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SPARTANBURG COUNTY MAN RECEIVES 65-YEAR PRISON TERM FOR CRIME SPREE

A Spartanburg County man received a 65-year prison sentence today after he admitted to robbing two local businesses at knifepoint and stealing more than \$3,000 worth of property from a third establishment.

Dennis Lancaster Reed, 53, pleaded guilty to two counts of armed robbery and grand larceny. Circuit Judge Roger Couch issued the maximum sentence allowed under state law.

Reed's crime spree began May 30, 2007 when he stole a 1995 Mercury Sable and a money bag that belonged to his employer, Tinsley Used Cars, 1404 Milliken Road. The business reported that Reed took a car and a money bag and disappeared during the middle of a work day.

The robbery of the Pacolet Food Mart, 441 N. Highway 150, occurred on June 14, 2007. Reed entered the business about 1 p.m. and he asked to use the store's restroom before he approached the clerk in a threatening way. Reed took a sum of money from the cash register and fled.

Five days later, Reed robbed the Seven Day Store, 1794 Old Pacolet Road. Reed asked to use the store's restroom before he approached the clerk and demanded money. Reed took money from the cash register and a handgun that belonged to the clerk.

Investigators arrested Reed in Union County on June 19, 2007 where he was charged with a shooting and driving under the influence. Reed pleaded guilty to assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature in 2009 and received a 10-year prison sentence.

Principal Deputy Solicitor Barry Barnette said the store clerks identified Reed in photo line-ups following the robberies and the businesses' surveillance video further connected Reed to the cases.

Reed's prior criminal record dates to 1980 with convictions for grand larceny, housebreaking, strong-arm robbery, forgery and possession of a stolen vehicle.

"Mr. Reed is a career criminal who preyed on innocent people," Barnette said. "I'm pleased to see he is going to spend to balance of his life behind bars."

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