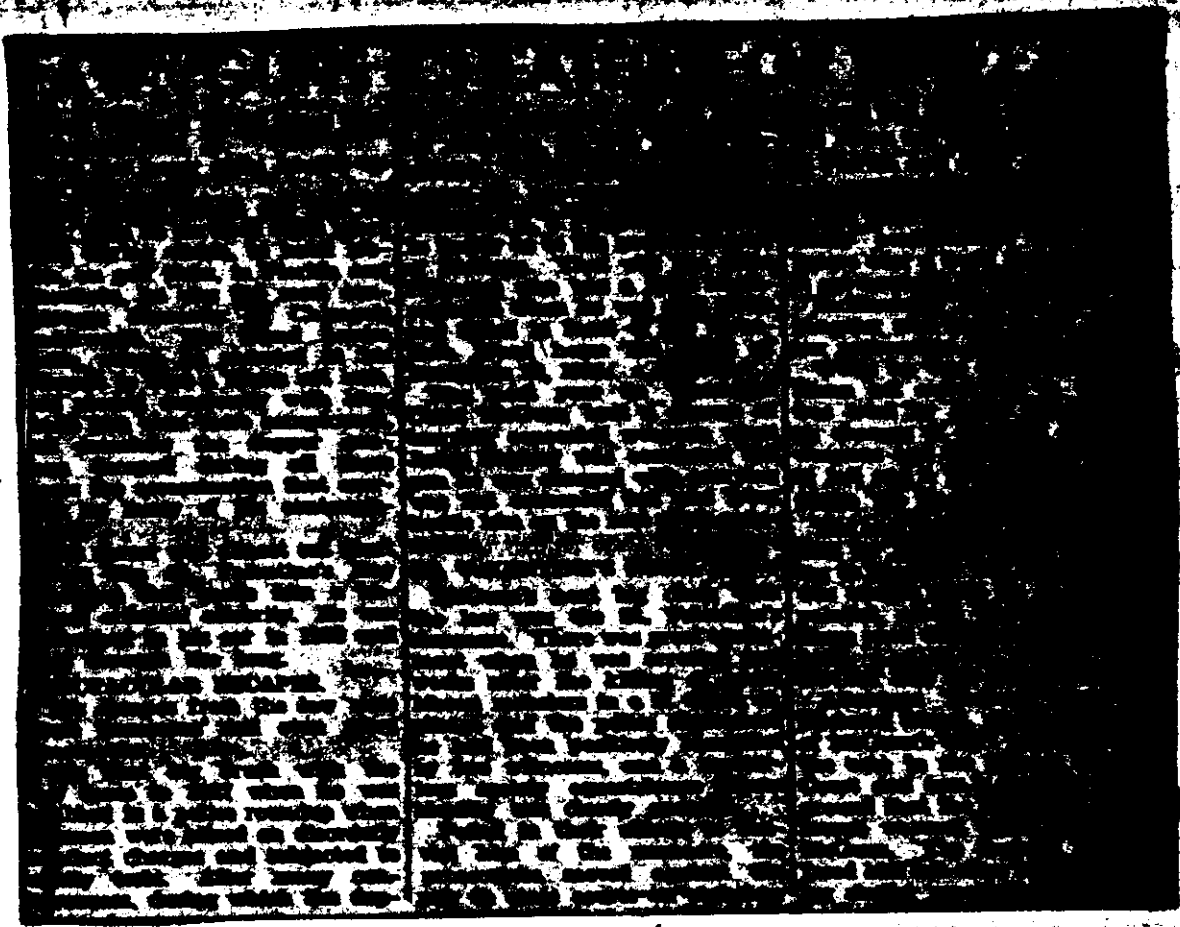


*Jan*



69-180-A

THE CHICAGO AMERICAN

2-15-36

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**'MACHINE GUN'**

**M'GURN SLAIN**

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*[Handwritten signature]*  
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CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

69-180-A

# Shot Down on Anniversary of Valentine Day Massacre; 20 in Club See 'Execution'

## Bowlers in Panic; Clues Point to 'Friends' as Assassins

"Machine Gun" Jack McGurn, 38, dapper Capone gangster and Public Enemy No. 5, was shot and killed at 12:55 a. m. today in the Avenue Recreation Parlor on the second floor at 805 Milwaukee av.

He was shot from behind, police believe, by two "friends" with whom he was waiting to bowl, as three confederates, posing as "stickup men," plunged the place into confusion with a fusilade of shots.

### 7 Years Later

McGurn's death came exactly seven years after the St. Valentine's Day massacre, in which he was one of the chief suspects.

As a grim reminder of that massacre, only eight or ten

feet from McGurn's body was a plain white envelope, addressed to him, and bearing this strange "valentine":

*"You've lost your job, you've lost your dough,*

*Your jewels and cars and handsome houses.*

*But things could still be worse, you know;*

*At least you haven't lost your trousers!"*

### Slaying Clues?

Four similar "valentines" had been left at the cigar counter in the alley by some mysterious person. And police sought to know if they had been left by McGurn's slayers—if, indeed, they were intended as a ghastly mockery of the victim.

The others were addressed to Doc Pecaro, Nick BeJohn, Skippy, and Jim Dyne. Police sought to learn who those men were.

From William Alosio, who has owned the Avenue Recreation Parlor, a bowling alley, for two years, police learned that McGurn and his "friends" came in about

**Gang Guns Roar Again—**

# **PANIC AT CLUB AFTER KILLING**

**Crowd Rushes Out  
Into Zero Cold as  
Bullets Fly**

## **VICTIM TRAILED BY GUNMEN**

12:50 and asked for an alley. It was the first time, Alosio said, that McGurn had ever been there.

The parlor is a long rectangular room, with four alleys along the north side, and the benches for the players at the west wall. On the south side are several pool tables. A cigar counter is along the south wall, about forty feet from the west wall, and west of it is the entrance door.

### **20 See Slaying**

There were about twenty persons in the parlor, and Alosio told McGurn he and his friends could have the north alley, No. 1, as soon as those playing on it had finished.

McGurn and his companions took off their coats, and sat down to wait. One of his companions wrote the three names on a sheet at the alley—a sheet which

had disappeared after the shooting.

Alosio was sitting on a chair near the cigar counter—with one shoe off. He had been injured in an auto accident, and his foot was still bandaged.

Suddenly three men walked in. They shouted:

"Stand where you are. This is a stickup."

Without waiting, they began to shoot. At the first shot, Alosio plunged beneath a pool table. But the three men, police learned, had stayed near the door, firing a fusillade of shots into the walls and ceiling.

### **Shot From Behind**

They did not walk far into the room. But McGurn who, astounded at the shots, had whirled to face them, was shot from behind.

Two bullets had shattered the back of his head. McGurn fell on his back in front of the bench, at the head of the alley, blood streaming from his wounds.

Three shells from .45 caliber automatic pistols were found on the floor near the door, apparently fired by the "stickup men." No shells were found near McGurn's body, and police believe the two "friends" who slew him used revolvers.

At the county morgue a coro-

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**THE END OF A GANGSTER.**  
***Jack McGurn's body as police found it.***

International News photo by Herald and Examiner.

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patrons who were in the place at the time—and for four "pin boys" who were watching McGurn just before the shooting and, presumably, saw exactly what happened.

So terrified were they that they fled with the others—not even waiting for their pay.

Alosio and Mascarella professed to be unable to give the names of the boys—or the names of any other patrons in the place.

Alosio, questioned at the West Chicago station by Deputy Coroner Victor Schlaeger and Capt. Martin Mullen, at first answered routine questions reluctantly, then took refuge in sullen silence, only breaking it to shout repeatedly that he be allowed to "see his lawyer."

### ***Wakened by Shots***

Mascarella was a little more willing to talk about the shooting—but not to give any real information. He said he had seen one of the "stick-up men," but insisted he didn't know him and wouldn't be able to identify him.

Later Mrs. William Alosio was seized at 2020 Pierce st. and held for questioning.

The inquest was set for 11 a. m. today at the county morgue.

Meanwhile three men were taken into custody for questioning when they were seen entering a

restaurant at 807 Milwaukee st. immediately after the shooting.

They were Sam Alosio, 21, of 1141 W. Huron st., brother of William, and Charles Alazowka, 22, of 686 N. Curtis st., both said to have minor police records, and John Battaglia, 23, of 1154 W. Ohio st. None of the three bore a gun.

The police declared their confidence that the murder had been carefully planned, and that at least five men—the two "friends" and the three "bandits"—were included among the plotters.

### ***Unravel Plot***

The "friends," they believed, had been with McGurn for the entire evening, but were afraid to tackle him alone. McGurn was known as a "tough guy," one who was quick on the trigger and well able to defend himself.

The two, appointed as the actual killers, lured him to the bowling alley, police believed, at a carefully appointed time. But even there, with McGurn supposedly at ease and off guard, they depended on the confusion created by the "stickup" to cover their assault.

According to that theory, police said, the three "stickup men" were waiting for McGurn and the others to enter. They watched McGurn come to the trap and

gave him time to get settled before they entered.

They may have entered the parlor to do their part with extreme trepidation. They couldn't be sure that McGurn wouldn't draw a gun and open fire before the assassins could act.

But as McGurn whirled about at their fire, the "friends" poured bullets into his head. Those shots were fired at point-blank range. They couldn't miss—and McGurn, who was No. 5 on Chicago's first list of public enemies, died as the St. Valentine's Day victims died—shot from behind, without chance.

# M'GURN'S PATH TO TOP PAVED WITH BULLETS

Gangster Narrowly Escaped  
Death Many Times; Survived  
Terror Reign of Dry Era

Jack McGurn, product of "the Valley" on the lower West Side, one-time pugilist, graduated from the age of street fighting and the few years in the ring to the deadly warfare of gangdom in the middle of the prohibition era.

His "rise" to infamy as one of the most deadly machine gunners was accompanied always by the menace of death. Many times he narrowly escaped the vengeance that overtook him last night, fifteen years after he became aligned with the liquor gangs.

## REAL NAME GEBARDI.

His real name was Gebardi. He took the name of McGurn for the prize ring. He was 38 years old.

He became aligned with the North Side gang in 1927. The gang had been headed first by Dean O'Banion and included Hymie Weiss and Vincent ("Schemer") Drucci—all shot to death during the years of battle with the Capone mob. Later George ("Bugs") Moran, still living, led the North Side crew.

But McGurn soon became involved in difficulties with the North Siders, and the immediate result was an effort to kill him. As he stood in a telephone booth in a smokeshop at 618 Rush st., two men entered the shop and fired on him with a machine gun and a pistol. He survived two wounds.

## JOINS CAPONE.

His answer was to join the Capone gang as an active warrior in years of battle. And identification of him by witnesses to the beginning of the St. Valentine's Day massacre of 1929 indicated he took part in the most effective battle against his former allies.

After the murder charge for the massacre was quashed he became involved in lesser difficulties with the law when federal agents seized him and his "blonde alibi," Louise Rolfe, June 25, 1929, on a Mann act charge resulting from their trip together to Florida.

## ESCAPES BY MARRIAGE.

Though he was convicted and sentenced to two years in prison, he escaped the penalty by an appeal to the United States Supreme Court based on his marriage, meanwhile, to Miss Rolfe. He had been married previously to Mrs. Helen Gebardi, but was divorced. He had one child by that marriage.

After repeal of prohibition McGurn became a gentleman of leisure, playing golf in costly togs at fashionable courses in amateur tournaments. He bought the home in Oak Park, and engaged in various gambling enterprises.

Players in the Western Open tournament at Olympia Fields on August 27, 1933, were amazed to see police invade the course and seize a golfer about to tee off on the seventh tee. The golfer was McGurn, entered under the name of Gebardi. He was arrested on a vagrancy warrant.

## Blond Alibi Hunted in Slaying



**LOUISE ROLFE M'GURN**  
*'Blond Alibi' in massacre.*

## Killed on Massacre Anniversary

Gangland vengeance caught up with Jack McGurn just seven years after the most infamous crime with which he was charged—the St. Valentine's Day massacre of 1929 in which seven of "Bugs" Moran's gang were slaughtered.

On February 14, 1929, the seven men were lured to a garage at 2122 N. Clark st. by a fake phone call.

At 11 a. m. an automobile resembling a police squad car halted in front of the garage. Another car pulled up at the rear. Two men in police uniform entered from the rear and four entered from Clark st.

The intruders produced machine guns from under their coats and lined the seven Moran gangsters against the wall, announcing it was a liquor raid, and pressed triggers, sending a deadly stream of bullets into the seven men, mowing them down into a lifeless bloody row of bodies.

Though Moran had not fallen into the death trap, the massacre virtually destroyed his gang, killing Pete Gusenberg, Frank Gusenberg, Al Weinsbank, James Clark, John May, Adam Heyer and Dr. Reinhardt H. Schwimmer.

Three weeks later McGurn was seized by police in a downtown hotel and identified by two persons as having been seen to enter the garage. But his "blond alibi" pretty Louise Rolfe, said she and McGurn had been in the hotel at the time of the massacre, and McGurn was freed.

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# Witness Tells Story How McGurn Died

A statement taken from William Alois, 2023 Pierce avenue, proprietor of the bowling alley at 803 Milwaukee avenue, by Capt. Martin E. Mullen, was as follows:

Q.—How long have you been the proprietor of this place?

A.—Since September or October, 1935.

Q.—During the evening was there any trouble in your place of business?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What was that?

A.—A stickup.

Q.—Do you mean a robbery?

A.—Heard "Stick Them Up."

Q.—They said, "Stick them up and don't move."

Q.—Who was it that said that?

A.—I don't exactly know who said it. I was sitting on a chair with my right leg on another chair at the windows on the Milwaukee avenue side of the establishment and I heard somebody shout "Stick them up," and then some shooting started, and I ducked under a pool table. I waited a while and when the shooting ceased I got up.

Q.—Then what did you do?

A.—Everything was in a commotion and everybody ran out of the place. I looked over on the bowling approach and there was a man lying on the floor.

Q.—Did you know who that man was?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you find out later on who that man was?

A.—Not until the police arrived, and then I learned he was Jack McGurn.

**'Didn't Know Him.'**

Q.—Isn't it a fact that you knew Jack McGurn, whose real name is Vincent Gebardi?

A.—No, I don't know him.

Q.—Who did he come into your establishment with last night?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—Did he come in alone?

A.—He came in with a couple of people.

Q.—What time was it when they came in?

A.—About 12:40 a. m. They were in the place about fifteen minutes before the shooting.

Q.—Isn't there something you can tell us about this?

A.—No, I can't tell you anything more. When the shooting started I went under a pool table.

**Employee Tells Story.**

Tony Mascarella, 2023 West Grand avenue, employee of the Milwaukee avenue bowling alley where Jack McGurn was slain and who witnessed the killing, made the following statement to Capt. Martin E. Mullen at the Racine avenue station this morning:

Q.—Are you employed and where?

A.—I clean out the pool-

## WITNESS TELLS STORY OF HOW M'GURN DIED

(Continued from First Page.)

room and bowling alleys at 803 Milwaukee avenue.

Q.—By whom are you so employed?

A.—I only know the man as "Smokes."

Q.—Isn't the man you know as "Smokes" William Alois?

A.—I don't know his last name, but I have heard him called Willie.

Q.—Is he the proprietor of the poolroom and bowling alley?

A.—Yes.

**Awakened by Shots.**

Mascarella said he was asleep when he was awakened by the shots.

Q.—What time were you in?

A.—I was in the poolroom near the entrance to the alley at the bowling alley.

Q.—When you saw the man when you heard the shooting, what was the first thing you saw?

A.—I saw two men near the entrance of the poolroom. He had a gun in his hand and was shooting. I was backing out the door and shouting at the fellows to "ride down."

Q.—Was this man the only one you saw do any shooting?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you see any other man with this man?

A.—No. I didn't see anyone else with him.

Q.—How many people would you say were in this poolroom and bowling alley at the time of this shooting?

### Twenty Witnesses to Shooting.

A.—There were about twenty men in the place when the man doing the shooting was leaving, and then they all scrambled for the door after these men left.

Q.—What do you mean when you say "after these men left?"

A.—There were three men backing out of the place, but I only saw one of them doing the shooting.

Q.—Could you describe any of these men?

A.—No, I can't describe any of them.

Q.—How long had you known McGurn?

A.—I don't know him. This was the second time I saw him in the bowling alley.

Q.—Who did he come to the bowling alley with?

A.—I don't know. I was asleep when he came in, I guess.

Q.—When you saw him lying on the floor was he fully dressed?

**Coat and Hat on Bench.**

A.—No, his overcoat and hat were on the bench in front of the alley.

Q.—You stated that you saw Jack McGurn once before in the bowling alley. What might that be and how many people came in with him?

A.—About two weeks ago, there were two men with him, and they bowled.

Q.—Did you see these same two men with him last night at the bowling alley?

A.—No.

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- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Daugherty
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

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CATS

69-130-A



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**WILLIAM ALOISIO.**  
Ducked under pool table at shooting.

## Valentine Massacre Spotlighted McGurn

The St. Valentine's massacre at disgraced Chicago and made "Machine Gun" Jack McGurn a nationally known desperado occurred February 14, 1929, in a rage at 2123 N. Clark st. Seven members of the "Bugs" Moran mob, supposedly awaiting shipment of booze, were in the rage when two men dressed in lice uniforms walked into the place. What happened was never known, but apparently the five policemen lined the men up as a raid, whereupon other machine-guns who came in the back or shot them down as they stood against a wall. The scene later, seven men lying in the blood-strewn room, in the high spot of the history of prohibition lawlessness in Chicago.

**MCGURN SHOT BEFORE**  
Six of the victims were dead when police arrived. The seventh, Frank Gusenberg, died within an hour after mentioning "police-n." Gusenberg and his brother, also killed in the massacre, had been accused a year before the shooting of McGurn. McGurn had been shot through the leg when ambushed in his car, had been taken supposedly to Alexian Brothers Hospital, rallied and lived and his gangsters spirited him away in the hospital while he was in precarious condition.

**WANTED FOR MASSACRE**  
The massacre started a furor in Chicago. Rewards totalling \$100,000 were offered and the police hunted for McGurn as wanted for the killings.

The most tangible lead came ten days later when an automobile was found in a burn-garage at 1723 N. Wood st. It was apparent an effort had been made to destroy the automobile. Police named Claude Dixon, a Capone hoodlum, as the driver of the car.

Great excitement was occasioned by the arrest of McGurn February two weeks after the murder. He was found in the machine gun had been living in the Stevens st. with Louise Rolfe as Mrs. Vincent D'Oro.

**ON ALIBI ENTERS**  
In the face of reported posi-

tive identification of McGurn by two witnesses, Jack insisted it was "a bum rap" and that at the time of the killing he was in the hotel with the fair Louise. That was what she got for name, "the blond alibi."

There was much hubbub as other gangsters were rounded up. Eventually McGurn and John Scallies were indicted for murder and Rocco Panelli as accessory after the fact.

