

## **DETROIT DRUG DEALER TAKES HIS OWN LIFE INDICTED KINGPIN CHASED IN ST. LOUIS**

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At his notorious peak, **Dean Parker** was one of the biggest drug traffickers in metro Detroit.

Among his associates was former top national sports agent William (Tank) Black, who helped him with money laundering.

But in **Parker** 's final hours before he took his own life Monday, the indicted drug dealer holed up in a home in the northern part of St. Louis County in Missouri. His only company was a teenage girl he had taken hostage.

"He had her in the bathroom sitting there reading the Bible to him," Lt. Mike Mowery of the St. Louis County Police Department said Tuesday.

**Parker** 's suicide ended nearly three years on the lam, most of it with his wife, Kimberly **Parker**

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She was arrested Sept. 13 in a Beverly Hills, Calif., beauty salon after someone who had seen the **Parkers** profiled on the TV show "America's Most Wanted" phoned police. Kimberly **Parker** is in custody in Detroit awaiting trial on narcotics charges.

His wife's arrest was the beginning of the end for **Dean Parker** , a former Southfield resident. He fled the couple's rented 6,000-square-foot home in California's Simi Valley, where they had lived with their four children since November.

A federal agent said law-enforcement officials chased **Parker** to Las Vegas, then to an area north of Dallas where they lost track of him.

**Parker** turned up in East St. Louis, Ill., where he got into a shootout outside a nightclub in the wee morning hours Sunday.

He was shot in the arm, Mowery said, and faced a first-degree-assault charge. He was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in East St. Louis for treatment but managed to elude officers and slip into a cab.

East St. Louis police tracked down the cab driver, who at first refused to say where he had taken **Parker** . Police later received a tip that **Parker** had gone to St. Louis County.

Police spotted **Parker** on foot in a northern part of St. Louis County about 5 p.m. Monday and chased him. He pirated a pickup truck but the driver caught the attention of nearby officers and mouthed the word help.

**Parker** jumped out of the truck and ran into a house, where he took a teenage girl hostage.

At one point he stuck both arms out the door. It looked like he was going to surrender, Mowery said. But he pulled his arms back.

"A short time later she came walking out. She said he had shot himself in the head," Mowery said.

The girl had not been injured.

Police couldn't understand at the time why **Parker** would flee, then kill himself after the shootout. **Parker** had given them the name Christopher Bowie so they wouldn't know he was wanted in Michigan.

They learned later that he was part of a drug ring that shipped 500 kilograms of cocaine from Los Angeles to Detroit in 1997 and 1998 in cars with secret compartments, according to federal authorities.

**Parker** faced narcotics and money-laundering charges. In June 2000, a federal grand jury indicted the **Parkers**. Black pleaded guilty to laundering money for drug dealers and last June was sentenced to 82 months in prison, fined \$15,000 and required to serve three years of supervised release.

The **Parkers**' four children are wards of the state of California.

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Page: 1B

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