



ON VALENTINE'S DAY IN 1934, OZARK NEWSPAPERS FLOODED THE AREA WITH NEWS OF A SHOOT-OUT BETWEEN REEDS SPRING AND GALENA POLICE OFFICERS WITH "THE NOTORIOUS BARROW DESPERADOES". THE STONE COUNTY ORACLE REPORTED, "CLYDE BARROW AND HIS GANG OF OUTLAWS, INCLUDING THE CIGAR-SMOKING GUNGIRL, BONNIE PARKER, PAID STONE COUNTY A VISIT ON MONDAY OF THIS WEEK AND CREATED CONSIDERABLE EXCITEMENT IN THE VICINITY OF REEDS SPRING WHEN LOCAL OFFICERS ATTEMPTED TO STOP THE BANDIT CAR."

THE SPRINGFIELD MO NEWS AND PRESS REPORTED, "TEXAS OUTLAWS, LED BY CLYDE BARROW AND HIS CIGAR-SMOKING SWEETHEART, BONNIE PARKER..." WHETHER YOU PREFER "CIGAR-SMOKING GUNGIRL", OR THE "CIGAR-SMOKING SWEETHEART", THE DESCRIPTION STUCK IN THE PUBLIC'S MEMORY. THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO EXPLAIN THE HAPPENINGS OF THE GANG STEALING A VEHICLE IN SPRINGFIELD, AND ABANDONING IT IN GALENA WHERE OFFICERS PICKED UP ON THEIR TRAIL AND SET UP ROAD BLOCKS. THE GANG KIDNAPPED A REEDS SPRING MAN BY THE NAME OF JOE GUNN, 40, AND HELD HIM HOSTAGE IN THEIR GETAWAY CAR DURING THE SHOOT-OUT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT. JOE GUNN WAS RELEASED UNHARMED, BUT SHAKEN,

IN ARKANSAS. UPON RETURNING TO REEDS SPRING, HE GAVE AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT. "I HAD BEEN TO GRIST MILL, 2-1/2 MILES SOUTHWEST OF REEDS SPRING AND WAS WALKING BACK HOME ON A SIDE ROAD WHEN THE BANDITS DROVE UP BESIDE ME...ONE OF THE MEN GOT OUT OF THE BACK SEAT AND ASKED ME THE DIRECTION TO BERRYVILLE. BEFORE I HAD TIME TO ANSWER HE HAD A GUN ON ME AND TOLD ME TO JUMP IN THE BACK SEAT. I DID AND WE STARTED OUT TO THE FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD BETWEEN REEDS SPRING AND CAPE FAIR. WE SAW SOME OFFICERS COMING AND DROVE INTO ANOTHER SIDE ROAD AND FOUND WE WERE HEMMED IN. BONNIE CURSED AND SAID "THERE THEY ARE! WE HAD JUST AS WELL STOP AND HAVE IT OUT WITH HIM!" GUNN RECALLED, "THERE WAS A PILE OF SHOTGUNS IN THE BACK SEAT AND ENOUGH AMMUNITION TO SAY MIKE. TWICE, CLYDE EMPTIED HIS WEAPON,"... AS BONNIE RELOADED, "HER SWEETHEART'S MACHINE GUN", "THE AUBURN-HAIRED BANDIT QUEEN WAS DELIGHTED" SAID GUNN. THE SHOOT-OUT ENDED WHEN THE OFFICERS' AMMUNITION EXHAUSTED, AND THE BARROW GANG DROVE AWAY.

FORTUNATELY, NO ONE WAS WOUNDED IN THIS EXCHANGE ON THIS DAY. THAT WAS AN EXCEPTION, HOWEVER, IN THE STORY OF BONNIE AND CLYDE, AND THEIR MURDEROUS CRIME SPREE THAT CLAIMED THE LIVES OF 2 OFFICERS IN JOPLIN, MO IN 1933. THE GANG WAS THOUGHT TO BE IN OKLAHOMA AT THE TIME BY LAW ENFORCEMENT. IT IS ONLY BECAUSE OF THIS INCIDENT, THAT THE DOTS WERE CONNECTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND THE COUPLE WERE TRACKED. THEIR TIME IN MISSOURI EVENTUALLY LED TO THEIR DOWNFALL AND THEIR DEATHS NEAR SAILES, LOUISIANA JUST MONTHS AFTER THE REEDS SPRING SHOOT-OUT.

