



Year Long Investigation Ends

Sixteen Arrested On Drug Related Charges

By JACK GROVE

A year-long undercover drug investigation in Chowan County culminated Tuesday in the arrest of 16 town and county residents. Four others are currently being sought by law enforcement officers.

Chowan Sheriff Fred Spruill and Edenton Police Chief J.D. Parrish said that the investigation was a coordinated effort with their departments and the State Bureau of Investigation. An undercover SBI agent was utilized to make buys of marijuana and cocaine from the accused individuals.

The charges include possession, sale and delivery of marijuana and possession, sale and delivery of cocaine. Spruill said that all charges are ten-year felonies. There were a total of 30 charges against 20 individuals.

The roundup of the alleged drug dealers began at 7 a.m. and proceeded through the morning. Participating were Spruill and five of his deputies, Parrish and six of his officers, eight SBI agents and three Alcohol Law Enforcement officers.

A first appearance for 11 of those arrested was held before District Court Judge John T. Chaffin at 11 a.m. Tuesday. Bond was set and varied from \$1,000 to \$20,000.

Assistant District Attorney Donna Forbes requested that bond for Jimmy Mack Evans be raised from \$12,000, set by a

magistrate to \$25,000. Evans was accused as a major supplier of drugs in the county and he allegedly had claimed that he had been in the drug business for ten years. Judge Chaffin set his bond at \$20,000.

Those arrested in the county sweep were Evans, 35, David Silverthorne, 28, Roy Nixon, 44, Wayne Bond, 33, Robin Lee Thackston, 31, Tommy Wayne Basnight, 31, Marvin Wayne Henderson, 26, Chester Bunch, 31, and

Tommy Cecil Nixon, Jr., 18. Town residents arrested were Geraldine Fleming, 24, Ivey Basnight, 23, Willie Basnight, Sr., 53, Raleigh Basnight, 25, James Charles Aylesworth, 22, Haywood (Hollywood) Burke, 34, and

Raleigh Hughes, 31. The defendants were first taken to the Edenton Police Station for photographing and fingerprinting, next to the courthouse for setting of bond by a magistrate and then proceeded into the jail.

Spruill said that no search warrants were used and no drugs were confiscated at the time of the arrests. Both Spruill and Parrish said that the arrests went smoothly and without resistance.

Ten of the accused had been released on bond by Wednesday morning with six remaining in jail.

The sheriff said that the following officers were instrumental in the investigation: Captain C.H. Williams of EPD, Sheriff's Deputy David Jethro, SBI Special Agent Dwight Ransome and the undercover SBI agent.

It was learned late Wednesday afternoon that a similar roundup of drug dealers was held in Hertford Wednesday.

Sheriff Spruill said that
Continued On Page 4



COURT BOUND-Some of the persons arrested Tuesday morning on charges of distributing marijuana and cocaine are escorted by Dep. Sheriff Victor Lamb to the Chowan County Courthouse for a first appearance hearing. Twenty people in Edenton and Chowan have been charged with distributing illegal drugs. A similar roundup has been conducted in Hertford.

On Super Tuesday

As you read this, only a few days remain before the so-called Super Tuesday primary when voters in some 20 states, North Carolina among them, will register their preferences for candidates for President of the United States.

This is developing into a very complex political situation, with two generally-considered unelectable contenders, one in each party, likely to go to the national conventions with enough support to be able to dictate terms to the winners.

We are talking about Pat Robertson, the ex-televangelist, who could easily run well enough in the south next Tuesday to come out with enough delegates to represent the balance of power between George Bush and Robert Dole at the Republican National Convention.

And Jesse Jackson, the black minister, could easily garner enough delegates in Tuesday's primaries to send him to the Democratic National Convention with enough strength to dictate language in the platform if not post-election concessions from the winner of a brokered nomination.

For these reasons, we consider it very important that North Carolina voters, both Democrats and Republicans, cast their ballots come next Tuesday with the greatest of care.

We expect a very close race between Vice President Bush and Senator Dole. We do not presume to advise Republicans how to pick a nominee. But we have a feeling that the better Bob Dole does in North Carolina and throughout the south, the less likely it would be that the Religious Right end up as the invisible power behind the throne should the Kansas senator become President of the United States.

Continued On Page 4

Demos Plan Meet

Chowan Democrats will have an opportunity today to become actively involved in the process that will ultimately pick the party's candidate for President of the United States.

The process begins at the precinct level and progresses through a county convention, district and state conventions and culminates in the national convention in Atlanta, Ga. July 18-21.

