



Cisco Beauty Happened Friday

By Patrick Ready

Lady Luck smiled on me last Friday evening, as I was awed by the performance of the "Great Santa Claus Bank Robbery." The Big Country Dinner Theater production at the Hilton in Cisco was awesome in its staging, and execution. Written and directed by Billy Smith, the

Director of Performing Arts at Cisco College, the performance flowed with a grace and movement that would rival Broadway. With the intimacy of the venue, the engagement of the cast with the audience made one feel as though we were part of the play. The group song and dance numbers were

thrilling, and it made me want to get up and sing and dance too. Each cast member did an excellent rendition of their part. I'd like to list them all but the performers excelled led by Patrick Heffermand, Andrew Boetcher, Katie Nichols, Anthony Eastwood, Caitlin Boho, Katie Bellantore, Katie Meyers, and Johanna Jackson. It showed that Dance Rehearsal Captain Carly Stocking had prepared this cast well. Playwrite Billy Smith intertwined the original story with a take on each of the principles, so as to make the historical characters come alive with poignancy. He took a local story and gave it a universal take of the imperfection of humanity, so that all the characters, even the town citizens, were portrayed as both good and evil. The cast took that and made the characters real. Surprises were pleasant. There was a nice effective moving silhouette for some of the numbers. The new music was well written and performed excellently. It

was a magical event. Cisco has something special here. The world has something special here.

Thursday, July 16, 2009