

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: JOHN DILLINGER GANG**

**FILE: 62-29777**

**SECTION 1**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

## **NOTICE**

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SUBJECT John Dillinger

FILE NUMBER 62-29777

SECTION NUMBER 1

SERIALS 1-30

TOTAL PAGES 114

PAGES RELEASED 109

PAGES WITHHELD 5

EXEMPTION(S) USED b7D, b7E

VWH:DSS

Washington, D. C.

October 14, 1933.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR.

94411

Mr. Brabner Smith called on the telephone and stated that he has a telegram from the Sheriff in Ohio asking for the assistance of this Division in the investigation of the shooting of a Sheriff there by escaped convicts. He stated he had talked with Mr. Parrish and Mr. Parrish felt that it would be a good idea to have an Agent contact the Ohio people and make an offer of cooperation and perhaps accomplish something in the way of fingerprint identification. I told Mr. Smith that inasmuch as the case was one entirely without the jurisdiction of the Division I felt that the Director would like to have something in writing from either Mr. Parrish or the Department before taking any action. Mr. Smith stated he wanted to send a telegram in reply immediately stating that an Agent would call upon them. I told him that I could not authorize him to send such a telegram; that the matter would have to be passed upon by the Director and that a memorandum should be addressed to the Director.

Respectfully,

V. H. Hughes.

Right!

E. H.



29777-1

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 16 1933

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED

OCT 17 1933

VWH:CSH

Washington, D. C.  
October 16, 1933

Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Coker

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

94409

Upon receipt of the attached memorandum from J. W. Brabner Smith, dated October 14, 1933, I conferred with Mr. Frank M. Parrish. Mr. Parrish stated that he had previously talked to Mr. Smith and felt that it might be a good idea to have one of our Agents contact Congressman Kloeb of Ohio and volunteer to cooperate, to a limited extent at least, with the authorities of Allen County, Ohio, in their efforts to identify and apprehend the killers of Sheriff Jessa Sarger.

I thereupon called the Detroit Office and advised Agent in Charge Larson of the telegram received from Congressman Kloeb and of the suggestion of the Department, and directed that he communicate with the Allen County authorities and offer such cooperation as might be practicable in the way of identifying latent fingerprints, or forwarding the fingerprints of any convicts who were suspected of this crime. Mr. Larson stated that he would give the matter immediate attention.

I advised Mr. Smith of the fact that the Division had appropriately instructed its Detroit Office.

Respectfully,

*V. W. Hughes*

V. W. Hughes.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

OCT 18 1933

62-29777-2	
OCT 17 1933 P.M.	
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
WATMAN	RI

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 14, 1933

Memorandum to Mr. Hughes,  
Bureau of Investigation.

94410

We have just received a telegram from Congressman Frank L. Kloebe of Ohio who requests that the Federal Government lend every available resource to aid in the search of the killers of Sheriff Jess Sarger of Allen County Ohio, who was murdered by convicts escaped from Indiana State Penitentiary as they freed their pals from the Allen County Jail.

As Congressman Kloebe asks for an immediate answer I would be pleased to advise him that an agent of the Bureau of Investigation has been ordered to offer his services. Mr. Parrish also suggests that this is advisable.

*J. W. Brasher Smith*

J. W. BRASHER SMITH

JWBS-b

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

OCT 18 1933

62-27277-2
INDEXED
OCT 17 1933
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
Dist. Clk.

*Mem. Director  
10/14/33  
JWS*

1397

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

A. C. WILLEY  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

LC - Deferred Cable  
NLT - Cable Night Letter  
Ship Radiogram

Time as shown on the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.  
Received at 708 14th St., N. W. Washington, D. C.

933 OCT 25 PM 4 26

2A243 16 GOVT=DETROIT MICH 25 415P

94408

DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL RATE	DAY LETTER
11	

U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WASHDC

DEPARTING TONIGHT FOR LANSING MICHIGAN CONFERENCE STATE  
POLICE CONCERNING MURDER SHERIFF SARBER LINA OHIO MEXIKS  
CTING=

LARSON.

Mr. Nathan.....  
Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Edwards.....  
Mr. Egan.....  
Mr. Hughes.....  
Mr. Quinn.....  
Mr. Lester.....  
Mr. Locke.....

RECORDED

INDEXED

OCT 26 1933

OCT 26 1933

62-29477-3	
OCT 26 1933	
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
Unit One TOLSON	FILE

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS ARE APPROPRIATE GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION AND INVESTIGATION

LONDON

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

October 18th

1933

Mr. J. E. Hoover,  
Director, Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I was in conference yesterday, with Mr. Ernest Botkins, Prosecuting Attorney of Allen County, Lima, Ohio, in connection with the Jail Delivery and the Murder of the sheriff of Allen County. He stated that your Mr. Wm. Larsen of the Detroit office was in to see him with reference to this case, and informed Mr. Botkins that the Department of Justice would gladly circularize these wanted men, but did not want to do so, until he contacted me so that there would not be a duplication of efforts. We shall be glad to discuss the matter with your man if the meeting can be arranged by you.

I feel certain that your Bureau has been advised of the names of the men wanted in this case, but in the event that the information has not reached you the following is the list; Charles Makley, John Hamilton, Edward Shouse, Russell Clark, Henry Pierpont, Harry Copeland, and John Dillinger. They all have been indicted for Murder, Jail Delivery and Bank Robbery. There is ONE THOUSAND DOLLAR REWARD on each of their heads, DEAD OR ALIVE for their return to Allen County. We have late pictures of the majority of these men in this Bureau, if you so desire to use them.

With assurances of my desire to co-operate with you in this case or in any other in which our services will be of assistance to you. Anxiously awaiting a reply from you in regard to the above mentioned case, I remain,

Yours very truly,

*Howard G. Robinson*  
HOWARD G. ROBINSON, Asst. Sup't.

HGR-LFK

OCT 26 1933 INDEXED 65-29777-4

SEARCHED	SERIALIZED
FILED	107

VH:CSH

October 25, 1933

62-29777-4  
Mr. Howard G. Robinson,  
Assistant Superintendent,  
Ohio State Bureau of Criminal  
Identification and Investigation,  
London, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Robinson:

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 18th instant with reference to your conference with Mr. Ernest Botkins, Prosecuting Attorney of Allen County, Lima, Ohio, and with reference to the jail delivery and the murder of the Sheriff of Allen County.

As indicated in your letter, a memorandum has been received from Mr. Larson, Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit Office of this Division, and I have since taken steps to cooperate actively with the Indiana State authorities in their efforts to bring about the location and apprehension of the escapes from their institution, who, I understand, form a part of the group which caused the jail delivery and murder of the Sheriff at Lima, Ohio.

With reference to your remarks relative to circularization of the men who are wanted for this offense, I believe it would be well for Mr. Botkins to proceed with the preparation and distribution of his circulars, and in the meantime I shall place in our bulletin, "Fugitives Wanted by Police", the names, descriptions and fingerprint classifications of the individuals in question. This bulletin, as you probably know, has a circulation of approximately 7,000. Of course, wanted notices will be placed in our identification files immediately so that in the event any of these persons are apprehended you may be notified promptly.

I would suggest, too, that in the event you receive information which you desire to check at points distant from Lima, I shall be glad to cause an appropriate inquiry upon receipt of your request, and I trust that our cooperation will prove of assistance in the apprehension of these persons.

Sincerely yours,

Director.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

INVESTIGATION

7/20 19

TO: ☐ Director  
☒ Mr. Nathan  
☐ Mr. Tolson  
☐ Mr. Clegg  
☐ Mr. Egan  
☐ Mr. Quinn  
☐ Mr. Hughes  
☐ Miss Gandy  
☐ Chief, Section \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

*It is assumed you  
will want to pass  
on this request.*

JOHN J. EDWARDS

100-20737-11101

RECORDED

October 25, 1933

RECORDED

62-29777-44

OCT 26 1933

MEMORANDUM FOR UNIT FIVE,  
IDENTIFICATION UNIT

A letter has been received from Mr. Howard G. Robinson, Assistant Superintendent of the Ohio State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, under date of October 13th, a copy of which is attached, advising of the fact that the following named individuals are wanted in connection with the jail delivery and murder of the Sheriff of Allen County, at Lima, Ohio:

Charles Makley  
John Hamilton  
Edward Shouse ✓  
Russell Clark  
Henry Pierpont  
Harry Copeland  
John Dillinger

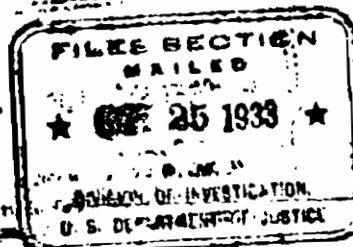
Presumably you have records on these individuals, as I understand they were formerly incarcerated in the Indiana State Penitentiary.

Please place wanted notices in your files and arrange to publish their names and descriptions in the next issue of the bulletin, "Fugitives Wanted by Police".

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enclosure #679557.



4B

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

C. C. KELLEY  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## SIGNS

DL = Day Letter  
NM = Night Message  
NL = Night Letter  
LC = Deferred Cable  
NLT = Cable Night Letter  
Ship Radiogram

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Received at 708 14th St., N. W. Washington, D. C.

1933 OCT 26 PM 5 11

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MINUTES IN TRANSIT  
FULL-RATE DAY LETTER

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION=

US DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC=

DEPARTING ELEVEN THIRTY TONIGHT FOR INDIANAPOLIS CONFERENCE  
INDIANA STATE POLICE REGARDING MURDER SHERIFF SARBBER LIMA

OHIO=

LARSON.

Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Edwards.....  
Mr. Egan.....  
Mr. Hughes.....  
Mr. Quinn.....  
Mr. Lester.....  
Mr. Locke.....

RECORDED

OCT 27 1933

62-249779-5  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
OCT 27 1933  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
RECEIVED  
OCT 27 1933 AM

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# UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

NL - Night Letter  
LC - Deferred Cable  
NLT - Cable Night Letter  
Ship Radiogram

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Received at 708 14th St., N. W. Washington, D. C.

D33 OCT 23 PM 9 14

CC1259 45 DL CNT PCTNS=INDIANAPOLIS IND 23 752P

WALKER STONE, DLR TONITE=

1322 NEWYORK AVE WASHDC=

94620

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

CONVICT GANG RUNNING WILD CAN YOU HAVE HOMER CUMMINGS OFFER  
FEDERAL AID TO INDIANA. ONE SHERIFF DEAD, ONE KIDNAPED, TWO  
POLICE STATIONS ROBBED OF ARMS, BANK RAIDED TODAY, \$75,000  
LOOT SINCE STATE PRISON BREAK.=

CARLL.

~~Ad~~

~~No - 6~~

~~De - 6~~

~~Good over phone~~

~~W.S. 9:35 pm~~

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS ARE APPLICABLE

Here is the wire I received last night, concerning which I sent a message to the Attorney General. Also enclosed is a story which appeared in yesterday's issue of the Indianapolis Times. There have been several developments since this story was written, but I am not able to give an exact report on what occurred yesterday afternoon and last night.

It occurs to me that you might get a fill in telephoning your representatives in Indianapolis.

Please telephone me as soon as you decide what to do.

sincerely,

Walker Stone

Telephone: District 6040

94619

RECORDED

OCT 28 1933

62-29777-1  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 27 1933

# COUNTY COUNCIL ORDERS NEW ARMS TO PROTECT JAIL AGAINST GANG RAID

INDIANAPOLIS  
TIMES  
10/23/33

struct Armor Plated Gunner's Cage,  
Approves Plan of Sheriff Sumner to Co-  
Purchase Machine Gun.

WORK ON PLANS TO GET FUNDS

Eleven Additional Deputies May Be Em-  
ployed, Board Indicates After  
Tour of Prison Here.

Grim-faced and aroused, the county council met in informal session at the county jail today and approved the plan of Sheriff Charles (Buck) Sumner for protecting Marion county from possible attack by organized criminal gangs.

After an inspection tour of the jail, council members authorized county commissioners to proceed at once with construction of an armor plate gunner's cage, purchase of a machine gun, five rifles and three shotguns.

Employment of at least eleven additional deputy sheriffs for the remainder of the year received tentative approval of the councilmen pending a special meeting at which ways and means of obtaining the money can be discussed.

It is expected that a special meeting will be held within the next few days. In the meantime, councilmen and Sheriff Sumner will work out a plan for getting funds for the additional deputies.

"We are faced with a crisis that should crowd everything else from our minds," said Ernest Mack, county commissioner, in opening the meeting in the afternoon.

94621

62-29777-6

**People Need Protection**  
The people of Marion county need protection, and with our limited equipment, it is impossible to give it to them," Mr. Miller asserted.

He was supported by Mr. Thomas Ellis and Ray Warren, other commissioners who explained that the \$1,000 needed for the purchase of the new equipment was to be obtained by a transfer from bond appropriations.

Red tape was blasted without hesitating vote as the council passed unanimously in approving the transfer. Ordinance authorizing the expenditure will be approved tomorrow at next council meeting, with authorities proceeding on legal steps.

**Time to Quit**  
"Now it is time to quit," said William Resener, council president. "Let's get this equipment installed before we have a wholesale job done."

When William Boyer, chief of police, informed the council that the old armory consisted of only six shotguns and that no submachine gun was available for defense against heavily armed bandit gangs, he was authorized to purchase additional weapons.

Under the plan advanced by Sheriff Sumner Saturday, the armor plate gunner's cage will be attached to the second cell floor, commanding the main entrance to the jail and works. It will be manned twenty-four hours a day by a deputy sheriff, armed with the submachine gun and shotguns.

With this equipment, a new ordinance there will be an all-day guard force, Mr. Miller said.

At the council meeting, Mr. Miller said, the police department will be authorized to purchase the new equipment.

The councilmen voted the new equipment program, which will be a big step in the history of the county.

We understand one of these men before they get in prison, I have heard, that they will come back in the jail, they will be treated as well as an inmate.

**Not Your Machine**

One of the councilmen said that it is a matter of time before the road agents and the highway robbers will be replaced on the map.

There are many men who are in the county jail, and they are all charged with the same crime. They are all charged with the same crime, and they are all charged with the same crime.

Go ahead and get your machine gun, and if you can't get it, then you can't get it.

94622

62-29777-6

Wm. Hamilton  
Washington

Nov 1

General Cumming: 94618

For more than a week a gang of  
subjects has been at large in Indiana. I  
received a telegram from the Editor of my paper  
Indiana Times to-night saying that the Conners  
had killed one Sheriff, Kidnapped another  
and stolen all of the arms from 2 Police Stations  
and robbed a Bank to-day. Since their  
escape the Conners have collected 75000 dollars.  
The Editor wants to know if you can offer  
Federal Aid to the State Officers. My phone  
number is North 6004 please call me  
sometime to-night.

Mr. Walker Stone  
Howard-Scripps Paper

OCT 28 1933

RECORDED

62-29710-1

OCT 27 1933

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr Stone shared this message  
just



Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hughes \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Lester \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Locke \_\_\_\_\_

Mr Hoover:

Referred to you by  
A. J. - Presume you  
will get in touch  
event with Walker Hore

94617

*Gordon*

62-29776

DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION  
OCT 27 1933 A.M.  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

DIRECTOR

FILE

OCT 28 1933

memo A. J.

10-28-33

just

*12/1/33*

*no 40cc*

London, Ohio.

October 19, 1933.

Mr. William Larson,  
U.S. Department of Justice,  
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Larson:

Conferring with Mr. Ernest Botkins, Prosecuting Attorney of Allen County, Lima, Ohio in connection with the Jail Delivery and Murder of the Sheriff, of Allen County. He informs me that your Department of Justice would gladly circularize these wanted men, but that you did not want to do so until you had talked the matter over with me, in order to avoid duplication of efforts. I have no objections to Your Department circularizing these men and suggest that it be done without further delay. If at any time in the near future that you should be in this vicinity I shall be glad to discuss the various phases of this case with you.

With assurances of my desire to cooperate with you in this case or in any other in which our services will be of assistance to you, I am,

Yours very truly,

HOWARD G. ROBINSON, Ass't. Sup't.

HGR:  
LHK

COPY

94625

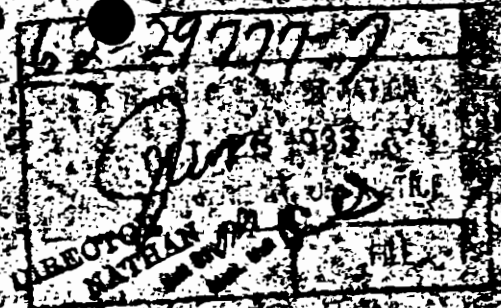
62-29777-7

225 Lafayette Building  
Detroit, Michigan  
October 20, 1933

Special Agent in Charge  
Division of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
1420 Enquirer Building  
Cincinnati, Ohio

INDEXED

NOV 2 - 1933



Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith a copy of a letter received at this office from Mr. Howard G. Robinson, Assistant Superintendent of the Ohio State Identification Bureau, London, Ohio, dated October 19, 1933, which, it will be noted, concerns the issuance and distribution of identification orders for the following named fugitives who are involved in the murder of Sheriff Jesse Barber, Lima, Ohio, during the recent escape from the county jail there of John Dillinger, who was being held on a State charge of bank robbery.

Harry Pierpont  
Russell Clark  
Charles Makley  
Edward Ghouse

Harry Copeland  
John Hamilton  
John Dillinger

94623

In this connection, reference is made to my communication of October 20, 1933, showing the result of an inquiry made at Lima, Ohio, by this office. During the course of the investigation, and while conferring with Mr. Botkin, Prosecuting Attorney, he informed me that it was his understanding that the Ohio State Identification Bureau was contemplating issuing identification orders, and I advised Mr. Botkin that if the division could be of any assistance in distributing the identification orders, he should contact this office and necessary arrangements would be made with the division at Washington along this line. He advised me that he intended to confer further regarding this matter with Mr. Robinson of the Ohio State Identification Bureau.

It will be noted in the copy of the communication transmitted herewith that evidently Mr. Botkin is assuming that the division would issue the identification orders as well as distribute them. Following the receipt of the letter from Mr. Robinson, I telephonically communicated with Mr. Robinson, at Zanesville, Ohio, where he was found attending a convention, and I then informed him, if he so desired, that the division would distribute the identification orders by forwarding copies to each of the

field offices in the country for making identification orders for enforcement of the law, but that in view of the fact that the Bureau is in respect, it would be impossible for the division to prepare them.

Mr. Robinson stated that he did not believe that it was the usual custom for the division to print identification orders on state matters, and was of the opinion that Mr. Botkin was confused about the matter. When he, Mr. Robinson, was conferring with him. He added that he appreciated our interest in aid in the distribution of these identification orders, and that he would take immediate steps to further confer with Mr. Botkin with regard to the issuance of same, and that either this or the Cincinnati office would be notified concerning arrangements made for distribution.

Mr. Robinson also stated that he was very desirous of conferring with a representative of this division regarding federal aid in state law enforcement, indicating that within a short time there is to be a peace officers' convention in his vicinity, and he wanted to be able to inform them of the work performed by this division. I presume kidnapping was one of the particular subjects he had in mind. I advised Mr. Robinson that in view of the fact that he was located in a territory covered by the Cincinnati office, that I would immediately convey his request to that office, and that undoubtedly an agent from Cincinnati would call upon him within the course of the next few days for the purpose of discussing the matters which he had in mind, and also at that time the matter of distributing identification orders concerning the case at Lima could be gone into.

Mr. Robinson stated that he was very interested in this division which had always rendered him very excellent cooperation, and that he was very willing to furnish all possible assistance and cooperation. It may have been stated that Mr. Robinson has made several trips to Lima in connection with the murder of Sheriff Sarber, and is well familiar with the angles of this case, and it is therefore suggested that the agent from Cincinnati contacting Mr. Robinson determine if he has any additional information to offer which might assist in the location of the fugitives.

The substance of the information set out in this letter was telephonically furnished to your office yesterday.

Very truly yours

94624

William Larson  
Special Agent in Charge

cc: Division

2/10/37

62-29771-7

0002937

SPC:LL

OCTOBER 26, 1933.

