

Getting Lost Pays Off

by S/Sgt. R. B. Scott

The town of Stewiacke, Colchester Co., Nova Scotia, is a small rural hamlet situated just off Highway 102 between the city of Halifax and the town of Truro. One of Stewiacke's attractive facilities is a Colonel Saunders Kentucky Fried Chicken establishment.

At approximately 11:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 1985, a complaint was received by members of the local detachment that the fried chicken outlet was in the process of being robbed by two fellows. Although our on-duty members were not that great a distance from the outlet, by the time they got there, the culprits had departed with a considerable amount of cash and, according to witnesses, had headed north in a car on Highway 102 towards Truro. Apparently the car had no rear licence plate and the rear taillights were not functioning.

Descriptions of the culprits and the vehicle were fanned out to all neighbouring detachments, highway patrols and municipal police forces. Pursuit by this method, however, failed to intercept the vehicle or individuals responsible. An intensive investigation was immediately initiated by members of Stewiacke Detachment, ably assisted by our Sub-Division G.I.S. personnel. Enquiries led our investigators to the Dartmouth, Halifax and Lower Sackville areas, as similar eating establishments in those places had been robbed. A number of good suspects surfaced, but no concrete evidence came to light to really tie any of the culprits in with the robbery.

An employee who had witnessed the robbery, thought that even though the robbers were masked, he perhaps could identify one of them because of his long wavy blonde hair. He also thought that he could recognize their vehicle. With this in mind, one of the investigators accompanied by the witness travelled to the metro area to review the "mug" books held at the Halifax and Dartmouth City Police Forces. Unfortunately, the witness was unable to make any identification from reviewing these photos, thus he and our member decided to return to Stewiacke. Both the member and the witness were very unfamiliar with the city of Dartmouth and in endeavouring to leave the city they became lost on the downtown streets. As they were trying to orient themselves, they stopped at a stop sign. Approaching from the oncoming direction was a vehicle of similar description to the suspect one. As the two cars passed each other the witness observed the driver of the car and immediately identified him as bearing an excellent resemblance to one of the suspects in the robbery. The license plate number was recorded. By the time the police car was turned around to give chase, however, the vehicle had become lost in the traffic. The registration number of the vehicle was traced to a residence in Dartmouth and with the excellent cooperation of the Dartmouth City Police, the identification and apprehension of the culprit was accomplished. Through talking with him, the identity of his accomplice was established and warned

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