McGurn's lawyers, Nash and Ahern, repeatedly pressed for trial, but the state kept taking continuances, claiming that additional evidence was being uncovered.

In the meantime Scallies was assassinated in a gang killing generally laid to the Capone mob.

**MCGURN'S CASE STRICKEN.**  
McGurn ultimately was admitted to bail and finally, in December of 1929, the indictment against him was stricken when, for the fourth consecutive term of court, he appeared ready for trial and the state was not. No one was ever tried for the crime.

So ended the prosecution of McGurn for the Valentine's Day massacre without the "blond alibi" ever appearing in court. Several months later came the prosecution of McGurn and Louise on federal Mann act charges, resulting from their trip to Florida together, which dragged on for years until the United States Supreme Court finally upset his conviction by Federal Judge Landley which had twice been upheld by the Court of Appeals.

**AN "UNSOLVED CRIME."**  
The massacre of N. Clark st. ultimately went down in Chicago crime annals as an unsolved crime.

In the passing years there has been a general opinion among police and other investigators that McGurn was certainly not the leader in the plot.

The most generally accepted theory is that the head man in the execution of the seven Moran gangsters was Fred "Killer" Burke, also a Capone ally, who is serving a life sentence in Michigan for the murder of a policeman at St. Joseph.



"Things could still be worse, you entine addressed to Jack McGurn and know," was the ironic phrase on the val- loosed on the floor ten feet from his body.

## LAW, GUNS CHEATED FOR 12 YEARS

Jack McGurn for 38 years bore a charmed life. The law never quite caught up with him.

The gangs almost got him in 1929: then he survived eight years more during which, in hotel lobbies, on golf links, in Florida and elsewhere, he was the most conspicuous character of Chicago's underworld. The blond Louise Rolfe, whom he married in his attempt to beat a Mann act case, was almost constantly with him, made him even more conspicuous, but somehow the dapper gunman escaped during all these years the assassination that overtook so many of his contemporaries.

His career was almost cut short before the St. Valentine's Day massacre that made him a national criminal celebrity. He was ambushed in his car in 1928 and shot through the lung.

**SPECTACULAR ESCAPES.**  
His escapes from the law were more numerous and even more spectacular.

His first big brush with the law came in 1927 when he was grabbed in a police roundup when Ford cow if he had any trouble with any one lately? A—No.

**TOLD BY REPORTER.**  
Q—Do you know he was shot and killed last evening. A—Yes. A reporter came to my house and told me.  
Earlier Louise had told Sergt. Donohue of a mystery phone call telling her "something had happened."

Q—Do you know of any reason why he should have been killed? A—No.  
Q—Do you know if he belonged to any secret or labor organizations? A—None.  
Q—Has he been out of town lately? A—No.  
Q—How did he leave home last night? A—He left in his own Ford cow if he had any trouble with any one lately? A—No.

Louise was taken to the station for questioning by Sergt. Donohue.

**SWAYS IN WALK TO CAR.**

per Jack demonstrated his mental alertness, he was finally acquitted.

And in his behalf the then Alderman A. J. Frignano appeared to testify as to the good character of McGurn. That was the same Frignano who was a state representative when he was shot down and killed in front of his Twentieth Ward home the night of December 29, 1935.

The next year in Municipal Court McGurn beat a charge of carrying concealed weapons when Judge Rooney was convinced the gun he was charged with carrying was not concealed but was lying beside him on the seat of an automobile.

**ST. VALENTINE'S NEXT.**

McGurn's next big clash with the law was the St. Valentine's massacre. There was great excitement when he was arrested two weeks after the killing of seven Moran mobsters in a N. Clark st. garage and the police announced he had been positively identified by two witnesses, one a mysterious society equestrienne whose identity was closely guarded.

Failed in their efforts to convict him of the massacre, the prosecutors moved against the pair in state courts on statutory

charges and federal charges under the Mann act based on their trips to Florida and other southern resorts.

The state case dragged through many continuances and a big furor over a bond forfeiture, but it got nowhere.

Incidentally McGurn was one gangster who never faced income tax prosecution.

While he was still fighting the Mann act conviction in 1930 he was tried by Judge Frankhauser on charges of carrying concealed weapons and sentenced to a year in jail and a \$300 fine.

**FLED TO FLORIDA.**

McGurn tried to avoid the sun trial by jumping bond and fleeing to Florida. But eventually he was caught there on Al Capone's palatial estate and Drury and Howe went down and brought him back.

**COURT AID TO HOODLUMS.**

Attorneys Thomas Nash and Michael Ahern, who fought most of McGurn's court battles carried the case to the Illinois Supreme Court and won a reversal on the ground that the detectives had no search warrant when they seized McGurn. The decision not only freed him but other hoodlums facing similar prosecutions.

# Mystery Call Tells 'Blond Alibi' of

Widow Fully Dressed  
When Police Arrive.

Continued from First Page.

ered by a sheet. His black hair ruffled. There was a smudge on his forehead and blood on his nose. Just a moment pretty Louise offered her handkerchief. When Sergt. Donohue had to try her back to the anteroom. She offered her water, but she said "I don't want any."

Earlier, weeping softly at the line at police station where she was questioned by Sergt. Donohue, Capt. Martin Mullen, Detective Lieut. Richard Barry, St. Kyran Theilan and Patrolman Richard P. Broehl, she had sat steadily for water and aspirin.

**ANTS DRINK EN ROUTE.**  
In the way to the station with Sgt. Donohue, her escort on her

"Machine Gun Jack's" bullet-torn body. There was nothing now. She didn't want anything. Not even a glass of water.

That was Louise Gebardi, in her happier days the sensational witness for the defense of "Machine Gun Jack" when the heat was on him for the infamous St. Valentine's Day massacre, perpetrated exactly seven years before Jack himself was massacred.

**GAVE 'JACK' AN ALIBI.**

She testified then that she was with Jack at the time the seven were slain in the N. Clark st. garage. He "beat the rap."

Later they were arrested together in the Stevens Hotel and convicted under the Mann act, but the United States Supreme Court reversed the conviction.

Alibis today were needless. And, perhaps, it was just as well for Louise that they were. She insisted she knew of no reason for Jack's assassination, that she didn't even know what he did for hours before his death.

**STORY OF LAST HOURS.**  
Here, according to the police

Q—Do you know where he bowled? A—No.

Q—Was any one with him when he left the house? A—No.

Q—Of your own knowledge do you know if he had any trouble with any one lately? A—No.

**TOLD BY REPORTER.**  
Q—Do you know he was shot and killed last evening. A—Yes. A reporter came to my house and told me.

Earlier Louise had told Sergt. Donohue of a mystery phone call telling her "something had happened."

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Q—Has he been out of town lately? A—No.

Q—How did he leave home last night? A—He left in his own Ford cow if he had any trouble with any one lately? A—No.

Louise was taken to the station for questioning by Sergt. Donohue.

"Take me to him: Take me to him!"

When Sergt. Donohue rang her doorbell early today she answered after a delay. She was fully dressed, sobbing but not hysterical.

Sergt. Donohue asked: "Do you know about Jack?"

She said: "Yes! My God! How had it be?"

"Well, he's gone."

And Louise threw on her fur coat, a jaunty black hat and walked down the path with Sergt. Donohue.

**TELLS OF PHONE CALL.**

She told of the phone call as they drove to the station, but did not mention it during the official questioning. Shortly after the shooting, she said, a voice told her over the phone:

"Something has happened to Jack!"

But she insisted that was all. Ironically, she revealed, Jack had gone to a walk Thursday night. Yesterday morning he had gone to the funeral which fol-

lowed. Louise saw him alive. She said she didn't know what Jack had been doing for a living lately, but she thought—

"He owned a piece of a book at Melrose Park."

When Sergt. Donohue and reporters approached McGurn's home it was evident that bad news had arrived first.

**NIGHT LAMP BURNING.**

Through a window they could see the master bedroom on the first floor. A night lamp burned dimly between Louis XVI twin beds of aspen wood. But the bedrooms were deserted.

They peered through another window into a living room, carpeted in dark coffee color like the bedroom. It, too, was lighted by a dim lamp. But the lamp threw its rays on upholstered furniture which was vacant.

Two bedrooms on the second floor also were empty. It is believed one was used by McGurn's 16-year-old daughter, a dark-eyed, auburn-haired beauty. But if it was, the daughter had flown.





Louise Rolfe McGurn covers tear-stained eyes as she is led into the Racine av. police station for questioning in the assassination of "Machine Gun" Jack McGurn. (Chicago American-International News photo.) 2-15-36

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# MACHINE GUN M'GURN SLAIN

Mr. Nathan	<i>AK</i>
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Baughman	
Chief Clerk	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Edwards	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

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"Machine Gun Jack" McGurn, notorious gangster who once swaggered in the train of Al Capone, was shot to death by three assassins early this morning in a bowling alley at 305 Milwaukee avenue. A dozen persons saw him killed.

With two companions McGurn entered the place only a short time before he was slain. The trio removed their coats and were preparing to bowl on the second alley when there was a sudden loud outcry. It came from one of three men who had followed the old Capone lieutenant into the place and was standing behind him at the head of the alley.

"Everybody stand still," was the cry. "Move and you die."

#### Guns Blaze; McGurn Dies.

As the witnesses looked on, spellbound, shots cracked. Each of the three men, grouped in a little semicircle about McGurn, participated in the firing. A bullet crashed into his head. Another plowed into his back.

As he fell, instantly dead, on the smooth wood of the alley the killers slowly backed toward the stairway [the alleys are on the second floor], dropped their weapons into their overcoat pockets, and fled to the street.

The spectators of the fast moving drama were themselves galvanized into action. They, too, fled to the street. When the police arrived only William Alosio, 1121 West Huron street, proprietor of the place, which is known as the Avenue Recreation rooms, was left. He it was who told the story of the slaying.

McGurn was choosing a ball to bowl with," Alosio said, "when the men went up. The men knew what they were doing. They can't miss. But it all happened so quickly I can't remember much about it."

Yesterday was the anniversary of the St. Valentine's day massacre, one of the most sensational crimes in American history. On Feb. 14, 1929, seven members of the north side gang headed by George (Rugs) Moran, an enemy of Capone in the booze and vice rackets, were lined up against the wall of a garage at 2122 North Clark street and were all machine gunned to death.

#### Reminded of Massacre.

There were at times reports that McGurn was implicated in that shooting. Most investigators discredited this, however. That some one wished to remind McGurn of Valentine's day was proved by the discovery of a comic lithograph that was left with Alosio for him some time yesterday. It depicted a couple in scanty clothing, with a little jingle under it which read:

"You've lost your job, you've lost your dough;  
Things still could be worse, you know—  
At least you haven't lost your trousers."

The slain man's overcoat and suit coat were found on a bench near the bowling alleys. They contained no

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## 'MACHINE GUN' JACK M'GURN SLAIN BOWLING

### Trio Kill Ex-Capone Chief in Alley.

[Continued from first page.]

pistol. McGurn was neatly dressed in gray and wore gray spats. In his pockets were found \$3.85 and two tickets, unused, to the Bath-Burman fight.

#### Card Gives Police a Clue.

Some importance was attached to a card bearing a telephone number, Delaware 3943, and the name "Henny." The police supposition was that this Henny might have been one of the men with McGurn when he went into the bowling alley, which he visited frequently.

It was the belief of the investigators, headed by Capt. Richard Barry, that the killers had accurate knowledge that McGurn would be in the bowling rooms, at about the time he arrived. Probably, it was said, they waited for him and climbed up the stairs to the second floor as soon as he and his friends had cleared the hallway.

It was even theorized that the men who went with him might have been

on the plot. To support this the police pointed out that all the bullets were directed at McGurn alone. His friends in all probability were armed and could have made a battle of it if they had wished to do so, in the opinion of Capt. Barry.

#### Captain Discusses Motive.

"But anything could have happened in this instance," he added. "McGurn had plenty of people with reason to bump him off. My guess is that he had stepped on somebody's toes in the alky racket or the gambling business, and recently. The gangs don't usually shoot to avenge something that happened years ago. They put enemies out of business for what they're doing now."

Three men, one of them a brother of Alosio, were seized in front of the bowling place shortly after the shooting. All denied they knew anything of the slaying. Later the police discovered a man who admitted he was upstairs. He is Tony Muscarello, 2023 West Grand avenue. His statements cast little light on the mystery, however, as he asserted he was asleep when the shooting started.

The police set out on a search for the pin boys on duty on the theory that they were more likely than any one else to have been looking directly at McGurn as one of the bowlers.

#### Colorful Gangland Figure.

McGurn, whose real name was Vincent Gebardi, was one of the most colorful of all the figures in the gang

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world of the roaring prohibition days. A man of unflinching courage, he had a little more of the graces of polite society than most of his fellows. He was an athlete and under his real name competed in several golf tournaments, once even breaking into the western open.

His pseudonym was gained in the prize ring when he was a youth and his real one was soon forgotten in gangland. He was the target of assassins' bullets several times and until today had the reputation, like Bugs Moran, of being a man with a charmed life.

#### Wounded in Hotel Shooting.

The first attempt on his life was made in March, 1926.

Two years later, on March 7, 1928, when he had already risen high in the Capone counells, McGurn and another man were shot in the smoke shop of the McCormick (now the Croydon) hotel at Rush and Ontario streets. Bullets struck McGurn in the chest and left arm, but he recovered quickly. The shooting was attributed to enemies of Capone.

A fusillade of shots was poured on him April 17, 1928, as he drove his automobile in Morgan street at Harrison street. That time he escaped unscathed and called up several of his friends to report his good fortune.

#### Seized with Machine Gun.

In the following month McGurn was arrested while carrying a machine gun in his automobile. He was freed on a technicality. A raid on his apartment in the Guyon hotel at 4000 Washington boulevard at about the same time yielded shotguns and pistols.

"A man can keep arms at home," he told the police, with a smile. "I have to keep an arsenal to protect myself."

Following the St. Valentine day massacre, which "secret witnesses" were said to have laid at his door, McGurn and Louise Rolft resided for several weeks in a loop hotel. He furnished an accounting of his movements on the day of the massacre and Louise supported his story so staunchly that she won herself the nickname of "Blonde Alibi."

She performed the same kindly office each time he was accused of crime and the police, tired of this, at last persuaded federal agents to arrest the couple as violators of the Mann act. The prosecution was based

on an allegation that they had traveled together to Florida.

In July of 1931 they were found guilty in the federal court. McGurn was sentenced to two years in prison and the girl to four months in jail.

Neither served any time behind bars, however, on this conviction. They went through a marriage ceremony while the case was being fought through to the United States Supreme court. That tribunal held that since the couple lived together in Chicago, their trip to the south was not for immoral purposes but was an incident to their usual course of life. The conviction was therefore reversed.

#### McGurns Move to Oak Park.

McGurn and his wife, shortly after the old boss gangster Capone went to prison for failing to pay his income tax, moved into a house at 1014 North Kenilworth avenue, Oak Park. He insisted that he was out of the rackets and wished to live the life of an Oak Park gentleman.

It was in late August of 1933 while

playing in the western open tournament at Olympia Fields that McGurn discovered how difficult it was to be a golfer with his kind of reputation. He had shot the first six holes of the qualifying round in one under par, but on the seventh he became aware that policemen were waiting to arrest him. He blew up and took a six. At the eighth hole, another bad one, he picked up his ball and quit.

#### Buy Into the 225 Club.

Early in 1934 McGurn became one of the proprietors of the 225 club, a night life and gambling resort at 225 East Superior street. The place caught fire soon afterward and the police declined to allow him to remodel and reopen.

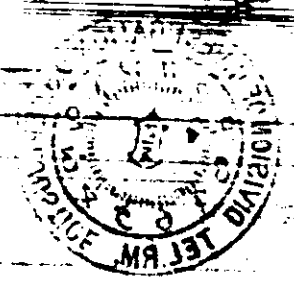
Since then he had been interested in a number of undercover enterprises, including a tavern in Melrose Park that masked a gambling house. He had been keeping well out of police notice. A year ago he and his wife moved from 1014 to 1224 North Kenilworth avenue, Oak Park.

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE

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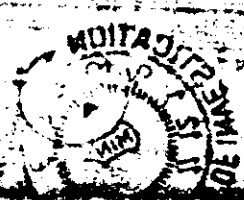
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy



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# Carbone Gang Slain 1929 Valentine Day Massacre 'Avenged'

**'Machine-Gun' Jack McGurn  
Dies With Slugs in Back After  
Bowling Alley Shooting**

CHICAGO — "Machine Gun" Jack McGurn, ace trigger-man of Al Capone's old gang, was assassinated here today. He died with two "lead Valentines" in his back, what police believed was retaliation for the atrocious St. Valentine's Day massacre of seven years ago.

A comic valentine was found near his body, and in about two hours from the scene, the anniversary of the mass execution of seven gangsters in which he was chief suspect, set police trailing and clues.

### WIFE BREAKS DOWN

The wary McGurn apparently remained close to home until shortly before midnight, when with the companions he went to the bowling alley, thus spoiling the killers' hope of killing him on the anniversary.

Shortly after his body was found, police arrested his wife, the beautiful Louise Rolfe.

"My God, how bad is my husband," the gangster's wife cried when Sgt. Frank Donahue took her home.

"He's gone," Donahue said.

the bowling alley when the killers entered.

"This is a sticking," the leader shouted.

### SAW THREE MEN

William Aloisio, the proprietor, ducked under a table. McGurn and two companions jumped from a bench. McGurn swung around with his back to the door just as three killers fired.

Aloisio said he heard at least 15 shots from the killers' automatic revolvers. Two of them hit McGurn.

### VALENTINE IS FOUND

Near the entrance to the bowling alley police found the comic valentine. It said:

"You've lost your job,

"You've lost your dough,

"Your jewels and cars and handsome houses.

"But things could still be worse, you know.

"You haven't lost your trousers."

Sergt. Kyran Phelan, who was cruising in a squad car nearby, reported he noticed three known hoodlums enter the restaurant below the place where the shooting occurred after McGurn was shot. The three were taken into custody for questioning. They are Charles Alazorka, 22, John Battaglia, 23, and Sam Albicio, 21.

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Baughman
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Gandy

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- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

*[Handwritten initials]*

**McGurn, Capone Aid, Shot to Death**

Chicago, Feb. 15 (AP)—Machine gun Jack McGurn, gangster, was shot and killed in a bowling alley at 885 Milwaukee Avenue early today.

The victim was identified positively as McGurn by Sergt. Kyren Phelan, of the detective bureau. The scene of the shooting was on the near northwest side.

McGurn was a suspect in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre in 1929. He met his death only a few minutes after the seventh anniversary of the slaying of the seven "Bug" Moran gangsters in a Chicago garage.

McGurn was reputed to have been shot down while playing golf on a suburban course near Chicago. Also, in 1933, the former Capone gangster was sentenced to serve a six-month term in jail after his conviction for vagrancy.

