CHARLES "PRETTY BOY" FLOYD
KANSAS CITY MASSACRE

62-28915 SUB A

SECTION 1

SUBJECT CHARLES "PRETTY BOY" FLOYD
FRANK NASH
VERNE MILLER
ADAM RICHETTI
KANSAS CITY MASSACRE

FILE NUMBER 62-28915 SUB A

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Where Five Were Slain in Gun Massacre

A burst of machine gun fire on the Union Station Plaza, Kansas City, Mo., in an attempt to free Frank Nash, an outlaw, from the custody of seven officers left the prisoner and four of the officials dead, two others wounded. This photo, taken a few moments after the massacre, shows the bodies of William Grooms and Frank Hermanson, two of the officers, where they fell. State and Federal authorities have failed to find a trace of the killers. (See Story on Page 10).

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Glavin

Outbreak of Crime Reaches High Level in Southwest States

Modern Bandits Inaugurate Reign of Terror Dwarfing Escapades of Jesse James

By United Press

KANSAS CITY—Modern outlawry has reached an unprecedented high point in the Southwest.

The roster of fugitives, many with blood on their hands and a price on their heads, today stood as follows:

Seven Kansas State Penitentiary convicts, including Wilbur Underhill, convicted murderer, and Harvey Bailey, killer and bank bandit.

PHANTOM BANDIT

The "Phantom Bandit" of the Southwest, Charles Arthur (Pretty Boy) Floyd, rival of Jesse James for individual notoriety, and at least one of his lieutenants.

Two or more machine gunners who raked the Union Station plaza here with bullets Saturday, killing four officers and a convict.

Three bank bandits who shot to death a sheriff and state highway patrolman at Columbia, Mo.

One suspected member of the gang that kidnaped Mary McElroy, daughter of the city manager of Kansas City, and collected $30,000 ransom for her release.

Captures in these cases were:

Lansing prison break, four convicts returned to prison.

McElroy kidnaping, three men and one woman held.

Union Station massacre, none.

Columbia killings, none.

The massacre of Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent of the U. S. Bureau of Investigation; Police Chief Otto Reed of McAlester, Okla.; and Frank Hermanson and J. W. Grooms, Kansas City detectives, on the Union Station plaza aroused the forces of law to feverish activity.

The fifth victim of the machine gun barrage was Frank Nash, convict whom the officers were returning to the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth. He escaped two years ago when Warden Thomas B. White was kidnaped and three convicts were killed.

The gunners did their murderous work in sight of hundreds of early morning travelers and townspeople. They fled in an auto. So great was the confusion that officers were unable to piece together a coherent version of the slaughter.

LYING ON GROUND

Five men suspected of complicity in the massacre were seen near Leavenworth, Kas., 25 miles away, yesterday.

F. J. Taylor, educational director at the Federal prison, reported seeing a car parked on an isolated road. Two men were in it and three lay alongside it on the ground. Taylor summoned officers but the car had vanished.

The motive for the assault remained a mystery. Two theories were advanced: That the machine gunners sought to liberate Nash, last survivor of the old Al Spencer gang; and that former allies killed him in fear that he might "squeal."

The arrest yesterday in Roanoke, Va., of George McGee, suspect in the McElroy kidnaping, left only one suspect in the case still at large.

McGee's brother, Walter, was arrested in Amarillo, Tex., and confessed.

Clarence Click was arrested in Kansas City. A former wife of Walter McGee was captured at the hideout where Miss McElroy was held.

Clarence Stevens has not been found. Approximately half the ransom money was recovered.

"Pretty Boy" Floyd disappeared after he and a lieutenant released a sheriff and an elderly couple near Bolivar, Mo., early Saturday. All three had been held as hostages in a typical Floyd dash toward his Oklahoma retreats after the sheriff accidentally walked into a garage where the bandit car was being repaired.

Mr. Nathan
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Mr. Edwards
Mr. Glavin

NOT RECORDED

62-23915-

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edmonds
Mr. Clegg

Washington Post 6/19/33

LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Defiance of law has seldom been more flagrantly manifested than it was at Kansas City Saturday. In what appears to have been a reckless attempt to rescue Frank Nash, murderer and bank robber, from Federal and municipal officers, a gang of desperadoes killed four officers and their prisoner. Federal agents had taken precautions against such an attack, knowing that Nash was a member of a desperate and powerful gang. But they were overwhelmed by machine gun fire.

Even though a Federal agent, Raymond J. Caffrey, of the Bureau of Investigation, was slain in this melee and another agent was seriously wounded, the Government will be handicapped in bringing his slayers to justice. It is not a Federal crime to kill an agent of the Government. If the felons who committed this crime are caught and convicted, it must be through the laws of Missouri. Uncle Sam doesn't even have the power to prosecute in his own courts the slayers of his servants within the States.

On more than one occasion Attorney General Cummings has announced his intention of waging war on gangsters and racketeers, so far as the power of the Federal Government extends. He points out, however, that the Government has jurisdiction over only a few crimes, and that the larger burden of preserving law and order rests upon the States. Mr. Cummings is trying to work out a plan for cooperation between the Government and the States whereby more effective action against racketeers can be taken. The Department of Justice has done some very effective work against gangsters who have evaded their income taxes and violated other Federal statutes. But this work has only supplemented the law enforcement activities of the States.

Gangsters, kidnapers, racketeers and many lesser felons are challenging law enforcement on a broad front. United efforts on the part of all law enforcement agencies are needed to afford protection to the people.

Washington Post
6/19/33

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Mr. Nathan
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Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

896

KANSAS CITY KILLERS HUNTED IN 6 STATES

Washington Post 6/19

Hundreds of Officers After Machine Gun Slayers of Five Men.

Kansas City, June 18 (A.P.).—A relentless search for the machine gun killers of four peace officers and an escaped convict here yesterday spread to a half dozen States tonight, although Federal and local officers had but meager clews on which to work.

The trail left by the slayers from the scene of the killing, the Union Station Plaza, was soon lost, and even the path taken by them has remained a subject of dispute. However, agents of the United States Bureau of Investigation and hundreds of other officers were piecing bits of evidence together in hopes of bringing about their arrest.

Dropped by the machine gun fire were Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent of the Bureau of Investigation; Otto Reed, McAlester, Okla., chief of police; Frank Hermanson and W. J. Grooms, Kansas City detectives, and Frank Nash, notorious Oklahoma train robber and killer.

Nash was being returned to the Federal prison at Leavenworth, Kans., from which he escaped three years ago.

Officers were divided in theories as to whether the killing was staged in an effort to free Nash or "rub him out."

However, Thomas J. Higgins, chief of Kansas City detectives, said today

Continued on Page 2, Column 4.

MACHINE GUN KILLERS HUNTED IN SIX STATES

Continued from Page 1.

he was confident the purpose was to liberate the 40-year-old college bred convict who walked away from the Leavenworth prison as a trusty in October, 1930.

"They would have only one purpose in going into action with a machine gun," Higgins said. "That would be to liberate Nash. It was possible they killed him by mistake."

F. J. Lackey, special agent at Oklahoma City of the United States Bureau of Investigation, who was critically wounded by the slayers, still was clinging to life today at Research Hospital. R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge of the Bureau of Investigation here, was slightly wounded.

Frank Smith, another Federal operative, escaped unscathed.

The search for the gunmen, whose number was variably estimated at from two to four, spread to Hot Springs, Ark., where Nash was arrested, to Oklahoma, where he was a member of the Al Spencer gang, through Missouri and Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa, and even to Chicago, where Nash had told police he had "connections."

Statements of 20 or more witnesses of the killing are in conflict as to the number of men involved. Sight of the motor car in which the gunmen fled was lost three blocks from the station.

Federal agents were rushed here from a wide area to assist in the search. Their instructions were to "get their men." Every resource of the Department of Justice was brought into action.

The name of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, another Oklahoma killer, was brought into the case, as he has been in Missouri, and only a few hours before the killing had released a kidnaped sheriff 20 miles east of here. Higgins said he doubted that Floyd was involved in the case.

The chief, however, expressed belief that the attack may have been a plot engineered by Harvey Bailey, a leader of the recent prison break at the Kansas penitentiary, to release Nash. Bailey and Nash were friends.

E. C. Reppert, director of police, announced, after a conference with City Manager H. F. McElroy, that it had been definitely established that "no Kansas City gangsters had anything to do with the killing."

Meanwhile, Prosecuting Attorney T. A. J. Mastin announced that, beginning tomorrow, the clamps would close down on "gun toters." He said he would ask Sheriff Thomas B. Nash and Director Reppert to cooperate with him, and agreed to prosecute vigorously all persons arrested.

Washington Post
6-19-33

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No Word Heard From Agents Trailing Slayers

(Associated Press.)

Headquarters of the Department of Justice's Bureau of Investigation last night awaited, apparently in vain, for word from any one of its scores of operatives that the trial of the Kansas City killers had been picked up.

More than 36 hours after machine gunners had slain a Department of Justice agent, wounded another and killed four other men, including Frank Nash, train robber, the Department headquarters reported that "we haven't heard anything yet."

Throughout the day and night, the office of J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the Bureau of Investigation, stood by to draw together the net which it spread Saturday when word of the slayings and escape of the gangsters was flashed from Kansas City.

The net was spread at the order of Attorney General Cummings and the order issued within a few days of declarations by both President Roosevelt and himself against racketeering.

The extensive operators of the Bureau of Investigation, it was pointed out, materially increased beyond the activities of city or State authorities the chance that the gunmen would run into the web that had been stretched out across the Nation.

Washington Post
6-19-33

Mr. Clegg

San Francisco "Examiner", dated 6/19/33.

By Arthur Brisbane

(Copyright, 1933, Hearst Printing Co.)

The National Recovery Act, which would give government officials power to control practically all industries, business payrolls and wages in the United States, represents an important step taken suddenly.

Nothing could be better than control of industry by government, if government could prove that it has more intelligence, in such control, than the private individuals that have controlled hitherto.

Nothing could be more desirable than an arrangement that would prevent too much production in one direction, too low wages in another.

But barring occasional panics and depressions, this country has done marvelously well, leaving control of industry to individuals that have specialized in industry.

Henry Ford expressed the thought of many when he said he had always understood that to manage a business well, you must know something about it.

BUT SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE. And the nation hopes that what has been done, taking control of United States enterprises from those that have built up the enterprises, will prove wise and profitable in the long run.

Experience shows that the nation, after depression, or panic, has always struggled back to its feet somehow, and gone on to greater industrial development, greater prosperity and higher wages.

Just what will be the result of the government's effort "to run everything" nobody can guess. It might mean the millenium, it might mean DISASTER.

President Roosevelt has rejected the proposition to let European countries decide on the value of the dollar, as compared with their own money, and the people will be glad to hear it. It was proposed to make the British pound sterling, which is a piece of paper printed by the Bank of England, worth $4. America sees no particular reason why Europe should regulate the value of our money, or have anything to say about it, except to take it or leave it as they choose.

Britain did not consult us about going off the gold basis. The French Government, when it cut 43 per cent from the value of its franc, did not ask our opinion, or the opinion of England.

What is the matter with this country, with all its talk about being the "greatest and richest in the world," that it must travel 3,000 miles across the ocean to ask others for advice about our own business?

An Oklahoma outlaw, escaped from prison, and carrying on his trade industriously, was seized by officials, including one employe of the national government. When they appeared at the Kansas City Union Railroad station with their prisoner, a gang of "loungers," standing near an automobile, produced a machine gun, killed five, including the outlaw, whom they sought to liberate, and wounded others.

One of the men killed was an agent of the Department of Justice, and Mr. Cummings, Attorney General, will see what can be done about that.

Department of Justice officials are marvelous at finding and arresting counterfeiters. Perhaps they will do as well with highway murderers.

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THE PITTSBURGH SUN-TELEGRAPH
6-19-33

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

Where Five Died Under Gang Machine-Gunning

THE UNION DEPOT PLAZA AT KANSAS CITY..... AMONG THESE CARS FOUR OFFICERS, ESCAPED FELON, DIED

The Kansas City scene of death after machine-gunning gangsters hurriedly left—with four dying officers and a dead convict lying about. The police problem: Was it a delivery or for revenge? This is a Wide World News Photograph Service picture.

NOT RECORDED
62-28915-A

RAYMOND J. CAFFREY

Agent Caffrey of the U. S. Bureau of Investigation, one of the four officers shot to death as another federal agent fell wounded under the hot, surprise fire. This is an International News Photograph Service picture.

MURDERS LAID TO 'PRETTY BOY'

KANSAS CITY, June 19.—(AP.)—Mrs. Lottie West, a witness to the shooting here Saturday in which four officers and their prisoner were killed in front of the Union Station, today identifie a picture of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, notorious Oklahoma outlaw, as that of one of the machine gunners who attacked the party.

Mrs. West, Travelers' Aid worker at the station, picked the photograph from a group spread before her.

Floyd was in the vicinity of Kansas City Friday night when he liberated Sheriff Jack Killingsworth, of Polk County, after holding him a hostage throughout the day. The killings at the station occurred shortly after 7 a. m., Saturday.

Chief of Detectives T. J. Higgins and other authorities previously expressed doubt that Floyd had any connection with the shootings.

Mr. Nathan ✓
Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Edwards ✓
Mr. Clegg ✓

Wake Up, America!

On Friday morning, Attorney General Cummings publicly announced a "war" on gangsters and racketeers by the forces of government.

"The gangsters must go," he declared.

On Friday afternoon, federal agents entered Hot Springs, Ark., and secretly removed Frank Nash, train robber, killer and escaped convict. Later they reported the secrecy of removal due to fear of efforts of Nash's friends to attempt his release.

At Kansas City, Saturday morning, the officers and their prisoner walked into a machine gun ambuscade in front of the busy Union Depot—the very thing they had feared.

One federal agent, the chief of police of McAlester, Okla., two Kansas City police detectives and the prisoner were slain. The gunmen escaped.

The federal agent carried in his pocket "by the president" authority to remove Nash to Leavenworth. This same federal agent represented all that the lawmakers and orators like to refer to as "the might, majesty and dominion of government."

That did not deter gangster rats from mowing down him and his companions and writing in blood one of the worst challenges ever flung against the supremacy of government and social decency.

Attorney General Cummings unquestionably feels even more keenly today than he did Friday that the gangsters must go.

His predecessors have said that. And they prosecuted a few of the breed for violation of income tax laws.

General Cummings is more fortunate than they, though, in that he has back of him a president who neither temporizes nor equivocates in attacking national problems. The reign of the gangster and his blatant contempt for law is obviously one of the greatest of American problems.

It would be ridiculous to think that the gangster and the racketeer, a negligible minority compared with the great body of decent American people, is superior to the might, ingenuity and resources of the nation.

It is asinine to think that they cannot be eliminated if a genuine co-ordinated effort is made.

American police could probably furnish the names and descriptions of every gangster and racketeer in the country.

The identity of the Kansas City killers is not yet known, but the police director of that city is able to say, "No Kansas City gangsters had anything to do with the killing." Kansas City accounted for its own within 24 hours. If it is easy to do that, it is easy to round them up whenever and wherever police desire.

The motive for the massacre, whether to effect an escape or to silence Nash, is not germain at the moment. The question is, has this incident really aroused the government to the necessity of a ruthless—life-taking if necessary—campaign of extermination against racketeers?

There are two steps which should be taken by the government if it intends to attack this problem as the administration has attacked other problems; the first is to secure absolute government control of the production and sale of all automatic weapons.

The second, and thoroughly important, is the periodic compulsory registration with police or federal authorities of all aliens within the United States. To that, honest aliens will not object.

These are first steps. If taken, upon them can be builded a system of pursuit and prosecution which will make this country less spectacular, but infinitely more safe for its decent and honest people.

Memphis Evening Appeal, Memphis Tenn.
6-19-33

NOT RECORDED

62-28915-A

2 KIDNAP SUSPECTS NABBED IN VIRGINIA

McGee Allegedly Admits Part In Abducting Kansas City Chief's Daughter.

Roanoke, Va., June 18 (AP).—George McGee, 21, alias George E. Jackson, who police said admitted he was wanted by Kansas City authorities as a participant in the kidnapping of Miss Mary McElroy, daughter of the city manager of that city, was in custody here today.

Meanwhile, Lynchburg police held Howard Elmer Wilson, 22, of Meriden, Kans., for questioning in the same case.

Roanoke police arrested McGee yesterday on charges of drunkenness and carrying a concealed weapon. He said then his name was Jackson, but later, police said, admitted his identity, which they said had been [illegible]

Washington Post
6/19-33

VIRGINIA ARRESTS 2 IN M'ELROY SEARCH

Continued from Page 1.

was one of those included in the $36,-000 ransom paid for Miss McElroy's release.

McGee's arrest came when Patrolman J. E. Robertson found him having difficulty with his automobile. As the officer approached, McGee was said to have pulled a pistol from his pocket, but he was disarmed by the officer.

The policeman said McGee offered him $100 for his release.

Kansas City, June 18 (A.P.).—E. G. Reppert, director of police, announce-

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

Massacre of Officers.

LAW in the United States has never received more direct defiance than the wholesale massacre of officers in daylight at a railroad station in Kansas City, Mo. A notorious Oklahoma train robber and killer was being taken back to Leavenworth prison, from which he had escaped three years ago. Suddenly, in what was assumed to be an attempt to free the prisoner, machine gun fire was opened from two sides. Four officers and the prisoner were killed outright and two other officers were wounded.

One of the officers killed was a special agent of the United States Bureau of Investigation, and one of the wounded also was a Federal officer. Others of the dead were the chief of police of McAlester, Okla., and two Kansas City detectives.

This is a challenge from banditry and gunmen both to the Federal Government and to state authorities. Attorney General Cummings has made the answer to be expected. He has set the entire Department of Justice on the trail of the killers.

oldest Step—By Hungerford

NOT RECORDED

62-28915-A

Convict, Four Captors [illegible]

FRANK NASH. FRANK HERMANSON. RAYMOND J. CAFFREY. [illegible] VETRELLI.

Gangland machine guns spat defiance into the very face of federal police power Saturday in the Kansas City Union Station, where four peace officers, including an internationally-known agent of the United States bureau of investigation, were machine-gunned to death, with a re-captured federal prisoner, in the bullet-spattered automobile shown here. Some of the principals in the tragedy also are shown: Nash the prisoner, was being returned to Leavenworth Hermanson, slain, was a Kansas City detective Caffrey, also slain, was an [illegible] federal investigator, as is Vetrelli, who was wounded in the battle. The other two killed were Otto [illegible] McAllister (Okla.) police chief and [illegible] J. [illegible] Kansas City detective.

Search Is Pushed for Gang Gunmen Who Killed Five

(Continued From Page One.)

possible they killed him by mistake."

F. J. Lackey, special agent at Oklahoma City of the United States Bureau of Investigation, who was critically wounded by the slayers, still was clinging to life today at Research Hospital. R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge of the bureau of investigation here, was slightly wounded. Frank Smith, another federal operative, escaped unscathed.

The search for the gunmen, whose number was variably estimated at from two to four, spread to Hot Springs, Ark., where Nash was arrested, to Oklahoma, where he was a member of the Al Spencer gang, through Missouri and Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa, and even to Chicago, where Nash had told police he had "connections."

Statements of 20 or more eyewitnesses of the killing are in conflict as to the number of men involved. Sight of the motor car in which the gunmen fled was lost three blocks from the station.

Government Aids Search.

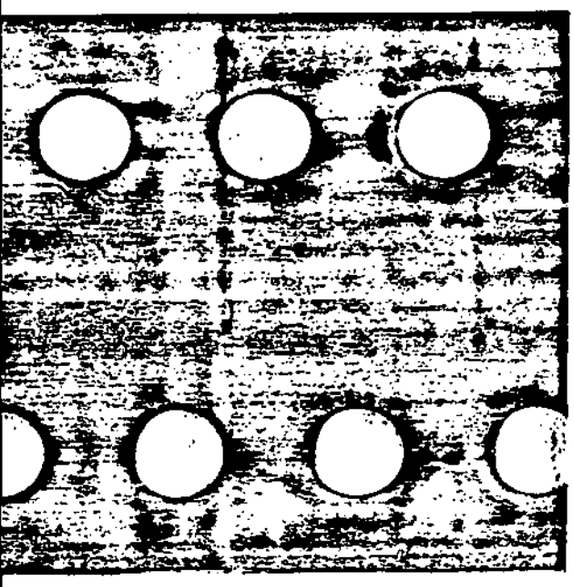
Federal agents were rushed here from a wide area to assist in the search. Their instructions were to "get their men." Every resource of the department of justice was brought into action.

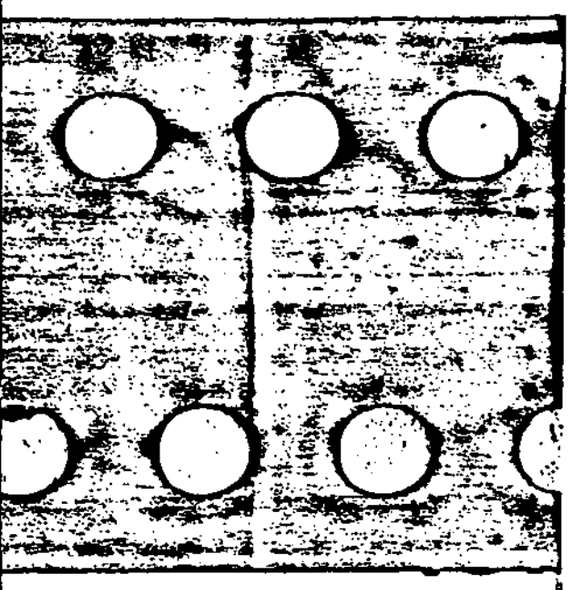
The name of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, another Oklahoma killer, was brought into the case, as he has been in Missouri and only a few hours before the killing had released a kidnaped sheriff 20 miles east of here. Higgins said he doubted that Floyd was involved in the case.

The chief however, expressed belief that the attack may have been a plot engineered by Harvey Bailey, a leader of the recent prison break at the Kansas penitentiary, to release Nash. Bailey and Nash were friends.

E. C. Reppert, director of police, announced, after a conference with City Manager H. F. McElroy, that it had been definitely established that "no Kansas City gangsters had anything to do with the killing."

Meanwhile, Prosecuting Attorney T. A. J. Mastin announced that beginning tomorrow, the clamps would close down on "gun-toters." He said he would ask Sheriff Thomas B. Nash and Director Reppert to co-operate with him, [illegible] agreed to prosecute vigorously [illegible] persons arrested.





SEEK GUNMEN IN MASSACRE

Search Pushed for Gang Who Killed Five In Kansas City Plaza.

KANSAS CITY, June 18.—(AP)—A relentless search for the machine gun killers of four peace officers and an escaped convict here yesterday spread to a half dozen states tonight, although Federal and local officers had but meager clues on which to work.

The trail left by the slayers from the scene of the killing, the Union Station plaza, was soon lost, and even the path taken by them has remained a subject of dispute. However, agents of the United States bureau of investigation and hundreds of other officers were piecing bits of evidence together in hopes of bringing about their arrest.

Victims of Gang Bullets.

Dropped by the machine gun fire were Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent of the bureau of investigation; Otto Reed, McAlester, Okla., chief of police; Frank Hermanson and W. J. Grooms, Kansas City detectives, and Frank Nash, notorious Oklahoma train robber and killer. Nash was being returned to the Federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan., from which he escaped three years ago.

