have been charged in federal grand jury indictments or federal criminal complaints with mail fraud and related charges:

- Abdiazeez, Ansan A., 23, Girard, Ohio
- Abdalahab, Ibrahim Zaid, 26, Dearborn
- Abouhashim, Mased, 27, Raleigh, N.C.
- Abou-Nour, Sarmad, 36, Southfield
- Adams, Ned Jr., 39, Detroit
- Ahmad, Mohamad A., 26, Kansas City, Mo.
- Al, Hadad M., 24, Dallas, Texas
- Amproziak, Michael A., 41, W. Bloomfield
- Andrews, Alvin Jr., 28, Detroit
- Andrews, Andre Eric, 28, Detroit
- Ashkar, Hassan Mohamad, 33, Dearborn
- Avoub, Ahmed, 38, Dearborn
- Baduel, Maurice Lovell Jr., Detroit
- Bazzi, Abdul Malik, 21, Dearborn
- Bazzi, Alif Abdul, 22, Dearborn
- Benson, Eric, 22, Detroit
- Bentley, Michael Lee, 28, Detroit
- Berro, Ibrahim Ali, 45, Dearborn
- Bivins, Karl, 30, Detroit
- Boyd, Horace Howard Jr., 29, Detroit
- Bryant, Patricia, 33, Detroit
- Bryd, James Jr., 35, Detroit
- Burd, Patricia, 32, Detroit
- Chami, Amin, 58, Dearborn
- Chami, Hussein Ali, 34, Dearborn
- Choueb, Hassan Ali, 27, Dearborn
- Clark, Claude, Detroit
- Clark, Dollie, 36, Detroit
- Cline, Tommy Roy, 28, Ferndale
- Cooper, Tyrone, 33, Detroit
- Cranick, John Robert, 25, Mt. Clemens
- Dalabra, Mounaad Chatic, 21, Detroit
- Dala, Hakkam, 32, Oak Park
- Dandachi, Tamer, 27, Pontiac
- Dawson, Thornton, 41, Detroit
- Deabes, Bassam Hassan, 28, Dearborn
- Dean, Marv, 36, St. Clair Shores
- Dean, Tommy Gene, 33, St. Clair Shores
- Dedvukal, Zef, 29, Sterling Heights
- Dedvukal, Zina, 26, Roseville
- Dedvukovic, Pasko, 24, Sterling Heights
- Dorra, Youssef Hussein, 28, Dearborn
- Dosier, Irma Faye, 29, Detroit
- Earls, Michael Ralph, 35, Troy
- Eason, Roosevelt, 39, Detroit
- Eibeltam, Hussein, 31, Raleigh, N.C.
- Evans, Herman, 29, Detroit
- Evans, William Carroll, 59, Highland Park
- Fahad, Abdul Rahman, 43, Fial Rock
- Fawaz, Assad, 34, Dearborn
- Fawaz, Max, 36, Dearborn

- Fennov, Patricia Ann, 44, Romulus
- Ferguson, James, 29, Detroit
- Floyd, General James, 37, Detroit
- Foster, Nathaniel Dennis, 32, Detroit
- Fostern, Anselm Leroy, 34, Detroit
- Fowler, Henry Earl, 28, Detroit
- Francis, Madrid, 29, Toledo
- Fry, Sharon, 36, Rochester
- George, Jill Judith, 23, Dearborn
- Gharib, Jawad K., 29, Roxbury, Mass.
- Graham, Deborah Lillie, 31, Detroit
- Grant, Jacqueline Marie, 29, Detroit
- Graves, Timothy John, 38, Mt. Clemens
- Griffin, Scott Dewitt, 31, Farmington Hills
- Hali, Prentiss Lamar, 42, Detroit
- Hamilton, Hiram Eugene, 44, Detroit
- Hankka, Adel Mohamad Ali, Dearborn
- Hankka, Adnan Mohamad Ali, Dearborn
- Hammoud, Mohamad Ali, 28, Dearborn
- Hampton, William R., 43, Detroit
- Harp, Hamad, 36, Dearborn
- Harp, Selma, 31, Dearborn
- Harter, Katherine T., 33, Southgate
- Hartler, Keith, no age or address
- Highower, Donald Lubbe, 36, Detroit
- Himes, Esther, 72, Detroit
- Hollis, Magaret, 43, Detroit
- Howard, Richard Ray, 39, Drayton Plains
- Hunter, Queenie Esther, 28, Detroit
- Jackson, Billy, no age or address
- Jalloul, Hassan Mohamad, 27, Dearborn
- Jalloul, Kathleen, 25, Dearborn
- Jemison, Billy, 32, Detroit
- Johnson, Georgia Anna, 54, Detroit
- Jones, Doris Jean, 48, Detroit
- Jones, Holsa, 48, Detroit
- Jordan Clyde Burton, 49, Saginaw
- Julie Davis, 28, Detroit
- Jweda Haifa, 29, Madison Heights
- Kaiou, Galal, 27, Oak Park
- Kulawski, Edward, 47, Sterling Heights
- Lacy, Richardson, 32, Detroit
- Larkin, Gladys Pearl, 36, Detroit
- Lee, Kathy, 29, Detroit
- Lesniak, Frederick, 43, Detroit
- Luster, Dazell Hayward, 38, Detroit
- Mack, Tarmy, 23, Detroit
- Makhzoum, Khalil Ibrahim, 27, Dearborn
- Marku, Pren, 27, Sterling Heights
- Marku Vitore, 26, Troy
- McAdoo, Candie Lynn, 21, Madison Heights
- McDuffie, Darvi L., 35, Detroit
- McLaurin, Carnell, 39, Detroit
- McLaurin, Deborah, 31, Detroit
- Mikha, Georgette Hanna, 47, Oak Park
- Mohab, Basal, 20, Wichita, Kan.
- Mohamad, Mahmoud, 29, Dearborn
- Mohana, Hassan A., 42, Dearborn

