

Regional Binder II

***PELLSTON BANK HOLDUP***  
***Citizen's National Bank***

***Pellston, Emmet County, Michigan***

## Pellston Bank Back To Normal After The Holdup

Petoskey News-Review, page 6  
Wednesday, December 20, 1972



It was back to business as normal Tuesday at the Citizen's National Bank branch in Pellston. At the counter is teller Mrs. Alice Brewster and on the phone, bank vice president Ron Rose. Monday, the bank was robbed of \$17,601. {News photo by Jim Herman}

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By **JIM HERMAN**

**PELLSTON** — Everything was back to normal at the Citizen's National Bank branch here Tuesday as customers sauntered in and out to transact daily business with only curt comments about Monday's daring robbery.

FBI agents circulated through town seeking answers from village residents to bits of information left to "tie up loose ends."

CNB vice president Ron Rose and Mrs. Alice Brewster, a teller from the bank's main office in Cheboygan, took care of the day's duties for Mrs. Garth Spencley and Mrs. Andrew Brown, regular cashiers, who were tied up at gunpoint during the chilling heist. The ladies spent most of the day helping the FBI with information.

Rose, who visits the bank once per week from the Cheboygan headquarters, said that the cashiers would be back to work probably today.

The bank vice president lauded the total cooperation of those who helped in the dangerous incident. "The cooperation of the police department and the customers was fantastic," he noted.

Three regular customers had been tied up with two cashiers and another detained when the robbers struck the bank at opening time Monday. Nobody was injured but two men and a woman escaped with \$17,601 in cash. In early evening the three were arrested in connection with the robbery and "99 percent" of the money recovered.

It was the first robbery of its type for the Cheboygan bank chain and Rose says he hopes it's the last.

For the bank, though, it ended a bit on the good side. No personnel were harmed, no property was damaged, no customers were injured and almost all of the money was returned.

"Under the circumstances, I'd say that if it had to happen, it couldn't have happened in a better way," Rose observed.

## BANK SUSPECTS FACED FEDERAL TRIAL

Petoskey News-Review  
Wednesday, December 20, 1972  
By Jim Herman

Two of three suspects charged in the daring robbery of the Citizen's National Bank in Pellston Monday will be transferred to Traverse City today for arraignment before a US Magistrate. They will later be sent to Grand Rapids for examination in federal court.

The third suspect remains in Little Traverse Hospital in Petoskey with buckshot wounds he received trying to flee from police Monday night.

Taken to Traverse City were Charles Spencer, 25, of Champagne, Illinois and Stella Malis, 24, of Urbana, Illinois. William J. Mallow, 26, of Petoskey and formerly of Champagne, is in good condition at Little Traverse.

Spencer and Mallow are charged with bank robbery and Miss Malis with conspiracy in aiding and abetting a crime. All are federal offenses.

The two men were apprehended Monday night at about 8:30 p.m. by State Police following a shootout and chase on M-68 near Anson. During the fracas, Mallow was shot in the thigh as he attempted to run. Miss Malis was later arrested at a Burt Lake home, apparently being used as a hideout.

Tuesday morning, police recovered the stolen money. Early estimates from the bank set the figure at \$21,000 but that was revised yesterday to \$17,601.

### Other Warrants

It was learned by the News-Review Tuesday that warrants have been issued in Champagne for the arrest of the three in connection with the burglary of a sporting goods store there.

Among items stolen were rifles, possibly those used in the Dalton armed robbery. According to records on the three, the warrant on the burglary is the first known offense of its kind for them.

Mallow is listed as an antique dealer by Champagne sources and is the son of a Circuit Court clerk.

Miss Malis is the daughter of a well-to-do Chicago family. She had never been in trouble prior to the sporting store burglary although she was questioned about it. Her mother retired from the telephone company in Chicago after 46 years employment.

No information was obtained on Spencer.

### Daring Robbery

The robbery of the Pellston bank began to unravel in Traverse City when a green Chevrolet was stolen from a factory parking lot. The car was later used as one of two in the scheme.

According to several eye witness accounts, the green car was first spotted in Pellston at about 7:30 a.m. Monday parked in front of "The Grill," a restaurant several doors from the bank.

One businessman noticed it on the way to work and said he almost went over to it to see if anything was wrong. He thought it was strange because the restaurant was closed.

Later in the morning, the robbery plan became reality.

The two men, wearing sunglasses and other cover, went to the door of the bank at about 9:20 a.m., just before it was to open for the day.

One of the men flashed a \$100 bill at one of the cashiers and said that he needed gas and the gas station could not change such a large bill. He asked if she would.

The men were allowed to enter on that premise.

They then brandished two rifles, one a .22 caliber, and tied up the two cashiers, Mrs. Garth Spencley and Mrs. Andrew Brown, after forcing them to open the safe.

At the regular opening time, customers began coming to the bank and the men tied them up until they ran out of rope.

At the same time, carpenters and other workers were busy outside the building constructing an addition to the bank facility.

