

# Woman Says She Was Raped By Sister's Husband In Ash

## CRIME REPORT

Detectives are investigating an alleged second-degree rape and additional sexual offenses reported by an 18-year-old Clarkton woman who said her sister's husband forced himself on her at a mobile home on Ash-Little River Road early Friday morning.

According to a crime report on file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department Monday, the woman told Detective Charlie Miller that she had been visiting her sister and was asleep on the couch when the sister's 26-year-old husband awakened her at about 2 a.m.

The man allegedly held the victim down and fondled her, then removed her pants and forced her to have sex and perform other acts with him, the report said. After about 20 minutes, he stopped, then repeated the assault. He later returned and sexually assaulted her a third time, the report stated.

The victim told Detective Miller that her sister was in the back room during the incident. She said she was "too scared to scream, so she laid there and cried," the report said.

No charges had been filed in the case Monday morning. Detective Nancy Simpson, who handles most of the department's sex crimes cases, said she was scheduled to interview the victim Monday afternoon.

In other crime reports:

■ About \$1,700 worth of camera equipment was stolen in a first-degree burglary in the Pine Burr Acres subdivision near Sunset Beach Thursday night. The victim, a self-employed photographer, told Deputy Keithan Horne that she arrived home from Winston-Salem at about 7 p.m. "feeling sick." She took a cold pill and went to bed, the report said. When she awoke, she found the front door ajar, the door jamb broken and her camera bag missing. Inside was a 35mm camera, two zoom lenses and two rolls of film. The thief also took \$6 in change and a Coors Light beer.

■ A man who lives on Sunset Harbor Road identified his son as the likely suspect in the theft of more than \$4,347 worth of property from his home last week. He told Deputy Lewis Ward that his son has a drug habit and "will steal for crack," the report said. The son frequently exchanges stolen appliances for drugs, the man said. Missing from his home was a video camcorder, an amplifier, a portable color television, a 100-ounce bar of silver, \$30 cash, two chain saws, a reciprocating saw, a battery charger, a router and an air compressor.

■ The son of a Burgaw man reportedly had his father's car stolen while visiting friends in Cedar Grove early Thursday morning. The owner told Deputy Michael Cierpiot that his son was at a home on Cedar Grove Road when he went outside to leave and found the 1991 Honda Civic missing. It was valued at \$8,000.

■ Someone broke into a home on Number 5 Schoolhouse Road in Ash and stole two microwave ovens and a broiler oven last week. Before leaving, the thief also made off with four tires and rims from a 1980 Chevrolet Monte Carlo parked outside. Deputy Richard Long estimated the value of stolen property at about \$1,000.

■ A .22-caliber rifle, a .410 shotgun, a bow and arrow and a videocassette recorder valued at about \$569 were found missing after a Thursday night break-in at a residence on U.S. 17 south of Shallotte. The 51-year-old man who lives there told Deputy Sgt. Charles Wilson that someone removed the screen from his kitchen window, climbed in and went through the drawers and closets. The thief also stole three payroll checks and later cashed one at a Shallotte bank. A

suspect was identified and an arrest is expected.

■ Twenty-five nandina plants were stolen from the Calabash Presbyterian Church in one of four larcenies reported on Georgetown Road last week. An employee of the church told Deputy W.C. Dunn that the plants were worth about \$650.

■ An elderly Charlotte woman's home on Georgetown Road was broken into sometime in the past three weeks. The victim told Deputy Horne that she came down for the weekend Friday afternoon and found two televisions and a microwave oven missing. They were valued at \$540.

■ A color television, a videocassette recorder and a cable TV box were stolen from a home on Georgetown Road sometime in the past three weeks. The Dunn man who owns the home told Deputy Horne that he arrived for the weekend Thursday afternoon and discovered that someone had pried open his back door. The stolen items were estimated to be worth about \$410.

■ Sometime in the past two weeks, a color television and a microwave oven valued at about \$338 were stolen from a home on Georgetown Road near its intersection with N.C. 904. Deputy Ward took the report from a 48-year-old Bennettsville, S.C., man who said he returned to the residence Sunday and found the back door pried open, causing an estimated \$150 damage.

