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BANDITS BLOW ORCHARD BANK

Loot Secured Less Than Thousand Dollars. Cashier Bound And Gagged.

James O'Donnell's Car Stolen By Bandits and Later Found At Yankton. Suspects Under Arrest At Sioux City.

Seven bandits, using nitro-glycerin, blew the vault doors of the Citizens State bank of Orchard early Sunday morning, rifling seven of the safety boxes in the vault and escaped with less than \$1,000.

H. R. Browning, assistant cashier of the bank, surprised the robbers at work, was taken into the bank and compelled to watch the proceedings, after which he was left, bound and gagged, in the wrecked vault, when the band departed. Working loose from his bonds Browning turned in a fire alarm and aroused the entire village, but the citizens were unable to stop the fleeing robbers, who escaped in a Hudson super-six touring car stolen late Saturday night from the garage of James F. O'Donnell of this city.

It has been definitely established that six of the bandits came to O'Neill on the Burlington Friday night and stayed here until after midnight Saturday night, when they took Mr. O'Donnell's car and drove to Orchard, where another member of the gang had been on outlook all day Saturday.

The O'Donnell car was found at Yankton Tuesday afternoon, frozen up, and it is learned that five men purchased tickets from Yankton to Sioux City before the car was found.

Five men are under arrest at Sioux City, thought to be the bank robbers, and two detectives, one from the Burns agency and another representing the insurance companies, Thursday morning took several O'Neill citizens, and others who saw the men here Saturday, and at Orchard, to Sioux City to ascertain if the suspects are the men wanted.

The Orchard bank robbery is the first to occur in this vicinity for about twelve years, the Smith bank of Page, now defunct, being the last one to be rifled from the outside.

The Citizens State bank of Orchard is capitalized for \$50,000. T. A. Drayton of Orchard is president, E. R. Curran of Omaha, vice president; W. S. Bowen of Orchard, cashier; and H. R. Browning of Orchard, assistant cashier.

The movements of the men who blew the bank have been definitely traced from the time they left Sioux City last Friday morning in a stolen Cadillac. The experience of H. R. Browning, the young assistant cashier, while in the hands of the bandits, was as thrilling as that of a movie hero, but the experience of James F. O'Donnell, who took precaution to prevent the possible theft of his car Saturday night was not quite so thrilling.

The first definite clue to the bank robbers is that seven men arrived in Plainview Friday morning from Sioux City, driving a Cadillac car. The car was not working well and the party left it at a Plainview garage for minor repairs, stating that they were going on west on the Burlington and would return for the car in a few days. The same party of men purchased tickets for O'Neill at the Plainview depot and six of them came to O'Neill on the evening passenger, arriving here at midnight. One is known to have stopped off at Orchard and remained there Saturday. Four of the men who came to O'Neill took lodging at the Beha hotel, conducting themselves as strangers to each other. Two went to the Ziemer hotel.

A suspicion of the four men stopping at the Beha first was aroused when Mrs. Beha discovered them whispering together. Saturday morning the men were about the streets,

but not grouped, and in pairs visited most of the stores in town. They also spent a portion of the day near the Burlington roundhouse, coming and going in pairs, and conferring with one who seemed to be the leader. Their actions attracted the attention of Chief of Police Beha and Deputy Sheriff Bergstrom, Sheriff Duffy being absent from the city, and also of the men about the Burlington roundhouse who thought they either were bootleggers disposing of their wares, or Burlington secret service men watching for car thieves. The east and west bound trains on the Northwest were watched Saturday afternoon by two men on the outside, but as they did not merchants and others were notified of their presence Saturday evening, to prevent possible robberies.

The next heard of the suspects was Sunday morning when Marshal Beha received word from Orchard that the Citizens' State bank there had been robbed, safety deposit boxes rifled and the assistant cashier left bound in the bank.

The account given by Mr. Browning, the assistant cashier, is that he had been to a dance Saturday evening, afterward had taken lunch at a restaurant and then started for home, going past the bank on his way. When he reached the bank he was stuck up by two men on the outside, who took him into the main banking room and then back into the director's room, where he was turned over to several others. The outside men then again took up their outside vigil. Several men, he says, were examining the vault doors, in another room, but work was not started on the vault until after the dance had broken up. This, says Mr. Browning, was after 3 o'clock. Browning was asked, soon after being taken into the bank "where does the town Bull hang out?" Perceiving that the bandits were not aware of his connection with the bank, Mr. Browning told them that he also was a stranger in town, which seemed to modify their treatment of him somewhat. While he was conversing with the bandits inside the bank the outside men would signal by clicking their guns when any one come down the street, and the others would reply likewise. After the streets had become deserted work was started on the vault doors, Browning being taken in by his captors to see the work done.

