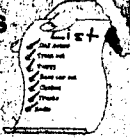


TODAY'S SPORTS



■ Prep basketball gets into full swing

■ Gift ideas for outdoors enthusiasts



■ Iowa, Iowa State host tournaments

cue History comes alive in West Branch
AND: Amana eatery offers 'something different'

Danny Glover stars in 'Buffalo Soldiers' Sunday on TNT TV VISION

The Gazette

Saturday Dec. 6, 1997

GOOD MORNING

TODAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny Wind: NW 10-20	Partly cloudy Wind: WNW 7-12
High 29 Low 16	High 31 Low 16
Weather Report, 8E	
Latest forecasts online http://www.kcrg.com	

FINAL / VOL. 115 NO. 327

THE NEWSPAPER OF EASTERN IOWA

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 75 CENTS

Bloomfield car found in New Jersey



Francis Bloomfield
Found murdered in September

Police looking for clues from Iowa City murder

By Lynn M. Tefft

Gazette Johnson County Bureau
IOWA CITY — Frances Bloomfield's red Honda is being processed for evidence at a lab in Des Moines after being retrieved from the Newark International Airport, where it had been abandoned.

Iowa City police Lt. Dan Sellers said the car was sealed and escorted back to Iowa before being

opened.

Port Authority police alerted Iowa City police about the car the afternoon of Nov. 25, Sellers said. The car was parked in the 2,000-car, long-term parking lot at the airport, he said. Police began checking the car because it didn't have license plates.

"When you find a car with no plates on it, of course you're going to run the VIN (vehicle information number)," Sellers said.

Bloomfield, who lived at 38 Wakefield Ct. in Iowa City, was reported

missing Sept. 22 by her husband, John, who had just returned home from a business trip. Three days later, Winnebago County, Ill., authorities confirmed that a body found in a ditch near Rockford was Bloomfield's.

The 57-year-old woman had been strangled, bound with pantyhose and wrapped in plastic that was secured with duct tape. Documents indicate investigators found pools of blood in the Bloomfield home when searching it Sept. 22.

Bloomfield's car, a red, two-door

1994 Honda Accord, also was reported missing. It had Iowa Sesquicentennial license plates.

The car, when found, was not burned or otherwise damaged, Sellers said, citing reports from Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation Agent Wade Kisner and Iowa City police detective Ed Schultz, who went to Newark.

Kisner and Schultz talked to people who handled the car, including the Port Authority police and the tow truck driver who towed it, to make sure it hadn't been tampered

with, Sellers said.

"And to the best of my knowledge, it's still red," Sellers said.

Sellers said the car will be examined for fingerprints, blood and hair, as well as other evidence. What's found will be tested against possible scenarios investigators have developed for the murder, he said.

No other leads in the case took investigators to Newark, Sellers said.

"It wouldn't have been a place I would have picked to go," he said.

TODAY



It's OK to touch goods in C.R. store

Marian Hogan, who opened The Dinostore at 4357 Czech Lane NE on Nov. 1, encourages shoppers to pick up and play with the items in her store. Details, 1E.

Nativity scenes on display today

Mike Zahs of Ainsworth has about 130 Nativity scenes from all over the world, and they're on public display this weekend. Details, 1C.

Thousands mourn slain schoolgirls

Mourners gathered in Paducah, Ky., to remember three girls gunned down in a prayer meeting. Details on Back Page, 8E.

Autopsies planned in Fayette deaths

Autopsies will be performed today to confirm what caused the deaths of two men who were found dead Friday in a car wash. Details, 3C.

TOMORROW

Crusading against 'phone slamming'

It's the top complaint of Iowa consumers: the unauthorized switching of customers' long-distance service. Learn about the crusade to stop "telephone slamming" in Sunday's Money section.

Robber carries grenade in C.R. bank heist

Farmers State Bank hit at Lindale Mall

By Adam Lowenstein
Gazette staff writer

A masked man carrying a grenade robbed the Lindale Mall branch of Farmers State Bank on Friday afternoon as holiday shoppers coursed through the bustling shopping center.

The robbery — the second Cedar Rapids bank robbery in one week — happened at 3:36 p.m. at the small walk-up bank

