BANK WORKER SHOOTS ROBBER

by Connie F. Sneed

On Jan 11, 1933 in the small community of Carmine, Fayette County, Texas a man who was identified as Jack Snyder, believed to be from Oklahoma, was slain in Carmine after he had sacked up $1,224.85 of funds from the Carmine State Bank.

W.A. Plueckhahn, 34, assistant cashier of the Carmine Bank, shot the robber to death with a pistol he had in his possession. A gentleman, who was seated in an automobile outside the bank, while the robbery was attempted, was arrested. He only gave his name as Campbell.

Plueckhahn got his chance when officers arrived at the bank, rapped on a rear door. The robber with his pistol drawn had earlier made Plueckhahn, W. H. Stuerner, President of the bank, and John Kraufe, a customer, lie on the floor. He later told Plueckhahn to get and help him sack up the money. Plueckhahn complied and as the bag of money was delivered to the robber the officers pounded on the back door. Snyder turned to look to see if who or what was happening at the back door, at that same time Plueckhahn drew his gun. He shot Snyder twice killing him on the spot.

The Texas Bankers' Association paid $5000 to the official of the Carmine State Bank who defended the bank's funds. It was announced from the office of the Texas Bankers' Association in Dallas, Texas. This reward had been established years before and was paid only for dead bank bandits and did not apply to capture.

Carmine State Bank was once knocked off by the notorious Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. It was also robbed by Sean Brown back in 1997. Brown was the leader of a gang that robbed banks in six Houston area cities over a two month period. Brown was apprehended after a 20 mile chase on May 22, 1997. A federal jury convicted Brown after a four day trial. His brother, Eric Brown, and another man pleaded guilty to joining Brown in some of the robberies committed. He was convicted on 14 counts of bank robbery and use of a firearm during a bank robbery.