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Hills bank robbers leave trail of clues

By RON GARENSKI

In what FBI investigators termed a "well-planned" getaway, three masked gunmen escaped Wednesday morning with an estimated \$38,000 in cash from the Manufacturers National Bank, 3000 Grand River in Farmington Hills.

Using three different getaway vehicles strategically placed within 1 1/2 miles of the bank, the three robbers managed to elude Farmington Hills police and FBI agents responding to the holdup alarm.

As of Friday night, investigators reported no suspects in custody as agents continued checking several leads in the case.

At about 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 29, the gunmen entered the bank through the rear door.

Armed with a sawed-off shotgun, the gang leader took a command position near the front door and began to direct his accomplices in the holdup.

AS HE WAVED the shotgun in the air, the other men jumped over the partitions into the tellers' area.

At their leader's command, they began grabbing money from the tellers' drawers, an FBI spokesman said Friday afternoon.

Each gunman wore plastic or rubber-type gloves during the robbery.

While the two suspects were gathering the money, the gang leader shouted obscenities and threats to the employees warning them "Don't anyone move and no one will get hurt."

Only bank employees were inside during the robbery, an FBI spokesman said, so the gunmen probably had less trouble than they anticipated.

After a few minutes, the leader told his associates to hurry up so they could "get out of here," witnesses recalled after the incident.

The two robbers jumped back over the counters and together the three hurried out the rear door, dropping approximately \$500 in their dash to the first of three getaway cars which was parked behind the building, a bank spokesman said.

Eight to ten employees were in the bank

at the time, but FBI agents said no one was injured during the robbery.

The three men then drove down the dirt road behind the bank and up a hill to where the pavement ends, Farmington Hills police reported.

This dirt trail ends at Jefferson Court and Independence Drive in the Independence Green Apartment Complex.

While they were fleeing the first getaway car, the leader apparently discharged his shotgun accidentally, an FBI spokesman explained.

Several witnesses saw the gunmen fleeing at this point, including several apartment residents and a Michigan Bell Telephone employee who was working on lines in a hole near where the gunmen stopped to change cars.

"I guess they fired the shot as an attention-getter," said Robert Macauley, the telephone repairman. "They ordered me to lay down. Believe me, I laid down, quickly."

Macauley couldn't determine how many persons were in the car after the shot was fired, but he did say it was about five to eight minutes before police arrived in pursuit.

When police arrived on the scene, they found approximately \$38,000 lying in the car and an expended shotgun shell next to the vehicle.

Switching to a brown Mercury Cougar, the three gunmen sped away through the Independence Green Complex out onto Halsted Road.

Driving about one-quarter of a mile north on Halsted, they pulled off the road into an old landfill area.

ONCE INSIDE this secluded area, the suspects changed to a third getaway car, a four-wheel drive vehicle, and trailed their way through the rough terrain to the new expressway extension connecting I-48 with I-96.

They drove the four-wheel vehicle down the steep right-of-way and sped away eastbound on I-96 toward Detroit, a Farmington Hills police official said.

All three vehicles used in the bank robbery getaway were stolen from East Detroit, FBI agents confirmed.

After the robbery was reported, roadblocks were set up throughout Oakland County, but were called off about two hours later when officials said the gunmen had made a clean escape.

Manufacturers Bank participates in the Clearing House Program which offers rewards for information leading to the arrest, indictment and conviction of bank robbers.

A \$1,000 reward is offered to anyone possessing information concerning Thursday's holdup. Anyone who has any clues should contact the Oakland County FBI Office at 629-6000.

This bank robbery is the first Farmington Hills bank hold-up in more than a

dozen years.

by the bank robbers. (Staff photo)

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Farmington Hills Police Officer Gerald Lynch talks with an FBI agent at the scene where the bank robbers ditched their get-a-way car. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)



FBI agents take molds of tire prints from one of the escape vehicles near I-96. The robbers made their escape going east back to the Detroit area. Police report that all three of the vehicles used in the heist were stolen from Detroit's east side. (Staff photo)



Robert Macauley, an employee of Michigan Bell, tells about his run-in with the holdup men while they were ditching their first get-a-way vehicle. (Staff photo)



An spent shotgun shell lays next to a pair of gloves found in the first of three get-a-way cars used by the bank robbers. (Staff photo)

Gas station bandits hit again in Farmington

Farmington police suspect the two gunmen who committed the April 28 robbery of the Gulf Service Station, 3123 Grand River in Farmington, are the same two men who recently robbed several gas stations around the metropolitan area.

Armed with a small handgun the two

robbers entered the Gulf station about 5:18 p.m. last Wednesday and escaped with about \$200.

The descriptions of the suspects match those of the gunmen who robbed the Maverick Oil Co., 3200 Grand River, Sunday, April 25, police said.

The Maverick station holdup netted the gunman \$200.

The Gulf station attendant was watching television inside the service building when he noticed two men walk past the window and enter the station.

One suspect was carrying a gas can, which he set down as soon as he entered the building, while the other suspect walked into the men's restroom.

After asking for change and his gas can to be filled, one suspect pulled a gun on the attendant.

The suspects then told the attendant to walk into the office. He was followed by both gunmen.

heard the attendant yelling, untied him from the pipe and called the police.

While the attendant was locked in the storage room, a pizza delivery man came and was paid by one of the suspects, police said.

