

Arson Blamed For Waterslide Damage Near Holden Beach

Arson was the cause of the Saturday night blaze which resulted in \$10,000 worth of damage to Magic Mountain Waterslide near Holden Beach, its owner James Hobbs said Monday.

Hobbs said he will not prosecute those guilty of deliberately setting the fire if they confess and make restitution by Jan. 1. Damage to the waterslide was not covered by insurance.

"If they do not come forward I will prosecute," Hobbs warned.

The fire was discovered about 8:30 p.m. Saturday. It was nearly midnight before firefighters were able to leave the smoldering scene.

Hobbs said the fire was started in the tunnel of the waterslide. The fiberglass ignited, at one point sending 20-foot high flames into the air.

Hobbs is convinced the fire Saturday night is linked to an incident at the waterslide about three weeks ago when he ran off a group of young people who had climbed the fence and were skateboarding on the

waterslide, which has been closed since the end of the season.

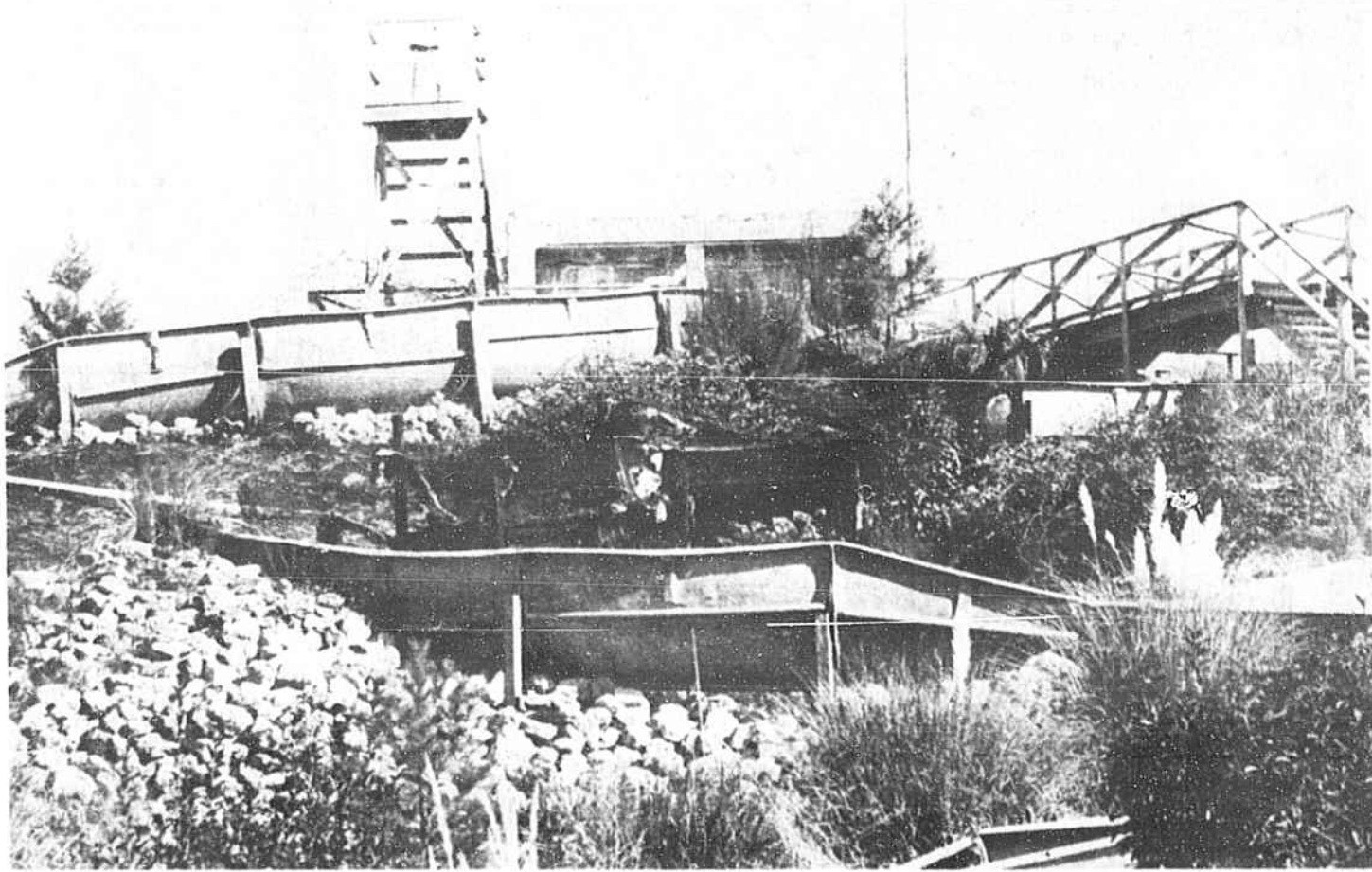
Hobbs suspects some or all of the same group returned Saturday to get back at him by setting fire to the waterslide.

