

Holden Police Officer Charged With Assault And Trespassing

BY DOUG RUTTER

A Holden Beach police officer has been charged with second-degree trespassing and simple assault in connection with an incident earlier this month involving another town employee.

Patrolman Gary Dancy, who has worked for the Holden Beach Police Department since July 1987, was charged following an Aug. 2 incident that involved Holden Beach Building Inspector Dwight Carroll.

The building inspector took out a warrant for Dancy's arrest, which was served Aug. 6 by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department, said Chief Deputy John Marlow.

The case is scheduled to be heard Sept. 4 in Brunswick County District Court, according to the clerk of court's office.

Carroll, who lives about two blocks from Dancy at Holden Beach, said the incident occurred Aug. 2 around 3 a.m.

He had just returned from a

store where he went to purchase a soft drink and pulled his car into his garage. The building inspector said he closed the automatic garage door and when he got out of his car, Dancy was standing in the garage.

Carroll said the officer was dressed in uniform, had a hand on his gun and did not have a search warrant. He said he asked Dancy to leave several times, but he stayed in the garage for about 20 minutes.

At one point, Carroll said, Dancy tried to hit him in the head with a clenched fist, but he ducked and took the blow on the shoulder. "I don't know what his problem was," Carroll said.

Dancy declined to comment on the incident. "Until it's resolved in court, I cannot make a statement," he said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Holden Beach officials are keeping out of the dispute between the two town employees.

Town Manager Blake Proctor said it's a private dispute between two people, and the town is not involved.

The city's not involved in any way," he said. "It's not our affair. This is an individual case."

Proctor said Dancy was not acting as a police officer at the time of the alleged offense. No disciplinary action has been taken against him.

Town Attorney Doug Ledgett said he was notified of the matter, but he is not involved in it because it's a private action that doesn't involve the town of Holden Beach.

Mayor John Tandy said the town wouldn't take any action until the matter is settled in court, if the town takes any action at all. Tandy said, it's probably up to the town manager to settle the matter since he oversees all town employees.

Patrolman Dancy was suspended without pay from the police force for one week earlier this year after he was involved in a car accident that occurred while he was on duty. The suspension was later rescinded and the officer was given his back pay.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Remains Of The Windjammer

The burned ship was expected to be removed from the Shallotte River this week. Fuel tanks and some rigging was salvaged Monday.

Civietown VFD Celebrates

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to go back up and see what they could do to help us."

After some communicating back and forth, Nord and Clay Gregory, secretary, were invited to Maryland. They returned pulling a medium-size U-Haul trailer loaded with equipment.

The welcomed cast-offs included 16 air packs, or portable breathing apparatus, plus six spare bottles; at least 1,800 feet of hose, plus nozzles and adapters; Indian pack hand pumps for fighting brush fires; foam sprayers; a ram tool for forcible entry; electrical cable and cord reels; rope; fire extinguishers; turn-out gear that can be used by Civietown's probationary members; and an oxygen set-up, the department's first.

"They wanted to know what we needed and we told them 'a little bit of everything,'" Gregory said. "Now they want to know what else we need."

Nord and Gregory said their visit to Frederick, the name of both a county and its seat of government in northern Maryland, was "two days of non-stop attention" from their Maryland counterparts.

"They put us up in bunks at the station and treated us like royal VIPs," Gregory said. "It was like being part of a national organization, like a fraternity or something." Nord and Gregory observed on a number of fire calls and toured several stations in the area and the Frederick County 911 dispatch center.

Their host was the 98-year-old Independent Hose Co., of which Massey is a member. Through the efforts of Jack Fleischman vice president of the Frederick (County) Fire Association, other departments chipped in. These included Urbana VFD and United Engine Co.

Some of the equipment, such as the air packs, were needed when entering smoke-filled structures, was sorely needed, Nord said. The department previously had only four packs, though the typically about 15 of the unit's 32 members can be expected to turn out at

"They're better than Santa Claus. This stuff they're discarding is better than the stuff we've got now. And they're going to bring us another pick-up load in a week or two."

—Civietown Fire Chief Al Nord
On gift of discarded equipment

any given fire.

The additional equipment could help upgrade the department's insurance rating, at least in areas served by fire hydrants, Nord said. If so, the result will be lower fire insurance premiums for some residents of the Civietown fire district, he said. "The more we upgrade, the lower the insurance," he continued. "I wish we could help people understand that, then perhaps they would be more willing to support us."

Other pieces of equipment, such as the hose, may be parceled out or traded to some of the smaller or newer departments in the county that don't have as much as Civietown, such as Navassa or Grissettown-Longwood, Nord said. "We're going to weed through it and see."

Nord says he also plans to come up with an estimate of how much the second-hand equipment is worth—and how long it would have taken the department to acquire equivalent gear through its annual budget.

Clam Waters Remain Clear For Now

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ing, which was a sharp contrast to other recent hearings on mechanical clam harvesting in Brunswick County that attracted standing-room-only crowds.

Several speakers said the meeting was scheduled during a low tide in Brunswick County, and that clambers couldn't afford to take a night off to come to the hearing. Others said a thunderstorm may have kept people away.

