



Tribune photo by Milbert Orlando Brown

U.S. Atty. Scott Lassar announces racketeering conspiracy charges against former Chicago police official William A. Hanhardt.

Retired police official ran theft ring, feds say

A cop's cop

Officer William Hanhardt rose through the ranks, even as questions over alleged mob connections dogged him.

By Cam Simpson
and Ray Gibson
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

Thirty-eight years ago, a brash young police detective and his fellow cops were hailed by neighbors when they broke up a brutal burglary ring, killing two home invaders in a hail of bullets fired by a machine gun and Sgt. William A. Hanhardt's service revolver.

Such epic police shootouts, with Hanhardt at the center of the action, and his skills at cracking bank robberies and burglary rings, established Hanhardt as a legendary crime fighter on the city's police force: a cop's cop with



an uncanny ability to solve crimes. Yet for almost two decades, his alleged associations with organized crime figures and charges that he interfered with certain investigations dogged Hanhardt, even while he rose through the ranks from patrolman to deputy superintendent of police.

Now, a sweeping federal indictment on Thursday, charging that Hanhardt controlled some of the very thieves he was once paid to track down, threatens his legacy as one of the city's top cops.

Hanhardt, a man who once commanded a detective division staff

6 others are indicted in nationwide heists

By Matt O'Connor
and Cam Simpson
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

A sophisticated nationwide jewelry theft ring headed by a former high-ranking Chicago police official carefully picked its targets, studied the traveling salesmen's routines and then struck with precision—snatching millions of dollars in jewels, sometimes using keymaking equipment to slip into jewelers' locked cars unnoticed, federal authorities charged Thursday.

The long-awaited indictment alleged that William A. Hanhardt led the mob-connected theft ring while he was still a police captain and for another decade after he retired from the top echelons of the department in 1986.

Hanhardt and six others, including two men who are now deceased, stole about \$4.8 million in diamonds and other jewels in

eight previously unsolved heists in the Midwest, West and South west, the charges alleged. Yet another defendant allegedly took part in a final attempted theft.

Hanhardt, a colorful and controversial figure in his 32-year police career, was accused of personally participating in some of the thefts, helping follow targeted jewelry salesmen and serving as a lookout during one attempted theft.

"The hallmark of this jewelry theft ring was its extreme sophistication and planning," U.S. Atty. Scott Lassar said in announcing the racketeering conspiracy charges against Hanhardt and the others, several of whom are reputed organized-crime figures.

Hanhardt, 71, of Deerfield, used Chicago police officers to run license-plate checks and gather other information about poten-



**BILL
HANHARDT**



**BILL
HANHARDT**

Cops targeted in jewel thefts

**By MICHAEL SNEED
AND MICHELLE ROBERTS**
STAFF REPORTERS

Federal authorities are investigating the possible involvement of two high-ranking Chicago cops and several detectives in a jewelry theft ring operating in at

least three states, the Chicago Sun-Times has learned.

Law enforcement sources confirmed Thursday that the FBI tapped the telephone of one of the top cops, now retired, during the investigation.

Another top cop and several detectives also were questioned recently by the FBI

after the wiretap picked up calls to the retired officer, sources said. The phone was monitored during all of 1996, they said.

The Sun-Times also has learned that at least two jewelers and others, who claim they were unaware they had bought stolen

Turn to Page 3

Hanhardt gets 15 years in jail, but it could be life

One-time hero cop, 73, is highest-ranking officer convicted

BY STEVE WARMBIR
FEDERAL COURTS REPORTER

Once-renowned Chicago cop William Hanhardt survived shootouts and stone-cold death threats.

Now, the 73-year-old man could die behind bars.

A federal judge on Thursday sentenced the crooked cop, who rose as high as deputy superintendent, to 15 years and 8 months in prison. He is the highest-ranking Chicago officer convicted of corruption.

Prosecutors argued Hanhardt was pocketing payoffs from the mob early in his career, which Hanhardt's defense team denied.