H. E. FURVIS  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
1900 BANKERS' BUILDING  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

ADVISE CONVICTS NAMES WHO ESCAPED FROM INDIANA STATE PRISON SEPTEMBER  
TWENTY-SIX METHOD OF ESCAPE AND NAMES OF THOSE REAPPRERENDED

HOOVER

*Escaped Prisoners*

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

62-29777-8	
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
OCT 30 1933 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
FILE	

POSTAL

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*MM*

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DIVISION  
~~Department of Investigation~~ of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

1420 Enquirer Building  
Cincinnati, Ohio

KJC:MER

October 28, 1933

Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

*Escaped Prisoners*

With reference to telephone conversation with Acting Special Agent in Charge N. B. Klein, October 24, 1933 Agent Klein immediately contacted Mr. Matt Leach, Chief of the Indiana State Police at Indianapolis, Indiana by telephone and also arranged with Agent Bliss Morton at Indianapolis, to contact the Indiana State Police as to this matter, in order that they might forward to us complete information as to the various prisoners who had escaped and, also, it was arranged that Mr. Leach would forward to the Division complete information as to the various persons concerned with this activity, and this was done by Mr. Leach in his letter of October 25, 1933 addressed to the Division at Washington, D. C., copy of which was later furnished to me by Walter Mentzer of the Indiana State Police, who is working on this case at Hamilton, Ohio.

In detailed conversation as to this matter by Agent Bliss Morton, with Captain Matt Leach of the Indiana State Police at Indianapolis, Indiana, he furnished us the information as indicated above, which was furnished to the Division in letter of October 25, 1933.

*67D*

[REDACTED]

Captain Matt Leach advised Agent Morton in subsequent conversation of October 26, 1933 that the men who escaped from the State Prison have not been identified as connected with any of the bank robbery

COPIES DESTROYED

270 Mar 31 1964

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DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
CC 30 1933

*21*

jobs subsequent to their escape, despite newspaper stories, however, in this connection it will be noted that this is at variance with statement in his letter of October 25, 1933 wherein he advised that it has been an established fact now that Dillinger, Pierpont, Clark and Makley have been identified as the hold-up men in the Central National Bank at Greencastle, Indiana October 24, 1933.

He further advised that Dillinger when arrested at Dayton, Ohio released his Essex Terraplane automobile to Attorney Egan, Dayton, Ohio and the latter turned the car over to Dillinger's brother, who lives at 409 LaSalle St., Indianapolis, Indiana; that the brother, in turn, transferred same to Mrs. John Dillinger, 1052 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, Ohio October 6, 1933; that thereafter she was issued Ohio license plates A 63,167 on this car; that these same plates were used on a Studebaker car in connection with the robbery of the bank at Greencastle, Indiana; that one Mary Kinder, 930 Daily St., Indianapolis, Indiana is suspected of being connected with Dillinger in his operations and in this connection, this same information, of course, has appeared in the newspapers, together with the picture of this woman. The State Police have not been able to locate her, but have questioned her mother, and sister-in-law; that Dillinger uses the name of John Donovan; that he had rented an apartment as John Donovan at Gary, Indiana with Sam Goldstein, now serving a sentence in Michigan City, Indiana State Penitentiary; that he, Captain Leach advised he did not wish Dillinger's brother talked to or arrested at present, as he has the brother's house covered and is watching his movements.

In connection with the contact with the Indiana State Police, I understand that Special Agent in Charge Larson of the Detroit office, as per information furnished by Agent Bliss Morton was at Indianapolis on October 27, 1933 to confer with Captain Matt Leach, who apparently was out of the City.

Contact was also had with Mr. Robinson, Assistant Superintendent of the Division of Criminal Identification, State of Ohio, London, Ohio by telephone and he advised Special Agent N. B. Klein that he would forward to us immediately he had same prepared, circulars or identification orders of the State, as to the possible seven persons involved in connection with the Lima, Ohio murder of the Sheriff, there, which he desired us to forward to points in Southern Ohio, Southern Indiana and Northern Ohio, as to which latter, we will immediately forward the supply furnished to the Detroit Office, in order that they may furnish same to their mailing list.

Reference is made to letter of the Detroit office under date of October 20, 1933 referring to the activity of Special Agent in Charge Larson at Lima, Ohio and particularly to that portion indicating that Fred Pierpont had furnished them rather definite information that a number of these fugitives were located at 1052 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, Ohio or located in a cottage along the river bank, out of Hamilton, Ohio and in this connection, yesterday, I conferred with Mr. Walter Mentzer of the

-3-

Indiana State Police, who has been handling the investigation at Hamilton, Ohio and Mr. A. E. Lincoln, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Butler County, Hamilton, Ohio who called at the Division office here and advised that upon the arrival of the Indiana State Police and other officers at Hamilton, Ohio on the night of October 15, 1933 at approximately midnight, they contacted the Chief of Police Calhoun and advised him of their mission and thereafter, it was suggested that one of the Indiana State Police accompany the Chief of Detectives on an observation of the house at 1052 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, Ohio, which they did about 12:30 A.M., and at this time they noted a light in the house and all the blinds were closely drawn. Also, they noted that there were two cars in the garage at 1052 S. 2nd St., and 1054 S. 2nd St. That they thereafter returned, apparently to headquarters, and debated upon the next move necessary and thereafter at about 7:30 A.M. October 16, 1933 they raided this address, and at this time they found nobody there; the beds had not been slept in the night before and one of the automobiles in the garage previously above noted, had disappeared.

Mr. Mentzer indicated that possibly they had been tipped off in Hamilton, Ohio as to this; that they then thereafter proceeded to the house on the river bank, near Hamilton, which had apparently been occupied by the five men and apparently they thereafter left shortly before the arrival of the officers. Apparently there is no question but what the five men concerned are those referred to in the letter of the Detroit office under date of October 20, 1933 and were the persons responsible for the killing at Lima, Ohio and as will be noted, due to the manner in which they endeavored to apprehend them, they apparently were warned of the efforts of the officers being made to apprehend them.

In connection with the car which remained in the garage at 1052 S. 2nd St., we had previously been advised by Chief of Police J. C. Calhoun that they had recovered this car; that they believed it had been used by the parties who were identified as having killed the Sheriff at Lima, Ohio, that is evidently Dillinger, Pierpont and one John Hamilton, Michigan City Penitentiary #11963; that they had left this car at the address, however, as will be noted when this car was recovered there was nobody at home at either address and no information could be obtained that anyone was in possession of this particular car, at any time; that this car was a black Ford V-8, two door Sedan, 1930 model worth apparently \$500.00, motor #18394929, bearing Illinois license 1933 #1268040; that the Automobile Protective and Information Bureau, Chicago, Illinois had reported that this car was stolen from W. H. Underwood, 1337 Fargo Ave., Chicago, Ill., October 6, 1933. Chief of Police Calhoun indicated that Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wagner and Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Hooten, who had been living at 1052 S. 2nd St., were now located at 215 W. Chestnut St., Hamilton, Ohio; that the Chief had interviewed these people and they denied any knowledge concerning this car; that in connection with the information furnished by Fred Pierpont, Dillinger et al., were located at a camp near Venice, Ohio Bridge, Colerain Pike near Hamilton and that they had located this camp and same showed signs of very recent occupancy, and that a note was found on the table "Thanks Dillinger, for the new coat".

They advised that a bill was also found <sup>in</sup> this coat, showing that a lady's Lapin jacket had been purchased at Rollman's Cincinnati Ohio for cash, October 13, 1933.

Mr. Calhoun was of the opinion that this car had been driven by Dillinger, et al., and that Mr. and Mrs. Wagner and Mr. and Mrs. Hooten knew the whereabouts of these men, as they apparently had spent considerable time with them at the camp, above referred to. He was of the opinion that possibly if the Wagners and Hootens were arrested for violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act, they might be induced to tell something as to the location of these parties.

In this connection, Special Agent Wood conferred with United States Attorney Canny as to the possible issuance of a warrant for the Wagners and Hootens and he indicated, at that time, he did not believe there was sufficient upon which to file against them, as to this particular automobile, however, this will be considered further in the possible working-out of the case.

According to Mr. Lincoln, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Hamilton, Ohio the Hooten family is now living on State Route #4, Middletown-Hamilton Pike, which is just beyond the Fair Grounds, outside the city limits; that Mrs. Leroy Hooten is the former wife of Bob Kolker, convict, who served sentence at Atlanta Penitentiary, and she is the sister-in-law of Russell O'Clark, one of the gang sought in connection with this matter; that Stanley Wagner, who lives at 1052 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, Ohio and owns this property and the property at 1054 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, Ohio is the father of Mrs. Hooten; that there is a son Walter Wagner, also living at this address, Walter Wagner being a taxi driver in Hamilton, Ohio.

Mr. Lincoln advised that George Wagner lives at 215 W. Chestnut St., Hamilton, Ohio; that George Wagner is a relative of Stanley Wagner and apparently these people are still located at 1052 S. 2nd St., as Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Mentzer have been making observations of the place as late as October 27, 1933.

*Hooten Sept*

In connection with the above indicated information, it has been indicated by the officers who conferred with me that there is some apprehension of a leak in connection with their contact with the Police at Hamilton, Ohio and it was suggested that possibly the Indiana State Police could designate one or more under-cover men to work at Hamilton, Ohio in order to cover the movements of the Wagners and the Hootens, whom it is believed will contact these parties, particularly if they are hiding out in the vicinity of Hamilton, Ohio. Arrangements were made to render every and all possible assistance to Mr. Mentzer in connection with his work at Hamilton, Ohio or the under-cover men whom they desire to place there with the possibility in mind that some contact may be made with these various persons, although apparently they have been

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to raid the place in question.

Special Agent Bliss Morton at Indianapolis, Indiana has been instructed to keep in close contact with Captain Leach of the Indiana State Police and we will endeavor to render any and all possible assistance to the Indiana State Police as to this in accordance with instructions of the Director, it being indicated that it was his desire that we cooperate fully with them in every manner possible and if necessary, use any and all Agents of the office for this, however, that we were not to take the initiative in the activity as against these FUGITIVES.

Very truly yours,

  
E. J. CONNELLEY,  
Special Agent in Charge.

CC Chicago  
Detroit (2)

# VISITS

Mrs. Irene Maly, daughter, 4307 Gladys Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Margaret Maly, daughter, 3317 Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

Mrs. Helen Maly, wife, 4307 Gladys Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Mrs. Irene Maly, daughter, 3037 Warren Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

Mrs. Virginia McCarren, niece, 3020 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

William Welke, niece, 157 Edgewood Ave., Lombard, Ind.

Harry Pierpont, Register No. 11014.

VISITS

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Pierpont, parents, Route No. 5, Laipsic, Ohio.

Fred Pierpont, brother.

Bessie Butcher, cousin, 1230 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis, Ind.

MAIL

Mrs. Lena Pierpont, Mother, Route 3, Laipsic, Ohio.

Miss Bessie Butcher, friend, 735 Elm St., Indianapolis, Ind.

Miss Jessie Levy, friend, 1111 Circle Tower, Indianapolis, Ind.

Rev. Joseph Weber, Father, 1117 Blain St., Indianapolis, Ind.

Mr. Fred K. Delon, Business, Kokomo, Ind.

Mr. Trille Conway.

Mr. R. Fisher, friend, 75 Charlotte St., Detroit, Mich.

Mr. Floyd Hobson, Business, Kokomo, Ind.

Tom Imel.

Mr. Fred Wymick.

Ell Kendall.

J. P. Duncan.

Carmen, Antis.

Mr. Homer Parker.

Mr. John W. Linville.

Mr. Elmer Wyrick.

Mr. E. L. Hays, Court House, Marion, Indiana.

Mr. Timothy Sexton, Business, Court House, Indianapolis, Ind.

George Sloltz, R. R. No. 9, Portland, Indiana.

John Hamilton, Register No. 11963.

VISITS

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Hamilton, brother, East Gary, Indiana.

Ray Hamilton, 1705 Chestnut St., Sault Ste Marie, Mich.

W. G. Hamilton & wife, Brother, 2209 S. Douglas St., South Bend, Ind.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Steve, sister, 1700 Fourteenth St., Sault Ste Marie, Mich.

Bessie Hamilton, Mother.

Orville Hamilton, son, 257 East 271 St., Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. & Mrs. H. Hughes, friend, 6916 Forrest St., Detroit, Mich.

Joe Stevens, sister-in-law, Toledo, Ohio, 1008 E. Bancroft St.

George Stevenson, father-in-law, no address shown.

MAIL

Mr. C. H. Hamilton, brother, 6916 Forrest St., Detroit, Mich.

Mrs. Esther Powers, sister, 1008 E. Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio.

Mr. C. V. Marvin, sister, 115 Louise Court, Barabara, Ohio.

94627

62-29775-7

Escapes

RUSSELL CLARK, Register #12261

VISITS

Ed Clark, brother, R.R. #1, Oak Town, Indiana.  
Mr. Phil Pierce and wife, sister, 7556 Cameron St., Detroit, Mich.  
Mrs. Minnie Clark, mother, 102 Smith St., Detroit, Mich.

MAIL

Mrs. M. Wiggins, cousin, 224 Neal St., Jascoville, Ind.  
Mr. Andy Strachan, sister, 7312 Oakland Ave., Detroit, Mich.  
Mrs. Minnie Clark, mother, 7556 Cameron St., Detroit, Mich.  
Mrs. Dot Clark, friend, 210 Cherry St., Terre Haute, Ind.  
Mr. Jess R. Norton, brother-in-law, 1556 Cameron Ave., Detroit, Mich.

CHARLES MAKLEY, Register #12636

NO VISITS

MAIL

Mrs. Edith Makley, wife, 219 St. Maple St., St. Mary, Ohio.  
Miss Gladys Makley, sister, R.R. #5 St. Mary, Ohio.  
Mrs. Mildred Bartholeny, sister, 608 North Main St., Eldorado, Kansas.  
Mrs. C. H. Naus, sister, 325 North Allegheny St., Eldorado, Kansas.  
Mrs. Edward Makley, mother, R. R. #5 St. Marys, Ohio.

MRS JENKINS, Register #13100

VISITS

94628

Mrs. Mary Longaker, sister, 324 West 1st St., Dayton, Ohio.  
Mary Anne Jenkins, cousin, 324 West 1st St., Dayton, Ohio.

MAIL

George F. Jenkins, father, 518 West Madison St., South Bend, Ind.  
Miss Rena Brown, sister, R. R. #1, Bedford, Indiana.

JOSEPH FOX, Register #13883

VISITS

Ray Fox, brother, 808 Redding St., Cincinnati, Ohio  
Chas. Hawley and wife, sister, 415 Oak St., Winchester, Indiana.  
Mrs. Catherine Fox, mother, 808 Main St., Reading, Ohio.  
Mr. Ezra Hawley, 808 Main St., Reading, Ohio, brother-in-law.  
Ar. Clear Lutz, nephew, 808 Main St., Reading, Ohio.  
Mr. and Mrs. F. Smoker, sister, 808 Main St., Reading, Ohio.

MAIL

Mrs. Joseph Fox, wife, 8343 Woodbine Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio  
Mrs. Lucile Smoker, sister, 9126 Vine St., Carthage, Cincinnati, Ohio.  
Mrs. Ernest Farris, mother-in-law, Credo, W. Va.

02-29117-9

FRANK SHAW, Register #13818

Mr. Brennan and wife, friend, 2407 Smith St., Port Wayne, Indiana.  
Mrs. Thomas Miller, mother, 815 Lafayette St., Terre Haute, Indiana.

VISITS

MAIL

Mrs. Maude Shouse Miller, mother, 1108 North 7th St., Terre Haute, Ind.  
Miss Myrtle Moore, friend, 514 1/2 Mulberry St., Terre Haute, Indiana.  
Mr. and Mrs. Rastus Smith, brother and sister-in-law, Oakland City (?)  
Francis Stephens, friend, 3911 Warsaw St., Port Wayne, Indiana.

WALTER DIETRICH, Register #14331

NO VISITS

MAIL

Mr. Edward Donovan, Uncle, Pershing Hotel, Chicago, Ill.  
Miss Dietrich, sister and mother, 112 North Fourth St., St. Louis, Mo.  
Miss Fern Mitchell, ex-wife, Lincoln Hotel, St. Louis, Mo.  
Mr. Burdette McDonald, friend, 2404 South 18th St., St. Louis, Mo.  
Mr. R. Dietrich, mother - sister, 2708 Ann Ave., St. Louis, Mo.  
George Wilkerson, business, 3539 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, Mo.

JAMES CLARK, Register #14332

VISITS

94629

MAIL

James Meyer, cousin, 508 4th St., Peoria, Ill.  
Frank Kramer, friend, Farmington Road, Peoria, Ill.

Mrs. Robert Anderson, no designation, 508 4th St. Peoria, Ill.  
Mr. R. H. Wugh, friend, 515 South, Peoria, Ill.

62-29777-9

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

SPC:KP

October 24, 1933

Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Lester \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

In connection with the escape of prisoners from the  
○ Indiana State Prison at Michigan City, on September 26, 1933,  
and the murder of the Sheriff at Lima, Ohio, on October 12, 1933,  
I contacted Special Agent in Charge D. M. Ladd of the St. Louis  
office and requested that he instruct all the agents in that  
office to advise law enforcement officials of the desperate  
character of these criminals and to exert every possible effort  
to cause their apprehension, in cooperation with local officials.  
Mr. Ladd was advised that the names and photographs of these  
escapes would be furnished to him by the Division immediately.

Respectfully,

*S. P. Cowley*  
S. P. COWLEY.

RECORDED

OCT 30 1933

62-29777-10	
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
OCT 30 1933 P.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Unit One	FILE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

October 25, 1933.

VKH:DSS

Mr. Nathan	_____
Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Edwards	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Hughes	_____
Mr. Quinn	_____
Mr. Lester	_____
Mr. Locke	_____

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR.

Mr. Jones, of the Washington Times, called to ascertain something of the details concerning the escape of ten prisoners from the Indiana State Penitentiary. I advised him that we had none of the details at this time. He knew, in fact had been told by Colonel Gates, of the fact that the Division is cooperating with the state authorities.

Respectfully,

*V. W. Hughes*  
V. W. Hughes.

RECORDED

OCT 30 1933

62-2971-11

DIVISION OF
OCT 30 1933
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

f397

# Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice

625 Lafayette Bldg.,  
Detroit, Michigan.  
October 20, 1933

Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Edwards.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Hughes.....
Mr. Quinn.....
Mr. Lester.....
Mr. Locke.....

Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Dept. of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to telephonic communication received from Mr. Vincent Hughes on 10/14/33, requesting that officials at Lima, Ohio be contacted for the purpose of this Division's rendering aid with regard to the murder of Sheriff Jesse Sarber at Lima, Ohio on 10/12/33 during a jail delivery at which time a prisoner, John Dillinger, escaped from the county jail.

Dillinger, a former convict of the Indiana State Prison, Michigan City, Indiana, was incarcerated in the county jail at Lima, Ohio on a charge of bank robbery which occurred at Bluffton, Ohio. He was arrested by the Dayton, Ohio Police and subsequently removed to Lima on 9/28/33.

Accompanied by Special Agent (A) Genau, I proceeded to Lima on Saturday afternoon, following the call received from Mr. Hughes, and immediately went into conference with the Prosecuting Attorney, Mr. Ernest M. Botkins; Chief of Police J. W. Cooke; Inspector of Police B. J. Rooney and Detectives Clyde Dickson and James Goodwin who were engaged in this investigation. Also, an interview was had with Mrs. Jesse Sarber, wife of the slain sheriff, and Deputy Sheriff W. L. Sharp. It was determined through the above mentioned interview that at about 6:00 P.M. on the night of 10/12/33, three men entered the sheriff's office, stating that they were from the Indiana State Prison and came to get John Dillinger who was a parolee from that institution. The sheriff, who was seated at his desk, asked the man who was doing the talking, for his credentials and simultaneously the individual pulled a gun and advised the sheriff that that was his authority. It appears that the sheriff evidently made a move to reach his own gun which was on the desk and as he did so the slayer fired a bullet through the sheriff's abdomen. He then quickly jumped on the sheriff and began beating him on the head with the butt of a pistol. The sheriff fell helpless to the floor.

