

THREE VICTIMS IN BANK HOLDUP AT CUMBERLAND; BANDITS WAVE GOOD-BY AS THEY ESCAPE WITH \$800



Excitement ran high in Cumberland Wednesday when three bandits, brandishing revolvers, held up the Cumberland Bank and escaped with approximately \$800. It was not known to those outside the bank that the robbery had taken place until the sounding of the burglar alarm and the arrival of police emergency squads shortly afterward.

As the bandits drove rather slowly out of town, they waved farewell to several pedestrians, who were unaware of the holding.

The three employees of the bank who were held up at the point of a revolver are shown in the picture. They are (left to right) E. C. Ham-

ington, bookkeeper, and James Wicks, assistant cashier.

The bandits are thought to be the same men seen driving up and down the street and peering into the bank windows recently. Fearing a robbery some time in the near future, employees of the bank have been advised to remain alert.

Dancing Parties

Cumberland State Bank

The picture in front of the bank was with my Grandmother's things. I am not sure which newspaper it was printed. It appears that Carriemae** is wearing a coat. It reads:

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As the bandits drove rather slowly out of town they waved farewell to several pedestrians who were unaware of the holdup.

The three employees of the bank who were held up at the point of a revolver are shown in the picture they are left to right: E.C. Huntington, cashier, Miss Carriemae Huntington, bookkeeper and George Wiese, assistant cashier. The bandits are thought to be the same men seen driving up-and-down the street and peering into the bank windows recently. Fearing a robbery sometime in the near future employees of the bank kept most of the money hidden.

The old Cumberland Bank building has been hiding in plain site. Who knows where it is?

* The bank was put out of business for good when President F. D. Roosevelt closed the banks for the bank holiday on March 6, 1933, to help stop the money panic in the nation. Only banks that had enough money to reopen were allowed to, and others were ordered to reorganize."

*From The History of Warren Township, Second Edition

**Most places I have seen "Carriemae" spelled "Carrie Mae." I think the newspaper reporter misspelled the name.

The Indianapolis Times

INDIANAPOLIS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1930

CUMBERLAND BANK ROBBERS SPEAK

Adventurous Spirit, Cheap Sandwiches Blamed in Cumberland Holdup.

An adventurous spirit caused Harry Reed, 17, of Canton, O., to venture to the top of a flagpole, 200 feet above street level, at Canton, where he sat for 480 hours to break the then-existing flagpole sitting record.

A like urge caused George E. Swift, 23, R. R. No. 11, Post road, and Reed to enter the gruelling dance marathon contests at Detroit, at Columbus, O., and at Monroe, Mich. Swift winning the Columbus contest.

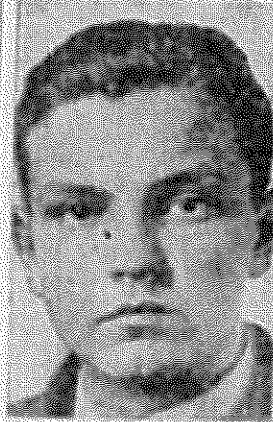
Adventure, a diet of cheap sandwiches and the pressing need for rent money had landed the two, with William H. Stone, 20, of Justus, O., in jail cells here today under charges of the \$737 robbery of the Cumberland State bank Wednesday and of auto banditry. Police say they have confessed.

In making the arrests, police recovered a total of \$496 of the alleged stolen funds. The three had burned a number of checks and several bonds taken from the bank, at the home of Swift's sister, Mrs. Gladys Wilson, 1225 North Riley avenue, they are said to have told officers. Mrs. Wilson did not know of the crime or of the fact they burned the checks and bonds at her home, she said.

"I got \$350 for the flag pole sitting," Reed told police. "Swift was the only one who got anything from the dance marathons, but we got our meals, anyway, during the time we danced."

Reed and Swift, they told police, met at Meyers Lake park, near Canton, where Reed was a life guard and Swift had a refreshment stand last summer.

Flagstaff Sitter, Endurance Dancer Are Bandit Suspects



Harry Reed



George E. Swift



William H. Stone

Coming here Feb. 8, the two became acquainted with Stone, they said, and engaged an apartment at the Cambridge.

"I was tired of eating cheap sandwiches and had nothing else for three days," Reed told police.

"Our room rent was due and we had to have money.

"Then, too, I guess, the adventure appealed to all of us. It looked like easy money. We didn't stop to think whether we'd be captured or whether we would shoot any one if we were trapped.

"After the holdup, we were frightened and we decided to get out of town for a day or so. We started to Richmond and the tire went flat on the car we had stolen just after we got there.

"When the police car came up, I was certain they knew who we were and I ran without stopping to think."

All three prisoners declare the robbery was their first crime. Police find no criminal records against them.

ALLEGED BANK BANDITS BOUND TO GRAND JURY

Cumberland Arrests Said to
Clear Fairland Robbery.

STORY OF OPERATIONS TOLD

Robberies of two Indiana banks within the last few weeks have been cleared through the capture of three young bandits.

Three of them have made statements confessing the robbery of the Cumberland Bank Thursday, while two of the group have been involved in robbery of the Fairland National Bank, January 7. One of the robbers had admitted his part in both the crimes, police said. All were bound to the county grand jury on bank robbery and auto banditry charges at preliminary hearings in municipal court Thursday afternoon.

The bandits are George Swift, age twenty-three, who lives with a relative at 1225 North Riley avenue; Harry Reed, age seventeen, Canton, O., and William Stone, age nineteen, Wayne county, Ohio. They were captured separately less than eighteen hours

after the Cumberland Bank was robbed of \$800. Most of the loot in the Cumberland robbery was recovered.

