



# **The Great Heist: The Story of the Biggest Bank Robbery in History... And Why All the Money Was Returned**

*Jeff McArthur*

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On a sunny September morning in 1930, six men entered the Lincoln National Bank in Nebraska's capital city armed with revolvers and Thompson submachine guns. In eight minutes they emerged with more than 2.7 million dollars, the largest take of any bank heist in history. A nationwide search for the bandits would lead Nebraska authorities through the rough, gangland streets of Chicago and East St. Louis, and deep into the heart of the Capone organization. The Great Heist not only chronicles the search for the bandits and the trials that followed, but the incredible story of how they got the money back.

## **The Great Heist: The Story of the Biggest Bank Robbery in History... And Why All the Money Was Returned Details**

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## **From Reader Review The Great Heist: The Story of the Biggest Bank Robbery in History... And Why All the Money Was Returned for online ebook**

### **Dianna says**

This was a very interesting story, I was very pleased. Jeff McArthur's telling of the story of the bank robbery, subsequent investigation and court proceedings, and the final amazing feat of the money and bonds being returned! The book is nicely organized with chapters concentrating on the individuals involved, making the details and events easy to follow. I especially appreciate the amazing amount of research that had to be found and picked through. If cops and robbers, and Al Capone, are at all interesting to you, check this book out and enjoy. I did!

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### **Shawn says**

Jeff McArthur has put together an excellent and exceedingly readable duo of books on Nebraska history and its unlikely connection with the notorious Al Capone. I had read Two Gun Hart last year and enjoyed it immensely. The Great Heist tells another chapter of organized crime's reach into the heartland and gives the reader a valuable look at depression era Lincoln, Nebraska.

The book is loaded with insights into the personalities and motives of the now little-known drama of the Lincoln National Bank robbery. In the early 1930s the crime captured national headlines and dominated local and statewide politics for years. I enjoyed getting to know the Machiavellian, Lancaster County Attorney and former Husker Quarterback, Max Towle, the admirable bank President W. A Selleck, the deadly mob assassin, Fred Burke and the unlucky, and somewhat ham-fisted, Gus Winkler. Other Nebraska personage who I knew better made appearance in this book, Governor Bryant and General Pershing, top that list.

The story gets the reader involved immediately describing the precision of the holdup and the bumbling and ill-prepared reaction of law enforcement. The story line is easy to follow despite a myriad of characters and I was impressed how the author could write the story without diverting into side issues. It was a fairly complex story and the work's organization kept me engaged.

I simply learned a great deal about a fascinating chapter of our state's history. I highly encourage readers to pick up this book; especially those interested in depression era-organized crime, law enforcement and our legal system. There is no doubt society has advanced since Prohibition.

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### **Kelli says**

I love history, especially during the Jazz Age, so I was anxious to read this novel. I was lucky enough to be one of the winners of a free copy of THE GREAT HEIST along with a nice card from the author. Thank you GoodReads.com and Mr. McArthur!

As soon as I received my copy, I started reading it. The first chapter drops the reader right in the middle of

the bank robbery. It was a pretty exciting way to start the novel.

Each of the following chapters was dedicated to a separate character in the book. I really enjoyed the chapter about Al Capone's brother, Vincenzo. He lived a very colorful life that was quite different from his brother's. It was interesting to learn how lawyers use the power of suggestion in order to persuade witnesses to testify to something that didn't really happen.

My only problem with the novel was that I, like many of the witnesses to the robbery, had trouble keeping the criminals straight at times.

Overall, I enjoyed the novel, and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys history, crime stories and/or the 1920's.

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### **Larry says**

McArthur essentially draws heavily on the Lincoln Journal Star's coverage of the admittedly spectacular event.

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### **Ronnie Cramer says**

Amazing that such a short book (around 150 pages) could have so much history crammed into it. Not a total success since it meandered so much and seemed to ask as many questions as it answered, but a good starting point for those interested in this era, location, etc.

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### **Wayne Reel says**

A delightful and well told story of an elaborate bank robbery in Lincoln, Nebraska on a September day in 1930. The crime was the largest bank robbery in history. The take was well over \$2 million, putting the bank into insolvency.

The story covers the crime itself in fascinating detail, and the subsequent investigation by local police, the recently organized Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other police and detective agencies. Some of the investigative methods could be described as "extra-legal" and modestly immoral, but proved to have an end result that pleased most Lincoln area residents. They were especially happy about the return of the bank "loot" since the local bank depositors were thus able to recover their losses.

During the investigation of this crime, great attention was given to Gangster elements throughout the Midwest and beyond. The "bad guys" from St. Louis to New York City and especially Chicago were included. Al Capone was rather substantially involved--in several ways, even while under federal investigation for his own crimes.

The robbery, the investigation and the amazing recovery of the stolen money and bonds was extraordinarily detailed throughout the book. A highlight of this author's work was the manner of treatment of the key

individuals involved. A character by character treatment in a chapter by chapter presentation made the story progression easily understood and brought all elements to life.

What a story! Any reader interested in crime history, or gangland activity will enjoy this book.

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### **Read Ng says**

This was a GoodReads giveaway win. In addition to the book came a warm and inviting Holiday Greeting card. It was so thoughtful of the author.

I rather liked the history and backgrounds of the people, places, and cultural norms of the times. The book appears to be very well researched. I also liked the general timing and story progression of the book. It kept me wondering up to the end, just what had happened. You would almost think from the title, you know where it will end, but the truth is sometimes different.

The story telling came across as very "Dragnet" in its delivery. It was very interesting, but did not seem to "hook" me. It read more like a text book, but full of colorful characters and situations. A lot of back plots and "unwritten criminal's code" and the "Ends justify the means" still driving actions. I was totally caught off guard the Al Capone had such an influential brother.

With this tale, I have more interest in the "gangster" era. I will have to watch the movie, "The Untouchables" and perhaps even some of the old TV series, with a new perspective.

This was a GoodReads.

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### **Jason says**

#### **I'm still a little confused**

Interesting story, fairly well written. Not really sure who won (in the end). I'll make an effort to read more about this robbery.

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### **bernard underwood says**

#### **Great bit of history**

this was a great detailed book about the biggest bank robbery (next to Saddam 1billion that he took) and all the work that went in to get it solved with a shocking ending if you like true crime bank robbery this is a must-read.

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**JR Hassett says**

I had a hard time getting into the story, but once there it's good.  
incredible detail about the Capone family and Nebraska history and politics.

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**Zane Sterling says****Very Interesting Story!**

A very good story told in an efficient and very interesting manner. If you like true crime stories, you will enjoy this book.

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