COPIES DESTROYED

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AUG 31 1954

The second man then asked Deputy Sheriff Sharp for the keys and Mrs. Sarber, who was also seated in the room during the time of the shooting, rushed to the spot where the keys were kept and handed them to the criminals to avoid any further killing. The door of the jail was then opened and the three men commanded Deputy Sheriff Sharp and Mrs.

OCT 31 1933

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Sarber to enter the jail, leaving the sheriff dying on the floor. They then called for Dillinger who hastily prepared himself to leave and after firing another shot into the jail proper, evidently to prevent any of the other inmates from following them, the criminals locked the jail doors and fled. Deputy Sheriff Sharp stated that he could see one man standing outside of the door leading to the sheriff's office, apparently on guard.

From all indications there were five shots fired - one which hit the sheriff, two others which were evidently fired at the sheriff but missed - one striking the desk and ricocheting to the other end of the room - the third striking the wall; the fourth was fired inside the jail and there is a bullet hole in one of the doors leading from the sheriff's office, indicating that one shot had gone in that direction. However, only four bullets were found.

Following the escape it was learned that two pistols had been stolen from the sheriff's desk by the killers, viz. #1 - 38 Police Special nickel plated Colt #557614-N. On the side of the handle of this gun was stamped "Property Allen County Sheriff"; #2 - 38 Colt, Detective Special Blued Steel, 2" barrel, #410172-A-1. This gun belonged to the sheriff. The other was the property of Deputy Sheriff Sharp. The keys which were furnished by Mrs. Sarber were also taken by the bandits.

A period of about 15 minutes elapsed before the sheriff was given medical aid and he died in the hospital two hours later. The authorities at Lima advised that evidently the blows on the head caused his death as the bullet into the abdomen did not hit any vital spots. Mrs. Sarber and Deputy Sheriff Sharp remained locked in the jail for 20 or 25 minutes until the locks could be knocked off to effect their release.

It appears that while Dillinger was incarcerated in the jail he had dropped statements to other prisoners, mentioning the name of Harry Pierpont, indicating that Pierpont was an escapee from the Indiana State Prison and that his home was near Lima. A search of records was immediately made and it was found that Harry Pierpont was one of the convicts who escaped from the Indiana State Prison at Michigan City, Indiana on 9/26/33, during the wholesale escape there. A photograph of Pierpont was secured and when shown to Mrs. Sarber she partially identified it as the man who shot the sheriff.

A posse was immediately formed which was led by Chief of Police J. W. Cooke of Lima, Ohio, and a search was made of the premises occupied by Harry Pierpont's parents and brother, about four miles from Leipsic and about 35 miles from Lima. This search took place about 10:00 P.M. on the night of the slaying, 10/12/33. No trace of the bandits

was found and there was nothing on the property to indicate that the killers were in that vicinity. However, an Oldsmobile Coach, Motor #113694, was found in the barn without license plates. When first questioned, Fred Pierpont, brother of the convict, stated that he owned the car, but later changed this and told several conflicting stories regarding the car, finally stating that an individual had appeared at his house about three weeks previous and had left the car for repairs. (It may be stated here that Fred Pierpont is a mechanic and occasionally repairs automobiles.)

Upon carefully going into this angle the Police Department learned that a car answering the description of an Oldsmobile had been seen in the vicinity of a bank which was robbed in St. Marys, Ohio on 10/3/33 and there appeared to be a definite connection therefore between this car and the bank robbery at St. Marys. The Police at Lima immediately dispatched a wire to the Automobile Protective and Information Bureau at Chicago, requesting to be advised if they had any information regarding this particular automobile, and in response they received a wire dated 10/14/33 from the above organization, advising that this Oldsmobile was sold by the Sheair Motor Sales Company of Chicago to one Arthur S. Cherrington, 2318 Sunnyside Ave., Chicago, and that same had not been reported stolen. The Automobile Protective and Information Bureau also advised that they had made an inquiry at the above address and learned that Cherrington had rented an apartment there from 9/5/33 to 9/15/33, and that no forwarding address had been left.

Following the receipt of this wire Fred Pierpont was further interrogated and he stated at that time that Cherrington was the name of the man who left the car in his garage to be repaired, and later identified the photograph of Harry Copeland who was a parole from the Indiana State Prison and also wanted in the holdup of the Daleville Bank, Daleville, Indiana on 7/8/33, as being Cherrington. Deputy Sheriff W. L. Sharp, who was in the sheriff's office during the time of the shooting, partially identified the photograph of Copeland as the man who held the gun on him, Sharp. He also positively identified the photograph of Harry Pierpont as the man who shot the sheriff.

Fred Pierpont, the authorities advised upon our arrival at Lima, emphatically denied that he had any knowledge regarding the whereabouts of his brother or his brother's activities. Special Agent Genau and myself arrived at Lima about 8:00 P.M. on the night of 10/14/33 and after being informed of all the facts regarding this offense, it was deemed advisable to further interrogate Fred Pierpont. This interrogation lasted until 3:00 A.M. on the morning of 10/15/33, and although it was clearly indicated at that moment that he desired to talk and was in

possession of valuable information, he stated that he desired to consult his attorney and his father and mother before making any statement. We immediately took this matter up with the Prosecuting Attorney, Ernest M. Botkins, and the interested police officials, pointing out that it would be well to ascertain the attitude of his attorney, Mr. Warren of Leipsic, and attempt to have him request his client to give the necessary information. It was ascertained that Fred Pierpont's mother had taken an antagonistic attitude toward the police and not much co-operation could be expected from her. However, it was felt that with the assistance of the attorney she could be persuaded to render assistance.

Upon interviewing Mr. Warren, the attorney, and following a lengthy talk with him, it was determined that he would assist the authorities in every way possible, and following a general consultation between Fred Pierpont, his attorney and his parents, he talked freely and made a very complete statement. This statement has not as yet been prepared by the stenographer at Lima, but a copy will be forwarded to this office at the earliest possible date.

Fred Pierpont related in substance that shortly after the escape of the ten convicts from the Indiana State Prison on 9/26/33, his brother, one of the convicts, and four other men, three of whom were also escapes, and the fifth, Harry Copeland, a parole from this institution and now wanted for bank robbery, appeared at his home late one night. He stated that their appearance was a complete surprise to him as his brother had not notified his family that he was intending to come to Leipsic. He stated that these five men stayed at the house for a short while and visited the entire family and then departed. His brother, Harry, at that time told him, Fred, that he had an Oldsmobile automobile which was not stolen but which one of the men who is now known to him as Copeland, alias Cherrington, had purchased, and that he would give Fred this automobile if he would call for it at Hamilton, Ohio where the gang indicated they were staying. Harry Pierpont furnished his brother with the address "1052 South 2nd Ave., Hamilton, Ohio".

Within the course of the next two or three days Fred, with his mother, father and grandmother, drove to Hamilton in the family automobile and upon arriving at Hamilton Fred separated from the other members of the family and proceeded to the above address. He stated that he had no intention of remaining there but planned to secure the Oldsmobile and immediately drive back to Leipsic. Fred stated, however, that upon his arrival at Hamilton his brother informed him that the bill of sale on the car had not arrived from Chicago where the car was purchased, and that he, Fred, would have to remain there until the next day for the purpose of securing the bill of sale. Fred stated that he went back to the spot

where his family were waiting and informed them to drive back to Leipsic and that he would remain in Hamilton over-night. Fred Stated that the five men listed below, four of whom escaped from the Indiana State Prison on 9/26/33, and the fifth, Harry Copeland, alias Cherrington, were in the house at 1052 South 2nd Ave. and remained there with him during the night of 10/2/33:

#1 - Harry Pierpont, Indiana State Prison #11014, sentenced 5/6/25 for bank robbery to 10 to 21 years; description - age 31; height 6' 1"; weight 162#; medium build; eyes grey; hair chestnut; complexion light; scar 1" in back of head.

#2 - Russell Clark, Indiana State Prison #11261, sentenced 12/12/27 for bank robbery to 20 years; description - age 33; height 6'  $\frac{1}{2}$ "; weight 167#; eyes grey; hair dark chestnut; medium build; scar middle of back; body covered with small moles.

#3 - Charles Makley, Indiana State Prison #12636, sentenced 6/23/28 for bank robbery to 10 to 20 years; description - age 44; height 5'  $7\frac{1}{2}$ "; weight 180#; build medium heavy; eyes grey; hair dark chestnut; complexion medium dark; tip of left index finger amputated; right leg short - limps slightly.

#4 - Edward Shouse, Indiana State Prison #13915, sentenced 6/4/30 for auto theft to 25 years; description - age 27; height 5'  $7\frac{1}{2}$ "; weight 150#; eyes medium blue; hair medium chestnut; complexion medium dark; build medium; scar depressed middle forehead; brown mole on right cheek.

#5 - Harry Copeland, alias Arthur S. Cherrington, Indiana State Prison #12231; description - age 38; height 5' 11"; weight 160#; brown eyes; hair dark brown; complexion fair; usually wears heavy mustache.

Fred went on to state that on the morning of 10/3/33 his brother, Harry, informed him that the gang was going away for the day and for him to make himself at home, and that they would be back in the evening with the Oldsmobile car. Fred stated that on the afternoon of 10/3/33 he went with a woman who was in the house, known to him as "Nona", to a small cottage along the banks of a river, about 12 or 14 miles from Hamilton, where they took a great quantity of groceries. He stated that it appeared to him as though someone was just going to move in; that with this woman he returned to 1052 South 2nd Avenue and shortly after their return the gang appeared and he was then given the Oldsmobile car which he drove back to Leipsic, his home. Fred stated that he believes there were Illinois license plates on the automobile before it was turned over to him. (Here

it is interesting to note that on 10/3/33 the bank robbery took place at St. Marys, Ohio, at which time an Oldsmobile automobile was seen. It therefore appears that the gang went out on this bank job while Fred Pierpont remained in Hamilton.)

Fred further went on to state that on Wednesday evening, 10/11/33, the five above named individuals again came to his home at Leipsic late at night and stated that they desired to remain there over-night; that they were driving two automobiles - an Essex Coach and a Chrysler Sedan. He was unable to give a description of the license plates but believes that one of the cars bore Illinois plates; that they remained at the house over-night and on the following day, 10/12/33, which was the day the sheriff was murdered, they all departed in the two cars - his brother and another convict in the Essex and three in the Chrysler. This departure took place about 4:00 P.M. He stated that one car headed toward Lima and the other in the opposite direction. (Here it is interesting to note that it takes approximately one hour to drive to Lima and the murder took place at 6:00 P.M., which definitely places the five above named men in that vicinity at that time.) This evidence, together with the identification made by Mrs. Sarber, the sheriff's wife, and Deputy Sheriff W. L. Sharp, indicates very definitely that the five above named men committed the crime and affected the escape of John Dillinger.

During the interrogation Fred picked out the photographs of these five men and identified them as the persons who stayed at the home of his parents on the night of 10/11/33. (It may here be stated that neither Mrs. Sarber nor Deputy Sheriff Sharp have been able to identify the third man who was in the sheriff's office.) It appears that he stayed in the background. It was also known that the fourth man was at the side door and it is believed that the fifth was either at the front door of the sheriff's residence or in the automobile. Fred denied being implicated in the St. Marys bank robbery and offered proof as to places he visited in Hamilton while there on 10/3/33. It was ascertained that the authorities at St. Marys have secured the names of witnesses there who claim that they will partially identify Fred as being the driver of the Oldsmobile car, which is alleged to have been used in the robbery. In view of the above Fred is at the present time being held by authorities pending further investigation, and to avoid any further possible jail delivery, he has been removed to the county jail at Wapakoneta, Ohio without the knowledge of the public.

Following the statement made by Fred his mother, who denied any knowledge of ever having seen her son since his escape, corroborated her son's statement about the convicts coming to her home,

which strengthened the prosecution against the five men.

The interrogation of these people lasted until approximately 7:00 o'clock Sunday evening and with all of the information furnished, together with the address at Hamilton, Ohio and that of the cottage along the river banks, a posse was immediately formed and the authorities made a speedy trip to this point where they were met by several other officers from Indiana and points in Ohio. Fred warned the authorities to use extreme precaution, stating that he was well aware of the fact that the convicts would not be taken alive and that they had a great amount of ammunition and guns.

Special Agent Genau and myself remained at Lima and worked out various angles of the crime with the prosecuting attorney. Upon the return of the authorities we were advised that a very extensive search was made at Hamilton and it was found that the five convicts had evidently left the above address on the night previous. In searching the house they found several pieces of clothing and indications therein reflected that the convicts had evidently left hurriedly. Also, a practically new Ford V-8 automobile was found in the back yard. This car was described as 1933 model, speedometer reading 4582 miles, bearing Illinois license plates #1264040, Motor #1839492. It is believed that perhaps the above described license plates were the ones issued for the Oldsmobile car in Chicago. The authorities found no one at the cottage on the river banks nor at the house at 1052 South 2nd Ave., and further investigation along these lines is now being made. The authorities stated that in regard to the house on the river banks near Hamilton, it was determined through the owner that five men who answered the descriptions of the above named individuals, had rented the house for a period of one week, but he was unable to furnish any further information regarding them. The Oldsmobile car above referred to is at the present time in a garage in Leipsic, Ohio, being held by the authorities.

A copy of this communication is being forwarded to the Chicago office with the suggestion that the names of the convicts mentioned herein be furnished to the Police Department at that city, together with the information concerning the purchase of the Oldsmobile car, evidently by Copeland using the alias of Cherrington and giving the address of 2318 Sunnyside Avenue, Chicago. It is believed that perhaps all of these men were together in Chicago and perhaps all stayed at the above address there, and possibly were involved in several crimes during their stay in that city. Along this line the Federal Reserve messenger holdup is suggested in which a patrolman was killed.

Capt. Matt Leach of the Indiana State Police, who is

carrying on an extensive search for the convicts who escaped from the Indiana State Prison, informed me at Lima that he would forward photographs of the men with complete descriptions and other essential information to this office. We have on hand only the photographs of Copeland, alias Cherrington; Makley; Harry Pierpont and John Dillinger. Two of each of these are being forwarded to the Chicago office for identification purposes. It should, of course, be remembered that Dillinger was incarcerated during the time that the men are alleged to have been in Chicago. It is presumed that the photographs of Shouse and Clark, who are also escaped prisoners from the Indiana State Prison, are in possession of the Chicago Police.

If such action is deemed advisable by the Police, it is suggested that the photographs be exhibited to the person from whom the apartment was rented on Sunnyside Avenue, and to the salesman of the Sheair Motor Sales Company, Chicago, who sold the Oldsmobile car to Cherrington.

It has been ascertained that these five individuals are extremely "hard-boiled" and the robbing of banks appears to be merely a pastime.

Mr. Ernest M. Botkins, Prosecuting Attorney at Lima, informed the writer that authorities from the Ohio State Identification Bureau at London, Ohio, are conferring with him regarding the issuance of identification orders. In view thereof it does not appear necessary for the Bureau to render any assistance along this line.

John Dillinger who escaped from the county jail during the murder of the sheriff at Lima, is described as follows: Alias John Donovan Hall; age 30; height 5' 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; grey eyes; hair light chestnut; medium complexion; Indiana State Prison #13225. It is respectfully requested that wanted notices be posted with the Identification Unit of the Division against the fingerprints of all of the convicts listed herein.

The bullets found in the sheriff's office, referred to in this communication, are being forwarded to the Division with the request that an examination be made to determine the caliber and type of gun from which they were fired, which information will be furnished the prosecuting attorney. These bullets which are wrapped separately in small boxes and forwarded with this communication are described as follows:

#1 - is the bullet which hit the sheriff and was found by Sergeant Harry Grant and Patrolman Carl Bowers of the Lima Police Department.

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#2 - bullet which hit the desk and was found by Sergeant Grant and Patrolman Bowers.

#3 - bullet found by Sergeant Swaney of the Lima Police Department.

#4 - is a shell extracted from an automatic pistol. It appears that this shell was attached to the bullet which struck the sheriff.

In view of the possibility of the gang's returning to Chicago, it is requested that the Chicago office advise the Police Department there to be on the lookout, bearing in mind that they were last seen by Fred Pierpont in possession of an Essex Coach and a Chrysler Sedan.

Very truly yours,

*Wm. Larson*

Wm. Larson,  
Special Agent in Charge

*By MUMmeekin, Acting*

WL:DLP

cc: Division - (5)  
Chicago - 2  
Cincinnati - 1  
Detroit - 2

# U. S. Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice

## OHIO, INDIANA POLICE SEARCH THROUGH AREA

Slayers of Sheriff Sarber  
Believed to Have  
Returned to  
Venice Base.

Cincinnati, Oct. 16 (AP)—A hundred officers from Ohio and Indiana moved through Big Miami river camps near Venice, 20 miles north of here, in search of John Dillinger, accused bank robber, and three men who released him from jail at Lima, O., last Thursday after killing Sheriff Jess Sarber, 50.

The officers said they believed the band that freed Dillinger lay in waiting near Venice before making the Lima raid. Finding in Hamilton, O., of a car believed to have been used in that foray, they said, made it seem likely the band had returned to the riverside base they had established.

Lima officers, led by Chief J. W. Cook and Detective Chief E. J. Roney, searched the camping area throughout Sunday night. Monday reinforcements came from the Indiana state police, Cincinnati police and Hamilton and Butler county officers.

### U. S. Joins Hunt

Lima, Oct. 16 — Two federal agents assigned to the search for the slayers of Sheriff Jess L. Sarber by J. Edgar Hoover, director of the division of investigation for the United States department of justice, were in Lima Monday to assist police and county authorities.

J. A. Genau and William Larson, the agents assigned, questioned Frederick Pierpont, route 2, Leipsic, brother of Harry Pierpont, fugitive from the Indiana prison at Michigan City, and identified as the triggerman in the shooting of Sheriff Sarber last Thursday night.

Toledo Blade  
Toledo, Ohio  
October 16, 1933

62-29777-12

SPC:CSH

October 24, 1933

OCT 31 1933

RECORDED

62-29777-13

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 31 1933

RE: MURDER OF SHERIFF JESSE BARBER AT  
OLIMA, OHIO, OCTOBER 12, 1933

WATSON

FILE

The Division's file in this case indicates that on October 14, 1933, Mr. Brabner Smith of Mr. Keenan's office called Mr. Hughes by telephone and stated that he was in receipt of a telegram from a Sheriff in Ohio asking the assistance of this Division in the investigation of the shooting of the Sheriff at Lima. Mr. Smith stated that he had talked with Mr. Parrish who felt that it would be a good idea to have an Agent contact the Ohio people and make an offer of cooperation, and perhaps accomplish something in the way of fingerprint identification. Mr. Hughes advised Mr. Smith that inasmuch as the case was entirely without the jurisdiction of the Division it should be submitted by him to the Director in writing. Accordingly, on October 14th Mr. Smith directed a memorandum to this Division advising that he had just received a telegram from Congressman Frank L. Klobb of Ohio, requesting that the Federal Government lend every available resource to aid in the search for the killers. Upon receipt of this memorandum Mr. Hughes conferred with Mr. Parrish, who suggested that an Agent of this Division contact Congressman Klobb and volunteer to cooperate to a limited extent with the authorities of Allen County, Ohio, in their efforts to identify and apprehend the killers of Jesse Barber. Mr. Hughes then called the Detroit Office and advised Mr. Larson of the telegram received from Congressman Klobb, and requested that he communicate with the Allen County authorities and offer such cooperation as might be practicable in the way of identifying latent fingerprints or forwarding the fingerprints of any convicts who were suspected of this crime.

