

... Daleville bank

Lone bandit robs Daleville bank

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Herald staff writers

DALEVILLE — Several law enforcement agencies were scouring two counties early this morning in search of a man who robbed Daleville's branch of the Central Bank and Trust at gunpoint.

The robbery occurred late Tuesday morning and the lone bandit made off with a yet undetermined amount of cash.

Delaware County sheriff's investigator Michael Kelso said a tall, thin man entered through the bank's front doors just before noon. He reportedly made no verbal threats as he approached the first teller's window, but drew a pistol.

THE ARMED SUSPECT, who, according to investigators did not point his gun at the employee, informed the teller of his intentions to rob the bank, located at 305 N. Walnut St. Moments later, a second teller walked over to the first window and became aware of the situation.

"He just said he was there to rob them," said Kelso.

Other bank personnel were inside the building during the robbery but did not learn of the heist until after the suspect had fled.

"**SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS** were activated at the time," Indiana State Police officer Russell Walker said, "but we won't know if we got the picture until we get the film back."

Ed Goodman, president of Central Bank and Trust, said the branch's manager, Gary Ellis, was on lunch break at the time. No security guard was at the bank during the robbery.

"He said, 'Oh s---, and thank you,' on his way out the door," said Kelso. "There were no shots fired and there was no violence."

INVESTIGATORS SAID the man, after obtaining the cash, exited through the front doors, walked through a parking lot and past several houses lining the street. Many working in their yards near the bank later told police they did not spot anyone suspicious coming from the bank.

Walker said ISP received the call at 11:40 a.m. and officers responded in less than eight minutes.

FBI agents and Chesterfield police were already there when ISP units arrived.

"**IF HE WAS ON FOOT**, given the location of the bank and the way the town is situated, he could have gotten a considerable distance," Walker explained. "There is nothing to say he didn't have a vehicle waiting, but none could be seen."

Authorities said they are convinced the man worked the robbery alone.

Kelso said the robber made no attempt to conceal his face, except for the possibility he may have penciled on a thin mustache.

THE ROBBERY, being jointly investigated by Delaware County, Indiana State Police and FBI officials, is the third robbery at the branch in recent years.

"It was reported this bank was the first one robbed by John Dellinger in 1934," said Kelso.

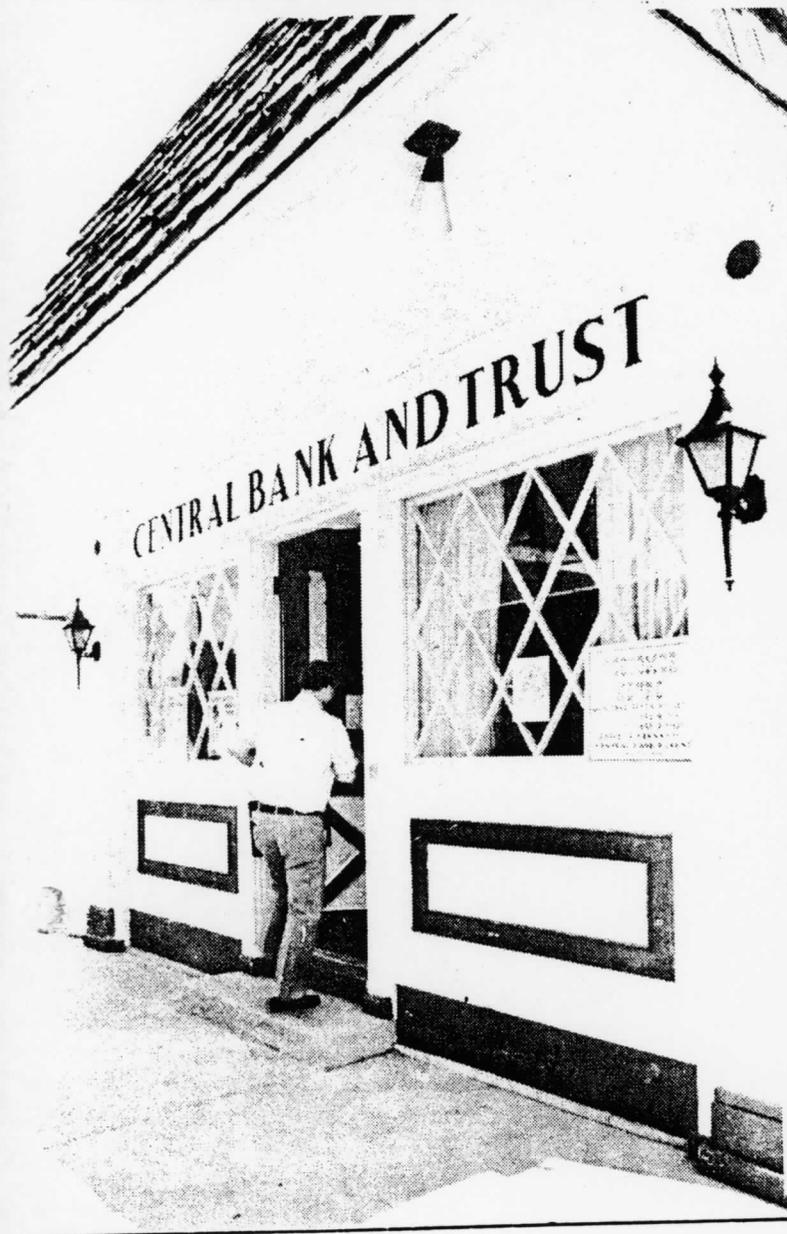
Walker said the gunman was described as white, in his early to mid 20s, 6-1 to 6-4 tall, with light or sandy brown hair, a (possibly penciled) mustache, and weighing about 160 pounds. Police were also told the man was missing two bottom front teeth.

