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Armed bandit still at large Moorefield bank is robbed again



Re-enactment of robbery

Frank Stone (right) shows how a masked gunman held him at gunpoint about 12:30 p.m. Friday and cleaned out the cash, totaling about \$2000, from the tellers window. Bank employee Mary Platt and KSP detective Jeffrey Jetz with Cynthia Ann are checking out the drawer where the bandit deactivated the bank's camera switch. — Photo submitted.



Robbery made Mr. Jacobs wait

Ernest Jacobs sits on the porch of the First National Bank branch in Moorefield Friday afternoon, where he had come to cash his social security check. But the bank was closed while officials counted the money to determine how much the robber got. The bandit scooped up \$2000 from the cash drawer and fled on a motorcycle. (See story elsewhere.) — Photo submitted.

It was discussed as the one ridden by the bandit because the engine was cold. "The money he got was marked," Bank President Andy Dudley told the Mercury. "So a considerable part of the money he took can't be spent."

Speculation was that the man knew of the existence of the television plug in the cash drawer and that, unplugged it so the camera would not work and there would be no television picture, but Dudley discounts this.

"What I think happened is that when he opened the drawer, he saw the plug and thought it may have been an alarm plug, so he unplugged it," Dudley said, attributing the idea to Sheriff Charles Trooper, KSP Detective Jeffrey Jetz and Deputy Sheriff Charles Smith.

Jetz said he is in charge of the investigation. At last report several persons in Nicholas and surrounding counties had been questioned.

"We've received tips from anonymous persons telling us who they think it might have been," Bank President Dudley told the Mercury. "We have turned those tips over to the authorities."

The FBI has also entered the case. "Frankly I think it is a poor case on the part of the bank," Dudley said. "When you rob a bank, you have the FBI after you. Not only that, but the money he got was marked."

The Moorefield branch had been robbed in early July of 1981 when Ernest Baker was manager. That robbery took place shortly after 3:30 p.m. according to the Mercury issue of July 7, 1981, a man walked into the bank and when Mr. Baker asked if he could help him, received the following reply: "Yes, you may do something for me." Then he jabbed the gun into Baker's stomach and told him to lie down on the floor. He escaped with an \$190 robbery.

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Two men drown in Hinkston Creek

Frank Horn on Carpenter Road, Nicholas County, reported the accident as "13 miles northeast of Paris, Mo."

The boat motor malfunctioned in some way, State Police say, and both men went to the area of the motor to see what was wrong. Sparks came from the area of the gas tank, police say, and both apparently jumped back from the boat. The boat capsized, and the two were pulled under.

A call for help went to the Nicholas County Ambulance Service from the Frank residence, and the Rescue Squad was also called.

Bourbon County Coroner Philip Hutchinson pronounced both Frank and Jackson dead at the scene.

See Obituaries for funeral arrangements.

Gas line team visits Carlisle still in running for block grant

The application for Block Grant funds with which to refurbish Carlisle's natural gas lines is the top item of an application received in Kentucky, but that does not necessarily mean it will be funded, Diane Roberts of Housing and Urban Development's Louisville office told city officials here last week.

"Let's face facts, we don't have very much money for these block grants this year," Roberts told Mayor Frankie Hughes, Councilman Curt Reid, Lester and others gathered at city hall last Wednesday. "We can't fund so many as we would like to, but we want you to know it is significant that you are getting a site visit, since only the top one-fourth of the applications are getting one."

The City of Carlisle has applied for \$250,000 in grant funds, intended to borrow \$200,000 and will add \$50,000 in cash to re-do and replace gas lines within the city that show an aging, dangerously and that are also costing the city money. Nearly 18 percent of the gas in the lines was laid in tanks during the last 12 months.

"Whatever happens with the grant money," Mayor Frankie Hughes said, "while responding to a question of what Carlisle would do if the grant was not awarded, we intend to start repairs on the system this year."

Mr. Roberts was accompanied on the site visit to Carlisle by two representatives of the state Department of Economic Development, Marilyn Eaton and Graham Pohl. Also attending was state fire marshal Carl Martin of Paris, Fred Garrison and Harry Asher, engineers with Gas Management Associates of Lexington, who are designing the new gas line system, Don Hasall of BICAD and Gayle Vandandingham, City Superintendent, Mary Tapp, City Clerk, Mayor Hughes and City Councilman Curt Reid.

Projecting the application from Carlisle would be rated according to the following criteria: (1) project need, (2) effectiveness, (3) financing, and (4) reasonable cost. Another category that would also be rated is community need, Ms. Roberts said.