Officers were divided in theories as to whether the killing was staged in an effort to free Nash or "rub him out." However, Thomas J. Higgins, chief of Kansas city detectives, said today he was confident the purpose was to liberate the 49-year-old college-bred convict who walked away from the Leavenworth prison as a trusty, in October, 1930.

"They would have only one purpose in going into action with a machine gun," Higgins said. "That would be to liberate Nash. It was

(Continued on Page Two, Col. 6)

UNITED STATES
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 19 1933
PITTSBURGH OFFICE
FILE

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

Editorial — 6-19-33.

A CHALLENGE TO JUSTICE

Phila. Public Ledger

A CLEAR challenge to the Department of Justice was sounded by the machine guns which mowed down seven men at the Union Station in Kansas City on Saturday. That dramatic crime, which left four officers and one prisoner dead and two officers wounded, capped a situation which has verged on terrorism in that region for several weeks. At least three notorious gangs have been ranging Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas, augmented by the desperadoes who escaped from Kansas State Penitentiary on Memorial Day. Banditry, kidnapping and killings have been everyday incidents.

The local authorities have been unable to end this terrorism. Now Federal officers sent there on a special mission have been shot down. Evidently the only cure left is to declare open warfare, send armed forces into the field with orders to kill and sweep through the notorious hideouts. It is a job for the Federal Government when the local police prove unequal to the emergency.

Philadelphia Public Ledger

6/19/33

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62-28915-A

Where Five Died Under Gang Machine-Gunning

THE UNION DEPOT PLAZA AT KANSAS CITY..... AMONG THESE CARS FOUR OFFICERS, ESCAPED FELON DI

The Kansas City scene of death after machine-gunning gangsters hurriedly left—with four dying officers and a dead convict lying about! The police problem: Was it a delivery or for revenge? This is a Wide World News Photograph Service picture

Sun-Telegraph, Pittsburgh, Pa., June 19, 19

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RAYMOND J. CAFFREY

Agent Caffrey of the U. S. Bureau of Investigation, one of the four officers shot to death as another federal agent fell wounded under the hot, surprise fire. This is an International News Photograph Service picture

Mr. Nathan
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Where Five Died Under Gang Ma

THE UNION DEPOT PLAZA AT KANSAS CITY.....

The Kansas City scene of death after machine-gunning gangsters hurriedly left—with four dying officers and a dead convict

Button Saves Man Shot During Fight

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., June 19—(INS)—Thanks to a button Thomas Paladino, 37, of Pittston is alive today.

While playing cards shortly before last midnight he engaged in a dispute with Frank Verla, 36 and the latter pulled a revolver according to police. A shot glanced off a button on Paladino clothing and inflicted a superficial chest wound. Verla disappeared

than war. He said:

"War, even in the most favorable event, would entail an irretrievable loss of valuable national energies."

Concerning the Jewish problem he asserted:

"This has been the cause of much excessive and feverish excitement in America. In Berlin, as everywhere in Germany, Jews can follow their occupations peacefully and undisturbed. Nowhere will you meet pogrom-like occurrences."

Sun-Telegraph, Pittsburgh, Pa., June 19, 1933.

UNITED STATES
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 20 1933
PITTSBURGH OFFICE
FILE

NOT RECORDED

62-28915-A

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

San Francisco "Examiner", dated 6/19/33.

KILLERS OF 5 ELUDE SEARCH

KANSAS CITY (Mo.), June 18.—(By Universal Service.)—With orders to kill on sight, authorities of three States today intensified their search for the ruthless gangmen who yesterday killed four officers, a bank robber on his way to the penitentiary, and wounded two others.

Directed by Government agents, the police of Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri broadened their manhunt to take in a wide section of this part of the country. All are armed, and under order to "shoot on sight."

The hail of gunfire which mowed down Frank Nash, bank robber; Raymond J. Caffrey, special Federal agent; Otto Reed, police chief of McAlester, Okla.; Frank Hermanson and W. J. Grooms, Kansas City detectives, endangered the lives of hundreds who were in the city's union station at the time.

The wounded men are F. J. Lackey, special Federal agent of Oklahoma City, Okla., and R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation here.

NOT RECORDED

62-28915-A

'PRETTY BOY'S PICTURE LOOKS LIKE BUTCHER'

Mrs. Lottie West, Matron at Station, Points to Photograph.

PASSED UP SATURDAY

Officers Scour Leavenworth County After Five Are Reported Seen.

Efforts of federal agents and prosecuting authorities to identify the Union station machine gun slayers by witnesses again brought the name of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd into the investigations as a possible participant.

A police photograph of Floyd, notorious Oklahoma bank bandit and killer, was picked out of a group of five Monday afternoon by Mrs. Lottie West, in charge of the Travelers' Aid bureau at the Union station.

Mrs. West said the photograph of Floyd looked like a member of the machine gun mob that slew five men Saturday morning on the Union station plaza.

Her identification of Floyd was weakened somewhat, however, by the fact that she failed to identify his photograph Saturday as one of the machine gunners who apparently tried to rescue Frank Nash, recaptured convict who escaped from Leavenworth prison in 1930.

Unaware It Was Floyd.

She picked Floyd's photograph out Monday in the office of Thomas B. Bash, sheriff.

She did not know the photograph she picked out Monday was that of Floyd.

The photograph shown Mrs. West by the sheriff Monday was a differetn one from that shown her by police Saturday.

Mrs. West was seated at her desk just inside the entrance to the station when the shooting began Saturday. She said she ran to the door in time to see two carloads of machine gunners drive away. She said she saw the faces of several of them.

Federal authorities assumed the lead in the manhunt, aided by every facility of the Kansas City police department.

The case is recognized as a federal government job because of the fact the slain Frank Nash, notorious bank bandit and escaped convict, had been recaptured by federal agents of the bureau of investigation, department of justice, and was in their custody when the bloody massacre occurred on the Union station plaza Saturday morning.

Hunt Near Leavenworth.

Acting on the report that five men, two of them armed with machine guns, were seen on a lonely road Sunday in Leavenworth county, Kas., federal agents were scouring the countryside in that district Monday.

But federal agents believe the trail of the murderers eventually will lead into the Osage hills of Oklahoma. They are convinced that sooner or later the mob members will "hole up" there.

It was in this rugged section of northeastern Oklahoma that Al Spencer, notorious train and bank robber, held sway for years. And Frank Nash and his gang of bank bandits are known to be a remnant of the old Spencer band of outlaws.

Grim faced agents of the department of justice, coldly determined to "get" the men who slew their brother officer, Raymond J. Caffrey, were methodically laying plans and starting one of the greatest manhunts ever conducted by the department.

Strange Faces Appear.

There were strange faces in the office of the bureau of investigation Monday. Federal men had been brought in from other districts. There was evidence of concentration on the task of running down the ruthless machine gun killers whose weapons left five dead men and one wounded man behind as they fled in motor cars Saturday morning.

In the hearts of these manhunters was more than a desire to bring to justice the men who manned the deadly machine guns. There was a desire to avenge the death of a well-liked brother officer.

And there is a quiet tradition in the bureau of investigation that the bureau gets its man. Only once before in the history of the bureau since it was founded in 1908 has one of its agents been killed on duty. That was when an agent in Chicago was killed by Martin Durkin. Durkin was hanged for the crime.

The agents are determined that the killers of Caffrey shall meet the same fate. There is no display, boasting or ostentation in the way the agents of the bureau work. They are highly trained investigators, all carefully selected for their work.

Check on Nash Gang.

They have in their possession every detail of information about Frank Nash and his gang that officers have gathered together in years of investigations. They have pictures of members of the gang and they know how they operate and where they have hideouts.

Like the famous Northwest mounted police, they have a reputation for grimly hanging on to the trail of a criminal. The passing of time means nothing to them.

It was in this relentless, unhurried fashion that Agent Caffrey and his partner, F. J. Lackey, another agent of the bureau, had been trailing Frank Nash.

Lackey, who lies dangerously wounded in Research hospital from the bullets of the machine gunners, had been trailing the latter three years. He had been assigned to the Nash case since the notorious killer

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and bandit escaped from Leavenworth federal prison in 1930.

Trail Never Too Cold.

The trail never gets too old or too cold for the federal men. They have taken up the trail of the Union station plaza slayers determined to follow it until they get their men.

T. J. Higgins, chief of detectives, said Monday that the case had been turned over to the federal men and that his men would aid in every way possible.

The body of Caffrey was taken to Omaha, where he had made his home recently.

William Grooms and Frank Hermanson, the two city detectives who fell victims of the machine gun fire, were to go to their last resting places Monday. Funeral services for Grooms were held Monday morning and the Hermanson rites were scheduled for the afternoon.

The body of Chief Otto Reed of McAlester, Ok., was taken home Sunday by a son.

Station Slayers Chose Most Opportune Time

By accident or design, the machine gunslayers Saturday morning chose the most opportune time and place for their attack.

If they had waited until after the federal officers and police had started the motor car drive to Leavenworth with their prisoner, to start shooting, there would have been several formidable obstacles in the way.

In the first place, there would have been an armoured, bullet-proof police car following the federal agents' car in which Nash was to be taken back to prison.

Detectives William Grooms and Frank Hermanson had been assigned to convoy the prisoner and his federal captors to Leavenworth in the armoured police car. The armoured car was parked only a short distance away Saturday morning when the gangsters opened up with their machine guns, killing the detectives, Nash and two others.

If the machine gunners had waited until the detectives were in their armored car, the latter would have been protected and probably could have fought off any attack.

FUNERAL IS HELD FOR W. J. GROOMS, MASSACRE VICTIM

Overflow Crowd Pays Tribute to Detective Slain at Union Station.

Pictures on Picture Page.

While a crowd filled the Redemptorist church to capacity and hundreds stood outside, funeral services were held Monday morning for William J. Grooms, one of the city detectives slain Saturday morning in front of the Union station.

Traffic virtually was at a standstill at Linwood boulevard and Broadway, the church location, while the funeral procession was formed and the cars of hundreds of friends arrived.

Crowd at Services.

A large crowd attended preliminary services at the Quirk & Tobin chapel, Linwood boulevard and Main street. All day Sunday scores of persons visited Grooms' bier and also the homes of Frank Hermanson, other city detective who was slain, and Raymond J. Caffrey, United States bureau of investigation agent, slain by the gunners.

Many officials of the police department and a large police escort attended the services for Grooms.

A special detail of twenty policemen formed an aisle from the street to the door of the church. As the procession passed them they came to a salute:

The pallbearers for the Grooms services were the following detectives.

Jack Clifford	Thomas Brock
William Boyle	Robert Bisler
Dan Flavin	George Corliss

Following the requiem mass at Redemptorist, the funeral procession moved to St. Mary's cemetery, where Grooms was buried.

Services for Hermanson will be at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon at the Mast funeral home. Burial will be in Woodlawn cemetery.

A police escort also will be provided for Hermanson's funeral.

Detectives Pallbearers.

Pallbearers for Hermanson will be these members of the detective department:

Phil Hoyt	Frank Johnson
J. D. Teeters	E. B. Cooley
W. H. Van Cleave	R. B. Highley

Members of the Raymond J. Caffrey family accompanied the body of the federal agent to Omaha Saturday night. Funeral services will be there Tuesday.

The body of Frank Nash, the Oklahoma bandit who was slain along with the officers, will be taken to Paragould, Ark. Mrs. Alice Long, a sister of Nash, was in Kansas City Sunday to make arrangements for her brother's burial at Paragould where she and another sister live.

Widow Says She Hadn't Seen Nash Since 1930

By United Press.

TULSA, June 10.—The widow of Frank Nash, fugitive train robber shot down Saturday in Kansas City's Union station massacre, made plans Monday to attend his funeral.

The attractive young widow lives here, where, with her mother, she operates a hotel in West Tulsa.

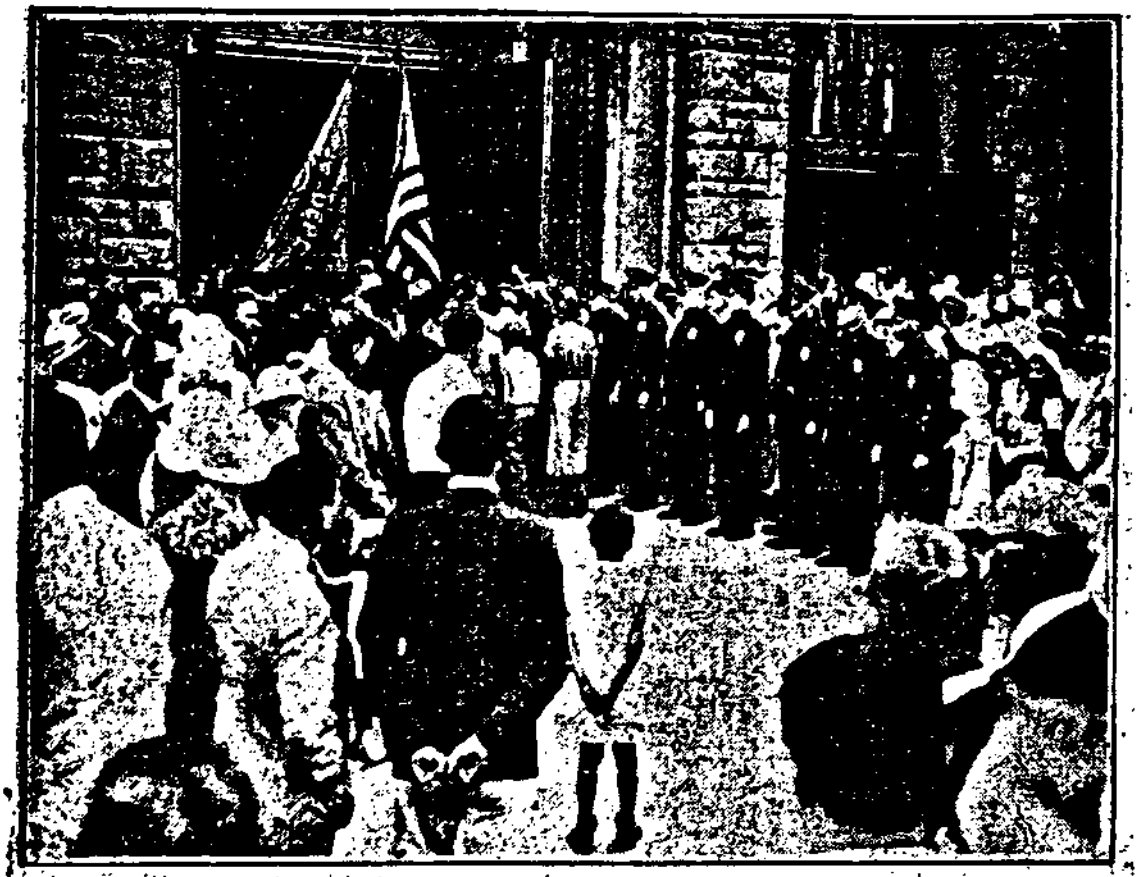
"I haven't seen him since he escaped from Leavenworth penitentiary in 1930," she said.

She revealed she had known Nash and other members of the notorious Al Spencer gang since her teens and on account of this she had been widely publicized in detective stories.

"And the police follow me wherever I go. I spend all my time telling police my story."

She said a sister who lives at Lawton was in Kansas City Monday making arrangements for her husband's funeral.

POLICE ESCORT—As the funeral procession for Detective William J. Groom, victim of the Union station machine gunners, moved east on Linwood boulevard Monday morning following services at Redemptorist church. This photograph shows the police escort at the head of the procession.



ATTEND LAST RITES—Hundreds of persons attended funeral services Monday morning for William J. Grooms, city detective, who was one of five victims of machine gunners Saturday morning at the Union station. This photograph shows part of the crowd in front of the Redemptorist church, Linwood boulevard and Broadway, where the services were held at 9 o'clock. Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery.

FAR IN GANG HUNT

With No Definite Clue to Union Station Killers, Nation-Wide Search Is Begun.

TRAIL LOST FROM START

Even the Motive Which Resulted in Death of Four Officers and Prisoner Is Lacking.

MORE FEDERAL MEN HERE

The Number That Has Been Added for Relentless Investigation Is Not Told.

Failing to obtain a single definite clue in hours of patient sifting of meager bits of evidence, federal investigators and Kansas City officers yesterday started a nation-wide search for the machine gun killers of four peace officers and an escaped convict in Saturday's union station plaza massacre.

The trail left by the slayers was soon lost. Even the path taken by them still is a subject of dispute, as is the number of men who appeared suddenly from among parked motor cars at the station plaza to loose a stream of death dealing lead.

Both R. E. Vetterli, chief of the bureau of investigation here, himself slightly wounded in the shooting, and T. J. Higgins, chief of detectives, believe there were at least four gunmen. Others place the number at two. The action was so swift and tragic, so full of surprize, that the wanton killers were in flight before a full realization of the crime struck the eyewitnesses.

Dropped by the fusillade of bullets were Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent of the bureau of investigation; Otto Reed, McAlester, Ok., chief of police; Frank Hermanson and W. J. Grooms, city detectives, and Frank Nash, notorious Oklahoma train robber and killer. Nash was being returned to federal prison at Leavenworth from which he escaped three years ago.

F. J. Lackey, special agent in Oklahoma of the United States bureau of investigation, who was wounded, was reported last night at Research hospital to be "resting comfortably." His condition was said to be "fairly good."

Officers were divided in theories as to whether the killing was staged in an effort to liberate Nash or to kill him, either for revenge or to keep him from talking. Chief Higgins, long familiar with Nash, his connections and associates, holds to the opinion that it was a plot to free the escaped convict, probably engineered by Harvey Bailey, one of the leaders in the Memorial day break from Lansing prison, or other members of that desperate mob with which Nash was affiliated.

An autopsy conducted by Dr. C. G. Leitch, deputy coroner, disclosed the bullet which killed Nash entered the back of his head and came out above the left ear. The examination thus failed to determine whether Nash was killed by the machine gunners or by Grooms, but it is believed by most officers that the escaped convict was slain by the assassins.

Add to Federal Force Here.

Federal agents were rushed to Kansas City from a wide area to assist in the search. The bureau of investigation did not disclose the number of men working on the case but said that re-inforcements had arrived. Every resource of the department of justice has been brought into action. The instructions are to "get the men."

Thomas B. Bash, sheriff of Jackson County, turned the resources of his office to the search. The sheriff made a trip to Bolivar Saturday night to interview Sheriff Killingsworth in an effort to trace the movements of "Pretty Boy" Floyd or to learn if Killingsworth had gleaned any clues from the Oklahoma outlaw in his captivity which might shed light on the massacre.

Federal investigators last night were making their plans for a relentless search. Chief Higgins also went back over the statements of witnesses looking for a starting place in his hunt for the vanished gunmen.

Traffic on the union station plaza was slowed down perceptibly yesterday afternoon as persons stopped to view the scene of the shooting.

Men and women stood in the parking zone trying to locate the exact position of the slayers by drawing imaginary lines from the bullet marks on the station. Those who had not viewed the bullet marks at close range would saunter across the traffic lane to the station. Some of the men picked at the indentations with pocket knives, removing minute flakes of metal that remained on the granite.

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"IT WAS FLOYD!"

Witness Identifies Picture of Outlaw as Machine Gunner in Massacre.

HAD A GOOD LOOK AT HIM

Mrs. Lottie West, Travelers' Aid Worker at Station, Watched Man Firing on Officers.

He Was Sitting at Her Desk in Lobby When She Arrived at 7 o'Clock in Morning.

IN A PHOTOGRAPH GROUP

She Did Not Know Whom She Was Naming When She Pointed It Out.

Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, Oklahoma bandit and fugitive from a score of crimes and murders, was the machine gunner in the union station massacre Saturday.

The picture of the notorious Floyd was identified this afternoon by Mrs. Lottie West, Travelers' Aid Society worker at the union station, as the man she saw firing a machine gun into the group of officers and their prisoner, Frank Nash.

There Early as 7 O'clock.

The handler of the death dealing machine gun, identified by a police picture by Mrs. West, was waiting for the arrival of Nash and the officers inside the union station, as early as 7 o'clock, twenty minutes before the massacre on the station plaza.

The Travelers' Aid worker said she noticed the man sitting at her desk when she reported for duty at 7 o'clock Saturday morning. Mrs. West's desk is just inside the east door of the union station, directly opposite door "B," where travelers approach the lobby from trains.

Mrs. West was interviewed by Sheriff Thomas B. Bash as to the events which transpired at the station before the assassination of the four officers and the prisoner, Nash.

Didn't Know Who It Was.

Four or five pictures of criminals were placed before her on a table in Sheriff Bash's office. Mrs. West pointed to a picture of "Pretty Boy" Floyd which was in the group of pictures before her. She did not know Floyd and it was reported she was not informed at the time she picked out the picture that she was designating a photograph of the Oklahoma killer.

A government investigator who was present at the time Mrs. West picked out Floyd's picture was asked what he thought of the identification of the picture. He answered that he regarded it as "very good." It is known the government agents have been seeking a possible hideout that Floyd might have in Kansas City.

Police Say He Was Here.

It is known to authorities that Floyd came to Kansas City after releasing Sheriff Killingsworth of Polk County, Missouri, and Walter Griffith, Clinton, Mo., business man, near Lees Summit Friday night. Authorities assert Floyd was seen here about midnight Friday night.

For several months, according to the police and the sheriff's office, it has been known in the underworld that Floyd was the slayer of Jack Dalton, policeman who turned racketeer and whose body was riddled with bullets in a rural cabin about a year ago. Dalton had incurred the enmity of interests when he attempted to "chisel in" on a liquor racket.

T. A. J. Martin, prosecutor, took a statement from Mrs. West, who detailed her experiences of Saturday morning, when the Kansas City detectives and federal men were shot down by waiting assassins in the parking lot across from the station plaza.

A View of Arriving Passengers.

When Mrs. West went to her work at the Travelers' Aid bureau, just inside the east door of the union station, she said a man was sitting by her desk, which is in the lobby and which gives a clear view of persons coming from door "B."

The man left immediately when Mrs. West stepped up. He went out the east door of the station. It was that man's face which Mrs. West picked out in the array of pictures before her today. Her finger fell upon the picture of the outlaw, Floyd. The next time Mrs. West saw the man who had sat at her desk, she said, was when she saw him firing a machine gun into the officers at the car across the plaza.

The man with the machine gun who had been seated at the Travelers' Aid desk when Mrs. West appeared there at 7 o'clock was described by the Travelers' Aid worker.

Her Description of Gunner.

"The man with the machine gun appeared to be about 30 years of age," she said, "round faced, ruddy complexion, wearing a dark blue suit with a white shirt and a turned down Pan-

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ama hat. I would think he weighed nearly 200 pounds."

That description, according to Sheriff Bash, tallies with the description of Floyd as supplied through police Bertillon facilities.

Mrs. West repeated the account she had given previously of the appearance of the prisoner Nash, handcuffed, walking from the train sheds across the lobby, with officers behind and on each side of the prisoner, carrying shotguns.

Mrs. West recognized one of the officers as Frank Hermanson. She saw Hermanson and his companion detective, slain a few minutes later, when the barrage started on the station plaza.

Saw Nash Put Into Car.

