

4 Men Rob Howard Bank Branch in Barton

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By Andrea Zentz

Barton — Four men wearing white gloves robbed the Howard Bank branch at 2:52 p.m. Friday, state police said. Authorities did not disclose the amount of money stolen. 'Police recovered the get-away car after it was abandoned about three miles south of Barton on Old U.S. 5, Sgt. Harold Kenney said. The car was stolen from a Boston residence eight days ago, police said. A man with dark glasses and a goatee "which could very well be artificial" entered the bank and two men wearing yellow and black ski masks carrying rifles or shotguns rushed in behind him, Kenney said. Their demands for money were filled with obscenities, he said.

A fourth masked man waited in the car,' police said. Descriptions were, sketchy Friday night, but police said the men were slim and in their early 20s. No pictures were taken of the robbery, officials said. Roadblocks were set up In Orleans, Caledonia and Essex counties. Kenney said the robbers "possibly" switched to other vehicles.' Police were looking for a van, possibly blue and white, and a Trans-Am believed to be gold. One of the bandit's blue and white baseball cap fell off as he ran out, and a box of .22 shotgun shells spilled, police said. The items were confiscated as evidence. Jack Ruggles, pharmacist at Pierce Pharmacy, said an Oriental man ran into his store yelling, "Hold up. Hold up." Ruggles said he thought the stranger was attempting to hold up the drug store, which is across the street from the bank. Once the pharmacist ascertained the robbery was at the bank, he said he called police. Authorities had already been alerted by an alarm, police said. Ruggles watched the robbers come out of the bank and jump in the car, parked directly in front. They turned around and headed south on U.S. 5, he said. Ruggles said he was shocked. Leonis Brooks, 61, lives in an apartment house next to the bank. "I've been expecting it. They've robbed other banks. I figured Barton would be the next," she said.

Second Article 'Police Release Description Burlington Free Press 8/29/31

Barton — State police issued a description Saturday of the robbers who robbed the Howard Bank branch in Barton on Friday afternoon.

Police said the suspect who entered the bank first is between 5 feet 7 inches and six feet tall and is slender. He is in his mid to late 20s, has a pale complexion, black curly hair and a goatee. The robber was wearing a navy-blue windbreaker jacket, a dark flat cap and dark glasses police said.

Descriptions of two men who rushed in behind him were incomplete, police said. they were wearing light colored skis masks and carrying rifles or shotguns said Sgt. Harold Kenney. Police said they are shorter than the first man and one is heavy set.

A fourth masked man waited in the car while the bandits demanded money. Authorities did not disclose the amount stolen.

Roadblocks were set up In Orleans, Caledonia and Essex counties. State Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Sheriff's Department and local police are assisting in the investigation. The bandits possibly are operating a blue and white van and a gold Trans-Am. A get-away car was abandoned about three miles south of Barton on Old U.S. 5.

It was stolen from a Boston residence eight days before the robbery police said.