



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**CHARLES "PRETTY BOY" FLOYD**

**SUMMARY**

# **CHARLES ARTHUR FLOYD**

**ALIAS "PRETTY BOY FLOYD"**

- **HIGHWAY ROBBER, BANK ROBBER AND KILLER.**
- **PARTICIPATED IN KANSAS CITY MASSACRE, JUNE 17, 1933.**
- **HE WAS KILLED ON OCTOBER 22, 1934, BY FBI AGENTS AND LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS NEAR EAST LIVERPOOL, OHIO, WHILE RESISTING ARREST.**



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

U. S. Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

LCB:CJ

April 13, 1933.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR.

Confirming telephonic request of Mr. Peterson today, I beg to inform you that the following is the criminal record of Charles Arthur Floyd:

Subject as Charles Arthur Floyd, #22318, arrested PD, St. Louis, Mo., September 16, 1925, charge - highway robbery; sentence - 5 years State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri.

As Charles Floyd, #29078, received State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, December 18, 1925, from St. Louis City, crime - robbery 1st degree; sentence - 5 years.

As Charles A. Floyd, #16950, arrested PD, Kansas City, Missouri, March 9, 1929, charge - investigation; disposition not given.

As Charles Floyd, #3999, arrested PD, Kansas City, Kansas, May 6, 1929, charge - vagrancy and suspicion - highway robbery; released 5-7-29.

As Charles Floyd, #837, arrested PD, Pueblo, Colorado, May 9, 1929, charge - vagrancy; fined \$50.00 and 60 days in jail.

As Frank Mitchell, #19983, arrested PD, Akron, Ohio, March 8, 1930, charge - suspicion; pending.

As Charles Arthur Floyd, #21458, arrested PD, Toledo, Ohio, May 20, 1930, charge - suspicion; disposition not given.

The following information appears on our records:

"Arrested Kansas City, Mo., 4 other times, all cases of investigation of holdups, and was released each time.

WANTED: As Charles Arthur Floyd, alias Frank Mitchell alias Pretty Boy Smith, 11-24-30, sentenced 12 years Ohio SP., (bank robbery, Sylvania, Ohio), 12-10-30, escaped en route to Penitentiary. Notify Ohio SP., or Comm. Bowling Green, Ohio.

STILL WANTED: As Charles Floyd, murders and bank robbery. Notify PD, Kansas City, Mo., and SO, Bowling Green, Ohio."

Respectfully,

*L. C. Schilder*  
L. C. Schilder  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
APR 14 1933  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

APR 18 1933

TOLSON

FILE

*Let T. F. Cullen  
4-13-33*

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32-16393-3



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

GNW/bw  
62-28915

May 29, 1940

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Nathan  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

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change  
OK

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

There is transmitted herewith an interesting  
Case Write-Up concerning the Kansas City Massacre Case.

Very truly yours,

*E. A. Tamm*

E. A. Tamm

Enclosure

original detained in  
Crime Record Section  
6-13-40  
FBI

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

62-28915-4003

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|---------------------------------|--------|
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION |        |
| 1 JUN 14 1940                   |        |
| U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE       |        |
| TOLSON                          | HENDON |

ENCLOSURE

CHW/lw  
I.C. #42-20825

May 29, 1940

CHARLES ARTHUR FLOYD, with aliases:  
"Pretty Boy" Floyd, "Pretty Boy" Smith,  
Charlie Floyd, Charles Floyd, Charles A.  
Floyd, Frank Mitchell, Frank Mitchell,  
"Chuck"; VERNON C. MILLER, with aliases:  
Vern Miller, Vernon Miller, Vernon Miller,  
Vern Miller, Vincent C. Moore, V. C.  
Moore; ADAM C. RICHETTI, with aliases:  
Adam Richetto, Adam Richard, Adam  
Richetti, Adam Richetti, Adam Richetti,  
Adam Richard, Adam Richetti.  
CONSPIRACY TO DELIVER A FEDERAL PRISONER.