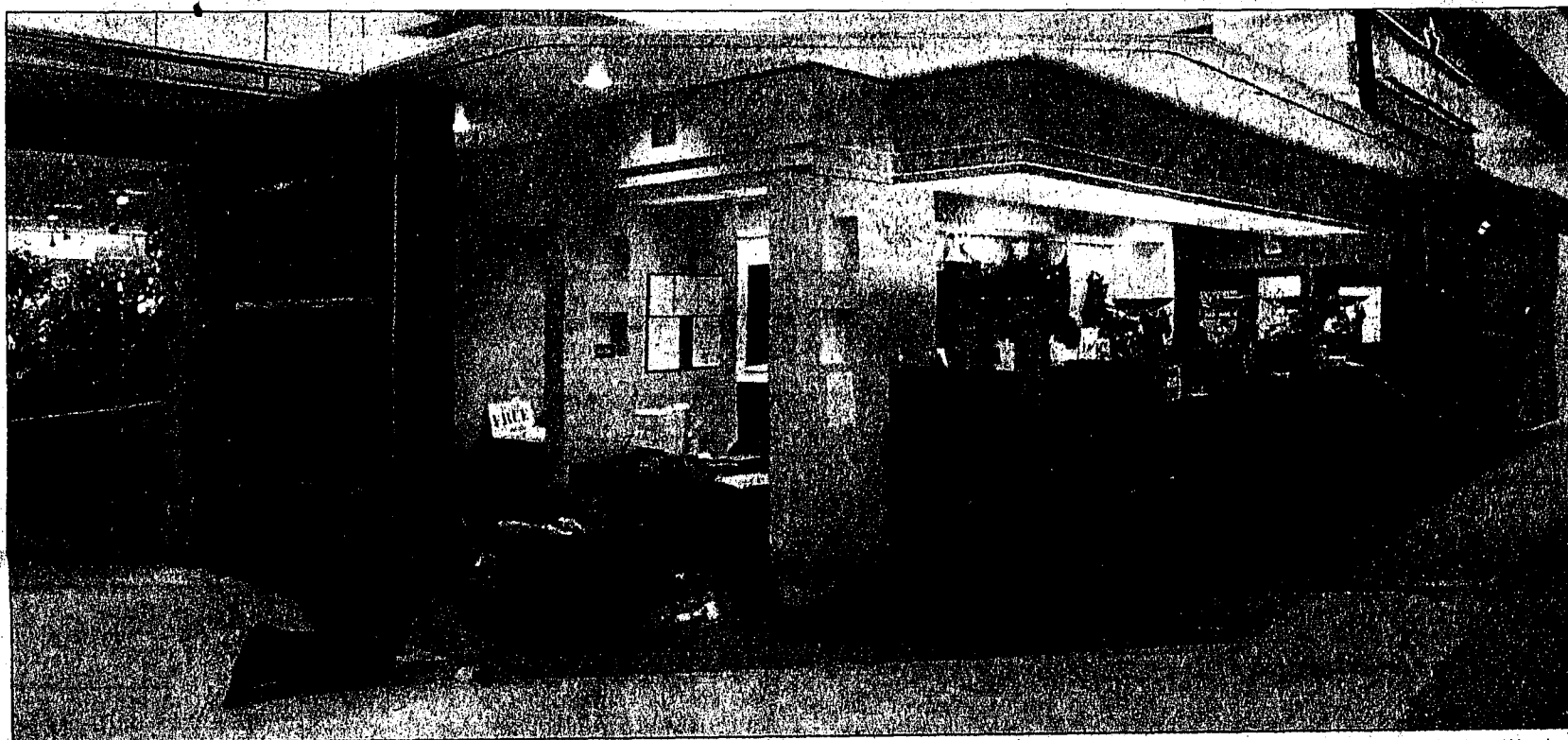
- Eyewitness accounts, 2C
- Selling grenades is illegal, 2C
- Photo of robber, 2C

between Orange Julius and Von Maur and across from Bishop Buffet just inside the First Avenue mall entrance.

The robber was described by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a white man in his 30s or 40s with a medium build. He was 5 foot 9 inches to 5 foot 11 inches tall and weighed between 150 and 180 pounds. The suspect was wearing a tan trench coat with a belt, gloves, a brimmed, Fedora-type hat and a close-fitting mask that covered his face.

According to witnesses, the suspect stood around for several minutes before taking a seat at the bank's only public desk around the corner from the teller windows.

Raquel Hird, marketing direc-



Gazette photo by David Lee Hartlage

Cedar Rapids police look for evidence after a bank robbery Friday afternoon at the Farmers State Bank in Lindale Mall.

tor for General Growth Management, which manages Lindale Mall, said the suspect then opened a shaving kit he was carrying to show the grenade inside. He handed a note to the teller requesting money. After receiving the money, he left the

mall through the Von Maur store next to the bank, Hird said.

The man did not verbally threaten anyone, Hird said. In fact, he never said a single word. The entire robbery took about a minute.

Last Friday, the First Trust Bank at 4051 42nd St. was robbed. The two Cedar Rapids robberies are not believed to be related, FBI special agent Scott Jennings said.

On Monday, the University of Iowa Community Credit Union

in Iowa City also was robbed.

Friday's robbery brings the total to 14 in the FBI's 40-county Eastern Iowa district that includes Cedar Rapids, Waterloo and Davenport, Jennings said. Last year, there were 19 robberies in all of Iowa.



Gazette photo by Lisa Powell

When Ed Bock donated \$200,000 to the Ecumenical Center in Cedar Rapids, he asked that a building be named after his wife, Margaret, who has dedicated herself to social work and charitable causes all her life. The 32-room Margaret Bock Housing Unit at 1021 Third Ave. SE will be dedicated Sunday afternoon.