"These are basically good kids. I don't want to see them go to prison," Hobbs said, adding that if they don't come forward by Jan. 1 he will definitely prosecute.

The building that houses the snack bar at the waterslide was broken into but nothing was taken or damaged, according to Hobbs. "There was nothing in the building to take," he added.

Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan, who was on the scene Saturday night, said the fire apparently was deliberately set. Deputy Sheriff Billy Rivenbark continued to investigate the case Monday at the site.

The fiberglass sections of the waterslide destroyed by the fire will cost \$200 per foot to replace, according to Hobbs.



MAGIC MOUNTAIN WATERSLIDE near Holden Beach sustained \$10,000 worth of damage Saturday night by a fire believed to have been deliberately set.

South Carolinian Charged In '82 Smuggling Episode

BY SUSAN USHER

More than three years after a converted trawler called the *Brixham II* was confiscated in the Shallotte Inlet with its load of marijuana and hashish, another defendant has been charged in the case.

Randy David Salter, 31, of North Augusta, S.C., was charged with trafficking in excess of 10,000 pounds of marijuana Friday in Brunswick County District Court. Bond of \$1 million was reduced to \$500,000. Salter remained in the Brunswick County Jail as of Monday afternoon.

He was arrested in Georgia last week on a warrant obtained by DEA Agent Fred McKinney of the agency's Wilmington office. McKinney and Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Douglas "Sonny" Padgett transferred Salter from the Fulton County Jail in Atlanta, Ga., on Dec. 13 after Salter chose not to fight extradition.

On the night of Nov. 27, 1982, the 72-foot converted trawler called *Brixham II* entered Lockwood's Folly Inlet and traveled west to the Shallotte Inlet, where it deliberately ran aground on a sand bar for offloading of an estimated 33,000 pounds of marijuana and 158 pounds of hashish.

But federal, state and local law enforcement agencies had been monitoring the boat's progress for nearly a month and were waiting onshore at Shallotte Point and Windy Point.

In the Nov. 27 raid, they arrested most of the individuals involved in offloading the cargo at a Windy Point dock. Twelve persons, two local and 10 from out of state, were charged with trafficking, conspiracy and/or possession of marijuana, with more arrests anticipated at the time.

District Attorney Michael Easley could not be reached for comment Monday.

Calabash Council Renews Town Hall, Water Talk

A new Calabash town council tackled along the same course Monday afternoon that they charted at their first meeting two weeks ago.

All members were present except Sonia Stevens. Their conversation again ranged from plans for a town hall to possible participation in the federal flood insurance program.

At the suggestion of councilwoman Pati Lewellyn, the board is seriously considering scaling down the size of a proposed town hall by about half, from 1,500 square feet to approximately 700 square feet. Lewellyn estimated the hall could be built at a cost of about \$33 per square foot, a reasonable cost given the cash reserves the town has set aside for the project.

The original plan included space for future expansion; the scaled-down version would be designed to allow for adding on in the future.

Sometime in January, said Town Clerk Janet Thomas, the engineering

firm of Lewis & Associates of Shallotte should have a rough draft of a preliminary water and sewer study ready to present to the board.

"It will give us some figures to work with," she said, noting that the town at this point plans to proceed with only water distribution lines, not sewer.

Members also brought their recommendations for appointment to the planning board. Before nominations are made, the persons will be asked if they are willing to serve,

said Thomas.

Lewellyn and another new council member, Robert Weber, are not eligible for the seats they held on the planning board. They said the board had been inactive in the past and needed to be reconstituted and encouraged to become active.

The council also authorized installation of two street lights in Village Green subdivision. The lights, authorized and approved by the previous board, only recently arrived.

Thomas said council members also said they wanted to explore the benefits and costs of participating in the Federal Flood Insurance Program. This is the only program through which property owners' insurance is available in flood-prone areas. Participation in the program has been a prerequisite to qualify for certain types of federal funding.

Council members also enjoyed a brief social and get-acquainted period before adjourning.

Two Winners Share In Christmas Cash

BY SUSAN USHER

Two Brunswick County residents celebrated Christmas early last Friday as cash winners in The Brunswick Beacon's "Shop For Christmas in the South Brunswick Islands" campaign.

Sandy Duran of Route 3, Shallotte, won the first prize of \$150, while Jane C. Faulk of Route 1, Bolivia, won second prize, worth \$75 in cash.

Shallotte Police Chief Don Stovall drew the winning tickets in a drawing held at The Brunswick Beacon at 5 p.m. Friday. Advertising Representative Cecelia Gore presented the first prize.

While shocked at winning, both women knew immediately how they planned to spend their winnings.

"There are some presents I had wanted to get," said Mrs. Duran. "I will use it for some last minute Christmas shopping."

A private piano teacher, she has a daughter, Charity, who will be three years old in February. She and her husband Gregory are expecting the birth of their second child in January.

"It sure was a surprise—especially when you don't even know where you put your name in the pot," she continued. "I've registered for

everything."

