

Confessed Cocaine Dealer Fined \$1.2 Million, Given 35 Years

A man described by a narcotics officer as one of the area's "mid-level" cocaine dealers was sentenced to 35 years in prison and fined \$1.2 million last week after pleading guilty in Brunswick County Superior Court to 10 counts of cocaine trafficking.

The defendant, Timothy Terry Ballard, 33, of Route 1, Leland, was the target of an investigation by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department dating back nearly a year, said narcotics Officer Mike Speck. Undercover agents made numerous purchases of powdered cocaine from Ballard, ranging from small amounts to quantities in excess of a pound.

Judge Joe Freeman Britt gave Ballard the mandatory sentence of seven years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each of five counts of trafficking cocaine in excess of 400 grams. On his plea of guilty to

five charges of trafficking between 28 and 200 grams of cocaine, Ballard was given a prayer for judgment continued "day to day, term to term until scheduled for sentencing by the state."

By pleading guilty to all ten trafficking charges, Ballard could have received a maximum sentence of 275 years in prison. He agreed to a plea bargain arrangement in which some charges were dropped and others were consolidated for judgment.

In district court last week, Ballard pleaded guilty to a charge of assaulting a government official and was given a concurrent two-year sentence.

Ballard was also ordered to pay \$15,100 restitution to the State Bureau of Investigation and \$1,000 for his court-appointed attorney.

In other superior court action last week:

■John Robert Cuff Jr., 17, of

Shallotte was sentenced to nine years in prison after pleading guilty to three counts of larceny and two charges of breaking and entering. An additional six-year sentence was suspended on the condition that he pay restitution to his victims, court costs and \$450 in court appointed attorney fees. Within 10 months of his release, Cuff was ordered to perform 200 hours of community service. He will be put on five years' supervised probation.

■Olarry Lampkins II, 23, of Rock Creek Road, Leland, was sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to one count each of forgery, larceny and breaking and entering. He was ordered to pay court costs and \$250 in attorney fees.

■Paul Donald Andrews, 42, of Alpine Place, Bolivia, was sentenced to five years after pleading guilty to breaking and entering and larceny. He was ordered to pay court costs, \$125 in attorney fees and restitution to his victim.

■Richard Alvey Partello III, 24, of Southport was sentenced to five

years on his plea of guilty to charges of breaking and entering and driving while impaired. He was ordered to pay court costs and \$400 in attorney fees.

■Christian Donald Partello, 18, of Southport was sent to prison for five years after pleading guilty to charges of breaking and larceny. He was ordered to pay \$2,447 restitution and court costs.

■Christopher Eugene Porter, 17, of Davis Road, Winnabow, was sentenced to three years after pleading guilty to three counts of larceny and three counts of breaking and entering. An additional 15-year sentence was suspended on the condition that he pay restitution, court costs and \$500 attorney fees. After his release, Porter will be put on five years' supervised probation and required to perform 200 hours of community service.

■Jamie Damon Huff, 17, of Cloverleaf Mobile Home Park, Leland, was sentenced to 45 days in Brunswick County Jail after pleading guilty to larceny and breaking and entering. A 10-year prison sentence was suspended on the condi-

tion that he pay restitution, court costs and \$500 in attorney fees. After his release, Huff will be put on five years' probation and be required to perform 200 hours of community service.

■Adolph Holmes Jr., 27, of Shallotte was sentenced to 30 days in Brunswick County Jail after he pleaded guilty to a charge of larceny.

He was given a five-year sentence, suspended on the condition that he pay \$1,892 restitution, \$200 in attorney fees and court costs. He was put on three years' supervised probation and ordered to perform 175 hours of community service.

■Jack Norman Williamson, 57, of Route 1, Leland, was found not guilty of taking indecent liberties.

More Indictments, Drug Arrests Continue 'Operation War Paint'

The Brunswick County Clerk of Superior Court has released the names of more people charged in the sealed grand jury indictments issued as part of a county-wide crack down on illegal drug sales that has resulted in more than 20 recent felony arrests.

By Friday afternoon, sheriff's department narcotics officers had picked up most of those named in the new indictments. The remaining suspects were expected to be arrested over the weekend.

In a four-month investigation called "Operation War Paint," the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department videotaped numerous drug dealers making illegal sales to undercover sources. That evidence was taken to a grand jury on Nov. 8.

An unreleased number of the resulting indictments were ordered sealed by Superior Court Judge Freeman Britt to prevent suspects from fleeing the area before law enforcement officers could pick them up.