McGurn, termed a "fashion plate" gunman because of his penchant for wearing expensive clothes was christened Vincent Gebhardt. It was under this name that he played in the Western Open Golf tournament in 1933, which he did not finish because of his arrest for questioning by federal agents.

*[Handwritten initials]*

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- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. [unclear]

# Gangster McGurn Shot to Death

*Slain Exactly 7 Years  
After St. Valentine's  
Day Massacre*

CHICAGO, Feb. 18. (Saturday)  
(U.S.).—"Machine Gun Jack" Mc-  
Gurn, dapper gangster and public  
enemy, was shot to death early to-  
day in the Avenue Recreation Club  
on the second floor on the North-  
west Side.

His death came exactly seven  
years after the notorious St. Valen-  
tine's day massacre in which he  
was one of the chief suspects.

More than two score patrons  
were in the "club," a bowling and  
billiard hall, when McGurn was  
shot down. A near panic followed  
and many raced into the street,  
without waiting for their coats.

Police who sped to the scene  
took into custody several persons  
who were still in the club when  
they arrived. They were seeking  
to learn the circumstances of the  
shooting.

The St. Valentine's Day murder  
in which seven members of the  
Moran gang were shot to death,  
came shortly after McGurn had  
a falling out with the North Side  
crowd.

*John*

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*Jim*

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson .....
- Mr. Baughman .....
- Chief Clerk .....
- Mr. Clegg .....
- Mr. Coffey .....
- Mr. Edwards .....
- Mr. Egan .....
- Mr. Foxworth .....
- Mr. Harbo .....
- Mr. Joseph .....
- Mr. Keith .....
- Mr. Lester .....
- Mr. Quinn .....
- Mr. Schilder *WKS*
- Mr. Tamm .....
- Mr. Tracy .....
- Miss Gandy .....

# 7 YEARS TODAY: ST. VALENTINE MASSACRE

City's Most Notorious  
Gang Crime Still  
Unpunished

Seven years ago today the underworld perpetrated its most gory crime—the unsolved St. Valentine's Day massacre of seven gangsters at 2122 N. Clark st.

It was on February 14, 1929, when all the world was supposed to be in love, that two men disguised in police uniform drove up to a garage, walked in nonchalantly and mowed down seven members of the George ("Bugs") Moran gang with a machine gun.

Falling before the spray of bullets were Peter Gusenberg, ex-convict; Frank, his brother; Adam Heyer, alias Arthur Hayes, ex-convict; James Clark, brother-in-law of Moran; John May, mechanic; Albert Weinsbank and Dr. Reinhardt S. Schwimmer.

### MULTITUDE OF MOTIVES.

Investigators advanced a multitude of motives for the merciless slayings. The massacre, they decided, could have been the climax of a booze gang war; it could have been retribution for Moran gang attempts to muscle in on a lucrative labor union, or it could have been the "extra-legal" settlement of a dispute between rival groups operating dog race tracks.

Scores of suspects were seized and questioned; many witnesses offered information; but no solution was forthcoming.

Investigators agreed on one point: Somewhere behind the scene was a "double-cross."

### GANG CHIEF MENTIONED.

Many big-time gangsters were mentioned in connection with the massacre. There was "Scarface" Al Capone, who was accused of hiring Fred ("Killer") Burke, now serving life in a Michigan prison, for the slaying of a policeman, to protect his interests in a dog track at Lyons, Ill., and such hoodlums as Claude Maddox, Gus Winkler and Murray Humphreys. "Machine Gun" Jack McGurn was one of those first accused, but he produced pretty Louise Rolfe as his "blonde alibi." She insisted that Jack was with her in a hotel room at the time of the killings.

Down through the years other leads have led nowhere and today the perpetrators of the bloodiest episode of Chicago crime annals remain unknown.

THE CHICAGO AMERICAN

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*Handwritten initials*

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

**Austria to Deport  
Capone's Rich 'Pal'**

Vienna, Austria (AP)—Alex Sycowski, the wealthy, mysterious prisoner known to Vienna police as "Kid Tiger of the American underworld," will be a free man without a country in 12 more days.

At a new trial Friday Sycowski's sentence on a charge of traveling with a falsified Canadian passport was reduced from seven to five months.

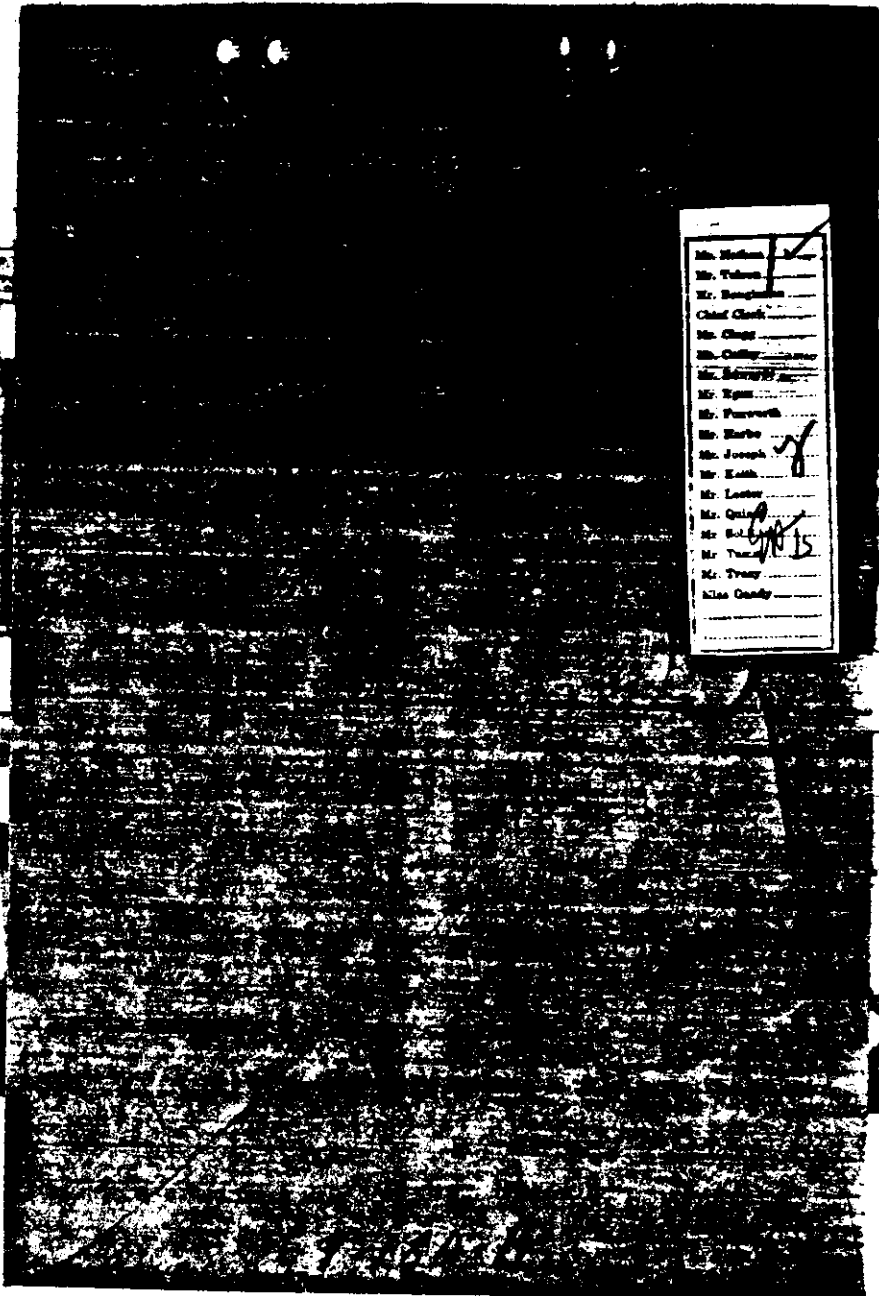
Sycowski is to be deported, but to what port remains unanswered. His funds still apparently are unlimited and he told police, along with tales of his friendship for Al Capone and the late Jack (Legs) Diamond, that he had several million dollars on deposit in an Amsterdam bank.

*EATS*

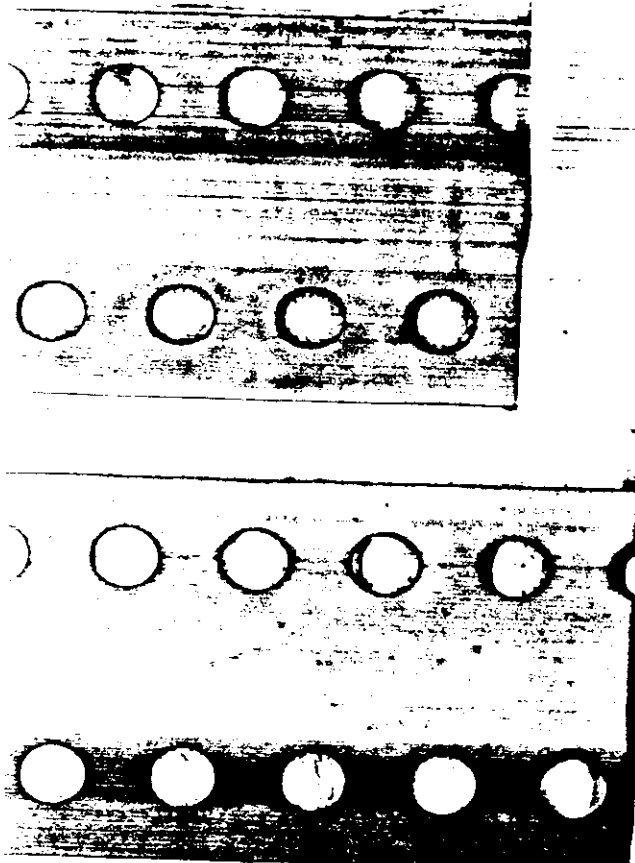
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL  
FEBRUARY 14, 1936

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Mr. Tolson   
Mr. Belmont   
Mr. Mohr   
Chief Clerk   
Mr. Clegg   
Mr. Coffey   
Mr. Glavin   
Mr. Ladd   
Mr. Nichols   
Mr. Rosen   
Mr. Tracy   
Mr. Egan   
Mr. Foxworth   
Mr. Harbo   
Mr. Joseph   
Mr. Keith   
Mr. Lester   
Mr. Quinn   
Mr. Nease   
Mr. Tamm   
Mr. Tracy   
Miss Gandy



# AL CAPONE, THE 'GREASE BALL'

**Death Expected**  
The man who has been called the 'grease ball' by his associates in the underworld is expected to die in the prison at Alcatraz, Cal., today.

## AL CAPONE, THE 'GREASE BALL'

Three Days Left of Prisoners' Lives

AL CAPONE, THE 'GREASE BALL', is expected to die in the prison at Alcatraz, Cal., today.

### Seal to Laundry

What was the reason for the seizure and the reason he does not go into the yard with the other prisoners?

From the shoe shop, Capone was transferred to the laundry. There, in February, 1934, occurred his fight with another prisoner.

For the first time, the official guard secret of the identity of Capone's opponent was broken by The Examiner's informant. He was Al Collier, serving a life sentence.

Capone in the laundry worked on a sangle, the informant wrote.

"He was one of those industrious workers. He fed through work faster than the 'catcher' could catch (the piece of laundry). He was asked to slow up.

### No Damage Done

When Capone paid no attention, the 'catcher,' Al Collier, threw something at him. That started the fight. There

they did make a rather adjustment for him, as he said. That was exactly what the men

Alcatraz informant to have attempted to bribe two prison guards. They rejected the offer.

### Favor Curried

From another source The Examiner learned an Alcatraz group, in contrast to the general convict attitude, has sought Capone's favor in the belief his wealth can help them when he leaves prison.

This group was held responsible for the slugging of a Negro prisoner, sentenced as the man who informed the warden's office that Capone had smuggled \$500 into Alcatraz for purposes of bribery. The money never was found.

In addition to emitties dating from Chicago gang war and personal feuds developed in Alcatraz, Capone now must dodge the added danger of wholesale convict threats of retaliation for his refusal to join in the January 20 meeting.

### Transfer of Alcatraz

Doctor Is Confirmed Transfer of Alcatraz prison's

### The 'Grease Ball'

While at Alcatraz he was employed in the shoe shop. When he arrived at Alcatraz he was assigned to the shoe shop, but did a few days' duty in the laundry first.

At Alcatraz he did not have men pointing him out or have men following him around as if he was a 'bitch the god.'

These men (at Alcatraz) knew Capone. There are many men here that had friends killed by Capone. Capone has a known and referred to as 'the Grease Ball.'

### Don't Forget

Louis Schuler, and Earl Lewis, a Touhy gangster and a leader of the January meeting on Alcatraz, is here on Alcatraz—Capone's old enemy. Butch Louis doesn't forget, neither does he let others forget.

### Wears 'Armor'

Defensive measures of Capone. In his race with death on Alcatraz, were described by the informant.

"Is Capone afraid to die?" he asked.

"Capone had canvas wrapped around his body from his heart to his stomach. The several wraps made a thickness of about one-half inch. That was to keep any one from stabbing him."

Capone on the Federal "Devil's Island" is threatened by death not only because of gangland battles, but also as a result of new prison feuds, the informant disclosed. He said:

"Capone was asked by some men to furnish sufficient

3414

# AL CAPONE DEATH PLOT REVEALED

'Marked' by Friends of  
Massacre Victims,  
Says Report

The International News Service  
SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 12

Al Capone, one time No. 1 gangster of the United States, has been marked for death by fellow convicts on Alcatraz island.

Reports which have filtered through the strict censorship on the federal "Devil's Island" in the middle of San Francisco bay, state that Capone is daily in fear of being stabbed—that he wears several folds of canvas an inch thick wrapped around his body from his heart to stomach.

Warden James A. Johnston refused to affirm or deny the reports, assuming a non-committal attitude as is his custom with reports concerning the life of the "bad men" of "the rock."

According to the reports, Capone is slurringly referred to as "the grease ball."

Among the convicts on Alcatraz are friends of victims of the St. Valentine's day massacre in Chicago in 1929 when seven "Bug" Moran gangsters were mowed down by machine gun bullets.

### FANCY GRIEVANCE

They have attributed this assassination to Capone's henchmen and coupled with a recent grievance against Capone for his failure to provide money with which they hoped to buy a boat, in a fantastic plot to escape, they have plotted his death.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

WISCONSIN NEWS  
FEBRUARY 12, 1936

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# Al Capone Dodging Death in Island

## Former Gang Chief Wraps Himself in Canvas to Fo

*More frantically than he ever dodged death when he was free and surrounded by his gorilla bodyguards, Al Capone now is dodging death in Alcatraz, America's "Devil's Island." This was the information, related in the following exclusive article, which came through the rigid censorship of the grim prison in San Francisco Bay.)*

Universal Service

**SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 12.**—Al Capone, once the bland and cocksure Chicago "king of crime," in Alcatraz Prison today is running a race with death—a race to complete his time on the island before fellow convicts carry out their threats to kill him.

The real story of Al Capone on Alcatraz Island, heretofore guarded by official silence and censorship, was obtained by Universal Service today.

Al Capone, in spite of official statements, is not "just another number" on Alcatraz. Prison guards are performing for him now a service amazingly similar to that of his paid bodyguards during his Chicago heyday.

### LIFE IN DANGER

For the job of Warden James A. Johnston and other officials is not so much to keep Capone imprisoned on Alcatraz as it is to keep him alive! The Alcatraz informant wrote:

"If it were possible to get away with it, Capone would never leave here alive. Al will be fortunate if he is alive six months after leaving here.

"Capone was transferred from the United States penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., to Alcatraz on August 19, 1934. He was not transferred because he was such a 'bad man,' but because he bribed the guards to bring him nearly anything he wanted.

"These men (at Alcatraz)



AL CAPONE . . . . . SHOWING THE SCARE ON HIS CHEEK

know Capone. There are many men that had friends killed by Capone's gang.

"There are men here who are friends of men who were rubbed out in the St. Valentine Day massacre in Chicago (in 1929,

when seven "Bugs" Moran gangsters were killed).

### ALD 'KILLER BURKE'

"They feel sure that Capone directed that (the massacre.) They know Capone hid 'killer'

Burke and  
property  
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much per  
even the  
prison.  
"Dutch  
Ludwig So  
Lewis, a T  
leader of the  
Alcatraz) is here on Alcatraz  
Capone's old enemy. De  
Louie doesn't forget; neit  
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"Is Capone afraid to die?"

### CANVAS ON BODY

"Capone had canvas wrapped around his body from his head to his stomach. The seven wraps made a thickness of about one-half inch. That was to keep anyone from stabbing him."

Capone on the federal "Devil's Island" is threatened by death not only because of gangland battles, but also as a result of prison feuds, the informant disclosed. He said:

"Capone was asked by men to furnish sufficient money to buy a boat for them so they could plan an escape. He would not do so and we understand he went to the deputy warden.

"That was the reason for the canvas and the reason he does not go into the yard with the other prisoners."

Capone was declared by the Alcatraz convict to have attempted to bribe two prison guards. They rejected the offer.  
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- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Gandy

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OFFICE RECORDED

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FEB 12 1936

# A. L. CAPONE THREATENED WITH DEATH



AL. CAPONE

...of Capone...  
...in San Francisco...  
...fear of being stabbed...  
...several folds of canvas an inch thick wrapped around him from head to stomach...  
Warden James A. Johnston refused to affirm or deny the reports, assuming a noncommittal attitude as is his custom with reports concerning the life of the convicts.  
According to the reports, Capone is slurringly referred to as "grease ball."  
Among the convicts are friends of victims of the St. Valentine's day massacre in Chicago in 1929 when seven Bugs Moran gangsters were mowed down by machine guns.  
They attribute the assassination to Capone's henchmen and, coupled with a recent grievance against Capone for his failure to provide money with which they hoped to buy a boat in a fantastic plot of escape they have plotted his death.

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- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Fox
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. P. H. [unclear]
- Mr. Lamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

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## Al Capone's Peril

Existence in the outside world, protected by alert well-paid gunmen, is one thing.

Inside stony Alcatraz Prison, all guns in the hands of guards, Al Capone finds life more complicated, surrounded, as he is, by desperadoes that are not *his* gunmen or killers.

After a prison mutiny, a hundred convicts were locked up in solitary confinement, on 'bread and water. Capone had refused to join the mutiny, knowing that men with bare hands could not break through twenty feet of solid stone and then swim across San Francisco Bay.

Now other and "tougher" convicts in Alcatraz, denounce Capone as a "rat" because he did not join the mutiny; his life may be in danger.

The mutineers cannot break out, but they can murder.

It may comfort Capone to know that in his refusal to join the mutiny he had good company—including George, alias "Machine Gun" Kelly, also Harvey Bailey and Albert Bates, associated with Kelly in kidnaping Charles F. Urschel, oil millionaire.

