

The Rockies

22 named in plot to clean drunken drivers' records

Associated Press
DENVER — Arrest warrants for 22 people — including two Denver lawyers and two former employees of the Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles — were issued over the weekend in connection with an alleged scheme to erase state drunk driving records in return for bribes, according to a published report.

The Denver Post reported Sunday in a copyright story that the warrants contained a 14-month investigation, during which 300,000 computer transactions, involving driving records back to 1982, were reviewed.

Investigators installed a hidden

camera in the ceiling of the central motor vehicles office in Denver, and according to court affidavits, videotaped an employee as she brought up a drunk driving record from her computer display terminal and illegally deleted it.

In one case, according to the court documents, the record of a Denver man who had his driver's license suspended nine times for moving violations was erased.

Seventy-six felony and five misdemeanor charges were included in more than 200 pages of affidavits in Denver County Court by investigators Richard Johnson of the Denver District Attorney's office.

Investigators used the hidden camera to videotape motor vehicles department employee Catherine McQueen, 36, as she allegedly erased a drunk driving record from her terminal screen.

All driving records that were changed illegally under the alleged scheme have been identified and the original records have been restored.

The other former employee and the two Denver lawyers for whom arrest warrants were issued Saturday are:

- Debbie Martinez, 28, Denver
- Attorney Vincent Daniel Franca, 41
- Attorney Nick Avila, 34

Car capitals

Casper, Boulder, Fort Collins have lots of cars

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Casper, Wyo., leads the nation in the number of vehicles per 1,000 residents, while Boulder and Fort Collins placed in the top 10, according to figures from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Detroit's manufacturing reputation notwithstanding, Casper can also claim the title of the nation's car capital based on vehicle ownership, according to a study by Larry Long and Diane Decker of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Using statistics collected in the 1980 Census, Long and Decker have analyzed automobile concentrations across the country. Their results were reported in the December issue of American Demographics magazine.

There are 736 autos per 1,000 residents in the Casper area, the report states, well ahead of second-place Reno, Nev., which reports 713 cars per 1,000 residents.

Fort Collins comes in third with 708 cars per 1,000 residents, while

Boulder placed eighth with 686 vehicles per 1,000 residents.

Casper also came in second for the number of vehicles per household with a 1.69 average. Sioux Valley, Calif., a Los Angeles suburb, was first in that category with 2.22 cars per household.

Boulder also ranked seventh in the number of cars per square mile with an average of 2,187. The spreadsheet car bases at Los Angeles Long Beach was tops in the nation with 3,062 vehicles per mile.

Wire check

Without wire services

Fort Collins

Promoters push land for state park

Promoters of a state park in Phantom Canyon northwest of Fort Collins want the Colorado Legislature to pay \$20 million for the land, but opponents say it is overpriced.

The promoters are using persuasive marketing techniques to convince the state to buy the 3,200 acres for \$2.75 per acre. The land cost the promoters only 75¢ per acre.

Joe Shomaker, a former Denver Republican legislator who is budget committee chairman, is being paid \$2,000 a month along with lobbyist Ralph Clark to lobby for the park. Their section in the bill is 25 miles northwest of Fort Collins and an elaborate brochure.

The 3,200 acres includes the little-known Phantom Canyon and six miles of forest stream that runs through it. Cheyenne say the area would provide excellent hunting and fishing for Colorado sportsmen.

John Harris, an area rancher who is secretary-treasurer of the Larimer County Stockowners Association, calls the selling price "a fair ripoff of the taxpayers." His group opposes the park proposal.

Gov. Richard Lamm, 43 state legislators and most Colorado wild-life and park officials have signed the proposed park site. An August helicopter trip over the canyon, Lamm endorsed the project. The Colorado Parks and Outdoor Recreation Board recently adopted a resolution supporting the park plan.

Denyer

Changes urged in motor voter law

Even before it's official, the state's motor-voter initiative that liberalizes Colorado voter laws and allows lifetime registration is about to come under attack from Sen. Martha Eard.

Eard, R-Englewood, said she will ask the Legislature in the 1985 session to amend the law to provide a four-year voter purge, despite expected opposition from groups that fought to get the measure on the November ballot.

Eard's pre-filed bill would purge from voter registration lists every four years the names of voters who miss two general elections and who then fail to respond by postcard after being warned their names will be stricken.

The "motor-voter" law, which eliminates the voter list purge except for death and relocation outside a district, allows people to register to vote at driver's licensing bureaus.

State election officials have said the law would not officially take effect until the general election was canvassed.

Tobacco firms fight smoking bans

a nearly 2-1 margin.

Associated Press
CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Officials who supported anti-smoking measures in two cities say supporters of similar efforts in Cheyenne will undoubtedly face strong opposition from the tobacco industry.

John Clarke, assistant mayor of Fort Collins, where an anti-smoking ordinance went into effect last week, says the tobacco industry spent an estimated \$50,000 to try to defeat the ordinance.

The ordinance, which allows smoking only in certain areas, was approved by voters in November by a nearly 2-1 margin.

"You can count on it," Clarke said of tobacco industry opposition as Cheyenne officials studied anti-smoking proposals. "The tobacco industry is fighting for its existence, the companies are very tough, extremely sophisticated and have a lot of money to spend."

The Cheyenne City Council last week defeated a proposal to ban smoking in city offices, but another measure that would ban smoking in all public buildings is still pending.

Dr. Raymond Weisberg, medical director of a San Francisco clinic and vice president of California for Non-Smokers' Rights, said his group was able to get an anti-smoking measure passed in San Francisco partly because of opposition from the tobacco industry. He said people saw the tobacco companies as "corporate thugs."

In Fort Collins, Clarke and six non-smoking councilmen banded together to fight the tobacco industry when a petition forced a referendum on the issue.

Western muralist dead at 76

Associated Press
DENVER — Denver artist William H. Traber, who was born in Rock Springs, Wyo., died at home last Thursday after a long illness. He was 76.

Traber was internationally known as a painter of murals and painted many of those in the Denver Museum of Natural History.

He was born April 6, 1908, in Rock Springs, and was educated at

the National Academy of Design in New York City and the School of Fine Arts at Yale University.

Traber was a staff artist at the Denver museum for 21 years. He retired as senior staff artist eight years ago.

In addition to the museum murals, Traber painted the "Four Faces of the West" mural under the Gateway Arch in St. Louis and the Traber wilderness mural.

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