



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

**Help Is On The Way**

Shallotte Fireman Mike Van Riper (right) stands by as rescue workers treat accident victims last Wednesday on U.S. 17 north of Shallotte.

# Thieves Set Fires, Cook Meals, Play Cards In Vacation Trailer

**CRIME REPORT**

Thieves apparently made themselves at home in a vacation trailer off Seashore Road recently, setting fires, preparing meals and playing cards before stealing a cassette player, a wall clock and a pair of binoculars.

According to a crime report on file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department Monday, the owner returned to the mobile home Saturday and found that someone had broken in through a rear window. He told Deputy Rebekah McDonald that his nephew had left the home secure June 1.

Food had been eaten and left out in the kitchen and the living room, the report said. Two smoke detectors had been torn from the wall after being set on fire. Items in all rooms were pulled out and thrown about.

"Empty beer and juice containers had been left behind by suspects. It appeared suspects had cooked and played cards," McDonald reported.

The intruders also set fire to a shower curtain, causing an estimated \$1,000 in smoke damage. It appeared that the fire had burned itself out, the report said. A lamp shade, towels and sheets also were found burned in a bedroom as was a carpet in the living room.

A battery operated clock was found missing from the kitchen along with a pair of binoculars from a shelf in the hall, the report said. The two items were valued at about \$45. A portable radio cassette player, valued at \$50, also was taken.

McDonald estimated the total damage at about \$1,500.

In other crime reports on file at

the sheriff's office Monday:

■Someone fired a shotgun through the window of a 78-year-old Ash woman's home while she slept Wednesday night, causing more than \$800 damage. The woman told Deputy Randy Robinson that she was asleep at about 10 p.m. when she was awakened by a loud noise. She said she went back to sleep and awoke the next morning to find that the front window of the home had been destroyed by what appeared to be a shotgun blast. Robinson estimated the damage at \$500 to a large window and \$350 to an awning over the window. No other damage was found.

■A 1986 Ford truck was stolen from Holden Brothers Produce stand on U.S. 17 south of Shallotte Thursday night. The owner told Deputy Joey Adams that he had left the truck parked in a back driveway at about 8:45 p.m. and returned at about 5:35 the next morning to find that someone had removed the vehicle and pried open the rear door to the business. Nothing else was reported missing. The truck was valued at about \$3,000.

■A woman who lives on Cedar Grove Road, Supply, told Deputy Charles Wilson that someone stole a one-carat diamond ring from a dresser drawer in her bedroom Saturday night. She said she discovered the ring missing at about 10 o'clock the next morning and found no sign of forced entry to her mobile home. The ring was valued at about

\$3,000. ■Someone stole two citizens' band radios, a radio cassette player and a speaker from two trucks parked on Green Lewis Road, Bolivia, Wednesday night. According to Wilson's report, the driver's side window had been broken out of one vehicle and pried open on the other truck. Total value of the stolen items was estimated to be \$750.

■The owner of a vacation trailer in Lakeside Estates, Supply, returned Saturday to find that someone had taken the front window out of the residence and stole a color television valued at \$300. Deputy Cathy Hamilton estimated the damage to front-door screen at about \$25.

■A four-quart saucepan and \$10 worth of assorted bathroom items were stolen in two break-ins reported Sunday by the owner of a mobile home in Buccaneer Hills. In one of the incidents, garbage was found behind the couch, a Bible was thrown behind a chair and "a four-pointed silver colored star was found stuck in the mattress with an unknown red stain around same," McDonald reported. The owner also said the hot water had been left on, causing the water heater element to burn out. Damage was estimated at \$110.

■A Greensboro man asked the sheriff's department to discontinue its investigation into his report that someone fired seven shots into his vacation trailer, breaking a window and causing \$300 damage to an outside wall. The incident reportedly occurred sometime in the past nine months at a mobile home off N.C. 211.

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