

SUPERIOR COURT

Judge Denies Request To Reduce Henry Pigott's 130-Year Sentence

A superior court judge last week refused to reduce the 130-year prison sentence given to convicted murderer, arsonist and armed robber Henry Levi Pigott Jr. in a 1989 case returned to Brunswick County by the N.C. Court of Appeals.

Pigott, 38, formerly of Airport Road, Shallotte, was convicted in the execution-style slaying of local businessman Darwin Kingsley Freeman, who was found in an efficiency apartment at his business bound hand and foot with a single .22-caliber gunshot wound in his head.

Prosecutors said Pigott tried to rob Freeman, then killed him and set fire to the apartment to hide the evidence. Defense attorneys claimed Pigott was "under the influence of mental or emotional disturbance caused by a drug addiction."

Finding him guilty on four counts, the jury declined to ask for Pigott's execution and imposed a life sentence instead. The judge added 50 years for the first-degree arson conviction, 40 years for first-degree kidnapping and 40 years for robbery with a dangerous weapon.

In an appeal of the latter three cases, Pigott's lawyers argued that the trial judge should have considered certain factors that might have led to a lesser sentence. The appeals court refused to overturn the convictions, but agreed to send the case back to Brunswick County for a re-sentencing hearing.

Last Thursday (May 6), Judge Robert H. Hobgood considered several mitigating factors, including Pigott's drug use, his good work history, his confession shortly after he was arrested, and his past cooperation in local drug enforcement investigations.

But the judge refused to overturn the sentences. Pigott's lawyers plan to appeal the decision.

In other superior court action last week:

■Richard Hugh Grissett, 32, of Farm Loop Path, Sunset Beach, was sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to two counts each of felonious breaking and entering, larceny and possession of stolen goods and one count each of forgery, uttering false paper, larceny of a firearm, misdemeanor larceny and possession of stolen goods. He was ordered to pay \$600 restitution and \$250 for his court-appointed lawyer and was told to take part in the Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Training (DART) program while in prison.

■Kirk Galloway, 37, of Garden Terrace Apartments, Southport, was sentenced to 10 years in prison after his guilty plea to two charges of possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine and two counts of selling the drug. He was ordered to pay \$200 in lab fees and restitution and recommended for the DART program.

■Rodney Cornelius Bannerman, 31, of Route 1, Leland, was given a five-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to two counts each of felonious breaking and entering and larceny and one count each of breaking and entering a coin-operated machine and attempting to break into such machines. He was ordered to pay \$1,600 restitution, \$250 attorney fees and told to take part in the DART program.

■James C. Garner Jr., 23, of Castle Hayne was sentenced to 18 months in prison after pleading guilty to a charge of driving while his license was

permanently revoked. He was ordered to pay \$125 attorney fees and was recommended for work release.

■Harry M. Sidbury, 45, of Route 2, Supply pleaded guilty to charges of manufacturing cocaine, possession with the intent to manufacture cocaine and cocaine possession. Sentencing was delayed until a date to be determined by the district attorney.

■Wanda Rich, age unavailable, of Route 1, Winnabow, pleaded no contest to a charge of simple assault. She was sentenced to three days in Brunswick County Jail, suspended on the condition that she pay the costs of court and not violate any assault statutes for one year.

■Sharonda Hankins, 21, of Route 2, Bolivia, was found guilty of injuring personal property and was sentenced to six months in jail, suspended two years on payment of \$1,139 restitution, court costs and \$600 in attorney fees. She was put on supervised probation for two years.

■A jury was unable to reach a unanimous decision in the trial of Curtis Hutaft Williams, 44, of Route 1, Bolivia, on a charge of driving while impaired by alcohol. The judge declared a mistrial and the prosecutor agreed to dismiss the case.

■Timothy Eugene Hollins, 22, of Greenhill Road, Winnabow, was found in violation of the terms of his probation. He was transferred to supervised probation and ordered to pay his past-due restitution and \$200 in attorney fees.

■Richard Smith, age unavailable, of Wallace was found not guilty of assaulting a female.

■The judge agreed to reduce bond on Debrah Elaine Robbins, 35, of Ballard's mobile home park, Leland. Her new bail was set at \$50,000

Two Charged With Kidnapping, Assaulting Supply Woman, 23

A 23-year-old Kuwaiti man and a 29-year-old Californian were arrested early Saturday morning on charges of kidnapping and sexually assaulting a 20-year-old Supply woman in a Belville motel room Thursday night.

