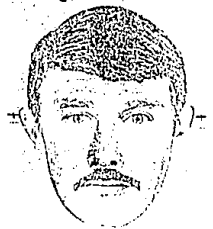


Bank robbery in Hills very similar to 2 down south—police

Continued from Page 1

A major difference between that bank picture and the composite drawing of the Farmington Hills robber is that the drawing shows a man with a mustache.

"But the picture is similar enough to believe it's the same person," Hochford said.



This is a composite drawing of the Farmington Hills bank robber.



This is a picture, taken by a bank camera, of a man who the FBI believes robbed two southern banks earlier this year. He is the same man who police believe robbed a Farmington Hills bank Wednesday morning.

Friday night, copies of the bank picture were distributed at Detroit Metropolitan Airport as well as nearby car rental agencies and lodging facilities.

"We don't know if he's left the state, but the easiest way to do so is by air," Hochford said.

"Hopefully," he added, "somebody will identify him. Right now, he's a face without a name."

THE DETROIT Clearing House Association, made up of metro Detroit financial institutions, will pay up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and indictment of a robbery suspect.

The Oakland County Chamber of Commerce Silent Observer program will pay up to \$1,000 for the arrest and conviction of the robber.

In each case, tipsters can remain anonymous. Call tips to the Farmington Hills Police at 474-6181 or the FBI at 965-2323. Identify yourself with a number that you will recall later to claim the reward.

The bank branch and the office building immediately to the north were evacuated after police arrived at Michigan National, at 28177 Or-

chard Lake, just north of 12 Mile, about 11 a.m. Wednesday and discovered what appeared to be a bomb in a duffie bag near a conference room table.

"I've seen a lot of phony bombs. But when I saw this one sitting, partially hidden, in the duffie bag, it looked real enough for me to get out of the building," Detective Darrel Krause said. "I couldn't determine what the red sticks were."

Investigators from the Michigan State Police bomb squad determined the so-called bomb was made from four industrial wax sticks wrapped at the ends with electrical tape to look like dynamite. It was connected by wires to a battery and a timing device.

FOLLOWUP INTERVIEWS by investigators resulted in an updated account of the stickup:

About 10:10 a.m., Southfield Cab Co. received a call to pick up a man at Tully Hall, at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, at 10:30 a.m.

When the taxicab driver arrived, the man — described as 40-45 years of age with a southern or New England accent and dressed in an expensive-looking business suit — said he wanted to be driven to the Orchard 12 Plaza at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

But, he said, he first wanted to stop at the Michigan National Bank, two miles to the south, to conduct business. There, he asked the driver

to wait while he went inside.

Once inside, the man asked to speak to the person in charge. When a customer service representative appeared, he flashed a black leather case containing a gold badge and said he was an IRS agent there on an investigation.

The two went into a conference room, where the man pushed aside his suit jacket, pulled a revolver from a hip holster and announced a holdup. He said no one would be hurt if they did exactly as he ordered.

THE MAN then put the gun away but at one point said the duffie bag that he had pulled from his attaché case and had left in the conference room contained dynamite.

He then ordered three employees

to wait in a restroom while the other two gathered money from the teller drawers, the money machine and the vault. He put the money in his attaché case.

The man threatened to detonate the bomb, using a hand-held black plastic box, unless his demands were met or if anyone sounded the alarm. He warned against being given any marked or exploding packs of money. He said he would call the bank 10 minutes after he left to explain how to deactivate the bomb.

About 20 minutes after entering the bank, the man returned to the waiting cab and asked to be taken a few doors south to the Orchard 12 Plaza.

When he exited the cab, he tossed

a \$20 bill toward the driver and asked her to pick up a business associate across 12 Mile Road at the Quality Inn of Farmington Hills, and bring him back to Swenson's.

But when the cab driver arrived at the Quality Inn, no one was waiting. The gunman apparently left Swenson's in a waiting car. It was not known if he had an accomplice.

THE GUNMAN was further described as white, 5-11, with a medium build, a mustache and short brown hair, possibly a wig.

He was dressed neatly in what appeared to be a two-piece, light gray suit, a light-colored shirt and a light gray tie. The weapon was described as a four-inch silver revolver.

Hills honors his memory

Frederick W. Fairfield, who helped shape Farmington Township into the city of Farmington Hills 13 years ago, was "remembered for his leadership, steadfast spirit and many contributions to the community."

In a resolution adopted Aug. 11, the Farmington Hills City Council honored Fairfield, who died July 13 after a short illness. He was 67. Since 1981, he lived in Kentucky.

Fairfield was a member of both the Future Farmington Association, which fostered Farmington Township's move toward cityhood, and the Farmington Hills Charter Commission, which wrote the city charter that voters adopted in 1973.

He also was a member of the Canterbury Commons Homeowners Association. Fairfield took early retirement in 1962 from the Ford Motor Co. after a career in public relations.



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