

New Albany Daily Ledger, 11 November 1909: page 4, column 3
DARING DAY LIGHT HOLD UP OF BANK.
J. H. Fawcett Killed in an Attempted Bank Robbery.
TRAGEDY SHOCKS COMMUNITY.
Daring Robber Shoots Up Merchants National Bank.
PRESIDENT WOODWARD WOUNDED.

One of the most daring broad daylight bank robberies in modern times was committed at the Merchants National Bank in this city at 11 o'clock this morning when Mr. J. H. Fawcett, the cashier, was shot and killed, and J. K. Woodward, the president of the bank was also shot and dangerously wounded. After firing twenty shots in rapid succession the robber fled from the bank without securing a cent. George Newhouse, the assistant cashier and Henry Alexander, the colored porter, were the only others in the bank at the time and they escaped injury.

At 11 o'clock this morning a handsome auto cab drew up in front of the drug store of C. E. Crecelius in Main street which is next door to the bank and two men, a Negro and white man alighted going around the corner to the rear door of the bank. At the same time J. H. Fawcett the cashier was coming from Steinhaur's barber shop which is just in the rear of the bank. As Mr. Fawcett unlocked the door which is always kept locked, and entered the bank the stranger forced his way in behind him drawing two pistols at the same time ordering everybody to "hold up their hands." Without waiting to see whether or not the demand was complied with the stranger began to shoot. Only a few shots was fired until Mr. Fawcett staggered a few paces toward the front of the bank and fell, dying almost immediately, and Mr. Woodward fell to the floor.

The entire tragedy did not exceed a half minute. No longer time was occupied than it took the excited man to fire in rapid succession the loads from four six-shooters which he had in his belt. James R. Tucker, the colored chauffeur, who fled as the first shot was fired, was shot in the hand and received a wound in his side. He was hustled into Crecelius' drug store by the clerk in the store and a few minutes later was taken into custody by Police Captain McLaughlin. The robber was caught fifteen minutes later on the [dyke] on the Kentucky side of the river, having been halted by some shanty boatmen who covered him with shot guns, and was brought back to this side of the river and turned over to Chief of Police Adams, who took him to the county jail.

After committing the deed, the man who refused to tell his name, swallowed poison and was in a dazed condition when he reached the police. He was scarcely able to talk, and when asked his name shook his head. Arriving at the jail the man was examined by Dr. D. F. Davis, who stated that he had a chance of recovery, and Capt. Adams and County Sheriff Sittason, assisted by a half a dozen men who had been deputized, hastened to an automobile that was standing outside to take the prisoner to the Indiana Reformatory in Jeffersonville for safe keeping.

As the officer left the jail with the prisoner a mob surrounded them, shouting "hang him, hang him," and the excited crowd surrounded the automobile and it was with great difficulty that the officers fought their way through the crowd and started the machine in the direction of Jeffersonville. One excited citizen was waving in his hand a rope, a new one which had evidently been bought for a plough line, but it was taken away from him by Walter V. Bulleit, prosecuting attorney, who, by his timely action, probably prevented a lynching on the streets, for had the excited crowd got hold of the prisoner he would undoubtedly have been hung to the nearest tree.

Hundreds of people who were attracted to the bank by the shooting rushed into the building only to find the cashier was dead and the president of the bank was badly wounded. Others who saw the robber leave the bank started in pursuit, pursuing him out Main street to East Fourth and thence east on Water street. At East Fourth and Water streets Edwin Long, an employe of the United Gas and Electric Company, joined the chase. Long happened to have a pistol and he was fresh in the race which enabled him to gain on the fleeing robber. He fired several shots at the man as he fled but missed his mark. At East Tenth street the robber ran down to the river and seizing [a] iceboat that happened to be there [set]out for the Kentucky shore.

Long fired several shots at him as he rowed out from the shore, and finally shouted to some men on a shanty boat on the dike on the Kentucky shore. He shouted to the men that there was \$500 reward for the capture of the assassin and seizing a shot gun from their boat, the men covered the robber when he landed on the dike and he surrendered. He had in his belt three six-shooter revolvers which, however, had been emptied but in his pockets were found twenty 32-calibre cartridges.

