

# Arson Blamed For Leland Mobile Home Fire

Arson was ruled to be the cause of a fire that caused an estimated \$15,000 damage to a mobile home in Leland last week, according to a crime report of file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department office Monday.

The Wilmington man who owns the trailer on Eagles Nest Drive told Deputy William Hewett that the home was unoccupied and did not have electrical power connected to it when it caught fire at about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday. It appeared that the fire had started inside the trailer, the report said.

The owner also told investigators that a neighbor saw three men running from the rear of the mobile home toward Dogwood Road shortly before the fire was discovered.

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

Someone apparently fired a high-powered weapon through a house on Cedar Grove Road, Supply, recently. The owner said the house was unoccupied at the time of the shooting, which could have occurred "as far back as Nov. 6." Investigating Deputy Michael Cierpiot said he found a "nickel-size hole" in the window header of the house and noted that "the hole continued through the house and exited through the back kitchen window," causing an estimated \$650 damage.

A Browning 12-gauge shotgun was stolen from a pickup truck parked at a home in Seaside Thursday night. The Longwood man who owns the gun said he left it locked in the truck and returned to find that someone had thrown a cinder block through the driver side window. A neighbor told Deputy Keithan Horne that he heard a noise

## CRIME REPORT

in area at about 11 p.m. The gun was valued at \$500.

Deputy Glenn Hyer arrested a 16-year-old South Brunswick High School student on a charge of carrying a weapon on campus Friday morning. The officer reportedly confiscated a "Pakistan" knife with a 7-inch blade from the suspect.

A "Power Tool" surfboard valued at \$300 was stolen from a home on Gray Bridge Road, Shallotte, sometime between Nov. 6 and Nov. 12. The 21-year-old owner told Deputy Malcolm Long that the board was in a black bag hanging on the outside of a shed. The surfboard bears a blue "PTS" logo, a "Surf Unlimited" sticker on the nose and the serial number 9639.

There was about \$100 damage reported in the theft of a videocassette recorder from a home on Shell Point Road near Bassett Street Wednesday night. The owner told Long that the thief forced open a side door to get inside. The VCR was valued at about \$400.

More than \$3,000 worth of electronic equipment and cash were stolen from a car parked on Old Ocean Highway Wednesday night. The victim told Long he was visiting his girlfriend for about a half hour and left at about 8 p.m. When he arrived home, he noticed that his radar detector was missing. Upon further inspection, the man said he found that six speakers, two amplifiers, an equalizer, a compact disc changer and an tape deck were missing, along with \$240 cash.

A 40-horsepower Evinrude outboard motor

valued at \$4,500 was stolen off a boat parked in the yard of a man who lives on Cedar Hill Road, Leland, sometime in the past three months. The victim told Deputy Mark Snowden that he bought the boat, motor and trailer about six months ago and left it parked his property in Leland.

Someone broke into a vacation home on Camelia Drive in Driftwood Acres some time last month, according to the owner, who told Deputy Jerry Davis that he found a jar of pennies, a storm window and a curtain rod missing from the trailer. It appeared that the intruder got in through a front porch screen, then pried open a kitchen window. There was about \$30 worth of property stolen and \$22 damage reported.

Davis also investigated the reported theft of a water pump from a home on Juniper Street in Forest Hills that was believed to have occurred sometime in the past two weeks. There was no estimate of missing property value.

About \$175 in change was removed from two drink machines outside a supermarket near Southport Saturday night. Deputy Michael Cierpiot estimated the damage to three padlocks at \$75.

Two men were charged with damaging personal property after they were seen setting fire to a phone book on the front porch of a home on Oak Crest Drive in Southport recently. According to Detective Nancy Simpson's report, the two also caused an estimated \$80 damage to a split-rail fence.

Nothing was reported missing in an apparent attempted break-in at a mobile home on Indigo Circle in Sunset Beach. The owner returned to trailer Friday morning and found that someone had attempted to kick in the doors.

# OIB Officer Lauded For Arrest Of Car Thief

An Ocean Isle Beach Police officer was praised for showing "remarkable restraint" last week when he arrested a man who led him on a chase to Shallotte, then allegedly threatened to kill him with a concealed pistol.

Officer Danny Hunter "did an exceptional job" in apprehending Leonard Charles Harrison, 17, of Sunset Beach Thursday, said Ocean Isle Beach Police Chief Curt Pritchard.

The suspect had his hand in his pants pocket. He claimed he had a .22-caliber pistol. He said he was going to shoot Danny and kill himself. Then he started moving toward Danny," Pritchard said Tuesday. "Most law enforcement officers would have capped him right then.

Danny showed remarkable restraint."

As the two men faced each other in a restaurant parking lot, Shallotte Officer David Edwards arrived and began barking commands at the suspect. Harrison was momentarily distracted, allowing Hunter to jump him and wrestle him to the ground. Harrison was found to be armed with a box-cutter razor knife, Pritchard said.

The incident began in Horry County, S.C., where Harrison allegedly stole a van, which he later wrecked on N.C. 904, Pritchard said. He left on foot and stole another car, which he wrecked in the Seaside area. He allegedly broke into a third car and was unable to get it started, then stole a 1993 Pontiac

and backed it into a ditch while attempting to flee.

Harrison eventually stole a 1987 Ford Taurus from the Sea Village area and headed toward Shallotte, Pritchard said. The owner of the car saw it leave and called the Brunswick County Emergency Communications (911) Center, which issued a bulletin to watch for the car.

Hunter stationed himself at the Ocean Isle Beach intersection on N.C. 179 and gave chase as the Taurus went by, Pritchard said. He followed the car to Shallotte, where Harrison allegedly smashed into some shrubbery in a convenience store parking lot before heading north on Main Street.

After colliding with a utility pole

in the Market Express parking lot at the corner of N.C. 130, Harrison jumped from the car and fled on foot, Pritchard said. Hunter also left his patrol car and ran after him, catching Harrison behind the Sandfiddler restaurant.

Harrison was charged with three counts each of larceny and possession of stolen goods, two counts each of reckless driving and resisting or obstructing a police officer and one charge each of speeding to elude arrest, driving without a license, failure to yield for a police, fire or emergency vehicle and communicating threats.

He was being held in Brunswick County Jail Tuesday in lieu of a \$17,000 secured bond.

# Three Tabor Men Charged In Sunset Beach Break-In

An investigation led by Sunset Beach Police Chief J.B. Buell has resulted in the arrest of three Tabor City construction workers in connection with the theft of items valued at \$6,800.

A residence on the island of Sunset Beach was broken into about Oct. 2, with the property owner reporting a gun, power and hand tools and fishing gear missing, Buell said. An investigation by Buell and Detective John Ingram of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department turned up some of the stolen goods at pawn shops in North and South Carolina.

Among those items was the stolen gun, Buell said. "You have to have positive ID to pawn a gun, so we were able to identify them," he added.

Charged with one count each of breaking and entering and larceny and larceny of a firearm were David Clay Grice, 29; Terry Emery Lee, 23; and James Frederick Lee, 28, all of Tabor City. They were arrested on a job site at Ocean Isle Beach Nov. 8 by Sunset Beach Sgt. Lisa Massey with assistance from Lt. Tom Hunter of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department and Officer Danny Hunter of the Ocean Isle Beach department.

They were released from the Brunswick County Jail under \$5,000 secured bond each, Buell said.

The search for the remaining missing goods is continuing, he added.

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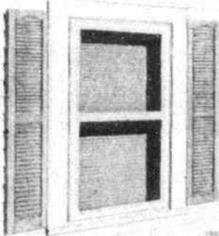
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