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EXTRA!

TIMES SQUARE BANK HEIST SUSPECTS STILL AT LARGE

MIDTOWN - It was just another quiet night in midtown. The flophouses were filling, subway cars rumbled under foot and those who thought ahead and withdrew a buck or two before President Roosevelt closed all the banks, headed out to a picture show. The underworld had different plans for the evening.

At approximately 10:30 last night, the quiet of 46th Street was shattered. Only a few blocks away, the cops congregating, as usual, at Broadway and Seventh, heard the explosion and saw the rush of people heading their way. "It's the Times Square Bank!" one passerby was heard to shout.

Sergeant Thomas Matthews, followed by several other officers, headed down 46th Street toward 6th Avenue. Smoke filled the cool still air as they neared the imposing building.

Times Square Bank, second home to the federal reserve of gold and cash in the city, has the finest vault in Manhattan - so everyone thought. Its marble and concrete wall now lay strewn about the street and a gaping hole into its vast vault wide for all to see.

Having heard the call over shortwave, I headed over for a firsthand look-see.

At the New RKO Roxy Theatre, a gathering of agitated patrons waited for the 11 o'clock showing of "King Kong". Next door stood the Times Square Bank and, what seemed to this observer, every cop in town. Beat cops up to Feds were moving in for a closer look. I fell in behind unnoticed. The vault was in deed a mess.

One officer was overheard to say, "Look, they didn't even take the gold. Only cash." Sergeant Matthews responded with "These guys are smart, well planned. They know it's mandatory jail-time if caught hoarding or even possessing gold of any kind these days."

From out of the darkness, shouts of "Look! They blew



The massive explosion at the Times Square Bank damaged automobiles and littered 46th Street with rubble - no injuries have been reported.

another hole into the theater. Must be how they got in."

The officers all seemed to move as one, climbing silently through to the backstage area. Sounds of machine gun fire was heard in the darkness. "What's that? Are they still here?" one cop exclaims only to be answered by another with "It's the film, dummy. They're shooting Kong down from the Empire State. Saw it last night with the wife. Now keep moving before we're left behind."

Rigging ropes, matinee scenery and props hindered easy passage through the maze of hallways, dressing rooms and storage areas. The route the officers followed lead directly to the stage door entrance and an easy way in for the thieves.

I left the searching police officers to the maze of corridors and stepped outside for a smoke. A cluster of men stood in the alleyway mumbling in a heated discussion. I joined them. "Hey guys. Hear what happened next door? You see anything?"

One man stepped forward with, "I sure did! It was Lucky. I'd swear to it. Lucky Luciano.

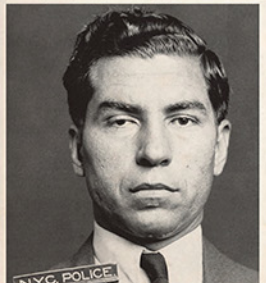
I'd know that tan Packard of his anywhere. Saw him sitting in the backseat right over there. And, as soon as the blast went off, he smiled and high-tailed it out of here over towards 5th."

I had my story. The gangsters are on to new ventures what with the rumblings of a repeal to prohibition. Luciano and his sort need to fill their pockets with more than booze and brothels.

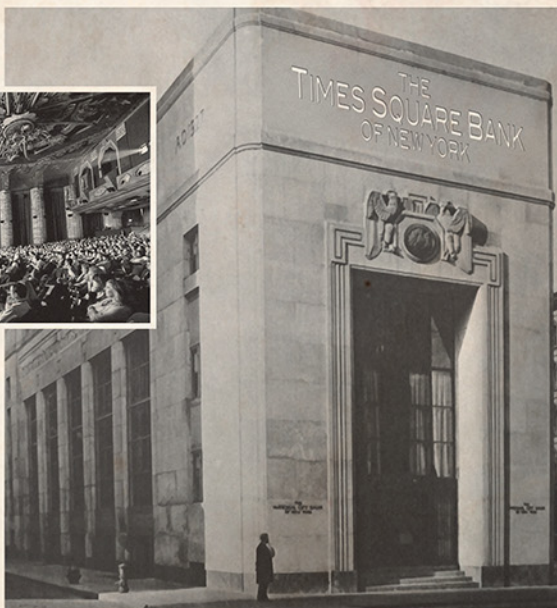
- FOLLOW UP -

This morning, J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, held a press conference to announce an all-out investigation into the robbery at the Times Square Bank and to locate and apprehend all involved. A substantial reward was offered for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of the criminals. No known suspects were mentioned by Mr. Hoover.

Residents of Manhattan and surrounding boroughs take notice - the G-Men will be out in force. Keep it clean and safe out there.



Suspected mastermind, Charles "Lucky" Luciano.



Times Square Bank, above right, and New RKO Roxy Theatre, above left, scenes of major Midtown heist. No arrests made yet.