

Trees, Shrubs Stolen From Hickman Road Nursery

More than \$300 worth of ornamental trees and shrubs were stolen from a nursery on Hickman Road Thursday night (Oct. 21), according to a crime report on file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department Monday.

The nursery owner told Deputy Sergeant Don Stovall that the plants were in an "unsecured" area of the nursery when he left the business at about 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

When he returned the next morning, the owner told Stovall that 13 plants were missing, including three Hollywood junipers, three privets, two dwarf yaupons, a weeping cherry tree, a European Palm, a river birch, a rose of sharon and a tea olive.

The owner said that as he was leaving for the day, he saw a white vehicle with South Carolina dealer tags parked in the area.

"The subject in the vehicle was talking on a cellular phone," the report said.

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

■ A Calabash couple had their son arrested for stealing a washing machine, a clothes dryer and a console television from his grandmother Saturday afternoon. Two weeks earlier, the parents said they left notes on the doors "forbidding their son from entering the residence of his grandmother," according to Detective Steve Mason's report. Saturday they found him there and noticed the appliances missing. They called the sheriff's department and Deputy Phil Bryant placed their son under arrest. He estimated the value of stolen property at \$550 and the damage to the house at \$250.

■ More than \$1,200 worth of fishing tackle, marine electronics and tools were stolen from a storage building and boat on Darby Street in Sunset Harbor last week. The homeowner told Deputy Cathy Hamilton that someone forced the lock off the building and stole a chain saw and gill net, then removed a CB radio, a depth finder, a VHF marine radio, trawling gear and a tackle box from a boat parked at the home. Detectives have arrested a Holden Beach man and two juveniles believed to be involved in more than 30 such thefts in Sunset Harbor. (See related story.)

■ A color TV, a videocassette recorder and a microwave oven were among the items stolen in a break-in and larceny at a mobile home on Northwind Drive in the Ocean Aire Estates sometime in the past three weeks. Bryant reported that the thief apparently "received cuts" when he or she broke out a window and crawled into the master bedroom, then "went through the house dripping blood and taking the items listed." A total of \$850 worth of property was taken.

■ Someone broke into a home on Odell Street in Seaside and stole a color television sometime in the past month, according to a report filed by Deputy Joey Adams. It appears the thief attempted to pry open a rear door and failed, then pried open a front door and entered the home. The TV was valued at about \$250. Damage was estimated at \$300.

■ A man who lives on Phillips Drive, off Etheridge Road, Longwood, left his storage building unlocked Thursday evening and returned Sunday afternoon to find that more than \$500 worth of power tools had been stolen. The victim told Adams that two drills, a chain saw and a circular saw were taken in the break-in.

■ Five rods and reels and a tackle box were stolen from a home on Ocean View Avenue, Supply, sometime in the past three weeks, Deputy J. Davis reported. Entry was gained by prying open a back door, causing an estimated \$100 damage. The value of stolen property was set at \$300.

■ There was about \$50 damage done to a vacation residence on Hatteras Avenue, Holden Beach, sometime in the past two weeks. The Gastonia man who owns the home discovered the break-in Friday morning after finding the back door open. "Upon entering the residence, suspect went through the residence but did not commit a larceny," Davis reported.

■ Detectives expect to arrest an

CRIME REPORT

employee of a Southport grocery store on embezzlement charges after it was discovered that the 20-year-old was recording fake coupon redemptions and taking the money out of the cash register. The store manager told Hamilton that he became suspicious after a customer brought him a receipt showing an unusual transaction. After finding several similar receipts, the manager discovered "a lot of coupon redemptions on the register and no coupons in the drawer." It was estimated that about \$1,500 had been stolen over a four-week period.

■ Someone pried open the back door to a welding supply business on Ploof Road near Leland Thursday night and stole a cash box containing an undetermined amount of cash and checks. Investigating Deputy Mark Snowden found the office "ransacked" and a sheet of plywood ripped off a broken window in an adjacent room. There was no

damage estimate on the report.

■ A 1986 Chevrolet Camaro was stolen from the front yard of a home on Lanvale Road, Leland, Saturday afternoon. The owner told Deputy C.W. Walls that she recently moved out of a rental unit and drove to her friend's house with her clothing and personal items in the car. After staying about an hour, she went outside to get her belongings and found the car gone. She said she left her keys inside the car, which was valued at about \$2,500.

■ Walls investigated the theft of another vehicle in Leland early Sunday morning. A 32-year-old man said he was at a party on Mt. Misery Road playing music and fell asleep on the couch at about 1:30. When he woke up at about 4 a.m., his 1981 Plymouth Champ and his six-string acoustic guitar were gone. Together they were valued at about \$1,500.

■ A show saddle valued at \$750 was stolen from an employee's car at a trucking company in Sandy Creek early last week. The woman who owns the saddle told Deputy

Mark Snowden that she left the saddle in the trunk on the 18th and discovered it missing on the 21st.

■ Someone broke a window and entered a mobile home on Flagship Avenue, Southport, and stole a portable television valued at \$279 last week. The Fayetteville woman who owns the trailer said she was notified of the break-in by Deputy Matt Jesson and returned Saturday morning to find the TV gone. There was about \$75 damage.

■ The owner of another mobile home on Flagship Avenue told Hamilton that someone broke out one of her bedroom windows sometime in the past three weeks. Hamilton's report said it appeared that someone threw a rock through the glass and crawled inside, but nothing was reported missing. Damage was estimated at \$50.

■ A Southport woman reported the theft of her maroon 1989 Ford Thunderbird from in front of a home on Huron Lane, off Danford Road, Bolivia, Saturday night. Jesson estimated its value at \$7,400.



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Honored For Service

Eulis Willis (left), former member of the Brunswick County Board of Social Services, holds the commemorative plaque presented to him by Chairman Percy Woodard at the board's regular meeting Monday night. A member from 1990 to 1993, Willis said he was honored by the gift. "It's something I can show my grandchildren in 20 years so they will know that I tried to do something for my county," he said.

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