

Grand Jury Indicts Bookkeeper Accused Of Embezzling \$147,000

BY TERRY POPE

A woman accused of embezzling more than \$147,000 from an Ocean Isle Beach business was indicted by a Brunswick County grand jury last week on charges that she forged checks and wire transfers to obtain the money over a six-month period last year.

Catha Camp Mitchell, 35, of 4226 Masonboro Loop Road, Wilmington, is accused of embezzling the money from Feb. 21 to Aug. 30 while she worked as a bookkeeper for Sloane/Anderson Builders Inc. of Ocean Isle.

She is accused on seven counts of forgery and uttering forged papers and one count of obtaining property by false pretenses.

The money was diverted from Sloane/Anderson and into accounts belonging to her husband, Gary Ashton Mitchell, the indictments state. Authorities believe the money was used to buy a home.

Ms. Mitchell, awaiting trial on embezzlement charges in New Hanover County, is being held in state prison on other charges. She is expected to enter a plea in Brunswick County Superior Court in March.

Indictments accuse her of:

■Counterfeiting a check drawn on Sloane/Anderson's account at United Carolina Bank for \$2,241, dated Feb. 21, and made payable to Atlantic Coast Accounting Service by replacing the authorized payee.

■Counterfeiting a check for \$1,197 and made payable to Catha S. Camp, dated Feb. 28, by changing the amount of the check from \$197 to \$1,197.

■Counterfeiting a check for \$1,002 and made payable to Atlantic Coast Accounting Service, dated April 4, by replacing the authorized payee.

■Counterfeiting a check for \$5,550 and made payable to Atlantic Coast Management Service Company, dated April 25, by replacing the authorized payee.

■Counterfeiting a wire transfer for \$75,000 made payable to Atlantic Coast Environment, dated June 28, by placing the unauthorized signature of G.A. Sloane III on the document.

■Obtaining property by false pretenses by changing a wire transfer of \$45,000 intended for High Point Sprinkler Co. to transfer \$25,000 instead to Atlantic Coast Environmental Consulting, a company owned by the defendant's husband.

■Counterfeiting a check for \$35,000 and made payable to Atlantic Coast Environmental Consulting, dated July 9, by placing the unauthorized signature of Thomas R. Oaks and G.A. Sloane III on the check.

■Counterfeiting a check for \$3,100 and made payable to Gary Mitchell—Atlantic Coast Environmental Consulting, dated Aug. 30, by placing unauthorized signatures on the check.

United Carolina Bank has filed a civil lawsuit against Ms. Mitchell in an attempt to recoup the losses.

Other Indictments

The grand jury also handed down the following indictments last Tuesday, Jan. 14:

■Gerald Lee Fisher, 29, of Seashore Estates, Shallotte, on charges of possession of 42.5 grams of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; maintaining a dwelling to keep and sell drugs; and manufacture, sale or delivery of marijuana.

■David Leon Floyd, 24, of 310 W. 11th Street, Southport, on a charge of riot. He is accused of joining 70 others on Oct. 25 at Lord and 10th Streets in Southport where a riot ensued, where Southport Police Officer Robert Willis suffered a head injury.

■Otis Lorenzo Hill, 21, of Route 2, Shallotte, on charges of possession of cocaine and possession with intent to sell or deliver 1.4 grams of cocaine on Sept. 13.

■Louis Harm Ash, 22, of Route 4, Calabash, on charges of first-degree burglary and first-degree rape from

an incident on Dec. 14.

■Lawrence Bernard Ballard Sr., 42, of Ballard's Trailer Park, Leland, on charges of possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and sell and delivery of 1.6 grams of cocaine on May 30.

■Lawrence Bernard Ballard Jr., 22, of Ballard's Trailer Park, Leland, on charges of possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, sell and delivery of 2 grams of cocaine and conspiracy to sell cocaine, on June 11.

■Robin Gene Johnson, 35, of 3626 Snowhill Road, Durham, on charges of two counts of taking indecent liberties with children and two counts of crimes against nature, occurring Oct. 15 and Nov. 15.

■Eddie Dale Holloman, 40, of 442 Jabbertown Road, Southport, on charges of three counts of taking indecent liberties with children on Feb. 3, 1986, Aug. 15, 1990 and Sept. 24, 1991.