- Morris, Karen Donyell, 25, Detroit
- Morris, Mable Evelyn, 49, Detroit
- Mouhaier, Mike, 28, Dearborn
- Moussawel, Farouk B., 39, Dearborn
- Murray, Larry Tyrone, 37, Southfield
- Murray, Raymond, 43, Detroit
- Nabbouh, Ghassan Fadi, 29, Dearborn
- Patterson, Angelo, 29, Detroit
- Patton, Julie Kay, 29, Novi
- Perlee, Tyrone Ricardo, 25, Detroit
- Phillips, Jonathan Keith, 26, Detroit
- Phillips, Steven Michael, 34, Dearborn
- Pietri, Dod, 42, Ulica
- Piatt, Frances Gardina, 30, Detroit
- Price, Jerome Darvi, 35, Ypsilanti
- Rahman, Khadija Abdur, 35, Detroit
- Ramadan, Mohamad Ali, 43, Dearborn
- Rav, Gloria Jean, 26, Detroit
- Rhymes, Lorraine, 37, Southfield
- Robinson, Deborah, 32, Detroit
- Salameh, Snirey Jean, 38, Dearborn
- Salamek, Ali M., 27, Taylor
- Sanders, Frederick, 44, Detroit
- Sareini, Ahmad, 40, Dearborn
- Sareini, Dajal, 35, Dearborn
- Sassini, Michael John, 25, Warren
- Schenk, James D., 49, Farmington Hills
- Selini, Rami, 29, Hamtramck
- Slaughter, Ira, 46, Southfield
- Starks, Delroco, 26, Detroit
- Starks, Michael John, 34, Detroit
- Starks, Rodney Jerome, 31, Detroit
- Stobouph, Keith C., 29, Mt. Clemens
- Sirelman, Bonnie Lynn, 22, Madison Heights
- Svab, Roy, 73, Hazel Park
- Taleb, Abdul Hussein-Said, 43, Dearborn
- Taylor, Eddie, 41, Detroit
- Taylor, Joel Clark, 23, Southgate
- Taylor, Lia Lorraine, 37, Detroit
- Thousand, Marilyn Leslie, 29, Hazel Park
- Turner, Karen Y., 30, Detroit
- Underwood, Will Harvey, 45, Detroit
- Vance, Felton Leon, 31, Detroit
- Wagner, Dan Jr., 33, Detroit
- Walkins, Lethia, 28, Detroit
- Watson, Bernice, 32, Detroit
- Webb, Barbara A., 34, Detroit
- Wegori, Robert, 34, Rochester
- Weich, Frank Jr., 34, Detroit
- White, Franklin, 47, Detroit
- Wilson, Carl Morris, 43, Detroit
- Vance, James Edward, 44, Detroit
- Young, LeRoy London, 54, Detroit

Also charged were nine other persons whose names are not known to investigators.

Island party begins as 62d annual race draws to end

MACKINAC, from Page 1A

night, the boat rocked with music and merry, and invitations to come aboard were dispensed without hesitation. With all that partying, you'd think the Pied Piper's crew members were celebrating a victory. In fact, with a handicapping system, they finished 12th overall. Nevertheless, crossing first was sufficient reason for the crew to raise a toast, indeed, many.

Thus began a boisterous celebration that spread over the island Monday as the 62d race came to a close.

Nearly 300 boats, their dazzling spinnakers taut, crossed the finish line throughout the day, a thundering cannon announcing each arrival.

The unofficial winner of the overall race was Sprint, a 39-foot Joubert Nivel from the Bayview Yacht Club in Detroit.

