CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

HELL'S ANGELS MOTORCYCLE CLUBS

CAL J 150 145
Hell's Angels Motorcycle Clubs. California. Dept. of Justice.
HELL'S ANGELS MOTORCYCLE CLUBS
Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a copy of my report summarizing the results of information submitted in response to my letter of September 18, 1964, relating to the Hell's Angels motorcycle clubs. Any further suggestions you may have to offer as a result of reading the summary will be welcomed.

Tactical information concerning group movements of Hell's Angels will continue to be coordinated by the Auto Theft Unit of the California Highway Patrol, P. O. Box 898, Sacramento, telephone 445-7313. Identification information will be supplied by the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, P. O. Box 1859, Sacramento 95809.

Also enclosed is a tabulated listing of those disreputable motorcycle riders, including Hell's Angels, who have been identified in the files of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation from information submitted to us. It is anticipated that this listing will be updated from time to time and distributed to those law enforcement officials interested in receiving it.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Attorney General

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BACKGROUND

On the Labor Day weekend, 1964, a large group of Hell's Angels motorcycle clubs gathered in the vicinity of Monterey and established a camp area at the seaward end of Beach Road in Marina, which is in unincorporated territory. Early on the morning of September 6, complaint was made to Sheriff's officers by the erstwhile companions of two girls, aged 14 and 15, that they had been taken away from the boyfriends by some Hell's Angels at the site of the camp. Shortly, deputies found one completely nude and another with only a small amount of clothing on her. Both alleged that they had been raped by five to ten men just prior to the arrival of the officers. They professed to be unable to identify any responsible at that time. Some hours later, four men were arrested after being identified by the girls. Two of the men identified themselves as presidents of the North Sacramento and Richmond Hell's Angels groups, respectively.

As a result of this case, State Senator Fred S. Farr requested the Attorney General to make an investigation, and on September 18, 1964, a circular letter was sent to all district attorneys, sheriffs and chiefs of police requesting information concerning the Hell's Angels and also soliciting any suggestions as to methods to control them.

In the meantime, further investigation raised questions as to whether forcible rape had been committed or if the identifications made by the victims were valid. By letter dated September 25, 1964, the District Attorney of Monterey County requested dismissal of charges in the Monterey-Carmel Municipal Court, which request was with the concurrence of the Grand Jury.

This report provides a summary of the information submitted by those law enforcement officers replying to the Attorney General's request, supplemented by prior data in the files of the California Highway Patrol, Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, and Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement.

Within the sphere of reference in the original assignment by the Attorney General, most of the information herein relates to the Hell's Angels. However, it should be stressed that there are a number of other so-called "disreputable" motorcycle groups within the State which have constituted a police problem albeit without quite as much notoriety as achieved by the Hell's Angels. Any firm estimate of numbers involved is difficult to make because active membership in the Hell's Angels groups varies from time to time. A similar situation exists in the other local clubs which have been identified and recorded by local law enforcement agencies, as well as by the California Highway Patrol.
Hell's Angels and other "disreputable" motorcycle groups are certainly not typical of the average motorcycle rider in California. As some officers pointed out, there are a number of legitimate groups of motorcyclists, many of them affiliated with the American Motorcycle Association, which hold recognized events and annual tours to various parts of the State. In several such instances the Hell's Angels have constituted a small fringe group which sought to disrupt the events. However, they were thwarted in their attempts not only by local peace officers, but with the cooperation and assistance of members of the legitimate motorcycle groups, a number of whom were off-duty policemen.

In response to the Attorney General's letter, replies were received from 22 district attorneys, 15 sheriffs, and 67 chiefs of police. Nine district attorneys reported no contact with the motorcycle groups, while 13 submitted reference information and suggestions. Six sheriffs had no information to offer, and 9 submitted information and suggestions concerning the Hell's Angels. Thirty-eight chiefs of police submitted information for our files and suggestions concerning enforcement tactics.
Several sheriffs' offices and police departments have set up special details and/or files to maintain records concerning the Hell's Angels and other problem motorcycle groups. In addition, California Highway Patrol has, since July 12, 1962, maintained a special file in its Auto Theft Unit at Sacramento through which tactical information concerning meetings and group movements are coordinated. The assigned highway patrol officer has in turn coordinated his information with the Fraud Unit of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, which agency has, whenever possible, furnished identification data, record transcripts, and photographs of identified subjects.

