

The Giddings News

February 13, 1931

LEXINGTON BANK ROBBED

The Lee County State Bank at Lexington was robbed Tuesday night and \$7100 in currency and silver was taken. Entrance to the vault and to the safe were gained by working the combinations to the two doors. All the money that was in the safe was taken. A purse in the safe containing numerous coins and marked "private" was not taken, neither was the money which was taken in after banking hours Tuesday. This money was in a box in the vault.

The city night watchman stays in the rear part of the bank building between his rounds, where a fire was kept in the stove for his comfort. He made his last punch of the time clock at the bank at 5:30 a. m., then went down the street and punched at 6 o'clock, then leaving from duty. He had not been locking the side door on leaving the bank building.

If the time lock on the bank safe was set, it would have opened shortly after 6 a. m. Mr. Williams, vice president, thinks the burglar got into the bank vault and waited for the time lock to work, then made his escape shortly after 6 a. m. The time lock on the safe was set at an early hour because they had been coming to work early during the rush season before Christmas and had not changed it. The combinations have not been changed, if at all, for many years.

Sheriff Burttschell, fingerprint experts, state rangers and a bank examiner are on the job and up to noon Thursday no arrests had been made. There was noticed an automobile leaving Lexington shortly after 6 a. m. in high speed, going down String Prairie. This was found to be oil field workers from the Wheeler field going after some derrick material near Dime Box. Just before Christmas, Bob Woodward, nightwatchman was sitting by the stove. At about 3 a. m. a man approached the window, and upon not giving Bob satisfactory answer, Bob went to the door and fired his pistol in the air when the man was across the street. The man fired at Bob just as Bob fired. Bob fired twice more but never heard of the man, but he has reason to believe he hit the man and he made his get-away.

Officers report this the first bank robbery of its kind in their knowledge.