■Curt Douglas Cotton, 38, of Calabash, on charges of forgery and uttering a check for \$204 on Oct. 5.

■James Ricardo Dowe, 22, of Mt. Misery Road, Leland, on charges of possession of cocaine, sell and delivery of 2 grams of cocaine and conspiracy to sell cocaine on June 11.

■Marlie Frank Green, 24, of H & S Mobile Home Park, Long Beach, on charges of first-degree burglary, second-degree burglary, larceny and possession of stolen goods. He is accused of taking items worth \$8,845 from a home at 7801 East Beach Drive, Long Beach on Sept. 14 and of breaking into an occupied home at 212 S.E. 78th Street, Long Beach, on Aug. 2.

■Roy Lee Ledbetter Jr., 25, of Fiddler's Creek Apartments, Long Beach, on charges of possession of marijuana, possession with intent to sell or deliver 41.9 grams of marijuana and manufacture of marijuana on Nov. 25.

■Barbara Louise Smythe, 43, of Route 1, Southport, on charges of possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and maintaining a dwelling to keep and sell drugs on Dec. 11.

■Angela Lynn Pate, 29, of Route 2, Supply, on charges of breaking and entering, larceny and possession of stolen goods. She is accused of breaking into a Holden Beach area home on March 28 where \$1,200 in goods were stolen.

■Barry Eugene Porter, of Route 1, Winnabow, on a charge of possession of 224 grams of marijuana on Sept. 10.

■Terri Lea Shambley, 18, of Graham Road, Leland, on charges of larceny and possession of stolen goods. She is accused of taking \$1,192 in goods from a Leland resi-

dent on April 5.

■Carl Robert Summerson, 41, of Clark Mobile Home Park, Leland, on a charge of habitual impaired driving on Nov. 5. He was previously convicted of DWI on Nov. 5, 1986, Jan. 24, 1990 and Aug. 21, 1990, the indictment states.

■Swindell Daniels, 35, of Route 1, Shallotte, on charges of four counts each of breaking and entering, larceny and possession of stolen goods. He is accused of taking \$780 in goods from a Sea Village home Sept. 21; \$380 in goods from an Old Georgetown Road home Sept. 21; \$775 in goods from a Sea Village home Sept. 20; and \$2,915 in goods from a Route 1, Shallotte, home Sept. 11.


■Debbie Lyn Guadagnoli, 25, of 2714 W. Beach Dr., Long Beach, on charges of possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and maintaining a dwelling to keep and sell drugs on Dec. 11.

ing, larceny and possession of stolen goods. He is accused of taking \$567 in goods from a Sea Village home Sept. 24; \$500 from Acme Conventient Mart, Grissetown, Sept. 16; \$315 in goods from a Route 1, Shallotte, home Aug. 1; \$775 in goods from a Sea Village home Sept. 20; \$180 in goods from a Sea Village home Sept. 21; \$780 in goods from a Sea Village home Sept. 21; \$380 in goods from an Old Georgetown Road home Sept. 21; \$450 in goods from a Sea Village home Sept. 24; and \$2,915 in goods from a Route 1, Shallotte, home Sept. 11.

■Willie Mack McNeil, 31, of Route 7, Shallotte, on charges of nine counts each of breaking and enter-

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Sheriff's Department Gets Check In Drug Forfeitures

For helping state and local authorities investigate drug cases, the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department will receive a \$5,392 check.

Twenty-two state and local law enforcement agencies that helped with drug investigations in eastern North Carolina will divide \$143,271 in forfeited drug proceeds, said U.S. Attorney Margaret Person Currin.

Under the provisions of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the federal government may share federally-forfeited property with the law enforcement authorities that assist in investigations.

Property used to facilitate drug transactions, as well as property pur-

chased with drug proceeds, may be seized and forfeited by U.S. Marshals. The current list of money distributed to local agencies includes proceeds from seizures adopted and administratively forfeited by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The money is shared, said Ms. Currin, to promote law enforcement cooperation at all levels. Proceeds of "ill-gotten gains", such as cars, boats or airplanes can be seized and used by law officers to combat illegal activities.

Money awarded to departments is used exclusively for law enforcement purposes, said Ms. Currin.

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