

SUBJECT Lloyd Barker (Death of)
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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

TULSA
MAR 24
10 PM
1949



Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
4936 — 30th Pl.
Washington, D. C.

LLOYD "RED" BANNER

re index

LLOYD BANNER

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62-89785-X

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10 MAR 31 1949

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Police Recall Infamous Barker Gang's Start Here Tulsa's 'Spawn of Hell' Wiped Out

By ROY HANNA

Echoes of the many gun battles fought by notorious members of the "Barker gang" resounded in Tulsa today after news was received from Denver that the last of the Oklahoma outlaw band had been killed there by a shotgun blast.

He was Lloyd (Red) Barker, 51, son of "Ma" Barker, who with her other three sons terrorized scores of persons during fast-moving hijackings and robberies.

The other three Barker boys were Herman, who died a natural death in the early 1920's; Fred, who with his mother was killed by FBI agents in a Florida machine gun battle in 1935, and Arthur, better known as "Doc", who was slain by a prison guard in 1939 while trying to escape from Alcatraz.

Denver police have charged Lloyd's death to his wife, Jean, 37, who they say cut down the last of the Barker boys as he attempted to unlock the door of their home. She told officers she feared her husband would kill her and her children. She pleaded innocent by reason of insanity.

The Barker clan launched their careers as juvenile delinquents in Tulsa in the early 1920's. All were reported, at one time or another, to have been members of the notorious "Central park mob, which at one time had 22 hijackers, bandits and other thugs enlisted in its ranks.

Lloyd, according to FBI records, was not a member of "Ma" Barker's gang at the height of his operations. At that time he was serving 25 years in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth for mail robbery.

The Barkers moved to Tulsa in 1910 from Webb City, Mo., after Herman had been arrested there for highway robbery.

In Tulsa, the Barker shack became an underworld postoffice and meeting place. "Ma" ruled the roost with an iron hand and "took nothing off of nobody."

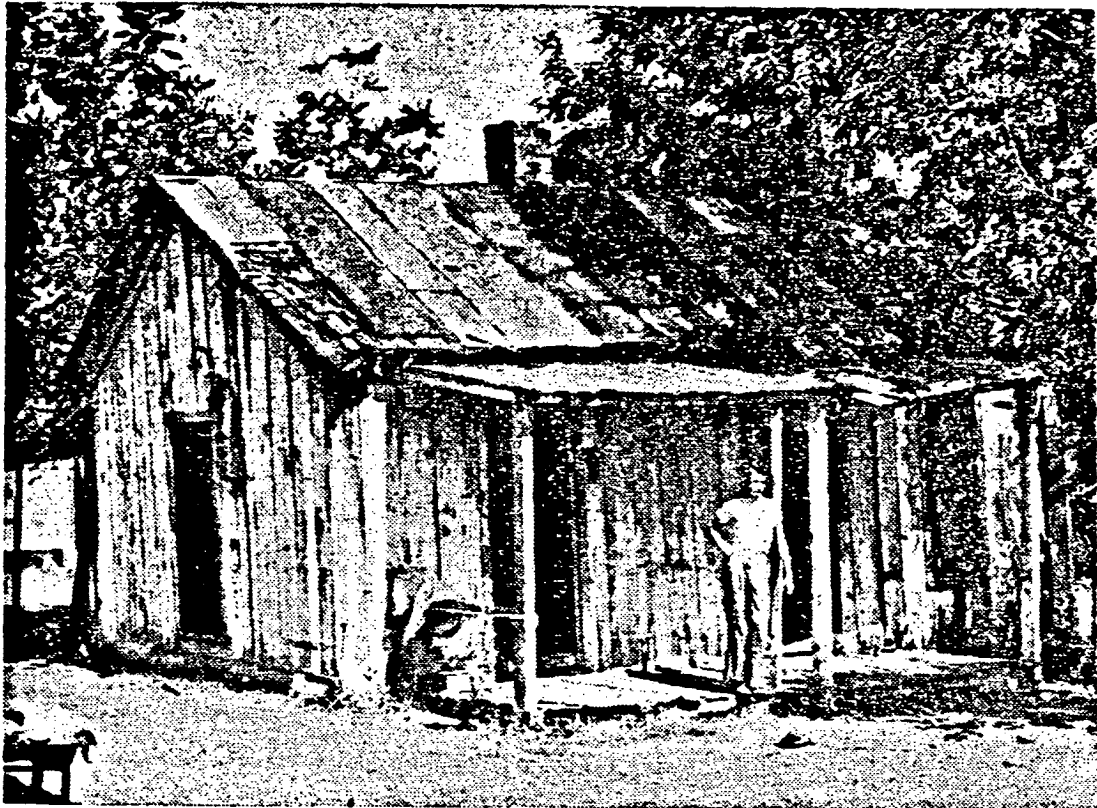
The husband and father, George Barker, a Missouri farm hand, stayed behind in Webb City and never became involved with authorities.