■ About \$680 worth of car stereo equipment was stolen from a vehicle parked on Inland Drive near Ocean Isle Beach Saturday night. The victim's mother told Deputy Ward that her son had heard a rumor that two former friends were planning to steal his speakers and amplifier and sell them. He found the trunk pried open and the items missing from the 1984 Chevrolet Cavalier Sunday morning.

■ At another home on Inland Drive, a man told Deputy Joey

Adams that someone pried the hasp off his storage shed and stole a go-kart sometime last week. The vehicle was valued at \$400.

■ Deputy Cierpiot responded to a reported break-in on River Road in Winnabow and found that the homeowner was "detaining a suspect" Friday afternoon. The man admitted breaking into the home and taking the victim's videocassette recorder, which was found in the suspect's possession, the report said. Damage was estimated to be about \$50.

■ A color television and a videocassette recorder were stolen from a home on Cahaj Drive, off Seashore Road near Holden Beach sometime in the past three weeks. The Rockingham man who owns the home told Deputy Ward that he arrived early Saturday afternoon and found that someone had used a screwdriver to pry open the back door. The stolen items were valued at \$500.

■ There was an estimated \$1,000 damage reported to a 1995 pickup truck on display at Ocean City Chevrolet on U.S. 17 outside Shallotte recently. Deputy Randy Robinson said it appeared to have been hit by another vehicle.

■ Two firearms were stolen from a mobile home on Hickman Road last week. The owner told Deputy Horne that he had been away working for a couple days. He said that when he returned to his mobile home Friday, he noticed a 12-gauge shotgun and a .22-caliber autoloading rifle missing from his gun case. They were valued at \$650. There was no sign of forced entry to the trailer.

■ Deputy Adams took a report from a woman living on Copas Road, Shallotte, who said her son admitted stealing a \$640 set of golf clubs and pawning them recently. She said he also removed a check from her pocketbook.

■ A portable stereo system and a videocassette recorder were stolen from a home on McMilly Road near

Shallotte last week. Deputy Horne reported that the victim came home and found the back door unlocked and a side window shattered. The screen had been pushed inward, but all the broken glass was on the outside, Horne noted. He valued the stolen items at \$380.

■ Bolt cutters apparently were used to remove the lock from a storage shed outside a vacation trailer on Cambridge Street in Sunset Harbor recently. The retiree who owns the home told Deputy Ward that he left it secure a month ago and discovered the theft last week. Missing was a 4 horsepower outboard motor valued at \$450.

■ Someone pried open the door of a building at a marl pit on Todd Road and made off with a blank check and a money bag containing \$40 in change last week. A worker told Deputy Horne that he discovered the break-in Wednesday morning.

■ A pickup truck involved in a hit-and-run accident in Leland was later reported stolen by the owner, who lives in the Quail Hollow subdivision off Mt. Misery Road. The man said the truck was taken Saturday night after he left it parked unlocked with the keys in the ignition. The 1994 Nissan, valued at \$11,000 was impounded by Leland Police, who are investigation the accident.

■ More than \$5,300 worth of electronics, tools and other items were reported stolen from a mobile home on Walker Street, off Mt. Misery Road in Leland sometime in the past two weeks. A woman who lives there told Deputy Michael Smith that someone forced their way in through the front door and stole two televisions, a videocassette recorder, a microwave oven, three tool boxes, a grinder, a compact disc

player, a radio, a fishing pole and a kerosene heater.

■ About \$3,700 worth of tools were stolen from three buildings at the Godwin Concrete plant on Ploof Road in Leland last Wednesday night. Deputy Mark Snowden reported that he received a call from Detective Capt. Phil Perry saying that one of the company's trucks had been abandoned on Chapel Loop Road. Snowden spoke with company employees who found that the plant's front gate had been driven through, causing an estimated \$300 damage. There was about \$2,000 damage to the 1988 Ford pickup truck. Two boxes of tools were missing from the truck.