Hanhardt pleaded guilty last year to running a cunning jewelry theft ring tied to the mob that stole more than \$5 million in diamonds and gems from jewelry salesmen across the country in the 1980s and 1990s, leaving some victims in financial ruin. Four other crew members have pleaded guilty while a fifth man awaits trial.

"I think the record was plain, that this was a horrendous crime,"

U.S. Attorney Patrick J....

filch their goods.

They were thieves so smooth it was as if they arrived on a breeze and departed on a whisper.

So smooth they weren't the first suspects in the robberies—the victims were, while police figured the heists had to be staged.

So smooth they often knew more about the victims—by compiling detailed dossiers—than the victims' wives did.

Hanhardt used his police expertise to defeat detection for years, prosecutors said.

He cultivated informants—to tell him about jewelry salesmen ripe for plucking.

He tapped into colleagues on the force to get confidential information on victims.

And he was only caught due to the dogged work of FBI Agent Edward McNamara, according to the prosecution team of John Podliska, John Scully and Eric Sussman. FBI agents combined wiretapped phone conversations with detailed analysis of calls, receipts and information from



William Hanhardt
Ran theft ring

confidential sources to tighten the web around Hanhardt and his crew.

In the end, even the reputation of the thieves for avoiding violence was tarnished. The judge decided Hanhardt's crew bore responsibility for the 1995 armed robbery of a New York state jewelry salesman, beaten and bloodied in his

Brookfield, Wis., hotel room.

In Hanhardt's life, fantasy and reality often brushed up against each other.

He played a retired mob hit man in an episode of the television series "Crime Story."

And prosecutors allege he also acted as a real-life middleman to arrange a mob hit on a bookie. The hit never happened. And the judge didn't buy the prosecution's case on this point.

Hanhardt also consulted on the 1981 Michael Mann movie, "Thief." The film, in its smaller roles, contains ironic echoes of Hanhardt's own life. Real-life cops play bad guys, and real-life crooks play cops.

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Introduction
to
**CPD
Burglary**

It was early March 1990 Chicago, in Cook County, Illinois the crisp evening air still held winters cold curse. Approaching the garden apartment (finer term for basement) location was like many other neat inconspicuous buildings on a quite northwest side area street. On this night once near the front door of this two-story brick building you could simply lean over the walkway to peer into the ground level windows into the garden apartment without ever tramping into the wet mostly muddy grass.

The bushes in front of the windows were cut low, a bit naked and lean after a long winter. The inside sheer wispy white curtains were transparent enough to view a living room with a TV on in a far corner facing out to window.



The building faced south on a one-way street mid-way down the block that had usual automobiles crammed into tight parking spots on both sides of street. Not a space was open for another car unless someone had reason to leave. Since being damp Friday night with scatters mounds of grimy snow still melting away, it was doubtful any of the mostly elderly residents had reason to venture out this dark chill night? Trees along the street were still stark and barren; streetlights had long ago lost any luster other than to illuminate a few gloomy shadows from an effortless icy moderate breeze.

This night would mark an ominous crime within this simple average garden apartment and go unnoticed by the local neighbors for now. Except for the victims who suffered the pain, the loss, and the perpetrators who committed this precession even masterful decoy style crime. This crime was executed by pros using surveillance techniques such as parking near by for long lengths of time to study their victims' habits of arrival and departure, and what was carried in or out. A long after lingering question would plea did any neighbors ever notice or bother to check out a suspect car or its occupants? After all this was a safe quite very low crime neighborhood many of the elderly just sat about by their windows checking for the mail delivery or who's car is parked in front. A minor police call report of just such a incident now buried away in some forgotten file might well disclose suspects parked on street or offer a description of car and tags. .