Chowan precinct meetings are scheduled for Thursday, March 3 at 8 p.m. The main order of business is to elect delegates to the county con-

vention. Within each precinct, one delegate will be elected for each 100 votes cast in the 1984 presidential election for the party's candidate.

Precinct meeting places and number of delegates to be elected are:

- Yeopim, new National Guard Armory, six delegates;
- Rocky Hock, Rocky Hock Rescue Squad building, five delegates;
- East Edenton, old Armory, ten delegates;
- West Edenton, new Rescue Squad building; 14 delegates; and

Continued On Page 4

Rash Of Outdoor Fires Plague Area

A rash of outdoor fires in the past two weeks has prompted county officials to sound a call for fire awareness on the part of the public.

Roger Spivey, county forest

ranger said "We've had at least half a dozen brush and woods fires during the month of February." The spring fire season runs from March through May.

The forest ranger said that many people begin burning grass and garden stubble and leaves during this season. "The reason they're (fires)

getting away is lack of preparation. The wind picks up and carries the fire to brush and to the woods."

He said that those planning to burn should make such preparations as creating fire lines, have a water hose nearby and have readily available tools such as shovels and water buckets. "A

charged garden hose is the main protection," he observed.

Spivey and Edenton Fire Chief Lynn Perry pointed out that many people do not recognize the spring fire hazard because of spring rains and general greening of grass and shrubs. They said that
Continued On Page 4



HEAVY LOAD-A truck struggles to load a bin for transport to the landfill. The bin contains trash removed from Pollock Swamp on the New Road. It was estimated that five or six loads will have been taken from the swamp when the cleanup is completed.

Supporters Turn Out For Jordan

Supporters of Democratic Lt. Governor Bob Jordan's campaign for governor had to wait for two hours last Wednesday afternoon for their candidate but there was a packed house when he did arrive at 3:45.

Jordan flew into Edenton from Charlotte, where his mother is hospitalized, with

an apology and a full platform for his campaign. The gathering was at the Carolina Room of Gaslight Square.

After circulating around shaking hands, Jordan was formally introduced by Herbert Hollowell. After building a successful lumber business in Mt. Gilead, Jordan told of his desire to run

the state in a business-like manner. In an apparent swipe at Republican Governor and rival, Jim Martin, he said, "Leadership is not talking about something but doing something."

He struck a popular local chord when he spoke of his awareness of the importance
Continued On Page 4

Pollock Swamp Litter Removed

Litter is unsightly. It can also be expensive and damaging to the environment. Pollock Swamp is an example.

The county, which began a campaign against litter in January, began a cleanup at the swamp on New Road (SR 1318) near the Brayhall water treatment plant last week.

Old refrigerators, stoves, truck and car tires, mattresses, bed springs, castoff furniture, garbage and other assorted refuse has been dumped there for years. The county has teamed with the state transportation dept. and a private contractor in the cleanup.

The swamp is adjacent to a stream and any poisonous and noxious material leaking from various dumped implements and the garbage can foul the stream.

County equipment is being used to drag the refuse from the swamp. A transportation department front-end loader picks it up from the roadside

and deposits it in a large trash bin. The contractor, Charlie Ullom of Reliable Disposal Service Co. then trucks the bins to the Perquimans-Chowan Sanitary Landfill.

Ullom commented Friday, "If people knew how much this was costing them, (the trash cleanup) maybe they wouldn't do it." Graham Farless, su-
Continued On Page 4

Board Meeting Held

By JACK GROVE

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education members were up before the sun Friday morning to again discuss school building needs and financing.

The purpose of the 6 a.m. meeting was to consider a critical needs application to the state for immediate funding from a special fund of \$95 million set up by the General Assembly. The funds are to go to the school systems with the most urgent building requirements.

Application deadline is March 15 and must be based on a long-range building plan. The local plan was approved by a "super-sub"

committee composed of county commissioners Alton Elmore and Al Phillips and school board chairman Cecil Fry and board member John Mitchener, III. Non-voting members are county manager Cliff Copeland, schools superintendent John Dunn and developer Ross Inglis.

The super-sub gave its approval to a long-range plan at a recent meeting that calls for expenditures of \$6.6 million, demolition of the two-story building at Chowan Jr. High and the construction of a new middle school there. It would house 6th, 7th and 8th grades.

The location of the middle school became the issue at
Continued On Page 5



SUPPORT-Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan speaks to supporters at the Carolina Room Wednesday afternoon before formally addressing a crowded room of admirers. He spoke on such popular local subjects as clean water, highways and education.