

TO: JOHN P. KNOX, CHIEF
PATROL DIVISION WEST

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AUGUST 11, 1969

SUBJECT: SPAHN RANCH SUMMARY

On August 9, 1969 Sgt. V. Jones #460 and Deputy R. Wachsmuth #639 contacted the personnel at Engine Co. #75 and submitted the following:

On July 8, Walker was contacted by a Det. Sgt., LAPD who showed him some photos of some 459 and 211 PC suspects wanted by them. Walker then started checking the area as to possible hiding areas. Approximately two hours later Walker observed these juveniles (subjects) and then called LAPD who apprehended them. They were hiding in a cave there which is located approximately 1/4 mile down the canyon from the ranch. They apparently had nothing to do with the Ranch itself or its occupants. Refer LAPD DR# 69-556805.

Locks on some of the fire trails have been replaced by the hippies with locks of their own, these are mostly red painted or green and have the number A243 stamped on the bottom. (Seeley, Fireman #75 copped one of these keys and has one on his ring).

"Jack" had also stated that there were about twenty girls staying at the ranch. Walker had seen one guy on a chopper who "Jack" had stated was a friend of his from Venice.

Description of "Jack" 5/7, 160 pounds, dark long brown (ear length), ratty looking hair, blue or hazel eyes, pot belly, about 26 or 27 years usually drives a brown or primer dune buggy or a red one.

Walker also observed two 2-way radios (Sears) brand new Citizens band, at east end of ranch sitting on the ground hooked to a battery, one still with wrapping on it, about three weeks ago (prior to seeing telephone lines).

(Works C Shift- August 11, 12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23, 26, 23)

Lynn Seeley, Engine Co. #75 states that he and Fireman Paul R. Whitt were on the Yarra Canyon Motorway July 23 when they saw a A243 lock on the gate and then checked the Motorway and saw a truck 1 1/2 ton Dodge green with a arc-welder in the back coming toward them. Upon seeing the firemen the truck stopped and the driver jumped out and disappeared, a female who was a passenger hesitated for a few moments before she also departed into the bushes, they were unable to be located. The truck was hot wired under the dash. Sheriff was called but was unable to locate it, it was subsequently found by LAPD and it was found to be a stolen of theirs.

Their description is: 6' skinny long and lanky 30's, brown hair.

Gal: long light brown hair, violet colored bell bottoms.

Seeley and Walker state they both have seen the male suspect at the ranch and has a "dumb friend" of Charlie (who calls him that and they can identify him.)

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On August 9, 1969 Sgt. V. Jones #460 and Deputy R. Wachsmuth #639 contacted the personnel at Engine Co. #75 and submitted the following:

On the same day Seeley and Whitt came upon one dune buggy on the Ybarra Motorway which they tracked down and it was checked out by Sheriff's Department unit, (no record or wants).

Freeman states on the following day Captain Freeman and Paul Whitt were at the Iverson Lane when Charlie came by and stated "Hey man about the rotor cap from the dune buggy, you shouldn't have done that because if I'd have been there I would have killed you". Paul advised him that he just wanted to talk to them (referring to the truck), and they ran into the bushes. Then Charlie says "Don't try to play the man because the next time you try it, you'll find yourself hanging from a tree upside down, dead".

Further explained they had an armed camp and that they were having trouble with the Panthers and that there had been a guy who gave them trouble and his body was dumped on the UCLA campus. Charlie advised that he was wanted on numerous felonies and that a citation from a fireman meant nothing to him. All then parted with the understanding that the people would watch their fines and be careful on the fire roads and the fireman would leave them alone.

Whitt was unable to be contacted as he is on vacation at the present time and will be back September 3.

Approximately a week ago Captain Freeman advised Spain to clean up areas around buildings for approximately 100' due to fire hazard.

Fireman Walker and Seeley state that entry can be gained also from the back side through the Devonshire Golf course and driving range. They also state that they are available to act as guides for our Department when ever needed."

The following was submitted by Sgt. Donald Rowland, #681, on July 31, 1969:

"Information has been received that the Spain Ranch/Devil Canyon residents are, in addition to being heavily armed with carbines and a .50 cal. machine gun, cultivating marijuana. If areas of marijuana cultivation are observed, approach them with caution as they are "booby trapped." Deputies should use caution when handling situations in the area; however, do not hesitate to make an arrest if the situation warrants it."

