



IT'S A BULLSEYE! as Kelly Jones, 14, hits her younger sister Katy, 6, square in the chest with a snowball Sunday in Shallotte. Their only complaint: Not enough snow to cancel school on Tuesday.

Area Residents Revel In Season's First Snowfall

BY DORI COSGROVE GURGANUS

Snow people dotted lawns across Brunswick County Sunday afternoon after the first and possibly the last snowfall of the season greeted area residents early that morning.

One to three inches of snow fell in the area, with meteorologist Jackson Canady reporting that he measured two inches of snow at his Shallotte Point home.

The frozen precipitation was part of a cold front that blanketed Birmingham, Ala., in seven inches of snow and Atlanta, Ga., in five inches, according to television's *The Weather Channel*. The storm all but petered out by the time it reached the Cape Fear area.

Meteorologist A.E. Prosser of the National Weather Service in Wilmington reported that one to three inches of snow were recorded in the area. He said snow fell from 1:30 a.m. until around 10 a.m. Sunday.

While the snow blanketed trees, shrubs, decks and lawns, little or none of the white stuff accumulated on roadways and sidewalks.

Among those of all ages who ventured out to play in the cold Sunday were Trey Baker, 6, and Chris Davis, 8, both of Shallotte.

The two were playing in front of the apartment complex where they live by 8 a.m., pelting each other with snowballs and constructing a snowman before lunchtime.

Baker, whose grandmother is a nurse, was wearing her rubber surgical gloves while packing snowballs. With that discovery, he was hurried inside.

Davis, who was wearing Baker's borrowed knit gloves, remembered the heavy snowfall two years ago.

"That was much more than this!" he said.

A light snowfall combined with quick meltdown disappointed those in search of an unscheduled holiday from work and school as temperatures reached the high 30s Sunday afternoon and the mid 50s by Monday.

Most of the snow had disappeared by Tuesday, when students, state and county employees and those in the financial industry returned to work after a day off Monday for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Grand Jury Indicts Varnam In Holden Beach Break-Ins

Convicted drug smuggler Olaf Dale Varnam, 40, of Supply was indicted last week by a Brunswick County grand jury on multiple counts of second-degree burglary, felonious larceny and possession of stolen goods.

True bills were returned against Varnam last Tuesday, Jan. 14, accusing him of stealing more than \$14,000 in property from seven homes in the Holden Beach area.

Varnam has been charged by Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Gene Allen Caison with six counts of second-degree burglary and six counts of larceny. Detectives believe Varnam was the leader of a local theft ring that operated between February and November 1991.

Following a three-month investigation, officers seized more than \$50,000 in property from Varnam's home on Stone Chimney Road (S.R. 1115) earlier this month. Part of that property has been reclaimed by the victims. The goods were set up for use in Varnam's home, said Caison.

He was released from the Brunswick County Jail under \$96,000 bond.

In September 1988, Varnam pleaded guilty to 18 counts of trafficking in cocaine and 18 counts of conspiracy to traffic in cocaine and received a 15-year suspended sentence in Brunswick County Superior Court. He was also placed on five years' supervised probation and fined \$2,000.

Indictments accused him of distributing more than eight pounds of cocaine in Brunswick County between February 1985 and May 1986. His cooperation with authorities and personal danger from those he helped implicate in the undercover operation were factors in his not receiving an active jail term, a Superior Court judge noted.

Last week's indictments accuse Varnam of second-degree burglary, felonious larceny and possession of stolen goods in each of the following cases:

■Feb. 3, 1991. An estimated \$2,770 in goods taken from the home of Harold E. West Jr., Deer Street, Supply, include: a television, refrigerator, dryer, coffee maker, mixer, four-piece wicker set, mirrored closet doors, two end tables, kitchen utensils, assorted pictures, ceramic figures, yard rake, shovel, hoe, three sleeping bags, bedding items, two wicker fans and baskets, two dead-bolt locks, hose pipe, oval rug and

roll of electric wire.

■March 28, 1991. An estimated \$1,200 in goods taken from the home of Mark Saunders, Strawberry Drive, Holden Beach, include: a glass shower door, pedestal sink, double bowl sink, laboratory faucet and two toilets.

■May 17, 1991. An estimated \$1,500 in goods taken from the home of the Rev. Truette Rogers, Coastal Retreat, Supply, include: a refrigerator, sofa, gas-powered weedcutter, wheelbarrow, hoe, shovel, hedge clippers, four bedspreads, two pictures and bathroom curtains.

■June 28, 1991. An estimated \$2,600 in goods taken from the home of Johnny Mack Humble, Maple Creek, Supply, include: lamps, washer, dryer, groceries, towels, linens, deck furniture, fishing equipment, assorted mirrors, dishes, coffee maker, pots and pans, lawnmower, air pump, radio, hair dryer, two foot stools, trash can, glass pitchers, weedcutter, coffee cups, two coolers, three rakes, cookware and steak knives.

■Sept. 15, 1991. An estimated \$1,735 in goods taken from the home of Cecil Cook, Maple Creek, Supply, include: a gas grill, lawn mower, gas can, three table lamps, three pillows and shams, two bedspreads, deep fryer, iron fryers, coffee pot, binoculars, insulated suit, shower curtain, rug, cushions and a jacket.

■Oct. 2, 1991. An estimated \$2,935 in goods taken from the home of Peggy Jeffrey of Sea Castles Sub-

division, Supply, include: a dishwasher, microwave, video recorder, television, brass planter, lamps, wall clock, vacuum cleaner, three paintings, pictures, assorted men's clothing, bedding, ceramics, stove-top burner covers, six books and tea pot.

■Oct. 28, 1991. An estimated \$1,351 in goods taken from the home of Bradford Freeman, Sea Castles Subdivision, Supply, include: a microwave, telephone, hanging lamp, ash trays, two pictures, wall clock, wicker urns, canister set, cookie jar, men's jacket, assorted food, coffee maker, four couch pillows, six pillow cases, 10 beach towels, bathroom accessories and assorted clothing.

Tax Help Available

Assistance in filing North Carolina income tax returns is available from the N.C. Department of Revenue each Tuesday until April 15, says J.C. Raines, revenue officer.

Since taxable income from your federal income tax return is the starting point for preparing your North Carolina income tax return, you must first complete your federal return before the state return can be prepared.

Anyone seeking help from Raines' office is asked to bring their federal return with them.

The local N.C. Department of Revenue office is located at 143 Holden Beach Road in Shallotte. No appointment is necessary, said Raines.



A WINTER WONDERLAND greeted Brunswick County residents when they awakened Sunday morning to scenes such as this one at Gause Landing near Ocean Isle Beach.

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