

# Happy Thanksgiving

## 'Major Drug Dealer' Arrested Wednesday

The war on drugs is continuing in Chowan County with the arrest Wednesday night, Nov. 16, in Gates County of a reputed major dealer.

Arrested was Louis Norman Eason, 42, of Rt. 1, Hobbssville. He is charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine; maintaining a dwelling for the purpose of keeping and selling marijuana and cocaine; possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and trafficking in cocaine. Bond was set last week at \$1.6 million.

Also arrested was his wife, Audrey Naomi Eason at their residence on N.C. 37 in Chowan County near the Gates County line. She has been charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine; possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana; and maintaining a dwelling for the purpose of keeping and selling marijuana and cocaine. Her bond was set at \$100,000.

Sheriff Fred Spruill said that the arrests were the result of an undercover investigation utilizing an Elizabeth City Police Officer.

Eason was arrested at the former Red Apple market, which he owns, just inside

Gates County on N.C. 32. Eason was preparing to sell the undercover agent about 10 oz. of cocaine around 7 p.m. when officers moved in and made the arrest.

He was then taken to his home where officers armed

with a search warrant went through the house. Additional drugs were found along with a large amount of cash. Spruill said that the money "was everywhere, in the house and in the cars."

The sheriff said that his

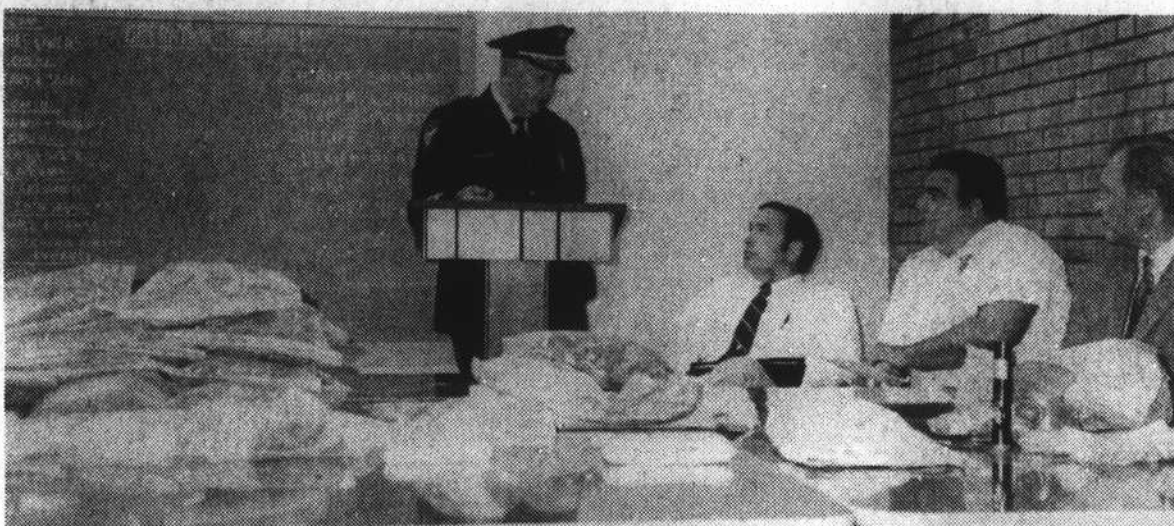
deputy, Lieutenant David Jethro, found a bag with a stack of \$100 bills amounting to \$50,000. Cash was found in closets, in drawers and in a 1988 Ford pickup and a 1988 Buick.

In all, \$114,000 in cash, some 30 pounds of marijuana and between 10 and 11 ounces of cocaine were seized along with three vehicles. The third vehicle, a 1983 Ford Tempo was driven by Eason to the site of the drug deal. The street value of the marijuana was estimated at \$48,000 and the value of the pure cocaine at \$16,000.

Also found at the residence were four keys to safety deposit boxes in two banks in Gatesville. Officers Friday seized \$230,000 in cash and two \$10,000 CD's from two of the boxes. On Monday, the other two boxes yielded a little over \$291,000.

Total seizures of cash and drugs amounted to just under \$640,000.

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"OPERATION SNOWBALL"--Elizabeth City Police Chief introduced at a press conference Friday night, area sheriffs that participated with his department in "Operation Snowball," a city drug investigation that snowballed into an investigation that included six Albemarle counties and three municipalities. In the foreground are drugs seized during arrests last week in Chowan and Perquimans Counties. Seated from left are Chowan Sheriff Fred Spruill, Perquimans Sheriff Joe Lothian and Camden Sheriff Joe Jones.

