

# Sentinels By The Sea

BY BILL FAVER

We often see hawks along the roadside as they sit silently in a tall tree or on a utility pole. They are watching for movement in the grass and for some likely prey to come along for their next meal. In some places we can watch for herons and egrets as they stand almost motionless, poised for striking a frog or a minnow. We can think of these as sentinels—lookouts for their prey, but also lookouts to keep from becoming prey themselves—food for some other predator.

Sometimes along the beach we find a Great Blue Heron standing guard along the high tide line. The heron strikes a majestic pose as it contrasts with the beach sand and the blue-green water and the bright sky. This "sentinel by the sea" is standing and watching and waiting. Standing for a panoramic view of the seashore and the dune area; watching for other birds and for humans or dogs or cats that might disturb him; and waiting for the tide to rise or to fall or for that particular opportunity that might bring food in with a wave. Ospreys rest beside a huge nest in a high tree and watch the world around them. Perhaps they watch for small fish in the water or for birds that might disturb them. Perhaps they watch just to protect their nesting area or to guard the young in their nests.

High tide along the beach brings sentinels who stand watch for the gulls and knots and terns and plovers taking a break from feeding. Sometimes they hide their heads under their wings and sleep while the sentinels watch. Often they stand just above the high tide wash and move to the upper beach as the water touches their legs.

We cannot understand the importance of these sentinels along the sea. Most of us live a secure life; we don't have to fear for our lives at every turn; we know where our next meal is coming from; we have our homes as safe refuges. Not so with most of the birds; they must be alert to every danger or they will not live; they must search almost constantly for food or they will perish; and they must find some safe habitat for protected resting. These "sentinels by the sea" help them in their quest and sound the alarm when danger is near.



PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

A GREAT BLUE HERON standing along the shore is a good example of the "Sentinels by the Sea."

## Union Primary Break-In Under Investigation

BY TERRY POPE

Thieves caused an estimated \$600 in damage during a break-in at Union Primary School south of Shallotte last Thursday.

The suspects broke into a gym, third-grade classroom building and guidance office, reported Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy Shelton Caison.

A number of items were reported missing from the third-grade building, including \$21.80 from one class, \$10.25 in cash and checks from another room and \$5.50 plus some candy from another. Some antique English coins dating from the 1700s were taken from a guidance office, Caison reported.

Six kindergarten classrooms had also been entered, but nothing there was reported missing.

The suspects pried open a gym door and the door to a special education center. Investigators found two sets of footprints around the buildings.

An investigation is continuing. In other reports on file at the sheriff's office:

■ A \$63,000 transfer truck is missing from L.U. Carriers near Belville, reported Deputy Brian Sanders. A driver turned in the keys Sept. 20, but company officials no-

### CRIME REPORT

ticed the truck was missing last Thursday.

■ A television, computer and microwave were taken from a home on the old U.S. 17 near Belville last Thursday, Sanders reported. A hatchet was used to break a window.

■ Someone took a tool box and tools valued at \$500 from the Old Fort Golf Course on N.C. 133 near Belville last Friday, Sanders reported.

■ Damage was estimated at \$600 to a Sellars Road home last Thursday, Sgt. Ida Ballard reported. Insulation was ripped from beneath the home in an attempt to steal the air conditioning unit.

■ Four homes were broken into at Ocean Sounds subdivision off of Boones Neck Road. A front door was pried open at one home between Sept. 13 and Sept. 26, reported Deputy Charles Wilson. A television, microwave, stereo, two teddy bears and silverware all valued at \$760 were taken.

Thieves kicked open the door at another home, leaving with a microwave and jewelry valued at \$200, Deputy Richard Long reported. Thieves also broke through a door at a third home where \$450 in appliances were taken, Wilson stated. A television and popcorn popper, valued at \$275, were stolen from a fourth home since Sept. 8, Wilson reported.

