

\$25,000 reward in armored car heist

By JOHN McNICHOLAS

Sentinel Staff Writer

CAPITOLA — Loomis Armored Car Service has offered a \$25,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the robbers who got away clean with \$506,000 cash from an armored car here Tuesday.

The trail of the robbers, who pulled off the noontime heist at the Bank of America on 41st Avenue, is growing colder.

"With robberies in general, the chances of catching someone decreases dramatically even two hours after the robbery. The longer it takes, the less chance you have of catching someone," Capitola Police investigator Tom Hanna said this morning.

The investigation, he said, is focusing on vehicles apparently purchased for use in the heist by the robbers. Police recovered at or near the scene three of at least four vehicles used in the raid. Ownership transfers apparently were not completed. Police are tracking down the registered owners from whom the vehicles were bought, in hopes they may provide a description of the robbers.

Agent Frank Lewis of the FBI in

San Francisco, which joined the case because the money is federally insured, said this morning no possible suspects have yet been identified.

"We're working on a lot of things, but I can't discuss specific investigative leads we're pursuing right now," he said.

The robbery was pulled off with "absolutely perfect timing, by someone who was knowledgeable, and knew what to expect," said James Campbell, president of Loomis Armored Car Services. "The guys knew what they were doing, and knew about what they were dealing with."

The driver and guard in the armored car, Daniel James Pacheco, 45, and Charles Edward Jerde, 34, described the robbery to police in reports released this morning.

Jerde walked from the bank with four bags of cash he had just signed for. Pacheco opened the armored car's side door from the inside, and Jerde was loading the bags when a station wagon carrying two men wearing Halloween masks and light blue coveralls pulled up in front of the Loomis car and blocked it.

Driver Pacheco called, "Watch

SEE BACK PAGE

Reward

FROM PAGE 1

out, Chuck," as one robber came up behind Jerde and told him, "Face the truck."

Pacheco said he went for his gun, and thought about shooting the other robber, who stood guard with an automatic rifle between the truck and the bank building. But the robber who was disarming Jerde was blocking the door porthole through which Pacheco would shoot.

After taking Jerde's .38-caliber revolver, the robber fired a round from it into the truck door. A fragment hit Jerde, but did not injure him.

The robber ordered him under the truck, then grabbed only the four bags of bank money Jerde had just collected. He and the other robber ran to another station wagon which was waiting for them. Witnesses have said a woman may have driven the getaway car, but reports are so confused and the robbers so smooth that nobody is even sure of the robbers' race or sex, or if two, three or four were involved.

The suspects apparently had a third car waiting about five blocks away, where police found the getaway car abandoned.

"It all happened in about 90 seconds," Campbell said. "Our men didn't have any time to respond. I don't think they (the robbers) expected to get that much money, but it's hard to know" if they were aware of the cash shipment in advance.

Campbell said the money was insured, but would not discuss insurance arrangements. He said the bank would not lose any money.

Hanna said no fingerprints were lifted during the initial investigation from the cars or miscellaneous papers found inside. But he hopes a more intense scrutiny may turn some up and provide identities.

"But of course," Hanna said, "if it's somebody that's already wanted, it's not going to be any easier to catch them than before the robbery."

met with the director of the Foreign Ministry, Dav

Habib brought from clarifications Israel d the Lebanese governm was satisfied, spok Amihud said.

Lebanese Foreign Salem was scheduled to cus today to explain worked out by Secre George P. Shultz to Sy Hafez Assad.

Assad's government news media have been s of the withdrawal agre it compromises Syria's an unacceptable rewar last summer's invasion drive out Palestinian g

Syria's agreement i pact, since Israel says it to withdraw from Leb Syrians and the Palest Organization agree to forces.

Shultz, after reporting to President Reagan ab mission, said he was Syrians and PLO wou Lebanon.

"It is clear that there opinion building up in th that this is the opport about Israeli withdrawa non, along with all forei support for that," he sa confident that, in the e happen."

The Lebanese sourc after the agreement v signed, Lebanese Pre Gemayel will take it t and ask for an endorse him more bargaining p Syrians. He also may di to other Arab capitals pact.

Under emergency po in December, Gemayel parliamentary approval agreement.