



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BELTON MAN SENTENCED FOR ARMED BANK ROBBERY IN CLINTON, MO

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Belton, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for the armed robbery of a bank in Clinton, Mo.

Thomas Milton Gaugh, 61, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to seven years and six months in federal prison without parole. Graves explained that the court sentenced **Gaugh** to two years and six months for armed bank robbery and five years for use of a firearm in relation to a crime of violence, with those sentences running consecutively, for the total sentence of seven years and six months.

On Jan. 16, 2003, **Gaugh** pleaded guilty to using a Smith & Wesson revolver to rob the U.S. Bank, located at 115 E. Franklin St. in Clinton.

By pleading guilty, **Gaugh** admitted that he entered the U.S. Bank on Oct. 29, 2002 and announced a robbery. During the robbery, Graves said, **Gaugh** raised his jacket with his right hand, causing the teller to believe he was carrying a weapon, and demanded money. **Gaugh** left the bank after stealing \$7,179 in FDIC bank deposits.

Shortly after, however, a law enforcement officer stopped and arrested **Gaugh**, who was driving a silver/blue Toyota Celica north on Highway 7 near Urich, Mo. During the arrest, Graves said, the officer observed the Smith & Wesson revolver lying on the floorboard of the front passenger seat of the vehicle. The officer also recovered a black bag containing the \$7,179 during the arrest.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. Meiners. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Henry County Sheriff's Office and the Clinton, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow