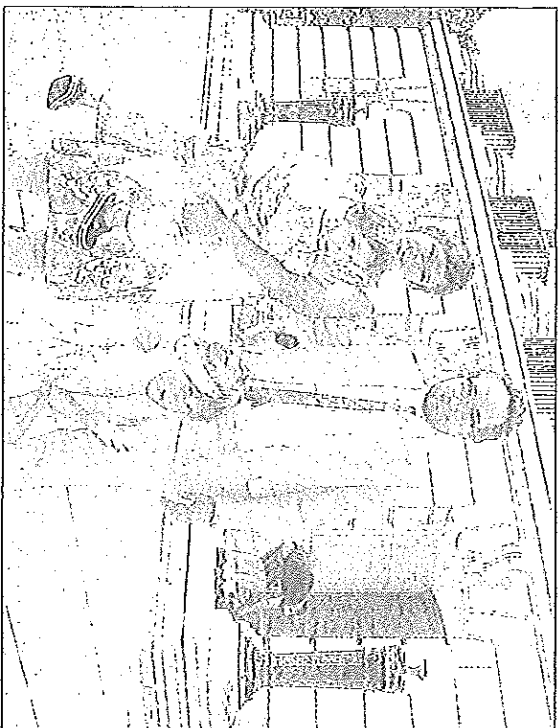


A photo taken with a self-mer catches a man taking the Myers family's belongings outside the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison. Police caught the alleged thief, walking around with the bag, a few minutes later.



For lucky Jersey family, the camera never blinked

Snapshot catches man taking their belongings

By Aliza Appelbaum
FOR THE STAR-LEDGER

Having a stranger wander into a holiday photo can ruin the shot, but in the case of a Bloomfield family, it saved their vacation. And it might land "the stranger" in jail.

When the Myers family posed for a photo after a wedding in Madison, Wis., on Saturday, they also got a snapshot of a thief in the act of stealing one their bags. The family showed the photo to the police, and the man was arrested minutes later.

"It was such a vacation-gone-

wrong story, but with a happy ending," Katharine Myers, 48, said yesterday from her home in Essex County.

Katharine and John Myers, 39, were in Madison for a friend's wedding when they stopped to take a picture outside the Capitol building, where the ceremony was held. She said her husband likes to take lots of family photos, and wanted one with the kids — Matilda, 6, and Charlie, 4 — dressed up for the event.

John Myers set the timer on the digital camera, and the family

stepped back and posed. Katharine Myers said her husband took a cursory look at the photo to make sure it came out, but didn't notice anything awry.

But as they walked away from the building, he noticed the bag containing his wallet, iPad and keys to the rental car was missing. After circling the building and checking the lost and found, he realized the thief may have already been caught in the act.

"Luckily, he thought quickly and thought maybe the person taking the bags would be in the background of the photo we took,"

SEE CAMERA, PAGE 14

TODAY

Mostly sunny with a high near 84°.

TONIGHT

Mostly clear, with a low around 55°.



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Camera

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Katharine Myers said.

Sure enough, there he was behind them: A man in a baseball cap, black shirt and brown dress shoes, in the process of picking up their bag.

John Myers took the camera to the Wisconsin Capitol Police, whose office is located inside the building.

"They were so great, just sprang right into action," Katharine Myers said. "They had walkie-talkies and ran around looking for him. They found him right away. He was just



"They were so great," Katharine Myers says of the Wisconsin Capitol Police, two of whom posed with Matilda Myers.

walking around wearing the kids' toys and some extra cables, but the police were able to recover those items as well.

The suspect, 59-year-old Madison resident Glenn R. Lambright, was charged with theft and was released Tuesday from Dane County Jail, said Emily Winecke, a spokeswoman for the Wisconsin Capitol Police.

The thief had removed a few items, Katharine Myers said, including a small backpack of

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