

\$50,000 Taken In Bank Heist

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Investigation into the \$50,000 bank robbery in Boulder Creek intensified Saturday with the discovery of the getaway car about five miles away from the scene of the crime.

Sheriff's deputies figured that the car, which was found about 5 p.m. on Bear Creek Road north of town, had been abandoned shortly after the robbery Friday.

Two masked robbers walked into the Boulder Creek branch of County Bank around 2 p.m. Friday, deputies said.

One robber, armed with a pistol, made two tellers hand over some cash. Then, while he held a gun on the bank's patrons, the other jumped over the railing and ordered an assistant supervisor to open the vault, deputies said.

Both suspects were thought to be Mexican - Americans. One was 5 - foot - 8 and about 150 pounds, the other about 5 - foot - 4 and 120 pounds. The shorter bandit wore a brown felt hat.

A short time after the robbers entered the bank, a car's horn from outside began honking. The two jumped into a red Volkswagen convertible with a black top, which sped off.

Sheriff's deputies quickly responded to the scene, and were given a description of the car by several bystanders. Sheriff's Sgt. Stoney Brook later commented that the citizens' description of the car was "exact."

He thanked the bystanders for coming forward with statements and descriptions which he said have given investigators "a few leads" into solving the robbery.

Just after the robbery, citizens provided officers with the license number of the getaway car, and it wasn't long before it was discovered that the car had been stolen earlier in the day from a used car lot in the San Jose area.

Brook said the robbers apparently ditched the car shortly after the robbery, perhaps making their getaway in another car.

Deputies, with the help of highway patrolmen, sealed off the area but didn't find any suspects. Deputies stopped a few cars, including one which took evasive action and was finally stopped on Ocean Street within the city limits of Santa Cruz. None of these traffic stops turned up any suspects.

A final tally of the bank's loss is expected to be made Monday.

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