### On Counting Our Blessings

There are many things, great and small, for which to be thankful along the Public Parade and we here at the Chowan Herald take this method of showing our appreciation.

In many countries of the world, the transfer of power from one government to another is accompanied by violence and bloodshed. We are thankful that in the United States we are right now going through a period when authority is being shifted peacefully, even benignly, from one set of hands to another.

Although the inauguration of the new regime will not take place until January 20, the transition is already underway so that when the moment comes there will be as little disruption as possible. That is something to be thankful for.

We are also thankful that we live in a state where, had the voters so chosen, a similar peaceful transition would be going on. It says a great deal for the type of government under which we live.

And we are thankful that we are blessed in both Chowan County and the Town of Edenton with stable, honest administrations, which provide us with all the benefits of an organized society, perhaps a greater blessing than we are called upon to pay for. We have excellent law enforcement agencies which watch over our safety and comfort in our homes and businesses. We have good organizations which look after our health and physical wellbeing. We have fire departments, active and volunteer, which stand guard against one of the greatest threats the community faces day and night.

We have good schools and churches to fill our educational and spiritual needs and an unmatched environment in which to live and move and have our being. We are thankful for all these things, all these wonderful

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## Santa To Be Here

Santa Claus is coming to town on Wednesday, November 30 at 4 p.m. He will be the special guest of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce at their annual Christmas Parade.

Santa will be riding on the Edenton Jaycee float, escorted by the John A. Holmes Marching Band. Accompanying Santa on his visit to Edenton will be several other bands, along with Blackbeard the Pirate, Smokey the Bear and the Sudan Turtle Patrol.

This year's parade theme, "The Sights and Sounds of Christmas," will be represented by the many community, civic, and individual business entries in the float category.

The parade route will run from Holmes High School down Broad Street to the waterfront and then back to the high school to unload float participants.

The most important consideration in the selection of the parade route this year was to ensure the safety of the

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## Drug Sweep Is A Success

By JACK GROVE

ELIZABETH CITY - Area law enforcement agencies have joined forces to put drug dealers behind bars.

The effort was spearheaded by the Elizabeth City Police Dept. in cooperation with the sheriff's departments of Pasquotank, Perquimans, Gates, Chowan, Camden and Currituck Counties; police departments of Edenton and Hertford; the SBI; and the district attorney's office.

The drug investigation was dubbed "Operation Snowball."

A press conference held by Elizabeth City Police Chief W.C. Owens on Friday evening preceded a sweep through

area counties and towns in which some 17 drug arrests were made. The sheriffs of the six counties, officers and the media packed into the city hall annex for the conference after which a stack of arrest warrants containing 194 charges were distributed to the officers for service.

Chowan Sheriff Fred Spruill assisted in arrests in Elizabeth City.

Owens praised all participants in the investigation for their cooperative spirit and long hours spent in surveillance and investigation.

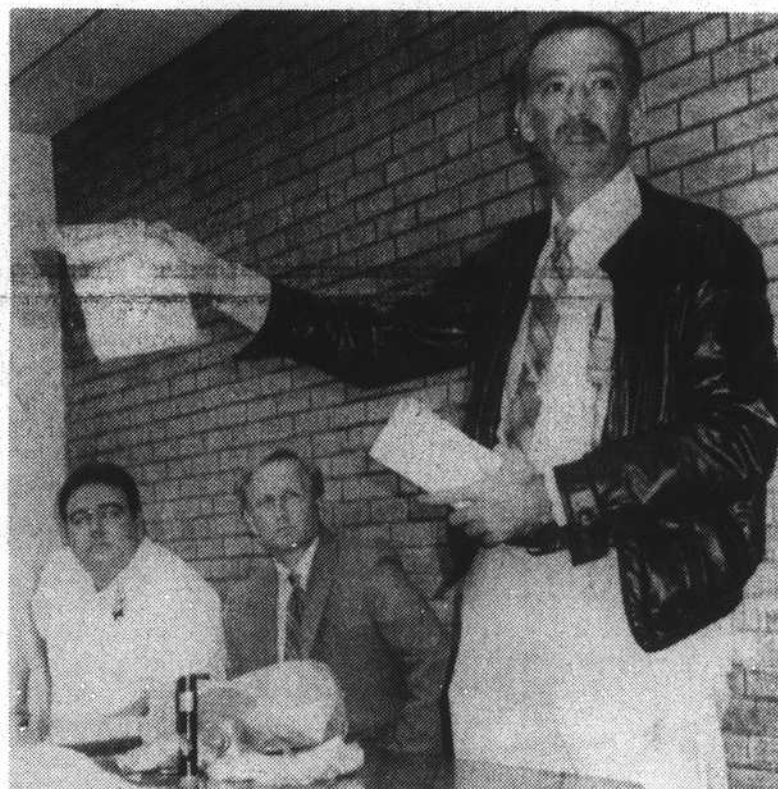
The investigation began in Elizabeth City six months ago, expanded into Pasquotank County and then spread into