#### "THE KANSAS CITY MASSACRE"

On the morning of June 17, 1933 there occurred in front of the Union Railway Station in Kansas City, Missouri one of the most brutal, premeditated mass murders recorded in the annals of American law enforcement. The killings, which took the lives of four police officers and their prisoner, are now known as "The Kansas City Massacre."

The facts surrounding this terrible crime involve the lives of four notorious criminals, all of whom met their deaths in trying to live by illegal means.

"The Kansas City Massacre" was in part perpetrated by Charles Arthur Floyd, commonly known as "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Vernon Miller and Adam Richetti, in their attempt to liberate Frank Nash, a Federal prisoner, from the custody of several

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

law enforcement officers, who were on that date returning Nash to the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, from which institution he had escaped on October 19, 1930.

Frank Nash, whose intended release brought about this terrible crime, was originally sentenced on March 1, 1924 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in the United States District Court, to serve twenty-five years upon conviction for assaulting a mail custodian. He was received at the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas on March 3, 1924 to serve this sentence, but was successful in effecting his escape on October 19, 1930.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation immediately launched an intensive search for Nash which extended over the entire United States and parts of Canada, in order that his apprehension might be effected. Evidence was gathered by Special Agents of the FBI which indicated that Nash had assisted in the escape of seven prisoners from the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth on December 11, 1931. As a result of intensive investigation Nash was apprehended by Special Agents of the FBI at Hot Springs, Arkansas on June 16, 1933, and it was while he was being returned to the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth that the same murder occurred.

During the course of the FBI's investigation for Nash, it was learned that he had closely associated with Francis L. Keating, Thomas Halden, and several other well-known gunmen who had participated in a number of bank robberies throughout the middle west. Keating and Halden were apprehended by Special Agents on July 7, 1932 at Kansas City, Missouri, while playing golf on the Old Mission golf course. The apprehension of these men greatly facilitated the capture of Nash, for it was learned that Nash had many underworld contacts and was receiving protection in Hot Springs, Arkansas subsequent to his escape and prior to his apprehension.

Among other friends and those who conspired to bring about Nash's liberation were Richard Tallman Salatas, Herbert Farmer, "Doc" Louis Stachel, and Frank S. Bailey. In pursuance

of this conspiracy to obtain the freedom of Nash after these individuals had heard of his apprehension in Hot Springs, Vernon Miller while at the Horseshoe Tavern of Frank Mulloy's in Kansas City, Missouri, made a number of telephone calls to several of his criminal associates for assistance in carrying out this scheme. It was at this time that "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Adam Richetti, two known gunmen, arrived at Kansas City and after meeting Miller, accompanied him to his home at 6612 Bigevelle Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, where they remained that night until the morning of June 17, 1933, which was the day of the massacre.

Prior to the arrival of Floyd and Richetti in Kansas City, however, investigation disclosed they had been detained at Bolivar, Missouri, when the car in which they were riding became disabled. It was while they were waiting for their car to be repaired in a local garage that Sheriff Jack Killingsworth entered the garage unexpectedly and was immediately recognized by Richetti who seized a machine gun and held the Sheriff and the garage attaches against the wall in a defenseless position. Floyd assisted in this when he drew two .45 caliber automatic pistols and ordered all of the parties to remain motionless while they effected their escape. Floyd and Richetti then ordered the Sheriff into another automobile into which the arsenal of the two bandits was transferred. The two men with their prisoner then proceeded to Deepwater, Missouri, where that car was abandoned and another automobile belonging to a salesman, Mr. Walter Griffith, was commandeered. After releasing the Sheriff they finally arrived in Kansas City, Missouri about ten P. M. on June 16, 1933, when after driving around the streets for some time, they abandoned this automobile and stole another car in that city. All of their baggage and firearms were accordingly transferred, and on the same evening, in some manner, they met Vernon Miller, who acquainted them with his plan of obtaining the liberty of his friend, Frank Nash.

