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John Dillinger

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John Herbert Dillinger (June 22, 1903 – July 22, 1934) was an American [bank robber](#) in the [Depression-era United States](#). His gang robbed two dozen banks and four police stations. Dillinger escaped from jail twice; he was also charged with, but never convicted of, the murder of an [East Chicago, Indiana](#) police officer who shot Dillinger in his bullet-proof vest during a shootout, prompting him to return fire. It was Dillinger's only homicide charge.

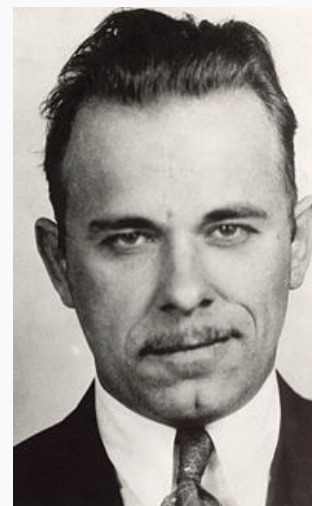
In 1933–34, seen in retrospect as the heyday of the Depression-era outlaw, Dillinger was the most notorious of all, standing out even among more violent criminals such as [Baby Face Nelson](#), [Pretty Boy Floyd](#), and [Bonnie and Clyde](#). (Decades later, the first major book about '30s gangsters was titled *The Dillinger Days*.) Media reports in his time were spiced with exaggerated accounts of Dillinger's bravado and daring and his colorful personality. The government demanded federal action, and [J. Edgar Hoover](#) developed a more sophisticated [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) as a weapon against [organized crime](#) and used Dillinger and his gang as his campaign platform to launch the FBI.^[1]

After evading police in four states for almost a year, Dillinger was wounded and returned to his father's home to recover. He returned to Chicago in July 1934 and met his end at the hands of police and federal agents who were informed of his whereabouts by [Ana Cumpănaș](#) (the owner of the brothel where Dillinger sought refuge at the time). On July 22, the police and Division of Investigation^[2] closed in on the [Biograph Theater](#). Federal agents, led by [Melvin Purvis](#) and [Samuel P. Cowley](#), moved to arrest Dillinger as he left the theater. He pulled a weapon and attempted to flee but was shot four times and killed.^[3]

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John Dillinger



John Dillinger

Born	John Herbert Dillinger June 22, 1903 Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.
Died	July 22, 1934 (aged 31) Chicago, Illinois, U.S.
Criminal charge	Bank robbery, murder, assault, assault of an officer, grand theft auto
Criminal penalty	Imprisonment from 1924 to 1933
Spouse(s)	Beryl Hovius (divorced)

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Early life [edit]

Family and background [edit]

John Herbert Dillinger was born on June 22, 1903, in the Oak Hill section of [Indianapolis, Indiana](#),^[4] the younger of two children born to John Wilson Dillinger (July 2, 1864 – November 3, 1943) and Mary Ellen "Mollie" Lancaster (1860–1907).^{[5]:10} According to some biographers, his grandfather, Matthias Dillinger immigrated to the United States in 1851 from [Metz](#), in the region of [Alsace-Lorraine](#), then under [French sovereignty](#).^[6] Matthias Dillinger was born in German-Prussian Gisingen, near [Dillingen, Saarland](#). Dillinger's parents had married on August 23, 1887. Dillinger's father was a grocer by trade and, reportedly, a harsh man.^{[5]:9} In an interview with reporters, Dillinger said that he was firm in his discipline and believed in the adage "spare the rod and spoil the child".^{[5]:12}

Dillinger's older sister, Audrey, was born March 6, 1889. Their mother died in 1907 just before his fourth birthday.^{[5][7]} Audrey married Emmett "Fred" Hancock that year and they had seven children together. She cared for her brother John for several years until their father remarried in 1912 to Elizabeth "Lizzie" Fields (1878–1933). They had three children, Hubert, born c. 1913, Doris M. (December 12, 1917 – March 14, 2001) and Frances Dillinger (born c. 1922).^[7]

Reportedly, Dillinger initially disliked his stepmother, but he eventually came to love her.^[8]

Formative years and marriage [edit]

As a teenager, Dillinger was frequently in trouble with the law for fighting and petty theft; he was also noted for his "bewildering personality" and [bullying](#) of smaller children.^{[5]:14} He quit school to work in an Indianapolis machine shop. Although he worked hard at his job, he would stay out all night at parties. His father feared that the city was corrupting his son, prompting him to move the family to [Mooreville, Indiana](#), in about 1920.^{[5]:15} Dillinger's wild and rebellious behavior was resilient despite his new rural life. He was arrested in 1922 for [auto theft](#), and his relationship with his father deteriorated.^{[5]:16–17} His troubles led him to enlist in the [United States Navy](#) where he was a Fireman 3rd Class assigned aboard the battleship [USS *Utah*](#),^[9] but he [deserted](#) a few months later when his ship was docked in [Boston](#). He was eventually [dishonorably discharged](#).^{[5]:18–20} Dillinger then returned to Mooreville where he met Beryl Ethel Hovious.^[10] The two were married on April 12, 1924. He attempted to settle down, but he had difficulty holding a job and preserving his marriage.^{[5]:20} The marriage ended in divorce on June 20, 1929.^{[7][11]}

Dillinger was unable to find a job and began planning a robbery with his friend Ed Singleton.^{[5]:22} The two robbed a local grocery store, stealing \$50.^{[5]:26} Leaving the scene they were spotted by a minister who recognized the men and reported them to the police. The two men were arrested the next day. Singleton pleaded not guilty, but after Dillinger's father (the local Mooreville Church deacon) discussed the matter with Morgan County prosecutor Omar O'Harrow, his father convinced Dillinger to confess to the crime and plead guilty without retaining a defense attorney.^{[5]:24} Dillinger was convicted of [assault](#) and [battery](#) with intent to rob, and [conspiracy](#) to commit a [felony](#). He expected a lenient probation sentence as a result of his father's discussion with prosecutor O'Harrow, but instead was sentenced to 10 to 20 years in prison for his crimes.^[7] His father told reporters he regretted his advice and was appalled by the sentence. He pleaded with the judge to shorten the sentence but with no success.^{[5]:25} En route to Mooreville to testify against Singleton, Dillinger briefly escaped his captors but was apprehended within a few minutes.^{[5]:27}

Criminal career [edit]

Prison time [edit]

Dillinger had embraced the criminal lifestyle behind bars in the [Indiana Reformatory](#) (1924-1930) in [Pendleton, Indiana](#) and [Indiana State Prison](#) in [Michigan City](#). Upon being admitted to the prison he is quoted as saying, "I will be the meanest bastard you ever saw when I get out of here."^{[5]:26} His physical examination upon being admitted to the prison showed that he had [gonorrhoea](#). The treatment for his condition was extremely painful.^{[5]:22} He became embittered against society because of his long prison sentence and befriended other criminals, such as seasoned bank robbers like [Harry "Pete" Pierpont](#), [Charles Makley](#), [Russell Clark](#), and [Homer Van Meter](#), who taught Dillinger how to be a successful criminal. The men planned heists that they would commit soon after they were released.^{[5]:32} Dillinger studied [Herman Lamm](#)'s meticulous bank-robbing system and used it extensively throughout his criminal career.

His father launched a campaign to have him released and was able to get 188 signatures on a petition. Dillinger was [paroled](#) on May 10, 1933, after serving nine and a half years. Dillinger's stepmother became sick just before he was released from the prison, and she died before he arrived at her home.^{[5]:37} Released at the height of the [Great Depression](#), Dillinger had little prospect of finding employment.^{[5]:35} He immediately returned to crime^{[5]:39} and on June 21, 1933, he robbed his first bank, taking \$10,000 from the New Carlisle National Bank, which occupied the building at the southeast corner of Main Street and Jefferson (State Routes 235 and 571) in [New Carlisle, Ohio](#).^[12]

On August 14, Dillinger robbed a bank in [Bluffton, Ohio](#). Tracked by police from [Dayton, Ohio](#), he was captured and later transferred to the Allen County jail in [Lima](#) to be indicted in connection to the Bluffton robbery. After searching him before letting him into the prison, the police discovered a document which appeared to be a [prison escape](#) plan. They demanded Dillinger tell them what the document meant, but he refused.^[7]

Dillinger had helped conceive a plan for the escape of Pierpont, Clark and six others he had met while previously in prison, most of whom worked in the prison laundry. Dillinger had friends smuggle guns into their prison cells, with which they escaped, four days after Dillinger's capture. The group, known as "the First Dillinger Gang," comprised Pete Pierpont, Russell Clark, [Charles Makley](#), Ed Shouse, Harry Copeland, and [John "Red" Hamilton](#), a member of the [Herman Lamm](#) Gang. Pierpont, Clark, and Makley arrived in Lima on October 12, where they impersonated Indiana State Police officers, claiming they had come to extradite Dillinger to Indiana. When the sheriff, Jess Sarber, asked for their credentials, Pierpont fatally shot him, then released Dillinger from his cell. The four men escaped back into Indiana where they joined the rest of the gang.^[7] Sheriff Sarber was the gang's first police killing, of an estimated 13.^[13]

Bank robberies [\[edit\]](#)



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The Bureau of Investigation was a precursor of the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#).^[2] The Bureau of Investigation was renamed the "Division" in 1933 until in the 1935 Department of Justice budget appropriation, Congress officially recognized the Division as the "Federal Bureau of Investigation". The name became effective on March 22, 1935, when the President signed the appropriation bill. The newly designated FBI was brought into the investigation to help identify the criminals, although the men had not violated any federal law. Bank robbery was not yet a federal crime, so police officers were powerless to pursue robbers across state lines.^[14] It was one of the first cases in which the FBI intervened in matters outside its jurisdiction. Using their superior fingerprint matching technology, they successfully identified all of the suspects and issued national bulletins offering rewards for their capture.^[7]

Banks confirmed to have been robbed by Dillinger were:

- **Before Lima**
 - New Carlisle National Bank, [New Carlisle, Ohio](#), of \$10,000 on June 21, 1933;^[12]
 - The Commercial Bank, [Daleville, Indiana](#), of \$3,500 on July 17, 1933;
 - Montpelier National Bank, [Montpelier, Indiana](#), of \$6,700 on August 4, 1933;
 - Bluffton Bank, [Bluffton, Ohio](#), of \$6,000 on August 14, 1933;
 - Massachusetts Avenue State Bank, [Indianapolis, Indiana](#), of \$21,000 on September 6, 1933;
- **After Dillinger was broken out of Lima**
 - Central National Bank And Trust Co., [Greencastle, Indiana](#), of \$74,802 on October 23, 1933;
 - American Bank And Trust Co., [Racine, Wisconsin](#), of \$28,000 on November 20, 1933;
 - First National Bank, [East Chicago, Indiana](#), of \$20,000 on January 15, 1934;
- **After escaping Crown Point**
 - Securities National Bank And Trust Co., [Sioux Falls, South Dakota](#), of \$49,500 on March 6, 1934;
 - First National Bank, [Mason City, Iowa](#), of \$52,000 on March 13, 1934;
 - First National Bank, [Fostoria, Ohio](#), of \$17,000 on May 3, 1934;
 - Merchants National Bank, [South Bend, Indiana](#), of \$29,890 on June 30, 1934.^[7]

To obtain more supplies, the gang attacked the state police arsenals in [Auburn](#) and [Peru](#), stealing [machine guns](#), rifles, revolvers, ammunition and bulletproof vests.^[7] On October 23, 1933, the gang robbed the Central National Bank & Trust Company in [Greencastle, Indiana](#). They then headed to [Chicago](#) to hide out. On December 14, 1933, CPD Detective William Shanley was killed.^[15] The police had been put on high alert and suspected the Dillinger gang of involvement in the robbery of the Unity Trust And Savings Bank of \$8,700 the day before. Shanley was following up on a tip that one of the gang's cars was being serviced at a local garage. John "Red" Hamilton showed up at the garage that afternoon. When Shanley approached him, Hamilton pulled a pistol and shot him twice, killing Shanley, then escaped. Shanley's murder led to the Chicago Police Department's establishment of a forty-man "Dillinger Squad."

Dillinger and Frechette arrived at 901 South Atlantic Avenue, [Daytona Beach, Florida](#), on Tuesday, December 19, renting a two-story house from realtor J.M. Green. A day or two later they were joined by the rest of the gang, Pierpont driving a '34 Buick, Makley in his '34 Studebaker, along with Russell Clark and Opal Long in a Ford V8 coupe, in addition to Dillinger's '33 Essex-Terraplane. According to a statement given to the FBI by Beth Green, she was told by Billie that the house had a beautiful round living room, with four fireplaces situated in the center of the room. Frechette had indicated to Green that Opal Long usually was the one who liked to putz in the kitchen and would sometimes cook, but on this trip she made it known to everyone that she was on vacation and would not be doing any

cooking.

According to Edwin Utter, the caretaker who occupied the garage apartment at the same address, the four couples kept to themselves and had no outside contacts, as far as he knew, and no one was seen to visit them. The group appeared to Utter to be the gangster type. The gang did mention to him that they were from Chicago. Utter said the group received considerable mail. After the gang left, several letters came addressed to Frank Kirtley (Dillinger), J.C. Davies, (Makley), and J.C. Evans (Pierpont). As the gang left no forwarding addresses, the letters were returned to the postman. No phone calls were ever made, as the house didn't have one. Utter stated there was considerable drinking going on, especially at night. He said the gang stayed at the cottage until about Friday, January 12, leaving at night. This January date would have posed yet another problem for Dillinger's defense team had he gone to trial for O'Malley's killing.^[16] Note: Most sources claim the house in Daytona Beach to be a three-story, 17-room mansion. The interview of Utter was conducted at the South Atlantic Avenue address by Agent R.L. Shivers, accompanied by Daytona Chief of Police Haney. In the report, the structure is always referred to as a cottage or a house, and two stories, not three. The house is long gone. No photos of it have come to light thus far.

While Makley, Clark, and Pierpont extended their vacation by driving west to [Tucson, Arizona](#), Dillinger left Florida on January 12 and met up with Hamilton in Chicago at noon on Monday, January 15, a meeting that had been arranged between the two men while Dillinger was in Daytona Beach. Later that afternoon they robbed the First National Bank in [East Chicago](#). East Chicago marked the first time serious violence occurred at a Dillinger robbery, a trend that would continue through South Bend, the last job. Killed by Dillinger was East Chicago patrolman William Patrick O'Malley, the outlaw's first and only murder victim. At approximately 2:50 p.m., 10 minutes before closing time, Dillinger and Hamilton, and an unidentified driver, pulled up in front of the bank on Chicago Avenue on the wrong side of the street, facing east in the westbound lane, double parked, and exited the vehicle, leaving the driver to wait in the idling car. Hamilton waited in the bank's vestibule, while Dillinger entered the main room of the bank. Once inside, Dillinger leisurely opened up a leather case containing a Thompson, pulled it out, and yelled to the 20 to 30 people in the bank, "This is a stickup. Put up your hands and get back against the wall." The bank's vice president, Walter Spencer, while hiding, kicked a button which touched off the burglar alarm. Dillinger then went to the door of the vestibule and told Hamilton to come in. Hamilton produced a small leather bag and began scooping up the cash cage by cage. Dillinger told him, "Take your time. We're in no hurry."

Meanwhile, the first police contingent arrived on the scene after receiving the alarm at police headquarters. Four officers arrived: Patrick O'Malley, Hobart Wilgus, Pete Whalen, and Julius Schrenko. After a quick look through the windows of the bank, the officers could see a holdup was in progress and that one of the men was carrying a submachine gun. Schrenko ran to a nearby drugstore and called for more backup. While Schrenko was calling headquarters, Wilgus entered the bank by himself, but was soon covered by Dillinger. The outlaw "relieved" him of his pistol, emptied the cartridges, then tossed it back to the officer. Referring to his Thompson, Dillinger told Wilgus, "You oughtn't be afraid of this thing. I ain't even sure it'll shoot." Turning his attention to Hamilton, Dillinger said, "Don't let those coppers outside worry you. Take your time and be sure to get all the dough. We'll take care of them birds on the outside when we get there." Dillinger then discovered the hiding VP, Spencer, and ordered him up against the wall with everyone else. Schrenko's call for backup emptied the station of all but its phone operator. Four more officers arrived: Captains Tim O'Neil and Ed Knight, and Officers Nick Ranich and Lloyd Mulvihill (murdered by Van Meter four months later). These four officers joined the other three in positions on either side of the Chicago Avenue entrance to the bank. Apparently, not one of them noticed the bandit car double parked on the wrong side of the street right outside the bank door, with its driver sitting unconcerned in the seat with the motor running.

