

Dec 9, 1991

Marijuana — Maurice Johnson, 19, of 332 E. Wood St., Bloomington, posted \$100 to appear Jan. 14 on charges of obstructing a police officer and possession of between 2.5 and 10 grams of marijuana. The obstruction charge stems from an alleged attempt to conceal marijuana during a police search, reports said.

Charges dropped

January 27, 1992

McLean County
Circuit Court, Associate Division
Weapons — Maurice E. Johnson, 19, of 332 E. Wood St., Bloomington, posted \$100 to appear Feb. 20 on charges of unlawful use of weapons and possession of a firearm without a firearm owner's identification. He had a concealed revolver on his person at a traffic stop, according to McLean County sheriff's police.

Charges dropped

February 4, 1992

Court notes
McLean County
Circuit Court, Associate Division
Marijuana — Maurice E. Johnson, 19, of 332 E. Wood St., Bloomington,
posted \$100 to appear March 3 on charges of driving under the influence of drugs, unlawful possession of less than 2.5 grams of marijuana and obstructing a police officer.

Charges dropped

February 28, 1992

Man charged in shooting of store clerk

By RANDY GLEASON
Pantagraph staff

A 19-year-old Bloomington man was charged yesterday with attempted murder and armed robbery by shooting a clerk during a holdup at a Bloomington grocery store.

Maurice E. Johnson, 332 E. Wood St., remained in McLean County Jail last night in lieu of \$350,000 bond. He is to appear in court again March 27. He also faces a charge of aggravated battery with a firearm in yesterday's incident and has been charged with a motel holdup earlier this week.

Police said Johnson shot Dereck Brooks, 21, of Bloomington shortly after 2:30 a.m. yesterday at Kroger, 2507 E. Oakland Ave. The store is open 24 hours a day.

Brooks suffered a gunshot wound to his upper abdomen just below the ribs. After briefly talking with police, he was taken to St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington, where he remained in serious condition last night.

Bloomington Police Chief Mike Miller said yesterday police don't have many details about the shooting because Brooks won't be able to talk to authorities again for a few days.

However, Miller said it appears Johnson approached the counter where Brooks was working and pretended he was about to make a purchase. As soon as Brooks opened the register, Johnson pulled out a small-caliber handgun, the chief said.

"It's unclear whether (Brooks) pushed

Please see SHOOTING, back page

"Shooting" relates to Johnson, but note the other two robbery convictions of two different people in the article below that.

SHOOTING

From A1

the gun away or what he did to be shot," Miller said.

A co-worker heard a gunshot and found Brooks "standing in a daze by the checkout lane," another store employee told The Pantagraph.

Johnson was arrested a short time later when he was spotted in a vehicle near Lincoln and Vale streets, Miller said. Two women with him also were arrested but later released without being charged, he said.

Johnson's arrest was the result of "extremely good" police work, said Miller, who cited the efforts of officer Bill Rusk. Rusk didn't re-

spond directly to Kroger when the call came in, Miller said, but instead anticipated the route of escape.

"He saw the car and his lights hit a black male with a black shirt on, which matched the description of the suspect," Miller said.

Johnson was also charged yesterday with robbing Bloomington's Super 8 Motel, 818 IAA Drive, shortly before 8 p.m. Tuesday. According to police, he used a handgun to steal less than \$40.

Miller said the manager of the motel identified Johnson as the robber. □

False police report

Meanwhile, another reported robbery at the Super 8 Motel was

cleared yesterday with the arrest of a 22-year-old Bloomington woman who worked at the motel and who has been charged with filing a false police report. □

Police said Claudina P. O'Dell of 606½ E. Market St., Bloomington, told police she was robbed of less than \$50 by a man who climbed through a window about 4:30 a.m. yesterday.

Police said after further questioning of the woman, they determined she made up the story.

She posted a personal recognition bond to appear in court March 24.

Pantagraph reporter Sharon Giffard contributed information for this story.

Convicted robbers get prison terms

By SCOTT RICHARDSON
Pantagraph staff

A Bloomington man was sentenced yesterday to 12 years in prison for an October armed robbery at a Bloomington motel.

George Hursey, 20, of 1408 W. Market St. was the gunman who threatened the clerk at the Hampton Inn, 604½ Veterans Parkway, and got away with \$282, prosecutors said. Two others have been sentenced to lesser punishment in the incident.