Acting in accordance with their preconceived scheme, the following morning, June 17, 1933, Miller, Floyd, and Richetti proceeded to the Union Railway Station in a Chevrolet sedan and took their respective positions to await

the arrival of Nash and the peace officers who were assigned to escort and guard him. Nash, with the officers, was to arrive at the Union Station in Kansas City by train and was to be thereafter transferred to an automobile parked across the street where he would be taken to the penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas.

Frank Nash was escorted by the Head of the FBI's Kansas City Office, together with Special Agent Raymond J. Caffrey, two other representatives of the FBI, and Otto Reed, Chief of Police of the McAlester, Oklahoma, Police Department. Police Officers W. J. Grooms and Frank Hermanson of the Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department, were also given important posts of assignment for this transfer. Frank Nash, upon being removed from the train, was immediately taken to the waiting automobile of Special Agent Caffrey where he was placed in the left front seat in order that the officers might occupy the rear seat. At this instant two Special Agents took positions in the rear seat with Chief of Police Otto Reed. Police Officers Grooms and Hermanson together with the Head of the FBI's Kansas City Office, were standing on the right side of Agent Caffrey's automobile during the time Special Agent Caffrey was walking around the car preparatory to entering the driver's seat. It was when Agent Caffrey approached the left door of this automobile that the three assassins surprised the officers from a point in front of and about fifteen to twenty feet to the west of the automobile. These men were observed carrying machine guns and other weapons and in approaching the automobile shouted, "up, up." An instant later the voice of one of the gunmen was heard to say "Let 'em have it." Immediately a fusillade of gunfire came from the weapons of the attackers. Shots were fired from the front and from all sides of Agent Caffrey's car. Police Officers Grooms and Hermanson were instantly killed in the positions where they stood. Chief of Police Otto Reed was also instantly killed. One Agent was severely wounded by bullets which entered his back, and he was confined to bed for several months. Special Agent Caffrey was instantly killed by a bullet which passed directly through his head as he stood beside the car. The prisoner, Frank Nash, was also killed by a misdirected gunshot that entered his skull, thereby defeating the very purpose of the conspiracy to gain his freedom. The other Special Agent escaped injury,

while the Head of the FBI Office received a wound in the arm. Apparently the assassins started at the front right-hand side of the car and at least two of them proceeded around the automobile, making a complete circle and firing recklessly as they went.

Immediately following this daring crime which shocked the nation, the FBI instituted an intensive investigation to identify and apprehend these maddened gunmen. Following months of painstaking work, with all of the facilities at its disposal, the FBI uncovered positive evidence that this scheme was executed by Vernon C. Miller, Adam C. Richetti, and Charles Arthur Floyd; also that this conspiracy was conceived and engineered by Richard Tallman Galatas, Herbert Farmer, "Doc" Louis Stacci, and Frank B. Hulloy. Through subsequent investigation Galatas, Farmer, Stacci and Hulloy were apprehended in connection with this crime and were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury at Kansas City, Missouri on October 24, 1934 for conspiracy to cause the escape of a Federal prisoner from the custody of the United States. All of these individuals were found guilty on January 4, 1935, and on the following day each was sentenced to serve two years in a Federal penitentiary and pay a fine of \$10,000, which was the maximum penalty allowed by law.

During the FBI's investigation to locate Vernon Miller, his body was found on the outskirts of Detroit, Michigan on the morning of November 29, 1933. Through information received from a confidential source it appears that Miller was shot to death by henchmen of Longie Zwillman. From available information it seems that Miller first entered the racket picture as a hired gunman of Louis Buchalter, whose apprehension on August 24, 1933 by the FBI ended a two-year search for this notorious criminal. Buchalter was reported to have taken steps to shield Miller following the Kansas City Massacre and likewise expended considerable money to protect Vivian Mathias, the paramour of Vernon Miller. Investigation disclosed that Vivian Mathias was closely associated with Betty Buchalter, the wife of Louis Buchalter, during the time Special Agents were looking for her as a means by which Vernon Miller might be apprehended.