The Travelers' Aid worker told of seeing the prisoner Nash enter the car while she was waiting for a taxicab to arrive to take six Sisters of Mercy to an address in Kansas City. She noticed the position of the officers. She noted the tall form of Agent Caffrey as he stood on the left side of the car and while the prisoner Nash was seated at the wheel, temporarily, while the car was loading.

Mrs. West saw two other men on the left side and toward the front of the car. One was noticeable as being "rather elderly."

The other man was slender and younger and wore a white shirt without a coat.

Believes Caffrey Shot Nash.

Those men were shooting at Caffrey, who first dropped, and then rose and fired at the two men in front of him. Mrs. West believes, too, that Caffrey shot Nash, the prisoner.

The man Mrs. West said was "elderly" was described by her as wearing a dark suit with a brown felt hat. He was an "older type of man."

Mrs. West said she could not give a detailed description of the so-called "younger man."

At no time, according to Mrs. West, was she more than thirty feet from the scene of action. She said it was her belief the man who was at her desk when she first went to work was "the same man who was shooting the machine gun."

Led Two Women Inside.

Mrs. West screamed when the fusillade first started. She called to the Sisters of Mercy to run inside the station. Two of the nuns were so frightened, she believed, that they stood still, and Mrs. West went to them and led them inside out of the range of the firing.

Mrs. West noticed a dark blue sedan parked back of her own car, nosed into the curb directly in front of the officers' car, which was the center of the firing. She could see only the rear end of the car used by the assassins. It appeared to be a new machine.

WAIT IN VAIN AT CAPITAL.

Federal Investigators Report No Information to Chief's Office.

(By the Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, June 18.—Headquarters of the department of justice's bureau of investigation tonight awaited apparently in vain, for word from any one of its scores of operatives that the trail of the Kansas City killers had been picked up.

More than thirty-six hours after machine gunners had slain a federal investigator, wounded another and killed four other men, including Frank Nash, train robber, the department headquarters reported that "we haven't heard anything yet."

Throughout the day and night, the office of J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the bureau of investigation, stood by to draw together the net which it spread yesterday when word of the slayings and escape of the gangsters was flashed from Kansas City.

The net was spread at the order of Attorney General Cummings and the order issued within a few days of declarations by both President Roosevelt and himself against racketeering. The extensive operations of the bureau of investigation, it was pointed out, materially increased beyond the activities of city or state authorities the chance that the gunmen would run into the web that had been stretched out across the nation.

GUNMEN REPORTED SEEN.

Two Watched While Three Others Slept Near Leavenworth.

(By The Star's Own Service.)

LEAVENWORTH, June 18.—Five men, two of whom answered the general description of the machine gunners who Saturday killed four officers and a convict at the union station in Kansas City, were seen about noon today resting beside a lonely country road about three miles northwest of Kickapoo in Leavenworth County.

Federal prison officers and Leavenworth police searched the vicinity this afternoon, "ound the spot where the car was parked, but failed to find the men.

F. J. Taylor, educational director of the federal prison, reported to F. G. Zerbst, warden, that as he was driving along the country road about noon he saw a black, dirty car of undetermined make standing beside the road. Three men were lying on the grass at the side of the road apparently asleep. Two other men occupied the front seat of the car. Each had a machine gun lying across his lap.

Mr. Taylor took a hurried look and sped away in alarm. He notified Warden Zerbst at the prison.

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SLAY AND VANISH

Hours After the Union Station Plaza Massacre No Trace of the Gang Is Found.

WITHOUT A DEFINITE CLUE

Even the Path After the Dash From the Parking Lot Is a Subject of Dispute.

Only One Story of the Dozens Told Seems to Be Near the Core of the Situation.

THE SEARCH ON GRIMLY

Hundreds of Men Are Out to Shoot to Kill in the Chase of the Men.

Hours after the massacre at the union station plaza of four officers and an escaped convict by machine gunners, the case has become another crime mystery, for the assassins have vanished just as they appeared, without warning and with cruelty in their purpose.

From the great confusion following the shooting and the conflicting statements taken from some twenty witnesses, the police were having difficulty getting an accurate picture of what actually took place. The number of assailants was in doubt. More witnesses were sure there were only two in the gang. Some said three men took part in the crime while others counted four.

From the office of R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge of the United States bureau of investigation, and from police headquarters where Thomas J. Higgins, chief of detectives, and Eugene O. Reppert, police director, were marshaling the investigation of the assassination, there were issuing declarations and pronouncements of a determined stand.

Agents Are Ordered Here.

Vetterli, himself wounded slightly by the fusillade of bullets, told of his Washington chief, J. Edgar Hoover, sending extra agents to work under Mr. Vetterli's direction in the case. Mr. Higgins was marshaling every resource of the department, calling upon the underworld in Kansas City, calling upon the officers in nearby communities to help.

Yet hours dragged by and the major crime of many years in Kansas City, more startling than the kidnaping of Miss Mary McElroy recently, more daring than the escape of prisoners on Memorial day from the Kansas prison at Lansing, and as cold and unconscionable as any crime in the middle West's history, went by with no trace of the murderers.

Flee From Tragic Scene.

They fled, those killers, leaving the dead officers, Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent in Kansas City of the United States bureau of investigation; Otto Reed, chief of police at McAlester, Ok., and Frank Hermanson and J. W. Grooms, Kansas City detectives.

The assassins fled leaving also one of the most desperate men in the criminal world, Frank Nash, lifeless with machine gun bullets in his brain. They fled leaving F. J. Lackey, special agent in Oklahoma of the United States bureau of investigation, near death at Research hospital with three of their bullets in his back.

Only one man, Frank Smith, an agent of the government bureau of investigation, escaped untouched by the lethal stream of bullets.

And last night the police and the government authorities, the hundred or more of private investigators who were at work on the case, could find no starting place. There were some confusing circumstances, of course.

Differ on Every Angle.

Some persons had seen one thing happen and some persons had seen another. It was necessary to piece some definite account out of the tragic case. As well, there were differences in the size-up of the case in theories. Was it the work of "Pretty Boy" Floyd? Was Harvey Bailey, the desperate fleeing convict, one of the killers? The chief does not hold to the Floyd theory.

So far the only plausible trace reported of the assassins' car as they sped from the union station is the one given to police late yesterday by Robert D. Woods, a street car operator.

"At 7:28 o'clock Saturday morning," he stated, "I had stopped my car at Thirty-first and Main streets to discharge passengers. I saw a dark coach or sedan, fairly new, maybe a Chevrolet, turn the corner from the west on Thirty-first street onto Main street at a very high rate of speed. It turned so fast it left the marks of its tires on the street.

"The car sped south on Main and I looked back and saw it go through the red light at Linwood boulevard and Main. Two men were in the front seat. The driver had a thin face, swarthy complexion, like a deep coat of tan, and my impression was he wore a soft brown hat.

"The thing that attracted my attention to the car was that it went so fast, and made so wide a turn that it ran over two safety buttons in the zone south of Thirty-first street on the west side of Main."

Had Been Fired Twice.

The revolver dropped by W. J. Grooms, one of the slain detectives, showed that it had been fired twice. It was believed Grooms had fired twice at the bandits before he was shot down by the strafing of lead from the machine gun.

Police officials pointed out that if Grooms and Hermanson had been in

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their police car, No. 103, the only armored car in the department, they could have put up a fair fight against the killers. As it was, the detectives were literally mowed down before the cutting shafts from the guns.

The fact that Grooms's revolver had been fired twice checked up with accounts of persons at the union station who said they heard two shots before the barrage of machine gunning started.

F. J. Lackey, federal agent from Oklahoma, who, with Frank Smith, also of the Oklahoma federal bureau of investigation, and Chief Reed, was a captor of Nash at Hot Springs, Ark., still was alive last night at Research hospital. Late yesterday Agent Smith, the only person who escaped untouched by the assassins' bullets, returned by plane to Oklahoma City to resume his work with the United States bureau of investigation.

Chief Higgins said he believed the slayers had fled from Kansas City. The chief said he also believed they went toward the north, perhaps toward Chicago, where they are acquainted and have hangouts. Perhaps they went to some other city. After all, it was just a matter of conjecturing.

Not a Revenge Slaying.

The chief was no longer holding to a belief that the killers deliberately slew Frank Nash with the idea of putting him on the spot, of "rubbing him out" for revenge or to keep him from "talking" about anything.

"I believe they did not intend to kill Nash," Chief Higgins said. "After all, Nash was one of the same mob with the type of men who are desperate enough to commit the crime. I have been informed that he was respected by such men as Harvey Bailey, who recently escaped from the Kansas prison, and by others of the Bailey crowd of robbers.

"They would have only one purpose in going into action with a machine gun. That would be to liberate Nash. It was possible they killed him by mistake."

H. F. McElroy, city manager, who just three weeks ago had been trying to get in communication with kidnapers who were holding his daughter for $60,000 ransom, caused a flight of interest when he appeared last night at police headquarters.

"No Kansas City Gangsters."

Judge McElroy went into conference with Director Reppert and Chief Higgins. After some time the conference ended and Judge McElroy and Director Reppert announced that it had been established definitely that "no Kansas City gangsters had anything to do with the killing at the union station."

Reppert went on to say that he had checked telephone calls from Fort Smith, Hot Springs and other cities last night and had determined they were not in any nature connected with the union station massacre. Reppert and Higgins believed the killers made the journey by motor car from Hot Springs, starting from that city shortly after Frank Smith, F. J. Lackey, government agent, and Chief Reed picked up Nash from in front of a pool hall in the Arkansas resort city about noon Friday.

No Connections Here.

Higgins said he believed it was improbable that the men who would be interested in liberating Nash would have any Kansas City confederates of sufficient "power" in major crimes who would attempt such a desperate move.

The chief said that Nash and Bailey always lived at the best hotels wherever they went. They always had plenty of money. Bailey was playing golf on the Old Mission course in Kansas City when he was arrested and sent to Fort Scott for trial in a bank robbery.

Following the murders Charles Moore, a taxicab driver, informed Higgins that the murderers' motor car bore Missouri license number 428-329.

An investigation of the license number disclosed it had been issued to John Sampson, a farmer living near Elmer, Mo.

Late yesterday V. F. Phippen and W. H. VanCleave, detectives, were assigned to make the air journey to Elmer.

The landing near Elmer was in a wheat field. The detectives found Sampson working on his farm. His car, a Ford, bore state license plates with the number 428-329, but the plates were rusted to their mounts on Sampson's machine and could not have been on the Chevrolet driven by the murderers. The detectives returned here.

No Mercy From the Law.

All the energy of the state and the police strength of Kansas City will be used to prosecute anyone who attempts to harbor the men who slew the four officers and the bandit, Nash, at the union station.

"Harboring such criminals," said Chief Thomas J. Higgins, "is as contemptible and vicious a crime as the ambush of the officers itself. We intend to give no mercy to anyone who willingly aids these killers in their flight."

Only Two Descriptions.

The descriptions of two of the machine gunners are as follows:

One about 30 to 35 years old, 5 feet, 6 inches tall, weighing about 200 pounds; wore a panama hat, dark suit and had a brown face; carried two automatic weapons.

Second about 40 to 45 years old, and smaller and of lighter complexion than the first.

The police have not been furnished descriptions of the one or two other men believed to be in the gang.

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Floyd, the Hunted..

Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, whose photograph was selected from a group of other pictures of other criminals by Mrs. Lottie West, travel aid bureau worker at the union station, as the killer who manned one of the machine guns in the slaying of five men Saturday on the station plaza. The description of the Oklahoma desperado on record at police headquarters defines him as 26 years old, five feet seven and one-third inches tall and weighing 158 pounds. He has dark chestnut-colored hair, blue eyes and has a Red Cross nurse and a rose tatooed on the front of his left forearm. The record here was made when Floyd last was arrested in Kansas City November 18, 1931, for investigation about a holdup.

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NATION SEEKS A TRAIL

U. S. LEADS HUNT FOR PERPETRATORS OF MASSACRE HERE.

Every Lead Is Followed Searchingly in Effort to Capture Killers, While One of Victims Is Buried Today.

Chief Higgins of the detective department today was eagerly pursuing leads which were hopeful of success even in finding which direction the killers took after raining lead upon the victims. Aside from a belief that the men would leave Kansas City at once after perpetrating the crime, Chief Higgins was unable to say where the red trail had taken the assassins in their flight.

Most of the detectives went with Chief Higgins to attend the funeral services for W. J. Grooms, one of their comrades, who, with Frank Hermanson, detective, was killed in the fusillade of machine gun bullets. The services were at 9 o'clock at the Redemptorist church. The morning show-up in the detective department at 8:30 o'clock was slighted as the detectives turned to the task of paying tribute to Detective Grooms.

RUSH U. S. AGENTS HERE.

Chief Higgins explained that while the Kansas City police department was extending its energies to clearing up the case, the nation-wide manhunt for the killers was necessarily in the hands of the government bureau of investigation, a unit of the department of justice. The Washington headquarters of the bureau has rushed special agents into Kansas City to carry on the investigation with R. E. Vetterli of the Kansas City office in charge.

Mr. Vetterli, who received only a scratch wound from one of the machine gun bullets, remained many hours at his desk in the bureau of investigation office on the ninth floor of the Federal Reserve Bank building. He will co-ordinate the man hunt, keeping in touch with the other federal agents and police investigators in Kansas City and other cities.

plaza. That was a better place for the attack than on a road going to Leavenworth when they would be at a disadvantage. The chief was considering that the gang may have known that Hermanson and Grooms planned to accompany the party to the Leavenworth prison. The detectives had a machine gun and an armored car.

The detective chief believed the gang sought to liberate Nash and that his death was an accident so far as the gang was concerned. It may have been that some of the officers drew their weapons when the gang first swept down upon them. The reply was a storm of bullets which took Nash's life with the others.

STATE CRIME HISTORY.

The killing of Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent of the bureau of investigation, Chief Otto Reed of the McAlester, Ok., police department, and Hermanson and Grooms, Kansas City detectives, and their prisoner, Frank Nash, constituted one of the most brazen assaults on government officers in modern crime history. Nash had escaped from federal prison three years ago. He was a notorious robber and killer, suspected of plotting the federal prison break at Leavenworth and the Kansas prison break on Memorial Day. Chief Reed and the two Kansas City detectives were performing a service for the government when they were killed.

There still is hope that P. J. Lackey, special agent in Oklahoma for the United States bureau of investigation, will recover from the bullet wounds he received in the barrage by the killers. Lackey was taken to Research hospital in a dangerous condition, but physicians said today his condition was favorable and he was resting comfortably. The only officer who escaped untouched by the bullets was Frank Smith, veteran government agent from Oklahoma, one of the men who captured Nash in Hot Springs, Ark., last Friday. Smith has returned to his duties at Oklahoma City.

Chief Higgins asserted the gang which attacked the officers undoubtedly could have obtained motor cars either by force or through connivance with persons willing to aid them in their flight. So far the black sedan used in the massacre has not been found. Officers at Leavenworth reported seeing a car near that city yesterday with several men holding machine guns apparently resting by a roadside.

A COMPLETE SURPRISE.

The chief cited that the killers couldn't have chosen a more opportune time or place for a surprise attack on the officers in charge of Nash. The officers apparently believed they had safely passed through any area where an assault might be made upon them to liberate their prisoner.

The union station at Kansas City is a busy place in the morning hours. However, the attackers were able to hide behind cars and posts in the parking lot across from the station

The Kansas City Star
June 18-1933

plaza. That was a better place for the attack than on a road going to Leavenworth when they would be at a disadvantage. The chief was considering that the gang may have known that Hermanson and Groom planned to accompany the party to the Leavenworth prison. The detectives had a machine gun and an armored car.

The detective chief believed the gang sought to liberate Nash and that his death was an accident so far as the gang was concerned. It may have been that some of the officers drew their weapons when the gang first swept down upon them. The

(Continued on Second Page.)

prisoner slain, and another [illegible] dangerously wounded.

Chief Higgins of the detective department was still eagerly pursuing leads which were hopeful of success even in finding which direction the killers took after raining lead upon the victims. Aside from a belief that the men would leave Kansas City at once after perpetrating the crime, Chief Higgins was unable to say where the red trail had taken the assassins in their flight.

COMRADES AT SERVICES.

Most of the detectives went with Chief Higgins to attend the funeral services for W. J. Grooms, one of their comrades, who, with Frank Hermanson, detective, was killed in the fusillade of machine gun bullets. The services were at 9 o'clock at the Redemptorist church. The morning show-up in the detective department at 8:30 o'clock was slighted as the detectives turned to the task of paying tribute to Detective Grooms.

Chief Higgins explained that while the Kansas City police department was extending its energies to clearing up the case, the nation-wide manhunt for the killers was necessarily in the hands of the government bureau of investigation, a unit of the department of justice. The Washington headquarters of the bureau has rushed special agents into Kansas City to carry on the investigation with R. E. Vetterli of the Kansas City office in charge.

VETTERLI AT HEAD.

Mr. Vetterli, who received only a scratch wound from one of the machine gun bullets, remained many hours at his desk in the bureau of investigation office on the ninth floor of the Federal Reserve Bank building. He will co-ordinate the man hunt, keeping in touch with the other federal agents and police investigators in Kansas City and other cities.

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VICTIM CLINGS TO LIFE.

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The union station at Kansas City

PRETTY BOY IN K. C. KILLING

OMAHA, MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1933

IDENTIFIED BY WOMAN WHO SAW SLAYING

KANSAS CITY, June 19. (AP)—Mrs. Lottie West, a witness to the shooting here Saturday in which four officers and their prisoner were killed in front of the Union station, Monday identified a picture of Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd, notorious Oklahoma outlaw, as that of one of the machine gunners who attacked the party.

Mrs. West, Travelers' Aid worker at the station, picked the photograph from a group spread before her.

Floyd was in the vicinity of Kansas City Friday night when he liberated Sheriff Jack Killingsworth of Polk county after holding him a hostage throughout the day. The killings at the station occurred shortly after 7 a. m. Saturday.

Chief of Detectives T. P. Higgins and other authorities previously expressed doubt Floyd had any connection with the shootings.

Officers were still divided as to the motive—whether it was an effort to "rub out" or free Frank Nash, Oklahoma train robber and ex-convict, who was slain with the officers who guarded him. Most of them believe it was an effort to release the notorious outlaw, who was captured in Hot Springs, Ark., Friday and was being returned to the Leavenworth federal penitentiary.

A report that men resembling the description of the slayers had been seen near the penitentiary Sunday sent officers and prison guards on a search, but they found no one.

Additional federal investigators have been sent here to aid in the capture of the slayers, their number still in dispute, so sudden did they ambush seven officers.

Those slain were F. Caffrey, Omaha, special agent for the United States bureau of investigation; Otto Reed, chief of police at McAlester, Okla.; Frank Hermanson and W. J. Grooms, Kansas City detectives, and Nash.

Bring Caffrey's Body to Omaha for Funeral

The body of Ray J. Caffrey, slain Department of Justice agent, was returned from Kansas City to Omaha Sunday by his father, E. F. Caffrey, and J. L. Flood, resident agent of the department.

The body will lie in state at the Caffrey residence, 315 No. 35th St., until the time of the funeral, according to the John A. Gentleman mortuary.

Caffrey's brother, Charles, arrived Sunday morning from Washington.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday at 9 a. m. at St. Cecilia cathedral, the Rev. E. G. Graham officiating. Burial will be in Holy Sepulcher cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Paul Chaney, Lincoln; W. M. Hall, Kansas City; Edward Dugan, Jerry Bolan and George Truman of Omaha; Joe Dunley of Orleans and J. L. Flood, special agent, U. S. bureau of investigation, Omaha.

WHAT WILL COME OF IT?

Few of the major crimes that have disgraced the nation and alarmed the people in recent years have brought such an awakening as has the slaying of federal and local officers at the union station in Kansas City. The perpetrators displayed a ruthless disregard for human life and a contempt for law and its agents. Both their attempt to free a criminal of long record and their method of procedure denote that they were criminals of long experience.

The awakening reaches far beyond the city where the crime was perpetrated. The federal government, already committed to a war on organized crime, responded quickly to the call made upon its resources in this instance, ordering men of experience and ability to the scene and the surrounding territory. The department of justice is pledged to give every possible assistance in running down the escaped murderers.

The local prosecutor and the chief of police have agreed to concentrate on a driving policy to rid the city of carriers of concealed weapons. The possession of deadly weapons is a felony. The possession of revolvers is punishable by imprisonment for a maximum of two years. Possession of a machine gun carries liability of two to thirty years. To possess a machine gun contrary to law brands the possessor as a crook and potential murderer. Whether for lack of co-operation from the prosecutor's office and the courts or for other reasons, the police have not borne down on the gun toters in effective fashion. The rigid enforcement of the weapon law would diminish crime and its dangers and rid the city of menacing underworld characters. In self-defense as well as for public protection the police should go after the holders of deadly weapons with relentless determination.

But it is not enough to clear the city of unlawful weapons. The drive must include all kinds of racketeers. It must include unceasing harassment of known criminals who cannot satisfactorily account for their means of living. It must include the lesser crimes, which are only training experience for major crimes.

Yet even if Kansas City had the most effective police department possible, it could not protect the people against raids from the outside, such as that made at the union station. Scattered local campaigns are not sufficient. There must be co-ordinated effort among states, municipalities, towns and counties, with the aid of the federal government. The responsibility of the clemency power, so often abused to the public danger, is illustrated in the case of Frank Nash, escaped convict, whom the slayers attempted to release. This notorious criminal, a worthless and dangerous wretch, was convicted of murder in Oklahoma and sentenced to life imprisonment, only to be released in a few months. Another sentence for twenty-five years was reduced to two years. It was for still another crime that he was serving when he escaped.

Yet for this hardened enemy of society, four officers have lost their lives and another is near death. This case and the demands of the time admonish parole officers and executives everywhere to hold criminals, the hardened, the murderous, their full time.

What is to become of this war on crime? If the department of justice is determined and aggressive, it can do much. It has unlimited resources, even if much too restricted jurisdiction. Its participation in the drive on crime should be inspiring on all other peace agencies throughout the country. If it encounters difficulties that should not impede its work, the country is likely to hear about it.

One thing is certain: Organized crime, including murder, banditry, kidnaping, racketeering and bombing, is going to get badly beaten or it is going to get a lot more destructive. It is entrenched. It has strong allies. It is tremendously resourceful. Its power does not lie in the bandit at large, but in pressure it can bring to bear. In the mobilization of forces to combat this enemy, an aroused, demanding public sentiment is a tremendous factor.

Kans City Times
6-19-33

Federal War on Racketeering Looms in Industrial Recovery Program

4000. KANSAS CITY JOURNAL-POST.

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1933.

UNDERWORLD OF BUSINESS TO BE TARGET

New Weapons Provided in Broad Powers of Legislation.

EYEING SWEATSHOPS

Action Planned Against Unfair Competition in Garment Plants.

By RAYMOND CLAPPER
United Press Staff Correspondent.
Copyright 1933.

WASHINGTON, June 19.—The industrial recovery program has provided new weapons for a fight to stop racketeering.

Broad powers granted by the industrial recovery act, the farm adjustment act and the securities control bill include authority to move against the underworld of business that has preyed on legitimate trade.

They make it possible to reach on one hand the heavy-jawed racketeer who, with a squad of thugs at his back, wrings his tribute from terrified milk dealers, for instance; and on the other the glib stock salesman with a brief case full of worthless securities.

Not Major Object.

