



Witnesses of armed heist sought by investigators

CAPITOLA — Investigators on the trail of the bandits who knocked over an armored car in Capitola last week want to talk to two witnesses who have not been located to talk about the robbery or its prelude.

One witness told police she saw a woman drive up in the Buick station wagon used as a getaway car, park it, and drive off in an orange-colored car. The witness gave her name to authorities, but it was misplaced. That witness is described only as a woman in her '30s, with short hair.

The other witness sought by investigators is a young woman, perhaps 28 years old, who stood at the bookkeeping counter of the Capitola branch of the Bank of America while two robbers took \$506,000 in cash from a Loomis armored car guard.

The woman left the bank by the door on Capitola Road, and crossed in front of the robbers in the parking lot as one of them picked up bags he had dropped on the way to the getaway car.

One robber may have had his mask off.

The witness wore a flowered, calf-length skirt, a long-sleeved white blouse and high-heeled shoes. Her hair is light brown or blonde.

Authorities say witnesses' identities will be protected.

The white van pictured above was abandoned in the parking lot next to the bank. It is described as a 1973 Dodge 300

Tradesman. There is a noticeable blue smear of blue paint on the white grille, a three-inch dent above the right headlight, an empty antenna mount on the roof and the right side marker light is broken out.

On each side of the van, at eye level, about three-fourths of the way back, a bullet has been fired through the metal from the van's inside to make what investigators theorize are peepholes. On the rusted, dented, rear bumper is a KMEL radio station bumper sticker commemorating the 1982 final tour of the WHO. Both rear windows are blocked with white paper, edged along the top with rainbow colors. The license plate holder is from Kirberg motors in San Francisco.

The drivers black vinyl bucket seat is torn; the passenger's bucket seat is light brown. A blue sheet of plywood with shelves built on it separates the drivers compartment from the cargo area. A Raiders' decal is on the dash. Course sandpaper is glued to the driver's arm rest.

The van was parked in the 1200 block of North Branciforte Drive from May 2 to May 10, the day of the robbery. A blue Chevrolet was recovered in that block last weekend, and investigators feel it may also be tied to the heist.

Anyone who may have information about the robbery, the sought-for witnesses or the vehicles is asked to call the FBI at 426-6384 or the Capitola Police, 475-4242.



This white Dodge van, used in last week's armored car robbery, was parked in the 1200 block of North Branciforte Avenue from May 2 until May 10, the day of the robbery. Another car investigators believe the robbers used was also recovered from that area.