James R. Tucker, the Negro chauffeur who accompanied the robber from Louisville to this city stated that the machine in which they crossed the river was the property of Mrs. Walter N. Escott, of 1188 Third street, Louisville. He said that just as he was backing the machine out of the garage in the alley in the rear of Mrs. Escott's residence, at 10:30 o'clock, he was approached by a stranger, who with two drawn pistols entered the taxicab and commanded him to take him to New Albany. The Negro says that he told him that if he attempted to play false with him he would kill him instantly. The couple drove down Third avenue to Broadway, thence to Twenty-sixth street, thence out Twenty-sixth street to Portland avenue thence to the Kentucky and Indiana bridge. On reaching New Albany the Negro said that he was commanded to drive down a back street which the fellow, who seemed to be acquainted with the city, pointed out, and they arrived at the front of the bank unobserved.

When the fellow ordered the Negro to stop the machine he commanded him to walk just six feet in front of him, declaring that if he made a single misstep he would die in his tracks. Pushing him ahead of him, the Negro said that the fellow began to shoot as soon as he was inside the bank when, the Negro stated, he started to run and the robber turned a gun on him shooting him in the hand. He said that he believed that he was also shot in the side, but at the time he did not know for certain whether or not he had been shot more than once. This statement was made by Tucker while in Crecelius drug store and just before he was taken by Capt. McLaughlin to the county jail. A few minutes after his arrival at the jail he was taken to the hospital.

George Newhouse, assistant cashier at the bank, stated that he was standing at the desk fifteen feet back of the cashiers window and that Gary Fawcett, the cashier who was killed, had gone in to Steinhauer's barber shop which is just in the rear of the bank, having been summoned by telephone by his father Capt. Charles H. Fawcett, and that J. K. Woodward, the president of the bank, was at his desk in the rear, while Henry Alexander the colored porter was somewhere in the rear of the room. He said he was busy at the books when suddenly he heard some one shout excitedly, "Throw Up Your Hands" and at the same instant the shooting commenced.

Mr. Newhouse stated that shot after shot was fired in rapid succession until at least twenty pistol shot reports were heard, but that the fellow seemed for the most part to be shooting upward. At the same time Mr. Newhouse pointed to a number of bullet holes in the ceiling of the bank, which indicated that the man was shooting wildly. About the bank and about the county jail the wildest excitement prevailed. Men, women and children with blanched faces, gathered by the hundreds about the corner where the tragedy occurred, murmuring threats about what should be done to the fiend who committed such a crime and by the time that Chief of Police

Adams arrived with the prisoner the people had become worked up to a point that had a leader taken things in hand a lynching would have been inevitable.

The names of the shanty boatmen who captured the robber are C. E. Gardner and J. A. Grim and they were assisted by C. H. Meyers. Gardner stated that when the fellow surrendered he begged to be taken to the Louisville jail and declared that he did not want to be taken back to Indiana. They said that he was frothing at the mouth at the time. Dr. D. F. Davis who examined the man at the jail stated that he made such a hasty examination that he could not be certain that he had taken poison, but that he was certain that he had not taken carbolic acid. At the Reformatory it was stated that the man was not suffering from poison.

Shortly after the shooting J. K. Woodward, President of the Bank, was taken to St. Edward's hospital, where he was attended by Dr. C. P. Cook and Dr. J. F. Weathers. Dr. Chenneworth, of Louisville, was also summoned and assisted in removing the bullet. Dr. Chenneworth stated that the bullet did not penetrate the vital organs and that barring complications the patient has a good chance to recover.

After an inquest had been held at the bank by Dr. W. R. Richards, county coroner, the body of Fawcett was removed to the undertaking establishment of Newland Gwin, where it was prepared for burial, after which it was removed to his home in DePauw Place.

J. Hangary Fawcett, the cashier who lost his life, was one of the most widely known and most popular men in New Albany. He was born and reared in this city and belonged to a prominent New Albany family. From the time that he had left school he had been employed in the Merchants National Bank which was established by his grandfather, Jacob Hangary, and he had been gradually promoted until he reached the position of cashier. Since the death of his uncle, Edward Hangary, 20 years ago, he has held the position of cashier. He was forty-one years of age and besides his wife is survived by a son, Charles B. Fawcett, fourteen years of age. His first wife was Miss Elenor Pralle, who died fourteen years ago. A year ago last June he was married to Miss Ethel McDonald of Louisville, who survives him.