Hertford and Perquimans County. At that point, the other counties joined in.

The main resource used was an undercover Elizabeth City Police Officer, identified only as "Big Al." Detective Capt. W.O. Leary said that he ordered the young officer to get a "spike" haircut and wear an earring while undercover. The effect on the barrel chested officer, present at the conference, was striking.

Counties and municipalities involved were asked to contribute \$3,000 each for funds for drug buys. Also utilized was a \$50,000 grant to Elizabeth City from the state

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"SNOW"--One of the many nicknames for cocaine is snow. Capt. of Detectives in the Elizabeth City Police Dept., W.O. Leary, holds aloft a packet of the illegal drug Friday night as Sheriffs Joe Lothian of Perquimans and Joe Jones of Camden look on.

### Cancer Society Benefit

## Holiday Fashion Show Set

In the spirit of the Christmas season, which is giving, two local businesses have

joined together to present a Holiday Gala Fashion Show and Champagne Buffet to

benefit the American Cancer Society.

Sandy Silks and Foot Fashions will co-sponsor this special event, at which all proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the fight against cancer.

The gala will be held at the Governor Eden Inn on Wednesday, November 30, beginning at 7 p.m. The inn is owned and operated by Ruth and Clarence "Shack" Shackelford of Edenton.

A delightful Champagne Buffet will be served throughout the evening as the models show off holiday fashions in an informal manner.

An assortment of party dresses, slacks, jewelry, handbags and dyed to match shoes will be featured.

Pam Stallings, Director of the local American Cancer Society office, says, "What a pleasure it is to work for such a worthwhile cause and have an enjoyable evening, too. We would like to encourage everyone to come out and support this event and its community-spirited sponsors."

She added, "We just can't thank Patricia Downum and Carolyn White enough for all they are doing for us."

Tickets are available from Sandy Silks, Foot Fashions and members of the American Cancer Society.

## Bond Plans Outlined

Passage of the local school bond referendum by an 86 per cent majority on Nov. 8 has set the wheels in motion to prepare for construction next summer.

County Manager Cliff Copeland last week outlined the process that is expected. There is a 30 day waiting period to allow for any challenges to the referendum be-

fore official steps are taken toward construction.

In the meantime, the school board has begun work with architect William Doggett of Doggett Associates of Raleigh.

The bid process will take 30-45 days after which bids will be evaluated, taking an additional two weeks to a

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## Williams Named To Post

Town Manager Ann-Marie Kelly announced Tuesday morning that Capt. Harvey Williams of the Edenton Police Dept. has been named as Acting Chief, effective Wednesday, Nov. 23.

It was announced on Nov. 2 that Chief J.D. Parrish had submitted his resignation in order to retire, effective Dec. 2. Ms. Kelly said that Parrish will use his accumulated vacation time prior to his retirement. Parrish cited his wish to "get out there in the county with my family," as the reason for retiring.

Ms. Kelly commented that Williams, "is the ranking officer and he has filled in for the chief when he has been on

vacation and been out of town on business. I'm confident that the captain can perform the duties of the chief."

The town has begun the process of looking for a permanent replacement. The town manager said that advertisements for applications have been placed in several police journals statewide. She reiterated, "The position is open to anyone within the department to apply." A permanent appointment is expected within the next three to four months.

"I look at this interim period as a good opportunity for the captain and I to work together," Ms. Kelly concluded.



LOVELY LADIES -- Donna Heidenreich and Melanie Jones model dresses which will be among those featured in a Holiday Gala Fashion Show and Champagne Buffet to benefit the American Cancer Society. Sandy Silks and Foot Fashions will be co-sponsors for the event which takes place at the Governor Eden Inn on Wednesday, November 30 at 7 p.m. (Staff photo by Gail Basnight)