

## SESQUICENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS



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Excerpts from the Plain Talk  
By Cleo Erickson  
1933 Citizens Bank Robbery  
continued

Miss Sloan then was ordered to get up from the floor and follow one of the bandits out the front door. She was led around the bank corner to a waiting black sedan parked on Prospect Street near the rear of the bank of the bank building. The bandit got behind the wheel and Miss Sloan stepped on the running board as directed. The other holdup artists came out of the front door of the bank immediately afterward, escorting Chaney, Lloyd and Rev. Deer. The thugs could have escaped by a rear entrance to the bank, but they were not sure enough of this exit to try it.

Mr. Chaney was seated in the rear of the sedan, a bandit on each side of him. A bandit took his place beside the driver and Lloyd was ordered to stand on the running board opposite Miss Sloan. With these three bank officials on the car for protection from any shooting, Rev. Deer was ignored and left standing near the car. The car then shot north on Prospect Street, turned east on Clark and then north on Dakota, stopping near the Episcopal Church to let the hostages go.

Before the car came to a stop, the bandit seated beside the driver said: "I've got a notion to bump this guy (meaning Lloyd) off for lying to us." One of the men seated beside Chaney turned to the banker and said: "Could anyone have opened that safe in the vault?" Chaney replied: "No, no one could." "Lay off him" was Chaney's interrogator's advice to the man in the front seat.

## GETS LICENSE NUMBER

When the car was coming to a stop near the church, Lloyd stepped off and fell into a muddy gutter. Miss Sloan

stepped off safely and Chaney was ushered from the car politely. The car then whisked north on Dakota Street but not before a university student, Paul King, had run a block to get the license number.

The license number, 97-1696, Iowa, 1932, was issued originally to G. S. Eyer, of Sioux City, for a Dodge car. The sedan the bandits had was thought to be an Oldsmobile six. The plates either were stolen or discarded ones.

When the bandits and the others went around the bank corner, they left Bolstad and Erickson to do as they pleased. The two rushed into the Ross grocery, gave an alarm to the telephone office over the bank. Two of the telephone girls, Miss Vivian Chamberlain and Miss Georgia Chaussee, looked out the upstairs window just in time to see the bandit car, with Miss Sloan and Lloyd on the running boards, being driven away. The girls notified the police and sheriff's offices and a short time later put in alarms to all nearby towns and cities.

Henry Roscamp, employee of the telephone company, telephoned WNAX at Yankton

and an announcement of the stickup was on the air before the bandits had reached the city limits.

Morris Chaney, who hurried to his car when he saw what was up, and the telephone company manager, L. C. Hunt, accompanied by Policeman Fowler, soon were in hot pursuit of the bandits but, due to mistaken direction given by a pedestrian, turned west at Dartmouth instead of east.

Soon realizing an error, Chaney and Hunt turned their cars back east. Chaney joined Fowler and Hunt drove north of the university. Near the golf links Hunt spied a car loitering west of the highway. Apparently Hunt's car was seen for the other car suddenly spurred out of sight. Hunt attempted to catch up, but lost track of the car near the Wakonda road.

Other officials scoured the country side, but no trace of the bandits could be found. It is claimed the robbers' car was seen in the Hub City vicinity.

Catching a ride back downtown, the three "kidnapped" bank officials soon were checking over the amount stolen. They found the four thugs had

taken \$2,799.40, including \$800 in silver. The silver came from the bottom of the safe, while the currency was taken from a counter drawer. Three hundred dollars in silver in plain sight on the counter and a fairly large sum in small change in the bottom of the safe were ignored. A \$100 Canadian bond with coupons in the counter cash drawer was overlooked.

It is the belief of officials that the bandits had several sets of license plates and more than likely more than the one car. It is suspected the quartet ditched their sedan, split up and went different ways in the two other cars.

## CLUES CONSIDERED

Officials at the courthouse report that a big grey sedan, with five men inside, drove up and down West Main Street Monday morning. The car had Yankton county license plates. Very early Monday morning four young men drove into Vermillion in two cars. They ate light lunches at the Kale cafe and signed up for rooms at the Waldorf hotel. Their names appear on the register as follows: W. B. Reiner, Chicago, C. B. Hummel, Chicago, T.