A search of Tulsa police records showed little information concerning the gang. The card and picture file had not been started when the mob began its operations. One folder does show that Lloyd was arrested here for vagrancy in 1921.

The Florida machine gun battle with FBI agents came after the operatives had trailed the gang there. They were suspected of having kidnaped Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul, Minn., banker. "Ma" died with a machine gun in her hand.

During the early 1930's Ma and her boys became connected with the Alvin Karpis gang.

J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director, described Ma as having the "most resourceful criminal brain that



BARKER GANG'S TULSA HEADQUARTERS—The old shack above, which formerly stood at 401 N. Cincinnati av., housed members of the infamous Barker tribe which plagued law enforcement authorities across the nation during the 1930's. Lloyd Barker, 51, killed in Denver by a shotgun blast, was the last of the band. In this shack "Ma" Barker, mother of Lloyd, Herman, Fred and Arthur Barker, planned forays against the public. The shack became an underworld headquarters and post-office and at times held thousands of dollars in loot brought here by gang members.

America has produced in the past generation." The statement was made in 1938.

"She was the most dangerous lawbreaker in my experience. More so than John Dillinger or 'Baby Face' Nelson or any of the rest of our so-called No. 1 public enemies.

"In her 60 years she reared a spawn of hell. Of her four sons, one was a mail robber, another a holdup man and the remaining pair highwaymen, kidnapers and wanton murderers."

Many a veteran Tulsa police officer can recall brushes with the Barker clan.

Harry Stege, who founded the police identification bureau here, recalled the Barker boys as "slippery young hoodlums."

"That's the finish of the Barker gang. Never again will a police department have to face their bullets," Stege said today.

The bodies of Ma and Fred were returned from Florida and buried in a desolate, weed-grown cemetery three miles east of Miami, Ok., in 1935.



FRED BARKER



ARTHUR BARKER

~~SAC, Denver
Director, FBI~~
LLOYD BARKER
RESEARCH

April 15, 1949

Newspaper dispatches reflect that Lloyd Barker, last survivor of the Barker boys, was killed by his wife on March 18, 1949, in Denver. For record purposes, it is requested that you conduct appropriate inquiry to determine the outcome of charges against Mrs. Barker and also to secure the facts concerning Barker's life in Denver subsequent to his release from prison. This information should be furnished the Bureau by letter marked "Research." Any inquiries should be made in such a manner as not to elicit press inquiries, and should be casually secured through local authorities.

1 ENCL
MB

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Gurnea _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Mohr _____
- Mr. Pennington _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

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Follow-up made

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 9
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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

56 MAY 10 1949

Last of 'Ma' Barker's Boys Died With Boots On, Hearing Reveals

By the Associated Press

DENVER, Mar. 22.—"So he was one of 'Ma' Barker's boys. Well, 'll be darned."

That was the reaction of most of the men at the Denargo Grill when they learned that Manager Lloyd "Red" Barker was from one of the Southwest's most notorious outlaw families.

Lloyd died Friday—shot to death as were Kate "Ma" Barker and his brothers Fred and Arthur. The last of the Barker boys was 51 years old.

His connection with the family wasn't revealed until his frail, nervous widow Jennie was arraigned on a murder charge.

When first questioned, District Attorney Clarence Hackenthal said, she admitted shooting her husband with a shotgun as he walked toward their house in a Denver suburb. She said she was afraid "he would kill me and my children." She pleaded not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity at the arraignment.

Charles Klein, owner of the restaurant at a large produce market, was surprised.

"He never mentioned his family," he said. "He was a good worker and never got mad."

Lloyd was in Leavenworth Penitentiary when "Ma" Barker and her boys were robbing banks and kidnaping people. He had robbed the mail at Baxter Springs, Kans.

Imprisoned in 1922, he was released in 1933.

During that time the Barkers and Alvin Karpis kidnaped Edward G. Brewer, St. Paul banker, and William A. Hamm, jr., of the St. Louis brewing firm.