Ecumenical Center to name unit after C.R. social worker

By Beth Chacey
Gazette staff writer

When Margaret Bock was a social worker at the Children's Home Society in Des Moines, she befriended an emotionally bruised girl named Mildred.

The girl's mother had left the family for another man, leaving Mildred to care for four younger brothers. The girl's dad was dating a prostitute. Then the courts took the children out of the home.

Understandably, Bock said, Mildred had a tough time connecting with anyone.

But Bock connected. She got the girl through high school and gave her a dress to wear to the

prom. The girl moved, married, had a child and years later wrote Bock a note.

The girl said she "often thought of the time I put in with her," said Bock, now 88, her voice trembling slightly. "Those are the things that are satisfying to a person."

Bock, who has lived in Cedar Rapids with her husband, Ed, since 1948, told the story to explain why she became a social worker. It's about helping others, she said, and watching good deeds come full circle until you find yourself being helped.

"Those are the things that make life worthwhile," Bock

Plan to raze \$341,030 house draws protest from neighbor

C.R. doctor asks City Council to stop his colleague

By Douglas Neumann
Gazette staff writer

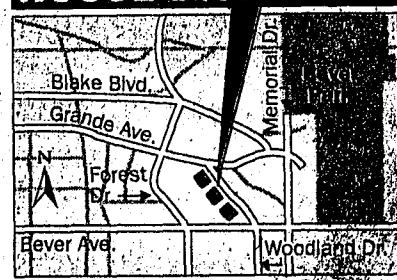
Homeowners in one of the richest sections of Cedar Rapids are at odds over the future of a home that sits between them.

Naser Payvandi, a cardiologist, asked the City Council this week to do whatever it can to protect a \$341,030 vacant home at 355 Woodland Dr. SE.

Payvandi lives next door in a \$608,960 mansion and suggests his neighbor's apparent plans to tear down the vacant house are a "careless or purposeless eradication" that is being done for "personal ambition."

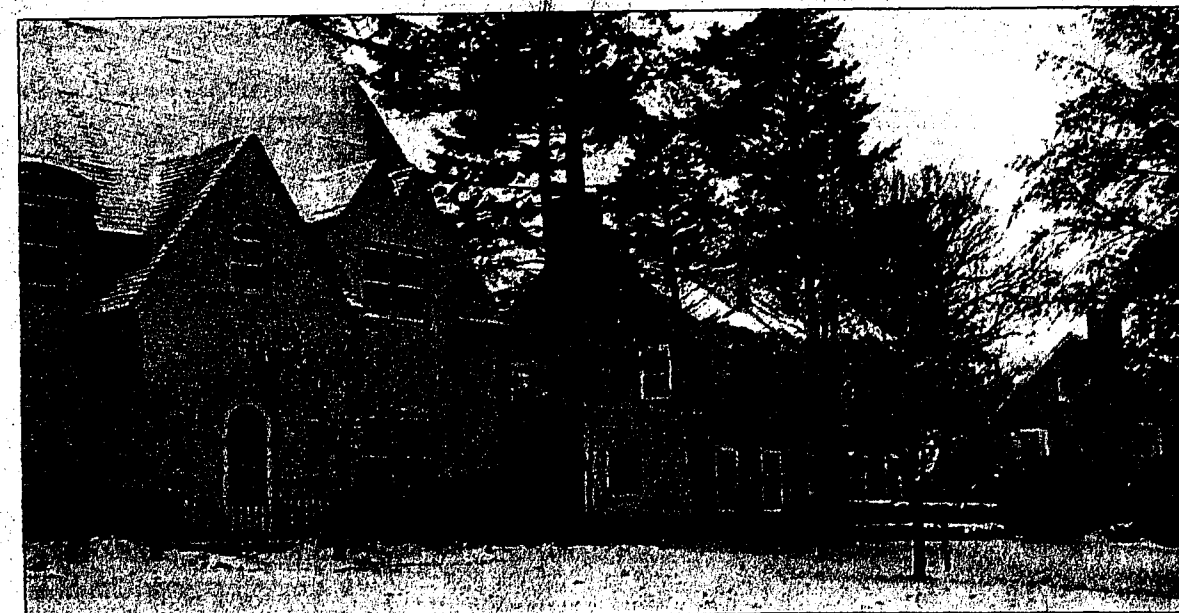
The now-vacant home was purchased about three years ago by Chad and Sorina Aber-

HOUSE DISPUTE



Gazette map

■ Turn to 9A: House



Gazette photo by David Lee Hartlage

Chad and Sorina Abernathy, who live at 357 Woodland Ave. (left), plan to tear down the vacant house on the neighboring property (center). Naser Payvandi, who owns the home at 349 Woodland Ave. (far right), is asking the city to step in to save the \$341,030 house.

■ Turn to 9A: Bock

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