



STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE

Shriners Honor Kirby

Raybon Moore (left) president of the Brunswick County Shrine Club, presents an appreciation plaque to Shallotte resident Floyd Kirby, who recently donated an ice maker to support the volunteer organization.

Freak Fire Destroys Farm Truck Saturday

A freak fire accident destroyed a farm truck in the Mill Creek community Saturday afternoon that left investigators puzzled.

When someone spotted the burning vehicle, they reported that a truck believed to have been stolen had been set on fire about two miles off of N.C. 87 on the Ed Swain farm. No one knew why a truck would be crashed into the wooded area and set on fire.

In fact, the truck belonged to the Swain family and it took investigators some time to figure out what might have happened.

Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan and Brunswick County sheriff's deputies now believe a catalytic converter beneath the truck caught some corn stalks on fire in a field, the beginning of the entire ordeal.

"The heat from that fire then shorted out the starter," Logan speculated. "It was a straight-drive vehicle,

so it cranked itself and moved forward and crashed into the woods."

The truck had a full tank of gas and on the rear was a tank with 20 gallons of diesel fuel. The fuel exploded, setting the area woods on fire, too.

Both Bolivia and Boiling Spring Lakes volunteer fire departments responded to the call around 5:30 p.m.

Logan said the truck had been parked in the corn field Saturday evening. When the driver returned about 45 minutes later, the truck had been moved and was on fire.

"When we first got the call we thought it was a stolen truck," Logan said. "It's just one of those freak things."

The truck was destroyed. Firemen were able to put out the blaze and to keep the woods fire from getting out of control. The farm truck was a 1986 four-wheel drive vehicle.

Brunswick Fishermen Land 2.4 Million Pounds In 1989

Brunswick County commercial fishermen landed about 2.4 million pounds of fish in 1989, with shrimp accounting for more than one fourth of the catch.

The landings added up to nearly \$4 million for the county's commercial fishing fleet, according to statistics from the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

Brunswick County ranked 10th in the state in pounds of commercial fish landed in 1989. The \$3,914,106 value of the fish was the sixth highest amount in North Carolina.

By far, local commercial fishermen harvested more shrimp in 1989 than any other type of seafood. Fishermen netted 633,576 pounds of shrimp worth \$1,075,085.

Overall, Brunswick County shellfishermen grossed nearly \$2.2 million in 1989. Besides shrimp, the shellfish harvest included 181,650 pounds of crabs, 177,888 pounds of clams and 81,917 pounds of oysters.

Local commercial fishermen also landed 1,332,161 pounds of finfish in 1989 worth \$1,716,265.

Grouper and snapper accounted for nearly 60 percent of the dollars

generated from commercial finfish landings. Fishermen caught 285,341 pounds of snapper and 283,836 pounds of grouper with a combined value of \$1,027,693.

Brunswick County fishermen also caught 284,951 pounds of miscellaneous finfish in 1989 worth \$250,905 and 68,054 pounds of tilefish worth \$123,996.

Statewide, commercial fishermen landed 165 million pounds of fish in 1989 worth approximately \$74 million. Commercial landings decreased 14 percent from 1988, while the dollar value dropped 5 percent.

Brunswick County ranked fourth in the number of state commercial vessel licenses issued in 1989, behind Carteret, New Hanover and Onslow counties.

Marine Fisheries issued 1,682 commercial vessel licenses in Brunswick County during the year, including 381 for full-time vessels and 345 for part-time vessels.

The state issued 940 licenses for pleasure vessels in Brunswick County, making it the leading county in the state. New Hanover County ranked second with 800 pleasure vessels.

Calabash Burglar Leaves Trail Of Blood

BY TERRY POPE

A bloody burglar broke into the Calabash Deli late Saturday and took some cake and beer.

According to Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy D.L. Stovall, someone used a pocket knife to pry open a rear door to gain entry to the business.

The suspect was either injured before the break-in occurred or was cut while gaining entry because blood drops and blood smears were found in several places in the restaurant.

Taken in the break-in was a \$10 cheesecake and an estimated \$5 in beer.

Some of the blood had been cleaned up when detectives arrived, but several fresh drops were still on the floor.

The break-in occurred between 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 12:30 p.m. Sunday.

In other reports on file at the sheriff's department:

■ Someone broke into the Bruns-

CRIME REPORT

wick Community College cafeteria over the weekend, prying open the door on a vending machine and causing an estimated \$60 in damage, Deputy Richard Long reported.

■ An ax was used to break through the rear door of Leland Grocery, reported Deputy Brian Sanders. Once inside, the burglar ransacked the business and broke into two coin machines and the cash register. Someone also attempted to break into two drink machines in front of the store.

