

# Gunman narrowly misses employee near counter

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Farmington Hills became acquainted with the Detroit in the past year during visits to the restaurant, police said.

**POLICE GAVE** this account of the robbery:

Wearing a mask of an old man with long white hair, a green Army fatigue jacket, blue jeans and work gloves, a gunman entered the restaurant from one door just as a Guardian Armored Security bonded courier was walking from the rear toward

another door with the weekend receipts.

About 20 employees and patrons were inside.

As the courier turned to face employees behind the counter, he saw the masked gunman and dropped a money bag with about \$7,000. From behind, the robber then took the courier's gun.

As the robber retreated outside, an excited employee apparently angered him. He fired one shot toward the employees behind the counter, missing one by less than eight inches.

es. The spent slug dented the steel counter.

The robber, who never uttered a word, may have tried to fire a second shot before running toward the rear lot. The getaway car, where an accomplice was waiting, was parked on Leeline, a block away.

"I THINK the crew and customers did a really good job," said Peter Costa, restaurant supervisor. "They got the best description they could. I don't think anybody panicked. Had somebody panicked, we would have had a worse situation than we did."

After seeing a TV report at 6 p.m. Tuesday, a citizen gave Farmington Hills a possible location of the getaway car. The house on Elm Grove, 1 1/2 miles from the restaurant, was staked out.

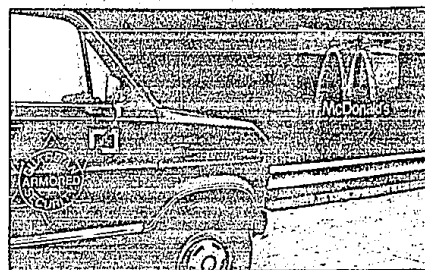
That night, an 18-year-old resident was arrested after a friend dropped him off. Armed with a search warrant signed by Magistrate James Brady of Farmington, police seized the suspected getaway car and more than \$100 in cash believed taken in the robbery.

Investigation then led police to a house on Appoline in northwest Detroit. It also was staked out and a search warrant sought. At 5 a.m. Wednesday, an 18-year-old man was arrested getting into a newer-model pickup truck to go to work at the McDonald's that had been robbed.

The suspected robbery weapon, a .38-caliber revolver, and a revolver believed to be the courier's, a .357 magnum revolver, were found in the basement. The pickup truck and stereo equipment, believed bought with robbery proceeds, as well as a mask similar to the one used in the robbery, also were seized.

Another \$2,000 was found at the Farmington Hills home of a friend of the Farmington Hills man. Dwyer would not comment about possible additional warrants.

**DWYER SAID** the gunman concealed his identity well. "We



A masked gunman robbed a Guardian Armored Security courier as he was leaving the McDonald's restaurant at 24020 Orchard Lake Road Monday morning.

were not aware at the time of the robbery whether he was black or white.

One suspect has no police record; the other has a few minor brushes with the law. But both are being investigated for possible involvement in other felonies, Dwyer said.

The employee arrested was a suspect before the citizen's tip. "We speculated it probably was an inside job," Dwyer said. "We were headed in the right direction."



Farmington Hills police Sgt. Charles Nebus (left) and police Chief William Dwyer show the news media cash and guns seized during the arrest of two men suspected of robbing the McDonald's Restaurant at Orchard Lake Road and 10 Mile Monday morning.

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