

Arson Suspected In Mobile Home Blaze

A fire that nearly destroyed a double-wide mobile home in Boiling Spring Lakes Saturday night is under investigation for possible arson, said Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan.

State Bureau of Investigation agents have been called in to help determine a cause for the fire that was confined to a closet, hallway and living room area, Logan said. The Boiling Spring Lakes Police Department, volunteer fire department and Logan's office are also helping in the investigation.

According to Logan, the 8 p.m. blaze broke out in a closet of the mobile home and spread down the hallway and into a living room. The flames had almost burned completely out before Boiling Spring Lakes Volunteer firemen received the call, Logan said.

Logan said the fire was of "suspicious nature" and believes it was either set deliberately or set to cover-up a breaking and entering attempt.

The owners were out of town at the time of the fire, he added.

"I feel it is probably one of the better cases we have if we're ever going

to prove arson," Logan said.

A pan of hot grease has been blamed for an early morning fire Sunday that partially destroyed a double-wide mobile home in Bonaparte's Landing near Calabash.

According to Logan, the Calabash Volunteer Fire Department received a call around 2:55 a.m. that the home was on fire.

"Apparently, someone was getting ready to cook french fries," Logan said. "They put the oil on the stove to get hot and then dozed off to sleep."

When they awakened, the kitchen and living room was on fire and the mobile home was filled with smoke.

Although the Sunset Beach Volunteer Fire Department was also called for assistance, the fire was put out by Calabash firemen before they arrived, Logan said.

"It caused considerable damage in the kitchen and living room area," Logan said. "The bedrooms were smoked up."

Both double-wide mobile homes damaged by fires over the weekend were "fairly new," Logan said. He added the safety features on the newer, double-wides are apparently doing their jobs, since damage was limited in both fires.

Shooting Victim Agrees To \$15,000 Settlement

BY TERRY POPE

A Columbus County man who filed a \$750,000 lawsuit after being shot by a Brunswick County sheriff's deputy in June 1982 reached an out-of-court settlement Monday in Brunswick County Superior Civil Court.

Ronald Dean Jacobs, 33, of Columbus County, will receive \$15,000 from the defendants to help pay medical expenses and attorney fees as a result of the shooting. Jacobs filed suit against former Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy Billy Quick, former Sheriff Herman Strong and two insurance companies in August 1983.

Jacobs was shot June 12, 1982 out-

side the Sand Bar Lounge in Southport. According to police reports, Quick, who was off-duty at the time of the incident, stated he saw a man assaulting a woman with a knife and intervened.

Quick fired his .22-caliber revolver as Jacobs allegedly came toward him with a knife. The deputy, who stated he acted in self-defense, was suspended for three weeks while the State Bureau of Investigation conducted an inquiry.

Jacobs filed a warrant against Quick on August 23, 1982, charging the deputy with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury.

Quick was later cleared of the charges.

Jacobs charged that the bullet Quick fired pierced his liver, one of his lungs, a main artery and his small intestine before lodging near the spinal cord "in such a position that it could not be removed and constitutes a danger to the plaintiff's life and well being," the suit states.

The lawsuit also named United States Fidelity and Guaranty Co. and Western World Insurance Co. Inc., which wrote liability insurance policies for Sheriff Strong and

Brunswick County's deputies.

In court Monday, Judge Giles R. Clark of Elizabethtown signed a judgment indicating a "full, complete and final settlement" offer. The amount agreed on by both sides Monday includes \$2,130.15 to reimburse the Division of Medical Assistance of the N.C. Department of Human Resources for hospital expenses and \$12,869.85 for the plaintiff and his attorney.

The case was scheduled for trial this week, but the settlement was reached Monday morning.

Car Overtakes On 904

A 16-year-old Hallsboro girl was charged with careless and reckless operation after the car she was driving ran off the road and overturned twice near Sunset Beach Sunday afternoon, according to State Highway Patrol reports.

Lorie Ann Tedder, 16, was traveling west on N.C. 904 about three miles northwest of Sunset Beach when she lost control of the 1980 Toyota she was driving while rounding a curve, according to State Trooper B.D. Barnhardt's report.

Barnhardt also charged Ms. Tedder with a provisional license violation for alcohol use, the report states.

Ms. Tedder and a passenger, Regina Cumbee, 19, of Whiteville, were both taken to the Brunswick Hospital in Supply by the Calabash Volunteer Rescue Squad for treatment following the 3:30 p.m. accident.

According to Barnhardt, Ms. Tedder ran off the roadway on the right while rounding a curve, lost control of the vehicle, came back onto the pavement and overturned twice.

