

Driver refuses test in Hostess heist

By MIKE SCANLON

Investigators say the driver of an unlocked armored car robbed of more than \$1 million in an apparent hijacking Monday has refused to take a polygraph examination regarding his role in the incident.

Driver Anthony Ingrao is a seven-month employee of Total Armored Car Co. of Detroit.

Meanwhile, investigators say the second man in the two-man team which normally staffs the armored car called in sick the day of the robbery, but police said that employee passed a polygraph examination Tuesday.

Armored car company spokesmen declined to comment.

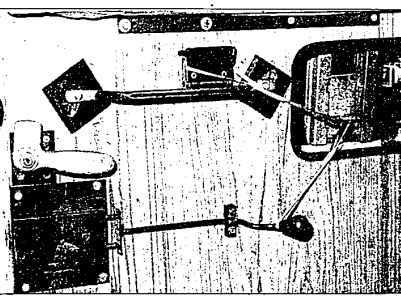
The hijacking was apparently well-planned. The 1978 armored Ford van was robbed about 5:50 p.m. at the Hostess Cake Kitchen, 37051 Armhein, the last stop of the day. Monday was a holiday and most banks were closed. Investigators said the car was carrying considerably more money than is typical.

A final tally on the take has not been completed, but investigators said the haul could reach \$1.2 million, with as much as \$600,000 in currency, much of it in small bills, and the remainder in checks.

FBI AGENTS entered the investigation almost immediately, and more than a half-dozen agents were involved by Tuesday morning. An FBI spokesman said federal law grants the bureau



State Police inspectors search the armored van which was robbed of \$1 million Monday. INSET: State Police Sgt. Don Minton checks for fingerprints on a set of handcuffs used to lock the driver to the steering wheel. (Staff photos by Art Emanuele)



The rubber band shown in this photo was used by the crew of the hijacked Total armored car to override a deadbolt door lock intended to be opened only from the inside, police investigators said.

jurisdiction whenever a theft involves more than \$5,000, while another act defines any crime involving more than a \$50,000 loss as a "major case crime."

A deadbolt doorlock system on the van was apparently overridden by driver Ingrao, 38, and fill-in messenger Henry Barksdale Jr., 27, to save time. The lock system is designed to be opened only from inside the van, but the pair used rubber bands stretched between the lock and a knob on a door gunport to prevent the deadbolt from engaging. With the rubber band in place, the door could be opened from the outside.

That apparently made entry easy when a lone white male threatened Ingrao about 5:50 p.m., forced him to drive to an industrial parking lot on Inkster Road in Redford Township and left him handcuffed to the van's steering wheel, Ingrao said.

Ingrao has so far been unable to provide investigators with a detailed description of the bandit. No getaway vehicle description has been obtained.

The robbery took place within a 10-minute span when Barksdale was in the bake store making the day's last collection.

An FBI spokesman said the robbery shared some details with a still unsolved 1979 Lincoln Park armored car robbery which also took place on a day when the car carried a larger than usual sum of money. Canvas bags used to hold that money were recovered in a lake in northern Wisconsin, but no arrests have been made in connection with that robbery and none of the stolen money has been recovered, the spokesman said.

Increasing the ranks is goal of storytellers

Members of Detroit Story League invite guests to join them at noon Saturday, Jan. 17, for their storytelling meeting and workshop hosted by Alice McCoy in her home at 25324 Stonycroft, Southfield.

Her co-hostess is Linda Aldrich of Plymouth. Storytellers for the day are Mrs. McCoy, Dinghy Sharp of Farmington Hills and Alma Petrini of Redford.

The workshop will be led by Ruth Breault of Westland.

Members and guests bring a sandwich for lunch. Beverage and dessert is complimentary, served by the hostesses.

Theme for the day is "Frosted Windows," in keeping with the league's window theme for the season.

The group's aim is to keep alive the age-old art of story telling and do this

by schooling members in the art, then responding to calls throughout the metropolitan area to serve as storytellers for all ages, or special interests.

The Detroit Story League received a grant from Michigan Council of the Arts to help with convention expenses when it hosts the Central District of National Story League in July.

Verna Cardema, Caldicot winner and author of many children's books, poet Max Ellison and Abraham Lincoln authority Weldon Petz are some of the headliners the group will host during the summer convention.

Those wishing to arrange for a storytelling session are invited to call Ruth Kroepel at 477-5622. Membership inquiries will be taken by calling Donna Teichman at 531-6359.

volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities. Further information about these and other volunteer needs at more than 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau at 642-7272. Any non-profit organization needing volunteer assistance may also call the bureau.

RECREATIONAL ASSISTANT — Volunteers are needed by the Boy's Club of Auburn Heights to teach simple arts and crafts to children between the ages of 7 and 13. Craft programs may be scheduled at the volunteer's convenience during late afternoons, evenings, or Saturdays.

VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE — You could be a friend, a guide in developing daily living skills, and an advocate for

a person with a developmental disability. Volunteers are currently being recruited by the Association for Retarded Citizens-Oakland County. Training and ongoing guidance is provided.

FRIENDS — The Wing Lake Developmental Center has volunteer opportunities in working with retarded children in a variety of recreational activities. The time commitment asked is flexible.

CHILD ADVOCACY AND FAMILY SERVICE ASSISTANTS — Volunteers with an interest in working with children or adults are being recruited by the Oakland County Juvenile Court in Pontiac to do research and lead small group discussions on the processes and impact of divorce on children. The time commitment is for one year and involves about 4 hours of work per week. Training will begin in February.



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