Dillinger then ordered Spencer and Wilgus to lead the way out of the bank, acting as shields. The four walked down the sidewalk toward the car. O'Malley, standing about 20 feet from the front door, saw an opening and fired four times at Dillinger, the bullets bouncing off the outlaw's bullet-proof vest. Dillinger pushed Spencer away with the barrel of his Thompson and yelled, "Get over. I'll get that son of a bitch."^[17] O'Malley fell, with eight holes in a line across his chest. As Hamilton made his way into the street, he was observed to take a round in his right hand. He dropped his pistol in the gutter. The bloody pistol was soon recovered by the police. Hamilton had emptied the entire clip before dropping it. Dillinger kept firing until he climbed into the rear seat of the car. Two game wardens who had driven up to the scene emptied their guns into the car as it started to pull away. The car actually started to pull away before Hamilton had closed the left rear door, and the door was partly torn off as it caught on the rear of another vehicle. The same Ohio plates used at the Greencastle heist were used on the East Chicago getaway car. Police believed the car "may have been a Plymouth," but was actually a 1934 Ford Tudor Sedan. The abandoned car was found the following day at Byron Street and California Avenue, Chicago.^[18]

Every officer, as well as numerous witnesses inside the bank, identified Dillinger as being one of the robbers—and the shooter. Prints were taken of the piece Hamilton left behind, which ID'd him.^[19] Dillinger was officially charged with Officer O'Malley's murder, although the identity of the actual killer is debatable, and it is still questioned by some whether Dillinger participated in the robbery at all.^{[20]:154}

As police began closing in again, the men left Chicago to hide out first in [Florida](#); later at the Gardner Hotel in [El Paso, Texas](#), where a highly visible police presence dissuaded Dillinger from trying to cross the border at the Santa Fe Bridge in downtown El Paso to [Ciudad Juárez, Mexico](#); and finally in Tucson, Arizona.^[7]

On the run [[edit](#)]

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On Sunday, January 21, 1934, a fire broke out at the [Hotel Congress](#) in Tucson where members of the Dillinger gang were staying. Forced to leave their luggage behind, they were rescued through a window and down a fire truck ladder. Charles Makley and Russell Clark tipped a couple of firemen \$12 (each, according to a bureau report) to climb back up and retrieve the luggage, affording the firefighters a good look at several members of Dillinger's gang. One of them, William Benedict, later recognized Makley, Pierpont, and Ed Shouse while thumbing through a copy of *True Detective* and informed the police, who traced Makley's luggage to 927 North Second Avenue. Officers from the Tucson Police Department went to the address on the afternoon of Thursday, January 25, and there arrested Clark after a struggle. Makley was then followed to the Grabbe Electric & Radio Store on Congress Street, where he was looking at a radio capable of picking up police calls, and was apprehended there. ^[21]

To capture Pierpont, the police staged a routine traffic stop and lured him to the police station, where they took him by surprise and arrested him. Dillinger was the last one taken. Found on each person arrested: Pierpont: \$99.81; Mary Kinder: \$3,116.20; Makley: \$794.09; Clark: \$1,264.70; and Dillinger: \$7,175.44, including notes from his robbery of the First National Bank in East Chicago, A000919 through A001107.^{[22][23]} These amounts, along with a leather money bag found, totaled over \$25,000 in cash, as well as a cache of machine guns and several automatic weapons. The men were extradited to the Midwest after a debate between prosecutors as to where the gang would be prosecuted first. The governor compromised, and ordered that Dillinger would be extradited to the Lake County Jail in [Crown Point](#) for Officer O'Malley's murder in the East Chicago bank robbery, while Pierpont, Makley and Clark were sent to Ohio to stand trial for Sheriff Sarber's murder. Shouse's testimony at the March 1934 trials of Pierpont, Makley and Clark led to all three of the men being convicted. Pierpont and Makley received the death penalty, while Clark received a life sentence. Makley would be shot dead by guards while attempting to escape. Pierpont, wounded during the same attempt, would recover from his wounds in time for his trip to the electric chair. Clark would ultimately be released in 1968, dying of cancer a few months later.

Dillinger's flight itinerary from Douglas Airport, Tucson, to Midway Airport, Chicago: with Lake County Chief Deputy Carroll Holley (Sheriff Lillian Holley's nephew), and East Chicago Chief of Police Nick Makar escorting the outlaw, the plane left at 11:14 p.m. on Monday, January 29. After stops in Douglas, AZ (plane change), El Paso, Abilene, Dallas (another plane change), Fort Worth, Little Rock and Memphis (another plane change, a [Ford Tri-Motor](#)), there was yet another stop in St. Louis, where Chicago Times reporter/photographer Sol Davis boarded the aircraft and was obliged by Dillinger to take a few photos and ask some questions. After a while, growing weary of the questions and being photographed, the outlaw told Davis, "Go away and let me sleep." Dillinger's brutal flight schedule ended at about six p.m. January 30 when the plane finally touched town at windy and rainy Midway. Waiting for him on the ground were 32 heavily armed Chicago policemen. A 13-car caravan consisting of 29 troopers from Indiana was ready to escort Dillinger to Crown Point, 30 miles away, to be tried for the O'Malley killing.^[24]

The police boasted to area newspapers that the Crown Point jail was escape-proof and posted extra guards to make sure. What happened on the day of Dillinger's escape on March 3 is still open to debate. Deputy Ernest Blunk claimed that Dillinger had escaped using a real pistol, but FBI files make clear that Dillinger carved a fake pistol from a piece of wood. How he acquired such a thing is still the subject of controversy. Sam Cahoon, the janitor that Dillinger first took hostage in the jail, believed that Dillinger had carved the gun with a razor and some shelving in his cell. However, according to an unpublished interview with Dillinger's attorney, [Louis Piquett](#) and his investigator, Art O'Leary, it was later revealed that O'Leary claimed to have sneaked the gun in himself. As there has been very little evidence to corroborate any one story, it seems that the truth may never fully be revealed. ^[25]What is known is that Dillinger's wooden pistol was modeled after a Colt .38. He tricked a guard into opening his cell, took seventeen men^[26] hostage, used Deputy Blunk to lure the guards back to the cell block one at a time, locked them in his cell, and fled with another inmate, Herbert Youngblood. Before leaving, Dillinger ran the wooden pistol along the bars of the cell in which the people were held and laughed that he had broken their escape-proof jail with nothing but a wooden



Issued on June 23, 1934; authorized by Homer S. Cummings, U.S. Attorney General.



Dillinger on his way to court, cuffed to Deputy Carroll Holley, Crown Point, Indiana, February 1934.

gun.

To add insult to injury Dillinger then stole Sheriff Lillian Holley's new [Ford V8 Fordor](#). The jailbreak, along with the theft of the sheriff's car, was the event that made Dillinger a household name, but which embarrassed Holley to no end—and the town. Dillinger headed straight to Chicago.^{[18][27]} Because he crossed a state line in a stolen car, he violated the federal Motor Vehicle Theft Act. It seems that Dillinger's crimes before this were severe enough to merit federal interaction into the case. The crime was under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Investigation who immediately took over the Dillinger case after the car was found abandoned in Chicago. Dillinger's fellow escapee, Youngblood, went on his way, but was killed in a police shootout two weeks later, on March 16, in Port Huron, Michigan.^[28]

Dillinger was indicted by a local [grand jury](#), and the BOI organized a nationwide manhunt for him.^[29] After escaping from Crown Point, Dillinger reunited with his girlfriend, [Evelyn "Billie" Frechette](#), just hours after his escape at her half-sister Patsy's Chicago apartment, where she was also staying (3512 North Halsted). According to Billie's trial testimony, Dillinger stayed with her there for "almost two weeks," but the two actually had traveled to the Twin Cities and moved into the Santa Monica Apartments, Unit 106, 3252 South Girard Avenue, Minneapolis, on March 4 (moving out Monday, March 19)^{[30][31]} and met up with Hamilton (who had been recovering for the past month from his gunshot wounds in the East Chicago robbery), and mustered a new gang, and the two joined [Baby Face Nelson's](#) gang, composed of [Homer Van Meter](#), [Tommy Carroll](#) and [Eddie Green](#). Three days after Dillinger's escape, Tuesday, March 6, at 9:50 a.m., the six men robbed the Security National Bank and Trust Company in [Sioux Falls, South Dakota](#). During the robbery, a traffic cop, Hale Keith, was severely wounded when Nelson spotted him, jumped onto a teller's desk, and gunned Keith down through a plate glass window.

Seven days later, on Wednesday, March 14, at 2:40 p.m., the same six (Dillinger, Nelson, Hamilton, Green, Van Meter, and Carroll), plus an added seventh man as the probable driver, either Joseph Burns or Red Forsythe, drove down State Street in a blue Buick sedan (with the rear window removed) and parked in front of Mulcahy's prescription shop. All sources tell a different story as to who went in the bank and who patrolled outside, but it's nearly certain that Dillinger took a position outside the front entrance, with Nelson on the north side of the street near the alley behind the bank, and at least Hamilton and Green entered the bank, with probably Van Meter. From descriptions by witnesses later, Tommy Carroll was also positioned outside. Carroll stood in the doorway of the prescription shop on State.

Freelance photographer H.C. Kunkleman happened to be filming the bank when the robbery began. Kunkleman was told by one of the bandits to turn the camera off, that they would be the ones doing all the shooting. He began filming again once the gang made their getaway (the five-minute film still exists). Green and Hamilton (and probably Van Meter) entered the bank shouting profanities and firing their weapons into the walls and ceiling. Thirty-one employees and approximately 25 customers were ordered to put their hands up. Tom Walters, a bank guard positioned in an elevated bulletproof observation booth near the front entrance, fired a teargas cartridge, according to procedure, which hit one of the bandits in the back. Walters' teargas gun then jammed. One of the robbers sprayed the booth with machine-gun fire, which shattered the glass, but left Walters unharmed. Tom Barclay, a clerk, threw a teargas bomb over the balcony of the lobby. While the tellers' cash drawers were being emptied (drawers 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, missing 5, about \$5,000), Hamilton grabbed assistant cashier Harry Fisher and brought him back to open the vault. About a week earlier, Eddie Green (most likely) had appeared at Fisher's door asking for directions, then peered attentively at Fisher's face, something Fisher would later remember. Directions for alternate routes for the getaway were also mapped out at this time.

Once they got to the vault, Hamilton erred by allowing a steel gate to close and lock between him and Fisher. Fisher now could only hand stacks of \$5 bills to Hamilton through the bars, greatly reducing the gang's take from \$250,000 to a little over 50,000. During the robbery, Green would periodically yell out the time to the others.

Meanwhile, crowds began to form outside after word had spread that a robbery was in progress at the bank. James Buchanan, an off-duty officer, who had grabbed a sawed-off shotgun when he heard about the robbery, hid behind the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) monument. Unable to fire because of the crowd of people, he instead exchanged barbs with Dillinger. "Come out from behind there, you so-and-so," barked Dillinger, who witnesses said was sharply dressed in a light gray suit, dark overcoat and dark hat (the only robber whose clothing was described). Buchanan called back for him to get away from the crowd and he would fight it out with him. Buchanan said that Dillinger's upper lip turned into a snarl as he talked. Dillinger, armed with a Thompson, drew a .38 from an inside pocket and fired at Buchanan, but never hit him. Witnesses said of Dillinger, "He had bullets pinned on his vest and he reloaded his automatic while he was in front of the bank."

Outside the bank, Nelson "acted crazy," spectators of the event reported. "He interspersed his sprays of shots with outbursts of laughter, keeping, however, a sharp lookout in all directions." He was reported to have "sent shots straight down the street, puncturing tires and cutting holes in other parts of automobiles." R.L. James was walking up to the corner of State and Federal when he heard the gunfire. He turned around and headed back down State. Nelson ordered him to stop, but James didn't hear him. Nelson's blast from his Thompson struck him twice in the right leg, and he dropped to the sidewalk. Tommy Carroll came over to check on James' condition. An oncoming car came and Carroll blasted it with his machine gun. "The radiator of the car was filled with lead and the frantic driver backed out at the rate of 25 mph." From his third-floor office above the bank, police judge John C. Shipley heard the gunfire

and went to the window. Dillinger sent a volley of shots in Shipley's direction, warning him to stay back. The judge retreated, but went to his desk and grabbed a pistol, then returned to the window and fired at Dillinger, wounding the outlaw in the left shoulder. Hamilton, Green and Van Meter, with a large canvas bag of cash, left through the front door of the bank, surrounding themselves with hostages that Dillinger had collected. The entire gang moved as one around the corner onto State Street, with Dillinger in the center of the group. Judge Shipley, again, was at a window from above the bank and risked firing into the group, this time striking Hamilton in the shoulder. When Hamilton saw R.L. James lying on the street wounded, he said, "I thought there wasn't going to be any more of this?" Nelson, who had now joined them, said, "I thought he was a copper." Mrs. William Clark and Mrs. Frank Graham had just come out of a butcher shop and were at the intersection of State Street and the alley directly east of the bank when Nelson stopped them, along with an elderly woman who was near, and marshalled them to the car and commanded them to stand outside of it. Before they reached the car, Nelson snatched the package of meat from Mrs. Clark's hands, threw it to the ground and stomped on it, silencing her protests with, "You'll get paid plenty for it."

The number of hostages varies wildly in Dillinger books, but the *Mason City Globe-Gazette* from that day names 11 people. A couple women sat inside the car on the laps of the outlaws. Bill Schmidt, an employee of Killmer Drug, was delivering a bag of sandwiches to the bank and was stopped by Dillinger and also shoved into the Buick. While riding through town, the bag of sandwiches was discovered and they were quickly eaten by the gang. The Buick slowly moved north on Federal Avenue to 2nd Street, taking a left, headed west to Adams, taking another left. The car stayed at about 25 mph within the downtown area. Near 4th Street, Clarence McGowan, along with his wife and five-year-old daughter, spotted the car. McGowan began to pursue the bandit car after mistakenly believing the vehicle, loaded with people on the outside of the car, to be part of a wedding or "some kind of wild demonstration." He was shot in the abdomen after pulling up too close to the Buick. McGowan went home and bathed before going to the hospital. Both McGowan and R.L. James, Nelson's casualty, recovered.

The Buick stopped from time to time so that roofing nails could be spread across the highway, "sacks full of them." Oncoming cars were stopped by the gang and were ordered to stay where they were for five minutes before moving on. Bill Schmidt: "The bandits would drive fairly fast on the straight away, but slowed down for the bumps." The hostages were let off a few at a time and individually. Mrs. Clark (carrying the meat earlier) and Mrs. Graham were the last two hostages to be released, at a point three and a half miles south and a mile and a half east of Mason City. Asked if she'd be able to identify any of the men, Mrs. Clark said, "I sure would; especially the one who winked at me." The Buick was found in a gravel pit about four miles south of the city later that evening. According to police, two cars had been waiting for the gang, with one driver in each vehicle. ^{[32][33]}

Once the gang made it back to St. Paul, Green showed up at Pat Reilly's, 27-year-old fringe gang member, husband and father,^[34] and also bartender at St. Paul's Green Lantern, asking him if he knew where Dr. (Nels) Mortensen's home in St. Paul was, and requested that he accompany him to see the doctor. Reilly later stated to agents that at that time Eddie Green was driving a Hudson and that Dillinger and Hamilton were in the back seat; that both individuals had gunshot wounds in the shoulders and that Dillinger appeared to be nauseated and slightly dizzy. All four proceeded to Mortensen's home at 2252 Fairmount Avenue in St. Paul, arriving just after midnight. Mortensen answered the call in this night clothes. He examined both men, probing the wounds. Reilly said that during this time Dillinger was "quite ill and wobbly or faint" and had to sit down on the couch. Mortensen told them the wounds weren't serious and that he didn't have his medical bag there. He asked them if they had any liquor. They replied in the affirmative. He instructed them to go home and take a stiff drink and to return to his office the next day. They didn't appear. The four returned to Green's car and drove to the intersection of Snelling and Selby, where Green gave Reilly a \$5 bill and let him out of the car. Reilly said he hailed a Blue and White taxi and then returned home. ^[35]

Shootout at the Lincoln Court Apartments ^[edit]

Dillinger and Frechette moved into apartment 303 of the Lincoln Court Apartments, 93-95 South Lexington Avenue (now Lexington Parkway South) in St. Paul on Tuesday, March 20. The three-story apartment complex (still in operation), built in 1921,^[36] has 32 apartments, 10 units on each floor, and two basement units.^[37] Dillinger walked across the street to the east side of Lexington Avenue at about 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 24, to talk to the paperboy, Raymond Cutting, 17, who was busy delivering papers. The outlaw requested delivery of the morning paper, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, and the evening edition, the *Dispatch*, to begin the next day for apartment 303. The following is an excerpt from Cutting's direct examination at Frechette's trial. The questioner is George Sullivan, Assistant U.S. District Attorney, on behalf of the Government:

Q. And was anything said about the cost of the paper?

A. Well, he offered me some money, but it was a dollar bill. I did not have any change for it, so I told him that we were supposed to collect at the end of the month, so I would come around then.

