

Chicago, Illinois
July 22, 1934

**MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE E. W. PURVIS
AND SPECIAL AGENT S. P. COWLEY**

This is to advise you of the activities and observations of the writer in connection with the killing of John Dillinger.

On the night of July 21, 1934, at approximately 8:15 or 8:30 P.M., this Agent was at the office at the time the telephone call was received advising Mr. Cowley that Dillinger had gone to the Biograph Theater, 2435 Lincoln Avenue, and in accordance with previously-given instructions, the writer proceeded to the vicinity of that theater with Special Agents McCarthy, Welles and Gillespie. Upon arriving within one block of the Biograph Theater, the car was parked and the writer, in accordance with instructions previously given by Mr. Cowley, proceeded to the left-hand side as one comes out of the Biograph Theater on Lincoln Avenue, being accompanied at that point by Special Agent Welles.

Our instructions were to the effect that we were to be in position to see the four men designated to make the first approach on Dillinger and to cover those four men and assist in the apprehension if ~~possible~~ but to also endeavor to keep the crowd back when the grab was made, and to attempt to take the two women that would be with him.

We arrived at this point, which was approximately a half block from the theater, at approximately 8:30 P.M., where, as instructed, our surveillance was begun. From the position we occupied we could quite easily keep Mr. Purvis in direct view, as well as Special Agents Hollis, Burt and Special Agent Winstead, who later came to that side of the street. This watch was continued up until about 10:45 P.M., at which time Special Agent in Charge Purvis, who was standing just south of the entrance of the theater, was seen to light his cigar, which was the prearranged signal to indicate that Dillinger was coming out of the theater. Simultaneously with that signal, the writer observed a man who answered the description given as to how Dillinger would look and would be dressed who came out of the theater with two women answering the description given of the women who would be with him. It was immediately known to the writer that that party was Dillinger.

62-29777-1-14 26-5685-2440

Kenneth Dodger, employee Hickey's Shoe Store, stated the picture of Van Meter was similar to the bandit who burst in and got out of the store.

Charles E. Dillard, attorney, partially identified Van Meter as the man who stood guard south of the bank.

O. H. Hah, employee, Schley's Shoe Store, partially identified Van Meter as a man who stood guard near the bank.

Ray North, customer in Hooks Drugstore, partially identified Van Meter as the man who stood in front of Schley's Shoe Store.

JIM HAMILTON

Miss Ruth Campbell, Hooks Drugstore, identified Hamilton as a man who came in the drugstore two days before the robbery and stood around the cigar counter fifteen minutes.

Miss Irene Ross, bank employee, stated that the photograph of Hamilton "looks something like" one of the bandits who went back of the cage in the bank and gathered up the money.

THEODORE BENTS

Harry Henderson and Hols P. Hanson, members of the South Bend Police Department tentatively identified Bents from photographs as one of the bandits who came out of the bank. Subsequently they viewed Bents in the jail at Grand Haven, Michigan, and positively identified him.

P. G. Staley, Vice President of the bank, stated that Bents' photograph looks more like the man who went behind the counters in the bank than any other photograph shown to him.

Fred Duffie, bank teller, stated that the photograph of Bents looks something like the big man who went behind the counter in the bank.

FRED TOSSER

Edward McCormick, a South Bend Detective, identified Tosser