

Saturday, January 20, 1934 – Ft. Kearney State Bank (BT Nov-Dec 1994)

Four men, got \$10,000 or more, time lock on safe kept robbers out. Escaped in car with fifth man at wheel, took five employees hostage. Never caught.

Wore felt hats and handkerchiefs over faces up to eyes. Machine guns.

3 came in front, 1 came in north side through Guaranty Trust Company which had one clerk, Edith Rydberg, and one customer, Ralph Barney. About 20 customers in bank, told to line up against front partition wall with hands up – large window, passersby could see hands – so they were told to put hands down and look straight ahead at wall.

Oct. 3, 1934 – Ft. Kearney State Bank (again)

Notorious bank robber Allan Butler Woolworth was tried in April, 1935. Acquitted because he had a moustache at the time of the robbery but none of the three bank robbers witnesses described did. He was later convicted of a Norfolk bank robbery.

(Someone in Lincoln is doing research for a book on the “gangster era” in Nebraska and was asking for information about Kearney bank robberies. He shared information about this one.)

Saturday, March 17, 1928 – Amherst bank (BT July, 1982)

Minor crime wave - Friday robbers had broken into Walker's hardware in Gibbon and stolen 3 shotguns and shells. That night a Buick was stolen from in front of the World Theater in Kearney. Early Saturday morning someone entered Hill Bros. Store in Riverdale and took overalls, sweaters, other clothing, food, and \$6.30.

3 p.m. boys saw a mud covered Buick parked by the school, a door open, a window broken.

3:30 p.m. fire alarm sounded, school was on fire. Bank employees among the few who did not answer the call.

3:50 p.m. – Robbers entered bank

Got \$2,654.50. Escaped but had been recognized as local. 3 of the 4 were arrested, tried and each sentenced to 22 years in the pen. President of bank was Norma Ahrendt's father.