

Police looking for \$7 million

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — Police nationwide searched Wednesday for a Wells Fargo security guard suspected of drugging two co-workers and stealing more than \$7 million in the second biggest cash robbery in American history.

Police and FBI agents found a rented car apparently abandoned by the alleged robber, Victor Gerena, 25, of Hartford. Police said the robber pulled a gun on two of his fellow workers, bound and drugged them, then stole the money.

The 1974 green Buick Electra was spotted about 5 p.m. EDT Tuesday at a motel across the street from a small airport in Hartford.

A shotgun and a pistol were found in the vehicle, but no money was recovered. Gerena was believed to be armed with a shotgun and two revolvers when he left the Wells Fargo Armed Service office.

Hartford State's Attorney John Bailey said a warrant had been issued for Gerena's arrest and said law enforcement agencies nationwide had been alerted.

He said police across the country were keeping an eye on airports and bus terminals.

West Hartford Police Chief Francis Reynolds cited the possibility more than one person was involved, but declined to discuss any evidence police had for such suspicions.

Police said they didn't know if Gerena had any criminal record. He has worked for Wells Fargo since May 1982.

Wells Fargo issued a reward of \$250,000 for recovery of the money, which was insured, and \$100,000 for an arrest and conviction in the case.

A police spokesman said the firm was able to determine that at least \$7 million was taken, but an inventory was still going on and "a sizeable amount was left behind."

Wells Fargo branch manager James McKeown of Hartford and guard Timothy Girard of Tolland told police they were injected with something that made them drowsy. Neither

was seriously hurt, Reynolds said.

Police said Gerena and Girard had returned from a 9:07 p.m. Monday pickup in Springfield, Mass.

They had pulled their truck into a bay at the one-story, cinderblock Wells Fargo building and began unloading money when Gerena grabbed McKeown's pistol, held it to his head and threatened to shoot him, Reynolds said.

He tied each with rope from the neck to the legs so if they struggled, the rope would strangle them, Reynolds said.

Police said they received a call at 11:08 p.m., after the guards freed themselves.

Mahan said Gerena was charged with two counts of unlawful restraint, second-degree assault with a firearm, three counts of theft with a firearm, and interstate transportation of stolen property across state lines.

He was described as Hispanic, about 5-foot-6, and 150 pounds.

Son missing 11 years discovered in morgue

HOUSTON — A 19-year-old boy missing for over a decade has been identified by his mother as one of six unclaimed victims of a 1972 homosexual mass murder-torture ring responsible for slayings of 27 young men.

"It's hard to accept. I still feel it's unreal, kind of like living a dream," Joann Kepner said Wednesday after providing medical examiners the proof needed to identify the body of her son, Richard Allen Kepner.

The teenager's body was among 27 bodies dug up from a beach and a house north of Galveston in August 1973 after police learned of the murder ring. Five bodies remain unclaimed, without name tags.

"I haven't known for years where he was. This is better than not knowing anything," Kepner said.

Kepner last saw her son Nov.

12, 1972. He was supposed to have returned two days later for Sunday dinner. Police said he never had a chance.

Officials said Kepner was brutally slain by a homosexual torture mass murder ring which operated in the Houston area in the early 1970s.

The ring was uncovered in August 1973 when Elmer Wayne Henley, then 14 years old, confessed to police he killed the ring's mastermind, Dean Corll, 38. Henley then revealed a grisly three-year horror story of his and Corll's participation in the torture killings. Henley led police to a beach and a house north of Galveston and Beaumont where the 27 bodies were discovered.

A recent news report recalling the mass murder ring triggered Kepner's suspicions her son may have been one of the victims.

"About a month ago, when they had a TV report about the 10th anniversary of the boys being killed, they said if you had a son or anyone missing to call a number. I called and it started from there," she said.

Kepner said she described her son to a medical examiner, who used dental records to make a positive identification.

"I keep telling myself it is really real, but I haven't had a body or anything to see to tell me that it is real. I don't doubt the evidence it was my son," Kepner said.