Beginning Nov. 10, Brunswick deputies, detectives and narcotics officers raided areas frequented by drug dealers in the Longwood, Cedar Grove, Phoenix and Southport areas. Many of the suspects named in the indictments were picked up at those locations. Others were arrested at their homes and in traffic stops set up near the trouble spots.

Narcotics Officer Mike Speck called "Operation War Paint" a success and said it was "merely phase one of an effort that will be ongoing." He said he has heard "excellent feedback" from residents of the communities targeted in the drug raids and traffic stops.

"They want something done and we're going to try to accommodate them," Speck said.

Charged in indictments released last week—not all from Operation War Paint—were:

■Tim Carter of Mill Drive, Ash,

on one count of possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and one count of selling and delivering cocaine.

■Lacy Fitzgerald Ballard, 29, of Route 1, Leland, on one count of possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and one charge of selling and delivering cocaine.

■Robert Keith York, 22, of 20th Street, Long Beach, on a charge of possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and one count of selling and delivering cocaine.

■Ronnie Cleveland Perry, 31, of Queen Street, Wilmington, on one count of conspiracy to traffic and sell between 28 and 200 grams of cocaine.

■Jimmy Davis Hunter, 33, of Walker Street, Leland, on five counts of conspiracy to sell and deliver marijuana and one charge each of possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, selling and delivering marijuana and possession with intent to manufacture, sell and deliver 609 grams of marijuana.

■James Edison Garrell, 34, of Walker Street, Leland, on one count each of possession with intent to manufacture, sell and deliver marijuana, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, selling and delivering marijuana and maintaining a dwelling to keep and sell marijuana.

■Florencio Martinez Rios, 33, of Currie on five counts of conspiracy to sell and deliver marijuana.

■Stephanie Cheek Tipton, 38, of Shallotte on a charge of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud. She is accused of obtaining the drug chloridiazepoxide from a Shallotte pharmacy by calling a Shallotte pharmacy and representing herself as a nurse in a local doctor's office.

■Pennie Cotton Wrightenberry, 31, of Supply on a charge of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud. She is accused of acquiring the drug hydrocodone by representing herself by the name of another person.

Don't throw out those garments!
For professional repairs, alterations and dressmaking, call...
THE NEEDLE & THREAD SHOPPE
M-Sat. 9:30-5:30 • 910-457-4636
7945 River Rd., SE, Southport



Boone's Cove
Custom Framing & Gallery
presents
the works of three local artists
Ann Chadwick
V. Ryan "Bunny" Lauzon
J. Hilary Worthington
From Nov. 27-Dec. 4
Reception & Refreshments on
Saturday, Nov. 27, 2-5 p.m.
Join us and meet these talented artists.
Vision Square Center • Bus. Hwy. 17, Shallotte
(next to Shallotte Electric)
754-6199
10-6 M-Fri., 9-5 Sat.

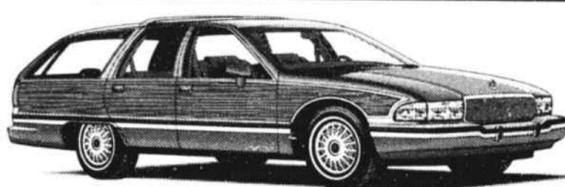
EXPERIENCE THE
Schaeffer
DIFFERENCE!
Customer satisfaction!
High quality because we know you have high expectations!
Thank You Brunswick County!




'93 BUICK ROADMASTER
Sedan, V-8, leather, rear wheel drive, ABS brakes.
\$22,887



'93 BUICK PARK AVENUE
Leather, SE Package, auto ride control, vinyl top. St. #1106.
\$24,900



'93 BUICK ROADMASTER ESTATE WAGON
Leather, towing package, SE Package.
\$23,900



'93 BUICK LeSABRE LIMITED
3.8 V-6, ABS Brakes, SE Package.
\$20,957



'93 BUICK REGAL
4-dr., Custom, 3.8 V-6, SE Package, keyless entry.
\$16,908



'93 BUICK SKYLARK
Custom, SE Package, V-6, ABS brakes.
\$13,987

ALL PRICES INCLUDE REBATES AND EXCLUDE TAX, TAG AND DOC. FEE

The '94 Buicks have arrived!
SCHAEFFER BUICK
4920 NEW CENTRE DR.
WILMINGTON
1-800-473-2995 or 392-2700