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CORRECTION NOTICE

On February 17, 1993 there was an error on the front page advertisement for the Olde Hide House.

The correct hours are:
Sun. - Wed. 10-6
Thurs.-Sat. 10-9

The Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press regrets any inconvenience this error may have caused the Olde Hide House and their customers.

Georgetown bank robber sentenced to 13 years in jail

An Alliston man has been sentenced to 13 years for a series of armed robberies in 1991, the last of which sparked a dramatic police chase that lasted 97 kilometres and ended north of Brampton.

Hermann Beier, 51, recently pleaded guilty to 31 criminal charges, including attempted murder, armed robbery and numerous firearms offenses, and was sentenced in Brampton court Tuesday to 15 years, minus two years for pre-trial time already served.

The crown attorney was pushing for 18-20 years, while Beier's lawyer had suggested eight to 10 was a more suitable punishment.

In sentencing, Mr. Justice Kenneth Langdon noted Beier is not "a worst offender," with "a long history of criminal conduct," despite his six-month crime spree, from

April to October 1991.

"I believe a first sentence ought not to be one that would crush a defender," Langdon said. "Notwithstanding the seriousness of his offenses, the maximum penalty (of life) would be inappropriate... However, we must impose a severe enough sentence so police officers and bank tellers do not feel betrayed."

He agreed with Beier's lawyer, Paul Stern, that his actions were "out of character," and that he succumbed to "overwhelming pressures" during his life at the time, such as the death of his father and the bankruptcy of his business.

The court was told that Beier robbed a total of nine banks at gunpoint over a six-month period, the last time ending up in a police chase where he exchanged gunfire

with officers in pursuit.

Approximately \$135,000 was taken during the first four robberies, and "several thousand" from the next two, none of which was ever recovered.

While disguised, Beier robbed three Royal Banks in Georgetown, Rockwood and Guelph on Oct. 31, 1991. After taking the money in Georgetown, Beier threw a smoke bomb into the building before heading to the other two banks in a stolen limousine.

From there, Halton police officers, Ontario Provincial Police and then Peel officers chased Beier 97 kilometres through the countryside before eventually forcing his vehicle off the road at King St. and McLaughlin Rd. Throughout the chase, Beier repeatedly fired at the officers, either out of his car window while driving, or stopping and getting out of the vehicle and shooting just as the cruisers rounded a hill or bend in the road.

No police officers were wounded in the chase, but one Halton officer suffered minor leg injuries after he drove his cruiser into a ditch to avoid being shot at.

Beier, however, was shot in the hip when he left his car after it was forced off the road.

Langdon commended the police officers for the "heroism, restraint and professionalism" they displayed in chasing and apprehending Beier.

"These officers displayed courage to stand first in the line of fire, and remarkable restraint in the face of extreme provocation," Langdon said. "I am utterly certain that if this occurred in any other jurisdiction, Beier would not have survived to stand trial."

Police Blotter

Tools taken

Power and hand tools, valued at \$2,000, were stolen from a black pick-up truck on Ninth Line north of 10 Sideroad in Halton Hills early Monday morning. Police report that the owner of the truck ran out of gas and upon his return, discovered the rear window broken and various tools missing including a Black and Decker router, a Black and Decker drill, a screw gun, carpenter tools and electrical cords.

Fire scorches cars

A total of \$5,000 was caused to two vehicles during a car fire at M.Z. Bennett School parking lot Monday morning. Firefighters were called to the scene at 10 a.m. after a vehicle caught fire under the driver's side dash, completely destroying the front of the vehicle. The fire caused \$4,000 to the vehicle and \$1,000 in damage to a car beside, which sustained scorched paint on the passenger side due to the heat of the fire. The fire was believed to be caused by faulty wiring.

Box break-ins

Police report that two Globe and Mail newspaper boxes were broken into sometime between Monday and Wednesday. The first box, located at Sargent and Mountainview Road, was broken into between 3 a.m. Monday and 3 a.m. Tuesday, and the second, located at John and Mountainview, was broken into between 3 a.m. Tuesday and 3 a.m. Wednesday. A total of \$9 in quarters from the coin boxes was taken during the two incidents and both boxes were damaged.

Crime Stoppers

OPP seek help to nab cigarette thieves

On January 5, at 6 a.m., thieves smashed their way into the Valu Mart store in the village of Erin.

Once inside the store the burglars stole nearly 200 cartons of cigarettes.

On November 8, 1992 at 4:10 a.m. thieves broke into Ray's Variety in the village of Rockwood.

Once inside the bandits removed 100 cartons of various

brands of cigarettes.

Any information that leads to an arrest in these cases or any other serious crime may earn you a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

You will not have to identify yourself or testify in court.

Remember crime doesn't pay, Crime Stoppers does.

Call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-265-1622 (toll free).

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