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Deputy Ronald Z. Eisman, #2717, submitted the following on August 1, 1969:

"I contacted Judy Greene, F/W/40, at Greens Acres Ranch, Fern Ann Falls Rd., RD#1071, north of Spahn Ranch off Iverson Lane, who stated she had been threatened by numerous negro militants regarding burning her out because she reported them to the Fire Department for putting their own lock on a fire road gate behind her house. She also said her father, John Allardyce, M/W/60, same address, phone 882-1409, had seen many negroes on horseback riding on private property adjacent to their ranch. This observation occurred approximately July 19, 1969. Mrs. Greene is extremely cooperative and will assist us in any way she can (she does not scare)".

On August 9, 1969 a Mr. Allardyce of the Greene Ranch was contacted by Sgt. V. Jones #460, who submitted the following:

"Mr. Allardyce, 882-1409, states that approximately two weeks ago two dune buggies were observed by Mrs. Greene to go by her ranch and were stopped by two County Fireman and advised to leave the area because of the fire danger. He states that on their return they stopped by the Greene Ranch and told Mrs. Greene (who was standing near the fence), that they might just come back and burn her house down as they felt she had told the fireman about them. They had been seen at the ranch before.

Mr. Allardyce states, August 8, 1969, he passed by the Spahn Ranch and saw several guys throwing knives at some bales of hay.

Mr. Jim Spahn son of owner may be contacted at 780-8686 - 764-6234 Pinto Spahn.

Jim had told Allardyce that the old man is afraid to leave the ranch for fear of retribution by those there.

Most girls there which can be observed from the road appear to be between 16-18 years old group, according to Allardyce."

Deputy Samuel J. Olmstead, #2504, submitted the following on August 1, 1969:

"At approximately 1:10AM, on July 28, 1969, we received a call from LAPD dispatcher reporting one of their units requests a Sheriff's unit on Topanga Canyon just north of Chatsworth St., regarding possible stolen vehicles. At approximately 2:30AM, Car 102 EM requested assistance from 100-S, 101 EM, and CHP units in the area. I arrived at location at approximately 3:15AM, and Deputy E.A. Loobey #2585 advised me that LAPD had run two vehicles at the Spahn Ranch, and both had come back as stolens.

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Deputy Samuel J. Olmstead, #2504, submitted the following on August 1, 1969:

At the location was a possible member of the "Satan Slaves" by the name of Summers, who was acting as a look-out for the group of "Slaves" staying at Spahn Ranch. Summers advised us his group anticipated an attack by the "Black Panthers" and several of the people at the ranch are armed. Summers was allowed to accompany us to the location in order to help us round up the others in order to determine who the stolen vehicles belonged to. Unknown to us, there is a field telephone system at the location, and, as soon as we arrived, the alarm was sounded and the only persons we could find were those who were asleep and didn't wake up with the alarm.

A walk-through check of the main buildings of the ranch disclosed eleven persons, as follows: Charles Miles Summers, M/W/35; John Harold Swartz, M/27; Larry Eugene Craven, M/29; Jason Lee Daniels, M/22; Robert John Nelson, M/27; Lynn Alice Fromme, F/20; Ruth Ann Heuvellhorst, F/17; Jacqueline Lee Knoll, F/26; George Harry Knoll M/28; Arnold Edward Vitasek, M/20; and Jack Paul McMillian, M/26. Of the above, suspect John H. Swartz was arrested for 4463 CVC re: stolen plates on his vehicle at the Spahn Ranch.

While checking the buildings, we came across one fully loaded 30 calibre carbino, one loaded 303 British in-field, and a 22 calibre rifle. All of the above weapons were checked via KMD 880, and a new Scan's citizen band radio was also checked, all with negative results.

I asked one of the subjects where the rest of the group was, and he pointed in an easterly direction and stated, "over behind those rocks." I said let's go wake them up, and he stated the only way to reach them is by dune buggy."