"Just watch closely and you will know how it is done," one of the men working on the outside vault door advised him, and he was permitted to be a spectator of the entire proceeding. Soap first was placed around the combination, he says, the dope poured in and touched off with a short fuse. The explosion threw back the tumblers and enabled the crackman to pull out the combination. The inside door was accented similar treatment. The time now was about 4 o'clock, according to Browning, and the bandits hastened in their work. They looked over the safe in which the currency was kept, but discovering it to be of the screw type and of ferro-manganese steel they made no attempt to blow it. Attention then was turned to the safety deposit boxes, the locks of many of which had become jammed by the explosions, which also had wrecked much of the vault furniture. Only seven of the boxes were opened before it became part of the bandits must die. Browning then was bound and gagged and placed on a sanitary couch in one

of the bank rooms and the couch carried into the wrecked vault. Before leaving him the bandits tied his feet to the couch and then partially closed the vault doors. They had been so deformed by the explosion however that they could not be closed tight.

Browning rolled from the couch after the bandits had gone and in his struggles managed to reach part of the wreckage caused by the explosion. On the ragged edge of a piece of metal he sawed the rope that bound his wrists and thus was able to liberate himself. The alarm at once was given and the fire bell rung, arousing the entire village. As the citizens were assembling a large car, some say two cars, crept through the crowd and then sped east. One of them, the O'Donnell car, it later was discovered had been left idling, in front of the village constable's house while the robbers worked. Word was flashed to nearby towns and at Plainview the fire alarm was rung and the town turned out to apprehend the bandits if they came that way. At 5:40 o'clock, the big Hudson car, with lights out, dashed through the streets of Plainview at fifty miles an hour, while the citizens stood agape.

The next heard of the robbers was when word came from Yankton, South Dakota, that the O'Donnell car had been found on the south side of the Missouri river, that five men had crossed the river and purchased railroad tickets to Sioux City, leaving Yankton at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

Detectives of the Burns agency and the insurance companies, who viewed the work of the bandits Wednesday pronounced it that of experts. All of the men wore gloves, so that there would be no finger prints to betray them, and the work of blowing the combination they declared was that of a past master at the game. The only words spoken by the bandits at any time, inside the bank, was when Browning was invited to watch the proceedings and when the first safety deposit box was opened, one of the men then remarking that the box contained \$200 worth of bonds.

When Cashier Browning gained his liberty he first telephoned President Drayton that the bank had been robbed. Drayton, misunderstanding him to say that the bank was being robbed and taking a rifle ran down toward the bank building. Arriving there, in the dark, he saw a light in the building. Throwing his fur coat out in the middle of the street, so that it would appear to be a man lying in wait, he crawled off to the side and leveled his rifle at the bank door. Soon two men came out the bank. Drayton waited until they had approached a light, when he pulled up to fire. Before he could do so, however, one of the men spoke and he discovered that the two were Browning and the village marshal.

This was the second escape young Browning had during the evening from sudden death. When he first approached the bank he was accosted by one of the bandits, who thrust a gun toward him. Browning thinking the move merely one of a friend trying to frighten him, brushed the gun aside, startling the bandit. The second man jammed a gun in Browning's back before he could follow up his advantage, and the cashier subsided as he realized the two men meant business.

The stirring part played by J. F. O'Donnell in the affair, earlier, in this city, was that when Mr. O'Donnell was informed of the presence of the men here, he went home about midnight, got down the old trusty pump gun and loaded it up with shot. Mrs. O'Donnell, who had already retired, was aroused by his warlike preparations and inquired why the demonstration.

"I've decided to have order in this house," Jim remarked, and then he explained that the presence of several prowlers had been reported in town and he feared they might be car thieves. "I just want to be prepared if they come after my car," he remarked as he sat the gun down near the head of the bed. Then he turned in and proceeded to sleep the sleep of the just. A half hour later the bandits did come to the O'Donnell garage, run out the car and pushed it down as far as the George Bradt place, where they had trouble in getting it started. The whining of the starter aroused Jesse Melloe and Mr. Bradt, but Mr. O'Donnell slept on and did not discover the loss of his car until Monday morning.