Extermination of racketeering is not the prime object of the recovery program, but it is an important by-product. The recovery legislation is designed to increase consumer buying power by reducing hours so that more people can work, by insuring a living wage so that more people can buy the products of factories and by giving to the farmer a fair price for his produce so that he can again become a purchaser.

This requires industry to maintain minimum wage standards. Industries must be protected against cut-throat competition or the whole structure collapses. That is where elimination of racketeering enters as part of the program.

President Roosevelt himself emphasized that the government must protect industries which play the game.

"We must protect them from the racketeers who invade organizations of both employers and workers," he said when he signed the industrial recovery bill.

Cummings Launches Drive.

Attorney General Cummings already has begun a fight to stamp out rackets. He has been limited chiefly to activities which interfered with interstate commerce. Now he may act against any who violate the fair play industrial codes being set up by the department of agriculture and Gen. Hugh Johnson, industrial administrator. Still further federal action may follow an investigation of racketeering now being started by a senate committee.

Already the department of agriculture has come into conflict with racketeering in the Chicago milk industry. In the attempt to give the dairy farmers a higher return, an agreement regulating distribution of milk in Chicago has been drafted and is about to go into effect.

Racketeering interests have made milk one of their targets in Chicago. Tribute is levied against milk wagon drivers by men who sit in armored offices and ride in armored cars. Some interests at the mercy of these influences are opposing the price schedules which the federal government wants to put into effect. This issue is expected to precipitate the first court test of the government's new licensing powers.

Eye Outlaw Competitors.

Radio manufacturers who conferred here last week are afflicted by another type of racketeering common in certain industries. Outlaw competitors are selling sets below legitimate cost.

One or two men owning nothing but a screwdriver will rent a workroom, buy parts, construct a few sets and then disappear when the landlord demands his rent.

Some garment factories have undercut decent employers by taking advantage of a surplus labor market to get girls for $1 or so a week.

Unless officials in Washington lose their nerve, they will not stop at the petty racketeers.

With the securities control law Washington will be able to go after the persons who already have designs on the new savings which will be available for investment as business expands. The federal trade commission will be particularly alert to expose excessive fees in the marketing of securities.

A DELEGATION FROM M'ALESTER, OK., ARRIVES IN KANSAS CITY TO CONFER ON SLAYING OF CHIEF OF POLICE.

IN CONFERENCE (top)—A group of McAlester citizens arrived in Kansas City early yesterday morning to confer with the police here on details regarding the union station plaza slaying in which Otto Reed, chief of police of McAlester, was killed by machine gunners. At the left is Frank C. Higginbotham, executive secretary of the Oklahoma Police Officers' Association. In the middle is J. Sam McAlester, the mayor and son of the founder of the Oklahoma city. He is a Choctaw Indian. The two conferred with T. J. Higgins, chief of the Kansas City detectives, in seeking clues.

OKLAHOMA VICTIM'S SON (oval)—At the left is George Reed, son of the McAlester chief of police. With him is J. R. Calhoun, a federal agent. The two accompanied the body of Otto Reed to McAlester yesterday afternoon.

THE SLAIN OFFICER (right center)—Otto Reed, for twenty years an officer of high efficiency in McAlester, was one of the five men killed. Surviving him are the widow and three children.

A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE FAMILY (right, below)—Maj. Harry Chaney of McAlester came to Kansas City in order to co-operate with Kansas City police in seeking clues as to the identity of the slayers. He has been a friend of the family for many years.

CITY TIMES, MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1933

THE U. S. IS BITTER

Murder of Federal Agent Results in Drastic Action by Department of Justice.

A LIGHT ON CRIME HERE

J. Edgar Hoover Orders More Men Into the Kansas City Area.

GRIM PURSUIT IS STARTED

"Get Those Assassins" Is the Word That Is Passed Along the Line.

WASHINGTON BUREAU
THE KANSAS CITY STAR
610 ALBEE BUILDING
(By The Star's Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, June 17.—Federal authorities agreed today to co-operate with Kansas City officials as far as the law would permit in a clean-up of the lawless elements in Kansas City and adjacent territory as a result of the slaying of Raymond J. Caffrey, agent of the bureau of investigation, the wounding of F. J. Lackey, another federal agent, and the murder of three police officers and a federal prisoner at the Kansas City union station plaza early today.

"We will go along 100 per cent," J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the bureau of investigation of the department of justice, said, "as far as the federal statutes permit us."

Add to U. S. Corps Here.

Federal agents were rushed to Kansas City today from a wide area to aid in the search for the machine gun killers. Their instructions were to "get their men." Every resource of the department of justice was brought into action. Picked men from Chicago, San Antonio and midwestern points were ordered to Kansas City.

"We never stop until we get our men," Hoover added, "if it takes ages to accomplish it. There will be no letup in this case."

Caffrey is the second federal agent killed in the government service since 1908. The other one was Agent Shanahan, who was murdered in Chicago more than six years ago by Martin Durkin. The murderer is now serving a term at the Joliet penitentiary.

The slaying of a federal officer is not a federal offense, except when committed on government property, Hoover pointed out. But in the Kansas City slaying the federal officials will not follow the technical dividing line between state and federal authority.

Looking for Floyd.

It was learned today the federal authorities have been on the trail of "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Oklahoma bandit, who kidnaped Sheriff Jack Killingsworth of Polk County, Missouri.

Attention was called, but without comment, to the criminal record and paroles granted to Frank Nash, the slain mail train robber, who was being taken to Leavenworth from Oklahoma. Nash was convicted in Oklahoma in 1913 of the murder of a witness who testified against him in another trial and was given a life sentence. After a few months in prison he was paroled. In 1920 Nash was convicted again and sentenced to twenty-five years. Two years later the governor released him on a commutation of sentence.

for known crooks and murderers who generally are able to pay big fees.

"After what occurred in Kansas City today," Mr. Caffrey said, "I hope congress will take cognizance of the fact and enact a law which will make it possible to try such beasts in federal court."

A WOMAN NAMES FLOYD.

Columbia Police, However, Doubt the Identification.

(By the Associated Press.)

COLUMBIA, Mo., June 17.—The Columbia Missourian, which is edited by journalism students at the University of Missouri, today said Mrs. Lucy Clark, a witness to the killing of Sheriff Roger Wilson and Sergt. Ben Booth of the highway patrol, had identified Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, the Oklahoma outlaw, as one of their slayers.

Mrs. Clark, who talked with Wilson and Booth just before the killers' car drove up, identified Floyd by a newspaper picture, the paper said.

Officers investigating the crime, however, pointed out that Mrs. Clark was some distance from the car, and said that positive identification of Floyd under the circumstances would be difficult.

Wilson and Booth were killed Wednesday as they stopped a motor car on U. S. highway No. 40, at the northern edge of the city, to question its occupants about the holdup and robbery of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank at Mexico, Mo., forty-five minutes previously.

A CHECK ON AIRPLANES.

U. S. Asks Fields to Report Any Strange Craft.

Federal authorities late yesterday requested that messages be transmitted to all outlying airports over the federal teletype system at the Kansas City Airport, requesting that the presence of any strange aircraft at any intermediate landing field be reported immediately to Kansas City.

The action was taken on the chance that the union station plaza killers had used an airplane in their escape.

KANSAS CITY STAR, SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1933.

SLAY AND VANISH

Hours After the Union Station Plaza Massacre No Trace of the Gang Is Found.

WITHOUT A DEFINITE CLUE

Even the Path After the Dash From the Parking Lot Is a Subject of Dispute.

Only One Story of the Dozens Told Seems to Be Near the Core of the Situation.

THE SEARCH ON GRIMLY

Hundreds of Men Are Out to Shoot to Kill in the Chase of the Men.

Hours after the massacre at the union station plaza of four officers and an escaped convict by machine gunners, the case has become another crime mystery, for the assassins have vanished just as they appeared, without warning and with cruelty in their purpose.

From the great confusion following the shooting and the conflicting statements taken from some twenty witnesses, the police were having difficulty getting an accurate picture of what actually took place. The number of assailants was in doubt. More witnesses were sure there were only two in the gang. Some said three men took part in the crime while others counted four.

From the offices of R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge of the United States bureau of investigation, and from police headquarters where Thomas J. Higgins, chief of detectives, and Eugene C. Reppert, police director, were marshaling the investigation of the assassination, there were issuing declarations and pronouncements of a determined stand.

Agents Are Ordered Here.

Vetterli, himself wounded slightly by the fusillade of bullets, told of his Washington chief, J. Edgar Hoover, sending extra agents to work under Mr. Vetterli's direction in the case. Mr. Higgins was marshaling every resource of the department, calling upon the underworld in Kansas City, calling upon the officers in nearby communities to help.

Yet hours dragged by and the major crime of many years in Kansas City, more startling than the kidnaping of Miss Mary McElroy recently, more daring than the escape of prisoners on Memorial day from the Kansas prison at Lansing, and as cold and unconscionable as any crime in the middle West's history, went by with no trace of the murderers.

Flee From Tragic Scene.

They fled, those killers, leaving the dead officers, Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent in Kansas City of the United States bureau of investigation; Otto Reed, chief of police at McAlester, Ok., and Frank Hermanson and J. W. Grooms, Kansas City detectives.

The assassins fled leaving also one of the most desperate men in the criminal world, Frank Nash, lifeless with machine gun bullets in his brain. They fled leaving F. J. Lackey, special agent in Oklahoma of the United States bureau of investigation, near death at Research hospital with three of their bullets in his back.

Only one man, Frank Smith, an agent of the government bureau of investigation, escaped untouched by the lethal stream of bullets.

And last night the police and the government authorities, the hundred or more of private investigators who were at work on the case, could find no starting place. There were some confusing circumstances, of course.

Differ on Every Angle.

Some persons had seen one thing happen and some persons had seen another. It was necessary to piece some definite account out of the tragic case. As well, there were differences in the size-up of the case in theories. Was it the work of "Pretty Boy" Floyd? Was Harvey Bailey, the desperate fleeing convict, one of the killers? The chief does not hold to the Floyd theory.

So far the only plausible trace reported of the assassins' car as they sped from the union station is the one given to police late yesterday by Robert D. Woods, a street car operator.

"At 7:23 o'clock Saturday morning," he stated, "I had stopped my car at Thirty-first and Main streets to discharge passengers. I saw a dark coach or sedan, fairly new, maybe a Chevrolet, turn the corner from the west on Thirty-first street onto Main street at a very high rate of speed. It turned so fast it left the marks of its tires on the street.

"The car sped south on Main and I looked back and saw it go through the red light at Linwood boulevard and Main. Two men were in the front seat. The driver had a thin face, swarthy complexion, like a deep coat of tan, and my impression was he wore a soft brown hat.

"The thing that attracted my attention to the car was that it went so fast, and made so wide a turn that it ran over two safety buttons in the zone south of Thirty-first street on the west side of Main."

Had Been Fired Twice.

The revolver dropped by W. J. Grooms, one of the slain detectives, showed that it had been fired twice. It was believed Grooms had fired twice at the bandits before he was shot down by the strafing of lead from the machine gun.

Police officials pointed out that if Grooms and Hermanson had been in their police car, No. 103, the only armored car in the department, they could have put up a fair fight against the killers. As it was, the detectives were literally mowed down before the cutting shafts from the guns.

The fact that Grooms's revolver had been fired twice checked up with accounts of persons at the union station who said they heard two shots before the barrage of machine gunning started.

F. J. Lackey, federal agent from Oklahoma, who, with Frank Smith, also of the Oklahoma federal bureau of investigation, and Chief Reed, was a captor of Nash at Hot Springs, Ark., still was alive last night at Research hospital. Late yesterday Agent Smith, the only person who escaped untouched by the assassins' bullets, returned by plane to Oklahoma City to resume his work with the United States bureau of investigation.

Chief Higgins said he believed the slayers had fled from Kansas City. The chief said he also believed they went toward the north, perhaps toward Chicago, where they are ac-

Kansas City Star
6/18/33

quainted and have hangouts. Perhaps they went to some other city. After all, it was just a matter of conjecturing.

Not a Revenge Slaying.

The chief was no longer holding to a belief that the killers deliberately slew Frank Nash with the idea of putting him on the spot, of "rubbing him out" for revenge or to keep him from "talking" about anything.

"I believe they did not intend to kill Nash," Chief Higgins said. "After all, Nash was one of the same mob with the type of men who are desperate enough to commit the crime. I have been informed that he was respected by such men as Harvey Bailey, who recently escaped from the Kansas prison, and by others of the Bailey crowd of robbers.

"They would have only one purpose in going into action with a machine gun. That would be to liberate Nash. It was possible they killed him by mistake."

H. F. McElroy, city manager, who just three weeks ago had been trying to get in communication with kidnapers who were holding his daughter for $60,000 ransom, caused a flight of interest when he appeared last night at police headquarters.

"No Kansas City Gangsters."

Judge McElroy went into conference with Director Reppert and Chief Higgins. After some time the conference ended and Judge McElroy and Director Reppert announced that it had been established definitely that "no Kansas City gangsters had anything to do with the killing at the union station."

Reppert went on to say that he had checked telephone calls from Fort Smith, Hot Springs and other cities last night and had determined they were not in any nature connected with the union station massacre. Reppert and Higgins believed the killers made the journey by motor car from Hot Springs, starting from that city shortly after Frank Smith, F. J. Lackey, government agent, and Chief Reed picked up Nash from in front of a pool hall in the Arkansas resort city about noon Friday.

No Connections Here.

Higgins said he believed it was improbable that the men who would be interested in liberating Nash would have any Kansas City confederates of sufficient "power" in major crimes who would attempt such a desperate move.

The chief said that Nash and Bailey always lived at the best hotels wherever they went. They always had plenty of money. Bailey was playing golf on the Old Mission course in Kansas City when he was arrested and sent to Fort Scott for trial in a bank robbery.

No Mercy From the Law.

All the energy of the state and the police strength of Kansas City will be used to prosecute anyone who attempts to harbor the men who slew the four officers and the bandit, Nash, at the union station.

"Harboring such criminals," said Chief Thomas J. Higgins, "is as contemptible and vicious a crime as the ambush of the officers itself. We intend to give no mercy to anyone who willingly aids these killers in their flight."

Only Two Descriptions.

The descriptions of two of the machine gunners are as follows:

One about 30 to 35 years old, 6 feet, 8 inches tall, weighing about 200 pounds; wore a panama hat, dark suit and had a brown face; carried two automatic weapons.

Second about 40 to 45 years old, and smaller and of lighter complexion than the first.

The police have not been furnished descriptions of the one or two other men believed to be in the gang.

END TO GUN TOTING

Police and Prosecutor Join Hands in Campaign Against Killers and Bandits.

ASK AID OF THE COURTS

Vigorous Action Is Promised in Stamping Out the Menace to Citizens.

"MACHINE GUNS MUST GO"

Only Peace Officers Will Be Permitted to Possess Them, T. A. J. Mastin Asserts.

The clamps close down on the gun toters tomorrow. Recent events, particularly the murderous shooting at the union station yesterday, have awakened city and county officials to the menace that lies in the promiscuous carrying of firearms and T. A. J. Mastin, county prosecutor, asserted last night that steps would be taken at once to stop it.

It is to be warfare, Mr. Mastin said. The first thing tomorrow he will ask Thomas B. Bash, sheriff, and Eugene C. Reppert, director of police, to grant co-operation. In return for their arrest of gun toters, he agrees to prosecute vigorously.

Prison Term the Penalty.

There is a penalty in Missouri of two years in the penitentiary for carrying concealed weapons. It is a felony. And there is a penalty of from two to thirty years in the penitentiary for possession of a machine gun. Yet criminals have continued to shoot their way out of scrapes, officers have been killed and wounded, civilians have lost their lives, sometimes with one form of weapon and sometimes with another, but always with firearms that are prohibited by law.

"We are going to stamp out gun toting," Mr. Mastin said. "We are going after them Monday morning. Any person with a machine gun in his possession, unless he is a peace officer, either is a bandit or an associate of a bandit. The possession of a machine gun in itself is evidence that the possessor is an outlaw.

"Monday morning I am going to ask Sheriff Bash and Director Reppert to co-operate with me in a war on the gun-toters and I know without asking that they will join me. They will have to round them up, but it will be up to my department to prosecute and I want to promise right now that from this point on, we are going to make it hard for the carrier of concealed weapons of all character. A machine gun doesn't have to be concealed to justify prosecution."

The Police Will Aid.

Thomas J. Higgins, chief of detectives, was quick to join Mr. Mastin. However, he expressed the hope that the official handling of the carriers of firearms would be more severe than it has been in the past. He said many persons had been arrested for carrying firearms and taken before the prosecutor. Frequently, he said, they were turned loose in the justice courts, and even when they were convicted they frequently were paroled from the sentences given them.

"If the county desires to go after the gun carriers," Chief Higgins said, "its officials may count on the police department. That is one of the things that makes police work difficult. The laws prohibit anyone except peace officers from carrying firearms, yet the bandit, the gangster, is as well armed as are the police. We will arrest them, and if the prosecutor will put them in jail and the courts will leave them there we can make some progress."

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

D-1 MK
Tmf 2

Massacre of 5 Starts Federal War on Gangs

Kansas City Slayings Seen as Challenge to Government

Leavenworth Files Checked in Manhunt

WASHINGTON, June 17—(A. P.)—The Federal Government, angered by the slaying of a Department of Justice operative in Kansas City, was moving tonight toward stamping out racketeers and gunmen.

The slaying of Raymond J. Caffrey, the Justice Department man, in an apparent attempt at Kansas City to free Frank Nash, an Oklahoma train robber, was accepted by Attorney General Homer S. Cummings as outright definance of a governmental agency which gangdom has long respected.

He answered the challenge with an order to set the entire Justice Department on the trail of the killers and specifically assigned a detail from points near Kansas City to the case.

Follows Roosevelt Statement

Cummings' order, by coincidence, followed closely a statement by President Roosevelt Friday night that "we must protect" the newly legalized trade associations "from the racketeers who invade organizations of both employers and workers."

The provisions of the new industrial bill, it has been pointed out, intensify the need for control of the labor racketeering which has harassed the industry and commerce of the Nation's great cities.

Cummings has expressed himself as believing that "as a people we have been troubled too long by the racketeers of violence and bloodshed."

"It is my hope," Cummings said, "that in the field of law enforcement and in the direction and prosecution of crime I may be able to bring about a better co-ordination of state and Federal activities."

Prison Files Checked

In addition to ordering operatives to Kansas City, the Justice Department set men to checking through the names, data, fingerprints and photographs in the files of Leavenworth Penitentiary, seeking a clew to those who shot to death five men in the Nash episode.

The Federal Government's activities against criminals have been broadened in recent years from the original endeavor to prevent counterfeiting and internal revenue evasion to cover numerous other activities.

In recent years it has entered into combat against prohibition law violators and still more recently against criminal control of labor and the produce markets. Now under way in New York City is a Federal Grand Jury inquiry into the alleged racketeer control of the produce market of the city.

At more than 20 other points in the Nation, Federal agents are delving into racketeering operations, the scope of which infringes on that section of law enforcement delegated to the Federal Government—liquor syndicates, gem, drug and alien smuggling and gang domination of labor unions.

Machine Gunners Kill Five in Effort to Free Outlaw

KANSAS CITY, June 17—(A. P.)—Blazing machine guns turned Kansas City's Union Station plaza into a scene of horror today, as seven officers and a prisoner were ambushed, five of them killed outright and two others wounded in a brief but deadly burst of fire.

The massacre was staged in an effort to release or slay Frank Nash, notorious Oklahoma train robber and killer, being returned to the Federal Prison at Leavenworth, where he escaped three years ago.

When the rattle of machine gun slugs ceased, Nash was dead in an

Please Turn to Page 2—Column 7

Detroit Free Press
6-18-33

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Continued from Page One

automobile he had entered the moment of the attack. Lifeless about him were:

RAYMOND J. CAFFREY, special agent of the United States Bureau of Investigation.

OTTO REED, chief of police at McAlester, Okla.

FRANK HERMANSON, Kansas City detective.

W. J. GROOMS, Kansas City detective.

The wounded were F. J. Lackey, special agent at Oklahoma City of the United States Bureau of Investigation, whose condition is considered critical, and R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge of the Kansas City Bureau of Investigation, who returned the fire of his assailants as they drove away.

Nash Death Held Accident

Nash, a member of the Al Spencer Gang which terrorized Oklahoma 10 years ago, was arrested by Federal agents at Hot Springs, Ark., yesterday, after a long search.

"I don't believe that they intended to kill Nash," Vetterli said, in recounting the details of the slaughter, apparently staged by four men armed with machine guns who had hidden themselves near the officers' car and calmly waited for them to group themselves about the automobile.

"We went to the station to meet the officers who were bringing Nash back from Hot Springs," Vetterli continued.

"Caffrey and I drove to the station in his car. The two Kansas City detectives, Hermanson and Grooms, drove to the station in their car. We met the Missouri Pacific train and started over to Caffrey's car.

"There were eight of us—Nash and seven officers. We were to enter Caffrey's car and the Kansas City detectives were to follow us to Leavenworth in their car.

"I was standing at the rear of Caffrey's car. In the back seat were Lackey, Smith and Reed.

"Caffrey stood on the pavement near Nash, who was in the front seat. Suddenly I heard a man say, 'Put 'em up, up, up.'

"I looked and saw a man blazing away with a machine gun.

"I crouched under the murderous fire. I believe there were othe machine guns working, too. Her manson and Grooms fell in fron of me, their bodies riddled. Th men inside the car were powerles before the fire.

"I fell to the pavement. I fel a stinging pain in my arm. Whe the firing ceased—and it was a over in a flash—I leveled a pum gun at the escaping car, whic roared westward out of the statio parking lot."

A young motorcycle patrolman Mike Fanning, dashed from the sta tion at the sound of the firing.

"There he is, Mike, get him," Mrs. Lottie West, a Traveler's Ai worker, shouted, pointing out on of the assassins.

The officer leveled his revolve and took deliberate aim, firing thre times. The machine gunner, Mrs West said, fell to the ground, bu joined companions on the runnin board of the car which dashe away.

Crowd Witnesses Massacre

The sudden deadly sweep of th fire left a gruesome sight for week end travelers grouped at the sta tion entrance. Among others, group of six Catholic sisters wi nessed the killings.

Nash was a friend of Harv Bailey, a leader of the 11 con victs who escaped from the Kansa prison in the Memorial Day breal

He had been sought by Feder officers for questioning in connec tion with the prison break at th Federal Penitentiary at Leaven worth in December, 1931, whe Warden T. B. White, then i charge, was kidnaped and wounde

He also was a friend of Harol Fontaine, former Federal convic convicted of smuggling firearm into the prison for the break.

T. J. Higgins, chief of detectives expressed belief that the attac was a plot for the release of Nash probably engineered by Bailey who may not have been presen at its execution.

The slayers were the object o probably the most intensive searc this city has ever witnessed.

Detroit Free Press
6-18-33

Post-Dispatch, St. Louis, Mo., June 18, 1938

MOTIVE STILL NOT CLEAR IN KILLING OF 5 AT KANSAS CITY

Four Officers and Prisoner, Notorious Frank Nash, Are Slain in Machine Gun Ambush.

TWO OTHER U. S. AGENTS WOUNDED

Attack Apparently Directed at Train Robber Who Had Been Recaptured After Leavenworth Break.

