

### Downers Grove Reporter

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## BANK BANDITS WAITING TRIAL IN COUNTY JAIL

### Men Who Held Up First National Bank Last Thursday Have All Confessed.

The five men who held up the First National Bank here last Thursday are lying in the county jail at Wheaton awaiting trial. Their rich haul of bonds and money has been almost all recovered and States Attorney Chas. Hadley is planning a quick trial and the limit in the way of a sentence for their crime.

Those held for the robbery are Arthur Hammil, formerly of Downers Grove, Garfield Sullivan, David Gibson, Thomas O'Brien and Roy Stewart.

Two married couples whom the bandits roomed are also being held.

The Chicago police, who made the arrests upon information received from local sources, are convinced that in arresting these men they have the nucleus of a gang of twenty or more. Similar holdups and crimes of every nature have been traced to this gang.

In all, the amount taken from the bank Thursday was \$20,700 divided as follows: Certificates of indebtedness \$11,000. Liberty Bonds \$7,000 and cash \$2,700.

The robbery which occurred at 12:45 p.m. on July 10, 1919, was the first ever pulled off in this vicinity.

The four men walked into the bank and drawing revolvers forced Dewey Reidy, the bookkeeper, and Earl Singleterry, a customer, into the vault. They took everything in sight here, mostly government bonds and bills of large denominations, then after cleaning out the cash drawer in back of the cashier's cage they left.

While they were in the bank an 8-cylinder Cadillac, which they had stolen the night before was standing at the curb. The four jumped into the machine and speeded south on Main Street.

Reidy and Singleterry had been left in the vault and the door slammed to. However, the bolts of the door are so fixed during the day that it cannot be locked and they soon forced the grill door getting out on Main Street just as the robber car turned the corner at Maple Avenue.

Reidy had grabbed the bank's gun as he left and commanding the first passing car, a Buick belonging to the Cary-Saal Co., and driven by E. A. Strong of De Kalb, one of their salesmen, gave chase.

The bandits turned east on Maple Avenue then south on the East Grove road to the Plainfield road where they turned east going through Lyons and Cicero into Chicago.

Police of all surrounding towns had been notified and were on the lookout for the car but they were wise in not going through any towns.

Reidy kept on the trail of the robbers all the way but was too far behind to catch sight of them. When captured one of the men boasted that they had covered the twenty-five miles in twenty-five minutes.

The story of Earl Singleterry, who was in the bank at the time the robbery took place, is interesting. He was at the door just leaving when four men walked in. One of them leveled a gun at him and said, "Back in the vault with you," at the same time pushing him back at the point of the gun. Singleterry was an interested spectator of what followed. He says, "None of the men seemed in the least excited, they were evidently following a pre-arranged plan as they seemed not to get in each others way

but all had something to do and did it." "I kept my eye on Hammil all the time." "He held the bag, a sort of flour sack, into which the other three dumped in money and securities by the handful." "I knew I had seen him before somewhere, knew that he formerly lived in town, but could not for the life of me remember his name." "For that reason I watched his every move, trying my best to recollect his name and it wasn't until everything was over and I was cut on the street that it came to me."

In case resistance was met with the gang had orders from Hammil to shoot, but not otherwise. That they were prepared to stave off pursuit was evident as Gibson was an expert marksman in the army and a high power rifle was part of the equipment of the car. This was to be used in keeping any pursuers at a safe distance, puncturing tires and in an emergency.

For this job at least Hammil was the leader of the gang. He lived on a farm south of East Grove with his parents two years ago and had served a term in Pontiac for check forgery. He was well known in the village and a few minutes before the holdup talked with fellows who used to play ball with him here.

The mere fact that he should attempt anything as bold as the robbing of the bank in broad daylight where he is so well known conclusively proves him a hardened criminal and one who has traveled far since his check deal here in 1917.

For that deal he was given two years in Pontiac, where he was known as a model prisoner. He finished his term by being paroled to the Rock Island arsenal where he worked on munitions.

The general sentiment in the village favors hanging as none too good for this gang to serve as a lesson. Many have expressed a desire to help pull on the rope. The probabilities are that the robbers sentences will not be over fifteen years.

"If not a cent of the money or bonds had been recovered," said J. W. Hughes, president of the First National Bank, "neither the bank nor the depositors would have lost as we are more than amply protected by insurance." "In fact, we carry really more insurance than the majority of small banks as we consider safety a prime requisite of a banking institution."

