

# Sunday Stabbing Results From Too Many Cooks In The Kitchen

An argument over kitchen technique turned ugly Sunday night when the cook allegedly stabbed the critic at a home on Lewis Loop Road in Bolivia, according to a crime report on file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's office Monday.

The victim, Billy Ray Johnson, 35, told Deputy Lewis Ward that he and his housemate Leonard Anthony Hodges, 33, were cooking steaks and hot dogs at about 11 p.m.

Johnson said he was "going to give Leonard a piece of his mind about how he was cooking the steaks," the report said.

An argument ensued and "the next thing he knew, Hodges had cut him," the Johnson told Ward.

The Hodges gave a slightly different account. He told Ward that Johnson had consumed a 12-pack of beer that day, while Hodges only drank three cans. He said the two of them were arguing about the steaks while he was "trimming them with a butcher knife."

According to the Hodges' account, the argument turned into a scuffle, during which a glass was broken. He said Johnson lunged at him and they fell to the floor.

"The knife entered the victim's side during this time," the report said.

According to warrant for Hodges' arrest, Johnson was stabbed three times with a butcher knife.

Hodges told Ward that he put Johnson into his car and drove him to the Emergency Medical Services building at the county complex. He was transferred to an ambulance and taken to the Brunswick Hospital, where he was treated and released.

Hodges was charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. He was released on bond Monday.

In other crime reports:

Someone called in a bomb threat to the Roses department store in Southport last Tuesday afternoon (March 8). A 23-year-old employee of the store told police she was working at the service desk when she answered the phone and heard nothing on the line. Then a male voice said "there's a bomb in the store," according to the report. The woman said it sounded like the caller was covering the mouthpiece. She hung up and told the manager, who called 911. Sheriff's deputies searched the building, but no bomb was found.

A Wilmington man claimed he was forced out of his car on Cedar Loop Road in the Phoenix area one night last week. He told Deputy Mark Snowden that he was in the area "looking for his girlfriend" at about 11 p.m. when a group of black males approached and kicked out the driver's door window. He said they "told him they were going to kill him," the report said. The victim said he ran away after one of the men reached into the car and stole his keys. The car was later found

## CRIME REPORT

with all the windows broken out and other damage totalling about \$2,500.

A .22-caliber revolver, a color television and assorted jewelry valued at more than \$600 were stolen in a break-in that occurred at a mobile home on Evans Circle, Shallotte, sometime last week. The owner told Deputy Jerry Gray that he returned to the trailer Wednesday to find that someone had pried open the rear door, causing an estimated \$150 damage.

More than \$1,900 worth of tools and household items were stolen from a mobile home in the Shangri La subdivision on Crane Road, Ash, Friday night. The 66-year-old man who lives there told Deputy Randy Robinson that someone broke into both the trailer and a nearby tool shed by removing the glass from two windows. Missing were a color television, a videocassette recorder, a microwave oven, a cable TV box, a gas heater, a circular saw, a drill and a bench grinder.

The owner of a rental house on U.S. 17 near Supply last week reported that someone caused an estimated \$3,500 damage there during the first week of February. He told Deputy Malcolm Long that the previous tenant may have done it. The officer found signs of forced entry to the rear door of the home.

Deputy Keithan Horne investigated the reported theft of a push lawn mower from a home on Tree Acres Circle in Shingletree Acres, Shallotte, last week. The woman who lives there said she walked into the yard and noticed the mower missing from its usual storage space under the front porch. It was valued at around \$550.

An \$800 pressure washer was reported stolen from a home on Riverside Drive in Varnantown last week. One of the homeowners told Ward that she went shopping in Shallotte at about 11 a.m. Friday. When she came back a few hours later, she noticed the equipment missing.

About \$100 worth of "meat products" were stolen from a home on Holmes Road, Supply, Thursday. The homeowner told Deputy Ward that he and his wife left at about 9 a.m. to take their child to the doctor, leaving the house unlocked. When they returned at about 5 p.m., they found that someone had come in through the front door and removed the food from their refrigerator.

Three rods and reels, a TV set, a tool box full of tools, a grass trimmer, two flannel shirts and a wool coat were among the items reported missing in a break-in that occurred on Woodthrus Lane in Shell Point Acres sometime in the past two weeks. The owner, an Elon College man, told Deputy Rebekah McDonald that he arrived at the home Saturday night and found that the front door had been pried open,

causing an estimated \$30 damage.

There was no sign of forced entry at a house on Shell Point Road that was broken into Saturday. The owner told Deputy Cathy Hamilton that the thieves made off with an answering machine, a leather tote bag and a pocketbook valued at a total of \$73.

A 20-year-old woman who lives on East Drive, Shallotte, told police that two men broke into her 1993 Dodge Colt and stole a radar detector valued at about \$85. The thieves also caused an estimated \$100 damage to a rear view mirror. She said she left the vehicle unlocked with the key in her house.