Q. And what did he say or how did he respond to that?

A. Well, he responded with a very peculiar smile.

Cutting said he delivered the first paper the next day, March 25, at about 5.30 a.m. He said he went to the apartment

on Wednesday, the 28th, to find out the name of the subscribers. Billie answered the knock, only opening the door about five inches, and gave the name "J. Hellman" to the boy, then closed the door. Cutting had no further contact with either occupant again.^[38]

Daisy Coffey, the landlord/owner testified at Billie's trial that she spent most evenings during the Hellmans' stay furnishing apartment 310, which just happened to be perfectly situated for her to observe what was happening in apartment 303 directly across the courtyard. She was curious enough to take a peek the first night the new tenants moved in, March 20, when the lights were on "and the people were moving about." The shades were usually drawn, but she did catch glimpses. She said she saw "Mrs. Hellman," Billie, washing and wiping dishes at various times. On March 26 Coffey was standing just outside of apartment 304, across the hall from 303, when Mrs. Hellman came up the rear stairs carrying groceries, accompanied by a man. The question of what the man looked like was never asked in court. On the morning of the escape, Coffey stated she saw two women leave the building shortly after 10 a.m., one with red hair (Opal Long), and the other -- "I don't know about the color. It looked to have been almost every color" (Pat Cherrington).^[39]

With Daisy Coffey becoming more and more suspicious of the goings-on in the apartment, on Friday, March 30, she alerted Werner Hanni, Special Agent in charge of the St. Paul office, of the suspicious behavior of her new tenants, Mr. and Mrs. Carl T. Hellman, including information about the couple's new Hudson sedan parked in the garage behind the apartments. The building was placed under surveillance by two agents, Rufus Coulter and Rosser Nalls, that night, but they failed to observe anything unusual, mainly due to drawn blinds.^[40] The next morning at approximately 10:15, Nalls circled around the block looking for the Hudson, but observed nothing. He parked on Lincoln (the north side of the apartments), and about two minutes later he saw two women (Cherrington and Long) walking down Lexington, in front of the apartments, and turn onto Lincoln. At the same time, a Ford sedan bearing 1934 Minnesota license B-419975 (Hamilton) turned off of Lexington onto Lincoln, proceeding on the wrong side of the street, stopped and picked up the two women and drove away. Following this, for a better view of the front of the apartment building, Nalls moved his car and parked on the west side of Lexington, at the northwest corner of Lexington and Lincoln, and remained in his car while watching Coulter and Henry Cummings, a St. Paul PD detective, pull up about the same time to the front of the complex, park, and enter the building.^[41] Ten minutes later, Nalls estimated, he noticed a man (Van Meter) driving a green Ford coupe crossing the intersection of Lexington and Lincoln and parking the Ford on the north side of the apartment building, on Lincoln.^[42] Meanwhile, Coulter and Cummings were at apartment 303, knocking on the door. Frechette answered, opening the door two to three inches. She said she wasn't dressed and to come back. Coulter told her they would wait. After waiting two to three minutes, Coulter went to the basement apartment of the caretakers, Louis and Margaret Meidlinger, and asked to use the phone to call the bureau. He quickly returned to Cummings, and the two of them proceeded to pace up and down the hall outside of Apt. 303 while waiting for Frechette to open the door. Van Meter then appeared in the hall and asked Coulter if his name was Johnson. Coulter said it was not, and as Van Meter passed on to the landing of the third floor, Coulter asked him who he was. Van Meter replied, "I am a soap salesman." Asked where his samples were, Van Meter said they were in his car. Coulter asked if he had any credentials. Van Meter said "no," and continued to walk down the stairs. Coulter waited 10 to 20 seconds and then followed the man. As he got to the lobby of the ground floor, he saw the man standing behind him, against the wall, who began to use profane language and drew an automatic pistol.^[43] From outside, Nalls heard shots fired and then saw Coulter run around the corner of the building with a man running after him. Shots were exchanged. Van Meter stopped and ran back into the front entrance.

Realizing it was the same man who had parked the Ford coupe on the side of the building near his own car, Nalls pointed out the Ford to Coulter and told him to disable it. Coulter fired one shot to the rear left tire. While Coulter stayed with Van Meter's Ford, Nalls went to the corner drugstore and first called the local police, asking to send all available cars, then called the bureau's St. Paul office, but couldn't get through because both lines were busy.^{[44][45]} Van Meter made good his escape by going out the back door and hopping on a coal truck that was passing by on a nearby street.^[46] When Cummings heard the shooting out front, he just happened to be pacing past 303. The door opened a short distance and Cummings said, "Throw them up." Cummings: "She slammed the door and almost immediately bullets commenced coming through the door, so I stepped down the hallway a little ways. And there is an offset there...I had time to step in there. And I just got in there when bullets starting going by me. I started shooting back at him, and he had a machine gun...and when I shot five shots, I was out. So I made a duck down the stairway, and when I got downstairs I reloaded and came back." ^[47] But instead of immediately going back to 303, as he testified, Cummings actually first went down the front stairs and walked out the front entrance. At this time Billie was backing the car out of the garage in the alley, and she and Dillinger were off to Eddie Green's in Minneapolis. Meanwhile, Nalls had returned from the corner drugstore and relieved Coulter, who then met up with Cummings at the front entrance, and together they went back up to 303. Nalls stayed with Van Meter's car. It should be pointed out that Van Meter's car was parked (on Lincoln) exactly in line with the rear alley of the apartment building, giving a perfect view of the rear door, the door Dillinger and Frechette exited, not to mention Van Meter. This fact was never brought up at any time during the Frechette/May trial and, more importantly, neither Nalls nor Coulter were questioned about it.

In Billie's words from her harboring trial testimony: "So I went back to get dressed, and Mr. Dillinger said, 'Who are they?' and I said, 'A couple of policemen,' and he said, 'Well, don't let them in.' He said, 'Come in and get dressed.' So

I started getting dressed, and I kept asking him, 'What are we going to do?' He said, 'Never mind.' So he was getting dressed, and so was I. He got a grip (suitcase) out and started packing, and told me to throw a few of my things in it, so I did. And just about that time I think there were shots outside, and I went over to the window and I didn't see anything. So Mr. Dillinger was getting his coat on and things at the time...I was still getting the grip all ready. I was in the back bedroom getting this grip ready, and he started shooting out through the front door of the apartment. I went running out there, and I said, 'My God, don't shoot.' I said, 'Try and get out of here, but don't shoot. You can leave me here.'" When interviewed in prison sometime during the summer of '34, pre-July 22, Frechette had said, "Suddenly, I heard a burst of machine gun fire in the parlor. I rushed to the room and there stood John, the smoking weapon in his hands. A burst of bullets had cut a weird pattern in the front door. He said, "Get that suitcase and follow me." I did as he commanded, but the suitcase was heavier than I thought. John kept a gun and other effects packed in it for emergencies at all times. John walked to the door and snapped back the bolt. He flung the door open wide and stepped into the hall. As he did so, he sent another burst of machine-gun fire along the hall toward the front of the building. A man, barricaded someplace there, returned the fire. John motioned me to pass behind him and start down the hall. He covered my retreat, coming back behind me. We reached the stairs and hurried down, the heavy case almost pulling my arms from their sockets. John kept the machine gun ready, playing it back and forth in all directions as he looked for would-be assailants." Agent Murray Falkner interviewed Frechette in Chicago on April 10, where she shed some light on Dillinger firing the Thompson down the hallway. From Falkner's direct examination at Billie's trial: "She said she had gotten some things in a bag, and he told her to follow him. He got to the door and turned the machine gun down the hall and fired a short burst in that direction, and then turned the machine gun the other way and fired a burst there."^[48] Dillinger shot up five doors (with possible help from Cummings) in the apartment building: 303, 304 (across the hall from 303), the service door to 304, and the doors on both ends of the third floor (photographic evidence exists of all but the door to 304 and 304's service door).

Frechette: "As we reached the back door, he handed me the keys to the car, which was parked in a garage a few doors down the alley. 'Get it backed out and I'll be along.' He didn't seem the least concerned or excited. His calmness gave me reassurance and I hurried as fast as I could. The suitcase was too much for me, however, and I had to drop it." Twenty-year-old George Schroth, a student at the College of St. Thomas, watched the escape from one of the four windows facing west on the second floor of his house located right next door. Schroth testified at Frechette's trial: "I saw a woman, a dark-haired woman, dressed in dark clothes coming out behind the apartment. She was running. She was carrying a very large black suitcase. As soon as she got to about the middle of the alley, she started to stumble or slip, as though the suitcase was very heavy. She was facing south. She turned towards the east and looked back, to the north, behind the apartment. At this point a man came out from behind the apartment, dressed in gray clothes. He was carrying a machine gun. He was not running, however. He was merely walking. Then when he came out, this woman picked up the suitcase and started running west in the alley. The man, however, merely took his time and walked up the alley very casually, always keeping a good look behind him as though covering his retreat."^[49] During the exchange of gunfire with Cummings, Dillinger was hit in the left calf by one of Cummings' five shots and was now dripping blood in the snow.

When Billie finally made it to the garage, she started the Hudson and backed it out, facing east. By that time Dillinger had arrived and said, "No, not that way. Back it out the other way." She did so, and when the car was backed out and in the correct position (west), Dillinger got in the back seat and began directing her where to go.^[50]

The temperature that morning in St. Paul was 30 degrees, but it was much colder, 18 degrees, at six a.m. ^[51] Cars were not always reliable starting in cold weather during this era. The Hudson had a six-volt system, giving it a very low cranking power, and the car almost certainly had no heater or defroster. The cold tires were extremely hard to maneuver, and the recent snowfall the city had would have made the skinny tires tricky to drive on without chains. At five-foot-three, Billie would also have had a difficult time with the clutch and brake, with automatic transmission not becoming available for another five years, disc brakes another 14, and power steering another 16.^[52]

They drove to Eddie Green's apartment at 3300 South Fremont. Billie parked the car out front and went inside and told Green, "Johnnie wants you down in the car, Eddie. He's hurt." Green went down and had a conversation with Dillinger for approximately five minutes, then came back up and told Frechette to stay with Dillinger and drive him around for awhile, and to come back in 30 minutes. Green then called Dr. Clayton E. May at his office in Minneapolis, 712 Masonic Temple (still extant), and asked if the doctor was going to be in. May replied in the affirmative. Green showed up minutes later. His wife, Beth, stayed in the car. May testified at his harboring trial that Green asked him to come to his apartment on Fremont to see a friend of his who was injured in a still explosion. After some time, May agreed to go with Green. They returned to Green's Fremont address, stopping first to drop Green's wife off, then proceeded to drive across the alley and stopping between Fremont and Girard, where Green then told May to get out of the car. They both exited the vehicle. Green walked across the street to the black Hudson, with Dillinger in the back seat. They exchanged words for a moment, then Green motioned for May to come over. Green opened the front driver's door and told May to get in, that he would be driving. May was asked on direct examination to describe the man (Dillinger) he saw in the back seat: "He was seated in the back seat, on the right side. He was not sitting up straight. He was sitting at an angle. He had one foot up like this, and the left foot down. His right foot was up on something. I couldn't see what it was. He was slumped down in the car, in the corner like that, way down like that. He

had on a top coat and he had something underneath it like a sweater, that was pulled high over the back of his head. He appeared very bulky in the upper part of his body. And he was very pale." May said he could also see the barrel of Dillinger's machine gun and part of the drum. With Eddie, Beth and Billie following in Green's car, Dr. May drove Dillinger to 1835 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, to the ground floor three-bedroom apartment of Mrs. Augusta Salt, who'd been providing nursing services and a bed for May's illicit patients for several years, patients he couldn't risk seeing at his regular office. Once they got inside, May said he told Dillinger to lie on the bed. "He laid down, and he pulled out an automatic, out of the left side of his belt, and when he laid down he put it under the left side of his body, under the quilts." May testified that he first examined Dillinger by taking scissors and cutting the trouser leg and the leg of the underwear up to the place where he found the wound. May was asked to describe the wound, which he said was "in the upper third of the lower left leg." May: "It was an in and out wound, about four inches apart. It did not bleed an awful lot, although it trickled down his leg, but the blood was dry. I treated it, antiseptically, by inserting a probe in and out, with two different antiseptics." May said that Dillinger also requested that the doctor "bring back some serum" later that evening "so I will not get lock-jaw." Nurse Salt testified that Dillinger was moved to a different bedroom the next day, Sunday, at about three p.m. at his request. He'd asked for a larger bed. Plus, the room was very small and crowded, according to Salt. So he was moved to the back bedroom, which had a full-size bed. Salt said Dillinger had company on Monday, April 2, about seven p.m. Eddie Green stopped by for a visit (just hours before he would be mortally wounded in St. Paul). She recalled Green saying to Dillinger, "This is better. Do you want to stay here?" Dillinger said, "No, I would rather be moving." Green then said, "Have you got plenty of jack?" And Dillinger said, "Yes," and then they both smiled.^[53] Dillinger's convalescence at Dr. May's lasted five days, until Wednesday, April 4, a week before Eddie Green died from wounds received on April 3. Dr. May was promised \$500 for his services, but he received nothing.^{[54][55]}

A family reunion and picnic back on the farm [edit]

After leaving Minneapolis, Dillinger and Frechette traveled to Mooresville to visit Dillinger's father, arriving either the late evening of April 5 or the early morning of April 6. The two entered the home of his father via the fields to the rear of the house. Dillinger later obtained his Hudson and concealed it in the barn. The two spent the balance of the night at the house. Friday, April 6 was spent at the farm in an effort to contact members of the family, particularly Hubert. Once Hubert was reached, Dillinger and Hubert painted the wheels of the Hudson and also painted over the stripe on the vehicle, the same Hudson Deluxe sedan Dillinger had purchased in St. Paul, and for which was issued Minnesota license plates B-420930 (which were later recovered at Little Bohemia). While in Mooresville the car had Tennessee tags. On April 6, Hubert and Dillinger left Mooresville at about eight p.m. and proceeded to Leipsic, Ohio (approx. 210 miles from Mooresville), where they called on Joseph and Lena Pierpont, Harry's parents. Hubert waited in the car for 15 minutes while Dillinger was at the door. The Pierponts weren't home. The two left Leipsic around midnight and started heading back to Mooresville.^[56]

On Saturday, April 7, at approximately 3:30 a.m. near Noblesville, Indiana, about 23 miles north of Indianapolis, Dillinger and his half-brother Hubert rammed the Hudson into a Model A driven by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Manning of Peru, Indiana, after Hubert had fallen asleep behind the wheel. They crashed through a farm fence and traveled about 200 feet into the woods. The Mannings told police that one man started walking in the direction of Indianapolis while the other "went through a wooded section along the road." Dillinger also grabbed the Thompson from the car and removed the license plates. Both the outlaw and his brother safely made it back to the Mooresville farm. Swarms of police showed up at the accident scene within a couple of hours, including Matt Leach, who was quoted as saying how lucky Dillinger was, as not a single tree had been hit by the car during its ride through the woods. Found in the car were maps, a machine gun clip, a length of rope, and a bullwhip. According to Hubert, his brother planned to pay a visit with the bullwhip to his former one-armed "shyster" lawyer at Crown Point, Joseph Ryan, who had run off with his retainer after being replaced by [Louis Piquett](#). From a report in the Dillinger File: "In connection with the Hudson Deluxe Sedan, 4-7-34, on Highway 31, north of Noblesville, Ind., after it had been wrecked by John Dillinger and Hubert Dillinger at this point, it is indicated that the sheriff (Frank Hattery) is now offering the car for sale and the returns from same will be turned in to the state after any liens against it have been satisfied. An examination of the car by Agent Bears at Noblesville disclosed that it had been painted over, i.e., the cream-colored stripes were painted black and the shield on the front of the radiator had been painted black."^[57]

Also on Saturday morning, April 7, at about 10:30, while Hubert and Dillinger were making their way back to the farm from Noblesville, or were possibly back home in bed after their misadventure, Billie, Hubert and Hubert's wife contacted Albin Dorsey, salesman at the Frank Hatfield Motor Company, 625 Capitol Avenue, Indianapolis, and arranged for the purchase of a four-door Ford V8, black, motor No. 751635, registering it in the name of Mrs. Fred Penfield (Billie Frechette), 409 North LaSalle, Indianapolis (Fred Hancock, Dillinger's nephew's address). Also issued at this time was license No. 83689 (later found at Little Bohemia). At 2:30 p.m., Billie and Hubert went to pick up the V8, then returned to Mooresville.