### NEW BUILDING WILL BE BUILT THIS SUMMER

By fall a fine business block will occupy the Capt. Rogers corner at Warren Avenue and Main Street. A. O. Ross of Palatine, has purchased the property and will start soon on the actual building. He and the architect who drew the plans were looking over the ground Tuesday afternoon and making inquiries regarding excavating and building contractors.

The building, which will front forty five feet on Warren Avenue, will be 119 feet long. Of modern brick construction, it will be one story in height but provision will be made to add another story later.

It will contain two stores, a five room flat and a modern bakery plant. The corner store, living rooms and shop will be used by Mr. Ross, who now conducts an up to date bakery in Palatine. The other store will be for rent.

Work will commence as soon as the contracts are let.

We ALMOST had a rain Wednesday evening. Downers Grove is absolutely the driest spot in the world. We spent an hour the other night on the lookout for a wet cellar. Nothing.

### WONDER WHAT "C. H." WILL SAY WHEN HE "LAMPS" THIS

Chris Staats who runs the paper had been working very hard, so he called his son Elon, a playing in the yard, "Now son" he said "I've noticed you've been working like an ox, so we'll just go a fishing down on the River Fox. Down there we'll find Charles Hawkins and Edward Dunnagan and I will bet a golf ball we'll have a lot of fun." Now Elon is a sober youth, he did not smile a bit but hustled quickly upstairs and got his fishing kit. The trip to ancient Yorkville was made without event—they had no automobile so by the "Q" they went. 'Twas early Saturday morning that Elon and his Dad arrived at Hawkins' camp ground and they were very glad for dinner was just ready with ham and eggs galore and nobody objected when Elon asked for more. Chas. Hawkins and the Missus and Sir and Mrs. Ed. gave them a hearty welcome and this is what they said: "Now Chris we'd like to have you do anything you wish, just lie around the campfire or else go out and fish." So C. H. took his coat off and so surprised the crowd, he wore a fancy sport shirt of pattern rich and loud. Said Charles "Go put your coat on or hide it in the grass, No fish will stand for that thing except a "Carlson bass."

All day the sextette wandered along the river brink—"Did they catch many fishes?" "They did I do not think," Theonly Isaac Walton was Elon noble boy who landed four black bass much to his father's joy. Ed. D. and Charles kept at it but Chris he took a whirl at digging clams because he said "Perhaps I'll find a pearl."

All day they fished and boated or played the phonograph till evening shades fell o'er them too soon at least by half. The day if you remember was July number five of the hottest kind of weather you'll see while you're alive. Chris raised a lot of blisters upon his brassy arms, the sleeves of that sport shirt were short in spite of all its charms. The night turned cool, they all turned in the campers in a tent not distant very far. The night wore on it colder got and Chris began to shake, his blisters ceased to bother him the cold kept him awake. Another day of fishing of boating and of fun was passed by all and Sunday, alas too soon 'twas done. Back home the party traveled they had not one regret—but Chris brot back his blisters—indeed he has them yet.

### MORE LOCAL BOYS RETURN FROM SERVICE

More Downers Grove boys are reporting home every day and soon they will all be back.

Ensign Chas. Davis, who has been stationed at Paris Island, arrived home Saturday.

Corporal Leon Worley, a member of the hard luck 311th Engineers, returned Monday evening.

Sgt. Major Raymond Wimmer, who saw service with the 1st Division Air Service mechanics over there, is back for good.

Carl Pfau, who served with the Canadian infantry in Siberia is home. He probably saw more of the world than any other local boy as he was in China, Japan, Russia and Siberia, besides other better known lands.

Dr. Roy Moore, who served in the Medical department of the 3d Field Artillery arrived home Monday evening.

### WE SEE BY THE PAPERS

That the famed "horse marines" of our boyhood are now an actual fact as the Marine Corps has mounted troops in Haiti.

That Dempsey gave Willard an awful beating at Toledo and a \$100,000 beating isn't so hard to take after all.

That President Wilson has returned bringing reams and reams of "scraps of paper."

That Postmaster-General Burleson will not deny his resignation is written out, and.

That the postoffice department has been trying to make money and has made money, and.

That the postoffice department was inaugurated to give service and that we are getting very little of that.

That Missouri has again decided to hang her murderers and wonder what the old-timers think when they remember the necktie parties they used to hold for horse thieves.

That the wets are confident of ultimate victory and that the dries are rejoicing, and.