Hursey's 12-year term was two years more than prosecutors recommended. Judge Wayne Townley told Hursey the longer sentence was justified because, "You're the one who went in and confronted the individual with very real threats."

Hursey also was sentenced yes-

breaking her nose in a February 1991 episode.

One sentence must be finished before the second begins.

Buford Branion, 30, of 510 S. Clayton St., Bloomington, is serving a four-year prison term for robbery in the Hampton incident. He entered the motel with Hursey and stood lookout, prosecutors said.

Willie Walker, 24, of 822 E. Washington St., Bloomington, was placed on probation. Walker said he only offered Hursey and Branion a ride and did not know of their plan to rob the motel.

Police stopped a car with Branion and Walker inside near the motel. Hursey fled on foot, but surrendered a few days later.

Station robbery

In unrelated action yesterday, Joseph Jumper, 28, of 1407 N. Oak

at the Pilot Truck Stop, 1522 W. Market St., Bloomington, and a theft from a clerk at Freedom Oil Station, 1802 W. Market St., Bloomington.

Both incidents occurred Sept. 29, about four hours apart.

A jury convicted Jumper of the offenses after hearing a clerk at Pilot describe how a man grabbed money from the register and fled.

The clerk at Freedom testified how a man also had grabbed money from the register. She grabbed it back, slammed the register shut and picked up a telephone to call police. But the man then came behind the counter, took money out of her hand and took away the phone, acting as though he meant to hurt her. She said she was with him with harm.

Records show Jumper had a

February 29, 1992

Grocery store clerk condition improves

The condition of a young man shot in the chest during an armed robbery at a Bloomington grocery store was upgraded yesterday from serious to fair condition, a nursing supervisor said.

Dereck Brooks, 21, of Bloomington, was taken to St. Joseph Medical Center with a gunshot wound to his upper abdomen after the robbery at Kroger, 2507 E. Oakland Ave., Thursday morning.

Moments after the robbery, Bloomington police arrested Maurice Johnson, 19, of 332 E. Wood St., Bloomington. He was charged with attempted murder, armed robbery and aggravated battery with a firearm.

Johnson remains in McLean County Jail in lieu of posting \$35,000.

March 20, 1992

Attempted murder indictment

A grand jury indicted Maurice Johnson of Bloomington yesterday on counts of attempted murder, armed robbery and aggravated discharge of a firearm in the holdup of a B-N Kroger store Feb. 27. Story on A4

Twin City man indicted in store clerk's shooting

By SCOTT RICHARDSON
Pantagraph staff

A McLean County grand jury yesterday indicted two people in separate armed robbery cases, including a Bloomington man charged with the shooting of a store clerk.

Maurice Johnson, 19, of 332 E. Wood St., faces charges of attempted murder, armed robbery and aggravated discharge of a firearm in the Feb. 27 holdup at Kroger, 2507 E. Oakland Ave., Bloomington.

Derek Brooks, 21, Bloomington, survived a gunshot wound to the chest from a small-caliber handgun, police said.

COURT SUMMARY

Police received a description of the gunman and his clothes and Johnson was caught nearby, police said.

Johnson also was indicted on a separate armed robbery count in a holdup at the Super 8 Inn Motel, 818 IAA Drive, Bloomington, which occurred a few days before the grocery store incident. About \$40 was taken in that robbery, police said.

In other action, the same grand jury indicted Larry D. Campbell Jr., 21, of 1213 W. MacArthur Ave., Bloomington, on four counts of

armed robbery, aggravated discharge of a firearm and aggravated battery with a firearm.

The charges stem from two holdups at Taco John's restaurants, one at 612 S. Kingsley St., Normal, in November, and the other at Taco John's, 1515 S. Main St., Bloomington, in December. Charges also stem from two other December incidents at Reggie's Ribs and Other Good Food, 304 N. Main St., Normal, and at Wolfe Cleaners & Tailors, 301 S. Center St., Bloomington. The cleaners is located directly across the street from the McLean County Law & Justice Center.

Shots were fired in two of the incidents; an employee of Reggie's

was struck in the leg, police said.

Drug case

Larry Schappat, 32, Aurora, faces up to seven years in prison after he pleaded guilty yesterday to delivery of morphine, a narcotic.

The charge stems from an investigation begun in Aurora. Prosecutors say Schappat drove with an undercover agent to a McLean truck stop where he met another man to get 100 morphine tablets, which he then sold to the agent for \$5,000 last April.

Prosecutors say they will seek a three-year prison term when Schappat is sentenced April 20. He has no prior record, prosecutors said.