While the robber refused to tell his name persons who saw him declare that his name is Hall. It is said he boated about the dock at the foot of Pearl street and was known to the men about the river, none of whom however happened to remember his given name. He is about 22 years of age. To the officers the prisoner declared that his name was Jesse James and further than this he would have nothing to say.

Morris McDonald, son of John S. McDonald, provided an automobile for the removal of the prisoner to Jeffersonville and drove the machine affording the officers great assistance in getting the man out of the way of the mob and out of the city. Sheriff Sittason declared that the man was not suffering from the effects of poison and that he had not been shot.

Judge W. C. Utz of the Circuit court stated this afternoon that he would immediately convene the grand jury and have the case investigated at once. It is probable that the case will be tried as quickly as possible.

**New Albany Daily Ledger, 12 November 1909: page 4, column 3
GRAND JURY MEETS.**

**Investigation of Yesterday's Tragedy Commenced in the Circuit Court.
EVERY DETAIL TO BE INVESTIGATED.**

**Woodward's Friends Gratified on Account of His Condition.
ARE VERY HOPEFUL OF HIS RECOVERY.**

**Negro Tucker Lingers in an Extremely Critical Condition.
HIS DEATH MAY OCCUR AT ANY TIME.**

The grand jury of the Floyd Circuit Court convened at 10 o'clock this morning to investigate the tragedy of yesterday at the Merchant's National Bank, and a thorough investigation of the horrible affair will be made in all of its details. In addition to the case of Hall, the youthful would-be-bandit, the case of John R. Tucker, the chauffeur, who brought Hall in an automobile to this city, will be investigated, as will also the case of Henry Alexander, the janitor of the bank, who was locked up by Chief of Police Adams last night pending the action of the grand jury.

It is charged that since the tragedy Alexander had told conflicting stories regarding the affair which has given rise to suspicion that he might have been an accomplice of the boy bandit in his fiendish undertaking. Every detail relating to the part of Alexander in the bank robbery will be thoroughly investigated by the grand jury. At the county jail this morning Alexander stated that while he was dusting the stairway that leads up from the side stairs of the bank he heard some one rattle the door thinking that some of the employees wanted to get in; he went down stairs when at the foot of the stairway he encountered Hall and Tucker, the Negro chauffeur who he had brought with him. He said that Hall, at the point of a pistol, forced him and the other colored man through the second door ahead of him and that at this juncture Gary Fawcett, who had been lying on a lounge in the rear of the bank, appeared and asked what was the matter, when Hall covered him with a revolver and also made him march ahead. Alexander stated that he attempted to get to the revolvers which are near the cashier's desk, when Hall shot at him and he fled through the passage way to the front part of the bank where he attempted to reach over the counter to get the revolvers when Hall again shot at him and he fled out of the front door. Alexander said that he then ran into Crecelius drug store and asked for a pistol and when he was informed that they had none, he ran across the street to the harness store of George S. Graf, where he told that bank robbers were in the bank and asked for a pistol. By this time he said, Hall had left the bank and he went back and found Mr. Fawcett dead on the floor and Mr. Woodward wounded. A number of others had reached the bank by this time.

While the statement of Alexander corroborates the statement of James R. Tucker, the Negro chauffeur who accompanied Hall to this city, it does not corroborate the statement of Miss Edith Campbell, who said that as she and Miss Mary O'Donnell, both of whom are clerks in the White House dry goods store, were going to dinner their attention was attracted as they neared the side door of the bank by a white man and two Negroes, who seemed to be in an argument, and they observed that the white man had a pistol.

The grand jury convened at 10 o'clock this morning and proceeded at once with the investigation of the cases. The jury, which had been in session for three weeks during the first of the October term of the court, adjourned Saturday, October 30, but the adjournment was not final. At the time there was some unfinished business and it was understood that the body would convene again at some time before the adjournment of the court for the term. The grand jurymen are Henry B. Stoy, Frank M. Livingston, Christian Gueswein, Philip Reinhard, Louis Meyer and John Cadwalader.