It is evident that the bandits had the location of most of the big and high-powered cars in the city, as the garages of Webb Kellogg, Dr. L. A. Burgess, the Art Wyant garage and several others were visited and broken into, but the cars found either with the batteries out or the cars otherwise out of commission. The O'Donnell car, after it was started, was taken down to the Burlington section house, after the night passenger had arrived and the roundhouse help gone, the section house entered and gas and oil taken.

AMERICAN LEGION BENEFIT.

The benefit given under the auspices of the Community Ladies Monday evening at the K. C. hall, to assist in furnishing the new club rooms of the American Legion post, was more than a success, both from a social and a financial viewpoint. The entertainment, consisting of cards, refreshments, a program and dancing, was most enjoyable and drew a large attendance. The big hall was beautifully decorated, under the direction of Mrs. Webb Kellogg, the decorations being in the national colors and large festoons of red, white and blue streamers almost covering the ceiling, the colors lending a most enlivening touch to the scene. The sum of \$66.27 above all expenses was realized and turned over by the ladies to the post furniture fund. Miss Helen Biglin and Mr. Harry Clausen were the prize winners at cards.

LOCAL MATTERS.

A. D. Havens of Atkinson, was an O'Neill visitor Tuesday.

R. H. Parker returned last week from a several months visit in southern California.

P. J. McManus left Saturday for a two weeks visit to Chicago and other eastern markets.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Biglin returned Friday from a visit with relatives at Jackson, Nebraska.

W. V. Hunter came up from Omaha Monday evening to spend a few days looking after his local interests.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Horiskey returned Sunday evening from a several weeks visit at Excelsior Springs, Mo.

Chris Erb returned Monday night from a trip to Schuyler. He reports the snow much heavier in that vicinity than here.

Miss Anna Donohoe has been appointed to membership on the library board by the township board of Grattan township.

Charles Cole, one of the prominent farmers residing south of Stuart, was Mr. O'Neill visitor the first of the week and a pleasant caller at this office.

The Martez was entertained by Miss Elizabeth Donohoe, Tuesday evening, at the residence of Mrs. Charles McKenna. Miss Etta Froelich won the honors at cards.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Henry, and daughter, Patricia Jane, of Geneva, Neb., arrived in the city last night for a few weeks visit with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Henry.

Sheriff Duffy and Chief of Police Beha returned Tuesday night from Fremont, where they had gone to identify by photograph if possible, suspects in the Orchard bank robbery.

Adam Head and Floyd Osborne, champion Holt county wrestlers, will be the main card at the athletic carnival of the Atkinson American Legion post is going to hold Thursday of next week.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stark, who removed to Schuyler from Inman several years ago, have decided that there is no place quite as good as Holt county and again have taken up their residence in Inman.

The ladies of the M. E. church will give a Valentine Social Monday evening, February 14th, at the church parlors. A short program will be rendered and refreshments served. Everybody welcome.

Old H. C. L. received a solar plexus blow Wednesday when pie dropped thirty-three and a third per cent on the local market. Good nine-inch pies now are quoted at 10 cents per cut, four cuts to the pie, at the Grand and other eating places.

Dr. H. C. L. returned Saturday evening from a business visit at York, Nebraska. York and vicinity was visited with a heavy snowstorm last week which entirely hued this section, according to Mr. Huebert, and the snow drifted badly.

Miss Mayme Grady and Pat Hickey won the honors at the card party social and dance at the K. C. hall Friday night of last week. The affair, which was the last preceding Lent, was one of the most enjoyable of the several so far given this year.

Judge R. R. Dickson has received notice from the state board of paroles and pardons of the application of a Boyd county citizen now being detained at Lincoln for parole. The prisoner was sent up for a nameless crime, with a child as his victim.

Mr. W. S. Swigart and Mrs. Swigart, nee Miss Kathryn Corbett, who since their marriage several years ago, have been residents of Pittsburg, Penn., will return to O'Neill to reside on February 25 according to word received by Dr. A. H. Corbett.

The Frontier this week inaugurates a new feature, which will appear weekly. It is a marketgram or market letter from Washington and is of value to farmers and others interested in supply and demand, wholesale prices, movements of foodstuffs, reserve stocks, visible supplies, etc.

An item from Star postoffice, northeastern Holt county, in the Norfolk News of Monday states that: "Postmaster Cole butchered a boy Thursday." As none of the families of that vicinity have complained of losing a boy recently, the kid must have been a maverick or a stray from Knox county.

