

Burglar who was caught in the act finds it's a small world

"Melodrama seems colorless in comparison with the experience of a burglar, who broke into the home of Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Calvert, founders of the town of Trevlac, Brown County, Saturday night." *Bloomington Weekly Courier*, Nov. 9, 1915.

Imagine being a 69-year-old woman, whose husband is away from home at night and a burglar enters the house. That is what happened to the wife of C.A. Calvert, the man who reversed the letters of his last name and founded a little town in Brown County.

The story began to unfold during the first week of November in 1915, when she was lying in bed and heard a noise at a nearby window. Seeing it rise slightly, she remained motionless and waited.



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

According to the *Bloomington Weekly Courier*, "... a man's head peered in. She waited until she heard feet hit the floor and then drew a revolver from under the mattress and sprang from the bed."

The intruder must have been thoroughly frightened when Calvert thrust the revolver in his face. That precaution was accompanied by an order for him to hold up his hands, and he did what any red-

blooded intruder would do under the circumstances. He hoisted up his hands.

Continued the *Courier*, "In reply to her questions, he said he was a tramp; that he had been refused food for two days and was starving to death. With the revolver still pointed at his head, she went through his pockets in search of weapons."

Having satisfied herself that he was not armed, Calvert led him to the dining room and served him a meal... "as she sat across the table with the revolver pointed at him." Theirs was a revealing conversation.

According to the newspaper, "She asked him why he had become a tramp. He said he once had a happy

home in Cleveland, Ohio. Following the death of his father, mother, sister and brother, he squandered his inheritance and became a common tramp."

There was in irony in his story that did not escape Calvert's notice. Continued the newspaper: "As Mr. and Mrs. Calvert came from Cleveland, she asked him if he knew of any Calverts. He said he had years ago. His sister, he said, and a young woman who later became the wife of C.A. Calvert went to school together."

The burglar went on to say that he and his family used to live across the street from the Calverts and that he and C.A. used to go fishing together. It was not long before Calvert was convinced that her unor-

thodox guest was a long-lost acquaintance.

What was the outcome of this encounter? Ultimately, C.A. Calvert returned home to discover that his wife was entertaining Richard Johnson, who truly was an old friend from the days in Cleveland. Concluded the *Courier*, "Mr. and Mrs. Calvert refuse to let Johnson leave and he will make his future home at Trevlac."

In a little postscript, the newspaper put the burglar's host and Trevlac's founder into perspective. "Col. Calvert is a Civil War veteran and during the war gained fame in the battle of the Monitor and Merrimac, receiving a gold medal for heroism. He also is Brown County's wealthiest citizen."