"We knew if we hung in there we would at least win our class," said Frank Piku, 50, a Sprint crew member from Grosse Pointe. "So we pushed and looks like we've won it all."

Except for a brief thunderstorm that slammed some boats on the first night of the race, most crews called the trip an easy ride.

"It was pretty relaxing, truthfully," said Bill Ellsworth, 37, a Clarkston plumber, as he and other crew members relaxed on the Black Rushin' under a bright sun tempered by a cool breeze.

The docks surrounding them were jammed with a spectacular array of color, from the boats themselves to the sailors' gear that hung on them to dry, to the thousands of spectators who came to look.



Fujimo is the Class A winner and a contender for the overall honors in the Port Huron to Mackinac yacht race.

THEY CAME for varied reasons.

"It's not the boats we're interested in," said Cindy Weins, 24, who had arrived on the island Sunday from Chicago with her sister, Linda. "She likes Australians," Linda, 26, said of her sister. "I'm not particularly choosy."

Rick Best, 30, of Saginaw wore a bright green shirt, khaki Bermuda shorts, white canvas deck shoes and mirrored sunglasses. His two friends were dressed similarly.

"We figure there's two women here for each one sailor," he said, standing outside the Pink Pony restaurant on a crowded street as Dixieland jazz wafted from a nearby bar.

"So we're standing around looking like crewmen," he said. "We'll do fine until they ask

where the boat is."

Helen Wanek and her husband, Wendell, both 57, were visiting from Taylor.

"We went to Port Huron (for the start of the race Saturday) mostly because there wasn't much else to do," Helen Wanek said, speaking over the dance music coming from a nearby boat. "Then we got to talking and decided we'd drive up to see the finish."

Wendell Wanek said being among millions of dollars worth of boats was uplifting.

"You start to feel rich looking at all of this, talking to all the people," he said.

"Yeah," interrupted Bob Merz, 60, whom the Waneks had met and teamed up with earlier, "but then you come down to earth and realize you're as poor as a pauper."

Family tried to commit man suspected in killing

OFFICER, from Page 1A

Wheeler, a former Northville Regional Psychiatric Hospital patient who police say shot and killed Officer Anthony Williams on the porch of Wheeler's home on Northlawn Ave. in northwest Detroit on Sunday evening, was fascinated by weapons, according to neighbors and Wayne County Probate Court records.

Wheeler, 38, was listed in stable condition Monday at Detroit Receiving Hospital with multiple gunshot wounds, a spokesman said. Wheeler was shot by police after he killed Williams, police said.

WILLIAMS, 27, a member of the Major Crimes Mobile Unit, arrived with three officers to arrest Wheeler on an outstanding warrant issued by Royal Oak Township on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon, police said.

Police reports say Williams and his partners arrived after conferring briefly with Wheeler's brother-in-law, Detroit police Sgt. Ives Edwards, who had spoken to Wheeler in the home shortly before the shootout occurred.

The four officers were aware of Wheeler's mental problems, police said Monday.

After police arrived, Wheeler screamed that they would not take him alive and armed himself with a sawed-off shotgun, police said.

As other officers looked for protection, Williams apparently was attempting to find cover on the front porch when Wheeler stepped out and opened fire, police said. The other officers responded with gunfire, wounding Wheeler, police said.

Williams, a nine-year veteran, was pronounced dead at the scene.

WHEELER WAS arrested July 3 in Royal Oak Township for carrying two concealed handguns: a .38-caliber and a .22-caliber, said

Cecil Dawson, deputy chief of the township's Police Department.

Wheeler told Royal Oak Township police he had purchased the guns on the street. He was held overnight and released on personal bond July 4.

"I think they released him on his recognizance rather than on bail because his sister was there," Dawson said.

Wheeler's sister, Detroit police Sgt. Brenda Edwards, who is assigned to the police academy, would talk only briefly Monday about her brother. She said: "It (his arrest) was something that had to be done. I'm so hurt that an officer had to die." She said her brother had a history of mental illness.

Wheeler failed to appear for a July 10 court hearing in the case, Dawson said, and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest.

According to Wayne County Probate Court records, Brenda Edwards had asked the court to commit Wheeler to Northville at least once, on Nov. 30, 1980.

Court records show he was admitted to Northville on Nov. 30, 1980. It was unclear whether he had been a patient there at other times.

Neighbors in the neatly kept, middle-class neighborhood said Wheeler had vowed that police would not arrest him again.

Several neighbors said Wheeler had a history of mental problems. One said Wheeler had been in Northville state hospital several times and had once threatened to kill his mother.

"I felt like crying. It was senseless. It was miserable," said one neighbor, who asked not to be identified and said he's known the family for several years. "This didn't have to happen. They should've kept that boy in the hospital."

Staff Writers Brian Flanigan, Gregory Huskisson and Jack Kresnak contributed to this report.