The Division is now in receipt of a letter from the Detroit Office, dated October 20, 1933, in which Mr. Larson states that he and Special Agent (A) Genau, in compliance with the telephonic request of Mr. Hughes, proceeded to Lima, Ohio on the afternoon of October 14th and went into conference with Prosecuting Attorney Ernest W. Botkins, Chief of Police J. W. Cook, Inspector of Police S. J. Rooney and two detectives who were engaged in the investigation, and also interviewed Mrs. Barber, the Sheriff's wife; that they determined that at about 6 P.M. on October 12, 1933 three men entered the Sheriff's Office stating that they were from the Indiana State Prison and came to get John Dillinger, who was a parole from that institution, Dillinger being at that time incarcerated in the prison. The Sheriff asked the man who was doing the talking for his credentials and simultaneously this individual pulled a gun and advised the Sheriff that that was his authority. It appears that the

*[Handwritten signature]*

Director,

- 2 -

10/24/33

Sheriff evidently made a move to reach for his gun and as he did so the slayer fired a bullet through the Sheriff's abdomen and then jumped upon the Sheriff and began beating him on the head with the butt of the pistol. The Sheriff fell helpless to the floor and died about two hours later. The second man then asked Deputy Sheriff Sharp for the keys and Mrs. Sarber, who was also seated in the room during the time of the shooting, handed them to the criminals. Following the escape it was learned that two pistols had been stolen from the Sheriff's desk by the killers. One was a 38 Police Special nickel plated Colt #557614-N. On the handle of this gun was stamped "Property Allen County Sheriff". The second gun was a 38 Colt, Detective Special Blued Steel, 2" barrel, #410172-A-1. This gun belonged to the Sheriff. The other was the property of Deputy Sheriff Sharp.

It appears that while Dillinger was incarcerated in the jail he had made statements to other prisoners, mentioning the name of Harry Pierpont, indicating that Pierpont was an escapee from the Indiana State Prison and that his home was near Lima. A check of the records indicated that Harry Pierpont was one of the convicts who escaped from the Indiana State Prison at Michigan City, Indiana on September 26, 1933. A photograph of Pierpont was secured and when shown to Mrs. Sarber she partially identified it as the man who shot the Sheriff. A posse was immediately formed by Chief of Police J. W. Cook of Lima, Ohio and a search made of the premises occupied by Harry Pierpont's parents and brother, about four miles from Leipsic and about 35 miles from Lima. This search took place about 10 P.M. on the night of the slaying, October 12, 1933. No trace of the bandits was found by the posse, which reported that there was nothing on the property of the Pierpont's to indicate that the killers were in that vicinity. However, an Oldsmobile coach, Motor #113694, bearing no license plates, was found in the Pierpont barn. Fred Pierpont, brother of the convict, made a number of conflicting statements to the police officers concerning this car. Police officers later determined, however, that an automobile answering the description of the Oldsmobile had been seen in the vicinity of St. Marys, Ohio on October 9, 1933 at which time a bank at St. Marys was robbed. Investigation by the police disclosed that this car was sold to one Arthur B. Cherrington, 2318 Sunnyside Avenue, Chicago. Fred Pierpont later identified the photograph of Cherrington as being the individual who left this car at his place, Cherrington being also known as Harry Copeland, who was a parole violator from the Indiana State Prison and who was also wanted in the hold-up of the Daleville Bank, Daleville, Indiana. Deputy Sheriff W. L. Sharp, who was in the Sheriff's office at the time of the shooting, partially identified the photograph of Copeland as the man who held the gun on him. He also partially identified the photograph of Harry Pierpont as the man who shot the Sheriff.

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Director.

- 3 -

10/24/33

Fred Pierpont had repeatedly denied to local authorities that he knew anything about the whereabouts or activities of his brother Harry. Special Agent in Charge Larson and Special Agent (A) Genau, after interrogating Fred Pierpont for a considerable length of time, succeeded in obtaining information from him to the effect that shortly after the escape of the ten convicts from the Indiana State Prison on September 26, 1933 his brother, one of the convicts, and four other men, three of whom were also escapes, and Harry Copeland, a parole from the Indiana State Prison, appeared at his home late one night, visited the family for a short time and departed; that Harry Pierpont at the time of this visit told him that he had an Oldsmobile automobile and that he would give it to Fred if he would call for it at Hamilton, Ohio at 1052 South Second Avenue. Within the course of the next two or three days Fred stated that he, his mother, father and grandmother, drove to Hamilton in the family automobile, and that after separating from the other members of the family he proceeded to the above address for the purpose of obtaining the Oldsmobile; that upon his arrival at Hamilton his brother informed him that the bill of sale on the car had not arrived from Chicago, where the car was purchased, but that if he, Fred, would remain there until the next day he could obtain same; that he stayed there that night with his brother, Harry Pierpont, Indiana State Prison #11014, Russell Clark, Indiana State Prison #11261, Charles Makley, Indiana State Prison #12636, Edward Shouse, Indiana State Prison #13915, and Harry Copeland, Indiana State Prison #12231; that on the morning of October 3rd his brother Harry told him that the gang was going away for the day and that they would <sup>be</sup> back in the evening with the Oldsmobile car; that the above mentioned individuals did return that evening, at which time he obtained the car. On October 3, 1933 a bank robbery took place at St. Marys, Ohio, at which time an Oldsmobile automobile was seen.

Fred Stated further that on Wednesday evening, October 11, 1933, the above named five individuals again came to his home at Leipsic late at night and stated that they desired to remain there overnight; that they were driving two automobiles, an Essex coach and a Chrysler sedan; that on the following day, October 12, 1933, which was the day the Sheriff was murdered, they all departed in the two cars. It takes about one hour to drive from Leipsic to Lima and the murder took place at 6 P.M. This evidence, together with the identification made by Mrs. Earber, the Sheriff's wife, and Deputy Sheriff W. L. Sharp, indicates rather definitely that the five above named men committed the crime and effected the escape of John Dillinger.

Fred Pierpont, during the interview with these Agents, identified the photographs of the above mentioned individuals as being the parties who stayed at the home of his parents on the night of October 11, 1933. Fred Pierpont is at the present time being held by authorities, pending further investigation.

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Director.

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10/24/33

Following a statement made by Fred, his mother, who had previously denied any knowledge of ever having seen her son since his escape, corroborated her son's statement about the convicts being at her home. Investigation by local authorities at Hamilton, Ohio indicates that the mob left there on October 19th.

The bullets found in the Sheriff's Office have been received by the Division and have been sent to Mr. Appel for the purpose of an examination.

Respectfully,

S. P. Cowley.

October 27, 1933.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Hughes  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Locke

*W.H. [unclear]*

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Walker Stone telephoned to inquire if I could advise him as to further developments in connection the escaped convicts from the Indiana State Penitentiary. I told him I had received no further information.

35 71



OCT 30 1933

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

OCT 31 1933

62-29777-14  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
OCT 30 1933 P.M.  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Unit One File

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

10/30 19

TO: ☒ Director  
☐ Mr. Nathan  
☐ Mr. Tolson  
☐ Mr. Clegg  
☐ Mr. Egan  
☒ Mr. Quinn  
☒ Mr. Hughes *MS*  
☐ Miss Gandy  
☐ Chief, Section \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

JOHN J. EDWARDS

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

Case: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, Sheriff Jesse Sarber, Lima, Ohio Number:  
Specimen: Victim.

#1, bullet which hit sheriff; #2, bullet which hit desk; #3, bullet found by Sergeant Swaney; #4, shell extracted from automatic pistol.

Examination requested by: Detroit Office.

Date received: October 24, 1933.

Examination desired: Determine caliber and kind of gun used.

Date of Report: October 28, 1933.

Result of examination:

Examination by: C. A. Appel.  
ON

Specimen #1 - This bullet is in good condition, has six grooves with a twist to the left and 1 cannellure, is metal coated, the length is .586 plus inches and the diameter .358 inches. The weight is 129.2 plus grains. From this it is concluded that the gun used was a 38 Colt automatic which is 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches long.

Specimen #2 - This is a metal coated bullet which has six grooves with a twist to the left, the cannellure is not visible. The diameter measures .354 to .404 inches, averaging .37, and the weight is 130 plus grains. From this it is concluded that this is the same kind of a bullet as specimen #1 and it was fired from the same kind of gun, that is, a 38 caliber Colt automatic. There are some small portions of the grooves left, but it is doubtful whether they could be used to identify the weapon as could those on specimen #1.

Specimen #3 - This is a lead bullet which has been deformed. It has plaster adhering to it. There are 2 cannellures. The diameter is .312 to .377 inches. There are 4 visible grooves and it is concluded that there are 6 in all. It is difficult to observe the twist of the grooves which, however, at the base where they are least distorted, appear for the short distance which is visible to slant to the left. This bullet weighs 149 plus grains and it is concluded that the weapon was a 38 caliber Colt long revolver. There is a possibility that it is a 38 caliber Colt. In view of the fact that the weight may have been changed because of the condition of the bullet. The conclusion is based on the fact that the weight is nearest to that of the bullets used in a 38 caliber Colt long revolver. It might be possible to make an identification from marks on this bullet.

COPIES DESTROYED

270 Nov 3, 1964

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

OCT 31 1933

62-29777-1
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 31 1933
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- 2 -

The cartridge, specimen #4, bears the mark 38 ACP, Rem-  
umc on the base. There are marks on this cartridge similar to those made  
by a Colt automatic and it is an automatic type cartridge as shown by the  
shape of the base. This is probably one of the cases from which specimens  
1 and 2 were fired. An attempt should be made to find the other ejected  
cartridge case as it will help in any identification which may be attempted.

The specimens will be retained in the laboratory, in order  
that quick comparisons may be made, until their return is requested.

3 - Director. ✓  
2 - Detroit.  
2 - Laboratory.

625 Lafayette Bldg.,  
Detroit, Michigan.  
October 20, 1935

Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Dept. of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to telephonic communication received from Mr. Vincent Hughes on 10/14/35, requesting that officials at Lima, Ohio be contacted for the purpose of this Division's rendering aid with regard to the murder of Sheriff Jesse Sarber at Lima, Ohio on 10/12/35 during a jail delivery at which time a prisoner, John Dillinger, escaped from the county jail.

Dillinger, a former convict of the Indiana State Prison, Michigan City, Indiana, was incarcerated in the county jail at Lima, Ohio on a charge of bank robbery which occurred at Bluffton, Ohio. He was arrested by the Dayton, Ohio Police and subsequently removed to Lima on 9/28/35.

Accompanied by Special Agent (A) Conan, I proceeded to Lima on Saturday afternoon, following the call received from Mr. Hughes, and immediately went into conference with the Prosecuting Attorney, Mr. Ernest M. Botkins; Chief of Police J. W. Cooke; Inspector of Police B. J. Rooney and Detectives Clyde Dickson and James Goodwin who were engaged in this investigation. Also, an interview was had with Mrs. Jesse Sarber, wife of the slain sheriff, and Deputy Sheriff W. L. Sharp. It was determined through the above mentioned interview that at about 8:00 P.M. on the night of 10/12/35, three men entered the sheriff's office, stating that they were from the Indiana State Prison and came to get John Dillinger who was a parole from that institution. The sheriff, who was seated at his desk, asked the man who was doing the talking, for his credentials and simultaneously the individual pulled a gun and advised the sheriff that that was his authority. It appears that the sheriff evidently made a move to reach his own gun which was on the desk and as he did so the slayer fired a bullet through the sheriff's abdomen. He then quickly jumped on the sheriff and began beating him on the head with the butt of a pistol. The sheriff fell helpless to the floor.

The second man then asked Deputy Sheriff Sharp for the keys and Mrs. Sarber, who was also seated in the room during the time of the shooting, rushed to the spot where the keys were kept and handed them to the criminals to avoid any further killing. The door of the jail was then opened and the three men commanded Deputy Sheriff Sharp and Mrs.

62-27777-15

Sarber to enter the jail, leaving the sheriff dying on the floor. They then called for Dillinger who hastily prepared himself to leave and after firing another shot into the jail proper, evidently to prevent any of the other inmates from following them, the criminals locked the jail doors and fled. Deputy Sheriff Sharp stated that he could see one man standing outside of the door leading to the sheriff's office, apparently on guard.

From all indications there were five shots fired - one which hit the sheriff, two others which were evidently fired at the sheriff but missed - one striking the desk and ricocheting to the other end of the room - the third striking the wall; the fourth was fired inside the jail and there is a bullet hole in one of the doors leading from the sheriff's office, indicating that one shot had gone in that direction. However, only four bullets were found.

Following the escape it was learned that two pistols had been stolen from the sheriff's desk by the killers, viz. #1 - 38 Police Special nickel plated Colt #357614-W. On the side of the handle of this gun was stamped "Property Allen County Sheriff"; #2 - 38 Colt, Detective Special Blued Steel, 2" barrel, #410172-A-1. This gun belonged to the sheriff. The other was the property of Deputy Sheriff Sharp. The keys which were furnished by Mrs. Sarber were also taken by the bandits.

A period of about 15 minutes elapsed before the sheriff was given medical aid and he died in the hospital two hours later. The authorities at Lima advised that evidently the blows on the head caused his death as the bullet into the abdomen did not hit any vital spots. Mrs. Sarber and Deputy Sheriff Sharp remained locked in the jail for 20 or 25 minutes until the locks could be knocked off to effect their release.

It appears that while Dillinger was incarcerated in the jail he had dropped statements to other prisoners, mentioning the name of Harry Pierpont, indicating that Pierpont was an escapee from the Indiana State Prison and that his home was near Lima. A search of records was immediately made and it was found that Harry Pierpont was one of the convicts who escaped from the Indiana State Prison at Michigan City, Indiana on 9/28/33, during the wholesale escape there. A photograph of Pierpont was secured and when shown to Mrs. Sarber she partially identified it as the man who shot the sheriff.

A posse was immediately formed which was led by Chief of Police J. W. Cooke of Lima, Ohio, and a search was made of the premises occupied by Harry Pierpont's parents and brother, about four miles from Leipsic and about 35 miles from Lima. This search took place about 10:00 P.M. on the night of the slaying, 10/12/33. No trace of the bandits

was found and there was nothing on the property to indicate that the killers were in that vicinity. However, an Oldsmobile Coach, Motor #113694, was found in the barn without license plates. When first questioned, Fred Pierpont, brother of the convict, stated that he owned the car, but later changed this and told several conflicting stories regarding the car, finally stating that an individual had appeared at his house about three weeks previous and had left the car for repairs. (It may be stated here that Fred Pierpont is a mechanic and occasionally repairs automobiles.)

Upon carefully going into this angle the Police Department learned that a car answering the description of an Oldsmobile had been seen in the vicinity of a bank which was robbed in St. Marys, Ohio on 10/3/33 and there appeared to be a definite connection therefore between this car and the bank robbery at St. Marys. The Police at Lima immediately dispatched a wire to the Automobile Protective and Information Bureau at Chicago, requesting to be advised if they had any information regarding this particular automobile, and in response they received a wire dated 10/14/33 from the above organization, advising that this Oldsmobile was sold by the Sheair Motor Sales Company, Chicago, and that same had not been reported stolen. The Automobile Protective and Information Bureau also advised that they had made an inquiry at the above address and learned that Charrington had rented an apartment there from 9/5/33 to 9/15/33, and that no forwarding address had been left.

Following the receipt of this wire Fred Pierpont was further interrogated and he stated at that time that Charrington was the name of the man who left the car in his garage to be repaired, and later identified the photograph of Harry Copeland who was a parole from the Indiana State Prison and also wanted in the holdup of the Daleville Bank, Daleville, Indiana on 7/8/33, as being Charrington. Deputy Sheriff W. L. Sharp, who was in the sheriff's office during the time of the shooting, partially identified the photograph of Copeland as the man who held the gun on him, Sharp. He also positively identified the photograph of Harry Pierpont as the man who shot the sheriff.

Fred Pierpont, the authorities advised upon our arrival at Lima, emphatically denied that he had any knowledge regarding the whereabouts of his brother or his brother's activities. Special Agent Gennau and myself arrived at Lima about 8:00 P.M. on the night of 10/14/33 and after being informed of all the facts regarding this offense, it was deemed advisable to further interrogate Fred Pierpont. This interrogation lasted until 8:00 A.M. on the morning of 10/15/33, and although it was clearly indicated at that moment that he desired to talk and was in

possession of valuable information, he stated that he desired to consult his attorney and his father and mother before making any statement. We immediately took this matter up with the Prosecuting Attorney, Ernest M. Watkins, and the interested police officials, pointing out that it would be well to ascertain the attitude of his attorney, Mr. Warren of Leipsie, and attempt to have him request his client to give the necessary information. It was ascertained that Fred Pierpont's mother had taken an antagonistic attitude toward the police and not much co-operation could be expected from her. However, it was felt that with the assistance of the attorney she could be persuaded to render assistance.

Upon interviewing Mr. Warren, the attorney, and following a lengthy talk with him, it was determined that he would assist the authorities in every way possible, and following a general consultation between Fred Pierpont, his attorney and his parents, he talked freely and made a very complete statement. This statement has not as yet been prepared by the stenographer at Lima, but a copy will be forwarded to this office at the earliest possible date.

Fred Pierpont related in substance that shortly after the escape of the ten convicts from the Indiana State Prison on 9/26/33, his brother, one of the convicts, and four other men, three of whom were also escapes, and the fifth, Harry Copeland, a parole from this institution and now wanted for bank robbery, appeared at his home late one night. He stated that their appearance was a complete surprise to him as his brother had not notified his family that he was intending to come to Leipsie. He stated that these five men stayed at the house for a short while and visited the entire family and then departed. His brother, Harry, at that time told him, Fred, that he had an Oldsmobile automobile which was not stolen but which one of the men who is now known to him as Copeland, alias Cherrington, had purchased, and that he would give Fred this automobile if he would call for it at Hamilton, Ohio where the gang indicated they were staying. Harry Pierpont furnished his brother with the address "1052 South 2nd Ave., Hamilton, Ohio".

Within the course of the next two or three days Fred, with his mother, father and grandmother, drove to Hamilton in the family automobile and upon arriving at Hamilton Fred separated from the other members of the family and proceeded to the above address. He stated that he had no intention of remaining there but planned to secure the Oldsmobile and immediately drive back to Leipsie. Fred stated, however, that upon his arrival at Hamilton his brother informed him that the bill of sale on the car had not arrived from Chicago where the car was purchased, and that he, Fred, would have to remain there until the next day for the purpose of securing the bill of sale. Fred stated that he went back to the spot

where his family were waiting and informed them to drive back to Leipsic and that he would remain in Hamilton over-night. Fred stated that the five men listed below, four of whom escaped from the Indiana State Prison on 9/24/33, and the fifth, Harry Copeland, alias Cherrington, were in the house at 1033 South 2nd Ave. and remained there with him during the night of 10/3/33:

#1 - Harry Pierpont, Indiana State Prison #11014, sentenced 8/6/25 for bank robbery to 10 to 21 years; description - age 31; height 6' 1"; weight 162#; medium build; eyes gray; hair chestnut; complexion light; scar 1" in back of head.

#2 - Russell Clark, Indiana State Prison #11261, sentenced 12/12/27 for bank robbery to 20 years; description - age 33; height 6' 1"; weight 167#; eyes gray; hair dark chestnut; medium build; scar middle of back; body covered with small moles.

#3 - Charles Makley, Indiana State Prison #12034, sentenced 6/23/28 for bank robbery to 10 to 20 years; description - age 44; height 5' 7 1/2"; weight 150#; build medium heavy; eyes gray; hair dark chestnut; complexion medium dark; tip of left index finger amputated; right leg short - limps slightly.

#4 - Edward Shouse, Indiana State Prison #13915, sentenced 6/4/30 for auto theft to 25 years; description - age 27; height 5' 7 1/2"; weight 150#; eyes medium blue; hair medium chestnut; complexion medium dark; build medium; scar depressed middle forehead; brown mole on right cheek.

#5 - Harry Copeland, alias Arthur S. Cherrington, Indiana State Prison #12231; description - age 38; height 5' 11"; weight 160#; brown eyes; hair dark brown; complexion fair; usually wears heavy mustache.

Fred went on to state that on the morning of 10/3/33 his brother, Harry, informed him that the gang was going away for the day and for him to make himself at home, and that they would be back in the evening with the Oldsmobile car. Fred stated that on the afternoon of 10/3/33 he went with a woman who was in the house, known to him as "Hona", to a small cottage along the banks of a river, about 12 or 14 miles from Hamilton, where they took a great quantity of groceries. He stated that it appeared to him as though someone was just going to move in; that with this woman he returned to 1033 South 2nd Avenue and shortly after their return the gang appeared and he was then given the Oldsmobile car which he drove back to Leipsic, his home. Fred stated that he believes there were Illinois license plates on the automobile before it was turned over to him. (Rare

It is interesting to note that on 10/3/33 the bank robbery took place at St. Marys, Ohio, at which time an Oldsmobile automobile was seen. It therefore appears that the gang went out on this bank job while Fred Pierpont remained in Hamilton.)

