

Six Men Plead Guilty In 'Operation Brass'

BY TERRY POPE

Six defendants charged in March during the "Operation Brass" undercover drug investigation pleaded guilty in Brunswick County Superior Court Monday, with two receiving active prison terms.

Arthur Dale Hewett, 33, of Route 6, Box 919, Shallotte (Shallotte Point), received a six-month active prison sentence after pleading guilty to possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine.

Hewett's attorney, Roy Trest of Shallotte, argued that Hewett "played a very minor and passive role" in a drug exchange with undercover officer Mike Speck, formerly with the Shallotte Police Department. "Operation Brass" received its name from a joint undercover venture involving the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department drug squad and undercover officers from Shallotte and Southport police departments.

The Brunswick County Grand Jury returned indictments against 22 people on 66 charges as a result of the investigation in March.

After Judge Preston Cornelius issued a six-month active prison sentence Monday, Trest made a motion to allow Hewett to withdraw his guilty plea and to face a trial by jury, but it was denied by Cornelius. In offering his guilty plea, Hewett did not make a plea bargain agreement with the district attorney's office, which did agree to dismiss the felonious sale and deliver of cocaine charge facing Hewett.

According to testimony offered in the sentencing hearing Monday, the drug exchange between Hewett and Officer Speck was initiated at a Long Beach bar on June 23, 1984 by Ken Campbell, 26, son of former Shallotte Police Chief John Wayne Campbell. The police chief's son was working with Speck on the case.

Campbell testified Monday that he has known Hewett for some time and "personally asked if he could find me a gram of cocaine. At the time, he said no," he added. Hewett later sold Speck and Campbell a bag containing .91 of a gram of cocaine at the bar, said Assistant District Attorney Thomas Hicks, of Whiteville, who has been helping District Attorney Michael Easley's office through a busy court calendar this week.

At the time of the drug exchange, Campbell said, he "had had some differences" with the defendant, but the differences are now "all worked out." Using a friend to initiate a drug deal, Trest argued, resulted in Hewett's "trying to accommodate an acquaintance."

"This is a case that really bothers me," Trest said. He compared the drug exchange to earlier days of "bootlegging."

Hewett was sentenced to three years in prison, suspended for five years and placed on 12 months supervised probation. He also received a special six months active sentence,

was ordered to pay \$150 to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department undercover fund and to serve 100 hours of community service.

Also in court Monday, Edward Scott Barham, 20, of 203 SE 79th Street, Long Beach, received a three-year active prison sentence after pleading guilty to felonious sale and deliver of marijuana and two counts of felonious breaking and entering. The "Operation Brass" charge was consolidated with the other unrelated charges for the purpose of sentencing.

Barham confessed of breaking into two homes at Yaupon Beach and taking a television set, tape player and a pound of bacon. He also pleaded guilty to selling undercover officer T.M. Klomparens of Southport a quarter ounce of marijuana in June 1984. He was sentenced to three years in prison as a regular youthful offender, ordered to pay \$325.95 in restitutions and \$70 to the undercover fund.

Others sentenced Monday were:

*Anthony Wayne Overman, 19, of 310 NE 55th Street, Long Beach; pleaded guilty to felonious sale and deliver of marijuana; sentenced to two years in prison, suspended for five years and placed on 12 months supervised probation; fined \$500 and ordered to serve 40 hours community service;

*Robert Leonard Birch, 29, of 229 Edgewood Ave., Boiling Spring Lakes; pleaded guilty to possession with intent to sell marijuana; sentenced to two years in prison, suspended for five years and placed on 12 months supervised probation; fined \$1,000 and ordered to pay \$105 to the undercover fund plus serve 80 hours community service;

