

This is a collection of transcribed news paper articles from the Richmond Independent News Paper, about Pinole Constable Arthur McDonald written the week of his murder.

“LINE UP,” SHARP COMMAND

Get up against that wall” A crisp barking order to the two employees of the bank and the several depositors in the lobby. Those who heard jumped to obey the command and filed behind the counter to room indicated. -Kronnick, busy preparing his check deposits, failed to hear the Bandits. His indifference nearly cost him his life.

“Get up your hands or I’ll blow your brains out,” Kronnick told reporters was the rasping voice in his ear.

OFFICER RETURNS

That moment McDonald returned and entered the bank, not knowing a holdup was in progress. Hey! what’s the idea,” was the constables reply, when told to put up his hands. All he could do was to follow the others behind the – cage. - more depositors entered the – John Lean and Mrs. William –thy of Avon. “Never in my life have I been – ied in such rough language,” – Mrs. McCarthy, referring to her reception. She filed into a office, the same cubby hole Constable McDonald was usually stationed.

- behind that door!” – what door?” said Lean, who said afterward that he was extremely excited as soon as he realized what a whirlpool he had gotten into. “that door and make it snappy “

DEPOSITOR FALLS

“I was in such a hurry to do as I was told,” Lean told reporter, “that inside the door I slipped and fell,” that was where Lean stayed during the entire shooting, on his knees behind the counter. The moment Mrs. McCarthy got into the ante-room one of the bandits stepped from the same – y another door.

BULLETS FLY

Standing from behind a closet door Constable McDonald open fired quicker than a flash. He got his man, who dropped for – behind a desk, but before McDonald could raise his fire to the number two bandit, who stood out in front of the counter, the latter had fired with a Colt .45 caliber sub-machine gun. The thief on the floor also opened fired on McDonald with a small pistol which was nearly hidden in the palm of his hand. As the constable fell, the injured man dumped the payroll into a large white sack. Sweeping up bills on the counter and fled into the machine which his partner in crime had already waiting.

Determined to get his man, and fighting against loss of blood and shock, Arthur McDonald pulled himself to a leaning position against the counter and shot through the glass as the highway-men sped away. His fire was answered, but no one was hit.

WOMEN FOLLOW THUGS

For five miles to the heart of Pinole, where the fleeing car turned and sped in the direction of Pinole Valley and a possible headquarter in the Contra Cost hills, the car was followed by two women in a touring car.

Mrs. C. Penny and Mrs. F. H – in driving to the bank to cash checks for early morning – inadvertently cut across the path of the old Dodge touring, as it recklessly pulled away from the bank. The bandit car grazed the fender of Mrs. Penny's car. "I thought it was a drunken driver said Mrs. Penny, "but we heard people shouting that the bank was robbed and we turned around and followed the car."

PURSUERS COURAGEOUS

This courageous bit of volunteer work might easily have resulted in death for one or both of the women, as the fleeing criminals would undoubtedly have shot without hesitation had they realized they were being followed. When the car turned into the hill district Mrs. Penny decided it was time to stop, at the women had no gun. However they returned to a telephone immediately and gave the sheriff's office a valuable description of the car and the license number. A Rodeo man who rode in the car with the two women left on returning to Rodeo before the women could obtain his name. He had no firearms during the chase. Constable McDonald was rushed in a bystander's automobile to Pinole for a cursory examination by Dr. M. L. Fernandez, and then hurried away to the Cottage hospital in Richmond. Preparations for an operation were immediately made in hopes of saving

SLAYER, TRAIN ROBBER

Desperadoes Abandon Car in Berkeley Hills, Flee in Brown Sedan Driven by Woman
Accomplice, Clue Reveals

Rodeo. Sept. 27.- (UP)- The "Lone Wolf" survivor of a preying pack of bandits that murdered and pillaged in Lamar, Colo., more than a year ago, today was believed seriously wounded, perhaps dying, as the result of his latest brush with the law.

Jake Fleagle, fugitive leader of the Lamar bank gang which killed four men May 23, 1928, has been tentatively identified as the bandit who yesterday swaggered into the Pinole branch bank here, while a companion manned a machine gun, trained on employees of the bank and walked out with a \$25,000 payroll, fatally shooting Constable Arthur McDonald. But the bandit left a trail of blood, when he staggered out of the door to a waiting automobile the price paid for the life of Constable McDonald.

BULLET FUSILLADE

McDonald came to the scene of the robbery in time to fire at the men supposed to be Fleagle. His shot took effect, but he was immediately mowed down by bullets from a Thompson machine gun in the hands of the other bandit, believed to be Joe Miller, bandit suspect and partner of Fleagle. McDonald died from his wounds. With the loot in his hands, the wounded bandit slumped into a waiting automobile which sped away.