By the Associated Press.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17.—Seven officers and a prisoner were ambushed in a machine gun attack on Union Station Plaza today, and five man were killed outright and two others wounded.

The prisoner, who was killed, was Frank Nash, one of the few survivors of the notorious Al Spencer gang of train robbers. He was being returned to Leavenworth prison whence he escaped three years ago.

It was not clear whether the purpose of the murderers was to rescue Nash or to kill him for underworld reasons. The second theory seems more plausible. It also seems that there must have been a leak of the police plans for transporting Nash, for the killers knew right where to set their ambush. They took the escort completely by surprise just when they were entering an automobile with the prisoner.

The dead, in addition to Nash:

Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent of the United States Bureau of Investigation.

Otto Reed, Chief of Police at McAlester, Ok.

Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detective.

W. J. Grooms, Kansas City detective.

The wounded were F. J. Lackey, special agent at Oklahoma City of the United States Bureau of Investigation, whose condition is considered grave, and R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge of the Kansas City Bureau of Investigation, who returned the fire of his assailants as they drove away.

Lackey was shot three times in the back. Vetterli suffered a slight wound in the left arm.

Arrested at Hot Springs.

Nash was arrested by agents of the Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, at Hot Springs, Ark., yesterday, after a long search.

"I don't believe they intended to kill Nash," Vetterli said in recounting the details of the slaughter, apparently done by four men armed with machine guns, who had hidden themselves near the officers' car and waited for the officers to group themselves about the automobile.

"We went to the station to meet the officers who were bringing Nash back from Hot Springs," Vetterli continued.

"Raymond Caffrey and I drove to the station in his car. The two Kansas City detectives, Hermanson and Grooms, drove to the station in their car. We met the Missouri Pacific train and started over to Caffrey's car, headed south on the station drive across from the east door of the station.

"There were eight of us, including Nash, the prisoner and seven officers. We were to enter Caffrey's car and the Kansas City detectives were to follow us to Leavenworth in their car.

Details of the Shooting.

"I was standing at the rear and West side of Caffrey's car. In the back seat were Lackey and Smith, the agents from Oklahoma, and Otto Reed, Chief of Police at McAlester who came up with the prisoner.

"Caffrey was to drive. Nash had sat in the driver's seat temporarily until the car was loaded and then he was to move over into the other front seat which was folded up to allow the three men to enter the rear seat.

"Caffrey stood on the pavement beside Nash on the East side of the car waiting for Nash to slide over into the folding front seat. Hermanson and Grooms were standing on the west side of the car and toward the front. Suddenly I heard a man say 'put 'em up, up, up.'

"I looked and saw a man blazing away with a machine gun from near the southwest corner of the car. He seemed to be standing on something—perhaps the running board of a car. I don't know exactly, but he was very close to us.

Two Officers Return Fire.

"I crouched under the murderous fire. I believe there were other machine guns working, too. Hermanson and Grooms fell to the pavement in front of me, their bodies riddled. The windshield of Caffrey's car was splintering. The men inside of it were powerless before the red fire from the rattling guns.

"I fell to the pavement. I felt a stinging pain in my left arm. When the firing ceased—and it was all over in a flash—I leveled a pump gun at the escaping car which roared westward out of the station parking lot."

Story of Surviving Captor.

Frank Smith, thick-set Department of Justice agent from Oklahoma City, who sat unscathed through the fusillade, wept as he mentioned his friend, Otto Reed, McAlester Chief of Police, who was slain.

"We all walked through the Union Station with Frank Nash still handcuffed," the agent said.

"Nash was the first to enter the car which was to take us to Leavenworth prison.

"He started to sit down in the rear seat. Someone told him he was to ride in front. So Nash sat down temporarily in the driver's seat while we were getting into the rear. I sat down between Lackey on my right, and Chief Reed, on my left.

"Caffrey was standing on the pavement and the two detectives, Hermanson and Grooms, were standing near the front of the car on the other or west side. Mr. Vetterli was near the rear of the car, about to enter.

"Played Dead" to Save Life.

"I heard a man shouting, 'Up, up.' The words came fast. I reached for my six-shooter, drew it and then looked up in time to see a man aiming a machine gun. It was shooting red flame.

"I don't know what all happened. I ducked as bullets splintered our car. I crouched down and 'played dead.' It was the only thing that could be done.

"If the fellow had a six-shooter I could match him, but not a machine.

"I felt my friend Reed sag down upon me. I looked up and saw Nash had been hit. His toupee had fallen down into the car.

"Lackey began to groan. It was over quicker than you could imagine. I put my arm under Reed's head—tried to comfort Lackey.

"I noticed Lackey's revolver handle had been splintered. Maybe that was why he wasn't killed outright, like the others. Maybe the bullet ricocheted.

Left by Circuitous Route.

"I don't know where the machine guns were stationed—except the one I saw aimed at the car. It seemed to be in the hands of the man who had shouted 'up, up.' He was standing by high. Maybe on the running board of one of the cars parked in the parking lot."

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Smith said he had [illegible] the prisoner out of Hot Spri[illegible] hastily by a circuitous route because he was surrounded by gangsters and the agents wanted to remove him before aid could be mustered.

"We pegged him in Hot Springs and we went after him. I took Agent Lackey with me and I also called Ott Reed to help because Ott was one of the best officers I have ever seen.

"Ott went because I asked him; that's why it is awful. To think that I took Ott from his family like that."

Overcome by emotions, the agent paused. Continuing, he said:

"We pegged Nash right in front of a pool hall and race booking joint. From a car we saw him contact a couple other fellows. Then he pulled away from them again and we pulled up and hopped out.

Prisoner Caused No Trouble.

"I knew he was very bald, with only a fringe of hair. There was a full head of brown hair on this man. He wore a black mustache too, and had on some noseglasses.

"Nash didn't resist. He entered our car and we tore out on the highway, taking the road to Joplin, so that we could throw off anyone who tried to follow."

Smith said he pulled Nash's hair and off it came—a toupee.

"Frank smiled at that and assured me the mustache he was wearing was real.

"'That's a good toupee,' Nash said; 'I paid $10 for that in Chicago.'"

Smith said the prisoner had caused no trouble.

A young motorcycle patrolman, Mike Fanning, dashed from the station at the sound of the firing.

"There he is, Mike, get him," Mrs. Lottie West, a Traveler's Aid Worker shouted, pointing out one of the assassins, whom she described as a big man weighing 200 pounds.

Machine Gunner Falls.

The officer leveled his revolver and took deliberate aim, firing three times. The huge machine gunner, Mrs. West said, fell to the ground, but joined companions on the running board of the car which dashed away.

From accounts of the ambush given by Mrs. West, Robert Fritts, a cab starter, and Charles Moore, taxicab driver, who sat in a cab nearby, officers think three or possibly four men fired on the officers from the right and left at the same time. They believe the death car was parked near that of the officers in anticipation of their appearance and that the assassins were concealed among other automobiles nearby.

The motorcycle officer said he was certain four men rode in the back sedan as the machine gunners drove away.

The sudden deadly sweep of the fire from gun muzzles a few feet from the group of officers left a gruesome, appalling sight for week-end travelers grouped at the station entrance where among others, a group of six Catholic sisters witnessed the killings.

Friend of Notorious Men.

Nash was a friend of Harvey Bailey, a leader of the 11 convicts who escaped from the Kansas prison in the Memorial day break.

He had been sought by Federal officers for questioning in connection with the prison break at the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth in December, 1931, when Warden T. B. White, then in charge, was kidnaped and wounded by escaping convicts.

He was a friend of Harold Fontaine, former Federal convict, convicted of smuggling firearms into the prison for the break.

T. J. Higgins, chief of detectives, expressed belief that the attack was a plot for the release of Nash probably engineered by Harvey Bailey, who may not have been present at its execution.

The chief said he doubted that Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, another Oklahoma killer, was involved although Floyd released a kidnaped Sheriff near Lees Summit, Mo., about 20 miles from Kansas City, last night.

Reported to Have Followed Train.

The Sheriff, Jack Killingsworth of Bolivar, Mo., who was with Floyd 14 hours yesterday, declared his belief that Floyd and his companion, Adam Ricchetti, who kidnaped him at Bolivar yesterday, had nothing to do with the killings.

Officers received a report that the car used by the killers had been seen driving on Mission road, a route that leads toward Oklahoma. Armored cars cruised in pursuit. A rumor filtered into police headquarters that the assassins had followed the train to Kansas City from Oklahomba last night.

The slayers were the object of probably the most intensive search this city has ever witnessed. Hundreds of police and Federal authorities were scouring the city and peace officers from every nearby community were guarding highways.

U. S. Attorney General Acts.

At Washington, Attorney General Cummings issued an order setting the entire justice department on the trial of the killers and specifically assigned a detail from points near Kansas City to the case.

He also set men to checking through the names, data, fingerprints and photographs in the files of the Leavenworth Penitentiary.

"It is my hope," Cummings said, "That in the field of law enforcement and in the detection and prosecution of crime, I may be able to bring about a better coordination of State and Federal activities."

It was Federal agents who ended the violent career of Nash's chief, Al Spencer, when they cornered the robber and killer in the Osage Hills of Oklahoma 10 years ago.

Caffrey arrested Bailey, former companion of Fred (Killer) Burke, as he was playing golf on a Kansas City course a year ago. Arrested with Bailey were Thomas Holden and Francis Keating, train robbers escaped from Leavenworth.

Officers said today they had positive information Nash was a member of that foursome, but managed to elude the officers who arrested the other players.

Hot Springs Police Thought Capture Was a Kidnaping.

By the Associated Press.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., June 17.—Arrest here of Frank Nash, Oklahoma desperado, shot to death today along with four officers at Kansas City, was so spectacular that police thought someone had been kidnaped or "taken for a ride."

Nash, known in Hot Springs as "Doc Williams," a quiet man who tipped liberally while visiting night clubs during his two weeks' stay, was seized yesterday afternoon by three Government agents on the city's main thoroughfare.

The three walked into a Central avenue drug store, purchased cigars and as they started to leave, drew pistols and surrounded "Williams" who was drinking a glass of beer.

"Put that beer down and get into that automobile," commanded one of the two men who held pistols to his body, while the third went outside to an automobile. Nash complied reluctantly and was pushed into the waiting machine.

As the automobile speeded away toward Little Rock police received reports of a kidnaping, or that a man had been "taken for a ride." The authorities requested police in neighboring cities to watch all roads and stop the car.

The machine was halted at Benton, about half way to Little Rock. The occupants were questioned and permitted to proceed when the agents identified themselves as returning a prisoner to Missouri.

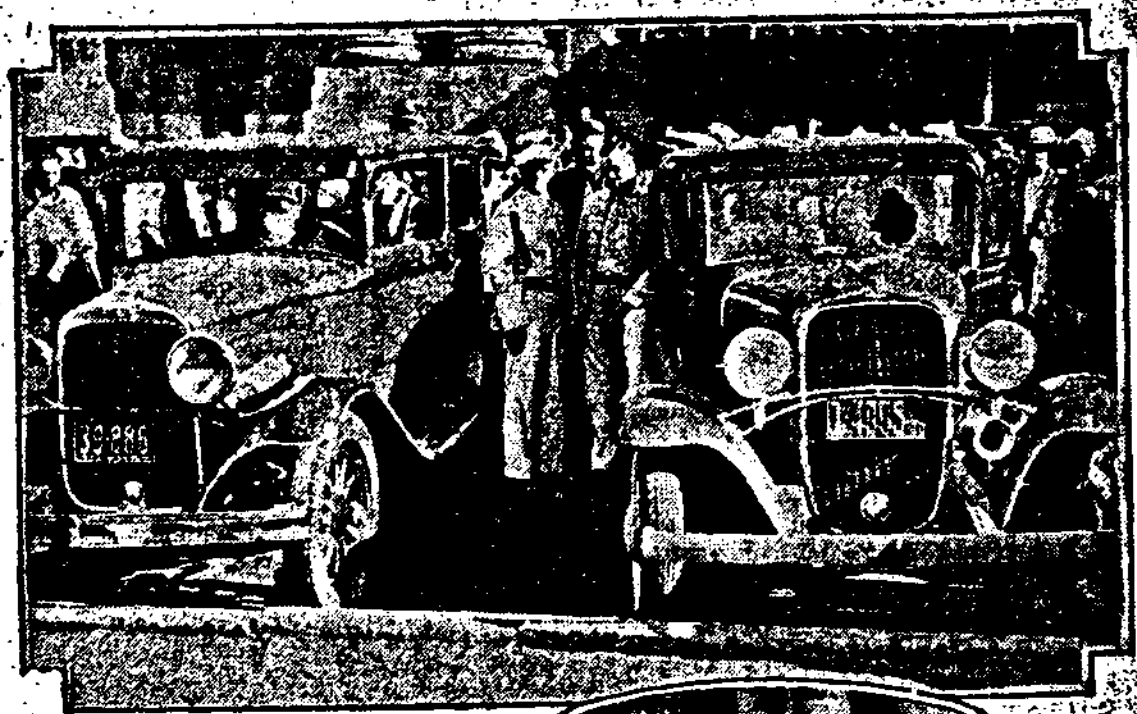
"Williams" kept to himself while in Hot Springs. Officers said he left the city the latter part of last week, returning three days ago. He visited night clubs frequently and tipped waiters and orchestra players with a free hand.

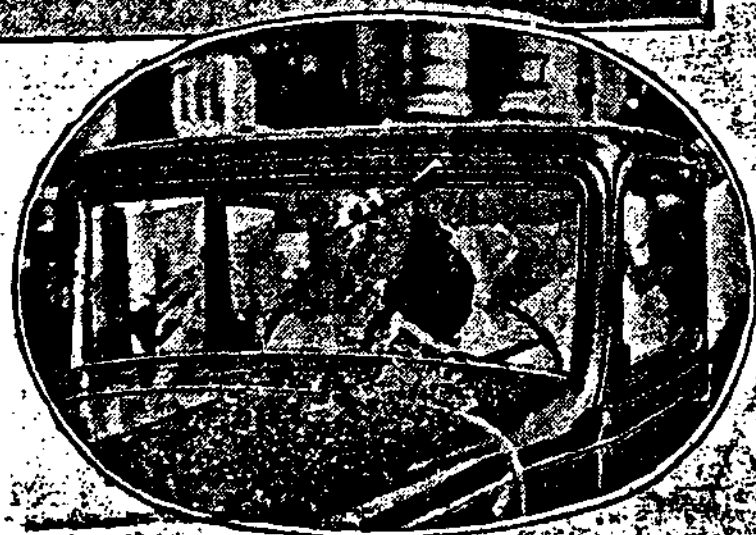
Report of the arrest was received in Little Rock and when the automobile reached there, it was escorted through the city by four detectives.

The Federal officers did not disclose the identity of their prisoner at Little Rock, although identifying themselves. Last night at Fort Smith, their next stop in the speedy trip to Missouri, they disclosed the man was Frank Nash, fugitive from the Fort Leavenworth Federal prison.

Their method of arrest, the Federal men said at Fort Smith, was necessary to avoid "trouble."

Where Officers and Prisoner Were Shot; One of Victims





ABOVE, automobile outside Union Station in Kansas City in which the fugitive Frank Nash was to be returned to Leavenworth prison when a surprise attack from machine gunners caused the death of four officers and Nash himself. A close-up view of the windshield shows large hole torn through the glass by stream of missiles. Below, at left, F. J. LACKEY, federal agent, who was wounded seriously, from a photograph taken several years ago when he posed as a prisoner to obtain information on conditions in the Atlanta penitentiary.

Mr. Nathan ✓
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

JUSTICE AGENTS ORDERED TO HUNT SLAYERS OF FIVE

Battle Results From Effort to Kill or Free Nash, Oklahoma Desperado.

By the Associated Press.

KANSAS CITY, June 17.—All the forces of the Federal Department of Justice, as well as the State of Missouri, were concentrated tonight on finding the killers of four officers and a desperado in a gun battle in the Union Station Plaza here today.

The crime, resulting from the ambushing of seven officers and a prisoner, turned the plaza into a scene of horror. Five were killed outright and two others wounded in the brief but deadly burst of fire.

At Washington Attorney General Cummings issued an order setting the entire Justice Department on the trail of the killers and specifically assigned a detail from points near Kansas City to the case.

Names and Prints Checked.

He also set men checking through the names, data, fingerprints and photographs in the files of the Leavenworth Penitentiary.

"It is my hope," Cummings said, "that in the field of law enforcement and in the detection and prosecution of crime, I may be able to bring about a better co-ordination of State and Federal activities."

The wholesale killings resulted from an effort by gangsters to release or slay Frank Nash, notorious Oklahoma train robbers and killer, being returned to the Federal prison at Leavenworth, where he escaped three years ago.

When the murderous rattle of machine gun slugs ceased, Nash, the Oklahoma desperado, was crumpled dead in an automobile he had entered the moment of the attack. Lifeless about him were:

Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent of the United States Bureau of Investigation.

Otto Reed, chief of police at McAlester, Okla.

Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detective.

W. J. Grooms, Kansas City detective.

F. J. Lackey Wounded.

The wounded were F. J. Lackey, special agent at Oklahoma City of the United States Bureau of Investigation, whose condition is considered critical, and R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge of the Kansas City Bureau of Investigation, who returned the fire of his assailants as they drove away.

Lackey was shot three times in the back. Vetterli suffered a slight wound in the left arm.

Nash, a member of the Al Spencer gang which terrorized Northeast Oklahoma 10 years ago, was arrested by agents of the Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, at Hot Springs, Ark., yesterday after a long and relentless search.

"I don't believe they intended to kill

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1.)

Washington Star
6/18/33

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U. S. AGENTS JOIN HUNT FOR KILLERS

Entire Force Put on Job Following Massacre at Kansas City.

(Continued From First Page.)

Nash," Vetterli said in recounting the details of the slaughter, apparently staged by four men armed with machine guns who had hidden themselves near the officers' car and calmly waited for them to group themselves about the automobile.

"We went to the station to meet the officers who were bringing Nash back from Hot Springs," Vetterli continued.

"Raymond Caffrey and I drove to the station in his car. The two Kansas City detectives, Hermanson and Grooms, drove to the station in their car. We met the Missouri-Pacific train and started over to Caffrey's car, headed south on the station drive across from the east door of the station.

"There were eight of us, including Nash, the prisoner, and seven officers. We were to enter Caffrey's car and the Kansas City detectives were to follow us to Leavenworth in their car.

"I was standing at the rear and west side of Caffrey's car. In the back seat were Lackey and Smith, the agents from Oklahoma, and Otto Reed, chief of police at McAlester, who came up with the prisoner.

Put 'Em Up Command Heard.

"Caffrey was to drive. Nash had sat in the driver's seat temporarily until the car was loaded and then he was to move over into the other front seat which was folded up to allow the three men to enter the rear seat.

"Caffrey stood on the pavement beside Nash on the east side of the car waiting for Nash to slide over into the folding front seat. Hermanson and Grooms were standing on the west side of the car and toward the front. Suddenly I heard a man say 'Put 'em up, up, up.

"I looked and saw a man blazing away with a machine gun from near the southwest corner of the car. He seemed to be standing on something—perhaps the running board of a car. I don't know exactly. But he was very close to us.

"I crouched under the murderous fire. I believe there were other machine guns working, too. Hermanson and Grooms fell to the pavement in front of me, their bodies riddled. The windshield of Caffrey's car was splintering. The men inside of it were powerless before the red fire from the rattling guns.

"I fell to the pavement. I felt a stinging pain in my left arm. When the firing ceased—and it was all over in a flash—I leveled a pump gun at the escaping car, which roared westward out of the station parking lot."

Three or Four Assailants.

From accounts of the ambush, officers believe three or possibly four men fired upon the officers from the right and left at the same time. They believe the death car was parked near that of the officers in anticipation of their appearance and that the assassins were concealed among other automobiles nearby.

Across the plaza stood the shattered car. On the pavement beside the car were the bodies of Caffrey, Hermanson and Grooms. The two Kansas City detectives had fallen together, on their backs, their heads riddled with machine gun slugs.

Nash was a friend of Harvey Bailey, a leader of the 11 convicts who escaped from the Kansas prison in the Memorial day break.

He had been sought by Federal officers for questioning in connection with the prison break at the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth in December, 1931, when Warden T. B. White, then in charge, was kidnaped and wounded by escaping convicts.

He was a friend of Harold Fontaine, former Federal convict, convicted of smuggling firearms into the prison for the break.

T. J. Higgins, chief of detectives, expressed belief that the attack was a plot for the release of Nash, probably engineered by Harvey Bailey, who may not have been present at its execution.

Floyd Participation Doubted.

The chief said he doubted that Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, another Oklahoma killer, was involved although Floyd released a kidnaped sheriff near Lees Summit, Mo., about 20 miles from Kansas City, last night.

The sheriff, Jack Killingsworth of Bolivar, Mo., who was with Floyd 14 hours yesterday, declared his belief that Floyd and his companion, Adam Richetti, who kidnaped him at Bolivar yesterday, had nothing to do with the killings.

Officers received a report that the car used by the killer had been seen driving on Mission road, a route that leads toward Oklahoma. Armored cars cruised in pursuit. A rumor filtered into police headquarters that the assassins had followed the train to Kansas City from Oklahoma last night.

The slayers were the object of probably the most intensive search this city has ever witnessed. Hundreds of police and Federal authorities were scouring the city and peace officers from every nearby community were guarding highways.

It was Federal agents who ended the violent career of Nash's chief, Al Spencer, when they cornered the robber and killer in the Osage Hills of Oklahoma 10 years ago.

Nash Member of Foursome.

Caffrey arrested Bailey, former companion of Fred (Killer) Burke, as he was playing golf on a Kansas City course a year ago. Arrested with Bailey were Thomas Holden and Francis Keating, train robbers escaped from Leavenworth.

Officers said they had positive information Nash was a member of that foursome, but managed to elude the officers who arrested the other players.

Frank Smith, the agent from Oklahoma City who arrested Nash in Hot Springs, sat unscathed through the deadly fusillade. "I guess it just wasn't my time," he said.

"It was a wonder," he continued, "that we weren't killed when we took Nash in Hot Springs. He had been there for some time and was surrounded by his own gang of outlaws and criminals. Our method was to work fast and get him out of the country before any one could get hold of us. Nash has been a nortorious bandit, train robber in the Al Spencer gang and with other gangs, for years.

"Nash has been one of the desperate killers and bandits of the Middle West. We knew that. That's why we acted cautiously. That's why, when I learned that Nash was in Hot Springs, I asked Chief Reed to go with Lackey and me."

Woman Describes Shooting.

Mrs. Lottie West, Travelers' Aid worker at the Union Station here, gave the following account of the slayings:

"I saw the killers of the Government agent, city detectives, the Oklahoma police chief and Frank Nash in front of the Union Station this morning, calmly awaiting their victims to group themselves about the motor car which was to take them to Leavenworth.

"I then saw them step out of hiding and deliberately open fire. The first men to fall were officers. Nash was one of the last to be killed.

"Sitting at my desk, I watched the group of officers take Nash through the doors from the trains, march him across the lobby. Two of the officers carried sawed-off shotguns. Another kept his hand on his hip, ready to draw his revolver. The group crossed the station fan shape, Nash in the center. Nash was handcuffed.

"He must be pretty bad," I remarked to a friend. "Maybe he is (Pretty Boy) Floyd.