Fred further went on to state that on Wednesday evening, 10/11/33, the five above named individuals again came to his home at Laipais late at night and stated that they desired to remain there over-night; that they were driving two automobiles - an Essex Coach and a Chrysler Sedan. He was unable to give a description of the license plates but believes that one of the cars bore Illinois plates; that they remained at the house over-night and on the following day, 10/12/33, which was the day the sheriff was murdered, they all departed in the two cars - his brother and another convict in the Essex and three in the Chrysler. This departure took place about 4:00 P.M. He stated that one car headed toward Lima and the other in the opposite direction. (Here it is interesting to note that it takes approximately one hour to drive to Lima and the murder took place at 6:00 P.M., which definitely places the five above named men in that vicinity at that time.) This evidence, together with the identification made by Mrs. Sarber, the sheriff's wife, and Deputy Sheriff W. L. Sharp, indicates very definitely that the five above named men committed the crime and effected the escape of John Dillinger.

During the interrogation Fred picked out the photographs of these five men and identified them as the persons who stayed at the home of his parents on the night of 10/11/33. (It may here be stated that neither Mrs. Sarber nor Deputy Sheriff Sharp have been able to identify the third man who was in the sheriff's office.) It appears that he stayed in the background. It was also known that the fourth man was at the side door and it is believed that the fifth was either at the front door of the sheriff's residence or in the automobile. Fred denied being implicated in the St. Marys bank robbery and offered proof as to places he visited in Hamilton while there on 10/3/33. It was ascertained that the authorities at St. Marys have secured the names of witnesses there who claim that they will partially identify Fred as being the driver of the Oldsmobile car, which is alleged to have been used in the robbery. In view of the above Fred is at the present time being held by authorities pending further investigation, and to avoid any further possible jail delivery, he has been removed to the county jail at Wapakoneta, Ohio without the knowledge of the public.

Following the statement made by Fred his mother, who denied any knowledge of ever having seen her son since his escape, corroborated her son's statement about the convicts coming to her home,

which strengthened the prosecution against the five men.

The interrogation of these people lasted until approximately 7:00 o'clock Sunday evening and with all of the information furnished, together with the address at Hamilton, Ohio and that of the cottage along the river banks, a posse was immediately formed and the authorities made a speedy trip to this point where they were met by several other officers from Indiana and points in Ohio. Fred warned the authorities to use extreme precaution, stating that he was well aware of the fact that the convicts would not be taken alive and that they had a great amount of ammunition and guns.

Special Agent Connel and myself remained at Lima and worked out various angles of the crime with the prosecuting attorney. Upon the return of the authorities we were advised that a very extensive search was made at Hamilton and it was found that the five convicts had evidently left the above address on the night previous. In searching the house they found several pieces of clothing and indications therein reflected that the convicts had evidently left hurriedly. Also, a practically new Ford V-8 automobile was found in the back yard. This car was described as 1933 model, speedometer reading 4582 miles, bearing Illinois license plates #1264040, motor #1839482. It is believed that perhaps the above described license plates were the ones issued for the Oldsmobile car in Chicago. The authorities found no one at the cottage on the river banks nor at the house at 1052 South 2nd Ave., and further investigation along these lines is now being made. The authorities stated that in regard to the house on the river banks near Hamilton, it was determined through the owner that five men who answered the descriptions of the above named individuals, had rented the house for a period of one week, but he was unable to furnish any further information regarding them. The Oldsmobile car above referred to is at the present time in a garage in Leipsic, Ohio, being held by the authorities.

A copy of this communication is being forwarded to the Chicago office with the suggestion that the names of the convicts mentioned herein be furnished to the Police Department at that city, together with the information concerning the purchase of the Oldsmobile car, evidently by Copeland using the alias of Cherrington and giving the address of 2318 Sunnyside Avenue, Chicago. It is believed that perhaps all of these men were together in Chicago and perhaps all stayed at the above address there, and possibly were involved in several crimes during their stay in that city. Along this line the Federal Reserve messenger holdup is suggested in which a patrolman was killed.

Capt. Matt Leach of the Indiana State Police, who is

Carrying on an extensive search for the convicts who escaped from the Indiana State Prison, informed me at Lima that he would forward photographs of the men with complete descriptions and other essential information to this office. We have on hand only the photographs of Copeland, alias Cherrington; Makley; Harry Pierpont and John Dillinger. Two of each of these are being forwarded to the Chicago office for identification purposes. It should, of course, be remembered that Dillinger was incarcerated during the time that the men are alleged to have been in Chicago. It is presumed that the photographs of Shouse and Clark, who are also escaped prisoners from the Indiana State Prison, are in possession of the Chicago Police.

If such action is deemed advisable by the Police, it is suggested that the photographs be exhibited to the person from whom the apartment was rented on Annyside Avenue, and to the salesman of the Shear Motor Sales Company, Chicago, who sold the Oldsmobile car to Cherrington.

It has been ascertained that these five individuals are extremely "hard-boiled" and the robbing of banks appears to be merely a pastime.

Mr. Ernest M. Watkins, Prosecuting Attorney at Lima, informed the writer that authorities from the Ohio State Identification Bureau at London, Ohio, are conferring with him regarding the issuance of identification orders. In view thereof it does not appear necessary for the Bureau to render any assistance along this line.

John Dillinger who escaped from the county jail during the murder of the sheriff at Lima, is described as follows: Alias John Monovan Hall; age 30; height 5' 7 1/2"; grey eyes; hair light chestnut; medium complexion; Indiana State Prison #13225. It is respectfully requested that wanted notices be posted with the Identification Unit of the Division against the fingerprints of all of the convicts listed herein.

The bullets found in the sheriff's office, referred to in this communication, are being forwarded to the Division with the request that examination be made to determine the caliber and type of gun from which they were fired, which information will be furnished the prosecuting attorney. These bullets which are wrapped separately in small boxes and forwarded with this communication are described as follows:

#1 - is the bullet which hit the sheriff and was found by Sergeant Harry Grant and Patrolman Carl Bowers of the Lima Police Department.

WHL:DSB

November 2, 1933.

62-29777-17

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU  
OF PRISONS.

RECORDED

NOV 4 - 1933

BTD

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the letter addressed to you by Warden Robert H. Hudspeth, of the United States Penitentiary Annex at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, under date of October 27, with its original enclosure of a letter addressed to the Warden, unsigned, but having been written by [REDACTED]

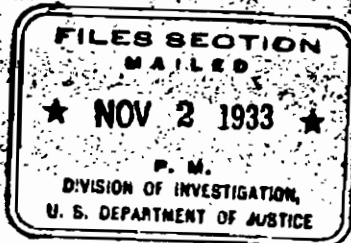
In accordance with telephonic conversation with Mr. Hughes, the Kansas City office of the Division was promptly advised of this letter by telephone on October 30 and instructed to have an Agent promptly interview prisoner [REDACTED]. The Division is not in receipt of a report covering the interview to date.

The original correspondence in this case is returned herewith for your files.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Encl. 860850.



VHL:RCS

November 2, 1933.

62-27777-17  
Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Suite L, Federal Building,  
Kansas City, Missouri.

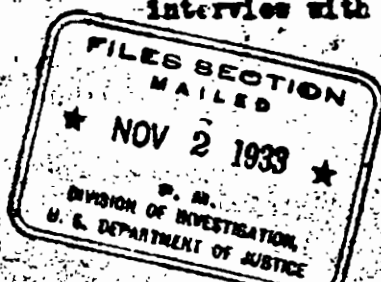
RECORDED

NOV 4 - 1933

Dear Sir:

Confirming telephonic conversation of October 30,  
advising of the receipt of a letter by the Warden of the Leavenworth  
Penitentiary Annex from prisoner [REDACTED] requesting  
that an Agent of the Division call upon him as he has some information  
to impart concerning the escapes from the penitentiary at Michigan  
City, Indiana, and other matters, there are enclosed herewith, for  
your information, a copy of a letter addressed to the Director of the  
Bureau of Prisons by Warden Robert H. Hudspeth, dated October 27,  
and a copy of the letter addressed to the Warden by prisoner [REDACTED]  
but which does not bear his signature. b7D

A copy of this letter is also being forwarded to the  
Cincinnati office in order that it may be fully informed of the  
background upon receipt of a report from your office covering the  
interview with prisoner [REDACTED]



Very truly yours,

Director.

Encl. 350648.  
cc to Cincinnati.

ms [Signature]

# Nostal Telegram

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial  
Cables



All America  
Cables

Blackout

Radio

This is a full size Telegram, Radiogram or Radiogram unless otherwise indicated by sign in the check or in the address.

NO.	NAME
101	Mr. Nathan
102	Mr. Tolson
103	Mr. Clegg
104	Mr. Edwards
105	Mr. Egan
106	Mr. Hughes
107	Mr. Quinn
108	Mr. Lester
109	Mr. Locke

W62 123

DIRECTOR

US DEPT. OF JUSTICE

1933 OCT 28

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Hughes  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Locke

FOLLOWING CONVICTS ESCAPED INDIANA STATE PRISON SEPTEMBER  
TWENTY SIXTH EDWARD SHOUSE NUMBER THIRTEEN NINE FIFTEEN RUSSEL  
CLARK TWELVE TWO SIX ONE CHARLES MAKLEY TWELVE SIX THREE SI  
WALTER DETRICK FOURTEEN THREE FIVE ONE JOSEPH FOX THIRTEEN  
EIGHT EIGHT THREE JOSEPH R BURNS EIGHT SEVEN NAUGHT THREE HAR  
PIERPONT ELEVEN NAUGHT FOURTEEN JOHN HAMILTON ELEVEN NINE SIX  
THREE JOSEPH JENKINS JAMES CLARK STOP CONVICTS HAD SECURED  
AUTOMATIC SHOTGUNS AND RIFLES FROM UNKNOWN SOURCES CAPTURED  
DEPUTY WARDEN PROCEEDED TO MAIN GATE FORCED GUARDS OPEN GATES  
UNDER THREAT KILL DEPUTY WARDEN ONE TURNKEY HAD SKULL  
FRACTURED AND ONE CLERK SLIGHTLY WOUNDED BY GUN FIRE STOP  
JAMES CLARK REAPPREHENDED SEPTEMBER THIRTY JOSEPH JENKINS  
KILLED BY POSSE AT BEAN BLOSSOM INDIANA SEPTEMBER TWENTY NINTH  
OTHERS STILL AT LARGE =

SMITH ACTING

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

NOV 4 - 1933

NOV 3 1933

Unit One  
Unit Two

FILE

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Hughes	✓
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Locke	.....

October 24, 1933.

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Gates telephoned this morning with reference to the escaped convicts in Indiana. He stated that he had discussed the matter with the Attorney General, who told him that he had turned the matter over to me, and said that he would like to extend aid if we could; that the Attorney General is personally interested in the situation there. I told Mr. Gates that we had offered assistance with reference to fingerprint matters, but in so far as helping to catch them is concerned, we were not. I said that we would do anything that we could consistently in the matter, but that I had received no word from the Attorney General.

Mr. Walker Stone called to state that Mr. Glendon had informed him that a communication addressed to the Attorney General by Mr. Stone concerning the escaped convicts in Indiana, had been referred to me. Mr. Stone advised me that he received a wire last night from his editor, telling him of the situation, and requesting that Mr. Cummings be contacted to ascertain if Federal aid would be offered. Mr. Stone agreed to send me a copy of the wire.

Mr. Glendon called to advise me that he had referred Mr. Stone's letter to me.

After receiving these communications I telephoned Mr. Stone to advise him that I was contacting the Cincinnati, Chicago and Detroit offices of the Division, instructing them to render such assistance as we can.

I telephoned Mr. Larson at Detroit. Mr. Larson informed me that he contacted the prosecuting attorney yesterday, and he was going to send him a copy of the statement taken; that he had gotten in touch with the Identification Bureau in London, Ohio, and informed them that we would distribute identification orders, but could not issue them. I instructed Mr. Larson to again get in touch with these people and indicate that we are entirely willing to cooperate to the fullest extent. Mr. Larson also stated that he had talked to Captain Leach (?) of the Indiana State Police, located at Indianapolis, who agreed to give him complete particulars as to all the men who escaped, but that it had not been received as yet. I instructed him to again contact the Captain and that a duplicate copy be sent to this office. Mr. Larson had also made arrangements to see a Lieutenant of the Michigan State Police who had information, and had requested the prosecuting attorney and the officials at Lima to contact him immediately when information was received of value. I told Mr. Larson to keep in touch with the Cincinnati and Chicago offices by telephone and to keep the Division informed.

RECORDED

62-24777-19

I talked to Mr. Klein at Cincinnati relative to this matter. I instructed him to obtain information as to the number of convicts who escaped and an indication of those who had been captured or killed. I told him to advise the local authorities of our willingness to cooperate.

COPIES DESTROYED

170 AUG 31 1964

NOV 6 1933
FILE

- 2 -

I telephoned Mr. D. O. Smith at Chicago and instructed him also to contact the local authorities in his district and render every assistance possible in the search for the escaped convicts.

I called Mr. Gates to advise him of the instructions issued to the Chicago, Cincinnati, and Detroit offices.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET5

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

62-29777-20

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
 X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
 X FOR THIS PAGE X  
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

VWH:DSS

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

October 26, 1933.

Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Edwards.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Hughes.....
Mr. Quinn.....
Mr. Lester.....
Mr. Locke.....

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR.

Agent in Charge Larson at Detroit called on the telephone and stated that he received a telephone call from Captain Leech, of the Indiana State Police, requesting that he, Larson, meet Leech at Indianapolis tomorrow morning as Captain Leech has some important information which he would like to submit to Larson in connection with the escape of the ten convicts from the Indiana State Penitentiary. It appears that Larson met Leech at Lima, Ohio, when he went down there several days ago to seek information concerning the murder of the Sheriff there by these fugitives. Larson stated he looked upon Leech as a very substantial officer and in fact had asked him if he felt that the information he had would warrant his travel to Indianapolis and Captain Leech replied that he was quite sure that it did. I authorized Larson to proceed to Indianapolis. You were out at the time.

Respectfully,

*V. W. Hughes*

V. W. Hughes.

*What developed?*

*J. C. H.*

RECORDED

NOV 7 - 1933

62-29777-21	
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 6 1933 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
<i>W. C. H.</i>	FILE

U. S. Department of Justice  
Bureau of Investigation

SUITE L FEDERAL BUILDING

Air Mail

October 30, 1933.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Hughes  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Locke

Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
United States Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the telephonic communication of Mr. V. W. Hughes to Special Agent in Charge Conroy on October 30, advising that the Division was in receipt of a letter from Mr. Bates, the Director of Prisons, which had been forwarded by Warden Hudspeth of the Leavenworth Annex Penitentiary, written by [REDACTED] relative to information in the recent prison break at Michigan City, Indiana. Special Agents B. R. Allen and G. F. Hurley interviewed [REDACTED], who stated that he was sentenced to the penitentiary from Cleveland, Ohio, in 1928, and that he was paroled and violated his parole by robbing the post office at Auburn, Indiana, after which he was returned to the Leavenworth Annex Penitentiary for violation of said parole. [REDACTED] advised that he still has fifteen months to serve. [REDACTED] states that he has cooperated at various times with Post Office Inspector W. B. Piatt at Ft. Wayne, Indiana, in solving post office robberies.

[REDACTED] further stated that one Charlie Zimmerman, a former Sheriff at Angola, Indiana, is a ring-leader and directs operations of a gang of criminals operating in and around Portland, Indiana, Geneva, Indiana, and Ft. Recovery, Ohio. [REDACTED] advised that Zimmerman was tried for murder at Angola in May, 1928, but was acquitted. [REDACTED] further advised that one Red Mersky, one Whitey Bechtel and one Paul Burgett are three desperate bankrobbers who work under the direction of Zimmerman. [REDACTED] advised that Paul Burgett was a former Deputy Sheriff at Angola under Zimmerman, and that Burgett was arrested with Mersky and Bechtel for possession of T.N.T. and guns.

[REDACTED] also mentioned the names of Walter Davis and Eb Landis as members of the Zimmerman gang. He likewise mentioned the name of Willard Comer, who is now serving a sentence at

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62-29777-2

NOV 1 1933

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DIRECTOR NATHAN

FILE

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Michigan City, stating that Comer is connected with the Zimmerman gang.

[redacted] stated that he knew eight months ago the Zimmerman crowd had planned to rob several police stations, in order to obtain possession of machine-guns, and that it is possible that Red Mersky smuggled guns into the Michigan City prison a short time prior to the break. [redacted] states that he bases this belief on the fact that Mersky was sentenced to Michigan City, but remained there only one week, having been released on an appeal bond.

[redacted] stated that Zimmerman has a farm near Ft. Recovery, Ohio, and also runs a restaurant and speakeasy at Ft. Recovery, and, due to the proximity of Ft. Recovery to Portland, Indiana, and Geneva, Indiana, and due to the fact that Eb Landis has a farm near Portland Indiana, he, [redacted] is positive that Pierpont and other prisoners who escaped during the Michigan City prison break will be found in the vicinity of Portland or Geneva, Indiana, or Ft. Recovery, Ohio.

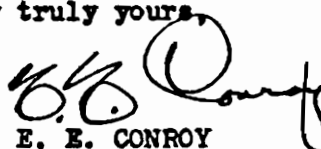
[redacted] further stated that a postal inspector, whose name he does not recall, located at Ft. Recovery, Ohio, and who, he believes, works from the office of the Chief Post Office Inspector at Cincinnati, Ohio, (whose name it has been learned is possibly "Pate") has valuable information in connection with the above mentioned individuals.

b7D

[redacted] stated that it may be possible for him to obtain the names of the persons who actually took the guns and ammunition into the Michigan City prison, and, if he can obtain same, he will turn the information over to Warden Hudspeth. Warden Hudspeth was advised of this fact, and stated that should he receive this information, he will communicate with the Kansas City office immediately.

Carbon copy of this letter is being furnished to the Cincinnati office for their information.

Very truly yours,

  
E. E. CONROY  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

BRA-c  
cc-Cincinnati

REM:QAJ  
62-29777

November 4, 1933.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

On October 26, 1933, Special Agent in Charge Larson telephoned Mr. Hughes of the Division requesting authority to proceed to Indianapolis, Indiana, for the purpose of conferring with Captain Leach of the Indiana State Police concerning the escape of the 10 convicts from the Indiana State Penitentiary. The files do not contain a report covering the activities of Agent in Charge Larson at this point.

The Division is in receipt of a letter dated October 28, 1933, from the Cincinnati office, copies of which were furnished the Detroit and Chicago offices. Mr. Connelley in this letter reports that he has been in conference with Walter Hentzer of the Indiana State Police and has offered every assistance that can possibly be rendered by this Division under the circumstances. Mr. Connelley has furnished the Detroit and Chicago offices with information obtained from the Indiana State Police concerning the various subjects, setting out their correspondences, visitors, etcetera, while they were incarcerated in the Michigan City Penitentiary. It does not appear, however, that photographs were furnished with Mr. Connelley's letter and I am arranging to have photographs furnished to all of the interested offices. Mr. Connelley in his letter makes reference to a possible violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wagner and Mr. and Mrs. Larcy Hooten, who are known to have assisted in harboring the fugitives in this case.

Mr. Connelley reports that Special Agent Bliss Norton at Indianapolis, Indiana, has been instructed to keep in close contact with Captain Matt Leach of the Indiana State Police in order that he may be kept advised of the progress being made in this investigation.

Respectfully,

A. E. Neely.

NO. 29777-22NR1

MEMPHIS

November 6, 1933.

62-5777

Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
625 Lafayette Building,  
Detroit, Michigan.

RECORDED

62-39777-23

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

NOV 7 1933 P.M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

Dear Sir:

RUSSELL CLARK, et al.

Escapes from Indiana State Prison.