"We don't know your score yet and all of these applications are now under lock and key in Frankfort," Marilyn Eaton told the mayor.

"We can tell you that the weaker applications have already been weeded out," Ms. Roberts said. "And the strong ones are getting site visits. You might say we want to get a strong credit for your problem."

Mayor Hughes, Curt Reid and Harry Asher, City Superintendent. Vandandingham arranged just that Wednesday with a tour of several gas pipes that have been repaired but are still leaking in the city.

88 breaks now

"Eighty-five percent of my time is spent fixing gas leaks," Vandandingham told the Frankfort group, "because we have 88 leaks now on our gas lines in the city."

Vandandingham said the gas system is "So far as law goes page 12"

Tobacco report Election changes '84 Primary to be in August

Scattered thunderstorms brought much needed rain to Nicholas County during the past week. It was fortunate for those whose lawns were already planted and it made a waiting game for those whose plants were still in the beds.

Kentucky Crop Reporting Service says that the Lexington reporting station is still 2.2 inches behind normal in rainfall since April 1. Mayville is now 1.27 inches below normal since April 1. Most areas of eastern and central Kentucky are still short on rainfall, but no longer in the danger category.

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Ginseng: Is it a fad or a new cash crop for Kentucky

The formation of the North American Ginseng Society, an organization uniting the ginseng growers and dealers of the U.S. and Canada, highlighted the 14th National Ginseng conference held May 25-26 in Lexington. The conference attracted more than 300 persons from 22 states, who gathered to discuss the problems and potential of the expanding American ginseng industry.

The two-day meeting, marked the second time in four years that Lexington has hosted the conference, which was sponsored by the University of Kentucky's Department of Horticulture and two Kentucky ginseng associations.

Ginseng exports net Kentucky producers some \$3 million per year —

about 18 percent of the nation's annual total, according to Dr. C.H. Roberts, Extension horticulturist in the UK College of Agriculture. He said that the root is found in significant amounts in about 15 percent of Kentucky's 120 counties.

Growing ginseng

The plant requires shade for proper growth and most of Kentucky's crop is grown in the woods under natural canopy in plots ranging from a few hundred square feet to several acres. The root takes about five years to reach full maturity.

Ginseng has been on the federal digging destroy list since 1972, but recent years and currently is classified as a "non-destroyable" species in Kentucky. This means that Kentucky can produce to export the crop, but they must meet federal guidelines regarding the harvest, purchase and sale of ginseng on a yearly basis. State legislation this year authorized the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to develop and administer these guidelines.

Growing season

The new law also established a growing growing season, stipulating that no plants should be harvested before 1st of each year. "Ginseng must not be dug until the berries are ripe so the seeds may be replanted," said Roberts. "Not only does early digging destroy the seed but it also reduces the size of the root and thus, the sale value."

One of the problems facing Kentucky growers is the high initial investment, which is about \$20,000 per acre for the first year, required to establish a ginseng plot. But UK agricultural marketing specialist Dr. Harold Love told growers attending the conference that a 1.5 bushel price of about 60¢ per pound, ginseng crop potentially could net \$7,000 per acre within eight years.

They represent another threat to major problems, Roberts said that "root rotting and seed rotting" were the most common problems. He said that substantial amounts of ginseng being lost to these two diseases could be reduced by the use of fungicides, but that the use of fungicides and trained guard dogs to electronic monitoring devices.

The development of new markets for American ginseng also was a major concern discussed at the meeting. Paul H. A. Brewer/dealer from Wisconsin, said that the domestic market for American ginseng was less than desirable, "especially in the wake of the growing American health-food industry. He traveled to China last year as part of a Wisconsin trade mission in hopes of strengthening the Chinese market for American ginseng.

Other conference speakers considered what the plant had properties which could make ginseng products desirable to American consumers, such as its ability to act as a stimulant, ward off fatigue and, reportedly, prevent hangovers.

It also was pointed out that Ginseng root, a carbonated ginseng supplement, was sold in America as early as 1906 and at that time was competitive with soft drinks like Coca-Cola. This product is being tested in the health food sections of East Coast grocery chains and, according to Chicago ginseng dealer Bob Curt, is selling well.

The conference ended with the formation of the North American Ginseng Society. A nine-member interim committee was elected to offer a slate of officers, review the constitution and choose a meeting site for the next conference. UK horticulturist Dr. Leonard Chambers was elected to lead the dealer. Tom Chambers were among those elected to the committee.

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