On Sunday, April 8, the Dillingers enjoyed a family picnic, including a photo session, all the while the FBI had the farm under surveillance nearby. Dillinger's favorites were served: fried chicken and "everything that goes with it," along with coconut cream pie. Audrey Hancock, Dillinger's sister: "I cooked dinner down there. My half-brother come and told us

somebody at Pop's wanted to see us. I knew pretty well who it was and went right away. All the family was there. There must have been a dozen of us." Fred Hancock later claimed to agents that he didn't have much conversation this afternoon with John because he was busy flying a kite in the yard.^[58] At some point during the afternoon, someone (probably Emmett, Audrey's husband, or Hubert) drove Audrey into Mooresville, where she bought adhesive tape and Mecurochrome to redress Dillinger's bullet wound.^[59]

Present at the farm this day along with Dillinger and Billie:

John W. Dillinger, 69, father

Audrey Hancock, 45, sister

Emmett Hancock, 50, husband of Audrey

Mary Hancock, 18, daughter of Audrey

Alberta Hancock, 14, daughter of Audrey

Fred Hancock, 26, son of Audrey

Norman Hancock, 21, son of Audrey

Hubert Dillinger, 20, half-brother of John's

Doris Dillinger, 15, half-sister of John's

Frances Dillinger, 11, half-sister of John's

Later in the afternoon, Audrey Hancock observed, apparently, the automobile of Agents J.L. Geraghty and T.J. Donegan, who were cruising in the vicinity, and also possibly the automobiles of sightseers, and believing that they were officers watching them, and also being disturbed by a National Guard plane that was in practice over the home, they arranged to leave. Plans were made for everyone to meet at the home of Macy Davis in Mars Hill, about 14 miles away. Hubert and Fred, in Hubert's car, proceeded to Mooresville, to the garage of Jess Richardson (who was married to the sister of Dillinger's stepmother) to obtain the new Ford V8, where it was being temporarily stored, and brought the car to the Dillinger farm. During this time Hubert and Fred believed they were being followed by Donegan and Geraghty. In an effort to draw the agents away from the vicinity, Hubert and Norman proceeded to Mooresville in Hubert's car. The agents, when observing this car, noticed that Norman covered his face with his hands and slipped down into the vehicle as if he were avoiding identification. The second car was that of Emmett and Audrey. The third car to leave was the new Ford V8 sedan. Frechette was driving, with Mary in the front seat with her and Alberta in the back. Dillinger was on the floor of the V8, together with his machine gun. Dillinger was observed, but not identified, by Donegan and Geraghty to change from the rear seat to the driver's seat on Route 267, about a quarter mile beyond the entrance to the Dillinger farm. The last car to leave was Fred and his wife (name unspecified). Dillinger, Billie, Mary and Alberta drove to the home of Macy Davis in Mars Hills, as did Emmett and Audrey. Emmett dropped his wife off, then drove to his sister's, Lida Fisher, at 1342 Blaine Avenue, Indianapolis, to bring her to Davis' in order that she could also see Dillinger.

As directed by Dillinger, Hubert drove to Mary Kinder's house at 516 North Luett Street in Indianapolis and arranged for Mary and Mr. and Mrs. Pierpont, who had come in from Leipsic, to meet Dillinger at the Davis home. The Pierponts followed Hubert and Kinder back to Mars Hill, the Pierponts driving their Auburn sedan, license No. 175665. Mrs. Macy Davis later told agents that Mary Hancock introduced John to everyone as, "This is Uncle John, the ex-con." After some conversation in the Davis home, Dillinger, Mr. and Mrs. Pierpont, and Mary Hancock rode around in the Pierponts' Auburn, with Dillinger and the Pierponts principally discussing the possibility of getting money for the appeal for Harry in Ohio, followed by Norman and Billie in the Ford V8. When the group got back to Macy Davis' home, Mary Kinder and the Pierponts returned to Mary's residence in Indianapolis, and Norman, driving the V8, proceeded with Dillinger and Billie to Chicago, where they separated from Norman, who then later returned to Indianapolis.^[60]

Among the scores of people who were willing to testify about the goings-on the last few days at the Dillinger farm, Mars Hills, Indianapolis, and Noblesville, including Mr. and Mrs. Macy Davis and Mrs. Lida Fisher, Emmett's sister, was Paul Samuels, a draftsman from Indianapolis whose yellow Ford coupe was observed by Agents Geraghty and Donegan in front of the Dillinger farm. He explained to agents that he was out driving in the vicinity of Mooresville on April 8 and had stopped in to talk to "old man Dillinger" about how much he was being allowed for the damage done to his orchard caused by the improvements being made on Route 267. He said it was not official business. He told agents that about the time the gathering of people at the farm was getting ready to leave, he walked up to the yard and talked to the old man about the new road, and that while various members of the family were pointed out to him and discussed in conversation, nothing was said as to John himself being at home, nor did he see him at the time the cars departed. "Samuels stated that he did not observe any indications of John's presence at the farm on that day. Samuels stated that he did not at any time observe a new Ford (black) V8 Sedan, and he is quite certain that if it was around the farmyard he would have noticed it. All the cars he observed were old ones, and to the best of his recollection, he can only recall having seen three -- Hubert's Chevrolet coupe, Emmett's Oldsmobile, and Fred Hancock's Whippet. Samuels is very much worried over the possibility of Mr. Al Feeney, Director of Public Safety,

hearing of the incident, and he is quite certain that he will lose his job with the state if the fact of his visit to the Dillinger farm on April 8 becomes known, insofar as he has never mentioned it to anybody except for a few close friends."

Fred Hancock on the exchange between Samuels and the senior Dillinger: "When the road commissioner came up to talk with Grandpa, I saw John standing in the kitchen, and he was holding the machine gun in his hands, he having hold of the front grip as if ready to shoot. This was the first time I saw the machine gun, as John was lying on the davenport with a blanket over him, with the gun. The gun had a big round thing on it, and from pictures I had seen, I believed it to be a machine gun. John did not know who this fellow was that was talking to Grandpa."^[61]

A few of Emmett Hancock's observations: "I next saw John after church and Sunday school... we stayed until toward evening. I recall my girls were somewhat aroused by the automobiles which were passing the house and an airplane which was flying overhead. I do not remember just what was said as to John leaving. I saw the machine gun he had; at least I believed it was a machine gun from the description, it having a large drum on it, and this was lying on the bed in the front room. I recall the incident where the man drove up into the driveway and turned around and backed out, and John picked up the machine gun and went into the kitchen. John did not say anything except he had a hole through his leg, and I suppose he had gotten this in St. Paul. He stated that this woman was his wife. I did not know any of the arrangements as to how they were to leave. The new car was pulled up around to the side of the house, and I was making my own preparations as to leaving. My two girls and Billie and John went in this new car; however, I did not actually see John in the car, but I was most sure he was in the car. There was no understanding as to Alberta and Mary protecting John in driving out. I realized the danger for the girls and advised my wife that I did not like it a bit, that I would rather they went home with us. The understanding was that they were to catch up to us in their car, and I, together with my wife, drove to the home of Macy Davis, leaving John, Billie, Alberta and Mary at this place, and if I recall, also my wife, and I drove over to get my sister in order that she might see John."^[62]

Another witness was Walter Smitherman, who resided on the adjoining farm to that of Dillinger's father. He said that around nine a.m. on April 8 he was in his farmyard standing with M.L. Hobson of Mooresville. He noticed four or five people in the Dillinger farmyard, one of whom strongly resembled John. He had seen Dillinger on several occasions before and had talked with him twice while he was on parole. However, he doubted that this was John, knowing he was wanted at this time. Later in the afternoon, about four p.m., he saw the same party who he thought was Dillinger; that he had light red hair and limped slightly when he walked; that the red hair confused him as to his identification. From the file regarding Smitherman's friend, M.L. Hobson: "Hobson could not positively identify Dillinger, as he only saw the man walk from the house to the 'back house,' (outhouse). What made him think it was Dillinger was because he recognized the droop of the shoulders that was characteristic of Dillinger."^[63]

The following is a memo contained in a 14-page report in the FBI Dillinger file concerning several of the principals involved in the events of early April:

"ATTITUDE, BACKGROUND AND PRIOR ASSOCIATION OF PERSONS INDICATED WITH DILLINGER

HUBERT DILLINGER: Hubert has been the member of the family most frequently contacted by John Dillinger in his travels through Indianapolis during the time Dillinger was a fugitive. Hubert is 20 years of age and married. He is employed with Fred Hancock at a filling station at 3301 East New York Street, Indianapolis, and in surveillance of his activities, it is noted that he associates with various girls of loose character, neglecting his wife to do so. He is now driving a Chevrolet coupe, seized from John Dillinger September 26, 1933, and carries a .38 automatic. He has been very active in his efforts to detect whether any agents have been covering the filling station or the home of his father in Mooresville.

FRED HANCOCK: This party also works at the same filling station. He is married, associates with various girls of loose character, neglecting his wife to do so. On July 23, 1934, in a telephone conversation with a girlfriend of Hubert's, in answer to the girl's wish that the double crosser who turned John in would get his, Fred said, "Don't worry. They will." This party also carries a .38 automatic. Conversation as reported by informant A.C. McGinnis indicates that both were desirous of helping Dillinger if they could, which is also indicated in conversations with other friends.

JOHN W. DILLINGER: This party has indicated to newspaper men that he believes Government agents were covering his place and has been alert to detect our cover of his home. On July 20, 1934, at 6:45 p.m. he came out of his house with his shotgun and searched the entire orchard to the north side of his house. Hubert has also been active at the home of his father in an effort to detect whether the agents were covering the place or going upon their property.

NORMAN HANCOCK: Norman has indicated what is believed to be a sincere effort to cooperate with us; same however, being for the purpose of saving his mother, Audrey, from possible prosecution or danger should Dillinger appear at their home.

AUDREY HANCOCK: This woman has indicated in an interview a pleasing, agreeable attitude. This woman reared John for a considerable period subsequent to the death of his mother when John was about two and a half years of age. Since the death of Dillinger, she has been very hostile and accused agents who called at her house of having murdered John like a dog.

J.G. PIERPONT and LENA PIERPONT: These people have been in frequent touch with Hubert Dillinger and John W.

Dillinger, and indicated in an article in a newspaper a hostility to the officers who they believed were following them. The family is of a very low social status, having concealed Harry Pierpont, who was living with Mary Kinder, at their home after his escape September 26, 1933 from the Michigan City State Penitentiary. They also concealed other members of the gang at this time up until the murder of Sheriff Jesse Sarber, Lima, Ohio, then living at Leipsic, Ohio. They also aided them after the murder while they were hiding at Hamilton, Ohio.

MARY KINDER: This woman is a low type character. She lived with Pierpont at Leipsic, Ohio, before the murder at Lima, Ohio. She lived with Pierpont at Hamilton, Ohio, after the murder; also in Florida, also at Tucson, Arizona, where Dillinger, Pierpont and others were apprehended in January 1934. Since the confinement of Pierpont on the murder charge, and while supposedly maintaining a loyal attitude towards Pierpont, she has been living a considerable portion of the time with one Carl Walz in Indianapolis.

JESS RICHARDSON: This party is a very tough individual of decided socialistic leanings and freely expresses himself in his opposition to society as now constituted."

The following afternoon, Monday, April 9, Dillinger had an appointment at a tavern located at 416 North State Street. Sensing trouble, Frechette went in first. She was promptly arrested by agents, but refused to reveal Dillinger's whereabouts. Unbeknownst to the agents, Dillinger was waiting in his car outside the tavern and then drove off unnoticed.^[64] The two would never see each other again. Dillinger reportedly became despondent after Billie was arrested. The other gang members tried to talk to him out of rescuing her, but Van Meter knew where they could find bulletproof vests. That Friday morning, late at night, Dillinger and Van Meter took **Warsaw, Indiana** police officer Judd Pittenger hostage. They marched him at gunpoint to the police station, where they stole several more guns and **bulletproof vests**. After separating, Dillinger picked up Hamilton, who was recovering from the Mason City robbery. The two then traveled to the **Upper Peninsula of Michigan**, where they visited Hamilton's sister Anna Steve.

Final months [[edit](#)]

Little Bohemia Lodge [[edit](#)]

About 1:00 in the afternoon of Friday, April 20, Van Meter, Marie Comforti ("Mickey"), and Pat Reilly were the first to arrive at Little Bohemia Lodge, located 13 miles south of Mercer in northern Wisconsin, in the town of **Manitowish Waters**. Emil Wanatka, born in **Bohemia** (in **Czech Republic**) in 1888 and who opened the resort just four years prior, greeted them. Arriving later, about 5:30, were Dillinger, Hamilton and Cherrington by way of Sault Ste. Marie, then Nelson and wife Helen, who had come in from Chicago, and last to arrive were Tommy Carroll and Jean Delaney. Reilly stated that on that first night he, Carroll, Lester Gillis (Nelson), Dillinger, and Emil Wanatka played "hearts" for several hours and that the game broke up around midnight. He went to the bar to get a drink while the others went to their various rooms. Hamilton and Pat Cherrington occupied the end room on the left side of the upstairs in the lodge, while Van Meter and Comforti occupied the room opposite. Tommy Carroll and Jean Delaney, together with Gillis and Helen, occupied the little cottage on the right of Little Bohemia, near the entrance. Dillinger slept in the first bedroom on the left upstairs in the main lodge. Reilly stated to agents that he was told by Van Meter that Dillinger's room had two beds and that he would be sleeping in the same room with Dillinger.

Reilly stated that as he entered the room, Dillinger was lying on the bed on the left side of the room, reading a detective magazine and with a bottle of whiskey on the stand near the bed; that as he came into the room Dillinger laid his magazine on the table but that no conversation took place between them. He noticed when Dillinger turned over as though to sleep he had a .45 automatic under his pillow. Reilly advised that he then took a drink of whiskey out of the bottle, which was 16-year-old bonded whiskey, the name of which he couldn't recall. He then locked the door and turned out the light and went to bed on the right-hand side of the room.^[65]

The gang had assured the owners that they would give no trouble, but they monitored the owners whenever they left or spoke on the phone. Emil's wife Nan and her brother managed to evade Baby Face Nelson, who was tailing them, and mailed a letter of warning to a U.S. Attorney's office in Chicago, which later contacted the Division of Investigation. Days later, a score of federal agents led by Hugh Clegg and **Melvin Purvis** approached the lodge in the early morning hours. Two barking watchdogs announced their arrival, but the gang was so used to Nan Wanatka's dogs that they did not bother to inspect the disturbance. It was only after the federal agents mistakenly shot a local resident and two innocent **Civilian Conservation Corps** workers as they were about to drive away in a car that the Dillinger gang was alerted to the presence of the BOI.^[66] Gunfire between the groups lasted only momentarily, but the whole gang managed to escape in various ways despite the agents' efforts to surround and storm the lodge. Agent W. Carter Baum was shot dead by Nelson during the gun battle.^[7]^[67]

J.J. Dunn, Dakota County Sheriff, received a call from the Department of Justice at 3:40 a.m. on Monday, April 23, giving notice of the possibility that the gang might be headed his way and to look for Wisconsin plate No. 92652 on the Model A. Dunn gathered a posse that included deputy sheriffs Joe Heinen, Norman Dieters, and Larry Dunn, with Hastings night policeman Fred McArdle. The coupe was spotted six hours later, shortly after 10 a.m., entering the city from the south on Highway 3, then "turned the drug store corner to cross the high bridge, in the direction of St. Paul." The officers used Heinen's Buick sedan in the pursuit, with Heinen driving and McArdle armed with a .30-30 and Dieters a .30-40. A large cattle truck slipped in between the officers' car and the Model A, and Heinen was unable to

pass the truck until he reached the opposite side of the spiral bridge. Upon leaving the north end of the bridge, the bandit car was seen climbing the hill a half a mile across the valley. The Buick started to creep up on the trio. McArdle and Dieters fired warning shots outside their windows as the two cars were leaving St. Paul Park. Dillinger, the middle passenger, with Van Meter driving, returned fire with his .45 through the rear window of the coupe. As the cars roared up the highway toward Newport, approximately 50 shots were exchanged. The chase that started near St. Paul Park, according to the officers involved, was for about 20 miles, not 50, as it usually reported.