"We checked a small residence northwest of the main building, on a dirt road approximately 3/4 mile away from the ranch. The house was empty of furniture, but there was evidence that someone had been there just prior to our arrival. On the floor was approximately eight bed rolls. Around the door, stuck in the wall, were about six or eight bayonets, and on the floor near the door was a box (200 rounds) of 32 calibre bullets. Also in this house was a military type crank field phone, the same as those observed in the main building and house trailer just north of the main building.

After talking to the persons at the location, I got the opinion that there is a fairly large number of people scattered throughout the ranch area and on surrounding ranches in old buildings. I think a photo map of the area would be very helpful in the future, as it does appear that we are going to have more and more incidents occur in that area as long as that particular group of people are allowed to stay at the Spahn Ranch.

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Deputy Samuel J. Olmstead, #2504, submitted the following on August 1, 1969:

Attached are copies of the FIR cards on the eleven people talked to. If requested, the serial numbers can be obtained for the guns and radio checked while at location. I request a copy of this memo be sent to Deputy W. Gleason of the Motorcycle Detail. A copy of the FIR's have already been given to Deputy Gleason."

Deputy Clifford N. Jonkinson #446, submitted the following on August 1, 1969:

"Harry H. Hanlin (Crest Haven Ranch, Fern Ann Falls) related that at about 6:00PM this date, he saw two cyclist-type individuals walking east along the highway from the Spain Ranch. Both individuals were carrying rifles and appeared to be looking for something off of the south shoulder. He stated that the weapons carried either had external ammunition clips or handles (grips) to the front. No better description of suspects could be given. He claims to have heard automatic weapons fire during the evening hours, coming from the hills behind his ranch (the area of Devil Canyon and Ybarra Canyon). He feels that the weapon being fired was larger than a rifle, due to the loudness of the reports."

Mr. and Mrs. Hanlin were re-contacted on August 9, 1969 and could add nothing further.

On August 7, 1969 the following memo was submitted by Deputy Paul George #892.

"8:40PM Carl W. Pettit, foreman at the above ranch called reporting that a large number of hippie types cut his fence and moved in on the property. Pettit indicated that there is a large amount of camping gear, including a camouflaged tent, etc., as well as an off the road dune buggy.

Pettit also said that he had a recent loss of livestock from the ranch but that the livestock were returned to the ranch and turned loose. He apparently knows who is responsible for the theft but is reluctant to make a report for fear of reprisal. He indicated that all the residents in the area of the Iverson and Spain ranches have been threatened and are scared and concerned for their own safety.

The owner of the "Open Diamond Bar Ranch" is a E.J. Brandeis who lives on the property and has told Pettit to do anything he can to cooperate with law enforcement agencies. Pettit said he would be willing to do all he could to assist Sheriff's personnel to eliminate the continuing problem in this area.

I advised Pettit he would be contacted on August 8, 1969 by Acting Lieutenant E.G. Douglas regarding disposition. Pettit's telephone numbers; 341-3420 or 341-2749."

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On August 9, 1969 Sgt. J. Schlecht and Deputy F. Yturralde #1355, contacted Mr. Pettit and all other persons not mentioned above, who live in the immediate area of the Spahn Ranch. The memo of that investigation follows:

"Carl Pettit, Manager "Open Diamond Bar Ranch" part of this ranch is adjacent to the Spahn property, telephone; 341-3430 or 341-2749.

Pettit will cooperate including a landing site for a helicopter. Part of ranch gives a clear view to Spahn's.

No complaints except a dune buggy has been hidden on his property several hundred yards across the street from Spahn's in a north/easterly direction. The vehicle and equipment was observed but ownership unknown at this time.

Frank Johnson M/W/65 Fern Anns Falls Rd., no problems.

Fred Crockel M/W/35 "Trail End", Fern Anns Falls Rd., no problems.

Linda Henderson F/W/22 Fern Anns Falls Rd., 882-9990.

Barbara Elaine F/W/22

Horses for rent -- riders have complained about dune buggies spooking horses.

Janet Hutchinson, Fern Anns Falls Rd., 882-2062

Followed by a dune buggy a few weeks ago while horseback riding, no overt act.

Harry and Charline Hanlin, Fern Ann Falls Rd., 341-6713, Cresthaven

Mrs Hanlin chased and run off road as she was driving home. No apparent connection to Spahn's. Mr. Hanlin has observed two men with rifles who apparently live on the Spahn Ranch.