Arthur "Doc" Barker was arrested in Chicago in 1935, and was killed when he tried to escape from Alcatraz four years later. "Ma" and Fred Barker were shot down in a gun duel with FBI agents at their Florida hideout in 1935. A fourth son Herman died in the early 1920s.

After Lloyd was released he went "straight." He was a cook at a prisoner of war camp at Fort Custer, Mich., during the war. He received an honorable discharge from the Army and a good conduct ribbon.

Mrs. Jennie Barker had two children by a previous marriage. She and Barker had two more, Eileen, 2, and Michael, 9 months.

Mrs. Barker had been ill, and Barker had left the restaurant to help her care for the children on the day he was shot.

*Memorandum
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65-84485-1
ENCLOSURE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO Director, FBI

DATE: May 12, 1949

FROM SAC, Denver

SUBJECT: LLOYD BARKER, aka "Red"
RESEARCH

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated April 15, 1949, requesting that appropriate inquiry be conducted to determine the outcome of charges against MRS. BARKER for killing her husband LLOYD BARKER. It is also requested that the facts concerning BARKER's life in Denver subsequent to his release from prison be secured. E.E.

The following information was obtained by SA JAMES W. LAIL from SHERIFF HOMER MAYBERRY and DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY GEORGE FISCHER at Brighton, Colorado:

JENNIE BARKER shot and killed her husband LLOYD "RED" BARKER at their home, 3426 W. 73rd Avenue, Westminister, Colorado, on March 18, 1949. She was arrested the same date and placed in the Adams County Jail at Brighton, Colorado, where she readily confessed to the shooting, claiming she was afraid of him, he having threatened her life on numerous occasions. On March 21, 1949, she was tried by Jury in the District Court at Brighton and entered a plea of "not guilty by reason of insanity at the time and since." Upon the testimony of two competent doctors she was sentenced to life in the Colorado State Insane Asylum at Pueblo, Colorado, where she was confined on April 9, 1949. G. I. R. - 1

The only background information concerning BARKER as known to MAYBERRY and FISCHER is that he has been employed for several years at the DENARGO GRILL at the DENARGO MARKET, Denver, and was, at the time of his death the assistant manager of the Grill. He has reportedly been living with JENNIE as a common-law wife for approximately seven or eight years, having two children by her. He was legally married to her at Brighton, Colorado, in February 1949. JENNIE had two children by a previous marriage.

JENNIE is described as born February 20, 1912, at New York City, U.S.. 5 ft. 2 inches, 92 pounds, blue eyes, brown hair, fair complexion.

No further inquiries have been made in this matter in view of the Bureau instructions that the inquiries should be made through local authorities and in such a manner as not to elicit press inquiries. If the Bureau should desire that additional information regarding BARKER's life be obtained this information could probably be secured through local newspaper contacts.

Deputy District Attorney GEORGE FISCHER, Brighton, Colorado, also advised that JENNIE BARKER's lawyer, L. E. F. TALKINGTON, Denver, Colorado, told him

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DN 62-723

RE: LLOYD BARKER, aka "Red"
RESEARCH

SAC, Denver
May 12, 1949

he has been well acquainted with LLOYD BARKER for many years. TALKINGTON is the individual who originally advised the Adams County authorities in Brighton that LLOYD "RED" BARKER was one of the notorious "Barker Boys," and son of "MA" BARKER. MR. TALKINGTON is supposedly aware of the activities of BARKER since his release from prison. He is not being contacted at this time, however, in view of the Bureau instructions contained in the reference letter.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: SEPT. 11, 1957

FROM : SAC, DENVER (62-723)

SUBJECT: LLOYD BARKER
RESEARCH - CRIME RECORDS

On September 5, 1957, SA ARTHUR S. REEDER, Denver Office, was conducting official business with Undersheriff G. V. BARSTOW of the Adams County Sheriff's Office, Brighton, Colorado. Mr. BARSTOW stated he had some photographs of LLOYD BARKER, the last-known-living member of the family, i.e., BARKER-KARPIS Gang.

Enclosed herewith are three photographs showing the body of LLOYD BARKER. He was killed by his wife, JENNIE BARKER, thirty-seven years of age, at 3426 West 73rd Avenue, their residence. LLOYD at that time was the then Assistant Manager of the Denargo Market, Denver. JENNIE was tried for the murder, was declared criminally insane, and is possibly still an inmate of the Colorado State Hospital, Pueblo, Colorado.