The woman told Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Steve Mason that she had agreed to meet one of the men at the Country Club Bar in Leland, where she spent several hours drinking with him and another man.

She said the two men left the club while she was in the bathroom, but later flagged her down as she drove home, Mason's crime report states. One of the men drove her car to the Camellia Motel, where she said her clothes were removed and she was sexually assaulted.

The next morning, she said the men dressed her and drove her to a Wilmington restaurant, where they ate breakfast, according to the report. Then she said the men drove her back to the motel, returned her car keys and allowed her to leave.

Acting on her statement, Mason said he arrested Omar Mohd Kharot, 23, a citizen of Kuwait who is legally living and working in Wilmington; and Amher Manuel Avitia, 29, of Lodi, Calif., who has been renting a room at the motel and working at a Belville convenience store.

The two men have been charged with first-degree kidnapping and first-degree sexual offense. Both are being held in Brunswick County Jail in lieu of \$75,000 bond.

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Two Leland Men Jailed On LSD, Pot Charges

The use of lysergic acid diethylamide, the once popular hallucinogen known as LSD, is making a comeback among young people, a Brunswick County Sheriff's Department narcotics detective said Tuesday after two men were arrested on charges of possessing the drug.

"We're starting to see a rise in LSD use," said Det. David Crocker. "It's becoming increasingly popular among college students."

Detectives confiscated 35 doses

of LSD Wednesday afternoon (May 5) after an informant told police that a mail shipment of the drug was expected at a home on Juniper Street in Leland.

Local authorities contacted the U.S. Postal Service and arranged a controlled delivery of an envelope containing a sheet of paper on which the liquid LSD had been dropped, Crocker said.

Armed with a search warrant, sheriff's detectives entered the home

and caught 17-year-old Robert Allen Miller counting out the dosage units as his housemate Joseph Peter Grandolfo, 37, looked on, Crocker said.

In a search of the residence, detectives discovered 14 marijuana seedlings planted in the ground and in pots.

Miller and Grandolfo were charged with one count each of possession of LSD with the intent to sell and deliver the drug and one count

each of manufacturing marijuana. Both men are being held in Brunswick County Jail in lieu of \$75,000 bond for Miller and \$25,000 for Grandolfo.

Correction

Mary Benes of the Calabash VFW Post 7288 Auxiliary received a corsage of poppies for good public relations efforts at the 5th District meeting April 25 at the post.

NWS REPORTS

April Was Cool, Wet With 59.8 Average

April 1993 was cool and wet, according to monthly climatological report of the National Weather Service office in Wilmington.

The daily high temperature was a mild 71.8 degrees, but the low averaged a cool 47.8. The monthly average was 59.8 degrees, for the coolest April since 1987 when the monthly average was 59.7.

Highest temperature for the month was 85 degrees on the 12th. Lowest, 40 degrees, was recorded on the 23rd, 28th and 29th. The 40 degrees tied the record for the date on the 28th and broke the record low for the date on the 29th.

Precipitation for the month was 5.78 inches, 2.91 inches above normal. This was also the 10th wettest April since record-keeping began in 1871. Nearly all the rainfall occurred on three dates—2.86 on the 5th, 1.43 on the 10th, and 1.46 on the 16th. The three days totaled 5.75 inches of the 5.78 inches for the month.

On the 5th, 2.86 inches broke the daily record of 1.89 last recorded in 1937. The 1.43 inches on the 10th tied the daily record set in 1928.

There were only five days of the month with measurable rainfall. This was the wettest April since 1989 when 7.60 inches were recorded.

The highest wind gust for the month was 44 miles an hour from the southwest on the 10th. The fastest one-minute average wind speed was 22 mph occurring on the 2nd and 15th. Both were from the south.

The daily average wind speed was 9.1 mph.

There were three days with thun-

der reported, which is near the normal. There were 10 clear days, 12 partly cloudy and 8 cloudy days.

There was an abundance of sunshine, with 84 percent of the possible recorded.

The highest pressure was 30.36 inches on the 28th and the lowest, 29.54 inches on the 10th.

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