

THE GREAT BLOODLAND POST OFFICE ROBBERY!

by VAN BEYDLER

The car, reportedly stolen in Kansas, rolled in front of the Bloodland post office. Inside were three desperate men, Alfred Smith, Arthur Ray and Rueben Walters each age 19. The three had been making their way from Los Angeles to Pulaski County for about a year with a shotgun and a .22.



The Bloodland Post Office was located in a small general store and would've been considered an unlikely place for a robbery but on this April day that would change. The robbers took a few dollars from the post office and some clothing from the store before heading north toward Dixon.

Fifty to one hundred Bloodland citizens began the chase. Most were driven back by shots from the .22 allowing the robbers to disappear in the Ozark backwoods of 1923.



Dixon Marshall Chris Leisman heard about the robbery and contacted several area residents to accompany him on a search of the area between Hancock and Crocker. At Hancock, Chris surmised that the robbers might head for the crossroads, a likely place to observe the robbers should they be headed that direction.



Leisman's guess proved to be well founded. The burglars had abandoned their car somewhere north of Crocker. When the marshal and his men arrived at the crossroads they spied the malefactors who began shooting at them with the .22 rifle.



Instead of running back when shot at, Chris proceeded to run after the burglars. The more they shot at him the more he crowded them. He riveted his eyes to the

sights of his old Winchester and shot so close to the burglars that he was able to get closer while driving them into an open field. The crooks surrendered when Leisman and his men surrounded them on the old Doc Anderson place about a mile southeast of the crossroads, some seven miles north of Dixon.



Marshall Leisman contacted government officials in Springfield and delivered the prisoners to U.S. Marshall Perry H. Smith and post office inspector C. H. Baker of Springfield who came to Dixon and got them.



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