

Man Gets 9-Year Active Term On Forgery, Uttering Counts

An Southport area man received a split prison sentence—nine years active and nine years suspended—last week in Brunswick County Superior Court, after he pleaded guilty to 128 counts of forgery and uttering, according to the clerk of court's office.

Andrew Scott Hodge, 25, of Long Beach, entered the guilty pleas last Wednesday to 64 forgery charges and 64 uttering charges, and was sentenced the following day by Judge Giles R. Clark, according to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office.

The judge sentenced Hodge to a nine-year active prison term on 35 forgery counts and 35 uttering counts. On the remaining charges, Hodge was sentenced to a consecutive nine-year suspended prison term, with five years of supervised

probation.

Also, the defendant was ordered to pay \$8,370 in restitution and report for a mental health evaluation within 48 hours of his release from prison. Hodge told the court last Wednesday that he had committed the offenses in order to support cocaine and alcohol use.

Court records indicated that Hodge was indicted last October and December by a Brunswick County grand jury, in connection with forgery and uttering incidents that occurred last September and October. He initially was arrested on forgery and uttering charges Oct. 12, 1989, by Long Beach Police.

Hodge admitted writing 64 checks to himself on the personal checking account of his grandfather, Boyd D. Phillips, of Long Beach. Checks ranged in value from \$40 to

\$360.

Also during the Jan. 29 term of Brunswick County Superior Court, Judge Clark heard the following cases:

•Timmy Ray Clark, guilty pleas, larceny, false imprisonment and seven counts of breaking, entering and larceny, nine-year active prison term.

•Robert Adam Corbett, guilty plea, obtaining drugs by fraud, three-year active prison term.

•Gary Harris, guilty pleas, two counts of breaking and entering a motor vehicle, four-year suspended prison term, three years of supervised probation, \$250 fine, court cost, restitution, attorney fees, 40 hours of community service, obtain GED or high school diploma.

•James Raymond Jones, not guilty plea, false imprisonment,

found guilty; guilty pleas, six counts of breaking, entering and larceny, five-year active prison term.

•Richie Dale Locklear, guilty pleas, larceny, false imprisonment and seven counts of breaking, entering and larceny, six-year active prison term.

•Terry Naron, guilty pleas, unauthorized use of a conveyance and injury to personal property, two-year suspended prison term, two years of supervised probation, \$200 fine, court cost, restitution, 40 hours of community service.

•Laurie Nemethvargo, guilty plea, possession of stolen property, three-year suspended prison term, three years of supervised probation, \$200 fine, court cost, restitution, attorney fees, obtain GED or high school diploma.

•Ricky Oxendine, guilty pleas, larceny, false imprisonment and seven counts of breaking, entering and larceny, nine-year active prison term.

•Alan Tracey Slater, guilty plea, obtaining drugs by fraud, two-year active prison term.

•Lois Faye Smith, guilty plea, simple possession of marijuana, two-year suspended prison term, three years of supervised probation, \$200 fine, court cost, restitution, 40 hours of community service.

•Kenneth Paul Webb, guilty pleas, four counts of taking indecent liberties with a minor, nine-year active prison term, three-year suspended prison term, four years of supervised probation, attorney fees.

•Terrell Scott Penley, probation violation, motion allowed to invoke suspended sentence, three-year ac-

tive prison term.

•James Eric Hughes, guilty plea, driving while license revoked, prayer for judgment continued until June 11

