

Robinson Gets 28 Years As Three Sentenced In Cocaine Cases

BY RAHN ADAMS

Three Supply area men who were indicted in June by a special investigative grand jury on cocaine charges were sentenced Nov. 4 in Brunswick County Superior Court.

According to the clerk of court's office, Rocky Lee Robinson and Edgar Lee Caison Jr. received active prison terms, while Jerry Gale Clemmons got a suspended sentence.

All three were awaiting sentencing after having entered guilty pleas Aug. 13 in Superior Court.

Robinson, 26, of Route 3, Supply, received the stiffest sentence of the three.

Judge Samuel T. Currin gave Robinson a 28-year prison term and \$200,000 fine, on two counts of conspiracy to possess more than 28 grams of cocaine and two counts of trafficking by possession of more than 28 grams of cocaine. He had pleaded guilty as charged in his indictment.

Robinson's attorney, Michael Ramos of Shallotte, gave notice that the sentence will be appealed, according to the clerk of court's office.

District Attorney Michael Easley said this week that Robinson received the minimum mandatory sentence

in his case, which included a \$50,000 fine for each of the four counts.

Court documents showed that Robinson could have gotten a maximum of 60 years in prison.

"It (Robinson's sentence) is consistent with those who have not furnished substantial assistance to the state," Easley said this week. "He (Robinson) didn't render much assistance."

Robinson's sentence was not the most severe judgment handed down in recent years in a Brunswick County drug case, Easley said, citing a 35-year prison term and \$200,000 fine

given Christopher Glenn Ford of Tucson, Ariz., in 1983.

Ford was arrested in May 1983, in connection with the seizure of 14,000 pounds of marijuana from a trailer at Lakewood Estates near Ocean Isle Beach.

According to the clerk of court's office, Caison, 41, of Route 2, Supply, received a 10-year active sentence.

Caison had pleaded guilty in August to six counts of possession of cocaine and six counts of conspiracy to traffic in cocaine, involving between one and 28 grams of the controlled substance. He had been indicted on six counts of conspiracy to

traffic and trafficking by possession of more than 28 grams of cocaine.

During the same August term, Clemmons, 27, of Supply, entered a guilty plea to possession of more than one gram of cocaine, and an additional charge of conspiracy to traffic in cocaine against him was dismissed.

Last week, Clemmons was handed a two-year sentence, suspended for three years, with three years of supervised probation.

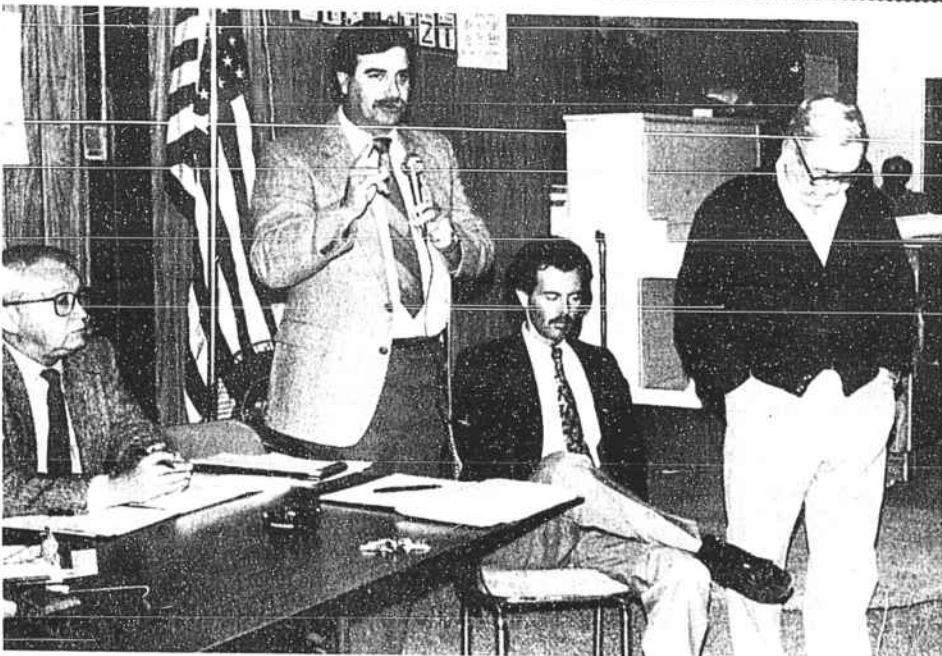
Also, he was ordered to pay a \$500 fine and court costs, and must submit to counseling, warrantless searches

and lie detector tests.

Some 21 drug defendants from indictments in June and July have entered guilty pleas and are awaiting sentencing in Brunswick County Superior Court.

According to Easley and Assistant District Attorney William Wolak, who has handled most of the drug cases in court, many of those 21 defendants will be sentenced during the Nov. 16 term of Superior Court.

In all, 38 persons were indicted here on cocaine charges in June and July, with eight of that number still awaiting trial.