It is reported that the Hell's Angels group was originally founded in 1950 at Fontana. The San Bernardino County chapter remains the "mother" organization and issues charters to local groups which are located, for the most part, in urban areas. Some claims have been made that the Hell's Angels are affiliated with various other "outlaw" clubs organized in various parts of the State. However, it has been noted that the charters and by-laws of several Hell's Angels groups stress that anyone who is a member of another motorcycle club is not eligible for membership in Hell's Angels.

In several instances, Hell's Angels' representatives have claimed national and international membership. Reference has been made to a Hell's Angels chapter founded in New Zealand. However, to date, and on the basis of information submitted to the Department, there is no confirmation that Hell's Angels as such are organized outside of California, with the possibility of some member or clubs being located at Phoenix, Arizona, and possibly Portland, Oregon.

Some members of the Hell's Angels as well as members of other "disreputable" motorcycle clubs belong to what is alleged to be an elite group termed "One Percenters", which meets monthly at various places in California. The local Hell's Angels clubs usually meet weekly. One source advised that the "One Percenters" were charter members of the original San Bernardino club, some of whom had subsequently started other groups. However, the age of currently active "One Percenters" would indicate that such is no longer the case. Another explanation of the group's title is that they represent the one percent of motorcyclists not affiliated with the American Motorcycle Association. Requirements for membership or authority to wear the "1%er" badge are unknown at this time. It is known, however, that in Southern California at least the badges themselves are obtainable only from the San Bernardino Hell's Angels club.

A description of the club's initiation rites figures in many reports. It is alleged that any new member must bring with him to the meeting a woman or girl, termed a "sheep", willing to submit to sexual intercourse with each member of the club; in some instances it is reported that one or more
members, or the initiate himself, commit cunnilingus on the woman in the
presence of the group. While homosexuals seem to be attracted to Hell's
Angels, no information received indicates that the Hell's Angels as a group
are homosexuals. They seem primarily concerned with heterosexual contacts.
Some heterosexual perversions figure in the reports, but taken in context they
appear to be means of attracting attention, "being different", and performed
primarily for the shock impact on others. These and other attention attracting
actions are characterized by the Angels as, "showing class".

On the basis of information submitted by the California
Highway Patrol and other law enforcement agencies, some 446 subjects have
been identified in CII files as members or associate members of Hell's Angels
chapters. Of the 446 identified, 250 show records of felony arrests, 151 have
had felony convictions, 85 have records of commitment either to State prison
or the California Youth Authority, and 8 have been patients at State hospitals.
Total felony arrests for this group is 874 and felony convictions for the group
as a whole total 300. Misdemeanor arrests of record amount to 1,582 with
total misdemeanor convictions of 1,023.

Additionally, there were 276 subjects reported by the Highway
Patrol as Hell's Angels prior to the current survey, but which are now included
in CHP files only as members of "disreputable" motorcycle clubs. It is be-
lieved a large number of this group may still be considered as Hell's Angels
but there was no way of definitely ascertaining their category during the
present survey. If the 276 previously considered as Hell's Angels are added
to the above classifications, the figures would be increased to 445 showing
records of felony arrests, 261 with felony convictions, 141 with records of
commitments to State prison or Youth Authority, and 12 as patients at State
hospitals. Likewise the total felony arrest figure would be 1,457, total
felony convictions 553, misdemeanor arrests 3,068, with total misdemeanor
convictions of 1,919.
IDENTIFICATION

The emblem of the Hell's Angels, termed "colors" consist of an embroidered patch of a winged skull wearing a motorcycle helmet. Just below the wing of the emblem are the letters "MC". Over this is a band bearing the words "Hell's Angels". Below the emblem is another patch bearing the local chapter name, which is usually an abbreviation for the city or locality. These patches are sewn on the back of a usually sleeveless denim jacket. In addition members have been observed wearing various types of Luftwaffe insignia and reproductions of German iron crosses. Many affect beards and their hair is usually long and unkempt. Some wear a single earring in a pierced ear lobe. Frequently they have been observed to wear metal belts made of a length of polished motorcycle drive chain which can be unhooked and used as a flexible bludgeon.

The Hell's Angels seem to have a preference for large heavy-duty American-made motorcycles. Club members usually use a nick name, designated as their "legal" name and are carried on club rolls under that name. Some clubs provide that initiates shall be tattooed, the cost of which is included in the initiation fee. Probably the most universal common denominator in identification of Hell's Angels is their generally filthy condition. Investigating officers consistently report these people, both club members and their female associates, seem badly in need of a bath. Fingerprints are a very effective means of identification because a high percentage of Hell's Angels have criminal records.