That it's great to have confidence.

### VESTA CHAPTER WAS INSPECTED BY GRAND MATRON

Wednesday, July 9th, was Grand Matron's night at Vesta Chapter, O. E. S. Vivian Scott, Associate Grand Matron of Illinois, was the guest of honor taking the place of Catherine Campbell, Worthy Grand Matron, who was unable to attend.

Besides the Associate Grand Matron the following officers were present: Rose Holt, Grand Marshall; Sarah Daniels, Grand Adah; Clara C. Robinson, Grand Ruth; and Eva Hamilton, Grand Electa.

Representatives of twenty two chapters were present at the meeting. The escort who acted as guard of honor in the presentation of the Associate Grand Matron were Evelyn Brown, Miriam Butler, Arlena Uhlhorn, Marie Olson, Lorraine Tope, and Florence Uhlhorn.

Degrees were conferred on Gwendolyn Griffiths, Owen Griffiths, Edward Pfaff and William Baker. Past Patron John H. Griffiths obligated the candidates.

Preceding the meeting a large number of chapter members and the visiting dignitaries gathered around the banquet table and enjoyed a well selected menu.

G. S. Near is acting as Sentinel. J. W. Weimer having moved to Milwaukee.

The Vesta Juniors are planning a Lawn Party for Saturday, July 12th.

Regular meetings of the chapter will be held during the summer. Tuesday, July 22nd, is the next and it is expected that the members will assist the officers by regular attendance.

### COMMUNITY WELFARE LEAGUE ADDS NEW DEPARTMENTS

New departments establishing the Community Welfare League on a peace basis were added at meeting Tuesday evening. The report of the committee appointed to do this work is as follows:

Downers Grove, Illinois, July 8th, 1919.

Report of Special Committee Community Welfare League.

To the President and members of the Community Welfare League of Downers Grove:

Your committee, consisting of H. P. Jones, Mrs. John Gillespie, B. L. Kellogg, M. K. Bush and W. F. James, appointed to consider extending the activities of the league from a war time basis to a peace foundation, present the following recommendations:

That a department to be known as the Department of Recreation be added to the league, its object being to improve the opportunities of residents of the village for healthful recreation, particular attention to be paid by the department to community recreation with special effort to interesting the youth of the village in athletics.

A Recreation Association having been formed in the village with prospects of its becoming a healthful factor in the village life, your committee recommends that so far as is found expedient the Department of Recreation cooperate with and assist the Recreation Association in its activities.

Your committee further recommends that Horace G. Butler, of Highland Avenue, be made chairman of the Department of Recreation with authority to select his immediate assistants.

Your committee further recommends that the Department of Recreation be organized as a separate body under such rules as it shall select extending the opportunity for membership to all citizens interested and that it report its activities to the Community Welfare League on request of the presiding officer of the League.

Your committee further suggests that a department of Village Institutions be added to the league under an appropriate title its work having to do with furthering the interests of the Public Library and other Village institutions such as a prospective village or municipal building.

Your committee is not now able to present the name of a prospective chairman for such a department and craves further time in which to consider such a nomination.

Your committee further recommends the creation of a civics committee department of the league, to be organized in the manner outlined for the department of recreation. The department to take up the beautifying of the village and making it more comfortable. A suggested activity for the Civics Committee being a clean up of the village creek.

Your committee is not now able to place in nomination anyone for the chairmanship of this department and again craves more time.

Respectfully submitted, Rightly running, this league would be the greatest factor for a bigger, better, brighter Downers Grove. Every resident should identify himself with this organization.

### VOCAL AND PIANO PUPILS GAVE RECITAL

The vocal and piano pupils of Mrs. H. S. Dum, entertained their parents and friends at her home on Wednesday evening, July 2nd with a pleasing program.

The piano numbers were rendered by Helen Holloway, Mary Bahrs, Anna Bahrs, Leona Ciba, Mary Reiff, Dorothy Brady, Genevieve Brady, Martha Bender, Catherine Becker, Frank Straka, Charles Bahrs and Miss Melina Wimmer, while vocal solos were given by Miss Margaret Smith, Miss Angela Antkowiak, Mary Reiff, Eleanor Baron, Mary Bahrs and Martha Bender. The St. Cecilia Chorus of 12 voices sang "Summer Time" and the "Soldiers Chorus," and a ladies trio composed of Miss Wimmer, the Misses Angela and Valeria Antkowiak gave several delightful numbers.

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