Al Capone, however, is usually able to take care of himself, outside of Federal courts.

According to legend, long ago, before the word "racketeer" had come into everyday use, Al Capone and another, both with black hair and dark complexions, went to a Brooklyn waterfront ball organized by hard-fisted, Irish longshoremen. Capone and his companion each escorted a fair-haired girl. One longshoreman remarked, unfortunately for him, "What are them greaseballs doing with white girls?"

Nobody knows just what happened, or how, but lights went out, and when they were turned on again, the gentleman who made the "greaseball" remark was dead.

There has never been any suspicion that Al Capone had anything to do with it, but some of those Alcatraz "insiders," using the unpleasant word "rat," *might* learn that picking on Capone is not safe.

Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Joseph  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Candy

## Al Capone's Peril

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- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. S. [initials]
- Mr. T. [initials]
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

69-180-A

7-19



# SUSPECT CAPONE IN JAIL RIOT

Special Dispatch to the Daily Mirror  
**SAN FRANCISCO, Cal.**—Still faced with sullen mutiny from several hard-boiled prisoners, officials of Alcatraz Prison yesterday turned their investigation towards the possibility that "Scarface Al" Capone may have inspired the revolt of Jan. 20 with the idea of deliberately double-crossing the others in the hope he might be transferred to some other less formidable institution for his own safety.

It may be for this reason—the fact that he had double-crossed them—say certain officials, that the erstwhile vice baron of Chicago is accredited with "ratting," accompanied by threats against his life.

Ever a master strategist, Capone is not considered by underworld associates and fellow-prisoners to be above such a clever move at their expense.

Meanwhile, the five alleged ringleaders of the abortive revolt are still reported in solitary confinement, although Warden James A. Johnston declared that none was in a dungeon or on a bread and water diet.

The revolt, nurtured through months of silent brooding within the grim edifice in San Francisco harbor, sprouted into mutiny after the death of Jack Allen, a convict known as a "work dodger." Allen often pleaded illness as an excuse to avoid toil in the laundry and other prison shops.

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Laughman
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

W.A.B.

J

QRTS

177 10 50

250

4-1-1 O-A

# M'GURN'S AUTO FOUND; BUILDS NEW MYSTERY

Driver Flees; on Seat of Car Is Newspaper Mentioning Frank Nitti and Prignano

(Picture on Page 4.)

Forty-eight hours after "Machine Gun" Jack McGurn was shot and killed, his automobile, missing since his murder, was driven to 15 N. Ada st. last night and abandoned by a mysterious man, who fled in a second auto.

That act brought new mystery to police who have sought to pierce the wall of gangland silence and find a motive for the slaying. For, on the rear seat of the car, was found a newspaper dated December 30 and bearing the headline:

"Frank Nitti hunted in Prignano Slaying."

Police recalled that Frank ("The Enforcer") Nitti, once powerful lieutenant of Al Capone, and McGurn had been bitter enemies, and that McGurn and State Representative A. J. Prignano had been friendly.

## POLICE GET A JOLT.

Police were astounded, that any one would dare to keep the car for two days while the entire city was combed for McGurn's slayers, and then boldly drive it to the spot at which it was left.

Investigators had been informed that McGurn and his two companions drove in the car to the Avenue Recreation Parlor, 805 Milwaukee av., in which he was slain at 12:55 a. m. Saturday. They believed that the slayers had used it to flee after the murder.

They assumed that whoever abandoned it would not have driven it far, and searched the immediate neighborhood in an effort to find where it was kept. Only one fingerprint was found on it, showing that great care had been used to avoid detection.

## CAPONE COUNCIL TOLD.

It was the second time that the name of Nitti had appeared in the investigation during the day. Police had been told earlier that McGurn, fearing a plot to kill him, had appealed to a council of the Capone gang in Miami for protection and had been denied aid. Included in that council, the police were told, were Nitti, Ralph Capone and Jake Guzik, only recently released from prison.

## WIDOW THREATENED.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Louise Rolfe McGurn, his widow, was protected against reported threats against her life, apparently designed to keep her from "talking." Police doubted that McGurn had confided any secrets to her and regarded the threat as misdirected.

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. H. Clegg	
Chief Clerk	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

69-180-A

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# POLICE STUDY FINGER PRINT FOUND ON DOOR

The automobile in which Machinegun Jack McGurn rode to his date with death was in the hands of baffled police today and a single finger print, found on the door, was being scrutinized by departmental experts.

The car so new it had only 1,000 miles on the speedometer, was left by two unidentified men in front of the Cushman Motor Delivery Co., 315 N. Ada st., shortly before midnight.

## WATCHMAN FINDS CAR

William Schell, 25, 2022 W. 69th st., watchman in the building, looked up from his book when he heard a door slam, saw a tall, gaunt figure dash across the street and climb into a large, black sedan which whirled away into the darkness.

The car, police said, was the one in which McGurn and two companions are believed to have driven to the Avenue Recreation Room, 805 Milwaukee ave., where the former machine gun terrorist of the Capone mob Friday night went to his ignominious death in a hall of lead.

In the car police found a bunch of keys, one of which is thought to be the key to a safety deposit vault. Also, they found a newspaper dated Dec. 30—the headline of which read: "Nitti Hunted in Prignano Killing."

## BODY IN \$1,000 COFFIN

A lone finger print on the door of the car was photographed at the detective bureau and experts planned to compare it today with those of suspected persons.

Meanwhile, the bullet-ripped body of the once-tough hoodlum lay in the Rago undertaking rooms, 624 N. Western ave., while 150 persons filed by to view it as it lay in a \$1,000 copper coffin. It will be buried in Mount Carmel cemetery tomorrow at 11 a. m.

Missing, however, will be the flavor of the gangster funerals of old. There were no huge bundles of flowers, no piles of telegrams yesterday.

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Jones	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Gandy	.....

69-110 A

2 1 5 5

352

# AUTO OF M'GURN, SOUGHT SINCE KILLING, IS FOUND

## Left in Street by Gang Which Flees in Car.

The automobile of Machine Gun Jack McGurn, which had been sought by the police since the notorious gangster was slain early Saturday in a bowling alley at 805 Milwaukee avenue, was found early today in front of 315 North Ada street. It had been left there only a few minutes earlier.

Persons living in the neighborhood reported to the police that a man who stepped out of the car, a Ford, joined several others who were in a second automobile and rode away with them.

It was the belief of the police that the two men who entered the bowling alley with McGurn shortly before he was slain fled in this car. The identity of these men has not been made known. William Aloisi, owner of the alleys, and two of his employes—the only ones of 20 witnesses who saw McGurn slain available for questioning—have consistently maintained that they did not know them; nor McGurn, for that matter.

The car was clean and apparently had been kept in a garage. The police were of the opinion that whoever had it had decided to get rid of it as a measure of safety.

### Orders Bowlers Questioned.

Capt. Martin E. Mullen Jr. ordered yesterday that all persons known as regular patrons of Aloisio's be questioned, and detectives of the Racine avenue station were busy searching for these bowlers.

There was no change in the police theory that McGurn was slain probably by a man whom he regarded as a friend. Only such a person, according to investigators, could have come up behind him when he was at play. Possibly, it was said, several men, including two who entered the bowling place with him, were in the murder plot. It was viewed as a "gang purge" to rid the Caponeites of a man who, at 32 years, had outlived his underworld usefulness.

### Funeral Pomp to Be Missing.

The pomp and circumstance that marked the funerals of gangsters in the days when Al Capone was great will be missing tomorrow when McGurn's body is buried.

Indications were that only a fairly sized cortege would follow it from the Rago undertaking rooms at 624 North Western avenue, to the place of interment in Mount Carmel cemetery.

About 150 visitors called yesterday to view the body. Many of these were friends of the Gebardi family [McGurn was born Vincent Gebardi]. There was a sprinkling of his one time friends in gangland, but it was reported that many others were conspicuously absent. There was no massing of floral tributes and no sheaf of telegrams from other cities.

Instead of a \$15,000 silver coffin such as the one in which Dean O'Banion was laid to his final rest eleven years ago, McGurn will have a modest one that cost something less than \$1,000. Police officials held that the lessened glory represented the fall in the status of gangsters.

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

CHICAGO  
JAN 10 1934

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE

69-110-A

353

# KEYS IN AUTO CLUE TO M'GURN KILLING

Car Found Abandoned 48  
Hours After Shooting.  
Widow Guarded.

By the Associated Press.

CHICAGO, February 17.—Finding of "Machine Gun Jack" McGurn's automobile, 48 hours after the former "Scarface Al" Capone henchman was "rubbed out," gave the police their first tangible clue today in the hoodlum's crude assassination.

In the automobile, which was abandoned in an industrial section on the near North Side, were two keys, one which the police believed might fit a safe deposit box. They were on a ring with three automobile keys.

Reported threats against the life of the gangster's widow from an undisclosed source gave the police the additional task of guarding her.

Casket Costs \$1,000.

The body of McGurn reposed in a \$1,000 casket yesterday while detective squads sought a score of men in an effort to determine who killed him and why.

Louise Rolfe McGurn—the widow who shared and spent a generous portion of the millions earned by the old bootleg syndicate—arranged for simple funeral services tomorrow morning. None of the lavish trappings so long identified with gangland's formal farewells were in evidence. Curious crowds were conspicuously absent at the mortuary, where the scar-faced "big fellow's" favorite follower lay in death.

"Broke" at Time of Killing.

Investigators said he was "broke" when assassins cut him down in a cheap bowling alley early Saturday. They held the belief his reduced finances led to his slaying. They figured new leaders of the mob—McGurn's former friends—became annoyed by his attempts to join them in the operation of gambling, vice and illicit alcohol rackets and ordered his elimination.

Police squads renewed efforts to find the 17 witnesses who fled from the recreation rooms, the two men who bowled there with the victim and the three men who precipitated the gunfire by pretending to rob the place.

*[Handwritten marks: a large 'X' and a checkmark]*

*[Handwritten notes: a large 'Z', 'V.P.T.S.', and 'Mr. Howard']*

69-180-A

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# FLEES THREATS

*McGurn Widow  
Goes Into Hiding.*

SOBS  
AT  
PROBE



LOUISE MCGURN, WIDOWED BY GANGLAND  
BULLETS  
*Testified at Inquest Into Assassination of 'Machine Gun'  
Jack*

Picture by International  
News Photograph Service.

✓  
4-15  
The Impact

395

6-1-35

## 'Blonde Alibi' Fears Death Mob; Killing Laid to Shylocks

CHICAGO, Feb. 16 (US).—As the underworld waited tensely today to learn if the assassination of "Machine Gun" Jack McGurn would touch off another of Chicago's deadly gang wars, threats against her life were mysteriously conveyed to McGurn's widow, his "blonde alibi" in the St. Valentine's Day massacre seven years ago.

Fearful the threats would be executed, perhaps by one of the same three men who shot McGurn to death in a bowling alley early yesterday, Mrs. McGurn went into hiding, taking with her a 12-year-old daughter by an earlier marriage.

How many secrets of the old Al Capone gang, of which he was "chief executioner," McGurn confided in his wife, authorities do not know. Nor do they know if his widow, the former Louise Rolfe, is aware of the identity of enemies who might have put him "on the spot" as he was about to engage in a bowling game with two "friends" yesterday.

### Under Police Protection

But on the possibility she may be able to furnish a lead to the assassins, police took immediate steps to protect her.

Threats that she might meet the same fate as her killer husband were taken by investigators to indicate those responsible for the assassination were considering the same possibility—that the blonde Louise might "talk."

Tonight the police were without a hopeful clue. They were as much in the dark as to the identity of the killers as they were as to the motive for the crime.

Police today said McGurn had been in frantic fear of death for some weeks, and had been told the protection of the remnants of

the old Capone gang had been withdrawn from him.

### Pleaded for His Life

Detectives heard in "grapevine" reports that McGurn literally pleaded for his life at a recent meeting of several of Capone's high-ranking hoodlum-racketeers in Miami, Fla. The answer was: Thumbs down.

As the police got the story, McGurn, who handled a golf stick as adroitly as he did a machine gun, went to Miami not only to indulge in the his favorite game, but to see Frank Nitti, "enforcer" in the Capone mob.

Instead of seeing Nitti alone, however, McGurn was brought before a "committee" which displayed none of the genial camaraderie which had marked their relations in the rum-running prohibition days.

### Al's Brother at Talk

From that date McGurn lived in constant fear of death.

Among members of the "committee," it was said, were Jake Guzik, formerly high in the councils of the Capone syndicate and now just out of prison; Ralph Capone, Al's singing brother; Willie Heeney, a "utility man" in the syndicate, and Charles "Lucky" Luciano, czar of the Unione Sicilian.

They were there for business, and McGurn was not welcome. One reason was that among his former friends he was regarded as having lost most of his usefulness—this in spite of the fact that he is credited with machine-gunning the seven "Bugs" Moran gangsters to death seven years ago and as effectively "rubbing out" many other Capone rivals.

### Plan Loan Shark Ring

The business before the committee, the police say, was formation of a Chicago branch of the big loan shark racket which already had proved highly profitable in New York.

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# ONE LONE CLUE IN M'GURN CASE A FINGERPRINT

CHICAGO, Feb. 17 (I.N.S.)—A lone fingerprint, found on the abandoned automobile of "Machine Gun Jack" McGurn, was the only definite clue to his assassination in police possession today.

Police admitted as much as they revealed the automobile of the one-time chief executioner for Al Capone was recovered last evening after being abandoned on a Northside residential street.

Witnesses told police the automobile was parked by a lone man who fled in a second car.

#### Car Kept Two Days

Police marveled at the audacity of the man or men who had kept the car for two days while the city was being combed for clues to the murder of the golfing machine-gunner.

McGurn had driven the automobile to the Northwest Side bowling alley where he was slain by three men early Saturday.

Adding to the mystery of the slaying was the discovery in the automobile of a newspaper dated December 30, and bearing the headline:

"Frank Nitti hunted in Prignano slaying."

Police recalled that Frank, "The Enforcer" Nitti, once a powerful Capone chieftain, and McGurn were bitter enemies, while McGurn and Prignano had been friendly.

#### Hiding Place Sought

Assuming that whoever abandoned the automobile would not have dared drive it far, police began a systematic search of the immediate neighborhood where it was found in an effort to discover where it had been hidden.

McGurn's "blonde alibi," under police guard following mysterious threats on her life, prepared to bury him tomorrow without the ostentation formerly accorded public enemies, while police and the underworld waited tensely today for reprisals.

Police investigation today centered on the roundup of some 20 bowlers who witnessed the slaying.

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**WINE AND DANCE**  
**MAKES \$20,000,000 A YEAR**

**GAMING AND CASINO**  
**(\$28,000,000 A YEAR)**

**LIQUOR**  
**(\$10,000,000 A YEAR)**

**BEER**  
**(\$10,000,000 A YEAR)**

**Dennis Gooney**  
 (see Board of Directors)

**Edward J. O'Hara**  
 (see Board of Directors)

**George "Red" Burke**  
 (bummer and racketeer)

**Johnny Pallen**  
 (see Board of Directors)

**Harry Guzik**  
 (white slaver and procurer)

**Tony "Mops" Volpe**  
 (see Board of Directors)

**William "Three-Fingered Jack" White**

**Joseph Fusco**  
 (see Board of Directors)

**Jack Heinan**  
 (owner of Paddock Inn)

**Ralph Capone**  
 (see board of directors)

**"Big Dave" Earsman**  
 and their gangs of teamsters' union racketeers

**Francesco Uale (Frank Y.)**  
 (rum-running manager of York to Chicago truck man)

**Frank "West Side Frankie" Pope**  
 (brothel and gambling house owner)

**Lawrence "Dago" Mangano**

**James "Fur" Sammons**  
 (formerly with west side O'Donnell gang)

**Claude Maddox (Johnny)**  
 (head of "Circus" West North avenue and beer outfit, and h...)

**Hymie "Loud Mouth" Levine**

**Jimmy Mondie**  
 (Cicero divekeeper)

**"Billygoat" Taglio**  
 (plumbers' union racketeer)

**"Mike de Pike" Heitler**

**Fred Ries**

**Murray Humphreys**  
 (milk drivers' union racketeer)

**Sam "Little New York" Pagna**  
 (booze hustler a man)

**Joe "Peppi Genero" Annereno**  
 (pander)

**Pete Penovich**

**Mike Corrozo**  
 (street sweepers' union racketeer)

**Frank Diamond**  
 (head manager of still er-in-law of Capone guard)

**Ralph Gillette**

**Al Lambert**

**William Clifford**  
**"Golf Bag Sam" Hunt**

**Jake Adler**

**Frank Sullivan**

**Johnny Began**  
 — Ripley  
 and others

**Tony Lombardo**  
 (see Board of Directors)

**Jack Zuta**  
 (brothel keeper, stool pigeon, treacherous adviser to north side gangs)

**Assistant managers, croupiers, head waiters, waiters, chefs, pantrymen, trainers, stable boys, veterinarians, dancers, singers, watchers, bouncers, etc.**

**Marcus "Stutty" Looney**  
 (vicemonger)

This chart represents the Capone organization and its principal connections (many of them temporary) during its heyday: from Senior Partner Torrio's retirement early in 1925 until relentless publicity broke it up in 1931. It is as accurate as all available information from police and other investigators can make it.

