

# Armored Truck Contained Pickups From Downtown Department Stores

## ★ ROBBERY

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One of them then drove the truck to the rear of the DFW building. The truck was followed by a black and white station wagon, Haines told police.

The truck, Brink's officials said, had just completed a pickup from downtown department stores. In addition to about 50 money bags, the truck held a red wooden trunk filled with cash and checks marked "Filene's" a black steel trunk marked "Jordan Marsh" and a black suitcase marked "Raymond's."

Haines said the men emptied the money bags and trunks into the station wagon in seconds. The robbers' car drove off in the direction of North Station.

Haines, handcuffed, was left in the truck. He managed to get out and walk to the MDC Charles River Basin

station, about a quarter of a mile away.

Apparently, no one at the Union Oyster House or other nearby businesses was aware that a robbery had taken place.

Heavy rain and poor visibility apparently provided near-ideal conditions for the robbery. Traffic was very light in the area.

Haines made it to the MDC station shortly after 6:55 p.m., and, still handcuffed, told his story to patrolman Eugene Innocenti, the duty clerk.

Innocenti immediately called Boston Police headquarters for assistance. Haines said his wrists were bruised from the handcuffs, but otherwise he was not harmed.

Police found the truck at the rear of the Department of Public Works building, 100 Nashua st., and kept newsmen and spectators away.

Haines said two sets of handcuffs were used on him. One set held his wrists together and the second set was used to chain him to the inside of the truck. He said he used a candy wrapper to release the cuffs holding him to a door.

Haines said he used the candy wrapper to slip the latch of the handcuffs much in the same manner as thieves use a piece of cellulose to slip the latches of house locks.

The two guards who were out of the truck at the time of the hijacking, and Haines, the messenger, were taken to police station One in the Government Center for questioning.

All were taken in through a back door.

Called in on the case immediately was Police Comr. Edmund L. McNamara, Superintendent Herbert F. Mulloney and Deputy Supt. James L. Buchanan, head of the Boston Police Bureau of Criminal Identification.

Police said both robbers in the truck wore the same type of black ski mask and black gloves. It was not known, they said, whether the third in the station wagon was armed.

At the station, Haines was released from the second set of handcuffs by Sgt. George McGarrity.

The robbery, police said, including the time it took to drive to the D.P.W. building parking lot, took only about 10 minutes.

About 25 minutes elapsed between Haines' confrontation on Canal st. and his arrival at the M.D.C. station.

Probably more than 100 cars drove above the D.P.W. lot while the money was being transferred. An expressway ramp passes almost directly over the lot from the Leverett traffic circle.

The two guards were having coffee at a Canal Street restaurant while their truck was hijacked, Haines told

MDC police. The guards were identified at Station One as Joseph Kelly, 44, of 39 Mount Vernon st., Dorchester, and John M. Gillespie, 30, of 21-D Village Court, South End.

When MDC police arrived at the truck, they found the alarm bell on the armored car ringing. Haines had managed to press the alarm button with his nose.

Inside, police said, they found revolvers owned by Haines and the two guards.

## 'I've Been Hit for a Half Million'

MDC policeman Eugene A. Innocenti, 40, was on the desk of the Lower Basin division headquarters when a Brink's messenger walked in and said, "I've just been hit

for a half million bucks." Innocenti immediately called the night officer, Sgt. George McGarrity, who unlocked the police regulation handcuffs the thieves had

used on the messenger, Richard Haines.

Innocenti then called Boston police and dispatched MDC patrol cars to the Registry parking lot where the Brink's truck had been emptied of its loot.

Another MDC officer, Edward J. McGurn who was also in the station when Haines walked in, said, "The guy was shaken up pretty badly. He kept saying, 'Get these handcuffs off.'"

Haines told Innocenti and the other officers that the bandits handcuffed him with two sets of cuffs, drove to the Registry lot, and transferred the money to a station wagon.

After the thieves had driven off, Haines managed to press an alarm with his nose. He then picked up a piece of cellophane candy wrapping from the floor of the truck and with it somehow managed to open the lock on one cuff.

Haines told the police that he then walked to the MDC Station in the driving rain. When the MDC cruisers reached the Registry parking lot, they found the alarm still ringing.

## \$1.2 Million Holdup Was 19 Years Ago

By STEVE KURKJIAN  
Globe Staff

Last night's half million dollar holdup of a Brink's truck in the North End revives memories of Jan. 17, 1950, when seven masked men invaded the counting room of Brinks, Inc., at 165 Prince st., and escaped with \$1,219,000.

The seven men, wearing identical chauffeurs' caps, pea jackets and rubbers, overpowered five Brink's guards, bound and gagged them and forced them to lie face down on the floor while they scooped the cash into laundry bags. It was a cold, damp Tuesday night, shortly after 7 p.m.

It was, at that time, the biggest cash robbery in the nation's history—and possibly the world. It was to be topped 12 years later—on Aug. 14, 1962—by the Plymouth mail robbery in which \$1.5 million was taken from a hijacked postal truck.

Eleven men were in on the planning and execution of the 1950 Brink's robbery. Four of them remained outside the building.

Officially, only \$55,000 of the original holdup loot was recovered—in a South End basement business establishment.

Four of the 11 men involved in the robbery have died. Six are serving life terms and one, Joseph J. (Specs) O'Keefe, who testified about the planning of the robbery was freed after serving a prison sentence.

The Plymouth mail truck robbery still stands as the largest cash holdup in the United States. At about 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, 1962, a postal truck was detoured and forced to stop along a stretch of Rte. 3 in Plymouth by two cars.

A man dressed as a policeman covered the driver of the truck with a shotgun while another man gave orders to a second postal guard. Taken from the truck

was more than \$1.5 million in unmarked, used bills. None of the loot has been found and two persons brought to trial for the robbery were acquitted in 1967.

The Brink's Company was hit by another robbery two years ago.

Four men, two of them masked and carrying machineguns, robbed a Brink's truck of \$147,000, July 22, 1966, in the parking lot of the Mitre Corp. off Rt. 62 in Bedford.

Three guards on the truck were disarmed and forced to lie face down while the gang transferred the loot to a getaway car. The armored truck was transporting money to cash Mitre payroll checks.

## \$15,900 Holdup In East Boston

Two gunmen robbed employees of the Liberty Market, 220 Rode st., East Boston, of \$15,900 in cash and checks last night.

The thieves confronted Frank Connolly, assistant manager of the market, and clerk John Cataldo, 27, of 45 Gladstone st., East Boston, on the sidewalk in front of the market as the two men were going to deposit the day's receipts in a bank, at 5:40 p.m.

The employees were forced up against a wall and two paper bags containing \$8000 in cash and \$7900 in checks were taken from them.

The two gunmen fled the scene in a dark colored Pontiac, driven by a third man. The car was later recovered on Lexington street, East Boston.

Police described one of the gunmen as about 16 years old. The other was about 28 years old, 5 feet 10 inches, wearing a mustache and sunglasses, they said.



DETECTIVES DUST BRINK'S TRUCK FOR CLUES (UPI)

