

## The Nelson Mail - November 1996

### Offender not hanging around

By Vanessa Phillips

Holy holdup, Batman! ...The city's finest are scouring the metropolis in the search for Nelson's mysterious masked man.

Police investigating an attempted armed robbery on Thursday have laid their hands on a rubber Batman mask similar to the one used during the holdup.

A man with a full-facial black Batman mask walked into Creative Occasions in Alton St early on Thursday afternoon, and demanded money after brandishing a silver pistol.

He walked out of the shop empty-handed after the owners simply stared at him in stunned silence, making his getaway on a mountainbike.

Detective Rick Lowe said a person matching the offender's description bought a Batman mask from a toy store on Thursday morning, hours before the holdup.

Mr Lowe said police wanted to hear from anyone who had found a Batman mask or pistol, as the items may have been discarded after the incident.

Today, police had no other leads to help with catching the Batman bandit, described as having an olive complexion, aged between 18 and 20, with short straight black hair.