P. Israel, Detroit, C. Reiner, Detroit. The descriptions seem to tally with those of the bandits.

About 10 o'clock Monday morning the four men came downstairs, ate breakfast in the grill. Later they ate lunch and then checked out about 1:30, according to the clerk, Frank Valentine. Valentine observed their cars in front of the hotel, one a Chevrolet coach with wire wheels and the other a larger car. After shaking hands, the men got into their autos, both being driven west.

A little after 2:00 o'clock, four men drove up to the Shell oil station on West Main in a six cylinder sedan. They purchased 10 gallons of gasoline, some oil and had the radiator filled with water before continuing east. Lawrence Huetson, the attendant, gives descriptions of the men which tally with those of the bandits.

The bank loss was fully covered by insurance with the National Surety Co. A man from the U. S. department of justice was here Tuesday to investigate the stickup.

Continued Next Week

## W.H. Over Museum hosts annual Holiday Festival

What do ironwork, lefse, and Starburst the clown all have in common? They will be at the annual Holiday Festival at the W. H. Over Museum from 1-4:30 p.m. Dec. 6. This will be the 43rd annual holiday festival sponsored by the Friends of the W. H. Over Museum.

The traditional bake sale will be taking place and there will be a bountiful hospitality table in Sletvold Hall. The Meckling Livestock 4-H Club will be offering children's activities and the Over Kids Club will also be trimming a tree for the festivities. Mr. and Mrs. Santa, along with their special elf, along with Starburst the Clown and Friends will be mingling with festival guests throughout the afternoon.

There are many kinds of crafts featured at the festival as well as a special display of vintage toys by Willard Zeeb of Freeman. Woodworkers, needleworkers, and a multitude of other kinds of crafts will be on display and available for purchase. Trees decorated by several area individuals and clubs will be on display.

Gloria Christopherson from the Nook 'n Cranny has provided a prize to be drawn for Friends who renew or join the Friends organization during the festival. Many door prizes have been provided by vendors and Friends of the Museum.

Our Exhibits Committee is working hard to have two new exhibits ready for display. These are the doll house

which was lovingly created by Kay Heikes and gifted to the museum this past summer and the Burr Broom Factory. The Friends are extremely pleased and proud to present these two important parts of Vermillion's very own history. The Festival will also provide the last opportunity to a Vermillion Sesquicentennial throw — we have a few left and they will be on display, during the festival.

The board of directors cordially invites everyone to come to the museum to complete a gala weekend of welcoming the holiday season and to help bring the Sesquicentennial year to a festive conclusion replete with wonderful memories of 2009.

## South Dakota jobless rate up from September

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports South Dakota's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2009 is 5.0 percent, up from the September 2009 rate of 4.8 percent. The national rate is 10.2 percent.

"The unemployment rate has remained relatively stable in South Dakota for the past several months, fluctuating between 4.8 to 5.0 percent," said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. "We continue to see small layoffs, but there are some employers cautiously hiring again."

The level of unemployed was up by approximately 7,700 people in South Dakota according to the October 2009 data

compared to one year ago. The unemployment rate for October 2008 was 3.2 percent.

"The over-the-year increase in unemployment indicates the recession continues to impact South Dakota's workforce," said Secretary Roberts. "The number of people claiming unemployment benefits is about three times higher than last year, which is also an indicator of the recession."

More information on the October 2009 labor force statistics for South Dakota and the nation is available on the South Dakota Department of Labor's Web site at [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org). An overview of the sub-state labor market will be released Nov. 25 in the e-Labor Bulletin.

### Events planned at Sharing the Dream

Sharing the Dream in Vermillion has some events on tap next week.

The public is invited to stop by the store in downtown Vermillion and meet with Diana. She is from Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, and is coordinator of the Sharing the Dream programs in Guatemala. Also, a signing of the book "Stories of Survival: Mayan Elders Share their Memories" which is now for sale at Sharing the Dream, has been scheduled.

The book signing and open house will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 4. An open house at Sharing the Dream will also be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Dec. 6.



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