There are transmitted herewith photographs of the subjects involved in the above entitled case whose descriptions are set out below:

Russell Clark

Charles Makley

Age: 33

Height: 5' 11"

Weight: 155

Build: Medium

Hair: Dark chestnut

Eyes: Gray slate

Complexion: Dark

Scars: Brown scar middle back; body moles

Occupation: Tailor

Fingerprints: (15) 13 R OOO 12

Prison numbers: 12242

Age: 44

Height: 5' 7"

Weight: 180

Build: Medium heavy

Hair: Medium dark chestnut

Eyes: Gray slate

Complexion: Medium dark

Scars: Tip of left index finger amputated; right leg short, limp slightly.

Occupation: Salesman

Fingerprints: (11) 30 R OOO 21 R OOO

Prison numbers: 12636

Joseph Fox

Edward Thomas

Age: 29

Height: 5' 9"

Weight: 154

Build: Medium

Hair: Dark chestnut

Eyes: Yellow slate

Complexion: Medium

Scars: Large irregular scar left wrist; posterior diagonal scar 1" above left

Occupation: Glass worker

Fingerprints: (23) 29 L IOO 19 2 R OOI 16

Prison numbers: 13289

Age: 27

Height: 5' 7"

Weight: 150

Build: Medium

Hair: Medium chestnut

Eyes: Medium blue

Complexion: Medium dark

Scars: Depressed scar middle forehead; brown mole right cheek

Occupation: Laborer

Fingerprints: (22) 1 R IO 1 1 R OI

Prison numbers: 13915

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NOV 10 1933  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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#2 - bullet which hit the desk and was found by Sergeant Grant and Patrolman Bowers.

#3 - bullet found by Sergeant Swaney of the Lima Police Department.

#4 - is a shell extracted from an automatic pistol. It appears that this shell was attached to the bullet which struck the sheriff.

In view of the possibility of the gang's returning to Chicago, it is requested that the Chicago office advise the Police Department there to be on the lookout, bearing in mind that they were last seen by Fred Pierpont in possession of an Essex Coach and a Chrysler Sedan.

Very truly yours,

Wm. Larson,  
Special Agent in Charge

WL:DLP

cc: Division - 3  
Chicago - 2  
Cincinnati - 1  
Detroit - 2

# U. S. Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice  
1900 Bankers Building  
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Nathan.....  
Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Edwards.....  
Mr. Egan.....  
Mr. Hughes.....  
Mr. Quinn.....  
Mr. Lester.....  
Mr. Locke.....

October 30, 1933.

## SPECIAL DELIVERY

Director  
Division of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your telephone call of the 24th instant regarding the Indiana State Prison break at Michigan City, Indiana.

Please be advised that immediately upon receipt of information from you, the writer conversed with Mr. L. E. Kunkel, Warden of the Indiana State Prison, Michigan City, Indiana, who advised that the prison break occurred there on the afternoon of September 26, 1933, at which time the following inmates escaped:

### JOSEPH R. BURNS:

Age - - - - - 40  
Height - - - - 5'10-1/8"  
Weight - - - - 195 lb.  
Build - - - - - Medium heavy  
Eyes - - - - - Blue  
Hair - - - - - Medium chestnut  
Complexion - - Ruddy  
Occupation - - Taxi driver  
Marks and Scars - Scar of 1" base right hand;  
Scar of 1/2" left upper lip  
Indiana State Prison No. 8703  
Fingerprint classification - (5) 0 5 R III 12  
0 17 R III 15  
Criminal record - Sentenced 5/27/21 to life term  
for murder 1st. deg. - Kosciusco County.

62-1701

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&  
INDEXED

NOV 15 1933

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DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 1 1933	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
DIRECTOR EDWARDS	FILE

- 2 -

<sup>0</sup>  
RUSSELL CLARK:

*8 cr 4/2*  
Age - - - - - 33  
Height - - - - - 6'1 1/4"  
Weight - - - - - 167 lb.  
Build - - - - - Medium  
Eyes - - - - - Grey slate  
Hair - - - - - Dark chestnut  
Complexion - - - Dark  
Occupation - - - Tailor  
Marks and scars - Brown scar middle back;  
body covered with small moles  
Indiana State Prison No. 12261  
✓ Fingerprint classification - (15) 15 U 000  
29 U 001 12  
Criminal record - Sentenced 12/12/27 to 20 years  
for bank robbery. - Allen County.

<sup>0</sup>  
WALTER DETRICK:

*8 cr 4/2*  
Age - - - - - 28  
Height - - - - - 5'7 3/4"  
Weight - - - - - 151 lb.  
Build - - - - - Medium  
Eyes - - - - - Medium brown  
Hair - - - - - Dark chestnut  
Complexion - - - Dark  
Occupation - - - Plumber  
✓ Marks and scars - Blue tattoo, shield, right forearm,  
anterior. Curved scar outer corner  
left eye. ✓  
Indiana State Prison No. 14351  
Fingerprint classification - (26) 5 R 19  
1 Ra 24  
Criminal record - Sentenced 1/3/31 to life term  
for bank robbery - Vermilion County.

JOSEPH FOX:

*to cur 10/2*

Age - - - - -29  
Height - - - - 5'9"  
Weight - - - - 154 lb.  
Build - - - - -Medium  
Eyes - - - - - Yel. Slate  
Hair - - - - - Dark chestnut  
Complexion - - Medium  
Occupation - - Glass worker  
Marks and scars - Large irregular scar left wrist  
posterior. Diagonal scar of 1 in.  
above left brow.  
Indiana State Prison No. 13883  
Fingerprint classification - (23) 29 L IOO 19  
2 R OOI 16  
✓ Criminal record - Sentenced 5/23/30 to life term  
for bank robbery - Franklin County.

JOHN HAMILTON:

*to cur 10/2*

Age - - - - -34  
Height - - - - 5'8 1/4"  
Weight - - - - 160 lb.  
Build - - - - -Medium  
Eyes - - - - - Dark slate  
Hair - - - - - Light chestnut  
Complexion - - Light  
Occupation - - Carpenter  
Marks and scars - Tattoo, heart, letters "JH" left  
forearm outer. Right index and  
middle fingers amputated. Dim scar  
between brows.  
Indiana State Prison No. 11963  
Fingerprint classification - (12) 29 W (amp) OOO 13  
19 W OOO 12  
Criminal record - Sentenced 3/16/27 to 25 years for  
auto banditry - St. Joseph County.

CHARLES MAXLEY:

Age - - - - - 44  
Height - - - - - 5'7½"  
Weight - - - - - 180 lb.  
Build - - - - - Medium heavy  
Eyes - - - - - Grey slate  
Hair - - - - - Medium, Dk. Chest.  
Complexion - - Med., Dk.  
Occupation - - Salesman  
Marks and scars - Tip of left index finger amputated.  
Right leg short, limps slightly.  
Indiana State Prison No. 12636  
Fingerprint classification - (11) 30 W M00 8  
21 U 000  
Criminal record - Sentenced 6/23/28 to 10-20 years  
for robbery - Adams County.

HARRY PIERPONT:

Age - - - - - 31  
Height - - - - - 6'1"  
Weight - - - - - 162 lb.  
Build - - - - - Medium  
Eyes - - - - - Grey azure  
Hair - - - - - Light chestnut  
Complexion - - Light  
Occupation - - Engineer  
Marks and scars - Scar of 1" back head.  
Indiana State Prison No. 11014  
Fingerprint classification - (31) 14 R OIO 26  
32 W OOI  
Criminal record - Sentenced 5/5/25 to 10-21 years  
for robbery - Howard County.

- 5 -

EDWARD SHOUSE:

Age - - - - - 27  
Height - - - - 5'7½"  
Weight - - - - 150 lb.  
Build - - - - - Medium  
Eyes - - - - - Med. Blue  
Hair - - - - - Med. Chestnut  
Complexion - - Med. Dk.  
Occupation - - Laborer  
Marks and scars - Depressed scar middle forehead.  
Brown mole right cheek.  
Indiana State Prison No. 13915  
Fingerprint classification - (22) - 1 R IO 10  
1 Ur OI  
Criminal record - Sentenced 6/4/30 to 25 years  
for auto banditry - Vigo County.

escapes:

The following convicts are known associates of the above

Harry Copeland:

Age - - - - - 31 in 1927  
Height - - - - 5'10"  
Weight - - - - 147 lb.  
Build - - - - - Medium  
Eyes - - - - - Dark brown  
Hair - - - - - Medium chestnut  
Complexion - - Dark  
Occupation - - Glass worker  
Marks and scars - Tattoo, heart back left hand.  
Tattoos, clasped hands, sailor's head,  
circus girl, letters "H.E.C." right  
forearm.  
Indiana State Prison No. 12231  
Fingerprint classification - (23) 27 W M 14  
2 U I 15  
Criminal record - Sentenced 11/19/27 to 2-14 years  
for Burglary, 2d deg. - Delaware County.

Hilton O. Crouch:

Age - - - - - 24 in 1928  
Height - - - - - 5'6-7/8"  
Weight - - - - - 159 lb.  
Build - - - - - Medium  
Eyes - - - - - Gr. Slate  
Hair - - - - - Med. Dk. Chest.  
Complexion - - Med.  
Occupation - - Carpenter  
Marks and scars - Scar of 1/2" R shoulder post.  
Several brown moles, L shoulder blade.  
Indiana State Prison No. 12347  
Fingerprint classification - (28) 32 W IOI 20  
32 W IOO  
Criminal record - Sentenced 2/2/28 to 5-21 years  
for auto banditry - Marion County.

See 11/4/33

Probed 11/4/33  
m/3

John Dillinger:

Age - - - - - 21 in 1924  
Height - - - - - 5'7-1/8"  
Weight - - - - - 153 lb.  
Build - - - - - Medium  
Eyes - - - - - Yellow slate  
Hair - - - - - Medium chestnut  
Complexion - - Medium  
Occupation - - Machinist  
Marks and scars - Scar of 1/2" back left hand.  
Scar middle upper lip.  
Brown mole between eyebrows  
Indiana State Prison No. 13225  
Fingerprint classification - (12) 9 R O  
14 U OO 10  
Criminal record - Sentenced 9/15/24 to 10-21 years  
A&B to rob - Morgan County.

See 11/4/33

Letter from  
GP - Indiana  
11-10-33  
CAR

Probed 11/4/33  
m/3

Merrit R. Longbrake:

Age - - - - - 36 in 1931  
Height - - - - - 5'10"  
Weight - - - - - 149 lb.  
Build - - - - - Medium  
Eyes - - - - - Brown  
Hair - - - - - Dk. chestnut  
Complexion - - Med. Dk.  
Occupation - - Farmer  
Marks and scars - Irregular scar left wrist posterior.  
Dim scar on nose. Scar operation R belly.  
Indiana State Prison No. 14601  
Fingerprint classification - (14) 17 W 000 14  
1 U 000 16  
Criminal record - Sentenced 5/4/31 to 1-10 years  
for grand larceny - Kosciusco County. ✓

am 11/2

Port 11/4/33

Homer Van Meter:

Age - - - - - 19 in 1926  
Height - - - - - 5'11½"  
Weight - - - - - 133 lb.  
Build - - - - - Slender  
Eyes - - - - - Blue  
Hair - - - - - Dark Chestnut  
Complexion - - Dark  
Occupation - - Waiter  
Marks and scars - Tattoo, anchor - "HOPE" right forearm  
Scar of 1½" middle forehead edge of hair.  
Indiana State Prison No. 11561  
Fingerprint classification - (22) 17 L 100 13  
3 L 000

am 11/2  
Lester Hurd  
Sp. D. Hurd  
11-10-33  
CAS

Port 11/4/33

Warden Kunkel was unable to advise if the Division had been notified by telegram or otherwise to place wanted notices for the escapes. He was informed regarding the proper procedure to take in all escape cases where it is known that the fingerprints of the escaped convicts are on file with the Division at Washington. Subsequently, Warden Kunkel furnished this office with a photograph of each of the escapes and their associates. Photostatic copies of the photographs are being attached hereto for your information.

On October 24, 1933, Special Agent T. E. Billings conferred with William Schoemaker, Chief of Police, Chicago Police Department, who advised that about noon on that day one Edwin J. Leeper, 6044 Stony Island Avenue, Chicago, a former convict of the Indiana State Prison, had appeared at the Detective Bureau and stated that he had observed two men in a Buick Sedan on the streets of Chicago that day, and that he recognized one of them as Joseph R. Burns, Indiana State Prison No. 8703, and he believed the other was Charles Makley, Indiana State Prison No. 12636. Leeper stated that when he observed Burns and Makley, they were engaged in repairing a tire on a car, and while so engaged a Studebaker Sedan with three or four men drove up and after some conversation with Burns and Makley, the men in the Studebaker departed.

Special Agent W. A. Smith ascertained, through Lieutenant John Howe, Chicago Police Department, that he has several men working on the prison break exclusively, and there are several members of the Indiana State Police who are working in Chicago with Lieutenant Howe. The Chicago and Indiana State Police are checking all known hang-outs, telephone numbers and addresses in this vicinity, with a view of ascertaining contacts of the escapes. Lieutenant Howe will provide this office with all available information in instant case and continue cooperating with the Indiana State Police and this Division with a view of apprehending the escapes.

Special Agent W. J. Devereux has been instructed to continue assistance with the State Police at South Bend and Fort Wayne, Indiana, with a view of collecting and submitting additional data which may lead to the location of the escapes.

General information regarding the escape has been broadcast throughout this vicinity and related in press reports.

An agent from this office will obtain all additional data possible at Michigan City, Indiana, and this office will continue to cooperate with the local and State Police, furnishing you the available facts at intervals.

Very truly yours,

*D. O. Smith*  
D. O. SMITH

Acting Special Agent in Charge

DOS:AB  
CC-Detroit; Cincinnati  
Encs.





On March 16, 1934, there were received in the Division of Investigation from the Sheriff at Mason City, Iowa, some latent fingerprints which had been found on the steering-wheel of an automobile used in a recent bank robbery at Mason City, Iowa. The Sheriff requested that these latent fingerprints be compared with the fingerprints of John Dillinger, whose photograph had been identified as the likeness of an individual who had participated in the robbery of this bank, and with the fingerprints of Frank Dennis Carpenter, who was believed to be an associate of John Dillinger.

The photographs of John Dillinger and Frank Dennis Carpenter, which are attached hereto, disclose a striking resemblance between the two as to facial characteristics, and their physical descriptions appear quite similar. However, the fingerprints of these individuals definitely show that they are not identical. Their descriptions are:

	<u>FRANK DENNIS CARPENTER</u>	<u>JOHN DILLINGER</u>
Age	35	32
Height	5-8 1/2"	5-7 1/8"
Weight	150 pounds	153 pounds
Build	Medium	Medium
Hair	Dark chestnut	Medium chestnut
Eyes	Medium Blue	Gray
Complexion	Medium dark	Medium
Occupation	Auto dealer	Mechanic

John Dillinger is wanted by the Sheriff's Office, Lake County, Indiana, on a charge of murder, which crime he is alleged to have committed while participating in a bank robbery. He is also wanted by the Federal Government for violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act.

Frank Dennis Carpenter is also wanted by the Federal Government for violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act, having

26

been indicted by the Federal Grand Jury, at Los Angeles, California on March 23, 1932, for the interstate transportation of a stolen Auburn Sedan, from St. Louis, Missouri, to Los Angeles, California, on or about June 30, 1931. He has also been positively identified as the bandit who robbed the State Bank of Syron, Minnesota, on March 17, 1933, of \$3,400.

There appear in the fingerprint files of the Division of Investigation the following known criminal records of John Billinger and Frank Dennis Carpenters

JOHN BILLINGER

As John Billinger, #14395, received State Reformatory, Pendleton, Indiana, September 16, 1924; crime, assault and battery with intent to rob and conspiracy to commit a felony; sentences, 2 to 14 years and 10 to 20 years respectively.

As John Billinger, #13223, received State Prison, Michigan City, Indiana, July 16, 1929; transferred from Indiana State Reformatory; paroled under Reformatory jurisdiction, May 10, 1933; parole revoked by Governor - considered as delinquent parolee.

As John Billinger, #10587, arrested Police Department, Dayton, Ohio, September 22, 1933; charge, fugitive; turned over to Allen County, Ohio, authorities.

As John Billinger, received County Jail, Lima, Ohio, September 28, 1933; charge, bank robbery; escaped October 12, 1933.

As Frank Sullivan, arrested police Department, Tucson, Arizona, January 25, 1934; charge, fugitive; turned over to Lake County, Indiana, authorities.

As John Billinger, #14487, arrested Sheriff's Office, Crown Point, Indiana, January 30, 1934; charge, murder - bank robbery; escaped March 3, 1934.

FRANK DENNIS CARPENTER

As William Carpenter, #695, arrested Police Department, Waterbury, Connecticut, February 16, 1914; charge, theft from a poor box; fined \$5 and costs, and 30 days to 1 year probation.

As Frank Burke, #385, arrested Police Department, Long Beach, California, January 11, 1915; charge, Grand Larceny - auto thief; returned to Police Department, Los Angeles, California; disposition not given.

As William H. Carpenter, #497, arrested Police Department, Hartford, Connecticut, May 18, 1917; charge, theft of auto; discharged to Police Department, Windsor, Connecticut.

As Frank Carpenter, #736, received State Reformatory, Cheeshire, Connecticut, June 9, 1917; crime, theft of auto; sentence, indefinite.

As Frank S. Carpenter, #2927, arrested Police Department, Springfield, Massachusetts, June 26, 1921; charge, assault and robbery while armed; disposition not given.

As Frank Carpenter, #4876, received State Penitentiary, Concord, New Hampshire, October 26, 1925; crime, stealing; sentence, 4 to 5 years.

As Frank Dennis Carpenter, #24444-Y-1, arrested Police Department, Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 22, 1932; charge, investigation - Ryer Act; delivered to Deputy United States Marshal; released on bond; forfeited.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY ANNEX  
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.

October 27, 1933.

The Director  
Bureau of Prisons  
Department of Justice  
Washington D C

Dear Sir:

I am submitting the enclosed to you in order that you may place it in the proper hands for further investigation if you see fit.

b7D

The writer of this unsigned letter is [REDACTED] at present confined in this institution. As they are having so much serious trouble in the state of Indiana it is just possible that this man can give some valuable information in connection with matters he mentions in this letter since he has been known to have given valuable information to officials of that state at the time he was held in various jails as a parole violator.

Very truly yours,

(sgd) Robert H. Hudspeth

Warden

Note: 10/30/33

Refer immediate to Bureau Investigation.

S.B.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

NOV 4 - 1933

62-29777-17	
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 3 1933	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Unit One	FILE

*10/30/33*  
*in C*  
*San Francisco*  
*Bureau of Prisons*  
*11/2/33*  
*over*

Warden R. H. Hudspeth

Dear Sir:

I have some information in regards to that prison break at Michigan City, Indiana. Also know who held up those two police stations in Indiana last week and obtained those machine guns and bullet proof vests, etc.

I would appreciate it very much if you would have a Dept of Justice man or a Post Office Inspector call to see me so that I may impart this information to him. He could send it on to Post Office Inspector Pratt at Ft. Wayne, Indiana, who is interested in this information because these same men have committed numerous P.O. robberies in that vicinity.

Respectfully,

Indiana State Prison

12-29777-17

SAC Detroit

11/6/53

Joseph Burns

Age: 39  
Height: 5' 10-1/2"  
Weight: 195  
Build: Medium heavy  
Hair: Medium chestnut  
Eyes: Blue  
Scars: One 1" base right hand;  
One 1/2" left upper lip  
Occupation: taxi driver  
Fingerprints: (5) 8 19 R III 12  
O 19 R III 13  
Prison number: 5703

John Hamilton

Age: 34  
Height: 5' 8 1/2"  
Weight: 160  
Build: Medium  
Hair: Light chestnut  
Eyes: Dark slate  
Complexion: Light  
Scars: Tattoo heart, letters "J H"  
left forearm, outer, right  
index and middle fingers am-  
putated; dim scar between  
brows.