Dec 22, 1992

Guilty plea heard

Maurice Johnson of Bloomington faces up to 25 years in prison after he pleaded guilty yesterday to armed robbery and aggravated battery with a firearm in the shooting of a store clerk during a robbery. Story on A4

Facing 25-year term

B-N man pleads guilty in shooting

By SCOTT RICHARDSON
Pantagraph staff

Two unrelated shootings led to action against two Bloomington men in McLean County Circuit Court yesterday.

Maurice Johnson, 20, of 332 E. Wood St. faces up to 25 years in prison after pleading guilty to two counts of armed robbery and one count of aggravated battery with a firearm in the wounding of a Bloomington store clerk in February.

Juan Miramontes, 18, of 113 Park City South was sentenced to 30 days in jail, 2½ years' probation and ordered to pay \$6,400 restitution in a gang-related drive-by shooting in September that left one person injured.

Johnson was caught near Kroger's, 2507 E. Oakland Ave., Bloomington, Feb. 27 after store clerk Derek Brooks, 21, of Bloomington was shot once trying to wrestle a gun away from a man who demanded money.

After Brooks was shot, the gunman continued to pull the trigger of his handgun two or three times more, but the gun misfired, Brooks told police. Investigators found a

COURT SUMMARY

.22-caliber pistol in a dumpster near the store.

Johnson was a passenger in a car stopped nearby. He had three crumpled \$20 bills and 70 \$1 dollar bills, including some still bound by a money wrapper, police said.

After his arrest, detectives linked him to a holdup two days earlier at Super 8 Motel, 808 IAA Drive, where a gunman took about \$15.

He will be sentenced Feb. 19.

Miramontes was identified as one of four teen members of the Latin Kings street gang who were in a car that passed by a group of young people in the 300 block of East Jefferson Street just before a shot was fired Sept. 14.

Gregory Graham, 18, of 507 E. Elm St., Bloomington, was struck in a leg.

Miramontes originally was charged with aggravated battery with a firearm, which was reduced to aggravated battery, a lesser offense. Miramontes told Judge W. Charles Witte he quit the Latin Kings last summer.

Bad checks

In other action, Melissa Woods, 20, who has no permanent address, was sentenced to four years in prison yesterday for writing several bad checks totaling \$1,600 at Bloomington stores. She had a prior conviction for a 1990 burglary, records show.

Restraint

Chad Moore, 19, of 1106 N. Evans St., Bloomington, was sentenced on an unlawful restraint charge to 30 days in jail, 2½ years' probation and fined \$300 for tying two boys to a tree and leaving them near Shelbourne Drive in Normal in May.

HEALTH

Immunization clinics

The Tazewell County Health Department has scheduled immunization clinics in January for diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella and Hibvax.

The clinic charges \$1 for each immunization, but service will not be denied to those unable to pay. Call the health department for clinic dates, times and locations for each immunization.

Man given 25-year sentence for store robbery, shooting

By SCOTT RICHARDSON
Pantagraph staff

Before being sentenced to 25 years in prison, a Bloomington man testified yesterday that he robbed a Twin City store a year ago, wounding a clerk, to recoup money he'd lost when he was robbed the same night while buying cocaine in Peoria.

"That was all that was on my mind — getting my money back," said Maurice Johnson, 20, of 332 E. Wood St., Bloomington. He had earlier pleaded guilty to charges of armed robbery and aggravated discharge of a firearm in the Feb. 27, 1992, holdup at Kroger, 2507 E. Oakland Ave.

"I didn't mean for the gun to go off that way," he added, turning to the victim, 22-year-old Derek Brooks of Bloomington, who was in the courtroom.

"Sorry, Derek," said Johnson, who said he thought the .22-caliber handgun went off accidentally when Brooks grabbed for it.

But Brooks, who suffered a chest wound, said he was shot without warning and thinks Johnson tried to fire the gun two more times, but it misfired. Johnson was caught with stolen money in a car nearby.

McLean County Assistant State's Attorney James Souk asked Johnson if the Kroger holdup was sparked by the Peoria robbery

earlier that night, and what led him to rob the Super 8 Motel, 808 IAA Drive, Bloomington, two days before the Kroger incident. Johnson claimed drug dealers stripped him of his money, jacket and shoes at gunpoint.

"I'm not going to speak about that one," said Johnson. He denied committing the motel robbery, though he earlier had pleaded guilty to that offense and was identified by a motel clerk.