In addition to the patches on the back of Hell's Angels jackets, the "One Percenters" wear a patch reading "1 %-er". This badge is currently worn by members of clubs other than the Hell's Angels, including the "Coffin Cheaters" and "Satan's Slaves" in Los Angeles County and a relatively new group, "The Iron Horsemen" in the San Diego area. It is reported that they obtain the "One Percent" badges through the Hell's Angels San Bernardino club. Another patch worn by some members bears the number "13". It is reported to represent the 13th letter of the alphabet, "M", which in turn stands for marijuana and indicates the wearer thereof is a user of the drug.
HOOGLUM ACTIVITIES

Hell's Angels have been most conspicuous when participating in group hoodlum activities at lower class bars and while engaged on a "run" to some smaller city.

On November 4, 1961, a San Francisco resident driving through Rodeo, possibly under the influence of alcohol, struck a motorcycle belonging to a Hell's Angel parked outside a bar. A group of Angels pursued the vehicle, pulled the driver from the car and attempted to demolish the rather expensive vehicle. The bartender claimed that he had seen nothing, but a cocktail waitress in the bar furnished identification to the officers concerning some of those responsible for the assault. The next day it was reported to officers that a member of the Hell's Angels gang had threatened the life of this waitress as well as another woman waitress. A male witness who definitely identified five participants in the assault including the president of the Vallejo Hell's Angels and the president of the Vallejo "Road Rats" advised officers that because of his fear of retaliation by club members he would refuse to testify to the facts he had previously furnished.

There is a strong suspicion that a former Hell's Angels president was responsible in 1962 for placing lubricating oil on the street when he was being chased by a police motorcycle officer, which resulted in the officer's injury. The case was not solved, but did result in a 1963 amendment to the Vehicle Code making such actions a public offense.

Early on the morning of April 22, 1962, a group of Hell's Angels were congregated in a bar at Rodeo when two uniformed sheriffs deputies entered to serve a warrant on one of those present. The arrestee ran out the front door followed by 15 to 20 Angels who surrounded him. One officer was knocked down, kicked and hit over the head with a partially filled beer bottle, while the other was hit with a billiard cue. A number of citizens came to the officers' assistance and the Angels ran off in all directions. Several arrests were made for assault and battery, but the deputy district attorney in charge decided not to file complaints of assault with a deadly weapon.

On the evening of the same day, one of the citizens who had aided the officers was assaulted upon leaving another bar in Rodeo by two Hell's Angels and their female companions. The Angels were armed with a six-inch Phillips screwdriver and a beer can opener. The citizen was accompanied by his wife and another couple who also were assaulted. One victim received cuts on his head, body and legs. The other male victim sustained cuts on the forehead and about the eyes; he was unable to open one eye and the other was badly swollen. One of the women victims had her head pushed
through the plate glass window of the bar, and the second woman victim was hit with their fists by the females accompanying the Hell's Angels. The two Hell's Angels were apprehended and charged with assault with a deadly weapon. The screwdriver, spotted with blood, was recovered and booked as evidence. An eye witness furnished a written statement. Complaints were obtained charging violation of Section 242 PC; one week later a deputy district attorney reduced the charge to violating Section 415 PC.

Early in the morning of June 2, 1962, it was reported that three Hell's Angels had seized a 19 year old woman in a small bar in the northern part of Sacramento and while two of them held her down on the barroom floor, the third removed her outer clothing. The victim was menstruating at the time; her sanitary napkin was removed and the third individual committed cunnilingus upon her. During the subsequent investigation, the victim was reluctant to furnish information to officers. Two of the responsible fled to Southern California while the third was arrested in Sacramento. All three belonged to the North Sacramento Hell's Angels group, and the individual committing the sex act was at the time president of the club.

Several persons present in the bar at the time of the offense refused to admit to officers that they knew anything about it; the victim told investigators that she had been warned by one of the participants that if she told anyone about the incident they would "bust her up". One male witness forbade officers to talk to his wife and refused to give any information, stating, "The police should leave the Hell's Angels alone and let them do what they want and keep people out of their way." Another Hell's Angel interrogated concerning the case denied being in the bar at the time; in commenting about the trouble which seemed to accompany the Angels on their visits he said, "People will just have to learn to stay out of our way, we'll bust up everyone who gets in our way." After deliberating for five hours on October 2, 1962, a Superior Court jury acquitted the subject accused of the sex act. As a result of this case and others in some other areas involving assaults, a number of the North Sacramento group left the area, going to Southern California. However, they returned to Sacramento by the summer of 1964.

