Early Birmingham was not unlike "the wild west" but it did have its share of crime. Home invasions and other law violations were very prevalent in the area well into the 1920s, as reported by W.B. Mast in his book "Birmingham's Story." The following story from the Oct. 8, 1929 paper provides an example of such an incident.

"First King of Homestead Center" was the title given to a man who lived in one of the older houses on a small farm near Birmingham. He was known as a man who lived his own way and who was not afraid to stand up for himself. He was a man of average height, with a large mustache, and dressed in a black suit with a white shirt and tie.

The story goes that one night, this man was walking down the street when he noticed a group of young men gathered around one of the houses. As he approached, he could hear yelling and cursing. He decided to intervene and asked the group what was happening. They told him that one of their friends had been robbed by a group of men earlier that day. The man decided to help them and offered to help find the robbers.

He spent the night looking for the men and eventually found them hiding in an old barn. He confronted them and asked them to come with him. They resisted and a fight ensued. The man was able to overpower them and he and his friends were able to retrieve the stolen money.

The man was praised by the community and became known as the "First King of Homestead Center." He continued to live his life the way he wanted, and his courage helped to keep the peace in the area. He was often referred to as a "bandit king" and "brave man of the wild west."