

Fires Destroy Two Homes; More Daytime Volunteers Needed

Fires Friday and Monday destroyed two homes in southwestern Brunswick County as local fire officials expressed an urgent need for more daytime volunteers.

It took firefighters more than an hour to arrive at the Ardell Gore home on Pea Landing Road Friday, where a fire was reported at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Neighbors watching firefighters at work questioned the delayed response.

"The house could have been saved if the fire department had not been so slow getting here," said one bystander. Another said he thought there should be firefighters at the station at all times to speed response time.

Volunteers from Calabash, Grissetown-Longwood, Sunset Beach and Shallotte VFDs responded with tankers and Supply VFD brought air bottles, said Brunswick County Fire Marshal Cecil Logan. Horry County, S.C., heard radio traffic indicating a shortage of manpower and volunteered a truck and crew. "We accepted," said Logan. "When the dispatcher said she needed help we rolled everything we could get."

Grissetown-Calabash firefighter Charles Beebe said other departments are experiencing the same

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—Cecil Logan
County Fire Marshal

kind of manpower problems their department has during daytime hours.

"There was nobody around—just the chief and I," he said, until a third firefighter arrived a short time later. Most any other day, Beebe said he would have been working on the new home he is building at Boiling Spring Lakes. "Usually there would be nobody around," he said.

Logan agreed. "We have to activate three or four departments to get enough people to fight a daytime fire," he said.

The fire at the Gore home apparently started at a wood heater at the back of the double-wide mobile home, said both Logan and Gore's son, Casey Gore. No one was in the house at the time.

The family plans to rebuild on the same site.

A Monday afternoon fire destroyed the home of Curtis Daniels Jr. on Russtown Road near Longwood.

Waccamaw, Calabash and Sunset Beach firefighters responded to the 1:20 p.m. blaze that is believed to have started from a cigarette.

"The home was fully involved when we arrived on the scene," said Waccamaw Fire Chief Glenda Warren. "There was nothing salvageable."

Calabash and Waccamaw sent tankers to the fire while Sunset Beach Fire Department also responded. Because of the lack of daytime volunteers, Grissetown/Longwood Fire Department was unable to respond.

"Each department is really in need of volunteers," Ms. Warren said. "We just did not have the manpower to fight this fire. We might have been able to save it if we had enough daytime volunteers."



DAYTIME MANPOWER SHORTAGES hindered volunteer fire departments' efforts to save the Ardell Gore house (above) on Pea Landing Road near Thomasboro Friday and the Curtis Daniel Jr. residence on Russtown Road near Longwood Monday.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Drug Trafficker Gets 35-Year Sentence Plus \$250,000 Fine

BY TERRY POPE

A Southport man was sentenced to 35 years in prison and fined \$250,000 after a jury found him guilty of drug trafficking charges last week in Brunswick County Superior Court.

Romel Anemont of Garden Terrace Apartments was originally sentenced to 70 years in prison and fined \$500,000 on two charges, one count of trafficking by possession of more than 400 grams of cocaine and one count of trafficking by transporting cocaine.

Last Friday, Judge Giles R. Clark amended the sentence to 35 years in prison after consolidating the two charges.

Anemont was one of three men wanted in connection with an undercover drug operation in March of this year, said Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective David Crocker. Detectives assisted two Florida bail bondsmen in locating Anemont after they traced his whereabouts to

Southport. Anemont had allegedly fled Florida while out on bail there, Crocker said.

On March 25, three men were located in Southport in Anemont's 1978 Saab. When officers approached, Anemont was allegedly spotted "shoving about a pound of cocaine under the seat," Crocker said.

One suspect in the car fled the scene. Sergeant Hypolite of Southport was later arrested at the New York and Canadian border by immigration officials and brought back to Brunswick County. He is still being held in the Brunswick County Jail without bond while awaiting trial.

Hypolite's trial is set for Dec. 10 on two counts of trafficking more than 400 grams of cocaine into Brunswick County and one count of conspiracy to traffic cocaine.

A third man arrested at the scene, Jean Sylvan, also of Southport, was released on bail. Since then Sylvan has failed to appear in court and an

order for his arrest has been issued, Crocker said. He is wanted in the state of Florida on other charges.

A Brunswick County jury deliberated three hours last Thursday before reaching a verdict. Two charges against Anemont, trafficking by conspiracy and maintaining a dwelling or motor vehicle for selling cocaine, were dismissed following motions filed by Anemont's attorney, Michael Ramos.

Judge Clark also heard the following cases in Superior Court last week:

■Komie J. Duncan, 38, of Route 6, Shallotte, was sentenced to three years in jail and ordered to pay \$43,500 in restitution to Paula's A Touch of Elegance of Seaside. Ms. Duncan faced a possible 10 years in prison on charges that she embezzled more than \$52,000 from the company while employed as a bookkeeper there between October 1987 and November 1989.

She was made eligible for work

release. Her attorney, Roy Trest of Shallotte, said the money was used by the defendant to pay personal bills. Checks were made out to herself and to companies to which she owed money, Trest said. Part of the money has been repaid, he added, since Ms. Duncan has gotten another job.

■Godfrey Hankins of Route 2, Supply, was sentenced to 90 days in jail after a jury found him guilty of possessing cocaine and maintaining a motor vehicle to keep and sell cocaine. Hankins was placed on four years of supervised probation and fined \$500. He was arrested on Mulberry Street in Shallotte with "rock" cocaine and \$1,701 in cash, Det. Crocker said. His 1982 Chevrolet was confiscated by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

■Nicholas L. Webb of Franklin was sentenced to 14 years in prison after pleading guilty to robbery with a dangerous weapon. Armed robbery carries a mandatory minimum of 14

years in prison, with a maximum of 40 years.

■Christopher S. Freeman, 20, of Leland Mobile Home Park was sentenced to 14 years in prison after pleading guilty to robbery with a

dangerous weapon. He faced a possible 40 years in prison. Judge Clark ordered that he receive credit for time served in jail while awaiting trial but that he not benefit as a committed youthful offender.

Temperatures Still 'Seesawing'

Temperatures and precipitation are expected to be near normal over the next few days in the Shallotte area, but Shallotte Point weather watcher Jackson Canady said he expects a "seesaw pattern" to continue.

Temperatures are expected to range from an average of around 40 degrees at night to around 60 degrees in the daytime, he said, but that average could continue to reflect swings in temperature. "There could be some days where it is 50 degrees one day then 65 or 70 degrees several days later," he said. Canady expects the area to receive

about a half-inch of precipitation, similar to the .52 inch recorded during the period of Nov. 27 through Dec. 3.

The maximum high for the period was 77 degrees, which occurred the afternoon of Nov. 29. The minimum low of 29 degrees occurred the following morning, Nov. 30, for a drop of 48 degrees.

A daily average high of 71 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 49 degrees for a daily average temperature of 60 degrees, which Canady said was about 9 degrees above average.

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