State Rep. David Redwine, who said the Marine Fisheries Commission can "draw a crowd better than anybody" in Brunswick County, was one of about a dozen people who urged the panel to keep mechanical harvesting out of local waters.

Redwine said the commission has responded to the desires of local fishermen by prohibiting mechanical harvests here in the past, and added that the position of the fishermen hasn't changed.

Opponents of mechanical tongs said last week they damage the river bottom where they are used and give people who use them an unfair advantage because they're more efficient than hand methods.

"We don't want it in Brunswick County," said Annie Smigiel, a Varmantown shellfisherman and president of Save Our Shellfish. "I have stated that time and time again."

Robert Maultsby of Bolivia said hand tongs have worked for generations and there's no need to change harvesting methods. "We made it 200 years without mechanical harvesting," he said. "I don't think we need it now."

Chuck Morse of Leland was one of several speakers who said patent tongs damage the river bottom and prevent clams from growing back. "They ought to outlaw them completely up and down the eastern seaboard," he said.

Frank Hinshaw, a New Hanover County resident, compared using patent tongs to dropping a bomb on the bottom of a river.

"The fishing industry looks bleak," he said. "Let's not make it any bleaker by doing more damage than we already are."

Gary Stiles, a clammer from Sunset Harbor, said areas where mechanical clamming is already allowed

"My bottom line is that I see no reason, with the clam resource in the shape it is, to add pressure to it."

—William Hogarth
N.C. Fisheries Director

have been destroyed. "The reason they're coming down looking for new areas is because they've ruined what they have," he said.

Although the proposal before the commission last week could have opened the doors for patent tongs in local waters, there was no intention of using the devices in Brunswick County, according to two people who spoke in favor of patent tongs at the hearing.

Craig Schreck, a Carteret County fisherman who helped initiate the proposal on patent tongs, said he would like to see the deep waters of Pamlico Sound opened to mechanical tongs to get at a resource there that's never been used.

"I don't want to bring anything down here that you guys don't want to see," he told the local crowd last week.

Mechanical clam harvesting presently is allowed only four months a year. Schreck said allowing patent tongs to operate all year would ensure a steady flow of clams that would help stabilize the topsy-turvy clam market.

Jerry Schill, executive director of the N.C. Fisheries Association, said opening Pamlico Sound to patent tongs would create a new fishery in the state that would help take mounting pressure off the commercial fishing industry.

Schill said mechanical tongs may harm the marine ecology, but he added that outboard motors and car exhaust also can be harmful. "There's nothing that we do in this country that does not harm the environment," he said.

Weather Normal After Heavy Rain

It was wet, very wet, the week of Aug. 7-13.

Over the seven-day period some parts of the South Brunswick Islands received 4.58 inches of rain, Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday. That is well above the three-fourths inch of rainfall considered normal for this time of year.

Canady recorded a high of 92 degrees, which occurred on the 12th. The low of 67 degrees occurred on the 11th.

A daily average high of 88 degrees and a nightly average low of 71 degrees combined for a daily average temperature of 80 degrees, which Canady said is about normal.

For the week ahead, Canady said the outlook calls for both rainfall and temperatures to average near normal. That means the area can expect temperatures to range from about 70 degrees at night into the upper 80s during the daytime, with about three-fourths inch of rainfall.

Taylor Murder Trial Gets Under Way This Week

Jury selection was scheduled to begin Tuesday in the first-degree murder trial of a man charged with killing three Brunswick County residents in October 1988.

Michael Anthony Taylor, of Beiton, S.C., who was 23 when arrested, is accused of murdering Marion "Cowboy" Meetze, 48, his wife Ginger Meetze, 32, and Mrs. Meetze's daughter by a previous marriage, 10-year-old Michelle Arnold. Taylor also is charged with armed robbery in the theft of a gun that allegedly was taken from the Meetze home.

The three were found Oct. 12, 1988 shot to death in their partially burned home on N.C. 87, south of Maco. They had been shot by three different weapons, according to records on file in the office of the clerk of Superior Court.

Taylor was arrested nearly a year after the deaths, on Sept. 10, 1989 after one of the weapons used in the

killings turned up in a South Carolina pawn shop. Taylor reportedly purchased a gun-shop business from Meetze before the family moved from South Carolina to Brunswick County. The family reportedly is believed to have been killed in a dispute over the purchase of the business.

The state could seek the death penalty or life imprisonment, but a statement by Superior Court Judge Giles R. Clark states that "the state has indicated the death penalty will be sought."

Another statement says the state intends to introduce expert testimony identifying one latent fingerprint found at the scene as belonging to Taylor.

In a Monday hearing, Superior Court Judge Wiley F. Bowen heard a motion to bar from Taylor's trial testimony about conversations Taylor had with law enforcement officers when he was arrested in South Carolina.

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Residents Advised Not To Panic

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northeast, tides can get up a foot and a half," as high or higher than the predicted 1 1/4-foot increase predicted for Dec. 2, Jarrett said. "The problem comes when you have an astronomical tide combined with wind effects. We will probably exceed this tide if it's not accompanied by a storm several times a year."

As Jarrett said. The bottom line is watch the weather.

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