

## You Can Run, But You Can't Hide, 'Mayberry' Man Learns

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Aug. 20, 2003) It's a long way from Mount Airy, N.C., to Los Angeles. And the big city might seem like a good place to hide to a feller on the run from the law in a town that prides itself on being Mayberry RFD.

So, Ronnie Payne, who's wanted by Mount Airy authorities on robbery and kidnapping charges, may have thought he was safe riding a Metro Blue Line train. And he might have been – if he'd paid his fare.



Sheriff's Deputies Mark Lodge and Scott Schneider of the Transit Services Bureau apprehended a suspect wanted for robbery and kidnapping in North Carolina.

Payne was arrested for alleged fare evasion, Aug. 8, by Sheriff's Deputy Mark Lodge and Deputy Scott Schneider of the Transit Services Bureau during a sweep of a northbound train.



Actor David Browning portrays the "Mayberry Deputy" in Mount Airy, N.C.

A quick records check determined there was an outstanding warrant against Payne in North Carolina. The suspect tried to pass it all off as a big mistake, but the deputies didn't buy it. They arrested, booked and jailed him.

No doubt Mayberry Sheriff Andy, played by Mount Airy native Andy Griffith, on TV's "The Andy Griffith Show," would have been proud of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies for making the collar.

So would Deputy Barney Fife.

[Back to MTA Report](#)