**Pasquale Lolordo**  
 (Lombardo's successor)

**Jack Guzik**  
 (see Board of Directors)

**"Tough Tony" Capezi**

**Rocco Fanelli (procurer)**

**Brewery operators, distillers, saloonkeepers, watchers, collectors, ragemen, spies, etc.**

**Prostitutes, panders, dancers, singers, managers, watchers, bouncers, etc.**

**THESE MEN ARE MOSTLY GUNMEN, BUT MANY WERE IN THE BOOTLEG LIQUOR BUSINESS**

Tony Accardo  
 James Adduci (William Pion)  
 Sylvester Agoglia  
 Samuel Alex  
 Mike Allegretto  
 Johnny "Genero" Annereno  
 August "Genero" Annereno  
 Theodore "The Greek" Anton  
 Tony Arasso  
 John Armondo  
 Dominick Ballo  
 Louis Barbo (Valerie)  
 Bobby Barton (Guzik's chauffeur)  
 Rocco Belcastro  
 Frank Biege (Perry) (bodyguard)  
 Willie Bioff (Henry Martin)

Dominick Brancato  
 Ralph Buglio  
 P. C. "Denver Blackie" Burchan  
 Fred Burke (killer from St. Louis)  
 Mike Butera  
 John Capone (Arthur Colby)  
 Matthew Cappalaro  
 Charlie Carr  
 Santo Cellebron  
 Louis Clementi  
 William Clifford  
 Charlie Costello  
 Michael Costello  
 Samuel Costello  
 Tony Curingione (Tom Ross)  
 Phil D'Andrea (bodyguard)

Rocco DeGrazia (driver)  
 Nick DeGrazia  
 Tony DeGrazia  
 Robert DeGrazia  
 Bert Delaney  
 Frank Derrico  
 Rocco Fachetti (Fischetti)  
 Rocco Fanelli  
 Fred Farley  
 Carl Fontana  
 Ernest Fontana  
 James Forsyth (Fawcett)  
 "Big Earl" Fraher  
 Joseph Glimco ("Little Tim Murphy")  
 Joe Guinta (Juno)  
 Sam Guzik

Jack Heinan  
 Murray Humphreys  
 "Golf Bag Sam" Hunt  
 Nick Juffra  
 Marty Kane  
 Julian "Potatoes" Kaufman  
 Tom Kerwin  
 Henry Kimmel  
 Philip Kimmel  
 Lipschultz (garage owner)  
 Frank Mangano  
 Sam Marcus (bodyguard)  
 Bill Marshall  
 Louis Messese (Steve Schiavon)  
 Robert McCullough

**GUNMEN, BODYGUARDS,  
SPIES, WIRE TAPPERS, COLLEC-  
TORS, WATCHMEN, ETC.**

Frank Reo  
(see Board of Directors)

Frank Nitti (Nitto)  
(see Board of Directors)

Tony "Mops" Volpe  
(see Board of Directors)

Albert Anselmi  
(a "torpedo," ace killer)

John Scalise  
(another "torpedo," Anselmi's partner)

"Machine Gun Jack" McGurn  
(Demore) (Vincent Gebhardi)  
(bodyguard and No. 1 machine gunner)

Willie Heeney  
(bodyguard and machine gunner)

Charlie Fachetti (Fischetti)  
(cousin of Capone, bodyguard, killer)

Tony "The Chevalier" Spano (Joseph Nerone)  
(bodyguard and killer)

"Lefty Louie" Campagna  
(bodyguard)

James "Bomber" Belcastro  
(expert bomb tosser)

Lawrence "Dago" Mangano  
(west side leader and brains of a kidnaping gang)

Joe Morici (Moreli) (Ferraro)  
(Lombardo's bodyguard)

**LEGAL ADVISERS**

**Defenders of Al Capone:**  
Thomas D. Nash  
Michael Ahern  
Albert Fink  
Capt. William Waugh  
Benj. P. Epstein  
Joseph Lustfield  
Lawrence P. Mattingly  
In Miami  
J. Fritz Gordon  
Vincent C. Giblin

**Defenders of "Mops" Volpe:**  
John Elliott Byrne  
Frank R. Reid (former congressman from Aurora)

**Defenders of Ralph Capone:**  
Tyrrell A. Richardson  
Dennis M. Kelleher  
George N. Murdock

**Defenders of Al Capone and Frank Reo in Philadelphia:**  
Bernard L. Lemisch  
Cornelius Haggerty Jr.

**Defenders of James Belcastro:**  
Elliador M. Libonati  
Albert Filetti

**Defenders of Jack McGurn:**  
Benjamin Feldman  
Harry F. Hamlin

**Defenders of Rocco Fanelli:**  
Benedict J. Short  
George H. Guenther  
Roland V. Libonati

**Defender of Frank Diamond:**  
John F. Cashen

**POLITICAL CONTACTS**

Numerous political connections were essential to the protection of Capone's vast syndicate with its elaborate breweries, distilleries, its transportation systems, its well advertised houses of vice and gambling, its squads of murderers and racketeers. These political contacts reached into the congress of the United States and included members of the Illinois state legislature (such as State Senator Daniel A. Serritella, former city sealer of Chicago), members of the Chicago city council, ward committeemen, party leaders in both city and state machines, lesser figures such as town mayors, councilmen, policemen, and in some cases penetrating even to the benches of municipal and state courts.

**GAMBLING, AND LABOR RACKETS AND OTHER UNDERTAKINGS WITH AL CAPONE:**

Thomas D. Nash  
(former Aialler)

Nick Sorella (bodyguard)  
Mike Spranze (Kelly) and his brother  
Pollock Stanley  
Thomas Sullivan (Tom Cullen)  
Clement Tatton  
Maxie Williams  
Gus Winkler (bodyguard)  
Freddy "The Cowboy" . . .  
(bodyguard)

Angelo Genna and gang, including  
Tony Genna  
James Genna  
Mike Genna  
Sam Genna  
Pete Genna

Tony D'Andrea  
Sam "Samoots" Amatuna  
Joseph LaCava  
and many others

Edward "Spike" O'Donnell & gang  
Charles O'Donnell  
Steve O'Donnell  
Tom O'Donnell  
Walter O'Donnell  
Jerry O'Connor  
George Meegham  
George "Spot" Bucher  
and many others

William "Klondike" O'Donnell & gang (at times)

Bernard O'Donnell  
Miles O'Donnell  
James Doherty  
James Duffy  
Eddie Tancl  
Joseph "Humdinger" Corrigan  
and many others

Ralph Sheldon (who later took \$200,000 and declared his independence of Capone) and gang  
Danny Stanton  
Michael "Bubs" Quinlan  
Hugh "Stubby" McGovern  
Mike McGovern  
and others

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# Graphic Section

# Chicago Sun

WORLD'S GREAT

FEBRUARY



## Prohibition to Blame for Al's Rise

"Al Capone is the most notorious gangster in the country. . . . By common repute and common police knowledge he has been the head of a murderous gang living by defiance of federal law."—From an editorial in The Tribune, May 20, 1929.

"End the Reign of Gangdom."—From The Tribune's platform for Chicagoland, 1931.

"Effectual resistance to organized crime . . . is and must be impossible without publicity, persistent, 'sensational' publicity . . . Crime is not encouraged by publicity. It works when it can in the dark."—From an editorial in The Tribune, Dec. 20, 1931.

"Al Capone is under sentence of eleven years imposed by a federal court in Chicago, because the Chicago newspapers for three years have not only played up but have exploited Capone systematically and with the definite object of suppressing him."—Thomas L. Rice, noted criminologist.

By GUY MURCHIE JR.

**P**ERSISTENT, sensational publicity, therefore, suppressed Al Capone, just as it did the Everleigh sisters, the labor racketeers, the kidnapers, and the Dillingers.

It was the uncompromising crusade of publicity that aroused the

### PERSONAL ATTENDANTS

Valets	Chefs
Chauffeurs	Trainers
Waiters	Barbers
Secretaries	Doctors
	etc.

### ALPHONSE CAPONE PRESIDENT OF

Known as "Snorky", "The Big "Scarface Al". He personally and lawyer contacts, and provides details of the syndicate's affairs. He was born in Brooklyn, N. Y.. His net annual income once

### BOARD OF

**FRANK REO** (alias Kline), CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SYNDICATE. Gunman and bodyguard, who became the big boss after Capone was imprisoned.

**JACK GUZIK**, BUSINESS MANAGER AND CHIEF STATISTICIAN. Former waiter who became an able organizer, bookkeeper, go-between, fixer, schemer, and kept many important figures in his head. Though able, he was looked down on socially by the other directors. He was paymaster in bribing of politicians and police, and owned a south side brothel.

**FRANK NITTI** (Nitto), TREASURER AND SECOND VICE PRESIDENT. General adviser, well informed, presentable, and handled much money.

**JOHNNY PATTON**, mayor of Burnham, big brewery owner, Capone's closest political ally.

**TONY "MOPS" VOLPE**, bodyguard, chauffeur, cafe manager.

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# ay Tribune

NEWSPAPER

1936.

Drama Music  
 Mobies.  
 Hollywood



(as Al Brown)  
 INDICATE  
 v", and (in newspapers)  
 almost all his politician  
 ly supervised important  
 in Chicago and Cicero.  
 8, and is now at Alcatraz.  
 ly exceeded \$1,000,000.

### PERSONAL BODYGUARD

At times it contained sev-  
 eral dozen men, but they  
 all had important other  
 duties.

## How Chicago Was Ruled by Guns

brought the official action that finally cost Capone his empire and his freedom. It was NEWS, persistent and sensational, day in and day out, that rid Chicago of its archcriminal and ended the lawlessness he inspired.

Joe Howard leaned back in his chair behind the cigar case in Heinie Jacobs' saloon at 2300 South Wabash avenue. The calendar on the wall behind the bar showed the date to be May 7, 1923. The clock said six. Only a spoonful of bourbon remained in old Joe's glass as he sat back to tell the boys all about his hijacking triumphs night before last.

Heinie slouched across the wood. He, an aged carpenter named David Runelsbeck, and a mechanic named George Bilton seated near by, having a drink

### TORS

PH CAPONE, Al's brother, bodyguard and general assistant in liquor, vice, and gambling rackets.

EPH FUSCO, bodyguard and assistant in charge of paying off prohibition agents and certain other police officers.

VARD J. O'HARA, big dog track and race track manager, etc.

INIS COONEY, cafe and chain brothel manager, and important one ally.

ES "JIMMY" EMORY, relative of Capone's, race track owner big boss in Chicago Heights.

Y LOMBARDO, Capone backed president of the important one Siciliana, the west side alky cooking guild for Sicilians.

SIS COWEN, propagandist, owner of Cicero Tribune.

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for ransom,  
then threats of  
torture and  
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York for the pur-  
out 1910.  
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On Torrio's arrival in Chicago,  
Colosimo's persecution ceased—at  
least temporarily. Torrio lived by  
the gun. It was his profession.  
When shortly after his arrival three  
Black Handers demanded that Colo-  
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an Archer avenue viaduct, Torrio  
sent four men to the spot with  
sawed-off shotguns. When the Black  
Hand leader approached the dark  
touring car, asking, "Where is our  
package?" he suddenly found him-  
self looking down a 12-gauge muz-  
zle. For the Black Handers it was  
a rendezvous with death in the  
shape of lead slugs at a range of six  
feet.

He could be as tough as a steel  
pliant one moment and as playful  
as a puppy the next. The collection  
of ill-assorted crooks and criminals  
that he and Torrio were able to  
pull from all over the city quickly  
took on a measure of discipline  
under his drill sergeant brand of  
leadership. His remarkable flair  
for organizing built up a machine  
admirably suited to the task set for  
it. The drivers, sharpshooters, spies,  
watchmen, lawyers, and others on  
the pay roll knew what was expect-  
ed of them, and they did it. Few  
ever deserted or turned traitor.  
They not only respected their boss  
but they feared what he would do  
to any man who crossed him. The  
mind behind that massive, heavy-  
lipped face was unfathomable. Ca-  
pone did things as if by magic. One  
day he ordered one of his own brew-  
ery watchers to "Lay off gabbin'  
with that Joe Pizzito. You know  
he's not with us."

"How did the big feller know I'd  
been talkin' with Joe lately?" the  
man asked his watch partner that  
night.  
"O, Al's got spies everywhere,"  
came the reply.  
When it became necessary to do  
away with the various rival gangs  
who contested the Torrio-Capone  
monopoly over all Cook county's  
liquor and vice business Capone did  
not hesitate to send his army out to  
meet the enemy. His orders were:  
"Wait till they get where you want  
'em, then let 'em have it."

The headquarters of the Capone-  
Torrio organization in these early  
days was an unobtrusive four-story  
structure at 2222 South Wabash ave-  
nue known as the Four Deuces. It  
looked like a rooming house from the  
outside, but it actually was a den of  
iniquity of the first order. On the  
ground floor were the Torrio-Ca-  
pone general offices and a saloon  
and café. The second and third  
floors were devoted to gambling and  
the fourth to the demi-monde. The  
place was widely known to have  
been the scene of twelve murders,  
all unsolved.

Having proved the efficacy of his  
methods in the Joe Howard case, Al  
adopted ruthlessness as a basic prin-  
ciple in eliminating business com-  
petition. The following September,  
1923, in the process of expanding his  
south side territory, he encountered  
the opposition of a gang known as  
the south side O'Donnells. Spike  
O'Donnell, the leader, had for part-  
ners his brothers, Steve, Walter, and  
Tommy, as well as three thick-  
skinned henchmen named Jerry  
O'Connor, George "Spot" Bucher,  
and Georgia Meeghan. The O'Don-  
nell method of expanding their  
wholesale territory was to invade a  
speakeasy which had not been buy-  
ing their liquor, let the proprietor  
see their artillery dangling in belt  
holsters, and put the question,  
"Who you buying from?"

After listening to the answer,  
which they knew already, they  
would tactfully suggest, "Well, how

It was a brave offering, but it  
was almost equally futile. There  
were to be 9 more killings similar  
to that of O'Connor in the fall of  
1923, 15 in 1924, 46 in 1925, and 64 in  
1926, Mr. Dever's last year in office.  
In this total of 135 gang murders  
during the rise of the young pool  
player from Brooklyn only six men  
were to be brought to trial. Of the  
six all were to be acquitted save  
one—Sam Vinci, who chose the oc-  
casion of a coroner's inquest to dis-  
patch John Minatti with a .45-cal-  
iber automatic. His explanation  
was:

"John killed my brother Mike,  
and I thought the jury was going to  
free him."

Vinci was sent to Joliet peniten-  
tiary for twenty-five years.

The situation already was beyond  
Dever's control. In the fall of 1923  
Capone had no fewer than 700 men  
on his pay roll, and there was a gen-  
eral stampede of criminal opportu-  
nists to his camp. He soon formed  
an alliance with the surviving south  
side O'Donnells. The wholesale liquor  
industry was flourishing. Money,  
which last year had been measured  
in C's (\$100 bills), now was lightly  
discussed in terms of the "grand"  
(\$1,000). And the impecunious young  
pimp, who had been delighted with  
an annual salary of \$25,000 a couple  
of years before, now handed out in  
the booze traffic.

Now the owner of several restau-  
rants in the ring were Tommy Banks,  
During the 1920s the topnotchers  
of the underworld were the driver of  
he soon obtained a job as driver of  
farm community where he was born,  
shipment of horses from the Iowa  
arriving in the Twin Cities with a  
ning his career as a stable boy after  
man in Minneapolis in 1925. Begin-  
Brunskill was a veteran police  
statement of this story.

In that year Frank Brunskill was  
chief of police. His part in the  
case of the kidnaping and slaying of  
the Rev. Knute B. Birkeland, as  
charged by the Birkeland family  
and upheld by a jury in the Crim-  
inal courts, was told in the first in-  
statement of this story.

MINNEAPOLIS murders and  
the protection of gangsters  
and gunmen by politicians  
there began to focus the  
attention of the middle west upon  
that city early in 1925.

By WAYNE T. . . .

This is the second of a series of articles  
with politics in Minneapolis a

# Gunmen and

# How Floyd B. O

# MUNI

NG  
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was tough.  
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said, "To hell with  
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fy against Capone in  
ported to get Capone,  
whom Johnny Patton  
t. Louis to kill Capone.  
eland to kill Capone.  
pone beer and booze.  
Al on election day.  
wn gang in rivalry with  
mber of Capone's body-  
conceal his treachery by  
e while serving as rum-  
gang hangout on the St.  
men executed their most  
eir north side rivals.  
f the Untone Sicillone, was  
away with Capone, assisted  
of \$250,000.  
f stool pigeon for the police  
ant.  
mie-crossed Capone.  
gang leader and ally of

questioned by a young assistant attorney named William H. Swiggin.

"You're wanted for the murder of Howard," said McSwiggin. "Who, me?" replied Al with a sidelong look. "Why, I'm a respectable business man. I'm a second-hand furniture dealer."

This was in 1923, after the porked Capone already was well on the road to success. How was he able to fix the witnesses so surely that he could walk into the hands of the police a few weeks later without the slightest fear of taking the pot? What was his background? What sort of training qualified this man to win out over all others in the frenzied scramble to control the \$10,000,000-a-year bootleg liquor business which started with the advent of prohibition in a city that was a one-way street? What factors shaped the career of this extraordinary being, who in a different age and environment might have been a Mussolini or a Napoleon?

He was a sleek, solidly built boy brought on to things quickly in school and was a help to his mother. He lived near the corner of Broadway and Flushing avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., in an Italian tenement and was known to the boys as Al, son of Capone the barber, who had recently migrated to America from Naples.

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While still in the fourth grade Al quit school to help his parents in their struggle for existence in the slums. Only ten then, his function was to bring home firewood or any other useful supplies he could collect. He seemed affable and soft-spoken except to the few who knew him in anger.

He was smooth as a dancer and requested a hall then known as the Broadway Casino. He also became one of the best pool players in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn. He was never afraid of a fight and could hold his own against the best of them.

At the age of twenty-one he had never been arrested. But he was too close to the gang life to be immune for long. The world in which his associates moved was a world mostly of opportunism, a world in which cops were one's natural enemies and anyone carrying money or valuables one's natural prey.

It happened one evening when Al was listening to a political rally. A fellow from his favorite poolroom came up.

"Hey, Al!" he said. "You gotta come back to the joint right away. We need you. A pool shark came in a couple of hours ago an' has been cleanin' us out. Altogether we owe the guy about eight hundred dollars—that is, we did when I left. He's stuck-up as hell, but we all know you could take him. You gotta hurry, though, Al."

Capone hurried to the spot. The boys were overjoyed to see him, for they knew he never drank and that

got back and then of the stranger's money and then he said he must go, as he was due home. The stranger was naturally resentful at being left in this humiliating position and demanded that Al remain, but Al put on his coat and smooth gray hat.

Without a word the stranger pulled a long-bladed knife from his pocket, opened it, and gave Al to understand he'd play pool or else! Al did not hesitate one second. His right shot out to the man's chin with all his 200 pounds behind it. The man dropped and lay motionless. Al ran for home.

Twenty minutes later a misinformed friend from the poolroom arrived to tell him that his late opponent was dead. There was excitement and weeping in the Capone home. But Al thought of his tough cousins in the Five Points gang in lower Manhattan at the other end of the Williamsburg bridge. The Five Points gang was then considered the best training school for hoodlums in the country. Surely the Five Points boys would know what Al ought to do.

They did. They assured him he had better get out of town immediately. They said they could help him to the extent of trying to get a former captain in the gang, one Johnny Torrio, to look out for him when he got to Chicago. Torrio had gone there to be associated with "Big Jim" Colosimo, a politician and vice overlord of a section in the southern part of Chicago's First ward.

Al Capone took their advice. He came to Chicago in his best new suit, and, sure enough, Johnny Torrio fixed him up. Torrio got a job for the oversized boy from Brooklyn as watcher for a house of prostitution in Burnham.

While young Capone watched dutifully at his post in Burnham, with his neat scar (said to have been received in a Brooklyn saloon) for his chevron, Big Jim Colosimo was enjoying the lucrative fruits of his political success in the 22d street district. Big Jim had come to Chicago in the nineties and got himself a job as water boy on a railroad section gang. His next job, pushing a broom through the streets of the First ward, gave the ambitious youth much better social opportunities. With broom in hand he met such colorful personages as Aids. Michael (Hinky Dink) Kenna and "Bathhouse John" Coughlin, and it was a natural development for Jim to shift from broom-swinging to vote-swinging. He rose to prominence in the street sweepers' union and organized his fellow whitewings into a social and athletic club which could deliver as a unit at election time and was as bridle-wise as a riding-school nag.

