

THIRD SUSPECT SOUGHT BY FBI IN BANK HEISTS

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Author: Jim Woods, Dispatch Staff Reporter | Page: 07B | Section: NEWS

The FBI has identified and is searching for a third person believed to be a member of the Midwestern Bank Bandits.

Jim Thompson lived with Peter K. Langan and Richard Lee Guthrie Jr., both 37, in a rented house in Pittsburg, Kan., FBI agent Douglass Ogden said yesterday. The southeastern Kansas college town is about 100 miles south of Kansas City and close to the Missouri border.

The three are being investigated in a string of 18 robberies that began Jan. 25, 1994, in Ames, Iowa, and ended Nov. 22, 1995, in St. Louis.

"There were at least three individuals in many of the robberies so we are trying to identify if he was the one (who accompanied them)," Ogden said.

Three of the robberies tied to Langan and Guthrie were in Ohio, including the Oct. 25, 1994, holdup of the Columbus National Bank at 6121 E. Livingston Ave.

Thompson is known to have lived with Langan and Guthrie at the Pittsburg house on and off between April 1994 and early December 1995, Ogden said.

Until the recent arrests of Langan and Guthrie in Ohio, the FBI was uncertain of Thompson's whereabouts for the past 20 months. He was last seen at the Pittsburg residence, Ogden said.

The FBI has described Thompson as about 6 feet tall, muscular, with short blond hair and a mustache. He is between 23 and 35 years old. Thompson was last seen driving a 1983 or '84 white Chevrolet Suburban with tinted windows and New Jersey license plates.

He is believed to be armed and is considered dangerous.

Federal agents in Kansas City, Mo., are searching for two people they believe may lead them to Thompson, the FBI in Kansas City says.

Neither Langan nor Guthrie were ever arrested in Pittsburg. They appeared to be "model citizens," who paid bills in a timely fashion, The Morning Sun in Pittsburg reported last week.

Tim Covell, who lived across from the house where Langan and Guthrie

sometimes stayed, told the newspaper the two usually kept to themselves, stayed inside during the day and went out mostly at night.

Other neighbors told the newspaper of seeing their vans - which were always backed into their driveway - filled with high-technology, police-type equipment and radar detectors.

"We were outside playing hackysack one day, and we saw them, and this friend of mine said, 'I bet they're bank robbers,' " Covell told The Morning Sun. "It's kind of weird. I called him and told him about the FBI being here."

Ogden said it is unknown whether Thompson ever visited Langan at 585 Reinhard Ave., on the South Side, where FBI agents arrested him Jan. 18.
Caption: PhotoJim Thompson