

3 LIVES BLOWN AWAY MANAGER OF BANK WORRIED ABOUT SAFETY

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Tuesday's shooting left **three** people dead -- the bank's manager and assistant branch manager, and a man who had stopped at the automatic teller machine.

STANLEY PIJANOWSKI III had two concerns about working at the Comerica branch on Detroit's northeast side -- it was a long way from his home in Bloomfield Township and he feared for his safety.

"He kind of worried about it," neighbor Michael Johnson said of the 52-year-old Comerica assistant vice president and branch manager killed Tuesday.

"He told me he wanted to try to get to another branch because they'd had problems from time to time," Johnson recalled of his conversations with Pijanowski, who was single.

Pijanowski apparently was concerned about fiveholdups in 1996 and other problems at the branch. No one was injured in those robberies, however, and bank officials said they are not aware of a transfer request.

But relatives said he advised them not to visit him at work.

"He didn't want me to come to that bank," said his sister, Darlene Strunk of Grosse Pointe. She feared something bad would happen.

"I just thought he would never be the one," said Strunk at her parents' home in Fair Haven in St. Clair County.

Besides the robberies, no violence occurred at the bank branch. FBI officials said bank robbery fatalities are rare and that none occurred in the past year in metro Detroit.

Pijanowski's boss, Tom Fisher, Comerica's senior vice president of community banking, remembered him as a good teacher. The branch manger taught him the basics 27 years ago, Fisher said.

"He always had time for me," Fisher said. ". . . He was very compassionate about his employees. He cared very much about them and he cared about the customers of his branch in a personal way."

Pijanowski grew up in Fair Haven, one of **three** children of Stanley and Florence Pijanowski. After graduating from Algonac High School in 1963, he enrolled in Michigan State University.

He graduated in 1967 with a bachelor of arts in business marketing.

He was hired at Manufacturers National Bank in 1968 as a teller trainee, was promoted to assistant manager of a Detroit branch in 1971 and manager of a branch in Warren in 1983. Pijanowski was promoted to assistant vice president and manager of the Morang-Duchess branch in December 1993, a year after Manufacturers and Comerica merged.

Pijanowski lived in a stone-and-brick ranch home in northern Bloomfield Township.

At his home Tuesday, his small grey Schnauzer Petey stared out the back window of the sun room.

His mother, Florence, said her son always took care of his family.

"I always said every mother should have a son like him," she said. "He was taking care of everything. There is no justice."

STANLEY HAYS had just one concern on his mind -- his wife, Marge.

A couple of weeks ago Hays' wife, Marge, suffered a brain aneurysm. The couple had been married 51 years, and the 77- year-old Hays missed her.

Every day, he'd drive to the hospital to visit his wife in the intensive care unit of St. John Hospital. He'd stop by in the early afternoon, and in the evening. He'd often bring flowers.

Marge Hays couldn't speak. But she knew her husband was there, her neighbors said. She would look at the clock, then look to the door, waiting for him to come.

On Tuesday, he never arrived.

Hays stopped by the ATM at Comerica late Tuesday morning, and walked right into the gunman's way. He was taken hostage. After a standoff with police he was fatally shot.

"No. No. Tell me it wasn't him. Tell me it wasn't him," said Adrienne Knoll, Hays' neighbor for more than 25 years, after hearing about his death.

"They are the neighbors you pray for," said Gail Kosmala. "When my husband was hurt, he was in a bad motorcycle accident, they were the first ones at the door saying, 'What can I do? How can I help?' "

Neighbors said the Hayses did not have any children or close family, but they did have plenty of friends.

Hays was a gentleman, neighbors said. He and his wife were like the grandpa and grandma everyone wanted to visit each Sunday. When a neighbor's dog ran **away**, they helped search. When a neighbor went on vacation, they would bring in the mail and watch the house.

"You would love them," said Knoll. "They're as close to perfect as you're ever going to get."

JAMES ISOM, was a man focused on the future, both professionally and personally.

The 25-year-old who lived in Warren had just got engaged and his fiance worked for Detroit Public Schools. "They were planning a **life** together," said Steve Coristine, assistant vice president of Comerica's Woodward-Margaret branch in Detroit. Isom worked there for 3 1/2 years before being promoted in January to retail services representative at the Morang-Duchess branch.

Isom had worked for Comerica since June 1992; his first job was at the Woodward-Vester branch in Ferndale.

"He had a lot of ambition to go further in the bank," Coristine said.

He was working toward a bachelor's degree at Wayne State University. His brother, Gary Diaz, a Detroit police officer in the narcotics section, said Isom once applied for the force but was turned down because "the kid hated violence."

"He didn't really want to be a cop, and the department probably sensed that. But he had the brains," Diaz said. "He was a very intelligent kid. Meticulous."

His adoptive father was a retired Detroit policeman. Diaz said Isom also loved taking in a movie or using his video camera. "That was his big thing," Diaz said.

He grew up on Detroit's east side and graduated in 1989 from Bishop Gallagher High School.

"I thought a lot of him," Coristine said. "He was just very pleasant, easy to get along with. He was well liked by everyone. . . . Two of our customers even baked him a cake each year."

When Isom's former coworkers learned he'd been killed Tuesday, "it was like a knife in the belly," Coristine said.

Staff writers Ariana Cha, Ilaina Jonas, Beth Krodel and Alison Young contributed to this report.

Caption: Photo KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/Detroit Free Press; Photo Wayne County Morgue workers remove a body from the shooting scene. Stanley Pijanowski James Isom Stanley Hays ***

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