Someone broke into a mobile home on 4th Street in Sunset Harbor sometime in the past three weeks and made off with a color television and a tackle box. The thieves also caused extensive damage to the doors to the trailer and a nearby garage, according to McDonald's report.

The wife of a Sunny Point longshoreman was accused by her estranged husband of breaking into his gun cabinet and stealing two shotguns and a .50-caliber black powder rifle late last month. The man reported the theft to McDonald Saturday. He said he was arguing with his wife at his home on Fish Factory Road on the morning of Feb. 28. He left and returned a short time later, when he "noticed his wife putting his guns in her truck." The weapons were later returned by the sheriff's department after they were confiscated in a "roadside domestic dispute," the report said. The guns were valued at about \$410. There was an estimated \$215 damage to the gun cabinet and two of the guns.

A 15-speed mountain bike was reported stolen from the front yard of a trailer at Chadwick's Mobile Home Park in Leland last Wednesday night. Deputy Matt Jesson estimated its value at about \$200.

Detective Capt. Phil Perry took a report from a Florida migrant worker who said his car was stolen from a trailer at the Brunswick Mobile Home Park in Leland last weekend. The man said he left the car, keys and title with another man "to see if he could sell it." The man still has the keys, but the gray 1984 Ford Mustang is missing. It was valued at about \$400.

Someone caused an estimated \$600 damage by shooting at a business sign on U.S. 74/76 near Leland Tuesday night. Deputy Matt Jesson found three spent shells on the ground near the sign.

Jesson also investigated the theft of a toy poodle from a home off Maco Road, Leland, last Wednesday afternoon. The owner said she saw a blue, late-model, two-door car drive up with two children in the back seat. She said someone got out and removed the poodle from the yard. It was described as solid white with brown spots and a pink nose. The dog is a female, four-months pregnant and answers to the name "Dee Dee." It was valued at \$400.

# Leader Of Sunset Harbor Juvenile Theft Ring Gets 10-Year Sentence

BY ERIC CARLSON

Residents and vacation home owners in Sunset Harbor will sleep easier now that the man accused of organizing a juvenile theft ring in their community has been sent to prison for 10 years.

Timothy Earl Street, 40, of Holden Beach Road, Supply, is believed to have encouraged several Sunset Harbor boys, ages 13 to 15, to break into at least 15 summer residences by offering to purchase the stolen property, Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Charlie Miller said Tuesday.

Street pleaded guilty last week to six counts of receiving stolen goods. His alleged accomplices, all students at South Brunswick Middle School, face up to 15 charges of felonious breaking and entering and larceny in juvenile court, Miller said.

More than \$20,000 worth of property was taken in the thefts, which occurred between March and October of last year, Miller said. Acting as a group, the young thieves would

break into unoccupied trailers, boats and storage sheds and make off with televisions, microwave ovens, fishing equipment and other "easily saleable" items. Two golf carts also were stolen.

"People down there were getting tired of it," Miller said. "They were to the point that they would do just about anything to protect their property. They were a big help in our investigation."

After receiving information indicating the crimes might be the work of local teenage boys, Miller and Detective Gene Caison arranged for an undercover informant to gain the confidence of the juveniles. The boy purchased stolen goods from the others and was eventually introduced to Street, Miller said.

Street is a former resident of Sunset Harbor who had moved to the Holden Beach area. But he kept a storage building and camper at his former home, Miller said.

"He got the boys to do the break-ins and put the stuff in his storage

building. Then he'd pay them for it," Miller said. "They were walking around with \$50 to \$100 in their pockets, which is a lot when you're only 13."

Most of the stolen property was probably sold at flea markets, Miller said. Very little was recovered.

Detectives got an unexpected bonus in their undercover operation, Miller said. During one of his visits to Street's home, the young informant was asked if he wanted to buy two potted marijuana plants.

"It surprised us," Miller said. "But we bought it."

In superior court last week, Street also pleaded guilty to one charge each of manufacturing marijuana, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and selling marijuana. He was given an additional five-year prison sentence, suspended on the condition that he pay \$4,200 restitution to his victims and the sheriff's department narcotics squad.

Judge William C. Gore Jr. also ordered Street to submit to random

drug tests and warrantless searches and to not "harass, communicate threats, molest or allow anyone else" to bother the juveniles involved in the case.

As part of a plea bargain, the state agreed to drop a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Street was convicted of that offense in district court last January and was given a two-year prison sentence.

Praising the residents of Sunset Harbor as "good people," Miller said community involvement played a major role in breaking the case.

"Without their help we wouldn't have been able to do it," Miller said. "They identified people for us. They let us use their yards for surveillance. They invited us into their homes and let us use their telephones. I'm just glad we were able to do something for them."

Miller said the investigation is continuing and more charges may be brought against Street and the juveniles.

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