

Kempner man charged with impersonation

By DAVID LOWE
Staff Writer

A Kempner man suspected of posing as a Texas Ranger has been charged with impersonating a public servant.

Texas Ranger Sgt. Jess Ramos arrested Donald W. Herring, 53, on Thursday in Lampasas County on a Copperas Cove Police Department warrant issued by John Guinn, Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace for Coryell County.

Herring is suspected of posing as a Texas Ranger on July 25 and July 26 in and around the parking lot of the Mickey's No. 16 convenience store at 1306 Georgetown Road in Copperas Cove, said Lt. Danny Austin, CCPD public information officer.

After CCPD investigators gathered evidence, Ramos was contacted to arrest the suspect.

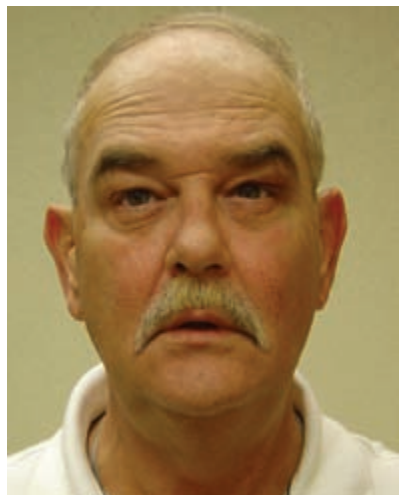
"They thought it would be somewhat of a justice for a Ranger to arrest him," Ramos said.

Investigators believe Herring asked multiple people for identification and personal information while impersonating a Texas Ranger, Austin said.

Investigators are trying to determine if Herring confronted people in other areas of Copperas Cove, Austin added.

Anyone whom Herring approached while posing as a law enforcement officer is asked to contact Detective Chuck Oglesby of the Copperas Cove Police Department at (254) 547-4272, ext. 529.

After his arrest, Herring was transported to the Copperas Cove Police Department Jail. He was



Donald W. Herring

transported to the Coryell County Jail on Friday and posted bond that day.

Sheila Blackwell Hood, Lampasas County Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace, had set Herring's bond at \$7,500.

Impersonating a public servant is a third-degree felony. If convicted, Herring faces two to 10 years' imprisonment and/or a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

If approached by someone claiming to be a law enforcement officer, one should ask to see a badge number and name, Austin said.

"If they're unsure, make a call immediately to local law enforcement," he added.

To verify whether someone is a Texas Ranger, residents should phone the closest Texas Department of Public Safety office or sheriff's department, Austin said.

Munn honored with Bronze Star

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looked like a destroyer on radar.

"We looked on radar like quite an armada," Carlton recalled in the portion of his memoir posted on beachjumpers.com.

Beach Jumpers also disseminated false messages to mislead enemy forces about the location of actual invasions.

Just three months after marrying the former Jean Ann Paine of Lampasas, Munn began a tour in the Philippines. The Bumpuses believe Munn's parents knew he was in the Pacific, but they probably did not have many more details than that.

Correspondence from Munn warned his family that his orders might be classified and could come with extremely short notice. One letter the Bumpuses have found is stamped "passed by Naval censor."

"They kind of kept a tight lid on things," John Bumpus said.

Munn was nearly as guarded with descriptions of his rescue efforts, even in a private journal.

Although in his diary Munn described the Japanese attack on Dec. 28, 1944, he did not explain in detail his role in the rescue of five survivors from the USS LST 750. Munn, aboard the LCI(L) 1006, went over the side of the ship with two companions, according to an official citation signed Jan. 7, 1945, to help exhausted survivors to safety on the ship.

"This was accomplished at the height of the engagement, while an enemy aircraft under heavy fire passed in close proximity," the citation said. "[Munn's] courageous response to a call above that of duty and cool self-possession in the face of danger were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Naval Service."

Munn eventually was promoted to lieutenant junior grade and finished his naval tour on the USS Missouri, the ship on which the Japanese formally surrendered Sept. 2, 1945. As part of a goodwill tour of the Mediterranean -- a region where many U.S. politicians and military officials feared Soviet influence -- the ship



PHOTO BY DAVID LOWE

Jane Bumpus displays the Bronze Star her late father, Max Munn, received for his role in the rescue of five men during a Dec. 28, 1944 kamikaze attack.

stopped in April 1946 in Istanbul, Turkey. There, the U.S. Navy delivered the body of Mehmet Munir Ertegun, the late Turkish ambassador to the United States. The diplomat died in Washington, D.C. in November 1944, but the war delayed the transport of his body for burial.

