

\$8 million taken

Armored car robbed

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — A Wells Fargo Armored Service guard returning from collecting money drew a gun on two fellow guards, injected them with a drug and escaped with up to \$8 million in cash, police said Tuesday.

An arrest warrant was issued for Victor Gerena, 25, of Hartford, for the 9:30 p.m. Monday night heist described as the largest cash robbery in state history and the second largest in the United States.

Gerena, with Wells Fargo since May 1982, is accused of tying up the two guards at the West Hartford Wells Fargo office, injecting them with a drug, throwing coats over their heads then making off with the money, said Police Chief Francis Reynolds.

Reynolds cited the possibility that other people were involved, but declined to discuss the evidence police had for such suspicions.

Wells Fargo estimated the loss at \$8 million, Reynolds said. The largest cash robbery in the United States was \$11 million stolen from Sentry Armored Car-Courier in

New York Dec. 12, 1982.

The two fellow employees were branch manager James McKeown of Hartford and guard Timothy Girard of Tolland. They told police they were injected with something that made them drowsy. Neither was seriously hurt, Reynolds said.

At a news conference, police said the FBI had joined the investigation and an arrest warrant had been issued for Gerena.

Gerena was described as Hispanic, about 5-foot-6, 150 pounds. He was believed to be armed when he left the building. He was believed to have escaped in a 1974 green Buick Electra and may have left the state, police said.

Police said they had no idea how many money bags Gerena took and said he may have left as much money as he took.

Police said Gerena and his partner, Girard, had returned from a 9:07 p.m. pickup in Springfield, Mass., after making stops to pick up money along the way.

They pulled their truck into a bay at the one-story, cinderblock Wells Fargo building and started unloading money when Gerena

grabbed McKeown's pistol, held it to the manager's head and threatened to shoot him, Reynolds said.

Reynolds said Gerena told the two men he was serious and would blow McKeown's head off.

He ordered both men to the floor, handcuffed McKeown and tied a rope from his neck to his legs in such a fashion that if he struggled free, the rope would strangle him, Reynolds said, and Gerard was bound in the same manner.

Reynolds said the two men could hear Gerena pushing around a cart, which is used for moving the bags of money, and at one point heard him loading a shotgun.

Police said they received a call at about 11:08, after the guards were able to free themselves.

FBI Special Agent Dan Mahan said Gerena was sought for two counts of unlawful restraint; assault with a firearm in the second degree; three counts of theft with a firearm and interstate transportation of stolen property across state lines.

Ramsey accepts job with Texas colleges

United Press International WHEELING, W.Va. — West Virginia Board of Regents Chancellor Robert Ramsey has resigned to accept a post in Texas, board President John Saunders announced Tuesday.

Ramsey's resignation was disclosed at the end of the board's regular monthly meeting, held at West Virginia Northern Community College.

Saunders said Ramsey's impending departure evokes "mixed emotions," as he said he's enjoyed working with the chancellor. Saunders wished him well in his new position.

Ramsey will become deputy commissioner for academic and health affairs in Texas. The position is part of the coordinating board of the Texas college and university system in Austin.

The 54-year-old educator has been chancellor in West Virginia for three years. Previously, he was an educational consultant.

Ramsey, who appeared relaxed during the meeting, noted that there are 108 colleges and universities in the Texas system.

"I've enjoyed my three years in West Virginia, but this simply is a better job," he said.

De Lorean requesting charges be dismissed

LOS ANGELES — A federal judge will consider John De Lorean's request to drop drug charges against the flamboyant automaker on grounds the government violated the attorney-client privilege.

Despite prosecution claims the defense was merely trying to stall the case, U.S. District Court Judge Robert Takasugi agreed Monday to continue the hearing on the defense motion for one week. De Lorean's attorneys will then be able to question the federal prosecutor in charge of the government's case.

De Lorean is charged with conspiring to import 220 pounds of cocaine valued at \$24 million in a failed attempt to save his foundering auto firm.

Defense attorneys contended Monday that Stephen Wilson, the lawyer for a De Lorean codefendant who has pleaded guilty to charges in the case, improperly provided the government with in-

formation compiled by defense investigators.

De Lorean's lawyers also filed several new motions Monday seeking dismissal of all charges for alleged "outrageous government conduct," asking for a relocation of the trial and requesting removal of Assistant U.S. Attorney James Walsh from the case. The motions must be decided before the trial starts Oct. 4.

"I don't like to use the term fishing expedition," prosecutor Layn Phillips said in angrily objecting to extension of Monday's hearing, "but that's what this thing is. This could go on forever."

"We can chase these rabbits down every hole possible but nothing's going to change the fact Mr. Wilson did not divulge the information and the government didn't ask for it."

"We're not chasing rabbits," Takasugi replied tersely.

He then ordered Walsh, who was out of town interviewing witnesses, to appear in court next week.

William Hetrick, a pilot and a major West Coast drug dealer, has pleaded guilty and is cooperating with the government in a deal arranged by Wilson.

Before the arrangement, Wilson and De Lorean's attorneys jointly hired an investigator to look into the background of a key government informant.

"The concern we have with this hearing is whether some material might have been taken from the joint investigation and given to the government," defense attorney Donald Re said.

Wilson and Phillips both testified there was no improper collusion between the attorney and prosecutors. Wilson also insisted he never provided the government with information turned up by defense investigators.

De Lorean's attorneys asked for a chance to question Walsh after Phillips was unable to answer several queries about what information Hetrick provided in a series of government "debriefings."

Bull kills worker

HOUSTON — A meatpacking worker trying to unload cattle from a truck at a north Houston plant has been killed by a rampaging bull.

Officials say Leon Cortez, 44, was working animals out of a truck Monday night at Freedman Packing Co. when a bull went wild and killed him.




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