■ An Ash woman reported Friday that someone broke into her home and took an estimated \$7,700 in jewelry, Deputy Darryl Marlow reported.

■ A truck reported stolen from Maintenance Incorporated in Leland was later found Saturday evening at a baseball field in the Phoenix community, reported Deputy Sanders.

■ A car parked under a carport at a home on Village Road in Leland had its rear window shot out Friday morning. Deputy W.F. Moore reported someone fired a rifle bullet into the 1986 Ford sometime before noon.

■ A bullet was also found inside a Bolivia home Saturday morning. The bullet had traveled through a glass window causing about \$40 in damage. The home, on U.S. 17, was being remodeled. The bullet was found on the floor inside and was possibly fired by a hunter, reported Deputy Wendell Bennett.

■ A Quail Cove residence near Shallotte was vandalized sometime between Dec. 25 and Jan. 6 while the occupants were away on vacation. Deputy Long reported the front door of the mobile home had been pried open. Clothing had been damaged and some hunting items and shotgun shells were taken. Estimated loss was \$170.

■ A Carolina Shores Resort man said he drank too much late Saturday and woke up in the parking lot of the condominium project with a bleeding head and discovered that his bicycle was missing. Calabash Volunteer Rescue Squad was called to transport the victim to the hospital. Deputy Long reported the victim stated the last thing he remembers is shooting pool with some other men at a Calabash business.

■ A citizens band radio and a radar detector valued at \$570 were stolen from a vehicle in Ash late Saturday, reported Deputy Shelton Caison.

■ Two bicycles valued at \$218 were taken from a Leland residence on Graham Road Saturday night, reported Deputy W.F. Moore.

■ A resident on Old Mill Road in Leland reported someone smashed two car windows in his yard and broke into his home, taking a \$200 sewing machine and a \$30 coffee maker. A kerosene heater valued at \$85 was also taken, reported Deputy Moore.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Winning Combination

Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Chairman Kelly Holden hasn't always counted local government and politics among his interests, but has shown a predilection for winning. In the winter of 1965, when he was a sophomore at Shallotte High School, Holden's Copas King, a walker, earned recognition as a United Kennel Club bench champion.

Waccamaw Intersection Getting Caution Light

A flashing caution light will soon alert motorists on N.C. 130 west to potential traffic entering the highway from Waccamaw School and Longwood roads.

Roger Hawkins, division traffic engineer, said the light should be in place in approximately one month's time based on his office's workload. Once arrangements for a pole and electrical service are made, actual installation will require only a day to a day and a half, he said.

The project is expected to garner routine approval from the N.C. Board of Transportation at its February meeting.

Traffic on N.C. 130 will have a flashing yellow caution light, while traffic on S.R. 1321 (Longwood Road) and S.R. 1330 (Waccamaw School Road) will have a flashing red stop light.

The decision to install the light was based on a check of the intersection's three-year accident rate, said Hawkins.

However, when the unit was first asked to consider installing a light at Ash, he said, a study was made for the "wrong" intersection. The first study was of the intersection of N.C. 130 and the Ash-Little River and Simmons Road. Based on its accident history, that intersection did not warrant a light.

Rep. David Redwine, who had asked DOT to study the intersection, said he was able to find discretionary funds to cover the cost of the \$3,000 project.

At the State Board of Transportation's Jan. 4 meeting, two improvement projects in Brunswick County were included in a \$1.55 million multi-county contract awarded to Papco Group of Salisbury for road widening and resurfacing projects.

In Brunswick County, on N.C. 130 west of Shallotte, the contractor will widen one-tenth of a mile of roadway by two feet on each side and resurface eight-tenths of a mile of roadway.

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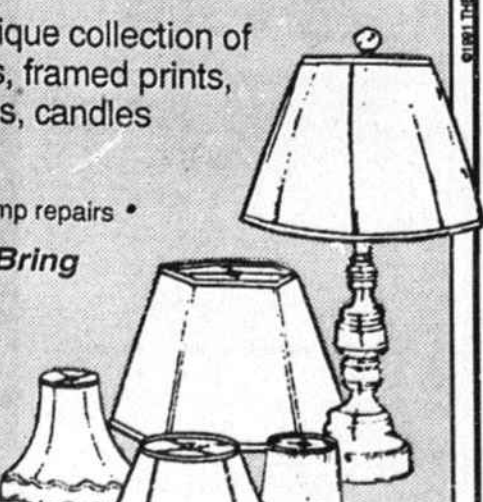
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