Woman loses Social Security money in scam

con game continues to be oper-in Redford Township, where an-

ated in Redford Township, where an-other woman was targeted and bilked out of her Social Security money last week by two women. Last month, a 65-year-old Redford woman fell pray to an elaborate, two-phase scam that included a peoudo police investigation after she was victimized in the first phase, losling a total of \$17,000 in cash, Red-ford police said.

ford police said.

She was approached at about 10 a.m. on Oct. 12 by a well-dressed woman as she was walking home from the Redford Township Credit Union on Five Mile east of Beech Technological Control of the Police and Police and

Another Redford woman, in her 60s, did not take the bait of a similar scam attempted Oct. 31 by a woman in the parking lot of Redford Oaks shopping mail at Seven Mile and Grand River, police said.

BUT A 76-year-old Detroit woman did fall for the same scam Nov. when she thought she was going to split a large sum of money with two other women, police said. They end-ed up taking the women's Social Se-curity money as she belatedly real-ized what was happening, police said.

curity money as one occasion, police said.

The woman told police that she was approached by one woman at about 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Redford Plaza shopping mall at Telegraph and W. Chicago.

The woman showed her a tattered-

Telegraph and W. Chicago.
The woman showed her a latteredlooking, black case and asked if it is
belonged to her, then opened it to reveal what appeared to be a large
amount of money inside, police said.
Folders that appeared to contain
large sums of money were used to
balt the women in the previous two
scam incidents but one woman
avoided being victimized by telling
the suspect to turn the money over to
police.

In last week's scam, a note in the

Folders that appeared to contain large sums of money were used to bait the women in the previous two scam incidents, but one woman avoided being victimized by telling the suspect to turn the money over to police.

case indicated that the money was the proceeds of a gambling opera-tion and must not be reported to the Internal Revenue Service, police

A second woman appeared and the trio decided to split the gambling money.

ONE SUSPECT suggested they ask a bank manager what to do with the money and she took the black

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case into a Michigan National Bank at Telegraph and W. Chicago, the victim told police.

The suspect came out without the case and told the woman that a bond would have to be posted to get her share of the morey, police sald. The suspect asked the woman if she had any money and she replied that she had a little money at her home, police sald.

The suspects drove the woman to

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her house and they went inside, where she game them \$490 from her cashed Social Security check, police said.

said.

All three drove back to Michigan National and the suspects told the woman to go inside to get her share of the gambling money, police said.

The woman then became aware of the scam and insisted they go into the scam and insisted they go into the bank with a side of the scam and insisted they go not the said. After the woman got out of the ear, the two women left, police said.

She got a license plate number of the car and an investigation contin-ues, but no one had been arrested as of Monday, police said.

INVESTIGATORS SUSPECT two

women and a man are involved in the incidents, Redford police detective Lt. John Buck said.

The man played the part of a police officer who went to the house of ilst month's victim and claimed he was investigating a counterfeiting operation at the credit union where she has her money police said.

Both he and a woman who accompanied him showed the woman gold adges and told her that she would get back the \$8,000 she lost in the Cot. 12 scam if she withdrew \$9,000 from the credit union so they could check for counterfeit money, police said.

She withdrew the money and gave

sald.

She withdrew the money and gave it to them, but never saw them again, police said. She then reported both incidents to police, Buck sald.

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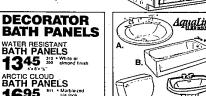
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