Wolf and coyote hunts are becoming regular Saturday social functions down in the Chambers valley and the boys are getting that portion of the county pretty well cleaned up of the pests. W. O. Jarman is master of ceremonies at the hunts which are regularly organized and conducted along military lines.

Simonson Post No. 99, American Legion, wishes to take this opportunity to thank the ladies who were instrumental in giving the party for the benefit of the American Legion at the K. C. hall Monday night. The Post also wishes to express its gratitude to the men of those organizations whose funds were turned over to the American Legion.

C. F. Bowman of Ewing, was one of the first two men at the University of Nebraska this year to win a track numeral. The state university is awarding numerals this year to men who have not won their 'N' in track but who make a creditable showing in practice tests. Bowman ran the 40 yard run on the board track in 59.2 and made the 880 yard run in 2:07.03.

T. V. Golden was the principal speaker at a meeting at Stuart Saturday afternoon in the interest of the movement for recognition of the Irish republic. The meeting followed the meeting for farm bureau organization and following the eloquent appeal of Mr. Golden forty signed the membership roll of the American association for the recognition of the Irish Republic. These accompanying Mr. Gol-

den to Stuart from O'Neill were M. H. Horiskey, H. J. Hammond, Thomas Griffin and Max Golden.

Mrs. Serafine Ergler, wife of Serfine Ergler of Stuart, arrived from Hendersdorf, Silisia, Thursday evening of last week after a journey of more than a month, part of which time was spent at Rotterdam awaiting ship passage. The trip across required fourteen days and stormy weather was encountered, at one time necessitating the launching of the life boats. Mrs. Ergler reports conditions had in former Austria-Hungary, with bread scarce and meat at a dollar a pound and procurable only in small quantities.

WEEKLY MARKETGRAM.

Washington, D. C., for week ending Feb. 7, 1921.

HAY—Receipts generally of inferior quality. Southern and eastern markets report increased receipts; lower quotations. Chicago arrivals light; heavier in Kansas City during last part of week, especially of Alfalfa which is showing weakness under the first run of Idaho hay. The quantity of Idaho is not up to expectations, grades lower than No. 1 moving slowly as Kansas City dealers fear to ship to southeastern markets. Advices indicate heavy movement from Idaho. Good Timothy scarce in many markets; Prairie arrivals light. Quoted—No. 1 Timothy \$21.50, Kansas City, \$24.50, Chicago, \$20, Minneapolis, No. 2 Timothy—\$18.50, Kansas City, \$21.00, Chicago, \$17, Minneapolis, No. 1 Alfalfa—\$22, Kansas City, \$25, Chicago, \$22, Minneapolis, No. 2 Alfalfa—\$14.50, Kansas City, \$20, Chicago, \$17, Minneapolis, No. 1 Prairie upland—\$14, Kansas City, \$19, Chicago, \$15.00, Minneapolis.

FEED—All feedstuffs weak; some prices \$5 lower than a week ago. Stocks improving; offerings corn and wheat feeds heavier. Demand remains light. Cottonseed meal and linseed meal offered by jobbers under mill agents quotations. Considerable activity in hominy feed during past week with mills anxious to dispose of their immediate production. Gluten feed production improved; Demand diminished, reground oatfeed dull; offered at \$6 Chicago market. Mixed car business fairly good. Quoted bran \$21, middlings \$20, flour middlings \$24, Minneapolis; linseed meal \$39.50 Buffalo, \$37.50 Minneapolis; white hominy feed \$21.50 St. Louis, \$23.50 delivered, northeastern markets; No. 1 Alfalfa meal \$21.50, Kansas City; Gluten feed \$25 Chicago; beet pulp \$36 New York; dried brewers grain \$33 New York; reground oatfeed \$9.50 Chicago.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES—Potatoes held at 80-90c per 100 lbs. f. o. b. northern shipping stations. Chicago car-lot market advanced 10c, reaching \$1.10-\$1.20 sacked. Round Whites close slightly lower at western. New York shipping points at \$1.10, mostly \$1.08. New York market dull, \$1.50-\$1.65 bulk.

Cold Storage Baldwin apples firm at western New York f. o. b. stations, closing \$4-\$4.15 per bbl. Consuming centers steady at \$4.25-\$5; York Imperials \$3.50-\$5; Greenings \$4-\$5. Northwestern extra fancy Winesaps steady \$3.50-\$4.50 per box in New York. Prices steady f. o. b. \$2.10-\$2.25.

