



FBI arrests two, seizes marijuana

BY DAN HORN | ENQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Authorities expect more arrests soon in a Clermont County drug investigation that so far has landed two men in jail and netted more than 220 pounds of marijuana.

FBI agents seized the marijuana early Tuesday after tracking a truck carrying the drugs from Arizona to Miami Township.

They arrested Edward J. Burns, 52, of Byrdstown, Tenn., and Forest Coffman Jr., 40, of Miami Township. Both are charged with conspiracy with intent to distribute marijuana.

Burns is accused of driving the truck last week from Coffman's house on Louanne Lane to a house in Scottsdale, Ariz. A few days later, authorities say, the truck returned to Coffman's house.

FBI agents raided the home early Tuesday and found the marijuana in the truck, prosecutors say.

Burns told the agents he was paid \$13,000 to drive the truck to Arizona to pick up the marijuana for other conspirators, a complaint filed in U.S. District Court states.

Coffman admitted his role was to store the marijuana at his home, the complaint says.

Prosecutors said the investigation continues and more charges are expected soon.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Brichler would not describe the charges or say how many other suspects may be involved. "It's substantially more than two people," he said.

U.S. Magistrate Timothy Black on Wednesday ordered both men held in jail until at least Friday, when a preliminary hearing will take place. Neither spoke at the brief hearing held Wednesday.

Burns and Coffman face up to 40 years in prison if they are convicted.

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