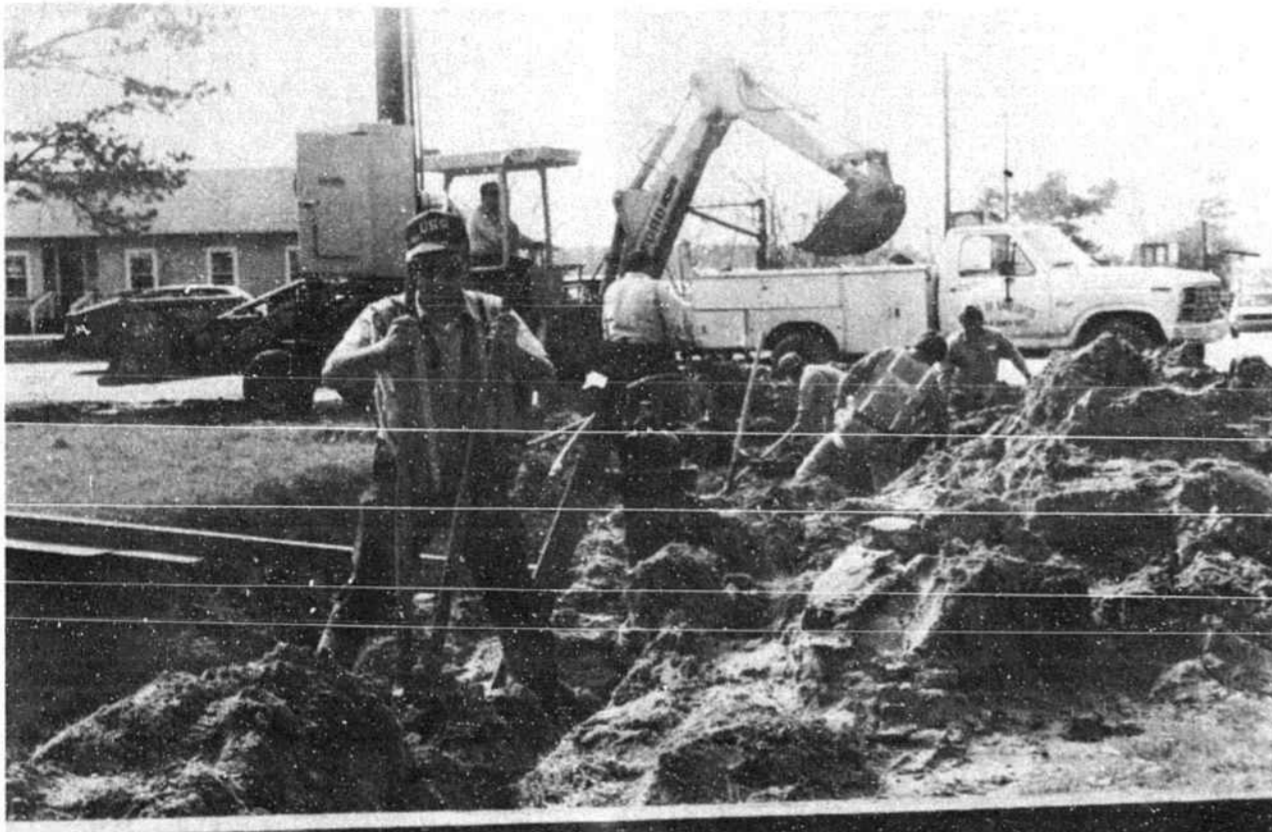
•Kevin Andrew Kokes, probation violation, continue probation, 10-day active jail term.

•Colston Miles Woodard, guilty pleas, driving while impaired (level one), driving while license permanently revoked, 18-month active prison term.

•Robert Christopher Kokes, probation violation, continue probation.

•Terri B. Phelps, probation violation, extend probation six months, \$100 fine, attorney fees.

•Jerome Smith, probation violation, complete GED or obtain high school diploma, 40 hours of community service, 10-day active jail term, attorney fees.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Workers Install Hydrant

Shalotte employee Jimmy Herrin, foreground, removes dirt from around a fire hydrant installed last Friday near the intersection of Main Street and Holden Beach Road. The hydrant was removed from its original spot at the intersection last fall because it was in the way of trucks turning from Holden Beach Road onto U.S. 17 North.

Jury Finds Leland Area Man Guilty Of Drug Trafficking

A Leland area man whose drug trial was postponed in December due to a legal error was convicted last Thursday in Brunswick County Superior Court for cocaine trafficking.