It was the first time she's won a contest since the age of 12, when she won a bicycle.

Mrs. Faulk, who said she registered only once—at Kirby's Ben Franklin in Shallotte, said she would use her winnings to buy her husband a special jacket.

The shop-at-home campaign grew out of a project sponsored by United Carolina Bank and area merchants in 1978. This year's contest was the fourth in which a cash prize has been awarded and the first year in which two persons shared the prize money.

Shoppers could register at any of 20 participating stores throughout the South Brunswick Islands.



CECELIA GORE, advertising representative for The Brunswick Beacon, (left) presents first prize winner Sandy Duran \$150, just in time for some last-minute Christmas shopping.



JANE C. FAULK of Bolivia displays her cash winnings of \$75.

Tires, Cash Taken In Garage Break-In

Six Firestone tires and assorted cash were taken in a break-in of Dyke's Exxon and Tire Center last Wednesday night, reports the Shallotte Police Department.

According to Officer Nellie Evans' report, owner Dykes Hewett reported the loss Thursday morning.

Burglars gained entry sometime between 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and 7:30 a.m. Thursday through a rear window of the service station, located at the intersection of U.S. 17 and Shallotte Avenue in downtown Shallotte.

A file cabinet was moved to the garage area and opened, apparently

with the use of a screwdriver and sledge hammer. A safe also was reported damaged.

The case is under investigation.

Also on Thursday, Charles Williams of Shallotte Manor Apartments reported the larceny of two wire spoke hubcaps from his 1980 Mercury Monarch. The hubcaps were taken apparently either while the auto was parked at the Shallotte Post Office or in the parking lot of the apartment complex on N.C. 130 west, he told Officer W.C. Lewis.

Williams estimated the value of the hubcaps at \$158 each.

Several driving-related arrests also were reported.

Officer W.E. (Eddie) Reynolds charged William Dean Hewett, 18, of Civetown, with driving without an operator's license, without auto tags and with driving under the influence Saturday at approximately 1:30 a.m.

Reynolds reported that Hewett left the Oasis convenience market on N.C. 130 east "at a high rate of speed." He stopped the auto, which the driver said was owned by Lewis Auto Sales, at the intersection of Red Bug Road and N.C. 150 East.

Hewett registered a .08 on a breathalyzer test administered shortly after 3 a.m.

On Dec. 18, Reynolds charged Melvin King Daniels, 30, of Longwood, with driving with an expired license and passing in an area not marked for passing.

According to his report, Daniels pulled out of the parking lot at the Shallotte Post Office and overtook and passed a vehicle proceeding in the same direction. Reynolds said Daniels used the center turn lane to pass a car whose driver was signaling his intent to make a right turn.

Appeals Court Will Hear Copyright Suit Jan. 7

Round three of The Brunswick Beacon's copyright infringement suit against the Brunswick Free Press begins Tuesday, Jan. 7 in the U.S. Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va.

On that date the appeals court will hear oral arguments by attorneys representing both newspapers.

The U.S. District Court in Wilmington found the Free Press guilty March 11 of copying three copyrighted ads from the Beacon. Judge W. Earl Britt's ruling upheld recommendations of U.S. Magistrate Charles K. McCotter Jr., who first heard oral arguments in the case Aug. 30, 1984.

In his ruling at the end of round two on June 17 of this year, Judge Britt awarded the Beacon \$6,000 in damages, reimbursement of "reasonable" attorney fees and permanently enjoined the Free Press from publishing any copyrighted material from the Beacon.

The Free Press has asked the appeals court to reverse all the findings of the lower court.

The Beacon has appealed only the

lower court's release of Caroline Schock of Winston-Salem, one of the three publishers of the Free Press, from personal liability in the case. The lower court ruled that the two other publishers, Bernard Charles (Rocky) Hopchas and Pricilla S. (Lou) Hopchas are active in the day-to-day operation of the newspaper. Mrs. Schock is Mrs. Hopchas' mother.

The Free Press filed a motion for a stay of execution of the civil judgment against them in the case, but were turned down by the lower court. The appeals court, however, granted the stay of execution until the appeal is decided.

The Beacon filed the lawsuit April 13, 1984, citing three infringements of copyright of advertisements in the August 19, 1983, and Sept. 3, 1983 issues.

In his order, Judge Britt noted that the Free Press continued to infringe the Beacon's copyrighted advertisements after the Beacon notified the Free Press to stop and after the

Deadlines Earlier For Jan. 2 Issue

Deadlines for next week's issue of The Brunswick Beacon will be earlier because of the New Year holiday.

The newspaper will carry the usual Thursday dateline and should reach mail subscribers on regular schedule. The issue will be printed earlier, however, and will be available from racks and dealers Tuesday afternoon.

Deadline for real estate advertising for next week's issue is 5 p.m. this Friday, Dec. 27. For all other advertising and news items the deadline is Monday, Dec. 30.

The Beacon office will be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1.