"Some day I'm going to run this ward," Colosimo once said to a fel-

Courtroom scene at trial of Sam Vinci for the murder of John Minetti. Left to right: Krueger, Vinci, Deputy Sheriff William Gallagher, and (standing) Vinci's attorney, (Tribune photo)

He meant it, and shortly sold his broom for a job in a café. He already was learning how to turn his friendships with "Bathhouse John" and "Hinky Dink" into a golden-egg-laying goose, and in short order he owned his own poolroom. A year or two later saw young Jim a precinct captain with various privileges appertaining to the old levee district located within the boundaries of the ward and bisected by the night-life whoopee spots of 22d street. From poolroom proprietor he became honkytonk owner, then partner in

certain red-light enterprises, and finally Big Jim of his own Colosimo's café at 2128 South Wabash avenue.

Eventually Big Jim became the acknowledged boss of the south side underworld, and his revenue came not only from the resorts he owned himself but also in the form of tribute from all other illegal resorts in the district.

But wealth brought with it both comfort and complications. Big Jim was victimized by the American Mafia. He received letters threaten-

## CAPONE'S VICTIMS

NAME	DATE	REASON
1—Joe Howard .....	May 7, 1923	Because he tried hijack contemptible braggart
2—Dion O'Banion .....	Nov. 10, 1924	Because he ran the north war on the south side of the Sicilians!
3—Thomas Duffy .....	April 27, 1926	Because Capone suspected
4—James J. Doherty .....	April 27, 1926	
5—William H. McSwiggin .....	April 27, 1926	Because he happened to night.
6—Earl Hymle Weiss .....	Oct. 11, 1926	Because he was O'Banion and out to get Capone.
7—John Costenaro .....	Jan. 7, 1927	Because they were planning a conspiracy trial.
8—Santo Celebron .....	Jan. 7, 1927	
9—Antonio Torchio .....	May 25, 1927	Because he was a New
10—Frank Hitchcock .....	July 27, 1927	Because he was a boot wanted to put out of the
11—Anthony K. Russo .....	Aug. 11, 1927	Because they were imported
12—Vincent Spicuzza .....	Aug. 11, 1927	
13—Samuel Valente .....	Sept. 24, 1927	Because he was imported
14—Harry Fuller .....	Jan. 18, 1928	Because they were hijacked
15—Joseph Cagiando .....	Jan. 18, 1928	
16—Joseph Fasso .....	Jan. 18, 1928	
17—"Diamond Joe" Esposito .....	March 21, 1928	Because he didn't want
18—Ben Newmark .....	April 23, 1928	Because he tried to organize Capone, and also became guard who did the job of such a gesture of loyalty
19—Francesco Uale .....	July 1, 1928	Because he double-crossed running manager.
20—Frank Gusenberg .....	Feb. 14, 1929	Because they were in the Valentine's day when desperate attempt to win
21—Pete Gusenberg .....	Feb. 14, 1929	
22—John May .....	Feb. 14, 1929	
23—Al Weinsbank .....	Feb. 14, 1929	
24—James Clark .....	Feb. 14, 1929	
25—Adam Heyer .....	Feb. 14, 1929	
26—Dr. Schwimmer .....	Feb. 14, 1929	369
27—Albert Anselmi .....	May 8, 1929	Because Quinta, as pretreacherously planning by Anselmi and Scalise.
28—John Scalise .....	May 8, 1929	
29—Joseph Quinta (Juno) .....	May 8, 1929	
30—Frankie Marlow .....	June 24, 1929	Because he welched on
31—Julius Rosenheim .....	Feb. 1, 1930	Because he was a prof and a paid newspaper
32—Jack Zuta .....	Aug. 1, 1930	Because he was a spy
33—Joe Aiello .....	Oct. 23, 1930	Because he was a dang Bugs Moran.



# by Gunplay and Politics



(Tribune photo.)  
waiting glimpse of Capone on his way to the United States district attorney's office for questioning

The worried man in most cases would ask those to consider, in which case, the O'Donnells would grant him a twenty-four-hour stay, at the end of which, if he was still stubborn, they would emphasize their argument with fists or revolver butta. Few speakeasy owners held out further.

An exception was Jacob Gels, who said, "I buy my beer from Capone and Torrio, and I'm satisfied with it."

Even fists could not change Jake's mind, for his burly frame was a little too much for O'Donnell's two drummers, who got bounced elaborately out Jake's door. So three O'Donnell brothers, with O'Connor, Meeghan, and Bucher, called at Gels' neighborhood saloon at 2154 West 51st street early in the evening of Sept. 7, 1927, with the result that Gels was taken to a hospital with a fractured skull and lay at the point of death for weeks. After their argument with Gels that evening the aroused O'Donnells invaded five other recalcitrant beer sellers, administering various treatments, and then repaired to Joseph Klepka's saloon at 5358 South Lincoln street, a sort of headquarters, to partake of refreshments.

It was while they were relaxing in Klepka's place that five men entered and the leader, brandishing his .28, roared:

"Stick up your hands or I'll blow you to hell."

The O'Donnells scattered for the doors and were pursued closely to the street, where, shooting wildly at their attackers, they made their escape—all except Jerry O'Connor, who lay dead on the sidewalk, shot through the heart.

In the official records Jerry O'Connor's death is indexed as the first killing of the bootleg war. It was followed ten days later, Sept. 17, by the murders of his associates, Meeghan and Bucher.

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The repercussions of the O'Donnell purge, however, would have been enough to worry a commander of lesser stature. The late William E. Dever, then six months in office as mayor, was so shocked by the killings that he revoked the licenses of 2,000 "soft drink parlors," summoned Chief of Police Collins to his office, and assumed personal charge of the situation. His official statement said:

"The police will follow this case to a finish as they do all others. This guerrilla war between hijackers, rum runners, and illicit beer peddlers can and will be crushed."

It was a brave utterance—but it was almost equally futile. There were to be 9 more killings similar to that of O'Connor in the fall of 1927, 18 in 1924, 46 in 1925, and 64 in 1926, Mr. Dever's last year in office. In this total of 136 gang murders during the rise of the young pool player from Brooklyn only six men were to be brought to trial. Of the six all were to be acquitted save one—Sam Vinz, who chose the occasion of a coroner's inquest to dispatch John Minatti with a .45-caliber automatic. His explanation



Morgan Collins, Chicago police commissioner from 1923 to 1927.

soared. Torrio, the business man, shrewdly left the retail business to others and began to expand a vast wholesale business which rapidly took on the proportions of a south side monopoly.

To operate an industry big enough to satisfy Torrio's ambition would require able lieutenants and a policy of ruthlessness toward all opposition. Who could Torrio get to help him? Torrio was an experienced manager, and he thought the problem over carefully—then picked the sleek Neapolitan boy who had been doing so well in Burnham. Torrio knew that Al Capone was big and strong and quick in action, that he was intelligent, that he drank little, that he could be smooth on occasion, and that he was a natural leader of men.

"How would you like \$25,000 a year," said Torrio to Capone one evening in the rear of a 22d street dance hall, "and to be my partner in the beer and booze business? We'll split the liquor profits fifty-fifty. What do you say?"

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"O. K. Johnny," grunted big Al. The deal was on. Capone stepped into his new position with confidence and alacrity. Soon he began to make his mark. Men learned to fear and respect him. He never asked a man to do anything that he couldn't or wouldn't do himself. He could be as tough as a mad elephant one moment and as playful as a puppy the next. The collection of ill-assorted crooks and criminals that he and Torrio were able to enlist from all over the city quickly took on a measure of discipline under his drill sergeant brand of leadership. His remarkable flair for organizing built up a machine admirably suited to the task set for it. The drivers, sharpshooters, spies, watchmen, lawyers, and others on the pay roll knew what was expected of them, and they did it. Few ever deserted or turned traitor. They not only respected their boss

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# Capone's Boozing Business

## Agency by Prohibition

*(Continued from page one.)*

For supper, were Joe's audience. The second hearing job was even more of a clinch than the first. Joe was saying, his eyes glistening with pride and alcoholic bliss. "We took the punks right in their front yard, an' we was off in less than two min—" At that instant the swinging doors swung inward from the street. Two men entered. One of them was familiar to Joe, and Joe stopped talking to greet him.

Then things began to happen. As Runelsbeck remembered it: "Hello, Al," cried Joe, putting out his hand. The man he spoke to stuck out his hand, but it held a revolver, and he fired six times. Joe looked over dead, still grinning.

In a flash the murderer and his partner disappeared out the door. Thus came Al Capone's debut on the front pages of Chicago newspapers.

The authorities in Chicago knew Capone who had killed Joe Howard for interfering with the Capone-Torrie bootleg beer business. To obtain enough evidence to convict Capone seemed a simple matter. And so, thirty minutes after the murder, a general order was flashed to all police stations to arrest him.

But Al Capone was nowhere to be found, and at the inquest the next day the witnesses to the crime were all stricken with mysterious ailments. Heine Jacobs thought it over. Then he took the witness stand and testified as follows:

"I was called to a rear room to answer a telephone just before the shooting. I don't know nothing about it."

Runelsbeck quiveringly insisted: "I wouldn't be able to identify Capone even if brought face to face with him."

Bilton could not be found. Two other possible witnesses to the killing, said to have been in Jacobs' saloon at the time, were Tony "Mouth" Bagnola and one Clifford Easton. Both denied having been there, and no one could give proof to the contrary.

The inquest had to be continued indefinitely, and a month later, when things had quieted down, Capone sauntered into the Cottage Grove police station to remark to Captain McMahon:

"I hear the police are looking for me. What for?"

The captain hustled Capone down to be questioned by a young assistant state's attorney named William H. McSwiggin.

"You're wanted for the murder of Joe Howard," said McSwiggin.

"Who, me?" replied Al with a puzzled look. "Why, I'm a respectable business man. I'm a second-hand furniture dealer."

This was in 1923, after the pork-faced Capone already was well on the road to success. How was he able to fix the witnesses so purely that he could walk into the hands of the police a few weeks later without the slightest fear of taking the rap? What was his background? What sort of training qualified this man to win out over all others in the frenzied scramble to control the \$60,000,000-a-year bootleg liquor business which started with the advent of prohibition in a city that was



(Tribune photo.)

Alphonse Capone, boss criminal, at the height of his career. Capone's first salary as a partner of Johnny Torrie in the beer and booze business was \$25,000 a year. Soon his organization was dealing in millions.



Crowd around federal building

already a quarter to 8, and Al followed an iron-bound rule about going home at 10:30.

"I'll lay two hundred on a game of straight," proposed Al to the confident slicker. "Want to play me?"

"It's a bet," grinned the other. "How about a hundred more on the fifteen ball?"

"O. K.," said Al. The two set to work. The spectators peered excitedly from adjoining tables. By 10:30 Al had the \$300 back and \$150 of the stranger's money—and then he said he must go, as he was due home. The stranger was naturally resentful at being left in this humiliating position and demanded that Al remain, but Al put on his coat and smooth gray hat.

Without a word the stranger pulled a long-bladed knife from his pocket, opened it, and gave Al to understand he'd play pool or else! Al did not hesitate one second. His right hand shot out to the man's chin with all his 200 pounds behind it. The man dropped and lay motionless. Al ran for home.

Twenty minutes later a misinformed friend from the poolroom



(Tribune photo.)

Courtroom scene at trial of Sam Vinci for the murder of John Minatti. Left to right: Krueger, Vinci, Deputy Sheriff William Gallagher, and (standing) Vinci's attorney, F.

He meant it, and shortly sold his broom for a job in a café. He already was learning how to turn his friendships with "Bathhouse John" and "Hinky Dink" into a golden-egg-laying goose, and in short order he owned his own poolroom. A year or two later saw young Jim a precinct captain with various privileges appertaining to the old levee district located within the boundaries of the ward and bisected by the night-life whoopee spots of 22d street. From poolroom proprietor he became a honkytonk owner, then partner in

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Morgan Collins, Chicago police commissioner from 1923 to 1927.

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The worried man in most cases would get time to consider, in which case, the O'Donnells would grant him a twenty-four-hour stay, at the end of which, if he was still stubborn, they would emphasize their argument with fists or revolver butt. Few speakeasy owners held out further.

An exception was Jacob Gels, who said, "I buy my beer from Capone and Torrio, and I'm satisfied with it."

Even fists could not change Jake's mind, for his burly frame was a little too much for O'Donnell's two drummers, who got bounced elaborately out Jake's door. So three O'Donnell brothers, with O'Connor, Moeghan, and Bucher, called at Gels' neighborhood saloon at 2154 West 51st street early in the evening of Sept. 7, 1923, with the result that Gels was taken to a hospital with a fractured skull and lay at the point of death for weeks. After their argument with Gels that evening the aroused O'Donnells invaded five other recalcitrant beer sellers, administering various treatments, and then repaired to Joseph Klepka's saloon at 5356 South Lincoln street, a sort of headquarters, to partake of refreshments.

It was while they were relaxing in Klepka's place that five men entered and the leader, brandishing his .38, roared:

"Stick up your hands or I'll blow you to hell."

The O'Donnells scattered for the doors and were pursued closely to the street, where, shooting wildly at their attackers, they made their escape—all except Jerry O'Connor, who lay dead on the sidewalk, shot through the heart.

In the official records Jerry O'Connor's death is indexed as the first killing of the bootleg war. It was followed ten days later, Sept. 17, by the murders of his associates, Moeghan and Bucher.

The repercussions of the O'Donnell purge, however, would have been enough to worry a commander of lesser stature. The late William E. Dever, then six months in office as mayor, was so shocked by the killings that he revoked the licenses of 2,000 "soft drink parlors," summoned Chief of Police Collins to his office, and assumed personal charge of the situation. His official statement said:

"The police will follow this case to a finish as they do all others. This guerrilla war between hijackers, rum runners, and illicit beer peddlers can and will be crushed."

It was a brave utterance—but it was almost equally futile. There were to be 9 more killings similar to that of O'Connor in the fall of 1923, 16 in 1924, 46 in 1925, and 64 in 1926, Mr. Dever's last year in office. In this total of 135 gang murders during the rise of the young pool player from Brooklyn only six men were to be brought to trial. Of the six all were to be acquitted save one—Sam Vinick, who chose the occasion of a coroner's inquest to dispatch John Minatti with a .45-caliber automatic. His explanation

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# Prohibition

(Continued from page one.)  
 For supper, were Joe's sentences.  
 "The second hearing Joe was even more of a cluck than the first," Joe was saying, his eyes glistening with pride and alcoholic gleam. "We took the punks right in their front yard, an' we was off in less than two min—" At that instant the swinging doors swung inward from the street. Two men entered. One of them was familiar to Joe, and Joe stopped talking to greet him. Then things began to happen. An Runelsbeck remembered it: "Hello, Al," cried Joe, putting out his hand. The man he spoke to stuck out his hand, but it held a revolver, and he fired six times. Joe looked over dead, still grinning.  
 In a flash the murderer and his partner disappeared out the door. Thus came Al Capone's debut on the front pages of Chicago newspapers.

The authorities in Chicago knew Capone who had killed Joe Howard for interfering with the Capone-Torrio bootleg beer business. To obtain enough evidence to convict Capone seemed a simple matter. And so, thirty minutes after the murder, a general order was flashed to all police stations to arrest him.

But Al Capone was nowhere to be found, and at the inquest the next day the witnesses to the crime were all stricken with mysterious ailments. Helnie Jacobs thought it over. Then he took the witness stand and testified as follows:

"I was called to a rear room to answer a telephone just before the shooting. I don't know nothing about it."

Runelsbeck quiveringly insisted: "I wouldn't be able to identify Capone even if brought face to face with him."

Bilton could not be found. Two other possible witnesses to the killing, said to have been in Jacobs' saloon at the time, were Tony "Mouth" Bagnola and one Clifford Eaton. Both denied having been there, and no one could give proof to the contrary.

The inquest had to be continued indefinitely, and a month later, when things had quieted down, Capone sauntered into the Cottage Grove police station to remark to Captain McMahon:

"I hear the police are looking for me. What for?"

The captain hustled Capone down to be questioned by a young assistant state's attorney named William H. McSwiggin.

"You're wanted for the murder of Joe Howard," said McSwiggin.  
 "Who, me?" replied Al with a puzzled look. "Why, I'm a respectable business man. I'm a second-hand furniture dealer."

This was in 1923, after the pork-faced Capone already was well on the road to success. How was he able to fix the witnesses so surely that he could walk into the hands of the police a few weeks later without the slightest fear of taking the rap? What was his background? What sort of training qualified this man to win out over all others in the frenzied scramble to control the \$60,000,000-a-year bootleg liquor business which started with the advent of prohibition in a city that was



(Tribune photo.)

Alphonse Capone, boss criminal, at the height of his career. Capone's first salary as a partner of Johnny Torrio in the beer and booze business was \$25,000 a year. Soon his organization was dealing in millions.

already a quarter to 8, and Al followed an iron-bound rule about going home at 10:30.

"I'll lay two hundred on a game of straight," proposed Al to the confident aleker. "Want to play me?"

"It's a bet," grinned the other. "How about a hundred more on the fifteen ball?"

"O. K.," said Al.

The two set to work. The spectators peered excitedly from adjoining tables. By 10:30 Al had the \$300 back and \$150 of the stranger's money—and then he said he must go, as he was due home. The stranger was naturally resentful at being left in this humiliating position and demanded that Al remain, but Al put on his coat and smooth gray hat.

Without a word the stranger pulled a long-bladed knife from his pocket, opened it, and gave Al to understand he'd play pool or else! Al did not hesitate one second. His right hand went out to the man's chin with all his 200 pounds behind it. The man dropped and lay motionless. Al ran for home.

Twenty minutes later a misinformed friend from the poolroom



(Tribune photo.)

Courtroom scene at trial of Sam Vincl for the murder of John Minetti. Left to right: Dr. Krueger, Vincl, Deputy Sheriff William Gallagher, and (standing) Vincl's attorney, Fra

He meant it, and shortly sold his broom for a job in a café. He already was learning how to turn his friendships with "Bathhouse John" and "Hinky Dink" into a golden-egg-laying goose, and in short order he owned his own poolroom. A year or two later saw young Jim a precinct captain with various privileges pertaining to the old levee district located within the boundaries of the ward and bisected by the night-life whoopee spots of 22d street. From poolroom proprietor he became a honkytonk owner, then partner in

certain red-light enterprises, and finally Big Jim of his own Colosseum's café at 2128 South Wabash avenue.

Eventually Big Jim became the acknowledged boss of the south side underworld, and his revenue came not only from the resorts he owned himself but also in the form of tribute from all other illegal resorts in the district.