At last accounts today J. K. Woodward, President of the Merchants Bank, who is suffering at St. Edward's hospital from an exceedingly dangerous wound received at the hands of the accused, was resting easy and since he received the wound has been doing as well as could be expected. He passed a restful night and at intervals slept, sleeping several hours during the night. Dr. Chenneworth of Louisville and Dr. Charles P. Cook of this city remained with him all night, the physicians alternating in their respective watches while his brother, Harry Woodward, was also at his bedside during all of the night. Mrs. Woodward and her mother and sister occupied an apartment adjoining that of the wounded man. Friends of Mr. Woodward are greatly encouraged on account of his condition today and have great hopes that he will recover although the wound is an exceedingly dangerous one. The pistol ball entered the abdomen, coming out at the right side and penetrating the liver.

The condition of James R. Tucker, the Negro chauffeur, who brought Heil to the city is more encouraging today than last night, though there is little room to hope for his recovery. He passed a restless night but is more quiet this morning, and at last accounts today he was resting easy and doing as well as could be expected.

The funeral of J. Hangary Fawcett, cashier of the Merchant's National Bank, who met his death in the attempted bank robbery yesterday, will take place from the family residence in DePauw place and the Rev. Dr. Frank W. Grossman, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, will conduct the service. The burial will be in Fairview cemetery and those who will serve as pall bearers are Owen Tyler, of Louisville, Newland T. DePauw, Charles W. DePauw, Charles D. Kelso, W. A. McLean and William H. Widman, of this city. New Albany lodge of Elks of which Mr. Fawcett was a member will not participate in the service and the funeral will be altogether unpretentious though it will not be private and friends of the family are invited to attend.

The untimely death of Mr. Fawcett has cast a gloom over the entire city of New Albany, where he had spent his entire life and numbered his friends by the hundred. No man in the entire city was more widely known or more universally popular than he, and there is many a sad heart in New Albany besides his family and relatives on account of his death.

Mrs. Fawcett, who is almost prostrated on account of the unexpected death of her husband, is bearing up bravely under her sad bereavement. The grief stricken parents who are bereft of their only son, are bravely bearing their affliction, although the mother became so ill yesterday from the shock on hearing the news of the horrible death of her son, that it became necessary to summon a physician. Her condition today, however, is greatly improved.

New Albany Daily Ledger, 13 November 1909: page 4, column 3

HOAL IS INDICTED.

Grand Jury Charges Him With Murder in First Degree.

LIFE MUST PAY PENALTY OF CRIME.

Murder Has Little Chance to Escape Gallows.

BOX IS BROUGHT HERE FOR EVIDENCE.

J. K. Woodward Making a Brave Fight For Life.

FRIENDS HOPEFUL OF HIS RECOVERY.

James R. Tucker, the Negro Chauffeur, Develops Peritonitis.

CONDITION IS EXTREMELY CRITICAL.

Funeral of J. H. Fawcett Takes Place Today.

MANY FRIENDS ATTEND THE SERVICE.

An indictment charging murder in the first degree against Thomas Jefferson Hoal, the youthful bandit, who murdered J. Hangary Fawcett, cashier of the Merchants National Bank in a daring attempt to rob the bank Thursday morning, was returned at noon today by the grand jury that has been investigating the case since yesterday morning and the young desperado will be compelled to stand a trial for his life.

The indictment, which is indictment number twenty-three, is in three counts charging murder in the first degree, the crime of burglary, and murder in an attempt to perpetrate the crime of robbery.

After returning the indictment against Hoal the grand jury adjourned without returning any indictment either against James R. Tucker, the Negro chauffeur who accompanied Hoal to this city, or Henry Alexander, the janitor of the bank. The condition of Tucker, who is in St. Edward's hospital, is such that he is likely to die at any time, and it is understood that Alexander will be held for the present in jail as a witness.

The next step in the prosecution is the arraignment of the prisoner. It is customary to arraign a prisoner in the court as soon as possible after the indictment is returned against him, and they are often arraigned within an hour after they are indicted, and seldom longer than two or three days, but there is no limit under the law as to the time that the prisoner is to be arraigned and in the selection of the time of arraignment the authorities will use deliberation.