From the information developed through a confidential source, it appears that Vernon Miller, while intoxicated, became involved in an altercation with a henchman of Longie Zwillman in

Newark, New Jersey, and during this argument Miller shot one of these individuals. It was following this occurrence that one of the alleged associates of Williams retaliated by taking the life of Vernon Miller near Detroit, Michigan. It is significant to note the way the underworld operates on a national scale as indicated by the fact that Miller's contact in New York City was the notorious Louis Buchalter.

Concerning the personal life of Vernon Miller, it is interesting to note that he enlisted in the United States Army during the World War and received extensive training as a machine gunner. Following his release from the United States Army he appeared at Huron, South Dakota where he told strange stories of his heroism in the World War. He left the impression with the townspeople that he had been decorated for bravery by the French Government though he was never awarded this decoration. During this time Miller demonstrated to the city officials that he was a crack shot, following which he was elected to the position of policeman in 1920. Two years later he was elected as Sheriff and was reelected, but before the election he disappeared and thereafter entered upon his career of crime.

In connection with the identification of Floyd and Richetti in this case, it is interesting to note that in June, 1933, while Special Agents of the FBI were conducting a raid upon the residence of Miller in Kansas City, several beer bottles were located. Photographs were made of the latent fingerprint impressions appearing on the bottles, which upon being forwarded to the FBI's Technical Laboratory were searched through the files of the Identification Division and definitely identified with the known fingerprints of Adam Richetti. Positive evidence of Richetti's having been in Miller's home during that time was consequently established.

Subsequent to the death of Floyd, and as developed by investigation it was learned that early in September, 1933 Floyd and Richetti met Beulah and Rose Baird at Toledo, Ohio. At that time they proceeded to Buffalo, New York, where on September 21, 1933 Floyd and Beulah, using the name of Mr. and Mrs. George Sanders, and Richetti and Rose, using the name of

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Brennan, rented an apartment in that city. Questioning of the remaining occupants of this apartment building by Special Agents disclosed they considered the Sanders and Brennan families as very mysterious in that they seldom left the apartment, especially the men. Investigation disclosed that Floyd and Richetti together with their female companions remained in this apartment for approximately thirteen months until October 20, 1934. During this time Floyd walked from the front to the rear of the apartment almost continuously. This activity caused considerable curiosity on the part of the other occupants of the apartment building. It appeared that they never visited with any of their neighbors though they were friendly with the neighborhood children who were sometimes permitted to enter the apartment, and they often threw money from the windows to the children playing in the street.

On October 20, 1934 it was agreed that they would return to their home state, Oklahoma, and in pursuance of this plan Rose Baird was given a sum of money with which to purchase a Ford tudor coach sedan. It was in this automobile that Floyd and Richetti, alternating at the wheel, planned to drive to Oklahoma. However, Floyd, when driving, skidded the automobile into a telephone pole near Wellsville, Ohio on the early morning of October 21, 1934. At that point Floyd and Richetti took from the car their firearms and remained on the outskirts of the city while Rose and Beulah Baird succeeded in taking the wrecked automobile into a Wellsville garage for repairs.

On the day of this wreck Floyd and Richetti were identified by local officers who found them resting in a wooded tract of land near Wellsville. After a gun battle Richetti was taken into custody but Floyd escaped. Immediately upon receiving this information concerning the escape of Floyd, Special Agents of the FBI were ordered to the scene and there conducted a thorough and exacting search for the elusive Floyd. On the following day, October 22, 1934, "Pretty Boy" Floyd was located by Special Agents of the FBI accompanied by officers of the East Liverpool, Ohio Police Department, on a farm situated between

Springville and Clarkson, Ohio. While resisting arrest Floyd was seriously injured and died before he could be taken to a hospital for medical attention.

It was while Ross and Jewish Bird were in the garage at Wellsville attending to the repair of the wrecked automobile that they overheard the discussion of Richetti's being taken into custody. They accordingly left immediately for Kansas City, Missouri, and later went to the home of Floyd's family in Ballisaw, Oklahoma, where they attended the funeral of Charles Floyd.

