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SF Man Arrested On Alleged Child Porn Charges Appears In Court

SAN FRANCISCO — Federal investigators made a disturbing discovery late last year inside a camper parked on a San Francisco public street -- a trove of child pornography. The person living inside the camper said it's all a big misunderstanding and appeared in court Thursday morning on child pornography charges.

Last October, a camper caught the eye of police, after it was parked in front of a public library on Scott Street.

Robert Glenn McDougall lived inside the camper, where a collection of thousands of disturbing and illegal images were found, FBI investigators said.

Searches over the next several months of the camper resulted in authorities finding pictures, posters and magazine cutouts of adult and teenage actresses and adolescent girls, police reports said. Investigators also found pornographic, father-daughter incest themed novels and hard drives, some encrypted.

The FBI said some of those hard drives contained child pornography, including thousands of photos of bikini-clad underage girls in sexually poses; hardcore pornographic images of young girls; dozens of cartoon images depicting the rape of children and 35 videos, some showing young girls having sex with adult men.

"We have forensically gone through numerous hard drives that were located within and we have indeed found some images that were concerning to us." said FBI Supervisory Special Agent John Bennett.

McDougall was arrested in January and is out on bail and faces federal charges of possession of child porn. He was in federal court Thursday for a pre-trial hearing.

"Yeah, I don't really know what they think they have found, or what they have found," McDougall told KTVU in a phone interview. "They haven't come up with anything yet, as far as discovery."

McDougall said he's lived in a camper in that neighborhood for about 20 years. He said his hard drives might contain at most two or three illegal pictures that he downloaded, not knowing the models were underage.

"What about some of the sexual material, the books that depict sexual relations between older men and children? That's perfectly legal fiction," McDougall added.

Police said when they first looked into the camper, they saw cameras mounted inside as well as childrens' toys.

A later search of the cramped camper revealed duct tape and maps of Oregon, Washington and California with parks circled.

"Obviously, given the material that we found, we are concerned that if there are any victims out there, we understand where those victims are," Bennett said.

McDougall said investigators are trying to imply that he's a person who would go out and seek the company of children. "No, I don't do that," he said.

McDougall's neighbor Alex Studer said they're both in the stagehands union, where McDougall is a media technician.

"He's always been a loner," Studer said. "He's always been by himself. In my opinion, he couldn't hurt a fly. I have never ever seen him, in the many years I've known him, ever bring anybody into his vehicle, much less a child.

McDougall said he camps near parks because there are no parking restrictions. He said he is an avid photographer, who photographs his grandchildren.

He said the toys in his camper were for his granddaughter.

"We were walking through Golden Gate Park and she saw some kids playing soccer and she said, I wish I had a soccer ball," McDougall said. "So next time I was at Goodwill, I saw one and I bought it."

The FBI said it has no proof that McDougall has approached or inappropriately photographed any children.

McDougall's federal court-appointed attorney called the charges ridiculous.

The FBI told KTVU they believe McDougall may have been traveling the Pacific Coast from California to Seattle, and they are working with police in those areas.

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