

Melton Times

AND SYSTON TIMES AND VALE OF BELVOIR GAZETTE

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'Priceless' heirlooms stolen

£25,000 RAID ON LONELY HALL



A DARING burglar escaped with £25,000 worth of jewellery in a raid on a local country home this week.

story by Karen Norton

And the female butler at Goadby Marwood Hall, home of reclusive Monica Sheriffe, told of how she came face to face with the thief.

Mrs Nelly Hadfield, 63, said she had just bolted the front door to the house when she disturbed the man on Monday evening.

He was clutching two "priceless" family heirlooms — having been disturbed before having the chance to grab other antiques and silverware in the 17th century house.

And 80-year-old Miss Sheriffe told the Times this week: "The burglar seemed to know what he was looking for. Unfortunately he knew too much because he

took two priceless pieces with him."

The pieces in question were mementoes of two racehorses Miss Sheriffe owned — solid gold with the names of the horses encrusted in diamonds.

"They are absolutely irreplaceable but I would imagine they would be very hard to sell as they are.

"But thank goodness Nelly disturbed him before he took anything else," she added.

The burglar left behind other gold and diamond items in his haste to get away. He did manage to take a gold cigarette case and the keys to Miss Sheriffe's London flat.

Nelly, who lives at the hall with her housekeeper sister Elsie Crossley, said she was both angry and relieved that

the burglar got away through the front door.

"For a second I thought he was locked in and I wasn't looking forward to a confrontation.

"I got a good look at him as he ran past me and started struggling with the locks. I was rooted to the spot with fear — but I still managed to ask him what he thought he was doing in the house!" she said.

She added that the man was about five feet six tall with rounded features, short dark hair and was dressed in a "pageboy" style.

Miss Sheriffe said that a further search of the house showed that the burglar had searched every room in the house in his early evening break-in.

And of Nelly she added: "She was very brave. She ac-

tually came face to face with him and suffered a nasty shock. We are just so grateful that nothing violent took place."

A police spokesman said that house-to-house inquiries were still continuing — and that police were trying to find what kind of car was used in the getaway.

The man is described as between 35 and 45 years old with dark brown hair, clean shaven and of rugged appearance. He was wearing a blue V-neck pull-over, a red check shirt and light trousers.

The burglary highlights a recent spate of jewellery thefts in the Melton and Vale of Belvoir area in recent weeks. Police have advised the public to watch for such incidents.

Over £4,000 worth of jewellery was stolen on Monday from Jane Elizabeth Palmer, of 63 Dalby Road, Melton.



● Mrs Nelly Hadfield, left, with her sister Elsie Crossley, after the £25,000 burglary at Goadby Marwood Hall.