

Eight Brixham II Defendants Receive Active Prison Terms

BY TERRY POPE

Eight men charged in the November 1982 Brixham II drug smuggling operation were sentenced and fined in Brunswick County Superior Court Monday.

The eight men were among 14 scheduled for sentencing Monday for their roles in helping to traffic in more than 10,000 pounds of marijuana aboard the 72-foot trawler. The Brixham II vessel was seized in the Shallotte River on Nov. 27, 1982, Thanksgiving Day, with more than 30,000 pounds of marijuana aboard.

Most of the defendants sentenced Monday were considered "off-loaders" in the operation by District Attorney Michael Easley. The defen-

dants were instrumental in helping to convict men who had planned similar drug operations, Easley told Judge B. Craig Ellis.

Judge Ellis handed down active prison sentences ranging from six years to 21 days in jail, and also issued fines against the defendants ranging from \$5,000 to \$7,500 each. The eight men had pleaded guilty in 1983 to charges of conspiracy to traffic into the county marijuana in excess of 10,000 pounds.

At Easley's request, Superior Court Judge Anthony M. Brannon in 1983 agreed to delay sentencing for the men until after December 1984. Lighter sentences were recommended by the district attorney's office

since the men agreed to testify and to cooperate with state and federal officials against other drug smugglers.

Hendrick Winfred Brouwer of El Cerrito, Calif., received the longest sentence Monday, six years in prison to be served concurrently with an eight-year federal sentence. Judge Ellis also fined Brouwer \$5,000.

Others fined and sentenced Monday included:

- Douglas M. Wakefield Jr. of Charleston, S.C., \$5,000 fine and three years in prison, to be served concurrently with a federal sentence.
- Harold L. Jet Jr. of Charleston, S.C., \$5,000 fine and a six-year sentence, suspended for all but six months.

- Robert Hughes of Charleston, S.C., \$5,000 fine and six years in prison, suspended for all but 71 days.
- Jack McGraw, fined \$7,500 and six years in prison, suspended for all but 21 days.

- George Ray Smith Jr., of Hartsville, S.C., \$5,000 fine and six years in prison, suspended for all but 70 days.
- Raymond Linnen of Charleston, S.C., \$5,000 fine and six years in prison, suspended for all but 70 days, and
- Roger Allen Hopkins of Irmo, S.C., \$5,000 fine and six years in prison, suspended for all but 21 days.

The marijuana and hashish unloaded from the Brixham II vessel was estimated to be worth around \$20 million. Most of the 14 defendants were arrested on the scene when the trawler ran aground in the Intracoastal Waterway at Shallotte Point.

Sentencing for six other defendants was delayed Monday. They are Robert Charles Horton, Wesley Bryant, Raymond Lione Barnes Jr., Richard Furman Bradford III, Ralph Roy Jordan and Robert Meggett.

State House Rep. Alex Hall, D-New Hanover County, is the attorney for three defendants, Bryant, Barnes and Jordan. Hall is attending a session of the N.C. General Assembly in

Raleigh and was unable to appear in court Monday.

Also, Southport attorney Tom Heller Monday asked Judge Ellis to dismiss him from representing defendant Robert Meggett. Heller said Meggett was represented by John Hughes when he entered his plea in 1983.

Heller said he has "had no contact with the defendant since seeing him listed on the court docket."

In court Monday, each defendant apologized to the judge for their involvement in the drug smuggling operation prior to sentencing. When Judge Ellis asked many of the men why they participated in the operation, they listed financial reasons.

Speakers Object To Holden Beach Rezoning

BY SUSAN USHER

A proposal to rezone a mid-island tract for commercial use drew varied opposition Monday at a Holden Beach public hearing.

Town commissioners were to vote on this rezoning and another today (Thursday) in a special meeting at 9 a.m. at the town hall.

Several opponents of the rezoning expressed concern Monday that the change would create new congestion near the island's access point and would affect the beach community's "family" atmosphere.

"Is there really going to be room for adequate commercialization in this area?" asked J.R. Athey, one of about 20 citizens who attended the morning hearing. He suggested the rezoning be limited to the landward side of Ocean Boulevard, given parking and oceanfront setback requirements.

John Tandy, a former mayor, asked the board to "think hard about doing this."

The new high-rise will reduce congestion and time delays around the access point to the beach.

"There's a good chance we may add the same thing back in if we make this area commercial," he said.

That build-up can also make a

"first impression" contrary to the traditional image of the beach, he said. It could also prompt strip zoning, in his words, "terrible, terrible stuff".

Traditionally, he said, the town has attempted to keep commercial development off the island. Tandy suggested Holden Beach has sufficient existing commercial property "for many years to come."

"The planning's been perfectly good to date—a family beach, that's what everybody wanted."

"We can very easily be like any other beach," he said. "I don't want us to lose our uniqueness. Let's think hard about doing this."

Other speakers, in vaguer comments, stressed the need for careful planning for future development—then sticking to the plan.

Sid Swartz, a member of the board of adjustments, said he personally prefers no commercial zoning on the island and that he thinks the land use plan provides too much commercial area.

But since there will be island commercial development, he said, the town should plan 10 or more years ahead and then stick to the plan, so people will know when they buy a lot what kind of development to expect nearby.

John M. Clarke, a former commissioner, also questioned the impact of the rezoning on the "family" nature of the beach.

In a memo to a number of town officials, Clarke said he didn't understand the need for so many commercial lots. He said he wondered if the rezoning would eliminate further residential development in the area and what impact it might have on existing residential property.

