

## DOWNTOWN

# Muggers abduct couple during riverside stroll

A mugging turned into a kidnaping for an out-of-town couple taking a walk along the Chicago River early Friday morning, May 22, according to East Chicago (18th) District police reports.

The 48-year-old man and 37-year-old woman, from North Carolina and Colorado, were near the 400 block of North Michigan Avenue at 1:24 a.m. when they were approached by two men, reports said. One had a handgun and announced a stickup, and the victims turned over two watches, a ring, a necklace, and \$40, reports said.

Unsatisfied with the take, the thieves put the victims into a car

and searched the area for a cash machine, reports said. When they found one, it wouldn't dispense money. Next, they drove the victims to the Sheraton Hotel, 301 E. North Water St., where one of the thieves accompanied the woman to her room, reports said.

The other thief, meanwhile, tried to keep the man at bay in the car, but the man punched him and alerted hotel security.

Security apprehended the thief with the woman and turned him over to police, and he was charged with armed robbery.

The second thief hadn't been caught, police said.

## EAST LAKE VIEW



Passers-by check out furniture removed from the Furniture Connection, 3128 N. Broadway, during an eviction by Cook County sheriff's police last week. (Photo by Neil Versel)

# Eviction leads to free-for-all

By **NEIL VERSEL**

Correspondent

Hundreds of Lake View residents witnessed a most unusual furniture sale Wednesday, May 20, as an eviction turned into a free-for-all once police left the scene.

Cook County sheriff's police evicted Furniture Connection from 3128 N. Broadway for failure to pay \$18,000 in rent, according to sheriff's spokesman Bill Cunningham.

Officers removed more than 100 pieces of furniture and bedding from the second-floor space after a

court ruled in favor of the landlord, Edward Owens, who had sued Furniture Connection for unpaid rent.

Crowds formed to watch police place the merchandise on the sidewalk. Officers cordoned off the area during the eviction, but once they left, store owner Richard Michell was sent scrambling to protect his property.

As employees loaded the merchandise into hastily rented trucks, Michell was able to sell some furniture for cash on the sidewalk. He wouldn't comment on the eviction or the future of the business.