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Bandit wields shotgun in the second robbery in three weeks

By **KAREN SMITH**

The Champion

The west end of Main Street was closed off Wednesday afternoon as police responded to a robbery in progress at the Halton Community Credit Union.

But the masked bandit — armed with a shotgun — fled moments before police arrived for the second robbery at the downtown bank in three weeks.

Two bank employees were treated for shock after the gun-toting culprit, wearing a black nylon mask, entered the bank demanding money at 1:50 p.m.

A teller handed over an undisclosed amount of cash. The man placed the money in a sports bag and fled the scene.

No shots fired

While initial reports indicated that a shot was fired, the information was false, said Det. Sgt. Jackie Gordon of Halton Regional Police.

Police had been notified about the robbery by two bank employees who were taking a smoke break at the rear of the building.

The staff members heard screaming coming from the credit union and ran to a nearby residence to call police, Det.

Sgt. Gordon said.

In case the culprit was still in the bank when police arrived, investigators closed off the area and called in the tactical rescue team.

But once it was established that the robber had fled, the canine unit attempted to track the suspect. The search was unsuccessful.

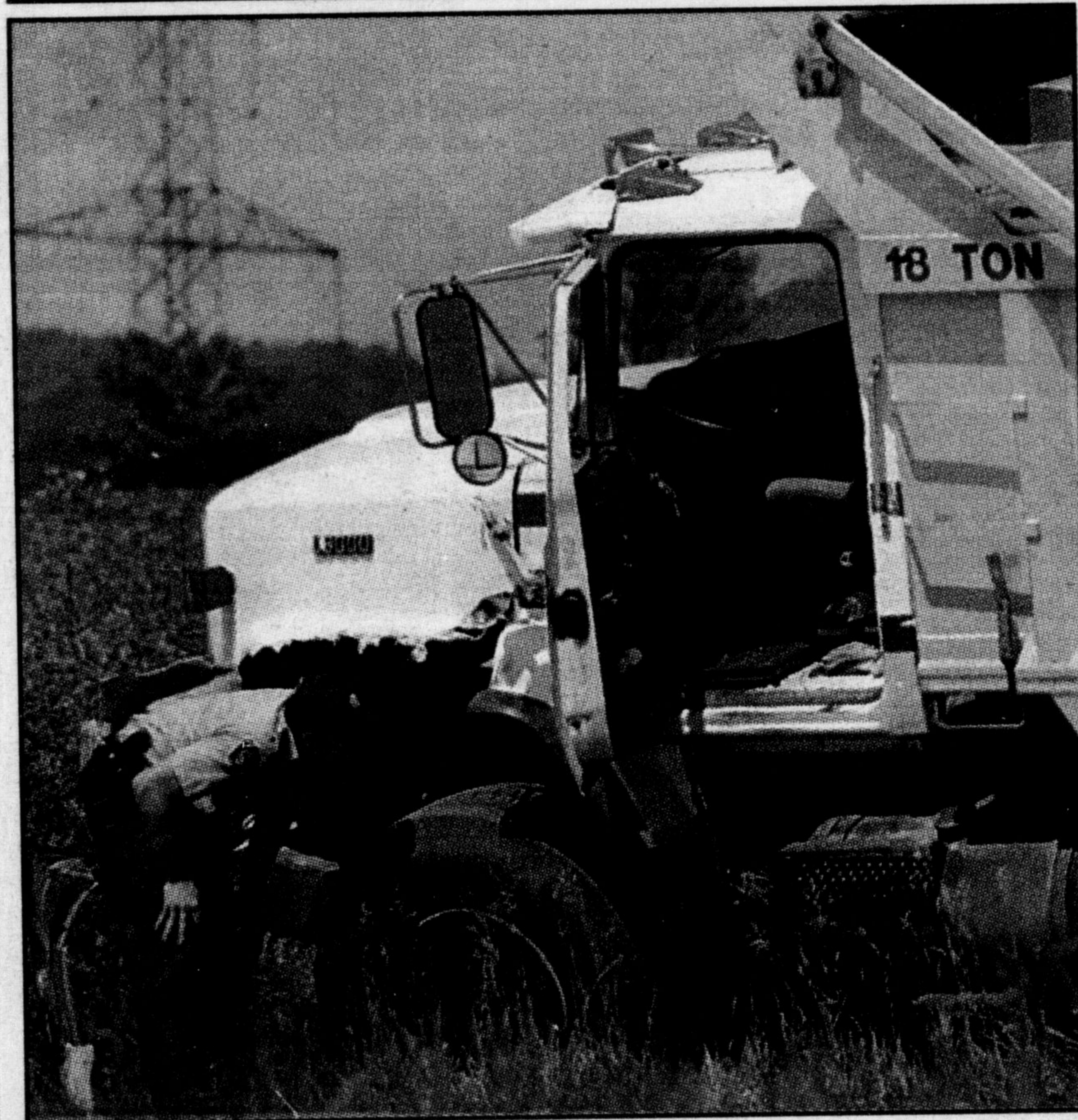
The bank was also held up May 18, but Tuesday's robbery, which saw the robber point a gun at a teller, was more upsetting to staff.

Some similar traits

"This one was a lot more emotional than the last one," Det. Sgt. Gordon said.

Police are investigating the possibility that the same person committed both crimes.

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Man killed in accident

A car-truck collision at Hwy. 25 and No. 5 Sideroad Wednesday morning claimed the life of a young Waterloo man.

Trevor Willis, 21, died after a west-bound gravel truck and a northbound 1989 Toyota Tercel collided shortly after 10 a.m.

The victim, pronounced dead at Milton District Hospital, was a passenger in the car.

The Milton Fire Department used the jaws of life to free the trapped driver of the car — Jeffrey Catherwood, 23, of Burlington — who was taken to Milton District Hospital and then transferred to St. Michael's Hospital, where he was listed in serious condition.

The driver of the 1989 Ford gravel truck — Sigmund Grohotolski, 67, of Mississauga — wasn't injured.

The crash is under investigation by Halton Regional Police's public safety unit.

No further details have been released. Anyone who witnessed the collision is asked to contact police at 878-5511, ext. 5108, or Crime Stoppers at 825-8477.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

A young, Waterloo man was killed when a Toyota and a gravel truck collided at the intersection of Hwy. 25 and No. 5 Sideroad Wednesday morning.

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