

STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

CASE NO.: 94-1043
REPORT BY: BILL PADGETT
REPORT DATE:
RE: Ohio Pharmacy Breaking and Entering, Task Force Organization
Synopsis: Task Force organized to investigate numerous pharmacy burglaries throughout Ohio with same methods of entry.

Investigation: During the later part of 1993 this Agent became aware that within the compliance boundaries of this Agents territory many pharmacies had been broken into at night by unknown burglars. As the reports of the drug losses began to arrive at the Board Of Pharmacy this agent began gathering the reports and talking with the registered Pharmacist at the pharmacies. It became apparent that many of the burglaries were being done in the same fashion, specifically, by cutting the telephone lines (or any exposed line) on the outside of the pharmacy. In most instances this disabled the alarm system and once inside the perpetrators were given ample time to remove large quantities of drugs from the pharmacy before detection. Having this information, I then began contacting police and sheriff's departments in this Agent's territory. I realized that the Board Of Pharmacy is notified, as required by law, when drug thefts occur. However, no information was being received by the Board when break-in attempts were made and failed. Attempts are not required to be reported to the DEA or the Board of Pharmacy.

During the first week of January 1994, this Agent went to the Board Of Pharmacy and began researching the drug theft reports of the Board Of Pharmacy for the past six months. From those records copies were made of all drug store burglaries and all armed robberies that had occurred in Ohio during that time period. This information was then entered into a computer program so that a better view of sequence could be seen by date, pharmacy, county and day of week that the burglary occurred. The printout revealed a State wide problem and only appeared to involve independently owned pharmacy's. This Agent then contacted New Lexington Police Chief Jeff Newman, and Crooksville Police Chief Robin Zinn, both of whom had burglaries in pharmacies in their cities. I discussed the information that I had gathered and advised them that I was going to contact Lancaster PD. and the Muskingum County Sheriff's Department and set a meeting to develop a task force to exchange information on the burglaries that had occurred as well as a means of identifying the attempted burglaries that had occurred that I was not aware of.



This report may not be distributed without the express permission of the Board of Pharmacy's Compliance Administrator.

Page: 11
Case # 94-1043
Date: April, 1994

with SWAT to advise them of all the information that they needed to know safely conduct their surveillance.

The surveillance was conducted all night of 01/29/94 until 6:30 A.M. and no remarkable activity took place. The reason for this was later noted to be because Rodney was unable to locate a driver for this burglary.

On 01/31/94 this Agent talked with Detective Hickman. The CI had talked with Detective Hickman and reported that Rodney had contacted her on this date and told her that he and Maurice were going to assist him with the pharmacy burglary in Columbus and that he wanted her to drive for him. Rodney still was insisting that the CI use his car (which is a 1979 Chevrolet Impala with a new yellow paint job. Ohio Reg. JKZ218). He also stated that he had been paid \$15,000 to cripple "the man" who was responsible for the raids in Crestline, Ohio last week. After he finishes that and the pharmacy burglary he stated that he is going to Atlanta to take care of some other business. The CI agreed to drive for this burglary and notified Rodney that he had to give her some notice as to when he would need her. Arrangements were still continuing to do a controlled buy on 02/01/94 at the home of Bruce Melton in Canal Winchester. This buy was limited to pharmaceutical drugs in preferably in stock drug containers.

On 02/01/94 this agent met with Detectives Finkel and Powell from the Franklin Co. Sheriff's Dept. and Detectives Hickman and Dayne of the Galion Police Dept., also present at this meeting was a confidential informant. The reason for this meeting was to debrief the informant and to begin preparation for a controlled drug buy later this date from Bruce Melton. The informant talked with Bruce Melton over the telephone and was told that Belinda Carswell had left and that it was OK to come over.

When the informant went to the residence she got no response from inside the apartment. After several attempts to get a response the informant left the area. The informant also attempted to contact Bruce Melton by phone but got no response. After the last attempt to reach Melton was unsuccessful the attempt to purchase drugs from Bruce Melton was abandoned for the time being. The informant was told to continue to attempt to contact Melton over the weekend to determine why he would not answer the door.

It is also important to note that as I was leaving the area that I received a alpha message on my pager informing me that there had been a pharmacy burglary this A.M. at the Johnstown Pharmacy. Entrance had been gained to the pharmacy by prying open a door, after the alarm wires had been cut.

During the dates of 02/07/94 through 02/10/94 the informant made several contacts with individuals connected to the Melton's. Many of these telephone conversations were taped recorded by the informant. The tapes were then turned over to Detective Hickman as evidence and for transcribing.