

IN SUPERIOR COURT

Teen Gets Life Plus 80 Years For Role In Deputy's Slaying

A teen-ager accused of killing a Columbus County sheriff's deputy in June was sentenced in Brunswick County Superior Court last week to life in prison plus 80 years.

Aquino Lee Williams, 17, had his trial moved from Columbus County to Bolivia because of pretrial publicity in the Whiteville community where the slain officer, Deputy Bob Hinson, lived.

The defendant chose to avoid trial by pleading guilty Dec. 17 to first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder, robbery with a dangerous weapon and conspiracy to commit robbery.

Judge William C. Gore Jr. sentenced Williams on the murder charge to life in prison without early release or work release. He also imposed a 30-year sentence for conspiracy to commit murder, a 40-year sentence for robbery and a 10-year sentence for conspiracy to commit robbery.

Judge Gore recommended that Williams not be sentenced as a committed youthful offender.

An accomplice in the case, Michael Thomas Brown, 18, was sentenced to life in prison plus 70 years earlier this month after a Brunswick County Jury found him

guilty of first-degree murder, armed robbery and two counts of conspiracy.

The men were accused of placing a fake break-in call to the Brunswick community, where Hinson was shot in the head three times on June 18 as he sat in his patrol car.

Williams is originally from the Detroit area. Prosecutors argued that the two planned the killing so they could get the officer's gun.

Judge Gore also heard the following cases last week: ■Johnny Ray Simmons, 36, of Castle Hayne, pleaded guilty to habitual driving while impaired and driving while his license was permanently revoked. He was sentenced to two years in prison on the DWI charge and three years on the driving while license revoked charge. He was also recommended for the Department of Corrections' DART program, a drug and alcohol abuse treatment program.

■Kurt Cotton, of the Pinecrest Subdivision, pleaded guilty to felonious larceny and was sentenced to three years in prison, suspended for three years and placed on five years' supervised probation.

He was ordered to pay \$300 in restitution to Randy

Parker, pay court costs, not go on or about the property of the prosecuting witness, submit to warrantless searches, spend 45 days in the Brunswick County Jail with credit for time served and not communicate with his co-defendants.

■Jobe Jones Jr., of Route 1, Hamlet, pleaded guilty to felonious larceny of a motor vehicle. He was sentenced to three years in prison, suspended for three years and placed on three years' supervised probation.

Jones was also ordered to pay \$450 in restitution to Tim Pennington of Southport, pay \$150 in attorney fees, to not possess or consume any controlled substances or illegal drugs, submit to tests and warrantless searches, not communicate with or associate with the prosecuting witness and spend 30 days in jail at the expiration of a sentence now serving.

■William Jeffrey Douglas, 28, of Colgate Drive, Fayetteville, pleaded guilty to driving while his license was (temporarily) revoked and received a prayer for

judgment continued from term to term for two years.

■Edward George Gore, of Route 2, Leland, pleaded no contest to simple assault and received a prayer for judgment continued from term to term with court costs remitted. Judge Gore ruled it was not a violation of his probation.

■Robert Allen Harker, 39, of Shady Grove Mobile Home Park, Leland, was sentenced to three years in prison, suspended, and placed on five years' supervised probation after he pleaded guilty to taking indecent liberties with a minor.

Judge Gore ordered that he not communicate or associate with the prosecuting witness, undergo assessment at Brunswick County Mental Health, not be alone with his children during probation until modified by the court, provide adequate support for his children directly, serve six months in jail with credit for time served for a diagnostic report, pay \$650 in attorney fees and report to the State Department of Corrections on Jan. 5.

Third Fatality Attributed To Dec. 7 Calabash Wreck

Harry George Bachmann Jr., 70, of Carolina Shores, Calabash, died Dec. 13, less than a week after the two-car crash that resulted in the death of his wife and another passenger in their car.

Bachmann had been listed in critical condition for several days at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, where he was transferred after the accident.

He was the third person to die as a result of injuries sustained in a Dec. 7 accident at the intersection of Carolina Shores Parkway and Calabash Road in Calabash.

Bachmann was driving a 1982

Chevrolet station wagon with his wife, Mary Katherine Bachmann, 69; Henry Schefer, 74, of East Pine Court, Calabash, and Schefer's wife, Katherine Schefer, as passengers.

A N.C. Highway Patrol report by Trooper C.E. Ward states that the station wagon was struck on the passenger side by a 1986 Toyota pickup driven by George Aaron Stanaland, 22, of Ash.