Sacked Yellow onions slow and dull f. o. b. at 75c-85c per 100 lbs., consuming markets steady at 75c-\$1.25. Florida celery steady \$2.65-\$3.25 for large lots in city markets; steady f. o. b. around \$1.75. California Golden hearts \$5-\$6 per crate in middle-western markets; Los Angeles steady f. o. b. 30c-35c per dozen bunches.

Car-lot shipments week ended Feb. 5: Potatoes 3,020 cars; boxed apples, 476, barreled apples 1,072; old cabbage 255, new cabbage 130, old celery 219, new celery 162; lettuce 478; onions 389; spinach 84; sweet potatoes 393; tomatoes 49. Shipments week ended Jan. 29th: potatoes 2851 cars; boxed apples 363, barreled apples 1044; old cabbage 275, new cabbage 125; old

celery 218, new celery 193; lettuce 704; onions 428; spinach 142; sweet potatoes 346; tomatoes 7.

LIVE STOCK—For the first time in several weeks Chicago cattle prices showed slight advances compared with a week ago. Beef steers advanced 15c a cwt; butcher cows and heifers steady to 25c higher. Feeder steers unchanged to 15c lower; veal calves down \$1.25-\$1.50. Hogs: lost 5c-45c, strong weights losing most. Fat lambs down 25c-75c, feeding lambs 75c-\$1. Yearlings showed an extreme decline of \$1.25 per 100 lbs. Fat ewes steady to 50c higher. Feb. 7th Chicago prices: hogs, bulk of sales, \$8.90-\$9.65; medium and good beef steers \$7.75-\$9.25; butcher cows and heifers \$4.50-\$8.25; feeder steers \$6-\$8.25; light and medium weight veal calves \$9-\$12; fat lambs \$7.25-\$10; feeding lambs \$7.25-\$8.50; yearlings \$6.25-\$7.50; fat ewes \$3.75-\$5.25.

MEAT—Eastern wholesale fresh meat markets were almost invariably lower. Beef lost 50c-\$1.50; veal steady to \$1 lower. Lamb, mutton and pork loins down from \$1-\$2 per 100 lbs. Feb. 7th prices on top grade meats: beef \$13-\$15; veal \$20-\$22; lamb \$18-\$21; mutton \$10-\$21; mutton \$10-\$15; light pork loins \$20-\$23; heavy loins \$15-\$19.

COTTON—Midling spot cotton prices at the 10 designated spot cotton markets dropped at 72 points during the week, closing around 13-10c. New York March futures down 66 points at 13.34c.

DAIRY PRODUCTS—Butter markets demoralized during week; declines registered in all markets. Following the price reductions throughout the week eastern markets broke sharply again on the 7th and prices are 5-6c lower than a week ago. Chicago market has not developed as much weakness as in east and is less than 1c lower than a week ago, but further price changes are bound to occur shortly as Chicago is now higher than New York. Consumption demands lighter, and imports are also a factor contributing to weakness. Prices 92 score: New York 44c; Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston 45c.

Cheese markets dull and inactive. Buyers seem to be fairly well stocked and are now taking for immediate needs only. Many look for lower prices. At Plymouth Wisconsin cheese exchanges on the 7th prices showed but little change from a week ago, although trading during the week has barely supported existing prices. Twins 23½c; Daisies 24½c; Double Daisies 23½c; Longhorns 23½c; Young Americas 25c.

GRAIN—Sharp price fluctuations characterized the week grain trading, Chicago March wheat dropped 6c net, Chicago May corn gained 7-8c. Visible wheat supply for United States and Canada over the same time a year ago, but little attention is being given statistical position. Argentina reported offering weather at New York equal to \$1.85. India said to have sold Italy over million bushels wheat at equal to \$1.67, while exports estimate American wheat would be around \$2 C. I. C. Italy.

Country offerings wheat not large; Illinois farmers reported willing to sell, although bad roads prevent hauling. Visible corn supply nearly seventeen million bushels more than year ago. On the 7th seaboard reported 150,000 bushels corn sold Holland and Germany. Low prices and condition of country roads have affected country movement although Iowa farmers showing disposition to sell. In Chicago cash market No. 2 Red winter wheat 26-30c over March; No. 2 hard 6-8c under May; yellow 6-6½c under. Minneapolis reports flour sales limited with cash No. 2 dark northern 11-18c over Minneapolis March. For the week Minneapolis March wheat lost 4½c at \$1.44¾; Kansas City March 5½c at \$1.47¾; Winnipeg May 7-8c at \$1.71. Chicago March wheat \$1.54¾; May wheat \$1.44; May corn 65c.



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