Clarke also asked if a "hidden agenda" exists, noting that during a recent review of the proposed land use plan revision, a decision was made to delete the policy statement: "Holden Beach will discourage tourist-related business development such as hotels, motels and restaurants within its town limits."

He agreed that spot zoning is "bad," but added that any zoning should be done for the community's good, not simply in response to a property owner's request.

No one spoke in favor of the rezoning, which has been recommended by the town's Planning and Zoning Board. The area in question is bounded by Rothschild and Quinton streets, the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean, and is part of the R.H. Holden subdivision. Both Holden Beach Road and Ocean

Boulevard transect the tract, which by one resident's count includes an estimated 90 lots.

Monroe Lots

However, the Planning and Zoning Board has recommended against rezoning as commercial a double oceanfront lot owned by Jimmie and Hazel Monroe at 137 Ocean Boulevard West, two lots west of the Rothschild Street side of the proposed commercial zone.

The 1980 land use plan, developed with the new high-rise bridge in mind, projects commercial development of the larger tract, but shows the two Monroe lots as residential. Development in the large tract is mixed, but is mostly commercial.

Planning board members, said, in making their decision, that rezoning the Monroe lots could generate a flood of requests for similar "spot" zoning, or zoning of a lot in a class different from that of adjacent lots.

Speaking in defense of the rezoning, Mrs. Monroe said Monday that a small "shopping village" is proposed for the lots.

"We need to be more self-contained," she said, adding that it takes too much vacation time to make shopping trips into Shallotte, "10 miles away and 10 degrees hotter."



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Flotilla Thanks Center

As a gesture of appreciation for use of the facility for meetings and boating classes, Shallotte Flotilla 10-08 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary presented the Shallotte Senior Citizens Center a check for \$100 last Friday in conjunction with senior citizens week. Member Al See (above) joined public information officer Jack Ziefel in presenting the check to Gladys Myrie on her last day as center director.

Park Facelifting Planned

(Continued From Page 1-A)

just to get it where we can use it—not to fix it up—and another \$30,000 by the time we're through," estimated Mayor Beamon Hewett.

The building must be rewired and handicapped-accessible rest rooms installed. Part of the room has already been recovered; reimbursement for damage during Hurricane Diana will pay to cover the rest. A septic tank and pump station are already in place.

"We'll be able to keep it up better when its being used," Alderman Jerry Jones noted.

Rep. David Redwine has pledged

\$5,000 in "pork barrel" or discretionary funds from the legislature, which the town, arts council and other local sources must match to get the project started.

Aldermen will look over Sunnyside next month to see exactly what must be done.

Meanwhile, the mayor told them, "I'm going to put some money in the budget for Sunnyside this year—you may take it out."

In several prior years, money budgeted for Sunnyside in the recreation fund has been reallocated to more urgent projects.

Bypass Tops County Road Priorities

(Continued From Page 1-A)

requested by the county, Poole was told.

In that case, he said, the county should "shoot for something new."

Peddling Ordinance

At the suggestion of County Attorney David Clegg, commissioners unanimously adopted an ordinance forbidding "itinerant merchants, salesmen, promoters, drummers, peddlers and hawkers" to conduct business on the grounds of the complex from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., effective immediately.

A recent encounter with a luggage salesman prompted introduction of the ordinance, Clegg said.

When the attorney suggested to the salesman that it was "inappropriate for him to monopolize public employees' time at work, the salesman didn't respond as hoped. There was nothing else he could do to send the peddler away, Clegg said.

A violation would be a general misdemeanor, punishable upon conviction by 30 days in jail or a fine of \$50.

Other Business

In other business, commissioners: •Appropriated \$10,000 to the Brunswick County Fishing Club to pay the contract for moving two

boilers donated by Pfizer Inc. to the club's artificial reef, located south of Lockwood's Folly Inlet. County Attorney David Clegg will help draw up the contract.

At Chairman Chris Chappell's suggestion, the sum will be deducted from any contribution to a countywide artificial reef program made in the 1985-86 budget. Designation of the funds Monday means the club can go ahead with plans to make the drop on the reef at an estimated cost of \$7,500, with a margin for unforeseen expenses.

Once the boilers are readied, which takes about two weeks, Pfizer will move them by rail to the Military Ocean Terminal, where the U.S. Army will load them onto barges. The contractor's insurance will cover the rail trip as well as the barge trip.

•Opened the meeting with a one-hour closed door session, interviewing the last of the top three of eight applicants for director of the county senior citizens office.

•Heard from Tax Administrator Boyd Williamson that the county revaluation project is generally on schedule, with four or five local employees in the field in the resort area. "The sales data they're collecting is incredible," he added.

•Revised the public housing department budget to reflect additional federal funding of \$43,164, for a total annual appropriation of \$638,944.

•Took no action on two library board appointments that expire July 1; those of Dr. John Ward and Doris Wilson.

•Approved tax releases and refunds for April; learned that the year-to-date collections as of April 30 are at 94.7 percent, or \$11.8 million collected.

•Accepted a petition asking the state to add Sherrow Street and Dogwood Trail in Sherrow Estates to

the state road system.

•Approved a contract with the Cape Fear Council of Governments for county participation in a long-term care screening project, which surveys patients leaving the hospital to determine their need for long-term care and alternatives to institutionalization.

•Approved a lease agreement with the Brunswick County Volunteer & Information Center regarding a van equipped for handicapped passengers received from the state. The county can apply for a replacement at five years or 100,000 miles, whichever comes first.

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