Tess Atkins

JOR 220

Story #5

Crime Story

PLEASANT VALLEY – Two men wearing ski masks robbed Hometown Savings and Loan Bank on Main Street at gunpoint this morning and stole $52,000.

Pleasant Valley Police Department Public Information Officer Lisa Montgomery said the robbers ordered each bank teller to lie on the floor once they turned over the money. She said that one of the robbers held the bank security guard at gunpoint while the other dealt with the tellers.

Albert Citecinni, one of the detectives at the scene, said that the robbery sounds suspiciously similar to a robbery that occurred a few days earlier in Mt. Wayland. “Same M-O,” Citecinni said. At the robbery in Mt. Wayland, the robbers left through the front door but ran down the street and into a side street.

Frank Welch, the bank security guard, was taken to the hospital with chest pains after the robbery. Alice Wilkins, the general manager of the bank, said Welch has had heart problems from time to time and that he might have had a heart attack. Welch is being held at Pleasant Valley Memorial Hospital for observation. A hospital official said she cannot release any more information about his condition.

Wilkins said no one was hurt in the robbery. “We’re all pretty shaken up,” Wilkins said. “We’ve never been robbed before.”

Wilkins said, “They knocked me aside and immediately held their guns on Frank.”

Wilkins thinks that the men must have been hiding around the corner waiting for the door to open because they burst in after the doors were unlocked. Montgomery said that the two men fled out a back door of the bank.

Witnesses at the bank described one man as six feet tall wearing a ski parka with a hood. The other man was just under six feet wearing a black coat and green trousers. Montgomery said that the bank does have surveillance tape but because the robbers wore ski masks, the tapes are not helping with identifying them.

Wilkins said she doesn’t know how the two men would have known there was an exit in the back. She said it’s not visible from the lobby or from the tellers’ windows.

Citecinni said, “We’re rounding up everyone who works at the bank and we’re trying to get a list of everyone who has worked here in the past several years.” Citecinni wants to talk to everyone about the robbery.