It occurred to SA REEDER that the Bureau may like these copies to complete the file on the BARKER family. They need not be returned.

- ② - Bureau (Encls. 3)
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ENCLOSURE
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CRIME RECORDS

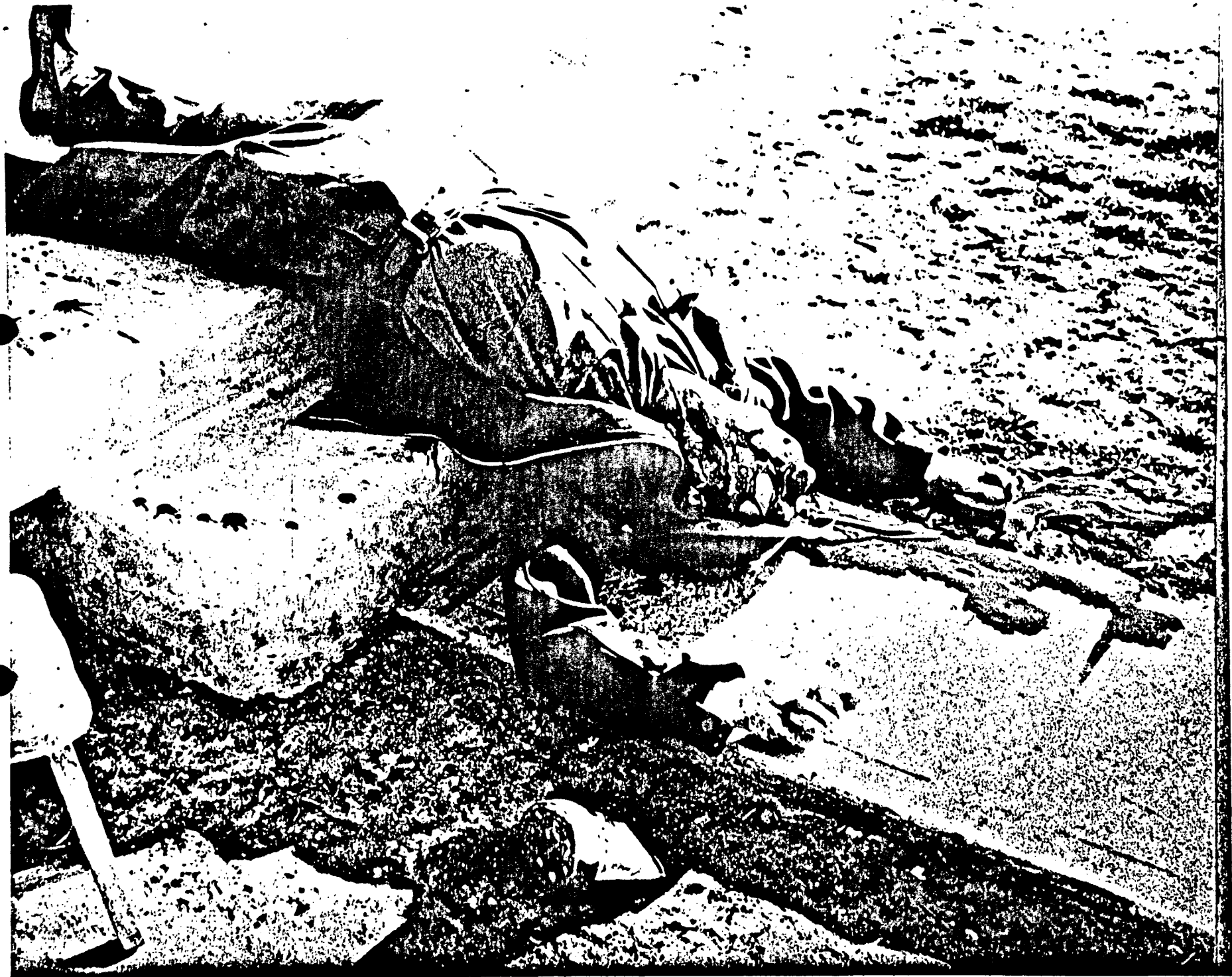
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TO DIRECTOR, FBI (Encls. 3)
FROM SAC, DENVER (62-723)
RE LLOYD BARKER
SEARCH - CRIME RECORDS
3 Photos of LLOYD BARKER

62-89785-3
ENCLOSURE







PHOTOGRAPH OF A PERSON LYING ON THE GROUND IN A RUGGED, ROCKY AREA.