

Thieves Climb Almost to Top Of the Arch and Steal Tools

Thieves with determination climbed nearly to the top of the 630-foot Gateway Arch to steal tools and welding equipment, the Post-Dispatch was told today. The monument, nearing completion, is the highest structure in the city.

A spokesman for Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Co. said the arch apparently was entered through the open underground area. From the basement, future site of theaters and a museum, it is possible to reach stairs leading up the interior of the arch to the summit, the spokesman said. Presumably, the hard-working burglars lighted their way with electric torches.

Personal tool boxes of work-

men were broken open on the high work platforms, and selected tools and welding equipment stolen. It was reported also that surveying equipment, used to check the space between the two legs of the arch as they approach a junction, was stolen.

Inventories were being made by the workmen and the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Co. to determine the amount and value of the equipment that is missing.

The burglary was discovered yesterday, when preparation was begun for the installation today of the next to last section.

The riverfront development is under the jurisdiction of the National Park and is guarded by federal rangers.