

Police Confiscate Illegal Weaponry

By MARGUERITE MCCALL
Those detached from law enforcement view the items incredulously, not wanting to believe that such destructive intent occurs in Edenton. It does. The arsenal confiscated by local police proves it does. Weapons in all sizes and of all description fill a room at the Edenton Police Department awaiting the court's order for eventual destruction. They are, said Police Chief C.H. Williams, just a year's collection. He and Edenton Police Sgt. Bill Phillips Jr. identified

some of the weapons and related laws regulating possession of same. Knives ranged from razor-blade types to barongs, a heavy sheath knife used by the Moros of the Philippines. Carrying a knife is not illegal. Concealing it is. Various laws apply to guns, schedule III weapons. For example, possessing a sawed-off rifle or shotgun less than 16 inches in length is a felony. A citizen, as long as he has never been charged with a felony, can carry mace in a limited amount for the purpose of

self-protection. After a judge marks weapons for destruction, Williams said they are usually turned over to the Chowan County Sheriff's Office for the order to be carried out. "You treat every arrest as though the person may be carrying a weapon," Phillips said. "Never do you allow a person under arrest to enter your car without first searching him or her." He said an officer's training to be always on guard becomes a subconscious act. "Whatever you do and wherever you go," said the officer, "you're alert to what can happen." Sergeant Phillips is the in-

house, certified, firearms instructor for the department. All members of the department must qualify twice a year on the firing range, Chief Williams said. He also said since two years ago when the department began using 9mm handguns, all officers' scores had increased. "They are all in the high nineties now," he said. Asked if every officer in the department has at some time found a weapon on a suspect, he said, "Absolutely, many times over." Both he and Phillips said more and more sophisticated weapons are being found by those in law enforcement.



SERIOUS BUSINESS -- Edenton Police Sgt. Bill Phillips Jr. (left) and Police Chief C.H. Williams display a sampling of the kinds of weapons confiscated regularly by department officers. In addition to knives and handguns depicted, a sawed-off rifle, two sawed-off shotguns and a pen gun can be seen. (Staff photo by Marguerite McCall.)

Merry Hill Man Suspected Of Burglary Apprehended

Chowan County Sheriff's officers worked all night and throughout the next day after responding to a burglary that resulted in the arrest of Melvin Lee White, 26, of Merry Hill. The offense took place on Monday, March 23, at the Macedonia Road residence of Randy Livingston. Livingston's son and a

family friend were sleeping in the house at the time the intruder came through a bedroom window. The intruder left without confronting the two young men, and no injuries occurred, said Sheriff Fred Spruill. Spruill said White is presently in the Chowan County Detention Facility under a \$50,000 bond.

Routine Traffic Check Results In Heroin Bust

Continued From Page 1-A and it's 60 to 80 percent pure. Brown comes from Mexico, and it's 40 percent pure. "Heroin is definitely on the rise again as a popular drug. I would say this is probably the largest amount ever found in this county."

The officer said no money was found, leading him and other officers to believe Wynn and two juvenile passengers in his vehicle were on their way home after picking up the drugs. He said the Task Force found a handgun beneath the console during an intensive search of the car, which was a stolen rental vehicle. The pistol, a 38 special, was reported stolen to the Portsmouth Police Department two weeks ago, he said. "Contrary to what most people believe about their using large guns," the officer said, "drug dealers prefer small guns because they're easier to conceal." The Task Force officer credited the apprehension of Wynn and the consequent confiscation of the heroin to the alertness of Officers Bon-

ner and Palmer. The officers had set-up their traffic check near the

Edenton Marina on U.S. 17 Business South. Wynn was stopped at 5:30 p.m., Officer Bonner said. He is being held in the Chowan County Detention Facility.

Parents And Lawyers Wait For Verdict

Continued From Page 1-A children who attended the Little Rascals Day Care Center in Edenton, about 85 miles east of Farmville. The case was moved because of pretrial publicity.

Mrs. Kelly and five others also are charged with sexual abuse and await separate trials. Testimony in the case started August 19 and ended March 12 after 143 witnesses were called to the stand. The transcript of the trial runs more than 20,000 page. The case is the most expensive in North Carolina history, with the cost about \$1.2 million by the end of March, according to figures from several state agencies. The children testified that Kelly forced them to perform oral and anal sex and took pictures of some children

having sex. Children also said that Kelly had sex in front of them with other adults. Defense lawyers said during closing arguments that the charges stemmed from a hysterical reaction to rumors sweeping the small town in the winter of 1989. (Lane Dunn is a reporter with The Daily Reflector of Greenville, which is providing press coverage of the Little Rascals trials for The Chowan Herald.)

Vehicles Are Confiscated

Continued From Page 1-A Officers of the Chowan-Edenton Task Force, the Edenton Police Department and the Chowan County Sheriff's Office participated in a drug raid on Thursday, March 26, at the residence of Richard Gilbert, 34, of Chowan Beach. The search resulted in the seizure of thirteen marijuana plants, an indoor growing system and a 1970 Ford Pick-

up truck. Street value of the plants from 1991 prices are \$20,800. Gilbert was charged with two counts of Possession with Sell and Deliver Schedule VI Marijuana, two counts of Sell and Deliver Schedule VI Marijuana, and Manufacturing Marijuana. He is under a \$10,000 bond. Another vehicle was confiscated Sunday in a drug seizure. (See related article.)