Mrs Iverson, Ranch Santa Susana Rd., no problems. Although people do ride trail bikes and dune buggies on her property.

Comment by writer:

Mr Iverson will make his property available for observation, Command Post, etc.
Very cooperative.

With the exception of a Mr Greene and Mr Steel, those interviewed are the only known people living in the vicinity of the Spahn Ranch. None interviewed have indicated any substantial reason for seeking a criminal complaint.

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The following information has been received from A/Sgt. William Gleason, Motorcycle File:

"At 3:00PM, this date, this writer had a conversation with Sergeant Schaeffer, Los Angeles Police Department, West Valley Division, Juvenile Bureau. She stated that she has information that a female runaway is staying at the Spahn Movie Ranch. The runaway is described as follows:

SHEPPARD, Laura Ann Female/White 16 5'8" 125
Brown hair Blue eyes
She is reported missing under file
No. DR69-255230, dated 7-12-69.

The runaway juvenile is reportedly in the company of a man or a male adult described as:

MANSON, Charles Male/White 35

Manson lives at the ranch most of the time and is quite friendly to many female juvenile runaways from the West San Fernando Valley area.

Sergeant Schaeffer states she has also received information that Mr. Manson is currently in San Francisco and is to return to the ranch on Friday, August 8, 1969. Mr. Manson reportedly will be in possession of a large amount of narcotics. Mr. Manson drives a fairly new Chevy Impala, Super Sport, blue in color. Although the vehicle is new, it's in a very beat up condition. The above listed runaway juvenile, Laura Ann Shoppard, should be accompanying Mr. Manson. Mr. Manson is reported to carry as high as \$5,000 in cash on his person. Also Sergeant Schaeffer states that a female juvenile who frequently stays at the ranch states that, Mr. Manson forces the juvenile females to give the various men at the ranch baths in a large wooden tub which is located in an unknown building on the ranch property.

On the property is a building referred to only as the "Brown House" which is where a large stash of marijuana is kept. Apparently near the main ranch buildings is an old milk truck. Narcotics are supposed to be hidden under the floor boards of this truck.

Sergeant Schaeffer stated that while she was at the ranch recently, she observed a male adult known as STARR, Rancey, 22048 Sherman Way, Canoga Park, 887-7390, who apparently is the manager of the ranch. Mr. Starr meets all of the persons entering the ranch to attempt to learn their business before he allows them on the property. Mr. Starr's physical description is unknown except that he has a deformed hand. When meeting the officers, Mr. Starr was armed with an approximate three foot piece of heavy linked chain. Sergeant Schaeffer stated she also observed several chopper type motorcycles in the building marked "Saloon" which is one of the main buildings near the entrance to the ranch. Sergeant Schaeffer has also received information that there are several look-outs posted around the property to communicate with each other by walkie-talkie radios.

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The following information has been received from A/Sgt. William Gleason, Motorcycle File:

She has also received information regarding a 50 caliber machine gun.

She has heard that some human bodies have been dumped into a pond on the property. This pond is apparently in the stream bed approximately one mile east of the main ranch buildings.

Sergeant Schaeffer states, to her knowledge, there are small juvenile children who run at will on the property unsupervised. Most of the food these children eat is acquired from food thrown away from a vegetable stand which is a business located on Topanga Canyon Blvd., north of Chatsworth Street; and some additional food may be coming from an unknown Van De Kamp Bakery warehouse. Sergeant Schaeffer furnished the name of Mrs. Sheppard (mother of the West Valley runaway, home phone: 342-1061 - work phone: 788-4780) who may be contacted for additional information.

Sergeant Schaeffer gave the name of a female juvenile KELLOGG, Kathie as a person who has seen the aforementioned 50 caliber machine gun. Kellogg is also one of the girls who have given bathes to the male adults. Two other female juveniles who have been at the ranch and may have information are: DAVIS, Debbie and DAVIS, Donna - phone 881-1991.

Inspector Graham, Patrol Division West, was verbally notified of the above. Deputy Tedesco, Malibu Narcotics Detail, notified via phone regarding Manson transporting narcotics to ranch with his vehicle."