In the summer of 1962, the various law enforcement agencies in the Sacramento area recognized that the North Sacramento Hell's Angels was causing difficulties in bars and restaurants in the county. The general practice of this group was to "invade" a particular bar and harass the persons therein. Most such invasions took place in small beer bars in the outlying rural areas and the group usually had left before officers arrived at the scene.
During the Labor Day weekend of 1963, a large group of motorcyclists consisting of Hell's Angels, "Stray Satans", "Galloping Gooses", "Comancheros", and the "Cavaliers" converged on the city of Porterville. By Saturday evening they had assembled in the center of the city where they parked their motorcycles and automobiles. Most started to drink in local bars, becoming obnoxious and vulgar. They stood in the middle of the street where they stopped vehicles, opened car doors and attempted to pet and paw female passengers in the automobiles. The women who accompanied the group lay in the middle of the street where they went through suggestive motions. At about this time, some half dozen motorcyclists invaded a bar and brutally beat an old man and attempted to abduct the barmaid. Shortly thereafter some dozen motorcyclists went to the local hospital where they pushed in every door of the hospital looking for the victim of the beating. Mutual aid in the form of police officers from neighboring cities, the Highway Patrol, and the Kern County Sheriff's Office Canine Corps assisted and the group was ordered out of town after five arrests had been made.

Four of a group of eight motorcyclists calling themselves the "Comancheros" caused a disturbance and sought to fight with Oceanside officers and the Marine Corps Military Police on July 4, 1964. During the course of the investigation which followed the arrest, the "Comancheros" claimed to be affiliated with the Hell's Angels.

On July 4, 1964, at the invitation of the same bartender who had previously worked at a Hell's Angels hangout in Rodeo, the Oakland Hell's Angels made a "run" to Willits. An advance group of 30 entered the city the previous day and by the afternoon of the 4th there were some 120 motorcyclists and their female companions congregating at a local bar. In addition to those from Oakland, there were Angels from Vallejo and Richmond, as well as the "Mofo" club from San Francisco. Periodic fighting between the motorcyclists and local citizens broke out with beer bottles, belts made from motorcycle drive chains, and metal beer can openers being used as weapons. It was noted that some members apparently designated as sergeants at arms did not drink, but spent their time watching the group. When police were called, these people would pick up broken bottles, pour beer on any blood remaining on the floor, and move their groups in and out of the bar to make police interrogation more difficult. When one local citizen took it upon himself to obtain a shotgun and returned to the bar where the group was congregated, he was arrested; assistance was obtained from the California Highway Patrol and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. The group was then instructed by the Chief of Police to move out of town to the city limits. After the move, some fights between Angels themselves occurred, but no local citizenry were involved.
On April 2, 1964, a group of eight Hell's Angels invaded the home of an Oakland woman, forcing her male friend out of the house at gunpoint and raping the woman in the presence of her three children. Later that same morning, female companions of the Hell's Angels threatened the victim that if she cooperated with the police, she would be cut on the face with a razor. She refused to sign a complaint and stated she would not testify.

On August 12, 1964, one of those participating in the rape on April 2 was arrested by Oakland police officers in possession of a large quantity of marijuana and dangerous drugs. Oakland Police Department also prosecuted other Hell's Angels for another rape in that city, as well as investigating two instances of assault with a deadly weapon. In one of the latter cases, the victim refused to prosecute.

The California Highway Patrol reported that on the morning of May 17, 1964, two white motorcyclists were arrested at the Carquinez Bridge Toll Plaza after assaulting a group of Negroes, damaging their vehicle and breaking a toll gate. The victims' vehicle had been parked in a service station on Highway 40 in Vallejo. A large group of motorcycle riders arrived and one decided that a Negro girl in the car was Spanish and attempted to speak to her in that language. In an effort to avoid the motorcyclists, the driver of the car drove to the toll plaza and asked the toll collector to call the police. The motorcyclists followed the vehicle, tried to pull the girl from the car and others damaged the automobile. Bystanders managed to apprehend two of the responsibles who were booked for violating Sections 415, 240, and 242 PC, as well as Section 10852 VC. They were convicted of violating Section 415 PC. One defendant was fined $110, and sentenced to 30 days in the county jail, to be served on weekends, and to pay for damages to the car. The other defendant was sentenced to serve 30 days and granted one year probation.