The abandoned car was found late yesterday in the Berkeley hills, bloodstained and marked with finger prints. Police today, were checking the finger prints in the hope of definitely indentifying the robbers.

HAVE FINGER PRINTS

By a strange twist of fate, finger prints on an automobile abandoned in Kansas led to the round up of the Lamar band, with the exception of the crafty Jake Fleagle. Four persons who witnessed the holdup indentified pictures of Fleagle and Joseph Miller as the bandit pair. Captain of Police J. A. Greening of Berkeley said he learned that a woman had picked up the two suspects near the place where the abandoned machine was found. "We believe she may be Fleagle's wife, but we do not know for sure," Greening said.

A reward of \$10,000 has been offered for the capture of Fleagle. Miller is suspected of being connected with the \$15,000 McAvoy train robbery June 22 of this year.

BELIEVED ON STAGE

Robert Rand, a bus driver, identified pictures of Fleagle as those a man who rode from Oakland to Rodeo yesterday morning. The man appeared nervous and was referred to by Rand as a desperate character. It is thought he met his companion at Rodeo. By a strange quirk of fate Constable McDonald also rode on the stage, from Pinole to Rodeo.

John Lean and Mrs. William McCarthy, patron of the Pinole bank and a barber whose shop adjoins the bank, said that the pictures of Fleagle and Miller resembled the bandits. The machine gun, left in the bank, resembled the guns used in the Lamar robbery and murders.

FLEAGLE GANG HELD WORST IN WEST (United Press).

DENVER, Sept 27- Jake Fleagle, tentatively identified as leader of the bandits who robbed the Pinole bank at rodeo Calif., yesterday, and the Fleagle gang in addition to their \$210,000 robbery of the First National Bank of Lamar were principals in a least seven other robberies, Sheriff Alderman of Lamar, Colo., announced here today. The sheriff said Ralph Fleagle, Herbert Royston and W.C. Abshier, alias Messick, who already have pleaded guilty to murder in connection with the Lamar robbery, have confessed the other holdups. Banks at Haynes, Ore., McPherson, Kans., Marysville, Kans., Ottawa, Kans., Kingsley, Kans., and Larned, Kans., were victims of the operations of the band, the sheriff said.

PLANES USED

The robbers used airplanes and high powered motor cars to make their getaway. "Said the sheriff, The Fleagle gang is the worst group of criminals the west has ever known. Every effort must be made to arrest Jake Fleagle." Rewards for Jake Fleagle total more than \$100,000, the sheriff said. "Jake Fleagle is a dangerous criminal; human life means nothing to him," said the sheriff. "Western farmers should watch every new farm hand they employ. California ought to throw but a dragnet and arrest Fleagle regardless of cost."

STARTED IN 1919

In detailing the robberies, Alderman said the band started its operation in 1919, when it robbed a bank at Haynes, Oregon. Jake used a tiny Hopkins & Allen pistol in that robbery, the sheriff said, disregarding protests of other members of the band, the loot was \$2500 in currency. 10 years later, the sheriff said, Jake led another raid on the Haynes bank that netted \$2,000 in cash. They culminated their operations at Lamar on May 23, 1928, by robbing the Lamar bank kidnapping two tellers and killing four men.

FINAL RITES HELD FOR SLAIN OFFICER

Officialdom of Contra Costa County, yesterday paid final tribute to Constable Arthur McDonald of Pinole at his funeral in the Richmond chapel of Wilson and Kratzer. The eulogy was given by Rev. J. R. Rudkin of Pinole, and was based upon a passage from the Apocryta.

McDonald was killed by an unknown bandit in the recent Rodeo bank holdup, but his funeral was delayed until his daughter, Miss Ethel McDonald could arrive from the east. Following the services, the funeral bier proceeded by 60 police officers and followed by approximately 250 cars, bearing friends relatives and associates drove slowly through the streets of Richmond toward the Berkeley Crematory.

Side street traffic was held up for nearly half an hour due to the passing of the cortege. In the chapel. The walls were literally covered with flowers, from his friends and police officers from the entire bay region. Practically every peace officer in Contra Costa county, and representatives from the bay cities police departments attended the funeral. In addition to these many of "Jerry's" friends from all over Contra Costa county crowded the chapel to attend his last rites.

The following men, of Pinole and friends of McDonald for years acted as pall bearers: Henry Ellerhorst, Henry Von Dollen, T. W. Hutchinson, Jean Shea, John Ryan and Manuel Marcus. Mrs. C. Hughes, also of Pinole gave vocal selections.