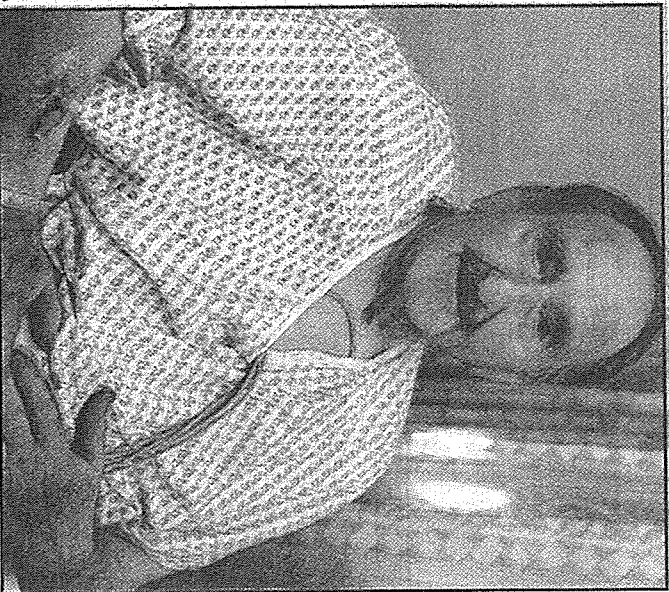


SICK THUGS ATTACK 74-YEAR-OLD



RECOVERING: Andy Hunter

GARDAI were hunting last night for thugs who attacked a defenceless 74-year-old man with iron bars and a hammer in his home.

The masked gang tied up and assaulted the man — named locally as Andy Hunter — before ransacking the home where he lived alone in Rosgarrow, near Milford, Co Donegal, between 9pm and 11pm on Wednesday.

They stole an undisclosed amount of cash. Mr Hunter managed to alert a friend after the thugs fled. He has treated by a doctor before going to stay with relatives while he recovers from the ordeal.

■ By KATE CHAMBERS

“The six million dollar question is: Who are these men?” local Garda Superintendent Frank Clerkin said yesterday.

“It’s shameful that an elderly person can’t live on his or her own without being attacked.

Sinister

“It’s a poor reflection on society that this should happen.

“If anyone in the area saw either local men or strangers watching or besetting the man’s house, please contact us immediately on (074) 91 53060 or 53067.

“We need as much informa-

tion as possible to help track these men down.

“An incident like this requires a lot of local knowledge.”

He urged people to help look after elderly neighbours as much as possible.

“The gardai can only do so much,” he said.

Fine Gael Senator Joe McHugh condemned the attack.

“I think it’s desperate that an elderly man living on his own should have his home ransacked and be brought to this level of degradation in such a sinister way,” he said. “On top of that, this wasn’t an isolated rural area — it’s just half a mile outside the town and there are houses in the vicinity.”