"I followed the group out to the sta-

tion platform, watched them walk across the street and saw them direct Nash to get in the front seat of the motor car. Some of the officers on each side of the car. The two carrying sawed-off shotguns leaned these guns against the left-hand fender of the car.

"Just at that time a large man, who would weigh about 200 pounds, stepped out from behind the lamp post beside the concrete bus landing. He was carrying one of these guns with a cylinder on top of it. He started shooting right into the backs of the two officers.

"At about the same time two men stepped out from behind my automobile, which was parked a little west of the officers' car and facing north. Both were small men. One had what appeared to be a shotgun and the other a machine gun. They started shooting at the other officers. The officers fell to the ground, except one on the east side of the car in which Nash was sitting.

Sisters Warned to Flee.

"He started shooting at the two men back of my car. He was shooting right by Nash and I believe he shot Nash.

"There were six Catholic sisters on the platform. I called to them to run inside out of danger. Four did, the other two stood still.

"When I looked again I saw Mike Panning, motor cycle patrolman assigned to the station, running through the station doors.

"'There he is, Mike, get him,'" I shouted pointing to the big gunman.

"Panning started shooting, firing three shots. The big man dropped to the ground and I thought he was hit. I ran back into the station then and did not see how the killers escaped.

RELENTLESS SEARCH ORDERED.

Cummings Says Wholesale Slaying Challenges Law Enforcers.

Characterizing the Kansas City machine gun massacre of a Federal officer and three policemen as a direct challenge flung at Government law enforcement authorities, Attorney General Cummings has ordered all available investigators under his command into a relentless search for the slayers.

The ruthless murder of Special Agent Raymond J. Caffrey of the United States Bureau of Investigation and three police officers by gunmen apparently seeking release of their prisoner, Frank Nash, reputed Capone henchman, came close yesterday on the heels of statements by President Roosevelt and his Attorney General denouncing racketeers and gangsterism.

Cummings several days ago proclaimed warfare against gangdom and terrorism, announcing a plan to effect better co-operation between municipal, State and Federal authorities in the drive on crime. The President, in a statement Friday night, declared legal businesses must be protected from racketeers.

Federal Statute Lacking.

Full co-operation of Federal agents in the hunt for the fugitive killers is about as far as the Government can go in this crime, because, strange to relate, the killing of Agent Caffrey does not violate any Federal law more severe than "obstructing justice," the penalty for which is but a few years in prison.

Lack of a Federal statute against murder of a Government officer was deplored at the time of the slaying of Special Agent Shanahan of the Bureau of Investigation by Martin Durkin, notorious "sheik" gunman, several years ago. There was agitation at the time for a Federal law against murderers of Government men, but the movement is said to have been lost in a controversy in Congress over activities of prohibition agents.

The chief clue in the hands of the authorities at Kansas City is the tag number of the black sedan from which the machine gunners poured a deathly fire of lead into the group of Federal officers and police transferring Nash from a train to an automobile at the station. The tag numbers may turn out to be "dead" or to be those of a stolen car, it is thought.

At least one of the gunmen, a stout man who pumped a submachine gun from a point on the sidewalk and then jumped to the running board of the fleeing car, is believed to have been hit by the return fire. Hospitals and physicians' offices are being checked to see if this man applied for treatment.

Lackey Formerly of Capital.

Francis J. Lackey, who fell with the first burst of fire from machine guns behind him and who is in a serious condition from his wounds, is a former resident of Washington. A graduate of George Washington University, he married an Alexandria girl, who was employed in the Department of Justice—Miss Caroline West. Mr. and Mrs. Lackey have resided in Oklahoma City for several years. Lackey took a prominent part in the investigation of the Virginia McPherson murder-or-suicide mystery some years ago.

Caffrey had never been stationed in Washington, but was well known in law enforcement circles here. He leaves a wife and young daughter. The widow will receive a small pension under the Federal workmen's compensation act, it is understood.

Department of Justice officials were preparing a press release about the capture of Nash in a bloodless coup at Hot Springs, Ark., Friday night, when word arrived of the slayings at Kansas City. Nash had been the object of a Nation-wide search since his escape from Leavenworth Penitentiary in 1930. He and his close companions, Thomas Holden and Francis L. Keating, Capone gangsters, had been possible suspects in the Lindbergh kidnaping at one time. Holden and Keating, also escaped convicts, were returned to Leavenworth last year after their capture on a Kansas City golf course by Agent Caffrey and another Federal officer.

C O

Mr. Nathan ✓
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

U. S. PUSHES HUNT FOR SLAYERS OF 5

Every Resource of Justice Department Invoked for Gang That Killed Officers

DEATH-CAR TRAIL LOST

Kansas City, June 18.— (AP) — Search for the machine-gun killers of four peace officers and an escaped convict here yesterday spread to a half dozen States tonight, although Federal and local officers had but meager clues on which to work.

The trail left by the slayers from the scene of the killing, Union Station Plaza, was soon lost, and even the path taken by them has remained a subject of dispute. However, agents of the United States Bureau of Investigation and hundreds of other officers were piecing bits of evidence together in hopes of bringing about their arrest.

Dropped by the machine-gun fire were Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent of the Bureau of Investigation; Otto Reed, McAlester (Okla.) chief of police; Frank Henderson and W. J. Grooms, Kansas City detectives, and Frank Nash, notorious Oklahoma train robber and killer.

Sees Plot to Free Nash

Nash was being returned to the Federal prison at Leavenworth, from which he escaped three years ago.

Officers were divided in theories as to whether the killing was staged in an effort to free Nash or "rub him out."

However, Thomas J. Higgins, chief of Kansas City detectives, said today he was confident the purpose was to liberate the 49-year-old college-bred convict, who walked away from the Leavenworth prison as a trusty in October, 1930.

F. J. Lackey, special agent at Oklahoma City of the United States Bureau of Investigation, who was critically wounded by the slayers, still was clinging to life today at Research Hospital. R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge of the Bureau of Investigation here, was slightly wounded.

Wide Area Searched

The search for the gunmen, whose number was various estimated at from two to four, spread to Hot Springs, Ark., where Nash was arrested, to Oklahoma, where he was a member of the Al Spencer gang; through Missouri and Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa, and even to Chicago where Nash had told police he had "connections."

Statements of twenty or more eyewitnesses of the killing are in conflict as to the number of men involved. Sight of the motorcar in which the gunmen fled was lost three blocks from the station.

Federal agents were rushed here from a wide area to assist in the search. Their instructions were to "get their men." Every resource of the Department of Justice was brought into action.

Washington Star

6/18/33

NOT RECORDED

62-28915-A

CAFFREY FUNERAL WILL BE HELD IN OMAHA SHORTLY

Nebraskan Was Graduate of Creighton U. and 30 Years Old.

Funeral services for Raymond J. Caffrey, 30 years old, United States bureau of investigation agent, who was killed Saturday morning in the Union station plaza massacre, will be held in Omaha sometime Monday or Tuesday.

Caffrey was born in McCook, Neb., May 15, 1902, and as a boy lived in Stamford, Neb. He was graduated from the law department of Creighton university in 1924, and went to Florida to practice. He married Miss Regina Dolan of Des Moines, Ia., in December 1925, in Brandenton, Fla. He had been with the department of justice about six years.

Mr. and Mrs. Caffrey, with their 6-year-old son, Jimmy, came to Kansas City about a month ago from Omaha, where he was in charge of the bureau of investigation. They previously had lived in Kansas City.

Parents Also Survive.

Besides his widow and son, Mr. Caffrey is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Caffrey of Omaha; three brothers, Charles Caffrey, with the department of justice in Washington; Francis Caffrey, Rathdrum, Id., and Edward Caffrey, Stamford, Neb., and two sisters, Mrs. Richard Ryan, Wilton Junction, Ia., and Miss Julianne Caffrey of the home in Omaha.

The father and brother, Charles, arrived by plane in Kansas City late Saturday afternoon and accompanied the body to Omaha Saturday night.

Hermanson Rites Monday.

Funeral services for Frank E. Hermanson will be held at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon from the Mast funeral home. Burial will be in Woodlawn cemetery. The following members of the detective department will serve as pallbearers:

Phil Hoyt	Frank Johnson
J. D. Teeters	R. B. Cooley
W. H. VanCleave	R. B. Highley

Services for William J. Grooms will be held in the Quirk & Tobin chapel at 8:30 o'clock Monday morning and in the Redemptorist church at 9 o'clock. Burial will be in St. Mary's cemetery.

The pallbearers:

Jack Clifford, Jr.	Thomas Brock
William Boyle	Robert Bieler
Daniel Flavin	George Cortlas

No arrangements have been made for the funeral of Frank Nash, convict, who was killed with the federal agent and detectives.

Reared in Kansas City.

Grooms was born and reared in Kansas City and had lived here all his life. He attended the Christian Brothers school in St. Louis, and later was graduated from Rockhurst college. During the World war he enlisted in the navy and spent four years in the Orient.

During the time he has been on the police force he has attended the Kansas City School of Law at night and would have been a senior next year. He married Miss Myrtle Larson of Mapleton, Kas., in 1926.

Besides his widow, of the home, 3927 Roanoke road, Mr. Grooms is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Grooms, 304 West Thirty-fourth street, and a sister.

Hermanson was born and reared in Kansas City, Kas. Before he joined the police force in 1920 he worked as a switchman for the Missouri Pacific and Chicago Great Western railways.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Monte Hermanson, and a son, Robert Hermanson, 21 years old, both of the home, and his stepfather, Paul Ostertag, 2571 Hiawatha avenue, Kansas City, Kas.

KANSAS CITY JOURNAL-POST.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1933.

WIDE HUNT FAILS TO YIELD SINGLE 'PRETTY BOY' CLEW

Four Armored Motor Cars Comb Tourist Camps in Search for Outlaw.

Four armored motor cars filled with deputy sheriffs, city detectives and federal operatives, headed by Sheriff Thomas B. Bash, William G. Schickhardt, chief deputy sheriff and Sgt. B. H. Thurman, visited a farm house and several tourist camps in eastern Jackson county Saturday afternoon in a fruitless search for Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd and his accomplices who were known to have been in the neighborhood of Lees Summit Friday night.

Sheriff Jack Killingsworth of Polk county and an unidentified insurance man from Clinton, who were captives of the Floyd gang Friday and part of Friday night, were released near Lees Summit.

Search Farmhouse.

The Clinton man, who was kidnaped Friday afternoon at Deepwater, is believed to have returned to his home, but he has not told authorities there of his experience and his name has not been revealed by Sheriff Killingsworth.

The search in eastern Jackson county led first to a farm home on the Independence-Blue Springs road, about one and one-half miles northwest of Blue Springs. The armored cars were driven into the yard of the home which is owned by Guy Pettit, and officers armed with machine guns, automatic and repeating rifles and sawed off shotguns, supplemented by a tear gas gun, surrounded the house in a few seconds.

The occupants, Mr. and Mrs. Pettit, were quietly at work and were consternated when they found themselves surrounded by a large number of armed officers. No one was at the place but the Pettits. Officers had been informed that Mrs. Pettit was a relative of Floyd, but she denied any relationship to Floyd or any knowledge of him, other than what she had read.

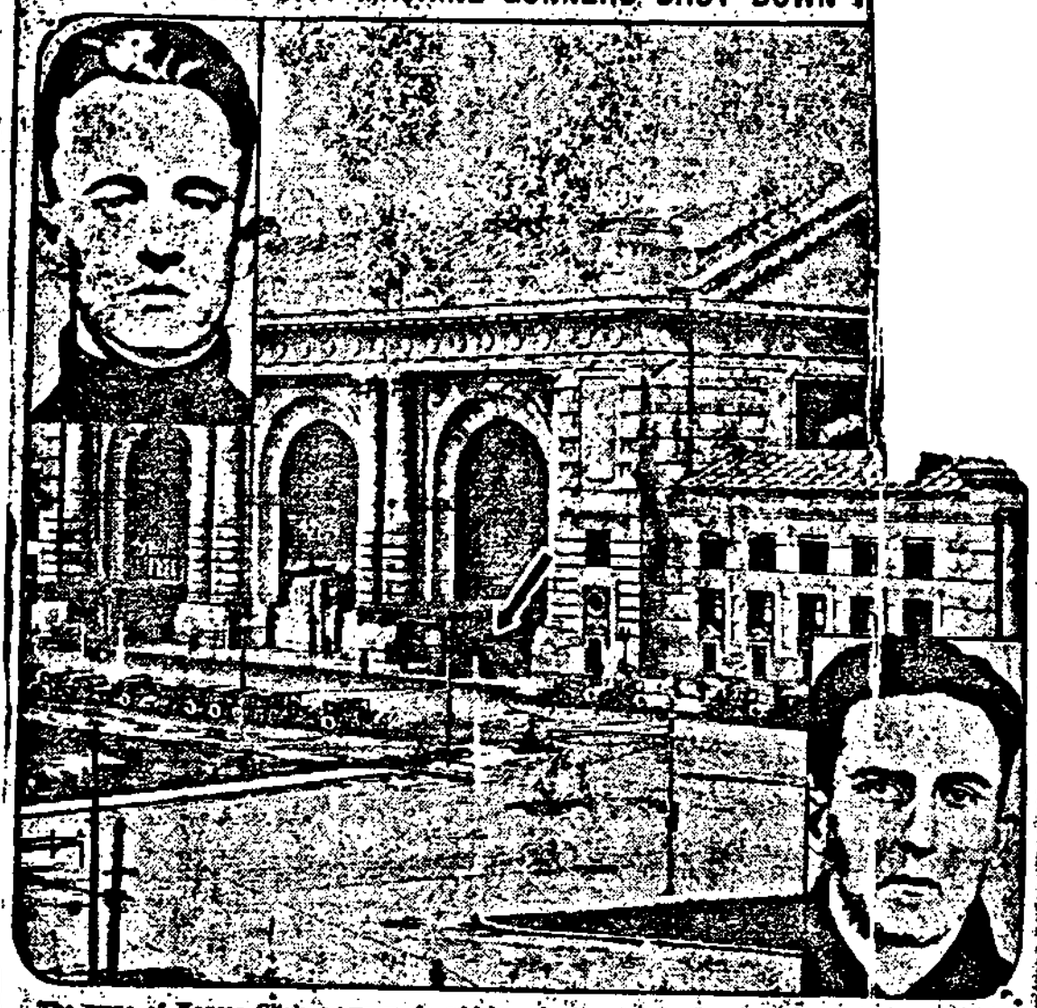
Search Tourist Camps.

From the Pettit farm the posse headed toward U. S. 40 where two small tourist camps were searched for possible fugitives. The only occupant routed out at one of them was a young woman, frightened by the display of "artillery" and armored cars, who wandered about the grounds with a coat over her arm as if ready for instant flight should warfare break out. The second camp yielded no guests.

A test run from a point north and east of Lees Summit, where Sheriff Bash suspects that Sheriff Killingsworth and his fellow captive were released with the latter's motor car, showed that the distance was about fifteen minutes easy driving time, which checked with Killingsworth's explanation to Sheriff Bash over long distance telephone Saturday morning that he was released near Lees Summit and required about fifteen minutes to drive into town.

HUNDREDS SEE R
AS GANG TRIES

WHERE KANSAS CITY MACHINE GUNNERS SHOT DOWN F



The scene of Kansas City's massacre, in which five men died, is shown here, the arrow pointing to the concourse entrance to Union Station. Harold Pettiaine, Chicago gangster and suspected leader of the gang which opened fire on the officers, is shown in the upper inset. Below, F. J. Lackey, Federal investigator, one of the officers originally wounded.

Pittsburgh Press - Sunday, June 18, 1933.

VE MASSACRED TO FREE CONVICT

VE VICTIMS

Four Officers and Recaptured Prisoner Trapped by Machine Gun Crossfire In Kansas City Union Station

2 FEDERAL SLEUTHS AMONG VICTIMS

Shooting Climaxes Wave of Kidnapings, Robberies and Other Murders in Southwest

By The United Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17—Four officers, trapped in a deadly crossfire of machine gun bullets, were massacred here today as the climax of a wave of crime that has swept the Southwest for weeks.

With them died Frank Nash, escaped convict and member of the Al Spencer gang of train and bank bandits that spread terror in Oklahoma years ago.

Coming on the heels of a series of kidnapings, robberies and other murders since the recent escape of two gangs from the Kansas State Prison, the massacre spurred a wide hunt for the machine-gunners.

Chief of Detectives Thomas J. Higgins said he had information that either Wilber Underhill or Harvey Bailey, leaders of the convict band that escaped Memorial Day, was the leader of the massacre gang.

Trapped By Two Gangs

The killings occurred as hundreds looked on in the Union Station plaza where gangsters made the murderous attempt to liberate Nash as he was being returned to Leavenworth Penitentiary, from which he escaped in 1930. So great was the panic that witnesses failed to obtain even meager descriptions of the killers.

As the officers were entering an auto for the trip to Leavenworth, they were caught in the machine gun barrage. Nash died in his manacles.

One group of gunmen [illegible] behind a parked car and opened fire at close range.

Simultaneously, a second group in an auto passing through the plaza made the officers their target.

The machine gunners swung into action so quickly that the officers fell without a chance to fight for their lives.

U. S. Agent Among Dead

The slain officers were Raymond J. Caffrey, agent of the Department of Justice; Chief of Police Ott Reed of McAlester, Okla., and William Grooms and Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detectives.

E. F. Lackey, another Department of Justice agent, was critically wounded. R. E. Vetterli, head of the Department of Justic Bureau of Investigation here, received a minor flesh wound.

At the hospital later, Agent Lackey gave a brief statement:

"I heard one man yell, 'Let 'em have it!' and I thought they were shooting at us with 30-30s."

Nash was captured yesterday at Hot Springs, Ark., and Chief Reed and Agents Caffrey and Lackey brought him to Kansas City. The bandit boasted he never would be taken back to prison alive, but

was being returned to Leavenworth Penitentiary, from which he escaped in 1930. So great was the panic that witnesses failed to obtain even meager descriptions of the killers.

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Scores Watch Prisoner

Scores turned to look curiously as Nash, manacled to one of the officers, was led to a police car.

A minute later the machine guns blazed and five were dead.

Nash and Chief Reed slumped over in the car, dead.

Detectives Grooms and Hermanson fell to the pavement, fatally wounded.

Mr. Caffrey died before he could be taken to a hospital.

Agent Lackey, desperately wounded with three shots in his abdomen, was hurried to the hospital.

Mr. Vetterli's clothing was ripped by the shot, but he escaped with the single wound in his arm.

Nuns Flee To Station

Within the station, crowds were pouring from early-morning trains as the barrage burst. Among them were six nuns who walked quietly on as the bullets spattered about their feet. Then Mrs. Lottie West,

(Continued on Page 11)

MACHINE GUNS MASSACRE FIVE IN KANSAS CITY

Four Officers and Convict Killed in Station in Sight of Hundreds

THREE MORE WOUNDED

Shooting Climaxes Wave of Kidnapings, Robberies and Murders in Southwest

(Continued from Page 1)

Travelers' Aid attendant, called out. Four of them turned and fled to the shelter of the station. The others stood as if paralyzed until someone in the crowd running for cover grasped them by the arms and hurried them inside.

Bullets riddled cars parked near the spot where the officers were massacred.

Customers in the station restaurant dropped quickly behind the counters.

Crowds Rush to Scene

For just a moment after the shooting as the sob of machine gun fire died down there was a tense silence in the plaza.

Then, from all directions, great crowds of men and women rushed toward the spot. Women screamed in horror as they heard the groans of dying men.

Mr. Vetterli leaped from the spot where he had fallen and ran to the station, where Mrs. West already was calling police.

Riot squads poured into the station with sirens screaming, and ambulances soon followed.

Witnesses' Stories Conflict

So sudden was the onslaught machine gunners, so startling tragedy, that eye-witnesses stunned. Their stories of happened conflicted.

Mac Straley, a station em told of following Nash and officers through the station.

"They walked to their car," ley said. "Some of them ting in when a small ma brown derby stepped fro another car and began

H. M. McDonald, of Cities Service Oil Co driving to his office front of the station wh ing started.

Caught Without

"As the fire died back," Mr. McDonald the bodies—they were out a chance. Then started coming."

"I saw two men fall beside the car in which had put their prisoner, ert Fritts, a taxicab driver.

"They fell in each other Later I learned that they were low officers who always teamed together."

An error in timing by the machine gunners apparently cost the life the man they were seeking to free.

"The officers," Duncan Ross, other eye-witness, said, "were ing into a car with their prisoner and were putting him in the

Bandits Rob Bank In Oklahoma Town

By The United Press

LAMONT, Okla., June 13.—Five bandits terrorized night-clothed citizens here early today, broke into the Citizens' Bank and carried away the bank's safe with $3,500 in currency.

Girls Leaves Auto, Then It's Riddled

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Witnesses' Stories Conflict

So sudden was the onslaught of machine gunners, so startling the tragedy, that eye-witnesses were stunned. Their stories of what happened conflicted.

Mac Straley, a station employe, told of following Nash and the officers through the station.

"They walked to their car," Straley said. "Some of them were getting in when a small man in a brown derby stepped from behind another car and began shooting."

H. M. McDonald, official of the Cities Service Oil Company, was driving to his office and was in front of the station when the shooting started.

'Caught Without Chance'

"As the fire died down I drove back," Mr. McDonald said. "I saw the bodies—they were caught without a chance. Then the police cars started coming."

"I saw two men fall in the street beside the car in which the officers had put their prisoner," said Robert Fritts, a taxicab driver. "They fell in each other's arms. Later I learned that they were fellow officers who always teamed together."

An error in timing by the machine gunners apparently cost the life of the man they were seeking to free.

"The officers," Duncan Ross, another eye-witness, said, "were getting into a car with their prisoner and were putting him in the front seat. Three men apparently were going to ride in front, Nash, the prisoner, in the middle.

"If the bandit gang had waited a few seconds more Nash would have been protected by the officer climbing into the seat beside him. As it was the officer was not quite in the car and he fell to the pavement so that Nash had no protection against the shots of his pals.

"The ironical thing about the whole affair was that I saw the killers go to a car which part of the officers had just left and take out machine guns. Those policemen were killed by their own guns."

Bandits Rob Bank In Oklahoma Town

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LAMONT, Okla., June 17—Five bandits terrorized night-clothed citizens here early today, broke into the Citizens Bank and carried away the bank's safe with $3,500 in currency.

Girls Leaves Auto, Then It's Riddled

By The United Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17—Mrs. Amanda Millikan and her daughter, Parnie, arrived at the Union Station today to meet Mrs. Millikan's sister a few minutes before five men were massacred.

"I'll wait in the car for you," Miss Millikan said.

"No, you come with me—there are two doors to watch and I might miss her," the mother replied.

A few minutes later the Millikan car was riddled with machine gun bullets.

Gang Convict Captured

been taken into the confidence of Nash's captors, wired Benton, Ark., officers to halt the auto and hold the occupants.

Benton officers allowed the party to proceed after the three men identified themselves as Federal officers "taking a gangster back to Missouri."

In Little Rock police again stopped the car, but allowed it to proceed under escort after questioning the occupants.

Nash had lived here four months in a fashionable apartment house with a woman whom he introduced as his wife. She left several days ago for California.

More U. S. Agents Rushed To Massacre Scene

By The United Press

WASHINGTON, June 17—Department of Justice officials were in telephonic communication with Kansas City authorities today in connection with the investigation into the shooting there in which one Justice Department agent was killed and another seriously wounded.

