

# Auto Thieves Here Friday

## Sinclair's Car Makes Mysterious Night Journey, Is Recovered

W. D. Sinclair's Buick went out on a trip last Friday night entirely without the knowledge and consent of Mr. Sinclair. Tracks in the dust of the road indicated that someone had broken into the auto shed located back of Sinclair's residence, backed the car out by hand, and pushed it to the corner near Kimbell's house, where the motor was started up. From then on it was impossible to trace the car any further by tire tracks.

That same night both the Standard Oil station and the elevator at the Great Northern were broken into, very likely by the same ones who took the car, evidently in search of gasoline and lubricating oil. It is not believed that they secured any gas at the station as the valve near the big tank outside the shed had been turned off owing to a leak in the pipe running into the shed. But at the elevator they had succeeded in obtaining a quantity of gasoline.

An indication that the thieves were familiar with the "lay of the land" is shown by the way in which they gained entrance to the oil station. They succeeded in opening the door on the west side, a door seldom or never used, and secured by a latch on the inside. Knowing the location of the latch it was an easy matter to raise it from the outside with a wire or knife blade, and thus gain entrance.

Saturday afternoon Johnny Haugen left by car for Fargo to see his wife who is at the hospital. He knew about the loss of Sinclair's car and was on the lookout for it. About half ways between Dazey and Rogers he came upon the abandoned car near the roadside, and from Rogers phoned to Sinclair notifying him of the location of his car. Mr. Sinclair went to get it and found that the thieves had had to stop to fix a tire. This accomplished they were evidently in a hurry to proceed and not being familiar with the car, manipulated the levers in such a manner as to strip the gears. Then they were stuck for keeps and had to abandon the car. No further trace has been found of the thieves.

The loss to all concerned is a comparatively small one, for although it will cost something to get the car back in shape after its rough usage, it is after all a small item compared to the loss of the car had it not been recovered.