

Crime Wave  
April 2002

It was bound to happen. Slowly but surly the tide of evil has crept up I-75 and arrived in our little town of Goneaway. It happened a fall or two ago, but it seems like it was just yesterday. The day that Goneaway lost its innocence. Yes, the Goneaway Bank and Shoe Repair of was held up. It seems that the brazen hoodlum, face covered by a ski mask, walked in, took the money from the startled cashiers and made a clean get-a-way before anyone in town even knew it had happened. Things like that just don't happen here. Detroit or even Gaylord or Traverse City, but not in Goneaway. The local constabulary did all the right things, roped off the building, dusted for prints, put out all points bulletin, but got nothing but angry people trying to get into the Bank & Shoe Repair to use the towns only public restroom. The towns only artist, Evelyn Thimbleberry, who is also the town's only butcher, did an artists sketch of the robber from a description given by a frightened cashier. The picture was published in the Goneaway Gazette. Unfortunately, the description did little good. The picture of a head covered with a ski mask and two black & white eyes looking out of it, just did not bring in any suspects to the Goneaway police. Not for several weeks that is. Then shortly after the first good snomobiling snowfall, the police switchboard lit up like a Christmas tree. The callers reported seeing the robber at Da Outpost, at Ralph's Garage & Gas, at Cartiers, seems the culprit was all over town. Goneaway's finest were kept busy for several hours rounding up snomobilers and pulling off ski masks. Then they realized that they didn't know what the robber looked like under the mask. Such a dilemma. Not only were they not going to catch the bank robber this way, they were destroying Goneaway's reputation as "the friendliest town in the North".

The dilemma was soon solved however. Not by the local police, but by the resourceful people in the Goneaway Bank & Shoe Repair. Seeing all these hooded strangers in town, the employees of the Bank & Shoe, took matters into their own hands and installed a simple but effective crime control device. On the door of the Bank & Shoe, they placed a sign that said, "No one allowed in wearing a ski mask". Pretty silly you say. Well, they are laughing all the way to the bank or should we say jail. Just a short time after the great "Goneaway Shake Down", when things had calmed down a bit, the robbers, thinking that the Bank & Shoe was an easy mark, returned. Same situation as before, except the robber seeing the sign on the door, actually took off his ski mask. There were two surprises. The first being the robber took off the ski mask and the second being, the robber was a she. Then, rather embarrassed and slightly flustered by the sudden realization of her stupidity, she still went to the cashier and got the money, ran out of the Bank & Shoe and got into the getaway car. It seems that the Bank & Shoe was rather crowded that day so many people got a good look at her. Not only that, but the parking lot was crowded so, the getaway driver had to park right outside the loan officer's window. Now with a complete description of the crook, the getaway car and license plate number, you wouldn't think there would be much of a chase. Well, O.J. fans, there really was, but I am out of space. Although Goneaway is no longer known as the "Friendliest town in the North" it is known as the "Town too tough to die". Robbers beware, Goneaway doesn't tolerate crime; you come here and you are going to get caught, unless of course, you wear a bag over your head instead of a ski mask.