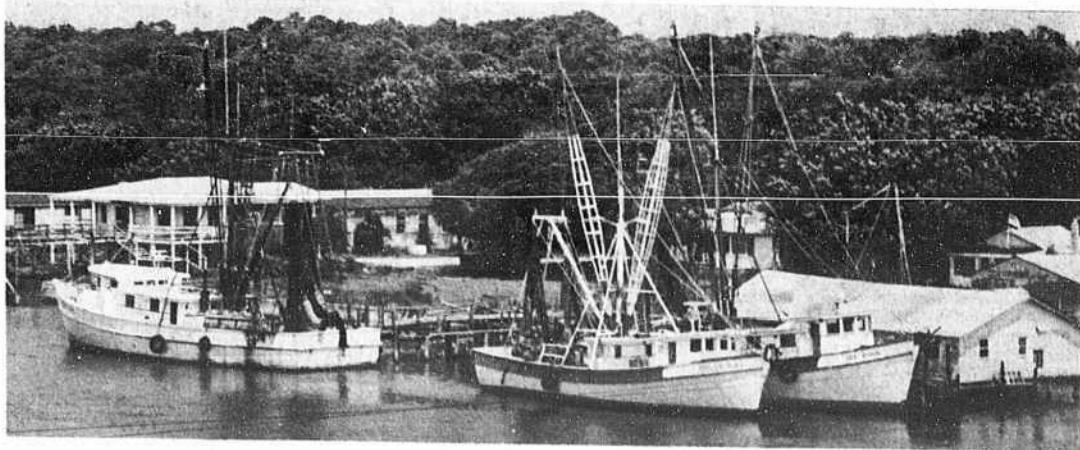
*Lloyd Allen Fields, 25, of Fawnbrook Trailer Park, Bolivia; pleaded guilty to felonious possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana; sentenced to two years in prison, suspended for five years and placed on 12 months supervised probation; fined \$1,000 plus ordered to pay \$72 to undercover fund and serve 40 hours community service; and

*Malcolm M. McHose III, 24, of NE 34th Street, Long Beach; pleaded guilty to felonious sale and deliver of marijuana; sentenced to two years in prison, suspended for five years and placed on 12 months supervised probation; fined \$1,000 and ordered to pay \$124 to undercover fund and to serve 40 hours community service.

Correction

A page 2 article in the July 18 edition of The Brunswick Beacon about a meeting of the Sunset Beach Council incorrectly reported appointments to the town planning board.

Jim Craig was elected to the planning board to represent the town proper, with Walter Hoff appointed as alternate. Richard Good was named alternate from the extraterritorial zone.



On The Waterfront

STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE

Lakes Group Plans Media Tour

Members of the Boiling Spring Lakes Homemakers Club say they hope to tour the WWAY-TV-3 studio in Wilmington in September, dining together afterwards.

Meanwhile, at their July 16 meeting, member Thelma Dunn presented a program on "Accent Your Figure," emphasizing ways to flatter the figure through choice of fabrics, colors, styles and accessories.

Furniture Store Grand Opening Set

Tom and Mary Medeiros, owners of The Furniture House of Calabash, are celebrating the grand opening of their new store through August 3.

The 5,000 square ft. building features expanded selling, display and warehouse space.

The Medeiroses started their business in Calabash 1½ years ago after moving from Charlotte. Their four-person staff includes Judy Winston, sales person, and a warehouse and delivery person.

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The meeting was held at the Boiling Spring Lakes VFW Post, with Helen Wheeldon as hostess.

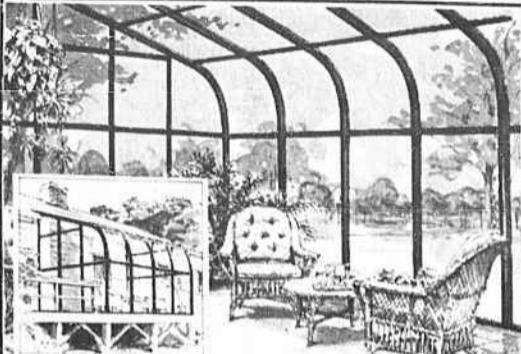
Margaret Domler's devotion was a passage from Luke and a prayer titled, "Good Morning, God." Members also gave the Pledge of Allegiance and closed with the club collect.

In attendance were guest Martha Bultard and members Regma Taylor; Elizabeth Presley; Eva Hall; Helen Wheeldon; Gladys Jacobs; Mary Bellows; Margaret Domler; Mary Richardson; and Thelma Dunn, who presided.

Town Creek Seniors Meet

Town Creek Township Senior Citizens meet Thursday, Aug. 1, at 2 p.m. at the township park building.

Spokeswoman Mary Richardson said anyone 55 years or older residing in the township is invited to attend. For more information, call her at 845-2862.



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