At 10:00AM, this date, this writer had a phone conversation with Officer Sechrengost, assigned to the California Highway Patrol Auto Theft Detail in the Los Angeles Office. Officer Sechrengost stated that on June 9, 1969, he conducted an auto theft investigation at the Spahn Movie Ranch in Chatsworth. This investigation was conducted as a result of his office receiving information about numerous stolen volkswagon automobiles that were being stripped and converted into dune buggies at the ranch. His office file number is M206-512-69.

The officer stated that while at the ranch he observed numerous dune buggies in various stages of construction. He inspected these vehicle and could find no stolen volkswagons. He also observed several chopper type motorcycles at the ranch and of the motorcycles he inspected, he could not find any discrepancies.

Officer Sechrengost spoke to two unknown members of the Straight Satans Motorcycle Club. One of these members identified himself as:

ROMO, Danny

Mr. Romo told the officer that a relative, apparently his step-father is in business manufacturing machine guns for the Federal Government. Mr. Romo has been identified from the motorcycle file as: DECARLO, Daniel Thomas. His address is 5741 West 98th Street, Los Angeles which is the business address of the Delaware Tool Engineering Company. The

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The following information has been received from A/Sgt. William Gleason, Motorcycle File:

The Delaware Tool Company is apparently where the machine guns are being manufactured.

Officer Sechrengost stated he observed several people that are apparently living in an abandon semi-truck trailer. This trailer, along with some tents, are located at the rear or south of the main buildings.

Several persons at the ranch told the officer that there were weapons on the ranch property, but that all the persons living at the ranch were going to move to the desert at an unknown location north of Mojave.

This writer has also learned that the Los Angeles Police Department Headquarters Auto Theft is also conducting an investigation at the ranch. Approximately July 15, 1969, Officer Breckenridge, while conducting an investigation at the ranch, flew over the area in a helicopter. He observed at least three volkswagon floor pans which were in the area south of the main ranch buildings near the above mentioned semi-trailer. Both of the above mentioned officers will forward any additional information regarding the ranch to this unit."

On August 8, 1969 writer had conversation with Detective Ted Leigh #4907, LAPD Devonshire Juvenile. He stated that his office is holding 3 clips (loaded) from a .30 caliber carbine. Clips were found by Devonshire Division officers. Owner of clips is MANSON, Charles. Mr. Manson has admitted ownership of clips to Officer Leigh.

Officer Leigh states weapons at ranch are stored in the building marked "Undertaking" which is in the group of buildings at the main entrance to ranch. Reloading equipment is also in this room. This is personal knowledge.

Officer Leigh states that he observed a volkswagon van that contains a 2-way radio that is in contact with lookout posts.

Officer Leigh stated he flew over ranch in a helicopter about August 1, 1969 and observed a 1969 volkswagon 2-door beige, that was in a ditch at the rear (south) of main buildings. Vehicle is obviously stripped. Officer Leigh stated this vehicle is same as a 1969 VW stolen from Dick Joyce VW Dealership, Van Nuys. The VW was reported stolen July 15, 1969 and reported to LAPD Van Nuys under DR-69-052838, stolen VW should bear ID #119-766-041. This has been verified by Devonshire Division Officers Slauson and Despain.

Leigh stated that approximately July 28, 1969 while at ranch on another matter observed a M/W/10 named Johnny Freedman, who apparently stays at ranch. It is unknown who cares for child as neither of his parents whereabouts are known. It is thought that persons who live at ranch hide him when official law enforcement people go to ranch.

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Leigh states runaways are living in the shack in the creek end southwest of main buildings. An alarm system is rigged, so that runaways will hide in brush when police arrive at main buildings. As told to Leigh by a confidential informant.

Food that the runaways are eating is food thrown away at Food Markets in area. This is unconfirmed.

Leigh has heard reason Black Panthers are going to fight group at ranch, is because unknown cycle club member bit off an ear off a negro, during a fight that occurred during a riot at Venice Beach recently. Leigh has heard 3 car-loads of negroes were in area on July 26, 1969, and took several pictures of ranch and surroundings. Unconfirmed.

Officer Williams #13814, LAPD Devonshire Patrol stated he was at ranch recently, and was threatened by Charles Manson who stated that several automatic weapons were trained on the officers. while the officers were sitting in their patrol vehicle.