It is interesting to note that at the time Floyd was killed there was found on his person a watch and fob consisting of a "lucky piece." On the watch, in three different places, and also on the "lucky piece" there were found groups of ten notches which had apparently been carved by Floyd as an indication of the number of men he had killed.

Adam Richetti, following his apprehension, was returned to Kansas City, Missouri for trial, and on March 1, 1935 was indicted in four counts by the Jackson County Grand Jury for murder in the first degree. The trial of Richetti, predicated on the indictment charging him with the murder of Frank L. Hermannson, one of the peace officers killed during the Kansas City massacre, started in Kansas City, Missouri on June 10, 1935, and on June 17 the jury returned a verdict of guilty with a recommendation that the death penalty be imposed. On the day of his sentence the Court ordered Richetti to be hanged.

A Single Fingerprint Expert of the FBI was present at the trial of the case, and testified on behalf of the State of Missouri as to his identification of the latent fingerprints of Richetti on the beer bottles found in the home of Vernon Miller. He introduced in evidence enlarged charts of latent fingerprints of Richetti which corresponded with the right index finger, left of Richetti's known fingerprints. Defense attorneys objected to the introduction of fingerprint evidence on the ground that the latent fingerprints were discovered at a too distant time from the date of the massacre, and to the introduction of the charts

on the ground that the witnesses had not personally made the photographs. The Court overruled both objections. Richetti appealed his conviction which was affirmed by the Supreme Court of the State of Missouri on May 3, 1938. Subsequently, Richetti's attorneys alleged Richetti to be insane, and a hearing was held thereon at which time his sanity was clearly established. He was again sentenced on August 31, 1938, to death in the lethal gas chamber of the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri. This execution was performed on October 7, 1938.

The criminal records of Miller, Floyd, and Richetti, as maintained in the files of the FBI, clearly indicate the criminal and lawless characteristics of these men.

Vernon C. Miller, with aliases, was arrested on April 4, 1923, for embezzlement of public funds and was received at the State Penitentiary at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to serve from two to ten years and to pay a fine of \$5,200.00. His criminal record further reflects that he was wanted by the Minneapolis, Minnesota, Police Department for assault with intent to kill, and also at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for violation of the National Prohibition Act.

Charles Arthur Floyd, with aliases, was arrested on numerous occasions, the first being on September 16, 1925, for highway robbery by the St. Louis, Missouri, Police Department. He pleaded guilty to this charge on December 8, 1925, and was sentenced to serve time in the State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri. Floyd was discharged from the Penitentiary on March 7, 1929, being thereafter arrested by the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department on March 9, 1929, for investigation and on May 6, 1929, for vagrancy and suspicion of highway robbery. He was released in both instances. On May 20, 1930 Floyd was arrested by the Toledo, Ohio, Police Department, on a charge of bank robbery, and on November 24, 1930, was sentenced to twelve to fifteen years in the Ohio State Penitentiary. Floyd escaped en route to the penitentiary and was not apprehended until October 22, 1934 when he was killed while resisting arrest.

The criminal record of Adam C. Richetti, with aliases, reflects that he was first arrested on August 7, 1928, at Hammond, Indiana, by the Police Department for a holdup, being thereafter

sentenced to serve from one to ten years in the State Reformatory at Pendleton, Indiana. He was paroled from this institution on October 2, 1930, and on September 23, 1931, he was discharged from his parole. Richetti was next arrested on March 9, 1932, at Sulphur, Oklahoma, for bank robbery, and on April 5, 1932, was received at the State Penitentiary, McAlester, Oklahoma, for safekeeping. His criminal record, however, discloses that he was released from the State Penitentiary on August 25, 1932, by a Court order and placed on bond which he thereafter forfeited. The criminal record of Richetti shows that he was subsequently wanted at Tishomingo, Oklahoma, for robbery and for jumping the \$15,000 bond which he had posted upon being released from the State Penitentiary. As a result of Richetti's participation in the Kansas City Massacre, he was received at the State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, on September 2, 1936, at which place he was executed on October 7, 1936.