While the authorities here do not believe that it would actually be dangerous to bring Hoal to this city at any time to arraign him, they are not inclined to take the responsibility of any outbreak of a mob that might take place and it is probable that the prisoner or his counsel will be consulted before the time for the arraignment is fixed and that the matter will be left largely to the friends and counsel of Hoal.

When the prisoner is arraigned the time for his trial will then be fixed by Judge Utz. With the evidence against Hoal there is but one possible escape for him from the gallows and that is to enter a plea of guilty. Under the law when a prisoner enters a plea of guilty to a crime, the extreme punishment of which is death, the court cannot pass the death sentence. It is optional with the court, however, whether or not he will accept a plea of guilty. If the court refuses to accept a plea of guilty it will then be necessary to impanel a jury and take evidence and go through with the formality of a trial, allowing the defendant to submit such evidence as he may have in his own behalf. The jury will then determine the guilt or innocence of the accused and fix the penalty.

The box which Hoal had contrived with which to have himself shipped to Knoxville was brought to this city today to be used as evidence in the presentation and was placed in custody of County Sheriff Claude A. Sittason. It was ordered to be brought to the city by Prosecuting Attorney Walter V. Bulleit and Chief of Police Adams, and County Sheriff Sittason arranged with the Louisville police to secure possession of the box which was hauled to the city by the Hammersmith Transfer Company.

J. K. Woodward, president of the Merchants' National Bank, who was dangerously wounded in the tragedy at the bank last Thursday, passed a restful night last night and his friends are greatly encouraged today on account of his condition though he is critically ill. He slept the greater part of last night, which is a favorable indication, and this morning he seemed greatly refreshed as a result of his night's rest.

From the first Mr. Woodward has displayed remarkable fortitude which, with his excellent constitution, adds wonderfully to his chances for recovery, inspiring confidence on the part of his relatives and friends and hope on the part of his physician. His wound is an exceedingly dangerous one and should he recover his recovery would be little short of the miraculous, but so long as there is life there is hope and the favorable conditions that continue to develop in the case furnishes room to hope that his life will be spared.

Mrs. Woodward has remained constantly with her husband since he was taken to the hospital and his brother, Harry Woodward, has also been with him, while Dr. Chenneworth, of Louisville, and Dr. Charles P. Cook of this city, have been with him almost constantly. He has received from the physicians and nurses every possible attention and from his family and near relatives and friends every encouragement to aid him in his desperate struggle for his life.

Symptoms of peritonitis developed today in the case of James R. Tucker, the Negro chauffeur who brought Hoal, the boy bandit who attempted to rob the Merchants National Bank Thursday, from Louisville to this city in a taxicab and was shot in the back in the tragedy at the bank and there is no hope of his recovery. His death is only a question of hours and it may occur at any time. From the first Dr. D. F. Davis, the attending physician, gave out no hope of the Negro's recovery and the change for the worse in his condition today was no more than was expected. He has received at the hospital every possible attention, but his wound was of such a nature that it was necessarily fatal. At last accounts this afternoon Tucker was still alive, but there is little room to hope that he will survive through the day.

The funeral of J. Hangary Fawcett, cashier of the Merchants National Bank who was killed by an assassin in a daring and sensational attempt to rob the bank last Thursday morning took place at the family residence in DePauw Place at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon and was largely attended by the relatives and friends of the family. After the service at the house a large concourse of mourning relatives and friends followed the body to the grave.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Frank W. Grossman, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, and aside from the funeral service and prayer there was no other service. The body was taken to Fairview cemetery for burial and those who served as pallbearers were Charles D. Kelso, Charles W. DePauw, Newland T. DePauw, W. A. McLean and William H. Widman, of this city, and Owen Tyler, of Louisville.

New Albany Daily Ledger, 13 November 1909: page 4, column 4
Resolutions of Respect.

At a special meeting of the members New Albany Clearing House, held November 13, 1909, at which all the Banks and Trust Companies of the city were represented, on motion of Mr. Earl Gwin, the following memorial was unanimously adopted:

"On Thursday, November 11, 1909, between 11 and 12 o'clock in the forenoon, at the Merchants National Bank, of this city, Jacob Hangary Fawcett, the Cashier of the Bank, was shot and instantly killed by an assassin, who had entered the Bank for the purpose of robbing it.