Early in the morning of July 15, 1964, two young women were seated at a table in an all night restaurant in downtown Sacramento. Two men approached them, announcing that they were Hell's Angels and that they were going to sit with them. When the women objected, the men began using foul language and one threw coffee on one woman and slapped the other in the face. When the victims asked the waitress to call the police, the men told the victims that if the police were called they would "get" them. At the police station the men continued to use foul language and one stated that they were Hell's Angels and that the rest of the Angels would "get even" with the victims who caused their arrest.

On July 15, 1964, five young males wearing Hell's Angels jackets invaded a liquor store in Sacramento and assaulted a Negro customer who was at the time reaching into the refrigerator for a bottle of soda water. The victim was punched in the face and pushed against the refrigerator with such force as to break the door. During the melee, the other Angels stole two cartons of beer and a bottle of wine, departing rapidly thereafter.
On August 22, 1964, the wife of a Richmond bar proprietor made a disturbance report to the police concerning a 25 year old female associate of the Richmond Hell's Angels group. On the following evening, the subject of the complaint entered the bar accompanied by ten male Hell's Angels. She then assaulted the proprietor's wife with a bar glass, beer bottles, and an ash tray. When the victim's husband attempted to separate the fighting women, the male members of the group assaulted him, knocking him to the ground and hitting him about the head and body. He had several severe cuts around one eye and bruises over his body, but refused medical aid. The woman victim stated she was willing to sign a complaint against the woman who assaulted her, but both victims declared they would not sign any complaint against the Hell's Angels as they were afraid of the crowd. The male victim was the former secretary of the Martinez chapter of Hell's Angels.

On September 19, 1964, a large group of Hell's Angels and "Satan's Slaves" converged on a bar in South Gate, parking their motorcycles and cars in the street in such a fashion as to block one half of the roadway. They told officers that three members of the club had recently been asked to stay out of the bar and that they had come to tear it down. Upon their approach the bar owner had locked the doors and turned off the lights and no entrance was made, but the group did demolish a cement block fence. On arrival of the police, members of the club were lying on the sidewalk and in the street. They were asked to leave the city, which they did reluctantly. As they left, several were heard to say that they would be back and tear down the bar.

The San Pablo Police Department reported that between March and October 1964, the Department had ten contacts with groups or members of the Hell's Angels, not including traffic citations. The cases consisted of suspicious circumstances, disturbing the peace, battery, and rape.

Early on the morning of October 25, 1964, nine Hell's Angels and two of their female companions were arrested by Gardena police and sheriff's officers after a riot call had been received from a Gardena bar. Police reported the group "started ripping up the whole place" after someone had splashed a mug of beer over one of the group. The bar was left in shambles and pool tables covered with beer and urine.
Apart from general hoodlum acts, many Hell's Angels have records for other criminal offenses. The Sheriff of San Bernardino County advised that because of extensive cooperation between law enforcement agencies in his area, he had encountered no difficulties arising out of activities of large groups. His chief concern has been the criminal actions of individual members either in small groups or alone. Offenses mainly were forgery, assault, auto theft, rape, and sex perversion. He pointed out that the Hell's Angels have been particularly active in the area of forgery of credit cards and the thefts of motor vehicles and motorcycles. From time to time they are very active in the altering of motor numbers forgeries of vehicle ownership certificates. Officers report that many Angels are adept at stripping and cannibalizing motorcycles, including removal of serial numbers which are replaced with fictitious numbers.

**MOTORCYCLE THEFTS:**

Several years ago the Hermosa Beach Police Department booked 48 members of the Hell's Angels club for violation of Section 650-1/2 PC and on numerous traffic warrants. As a result of these arrests, two stolen motorcycles were recovered.

The San Francisco Police Department in the summer of 1961 recovered a large quantity of motorcycle parts in a private garage, including three engines taken from seven motorcycles which had been stolen the night before. Two of the engines had been completely stripped. Suspects, including two former officers of the Hell's Angels club were arrested, but released at a preliminary hearing when they told the judge that any Hell's Angels member had access to the garage and could do any work they desired to do there.

