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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1995

Variety store robberies have cops baffled

The year ended with an unusual and shocking string of convenience store crimes as Acton saw three armed robberies in the last week of 1994.

On Saturday at 9:53 pm a male suspect entered Lakeview Convenience; armed with a knife, the man confronted the store clerk and demanded money. The suspect removed a quantity of cash from the register and also took several Nevada lottery tickets.

The suspect then fled and was last seen climbing over a fence at the rear of the Main Street North variety store.

Police were on the scene within one minute from the time a call was received, but a search of the area — conducted along with a canine unit provided by Peel Police — failed to produce the thief.

The suspect is described as a white male, approximately 5'8" tall and 150 pounds. He was wearing a dark, hooded jacket, with a ski mask and dark pants.

Two days earlier at about 7:50 pm a man armed with a knife entered Jug City and demanded money from the female clerk. After a brief scuffle the man fled the Queen Street store without any

cash.

The suspect in this case is described as a white male with a slim build. He is estimated to be 19-years-old, 5'8" tall and was wearing a light brown bomber-style jacket with a grey ski mask.

According to Halton Police, the possible vehicle involved in the botched hold-up is a newer model mid-size car, navy blue in colour.

A subsequent search — again involving uniform officers and the Peel canine unit — also failed to turn up a suspect.

Less than an hour later a knife-wielding bandit robbed the R&M

Shopette in Rockwood. Guelph Police said Monday that they believe the two hold-ups may be related.

Two days before the Jug City incident, a Christmas Day robbery at Lakeview Convenience (targeted again on New Year's Eve) saw a masked thief make off with an undetermined amount of cash.

At about 5:40 pm Christmas Day the bandit entered Lakeview Convenience and — while holding a knife — demanded money from the female clerk. The man then fled the scene before police arrived.

The suspect is described as white, thin and about 6' tall.

Halton Police are asking for help in this string of armed robberies, which they describe as "quite possibly related."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Sgt. Ron Welsh at 11 Division. His phone number is 878-5511, ext. 2116.

On Dec. 6 the Smoke Shoppe store on Mill Street was held up and this robbery was treated as an isolated incident. The subsequent hold-ups have police baffled, citizens shocked — and convenience store clerks obviously worried.

Lookin' back: a review of 1994

Reporter Doug Harrison spent his Christmas holidays reading back-issues of *The Acton Tanner* in order to compile a chronicle of 'the year that was' and the following paragraphs serve as a comprehensive summary of 1994.

We're sure you'll agree — this was one busy town last year ...

JANUARY

SALES UP AT HIDE HOUSE: President Steve Dawkins reports December sales were significantly better for the Hide House than any previous month since re-opening in October 1993. However, Dawkins adds that sales continued to be hurt by "the public's idea that we are still gone, that we have not re-opened."

HINTON PASSES AWAY: Bert Hinton, one of Acton's most respected and celebrated citizens, passes away at age 81. Hinton was an Acton merchant since 1929, operating Hinton's Five-Cent-to-a-Dollar store. He was also president of the Acton Chamber of Commerce and the Acton Fall Fair, reeve of the

Town of Acton and warden of Halton County, in addition to being a charter member of the board of governors at Sheridan College.

MYSTERY PAIN TURNS OUT TO BE A BABY: Acton mother Tracey Gordon gives birth to 2-pound, 9-1/4 ounce Ashley Colleen Holmes at Guelph General Hospital, 12 days after being told she was pregnant. Ashley was born prematurely at 28 weeks — 12 weeks shy of average pregnancy periods.

ACTON FISH STUDY BEING FUNDED BY DEVELOPERS, GOVERNMENT: Halton Region kicks in \$62,500 toward the mass balance-fish habitat study — required before Acton development can occur — to match Halton Hills' contribution. Developers put up \$135,000 of \$270,000 cost.

FEBRUARY

BROCHURE LEAVES BUSINESSES OUT IN THE COLD: Acton merchants Jeff Herrington and John McNabb were upset that

See YEAR, Page 8



YEAR-END BOUNTY!

ASSIC's Lin Sallay, right, shows off clothes, food and toys with Diane Leferink, co-ordinator of 'Coffee Break' at Beth-El Christian Reformed Church. Local businesses and individuals donated the goods to give to 35 Acton and area families as part of the Christmas Needs Co-ordination Program. (Doug Harrison photo)



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