

Wells Fargo loses \$8 million in heist

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Four masked, armed men broke through the cinderblock wall of a Wells Fargo depot Monday, ambushed and disarmed four guards and drove off with \$8 million, possibly the largest cash robbery in U.S. history, authorities said.

It is possibly the largest cash robbery in U.S. history. "There is no indication it was an inside job," Kenneth Walton, deputy director of the FBI's New York office, said. "It looks like the work of professional burglars. ... They had done their homework. They knew, apparently, where the alarms were, and more importantly, where the alarms weren't."

The four, carrying handguns, surprised armed guards at the company's five-story brick garage in Lower Manhattan at about 1:20 a.m., police said.

The men disarmed the guards, ordered them at gunpoint to open a vault, then handcuffed them to a hand truck and loaded cash into the van, said Robert Johnston, police chief of operations.

No one was injured. The robbers told (the guards) they were there to

rob the place" and that "they weren't going to be hurt" if they cooperated, Johnston said.

Sgt. Ed LeSchack said the empty van was found several hours later on the other side of Manhattan on a street under the Brooklyn Bridge.

Police learned of the heist about a half-hour after it began when one of the handcuffed guards, who was close to a pay telephone, called after the robbers left, LeSchack said.

The robbers got into Wells Fargo by punching two holes through a cinderblock wall on the second floor of an adjoining structure, a mail-room and storage center of Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith.

There was no sign of forced entry into Merrill Lynch, and no alarms were set off, said Bill Clark, a spokesman for the brokerage house.

No one has been arrested, but a suspect has been identified.

Previously, the largest sum ever stolen from Wells Fargo was the \$7,017,150 stolen in 1983 from the company's depot in West Hartford, Conn.



Four on Display

Photo by GREG BAILEY

The MSC Arts Committee presented a "performance artwork" at the Rudder Complex Monday afternoon as a promotion for Art-

fest '85. Participants in the display were (left to right) Danny Unger, Carol Ross, Todd Whiteman and Patrick Zinn.

Quiz tests knowledge of news facts

Associated Press

How much do you know about the stories that have been in the news recently?

1. The House of Representatives voted: (a) in favor of a \$11 billion military aid plan for the Nicaraguan rebels; (b) to kill all assistance to Nicaraguan rebels; (c) in favor of a \$14 million non-military aid bill.

2. Among 28 new cardinals named by Pope John Paul II were two Americans — one of them Archbishop John J. O'Connor of Boston; (b) Washington, D.C.; New York.

3. It was announced that American Airways had agreed to its Pacific operations to the largest airline: (a) United; (b) Trans World Airlines; (c) Pan American Airlines.

4. The Department of Labor that in March consumer prices rose by 0.5 percent, the largest annual increase in a year, led by a surge in prices for food; (b) gasoline; (c) housing.

5. It is now a felony, punishable up to four years in prison, to molest a pregnant woman in a way that causes her to lose her unborn child in the state of: (a) New Mexico; California; (c) Georgia.

6. Alison Lurie's book, "The Language of Affairs," won this year's Pulitzer Prize for: (a) fiction; (b) general non-fiction; (c) history.

7. The oldest public school in the country, whose former students include Benjamin Franklin and Leonard Bernstein, celebrated its 100th anniversary — it is: (a) the Belmont, Va., Grammar School; (b) Boston Latin School; (c) La Salle School, Philadelphia.

8. A recommendation that prostitution be decriminalized if it occurred in a home was made in a report by the Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution: France; (b) Sweden; (c) Canada.

9. The Coca-Cola Co. said it would use a new formula for the soft drink and scrap the original one — it was devised by John S. Pemberton, chemist, in: (a) 1941; (b) 1886.

ANSWER: 1.b 2.c 3.a 4.b 5.b 6.c 7.c 8.c 9.c

VA official says female Vietnam vets ask for more help

Associated Press

Although ten years have passed since the surrender of South Vietnam, female veterans of Vietnam still need help, said Rose Sandeck, head of the Concord (Calif.) Vet Center.

There are too few women counselors, and help centers tend to be in rundown, dangerous neighborhoods that women are reluctant to visit, she said.

Sandek, 44, is the only female Vietnam vet in charge of any of the Veterans Administration's 136 outreach centers across the nation.

Although the psychological trauma of Vietnam is believed to be widespread among female veterans, they feel ignored by the VA, complaining of inadequate health care for women at VA facilities and a lack of research on how the war affected them physically and psychologically.

Women literally did not count in Vietnam, no one even knew for sure how many were there. U.S. government estimates range from an absurdly low 559 to an improbable 55,000. The Vietnam Veterans of America estimate that 7,000-10,000 military women served during the war. Many of the women, unable to vent their anger and despair over Vietnam on the enemy, have kept it festering inside with self-destructive and occasionally violent results, such as battering husbands or boyfriends.

Yet they miss Vietnam, too, for the intense friendships, the camaraderie and the professional challenge.

"We were never allowed to be that competent again," said Jane Thomson, a Navy medic in Vietnam who helped deliver babies upon returning home. Lynda van Devanter found little professional challenge in her assignment to the hemorrhoid ward of Walter Reed Army Medical

Center after Vietnam, and resented being a doctor's handmaiden.

van Devanter tried to "re-create the intensity" of Vietnam by working in a burn unit, but quit after experiencing flashbacks where she would smell napalm in her patients' wounds.

"You didn't have to be in a fox hole in Khe Sanh to experience trauma from that war," van Devanter said. She has chronicled her Vietnam experiences as a 22-year-old Army nurse in the best-selling "Home Before Morning."

Forced to make life-or-death decisions and perform as "junior doctors" in Vietnam, the nurses had to ask permission to administer even mild painkillers back in the United States.

Gaining respect and recognition for the jobs they did in Vietnam has also proved frustrating for female veterans, who are campaigning to

erect a statue of a combat nurse at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The little research available indicates that women who served in Vietnam were mostly in their early 20s, often fresh out of nursing school, middle-class and motivated by patriotism — girls next door who wanted to do something for their country and ended up questioning what their country had done to them.

van Devanter describes herself as a "gung-ho, silent majority, better-dead-than-red American" flaunting a tiny rhinestone flag on her fatigue shirt when she arrived in Pleiku on a sweltering June day in 1969.

Six months into her year's tour, she flung the glittering flag to the ground and walked away after spending a futile night trying to save a soldier whose face had been blown away by "friendly fire." A prom pic-

ture flecked with blood had fallen from his pocket.

Lin McClenahan spent her year in Vietnam processing classified messages on troop movements, casualties and battle plans. The discrepancy between what she saw and what the U.S. government was telling the public turned her deep respect for authority into a lasting distrust.

She came home bitter and hostile. She saw injustices in everything, couldn't hold a job and sought solace in pints of Wild Turkey. Her best friend told her the horrors she'd experienced in Vietnam served her right.

"I felt like I'd lived a whole lifetime at 21, and was as old as I'd ever be," McClenahan said. "I felt I would always be haunted by those young, young faces and old, old eyes. Then I was combing my hair in the mirror one day and saw those same eyes in my own face."

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