

Carefully planned robbery hit two banks

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genuity. On the second floor of the courthouse, he had to light a match to find the keyhole to the door of the place where the bell was hanging. Even though bullets were whizzing over his head, he kept ringing the bell. Several bullets pierced the dome of the building.

Needless to say, the robbers made a collective decision to get out of town as soon as possible. By 3:50 a.m., they were gone.

An interesting detail that was revealed by Manley Baugh, a night police patrol officer who was also bound and carried into the town hall, set up quite a controversy lat-

er. He was quoted as saying one of the robbers said the gang was made up of ex-servicemen.

The very next day, Dec. 7, the *Evening World* ran an article inspired by a reaction form the Bloomington Veterans of Foreign Wars. It said in part, "Holdup men and yeggs throughout the United States profess to be ex-soldiers when in all probability they never saw service in the United States Army . . . This they do more in hope that they will not be dealt with so severely because people all over the United States are adverse to being hard on veterans, who risked their lives for their country in time of need."

Other details of the robbery indi-

cate that it was very well planned. Herbert Runyon, manager of the Farmers Telephone Exchange, was intercepted when he went to his home directly behind the phone office. He was partially bound and told to stay in his house until the bandits had left town.

Commented the United Press/*Evening World*: "So far as is known none of the men who participated in the robbery were injured by bullets from guns in the hands of citizens, although more than 50 shots were exchanged. The bandits evidently had the affair well planned. They had men stationed where they could see everything that went on."

Next week: Another robbery and some blunders.