Special agents of the department were ordered to Kansas City to assist those now on duty and Attorney General Cummings was kept informed of all developments.

Following the shooting, Mr. Cummings arranged to have det[illegible] the shooting and [illegible] tions of [illegible]

Convict Massacre Victim Pursued for Three Years

By The United Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17—Frank Nash, bald-headed Oklahoma outlaw, who was killed in the Union Station massacre here today, met death in manacles—ending a criminal career that started with the old Spencer gang of bank bandits and train robbers.

Known as the "gentleman" of the Spencer gang, Nash participated in their long reign of terror.

The robbery of a train at Okesha, Okla., started him on his way to notoriety. He was captured and given a 25-year sentence in Leavenworth Federal Prison.

Because of his education and manner, he soon was made a trusty, only to violate the trust placed by his escape in 1930.

A year later, Nash, with Harold Pontaine, aided from the outside the prison break of seven convicts from Leavenworth.

The break was effected by using Warden Thomas B. White as a shield, forcing the guards to open the gates.

Three of the escaped convicts were trapped and killed near Leavenworth and the other four captured.

Nash and Pontaine were responsible for shipping arms and nitroglycerin into the prison in a barrel of shoe paste.

For nearly three years Nash had been sought by Department of Justice operatives, and to one—F. P. Lackey—Nash was a special consideration.

Day in and day out, Lackey, now lying near death in General Hospital, checked interminable clues. It was his work that uncovered Pontaine's and Nash's part in the smuggling of arms into the prison.

Recently the trail grew hotter, and yesterday the Federal agents closed in on the convict at Hot Springs, Ark.

Only one thing remained for Agent Lackey to do—return his man to the prison.

JUSTICE AGENTS ORDERED TO HUNT SLAYERS OF FIVE

Battle Results From Effort to Kill or Free Nash, Oklahoma Desperado.

By the Associated Press.

KANSAS CITY, June 17.—All the forces of the Federal Department of Justice, as well as the State of Missouri, were concentrated tonight on finding the killers of four officers and a desperado in a gun battle in the Union Station Plaza here today.

The crime, resulting from the ambushing of seven officers and a prisoner, turned the plaza into a scene of horror. Five were killed outright and two others wounded in the brief but deadly burst of fire.

At Washington Attorney General Cummings issued an order setting the entire Justice Department on the trail of the killers and specifically assigned a detail from points near Kansas City to the case.

Names and Prints Checked.

He also set men checking through the names, data, fingerprints and photographs in the files of the Leavenworth Penitentiary.

"It is my hope," Cummings said, "that in the field of law enforcement and in the detection and prosecution of crime, I may be able to bring about a better co-ordination of State and Federal activities."

The wholesale killings resulted from an effort by gangsters to release or slay Frank Nash, notorious Oklahoma train robbers and killer, being returned to the Federal prison at Leavenworth, where he escaped three years ago.

When the murderous rattle of machine gun slugs ceased, Nash, the Oklahoma desperado, was crumpled dead in an automobile he had entered the moment of the attack. Lifeless about him were:

Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent of the United States Bureau of Investigation.

Otto Reed, chief of police at McAlester, Okla.

Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detective.

W. J. Grooms, Kansas City detective.

F. J. Lackey Wounded.

The wounded were F. J. Lackey, special agent at Oklahoma City of the United States Bureau of Investigation, whose condition is considered critical, and R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge of the Kansas City Bureau of Investigation, who returned the fire of his assailants as they drove away.

Lackey was shot three times in the back. Vetterli suffered a slight wound in the left arm.

Nash, a member of the Al Spencer gang which terrorized Northeast Oklahoma 10 years ago, was arrested by agents of the Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, at Hot Springs, Ark., yesterday after a long and relentless search.

"I don't believe they intended to kill [illegible]," Vetterli said in recounting the [illegible] of the slaughter, apparently [illegible] by four men armed with machine guns who had hidden themselves near the officers' car and calmly waited for them to group themselves about the automobile.

"We went to the station to meet the officers who were bringing Nash back from Hot Springs," Vetterli continued.

"Raymond Caffrey and I drove to the station in his car. The two Kansas City detectives, Hermanson and Grooms, drove to the station in their car. We met the Missouri-Pacific train and started over to Caffrey's car, headed south on the station drive across from the east door of the station.

"There were eight of us, including Nash, the prisoner, and seven officers. We were to enter Caffrey's car and the Kansas City detectives were to follow us to Leavenworth in their car.

"I was standing at the rear and west side of Caffrey's car. In the back seat were Lackey and Smith, the agents from Oklahoma, and Otto Reed, chief of police at McAlester, who came up with the prisoner.

Put 'Em Up Command Heard.

"Caffrey was to drive. Nash had sat in the driver's seat temporarily until the car was loaded and then he was to move over into the other front seat which was folded up to allow the three men to enter the rear seat.

"Caffrey stood on the pavement beside Nash on the east side of the car waiting for Nash to slide over into the folding front seat. Hermanson and Grooms were standing on the west side of the car and toward the front. Suddenly I heard a man say 'Put 'em up, up, up.

"I looked and saw a man blasting away with a machine gun from near the southwest corner of the car. He seemed to be standing on something—perhaps the running board of a car. I don't know exactly. But he was very close to us.

"I crouched under the murderous fire. I believe there were other machine guns working, too. Hermanson and Grooms fell to the pavement in front of me, their bodies riddled. The windshield of Caffrey's car was splintering. The men inside of it were powerless before the red fire from the rattling guns.

"I fell to the pavement. I felt a stinging pain in my left arm. When the firing ceased—and it was all over in a flash—I leveled a pump gun at the escaping car, which roared westward out of the station parking lot."

Three or Four Assailants.

From accounts of the ambush, officers believe three or possibly four men fired upon the officers from the right and left at the same time. They believe the death car was parked near that of the officers in anticipation of their appearance and that the assassins were concealed among other automobiles nearby.

Across the plaza stood the shattered car. On the pavement beside the car were the bodies of Caffrey, Hermanson and Grooms. The two Kansas City detectives had fallen together, on their backs, their heads riddled with machine gun slugs.

Nash was a friend of Harvey Bailey, a leader of the 11 convicts who escaped from the Kansas prison in the Memorial day break.

He had been sought by Federal officers for questioning in connection with the prison break at the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth in December, 1931, when Warden T. B. White, then in charge, was kidnaped and wounded by escaping convicts.

He was a friend of Harold Fontaine, former Federal convict, convicted of smuggling firearms into the prison for the break.

T. J. Higgins, chief of detectives, expressed belief that the attack was a plot for the release of Nash, probably engineered by Harvey Bailey, who may not have been present at its execution.

Floyd Suspicion Doubted.

The chief said he doubted that Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, another Oklahoma killer, was involved although Floyd released a kidnaped sheriff near Lees Summit, Mo., about 20 miles from Kansas City, last night.

The sheriff, Jack Killingsworth of Bolivar, Mo., who was with Floyd 14 hours yesterday, declared his belief that Floyd and his companion, Adam Richetti, who kidnaped him at Bolivar yesterday, had nothing to do with the killings.

Officers received a report that the car used by the killer had been seen driving on Mission road, a route that leads toward Oklahoma. Armored cars cruised in pursuit. A rumor filtered into police headquarters that the assassins had followed the train to Kansas City from Oklahoma last night.

The slayers were the object of probably the most intensive search this city has ever witnessed. Hundreds of police and Federal authorities were scouring the city and peace officers from every nearby community were guarding highways.

It was Federal agents who ended the violent career of Nash's chief, Al Spencer, when they cornered the robber and killer in the Osage Hills of Oklahoma 10 years ago.

Nash Member of Foursome.

Caffrey arrested Bailey, former companion of Pred (Killer) Burke, as he was playing golf on a Kansas City course a year ago. Arrested with Bailey were Thomas Holden and Francis Keating, train robbers escaped from Leavenworth.

Officers said they had positive information Nash was a member of that foursome, but managed to elude the officers who arrested the other players.

Frank Smith, the agent from Oklahoma City who arrested Nash in Hot Springs, sat unscathed through the deadly fusillade. "I guess it just wasn't my time," he said.

"It was a wonder," he continued, "that we weren't killed when we took Nash in Hot Springs. He had been there for some time and was surrounded by his own gang of outlaws and criminals. Our method was to work fast and get him out of the country before any one could get hold of us. Nash has been a nortorious bandit, train robber in the Al Spencer gang and with other gangs, for years.

"Nash has been one of the desperate killers and bandits of the Middle West. We knew that. That's why we acted cautiously. That's why, when I learned that Nash was in Hot Springs, I asked Chief Reed to go with Lackey and me."

Woman Describes Shooting.

Mrs. Lottie West, Travelers' Aid worker at the Union Station here, gave the following account of the slayings:

"I saw the killers of the Government agent, city detectives, the Oklahoma police chief and Frank Nash in front of the Union Station this morning, calmly awaiting their victims to group themselves about the motor car which was to take them to Leavenworth.

"I then saw them step out of hiding and deliberately open fire. The first men to fall were officers. Nash was one of the last to be killed.

"Sitting at my desk, I watched the group of officers take Nash through the doors from the trains, march him across the lobby. Two of the officers carried sawed-off shotguns. Another kept his hand on his hip, ready to draw his revolver. The group crossed the station fan shape, Nash in the center. Nash was handcuffed.

"He must be pretty bad," I remarked to a friend. "Maybe he is (Pretty Boy) Floyd.

"I followed the group out to the sta-

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tion platform, watched them walk across the street and saw them direct Nash to get in the front seat of the motor car. Some of the officers on each side of the car. The two carrying sawed-off shotguns leaned these guns against the left-hand fender of the car.

"Just at that time a large man, who would weigh about 200 pounds, stepped out from behind the lamp post beside the concrete bus landing. He was carrying one of these guns with a cylinder on top of it. He started shooting right into the backs of the two officers.

"At about the same time two men stepped out from behind my automobile, which was parked a little west of the officers' car and facing north. Both were small men. One had what appeared to be a shotgun and the other a machine gun. They started shooting at the other officers. The officers fell to the ground, except one on the east side of the car in which Nash was sitting.

Sisters Warned to Flee.

"He started shooting at the two men back of my car. He was shooting right by Nash and I believe he shot Nash.

"There were six Catholic sisters on the platform. I called to them to run inside out of danger. Four did, the other two stood still.

"When I looked again I saw Mike Panning, motor cycle patrolman assigned to the station running through the station doors.

"'There he is, Mike, get him,'" I shouted pointing to the big gunman.

"Panning started shooting, firing three shots. The big man dropped to the ground and I thought he was hit. I ran back into the station then and did not see how the killers escaped.

RELENTLESS SEARCH ORDERED.

Cummings Says Wholesale Slaying Challenges Law Enforcers.

Characterizing the Kansas City machine gun massacre of a Federal officer and three policemen as a direct challenge flung at Government law enforcement authorities, Attorney General Cummings has ordered all available investigators under his command into a relentless search for the slayers.

The ruthless murder of Special Agent Raymond J. Caffrey of the United States Bureau of Investigation and three police officers by gunmen apparently seeking release of their prisoner, Frank Nash, reputed Capone henchman, came close yesterday on the heels of statements by President Roosevelt and his Attorney General denouncing racketeers and gangsterism.

Cummings several days ago proclaimed warfare aainst gangdom and terrorism, announcing a plan to effect better co-operation between municipal, State and Federal authorities in the drive on crime. The President, in a statement Friday night, declared legal businesses must be protected from racketeers.

Federal Statute Lacking.

Full co-operation of Federal agents in the hunt for the fugitive killers is about as far as the Government can go in this crime, because, strange to relate, the killing of Agent Caffrey does not violate any Federal law more severe than "obstructing justice," the penalty for which is but a few years in prison.

Lack of a Federal statute against murder of a Government officer was deplored at the time of the slaying of Special Agent Shanahan of the Bureau of Investigation by Martin Durkin, notorious "sheik" gunman, several years ago. There was agitation at the time for a Federal law against murderers of Government men, but the movement is said to have been lost in a controversy in Congress over activities of prohibition agents.

The chief clue in the hands of the authorities at Kansas City is the tag number of the black sedan from which the machine gunners poured a deathly fire of lead into the group of Federal officers and police transferring Nash from a train to an automobile at the station. The tag numbers may turn out to be "dead" or to be those of a stolen car, it is thought.

At least one of the gunmen, a stout man who pumped a submachine gun from a point on the sidewalk and then jumped to the running board of the fleeing car, is believed to have been hit by the return fire. Hospitals and physicians' offices are being checked to see if this man applied for treatment.

Lackey Formerly of Capital.

Francis J. Lackey, who fell with the first burst of fire from machine guns behind him and who is in a serious condition from his wounds, is a former resident of Washington. A graduate of George Washington University, he married an Alexandria girl, who was employed in the Department of Justice—Miss Caroline West. Mr. and Mrs. Lackey have resided in Oklahoma City for several years. Lackey took a prominent part in the investigation of the Virginia McPherson murder-or-suicide mystery some years ago.

Caffrey had never been stationed in Washington, but was well known in law enforcement circles here. He leaves a wife and young daughter. The widow will receive a small pension under the Federal workmen's compensation act, it is understood.

Department of Justice officials were preparing a press release about the capture of Nash in a bloodless coup at Hot Springs, Ark., Friday night, when word arrived of the slayings at Kansas City. Nash had been the object of a Nationwide search since his escape from Leavenworth Penitentiary in 1930. He and his close companions, Thomas Holden and Francis L. Keating, Capone gangsters, had been possible suspects in the Lindbergh kidnaping at one time. Holden and Keating, also escaped convicts, were returned to Leavenworth last year after their capture on a Kansas City golf course by Agent Caffrey and another Federal officer.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
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Mr. Clegg

SCENE OF MASSACRE AND ONE VICTIM

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MACHINE GUNS SPRAY VICTIMS AT RAIL DEPOT

Union Station, Kansas City, Scene of Slaughter in Supposed Attempt to Rescue Captured Desperado

U. S. Agent, Two City Detectives and Oklahoma Police Chief Mowed Down; Four Killers Flee in Motor Cars

KANSAS CITY, June 17 (A. P.).—Underworld machine gunners shot and killed four officers and their prisoner, Frank Nash, Oklahoma train robber, in front of the Union Station here today.

One Federal officer was seriously wounded.

Officials differed on whether the attack was an attempt to free Nash, who was being returned to the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary, from which he had escaped, or whether the main purpose of the gangsters was to kill the outlaw.

The killers, believed to number four, fled in an automblie with their sub-machine guns barking after surprising the officers and deliberately shooting them down as they were entering a parked car, preparing to drive to Leavenworth with Nash.

Nash was reported to have been the first one killed, although one witness said he apparently had given the signal for the attack by raising his manacled hands.

Many officers expressed the belief the object was to deliver Nash from his guards. But some advanced the theory it was Nash's life that was sought. He reasoned that Nash may have had information on gangs which his associates feared he might disclose to authorities and they decided to "rub him out."

R. E. Vetterli, chief of the United States Bureau of Investigation for Kansas and Western Missouri, exchanged shots with the slayers and escaped injury as did Frank Smith, a Department of Justice investigator.

A motorcycle patrolman, who rushed from the station, fired three shots at the fleeing car.

Fire From Two Automobiles

The dead:

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The wounded:

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Accounts differed as to the number of men in the killers' party. One eye witness said he saw only two men. Another reported the firing came from two automobiles and some officers expressed the belief four men were involved.

Frank Smith, investigator for the Department of Justice; Lackey and Reed arrived at the station shortly after 7 A. M. with Nash, captured yesterday in Hot Springs, Ark. Nash escaped from the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth in 1930.

They were met by R. E. Vetterli, chief of the United States Bureau of Investigation for Kansas and Western Missouri; Raymond J. Caffrey, an investigator, for the bureau; Grooms and Hermanson. The seven escorted Nash, handcuffed, through the station to Caffrey's car, waiting outside and across the street near the parking lot.

Three of the officers and Nash died on the spot. Caffrey died in a hospital.

The assailants fled west, but eluded police cars which rushed to the scene.

Panic Among Travelers

Vetterli, who received a slight wound as bullets tore through his clothing, said the firing sounded as though it came from four sub-machine guns.

"Just as we started to get in Caffrey's car in front of the station they opened up on us," Vetterli said. "They killed Nash first. The bullets were flying so thick about us by then that I don't know who went next."

Windows in the station were broken, and bullet marks were left on the front of the big stone structure.

There was panic among the large crowd of travelers.

"My God," asked one man as he stepped out of the station, "is this Chicago?"

Mike Fanning, a motorcycle officer, who rushed from the station, said he fired three times with his pistol at the slayers' car as it was pulling away. He said some of the men were still shooting from the running board. He said he was certain there were four men in the automobile.

Fanning related that he took "deliberate aim and cracked down on them before they were out of range," but did not know whether his shots took effect.

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Continued on Page 4, Column 2

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"One of them said, 'Let's let them have it' and before any of the officers could get their firearms the shooting began. There were shotguns and other weapons in the car, but we could not get them."

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Two of them shoved their guns into his stomach while the third stood watch outside the store beside an automobile.

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The car was stopped at Benton, about half way between here and Little Rock. Officers there questioned the occupants and permitted them to proceed whey then identified themselves as Federal officers returning a prisoner to Missouri.

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Cummings Orders Federal Forces After Gangsters

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Additional Justice Department agents were ordered immediately to the scene of the killing. The Attorney General considers the slayings a direct defiance of the Government.

While Cummings was keeping in close touch with the situation himself, the chief of the bureau of investigation, J. Edgar Hoover, was actively directing the search.

Cummings has made warfare on gangsters and racketeers one of his major objectives. The Kansas City attack came at a time when Federal agents were actively investigating more than two score reports of racketeering throughout the country.

Seeking some light on the accomplices of Frank Nash, a mail train robber, the Department experts were combing the files of Leavenworth prison over a period of years.

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5 SLAIN IN BATTLE BY GANG TO FREE OKLAHOMA BANDIT

MASSACRE IN KANSAS CITY

Frank Nash, Outlaw, and 6 Officers Are Mowed Down by Gangsters.

HUNDREDS AT THE SCENE

'Loungers' at Union Station Open Fire With a Machine Gun After Tip-Off.

WIDE HUNT IS UNDER WAY

Cummings Spurs Chase, a Justice Agent Having Been Killed and 2 Others Wounded.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17.—A burst of machine-gun fire on the Union Station Plaza in an ambush attempt to free an outlaw from the custody of seven officers here today killed the prisoner and four of the officials and wounded two others.

The prisoner, Frank Nash, was on his way back to the Leavenworth prison, from which he escaped three years ago. He had just entered an automobile when he went down under the withering fire.

The killers escaped by automobile, and hundreds of police and Federal officers were quickly ordered on their trail.

Attorney General Cummings at Washington accepted the murder of a Department of Justice agent among the victims as a challenge to the government, and ordered the entire department to work on the case.

With police searching every part of the city and with all highways guarded by police and county officers, this city was practically an armed camp tonight. Roused by the cold-blooded nature of this morning's massacre, police officials have given orders to shoot to kill.

The victims of the machine-gun fire were:

Slain.

Frank Nash, Oklahoma train robber and killer.

Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent of the Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

Otto Reed, Chief of Police at McAlester, Okla.

Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detective.

W. J. Grooms, Kansas City detective.

Wounded.

F. J. Lackey, special agent of the Bureau of Investigation, condition critical.

R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge of the Kansas City office, Bureau of Investigation, wounded in the left arm.

Slayers Apparently Unharmed.

There was no indication that any of the murderers were wounded, although Vetterli fired at them as they drove away.

Nash, who was accidentally killed by the men trying to take him away from his guards, had been hunted all over the country since he escaped from the Federal prison at Leavenworth three years ago.

He is believed to have participated in many violent crimes and to have engineered several jail breaks at Leavenworth and the Kansas State prison at Lansing in the last few years. He was a member of the Al Spencer gang which terrorized Oklahoma ten years ago.

Department of Justice agents arrested Nash yesterday at Hot Springs, Ark. Agent Lackey, who is stationed at Oklahoma City; Agent Frank Smith of the Department of Justice, and Chief Reed of McAlester brought him from Arkansas by a train which reached here at 7:15 o'clock this morning.

Nash was to have been transferred to an automobile, which was to take him to Leavenworth, about an hour's drive.

Agents Caffery and Vetterli drove to the railroad station in one car to meet the officers bringing Nash, and Detectives Hermanson and Grooms did likewise in another car. According to Vetterli, they met Nash and his three guards and escorted them through the station to Caffrey's automobile.

The plan was for the agents to drive Nash to Leavenworth in Caffrey's car and the Kansas City detectives to follow in their car.

Four Men Idling in Car.

Hundreds of incoming and departing passengers were moving about on all sides of the two cars. Nearby was a parked automobile, with four men lounging beside it, hands resting on the sills of the open windows.

Nash was handcuffed. One of the agents pushed him into Caffrey's car, and just as he sat down Nash raised his handcuffed hands over his head.

Some witnesses said later that they believed this was a signal to his confederates to start firing at his guards; others thought it was an attempt to knock a pistol out of the hands of Caffrey, who drew it as soon as he saw suspicious movements on the part of the four loungers, but did not have time to use it.

The raising of Nash's handcuffed hands was followed immediately by a sound of scuffling near the strange parked automobile, a sudden series of flashes and the rat-tat-tat of machine-gun fire.

The sounds lasted only a few seconds. Mown down like grain in a field, the handcuffed prisoner and the guards were all prostrate. The gunners leaped into their car and sped away, while the bystanders stood rooted to their places, horror-stricken.

There was no one who could say afterward whether the killers had looked into their victim's car to see whether Nash was alive or had made any attempt to get his body out of the car.