THE WEAPON was described as silver and probably smaller than a .38-caliber handgun.

A nearby businesswoman said she was in her store awaiting a delivery when the robbery occurred.

"I didn't see anything, but all at once there were a lot of police sirens and officers were everywhere," she said. "I didn't know if it was anything or not because the alarm is always going off there and a lot of times, it is a false alarm."

The robbery took place nearly two weeks before Daleville's first marshal — Jim Orr — is to be sworn in. The town is presently relying on county and state officers for police protection.



Bank Photo of Robber Is Main Lead

DALEVILLE — A photograph taken during the Wednesday morning robbery of Central Bank & Trust probably will be the best bet police have to determine the identity of the robber, a state police detective said Thursday.

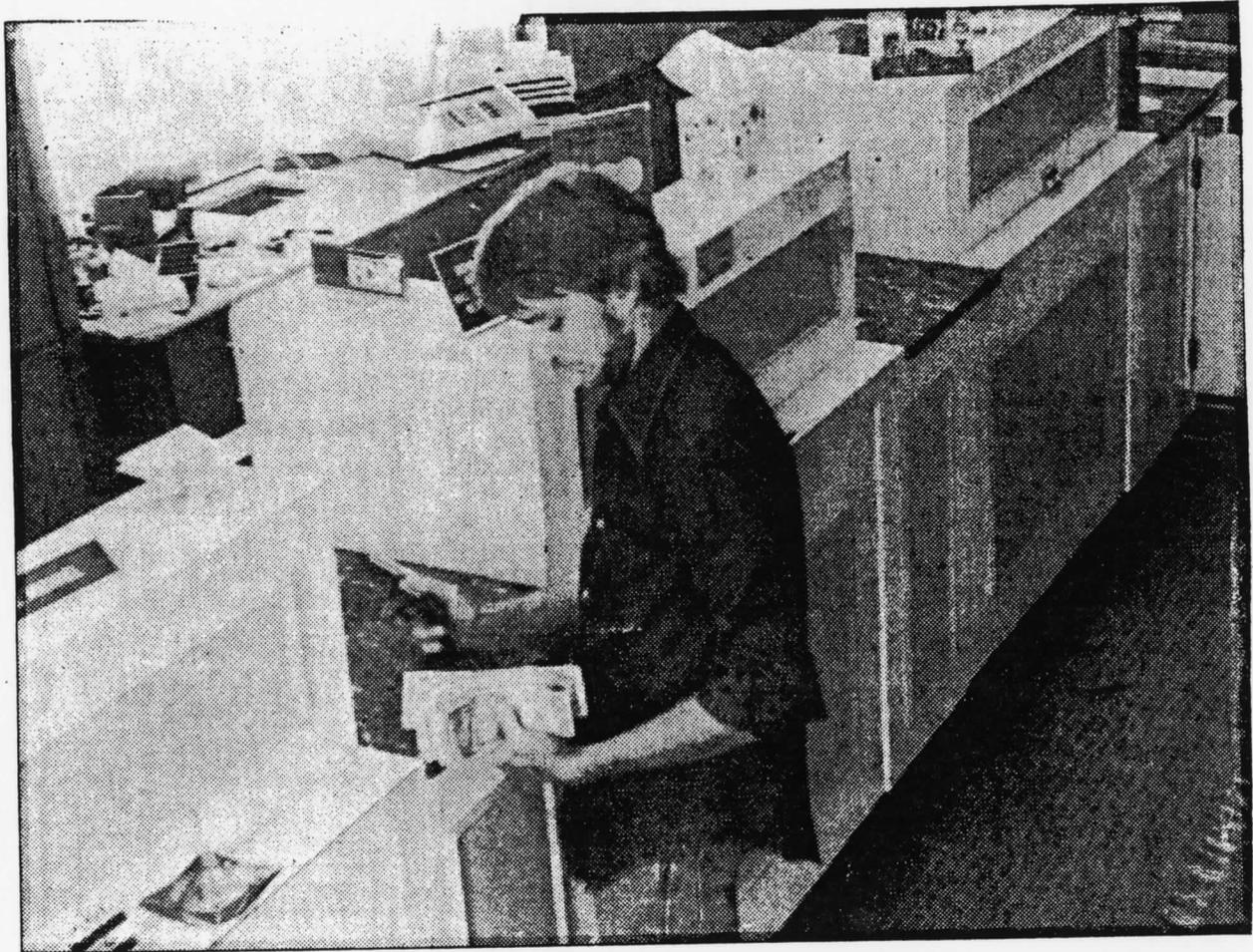
The photograph was taken by a surveillance camera during the 11:40 a.m. robbery. According to police, the man walked up to a teller, pointed a nickel-plated handgun at her and demanded money from two cash drawers.

State Police Det. Russell Walker said police had no concrete information as to who the individual was, though he said some people had called police Thursday with information that police had yet to follow up.

People who believe they know the man or who have information about the robbery can contact Walker at 282-1223; county police investigator Mike Kelso at 747-7878, or FBI special agent Roy Mitchell at 282-1905.

The suspect was described as in his 20s, 6-foot-2 to 6-foot-4, with a slender build, blond hair and a moustache. Police said he was missing two bottom front teeth and was wearing a long-sleeve brown shirt and beige plaid trousers.

Witnesses said the bandit fled east on foot, clutching an undetermined amount of cash in his hands.



ROBBER'S PICTURE TAKEN BY BANK CAMERA