

High-speed police chase yields bad check suspect

By MARY GNIEWEK

A high-speed chase Tuesday involving up to 15 police cars from four departments ended with a crash and the arrest of the driver for allegedly passing a bad check in Farmington.

The driver, Lois Horton, 29, of Detroit, was arraigned in Botsford General Hospital Wednesday while recovering from injuries incurred from smashing her 1973 black Ford LTD into a utility pole at 8 Mile and Beech-Daly in Redford Township.

Police cars from Livonia, Redford Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills and Southfield were involved in the chase.

Horton pleaded not guilty at her arraignment before Judge Margaret Schaefer on one count of uttering and publishing, a 10-year felony. She was remanded to the Oakland County jail on \$20,000 bond.

A female companion, 24-year-old Debra Davis of Detroit, was not charged. Horton's pre-trial examination is scheduled Wednesday in Farmington District Court.

THE CHASE BEGAN when a bank teller at the National Bank of Detroit, 23309 Farmington, called police at 7:30 p.m. while the suspect waited at a drive-in window to cash a stolen check. The check was drawn on the J.C. Excavating Company of Warren for \$354.65. It was made out to Phyllis Fox.

The check was among a group reported stolen by the Warren Bank on Dec. 21, 1977. NBD had relayed this information to all of its branches. The suspect presented the teller with the check, a deposit slip for \$30, and a temporary Michigan driver's license in the name of Phyllis Fox for identification.

NBD officials told police Phyllis Fox was the name used in negotiating other stolen checks, including Sobocinski Funeral Home, Redford Excavators Public Affairs Commission, and Quicke Snowwhite Landscaping.

While the teller was placing the call to police, the suspect became suspicious and left the bank parking lot. An unmarked police car at the scene a minute later followed.

The chase began on Farmington Road to Grand River, then east on Grand River. During the 20-minute chase, the suspect's car sideswiped a car driven by Deborah Cox of Farmington Hills, tearing the front bumper loose.

That accident occurred at Grand River west of Orchard Lake, where Farmington Hills police joined the pursuit. The car proceeded along Grand River to Middlebelt, where it turned north and traveled in the southbound lane, forcing several oncoming cars off the road.

The suspect turned eastbound on 9 Mile, drove to Telegraph, then turned south. The pursuit continued to westbound 8 Mile where police from Southfield, Redford Township and Livonia joined the chase.

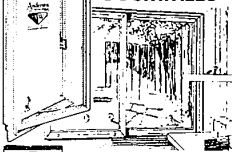
At the intersection of 8 Mile and Beech-Daly, Southfield police set up a road block that sent the fleeing vehicle onto a grassy median where it struck the utility pole head-on.

Horton was arrested before being transported to Botsford.

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Pharmacist appointed

Gary Stewart, Farmington, has been appointed assistant director of pharmacy in charge of programs and systems development at Harper Hospital division of Harper-Grace Hospitals.

Mr. Stewart received his B.S. degree in pharmacy from the University of Maryland and his M.S. from the University of Wisconsin. He also completed a pharmacy residency at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison.

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