But wealth brought with it both comfort and complications. Big Jim was victimized by the American Mafia. He received letters from



Crowd around federal building

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considerable amount of money...  
 within a few weeks he re-  
 to his newspaper attacks  
 the underworld and upon city  
 officials. Then the Min-  
 gag law, passed by the state  
 legislature in 1925, was invoked  
 against Gullford and his partner,  
 Near, co-publishers of the Sat-  
 Press. The case against them  
 prosecuted by Floyd Olson.  
 gag law was peculiar  
 Minnesota alone. It permitted  
 county or state officials to sup-  
 without trial by jury, papers  
 published matter of a "mal-  
 scandalous, or defamatory"

process of suppression was  
 follows: The county attorney  
 go before a court, make  
 motion against a paper, and  
 judge issue an injunction  
 against publication. The judge  
 could decide whether the ac-  
 was justified and the mat-  
 in the paper actually  
 was, scandalous, or defama-

Olson appeared in court  
 Near the injunction against  
 issuance of the Saturday  
 was granted. The case was  
 taken to the Minnesota Supreme  
 court which upheld the lower court,  
 but at the paper was a nuisance  
 law valid.  
 time the case was attract-  
 ion-wide attention. The  
 Newspaper Publishers' as-  
 took it up, supplying \$5,000  
 through contributions to

accepting bribes...  
 Within a short time Ritten worked  
 out an arrangement with Alderman  
 Frank E. Giebenhain of the Tenth  
 ward, a labor representative, and  
 J. Russell Sheffield, Eighth ward, to  
 accept money which would later be  
 divided among the trio. Certain  
 other aldermen, including John P.  
 Eckberg, a labor party politician  
 from the Twelfth ward; Fred Maur-  
 er, another labor man from the  
 Third ward, and E. J. Sweeney and  
 W. H. Rendell intermittently took  
 part in the booting.

All went well with the ring until  
 John Woodward and Werner H.  
 Ruff offered Ritten \$1,000 to get  
 enough votes in the council license  
 committee to enable them to obtain  
 a license for a cabaret to be named  
 The Stables, which they proposed  
 to open. Ritten informed Wood-  
 ward, who offered the bribe, that it  
 would cost at least \$1,500. This  
 incident occurred in the summer of  
 1928.

Ritten's confession, given on Feb.  
 15, 1929, follows:  
 "The following day Woodward  
 came into my office with the money,  
 but a few days later he asked for it  
 again, stating he needed it for other  
 purposes. I returned it to him. A  
 few days later he returned and  
 handed me back the money.  
 "The license was acted upon fa-  
 vorably both in the license commit-  
 tee and by the council. George  
 Sheffield received \$500, Giebenhain  
 got \$500, and I kept \$500 for myself.

"A few days after my return from  
 New Orleans in December, 1928,  
 Giebenhain called me by phone and  
 told me by all means to get in touch  
 with Ruff. I told him I would if I  
 could. Ruff had given Woodward  
 the \$1,500 paid us. The next day  
 I arranged for a meeting with him  
 at the home of a friend in north  
 Minneapolis and begged Ruff not  
 to mention my name in connection  
 with the cabaret license. I admit-  
 ted to him I had received the money  
 from Woodward, and declared to  
 Ruff that I would make everything  
 right with him after the investiga-  
 tion had blown over if he would  
 remain silent. I told him I would  
 do anything in the world to keep  
 my name out of the papers in con-  
 nection with this matter.

"He promised faithfully that he  
 would say nothing. This meeting  
 was in the afternoon. The next day  
 I called Frank Brunskill [then the  
 chief investigator for County Attor-  
 ney Floyd Olson, having been re-  
 moved by Mayor George Leach from  
 the post of chief of police] because  
 he was a very good friend of mine,  
 and asked him to see me.

"He came to the office early in  
 the afternoon. I told him about  
 my meeting with Ruff. He told me

demanded a retaining  
 fee of \$3,000, which Ritten paid.  
 Ritten tells that Wood-  
 demanded money to get out of town,  
 saying a grand jury subpoena had  
 been issued for his appearance. In  
 all Ritten gave Woodward \$3,300  
 to get out of town. Then he was  
 told that Ruff was about to go be-  
 fore the grand jury. He then de-  
 cided to go before the grand jury  
 and try to get immunity, on advice  
 of Cary.

The confession continues:  
 "A few days later Cary arranged  
 for a meeting between myself,  
 County Attorney Floyd B. Olson,  
 and himself in a room at the Minne-  
 apolis Athletic club. At that time  
 I told the county attorney every-  
 thing I knew, except the payments  
 to Woodward. The next conference  
 was in the office of the county at-  
 torney on the morning of the day  
 I appeared before the grand jury.  
 I was alone with the county attor-  
 ney part of the time. I had got  
 there early to avoid being seen. The  
 county attorney told me he would  
 get me into the grand jury room  
 as soon as the jury convened.

"After I had been in the county  
 attorney's office for a short time  
 Cary came in with a document  
 signed by Judge Bardwell granting  
 me complete immunity. Cary told  
 me I was 'absolutely clean' on ev-  
 erything up to the time I went into  
 the grand jury room.

"Before entering the grand jury  
 room I was told by the county at-  
 torney to answer all questions that  
 he or any member of the grand jury  
 asked me, which I did. After I had  
 completed my testimony the county  
 attorney stated that I had made a  
 good impression, in his opinion, on  
 the jury members. I remained in  
 the county attorney's office until the  
 grand jury adjourned, and then he  
 assisted me in getting out without  
 anybody noticing me."

From the testimony given by Rit-  
 ten to that grand jury indictments  
 were returned against Aldermen  
 Eckberg, Giebenhain, Maurer, Shef-  
 field, Sweeney and Rendell. A group

J. Sweeney, labor alderman, Third  
 ward, 2 years, accepting bribe.

**Fines**  
 Morris Eisenstadt, cleaner and  
 dyer, convicted of giving bribe,  
 paid \$1,500; James E. Fox, oil  
 broker, pleaded guilty to giving  
 bribe, paid \$750.

**Charges Dismissed. Consent  
 of State**  
 J. Russell Sheffield, "silk stock-  
 ing" Eighth ward, indicted for re-  
 ceiving bribe; Don Green, agent  
 for fire apparatus manufacturing  
 company, indicted for giving bribe;  
 Irsael Ridker, real estate broker,  
 indicted for giving bribe; E. P.  
 Brown, business man, indicted for  
 giving bribe; Henry M. Basker-  
 ville, business man, indicted for  
 giving bribe; Emil Sheffe, garage  
 proprietor, indicted for giving  
 bribe.

**Not Indicted**  
 Louis N. Ritten, "silk stocking"  
 Second ward; John H. Woodward,  
 cabaret proprietor.

A glance at the table shows that  
 only labor representatives were  
 given prison sentences. Ritten, the  
 self-confessed leader of the graft  
 ring, came free untouched and today  
 is a grain merchant in Minneapolis.

Fox, the oil broker, resisted ex-  
 tradition from St. Louis, Mo., for  
 nearly a year. Then he threatened  
 in speeches made to newspaper re-  
 porters to "blow the roof off the  
 county building in Minneapolis if  
 not granted immunity." After sev-  
 eral conferences with County Attor-  
 ney Olson the defendant pleaded  
 guilty and was fined \$750.  
 Yet it was this incident which  
 made it possible for Floyd Olson to  
 run for governor in 1930. He was  
 elected by a plurality given him by  
 the labor voters.

The third of this series on "Mur-  
 der in Minneapolis" will appear  
 in an early issue.

**WEDNESDAY PRESS**  
 PAGE TWO

**Dress**  
 SINGLE COPIES FIVE CENTS

**Crew  
 Local 574**

Major Strikes:  
 Wages; Almost  
 of More Than  
 3

**KERS**  
 Renew Conf.

ess of Dec. 14, 1935.  
 blisher.

"No more half-sick feeling  
 for me...no more harsh  
 'all-at-once' cathartics"



When I feel run down, headachy, half  
 sick—when the children get irritable,  
 cranky—then I know it's a sign of con-  
 stipation. I get out our family box of  
 FEEN-A-MINT, the chewing-gum laxa-  
 tive. There used to be a time when we  
 took old-fashioned, harsh,  
 "all-at-once" cathartics, but  
 that's all over now. We just  
 chew FEEN-A-MINT for  
 three minutes before going

to bed—(that's why it's called "the three-  
 minute way")—and it goes to work easily,  
 pleasantly, and gradually. There are no  
 cramps, no nausea, no bad after-effects.  
 Our family wouldn't be without it for  
 anything. Costs only 15c and 25c a box.



**THE  
 3  
 MINUTE WAY**

**TUNE IN** National Amateur Night,  
 radio's smash hit, with  
 Ray Perkins, Arnold Johnson, and  
 Amateur Stars—Columbia Network,  
 5 P. M., C. S. T., Every Sunday.

their Weibe arrived to solve it. The two detectives did not take any action, but reported back to Captain Brunskill that Captain Brunskill walked into the garage as they were about to drive it away and told them "to leave the car alone."

The automobile, at that time, was said to be owned by one John J. Brennan. Later it was learned that Brennan was the alias used by Harvey Bailey, leader of the Urachel kidnaping gang and a bank robber and killer. He now is serving time in a federal penitentiary. When Bailey was nabbed by federal agents in Kansas City in August, 1932, two employes of the Northwest bank identified him as the leader of the gang which robbed their institution.

Not even this story brought action by the civil service commission. Federal agents, seeking kidnaping gangs and bands of bank robbers who terrorized the middle west in 1932 and 1933, began work in the Twin Cities as the best points at which to pick up the trails of their quarries.

Due to return to the decade of the twenties. Not only was Minneapolis a hideout for visiting criminals but it also was the home stamping ground for one of the largest and best organized alcohol rings in the country. The ring was operated by a syndicate of never

your... as to keep as much... just off me as possible. I'll bargain... with you. I will give you \$2,500... the state civil damage maximum in... case of death, if you'll keep your... trap shut."

The widow agreed. Davenport then handed her \$3,500, telling her he would pay the remainder later. It never has been paid, according to Mrs. Winkler.

The most concrete evidence concerning the activities of the alcohol and vice syndicate was obtained by federal agents and county authorities in December, 1933, when Conrad Althen, who once was a golf professional at the Minneapau course at Minneapolis, was found slain.

Althen, who was an expert accountant as well as a golfer, was the bookkeeper for the syndicate. He had been serving the ring since 1926, rendering quarterly statements as concise and balanced as those of any corporation.

One week before his body was found the federal grand jury in Minneapolis had voted secret indictments against 38 of the better known hoodlums in that city's underworld. The ringleaders, their chief lieutenants and Althen were all named, although this information at that time had not been made public.

It was apparent, however, that federal men were anxious to seize Althen. The day after the indictments were returned they raided an apartment house where he had been living. Finding agents at front and rear, Althen jumped from a window and escaped.

Althen went into hiding. His friends, according to police, sought him out and advised him to surrender on the indictment. They arranged to pick him up in a car and take him to the United States district attorney's office. Althen fell to the trap.

He joined "the boys," who proceeded quickly to slug him into unconsciousness and then drive to a lonely road near South St. Paul. Here evidently he regained consciousness as he was pitched into a ditch. His bullet riddled body was found the next morning. It lay on the right side with the left hand raised as if to ward off a blow.

A circle of empty shells on the roadside above the body clearly told of a machine gunner stood there and let fly a burst of 14 shots, all but one of which struck Althen.

The books Althen kept have never been found. It is assumed that his friends who feared he might "squawk" if he got into hands of the federal investigators destroyed them.

are used... in the... The officers also showed "quietest accounts," McCoy accounts, in which records of the fine brands of uncut liquors demanded by certain patrons were kept; a profit and loss statement for the entire organization, and separate accountings for each of a dozen liquor producing plants, for gambling houses, and for vice resorts.

Some of the information lacking in these records was supplied by one of Althen's women, who told how he labored over his accounting. The woman, although bitter against Althen's slayers, was unable to give any help in the hunt for the actual books. The searchers were particularly anxious to find the books, since much of the government's case against the syndicate members depended upon finding them.

After months of searching, government agents concluded they had been destroyed about the time Althen was slain. With the books gone the indictments were dropped, only ten of the 38 men named in the original true bills being brought into court. Most of these escaped prison, merely paying nominal fines.

The real strength of this organized gangland was first shown in 1927. It was demonstrated when a coupe containing two men drew alongside the car containing Howard Guilford, publisher of the Saturday Press, a weekly newspaper of Minneapolis, at Lowry avenue and West Broadway. With Guilford was sitting his sister-in-law.

One of the men within the coupe fired five shots at Guilford, leaning



(Associated Press photo.) Howard Guilford, publisher of Saturday Press, who was wounded by gunmen in 1927. Seven years later he was slain.

attacking the city and county officials, however, charging them with accepting graft and protecting the open operations of the syndicate. These attacks had been growing intensely over a period of several months, and Guilford had received many warnings that unless he stopped printing stories about the underworld he would be slain.

The Minneapolis newspaper, while reluctant to recognize Guilford as a newspaper man, demanded action upon this shooting, saying it was an attempt to silence the press. At first it seemed they might get what they demanded, for Guilford from his hospital bed identified Harry Jaffa and "Irish" Gottlieb as his assailants. The two gunmen were seized and jailed. Then they were identified by other witnesses.

No charges were placed against the men, however, and they were not taken before the grand jury. County Attorney Floyd Olson, when his recovery had become certain, Guilford began to waver in his story. While yet convalescing he identified pictures of a man who was in a penitentiary as one of his attackers. Later he identified Flippy Share and a gunman, J. Gould, of Chicago, had done the shooting.

When he emerged from the hospital the charges against all

The worried man in most cases would ask time to consider, in which case, the O'Donnells would grant him a twenty-four-hour stay, at the end of which, if he was still stubborn, they would emphasize their argument with fists or revolver butts. Few speakeasy owners held an exception was Jacob Gels, who said, "I buy my beer from Capone and Torrio, and I'm satisfied with it." Even fists could not change Jake's mind, for his burly frame was a little too much for O'Donnell's two drummers, who got bounced elaborately out Jake's door. So three O'Donnell brothers, with O'Connor...

an Career  
 Power Won  
 by Gunplay  
 and Politics

Read: "A BOYCOT"

# Saturday

THE MINNEAPOLIS

## The Wreck Record

Since April, 1934, Communal Local 574 Has Six Human Lives; Millions of Dollars in Property; Ten Thousand Jobs of Willing Workers; One Firm, and the City, Its High Standing.

Taking the Governor's Advice to "Organize a Parade," Talking Courage From the Mayor, the Law's Inertia, the Public's Indifference, Local 574 Bids Fair to Take Over.

By Harold

Since the winter of 1934, there have been seven major strikes in Minneapolis, which have been... and Teachers Union No. 24,...

### MAYOR HOLDS TO STRUT

Cautiously-Worded Promise of Police Protection in the "Parade" That Will

Top half of the first page of J. M. Near...

32



## Gangsters and Poodles

By WAYNE THOMAS

**M**INNEAPOLIS marshals had the protection of gangsters and gunmen by politicians there began to focus the attention of the middle west upon that city early in 1925.

In that year Frank Brunskill was chief of police. His part in the case of the kidnaping and slaying of the Rev. Knute B. Birkeland, as charged by the Birkeland family and upheld by a jury in the Criminal courts, was told in the first installment of this story.

Brunskill was a veteran policeman in Minneapolis in 1923. Beginning his career as a stable boy after arriving in the Twin Cities with a shipment of horses from the Iowa farm community where he was born, he soon obtained a job as driver of a delivery wagon for the Kugler Bros. in 1906.

In 1904 Jake Kunze, president of the brewing company, arranged for Brunskill to join the police force as a rookie patrolman. Brunskill's first assignments included raids on some of the brewer's customers, to whom, shortly before, he had been delivering beer. In six years Brunskill became a detective.

Mayor Thomas Van Lear, who later was to become the star defense witness at Milwaukee for the gunman, Jack Davenport, and virtually obtained the acquittal of that habitual criminal in the case of the robbery of the Northwestern National bank of Milwaukee, made Brunskill chief of detectives. In 1923 Brunskill became chief of the entire force, holding the job until Mayor George E. Leach removed him in 1928.

Brunskill was removed after the mayor obtained evidence proving that the policeman was habitually shielding criminals.

In recent years a number of private citizens have filed complaints against Brunskill with the commission, but the policeman who now is captain of the Minneapolis north side station never has been asked to defend himself.

One of the latest charges bears repeating. In the information sent to the commission it was stated that on May 11, 1932, police learned that an automobile believed to have been used by bandits who had, a month earlier, held up the North American branch of the Northwest National bank of Minneapolis, taking a large sum of cash and securities, was discovered in a garage at 2945 South Pillsbury avenue in Minneapolis.

Garage attendants were in the act of armor plating the car when Detectives Joseph Lehmyer and Arthur Weibe arrived to seize it. The two detectives did not take the car, but reported back to Mayor William A. Anderson that Captain Brunskill walked into the garage as they were about to drive it away and told them "to leave the car alone."

The automobile, at that time, was said to be owned by one John J. Brennan. Later it was learned that Brennan was the alias used by Harvey Bailey, leader of the Urschel kidnaping gang and a bank robber and killer. He now is serving time

in prison. Sam Kozberg, Max "Brownie" Stearns, Max "Moosey" Berman, brother of Barney, the big shot, Roy Rogers, George Somers, Benny Rinder, Mose Barnett, Flippy Shure, Paul "Irish" Gottlieb, and the Jaffa brothers, Harry, William, and Sam.

At its height this organization annually handled millions of dollars taken from illicit enterprises.

As in other cities where large organizations wielded power with politicians and paid generously for police protection among all ranks of law enforcers, the hoodlums were secure from any molestation.

Perhaps this is one explanation for the failure to prosecute Jack Davenport in March, 1927, after the gunman shot and killed John Winkler, a petty bootlegger, in the presence of 14 witnesses in a saloon at 341 Hennepin avenue.

After the killing Davenport was arrested and a detective charged him with first degree murder. The matter dragged for one month while Davenport remained in jail. Then the grand jury voted a no bill after



A Minneapolis riot scene, one of several displays of violence in 1928 and the strike



Seven men from Minneapolis and St. Paul in a courtroom in Oklahoma City awaiting call as the federal kidnaping of Charles F. Urschel, wealthy oil man. In the front row: (1) Barney Berman, (2) Sam Kozberg (5) Isadore (Kid Cann) Blumenfeld, (6) Pete Miller, (7) Pete Arnold.

bearing several witnesses introduced by County Attorney Olson.

The widow of Winkler was visited by Davenport only a few days after the shooting. At that time, she says, Davenport told her: "I've paid \$40,000 in the right place and I'm not going to be prosecuted. At the same time I'd like to have you keep your mouth shut to keep as much heat off me as possible. I'll bargain with you. I will give you \$7,500, the state civil damage maximum in case of death, if you'll keep your trap shut."

