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Two Charged

Hunters Found Safe

Three hunters apparently lost all night in the Yellow River Swamp southeast of Milton were located this morning—and two of them were immediately charged with game law violations.

The three were identified as James G. Richerson Sr., 51, of 4000 N. 8th Ave., Pensacola; his son, James Jr., 13; and a cousin, W. L. Richardson, 36, of 5818 St. Benedict St., Pensacola.

The two men posted cash bonds of \$45 each and were released.

They were located shortly after 7 a.m. today by State Conservation Officer Louie Prevat and Gulf Breeze Constable Richard Smith about a mile inland from the river on the Eglin Air Force Base reservation.

Prevat filed charges of hunting in a closed area and carrying firearms in a closed area against the two older men. Prevat said they were carrying four squirrels.

Smith said:

"They were dead tired, wringing wet, hungry, and out of cigarettes."

Smith, also wet after a night out in the rain, said he arrived at the scene about 4 a.m., after the families of the three reported them missing.

He said he, Prevat, and two members of the Escambia Search and Rescue team set out up the river in a boat and located the general area of the trio by firing shots which were answered by the hunters.

However, the three were unable to find their way to the river in the dark and Smith and Prevat

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Hunters Found

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headed into the woods on foot about 6 a.m., Smith said.

The hunters were found about a mile away.

Also taking part in the search were James Stewart, also a conservation officer, and Sheriff's Deputy J. M. Brewer.

Interviewed after they came out of the woods, the elder Richardson said they went up the river about noon Sunday from Broxson's Fish Camp.

He said they killed three squirrels on the west side of the river and then drifted back down before deciding to stop on the east side.

Once there, their dog trees another squirrel, which the boy shot, and then went deeper into the woods and treed another.

It was on this trip that they became lost, he said.

Richardson said when they realized they were "going in circles" they built a fire and a lean-to and fared fairly well until this morning.

Only comment of the boy: "I was cold."