

SPEC FOR THE DAILY TIDINGS:

**DRAMATIC CHASE LEADS TO CAPTURE, ARREST OF
BANK ROBBERS**

TOLEDO, Ohio – Welcome to the Toledo Police force, Officer Jones.

In a story seemingly straight out of Hollywood, Rookie Police officer Manny Jones – on his first day on the job – participated in a dramatic chase and capture of two suspected bank robbers yesterday.

“It was an exciting first day,” said Jones.

At 1:55 p.m. yesterday, five minutes before closing, the suspects – Joe Smith, 24, and Harold Johnson, 32 – entered the First Bank of Ohio with shotguns hidden under their raincoats. Bank Vice-President Horace Greeley, who saw the suspects and weapons as they entered, immediately triggered the silent alarm.

“I knew if we didn’t act before they got too far into the bank, we’d never have a chance to catch them,” said Greeley.

According to Greeley, Smith and Johnson worked quickly, emptying the cash drawers as they made their way to the vault, eventually walking out of the bank with roughly \$30,000. They left without harming anyone inside the bank.

Officer Jones, along with his veteran partner Officer Biff Grabowski, 44, were the first to respond to the alarm. They arrived at the bank in time to see the robbery suspects exiting the building and fleeing the scene in a '78 Ford Torino. A chase ensued, the officers following the suspects for 38-city blocks and continuing onto the beltway.

According to Officer Jones, the pre-rush hour traffic was thin, and the chase continued until the suspects rammed into a mini-van. This allowed the officers an opportunity to force the Torino into the guardrail, where the suspects were then apprehended without incident before they had a chance to flee the vehicle. The passengers of the mini-van, a mother and five children on their way to a soccer game, were unharmed.

Smith and Johnson were charged with felony bank robbery, car theft (the Torino was stolen), resisting arrest, reckless driving, and leaving the scene of an accident.

As for Officer Manny Jones, his first day on the job proved to be a memorable, and important, one.

“This is why I became a cop, to protect and serve,” he said.