

Biggest Bank Robbery Said 'Inside Job'

NEW YORK (UP)—The police and FBI checked clues Thursday pointing to "an inside job" in the biggest bank robbery in U.S. history executed with the same cool wizardry of the notorious Willie "The Actor" Sutton.

Three folksy robbers, and may be more, escaped with \$303,243 from the Woodside, Queens, branch of the Chase Manhattan Bank Wednesday.

Armed with a submachinegun, the robbers kidnaped a clerk near his home, called him by his first name, waited for three more persons — including two women — and forced their way into the unguarded, alarmless bank building. After locking 11 persons in the bank vault, the methodical bandits disappeared into a morning subway crowd.

Well Planned Job

The display of quietly efficient skill was reminiscent of the technique of Sutton, generally acknowledged as one of the most cunning modern bank robbers.

Sutton, now serving 30 years in Attica State Prison, N. Y., testified in his autobiography written in prison that he had stolen more than \$2-million dollars from banks and other companies during his 20-year "career."

The robbery Wednesday was the sixth bank stickup in the New York metropolitan area in 30 days.

The "master job" which one robber confided to a victim was the result of six months' casing, began when Clerk Henry Bardenhagen was getting into his car at his home in Sunnyside, Queens.

Bandits Knew Names

Jabbing something in Bardenhagen's back, one of the robbers said pleasantly, "Okay Henry, get in the back." Two other robbers then got in the front seat of the car.

At the bank after a leisurely drive, the gunman sighted M. William Downing, of Valley Stream with Mrs. Eleanor Minogue, a real estate company employee. A gunman ordered, "get out — or I'll blow your brains out" and Downing and Mrs. Minogue got out of the car.

A fourth employe, Mrs. Dorothy Haas, a secretary, of Woodside, came along. "Why, there's Dorothy," said one of the robbers.

With their prisoners the robbers then unlocked the bank door with Bardenhagen's key. Inside were six other employes. And in plain view was than \$300,000 in bills ranging in denomination from \$1 to \$100.

The loot was dumped into a 2-by-3-foot white canvas bag bearing the imprint, "Federal Reserve Bank." They fled in a light blue convertible. The whole job took less than eight minutes.



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OUR OWN FAMOUS
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