

'Average Joe' admits robbing Springdale bank

By Kimball Perry
Post staff reporter

Known as "Average Joe" to police for his unremarkable appearance during a string of bank robberies, Daniel Schwarberg admitted Monday to robbing a Key Bank in Springdale more than two years ago.

The Verona, Ky., man pleaded guilty before Hamilton County Common Pleas Court Judge Robert Kraft to a reduced charge of robbery. He already is serving a 63-month federal sentence after pleading guilty last year to 11 bank robberies in Kentucky.

Assistant prosecutor Rick Gibson agreed to dismiss the more serious count of aggravated robbery against Schwarberg, 44, in exchange for the guilty plea to robbery, which carries a sentence of one to five years in prison.

Kraft will sentence Schwarberg Dec. 13. Gibson asked Kraft to add the time to Schwarberg's current sentence. His attorney, Bill Rapp, asked that it run concurrent.

Schwarberg also is wanted for a bank robbery in Clermont County.

An employee of Comair at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, Schwarberg wore a baseball cap and oversized glasses to hide his face when he walked into the Key Bank at 11355 Princeton



JOE MUNSON/The Post
"Average Joe," Daniel Schwarberg, with attorney Bill Rapp, pleaded guilty Monday to a 1999 Springdale bank robbery before Hamilton County Common Pleas Court Judge Robert Kraft. He could be sentenced to up to five years.

Pike and slid the teller a note. It instructed her to count \$4,000 in \$20s and \$50s and give them to him. It also said he had a gun, but no gun was used, Rapp said.

When the teller handed him four banded stacks of bills, Schwarberg refused them, instead insisting she count out the bills to ensure no exploding dye packs were hidden in the money, Gibson said. He put the money and the note in a folder he carried into the bank, then left.

He was arrested more than a year later in Lexington, Ky., after another bank robbery.

Rapp said restitution of the full \$4,000 was made Monday to the Springdale bank.

Schwarberg was making \$38,000 a year as a customer service supervisor for Comair. He netted about \$27,000 in the 11 Kentucky robberies. He said he needed the money to pay mounting debts, including child support payments and money owed to the Internal Revenue Service.