

Vandals destroy half mile of fence

Contributed by Danetta Barker

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By Danetta Barker

Editor

A great amount of work goes into building a fence. For a Hillsboro man someone put even more work into cutting apart nearly a half mile of his fence.

Linden Trent owns 160 acres on Orchard Road that was fenced off with a fairly new fence built by Raymond Jolly. In February someone cut Trent's fence between the locust posts, then cut the brace wires three or four times each. In all the vandal cut 1750 feet of fence, an expensive endeavor.

"It will cost \$2,000 to tear it all out, then another \$2,000 to put it back," Trent said.

That's just the labor. The materials to reset the fence will put Trent out about \$8,000 he said. Although the repairs will be expensive, Trent has offered a \$2,000 reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the vandals.

Trent's father-in-law Herbert Jolly is as perplexed as Trent is as to how somebody could have worked so hard to destroy property right beside a state highway.

"It had to take most of the night," Jolly said.

Trent and Jolly figure that three or four people were on the vandalism. Trent believes several cut while others held a light to work by. Maybe the coming morning put a stop to the cutting, which could account for just part of the fence being destroyed instead of all.

Trent reported the incident to the Fleming County Sheriff's Office as well as the Kentucky State Police. He said one trooper had the evidence that was left at the site, but then was transferred and the evidence left behind. Sheriff Scotty Royse said he did get the evidence, which was a package that has housed wire cutters. He took the package around to different stores that sell similar items.

"We also found a cap that went on a spray paint can, when vandals painted the barn," Royse said. "But we haven't been able to find out who bought the items." At a different time someone painted obscene remarks on Trent's barn.

Leads have been scarce, but Royse continues to work on the case. He thinks somebody out there knows something about the incident. As for Trent and Jolly, they think the whole thing may have started over hunting rights. Trent does not allow hunting on his property. Whatever reason the fence was cut pales behind the fact that it could happen again to them or to somebody else.

"If they get by with something like this, there's not a fence in Fleming County safe," Jolly said.