

Pistol-Packing Homeowner Gets The Drop On Thieves

A homeowner with a pistol captured two thieves in the middle of a break-in and held them at gunpoint until police arrived to arrest them, a Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective said last week.

"I think he should get a medal," Det. Ken Messer said when asked about Walter J. Babson's "citizen's arrest."

Shortly after 6 p.m. Wednesday (April 28), Babson and his wife arrived to check on their mobile home in Winnabow, where their son resides. As he entered the front door, Babson heard a noise at the rear of the trailer, Messer said.

He returned to his vehicle, grabbed a .45-caliber pistol and walked around to the back door, which he found open. Slipping into the trailer, Babson saw two legs protruding from beneath a bed, Messer said.

Tapping one of the exposed feet with his shoe, Babson "got the man's attention" and escorted him and another intruder into the living room, Messer said. There he saw his television set unplugged and ready to go. He also found the tire iron used to pry open the back door.

Babson suggested that the two men wait in the living room while his wife called police. When one of the thieves threatened to leave, Babson "made a loud noise" and convinced them to stay, Messer said.

Arrested a short time later were James Franklin Sullivan Jr., 24, of Winnabow and Rhett Spillman Hamilton, 24, of Lanvale Road, Leland.

Thieves Break Into 52 Storage Units At Warehouse

Thousands of dollars worth of personal property were stolen when thieves cut the locks on 52 units at a mini-storage complex near Southport Wednesday night (April 28), according to a crime report on file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department Monday.

Detectives have yet to determine just how much was removed from the Beach Road Mini-Storage facility on Long Beach Road. The thieves apparently used bolt cutters to break through padlocks and hasps securing the metal doors to the storage units.

"They mostly took things that could be easily sold," said Det. Larry Joyner who is investigating the case.

Authorities are in the process of contacting victims to determine what items are missing from the units.

More than \$2,000 worth of furniture, computer equipment and household items were removed from one unit. Among the stolen property listed on Sgt. Don Stovall's incident report was a dining room table, six chairs, a love seat, a computer desk, a computer, a rocking chair, \$400 worth of old record albums and assorted pots, pans and dishes.

The renter of another storage unit found more than \$750 worth of

CRIME REPORT

video games and a radio-controlled airplane missing from his unit.

A third victim told Stovall that he found more than \$300 worth of hand tools missing from his unit.

Another victim reported the theft of a .22-caliber rifle, a pellet gun and a box of tools.

An investigation is continuing into the thefts.

In other crime reports on file at the sheriff's office Monday:

■More than \$2,500 worth of electronic equipment and household items were stolen in a break-in and larceny that occurred in the Holiday Acres area of Holden Beach sometime in the past two weeks. The owner told Deputy Rebekah McDonald that he and his wife were last at their home on April 11 and returned Saturday to find that someone had pried open the front door. Among the items stolen were two color televisions, a video camcorder, a microwave oven, a videocassette recorder and several kitchen appliances.

■A water pump was reported stolen from the side of a house on U.S. 17 outside Shallotte Saturday night. The theft is believed to have hap-

pened sometime between 11 p.m. and 5 o'clock Sunday morning. Deputy Robert Long estimated the pump's value at \$400.

■Someone stole a gold watch and \$175 cash from a home on Maco Road, Leland, Tuesday night. The owner told Deputy M. Snowden that she woke up Wednesday morning to find the money and the watch missing from a sewing machine in her bedroom. The watch was valued at about \$150.

■Nothing was reported stolen, but there was more than \$100 damage done to a locked gate and garage door in Shell Point sometime in the past two weeks. According to Long's report, the owner discovered the break-in when he returned to his vacation home Saturday.

■Somebody poured paint on two cars parked at a home on Old Shallotte Road Sunday night. The owner told Deputy Randy Robinson that a person or persons poured white paint on his Lincoln Continental and a Honda Accord sometime between 7:30 p.m. and 5 a.m. A front tire was flattened on the

Lincoln and \$40 cash was removed from one of the cars, the report said. A damage estimate had not been completed.

■Deputy J.R. Earp Jr. investigated a report of a trash fire that got out of control and burned a car parked in Conners Mobile Home Park, Leland, Friday afternoon. Damage to the victim's 1980 Nissan 200 SX was estimated at about \$600.

■Vandals caused an estimated \$115 damage in the Lowe's department store parking lot Saturday night. Long's report said several bags of peat moss and potting soil were thrown in front of a gate, causing some of the bags to break open.

■Someone caused about \$350 damage to the Southport/Oak Island Chamber of Commerce building on Long Beach Road by throwing pieces of broken cinder block at the windows Saturday night. Deputy Sgt. Gene Browning reportedly told an employee that "if they would clean up around the area, this might slow down some of the vandalism." He also advised that police would step up patrols in the area.

Ash Man Sought In Knife Attack On Two Companions Outside Bar

Warrants were issued Monday for the arrest of a 52-year-old Ash man accused of slashing two drinking companions with a knife in the parking lot of a roadside tavern Friday night, according to police.

Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Larry Joyner said Monday he had drawn warrants against James Ogle Babson of Ash, charging him with two counts of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury.

The victims, Ronald Albert King, 45, and Clarence Todd, 48, both of Ash, told police that Babson slashed the two of them with a pocket knife outside the Junction Lounge on N.C. 130 sometime between 11:30 p.m. and midnight, Joyner said.

According to King's statement, the three men had been drinking together at the bar for about an hour when he and Babson went outside. King said Babson "pulled out a knife and started cutting," Joyner said. King claimed that there was no argument leading up to the attack, the detective said.

King then said he went inside and told Todd he had been cut. When Todd came outside, he was also cut by Babson, Joyner said.

After the attack, King drove himself and Todd to The Brunswick Hospital, where King was given 13 stitches for a cut on the underside of his right arm and 12 stitches for a cut on his shoulder.

Todd was transported to New Hanover Regional Medical Center, where he was treated for a cut on the left side of his abdomen and another on his left shoulder. He was kept overnight and released, Joyner said.

Authorities have yet to establish a motive for the assault. Although no weapon was found at the scene, Joyner speculated that it was "a very sharp" pocket knife.

"It looks like he knew how to use it," said Joyner.

The Junction Lounge was the scene of a shooting that claimed the life of a 28-year-old Mexican man Jan. 30. Two Shallotte men were arrested and charged with murder in that case.

Shell Point Man Charged In Knife Assault On Woman

A 21-year-old Shell Point man was arrested early Sunday morning after he allegedly cut his girlfriend with a pocket knife during a domestic dispute, according to a Brunswick County sheriff's detective.

Christopher Lee Kelly of Cumbee Loop Road has been charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, Det. Larry Joyner said Monday.

The victim, Kathy Eason, 20, of Route 3, Shallotte, was treated and released from the Brunswick Hospital after the incident. She received two stitches for a puncture wound

on the side of her head and three stitches for a cut on her finger, Joyner said.

According to the incident report filed after the assault, Eason said she and Kelly got into an argument over his infant child during which Kelly slapped her. He then forced her to change clothes to go to a party with him.

While en route, he stopped his truck and the two began fighting. During an ensuing scuffle, she was wounded with the knife, the report said.

Kelly was being held in lieu of \$5,000 bond Monday.

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