Prosecutors agreed to dismiss charges in a third incident, an attempted holdup at a service station near his home that occurred earlier on the day of the motel offense.

Johnson also denied he was in-

Highlights

■ Maurice Johnson of Bloomington was sentenced to 25 years in prison on armed robbery and aggravated firearm discharge counts.

■ Johnson said he robbed a Kroger store to make up for money he said he lost as a robbery victim. He apologized to the clerk he shot during the robbery, saying he didn't mean for the gun to fire.

■ Johnson also received a concurrent 15-year prison term for a motel robbery two days before the Kroger robbery.

involved in that one, but police found his fingerprints on a soda bottle a station clerk said the robber touched.

While giving Johnson the maximum sentence allowed in the plea agreement, Judge Ron Dozier said he had no doubt Johnson committed all three crimes.

Dozier said the "business about Peoria could have happened, but it

doesn't make any difference. If the defendant had that experience ... it would be all the more reason not to do it to someone else.

"Did he want to shoot the clerk? I doubt it," Dozier continued. "But he was prepared to do it by taking a loaded weapon with him."

Dozier also sentenced Johnson to a 15-year term for the motel armed robbery. Both sentences will be served at the same time.

February 4, 1995

Technicality could give robber chance at shorter sentence

SPRINGFIELD — A McLean County armed robber will get a new chance to ask a circuit judge to reconsider his 25-year prison sentence because of a technical violation by his attorney.

Maurice E. Johnson, 21, formerly of Wood Street in Bloomington, shot a Kroger store clerk during an armed robbery Feb. 27, 1992. He pleaded guilty to charges of armed robbery and aggravated discharge of a firearm. The clerk, Derek Brooks, said he was shot once and Johnson tried to shoot him two more times but the gun misfired.

Johnson was given a concurrent 15-year sentence for a separate motel armed robbery in which no one was injured.

Johnson argued that the sentence imposed in February 1993 was too long for his convictions.

In April 1993, McLean County Judge Ronald Dozier denied the motion to reconsider his sentence. But the 4th Appellate Court Friday ordered Dozier to conduct a new post-sentencing hearing because Johnson's attorney failed to file a required certificate saying he had consulted with Johnson on the post-sentencing appeal.

There is nothing in the order to prevent Dozier from again upholding Johnson's 25-year sentence.

MITTIMUS: 06CF116

CLASS: 4

COUNT:1

OFFENSE: POSS AMT CON SUB EXCEPT(A)/(D)

CUSTODY DATE: 02/02/2006

SENTENCE: 3 Years 0 Months 0 Days

COUNTY: MCLEAN

SENTENCE DISCHARGED?: YES

MITTIMUS: 07CF1329

CLASS: 4

COUNT:1

OFFENSE: POSS AMT CON SUB EXCEPT(A)/(D)