Identified, Confesses.

After all three signed confessions in the Cumberland crime, detectives continued to question Swift in connection with the Fairland Bank robbery, and when victims positively identified him he finally admitted he was guilty.

He said he and Reed stole a Studebaker roadster in Indianapolis January 6 and drove to Shelbyville, having first planned the robbery of the Fairland Bank. They stayed overnight in a hotel and the following forenoon drove to Fairland. Unmasked, Swift said, they entered the bank, flourishing revolvers, and threatened D. G. Gordon, cashier, his daughter, Miss Laura Gordon, bookkeeper, Luther Abel, Fairland postmaster, and Charles Hughes, a resident of Fairland, who were in the place. Swift said he took several bundles of bills from the vault as Reed kept the victims "covered" with a revolver.

Fleeing from the bank the bandits were pursued by officials and a posse, several shots being fired at the robbers. One bullet struck Reed in the arm. The bandits drove to Indianapolis and abandoned the stolen car. It was found about an hour later, its seat stained with blood.

Swift said they obtained his own car and drove to Ohio and then to Florida, spending the loot en route. It was on their return to Indianapolis that they rented an apartment with Stone and planned the Cumberland robbery.

Forrest Huntington, chief investigator of the state bureau of criminal investigation and identification, aided Indianapolis detectives in revealing Swift's and Reed's connection with the Fairland crime.

The Indianapolis Times

INDIANAPOLIS, FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1930

EIGHTEEN ACCUSED IN CRIMINAL COURT

Eighteen persons were charged with crimes in affidavits on file today in criminal court.

Auto banditry and robbery charges were brought against three men who are alleged to have held up the Cumberland State bank Feb. 19. They are **George Swift**, 23, Post road and Tenth street; Harry Reed, 17, of Canton, O., and William Stone, 19, of Wayne county, Ohio. The trio has admitted the holdup, according to police, and also have

confessed to the robbery of the Fairland State bank Jan. 7, in which \$700 loot was obtained.

Other defendants named in the papers include Homer Danforth, Charles Lee and Floyd Gray, charged with burglary and grand larceny in connection with the theft of \$1,000 in copper from the Kramer Manufacturing Company, Oct. 16. Twelve additional names were listed on charges ranging from larceny to robbery.

The Indianapolis Times

INDIANAPOLIS, TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1930

SUSPECT HELD IN BANK THEFT

Police Claim Confession in Southport Holdup.

Robbery of the Citizens bank of Southport was solved today, state authorities said, with the alleged confession of Carl Beckett, 23, under arrest at Columbus, O., that he was a member of the gang of three men who staged the holdup, escaping with \$1,700, in January.

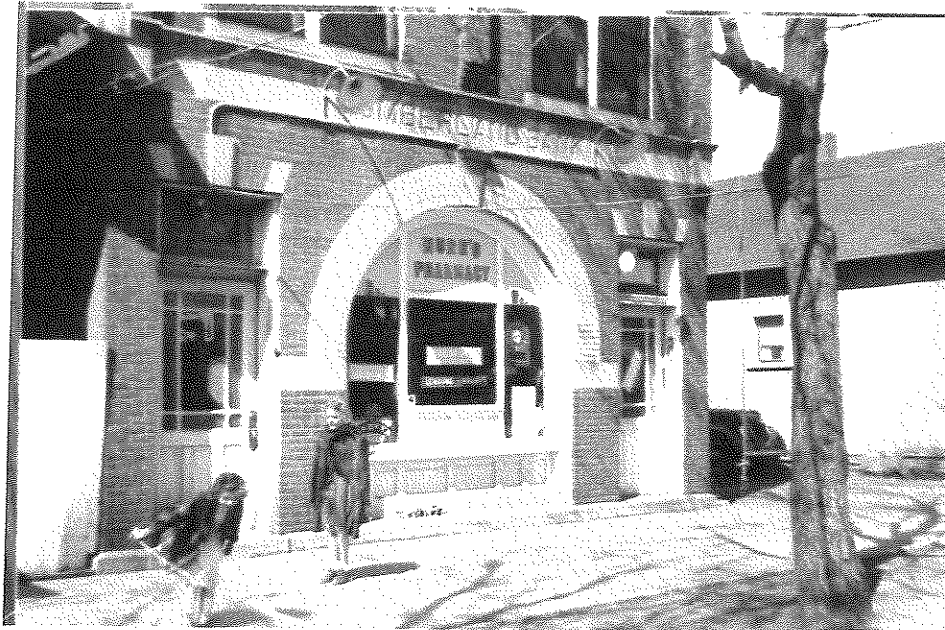
Beckett, a marathon contest dancer, will waive extradition and will be returned here, Forrest Huntington, operative of the Indiana bureau of criminal registration and identification, notified E. L. Osborne, chief of the bureau, today. Osborne and Sheriff George Winkler went to Columbus today to return Beckett.

Beckett was sought as an accomplice of George Swift, 25, and Harry Reed, 18, for banditry of the Fairland (Ind.) and Cumberland (Ind.) banks. The Fairland bank was looted twice by the gang. Swift and Reed have been sentenced to prison terms for the robberies.

Beckett also is wanted in Ohio for the holdup of a bank at Massillon.

Swift, a flag pole sitter and marathon dancer and Reed, a marathon dancer, alleged Reed was wounded in holdup of the Cumberland bank, but returned here and engaged in new holdups after recovery in Florida, where loot of the previous robberies was spent.

Cumberland Murr's Pharmacy - Cumberland Bank Building National Rd



Cumberland Bank Building National Rd cir 2000