This appalling crime, as boldly committed, shocked the entire community as no other local event ever did, and called forth universal expressions of horror for the tragedy, and sympathy for the family and relatives of its victim.

The members of the New Albany Clearing House unite with the friends, acquaintances and official associates of Mr. Fawcett in deploring his [tragical] death, and bear testimony to his intelligence, integrity, unfailing courtesy, and exceptional qualities as a business man and banker.

They earnestly assure his family and relatives of their profound sympathy, and would gladly speak words of comfort and consolation were it possible to do so.

They direct that this memorial be spread upon the Minutes, and that copies of it be prepared by its Secretary, and sent to the widow and father and mother of Mr. Fawcett, and that it be published in the daily papers of this city, and in the *Public Press*. A correct copy. A DOWLING, President. John F. McCulloch, Secretary.

New Albany Daily Ledger, 13 November 1909: page 4, column 4
Resolutions of Respect.

The Board of Directors of the Merchants National Bank held a meeting this morning and adopted appropriate resolutions concerning the death of J. Hangary Fawcett.

We assemble to mourn the loss of our young and distinguished colleague, Mr. Jacob H. Fawcett, who held the office of cashier of this bank for the term of twenty years with no less honor to himself than credit to the bank.

With a high appreciation of the varied abundant and intelligent labors which the late Jacob H. Fawcett brought to the discharge of every duty throughout the whole of his long, useful and honorable career, and with a grateful sense of the manifold services he rendered to this Association, for whose welfare he worked with never-flagging zeal with profound sorrow for his death, mingled with reverence of his happy memory, we hereby testify and record our admiration of his exalted character, with which he dignified and adorned every station, and special recognition of the grateful charm which his presence never failed to shed on the deliberations of this Board, possessing as he did, a dignity of bearing and [amity] of manner which made him as courteous in debate as he was wise in counsel, and as gracious in all relations of private life as he was in the maintenance of Christian honor.

RESOLVED, That these expressions of appreciation and sympathy be spread on the minutes of this Board and that a copy thereof be submitted to the family of our deceased friend. N. T. DEPAUW, L. P. LEYDEN, R. S. RUTHERFORD, CHARLES D. KELSO.

New Albany Daily Ledger, 14 February 1910: page 4, column 2

The condition of J. K. Woodward, former president of the Merchant's National Bank in this city, who was shot by Thomas Jefferson Hoal, the young bandit in his attempt to rob the bank November 11, and was recently removed from St. Edward's hospital to his home in Louisville, is reported to continue to be slowly improving and it is believed that he will finally recover, though from the nature of his wound his recovery will be exceedingly slow.

Public Press, 17 May 1910: page 4, column 2

Are They Guilty?

Circumstances Which Seem to Indicate That the Father and Mother of Hoal Were Interested In the Bank Robbery.

Evidence is being collected which may connect William J. Hoal, father of Thomas J. Hoal, and the father's wife, a step-mother of the young desperado, with the attempt to rob the Merchants' National Bank last November, when young Hoal shot and killed J. Hangary Fawcett and badly wounded Mr. J. Kidson Woodward.

About this matter the Corydon Democrat last week printed the following: "Sheriff Ward was wise in starting at once with his prisoner to the state prison as later developments proved. Soon after Sheriff Ward and Mr. Tuell had gone with Hoal, William Lewis, the colored man, who is in jail charged with killing Frank Day, informed Deputy Sheriff U. G. Watson, that Hoal had left his tools with which he intended to cut his way out of the Corydon jail. The tools were found in his cell and consisted of five small saws about eight or nine inches long made to cut iron, and they cut it all right. Hoal also had broken several pieces from his iron bed and one piece from the heavy bail of the coal bucket which he had used to good effect on the combination lock of his cell.

"With this outfit the young desperado meant to free himself Saturday night had he been left in the jail at this place.

