



Hanover County Sheriff's Office
Colonel V. Stuart Cook, Sheriff



News Release

Contact Lt. Doug Goodman (804)-365-6312

May 14th, 2003

This past week the Hanover County Sheriff's Office concluded a nine month investigation into a ring of all terrain vehicle thieves. Five individuals have been arrested on a total of 17 indictments.

Since August of 2002, 15 ATVs (all terrain vehicles) have been stolen in Hanover County. Most of the incidents were isolated to the western sections of the county, but a few were also reported in Mechanicsville.

After analyzing a pattern of these thefts, Hanover investigators were able to determine that the ATV's: four wheelers and three wheelers, were being stolen from properties in Hanover and transported to sell in Marion County, West Virginia.

Working with law enforcement agencies in West Virginia, investigators conducted a surveillance operation earlier this month and intercepted a shipment of stolen items at it's delivery point in West Virginia. It was also determined that a similar group in West Virginia was also stealing ATV's and having them transported to the Richmond area for sale.

During this operation, investigators recovered seven ATV's belonging to Hanover residents and one vintage Mustang. This past Tuesday, those vehicles were returned to their rightful owners. The lead investigator, Inv. C. R. Howard said "This is the best part of my job," as he returned an ATV to one of the victims.

"This is just another example of the fine cooperation that the not only the Richmond law enforcement community shares, but also our neighbors in West Virginia," said Colonel V. Stuart Cook, Sheriff of Hanover County.

The Sheriff's Office would like to thank those agencies who contributed to the success of this case: Marion County Sheriff's Office, WV; Fairmont Police Department, WV, Henrico Division of Police, Caroline County Sheriff's Office, and the Virginia State Police Auto Theft Unit.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Lt. Doug Goodman at 365-6312.

Major David R. Hines

For

Colonel V. Stuart Cook