CUSTODY DATE: 07/04/2008

SENTENCE: 4 Years 0 Months 0 Days

COUNTY: MCLEAN

SENTENCE DISCHARGED?: YES

MITTIMUS: 08CF568

CLASS: 1

COUNT:1

OFFENSE: ROBBERY/VIC HANDICAP OR 60+ YR

CUSTODY DATE: 06/22/2008

SENTENCE: 12 Years 0 Months 0 Days

COUNTY: SANGAMON

SENTENCE DISCHARGED?: YES

SENTENCING INFORMATION

MITTIMUS: 17CF1272

CLASS: 1

COUNT:1

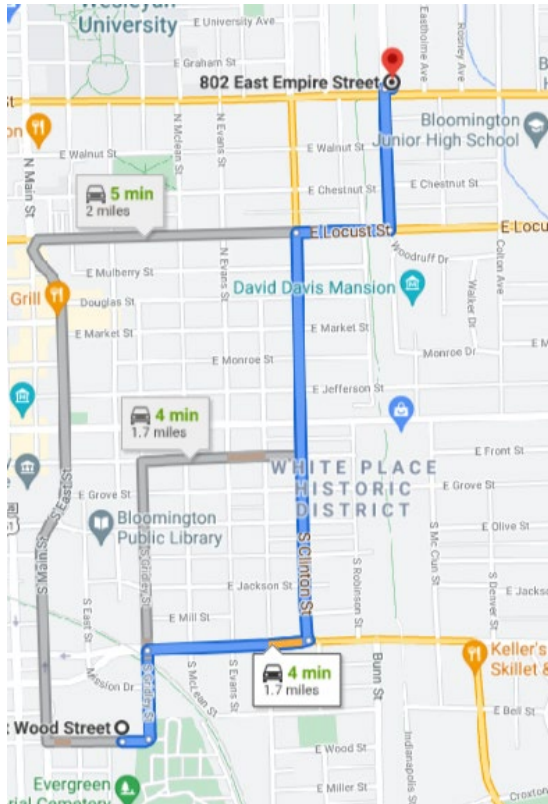
OFFENSE: AGG ROBBERY/INDICATE ARM W/FIR

CUSTODY DATE: 12/03/2017

SENTENCE: 13 Years 0 Months 0 Days

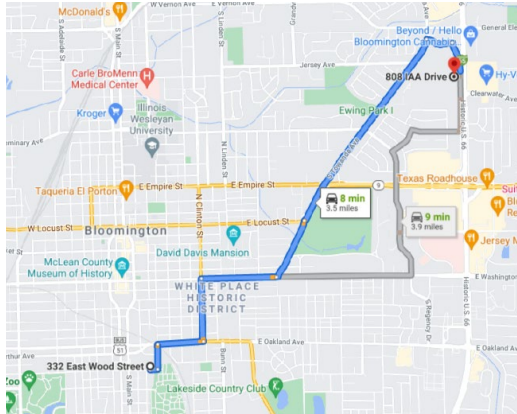
SENTENCE DISCHARGED?: NO

Maurice home to Clark Station: 1.7 miles, 4 minute drive

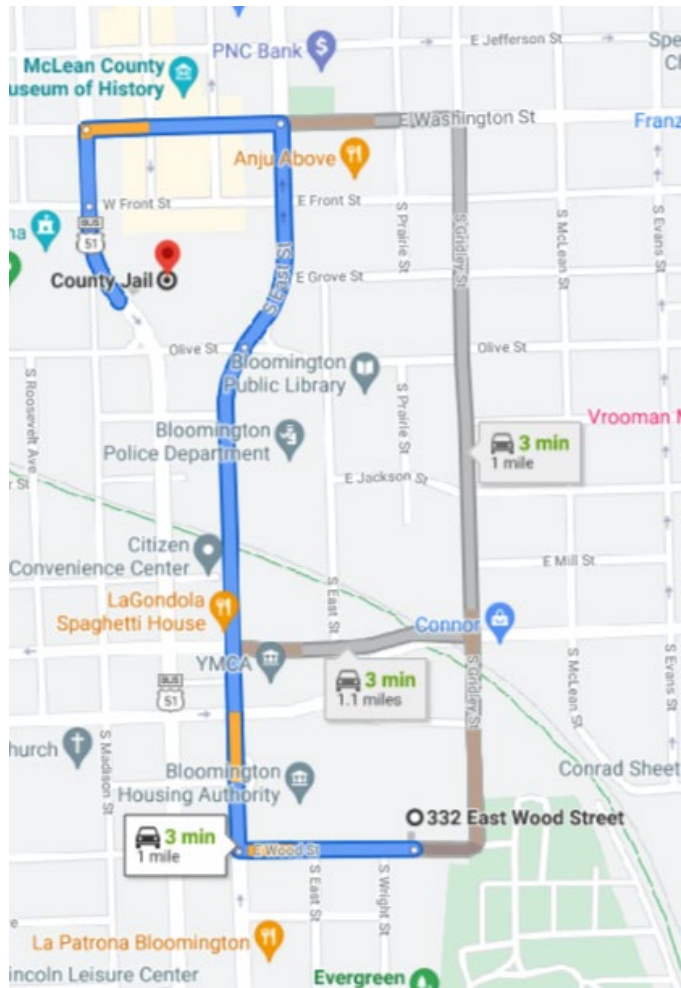


A map showing a route from 332 East Wood Street to 2507 East Oakland Avenue. The route is highlighted in blue and takes 6 minutes and 2.2 miles. Landmarks include Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, Lakeside Country Club, Holiday Park, and various businesses like Dunkin', Jewel-Osco, Kroger, and Denny's.

Maurice home to Super 8 Motel: 3.5 miles, 8 minute drive



The Amoco South Hill – neighborhood is ¼ mile south of the county jail. Less than a mile from Johnson’s former residence.



All addresses – note: public documents also state that a question as to whether he robbed a service station in Johnson’s neighborhood on the same day he robbed the Super 8