McArdle fired the lucky shot that inflicted the mortal wound to Hamilton. In describing the death shot, McArdle said, "When the bullet hit the car, the coupe seemed to wobble for a minute and then we thought it was going into the ditch. The driver managed to keep it on the pavement, however, and after doubling back to St. Paul Park and crossing the highway toward Cottage Grove, they lost us in the hills." The car would soon be replaced before heading to Chicago to seek out medical attention for Hamilton. It should be remembered that the trio hadn't slept at all the night before. It was also extremely cramped in the coupe with three people, one of them being mortally wounded, as the length of a Model A seat is only 39 inches across. Much has been written about the slowness of the Model A used in the escape (top speed about 45 mph), but with a large part of the driving done in darkness, Van Meter wouldn't have been going much faster than 40-45 mph in any car, since headlight systems in all cars of the period were notoriously inadequate. High speed at night was simply too dangerous. It's unfortunate for Dillinger, Van Meter and Hamilton that they didn't ditch the coupe for a faster car at daybreak. It probably wasn't possible to do so.^[68]



The historic spiral bridge in [Hastings, Minnesota](#), that both bandits and police crossed to begin a 20-mile chase. The bridge was demolished 17 years later.

Hamilton was taken by Dillinger and Van Meter to see [Joseph Moran](#) in Chicago, though Moran refused to treat Hamilton. He died at a Barker-Karpis hideout in [Aurora, Illinois](#), three days after the shooting near Hastings. Dillinger, Van Meter, [Arthur Barker](#), [Volney Davis](#) and Harry Campbell, members of the [Barker-Karpis gang](#), buried him in Oswego, Illinois. On May 3, one week after Hamilton's death, Dillinger, Van Meter, and Tommy Carroll robbed the First National Bank of [Fostoria, Ohio](#). In the robbery, Fostoria police chief Frank Culp was wounded when Van Meter shot him in the chest with a Thompson. Dillinger and Van Meter spent most of May living out of a red panel truck with a mattress in the back.

In early May, Dillinger paid a visit to Fred Hancock at 3301 East New York Street, Indianapolis (the Shell filling station where Hubert and Fred worked), and gave him \$1,200 in cash. Fred Hancock: "It was on Thursday, May 10, that I next saw John. A fellow came into the station between 5:00 and 4:00 p.m. on this date dressed in overalls, wearing glasses, no coat, wearing a sleeveless jacket. He was unshaven, and this party stood by the kerosene drum. I did not recognize him at the time and continued to wait upon a customer who was in the station, and then walked into the filling station house, thinking that this party standing by the kerosene drum was a kerosene customer. This party then walked over to the filling station house and knocked on the window to attract my attention. When I looked at him more closely I realized that it was John. He left with me a package containing money and told me where to take it. He said to tell Dad if anything happened to him to give Billie some of that money. He gave me \$1,200 made up in four packages -- \$500 for Grandpa, \$500 for my mother, Audrey Hancock, \$100 for Hubert and \$100 for myself, and I personally delivered this money to the people it was intended for. John told me how 'hot' he was. This was after the time the shooting had occurred at Little Bohemia Lodge in Wisconsin. He said he would be back in two weeks. He was walking at the time, and I do not know how he came into the station. When leaving, he walked out of the station and walked south on LaSalle Street to Washington Street. The money was all made up of one-, five- and ten-dollar bills. There were very few ten-dollar bills in the money, it being mostly ones and fives. I used the \$100 John gave me in connection with some work I was having done on the eyes of my little girl, and I understand that Mother and Grandpa later paid out the \$500 they each received to some attorney, possibly John (sic) Ryan, in connection with John's case."

Agent Whitson had been observing the activity at the Shell station on the corner of New York and LaSalle. Whitson: "On 5-10-34 I noticed a stranger talking to Fred Hancock near the kerosene drum in the yard of the station at about 3:45 p.m. He was wearing blue overalls, brown vest, blue shirt and tie, dark hat, and wore spectacles, either rimless or with a thin metal rim. His complexion was ruddy and he had a stubble of beard. In his right hand he carried at all times what appeared to be a pint milk bottle wrapped in newspaper. About 3:50 p.m. the stranger left the station, going south on LaSalle Street toward Washington Street. Agent noted that the man appeared to have a deep cleft in his chin, and decided to follow him and have a better look at him. Agent reached the street without being observed by Hancock and followed the stranger, who was walking rapidly and without any noticeable lameness or infirmity in either leg. The man turned west on Washington Street when Agent was still between 25 and 30 yards behind him. When agent reached the street intersection, the man was nowhere in sight."^[69]

On May 24, it is alleged that Van Meter killed two East Chicago police detectives who had tried to pull them over. On June 7, Tommy Carroll was shot and killed by police in [Waterloo, Iowa](#). Dillinger and Van Meter reunited with Nelson a week later and went into hiding.^[*citation needed*]

On June 30, Dillinger, Van Meter, Nelson, and an unidentified "fat man" robbed the Merchants National Bank in [South Bend, Indiana](#). The identity of the "fat man" has never been confirmed, it is widely suspect that he was one of Nelson's associates, or, as suggested by Fatso Negri to the BOI, [Pretty Boy Floyd](#). During the robbery, a police officer named Howard Wagner was killed when Van Meter shot him in the chest as he responded to the sound of a burst of submachine gunfire coming from inside the bank. Van Meter was shot in the head during the resulting shootout, and was seriously wounded.^[*citation needed*]

By July 1934, Dillinger had dropped completely out of sight, and the federal agents had no solid leads to follow. He had, in fact, drifted into Chicago and went under the alias of Jimmy Lawrence, a petty criminal from Wisconsin who bore a close resemblance to Dillinger's real self. Taking up a job as a clerk, Dillinger found that, in a large metropolis like Chicago, he was able to lead an anonymous existence for a while. What Dillinger did not realize was that the center of the federal agents' dragnet happened to be in Chicago. When the authorities found Dillinger's blood spattered getaway car on a Chicago side street, they were positive that he was in the city.^[7]

Cubs games [edit]

Dillinger had always been a fan of the [Chicago Cubs](#), and instead of lying low like many criminals on the run, he continued to attend Cubs games at [Wrigley Field](#) during the months of June and July 1934.^[70] He's known to have been at Wrigley on Friday, June 8, only to watch his beloved Cubs lose to Cincy 4-3. Also in attendance at the game were Dillinger's lawyer, [Louis Piquett](#), and Captain John Stege of the Dillinger Squad. There were eight future Hall of Famers at the park this day. Dillinger saw seven of them play.^{[18][71]}

He had better luck at the next known game he attended, Tuesday, June 26, when his Cubs beat Brooklyn 5-2. Future Hall of Famer [Kiki Cuyler](#) homered for Chicago. Leading the Dodgers this day was rookie manager [Casey Stengel](#).^[72]

Plastic surgery at Probasco's house of horrors [edit]

As early as March of '34, according to Art O'Leary, Dillinger had expressed an interest in plastic surgery and had asked O'Leary to check with Piquett on such matters as price as well as a hideout. Fast-forward to the end of April, when Piquett paid a visit to his old friend, Dr. Wilhelm Loeser, at the good doctor's home (536 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago). Loeser, born in Barby, Germany, in 1876, the family (both parents, one sister, four brothers) relocated to the U.S. the following year via the North German Lloyd ship Lahn. The Loesers lived in various towns in Iowa until 1897, when they moved to Bryon, Oklahoma, for a year, then to Lawrence, Kansas, where Loeser studied pharmacy and medicine at the University of Kansas. The family finally arrived in Chicago in 1902. Loeser stated he earned an M.D. degree from Northwestern Medical School in 1905. He stated he was a registered pharmacist in both Oklahoma and Illinois, as well as licensed to practice medicine in Illinois. He married Bertha Danitz in 1906, had four children with her, then separated from her in 1913 "because she was insane." Both of his parents died in 1911. He practiced in Chicago for 27 years before being convicted of the *Harrison Narcotic Act* in 1931. He was sentenced to three years at Leavenworth, but was paroled early on December 7, 1932 (with Piquett's help). He immediately violated his parole a few weeks later by going to Mexico during Christmas, and stayed for 10 months. He said the time was spent studying the effects of marijuana and mescaline. He later testified that while in Mexico he performed facial surgery on himself and altered his fingertips. He said he also obtained a divorce from his wife in Mexico in 1933 and married Anna Patzke upon his return to the States, a woman he had been living with for 15 years prior to Mexico. He spent a little time in Texas and Oklahoma before returning back to Chicago in January of 1934. Because of violating his parole, he went by the name of Ralph Robeind.^{[73][74]} A couple days after the initial meeting between Piquett and Loeser, Piquett introduced the doctor to O'Leary. Piquett said the price Dillinger would pay for the procedure was \$5,000, of which 4,400 would be split between Piquett, Loeser and O'Leary, and \$600 would go to Dr. Harold Cassidy (recruited by Piquett), who would administer the anesthetic. The procedure would take place at the home of Piquett's longtime friend, 67-year-old James Probasco, at 2509 North Crawford Avenue, at the end of May. Probasco occupied the first level of the two-story house, with one Henry Schoknecht, a guard at the Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium, about four miles north of the house, occupying the second. Probasco would charge Dillinger \$35 per day for rent. At some point in May Loeser sent Frank Daley, his "collector," to buy some surgical instruments. Loeser: "I think I gave Daley about twenty dollars to pay for the surgical instruments. I wrote out a list for him. Two hemostats, one or two hypodermic syringes, pair of scissors, gauze, ether, ether mask, some needles, catgut sutures, horsehair sutures. I believe that is all. I did not tell him to buy any acids or chemicals. I gave Daley several places for him to go. He bought them on Milwaukee Avenue. The name is Diadul."^[75] O'Leary: "On the night of May 27, I saw Dillinger at Probasco's house. Mr. Piquett was with me. We met there by appointment, which I made. Dillinger called my residence and asked me to get in touch with Mr. Piquett and have Mr. Piquett meet him promptly at 10:00 that night. We drove over to Probasco's house in Mr. Piquett's automobile. Dillinger was in front of Probasco's residence when we arrived. Dillinger was introduced to Probasco. After we got in the house, Mr. Piquett and Dillinger discussed the appeal of the Evelyn Frechette case. Dillinger asked how long he had known Dr. Loeser. He paid Mr. Piquett \$3,000, saying that the balance would be paid after the operation. Probasco was in the house, but he was not back in the kitchen at that time. There was a lady who came out of the bedroom off the kitchen, and Dillinger was very much surprised to see her there, inasmuch as we had told him that Probasco was a bachelor and lived alone. Probasco explained that she was

his housekeeper, had been with him for a year, and that she was trustworthy; however, if Dillinger objected to her being there, he would have her stay elsewhere. Dillinger asked if she was a good cook, and Probasco said she was, and they decided to keep her there. Her name was Peggy Doyle. He wanted to know who Dr. Cassidy was, and Mr. Piquett and myself assured him that we had both known Dr. Cassidy for a number of years. He seemed satisfied. We were there that night about an hour or an hour and a half.^[76] Henry Schoknecht, the man living on the second floor above Probasco, told Agent Winstead on July 27 that he had met Peggy (Margaret) Doyle about a year earlier at his place of employment, the sanitarium; that he became quite well acquainted with her and on several occasions would bring her to his second floor flat on 2509 North Crawford, where she would spend several hours with him, and where he admitted having "immoral relations with her." He said that around Christmas 1933 he introduced her to Probasco. He stated that shortly after this meeting Probasco admitted his fondness and affection for Miss Doyle. and soon thereafter Doyle began calling on Probasco; that within a month to six weeks Miss Doyle began calling on Probasco at least three to four times a week, and would sometimes spend the night.^[77] On Monday, May 28, Loeser was picked up at his home at 7:30 p.m. by O'Leary and Cassidy. The three of them then drove to Probasco's. O'Leary on the setup of the house: "There is a small living room, and off to the left of the living room to the left as you enter is a small bedroom, a very small bedroom, and straight through a small archway to the right is a bathroom; you then enter the kitchen through this archway, and to the left off the kitchen is another bedroom." Loeser was introduced to Dillinger, they shook hands. Loeser asked Dillinger if he wished for general or local anesthetic. He chose general. Loeser: "Then I examined him like I would examine anyone before operating and giving an anesthetic. When he said that he had not eaten anything since morning and had not taken any liquids for about six hours, I asked him what work he wanted done. He wanted two warts (moles) removed on the right lower forehead between the eyes and one at the left angle, outer angle of the left eye; wanted a depression of the nose filled in; a scar; a large one to the left of the median line of the upper lip excised, wanted his dimples removed and wanted the angle of the mouth drawn up. He didn't say anything about the fingers that day to me."^[78]

The doctors proceeded to get Dillinger ready to operate. He took off his clothes, went into the bedroom and laid down on the cot. Cassidy administered the ether to Dillinger. Cassidy: "The man stopped respiration for a moment during the stage of excitement, which often happens." An overdose of the ether given by Cassidy had caused Dillinger to swallow his tongue. He began to turn blue and stopped breathing before Loeser pulled Dillinger's tongue out of his mouth with a pair of forceps. Normal breathing returned. Loeser: "A local anesthetic was given by injection in the skin, in the subcutaneous tissue around the field of operation, with a hypo syringe. That was what was done with Dillinger." Loeser began by removing several moles on Dillinger's forehead, making an incision in his nose and an incision in his chin and tied back both cheeks. Present this first night were Dillinger, Loeser, Cassidy, O'Leary, and Probasco, who, according to testimony from Piquett, had a broken leg and was on crutches at this time. O'Leary testified that Peggy Doyle was also present, but Cassidy and Loeser say otherwise. Loeser met with Piquett again on Saturday, June 2, with Piquett saying that more work was needed on Dillinger and that Van Meter now wanted the same work done to him. Also, both now wanted work done on their fingertips. The price for the fingerprint procedure would be \$500 per hand, or \$100 a finger. Loeser: "I made preparations for that. I had the necessary chemicals and instruments in my possession at the time. I prepared the chemicals between midnight of June 2 and the evening of June 3. It took me possibly a half hour to prepare the chemicals. Nobody was present while I prepared them. That's my own secret. It's a mixture of two acids. Nitro-hydrochloric acid. It is called commonly aqua regia. It is the only acid that will dissolve gold. I took two of hydro-chloric and one of nitro. I prepared whatever I thought I would need. I do not recall the amount. It may have been twenty-five cubic centimeters. I prepared that in my room. There was one other chemical I had ready. I'm quite sure it was sodium. I had probably 10 cc. I had all those chemicals for months. I had them in Mexico with me."^[79]

More on the use of ether by P.M. Drury:

"Despite manifest disadvantages, ether owed its continuing use in this decade and beyond to the maintenance of circulatory stability at high inspired concentrations, and to its ability, also at high concentrations, to produce abdominal relaxation, which approached that provided by today's relaxants. In these respects, it had no real rivals. But it was flammable and explosive, and its after effects were extremely unpleasant. They were vividly described by Henderson and Coburn in the following terms: 'patients... were flaccid, cyanotic, pallid, or grey, with empty veins, weak peripheral pulses, and depressed respiration; it was one to three hours before consciousness returned, and this was followed by nausea, vomiting, and retching for some time afterwards.'"^[80]