Kepner said she intends to remember her son from their last meeting.

"He was in good spirits and a good mood and was supposed to come eat dinner with me (in two days)," she recalled.

She and her four other children plan services for Richard on Friday — one day before his birthday.

Golden Spur Weekend set, features railroad influence

LUBBOCK — The upcoming National Golden Spur Weekend is slated to feature railroad's influence upon the early ranching industry, Ranching Heritage Association officials said.

John B. Armstrong, manager and executive vice president of the King Ranch Inc., has been named to receive the Golden Spur award Friday for his contributions to ranching, officials added.

New exhibit items for the Ranching Heritage Center's section on cattle shipping will be dedicated on Ranch Day Saturday.

They include a steam locomotive, cattle pens from the King Ranch and cattle cars obtained in the Texas Panhandle, officials said.

Jim Clement, president of the King Ranch Inc., will talk about ranching and railroads during the Saturday ceremony.

The achievement award is

slated to be presented during the annual Prairie Party at the Civic Center Friday. The award is sponsored by the Ranching Heritage Center and several Texas livestock associations.

A slide show of Armstrong's achievements will be followed by rope tricks and a dance Friday night.

Texas Tech University officials said National Golden Spur Weekend also will include National Western Artists Show and Sale at the Civic Center Friday and Saturday.

About 40 artists from across the nation and Canada will participate. A Thursday night barbecue is scheduled for the public to meet the artists at the Ranching Heritage Center.

Canadian painter Richard Freeman and Cody Houston of Montana are expected to participate in the show. Houston is known for his western bronze sculptures.

Tech officials said.

Awards for the art show will be given during the Prairie Party Friday.

Ranch management consultant Stanley Parsons is slated to discuss the savory grazing method during Livestock Day Friday. Other activities will include a demonstration on how to make beef jerky and a livestock judging competition.

Ranch Day Saturday will conclude the weekend. It is planned around annual meetings of the Ranching Heritage Association and the Endowment Fund for the Preservation of the Ranching Heritage of America.

What's up

THURSDAY

A&M DANCE COMPANY: Come to the dance demonstration in the MSC main lounge at noon. We will hold auditions for joining the company tonight at 5 in 268 E. Kyle.

SIGMA TAU DELTA: The first meeting is at 7:30 p.m. in 105 Blocker (A&A).

SOCIETY FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND NEW VENTURES: There will be an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. in 120 Blocker (A&A).

MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE: The movie tonight is "A Clockwork Orange" showing at 7:30 and 10 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Admission is \$1.50 with an A&M I.D.

INDIA ASSOCIATION: An informal meeting for old members and anyone who is interested in joining will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. in 501 Rudder. Refreshments will be served and AggieLand pictures will be taken at 8 p.m.

MEXICAN-AMERICAN ENGINEERING SOCIETY: The first meeting of the semester is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in 104 Zachry.

FELLOWSHIP OF ENLIGHTENED CHRISTIAN ENGINEERING STUDENTS: To be a part of the new A&M chapter of this organization come to the meeting at 8 p.m. in 102 Zachry.

MSC HOSPITALITY: Applications for membership are due today in the Hospitality cubicle in 216 MSC.

ECONOMIC SOCIETY: There will be a meeting tonight in 607 Rudder at 7:30 p.m. followed by an ice cream party.

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CHI ALPHA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: Jonathan Demko will teach at the meeting at 7 p.m. in 410 Rudder.

CIRCLE K CLUB: All those interested are welcome to come to the meeting at 7 p.m. in 407 Rudder.

MSC OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE: The kayak roll session will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Cain pool.

PANAMANIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: We will elect officers and collect dues at the meeting tonight at 7 in 502 Rudder.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY: There will be a general meeting at Q-Hut B at 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served at the social following the meeting.

BENGAL BELLES: We are having a Tamale Supper in the South Knoll Cafeteria at A&M Consolidated High School from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door for \$3.50 (adults) and \$2.50 (children). Proceeds go towards the drill team's performance at the Octoberfest in Mexico.

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