

Deputies Nab Two Hiding In Country Store After Break-In

Two suspected thieves were arrested as they hid in the bathroom of a Supply country store Sunday night, according to a crime report on file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department Monday.

Detective Larry Joyner said the two men charged in the late-night break-in at Hewett's Store on Mt. Pisgah Road may be responsible for three other larcenies there. An investigation is continuing and more charges are anticipated, he said.

According to Deputy Joseph Scoggins' report, he was dispatched to the store to investigate a break-in that was said to be in progress at about 11:19.

When he arrived and looked in through the front window of the store, Scoggins said he saw a white male standing in front of a cooler who "appeared to be looking for something."

After calling for back-up, Scoggins went to the rear of the store and found that someone had apparently entered through a boarded-up window.

When the store owner and Deputy Cathy Hamilton arrived a few minutes later, Scoggins crawled into the store through the rear window while the other deputy went in through the front door.

After a thorough search of the business, Scoggins reported finding "two white males in the bathroom crouching down on the floor." The men were arrested and taken to Bolivia by Det. Joyner for booking.

Charged with felonious breaking and entering were William Daniel Widdon, 20, and Robert Merle Wilder, 19, both of Easterly Drive, off Taft Road, Supply.

Hewett's store has been the scene of several break-ins during the past year. Joyner is investigating the possibility that the two suspects arrested Sunday might be responsible.

In other crime reports:

■ A Raleigh man got an unexpected birthday present early Sunday morning when he went to a Phoenix mobile home park "to visit friends." The man, who turned 43 that day, told Deputy Brian Sanders that someone called out to him as he walked toward a trailer in Ballard's Mobile Home park at about 1:15 a.m. As he turned around, he was hit in the right eye with a rock that knocked him to the ground, semi-conscious. He called his mother to pick him up after finding that his 1982 Chevrolet pickup had been stolen. It was valued at about \$3,000.

■ Someone reportedly fired shots

CRIME REPORT

into several windows of a mobile home on Van Galloway Road in an incident reported to Deputy Richard Long Saturday night. The 26-year-old resident of the trailer said a man he knows came riding through a neighboring mobile home park, then left after the victim attempted to flag him down. The man allegedly returned, "pulled up in front, jumped out of his car and started firing" into the residence, the report said.

■ A boat, motor and trailer valued at more than \$7,800 were stolen from outside a mobile home in Little River Estates in the Shell Point area recently. The 58-year-old Fayetteville man who owns the home told Deputy Rebekah McDonald that he was contacted by his son, who arrived for a vacation Friday night to find that someone had cut the lock and chain securing his father's boat to a tree. Also missing were a fish finder, two anchors, life preservers and other boating equipment valued at about \$600.

■ Someone stole a personal watercraft from a home on Water Oak Road in East Tanglewood last week. The purple and pink 1993 Yamaha 650 Waverunner was kept under a storage shed on a trailer, which was also missing. Deputy Lewis Ward found no sign of forced entry to the home. He estimated the value of stolen property at \$6,000.

■ More than \$3,900 worth of fishing equipment and tools was taken from the summer residence on Anne Boney Drive, Supply, last week. The Fayetteville man who owns the trailer told Deputy Hamilton that he and his wife arrived at their mobile home Saturday night and discovered the break-in. Missing were 13 rods and reels, a depth finder, a tool box and assorted tools.

■ A 73-year-old Carolina Shores retiree reported the theft of his wife's purse from the kitchen of their home at Gate 4 Friday morn-

ing. The man told Deputy Randy Robinson that he was sitting in his den when he believes someone made off with the purse, containing about \$15 in cash and 18 personal checks. The victim said that someone tried to forge a name and cash one of the checks at a local store, but was unsuccessful.

■ Someone reportedly stole a personal check from a 27-year-old woman living on Hale Swamp Road last week. She told Deputy Robinson that a person wrote out the check for \$200, forged her name and attempted to cash it at a local bank. The teller refused to honor the check. The suspect's face was captured on the bank's surveillance camera.

■ At a grocery store in Southport Friday afternoon, a store manager became suspicious when two women tried to cash a payroll check for \$331 on which the name appeared to have been altered. Witnesses told Deputy Rebekah McDonald that the suspects left before store personnel could alert police.

■ In two separate reports, a 20-year-old U.S. Army soldier and another man told Deputy Brian Sanders that they had more than \$600 worth of personal property stolen from a hotel room in Belville early Sunday morning. The soldier said he went to bed at about 2 a.m. and awoke about six hours later to find a wallet, two necklaces, a pair of glasses and about \$140 cash missing from his wife's purse. Outside, he found that the thief apparently "drove around for a while" in his 1991 Pontiac and left it parked "low on gas" with the keys on the seat.

The other man told Deputy Sanders that he lost \$70 cash, a pair of glasses and the title to his truck.

■ There was about \$700 damage reported in the theft of a television and stereo system from a home on Jerry's Trail in Supply Friday night. The 38-year-old woman who lives there told Deputy Rebekah McDonald that she and her roommate

went out at about 6 o'clock and came back at 11:30 to find that someone had removed the plastic from a previously broken window and entered the residence. The missing items were valued at about \$700.

■ An estimated \$3,000 damage was done to a 1987 Chevrolet Blazer parked on Exum Road Thursday night by vandals who used an unknown object to scratch the front, back and sides of the vehicle. Deputy Robinson reported that the suspects also broke in through a window and caused "a large amount of damage to the inside." The incident was believed to have occurred between 11 p.m. and 11 a.m. the next day.

■ About \$544 worth of tools was taken from a new house under construction on Lockwood Lane in the Lockwood Folly golfing development Thursday night. A construction company representative told Deputy McDonald that the house was locked and there was no sign of forced entry. He said he believed a disgruntled former employee may have used a credit card to jimmy the lock and get inside. Missing were a jig saw, a circular saw, a cordless drill and 50 feet of hose.

■ There was an estimated \$12,000 damage done to a 1989 Pontiac Firebird parked on Piggott Road in Shallotte Point last week by someone who poured sugar into the car's gasoline tank, according to a

report filed by Deputy Lewis Ward. The owner said the vehicle was secure last Tuesday (July 12). The damage was discovered Saturday night.

■ Nothing was reported missing in an apparent break-in that resulted in about \$200 damage to a mobile home on Oakland Street, off Seashore Road near Holden Beach sometime in the past two weeks. The 59-year-old Mocksville man who owns the mobile home told Deputy Ward that he arrived Saturday afternoon and found that someone had tried to pry open his back door.

■ The owner of an auto shop on N.C. 130 near Civietown reported the theft of \$60 in small bills from an office cash box Friday afternoon. He told Deputy McDonald that three men came in to pay a bill at around 1 p.m. Two of them reportedly talked to the owner about parts while the third stood in the office. The money was discovered missing after they left, the report said.

■ For the second time in recent weeks, the owner of a gas station/convenience store on U.S. 17 in Winnabow reported the theft of money from his cash register Sunday afternoon. Deputy Long spoke with an employee who had arrived at about 1 p.m. and found no \$5 bills in the cash drawer, which had been left fully stocked, according to the owner. There was an esti-

mated \$100 missing. ■ One of ten little pigs residing behind a home on Pine Valley Drive, Navassa, was reported stolen from its pen late last week. The 66-year-old man who lives about 40 feet away said his porcine pets were present and accounted for Wednesday evening at about 5:30. When he returned to the crime scene at 6 a.m. Friday, only nine little pigs were in attendance. The missing animal was described as "solid black, weighing approximately 60 pounds." Deputy Sanders estimated its value at \$48.

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