Loeser met O'Leary the following night at Clark and Wright at 8:30, and they once again drove to Probasco's. Present this evening were Dillinger, Van Meter, Probasco, Piquett, Cassidy, and Peggy Doyle. Loeser: "After all the money was passed, I first of all asked Van Meter what work he wanted done. He explained to me that there was a scar on the left of the median line running about two inches into the hair which was very large and prominent. He wanted that removed and changed in position and shape. If it could be totally removed, he wanted it removed. He wanted the hooker, the result of a broken nose, reduced in size. His lower lip, which was a characteristic negro lip, he wanted thinned. He wanted the large tattoo mark on his right forearm taken off. The tattoo was an anchor with the words, 'Good Hope,' I should judge about four inches long. He wanted all the fingers treated on both hands. While all this was going on, as I recall, Cassidy was in the kitchen boiling the instruments." Loeser continues: "I carried the acids and chemicals mostly in my vest pocket and the instruments in my coat pocket, wrapped in a towel. I had two hemostats,

one or two hypos, a pair of scissors, and one knife in my coat pocket. I did not have a bone chisel with me. The scissors were used, as well as the knife, whenever any cutting of their facial tissue was needed. I used scissors for incisions to cut off the nevus on Dillinger. I used scissors to cut out an impression, to improve the lower lip on Van Meter, and finishing touches were done with scissors." Loeser testified that he was at work for only about 30 minutes before O'Leary and Piquett had left. For his work on Van Meter, Loeser testified: "On Mr. Van Meter, starting above -- there was a large scar to the left of the median line extending about two inches into the hair. I excised that scar, virtually eliminating it, changing it in contour and size, virtually unobservable after completion of the work. Next, Mr. Van Meter had a hooker on his nose from a broken nose. I took that hooker away. Then he had a large pedicle at the end of the nose. I took that pedicle away. Then he had a lip which resembled very much a negro lip. I took and sliced a wedge-formed piece of that away. All the while when I was working up there, I was also working on the hands, because the hands were a very slow progress of work. The process I use on the fingertips has no name in any book. It is an acid. Some use acid, but there are also instruments used, not only chemicals. Chemicals as well as instruments. Cassidy and I worked on Dillinger and Van Meter simultaneously on June 3. While the work was being done, Dillinger and Van Meter changed off. The work that could be done while the patient was sitting up, that patient was in the sitting-room. The work that had to be done while the man was lying down, that patient was on the couch in the bedroom. They were changed back and forth according to the work to be done. The hands were sterilized, made aseptic with antiseptics, thoroughly washed with soap and water and used sterile gauze afterwards to keep them clean. Next, cutting instrument, knife was used to expose the lower skin...in other words, take off the epidermis and expose the derma, then alternately the acid and the alkaloid was applied as was necessary to produce the desired results."^[81]

Minor work was done two nights later, Tuesday, June 5. Loeser made some small corrections first on Van Meter, then Dillinger. Loeser on a visitor that arrived: "A man came in before I left, who I found out later was Baby Face Nelson. He came in with a drum of machine gun bullets under his arm, threw them on the bed or the couch in the bedroom, and started to talk to Van Meter. The two then motioned for Dillinger to come over and the three went back into the kitchen. That was while Piquett was there. I was not there more than a half an hour that night." Loeser on a few occasions testified that he believed Van Meter was a morphine user. He said Van Meter was always seen with two things: his automatic and his little box of morphine tablets. Piquett testified that the next time he saw Dillinger was at a Cubs game a few days later (June 8), and that Dillinger said he had left Probasco's the day before.

Agents arrested Loeser at 1127 South Harvey, Oak Park, IL, on Tuesday, July 24. He was taken into custody barechested, wearing only pants and slippers. Agents had arrived at the house at 10:30 a.m., and after repeated knocks and no answer, the side door was kicked in and the house was entered. The first floor and basement were searched. When three agents were halfway up the stairs on their way to the second level, a man's voice called out, "Who's there?" It was Loeser. He was immediately taken to the Chicago Division Office by Agents Charles Winstead and John Welles, then later placed in B-4, Cell 23 at the Cook County Jail. Agents thoroughly search the house. In the basement was found a miniature laboratory. In the study upstairs, a large collection of medical books was found, most of which concentrating on cancer and skin diseases. Also in this room were a sun ray machine and an X-ray machine. Loeser later testified that he had met Piquett on two or three occasions after June 5 to collect money that was still owed to him. He testified that Piquett had told him the following during their last meeting, on June 15: "The Government people have been following me and I expect trouble from the work and association we've had with Dillinger and Van Meter. If there is any trouble, I want you to get out of town. If you are apprehended, I want you to maintain that you are Ralph Robeind. If you have to divulge your identity, then you are to shift my blame on Arthur O'Leary, and you state you received the \$7,000 from me. I will claim the \$3,000 as my attorney's fees. That will leave me in the clear. If you don't do that, you will soon be killed."^[82] O'Leary returned from a family fishing trip on July 24, the day of Loeser's arrest, and had read in the newspapers that the Department of Justice was looking for two doctors and another man in connection with some plastic work that was done on Dillinger. O'Leary left Chicago immediately but returned two weeks later, learned that Loeser and others had been arrested, phoned Piquett, who assured him everything was all right, then left again. He returned from St. Louis on August 25 and was promptly taken into custody.^[83]

On Friday, July 27, Jimmy Probasco jumped or "accidentally" fell to his death from the 19th floor of the Bankers' Building in Chicago while in custody.

On Thursday, August 23, Homer Van Meter was shot and killed in a dead-end alley in St. Paul by Tom Brown, former St. Paul Chief of Police, and then-current chief Frank Cullen from multiple sawed-off shotgun blasts. Brown: "I kept pumping my shotgun at him as fast as I could and I realized later that Cullen alongside of me was doing the same. He was already dead when we came to him. The shotgun slugs hit him in the chest, face and head. His fingers on both hands were shot off." Morgue photos of Van Meter tell a different story about all of his fingers. Furthermore, Rufus Coulter, who Van Meter exchanged gunfire with at Lincoln Court back in March, took Van Meter's fingerprints on this day at the St. Paul Morgue, or at least the fingers he had left.^{[84][85]}

Woman in red [[edit](#)]

Division of Investigations chief [J. Edgar Hoover](#) created a special task force headquartered in Chicago to locate

Dillinger. On July 21, a madam from a brothel in [Gary, Indiana](#), [Ana Cumpănaș](#), also known as Anna Sage, contacted the police. She was a Romanian immigrant threatened with deportation for "low moral character"^[86] and offered the federal agency information on Dillinger in exchange for their help in preventing her deportation. The agency agreed to her terms, but she was later deported. Cumpănaș told them that Dillinger was spending his time with another prostitute, Polly Hamilton, and that she and the couple would be going to see a movie together on the following day. She agreed to wear an orange dress, which is believed to have appeared red in the artificial lights of the theater,^[87] so that police could easily identify her. She was unsure which of two theaters they would be attending but told the agency their names: the Biograph and the Marbro.^[7]

A team of federal agents and officers from police forces outside Chicago was formed, along with a very few Chicago police officers. Among them was Sergeant Martin Zarkovich, to whom Sage had informed on Dillinger. Federal officials felt that the Chicago police had been compromised and could not be trusted, and Hoover and Purvis also wanted a Federal coup for their own reasons.^[87] Not chancing another embarrassing escape, the police were split into two teams. On Sunday, July 22, one team was sent to the Marbro Theater on the city's west side, while another team surrounded the [Biograph Theater](#) at 2433 N. Lincoln Avenue on the north side. During the stakeout, the Biograph's manager thought the agents were criminals setting up a robbery. He called the Chicago police who dutifully responded and had to be waved off by the federal agents, who told them that they were on a stakeout for an important target.^[7]

The criminal record of Anna Sage:

As Katie Brown, arrested in Gary, Indiana, as prostitute 2-12-23. Case dismissed July 17, 1923.

As Katie Brown, arrested as prostitute August 11, 1923. Found guilty August 13, 1923. Amount of fine not indicated.

As Katie Brown, arrested as keeper of the house of ill fame May 25, 1924. Found not guilty.

As Anna Sage, arrested February 8, 1930. Keeper of house of ill fame. Found guilty. Sentenced 90 days in Women's State Prison. Fine \$25 and cost. Prison sentence suspended pending good behavior.

As Anna Sage, arrested as keeper of house of ill fame September 20, 1930. Found guilty October 23, 1930. Sentenced 60 days in Indiana State Women's Prison. Fine \$60. Case appealed to Lake County Criminal Court and was dismissed by prosecuting attorney.

As Anna Sage, arrested October 25, 1930 on charge of keeper of house of ill fame. Found guilty November 17, 1930. Fine \$50 and cost. Served thirty days in the Lake County Jail.

As Anna Sage, arrested November 16, 1930 -- keeper of house of ill fame. Case dismissed on motion of prosecutor May 18, 1932.

As Anna Sage, convicted February term, 1931.

On December 15, 1932, pardons were issued by Governor Harry G. Leslie of the State of Indiana for the offenses of which Anna Sage was convicted on 11-24-31 and 4-16-31.^[88]

Sage told agents that on Tuesday, July 17, "Dillinger had said he was going away for three or four days, and left that day, returning Friday morning, July 20; that after his return she learned from him and Polly that Dillinger and Van Meter had gone to Stevens Point, Ohio (sic); that when they were in Ohio they put Ohio license plates on their car; that while in Stevens Point they parked the car and were standing on the street corner, intending to visit a vaudeville show, but while they were on the street corner they noticed a large man come across the street toward them and walked between them, as they were standing a little distance apart; that they noticed this man go across the street a piece and take a paper out of his pocket and look at it, and they supposed it was a circular with their photographs on same. So they got in their car and returned to Chicago; that Dillinger stated had this man put his hand into his pocket while coming toward them, they intended on killing him.

"Mrs. Sage stated that a couple of days before Dillinger went to Stevens Point on July 17, she told Polly that she knew Martin Zarkovich, her friend of East Chicago, Indiana, would get his vacation on July 15, and he would come to see her during his vacation. She did not want Dillinger to know or see Martin or Martin to see Dillinger at the house. She said Polly told her to tell Martin anything so he would not know that Dillinger was there. Mrs. Sage stated Dillinger left Chicago on July 17 and stated he would be away three or four days, and while he was away Martin Zarkovich called her on the telephone on Wednesday, July 18, and came to her home on Thursday, July 19. She stated that during Martin's visit on July 19 and during their casual conversation, she told Martin that she considered him her best friend and wanted his advice on a matter and asked his promise that he would not get her into any trouble; that he promised and asked her what it was about. She stated it was about Dillinger. She stated Martin then said, 'I hope you're not mixed up with that fellow.' She stated she then told Martin about Dillinger coming to visit Polly at her home for the past month or so; that Dillinger was then out of the city, but if



Ana Cumpănaș aka Anna Sage, Chicago 1934

he would call her Saturday by telephone she would let him know if Dillinger had returned, or if Polly had heard from him and where he was located. Mrs. Sage stated that Dillinger returned to Chicago Friday morning, and all day Friday Polly and Dillinger stayed at her house and did not go out anywhere, but played cards all day; that Saturday, July 21, Dillinger, Polly, Mrs. Sage's son (Steve Chiolak), and two girlfriends went to the beach at 5800 block North, and as soon as they left the house she got in touch with Martin and told him she knew plenty and arranged to meet him on Fullerton Parkway, where she later met Martin and Mr. Purvis, to whom she was then introduced. She told them she did not want them to come to her home to take Dillinger; that he was going to the Marbro Theater Sunday night or afternoon, and could arrange to take him there; that on Sunday afternoon, July 22, Polly took a nap, and while she was sleeping Dillinger asked her if she wanted to go to the show with them, he and Polly.

"She asked him what show was he going to see, and he said he would 'like to see the theater around the corner,' meaning the Biograph Theater. She stated she was unable to leave the house to inform Mr. Purvis or Martin about Dillinger's plans to attend the Biograph, but as they were going to have fried chicken for the evening meal, she told Polly she had nothing in which to fry the chicken, and was going to the store to get some butter; that while at the store she called Mr. Purvis and informed him of Dillinger's plans to attend the Biograph that evening, at the same time obtaining the butter. She then returned to the house so Polly would not be suspicious that she went out to call anyone."

Sage stated that after she, Dillinger and Polly had dinner, and before they left to attend the Biograph, "Dillinger counted out his money on his bed, and made note of the amounts of different denominations of bills he had. She said he separated fives, tens and twenties; that he had \$1,000 in five-dollar bills, which he put a rubber band around and placed in his left-hand trouser pocket, and had about the same amount in ten-dollar bills, which he also fastened with a rubber band and placed in his left hip pocket. He had 65 twenty-dollar bills, which he placed in a leather billfold and placed in his right hip trouser pocket. She stated the billfold was "a very nice one, being hand-tooled." She stated that Dillinger always put some small bills in his right-hand trouser pocket, so he would not have to wait for change of a large bill when he purchased theatre tickets; that he also kept his gun in his right-hand trouser pocket."^[89]

Biograph Theater and death [edit]

What should have surprised no one, least of all the federal agents and police, Dillinger selected the **Clark Gable** gangster picture *Manhattan Melodrama* right around the corner at the Biograph instead of going across town to see **Shirley Temple** in *Little Miss Marker* at the Marbro. As determined previously, Dillinger was accompanied by Polly and Anna. Once they knew that Dillinger was in the theater, the lead agent, **Samuel P. Cowley**, contacted J. Edgar Hoover for instructions, who recommended that they wait outside rather than risk a gun battle in a crowded theater. He also told the agents not to put themselves in harm's way and that any man could open fire on Dillinger at the first sign of resistance. When the film let out, Purvis^[91] stood by the front door and signaled Dillinger's exit by lighting a cigar. Both he and the other agents reported that Dillinger turned his head and looked directly at the agent as he walked by, glanced across the street, then moved ahead of his female companions, reached into his pocket but failed to extract his gun,^{[5]:353} and ran into a nearby alley.^[87] Other accounts state Dillinger ignored a command to surrender, whipped out his gun, then headed for the alley. Agents already had the alley closed off, but Dillinger was determined to shoot it out.^[92]

Three men fired shots: Clarence Hurt fired twice, **Charles Winstead** fired three times, and **Herman Hollis** fired once. Dillinger was hit from behind and he fell face first to the ground.^[93] Two female bystanders, Theresa Paulas and Etta Natalsky, took slight flesh wounds in the legs and buttocks from flying bullet and brick fragments. Dillinger bumped into Natalsky just as the shooting commenced.^{[18][87]} Dillinger was struck four times, with two bullets grazing him, one cut a superficial hole in his right side, and the fatal shot - which entered Dillinger through the back of his neck, severed his spinal cord and tore through his brain before exiting out the front of his head just under his right eye, severing two sets of veins and arteries.^[3] Although three agents shot Dillinger, Winstead was believed to have fired the fatal shot, and he received a personal letter of commendation from Director Hoover.^[87] An ambulance was summoned, though it was clear Dillinger had quickly died from his gunshot wounds. At 10:50 p.m. on July 22, 1934, Dillinger was pronounced dead at Alexian Brothers Hospital.^{[7][93]} According to the investigators, Dillinger died without saying a word.^[94] There were also reports of people dipping their handkerchiefs and skirts into the blood pool that had formed



FBI photograph of the Biograph Theater taken July 28, 1934, six days after the shooting, the only night "Murder in Trinidad" played.^[90]



Professor A.E. Ashworth of the Worsham College of Embalming making one of two masks the instructor made (with dubious authority) the evening of July 23. Student Marge McDougall, third from right, looks on.



as Dillinger lay in the alley in order to secure keepsakes of the entire affair.^[95]

List of Dillinger's clothing and accoutrements at the time of death:

- 1 pair white buckskin Nunn Bush shoes, size 9D, manufacturer No. 369 105721
 - 1 pair black socks; no manufacturer's name
 - 1 pair red Paris garters
 - 1 pair shorts (Hanes) white in color, with blue stripes, size 34, bearing manufacturer No. 185A-350SE-34
 - 1 pair gray pants containing laundry mark in pocket, No. 355 (40)
 - 1 black belt with silver buckle, no monogram
 - 1 white broadcloth shirt, Kenilworth brand
 - 1 red printed necktie, bearing tag of Paul Boldt & Sons, 2724 North Clark Street, Chicago
 - 1 gold ring with ruby set, containing the following inscription on the inside of the ring: "With all my love, Polly"
 - 1 yellow gold 17-jewel Hamilton watch, works No. 344347, case No. 0568384. The rear of the case contained a photo of Polly Hamilton.
 - 2 keys; one for Anna Sage's apartment, the other for a clothes cabinet in the apartment (where Dillinger stored his ordnance), manufactured by the Independent Lock Company (cabinet key)
 - 1 .380 automatic pistol
 - 1 extra loaded .380 automatic clip. The clip was filled with U.M.C. Remington cartridges
 - 1 white handkerchief with a brown border
- (his glasses, straw boater, and the amount of money carried was not inventoried on this list)^[96]

By the time the body reached the morgue (the 116th corpse to arrive so far that July), only \$7.70 remained in Dillinger's pockets,^[97] a man who rarely traveled anywhere without several thousand dollars stuffed in his pockets or a money belt. Anna Sage said that Dillinger had left that evening with more than \$3,000 on his person. Initially, not a single agent claimed to have seen anyone reach into the outlaw's pockets; everyone also insisted that the body was watched by at least one agent at all times. Agent Daniel Sullivan recalled that, with Purvis watching, he examined the body at the scene and "felt what appeared to be a roll of either money or paper in the right hand pants pocket." Eventually East Chicago detective Glenn Stretch claimed he saw a fellow officer take the money from Dillinger's pockets, though no charges were ever filed. The officer Stretch implicated was Martin Zarkovich.^[98]

Dillinger's body was displayed to the public at the [Cook County morgue](#) after his death.^[99] An estimated 15,000 people viewed the corpse in the day-and-half circus, with the outlaw's brain already having been removed -- and misplaced (with Dillinger's father and half-brother Hubert threatening to sue).

