

Police Seek Suspect in Daleville Robbery

By JOAN SCHWARTZ
Star Staff Reporter

DALEVILLE — Police have a composite drawing of a man suspected of robbing Central Bank & Trust shortly before noon Wednesday.

State Police Det. Russell Walker said there were no customers in the bank branch, 305 N. Walnut St., when the suspect entered the bank at 11:40 a.m., walked up to a teller, pointed a nickel-plated handgun at her and said: "I'm going to rob you. Give me the money out of both drawers."

Walker said the culprit did not verbally threaten to shoot anyone when he made his demand.

The suspect then fled east from bank on foot, Walker said, clutching the cash in his hands. Police refused to release the amount of cash stolen in the holdup.

The detective said there were three tellers in the bank at the time, and one was in a separate part of the building when the robbery occurred.



ROBBERY SUSPECT

The second teller was on the telephone when the robber demanded the cash from her co-worker, and did not know about the holdup until her co-worker emptied the two cash drawers, Walker said.

The teller pressed a silent alarm

during the holdup, and police were on their way when she called them after the robber left, he said.

Walker said authorities do not know whether the suspect had an accomplice, or whether the robber might have been a local man.

On Wednesday, Delaware County Sheriff's Deputy Michael Myers drew a composite of the suspect based on descriptions given by witnesses. Walker said a surveillance camera had been operating in the bank and police were hoping to have film for inspection today.

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

Although this is the first time the

branch has been hit since Central Bank & Trust bought it in 1982, the building has housed banks since 1909. It has been hit "three or four times" in the past 50 years, Walker said.

John Dillinger and an accomplice, Muncie native Harry Copeland, were the first robbers to walk through the bank's doors in 1933, when it was the Commercial Bank of Daleville.

Dillinger and Copeland entered the bank around noon, scooped up the money, and escaped in a car that had been parked on Walnut Street all morning.

The last holdup was in January 1979.

Walker said police had no suspects in Wednesday's robbery. County and state police and the FBI are continuing the investigation.

Bank robbery suspect identified

By DOUG WALKER
Bulletin Staff Writer

A 22-year-old Anderson man has been charged in connection with the June 13 armed robbery of the Central Bank and Trust at Daleville.

A federal warrant was issued Thursday for the arrest of James Paul Weaver, who reportedly last lived in the 1600 block of Fletcher Street.

Indiana State Police investigator Russell Walker said today that Weaver's relatives had positively identified him as the man shown in photos taken by a bank camera during the robbery.

Walker said investigators were able to put together "bits and pieces" of information concerning

the car allegedly used in the bank robbery, and that a license plate number had led them to Weaver.

Detectives said Weaver's mother, sister and brother-in-law all identified him as the man photographed during the robbery.

The robbery took place shortly before noon on June 13, when a lone gunman approached one of three tellers in the building and demanded the money from two cash drawers. He was armed with a small handgun, and reportedly escaped with approximately \$4,000.

Weaver was originally considered a suspect in the Wednesday armed robbery of an American National

Bank branch in Muncie, after witnesses described a man resembling him as driving the getaway car for a woman bandit. However, Walker said today that investigators now feel it is unlikely that Weaver was involved in that holdup.

Based on information given by his relatives, Weaver is believed to have left Indiana, Walker said.

The robbery marked the first time the Daleville branch bank had been robbed since 1969. The bank has been robbed a total of four times, the first time in 1933 by John Dillinger.

Daleville Bank

In the middle of July, Dillinger rejoined Shaw in Muncie and, together with Noble Claycomb and two others, made plans to rob the nearby Daleville bank. On the eve of the proposed robbery, they impulsively held up a local tavern, the Bide-A-Wee. Early the next morning, they woke up at their hideout and began to prepare for the day's robbery. After breakfast, Dillinger left to park his car in the rear garage and drove down the alley behind the apartment. As he was about to turn into the backyard, he saw Shaw and Claycomb standing near the back stoop, hands in the air—surrounded by half a dozen policemen. Dillinger threw the car in reverse, shoved the accelerator to the floor. He deftly backed out of the narrow alley, full speed, and got away.

About 12:45 p.m., on Monday, July 17, Dillinger walked alone into the Commercial Bank of Daleville. The only employee inside was the teller, Margaret Good. She had twice been held up, but suspected nothing when Dillinger, who looked like a prosperous businessman, politely asked if the president was in. She told him that the president was no longer active in

the bank. She added that the cashier had gone out to lunch.

"Well, honey, this is a holdup." Dillinger brought up his long blue-barreled gun. Suddenly, using the ledge of the cage as a step, he vaulted lightly over the six-foot barrier. She wondered why, when he could have simply walked through the door. An original twist had just been added to the art of bank robbing. Dillinger, an admirer for years of Douglas Fairbanks, straightened his straw hat and asked where the vault was.

The leap did what Dillinger secretly must have wanted—it called attention to him. It also brought him into the ken of the lawman who would spend more time trailing him than any other. News of the athletic bank robber reached Captain Matt Leach, head of the Indiana State Police, almost simultaneously with word from Muncie that Noble Claycomb had confessed that he, Shaw, and a man known as Dan Dillinger had held up the Bide-A-Wee.

The intuitive Leach guessed that Dillinger might also be the vaulter. Pictures of Dillinger were sent to Daleville, and he was tentatively identified as the robber who had made the remarkable jump over the bank barrier. Muncie reporters nicknamed him "Desperate Dan," bringing fame, on a local scale at least, to John Dillinger.

*Jack Magagnoli
Jan 29, 1963*

*John Dillinger robbed
Daleville Bank - July 17, 1933*