

Another Man Also Held in Accident Charges

Grand Jury Indicts Deputy on Falsifying Report

Escambia County Sheriff's deputy Harry Ronald McNesby has been indicted by the Escambia County Grand Jury for falsification of an accident report and as an accessory after

the fact of a felony.

The sealed indictment against McNesby was one of two returned late Tuesday by the Grand Jury.

It had another against John Herndon Jr., 40, of 303 E. Rouse St., were held in secret until both men were taken into custody Wednesday.

Herndon was charged by the Grand Jury of a hit and run auto accident resulting in personal injuries, and drunk driving. The charge of hit and run is a felony and the drunk driving a misdemeanor.

McNesby, 23, of 4404 Chastille Way, is specifically accused of falsifying a report on an accident in which Herndon was involved on Dec. 1, 1967.

The falsification charge is a misdemeanor and the accessory after the fact to his and Herndon's deaths.

Both men posted \$500 bonds in Escambia County. They will appear for arraignment

Sheriff Bill Davis Wednesday.

day, following McNesby's arrest, suspended the deputy for 30 days.

In a statement Davis said,



SHERIFF DAVIS
Suspends McNesby

"McNesby has been with the Department two and a half years and during that time his record has been good in every respect."

The case was presented Tuesday to the Grand Jury by State Atty. Bill Stafford. Following the announcement of the indictments, Stafford was not available for comment.

According to information in the Grand Jury's affidavits, McNesby was on duty as a deputy sheriff about 3 a.m. on Dec. 1, 1967, and was called to the scene of an accident at Page Boulevard and Massachusetts Ave.

The information alleges the accident was between a car driven by Herndon and Leon Gardner, who was hurt.

The information says McNesby subsequently "did unlawfully give false information in a written report . . . (and) knowing or having reason to believe that such information was false

(and) contrary to . . . Florida laws.

In the second count, the Grand Jury alleges McNesby "unlawfully and feloniously, and with intent that the said John Herndon Jr. should avoid or escape detection, arrest, trial or punishment, well knowing that Herndon had committed (a) felony, (did) maintain, assist or otherwise aid the said John Herndon, contrary to . . . Florida law.

Herndon is accused of being intoxicated and driving at the time of the accident and of having driven from the scene.

The information says Herndon's car struck Gardner's and

then "without making known to the persons present his full, true and correct name and address, the registration number of his car, did unlawfully depart from the scene . . ."