

VIGILANTES

When vigilantes are mentioned, the image is of quick and severe frontier citizen justice being applied to horse thieves. The coming of civilization, however, did not end the vigilantes in Kansas. Bank robberies increased to alarming proportions in the state during the 1920s. The Kansas Banker's Association helped to organize vigilante groups in communities throughout the state. They were armed, trained in marksmanship, and instructed in the correct response to attempted robberies. Some groups were never tested, but some chased and shot bank robbers. There is disagreement on the influences of the vigilantes in curbing bank holdups. Eventually it was concluded that professional law officers were needed to catch professional criminals, and the vigilantes passed into Kansas history.

From PLAINS TALK