

?Six taken into custody after reported armed robbery

Written by Marty Randall

Wednesday, 29 October 2008 00:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 29 October 2008 13:22

? Six people remained jailed at the Scott County Security Center on Monday night, October 27, after allegedly being involved in an armed robbery occurring Sunday night, October 26, at Jackson Heights Mobile Home Park, Scottsburg.

A couple who reside at the trailer park and three of their friends were listed as the victims in the robbery. They called 9-1-1 around 8:45 p.m. to report the invasion of the couple's mobile home by two white and two black men.

According to information released by the Scott County Sheriff's Department, Jonathan Hill, 21, and his wife Hailey, 18, and their baby were at home when two young women and a young male acquaintance stopped by. Another woman from Elizabethtown, Ky., also came to the trailer and stayed about 20 minutes before leaving in a light colored Buick, Jonathan Hill said.

Jonathan Hill said he and the friends were in the trailer's back room when he heard a "big sound." The sound was apparently the foursome breaking down the door of the trailer. As they entered, Hill said he ran into the livingroom only to be confronted with one of the suspects holding a sawed-off shotgun aimed at his face.

All of the people in the trailer were ordered down on the floor at gunpoint, Hill stated.

The armed robbers took a laptop computer from Destin Swope, 19, Scottsburg, as well as \$20 and his cell phone. One of the women who was visiting, Casey Sterling, 18, Lexington, told Sgt. Rex Herald that they took her cell phone and \$2 in cash. The second woman, identified as Suzanna Matthews, 18, Scottsburg, said her wallet was taken.

Sgt. Herald and Deputy Joe Johnson began gathering evidence and taking the victims' statements. All described the invaders, several of whom were wearing bandannas over their faces. Another had a white clown mask as a disguise.

After talking to the victims, Sgt. Herald began patrolling the area. He noticed a silver Buick traveling westbound on Walnut Street. A young woman was driving the vehicle, and the officer said he saw two white and two black men as passengers in the vehicle.

Noting the car's driver had failed to signal for a turn, Sgt. Herald stopped the Buick on Main Street, and he and Scottsburg Patrolman Rodney Watts ordered all of its occupants out at gunpoint.

A check of the car's trunk was made to verify there was no one hiding in it. A laptop computer and a white clown mask were seen by officers in the trunk. A bag of marijuana was found on the rear floor board as was a black handgun. The four, which included a 14-year-old boy, were taken to the Security Center.

Three other subjects, two women and a man, were also questioned about the incident, Sgt. Herald stated. Through their information, another male suspect was located in Austin and taken into custody.

Scott County Prosecutor Jason Mount stated that statements from both the victims and those alleged to be involved in the robbery were still being collected by the Sheriff's Department. He said charges may be filed against several in Scott Circuit Court by Tuesday, October 28.

A hearing involving the 14-year-old was also scheduled for Tuesday. The teenager was being held at the Jackson County youth detention center in Brownstown.