COMMISSIONER CHRIS CHAPPELL (second from left) answers questions from citizens attending Friday night's public hearing at the Calabash Fire Station concerning the re-establishment of the Cawcaw Drainage

District. Also pictured (from left) are Commissioner Jim Poole, County Attorney David Clegg and Brunswick County Soil and Water Conservation District Chairman James Bellamy.

Citizens Support Reactivation Of Cawcaw Drainage District

BY RAHN ADAMS

"It's one of those situations where you're never going to please everyone in the district. But tonight you've seen 175 people here, and they spoke favorably for reorganization."

That was Commissioner Chris Chappell's response following a 1½-hour public hearing Friday night at Calabash Fire Station concerning reactivation of the Cawcaw Drainage District.

As a result of the hearing, commissioners are expected to meet in joint session with the Brunswick County Soil and Water Conservation Board, to decide whether or not Clerk of Superior Court Diana Morgan should be asked to reactivate the district.

Chappell said commissioners will probably set a date for the joint session at the commissioners' Nov. 16 meeting.

Chappell and Commission Chairman Grace Beasley told the gathering Friday night that action on the matter by the two boards is expected by Jan. 1.

"I think that's what's going to have to be done (reactivating the district)," Ms. Beasley said after the hearing, "(but) do we do it by going in and requesting that it be re-established, or do we do it with a referendum—a vote of the people?"

"And then your problem after that—or your consideration—is how do you fund it," Ms. Beasley added.

Chappell stated during the hearing that the total area affected by the Cawcaw drainage system has an estimated tax value of almost \$119 million.

At least 175 residents of the area affected by the drainage district, which is located in southwestern Brunswick County, packed the fire station to question county officials and to provide input on how to restore the more than 16 miles of overgrown, neglected canals in the Cawcaw drainage system.

On hand at the public hearing were the full Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, Brunswick County Soil and Water Conservation District Chairman James Bellamy, Dick Gallo of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, N.C. Rep. David Redwine and three former Cawcaw Drainage District Commissioners—Kendall Bellamy, Wendell Bennett and Jennings Edge.

A majority of the citizens in attendance are residents of Carolina Shores, a subdivision near Calabash with ditches that drain into the Cawcaw system. According to James Bellamy, the subdivision joined the drainage district prior to dissolution of the district in 1976 by the Brunswick County clerk of court.

Near the close of the public hearing, Chappell asked for a show of hands of those who supported re-establishment of the district. The

vote was unanimous.

However, earlier in the hearing, at least two of the approximately 20 people who addressed commissioners expressed concerns about re-establishment of the drainage district.

Mendel Norris of Hickman's Crossroads said he was opposed to any type of assessment because he felt the people who were in the original district shouldn't have to pay again.

Also, Wanis Bennett, also of Hickman's Crossroads, said he opposed re-activation of the district because he felt some property owners weren't "treated fairly" when the district was originally established.

Bennett asked commissioners to call for a referendum among property owners in the district.

The drainage district was established in 1959, with 16.5 miles of canals or ditches begun in 1967 and completed in 1967.

According to James Bellamy, the system was designed to drain at least 40,000 acres of potential farmland.

But extensive development above the original drainage district has increased the need for maintaining the canal system—work that has been done only by a few private property owners on their own land in recent years.

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TERMS ARE RUNNING OUT

Calabash Board Hastens Water Project

BY DOUG RUTTER

In an effort to make its last month in office productive, Calabash Town Council Monday took several steps which may provide county water service to the town's waterfront.

Following a brief executive session, council adopted a preliminary assessment resolution for water line installation along Ivey High Road and Oak Street.

Although no specific terms of the resolution were decided, Mayor Doug Simmons said the resolution will most likely call for property owners receiving the service to pay 100 percent of the installation costs after the work has been completed.

He said the town will probably fund the project upfront, assess the property owners, and use the collected assessments to proceed with the next phase.

Council set a public hearing on the resolution for Nov. 30, which will likely be the last meeting of the current board. All but three members, Mayor Doug Simmons and Councilmen Sonia Stevens and Pati Lewellyn, will be replaced come December.

Stevens was the only member absent at Monday's meeting.

Council also asked Alan Lewis of Lewis & Associates to draft a contract for the installation of water lines and to complete the \$9,000 water engineering study as soon as possible.

Lewis was hired last month to conduct the study and design, which includes a loop off N.C. 179 consisting of Ivey High Road, Oak Street and Riverview Drive.

Council called a special meeting for 4:30 p.m., Nov. 16, at which time it expects to approve the engineering design.

Lewis said he could have the plans completed by Nov. 13, and if council approves the plans Monday they will be sent to Raleigh for state approval.

Lewis said it would take at least 30 days for the state to approve the plans and that council could not sign with any contractor until that time.

Council also decided Monday to use one contract for the project, with the contractor supplying the materials himself instead of contracting out both materials and labor.

Lewis said that in terms of price, "I don't think you're going to realize a very significant difference either way."

He also warned that if the town decides to build the water system one phase at a time, the pressure to the waterfront in phase one will be "borderline" in terms of fire safety and serving a hydrant. He recommended that the entire loop be completed.