As of Dec. 17, Mr. Bachmann's death brought to 15 the number of persons who have died this year as a result of highway accidents in Brunswick County. That's the same

number that had died on the county's highways as of Dec. 31 a year ago.

Mrs. Bachmann was pronounced dead on arrival after being taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

Schefer was transferred to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, where he later died.

Stanaland was taken to The Brunswick Hospital and treated for serious injuries. He was released later that day.

Mrs. Schefer had been listed in stable condition at The Brunswick Hospital, and was released Dec. 16, reported hospital spokesperson Kathy Lewis.



Effort Winding Down

Equipment operators and engineers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office in Wilmington keep a close watch as Bald Head Island's beach renourishment project heads into the final stages. The project had been in the planning for several years and finally was approved by the Corps to begin in November. By the time the project is completed, some 30,000 cubic yards of sand will have been dumped onto the island's south end as a result of regular Corps maintenance and dredging of sand from the Cape Fear River channel.

Grant Targets Infant Deaths

Brunswick County's Health Department has received a \$4,375 maternity care coordination state grant aimed at helping to reduce the infant mortality rate, Gov. Jim Martin's office announced last week.

The money, part of \$295,000 awarded to 29 health care agencies, will be used to provide services for Brunswick County clients who are eligible for Medicaid, a news release states.

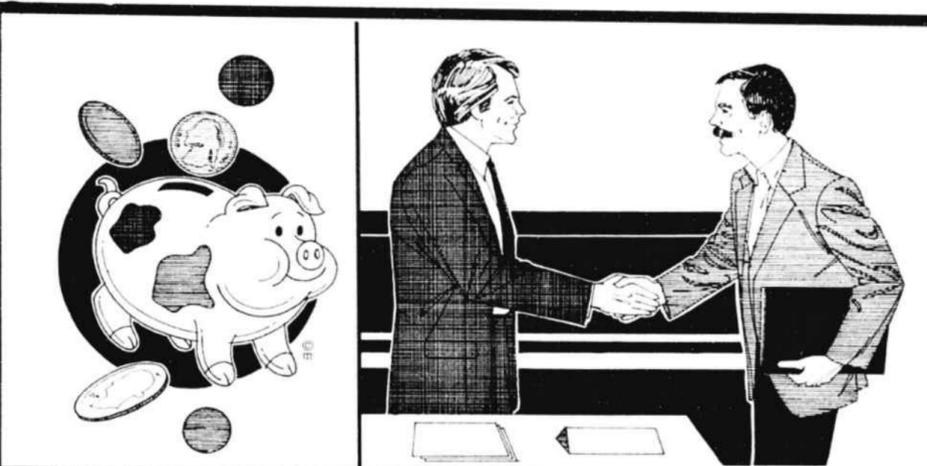
Medicaid provides medical aid for those unable to afford regular medical services and is financed by the state and federal governments.

The Division of Maternal and Child Health in the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources distributed an estimated \$170,000 in funds to 12 health agencies to provide maternity care for Medicaid-eligible clients. Another \$125,000 was distributed to 19

health agencies in North Carolina for clients not eligible for Medicaid.

"Statistics indicate that providing maternity care services to mothers reduces the incidence of low birth weight and the cost of newborn medical expenses," it states.

Maternity care services have become an important element in North Carolina's effort to reduce infant mortality and morbidity, it adds.



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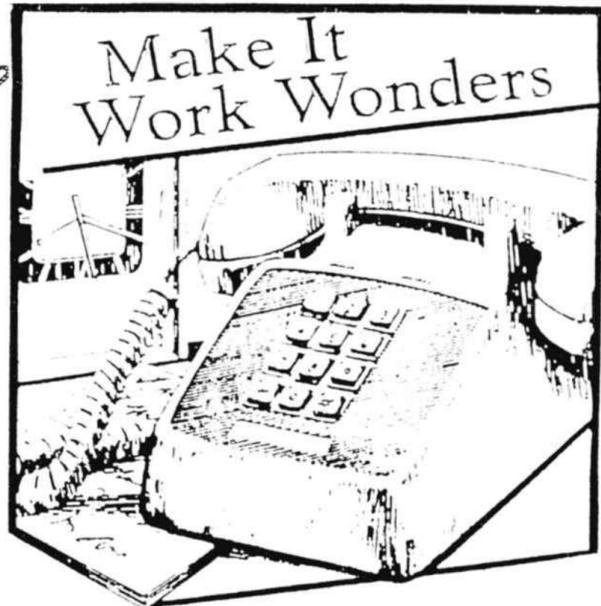
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