

The Oxford Bank Robbery

THE OXFORD GAZETTE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1931

Bank of Oxford Robbed

Expert Safe Blowers Blast Doors of Vault and Cash Box
Early Thursday Morning Visit Nets Less Than \$2,000

Robbers cut five telephone cables, shoot out street lights and
terrorize people in neighborhood

The long expected visit of yeggmen to our local banks came early Thursday morning when a high powered car, carrying either four or five men, drove into town, and after cutting all the telephone cables, proceeded in a leisurely fashion to blow off the combination of the vault door and blow open the small safe inside.

The loss, as nearly as can be determined today, (Thursday) is between \$1,500 and \$1,800, and included \$350.12 in paid money orders held for redemption by the local post office. The loss is completely covered by insurance, which also covers the loss on the vault door and on the safe, which was completely ruined by the explosive.

About the first thing the gang did was to cut the telephone cables. This was about 2:15, and Mrs. Dora Scott, night operator, called Walter Carnahan and Mrs. Martha Taylor over their direct line while this was being done. From their windows they saw most of what followed until one of the men thought there was too much light and shot the street light across from the bank with a shotgun.

No attempt was made to keep quiet and two men patrolled the east and north sides of the square armed with shotguns. Eight of the empty shells were found and were loaded with No. 4 shot, indicating that eight shots were fired altogether. Whenever a charge of nitroglycerine was fired inside the bank the men inside would come out and walk north up the inside of the street.

Mike Duffy started down the street about this time to call Ezra Coats, and was ordered to stop by one of the guards. Thinking it was Andrew Nagle, the night watch, he kept on going. The next warning was a charge of No. 4 shot, which accelerated his travel but did not hit him. He did the quarter mile in nothing flat, which is considerably faster than the record he used to make on the Fowler high school track team--and he wasn't so slow at that time, either.

No attempt was made by the robbers to open the various safe deposit boxes in the bank vault, and only currency was taken, and not all of that. The floor of the vault was literally covered with nickels, dimes, quarters, pennies, and fragments of paper, all plastered with soap which had been used to close the crack around the safe door before the nitro was poured in.

The local postoffice had several books of money order blanks in the vault, wrapped in heavy paper. These wrapping were all torn off and the money orders were plastered with soap, torn and otherwise damaged until it will be necessary to