■ Appliances worth \$2,880 were stolen from a Coastal Retreat home last week, reported Wilson. A washing machine, dryer, weed-eater,

tools, stereo, glasses, bar stools and fishing gear was taken.

■ A girl returning from school found a thief in her Bluff Road home at Leland last Thursday, reported Deputy Pete Moore. After reaching into the refrigerator for cookies, she turned and saw a man coming from a bedroom. She ran to a neighbor's home and called the sheriff's department. An estimated \$528 in jewelry was taken.

■ Someone broke into a Goose Creek home between Sept. 12 and Sept. 25, apparently staying for several days, reported Deputy Phil Bryant. Food had been cooked and eaten and \$350 in clothing is missing.

■ Jewelry and appliances worth \$480 was taken from a Cedar Hill Road home on Route 5, Leland, reported Moore. A door had been pried open.

■ Vandals damaged an estimated \$425 in street signs on Crown Stream Drive last Wednesday, reported Bryant. A bath house had also been damaged in the subdivision.

■ Fishing gear, tools, a boat motor and battery worth a total of \$3,000 were taken from a shed at Cloverleaf Mobile Home Park in Leland Saturday while the homeowner was asleep, Sanders reported.

■ A barking dog scared burglars away from a Carolina Shores Resort home Saturday, Bryant reported. The homeowner said someone was trying to pry open a door when his dog started barking.

■ Detectives have recovered \$845 in property taken from a Green Bay Road home near Shallotte between Sept. 2 and Sept. 27, Deputy J.R. Earp Jr. reported. Someone entered a second-floor window, ransacked the home, took a gun, two motorcycles, a trailer, chainsaw, tools, generators and appliances worth \$11,026.

Part of the goods, including the gun and chainsaw, were found in a stolen car located at Wampee, S.C., Saturday, Detective Billy Hughes reported. The car had been stolen from Oceanway Auto Sales at Grissetown.

■ A \$500 pistol and \$619 chainsaw were stolen from two vehicles parked on Kingtown Road (S.R. 1333), Route 2, Ash, sometime Sunday, reported Deputy Will Hewett.

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### MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Coverage Perpetuates Support

To the editor:

On behalf of the Brunswick Community College Board of Trustees, I want to thank you for the excellent coverage given our school last week. The reporting of the BCC Foundation's annual meeting gave area residents the opportunity to see just how much community support of our foundation means to BCC students, faculty and staff.

The comments made by each person who received assistance from the BCC Foundation last year underscored the continuing need for support. The distinguished service award winners: Susan Greene, Outstanding Part-time Faculty member; Paula Almond, Outstanding Support Staff; Connie Milliken, Leadership Award; Roy Hornaday, Teacher of the Year Award; and Anita White, Employee of the Year, are all deserving of the publicity you afforded them.

In addition to the articles, Susan Usher's column on our foundation and its positive effect on Brunswick Community College is also very much appreciated. In these days of decreasing federal and state support, it is very encouraging and gratifying to trustees to know that the foundation and the people of Brunswick County are there and willing to help.

Brunswick Community College and its foundation will continue to prosper as long as we have students, committed employees at the school,

and county residents who continue to give to help others and support for our programs and activities. Positive coverage such as that given BCC last week goes a long way towards perpetuating this support.

David E. Kelly, Chairman  
Brunswick Community College Board of Trustees

#### Planning Board Proposal Wrong

To the editor:


On behalf of all the working class citizens of Brunswick County, I urge the Planning Board to reconsider its proposed requirement of collector roads in rural developments having to meet Department of Transportation (DOT) standards.

My wife and I were able to buy property in a development and have a modest home built. If the collector road had been paved to DOT specifications the cost of our property would have been 2½ to 3 times more, leaving us with little hope of owning our own place.

It is all well and good for the wealthy to retire here and buy up coastal property; but you need the workers to keep things going and we also want the opportunity to be able to build toward the future...a small place in the country with a vegetable garden.


William H. Manning  
Supply

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