

Force Employees And Customers Into Inner Vault

BANK THIEVES WERE UNMASKED

Haul Is Thought to Have Have Been About
\$10,000 — Detachment of F. B. I. Men
Seeking Fingerprints — Car Carried
N. Y. License — Being Checked
Through Ramsey Agency

Five bandits armed with revolvers and submachine guns looted the First National Bank of Allendale of an undetermined amount at 2:15 this afternoon, after locking the five employees of the bank in the vault.

Present estimates of the bank employees set the loss in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

A detachment of four F. B. I. men under Agent T. J. Donegan of the Newark office was at work seeking fingerprints shortly after the robbery. Other police officers at the scene early this afternoon were Lts. Guidetti and Frazer, of the Prosecutor's

office; Chief Lockwood, Investigator Stewart of the Bergen County Police, Chief Voss of the Ramsey Police, and Officers Jack Forshay and James Webb. Chief Reimer was absent from town.

Cashier Edward Hamilton, who was in the front office of the bank as the bandits entered, said that there were either four or six men in the gang.

"The man who took care of me," said Hamilton, "carried a submachine gun, there may have been four or five others who entered with him. He forced me and the other employees of the bank to lie on the floor. Two or three customers who were in the bank were treated in the same manner and relieved of their money.

"The men cleaned out the cash drawer and demanded entrance to the inner vault, where the balance of the money is kept. Of course, I was forced to admit them to the vault," Hamilton said.

The 5 employees of the bank, Cashier Edward Hamilton, Miss Blanche Shudy, D. W. Frazer, Alwin Grossman and Franklin Trinkner were locked in the vault.

As the bandits took possession of the bank the employees were warned back from the desks so that they were unable to trip the alarm. Once in the vault they sounded the second alarm which resulted in their release, after the bandits had left.

Two customers who were in the bank, Mrs. Harry Osias, of 333 East Allendale Avenue, and Julian J. Monte, of Franklin Turnpike, Ramsey, were also forced to enter the vault.

Mrs. Osias, although in a highly nervous condition as the result of her experience, fixed the time of the robbery as exactly 2:16. She said that she had just entered the vault to obtain her safe deposit box, and the slip was stamped at that time.

Warned that she would be slugged if she made any outcry, she obeyed the bandits implicitly, and lay down on the floor of the vault, with the employees of the bank.

The leader of the gang, according to Mrs. Osias, was a man between 28 to 35 years, about 5 feet 3 inches. He was unmasked, wore glasses, a soft grey felt hat, a dark coat.

Mrs. Osias said that one man remained at the wheel of the car, the leader of the gang gave instructions to the bank employees and customers and a third removed the money from the drawers.

The police radio alarm described the bandits as two tall and two short men. The car they used was said to be a late model Buick or Oldsmobile, dark blue or black in color. The men were reported to have fled in the direction of Midland Park or Ramsey.

Cashier Hamilton said that the men were very calm and collected and appeared to know exactly what they were doing. Their instructions to the bank employees and customers were carefully and explicitly given. The men spoke roughly, said Hamilton, adding that this may have been adopted as a measure of disguise.

County and nearby local police were notified as was the Newark office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Hamilton said that the activities of the bank were being conducted in portions of the building which had not been entered by the bandits in hopes that the county or federal officers might be able to pick up a fingerprint which would identify the robbers.