As many as four death masks were also made.^[100] On Tuesday, July 24,

Dillinger's body returned to Mooresville, to Harvey's Undertaking Parlor, arriving at six p.m. Agents Johnson and Wood were stationed outside and mingled with the crowd surrounding Harvey's. The body was put on exhibition at intervals during the evening to satisfy the curiosity of the crowd. The body had arrived in a sheet only, the clothes not having been brought to the undertaking establishment. The home of Audrey Hancock in Maywood was guarded through the night by Indianapolis city police, since the next day, July 25, at two p.m. funeral services were held at the home. Mary Kinder was observed by agents to be seated inside the house beside the body. Both Highway 67 and Old Highway 67, which passed in front of the Hancock residence, were watched by both Indianapolis city police as well as state police. City police were stationed at intervals of approximately every 300 feet on each of the above-mentioned roads. State police were cruising in automobiles and motorcycles in the vicinity. Stationed at the main entrance to [Crown Hill Cemetery](#) in Indianapolis were five uniformed police, five police cars, and five motorcycle police. All other entrances were guarded by uniformed police and squad cars. Dillinger was buried in Section: 44, Lot: 94.^[101] His gravestone has needed to be replaced several times because of vandalism by people chipping off pieces as souvenirs.^[102] Hilton Crouch (1903-1976), an associate of Dillinger's on some early heists, is buried only a few yards west of the former Public Enemy at Crown Hill.^[103]



A Dillinger death mask made from an original mold, and eyebrow hair, on display at the Crime Museum in Washington, D.C. Note the bullet exit mark below the right eye.



Dillinger in morgue with Coroner Frank J. Walsh. Note policeman reflected in the glass, who was standing next to photographer.



At sister Audrey's home for the funeral; Maywood, Indiana, Wednesday, July 25.



Grave at [Crown Hill Cemetery](#), Indianapolis, Indiana, at least the fourth marker to be replaced since 1934, due to souvenir seekers chipping away at them.

At about 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 24, Jack Smith, manager of the Chicago Gun Club in Lincoln Park, Chicago, noticed three boys nearby playing with a submachine gun. Smith took the gun away from the boys and turned it in to police. The boys had been swimming and diving near the Diversy Street bridge on Lake Michigan and found the Thompson along with the following items inventoried by agents:

1 Thompson submachine gun, without a stock, Model 1921, No. 7387 (stolen during the Crown Point escape 3-3-34), fully loaded drum, fully loaded clip

1 Colt .38 Super automatic, fully loaded, both secret numbers and regular numbers removed

1 blue bulletproof vest, on the neck of which was sewn a piece of loose fabric which had approximately 9 holes in it, which might have been caused by buckshot, although neither the cloth nor the metal underneath it substantiated this

1 .380 clip which contained no ammunition

1 canvas bag containing 75 rounds of .45 shells

Also from the same report: "The point where the articles were located is about 150 feet east of the Diversy Street bridge, this being a bridge in Lincoln Park on the outer drive. The spot where the articles were found was about 50 feet from the parking space of the Chicago Gun Club. The shore at that point is composed of large rocks. The water near the shore is about 7 feet deep, and it was near this shore that the articles were found. The assumption would be that whoever threw the articles in the lake drove into the Gun Club parking space, which is not private, parked the car and carried the articles over to the lake and threw them in." ^[104] Anna Sage, the day before, had dumped the small Dillinger arsenal in the lake to rid the incriminating evidence from her apartment.

Late in the afternoon of Thursday, July 26, found by police on top of the Dillinger headstone, weighted down with a rock, was a piece of torn notebook paper with the message: "I will get her, John. Leaving tonite. So Long. J.H." The grave had been guarded at all times since the funeral the day before to prevent vandalism. The two officers that were on duty at the grave site, Walker and Haugh, thought it to be a joke and gave it to the newspapers. It appeared in an evening edition and also the next day's edition of the Indianapolis News. Walker and Haugh remembered a mysterious black vehicle with Ohio plates parking nearby and two women dressed in black getting out, with the driver remaining in the car. The women walked over to the grave and stood for a few moments, but the officers didn't see them leave anything. The note was found a short time later. The note, signed "J.H.," was interpreted by many to be a threat from John Hamilton (who'd been dead for three months).^{[105][106]}

From the Indianapolis News, Friday, July 27:

"Dillinger's father had just observed his 70th birthday on his farm near Mooresville. The days preceding it had taken a heavy toll on his strength and fortitude. A surprise birthday party which had been planned for him by his family was called off when word of the Chicago shooting was received. The elder Dillinger sat on the front porch of his modest home and watched automobiles drive slowly by. Occupants would point, slow down momentarily, then speed away, their curiosity partly satisfied. "There isn't much we can do on the farm now but mow weeds," John Sr. said. I've decided to take it easy for a while." The brakes of another car squeal in front. "I suppose they want to see where John lived," he said. I'll be happy when this dies down and we can live a simple life again."^[107]

The following telegram was sent on July 30, eight days after the shooting, from Indianapolis to Washington by Agent E.J. Connelley: "DILLINGER FAMILY JOHN W SENIOR AUDREY HANCOCK EMMET HANCOCK AND HUBERT DILLINGER APPEARING AT LYRIC THEATRE IN INDIANAPOLIS VAUDEVILLE ACT FOR FIVE DAYS STOP ONLY REFERENCE IN TALK TO DIVISION IS THAT HUBERT AND SENIOR WERE QUESTIONED AT CHICAGO WHEN CALLING FOR BODY STOP SENIOR SAYS CHICAGO POLICE SAID TO HIM THEY WERE NOT AT ALL SATISFIED WITH THE WAY THINGS WERE DONE STOP HUBERT AND SENIOR ADVISE AT VISIT BY JOHN ON APRIL EIGHTH STOP SPECIAL TODAY GIVES ENTIRE TALK BY THEM IN ACT STOP CONNELLEY"^[108]

Nash theory of Dillinger's escape [[edit](#)]

In *The Dillinger Dossier*, author [Jay Robert Nash](#) maintains that Dillinger escaped death at the Biograph Theater simply by not being there. In his stead was a "Jimmy Lawrence", a local Chicago petty criminal whose appearance was similar to Dillinger's. Nash uses evidence to show that Chicago Police officer Martin Zarkovich was instrumental in this plot. Nash theorizes that the plot unraveled when the body was found to have fingerprints that didn't match Dillinger's (the fingerprint card was missing from the Cook County Morgue for over three decades), it was too tall, the eye color was wrong, and it possessed a rheumatic heart. The F.B.I., a relatively new agency whose agents were only recently permitted to carry guns or make arrests, would have fallen under heavy scrutiny, this being the third innocent man killed in pursuit of Dillinger, and would have gone to great lengths to ensure a cover up.

In shooting the Dillinger stand-in, F.B.I. agents were stationed on the roof of the theater and fired downward, causing the open cuts on the face which were described through the media as "scars resulting from inept plastic surgery". The first words from Dillinger's father upon identifying the body were, "that's not my boy." The body was buried under five feet of concrete and steel, making exhumation less likely. Nash produced fingerprints and photos of Dillinger as he would appear in 1960 that were allegedly sent to Melvin Purvis just prior to his 1960 alleged suicide (more probably

an accident). Nash alleged Dillinger was living and working in California as a machinist, under what would have been an early form of the witness protection program.^[109]

Challenging Nash's theory [edit]

- Dillinger did indeed have a heart condition according to Dr. Patrick H. Weeks, a physician and psychiatrist at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City during the time of Dillinger's incarceration at the facility. In his 1938 book, "The Big House of Mystery," he writes, "During his term at the Indiana prison I was well acquainted with Dillinger, but came rarely into contact with him in my professional capacity. The lad from Mooresville was not a hospital pest; that is, he was not one of those prisoners who needs medical treatment upon the slightest provocation whatsoever. I examined him two or three times, however, and discovered something about his physical condition which is quite surprising and which, incidentally, was never revealed in the press. John Dillinger suffered from heart disease. He had a distinct heart lesion. The disease was organic. I told Dillinger that he should never subject himself to great mental or physical strain, because it might hasten his death. I was confident that he would follow my advice."^[110]
- Dillinger's father initially couldn't believe the dead man he was looking at was his son. Neither could his sister, Audrey, when first seeing the body. It should be remembered that Dillinger underwent plastic surgery in late May and early June, including fingerprint removal/alteration, just a month and a half before his death. Audrey was finally convinced when E.F. Harvey of the *Harvey Funeral Home* asked her to locate the scar on the back of Dillinger's thigh, a souvenir of an encounter with a barbed-wire fence years prior during a watermelon raid.^[111]
- Dillinger's father was offered \$10,000 by H.G. Cross of Wapun, Wisconsin, for use of the body to display for profit. It was offers such as these that the coffin was encased in concrete -- to prevent ghouls from grave robbing -- not because the casket contained a *doppelgänger* by the name of Jimmy Lawrence, as Nash suggests. ^{[112][113]}

Dillinger cars [edit]

- 1931 Desoto sedan. Used in the robbery of Eaton's Sandwich Shop, Indianapolis, Thursday, June 29, 1933, by Dillinger and William Shaw. Unknown color. Take: \$340.^[114]
- 1933 Plymouth sedan, black. Rockville National Bank, Wednesday, July 19, 1933, with Harry Copeland. Take: \$140 by Copeland; an unknown amount by Dillinger.
- 1933 Chevrolet coupe, maroon with red wire wheels, motor No. 2772924, serial No. 9Ae48968, bought by Dillinger using his real name at the Jones-Maley Agency, Marion County, Indiana, on Friday, July 7, 1933, for \$250. The registration application was notarized the following day. Dillinger's "legal" car for a short period of time, he painted the car green, but kept the red wheels, and used it 10 days later, on Monday, July 17, for the Commercial Bank of Daleville robbery with Harry Copeland, netting \$3,500. This is the only known instance where Dillinger recklessly used his personal vehicle for a work car.
- 1932 Studebaker Commander, black. Used on Monday, October 23, 1933, for the Central National Bank of Greencastle robbery, along with Harry Pierpont, Charles Makley, and Russell Clark. This vehicle is currently on display at Historic Auto Attractions in Roscoe, Illinois.
- 1933 Essex-Terraplane 8, black, motor No. 25765, purchased by Dillinger at the D.A. Boswell Agency in South Bend on Thursday, August 17, using the alias J.H. Donovan. The vehicle came equipped with a Belvedere trunk, usually incorrectly called a Potter trunk (the Potter trunk was made for GM and Ford models, among others). This T8 was the vehicle Dillinger had parked outside Mary Longnaker's Dayton apartment when he was apprehended on Friday, September 22. After his arrest, the Terraplane was given to Dillinger's lawyer, Jack Egan, who promptly turned it over to Hubert, Dillinger's half-brother. Hubert then gave the car to a "Mrs. John Dillinger" (Mary Kinder) at 1052 South 2nd Street, Hamilton, Ohio. Ohio license plates were issued (A 63-167), the same plates used on the Studebaker for the Greencastle job. This Terraplane was then used by Dillinger during his escape from Dr. Eye's office in Chicago on Wednesday, November 15. The FBI files reference this particular Terraplane, Motor No. 25765, by saying, "The Essex automobile in question was later discovered abandoned and riddled with bullets." No other mention of the Dayton/Dr. Eye car being one and the same has been found in the files, probably because of the embarrassing nature of the entire episode, i.e., the same vehicle getting back into the hands of Dillinger.
- 1933 Buick Series 90 Seven-Passenger Sedan, royale blue with medium cream wheels. Used on Monday, November 20, 1933, at the American Bank and Trust Company in Racine, Wisconsin, with Pierpont, Makley, Clark, and Leslie Homer. An extremely rare vehicle even in its day. Reportedly available by special order only.
- 1933 Essex-Terraplane 8, black with black wheels, motor No. 21192, serial No. 80921. Purchased by Dillinger on Thursday, November 23, 1933, at the Logan Square Hudson-Essex Company, Chicago. He paid \$813.96 for it. Although very unlikely, all documentation in the FBI Dillinger file states this vehicle was a coupe. The car was driven to Florida by Dillinger and Frechette the following month, with Dillinger transferring the title over to Billie under his Frank Kirtley alias the day after Christmas, Tuesday, December 26, in Daytona Beach. At some point around the New Year, Frechette left for Wisconsin in this Terraplane to visit her mother. While en route, she

crashed the car near Port Washington, Wisconsin, as a result of an icy road. ^[115]