Sometimes when the men were inside the bank, one accidentally discharged a bullet from the .22. It hit the bottom of a chair, ricocheted and hit Mallow, leaving him with a flesh wound. Spots of blood were left in the snow outside the bank after the men left. Neither the carpenters or nearby businessmen heard the shot.

The last customer to enter the bank during the heist was Mrs. Marion Howard. She was told to stay in the bank and that a man with a gun would be watching the bank's interior from a window. Instead, she watched through a window as the green car headed south.

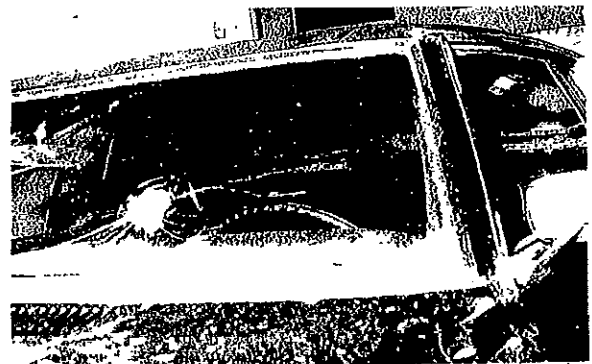
Mrs. Howard went to a nearby gas station and local law enforcement agencies were notified of the robbery. The bank's phone was decommissioned by the robbers.

### Switch Cars

The two men then drove the green car to Johnson-rd., a backroad near the village, where they switched to a black 1970 Gran Prix.

According to several eye witnesses, the black car was seen before the men arrived after the robbery. It was occupied by a woman and when she was asked if she needed help on two occasions, she replied that she was waiting for the sun to come out to take a picture.

Shortly after an area bulletin was put out by State Police on the



A bullet hole in the driver's side of the front window somehow missed the driver Monday night when State Police apprehended two male suspects in the Pellston bank robbery. Another high caliber bullet was placed in the driver's door. {News photo by Jim Herman}

## BANK SUSPECTS FACED FEDERAL TRIAL

second car and FBI agents began arriving in the area.

An all day dragnet of the county continued in to early evening when the black Gran Prix carrying the two men attempted to run through a State Police roadblock on M-48 near Alanson.

According to police sources, the car was shot at by police as it sped by. The driver's side of the windshield was hit by a high caliber bullet, the back window was smashed open by a shotgun blast, the driver's door was hit and finally the back right tire shot out.

After the shooting, the car continued with a flat tire and was pursued by State Police.

The car stopped just past the Cheboygan County line and Mallow emerged and ran. A state police trooper opened fire with a shotgun and hit the fleeing suspect in the thigh. He was taken to Little Traverse Hospital.

Miss Mullis was later picked up at a home on Burt Lake and she and Spencer were lodged in the Emmet County Jail after questioning from FBI authorities.

The money was recovered Tuesday morning in an undisclosed hiding place uncovered by the FBI.

Some eight FBI agents were in the area Tuesday and according to one, were hopeful of wrapping up the remaining information by tonight.

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## Set Bond for Two In Bank Holdup

TRAVERSE CITY - Bond has been set for two of three suspects charged in the robbery of the Citizen's National Bank branch in Pellston and they have been turned over to federal authorities.

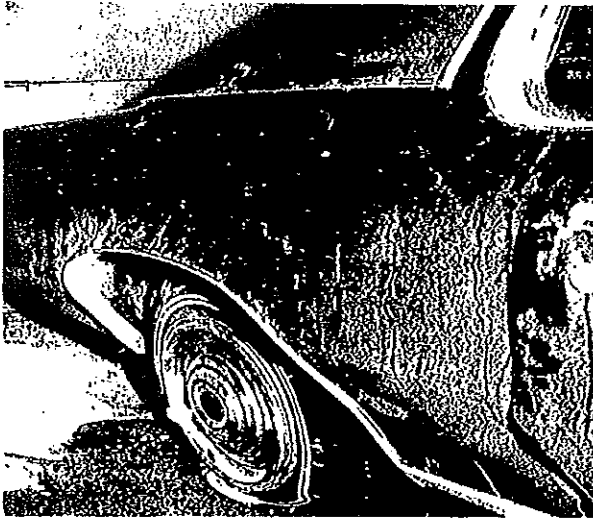
Charles Spencer, 25, of Champagne, Illinois, and Miss Stella Mullis, 24, of Urbana, Illinois, appeared for arraignment yesterday in Traverse City before US Magistrate Stuart Hubbell. Spencer, charged with bank robbery, had bond set at \$50,000 and Miss Mullis, charged with

co-conspiracy in the crime, had bond set at \$3,500. Both were remanded to custody of a US Marshal in lieu of the bond.

A third suspect, William J. Mallow, 28, of Petoskey and formerly of Champagne, Ill. remains in Little Traverse Hospital where he is being treated for gunshot wounds he received trying to flee from police Monday night.

As soon as Mallow is recovered, he will be taken to Traverse City for arraignment.

Future court proceedings will be handled in federal court in Grand Rapids.



A back tire was shot out by State Police and eventually resulted in the arrest of two male suspects in the \$17,601 robbery of the Pellston bank Monday {News photo by Jim Herman}