Officer Williams stated an LAPD Van Nuys Division officer Butler owns the "Batway" Dune Buggy Shop at Topanga Canyon and Craggy View, Chatsworth. Charles Manson has made several purchases from that shop, and has been observed to be carrying in excess of \$3,000.00 cash on his person each time he has been in the shop.

Comment by writer:

The stolen VW is still at location (a break in communications by LAPD)

On August 8, 1969 Sgt. Vern Jones and Sgt. Bob Herman contacted Sgt. Shaffer, LAPD regarding the above. The following submitted by Sgt. V. Jones regarding that conversation:

"Sgt. Shaffer, West Valley, 19020 Van Owen, 782-6125, Ext. 546, was contacted and two missing juvenile reports were obtained:

Vicki A. Wylie F/W/13 and Sheppard F/W/16

Shaffer states Wylie was reported missing June 19, 1969 and returned home on June 26, 1969 and she had said that she had been to the Spanh Ranch and after the Sheppard girl had been reported missing, the Wylie girl was supposed to have gone back to the ranch to try and persuade Sheppard to return home but apparently with no success. The Sheppard girl is the only outstanding missing female juvenile who Shaffer believes is presently at the ranch.

She further says that Mrs Shoppard and a Mrs Davis and (possibly her daughters Donna and Debbie), went to the ranch one day and believed that they saw the Sheppard girl as she was disappearing into the landscape. They talked to Manson or some one else there who would give no information at all.

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She, Sgt. Shaffer, further advises that the majority of the things that she has heard is rumor, (most of the rumors that we have also), and that she has no first hand knowledge or facts. She says she has been there and it appears there should be some health or fire department ordinance which could be used in some way to clear the people out.

SUMMARY:

Since no more substantial information is apparently available the families of Sheppard, Wylie and Davis were not contacted at this time for fear of jeopardizing this operation.

The informant Sgt. Shaffer refers to as Kathy Kellogg is known to Sgt. Shaffer through telephone conversation only.

Substantial information consists of the following:

"The 459 suspect looked for by San Bernardino Deputy Tudor definitely lived on the ranch as late as July 28, 1969.

Stolen vehicles have been seen and/or recovered on the ranch property. 1. The truck referred to by Fireman Seeley on the Ybarra Canyon Motorway, 2. The VW mentioned by Officer Leigh, which is still there. 3. The two stolens recovered by LAPD that Deputy Olmstead refers to above and the stolen plates recovered at the same time. 4. The vehicle hidden at the "Open Diamond Bar" Ranch. This, coupled with the number of dune buggies in various stages of construction at the ranch, gives credence to the theory that an auto theft ring works out of the ranch.

Weapons, firearms in particular, are known to be kept at the ranch. They've been seen by various persons including both Officer Leigh and Deputy Olmstead and Fireman Walker. No one, however has actually seen a machine gun.

Communications are taken seriously at the ranch as evidenced by the telephone wire being strung, the crank field telephones and citizen band radios mentioned above.

A number of persons have been threatened by ranch people including Fireman Seeley and Judy Greene, both incidents described above.

A great variety of criminal activity is both directly and indirectly connected to the ranch. The following is a list of recent reported activity. The reports themselves are made a part of this report and are attached.

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| <u>DATE</u> | <u>CLASSIFICATION</u> | <u>FILE NUMBER</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| * 2-3-69 | 11530 H&S, 11910 H&S, 602(L) PC | 00281 |
| * 3-24-69 | 245 PC | 00721 |
| * 4-2-69 | 261.3 PC | 00834 |
| 4-19-69 | 487.3 and 272 PC | Antelope Valley #02595 |
| * 7-7-69 | 211 PC, 459PC | LAPD 69-556924 |
| * 7-17-69 | 207 PC, 261.3 PC | 02177 |
| * 7-23-69 | 4463 CVC | 02332 |

The asterisks indicate incidents actually occurring on or the suspects arrested at, the ranch. This indicates that at least on one occasion narcotics were found on the ranch proper.

The remainder of the above information cannot be confirmed at the time of this writing. Such things as dead bodies dumped in a pond; fields of booby-trapped marijuana, a .50 calibre machine gun, etc., remain unconfirmed hearsay.