

2013 Scottsburg bank robbery suspect now facing federal charge in U.S. Court

Written by Marty Randall

Wednesday, 09 April 2014 00:00 -

A Pikeville, Ky., man is now facing a federal charge in U.S. Court for allegedly robbing a bank in Scottsburg in June, 2013.

Jason Lee Robinson, 34, was discovered by officers with the Arizona Department of Public Safety about two weeks after the Scottsburg bank robbery in the greater Phoenix, Az., area. He was taken into custody in Maricopa County, Az., and charged in Scott Circuit Court on July 8, 2013, with robbery, a Class C felony.

No one recognized the man who thrust a written note at a teller at the Westview branch of the Scott County State Bank last June 20. Court documents stated that Robinson allegedly entered the branch bank and handed a teller a note saying, "this is a robbery, give me the money in the top drawer, no die (dye) pack, no talking." The robber escaped with approximately \$1,300.

The suspect reportedly has a criminal history of having robbed banks.

According to the case's probable cause affidavit, Robinson supposedly stolen his grandparents' silver Honda mini-van in Pikeville after being released from federal prison a week earlier on parole.

When Scottsburg police released robbery information and photos to news media in the greater Louisville area, Patrolman Travis Rutherford was called by the county's dispatching center and told that a woman had called who wanted to talk about the man who stole money from the branch bank.

That woman said she knew the bank robber. She said Robinson had been released from prison about a week prior to the Scottsburg robbery, and the vehicle used for his get-away was a silver Honda Odyssey van owned by the man's grandparents.

The caller could not explain how Robinson ended up in Scottsburg.

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Ptl. Rutherford and Sgt. Steve Herald contacted the Kentucky State Police, the Pike County Sheriff's Department and the Pikeville City Police as well as Robinson's grandparents. The man's grandmother said she reported the van as missing after her grandson did not return the vehicle. Further paperwork was then filed to change that report's status to "stolen." The new information went out through the IDACS criminal information system.

After the Maricopa County officer stopped Robinson in the van on July 5, Assistant Police Chief Richey Barton e-mailed that officer paperwork on the bank robbery. The officer identified Robinson as the alleged bank robber.

Robinson's federal charge is one of bank robbery, one which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, advised U.S. Attorney Joseph Hogsett. An investigation of Robinson's alleged actions was carried out by the Federal Bureau of Investigation based on what the Scottsburg Police Department had gathered.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Todd S. Shellenbarger will prosecute the case. An initial hearing before a U.S. Magistrate Judge was expected to occur in the next five days.

When asked for comment on the local pending charge against Robinson, Scott County Prosecutor Jason Mount stated, "Unfortunately, under Indiana law, the maximum sentence this defendant faces is eight years. As the penalties in the federal justice system are more significant for this crime, we are happy to cooperate with a federal prosecution. We have been told that we should expect (Robinson to receive) a sentence in excess of the maximum state sentence." Mount added, "I congratulate the Scottsburg Police Department on its officers' excellent work in cracking this case. We will be keeping an eye on this matter as it proceeds through federal court."