

Hills bank robber among 10 Most Wanted

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

A convicted bank robber who escaped from a federal prison and is sought in the robbery of a Farmington Hills branch bank was named to the FBI's 10 Most Wanted criminal list.

Robert Alan Litchfield, 38, of Quincy, Mass., is wanted for prison escape and is a suspect in the 1988

robberies of banks in Atlanta, Feb. 11, Ormond Beach, Fla., May 2, and Farmington Hills, Aug. 13, special agent Edward Hullinger said.

The FBI considers Litchfield armed and extremely dangerous — "one of the more dangerous felons in the country," Hullinger said.

"We want to get him off the street as fast as possible," Hullinger added. "We feel he'll rob again."

A FEDERAL grand jury in De-

troit indicted Litchfield Oct. 8 on charges of armed bank robbery and impersonating an IRS officer in connection with the Aug. 13 robbery of the Michigan National Bank branch at 28177 Orchard Lake. More than \$73,000 was taken.

Litchfield was put on the 10 Most Wanted list to generate publicity. Call tips to the FBI 965-2323.

In each of the three robberies, the gunman drove up and left in a taxi-

cab, was neatly dressed, asked to speak to the person in charge by name, carried an airline pilot map case and either showed or implied possession of a gun and a bomb. In two of the robberies, including the one in Farmington Hills, the robber posed as an IRS agent, Hullinger said.

It's not clear why the gunman chose banks in different states. "Maybe he was just traveling the country looking for likely targets," Hullinger said. "Or maybe he was en route to somewhere else. Or maybe he was in each area visiting friends . . . We're looking for that key."

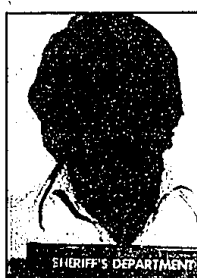
LITCHFIELD is known to have traveled extensively through the United States. Investigators aren't even certain if Litchfield has left Michigan.

It's possible he's with his wife, Donna, 35, also a federal fugitive. Released on bond, she failed to appear at a court hearing April 10 on a bank fraud charge in Miami.

"We're not positive they're together, but we have good reason to believe they are," Hullinger said.

The FBI still doesn't know where he — or they — stayed when Litchfield allegedly robbed the Farmington Hills branch bank. Photos of each were distributed to newspapers in hopes that "somebody recognizes them as a couple," Hullinger said.

LITCHFIELD WAS arrested in March 1985 and charged with seven counts of bank robbery. He was described as a dapper gunman who fa-



Robert Litchfield
federal fugitive



Donna Litchfield
federal fugitive

vors a high lifestyle and expensive cars.

Litchfield was convicted in November and sentenced to 60 years in prison for his part in seven bank robberies in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area between 1983 and 1985. He escaped from the U.S. Penitentiary-Tallahassee in Alabama Feb. 4.

Litchfield became known as Florida's blockhouse bandit because he robbed drive-up teller stations in block buildings.

Litchfield served about three years in federal prison in the 1970s after being convicted of robbing a bank in St. Louis, Mo., in 1974.

Faxon on Senate road panel

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

State Sen. Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills got what he wanted — appointment to the Senate Transportation Subcommittee for the next four years.

"I wanted to do that because the big problem in our area is getting around," said the only Democrat on the three-member subcommittee of the larger Senate Appropriations Committee. Republican senators

Doug Cruce of Troy and Connie Binsfield of Maple City are the other members.

Faxon sought the appointment because of commitments for traffic improvements that he made to voters during his successful 1986 bid for re-election to a fifth four-year term, he said. A 14-year Senate veteran, Faxon represents the 15th District, which includes Southfield, Farmington Hills, Farmington, Novi and Wixom.

Oakland County will now have a greater voice. We have a big program ahead of us," Faxon said, referring to the "massive congestion" that's plaguing much of the southeastern portion of the county.

"We're just gridlocked," Faxon said. "THOUGH Faxon did not elaborate on specific tasks or projects facing the transportation subcommittee, he said he is committed to ensuring that Oakland County gets its fair share of financing for road improvements."

"The subcommittee's job is to determine how to spend the money they have," Faxon said, adding he is

in "a better position than ever before to focus more state attention on our most critical need."

Faxon's interest in transportation and road problems isn't new, he said. As a member of the appropriations committee, Faxon said he felt he was successful in getting Haggerty Road named a state highway so state money can be used for improvements.

Major traffic concerns in the Farmington and Southfield area include I-696, Telegraph, Haggerty and the much-discussed extensions of I-75 and Northwestern Highway.

Faxon will also serve on the five-member budget and oversight subcommittee, which is concerned with supplemental appropriation bills and budget balancing questions.

He will continue to serve on the retirement and kindergarten through 12th grade subcommittees, as well as the legislative retirement committee.



Jack Faxon
state senator

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