

Leland Convenience Store Robbed Of \$365 Friday, By Man With Pistol

CRIME REPORT

A Leland convenience store was robbed of about \$365 Friday night by a man carrying a pistol in his pocket, according to a crime report on file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department Monday.

A clerk at the McCree Mini Mart on Village Road told Deputy Brian Sanders that she was standing by the grill area of the store at about 8:20 p.m. when a stocky man wearing shorts and no shirt came into the grill. As she made her way from the grill to the counter to wait on the man he told her, "This is a hold-up. Give me the money."

The woman told Sanders she was stunned and didn't know if the man was playing, the report said. Then the robber showed her the butt of a pistol protruding from his pocket and told her, "I'm not playing. Give me the money."

She said she opened the register and followed the man's instructions to bring him the cash drawer. With one hand on the gun, she said he scooped up the money and ran out the door.

Two women who were approaching the store at the time told Sanders they saw a man run out of the building and into a nearby trailer park. They described him as being about 5 feet, 9 inches tall with a stocky build and acne on his face. They said he was bare-chested and was wearing shorts with a flannel shirt wrapped around his head.

Detective Larry Joyner has been assigned to investigate the robbery.

In other crime reports:

■ Detective Tom Hunter believes he has a suspect in the beating of a Myrtle Beach, S.C., man by the side of U.S. 17 near Thomasboro Road last Monday afternoon (March 28). The victim said he was hitch-hiking south when a vehicle stopped and then sped off, showering him with gravel. The man said he picked up a rock and threw it at the car, which stopped. He said three men got out of the car and beat him with sticks. He was found semi-conscious and taken to the Brunswick Hospital badly bruised with head and facial injuries.

■ A 20-year-old Sunset Beach man faces a charge of filing a false criminal report in Brunswick County and several other charges in Holy County, S.C., after he told

Deputy Richard Long that his 1985 Mazda was stolen from his driveway on Old Georgetown Road Saturday night. Det. Hunter said he located the car in South Carolina, where police had stopped the car for making an improper left turn. The driver ran from the scene. Hunter said he will charge the car's owner, Tyrone Lee Miller, with filing a false report. Horry County authorities plan to charge him with resisting arrest, failure to obey a lawful order, driving without insurance and improper registration, Hunter said.

■ Someone stole a boat, motor and trailer from a shed next to a summer home on Jolly Roger Drive in the Buccaneer Hills subdivision of Holden Beach sometime last month. Deputy Malcolm Long reported that the thief or thieves forced their way into the shed by breaking two locks. The 15-foot boat, a 70 horsepower motor, the trailer and other accessories were valued at about \$6,350. There was an estimated \$100 damage.

■ A \$2,500 dinghy was reported stolen from the boat storage area at Marsh Harbor Marina in Calabash sometime in the past three months. The owner told Deputy Joey Adams that he moved his yacht from the marina last December, but left the dinghy there. When he returned Tuesday morning, the dock master reportedly told him it was gone.

■ A color television, a videocassette recorder and a microwave oven were among the items stolen in a mobile home break-in on Live Oak Drive in the Whispering Heights subdivision off Seashore Road, Holden Beach. The Hope Mills man whose father owns the trailer told Deputy Jerry Gray that he left it secure last August and returned Friday evening to find that someone had cut a screen and pried open a rear window to get inside. Among the \$1,625 worth of stolen property was a radio scanner, a "boom box," three rods and reels and a bicycle.

■ More than \$1,000 worth of property was stolen in a break-in that occurred on 7th Street in Sunset Harbor sometime in the past three weeks. The 65-year-old Stanley man

who owns the mobile home told Deputy Rebekah McDonald that he arrived Friday evening to find the pump house overturned and the storm door open. The pump was not removed, but there was extensive damage to the front door jam and frame. Missing was a videocassette recorder, a microwave oven, a tool set, a coffee maker, an AM/FM radio, three rods and reels, a circular saw and a tackle box. Damage was estimated at \$250. The report noted that the man "advised he had not given anyone permission to enter his residence in this manner and remove the listed items."

■ A 13-year-old boy has been arrested on a charge of larceny of a firearm in the theft of an eight-shot .22-caliber pistol from an 84-year-old man who lives on Pearl Street in Ocean Isle Beach. The man told Deputy Adams that he kept the pistol under his couch in the den. He also said the boy had visited him on the day the pistol turned up missing. Det. Hunter investigated the case and made the arrest.

■ Someone stole a car that reportedly overheated and was left on Turkey Trap Road in Cedar Grove early Sunday morning. The owner, who lives in a mobile home park off N.C. 130 near Shallotte, told Deputy Jerry Gray that she left the car with the keys inside at about 1 a.m. and came back at about 2:30 p.m. to find it missing. A N.C. Highway Patrol officer later found the 1986 Buick Century in a ditch on Red Bug Road.

