

Man Reports Taxi Driver Robbed Him At Gunpoint

Investigators are looking into a Winnabow man's claim that he was robbed at gunpoint by a Wilmington taxi driver on U.S. 17 near Bolivia early Monday morning, according to a crime report on file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

The alleged victim, a 44-year-old man who lives on Potter Road, told Deputy Sgt. Don Stovall that he was picked up by a Wilmington cab company vehicle outside the Stadium Lounge on Carolina Beach Road at about 1:30 a.m.

En route to Winnabow, the man said he and the driver were "talking about nothing in particular," when the conversation began to get heated, Stovall reported. The victim said the driver drove past Winnabow and finally stopped to let him out by the side of the highway about two miles north of the county landfill.

The man reportedly told Stovall that the driver "came around the cab to his side with a pistol in his hand and told the victim to give him all the money he had." After handing over his wallet, containing about \$230, the man said he walked to a house on Tucker Road and called 911.

The cab driver was described as a white male in his 30s, with a medium build, about 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing approximately 190 pounds, with medium-length dark hair. He was dressed in a dark shirt, baggy pants and dark shoes, the report said.

Detective Charlie Miller has been assigned to investigate the incident.

In other crime reports:

■ Deputy Cathy Hamilton took statements from two Wadesboro men who said one of them was assaulted at a gas station early Saturday morning. One of the men said he was making a telephone call when he "heard someone say something" behind him, after which he turned around and was struck. His companion said he was behind the building and came around front to find the other man laying on the ground. The victim could not describe who hit him, the type weapon used or the name of the gas station. Both men said they had been drinking. An emergency room doctor at Brunswick Hospital said the victim suffered a broken nose and cuts over his left eye.

■ Detective Tom Hunter arrested Earlie Junior Tharp, 45, of Pea Landing Road Friday on a felony charge of possessing stolen goods after Deputy J.C. Gaskins recovered a 25-horsepower Evinrude outboard motor at Tharp's home. The engine, valued at \$2,495, was brand new when it was stolen from Shallotte Marine Supplies on Village Point Road last December. The top of the motor had been changed before it was recovered, the report said.

■ A gray and white Honda CBR 600 motorcycle valued at \$4,000 was stolen from outside a home in the Azalea Mobile Home Park in Leland early Saturday morning. The owner told Deputy Michael Cierpiot that he left the bike parked with the keys in the ignition at about 3 a.m. and discovered the bike missing about five hours later.

■ More than \$2,800 worth of property was stolen in a break-in that occurred sometime in the past month at a home on Center Street in Evergreen Estates. The Salisbury woman who owns the home showed Deputy Rebekah McDonald where someone pried open a front window and ransacked the house, dumping items out of drawers and closets. "Other items were packed up as if the suspects were planning on returning," the report said. Listed as missing were two color televisions, three shotguns, a gun rack, a stereo system, a telephone with an answering machine, a computer printer and a "Dale Earnhardt lamp."

CRIME REPORT

■ A 30-horsepower Evinrude outboard motor, 12 rods and reels, a six-gallon gasoline tank and a tackle box were stolen from a storage shed outside a home on Swain Street in Sunset Harbor sometime in the past two weeks. The Raleigh man who owns the residence told Deputy Jerry Gray that the thieves cut a pad lock to get inside the shed. The value of stolen items was estimated to be about \$1,580.

■ Someone stole a water pump and bladder tank worth about \$250 from a vacation trailer on Gold Finch Place, off Shell Point Road, sometime in the past six weeks. The Mount Holly woman who owns the mobile home told Deputy Lewis Ward that the thief or thieves also used a screwdriver or crowbar to get inside, but left without taking anything else. Damage was estimated at about \$200.

■ There was about \$200 damage, but nothing reported missing, after a break-in at the Pleasant View Baptist Church in Sunset Beach recently. Deputy Keithan Horne's report states that a member of the church discovered a broken window when he came to prepare for a church supper Saturday evening. The deputy reported finding scuff marks on the window sill, indicating that someone had entered the building.

■ A mobile home on Grouse Street, Supply, was broken into sometime in the past month by a thief or thieves who made off with a microwave oven, a television set and an air conditioner worth about \$620. The 78-year-old Morganton man who owns the trailer told Deputy Hamilton that he and his wife discovered the theft Friday afternoon.

■ Someone pried open the back door of a home on Shell Point Road and stole a television set and a lawn mower that the owner had left in the living room for safe keeping. Deputy Hamilton investigated the break-in, which is believed to have occurred sometime in the past six months. She estimated the value of stolen property at \$229.

■ An electric drill was the only item missing after a break-in that caused an estimated \$315 damage to

a home on Boonesboro Street, off Seashore Road, sometime in the past six weeks. Besides kicking in two doors, the thief also broke several windows and cut a gas line and a water line in the bathroom, Deputy Lewis Ward reported. The owner told him the intruder "possibly spent the night while breaking and entering the residence," the report said.

■ There was significant damage, but nothing reported missing, after a break-in at the Lions Paw golf course clubhouse off N.C. 904 Saturday night. An employee at the club told the investigating deputy that someone broke out the glass in a door and "possibly" entered the building. He advised the officer to talk with a female employee about her boyfriend "being found in wrong places at different times at the clubhouse."

■ A 31-year-old Leland woman blamed her ex-boyfriend for stealing a color television and a videocassette recorder from the home they shared on Graham Road, off Village Road, until Nov. 1 last year. A neighbor told Detective Miller that the suspect was seen looking into a window at the home about an hour before the theft was discovered. The stolen property was valued at \$700.

■ The mother of a 16-year-old West Brunswick High School student has taken out a juvenile warrant against another student who allegedly stole a compact disc player from her son's car. One of his classmates reported seeing the suspect with the CD player about 15 minutes after it was discovered missing from under the seat of a car in the auto mechanics shop. Deputy Sheldon Caison estimated the player's value at \$115.

■ Deputy Anthony Key took a report from a Wilson woman who said that her cellular telephone antenna was stolen off her car Friday night. It was valued at \$100. The location of the incident was not listed on the report.

■ A Hope Mills couple returned to their mobile home on Sea Gats Drive after an evening of fishing Saturday to find that someone had entered the vacation trailer and removed \$60 from the wife's purse. Deputy Timothy McGuinn determined that the window had been pried open with a screwdriver, which was left behind at the scene.

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