On July 5, 1963, Riverside Sheriff's Officers seized several NESCONI made of motorcycle chain and a rifle from four members of the "Outsiders" motorcycle club. The suspects told officers that they had the weapons for defense against Hell's Angels who were allegedly looking for them. The "Outsiders" wear a "0%er" badge as a means of mocking the "1%er" worn by some Hell's Angels. Officers of this department feel a number of outlaw motorcycle group members are riding machines with many stolen parts on them, including engine components, frames, and accessories. There are no means of identifying accessories and a field check of serial numbers on the motorcycles usually is negative because of the difficulty of detecting any evidence of alteration.
Los Angeles Sheriff's Officers report that some Hell's Angels have been observed to operate a panel truck with a plank on which a stolen motorcycle could be rapidly loaded in the truck. Physical evidence indicated the truck had been used for hauling motorcycles.

During the investigation of a 15 year old runaway on July 10, 1963, officers of the Santa Ana Police Department learned that a Hell's Angels member who had gained considerable notoriety and had been the subject of the attention of Newport Beach, Laguna Beach and other police departments in the area had stolen a motorcycle for the runaway so the latter could become an active member of Hell's Angels.

During the spring and summer of 1964, the Sacramento Hell's Angels group was suspected of being responsible for a number of motorcycle thefts. Their modus operandi was reported to be to dismantle the stolen machines as soon as possible and thereafter transport parts to other places in California.

**NARCOTICS:**

The State Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement reported that in January 1963, Los Angeles agents commenced investigation into marijuana activities which resulted in the arrest of 14 members of either the Hell's Angels or "Galloping Gooses", including three female associates. Continued investigation indicates a number of Hell's Angels are using marijuana and dangerous drugs (pills).

**OTHER THEFTS:**

On January 21, 1964, Sacramento police officers observed a known Hell's Angel attempting to sell a chain saw at a second-hand store in that city. In this suspect's automobile two rifles were observed, but he refused the officer's permission to inspect the guns in the car; his wife drove the car away with a friend who stated he lived in Martinez. It was later learned that the chain saw had been stolen in a burglary in Martinez on January 17, 1964; it was also reported that a new rifle and shotgun had been stolen in a burglary in Pleasant Hill on January 20, 1964.

At 4:30 AM on August 29, 1964, a group of ten males and three females wearing Hell's Angels jackets, riding in eight motorcycles and three automobiles converged on an all night service station in Escondido. Only one attendant was on duty and he was unable to watch the group while various individuals used the rest rooms and congregated near the cash drawers. After the group left, it was found that both tills had been tapped and some $100 in currency taken.
GENERAL ENFORCEMENT APPROACH:

Generally, those responding to the Attorney General's inquiry emphasized the necessity of maintaining adequate intelligence concerning activities and movement of both Hell's Angels and other outlaw motorcycle clubs. Several law enforcement administrators whose departments had successfully coped with large assemblies of Hell's Angels stressed strong enforcement techniques, utilizing an adequate number of officers and making valid arrests based on sufficient evidence. One chief stated, "It has been our experience that the only thing members of the Hell's Angels group understand is unrelenting firmness in law enforcement backed by sufficient show of strength to implement it."

A chief of police declared, "Our experience indicated that rigid enforcement of the law backed up by adequate strength is the best deterrent to group misconduct such as has been engaged in by the Hell's Angels." One chief of police described activity in his community when a former member of the San Bernardino Hell's Angels sought to form an outlaw club called the "Defiants". Thereafter the department began to have problems of malicious damage, threatening of citizens, thefts and burglaries. However, in approximately one month, through intensive enforcement activity and frequent citations for legitimate Vehicle Code violations, the group left the city and the club ceased to exist.

The validity of this approach may be confirmed by the fact that those areas where the Hell's Angels have constituted a group or near-riot problem, the local law enforcement agency has usually been limited in manpower. It appears that in major jurisdictions where a sufficient number of officers is available, these disturbances as group activities have not occurred to any great extent.