Occupation: Carpenter  
Fingerprints: (12) 29 W (amp) 000 13  
19 W 000 12  
Prison number: 11963

Harry Piermont

Age: 31  
Height: 6' 10"  
Weight: 162  
Build: Medium  
Hair: Light chestnut  
Eyes: Gray amere  
Scars: One 1" back of head

Occupation: Engineer  
Fingerprints: (10) 11 R VIO 24  
32 W 001  
Prison number: 11018

Walter Detrick

Age: 28  
Height: 5' 7-3/4"  
Weight: 151  
Build: Medium  
Hair: Dark chestnut  
Eyes: Medium brown  
Complexion: Dark  
Scars: Blue tattoo, shield, right  
forearm anterior; surgical  
scar outer corner left.

Occupation: Plumber  
Fingerprints: (26) 5 R 19  
1 R 24  
Prison number: 14951

You are requested to place the above descriptions on the  
verse of the respective photographs enclosed herewith.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enclosure #366970.  
cc Chicago  
Cincinnati  
St. Louis

# UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED BY DETROIT, MICHIGAN

DATE 11-8-33

REPORT MADE AT Detroit, Michigan	DATE WHEN MADE 11/8/33	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/27 & 28/33	REPORT MADE BY MR. LARSON
TITLE HARRY PIERPONT alias FRANK MASON; RUSSELL LEE GLANK alias R. L. FREED; CHARLES MAXLEY alias MACK GRAY alias A. OWENS alias CHARLES MOORE; EDWARD BREUSE; JOHN HAMILTON alias JACK CAMPBELL; HARRY COPELAND; JOHN DILLINGER			CHARACTER OF CASE MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT AND MURDER OF Sheriff Jesse Barber, Lima, Ohio

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

Investigation looking toward the location and apprehension of Subjects, who are also wanted as escaped convicts from the Indiana State Penitentiary, Michigan City, Indiana. Names of friends and relatives of some of the individuals secured but undeveloped leads have been sent out to interested offices.

REFERENCES 1333 M

Letter from Detroit to the Division dated October 20, 1933; letter from Cincinnati to Division dated October 22, 1933; letter from Chicago to Division dated October 23, 1933, referring to telephonic instructions from Director with regard to aiding and assisting State authorities in the location and apprehension of the Subjects listed in this report.

## DETAILS

It will be observed in reference communications that the above named individuals, five of whom escaped on September 26, 1933 from the Indiana State Penitentiary at Michigan City, Indiana and two of whom are paroled from that institution and wanted in various sections of the country for bank robbery, were implicated in the murder of Sheriff Jesse Barber at Lima, Ohio on October 12, 1933 during the escape from the County Jail. Subject John Dillinger, who was being held at Lima on a charge of bank robbery which took place at Bluffton, Ohio, Dillinger having been originally arrested at Dayton, Ohio and subsequently removed to Lima to await trial.

COPIES BEHIND FILE

APPROVED AND FORWARDED

*M. Larson*

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

62-29777-24

RECORDED AND INDEXED

NOV 8 1933

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO

- Division - 2
- Cincinnati - 2
- Chicago - 2
- Detroit - 4
- St. Louis - 2

WLM:MD

NOV 8 1933 AM

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ROUTED

NOV 13 1933

RECORDED

INDEXED

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RECORDED

INDEXED

It will be further observed in the letter to the Division from Cincinnati above referred to, that the Ford V-8 Sedan bearing Motor No. 18394929, Illinois license 1933, 1268040, had been reported stolen on October 8, 1935 from Mr. W. H. Underwood, 1357 Fargo Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. This car, it will be noted, was found on October 15 in the rear of 1052 South Second Street, Hamilton, Ohio, the house where the fugitives were residing and from which place they evidently made a hurried departure on October 14.

It will be further observed in my communication of October 30, that the above named Subjects appeared at the home of Fred Pierpont, brother of one of the Subjects at Lima, Ohio, thirty miles from Lima on the evening of October 11, remaining there all night and departing from there on the afternoon of the 12th, evidently going directly to the Sheriff's Office at Lima, for the purpose of delivering John Dillinger. Harry Pierpont and Copeland have been identified by Mrs. Sartori, wife of the slain Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Sharp.

In order to clarify this report, there are being set out, the names of the convicts who escaped from the Indiana State Penitentiary at Michigan City on September 26, 1935, as follows:

Joe E. Burns,	Indiana State Penitentiary Register No. 8703
Russell Lee Clark,	No. 12251
Edward Shouse,	No. 13912
Harry Pierpont,	No. 12014
Walter Deitrich,	No. 12551
John Hamilton,	No. 11243
Charles Makley,	No. 12452
Joseph Fox,	No. 13022
James Jenkins,	No. 13180
James Clark,	No. 12352

James Jenkins was killed on September 30 at Bessemer, Indiana while resisting arrest and James Clark was apprehended on September 26 at Michigan City, Indiana, thus leaving eight of the escaped prisoners still at large. It will be noted that five of these escaped prisoners, namely, Russell Clark, Edward Shouse, Harry Pierpont, John Hamilton and Charles Makley, evidently took part in the murder of the Sheriff at Lima, the other three, Burns, Fox and Deitrich have evidently separated from the above named individuals.

John Dillinger, Indiana State Penitentiary Register No. 13225 and Harry Copeland, Indiana State Penitentiary Register No. 12251 are the other two Subjects who took part in the crime at Lima. They are both parolees from the Indiana State Penitentiary and it is believed that

they played an important part in the escape of the ten convicts from the Penitentiary on September 26, 1933. It is also alleged that these two individuals had, prior to the escape of the other convicts, committed several bank hold-ups in Indiana and surrounding states.

It will be noted that complete descriptions of all of the above men are set out in the communication to the Division from the Chicago Office dated October 30, hence, it is not deemed necessary to again set out the descriptions in this report.

This office has been confidentially informed by the Prosecuting Attorney and police at Lima, Ohio, that secret indictments have been returned against all the Subjects listed in the title of this report, charging them with the murder of Sheriff Barber.

Since the crime at Lima was committed, it is believed that all of these Subjects have taken part in a series of bank robberies and also two police station hold-ups at Peru, and Auburn, Indiana.

The first police station hold-up was that at Auburn, which took place about October 14, at which time several guns were stolen.

At Peru, Indiana, a town of 15,000 population, on October 21st, the police station was robbed and the following articles taken:

- 2 Machine Guns
- 1 Tear Gas Gun
- 3 Rifles
- 2 Sawed off shotguns
- 1 .12 gauge repeating shotgun
- 12 Bullet proof vests
- 1 .32 Cal. Automatic
- 1 .45 Cal. Automatic
- 5 .38 Specials
- 5 Police Badges

Agent was advised by Captain Leach of the Indiana State Police, that Subjects Charles Makley and Harry Copeland were partially identified in this hold-up.

Since January 1, 1933 there have been 51 bank robberies in the State of Indiana, with an alleged loss of \$224,000. There have been three bank robberies in Indiana since the escape of the convicts from the Indiana State Penitentiary and Captain Matt Leach of the Indiana State Police and Al Feenay, Director of Public Safety, believe that these

individuals perhaps took part in the robbery at Greencastle, Indiana where they have partially been identified. There have, however, been bank robberies in Ohio and other surrounding States which might be charged to these individuals. Mr. Feaney informed Agent that the information recently published by newspapers to the effect that the Governor had called out the militia is erroneous but to cope with the situation, arrangements have been made through the Director of Public Safety and the American Legion throughout the State of Indiana to form a vigilance organization, that the various posts of the American Legion will pick men who will keep in touch with the Sheriff's Office in the various counties. Many of the main roads in Indiana are now being watched through this arrangement. The majority of the convicts who escaped from the Indiana State Penitentiary reside either in Indiana or nearby States and there is every indication, because of recent developments, that they are continuing to do so in that vicinity.

Upon Division approval, Agent proceeded to Indianapolis, Indiana and there thoroughly discussed the entire situation with Captain Matt Leach of the Indiana State Police and with Al Feaney, Director of Public Safety.

It was learned that Harry Copeland is now evidently in Chicago. However, the authorities are desirous of not taking any specific action regarding the apprehension of Copeland, as it appears that all of the Subjects will evidently congregate, so that there is a possibility that they might all be apprehended together.

Agent was furnished a list giving the names of visitors received by the Subjects who escaped from the Indiana State Penitentiary, together with the correspondence record and it was determined through Captain Leach that the majority of these angles have been covered by his organization. It is understood that Lieut. Howe of the Chicago Police Department is working closely with the Indiana State Police on this matter and considerable valuable information is being received in Chicago through the tapping of telephones of associates of the fugitives. It is through this medium that it has been determined that Harry Copeland is evidently at the present time in that city, which information was determined from individuals talking over the telephone from the residence of Mrs. William Donahue, 1941 Warren Boulevard, Chicago.

Undeveloped leads will be set out in this report covering those angles which have not received attention by the Indiana State Police.

While at Indianapolis, Agent conferred with Chief of Police Massie of Muncie, Indiana who stated that Harry Copeland was born

and brought up in that city, that his parents still reside there, that Copeland was seen in that city a short time ago visiting a friend and indicated that he would return with his gang within the period of a few days. This matter was carefully gone into with Captain Leach of the Indiana State Police and officers are keeping a watch on the place.

Upon carefully going into this entire matter with officials of the Indiana State Police, it has been determined that they have the situation well in hand and every important angle is receiving careful attention. Captain Leach informed Agent that he and his men will keep in touch with the Division office at Chicago and also Walter Mentzer, who is at the present time concentrating his efforts at Hamilton, Ohio, is keeping in close touch with the Cincinnati office.

Prior to Agent's departure for Indianapolis a conference was had with officials of the Michigan State Police at Lansing, Michigan in an effort to determine whether or not there was any possibility of the fugitives referred to herein, having been in recent bank robberies here. There only appears to be one possibility along this line, which refers to Subject Dillinger.

Following the Holland, Michigan bank robbery, a chart was found in an abandoned automobile used by the bandits which had carefully been prepared, showing the route to be followed by the robbers after the offense had been committed in order to avoid being apprehended. It was learned from the Indiana State Police following the apprehension of Dillinger in Dayton, Ohio some months ago, that he had similar charts in his possession, one in particular which would indicate that he had planned the get-away for the escaped convicts from the Indiana State Penitentiary at Michigan City, Indiana on September 26. Also, two other charts which referred evidently to bank robberies outlined the route to be taken, which referred to isolated roads, etc.

In view of the possibility that the fugitives might cross the Michigan State line during their escapades, complete information was furnished the Michigan State Police, who will be on a constant look-out. There are being furnished herewith, complete sets of photographs, together with descriptions, of all of the Subjects involved in the instant case and of the others who escaped from the Indiana State Penitentiary, which are in the form of circulars and obtained from the Indiana State Police at Indianapolis.

*Walter Mentzer  
and from the field - 10/1*

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS: The DETROIT OFFICE at DETROIT, MICHIGAN

RUSSELL CLARK: Mrs. Phil Pierce (sister) 7556 Cameron Street  
Mrs. Minnie Clark (mother) 108 Smith Street  
Mr. Andy Strachan (sister) 7518 Oakland Avenue  
Mr. Jesse E. Norton (brother-in-law) 1556 Cameron Avenue

HARRY PIERPONT: William T. Fisher (friend) 76 Charlotte Street

JOHN HAMILTON: Mr. & Mrs. Hughes (friends) 6016 Forrest Street

at CLEVELAND, OHIO

JOHN HAMILTON: Orville Hamilton (son) 257 27th Street

at TOLEDO, OHIO

Mrs. Kather Powers (sister) 1006 East Bay Street  
Joe Stevens (brother-in-law) 1006 East Bay Street

at BARBERTON, OHIO

Mrs. E. V. Martin (sister) 115 Louisa Court

at ST. MARY'S, OHIO

CHARLES MAKLEY: Mrs. Edith Makley (wife) 210 S. Maple Street  
Miss Gladys Makley (sister) R.R. No. 3, St. Mary's  
Mrs. Edward Makley (mother) R.R. No. 3, St. Mary's

The CINCINNATI OFFICE at READING, OHIO

JOSEPH FOX: Ray Fox (brother) 808 Redding Street, Cincinnati, Ohio  
believed 808 Main Street, Reading, Ohio  
Mrs. Catherine Fox (mother) 808 Main Street, Reading, O.  
Mr. Ezra Hawley (brother-in-law) 808 Main Street, Reading, O.  
Mr. Clear Lutz (nephew) 808 Main Street, Reading, O.  
Mrs. F. Smoker (sister) 808 Main Street, Reading, O.

At CINCINNATI, OHIO

Mrs. Joseph Fox (wife) 8343 Woodbine Avenue

At LEBANON, KENTUCKY

Frank Whitehouse, former convict, Indiana State Penitentiary, paroled 8/10/38, Register No. 7378. He has been closely associated with Dillinger and shortly before Dillinger was apprehended at Dayton, Ohio he, Whitehouse, communicated with Dillinger. It is believed that he might be with the fugitives at the present time or be in touch with them.

The CHICAGO OFFICE

At SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

JOHN  
HAMILTON:

Mr. W. G. Hamilton (brother) 2209 S. Douglas Street.

At SAULT STE. MARIE, MICH.

Fay Hamilton (brother) 1705 Chestnut Street  
Mrs. Isaac Stave (sister) 1700 Fourteenth Street  
Sarah Hamilton (mother) 1700 Fourteenth Street

The Chicago Office is also requested to contact the owner of the stolen Ford referred to in this report for the purpose of determining the circumstances surrounding the theft of same.

WALTER DIETRICH: The ST. LOUIS OFFICE At ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Elsa Dietrich (sister) 112 North Fourth Street  
Mrs. R. Dietrich (mother) 2708 Ann Avenue  
Miss Fern Mitchell (former wife) Lincoln Hotel  
Mr. Durdette McDonald (friend) 2404 South 18th Street

Empty when repaired 8-16-62

731

Empty when repaired

514

68-29777-24

68-29777-24



WANTED

ESCAPED CONVICT  
\$100.00 REWARD

WANTED

CHARLES MAKLEY, aliases - Mack Gray; A. Owens; Chas. McGray; #12636, white age 45 yrs., 5'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " tall, 180 lbs., med. drk. chest. hair, gray slate eyes, med. drk. comp.

SCARS & MARKS: Tip of left index finger amputated. Right leg shorter than left, slight limp.

If located, arrest, hold and notify the Indiana State Police, Room #126, State House, Indianapolis, or the Indiana State Prison, Michigan City, Ind.

F.P.C. (10)

30 I M  
23 I I

*Wanted for Murder at Lima, O.*



WANTED

BANK ROBBERY

WANTED

JOHN DILLINGER, white, 30 yrs., 170 lbs., 5'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " tall, light chest. hair, grey eyes, med. comp.

SCARS & MARKS: Cut cic. 3/4" long at base of middle finger.

Any information or if located, notify the Indiana State Police, Room #126, State House, Indianapolis, or the nearest Sheriff or Police Authority.

F.P.C. (13)

9 R O  
14 U OO 9

*Wanted for Murder at Lima, O.*



WANTED

BANK ROBBERY

WANTED

HARRY COPELAND, white, 38 yrs., 165 lbs., 5'11" tall, brown eyes, drk. brown hair, med. drk. comp.

If located, arrest, hold and notify the Indiana State Police, Room #126, State House, Indianapolis, Ind.

F.P.C. (23)

27 W M 13  
2 U I 16

*Wanted for Murder at Lima, O.*

2 R 00 16  
29 W I 17

F.P.C. (22)

lane State Prison, Michigan City, Ind.  
State House, Indianapolis, or the Ind-  
the Indiana State Police, Room #126,  
It located, arrest, hold, and notify  
of 1" above left brow.  
Left wrist posterior. Diagonal scar  
SCARS & MARKS: Large irregular scar  
hair, med. comp.  
lbs., yellow slate eyes, drk. chest.  
white, age 29 yrs., 5'8" tall, 154  
JOSEPH POX, alias - Paul Burke, #13883,

ESCAPED CONVICT  
\$100.00 REWARD

WANTED

WANTED



WANTED

ESCAPED CONVICT  
\$100.00 REWARD

WANTED

HARRY PIERPONT, alias - Frank Mason,  
#11014, white, 31 yrs., 6'1" tall, 162  
lbs., gray azure eyes, light chest,  
hair, light comp.  
SCARS & MARKS: Scar of 1" back of head.  
Any information or if located, notify  
the Indiana State Police, Room #126,  
State House, Indianapolis, or the  
nearest Sheriff or Police Authority.

F.P.C. (31)

14 R 0 0  
32 W 0 I

*Wanted for murder at Lima, d.*



WANTED

ESCAPED CONVICT  
\$100.00 REWARD

WANTED

JOE R. BURNS, alias - John O. Heaps,  
#8703, white, 40 yrs., 5'10-1/8" tall,  
195 lbs., blue eyes, med. chest hair,  
ruddy comp.  
SCARS & MARKS: Scar of 1" base right  
hand, scar of 1/2" left upper lip.  
Any information or if located, notify  
the Indiana State Police, Room #126,  
State House, Indianapolis, or the  
nearest Sheriff or Police Authority.

F.P.C. (5)

5 R III 12  
17 R III 15



**WANTED BANK ROBBERY**

**WANTED**

**HARRY COPELAND**, white, 26 yrs., 165 lbs., 5'11" tall, dark brown hair, brown eyes, med. dark comp.

Any information or if located, notify the Indiana State Police, Room #128, State House, Indianapolis, or the nearest Sheriff or Police Authority.

F.P.C. (23)

27 W M 13  
2 U I 16

*Hanted for Murder at Lima, O.*



**WANTED**

**WANTED**

**ESCAPED CONVICT**  
**\$100.00 REWARD**

**RUSSELL LEE CLARK**, alias - R. L. Reed, #12261, white, 33 yrs., 6'1" tall, 167 lbs., gray slate eyes, drk. chest. hair, drk. comp.

**SCARS & MARKS**: Brown scar middle back Body covered with small moles.

Any information or if located, notify the Indiana State Police, Room #128, State House, Indianapolis, or the nearest Sheriff or Police Authority.

F.P.C. (16)

13 U O 15  
23 U O 15

*Hanted for Murder at Lima, O.*



**WANTED**

**WANTED**

**ESCAPED CONVICT**  
**\$100.00 REWARD**

**EDWARD SHOUSE**, #13915, white, 27 yrs., 5'7" tall, 150 lbs., med. blue eyes, med. chest. hair, med. comp.

**SCARS & MARKS**: Depressed scar middle forehead. Brown mole right cheek.

Any information or if located, notify the Indiana State Police, Room #128, State House, Indianapolis, or the nearest Sheriff or Police Authority.

F.P.C. (22)

1 R 10  
1 Ur 11

*Hanted for Murder at Lima, O.*

*Sander*

WANTED BANK ROBBERY WANTED

JOHN DILLINGER, white, 30 yrs., 5'7 1/2" tall, 170 lbs., light chest. hair, grey eyes, med. comp.  
SCARS & MARKS: Cut o/c. 3/4" long at base of middle finger.  
If located, arrest, hold and notify the Indiana State Police, Room #126, State House, Indianapolis, Ind.

F.P.C. (13) 9 R 0 14 U 00 9

*Wanted for Murder of Lewis, D.*



WANTED ESCAPED CONVICT \$100.00 REWARD WANTED

WALTER DEITRICH, aliases - Walter Deitz, Walter Reed, William Martin, #14351, white, 28 yrs., 5'7 1/2" tall, 181 lbs., med. brn. eyes, drk. chest. hair, med. comp.  
SCARS & MARKS: Blue tattoo, shield, right forearm anterior. Curved scar outer corner left eye.  
If located, arrest, hold and notify the Indiana State Police, Room #126, State House, Indianapolis, or the Indiana State Prison, Michigan City, Ind.

F.P.C. (28) 5 R 18 1 Ra 23



WANTED ESCAPED CONVICT \$100.00 REWARD WANTED

JOHN HAMILTON, alias - Jack Campbell, #11963, white, age 34 yrs., 5'8 1/2" tall, 160 lbs., drk. slate eyes, light chest. hair, light comp.  
SCARS & MARKS: Tattoo heart letters "JH" left forearm outer. Right index and middle finger amputated. Dim scar between brows.  
Any information or if located, notify the Indiana State Police, Room #126, State House, Indianapolis, or the nearest Sheriff or Police Authority.