Damage was estimated at \$4,000 to the car.

In another accident Saturday, a Leland man was charged with failure to reduce speed following a two-car collision on U.S. 17 four miles north of Bolivia.

Randy Douglas Edge, 18, of Leland, was charged by State Trooper B.C. Jones after the 1983 Ford truck he was driving struck the rear of a 1978 Toyota driven by Francis Durant Dickson, 45, of Wilmington.

According to Jones' report, Ms. Dickson had slowed to make a left turn onto a private driveway when the Edge truck struck the rear of her car. Both Ms. Dickson and a passenger in her car, Melvina Robinson, 67, also of Wilmington, received minor injuries and were taken to the New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington for treatment.

The accident occurred around 4:15 p.m. Damage was estimated at \$1,000 to the Dickson vehicle and \$1,500 to the Edge truck.

Car Thefts Increasing

Thefts from parked cars continue to be a problem on Holden Beach, reported police officer Jeff Williams at the June 18 meeting of the Holden Beach Community Watch.

Recent car thefts have involved the breaking of windows of locked cars to obtain valuables, Williams reported, according to a news release from the community watch organization. It is best to remove property or assure it is not visible while leaving a parked car on the beach, he advised.

Since the thefts have not been isolated incidents, it is possible that a group specializing in this type activi-

ty may be touring parking areas on the beach. Williams requested that Holden Beach Community Watch members report any suspicious persons or license numbers of cars seen routinely going through parking areas to the police department.

He cautioned that a person should not try to apprehend a suspect themselves.

Speeders on the island are also a problem, reported one concerned resident at the watch meeting. Town Police Commissioner Gloria Barrett said radar training will be given to the remaining police officers as soon as a class is available. Officer Williams also asked that residents report the license number of speeders to the police department.

Another concern mentioned at the meeting was the debris sighted in the Intracoastal Waterway which could endanger boats and passengers. Any navigational hazard should be reported to the U.S. Coast Guard.

Following regular business, Ruth Athey presented a program on sea shells. She and Elizabeth Tandy hope to establish a shell discussion group this fall. Interested persons should contact either Ms. Athey or Ms. Tandy.

Stanley Named SENCLand Head

Colene Stanley, acting director of SENCLand Community Action Inc., was named director of the anti-poverty agency at a special board meeting last Tuesday night in Whiteville.

The former deputy director had been acting director for a year, since the indictment and later conviction of former director Robert Clark on charges of fraud.

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Calendar Of Events

Thursday, June 27
CALABASH TOWN COUNCIL holds a public hearing on the town's proposed 1985-86 budget, at the town hall, 10 a.m.
GAME NIGHT at the American Legion Post one mile south of Shallotte on U.S. 17, 7:30 p.m.
BRUNSWICK COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL meets at the Boiling Spring Lakes VFW Post 10400, Boiling Spring Lakes, to hear Deputy Sheriff Nancy Simpson, county crime prevention officer, and to nominate candidates for adjutant, secretary and chaplain, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 28
GAME NIGHT at the Sunset Beach Volunteer Fire Department, 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 29
WEST BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL Class of '80 holds its five-year reunion at the Shallotte National Guard Armory, 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Yolanda Hewett, 579-6534, days, or 579-6461, nights.
GAME NIGHT at the Calabash Volunteer Fire Department, 8 p.m.
GAME NIGHT at the Brunswick County Fishing Club, Sunset Harbor, 8 p.m. Hotdogs and hamburgers available at the clubhouse from noon until 6 p.m.

Sunday, June 30
FIREMAN'S COMPETITION between teams representing departments from across the county kicks off N.C. Fourth of July Festival activities, behind Southport City Hall, 2 p.m.

Monday, July 1
BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS meet in its chambers at the Brunswick County Government Center, Bolivia, 6:30 p.m.
BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION meets in the board room at Southport, 7 p.m.
HOLDEN BEACH COMMISSIONERS meet at the town hall, 7:30 p.m.
SUNSET BEACH COUNCIL meets at the town hall, with public hearings on the proposed 1985-86 budget and on the proposed annexation of Sea Trail Links, 7:30 p.m.
BOLIVIA ALDERMEN meet at the town hall, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 3
BRUNSWICK TOASTMASTERS, CLUB 5095 will not meet during the month of July. Meetings resume August 7 at 7 a.m. at the Ship's Chandler Restaurant, Southport.
N.C. FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVAL begins in Southport. See related story and calendar of events in this issue.

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