

Kansas classifieds

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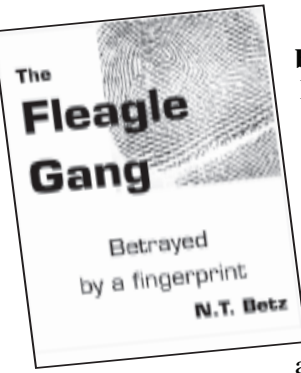
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Kansas' earliest CSI story Fingerprint ends nationwide '20s manhunt



True crime from the roaring 20s, **The Fleagle Gang, Betrayed by a fingerprint**, begins with a brazen daylight bank robbery of the First National Bank in Lamar, Colo. on May 23, 1928. Four men died, and the robbers escaped — until forensic science caught up with them through a fingerprint.

The bank robbery and national manhunt story was big news more than 75 years ago. We recently found that an old time radio program "Gangbusters" aired a program on Jake and Ralph Fleagle in 1937. There are many old stories about the robbery and the gang, but none cover the events like this book. Book reviewers say this is a great read for true crime history buffs.

The book includes over 100 photos and documents taken from court files plus maps of places where the gang robbed banks and scenes where the murders of the doctor and cashier took place.

A few signed copies are available at The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main



Jake Fleagle's arrest photo taken at Stockton, Calif., in the spring of 1929 that led to the break in the First National Bank of Lamar robbery and murder case. The photo and fingerprints were sent to the FBI in Washington where the connection was made.

Search inside the book on Google.com and Amazon.com

Author Tom (N.T.) Betz, editor of The Goodland Star-News, has spent more than 45 years in journalism and living on the Great Plains.

"The Fleagle Gang" details the robbery/murder case which hinged on a single fingerprint found on a murdered Dighton, Kan., doctor's car. The fledgling FBI plays a crucial role in turning the fingerprint into solid forensic evidence used to find, arrest and convict members of the Fleagle Gang. The FBI credits the Fleagle case as the first time a single fingerprint was used to identify and convict criminals. The Fleagle Gang robbed banks in Lamed, Kinsley, Marysville, Ottawa and McPherson Kan., Lamar, Colo., Eugene, Ore., and countless others of over \$1 million in the 10 years they operated.

"The Fleagle Gang" is available at the **Big Timbers Museum** in Lamar, Colo., the **Holly Library**, Holly, Colo.; the **Fick Fossil and History Museum** in Oakley, Kan., the **Finney County Museum** and **Hastings** in Garden City, Kan., the **High Plains Museum** in Goodland, Kan., the **El Quartejo Museum** in Scott City, and the **Colorado Prison Museum** in Canon City, Colo. It is available on-line from the publisher **Authorhouse.com**, Linda Knott's web bookstore **knottjustbooks@spreadtheword.com**; **Amazon.com**; **Barnes and Noble**; **The Tattered Cover** and other major book stores.

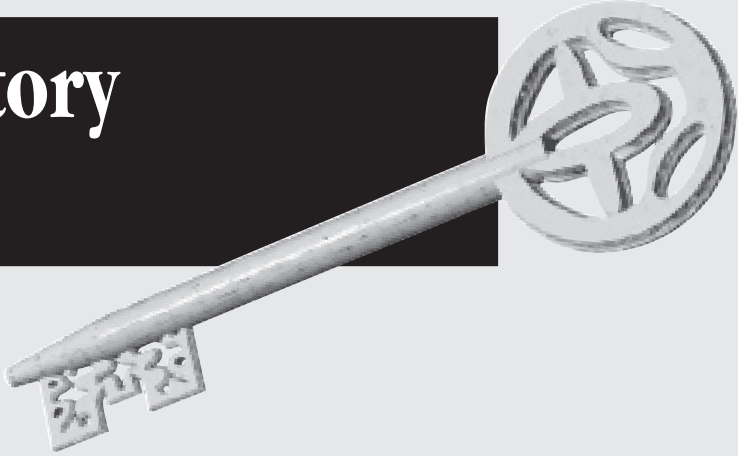
Check out "The Fleagle Gang" web site at: nwkansas.com/home/fleaglegang.

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