

2 gunmen tie up 4, take \$11,000 at Willowbrook

By LEONARD BALDASSANO

Two gunmen robbed the Willowbrook Developmental Center's credit union yesterday afternoon after binding four persons they forced to disrobe, and escaped with approximately \$11,000.

Police said two men walked into Building 2, which houses the union, about 3 p.m., encountered a secretary, Mrs. Juelda Brimage, 50, as she was about to enter the women's room, and showed her their guns.

The bandits forced her inside, police said, where they handcuffed and made her lie on the floor.

Moving across the hall where the office is located, police continued, the pair saw another employe, Mrs. Joan Shan, 45, and forced her to open the door to the credit union, which was closing.

According to police, the two entered the office, which is used for cashing pay checks and for other financial matters, and ordered Mrs. Shan, a customer, Mrs. Emma Watson, 59, and two other employes, Dominick Setaro, 56, and Mrs. Sheila Parsons, 36, to strip to their underclothes and lie on the floor. They were bound with masking tape and electrical cord.

The pair, investigators said, cleaned out two cashier's drawers and fled.

Meanwhile, police say, Mrs. Shan, still handcuffed, escaped from the unlocked bathroom and ran outside. She sought help from a man, who police say forced her back to the restroom and threatened to kill her if she didn't stay there.

FBI agents last night said it was questionable whether a third man was involved in the

holdup or if Mrs. Shan encountered one of the original pair in the robbery.

A spokesman for Willowbrook said that one of the women inside the office managed to free herself and called the institution's security police.

The building was sealed off following the holdup as policemen and FBI agents questioned witnesses and gathered evidence.

The FBI was called into the investigation because the credit union is insured by a federal agency.

One detective said the pair seemed "pretty calm" during the robbery and "went about it in a very businesslike manner." He estimated the robbery took about 15 minutes.

Both gunmen were described as being between 20 and 30 years old and about 5 feet 7 inches tall. One was said to be wearing combat boots and the second a gray coat.

Lawmen were unable to obtain a description of the possible third suspect.

They refused to speculate whether the gunmen were involved in any of the five bank robberies on the Island last month.

The robbery was the second time bandits hit the credit union within the last year and one-half.

In August 1973, a young couple stole \$9,280 from the office safe.

Police are asking anyone with information concerning the robbery to call 979-4748 or 979-3536. All calls will be kept confidential, they said.

Detective Carl Kuhn is handling the investigation along with federal agents.