

*FBI, DEA, State Police Take Part*

## 4 Arrested in Wyoming County Drug Raid

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Equipment used in a "major" methamphetamine laboratory was seized and four persons were arrested in a raid in Wyoming County Tuesday night, conducted by FBI agents from Philadelphia and Scranton, agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration and the State Police.

John L. Hogan, special agent in charge of the Philadelphia Division of the FBI, said the laboratory was capable of producing up to \$1,000,000 worth of methamphetamines per month and represents one of the largest long-term running laboratories known to exist in Pennsylvania.

Arrested at the lab site, located on Tunnel Hill Road, Wyoming County, were: Robert E. "Shorty" Hoffner, 35; John Conway, 36, and Jimmy Robinson, all of Philadelphia, and Gerald Cohen, 48, of Lindenwold, N.J.

They were charged with three violations of Title 21, United States Code, which prohibits the unauthorized and unlawful manufacture of methamphetamine, a non-narcotic controlled substance as defined by the Controlled Substances Act of 1970.

The charges include conspiracy, manufacture of methamphetamine, and possession with intent to deliver.

Three of the four were arraigned Wednesday at Scranton before Federal Magistrate Joseph F. Cimini, who set bail for Hoffner, Robinson and Cimini at \$25,000 each. Atty. Neil Jokelson, Philadelphia, who represented the three, said bail would be posted Thursday.

Conway, an escapee from a Mississippi state prison, was returned to Mississippi without being formally charged.

John Nystrand of Wyalusing, accused of purchasing methamphetamines from an undercover agent and attempting to sell the agent a .45-caliber submachine gun with a silencer, underwent separate arraignments Wednesday before District Justice Marion Robinson at Tunkhannock and Federal Magistrate Raymond Durkin in Wilkes-Barre.

Recovered during the search of the lab were chemicals and other materials used in the manufacture of methamphetamines, commonly known as "meth" or "speed," and approximately four pounds of the finished product which has a street value of about \$200,000, according to Special Agent Hogan.

Also seized was a small quantity of P2P, a controlled substance necessary for the production of the methamphetamines.



**Some of the Equipment Seized**

Here is a portion of the equipment used in the methamphetamine laboratory in Wyoming County which was seized in a raid Tuesday night.

Included are presses, hot plates, glass baking dishes, pitchers, cookers, breathing masks, scales, and other paraphernalia used in the manufacture of methamphetamines.

The photo was taken at the FBI offices, Scranton.

The FBI/DEA investigation, which has been in progress for over six months, revealed that the operation was producing "meth" for about five years, and at the Wyoming County location for about 15 months.

The raid represented one of the first joint FBI/DEA operations conducted since the establishment of the new U.S. Attorney General directives issued last month in an effort to combine the resources of these two agencies.

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