The widow agreed. Davenport then handed her \$3,500, telling her he would pay the remainder later. It never has been paid, according to Mrs. Winkler.

The most concrete evidence concerning the activities of the alcohol and vice syndicate was obtained by

A week later, however, detectives raided a place where Althen had been living at one time. There they found ledgers, account books, some correspondence, some old freight and truck waybills and other records. These, although merely indices of the actual accounts, disclosed that Althen kept separate statements for each of the gang big shots. Code numbers were used in the indices.

The indices also showed "quietus accounts," "McCoy accounts," in which records of the fine brands of uncut liquors demanded by certain patrons were kept; a profit and loss statement for the entire organization, and separate accountings for each of a dozen liquor producing plants, for gambling houses and for vice resorts.

Some of the information lacking

out of the car and shouting meanwhile, "Damn you, Gullford, we got you now." Then the car drove away.

Critically wounded in the abdomen, Gullford jotted down the license number of the gang car and drove to a hospital.

As an individual Howard Gullford had no importance. He had been attacking the city and county officials, however, charging them with accepting graft and protecting the open operations of the syndicate. These attacks had been growing in intensity over a period of several months, and Gullford had received many warnings that unless he quit printing stories about the underworld he would be slain.



(photo.)  
 with the truck drivers' strike there in 1934. Note the policeman  
 the fighting.



ment began its case in the  
 m Kronick, (4) Charles Wolk,  
 (Associated Press photo.)

Guilford had mentioned were  
 ped. Guilford himself, accord-  
 to friends, was unexpectedly  
 perous. He changed his home  
 a shabby rooming house to a  
 in one of the best hotels, he  
 shed" considerable sums of  
 and sported many new  
 res.

Within a few weeks he re-  
 ed to his newspaper attacks  
 the underworld and upon city  
 county officials. Then the Min-  
 ta gag law, passed by the state  
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ward the cost of carrying the fight  
 to the United States Supreme court.  
 THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE individually  
 engaged counsel for Near.

In an epochal decision on June 1,  
 1931, the federal Supreme court  
 ruled the Minnesota gag law was  
 unconstitutional because it inter-  
 fered with the liberty of the press  
 as guaranteed by the fourteenth  
 amendment to the federal constitu-  
 tion. In this battle Near and Guil-  
 ford won, and the Saturday Press  
 continued to be published.

While these matters were in the  
 courts, Hennepin County Attorney  
 Floyd Olson was busy building a  
 political organization. Defeated in  
 1924, when he ran for governor on  
 a platform which was almost wholly  
 communistic, Olson was out to gain  
 the support of labor in the three  
 large cities in his state—Minneap-  
 olis, St. Paul, and Duluth.

His opportunity came in 1928,  
 when hoodlers in the Minneapolis  
 city council became panicky.

The hoodlers had been operating  
 on a small scale, the ring consisting  
 of half a dozen aldermen.

Leader of the ring was Alderman  
 Louis N. Ritten of the "silk stock-  
 ing" Second ward in Minneapolis.  
 He was a former president of the  
 city council and a prominent grain  
 merchant in the town. Soon after  
 he entered the council, according  
 to Ritten's own confession, he began  
 accepting bribes. Then he became  
 a member of licensing committees  
 and of a committee which controlled  
 purchases.

Within a short time Ritten worked  
 out an arrangement with Alderman  
 Frank E. Giebenhain of the Tenth  
 ward, a labor representative, and  
 J. Russell Sheffield, Eighth ward, to  
 accept money which would later be  
 divided among the trio. Certain  
 other aldermen, including John P.  
 Eckberg, a labor party politician  
 from the Twelfth ward; Fred Maur-  
 er, another labor man from the  
 Third ward, and E. J. Sweeney and  
 W. H. Rendell intermittently took  
 part in the boodling.



Gov. Floyd B. Olson of Minnesota, who as a county attorney in Min-  
 neapolis is shown to have failed in his duty of prosecuting certain  
 members of the criminal element. (Tribune photo.)

that during that afternoon Ruff had  
 been in conference with Melvin Pas-  
 selt and Joseph A. Poirer in the  
 county attorney's office, and he be-  
 lieved Ruff had told them every-  
 thing regarding our meeting.

"I asked Frank what he would do  
 if he were in my boots. He de-  
 clared I should get a good attorney.  
 I asked him whom he would recom-  
 mend and he said, 'Get Archie M.  
 Cary.' [Cary is known in Minne-  
 apolis as the lawyer who appears  
 for the syndicate hoodlums and  
 other criminals who are able to pay  
 large fees.]

"Brunskill called Mr. Cary from  
 my office and arranged for a con-  
 ference, at the same time telling  
 Mr. Cary that 'Lou is a very good  
 friend of mine.'"

That evening Ritten went to  
 Cary's home for a preliminary con-  
 ference and Cary telephoned Brun-  
 skill to come to the home also. Rit-  
 ten's confession continues:

"I told Frank I was worried to  
 death and didn't know what to do  
 or where to turn, or words to that  
 effect. Brunskill declared that he  
 had been in a bad fix himself, and  
 that Cary had got him out of  
 trouble."

The following day at another con-  
 ference Cary demanded a retaining  
 fee of \$5,000, which Ritten produced.  
 Ritten tells also that Woodward  
 demanded money to get out of town,  
 saying a grand jury subpoena had  
 been issued for his appearance. In  
 all Ritten gave Woodward \$3,300  
 to get out of town. Then he was  
 told that Ruff was about to go be-  
 fore the grand jury. He then de-  
 cided to go before the grand jury  
 and try to get immunity, on advice  
 of Cary.

The confession continues:  
 "A few days later Cary arranged  
 for a meeting between myself,  
 County Attorney Floyd B. Olson,  
 and myself in a room at the Minne-  
 apolis Athletic club. At that time  
 I told the county attorney every-  
 thing I knew, except the payments  
 to Woodward. The next conference

of business men also were indicted,  
 these defendants being named as  
 givers of bribes, the aldermen being  
 charged with their acceptance.

But Olson's part in granting Rit-  
 ten immunity from prosecution  
 never before has been made public.  
 That confession was obtained by  
 two Minneapolis newspaper men who  
 followed Ritten when the latter fled  
 to California. When they returned  
 with the document their editors  
 chose to print only certain excerpts  
 therefrom.

During the trials which followed  
 the public was kept in the dark  
 about the Ritten incident. Prosec-  
 cutor Olson was praised as a public  
 servant, zealous to uphold the law.  
 Strangely enough the "common peo-  
 ple"—the laboring classes of Minne-  
 apolis, St. Paul, and, in fact, all  
 Minnesota—rallied around him.

Just what Olson did for the labor-  
 ing men of Minneapolis is shown  
 in the following table, which lists  
 the defendants as to punishments  
 or lack of punishments:

#### Prison Sentences

John P. Eckberg, labor alder-  
 man, Twelfth ward, 10 years, ac-  
 cepting bribe; Frank E. Gieben-  
 hain, labor alderman, Tenth ward,  
 10 years, accepting bribe; Fred  
 Maurer, labor alderman, Third  
 ward, 2 years, accepting bribe; E.  
 J. Sweeney, labor alderman, Third  
 ward, 2 years, accepting bribe.

#### Fines

Morris Eisenstadt, cleaner and  
 dyer, convicted of giving bribe,  
 paid \$1,500; James E. Fox, oil  
 broker, pleaded guilty to giving  
 bribe, paid \$750.

#### Charges Dismissed. Consent of State

J. Russell Sheffield, "silk stock-  
 ing" Eighth ward, indicted for re-  
 ceiving bribe; Don Green, agent  
 for fire apparatus manufacturing  
 company, indicted for giving bribe;  
 Israel Bidker, real estate broker,  
 indicted for giving bribe; E. P.  
 Brown, business man, indicted for  
 giving bribe; Henry M. Basker-  
 ville, business man, indicted for

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SUBJECT Capone, Alphonse

FILE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

SERIALS \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL PAGES 6

PAGES RELEASED 6

PAGES WITHHELD \_\_\_\_\_

EXEMPTION(S) USED \_\_\_\_\_



MEMO

November 6, 1928

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 7 1928 P.M.	
DEPT. OF JUSTICE	FILE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

Mr. Payne, formerly an employee of the Prohibition Unit whose alias is, reportedly is Harry Mason, called on the Bureau on Friday, November 2, 1928, and related that he was in the possession of certain information indicating that certain organized gangs operating in Chicago, Illinois under the leadership of Al Capone, have been transporting in interstate commerce, apparently for personal purposes, machine guns and other instruments of a like caliber. It was Mr. Payne's desire that this Bureau initiate an investigation with a view to instituting a prosecution against Capone's gang for transporting in interstate commerce explosives without procuring the necessary permit.

Mr. Payne was informed that before an investigation could be initiated, some very concrete and definite allegations with respect to the particular violation about which he complained, would have to be received by the Bureau. Mr. Payne was unable to furnish a specific instance of the interstate transportation of explosives by the so-called gang of New York and related that his information relative thereto was strictly confidential.

Mr. Payne apparently is desirous of receiving an appointment to the field force of this Bureau. He related that sometime ago he was affiliated with the Prohibition Unit as an undercover agent and that his cover was torn away by that Bureau for certain alleged misdeeds on his part and that after talking with Commissioner Brown of the Prohibition Service, he was permitted to resign from that service without prejudice. He is now an applicant for an appointment to the Secret Service of the United States. He believes that should he secure an appointment to that service, that he might later be transferred to this Bureau.

The educational qualifications and other requisites of this Service were fully explained to Mr. Payne and he left with the opinion that he apparently could not qualify for the field force of the Bureau.

Respectfully,

*[Handwritten signature and initials]*  
 NOV 7 1928  
 DEPT. OF JUSTICE

47-594  
 67-9799  
 62-20619  
 62-20034

ADVIS BUREAU MEMBER

Department of Justice  
Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

62-20617  
12-1-5

RECORDED & INDEXED

November 6, 1935.

NEW LEAD FOR THE BUREAU

NOV 13 1935	3-1
10	3
FILE	

On November 3, there was referred to me, Mr. David D. Layne, who called at the Bureau and stated that he was formerly a Prohibition Agent.

Mr. Layne stated that the so-called gang of (Scarface) Al Capone was engaged in handling stolen motor vehicles in violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act. He had no tangible evidence, or information, concerning this matter, but stated that if the Bureau desired to investigate this gang, he believed he could secure information from an underworld character with whom he is endeavoring to contact.

Mr. Layne also suggested that information upon violations of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act in connection with the theft of cars in the United States and their transportation to Canada could be obtained if about two agents would go to Montreal, Canada, and there stop at one of the hotels for a week or two and spend a bit of money, as in this way contact could be made with some of the individuals who are engaged in the theft and "running" of cars to Canada for sale there.

I advised Mr. Layne that in view of the volume of work in the Bureau, investigation of alleged violations of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act could not be undertaken unless there was some tangible evidence of a violation of that Act.

Respectfully,

*J. Edgar Hoover*

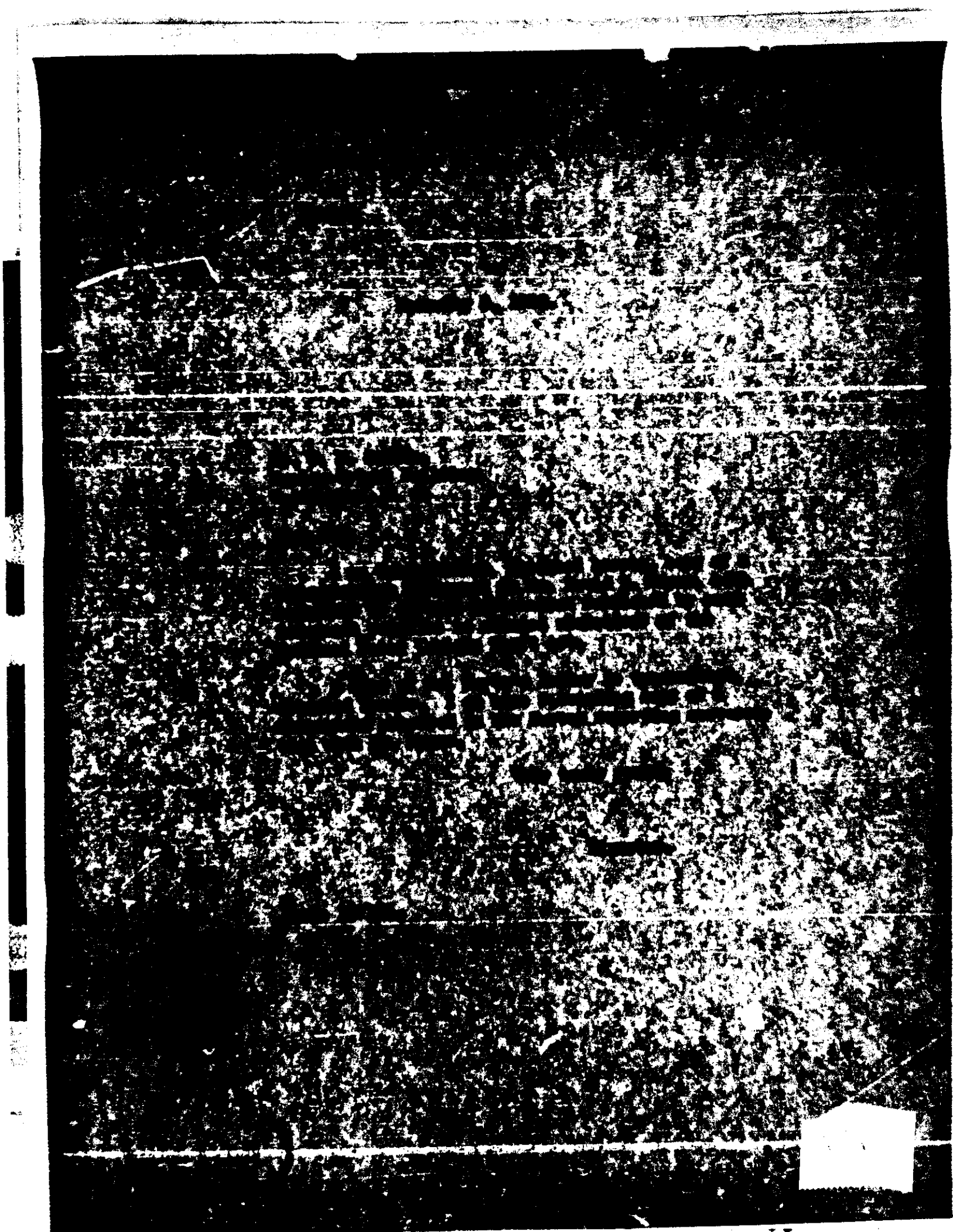
On November 5, Mr. Layne again called at the Bureau in connection with the foregoing matter and left here the attached letter. Mr. Layne appears to desire appointment in the Bureau. I advised him that I could give him no information as to whether the Bureau could undertake the investigation desired by him.

*J. Edgar Hoover*

*Handwritten initials and notes*

62-20617  
Handwritten vertical notes on the right margin.

Handwritten notes in the bottom left corner.



Department of Justice  
Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

2

November 12, 1928.

26-18103

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. David O.ayne, whose previous calls to the Bureau have been called to your attention by memorandum, called again on Friday, November 9, to ascertain whether the Bureau desires his cooperation in connection with investigating alleged activities of the gang of (Scarface) Al Capone, in violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act.

Mr.ayne was advised that the Bureau could not initiate an investigation unless there was tangible evidence of a violation of a Federal statute. In the event Mr.ayne calls again at the Bureau, he will be referred to the Washington field office.

Respectfully,

T. F.

Mr. Nathan:

Please see that this man referred to Mr. Cullen if he comes in again. It is a matter for the field office & should have been handled by it from the beginning.

RECORDED & INDEXED

NOV 13 1928

NOV 13 1928

W. C. Clegg,  
Chief, Special Inspection  
Division,  
Bureau of Prohibition,  
Washington, D. C.

To: Dept. of Justice, U. S.,  
Washington, D. C..

From: David B. Mayo,

Subject: Section \_\_\_\_\_ U. S. Penal Code re-Transporting Stolen  
Automobiles from State to State, and into  
Dominion of Canada. Violation of same...

Synopsis-

Have interviewed my informant, one George Cole, residing in The District of Columbia, as to above violation, and am pleased to report as follows: That he is familiar with the local situation, as to Automobiles stolen in The District of Columbia, transported to a point known as "T. B." Maryland, reconditioned, renumbered, and again transported to points in The District of Columbia, as well as to points North of T. B. Maryland.... He claims no exact knowledge as to the location of the Garage, where necessary transformation of cars takes place, but professes knowledge of persons, with whom he can obtain the necessary information, and furthermore agrees to obtain such knowledge, as required by The Dept. of Justice, for the apprehension of alleged violators..

Mr. Cole furthermore agrees to furnish The Dept. of Justice with information as to "The fence" in New York City.. He explains that there are several places where stolen cars are remodeled and transported to other states for sale .. He however must spend enough time in New York City in which to locate these places, it having been some little time since Mr. Cole had direct knowledge of the existence of such places... His connections being good ones, I am of the opinion that a few days in New York City, will be ample time for him to make the necessary connections, whereby The Dept. of Justice, may receive the actual evidence , necessary for prosecution...

As to Mr. Cole, I am thoroughly convinced that he is in possession of facts, which if used now, will result in an investigation, of a Nation wide ring of Auto thieves, and in which the Canadian Authorities will be much interested, as regards the operations of this alleged ring in Northern Vermont, as well as Northern New York..

Mr. Jon. J. Dunbar, recently employed by The U. S. Treasury, Dept., as a Prohibition investigator, will also confirm my report as to the activities of Auto Thieves in New York.. I can with little trouble, locate him, and believe that with his assistance (He is personally acquainted with one or more of the "ring") assist The Dept. of Justice in the conviction of the largest ring of its kind now operating in The United States.

4/9/28  
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26-1102-1

Report continued 42

From my knowledge of operations, as concerns the "Racketeers" along The Canadian Border from Detroit Mich, to Points in Vermont, I do not anticipate any great amount of difficulty in making a good case... The base of operations naturally would be in the vicinity of Buffalo, N.Y., and from there I would work Westward, locating the Auto Theft section of one of "Scar" face CAPORE's gang in Cleveland, (OLYECM, employed by CAPORE will assist The Department in this respect) then Eastward to Rouses Point, N.Y., from which point, as well as in Montreal, P.Q., Canada, I may be assured of the cooperation of The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in developing the phase of the case as regards the transportation of Stolen Autos into Quebec...

Trusting that this brief report may result in the investigation of this alleged "ring", and that I may be of real service to The Department of Justice, I am,

Respectfully,

  
David D. Hayes

(I can be reached at 1205 K. St., N.W., Washington, D. C.  
Phone number Franklin-10499 )

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