"William J. Hoal, father of the young criminal, and Mrs. William Hoal, his step-mother, were taken into the jail by Deputy Sheriff Watson to see the boy before they left for their home at Louisville and it was then, as Lewis says, that Mrs. Hoal gave the boy the burglar tools, and the game was played smoothly by the father and step-mother.

"While she was pretending to shed tears over the fate of the murderer, Lewis heard her say to the boy 'that nigger is watching us.' And during the touching (?) scenes of the final parting it is quite clear that Mrs. Hoal slipped Tom the tools at a moment when her husband purposely engaged the attention of Mr. Watson as the convicted youngster, thinking Lewis saw his step-mother give him the saws exhibited them to the colored man soon afterward and told them his plans.

"Lewis says that he intended to inform Sheriff Ward as to Hoal's plans for his escape before he had gained his liberty.

"If it be true that Mrs. Hoal slipped the boy the five saws, as Lewis says, and that her husband, the father of the young murderer, purposely aided her in so doing, by attracting the attention of the deputy sheriff to prevent him from seeing the tools delivered, it gives rise to the question not heretofore discussed, namely, Was the Hoal family into the criminal plot to rob the New Albany bank from the first?

"The father knew the boy had on hand his supply of revolvers, and he knew of the box in which his son was to be shipped, and now a good many people will think that the father made or helped to make the box, and that he and the son were full partners.

"A good many slick games were attempted, going back to the time when the box was made at Hoal's shop in Louisville, and coming on down to the planned attempt to break jail, and if the father and step-mother did as it seems, furnished the boy the tools last Saturday to cut his way out of jail, it naturally gives rise to the suspicions that they were in the criminal plot with the boy from the beginning.

"Also, young Hoal asked for a bar of soap of Mrs. Ward, which he wanted to keep his saws in working order, and this before the tools had been given him.

"The fact that he had hid the soap under his bed is proof that he wanted it for the special purpose of using on his saws.

"Sheriff Ward has returned from Michigan City, and informs us that Hoal's father insisted upon the boy being left at Corydon, until Monday so that some of his friends could come down from Louisville to see him Sunday.

"Mr. Ward informed the father that he would be in Louisville with the boy over Saturday night and until the train left Sunday and that the boy's relatives and friends could come to see him there, and the fact that none of them came near is further proof that the father was helping to give the boy a chance to use saws on the doors of the Corydon jail."

New Albany Daily Ledger, 30 January 1913: page 4, column 3
HOAL THE BANDIT.
Wants to Escape His Just Punishment for Murder.
GETS WEARY OF PRISON.
Should Have Been Hung.

Mrs. Katie Fox, living in Johnson City, Tenn., writes Harry B. Darling, of Laport, secretary of the State Board of Pardons, that she will make an appeal for the parole of her son, Tommy Hoal, life man, in the Michigan City prison. Hoal is the youthful Louisville bandit who killed Gary Fawcett absolutely without provocation, and who narrowly escaped the rope.

Mrs. Fox says Tommy Hoal became a bandit because of the reading of "yellow back" books, which filled him with an insane desire to kill someone, that he might pose as a hero. Any effort to free Hoal will meet with determined opposition from the friends of Mr. Fawcett and people in this city, and has no prospect of being successful.

It is not over three short years since this degenerate was sent up for his inexcusable crime. He may have read yellow literature, but so has almost every other boy and it is no excuse. The State, through its Board of Pardons has been, only too often, swayed by sentimentality and the tears and pleas of those who committed crime and their relatives. More sympathy has been

wasted on those undeserving of it and less on those who suffered from the wrong doing and crimes of criminals than is just. Murderers and other criminals have been made over, while the families of those who were murdered or otherwise injured, could go hang. Public sentiment everywhere is against the kid-glove handling of convicted evil doers. Let Hoal get what is coming to him.

New Albany Weekly Ledger, 01 October 1919: page 6, column 2

THOMAS J. HOAL BOY BANDIT IS AT LARGE.

Youth Who Shot Up Merchants National Bank Escapes From Michigan City Prison.

RECALLS TRAGEDY.

Murder of J. Hangary Fawcett and Serious Wounding of J. K. Woodward Cashier and President of Bank.