Nighttime events began about 8:00 PM when the only two persons inside left apartment to make a deliver to family member in southwest suburb, rather easy task, and taking less then two hours. Upon their return and entering the common entry front door, going inside they step down a few stairs to reach door of garden apartment. Their key inserted into the knob handle lock that's less then secure opens the door and pushes inward but there is abrupt halt of the door, it seems inside safety chain is now attached

to door and prevents entry access to the apartment? The small opening between the security chain allows for a limited view toward the TV still on over in the corner, on the carpeted floor clothing is tossed about from and open closet; the closet open door is slightly visible. This sight sends out a cry "we've been hit" both now bolt out the front by sense one rushes to west side of building where the ground is muddy and slippery but easier to reach the rear entrance and the other goes heart pumping in over drive to east side of building along a dark side walkway moving back to the rear until seeing the bedroom windows, they were two small windows with extra storm windows and only windows so guarded on the ground level one storm is slightly open a few inches. A shout then from back of building near the rear door common entrance is saying doors locked tight can't get in.

Carefully crouch down and prying up the small extra fragile glass storm by squeezing part of fingers into a small tight opening and slowly with nimble fingers tightly gripping carefully pull up to avoid breaking the damn old weak framework. Then pushing on the next inner wood frame to open up the inside second window and move the curtain aside to view the bedroom, light from the hallway offers some vision to the darkness while bending thru the small space and reach with a out stretched hand



over to grab hold and remove a lamp on a table just blocking the window and place it on the floor, then backing out and turning around going in feet first allows to stand on the now empty lamp table while wiggling through the small tight window opening. It's somewhat of a damn good chance he went to the windows for his cohort, bulky size would never fit through this window or have the same agile dexterity to squirm down into the bedroom. Once inside a dash to open the back door into common area of basement and then move to unlock main back common outside entrance door to let in the other. With both inside at last, now time to carefully survey the inside areas for danger if perpetrator (s) were still likely be inside? Each felt the emotional burning hot flash a rush triggered by fear of the unknown danger. Together their voices, rapid breathing and body movements worked like magnets, signaling bursts of energy alerts in union to physically engage whatever lurked ahead.

We pause here to inform our readers these are true events written in sequel narrations, based on personal interviews, official records, newspaper observations, actual court testimony, and other factual data.



REPORT on March 2, 1990 Burglary Investigation by IRS Introduction to Confidential BBC criminals

From start investigation was predetermined to go nowhere. Clearly Brotherhood Burglary Club (BBC) had taken charge of covering-up their crime. Public is confident in the CPD practices to file case under disappeared and soon all is forget about justice. But not IRS?

Chicago BBC-CPD usual smoke & mirrors investigation: States Attorney's office (SAO) clearly has no authority or oversight. Tribune reporter Robert Blau reported profile reveals the burglary events as follow phone complaint made to CPD 16th district. First detectives to arrive were Det. Schumacher- star #14337 & Det. Solo star #15349 from the 25th district. Quickly are replaced by higher grade Det. Kumorek -star #20637 & Det. O'Conner-star #20866 of same 25th district. During events a dozen or more uniforms from 16th district snoop about inside.

Fingerprint tech is a sharp old pro who goes about his duty mumbling softly it's a staged set up a classic sign of professional burglary job. He talks how it take two to three guys to haul four case out a small window if they could fit much less themselves out. **see photos Exhibit**



It clear BBC already new layout of their target and probably kept under serious surveillance even wiretapped location? True gumshoe MO move.

Days later and after CPD affirmative polygraph tests case was re-assigned to CPD-5 (suspect since inter-state is a federal crime) who pulled file so local CPD-5 can white-wash. The Det. DeLeonardis-star #01077, Det. Collins- star #20619, Det. Fallon-star #20624, Det. Anhalt-star # 20612, Det. Salvi-star #20650 all of 25th district under command Jim Fruin. Fruin resigns after case upgrade to avoid a look see into his outside activity as CEO of IFPC Worldwide inc. a security supplier of spy ware, *etc. **States Attorney Office (SAO)** assigned: Jim Piper and Rodney Merrick to crime case. Just like CPD the SAO are do nothing types. Less then two months later all go nowhere burglary case magically disappears. Now real facts are disclosed in plaintiff aka victim complaint.

Footnote on coincidence: CPD-5 are same team that busted illegal operation at location were now out-state victim new store location was opening?

*Jim Fruin offers a nice insider service for BBC, even Bill Hanhardt crew gain trade benefits. Spyware was Bill Hanhardt crew primo burglary MO.