■ A deer hunter discovered a safe in the woods near Bluebanks Road Friday morning. Deputy Snowden examined the contents and found "various insurance documents" bearing several different names. Detective Capt. Perry said the safe is believed to be one that was stolen during a recent break-in.

■ The owner of a handcrafted mailbox on Village Point Road, Shallotte, reported that someone destroyed it Tuesday night. Deputy Horne estimated the value of box, post and sign at approximately \$250.

■ Someone ran over a mailbox in the Sherrow Estates subdivision, off U.S. 17 last week. Deputy Ward estimated the damage at \$125.

■ A six-pack of beer was the only item reported missing after a break-in at the home of a 25-year-old Winnabow woman's home Friday. She told Deputy Cierpiot that she returned to her home on Lord's Branch Road and discovered the theft at about 5:30 p.m. She also found that "an amount of dirt with fire ants was dumped on her bed," Cierpiot reported.

## MFC Member Hopeful Menhaden Dispute Can Be Settled

BY DOUG RUTTER

Brunswick County beach towns and the commercial fishing industry seem light years apart over a proposed agreement designed to allow tourism and menhaden fishing to co-exist.

But the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission member who chairs the committee that is working on the agreement remains hopeful the warring groups can reach a compromise that everyone can accept.

When the commission meets Friday in Smithfield, board member Jodie Gay will report that progress has been made in settling the dispute between six beach towns and the three menhaden companies that work off Brunswick County.

"I'm still optimistic we can get some type of compromise in place down there that everyone can work with," Gay said Tuesday. "Hopefully we can let the parties involved work it out."

Concerned about fish spills and their impact on summer tourism, officials at Sunset Beach, Ocean Isle Beach, Holden Beach, Long Beach, Yaupon Beach and Caswell Beach last summer asked the state commission to regulate menhaden fishing along the Brunswick County coast.

Town officials requested that menhaden fishing boats be required to stay at least 1 1/2 miles offshore May 1 through Sept. 30 and at least one-half mile offshore Oct. 1

through Dec. 31.

The Marine Fisheries Commission did not vote for or against the measure. Instead, it established a committee in hopes the two sides could settle their differences without state intervention.

The towns and fishing companies have worked up an agreement that would require the fishermen to notify the towns when they'll be working locally and also require them to reimburse the towns for cleanup costs following menhaden fish spills.

Both sides have generally agreed to those terms, but the latest proposal from the towns to require that pogy boats stay at least one mile offshore year-round has for the moment pulled the plug on any hopes of an agreement.

Jerry Schill, executive director of the N.C. Fisheries Association, said Tuesday he will not recommend that the three menhaden companies sign the document.

"I am not going to recommend to the menhaden companies to waste their time and money to come to a meeting to sign this. They can't live with this," Schill said.

Since the two groups first started meeting three months ago, menhaden company officials have said they are willing to cooperate with the towns but cannot give up their fishing grounds. More than two-

thirds of the menhaden caught off Brunswick County are within one mile of the beach.

Schill also said he could not sign the agreement on behalf of the N.C. Fisheries Association (NCFCA) without approval from its board of directors.

He said he doubted the board would approve the current proposal, which would require the NCFCA to pay the towns a \$1,000 fine if it failed to notify local officials when a menhaden vessel was working in the area.

Both Schill and Gay said they were under the impression the two groups had worked out an agreement and they were surprised when town officials met privately three weeks ago to formulate the latest proposal with the one-mile no fishing zone.

"I thought we had everything in place," Gay said. "They've come up with a second draft proposal that has some significant changes."

Gay said he hopes to set up a meeting in mid-December between

the beach towns and menhaden company officials.

If the six towns and three companies cannot come to an agreement, Schill said he doesn't think the Marine Fisheries Commission would place special restrictions on the fishing boats.

"I feel very strongly the commission is not going to vote to establish any permanent rule requested by the towns in their earlier proclamation," he said. "I think the sentiment on the commission is, 'You guys work this out.'"

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