

Thieves Break Into 15 Cars In One Leland Neighborhood

At least 15 cars and trucks in one Leland neighborhood were broken into late Friday night and early Saturday morning in a crime spree that appears to have spread to the area from New Hanover County, a Brunswick County sheriff's detective said Monday.

The break-ins occurred along Holly Hills Drive and Parkwood Drive in Parkwood estates, according to crime reports on file at the BCSD office. Many of the owners reported no damage and nothing missing from their vehicles. Others weren't so lucky.

Among the items stolen were a radar detector, a rescue squad radio, 40 hunting knives, a car phone and a .380-caliber semi-automatic pistol. One homeowner on Holly Hills Drive reported that all three of his vehicles had been entered.

"New Hanover has had a rash of this stuff lately," said Det. Steve Mason. "We believe it involves at least two people—a driver and a runner—who cruise through the neighborhood looking for unlocked cars in the driveways. They ransack the glove box and the console compartments, mostly looking for cash and change."

The total value of stolen property has not been determined. Mason said he had a suspect vehicle and at least one suspect in the case. An investigation is continuing.

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

Three break-ins were reported last week at mobile homes used as summer residences in Fisherman's Village.

According to Deputy Malcolm Long's reports, someone broke into a home on Vinton Street between Sept. 5 and 9 and stole a flashlight, a rod and reel, a socket set, a cooler and two games valued at a total of \$100. There was an estimated \$70 damage.

Thieves broke a front bedroom window on another trailer on Vinton Street and stole a tackle box, two speakers, a fishing rod and some tools worth an estimated \$220. The owner told Long that he left the mobile home secure on Sept. 6 and returned Sept. 19 to discover the theft.

A third trailer in the neighborhood, located on Richmond Street, was broken into sometime between Sept. 6 and 23. The man who owns the trailer told Long that the thief or thieves apparently forced open the front door to get inside. Missing were a fire extinguisher, three rods and reels, assorted tools and some fish bait valued at a total of \$525. There was about \$120 damage.

An air compressor, a jig saw and a circular saw were stolen from a storage shed at a home on Ash-Little River Road sometime last week. The owner said he discovered the theft after returning home at about 6 p.m. Thursday. Deputy Keithan Horne estimated the value of stolen property at \$440.

About a half-hour past midnight Sunday morning, someone threw a rock through the window of a home on Ash-Little River Road. The victim told Deputy Robert Long that the rock was thrown from a vehicle. He estimated the damage at about \$200.

Someone broke through a rear window at a vacation home on Summer Place Drive and stole a wrought-iron table and an air conditioner worth about \$325 recently. Deputy Jimmy Davis reported that the thief or thieves "also went through the drawers and cabinets." He estimated the damage at \$40.

A mobile home used as a summer residence in Seashore Hills was broken into Wednesday or Thursday night, Long reported. It appeared

CRIME REPORT

that the thief forced open a front door and exited through the rear of the trailer after stealing a television valued at \$300.

Two .22-caliber rifles were reported stolen from a trailer in the Woodside mobile home park on Long Beach Road last weekend. The owner told Davis that his girlfriend had removed two .22-caliber pistols from his home after he asked her to move out of the trailer. She later returned the weapons after he promised not to press charges. The man said that when he went to put the pistols away, he noticed the two rifles missing. He told Davis that the trailer had been locked and there was no sign of forced entry. He said he did not believe his girlfriend was responsible for the second theft. The rifles were valued at about \$300.

Someone broke into a home under construction in Walden Creek Estates and stole about \$650 worth of tools Thursday night. The Long Beach man who owns the house told Davis that his truck was also broken into, but nothing was taken. The deputy said that the thief apparently entered the house by breaking the glass on a rear door and reaching inside to open the door. Missing was a rechargeable drill, a measuring tape, an air compressor and three pairs of tin snips.

A Leland woman was robbed of her wallet Friday night by a man

who left in a car that he may have stolen nearby a short time earlier. A man who lives on Mt. Misery Road told Deputy Mark Snowden that he parked his gray 1983 Ford Mustang in the yard shortly before midnight Thursday and discovered it missing at about 7 a.m. Friday. A woman who lives at the Old Mill mobile home park told the deputy that she was returning home at about 5 a.m. when a Mustang pulled in behind her on Old Mill Road and followed her to her house. When she got out, a man pushed her and took her pocketbook, Snowden reported. She told the robber she didn't have any money and asked him to leave her pocketbook with her make-up inside. He gave it back, but took her wallet and left in the Mustang.

Four knives and a roll of quarters were stolen from a woodworking shop on Long Beach Road, Southport, Sunday night. Detective John Ingram reported that the thief forced open a front door to gain entry and left through the rear exit after stealing a diving knife, a survival knife, two fishing knives and \$10 in quarters. Total value of stolen property was estimated at \$80. There was about \$100 damage to the door.

Deputy Matt Jesson investigated a reported gasoline drive-off that occurred at a Belville convenience store early Sunday morning. An employee said that a man in a blue Honda Civic pumped \$9.16 worth of unleaded fuel and drove off without paying.

Long Beach Man Acquitted Of Knife Assault Charges

A 32-year-old Long Beach man charged with slashing two men with a knife last October was found not guilty in Brunswick County Superior Court last week.

The jury of 10 women and two men took about an hour and a half to find Brian Kellett of N.E. 27th Street not guilty on two counts of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury on Kevin York, 29, of Long Beach and Stephen Gifford of Wilmington.

York and Gifford told investigators that Kellett attacked them with a knife outside a friend's home in Long Beach after the defendant al-

legedly found out that one of the men was dating a female friend of Kellett's.

Gifford received a three-inch laceration across the back of his neck and a puncture wound on his right forearm, court records show. York was admitted to Doshier Hospital after the incident for treatment of a three-inch stab wound to his abdomen.

In other Superior Court action last week, Chadwick Lambert, 23, of Route 2, Leland, was sentenced to 12 years in prison after pleading guilty to three counts of felonious breaking and entering and larceny.

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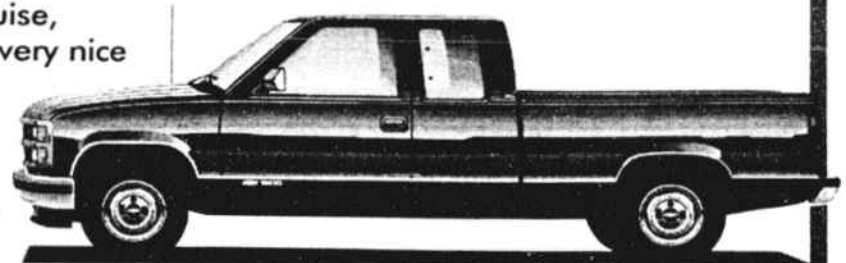
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