



CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

530-897-4900

TYPE OF INCIDENT: 459 PC - Burglary & 452 PC – Unlawfully causing a fire.

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: 1800 block of Oleander Ave. Chico, CA.

DATE/TIME OCCURRED: 02/08/2016 @ 1756 hrs

INCIDENT CASE NUMBER: 16-1433

VICTIM: Name withheld

SUSPECT: James Evert Harlan 10/07/82

NARRATIVE: Above date and time the City of Chico Fire Department responded to the listed location regarding a structure fire. This location is a small apartment complex consisting of four units. Adjacent to the apartments is a large building, split into four separate smaller units which can be used for storage or as a garage for the tenants. Each unit has its own entry/exit door along with its own larger swing open garage door. A neighbor discovered one of the garage units on fire and attempted to extinguish the flames with a fire extinguisher and then a hose until the fire department arrived.

Once the fire department arrived, they heard a male voice from inside the burning garage yelling for help. Chico Fire Department personnel rescued a man inside who was identified as James Evert Harlan. Harlan was transported to an area hospital for smoke inhalation and precautionary reasons. He was treated and released.

The Chico Police Department Criminal Investigations Section took over this investigation once it was learned that Harlan had no lawful business inside the garage or on the property. It was further learned that the tenant responsible for this garage and owner of its contents had kept the doors closed and locked. The tenant did not know Harlan nor did Harlan have permission to be in or around the garage. It is believed that Harlan forced entry to the garage and while inside, used a lighter to illuminate the interior. While doing so, a fire was ignited. A majority of the contents, to include family heirlooms were destroyed in the fire along with major structural damage.

Supervisor:

Watch Commander:

Prepared By: Lt. Mike Nelson

Date/Time: 03/08/16 @ 1100 hours

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On 03/08/16 at approximately 1748 hours Harlan was arrested by Chico Police Officers for shoplifting. Pursuant to that investigation, Detectives interviewed, arrested and booked Harlan into the Butte County Jail for 459 PC – Burglary and 452 PC – Unlawfully starting a fire.

Supervisor:

Watch Commander:

Prepared By: Lt. Mike Nelson

Date/Time: 03/08/16 @ 1100 hours