

B felonies filed against two people rounded up after May 27 shooting incident

Written by Marty Randall

Wednesday, 02 July 2014 08:56 -

As more details were being revealed about a May 27 shooting near Crothersville, Scott County authorities filed Class B and D felonies against two of the people allegedly involved in the incident.

William Robert Waldon, 29, and Ashley N. Vernon, 25, both of Oard Spring Road northeast of Austin, are now facing one count of Class B felony dealing in methamphetamine and Class D felonies of possession of methamphetamine, unlawful possession of a syringe, and maintaining a common nuisance as well as possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor.

Original charges filed after the May 27 incident in Scott Superior Court were dismissed the same day, June 19, that the new, more serious charges were filed in Scott Circuit Court.

The Indiana State Police investigation handled by the Versailles post revealed that three people were in a Nissan that was hit by two shots fired shortly after midnight. ISP Detective Roger Drew was dispatched to an East Bard Street home after Crothersville and other officers had been called to County Road 600 South and 1200 East in Jackson County to investigate the shooting.

Two men and a woman were in the Nissan during the shooting incident, which apparently was the result of flaring tempers over an alleged drug deal. Two bullets struck the Nissan, one through the rear passenger window and a second that hit its roof.

According to the probable cause affidavit filed with the Waldon and Vernon charges, the man struck by one of the bullets, Jackson McGinnis, told officers he had been visiting the couple with him in the car at the couple's home on Bard St. earlier that night. A man known as "Bob" arrived and supposedly an argument about a purchase of methamphetamine broke out. The woman called police.

"Bob" left the residence and was seen talking to a man in a white Lincoln Navigator parked near the home. A few minutes later, a black Chrysler pulled up by the Navigator. Men from each of the vehicles were seen talking together. At that point, McGinnis and the couple left the Bard St. residence because of fear for their safety. They got into McGinnis' Nissan.

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The woman said the black Chrysler followed them and the shots were fired between Crothersville's town limits and Swifty Farms on U.S.Highway 31. McGinnis was struck by either a bullet fragment or a piece of glass in the back of the head, a non-fatal wound.

That was when the 9-1-1 call was made and when officers scrambled to find who had fired the shots. Four people were identified as having been at the Bard St. home. Two were recognized as Waldon, also known as "Little Bob," and his girlfriend, Vernon. With information received about past purchases of methamphetamine from Vernon and the locations where those buys were made, ISP troopers obtained search warrants for both the Oard Spring residence of Waldon and Vernon and a home on State Road 256 East. Vernon and Waldon were found at their residence and taken into custody. At the S.R. 256 residence, Matt Murdock, 31, Austin, and Gary W. Waldon, 53, Austin, were arrested. Superior Court charges were filed against all of them, all drug-related. The affidavit related that Vernon allegedly admitted in an interview to having gone to the house in Crothersville to sell methamphetamine. She said Waldon went inside to make the sale, and she remained in the car. However, she said she heard the argument between the residents and Waldon. She called friends for help. Waldon, she related, returned to the car and said the trio inside the house had stolen the methamphetamine from him.

Vernon's friends came in the Lincoln Navigator and black Chrysler, the woman stated. At that point, she said she and Waldon left the scene and returned home.

Waldon allegedly admitted dealing in methamphetamine and confirmed Vernon's story. He also denied knowing about the shooting until after it had happened.

The affidavit revealed that other individuals identified Jonathan Lee "Chisel" Chilton, 28, as the person who shot at the Nissan and wounded McGinnis. Chilton has been charged in Jackson County Circuit Court in connection with the shooting, but he has not yet been located by authorities.

Vernon had her initial hearing in Circuit Court on her new charges on June 20. A preliminary plea of not guilty was entered, and a trial date of November 18 assigned. She is being represented by a public defender and remains incarcerated in lieu of bail of \$75,000 corporate surety bond/\$15,000 cash.

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An arrest warrant has been issued for Waldon. He was released on bond after pleading not guilty to the now-dismissed Superior Court charges.