State police: 1,800-lb. seizure shows marijuana remains a big cash crop

By Bill Decker
Staff Writer

State police in St. Martin Parish have uncovered an 1,800-pound reminder that marijuana, the drug of choice for the Woodstock generation, is still in demand today.

Three Texas men were arrested Saturday in a tractor-trailer near Breaux Bridge, and are accused of carrying large bales of marijuana in a cargo of mangoes and papayas, state police said.

The marijuana weighed a total of 1,870 pounds, said a spokesman for State Police Region II Narcotics in Lafayette. Region II said the marijuana is worth about $3 million on the street.

In all of 1994, Region II seized about 2,300 pounds of marijuana, said Lt. Austin Nacoste, the Region II Narcotics commander.

State police identified the suspects as Jose Alaniz Jr., Jose Alaniz Sr., and Ricardo Muniz, all of Edinburg, Texas.

They were booked into the St. Martin Parish jail for possession with intent to distribute marijuana in the presence of a juvenile, state police said. A 14-year-old who was also in the truck was released to his mother.

The truck was stopped for a traffic violation on Interstate 10 near the Breaux Bridge scales. State police said the truck's documents were out of order, leading to the search that uncovered the marijuana.

Despite widespread efforts to eradicate marijuana patches at home and cut off the flow from abroad, the drug seems to reemerge with each new generation: the association with the jazz underground in the 1940s and 1950s; the

State Trooper Jon Fusilier looks at some of the more than 1,800 pounds of marijuana seized Monday during a traffic stop of an 18-wheeler on I-10

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