But the delivery man's description and the attendant's description of the suspects were different, police reported.

The Gulf station attendant described one suspect as being in his mid 30s, six-foot tall and about 170 pounds with a stir hair.

He had sandy-brown, ear-length hair parted in the middle. This suspect also had a mustache and carried a small dark revolver.

The second suspect was about the same age, 5-foot-7, tall and about 160 pounds with a slim build. He had sandy-brown hair and a large scar over his right eye and acne around his cheeks.

THE SUSPECTS then asked for all the attendant's money, so the station keeper reached into his pocket and pulled out an estimated \$200 and turned it over to the two men.

The attendant also took out about \$10 in change and gave it to the gunmen.

After being threatened, the attendant handed over a \$20 bill from his wallet.

One suspect then took the attendant into the back room while the other searched the office for other valuables, police reported.

After tying the station attendant to a pipe in the storage area, they left, saying they were going to pump gas for the customers waiting service.

The attendant didn't hear any noise in the building for more than five minutes, so he began yelling for help.

After about 20 minutes, a customer

Dem clubs will meet to consider hopefuls

A joint meeting of the Southfield and Farmington Democratic Clubs Wednesday, May 5 will kick off the May 18 presidential preference primary.

Invited to the 8 p.m. meeting at Sirway Junior High School at Elyria Mills and Evergreen are candidates James Carter, Sargent Shriver, George Wallace, Morris Udall, Henry Jackson and Paul Hart.

Invitations have been extended to campaign organizations to present their candidates and respond to questions, according to Southfield Democratic Club Chairperson Rosemary Reed. The meeting is open to the public.

A new perspective

Psychiatrist likes the younger set

It was a long road that stretched from the Upper Peninsula to the Republic of Haiti leading Farmington Hills psychiatrist Norman Anderson his present professions and interests.

Professors in the plural he cautions with in the realm of mental health, he holds several positions. And his interests are just as varied, but one children is at the top of the present list.

"I am intrigued with kids," he says, relaxing for a few minutes in his Farmington Hills office. Anderson (counseling associates Inc.) "When a kid learns emotionally in the first two years—that it is all right to feel that he has value and a sense of worth—it will carry him through a lifetime."

He speaks of a "sense of well-being which the child gains through creativity and which is what is necessary to restore in troubled adults through psychotherapy."



DR. NORBERT ANDERSON

AT 7 P.M. ON Tuesday, May 18, Dr. Anderson will be speaking about these things in a talk at University Hills Christian Center, 2811 Farmington Road. His topic is "Parenting the Pre-School Child."

The program, sponsored by Art Start Pre-School and the educational service of Anderson Counseling, is open to the public free of charge.

Dr. Anderson graduated from Taylor University in Indiana and the University of Michigan medical school. He took his internship in general medicine at St. Lawrence Hospital in Lansing, and after practicing in his home territory in the Upper Peninsula, went to Haiti as a medical missionary in 1956.

He was medical director of the American Wesleyan Mission, a hospital he designed and helped to build on the island of Lagavone off the coast of Haiti. He and his wife received presidential citations from Pope Pius (President Francois Duvalier) for their work in 1961.

'Kids need a group setting where they can work out their feelings of jealousy and anger and know that these are normal.'

—Norbert Anderson

REITERATING HIS feelings about children and the need to encourage and nurture their innate creativity, he says it is, in truth, a form of preventative medicine and calls it "the most significant pathway to adult mental health."

Kids need a group setting where they can work out their feelings of jealousy and anger and know that these are normal. They need a group setting to aid in self-discovery and self-acceptance—a freedom to be exactly what they are."

Dr. Anderson has few good words for the effects of television on young children.

The indirect effect of TV is to destroy innate creativity. It takes away individuality which I think is critical to mental health."

Dr. Anderson and his family now live in Orono where he is full-time community health director for the county. He is also on the faculty of Michigan State University in the college of human medicine.

He describes himself: "I'm a primitive person and that's why I identify with primitive people, and I don't tolerate others."

"Almost certainly he will return to Haiti—maybe just for a visit, maybe to gather material for a book—that is where many of his thoughts on modern society and on creativity germinated.

City youth dies in cycle crash

Jeffery Ferrell, 19, of 3229 W. Nbe Mile, was killed Wednesday evening, April 28, when the motorcycle he was driving jumped the curb and hit a tree.

Ferrell was riding on Lee Lane, just east of Beacon in a Farmington subdivision, when he lost control of the motorcycle.

After jumping the curb, the cycle and rider tumbled into a tree located next to a parked car on the north side of the street, police said.

Police suspect the youth was traveling at a high rate of speed, possibly about 30 mph, when he was thrown from the motorcycle and hit the tree.

Witnesses to the fatality reported that Ferrell was speeding and driving close to the curb, police said.

Farmington Public Safety Officer Carl Stenderstedt, the investigating patrolman, reported that the motorcycle was traveling too fast for conditions and Ferrell apparently failed to see a parked car blocking his path.

As the rider tried to maneuver around the car, he went over the curb between the tree and parked car, police reported.

The crash resulted in a 10-foot General Hospital, but police said the youth died instantly after the collision.

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WILD TRAIL

The Farmington area naturalists are going to be teaching area students about some beautiful words of nature which often go unnoticed—the wilderness. To see if you may have some in your own backyard, here to page 1A.