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Bloodmobile Here Friday

The Brunswick County Health Department is again sponsoring a blood drive with the American Red Cross, on Friday, Nov. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Public Assembly Building at the county complex in Bolivia.

Appointments can be made through Hazel Trott at the health department.

For answers to other questions, contact Edie Fullwood. The department's numbers are 253-4381 on the Atlantic Telephone exchange, 457-5381 from Southport and 763-1312 from Leland.

Health Officials, Holden Residents To Meet Tuesday About Septic Tanks

State environmental health officials are to meet with Holden Beach officials and residents next Tuesday regarding their concerns about septic tanks in the island community.

John Crowder, environmental services supervisor for the Brunswick County Board of Health, said the meeting is being held at the request of Holden Beach Mayor John Tandy.

"It's to inform the public about what's going on," he added.

Steve Steinbeck of the N.C. Division of Health Services sanitation branch and Dr. Bob Uebler, regional soil specialist, will spend the morning conducting four or five site inspections of lots that have been previously classified as unsuitable by

local sanitarians.

The fieldwork will be followed by a 2 p.m. public meeting at the town hall.

Crowder said he didn't know what the outcome would be of the inspections or the meeting.

However, he added, "If Uebler has recommendations about these lots we would go with them."

"If he agrees with our previous evaluations, the property owners have the right to an appeal."

That appeal would be conducted through a hearing under the state's Administrative Procedures Act, with the further right to appeal to Superior Court.

Since the preliminary results were

released of an engineering firm's sewage study done at the town's behest, the health department has begun taking a closer look at its classification of lots on the island, particularly those on finger canals.

"In the study we've seen remarkable increases—especially after a holiday—in the level of fecal bacteria of human origin," said Crowder, especially following the Memorial Day holiday.

"Questions were raised in our mind about the success of those septic systems and we have started looking closer at the soils."

As a result, a greater number of lots than in the past have not been approved for septic tank installations.

Candidate Says He Will Take Concerns To State Elections Board

BY SUSAN USHER

An unsuccessful write-in candidate at Ocean Isle Beach said Monday he intends to take his concerns about the conduct of the town elections to the N.C. Board of Elections.

Harold Wooten, who lost to mayoral incumbent Betty S. Williamson 92-57, told area reporters last week he was seriously considering challenging the election. However, he missed both deadlines for filing complaints with the Ocean Isle Beach Board of Elections, said Chairman Martha Benton.

Complaints regarding the manner in which votes were counted or the results tabulated were to have been filed before the board canvassed the election returns at 11 a.m. Nov. 5, while complaints regarding other

aspects of the election could be filed as late as 6 p.m. Nov. 7.

Saying he had been "misquoted" by another paper and by area television stations, Wooten had little to say Monday.

"I never complained about losing the election," he said. "I was only concerned about the way the election was conducted. I plan to go to the State Board of Elections, only then will I make a statement locally."

However, according to Johnnie McLean, secretary of the N.C. Board of Elections, Wooten's options are now limited.

"The proper procedure would have been for him to file with the local board," she said. "The only thing open to him now would be to petition for removal of one of the local of-

ficials there. That's the only thing the state board would hear at this time."

McLean said it isn't unusual to hear complaints after an election that aren't followed through.

"After an election people are very emotional," she said. "But when they find out the procedure they must go through they often change their minds."

"In essence what he would have to do is prove the (basis of the complaint) was serious enough to change the outcome of the election."

The state board takes no allegations lightly, she said, considering each individually.

"We'll just have to wait and see," she added.

Wooten allegedly told various reporters that people who live

elsewhere voted in the election, that officials left the polling place improperly manned and that candidate Betty Williamson returned to the polls a second time during the day, none of which Wooten would confirm Monday.

Benton, chairman of the elections board, said the polls were properly staffed throughout the day by judges Tom Woodson and Mary Sanderford and registrar Gail Seagle. "They can't leave," she said. However, their assistants—Benton, Margaret A. Byrd and Betty Watt—could and did leave on occasion, but never all at the same time.

As for the question raised about Williamson's returning to the polls, Benton said Williamson entered the

polls once.

Answers to Wooten's apparent question about non-residents voting aren't as "black and white," she noted.

"There are certain questions we ask them; if they answer to suit, they can vote."

These include 30-day residency and mailing address.

"It's not a black and white situation where people have two homes and stay here as much as in Charlotte and they choose this as their domicile and don't vote there," she said.

Also, she added, town books must coincide with the county books, which won't be purged again until after the presidential election in 1988.

As for the accuracy of information sworn before the town's election

board, she said that giving false information is a felony, punishable by as much as a \$5,000 fine. "If they have told us a lie, that is their problem," she added.

Wooten could have challenged the legitimacy of individuals on the town books before the actual election, she noted, if he didn't think they should be allowed to vote.

Furthermore, she added, "It boils down to legal domicile and the board of elections can't rule on that. That has to go before Brunswick County Superior Court and the burden of proof would be on him (Wooten) to prove they don't live here."

And in any case, the outcome of the election would be unchanged, she suggested.