F.P.C. (11) 29 0 13 amp 20 0 11

*Wanted for Murder of Lewis, D.*

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

November 4, 1933.

REN:GAJ  
62-29777

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Hughes	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Locke	.....

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

On October 26, 1933, Special Agent in Charge Larson telephoned Mr. Hughes of the Division requesting authority to proceed to Indianapolis, Indiana, for the purpose of conferring with Captain Leach of the Indiana State Police concerning the escape of the 10 convicts from the Indiana State Penitentiary. The files do not contain a report covering the activities of Agent in Charge Larson at this point.

The Division is in receipt of a letter dated October 28, 1933, from the Cincinnati office, copies of which were furnished the Detroit and Chicago offices. Mr. Connelley in this letter reports that he has been in conference with Walter Mentzer of the Indiana State Police and has offered every assistance that can possibly be rendered by this Division under the circumstances. Mr. Connelley has furnished the Detroit and Chicago offices with information obtained from the Indiana State Police concerning the various subjects, setting out their correspondence, visitors, etcetera, while they were incarcerated in the Michigan City Penitentiary. It does not appear, however, that photographs were furnished with Mr. Connelley's letter and I am arranging to have photographs furnished to all of the interested offices. Mr. Connelley in his letter makes reference to a possible violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wagner and Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Hooten, who are known to have assisted in harboring the fugitives in this case.

Mr. Connelley reports that Special Agent Bliss Morton at Indianapolis, Indiana, has been instructed to keep in close contact with Captain Matt Leach of the Indiana State Police in order that he may be kept advised of the progress being made in this investigation.

NOV 9 - 1933

Respectfully,

R. E. Newby.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

62-29777-25	
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 8 1933 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Mail One	FILE

COPI

W.F.B.A.

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 7, 1933

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Purvis called on the telephone late Monday evening and stated he had a request from the Assistant United States Attorney at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for an immediate investigation of the theft of 12 guns and much ammunition from an armory of the American Legion at Milwaukee, the guns and ammunition being Government property; that these guns were allegedly stolen by the farmer strikers and the United States Attorney was of the view that an immediate investigation should be made, sending several Agents to conduct the inquiry. Mr. Purvis stated he proposed to have one Agent make an investigation of the theft of the guns only and he proposed to have that Agent let it be known he was investigating only the theft of the guns. I suggested to him that this would be entirely proper and that he should be very careful not to become embroiled in the farmer strike.

Mr. Purvis stated also that he had word from Special Agent Devereux, from Indiana, that he had an informant who knew the whereabouts of two of the Michigan City, Indiana, escapes and that by using another informant it was thought they might obtain from these escapes the whereabouts of four additional escapes. I suggested to Agent in Charge Purvis that if they knew of the whereabouts of two escapes, Agent Devereux should immediately notify the police and accompany them in an effort to make an apprehension.

Mr. Purvis also inquired if a description had been handed down in the Factor case and I told him it apparently had not, at least I had not heard of it. He stated he had located Factor who was still in Chicago.

Respectfully,

V. W. Hughes  
V. W. HUGHES

RECORDED

NOV 9 - 1933

NOV 9 1933

62-2477-24

U. S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

SUITE L - FEDERAL BUILDING  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
NOVEMBER 8, 1933.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Locke	.....



Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

KC File #62-790

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to letter emanating from this office under date of October 30, 1933 concerning interview with [redacted] United States Penitentiary Annex, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas relative to information in the recent prison break at Michigan City, Indiana; also to Division letter dated November 2, 1933 concerning this same matter.

There is being enclosed herewith two copies of a letter directed by [redacted] above named, to Warden Hudspeth of the United States Penitentiary Annex under date of October 31, 1933 concerning this same matter, the original letter having been transmitted to this office by Warden Hudspeth. I am also furnishing two copies of this letter to the Cincinnati office for its information.

Your attention is directed to the latter part of [redacted] letter wherein he suggests that at the time of his contemplated trip to Indiana, apparently during the month of November, to testify in a perjury case, that he be permitted to work with Agents of this Division, looking toward the apprehension of the escaped convicts from Michigan City, Indiana.

Very truly yours,

M. C. SPEAR  
ACTING SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

MCS-jgw

cc - Cincinnati

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

NOV 25 1933

62-29777-27	
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 10 1933 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
DIRECTOR	FILE

October 31, 1933.

Mr. Robert Hudspeth,  
Warden, U. S. P. Annex.

Dear Sir:

When I first wrote you over a week ago, I had information that day of the whereabouts of two of the men that escaped from the State Prison at Michigan City, Ind. The exact word I had at that time was, that, they were in Indianapolis, Ind. and were going North (Portland, Ind.) in the next few days. These two men stopped at the home of an inmate of this institution. This inmate was formerly connected with some of the boys that escaped Michigan City. I did not give this information to the D. of J. men that interviewed me today because of two reasons - that it would be a waste of their time to go there now - and second, because I believe it best for this inmate not to be interrogated, by officials at the present time, because I have his confidence and he will inform me of any new developments. Were he to be questioned now, he would know where the information came from and he would get word to the outside that I had talked and that would mean the outfit would scatter out. I gave these two D. of J. men the location of the main rendezvous in Indiana and something from that source should develop in the next few days.

I do not know, yet, who smuggled the guns into the prison but I do have a lead on it. It will take me a few days to get the positive information. In the interim I would suggest that the D. of J. locate and keep under surveillance a Miss Bee Harding. She will either be in Chicago, Michigan City or Portland. That can be determined by getting the address at Michigan City from the visitors record. She has been writing and visiting Willard Comer at that prison.

I have had word that I may be returned to Indiana sometime next month to testify in a perjury case. Of course I realize that it is up to the Att. Gen. to say whether or not I shall be removed from this place for that purpose. If I am returned to act in that capacity I would like to make this suggestion; that during that time, I be placed in the custody of two able D. of J. men who are capable of assuming the role of an underworld character. I will introduce them and set them in with the different outfits throughout Central Indiana whom are associated with the men who escaped from Michigan City. I can guarantee that within 48 hours of our arrival in Indiana I will be in contact with at least four men who are escaped from M. C. Through them the location of the rest can be obtained. I have worked in this capacity before - letters in Mr. Buehlman's office will verify that and also state the reliability of my statements and the dependency that can be placed in me during such a time.

COPIES DESTROYED

170 AUG 31 1964

62-29777-27

It may seem that I have some ulterior motive in view for offering these suggestions. Such is not the case. I am merely trying to get my slate clean and I have the promise of a P. O. Inspector to try to get me a job with the D. of J. as an undercover man. With the experiences I have had in prison life and with the associations I have made, I undoubtedly would be successful in this work.

Kindly send the above information on, to the two gentlemen who called on me today.

Respectfully,  
[REDACTED] b7C

RECORDED

RECORDED

NOV 25 1933

November 23, 1933

Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Suite 4, Federal Building,  
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Sir:

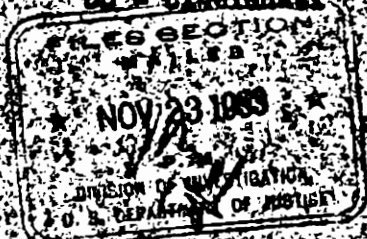
With reference to your letter dated November 8, 1933 with which you transmitted a copy of a letter received from [redacted] United States Penitentiary, Kansas, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, by Mr. Robert Rudolph, Warden of the Penitentiary in which [redacted] sets forth a proposition to assist in the apprehension of certain escaped convicts from the Indiana State Prison.

You are instructed to make necessary arrangements with Warden Rudolph to be notified when [redacted] is returned to Indiana to testify in a perjury case so that appropriate arrangements can be made with either the Detroit or Cincinnati Offices of the Division to have an Agent interview [redacted] for the purpose of obtaining whatever information he cares to divulge with reference to the whereabouts of the escaped convicts.

Very truly yours,

Director.

cc - Detroit  
cc - Cincinnati



RECORDED  
62-3377

November 6, 1933

Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
625 Lafayette Building,  
Detroit, Michigan.

RE: SUSAN L. CLARK, et al—  
Escapes from Indiana State Prison

Dear Sir:

In addition to the photographs forwarded to you with my letter dated November 6, 1933 in the above-captioned case, I am transmitting herewith photographs of four additional ex-convicts whose descriptions are set out below and which should be placed on the reverse side of the respective photographs. These individuals are believed to be associating with the night fugitives listed in my letter dated November 6, 1933.

John Gilligan

Robert VanDyke

Age: 21 in 1924  
Height: 5-7-1/2  
Weight: 153  
Build: Medium  
Color: White  
Eyes: Yellow slate  
Hair: Medium Chestnut  
Complexion: Medium  
Occupation: Mechanic  
Marks and Scars: Scar of 1/2"  
cut; left hand; scar middle  
upper lip; brown mole between  
eyebrows  
Fingerprints: (12) 9 2 0  
14 7 00 10  
Prison number: 11225

Age: 19 in 1926  
Height: 5-11-1/2  
Weight: 133  
Build: Slender  
Color: White  
Eyes: Blue  
Hair: Dark Chestnut  
Complexion: Dark  
Occupation: Waiter  
Marks and Scars: Tattoo, snake  
"HOPE" right forearm; scar of  
1-1/4" middle forehead edge of  
hair  
Fingerprints: (22) 17 L 100 13  
3 L 000  
Prison number: 11361

RECEIVED  
NOV 10 1933  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

62-24997-28  
NOV 10 1933  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Page 2,  
Special Agent in Charge,  
Detroit Office,  
November 9, 1933.

Harry Coccaland

Age: 31 in 1927  
Height: 5-10  
Weight: 147  
Build: Medium  
Color: White  
Eyes: Dark brown  
Hair: Medium Chestnut  
Complexion: Dark  
Occupation: Glass Worker  
Marks: Tattoo, Heart back left  
hand; Tattoos, Clamped hands,  
sailors head, circus girl,  
letters "H. E. C." right  
forearm  
Fingerprints: (25) 27 W M 14  
2 W I 15  
Prison number: 12231

Hilton O. Cronch

Age: 24 in 1928  
Height: 5-4-7/8  
Weight: 159  
Build: Medium  
Eyes: Gray slate  
Hair: Medium dark chestnut  
Color: White  
Complexion: Medium  
Occupation: Carpenter  
Marks & Scars: Scar of 1/2" right  
shoulder posterior; several brown  
soles, left shoulder blade  
Fingerprints: (25) 32 W 161 25  
32 W 100  
Prison number: 12347

Very truly yours,

Director.

Incl. 366600

CC - Chicago  
Cincinnati  
St. Louis

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) \_\_\_\_\_ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI:

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ For your information: Four negatives are not duplicated.
- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
62-29777-28

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

U. S. Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice

1900 Bankers Bldg.,  
Chicago, Illinois  
November 10, 1933

Mr. Nathan.....  
Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Edwards.....  
Mr. Egan.....  
Mr. Hughes.....  
Mr. Quinn.....  
Mr. Lester.....  
Mr. Locke.....

Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Further reference is made to my letter  
to you dated today, with which was enclosed a memorandum  
submitted by Special Agent W. J. Devereux, indicating  
contacts with an individual by the name of JOE  
concerning the escape of various prisoners from  
the Indiana State Penitentiary, Michigan City, Indiana.

There is attached hereto an additional  
memorandum supplied by Special Agent Devereux.

Very truly yours,

M. H. Purvis  
M. H. PURVIS,  
Special Agent in Charge

MHP:TMH  
Encl.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

NOV 16 1933

62-29777-29	
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 13 1933	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
DIRECTOR	FILE

# U. S. Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice  
South Bend, Indiana  
November 9, 1933

Memorandum for Mr. Purvis.

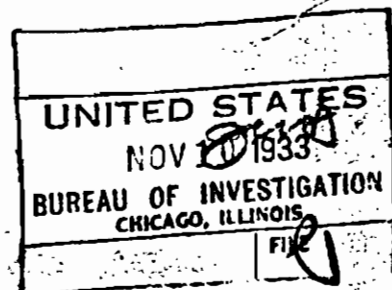
Re: Escapes from Indiana State Penitentiary,  
Michigan City, Indiana.

Supplementing my memorandum regarding the above subject, dated November 8, 1933, I wish to state that during my talks with Joseph Taylor, the under cover operator for Warden Louis Kunkel, he mentioned that he had four of the escaped convicts lined up in Ohio, stating that they were around Defiance, Ohio, but would not enlarge on the information, stating that he could get them any time he wanted.

Today I talked with Detective Leo Berner of the South Bend police regarding the information which Taylor might have given the police the same night he talked to me, and Mr. Berner stated that Taylor told him and the other officers that he had four of the escaped convicts lined up near Bremen, Indiana.

It is probable, in view of the varying locations of the four convicts, as related by Taylor, that the whole thing is concocted and that there is no truth in anything he says.

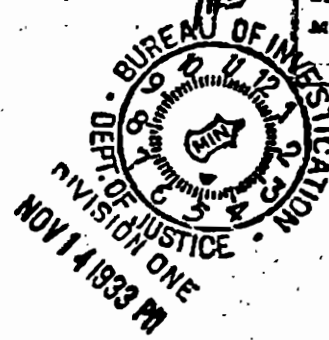
*W. J. Devereux*  
W. J. Devereux  
Special Agent



**U. S. Bureau of Investigation**

Department of Justice  
1900 Bankers Bldg.,  
Chicago, Illinois  
November 10, 1933

Mr. Nathan	_____
Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Hughes	_____
Mr. Quinn	_____
Mr. Lester	_____
Mr. Locke	_____



Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

There is attached hereto a copy of a memorandum submitted to me by Special Agent W. J. Devereux concerning the recent escapes from the Indiana State Penitentiary at Michigan City, Indiana.

In this memorandum it will be noted that an individual by the name of JOE TAYLOR has requested the assistance of this Division in the placing of a Special Agent, working undercover, in with some of the escapes whom he claims to have located.

Special Agent Devereux, in addition to this memorandum, has informed me that he specifically requested Taylor to advise him as to the locations of these prisoners, whose whereabouts he claims to know. He declined to furnish this information to Special Agent Devereux.

From a discussion of this matter with Agent Devereux and from noting the so-called developments mentioned by Taylor, it is my opinion that he is entirely unreliable and that the information in his possession is without value whatever. I will keep in touch with this situation and inform the Division of any developments.

Very truly yours,

*M. H. Purvis*  
M. H. PURVIS,  
Special Agent in Charge

MHP:TMH  
Encl.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

NOV 16 1933

COPIES DESTROYED  
170 AUG 31 1964

62-29777-3

DIVISION OF	
NOV 13 1933	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
DIRECTOR	FILE

# U. S. Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice  
South Bend, Indiana  
November 8, 1933

Memorandum for Mr. Purvis.

Re: Indiana State Penitentiary escape,  
Michigan City, Indiana.

UNITED STATES	
NOV 9 1933	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	
FILE	

About 5:00 PM on Monday, November 6, 1933 while at the Federal Building at South Bend, Indiana I received a telephone call from one Joe Taylor representing himself as being working for Warden Louis Kunkel of the Indiana State Penitentiary, Michigan City, Indiana, in an attempt to locate and apprehend the escape convicts from said penitentiary. This person desired me to meet him across from the post office building as soon as possible and I did so immediately after the call.

Joe Taylor told me hurriedly that he had been working under cover ~~for a week or more~~ for Warden Kunkel and had been with Hamilton and Shouse, two of the escaped convicts, all that afternoon, drinking and playing cards; that just before he phoned me he had driven the two men to a house located at the north west corner of Washington and La Porte Streets, South Bend, Indiana. He suggested that I go with him later that night to meet the two men, representing myself as being an convict, just as he had been doing. I told him that I could hardly work under cover in South Bend since I had been living here too long. He wanted to know then whether I could suggest someone to do such work. I told him that I would call into Chicago and ask you.

Taylor then stated that he wanted to call Warden Kunkel and get some information and accordingly he accompanied me to my residence where he put in a call for Louis E. Kunkel, Warden of the Indiana State Penitentiary, Michigan City, Indiana. When the connection was made, I gathered from the one sided conversation that Warden Kunkel, upon being told by Taylor that he, Taylor had been with two of the escapes that afternoon, asked him why he did not cause the two escapes to be arrested. Taylor stated over the phone that he had in mind to work along with the two men in South Bend for awhile in hope of getting some information regarding two more of the escapes; that he, Taylor knew where four of the convicts were in Ohio and he thought that he could catch all eight of the men if he were allowed to proceed in his own way. The upshot of the conversation must have been that Kunkel told him to go ahead and do the job the way he wanted.

Later, after receiving advice from you that it would not be possible to put a man in with the two persons supposed to be the escapes, I informed Taylor who immediately stated that the whole deal was off; that he couldn't get cooperation and therefor he was going to drop the entire work. I suggested to him that my idea of the matter was to go and take the two escapes he had lined up and forget about the others for the time being. He stated he didn't want to do that but finally stated he might consider it. I also suggested that the South Bend police be contacted for assistance but he stated that he would not work with the police; that he did not trust them, and that if he decided to 'take' the escapes he would do it himself.

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Taylor got in touch with later in the evening and asked me to go out with him which I did. We went to the suspected house and upon being admitted and shown to the room of a man whom Taylor called George, he, Taylor, wanted me to take the man into custody on the theory that he was a member of the 'Khaki Shirts' from Philadelphia. I told him that I could not take the man into custody for any such reason. I assured myself that the man, who gave his name as George Husvar, was not any of the escaped convicts. Taylor acted pretty tough throughout the affair and I began to entertain doubts as to whether he had ever seen any of the escaped convicts, much less having been around with them all day long.

After I left Taylor for the night, he telephoned me and stated that he had had Chief of Police Kuespert arrest George Husvar.

The next day, Tuesday, November 7, 1933 I went to Michigan City, Indiana where I had a long talk with Warden Lewis E. Kunkel, of the Indiana State Penitentiary. Mr. Kunkel, in response to my inquiries regarding Taylor, informed me that while Taylor was working for him in trying to get a line on the escaped convicts, he had known nothing of the man before he came to Michigan City a short while after the escape with an introduction from Mr. Chester, secretary to Congressman Pettengill of South Bend, Indiana. Warden Kunkel told me that Taylor had served time at Michigan City prison for forgery some time ago and was supposed to know some of the men who had escaped from the prison and was in a position to get further valuable information. He stated however, that he doubted whether Taylor knew anything more about the whereabouts of the escapes than any ordinary citizen. He stated that Taylor had been running all over the State of Indiana on what were supposed to be 'hot tips' but that thus far there has been no information regarding the whereabouts of any of the escapes, much less the bodies of the escapes. In other words Warden Kunkel is of the opinion that Taylor is a fraud and knows nothing of value.

While at the prison, I informed the warden that he ought to take advantage of our fingerprint division in posting his wanted notices when men escaped the institution and that the best thing to do would be to wire the name and prison number of the escape and later follow the wire with a letter of request. I also told him that if the Division could be of use to him in running out leads in different parts of the country he should get in touch with the Chicago Division office.

After talking with the warden I returned to South Bend and talked with Chief of Police Kuespert who, after hearing of my experience with Taylor, told me that Taylor had appeared at the station late during the night of November 6, 1933 and told them that two of the escaped convicts from Michigan City were in the house at Washington and LaPorte Streets. The police went out to the place and found only Husvar, who was taken into custody but released on November 7, 1933. The Chief expressed the view that Taylor was trying to 'ride' the warden of the penitentiary for what money he could get, and did not possess any information of the whereabouts of any of the escaped men.

My own opinion is that Taylor is either 'stir crazy' or has hallucinations, and has no idea whatever of where the escaped convicts are. I have not seen him since the night of November 6, 1933 but if I do, I intend to try and get him to tell me just what his idea was in telling his 'stories' about the escaped convicts, and how far he thought he could get, by going around under authority of the prison and getting our division and the police out on a trail that was foolish to start with.

From what Mr. Kunkel told me I think that Taylor will be told to stop operating for the prison and that his help will not be wanted.

*L. J. Deveney*  
Special Agent