

## COCAINE KING OF THE EAST SIDE GETS 20 YEARS WITHOUT PAROLE

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Thursday, January 14, 1988

Author: BRIAN FLANIGAN Free Press Staff Writer

Drug kingpin **Johnny Curry** was sentenced Wednesday to 20 years in prison with no possibility of parole for running one of Detroit's largest cocaine rings.

Curry, 29, who federal officials said made millions of dollars selling crack cocaine, heroin and marijuana between 1979 and 1987, also was fined \$250,000 at his sentencing before U.S. District Court Judge Richard Suhrheinrich.

Curry and his twin brother, Leo, 29, pleaded guilty to operating a continuing criminal enterprise and income tax evasion on Sept. 8, the day they were scheduled to stand trial on a federal grand jury indictment.

The indictment against the Currys and 18 others accused the twins of running a drug ring that supplied dope houses on Detroit's east side. All 20 defendants pleaded guilty. The Currys and two other men have been sentenced; the others await sentencing.

**Johnny Curry** is married to Cathy Volsan, 23, one of Mayor Young's nieces. Volsan and several others were listed as unindicted co-conspirators in the original grand jury indictment, which was announced April 2 after an investigation by the FBI, IRS and Detroit Police.

While **Johnny Curry** was being sentenced, his wife attended the Recorder's Court drug trial of Richard (White Boy Rick) Wershe Jr. A jury concluded its second day of deliberations in the case, in which Wershe is charged with possessing eight kilograms of cocaine in May, and is expected to resume today.

Wershe knew Curry and began dating Volsan last summer while Curry was in a federal prison awaiting trial, Wershe's father has said.

While Curry stood with his hands behind his back listening to his sentence, some of the men who had investigated him for more than two years -- FBI agents Gregg Schwarz and Herman Groman and Detroit police narcotics officers Kevin Greene and William Jasper -- sat in the rear of the courtroom exchanging smiles.

"We're very satisfied with the sentence he received," said Kenneth Walton, special agent in charge of the Michigan FBI office. "These kinds of investigations are very resource-intensive, given the personnel and money that have to be committed to them. But this proves it's all worth it."

As Curry was led into the prisoner elevator, Schwarz caught his eye. Curry looked up and watched as Schwarz waved at him. Curry, smiling weakly, raised one handcuffed wrist and waved back.

\*\*\*\*

Memo: CORRECTION RAN January 22, 1988

getting it straight

\* A Jan. 14 article incorrectly reported that Cathy Volsan Curry, wife of convicted drug dealer John Curry, was at the drug trial of Richard (White Boy Rick) Wershe Jr. while her husband was being sentenced.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 4A;

Index Terms: DRUG ; SENTENCE ; DETROIT

Record Number: 8801020983

Copyright (c) 1988 Detroit Free Press