■ A motorcycle was stolen from the shoulder of U.S. 74/76 near Leland Friday night after the bike was left there overnight. The owner told Deputy Robert Long that he was on his way to Columbus County at about 9:30 p.m. when a tire went flat and he left the motorcycle beside the westbound lane. It was gone when he came back to get it shortly after noon Saturday. He told Long that the 1983 Honda CB 1000 was worth about \$6,000.

■ Somebody stole the radio cassette player from a car that broke down and was left overnight on N.C. 133 about a mile north of Boiling Spring Lakes Friday night. The victim told Deputy Michael Weldrick that she left the 1984 Chevrolet Camaro parked at about 5

p.m. and returned the next afternoon to find a passenger side window smashed and her stereo removed. It was valued at about \$130.

■ There was an estimated \$1,300 damage reported in the March 28 theft of about \$312 worth of frozen flounder from a seafood company on Longwood Road. The thieves broke into a freezer truck and stole five boxes of fish, Deputy Richard Long's report said.

■ Four chairs, a dining table and an electric range were stolen from a mobile home on a sales lot on Longwood Road outside Shallotte Wednesday night. The owner told Detective John Ingram that he left the business at about 6 p.m. and returned the next morning to find that one of the double-wide trailers had been broken into. The stolen property was valued at \$240. There was about \$50 damage.

■ Thieves broke out a window in the front door of a home on Taft Road, Supply, Thursday night and stole a \$250 videocassette recorder and jar containing about \$15 in change. Deputy Malcolm Long set the damage estimate at \$100.

■ A 100-pound liquefied petroleum (LP) gas tank was stolen from a mobile home on Tideland Street, off Old Ferry Road, Supply, sometime in the past five months. The Archdale man who owns the trailer said that it appeared the thieves had disconnected the tank's fittings with hand tools and carried it off. Deputy Gray estimated its value at about \$200.

■ Deputy Phil Bryant took a report from the owner of an Ocean Isle Beach real estate office who said that he had been receiving threatening phone calls. The man said that he returned home from work one day last December and found a message on his answering machine "by someone stating that they were going to get him when they got out of prison." There was a similar call on March 25. In both cases the caller "used a lot of foul and threatening language," the report said.

■ Deputy Joseph Scoggins was called to investigate a robbery reported by a woman who lives on Midway Road, Bolivia. She said her boyfriend stole \$20 from her Sunday afternoon.

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#1 SPORT UTILITY EXPLORER

Phone Tips From Citizens Lead To Drug Arrests

BY ERIC CARLSON

Tips from concerned citizens to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department narcotics squad led to two drug arrests last week, while a third man was apprehended at West Brunswick High School on cocaine charges.

Drug agents say they have received numerous calls from people reporting what they believe to be illegal drug activity recently. Many of the reports have led to arrests and more tips are encouraged, said narcotics Detective Gary Shay.

Thursday night, detectives acted on information obtained from a confidential source regarding the alleged sales of marijuana by a Holden Beach woman.

After obtaining a search warrant, agents searched the home of Lea Hedgecock Ganey, 34, of Moore Street and found one ounce of marijuana stored in a hidden compartment in the bathroom. Detective Doug Todd said.

Ganey was charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, maintaining a residence for keeping a controlled substance and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. She is free on bond.

Last Monday (March 31), the narcotics office received a telephone tip from a resident that led to the arrest of Scott Harvey Dixon, 24, of Long Beach. Detective Billy Hughes said.

Hughes said he went to Dixon's residence and was given permission to search the house. Dixon was

charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. He was released on bond.

Also last Monday, sheriff's Detective Tom Hunter was stopped at the intersection of U.S. 17 and N.C. 130 when he noticed a black Chevrolet Monte Carlo that fit the description of a vehicle used in an assault three days earlier.

Hunter stopped the vehicle in the parking lot at West Brunswick High School. He was in the process of ar-

resting Curtis Pigotte Jr., 30, of Thomasboro on outstanding warrants when the man ran off and tossed "a bright metal object" between two parked school buses.

Auxiliary Deputy Dan Hunter ran after Pigotte, placed him on the ground and handcuffed him. A search of the area revealed that the metal object was a smoking pipe containing cocaine residue, Detective Hunter said.

Pigotte was charged with cocaine

possession, maintaining a vehicle for keeping controlled substances and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was being held in Brunswick County Jail Monday in lieu of a \$2,500 secured bond.

Anyone with information regarding illegal drug activity is encouraged to call the sheriff's department narcotics office at 253-4797. Names will not be required to testify. Rewards are offered in some cases.

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