Munn also competed for the U.S. Navy in international basketball and tennis competitions at the various Mediterranean ports where the USS Missouri stopped. Mrs. Bumpus has a copy of a Turkish newspaper touting Munn's 1946 tennis match -- which he won -- against a Turkish champion.

Munn and his wife later moved to Lampasas, where the Beach Jumper veteran worked for his father-in-law, R.J. Paine, at

Lampasas Federal Savings & Loan and Paine Insurance Agency. Munn later owned the insurance agency and became president of Lampasas Federal Savings & Loan.

The Munn's seven children live throughout Texas: Mrs. Bumpus, Theresa McDonald, Susie Pringle and Karen Sugg in Lampasas; Chris Munn in Leander; Thomas Munn in Alpine; and David Munn in the Houston suburb of Cypress.

The Bumpuses, associate members of the U.S. Navy Beach Jumpers Association since 2005, plan to travel to Ocracoke Island for a reunion Oct. 22-24. As part of the gathering, a marker commemorating the Beach Jumpers' service will be dedicated.

With the number of living World War II Beach Jumpers dwindling,

John Bumpus said the reunion will give him and his wife an opportunity to hear veterans' reminiscences of their service.

"I'm kind of looking forward to going to that just to see who knows what and what all they remember," he said.

Mrs. Bumpus plans to continue her search for details about her father's life and military service. Although she said family history research can be frustrating when new information proves difficult to find, she said she has enjoyed unearthing some of her father's secrets.

"It's been fun," Mrs. Bumpus said. "I like genealogy, and when it all comes together it's really rewarding."

Fund-raiser set

A "Save the Lampasas River Valley" fund-raiser for defense against proposed 345kV transmission lines through the river valley will be Aug. 22 at 6 p.m. at Oakalla Fire Station. The event will include an auction.

Three proposed routes have been identified, and a proposed fourth route is possible, a spokesperson said. Two of the routes run through "a good portion" of the river valley, the spokesperson said.

At the upcoming event, food will be provided, and the band "Just Country" will perform. For more information about the proposed project, please go to www.Savethelampasas.org.

Turning off lights can limit crickets

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ted until the proper triggers are in place for them, such as temperatures dropping, Merchant said.

Though the typical "cricket season" -- their mating season -- is early fall, they can appear early -- as they are in Lampasas. Merchant speculated that could be because warmer temperatures speed up their development.

"This could be a precursor for things to come, and if they are here this early, Lampasas will probably have an extended cricket season this year."

Merchant said lights outside of businesses are beacons that draw pests. But when the sun comes up, they wriggle into cracks and any other dark places they can find.

He suggested changing bright ultraviolet light bulbs to sodium vapor lights because the yellowish lights they give off are not as attractive to pests.

"The bright lights draw crickets

to places of business by the thousands," he said. "The lights act as navigational tools."

And insecticide is not the answer. "It just leaves a dead, stinking mass of crickets. The solution is not to kill them but to not let them get into the places of business."

Merchant urged residents to sweep up crickets as soon as possible and dispose of them. Pest-control companies can put treatment around buildings, he said, but the best defense is a good offense.

"The best thing we can do is not roll out the welcome mat for them. Historically, Texas has lots of crickets. They aren't in urban areas as much as rural communities because the urban areas are so built up there's not as much habitat for the crickets," he said.

"They like rural, undeveloped land where the population is not as built up. And Lampasas is close enough to rural land even inside the city."

Budget hearings begin

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precinct 1 Commissioner Robert Vincent would have \$120,000, and Precinct 2 Commissioner Alex Wittenburg's budget would expand from \$110,000 this fiscal year to \$115,000. Precinct 3 Commissioner Lowell Ivey agreed to a \$5,000 reduction, to \$115,000, and Precinct 4 Commissioner Jack B. Cox said he will take \$130,000 -- a cut of \$20,000 from this year.

Mural party set

Vision Downtown Lampasas! will host a time to celebrate the completion of its second mural, "Generations," on the side of Lampasas Hardware, Second and Western streets.

The event is Aug. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the mural site.

There will be music commemorating each decade represented in the mural, along with lemonade, iced tea and small snacks.

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