COA's Recycling Awareness Seminar To Be Held Friday

ELIZABETH CITY -- College of the Albemarle will hold a Recycling Awareness Seminar at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 3, in the Lecture Auditorium, room B-202. The seminar will be facilitated by Georgia Kight, home extension agent, and Rodney Sawyer, county extension director, Cooperative Extension

Services, Currituck Center. The seminar will include a quiz on recycling and tips on how everyone can "reduce, reuse, and recycle." The seminar is free of charge and is open to the public.

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Candidate Seeks Support

Continued From Page 1-A 1970 with a J.D. degree. That same year, Freeman served as a research assistant for a former N.C. governor and associate justice, Dan K. Moore. From 1979-81, he was district attorney of the 17th judicial district. Freeman has been the director of the Administrative Office of the Courts for the past ten and a half years, working under the tutelage of the late Chief Justice Joseph Branch and currently under Chief Justice James Exum Jr. "The post I seek is an important one," he said. "The State Auditor is responsible for seeing that all agencies of our State government spend the public's money properly, as directed by the General Assembly." He said his office saved \$1 million out of a \$4 million appropriation by bringing jurors in on Tuesday to court rather than Monday. "It generally takes all day Monday just to get preliminaries out of the way. Why pay jurors just to sit there and wait," he said. "There are critical needs in North Carolina. We need to examine how we now do business. Bet-

ter services and savings can occur." Freeman said he has taken a leave of absence to run for the office of State Auditor because he believes he can make a contribution to state government and thus to the populace by serving in that position. He said taking the leave is a hardship on his family. He and his wife, Katherine, are the parents of six children, two sons and four daughters. "And before you ask," he chided Chowan County Democratic Chairman Bill Phillips Sr., "I am a Methodist." Freeman said his father, Judge Franklin Freeman Sr., presided over the court in Edenton on several occasions in the 1970s and early 1980s. The office Freeman seeks is an open seat because its present holder, Ed Renfrow, is running for the office of lieutenant governor of the state. Ralph Campbell, D, Chuck Hicks and Vernon Abernathy, R, are also candidates for State Auditor. "The office of State Auditor require vigorous, forward-looking leadership," Freeman said. "And that is the kind of leadership I intend to provide if I'm elected."



I REMEMBER -- Mrs. Mary Williams Berryman, 97, of Edenton holds a card stating the name of the contractor who built Edenton Baptist Church in 1916. She said she remembered Walter Jerome Mathews but did not know he had placed a time capsule in the church wall. The capsule was opened Sunday and contained, among other things, the card signed by Mathews. For many years, Mrs. Berryman was the teacher of the Women's Bible Class at the church. (Staff photo by Marguerite McCall.)

Time Capsule Is Opened

Continued From Page 1-A was recognized as being the first person baptized in the building. The year was 1918 when Mrs. Hassell was 16. Speaking to those in the standing room only filled sanctuary and others in an overflow room equipped with a television screen, the minister, Dr. Kenneth Word, challenged the church with "A Vision For The Future." "I expect to spend the rest of my life in the future. What about you?" he quoted Charles Kettering, the famous automotive engineer. "In the book of Proverbs it says, 'Where there is no vision, the people perish,' Word said. 'If there's no vision for evangelism, the church will become a museum.' "What were the dreams of those founders 175-years-ago? Certainly, Thomas Meredith stood a man with a vision." (Meredith was pastor of Edenton Baptist from 1825 to 1834. He was also the founder of The Biblical Recorder, the Baptist state paper.) Word enjoined the congregation, "Enjoy the past and reflect on it, but pray for a vision for this church." Following the benediction, Dr. Word, assisted by Luther Parks and the Rev. Jim Hyatt, opened the time capsule, a galvanized tin box, and one by one removed its contents. They were: • Two copies of The Albemarle Observer, an Edenton newspaper, carried articles about the new Baptist Church being constructed in Edenton. One paper was dated March 24, 1916, and the other August 4, 1916.

• A copy of Charity & Children dated July 27, 1916. • A copy of the Western Recorder published in Louisville, Kentucky, dated April 27, 1916. • A copy of the Biblical Recorder dated March, 29, 1916. • A copy of an American Bible Society Bible printed for the Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tennessee. • A copy of The North Carolina Baptist Historical Papers published in July, 1899 in Henderson, N.C. • A poster with a picture of the proposed new church, information regarding its dimensions and building materials and the name of the architect, J.M. McMichael of Charlotte, N.C. • A card written by the church contractor, Walter Jerome Mathews of Kinston. Mathews stated, "I started this church on the 6th day of March 1916. This card was placed in this box by me on August 6, 1916 when the box was sealed up. W.J. Mathews, builder." At a later date, along with contemporary articles, the items will be returned to the box and sealed once again for a future generation to peruse. Many in attendance were overheard remarking that the day had been a joyous occasion. They said the service fulfilled their spiritual needs, a catered chicken and barbecue dinner their physical needs, and the return of and reminiscing with former members their social needs. Without question, 175 years of continuity was an occasion to celebrate.

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