Thomas Jefferson Hoal, the boy bandit who terrorized this city on the memorable [October] 11, 1909, when he shot up the old Merchants National Bank at Pearl and Main streets killing J. Hangary Fawcett, who at the time was cashier of the bank, and seriously wounded J. K. Woodward, president of the institution, has escaped from the Michigan City penitentiary where he was serving a life sentence for murder in the first degree. Capt. Wesley McCulloch, chief of police, today received from Edward J. Fogerty, warden of the Michigan City prison, a circular announcing the escape of four prisoners from the institution for the capture of whom a reward of \$100 each is offered. They escaped Monday, September 22, the circular states, but the receipt of the circular today is the first information the police here have received concerning the escape. In the circular it is stated that Hoal is 27 years old, 5 feet, 6-1/2 inches tall, weight 144 pounds medium built and fair hair and [complexion]. A [harry] mole on the chin also is mentioned.

The [attempt] bank holdup was purely a dime novel affair conceived by a youth who had read of such things until he became inoculated with an idea that he could successfully put over a bank robbery that would make him rich and place him in a class of heroes among bandits. He planned all of the details carefully and on the morning of [October] 11, 1909, proceeded to put his plans into execution. Going out into the residence district of Louisville, he came upon a Negro in the alley in the rear of one of the fashionable homes who was starting from the garage with an electric taxicab. At the point of a pistol he took possession of the cab, coercing the Negro to drive him to this city and to the Merchants National Bank. Entering the bank by the side door he lined up J. K. Woodward, president of the bank, and George A. Newhouse, now president cashier of the Second National Bank, who then was assistant cashier of the Merchants National, forcing them at the point of a pistol to hold up their hands and driving them to the vault where he declared later he had intended locking them up. At this junction J. Hangary Fawcett, the cashier who had stepped out on the street a half an hour before, returned. Realizing what was happening, Mr. Fawcett made a dash for a pistol that was kept in a drawer at the cashier's window, but he did not succeed in reaching the weapon. He was shot in the back by Hoal and the boy bandit then began shooting promiscuously; Mr. Fawcett was killed instantly and Mr. Woodward was shot through the liver while the Negro who he had forced into the bank received a bullet in his side. For weeks, Mr. Woodward lingered between life and death at St. Edwards Hospital but he finally recovered though he died a few years later and his injury might have caused his death. The Negro was not seriously injured and recovered in a few weeks.

The attempted bank hold up created great excitement in the city. Hoal narrowly escaped being lynched at the hands of the excited populace. Leaving the bank after the shooting he fled to the river where he crossed in a skiff to the Kentucky side. Capt. William Adams and other

members of the police followed him and brought him back to this side. He was hastened to jail, but in a few minutes the crowd of men who assembled about the jail became so threatening that the police decided to rush him to the Indiana Reformatory in Jeffersonville for safekeeping. Morris McDonald, who happened to be passing the jail in an automobile, was pressed into service and the prisoner was rushed to the machine, and was taken to Jeffersonville where he remained until the time of his trial.

When the case was called for trial in the Circuit Court here, Hoal, through his attorney applied for a change of venue which could not be denied under the circumstances, and the case was sent to the Harrison Circuit Court for trial. Hoal was convicted of murder in the first degree, but on account of his extreme youth he got off only a life sentence. His last act at the Corydon jail was an attempt to make his escape on the night before he was taken to the Michigan City penitentiary. He attempted to saw a bar in the jail when it was discovered that he had been supplied with a complete set of saws. Just how he got the saws never has become known, but it is said that his father and mother had visited him at the jail a number of times. The Hoal family who lived in the neighborhood of Bank and Main streets where the boy's father conducted a second-hand furniture store, later moved to Louisville where they lived at the time of the tragedy. After the attempt of their son to escape from the Corydon jail was foiled the family disappeared from this section of the country. It is said they came originally from Knoxville, Tenn.

Since he has been incarcerated in the Michigan City prison, Hoal has been a model prisoner, it is said. He has two or three attempts to secure his release on parole, but at each time his appeal has been opposed by the local authorities.

[This article states the attempted bank robbery was October 11, 1909. The date was actually November 11. Other discrepancies between the original articles and subsequent articles also are evident. The bandit's name is alternately given as Hall, Heil, Hoal – the correct name appearing to be Hoal.]