MOTORCYCLE THEFTS:

Officers of one sheriff’s department pointed out that a major difficulty in identifying stolen motorcycles is the detection of altered serial numbers when officers are making a field check. It was suggested the problem could be alleviated to a large extent by proper registration procedures. Newer motorcycles have frame numbers and motor numbers which usually are different. Present requirements are for Harley Davidson machines to be registered by engine numbers and other machines to be registered by frame numbers. Because of difference in procedures, confusion has arisen on the part of dealers. Most dealers interviewed stated they registered motorcycles by engine number; most of these numbers are on aluminum surfaces and can be altered in such a manner that there is no evidence visible to the naked eye upon which to base reasonable cause for impounding the vehicle for chemical restoration of the original
number. To standardize procedures and facilitate field checking, it was suggested that all vehicles, including automobiles, be registered by both engine and frame numbers in the space already provided on the certificate of registration and ownership issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

WITNESS PROBLEMS:

The examples cited illustrate some of the problems of investigating officers to obtain witnesses willing to testify in cases involving Hell's Angels. The group seeks to exploit the so-called "gangsters' code" of group loyalty and threats to persons who might appear in court against them. There have been instances of Hell's Angels punishing witnesses by physical assault. In the event the witness or victim is female, the women associates of the Angels seem willing to participate in threats to discourage testimony. A practical problem seen in various cases is that both victims and witnesses generally exist in the same environment as do the Hell's Angels. While gang rapes and forced sex perversion may have occurred, the victims and witnesses frequently are not of the higher social strata and thus are vulnerable to the mores of the "saloon society". It is believed that the only feasible approach to the solution of this problem is for investigating officers to recognize it and take all steps possible to protect witnesses both before and after trial.

PROSECUTION:

A number of law enforcement officials stressed that the cooperation of prosecuting and judicial officials should be sought in assuring that appropriate charges and sentences would result from arrests of outlaw motorcyclists. In some instances, felony cases have been reduced to low misdemeanor charges. Defendants with lengthy prior records may receive suspended sentences or summary probation. Several officers expressed themselves as believing that any probation granted should be under strict supervision, a condition of which should be that the probationer refrain from riding motorcycles and associating with outlaw clubs.

INTELLIGENCE AND IDENTIFICATION:

As previously related, general movement activity and day-to-day operating information is now being coordinated by a specially assigned officer in the Auto Theft Unit at the Sacramento headquarters of the California Highway Patrol. This agency is the logical coordinating point by virtue of its resources for rapid communication and furnishing manpower assistance. The Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation has participated by making available to the Highway Patrol and other interested law enforcement agencies record transcripts and photographs of Hell's Angels and other outlaw motorcycle groups. As a result of the current investigation, this information has now been set up on punched tabulating cards to facilitate sorting and the printing of listings.
Many of the administrators who replied to the Attorney General's letter stated that they felt the problem of "outlaw" motorcyclists was of sufficient importance to law enforcement that a special unit should be set up in the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation to process such information. However, it would appear that the present activity now assigned to the Fraud Unit in the Bureau's Special Services Section can adequately provide desired information on request. As a practical matter, it should be recognized that membership in such groups fluctuates rapidly and in order for any membership listings to be kept current, a constant flow of information from the field is necessary. Another factor in the dissemination of identification data is that, while through the possession of their motorcycles these groups are very mobile, it would be impractical and inefficient for the Bureau to attempt to keep every interested law enforcement agency in the State supplied with statewide listings of active outlaw groups. The value of any such information at the local level is in direct relationship to the use to which it may be put by local departments.

Accordingly, it might be feasible to make arrangements for providing data on a geographical basis to those departments which have been sufficiently interested in the problem to set up specialized files. Tabulated lists of outlaw motorcyclists might be provided on a quarterly or semi-annual basis with the understanding that local agencies would assume the responsibility for submitting current information to the coordinating units at the Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation. These procedures will be discussed with local enforcement agencies.

Routine monthly furnishing of record transcripts and/or photographs would represent a large expenditure of man hours and money which would require a supplemental budget request. This will be requested if the Legislature deems it of sufficient concern to the State.
TOTAL DISREPUTABLE MOTORCYCLE GROUP MEMBERSHIP
(Includes 117 not identified in CII files)

Reported as members of Hell's Angels 463
Reported as members of other groups 438 (*)

GEORAPHERICAL DISTRIBUTION
(Includes 117 not identified in CII files)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Hell's Angels</th>
<th>Other Disreputables(*)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>North Coast</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Northern California</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Sacramento Area</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Bay Area</td>
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<td>159</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Central Coast</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Los Angeles &amp; Orange</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Counties</td>
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<td>197</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Southern California Area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) Includes 276 subjects reported by CHP as Hell's Angels prior to current survey; CHP now makes no distinction in its records between clubs, but indexes all as "Disreputable Motorcycle Club" members.