At the close of his rescheduled jury trial, Randall Lyle Buck, 24, of Route 1, Leland, was found guilty of trafficking by possession of more than 400 grams of cocaine and maintaining a house to distribute cocaine, according to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office.

Buck was acquitted last week on charges of conspiracy to traffic in more than 400 grams of cocaine and trafficking by sale of more than 400 grams of cocaine. A charge of traffic by transportation of more than 400 grams of cocaine was dismissed.

Judge Giles R. Clark continued Buck's sentencing until the Feb. 19 term of Brunswick County Superior Court. The defendant could receive a mandatory minimum sentence of 35 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on the trafficking count, and a possible maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine on the other drug charge.

Buck was one of four Leland area residents who were arrested last June following a six-week under-

cover drug investigation in the Leland and Maco sections of Brunswick County. At the time of the arrests, local narcotics agents said the probe involved drug dealers with ties in New Hanover and Columbus counties.

During previous terms of Superior Court, the other three defendants—Byron A. Reynolds, 42, Sonia E. Smith, 42, and Harold Ray Duckworth, 24, all of Route 1, Leland—pleaded guilty to cocaine trafficking charges and were sentenced to active prison terms and fines.

Reynolds was sentenced to 30 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine; Ms. Smith, a 25-year prison term and a \$10,000 fine; and Duckworth, a 20-year prison term and a \$50,000 fine.

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Northern Brunswick Towns Banding Together For Clout

BY SUSAN USHER

Town mayors in northern Brunswick County are joining with the Leland Sanitary District to pool efforts and resources to benefit their entire area, starting with economic development.

"We think this is something good for the northern end of the county," said Kenneth Messer, acting chairman of the informal group. "There are things we may be able to accomplish together that we couldn't do on our own."

The mayors say they hope a united front will give them more muscle and make county commissioners more responsive to requests for service.

Not all residents of the area live in towns, Messer noted. Those that do live in a town still pay county taxes. "There are things the county must do," he continued. "We may be towns, but we are still in Brunswick County. We pay county taxes too."

At a meeting called last Thursday by Belville Mayor Ken Messer, representatives of three of the area's four towns and of the sanitary district decided to move quickly to establish a "Committee of 25." With representation from each town and the district, the panel is expected to

be patterned after the Committee of 100 that works to recruit industry to New Hanover and Pender counties.

Leland was the only town not represented; Mayor Russell Baldwin could not be reached for comment. Messer said an effort had been made to hold the meeting at a time convenient to Baldwin.

"I think it's a good idea," Sandy Creek Mayor Ernest Grainger said. "The others at the meeting thought so too. I hope it works out. I think it will if people get behind it. Sometimes things just need a little push."

As proposed, the committee would be made up of a representative other than the mayor of each town and the sanitary district, as well as other residents of each area. Though the committee would be incorporated as its own entity, it would operate under the auspices of the mayors. However, it would work on behalf of the entire area, including unincorporated sections.

"We think with all the mayors working together and the Committee of 25 that we will have more clout for the things that concern north Brunswick County," said Grainger.

Messer, acting head of the informal group, said he called the mayors together to discuss ways to ad-

dress the future of the area, to rise to the challenge of new growth and to identify needs in advance of that growth.

"We want to meet more often; we've got to find a way to pull the northeastern area together," he said.

Industrial and commercial development are just one of the areas in which the mayors expressed interest: public park operation, a need for more security or police protection, and the stalled renovation of the old Leland High School as a community building for the electoral district were just two of the other items named by mayors attending the session.

"We want to be able to go with strength to the county commissioners for the projects we're seeking," said Messer, citing the school as one example.

"We will go to the county commissioners to try to get something done about the school," said Messer. "We will ask them to either turn it over to the mayors' council or to motivate the group now responsible for it to proceed with the project."

The mayors plan to meet again March 26, at which time they hope to name the 25 members of the committee and to elect officers of the mayors' council.

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