

Federal indictment filed against alleged robber of banks in Scott, Washington counties

Written by Marty Randall
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by MARTY RANDALL

Staff Writer

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A federal indictment against Billy Joe Dugard, 36, for robbing two banks in Scott and Washington counties in April was announced this past week by Joseph H. Hogsett, U.S. Attorney of the Southern District of Indiana.

Dugard allegedly robbed the main office of The Scott County State Bank on April 24. He displayed no weapon in the crime, giving the teller a note which demanded money. The robber fled on foot after receiving an undisclosed amount.

On April 30, Dugard is purported to have duplicated the robbery at the PNC Bank on East State Road 60 in Pekin. This time, the robber was seen getting into a vehicle driven by a woman.

Dugard is reportedly originally from Crothersville. His last known address was in Chicago, Il. A detective in DeMotte, In., which is in the Chicago area, became interested in the Southern Indiana crimes after it became known that the car in which Dugard allegedly fled the Pekin bank had been seen in DeMotte, also a small community in which a bank had been robbed.

Working with Capt. Robert Amick of the Scottsburg Police Department, law enforcement agencies were able to get a good description of the robber and his possible identity.

Dugard and a female companion, Ashley Owens, 26, Underwood, were taken into custody by officers in the small Ohio community of Delaware on May 2.

Both were extradited back to Washington County to face charges in connection with the Pekin robbery.

Dugard has been in custody since that date and now faces two federal charges of bank robbery in U.S. District Court in New Albany.

Hogsett said good work preceded the indictment and is continuing as the case is built against Dugard. If found guilty of the charges, Dugard can be sentenced to up to 20 years in prison and ordered to pay up to a \$250,000 fine. The defendant must serve at least 85% of his sentence in the U.S. prison system.

“This case is a perfect example of a team win for Scott County,” stated Hogsett. “By bringing together federal, state and local resources, our Violent Crime Initiative (VCI) is producing significant results and sending a message that law enforcement agencies are united in our efforts to reduce violent crime in this community.”

The prosecution of Dugard is part of the U.S. Attorney’s VCI and a result of collaborative investigative efforts by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Marshals and Indiana State Police. Significant local assistance was provided by the Scottsburg Police Department, Washington County Sheriff’s Department, Pekin Police Department and Delaware County Sheriff’s Department. U.S. Attorney Lauren M. Wheatley will be prosecuting the case for the government.

Hogsett noted that an indictment is only a charge and not evidence of guilt.

No trial date for Dugard has been set in the New Albany court, advised Hogsett. He said he expected a date to be scheduled within 90 days and went on to say that the trial will probably take place within the next six to nine months.