- 1934 Ford V8 Tudor, used by Dillinger and Hamilton, and an unidentified driver, on Monday, January 15, 1934, for the robbery of the First National Bank of East Chicago. The abandoned car was found the next day at Byron Street and California Avenue, Chicago.
- 1932 Essex-Terraplane 6 coupe, dark blue, motor No. 16532, acquired by Billie at the Braemar Sales Corporation in Milwaukee on Tuesday, January 9, for \$220, plus the damaged but drivable '33 T8 coupe on a trade-in. Reuniting with Dillinger in St. Louis around January 17, the couple took the Terraplane 6 to Mooresville for a quick visit before heading back to St. Louis.
- 1934 Hudson 8 Club Sedan, bison brown, motor No. 30071, serial No. 252007. Going by another alias, Frank Sullivan of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Dillinger traded in the '32 T6 for this Hudson, along with \$954, on Saturday, January 20, at the Hudson-Frampton Motor Car Company, located at 4335 Delmar Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri. He got \$275 knocked off the car in the trade. Dillinger paid cash, of course, drawing from his pocket a stack of old \$20 bills, bound in a bank wrapper, counting out \$960, then placing the remainder of the stack back in his overcoat. The Hudson was delivered the following day at the Hotel Roosevelt. Sales manager John Davis, who finalized the deal, told authorities that at no time did he recognize the man as being Dillinger, but did become suspicious of the customer and feared that the wrapped money might be part of the Lindbergh kidnapping ransom money. Dillinger and Frechette checked out of the hotel the morning of the 21st, after receiving the Hudson, and headed for Arizona, arriving late Wednesday, the 24th, in Tucson. At the time of his arrest in Tucson Dillinger had been driving this Hudson with 1933 Wisconsin license No. 27001.
- 1934 Studebaker Commander 8, motor No. C24036, serial No. 1805871, '34 Florida license D13-373. Charles Makley's vehicle in Daytona Beach and at the time of his arrest in Tucson.
- 1934 Buick Model 61, black, motor No. 2866900, serial No. 2907596, '34 Florida license 2-692. Harry Pierpont's vehicle in Daytona Beach and at the time of his arrest in Tucson.
- 1934 Ford V8 Fordor, with wire wheels and red light on left front bumper bracket, motor No. 256447. After his arrest in Tucson, Dillinger had to wait 37 days to get his hands on another car, this time Sheriff Lillian Holley's V8. Stolen Saturday, March 3, in his escape from the Lake County Jail in Crown Point, Indiana. After reuniting with Frechette at Billie's half-sister's apartment that day, Frechette later that evening drove Holley's Ford to 1057 Ardmore, about three miles away, left it there, then took a streetcar back to Patsy's apartment. The V8 was discovered two days later. ^[116]
- 1934 Packard Super 8 sedan, green with a gold stripe. Stolen Friday, March 2, in St. Paul at the Joy Brothers' Motor Car Company, 191 North Smith Avenue. The Packard, a demonstration model with dealer plates, valued at \$3,400, was stolen at gunpoint by two men at 1:50 p.m. at the downtown dealership (no descriptions given) the day before Dillinger's Crown Point escape. The two Joy Brothers employees, Syd Ricketts and Clifton Lowell, said they weren't molested in any way, but were instructed to get in the back seat of the sedan and to lie down on the floor. With another car following (again, no description of the sole occupant or the vehicle's make), the two-car caravan took West 7th Street from downtown out to Fort Snelling (approximately 10 miles), angled off on Highway 52 and proceeded about two and a half miles southwest, then stopped and the two employees were set free. The two men received one dollar for carfare, then walked back to Fort Snelling and called the police. The Packard was used four days later in the Sioux Falls bank robbery, then abandoned on Minnesota Avenue, four miles outside of Sioux Falls, due to taking a round to the car's radiator fired from a patrolman during the getaway. The gang made good their escape by taking a local farmer's Dodge sedan who had been passing by. ^{[117][118]}
- 1934 Ford V8 coupe, green, with Minnesota license No. B44-708, the car Homer Van Meter left at the Lincoln Court Apartments on March 31, 1934. Purchased on January 6 at Ford Motor Sales, 117 University Avenue West, St. Paul, under the name Zeno P. Miller, 482 Burgess Street, St. Paul. Using a city directory, agents learned that the person living on Burgess was actually one Dudley J. Glaugherty. The car was later searched, and found on the small shelf in the back was a leather case containing a Thompson submachine gun, Model 1921, serial number removed. In the turtle-back (trunk) was a Gladstone bag containing an unassembled Winchester .351 automatic rifle, serial No. 46190, and a Model 1921 Thompson clip, full, No. 1576.
- 1934 Hudson Deluxe sedan, motor No. 38884, serial No. 956437, license No. B 420930, black with yellow stripe and cream wheels. Bess Green, wife of Dillinger gang member Eddie Green, placed a phone call to local slot-machine czar Tom Filben (who was pals with [Fred Goetz](#) aka Shotgun George Ziegler^[119]) on Wednesday, March 28, to see about acquiring a



Agents searching the abandoned Ford V8 belonging to Sheriff Holley, Monday, March 5, Chicago.



Homer Van Meter's '34 Ford V8 coupe with driver's side rear tire shot out; March 31, St. Paul.

Hudson Deluxe, with a 1932 Chevy coach to be traded in as part of the deal, through Filben's auto finance company, the Federal Acceptance Corporation, located in the Baltimore Building, 518 St. Peter Street, St. Paul. Filben's cronic, Irving Gleeman, visited Potthoff Motor Company at 216 Bates Avenue, St. Paul, at eight o'clock that night and spoke with W.J. Potthoff about the deal, while driving the '32 Chev over to show Potthoff the trade-in vehicle. In turn, Potthoff called the O'Donnell Motor Company, a Minneapolis Hudson Terraplane dealer, the following morning to ascertain whether or not they could make delivery on a Hudson Deluxe sedan. He was informed that they could. After license plates were obtained at the State Capitol by Gleeman using the name Carl T. Hellman, the Hudson was delivered by W.J. Potthoff that afternoon, March 29, to the rear of the Baltimore Building on St. Peter, Filben's place of business. Filben and Gleeman were waiting there to accept the car. Exactly how the Hudson got into Dillinger's hands from there isn't explained in the files.

To complicate matters, this Hudson was actually the last part of a seven-car deal that was initiated on March 15, with the same cast of characters involved. A black 1934 Hudson Club Sedan, motor No. 35544, serial No. 253304, and a dark blue 1934 Hudson Terraplane Deluxe sedan, motor No. 57917, serial No. 23682, were purchased by Filben's finance company from the O'Donnell Hudson dealer and picked up by Gleeman and "two young boys" the following day, March 16, at five p.m. As trade-ins, O'Donnell received the following cars: a 1933 Plymouth coupe, motor No. PC-27835, serial No. 1784719; a 1931 Essex coupe, motor No. 1305392, serial No. 1234766; and a 1933 Terraplane coupe, motor No. 23288, serial No. 366867. Also offered as trade-ins but were rejected: a 1928 Chrysler sedan and a 1931 Ford coupe. The Hudson Club sedan ended up going to Tommy Carroll, who brought it to Mankato just 17 days later for repairs, where it was recovered by agents on a tip, and the '34 Terraplane went to Eddie Green, the car he parked across the street from the 778 Rondo address, where he was ambushed by agents on April 3. The '33 Plymouth coupe was traced to [John Paul Chase](#), with the application on file for the Minnesota title and registration card indicating that the owner of the car entered the state on March 10. The '33 Terraplane coupe was registered in the name of Theodore J. Randall, 251 Marshall Place, St. Paul. The Greens went by the name of T.J. Randall while living at their 3300 Fremont address in Minneapolis. Daisy Coffey, the landlord at Lincoln Court, had given a description of her tenants' Hudson, including the license number, which, after the shooting, soon led agents to Filben, Potthoff, and the O'Donnell Motor Company. Not surprisingly, even though interviews were conducted, no arrests appear to have been made of any of the principals involved at the car companies or the finance company.

Billie Frechette testified at her trial that prior to obtaining the Hudson at Lincoln Court, Dillinger was driving a Ford sedan. A '32 Chevy coach (equipped with a spotlight) was traded in for the Hudson, so it's unknown if she was confused about the make and model, or if indeed he was driving a Ford. One of the rejected cars to be traded in was a '31 Ford coupe, an unlikely car for Dillinger to be driving, especially this late in his career. Dillinger received the Hudson sometime during the evening of Thursday, March 29. Presumably, he test drove his new car, but the opportunities to do so were few, as the shootout at Lincoln Court occurred about 40 hours after taking possession of the vehicle. After leaving Minneapolis on April 4 following the treatment for his leg wound, Dillinger and Frechette traveled to Mooresville in the Hudson, arriving on April 5. On April 7, with Dillinger's brother Hubert driving because of the outlaw's leg wound, Hubert crashed the Hudson on U.S. Highway 31 near Noblesville, Indiana, about three miles north of Indianapolis. While the brothers eventually made it back to the family farm, the abandoned Hudson was traced back to St. Paul.^[120]

- 1930 Model A coupe, black, stolen by Dillinger, Hamilton, and Van Meter on the evening of April 21-22 at Mitchell's Lodge, located on the southern tip of Rest Lake, a mile from Little Bohemia, where the three escaped earlier on foot. The trio commandeered the coupe from Robert Johnson, a carpenter who was staying in one of the cabins at the lodge. Forcing Johnson to drive, Dillinger and Van Meter also sat up front while Hamilton sat in the rumble seat, exposed to the elements. After a stop in Springstead for gas, Johnson was released near the Pixley power station, and then onward to St. Paul. The car would soon be replaced, however, after deciding to head to Chicago instead to seek out medical attention for Hamilton, who was mortally wounded near Hastings, Minnesota.^[121]
- 1934 Hudson Sedan, bronze colored, motor No. 32148, 1934 Missouri license No. 539570, the vehicle Tommy Carroll had in Waterloo, Iowa, when he was shot to death by detectives on Thursday, June 7, 1934 (see Carroll's Wiki page). Found in the car by police: one .38 Colt Super automatic (numbers cut off), one Colt .380 (numbers cut off), and one Winchester .351 automatic, No. 44230. The license plates found on the back seat: 1934 Minnesota B419-725, 1934 Minnesota B198-248, and also 1934 Illinois 518-462. In a black leather Gladstone bag, "which appeared to have been used for a good long time," contained several pieces of women's underwear, size small, four small dresses, one woman's dark coat, one pair of sandals. Among Carroll's personal effects: two new three-piece suits, one light gray, one light tan; vest and pants to a dark green suit, extra pair of light gray pants, JCPenney shirts (quantity unspecified), one brown hat, a straw boater with the lining removed, one pair of Bostonian shoes, size 10, and a pillow and case, with an extra case.^[122]

Dillinger weapons [\[edit\]](#)

- Colt .38 Super automatic, with Cutts compensator, 22-round clip, and vertical foregrip. Modified by San Antonio arms supplier Hyman Lebman (his gun shop was located at 111 South Flores Street). Available in .38 or .45. A machine pistol was left behind by Dillinger at the Lincoln Court Apartments on March 31, 1934. A machine pistol

was used by Baby Face Nelson with deadly results near Little Bohemia in April 1934.

- Colt Monitor, the commercial version of the Browning Automatic Rifle. Used by Nelson and Chase in Barrington on November 27, 1934. The 30.06 Monitor was introduced in 1931. Only 125 were ever produced. Discontinued circa 1940. Rate of fire: 500 rounds per minute. Exceedingly rare, Monitors fetch upwards of \$100,000 in today's market. If the Nelson/Chase Monitor were ever to surface, it would probably top \$1 million.
- Model 1905 Smith & Wesson Hand-Ejector .38, used by Detective Henry Cummings on March 31, 1934, at the Lincoln Court Apartments during his shootout with Dillinger. A six-shooter, Cummings testified at the Frechette trial that he fired five times in Dillinger's direction and was out. As a backup, he was also carrying a Colt .25 Model 1908 Vest Pocket, but probably wisely decided to reload the .38 instead of employing the Colt. Donated to the Minnesota Historical Society by Cummings' heirs.
- Dillinger's wooden gun. At last count, there's approximately eight wooden guns that have surfaced, with most of them being of recent vintage. There's a handful of researchers who believe the gun Dillinger is holding in the famous photograph taken at the family farm on April 8, 1934, hasn't even been found yet. The argument is that the barrel on the gun Dillinger is holding appears to be a bit longer than those that have surfaced, as well as being almost perfectly round. Like the Thompson Dillinger is also holding in the photo, the barrel is reflecting the sun, suggesting a metal barrel. The matter is still open to debate. According to G. Russell Girardin, Dillinger's first biographer, O'Leary had made a duplicate of the gun. He kept the original for himself and returned the phony to Dillinger's family, where it was subsequently stolen. ^[123] The O'Leary duplicate is reportedly in a private collection in Washington State.
- Thompson Submachine Gun. Models 1921 and 1928 were the weapons of choice for nearly all 1930s outlaws. If acquired legitimately, a Thompson originally sold for \$200. Rate of fire: 720 rpm (Model 1928), 850 rpm (Model 1921). A Thompson was first secured by the gang during their raid of the Auburn, Indiana, police station on October 14, 1933, and made its debut nine days later at the Greencastle robbery. Three officers were slain via the Thompson by Dillinger gang members: Martin J. O'Brien and Francis Lloyd Mulvihill (by Van Meter on Thursday, May 24, 1934) and William Patrick O'Malley (by Dillinger on Monday, January 15, 1934). In an eerie twist of fate, all three policemen are buried near each other at Calvary Cemetery in Portage, Indiana.
- .351 Winchester Model 1907, modified by Lebman, with a 20-round magazine and vertical foregrip. The Thompson gets all the press, but this much forgotten rifle was one nasty weapon itself. A favorite of Van Meter's, he used one at the South Bend robbery on Saturday, June 30, 1934, killing Officer Howard Wagner. Found in most recovered Dillinger arsenals, including Tucson (2) and Little Bohemia.
- Colt .38 Super automatic (stock). One of the pistols found in Mary Longnaker's Dayton, Ohio, apartment on Friday, September 22, 1933, at 1:30 a.m. The .38 was found between the cushions of the sofa, along with several other guns in Dillinger's luggage. The bandit was standing in the middle of the living room looking at photographs of their recent trip to the World's Fair when detectives stormed in. Currently in possession of the Dayton Police Department.



Film depictions [edit]

- 1945: [Lawrence Tierney](#) played the title role in the first film dramatization of Dillinger's career; *Dillinger*.
- 1957: Director [Don Siegel](#)'s film *Baby Face Nelson*, starred [Mickey Rooney](#) as Nelson and [Leo Gordon](#) as Dillinger.
- 1959: *The FBI Story* starring [James Stewart](#), Jean Willes plays Anna Sage and Scott Peters plays Dillinger. Peters, a small-time actor, went uncredited in this role.
- 1969: Director [Marco Ferreri](#)'s film *Dillinger Is Dead* includes documentary footage of real John Dillinger as well as newspaper clips.
- 1971: "Appointment with Destiny; The Last Days of John Dillinger," narrated by [Rod Serling](#), 52 minutes. Shot in newsreel style, very accurate for its time. The late Joseph Pinkston served as technical advisor. Pinkston himself makes an uncredited cameo in the Biograph sequence, playing an agent.
- 1973: *Dillinger*, directed and written by [John Milius](#) with [Warren Oates](#) in the title role, presents the gang in a much more sympathetic light, in keeping with the *anti-hero* theme popular in films after *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967).
- 1979: [Lewis Teague](#) directed the film *The Lady in Red*, starring [Pamela Sue Martin](#) as the eponymous lady in the red dress. However, in this film, it is Dillinger's girlfriend Polly in red, not the Romanian informant Anna Sage ([Louise Fletcher](#)). Sage tricks Polly into wearing red so that FBI agents can identify Dillinger ([Robert Conrad](#)) as he emerges from the cinema.
- 1991: A TV film *Dillinger*, starring [Mark Harmon](#)
- 1995: [Roger Corman](#) produced the film *Dillinger and Capone*, featuring [Martin Sheen](#) as Dillinger and [F. Murray](#)

Abraham as Al Capone. Dillinger survives the theater stakeout when the FBI mistakenly guns down his brother and is then blackmailed by Capone into retrieving \$15 million from his secret vault.

- 2004: "Teargas and Tommyguns; Dillinger Robs the First National Bank," DVD, Mason City Public Library, 38 minutes. Documentary regarding the bank robbery, including contemporary interviews with still-living witnesses; also contains the H.C. Kunkleman film in its entirety.
- 2009: Director **Michael Mann**'s film *Public Enemies* is an adaptation of Bryan Burrough's book *Public Enemies: America's Greatest Crime Wave and the Birth of the FBI, 1933-34*.^[124] The film features **Johnny Depp** as John Dillinger and **Christian Bale** as FBI agent **Melvin Purvis**. Although the film has accurate portrayals of several key moments in Dillinger's life - such as his death and dialogue at his arraignment hearing - it is inaccurate in some major historical details, such as the timeline (and location) of deaths of key criminal figures including **Pretty Boy Floyd**, **Baby Face Nelson**, and **Homer Van Meter**.^[125]
- 2012: British actor Alexander Ellis portrays Dillinger in the first **Dollar Baby** screen adaptation of **Stephen King**'s short story, "**The Death of Jack Hamilton**".^[126]

See also [edit]

- **Kenneth "Speedy" Raulerson**
- **List of Depression-era outlaws**
- **The Terror Gang**



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External links [edit]

- [Famous Cases: John Dillinger](#) – at the [FBI](#)
- [John Dillinger](#) at *Find a Grave*
- *Dillinger: The Untold Story*, Anniversary Edition. [Indiana University Press](#).
- Matera, Dary. *Review of John Dillinger.* Letters on Pages.
- [John Dillinger Historical Crime Museum](#) .
- [Dillinger with rare photos from the FBI and U.S. National Archives](#)
- [Dillinger not killed](#)
- Johndillinger.com



- View footage of the hunt for Dillinger and Dillinger posing for cameras in 1934
- Wanted poster: John Dillinger, published 12 March 1934 by U.S. Department of Justice, Division of Investigation 

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