Those who first reached Caffrey's car after the shooting found Nash slumped down beside the wheel in the front. On the back seat were Chief Reed, dead; Agent Lackey, badly wounded with three bullets through his body, and Agent Frank Smith, who had sat unscathed during the machine-gun fire.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1[illegible]

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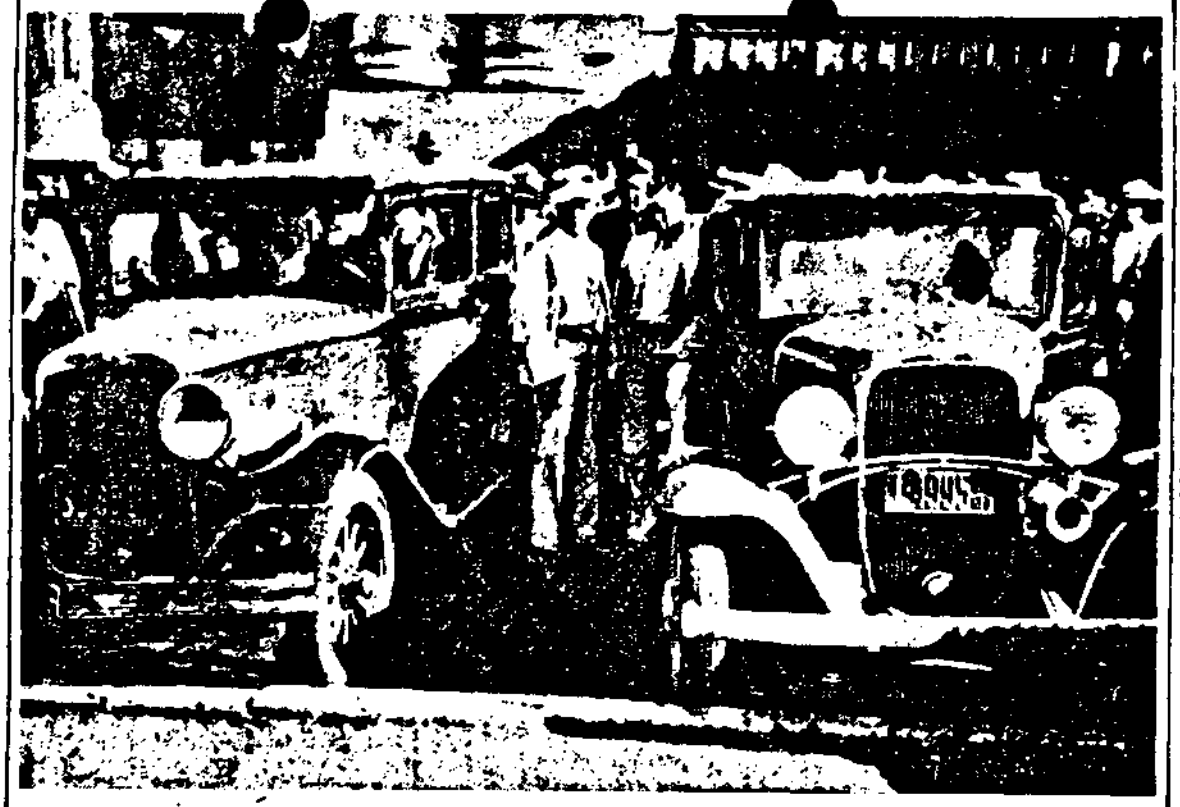
SCENE OF MASSACRE YESTERDAY MORNING IN KANSAS CITY.



Times Wide World Telephoto.

Photograph Showing the Bullet-Battered Automobile in Which Police and Detectives Were Ambushed as They Were Taking Frank Nash, Notorious Oklahoma Bandit, Back to Leavenworth Prison.

Justice Agent Describes Shooting.

The bodies of Caffrey, Hermanson and Grooms lay on the pavement beside the car. Caffrey's body had been riddled with machine-gun bullets. Hermanson and Grooms had been shot through the head.

Agent Vetterli said that when the machine guns began to rattle he fell to the pavement. He felt a stinging sensation in his left arm where a slug struck him. The firing was all over "in a flash." Then he jumped up, seized an automatic shotgun from Caffrey's car and began firing at the gangsters' car. He said the car got away without any one obtaining its license number.

Motorcycle Patrolman Mike Fanning ran from the railroad station at the sound of firing, and fired three times from his service pistol at the fleeing automobile. A man described as "a big man, weighing over 200 pounds," fell from the running board, but jumped back on again and escaped with the others. It is believed he was not wounded.

From stories told by witnesses it is believed that at least three of the gangsters, and perhaps four, took part in the shooting. There may have been a fifth man at the wheel of the murder car.

No trace had been found of the killers tonight. Several reports were received and run down by the police and Federal agents without result. One was that a car answering the description of that used by the gunmen had been seen on the Mission Road, headed toward Oklahoma. Armored police cars were ordered along this route.

The local police believe that the gunmen belonged to Nash's gang, and that they either cut across country to head off his train after his arrest, or were notified by telegraph or telephone at some rendezvous in or near this city, enabling them to meet the train on which Nash was brought here.

Learned "Trade" Under Spencer.

Nash was a friend of Harvey Bailey, leader of the gang in the Memorial Day break from the Kansas prison at Lansing. He had also been sought by Federal officers for questioning in connection with the prison break at the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth in December, 1931, when Warden T. B. White, then in charge of that institution, was kidnapped and wounded by escaping convicts.

Nash was a friend of Harold Fontaine, Federal convict by whom the guns used in the Federal prison break were sent to the prison.

Bailey, a former companion of Fred (Killer) Burke, was arrested playing golf on a Kansas City course a year ago. Thomas Holden and Francis Keating, escaped train robbers from Leavenworth, were arrested with Bailey. A member of the foursome escaped the golf links, and police said tonight they believed this was Nash.

Chief of Detectives T. J. Higgins expressed belief that the plot to release Nash was probably engineered by Bailey. He cast doubt on reports that Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, the Oklahoma desperado, was involved.

Agent Smith, who arrested Nash in Hot Springs, said that Nash told him he had been in Chicago selling beer and handling slot machines most of the time since his escape from Leavenworth.

According to Smith, Nash had been in Hot Springs for some time, surrounded by a gang of outlaws. He characterized Nash as one of the worst bandits and killers of the Middle West.

Nash learned his trade under the gang leader, Al Spencer, whom Federal agents caught in the Osage Hills of Oklahoma ten years ago.

Capture of Nash in Arkansas.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., June 17 (AP).—The arrest here of Frank Nash was so spectacular that police believed some one had been kidnapped or "taken for a ride."

Nash, known in Hot Springs as Doc Williams, a quiet man who tipped liberally while visiting night clubs in his two-week stay, was seized yesterday afternoon by three government agents in the city's main thoroughfare.

The trio walked into a Central Avenue drug store, purchased cigars and as they started to leave, drew revolvers and surrounded "Williams," who was drinking a glass of beer.

"Put that beer down and get into that automobile," commanded one of the two men who held pistols to his body, while the third went outside to the automobile. Nash complied reluctantly and was pushed into the waiting machine.

As the automobile speeded away toward Little Rock police received reports of a kidnapping, or that a man had been "taken for a ride." The authorities requested police in neighboring cities to watch all roads and stop the car.

The machine was halted at Benton, about half way to Little Rock. The agents were permitted to proceed when they identified themselves.

"Williams" kept to himself while in Hot Springs. Officers said he left the city the latter part of last week, returning three days ago. He visited night clubs frequently.

Cummings Details Men to Hunt.

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, June 17.—The Federal Government, angered by the slaying of a Department of Justice operative in Kansas City, tonight was moving toward stamping out racketeers and gunmen.

The slaying of Raymond J. Caffrey, the Department of Justice man, in an attempt at Kansas City to free Frank Nash, was accepted by Attorney General Cummings as outright defiance of a governmental agency which gangdom has long respected.

He answered the challenge with an order to set the entire department on the trail of the killers and specifically assigned a detail from points near Kansas City to the case.

In addition to ordering operatives to Kansas City, the Justice Department set men to checking through the names, data, fingerprints and photographs in the files of Leavenworth Penitentiary, seeking a clue to those who shot five men to death in the Nash episode.

The government's activities against criminals have been broadened in recent years from the original endeavor to prevent counterfeiting and internal revenue evasion to cover numerous other activities.

In recent years it has entered into combat against prohibition law violators and still more recently against criminal control of labor and the produce markets. Now under way in New York City is a Federal grand jury inquiry into the alleged racketeer control of the produce market of the metropolis.

Frank Nash Had Added Mustache, Glasses and Weight Since Break

Operator of Chicago Beer Garden Held Little Resemblance to One Described in Justice Department Circular.

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KANSAS CITY JOURNAL-POST.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1933.

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The party left the train only once on the trip to Kansas City. That was in Russellville, Ark., where the party had dinner, according to Smith.

END TO GUN TOTING

Police and Prosecutor Join Hands in Campaign Against Killers and Bandits.

ASK AID OF THE COURTS

Vigorous Action Is Promised in Stamping Out the Menace to Citizens.

"MACHINE GUNS MUST GO"

Only Peace Officers Will Be Permitted to Possess Them, T. A. J. Mastin Asserts.

The clamps close down on the gun toters tomorrow. Recent events, particularly the murderous shooting at the union station yesterday, have awakened city and county officials to the menace that lies in the promiscuous carrying of firearms and T. A. J. Mastin, county prosecutor, asserted last night that steps would be taken at once to stop it.

It is to be warfare, Mr. Mastin said. The first thing tomorrow he will ask Thomas B. Bash, sheriff, and Eugene T. Reppert, director of police, to grant co-operation. In return for their arrest of gun toters, he agrees to prosecute vigorously.

Prison Term the Penalty.

There is a penalty in Missouri of two years in the penitentiary for carrying concealed weapons. It is a felony. And there is a penalty of from two to thirty years in the penitentiary for possession of a machine gun. Yet criminals have continued to shoot their way out of scrapes, officers have been killed and wounded, civilians have lost their lives, sometimes with one form of weapon and sometimes with another, but always with firearms that are prohibited by law.

"We are going to stamp out gun toting," Mr. Mastin said. "We are going after them Monday morning. Any person with a machine gun in his possession, unless he is a peace officer, either is a bandit or an associate of a bandit. The possession of a machine gun in itself is evidence that the possessor is an outlaw.

"Monday morning I am going to ask Sheriff Bash and Director Reppert to co-operate with me in a war on the gun-toters and I know without asking that they will join me. They will have to round them up, but it will be up to my department to prosecute and I want to promise right now that from this point on, we are going to make it hard for the carrier of concealed weapons of all character. A machine gun doesn't have to be concealed to justify prosecution."

The Police Will Aid.

Thomas J. Higgins, chief of detectives, was quick to join Mr. Mastin. However, he expressed the hope that the official handling of the carriers of firearms would be more severe than it has been in the past. He said many persons had been arrested for carrying firearms and taken before the prosecutor. Frequently, he said, they were turned loose in the justice courts, and even when they were convicted they frequently were paroled from the sentences given them.

"If the county desires to go after the gun carriers," Chief Higgins said, "its officials may count on the police department. That is one of the things that makes police work difficult. The laws prohibit anyone except peace officers from carrying firearms, yet the bandit, the gangster, is as well armed as are the police. We will arrest them, and if the prosecutor will put them in jail and the courts will leave them there, we can make some progress."

THE U. S. IS BITTER

Murder of Federal Agent Results in Drastic Action by Department of Justice.

A LIGHT ON CRIME HERE

J. Edgar Hoover Orders More Men Into the Kansas City Area.

GRIM PURSUIT IS STARTED

"Get Those Assassins" Is the Word That Is Passed Along the Line.

WASHINGTON BUREAU
THE KANSAS CITY STAR
610 ALBEE BUILDING
(By The Star's Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, June 17.—Federal authorities agreed today to co-operate with Kansas City officials as far as the law would permit in a clean-up of the lawless elements in Kansas City and adjacent territory as a result of the slaying of Raymond J. Caffrey, agent of the bureau of investigation, the wounding of P. J. Lackey, another federal agent, and the murder of three police officers and a federal prisoner at the Kansas City union station plaza early today.

"We will go along 100 per cent," J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the bureau of investigation of the department of justice, said, "as far as the federal statutes permit us."

Add to U. S. Corps Here.

Federal agents were rushed to Kansas City today from a wide area to aid in the search for the machine gun killers. Their instructions were to "get their men." Every resource of the department of justice was brought into action. Picked men from Chicago, San Antonio and midwestern points were ordered to Kansas City.

"We never stop until we get our men," Hoover added. "If it takes ages to accomplish it. There will be no letup in this case."

Caffrey is the second federal agent killed in the government service since 1908. The other one was Agent Shanahan, who was murdered in Chicago more than six years ago by Martin Durkin. The murderer is now serving a term at the Joliet penitentiary.

The slaying of a federal officer is not a federal offense, except when committed on government property, Hoover pointed out. But in the Kansas City slaying the federal officials will not follow the technical dividing line between state and federal authority.

Looking for Floyd.

It was learned today the federal authorities have been on the trail of "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Oklahoma bandit, who kidnaped Sheriff Jack Killingsworth of Polk County, Missouri.

Attention was called, but without comment, to the criminal record and parples granted to Frank Nash, the slain mail train robber, who was being taken to Leavenworth from Oklahoma. Nash was convicted in Oklahoma in 1913 of the murder of a witness who testified against him in another trial and was given a life sentence. After a few months in prison he was paroled. In 1920 Nash was convicted again and sentenced to twenty-five years. Two years later the governor released him on a commutation of sentence.

KANSAS CITY STAR.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1933.

FEDERAL AGENTS FROM WIDE AREA INTO GRIM HUNT

Bureau of Investigation Chief Pledges Fight to Finish.

From the Journal-Post Washington Bureau:

WASHINGTON, June 17.—Picked federal agents from a wide area were ordered to Kansas City Saturday to take up the trail of the machine gun murderers who participated in the Union station plaza massacre of a department of justice agent, three police officers and their prisoner.

Agents from Chicago, San Antonio and other middle western points were ordered to the scene of the wholesale slaying with instructions to get their men and to use every resource of the government to bring to justice the murderers.

A cleanup of the lawless element in the hill sections of Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma, from which numerous forays into Missouri and Kansas have been made in recent months, was promised by federal authorities.

In Fight to Finish.

J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the bureau of investigation of the department of justice, declared that the government was in the chase until the slayers were captured.

"We never will stop until we get our men," Hoover asserted. "And we will go just as far in our efforts to run down the murderers as federal statutes will permit."

Raymond J. Caffrey, department of justice agent, who was fatally wounded by the outlaws as he and six companions prepared to take Frank Nash, escaped convict, back to the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, is the second man of that department to be killed in government service since the bureau was established in 1908. The federal authorities captured the first murderer, Martin Durkin, after a search of months. He killed Agent Shanahan in Chicago six years ago.

Trailing "Pretty Boy."

Department of justice officials also revealed Saturday that agents of the bureau have been on the trail of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, Oklahoma bad lands desperado, who kidnaped Sheriff Jack Killingsworth at Bolivar, Mo., Friday.

Federal authorities have been watching the increase of lawlessness in Missouri and Kansas, which has been marked in recent weeks by abductions, machine gun raids and prison breaks.

While they believe that a cleanup of the situation rests with local peace officers, the federal officials have agreed to cooperate in an effort to end the wave of crime which has swept that section of the country.

In their search for the slayers of the four officers and prisoner in Kansas City Saturday, the agents have agreed to ignore the dividing line between state and federal authority.

Woman's Calm Voice Relays News of Station Massacre to Hospital

Dr. Frederick Olson Describes Death Scene; Knew at a Glance Five of Victims Were Dead.

A telephone bell jangled on the desk of Mrs. Elizabeth McCormick, clerk in the receiving ward at general hospital, about 7:30 o'clock Saturday morning.

"Send an ambulance to the Union station," a woman's voice spoke calmly. "A man's been shot."

A moment later, Mrs. McCormick had passed the world along to Dr. Frederick Olson, interne.

"I guess some man discovered another fellow leaving town with his wife," Dr. Olson commented as he prepared for the trip.

The telephone rang again. The same calm voice again spoke to Mrs. McCormick.

"Send several ambulances," the voice said, "Several men have been shot in a gun battle."

By that time, the scream of sirens on police cars could be heard from all parts of the city. Dr. Olson's driver opened his siren, too, and made the dash down Journal-Post hill in the direction of Union station.

"When we got there," Dr. Olson said, "I jumped out of the ambulance. I saw two men lying on the ground at the side of the car. Looking at them, I knew they were dead.

"I next glanced at a man in the front seat of the motor car near which the first two were lying. He, too, was dead. A man in the rear seat also was dead. Another was lying dead in front of the car. A man in the rear seat seemed to be badly hurt. I gave all my attention to him.

"Later I learned he was F. J. Lackey, an agent of the department of justice. He was the only one of the six I saw who had any chance to live."

Officers Trace Tip-Off Reports in Hot Springs

HOT SPRINGS, ARK., June 17.—(UP—Reports that gangsters who killed four officers and their prisoner, Frank Nash, former two-gun desperado of Al Spencer's Oklahoma gang, were "tipped off" to the time of their arrival in Kansas City were being investigated Saturday night by government agents.

A car was reported to have followed the officers and beat them into Fort Smith, where they took a train to Kansas City. Reports were the occupants of the car were friends of Nash and that they had communicated with gangster friends, telling them when the officers and their prisoner would arrive.

Motive of Machine Gun Massacre Puzzles Police

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His description, as contained in the department of justice "wanted" circular, would not fit the man who was taken into custody in Hot Springs Friday. Mild-mannered, suave, the "gentleman" of the old Al Spencer gang of Osage hills outlaws, Nash had established himself in Chicago as a reputable business man under the name of George W. Miller. He even had been initiated into the Masonic lodge under that name.

His Arm Broken.

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CAFFREY FUNERAL WILL BE HELD IN OMAHA SHORTLY

Nebraskan Was Graduate of Creighton U. and 30 Years Old.

Funeral services for Raymond J. Caffrey, 30 years old, United States bureau of investigation agent, who was killed Saturday morning in the Union station plaza massacre, will be held in Omaha sometime Monday or Tuesday.

Caffrey was born in McCook, Neb., May 15, 1902, and as a boy lived in Stamford, Neb. He was graduated from the law department of Creighton university in 1924, and went to Florida to practice. He married Miss Regina Dolan of Des Moines, Ia., in December 1925, in Brandenton, Fla. He had been with the department of justice about six years.

Mr. and Mrs. Caffrey, with their 6-year-old son, Jimmy, came to Kansas City about a month ago from Omaha, where he was in charge of the bureau of investigation. They previously had lived in Kansas City.

Parents Also Survive.

Besides his widow and son, Mr. Caffrey is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Caffrey of Omaha; three brothers, Charles Caffrey, with the department of justice in Washington; Francis Caffrey, Rathdrum, Id., and Edward Caffrey, Stamford, Neb., and two sisters, Mrs. Richard Ryan, Wilton Junction, Ia., and Miss Julianne Caffrey of the home in Omaha.

The father and brother, Charles, arrived by plane in Kansas City late Saturday afternoon and accompanied the body to Omaha Saturday night.

Hermanson Rites Monday.

Funeral services for Frank E. Hermanson will be held at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon from the Mast funeral home. Burial will be in Woodlawn cemetery. The following members of the detective department will serve as pallbearers:

Phil Hoyt	Frank Johnson
J. D. Tetlars	E. B. Cooley
W. H. VanCleave	R. B. Highley

Services for William J. Grooms will be held in the Quirk & Tobin chapel at 8:30 o'clock Monday morning and in the Redemptorist church at 9 o'clock. Burial will be in St. Mary's cemetery.

The pallbearers:

Jack Clifford, jr.	Thomas Brock
William Boyle	Robert Bialar
Daniel Flavin	George Corliss

No arrangements have been made for the funeral of Frank Nash, convict, who was killed with the federal agent and detectives.

Reared in Kansas City.

Grooms was born and reared in Kansas City and had lived here all his life. He attended the Christian Brothers school in St. Louis, and later was graduated from Rockhurst college. During the World war he enlisted in the navy and spent four years in the Orient.

During the time he has been on the police force he has attended the Kansas City School of Law at night and would have been a senior next year. He married Miss Myrtle Larson of Mapleton, Kas., in 1926.

Besides his widow, of the home, 3927 Roanoke road, Mr. Grooms is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Grooms, 304 West Thirty-fourth street, and a sister.

Hermanson was born and reared in Kansas City, Kas. Before he joined the police force in 1920 he worked as a switchman for the Missouri Pacific and Chicago Great Western railways.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Monte Hermanson, and a son, Robert Hermanson, 21 years old, both of the home, and his stepfather, Paul Ostertag, 2571 Hiawatha avenue, Kansas City, Kas.

Kansas City Journal - Post
June 18th 1939

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
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MOTIVE OF MOB IN STATION SLAUGHTER IS PUZZLING POLICE

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Whether Gang Sought to Rescue or Silence Convict Is Question.

AIM HIGHLY ACCURATE

Slain Policeman May Have Been Responsible for Death of Fugitive.

Did the machine gun mob that staged the massacre on the Union station plaza Saturday morning want to free Frank Nash, recaptured convict, from the officers guarding him?

Or were the killers making sure that he would not reveal secrets of some gang of which he had been a member?

That question was puzzling police and federal officers Saturday night in their search for the machine gun murderers and their hunt for the motive of the ghastly scene their weapons created at the station plaza.

Accuracy Is Deadly.

The bodies of the five victims, two city dectives, the chief of police of McAlester, Ok., an agent of the department of justice and Nash, were in morgues Saturday night, mute testimonials to the deadly accuracy of the machine gun fire.

The slaying of Nash along with his guards raised questions in the minds of police officials. If the motive was the rescue of Nash, why was not greater effort made by the gunners to keep the spraying streams of machine gun bullets from reaching him?

There also was the possibility that Nash was killed by a bullet fired by one of the murdered policemen.

This possibility entered police speculations when it was discovered that two shots had been fired from the revolver of William Grooms, a city detective.

Grooms' weapon was found under his body on the pavement beside the Chevrolet motor car in which Nash was to have been taken to the Leavenworth federal penitentiary, from which he escaped in 1930.

Dr. C. G. Leitch, deputy coroner, who examined the wound, said the bullet passed through Nash's head from the rear. Nash's body was taken to the J. F. O'Donnell undertaking establishment.

Police investigation also revealed that a riot gun, held by one of the officers, had been discharged. It had not been established definitely who held the riot gun or whether it had been fired at the machine gunners. Police said it was possible that the officer holding the riot gun had pulled the trigger involuntarily after he himself had been mortally wounded.

Chief Higgins Theorizes.

It is probable, according to Thomas J. Higgins, detective chief, that the first fire of the machine guns was directed at the Chevrolet car in which Nash and three of the officers sat at the curb across the plaza roadway from the east entrance of the station.

The rattle of the machine guns and the crash of windshield glass in the car may have given Grooms the warning and the chance to draw and fire.

Four of the seven police and federal officers guarding Nash were killed and one dangerously wounded in the murderous streams of machine gun fire, coming both from the front and rear of the car.

Bullets from the bodies of the four slain officers, Ott Reed, chief of police of McAlester, Ok., shot twice in the head; Raymond J. Caffrey, agent of the bureau of investigation, department of justice, shot once in the right temple; Grooms, shot once in the right side; Frank Hermanson, city detective,

Continued from Page 1-A.

shot once in the head, and F. F. Lackey, department of justice agent, dangerously wounded, will be saved in the hope that eventually they may lead to the slayers through the identification of the weapons from which they were fired. Lackey's condition was said to be satisfactory Saturday night in Research hospital.

Two members of the party of officers guarding Nash escaped death almost miraculously. They were Frank Smith, another agent of the department of justice, and R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge of the bureau of investigation here.

Bullet Through Sleeve.

Vetterli had a narrow escape when a bullet penetrated the sleeve of his coat. Smith was in the rear seat of the federal car when the shooting began. He crouched down in the car, escaping injury. When the shooting was over he sat between the dead chief Reed and the dangerously wounded Lackey. Nash was dying on the front seat, slumped under the wheel.

Vetterli, Caffrey and the two slain detectives were standing beside the car talking with the others when the burst of machine gun fire started.

In the hospital Lackey said the machine gunners launched their deadly attack with one grim sentence, "Let 'em have it."

Two bullets fired by the attacking mob were found in the federal officer's car. They were examined by Lt. William Gordon, head of the police bureau of investigation. He said the markings on the bullets indicated they had been fired from a Thompson submachine gun of .45 caliber.

Check Over Bullets.

Detectives Frank Howland and Ira Johnson, members of the homicide squad, were checking up on the bullets found in the bodies of some of the victims.

Chief Higgins said every clew and tip would be investigated fully in the hunt for the perpetrators of the city's most cold blooded mass murder.

A search was being made for members of a bank bandit gang of which Nash was believed to have been a member. They were sought on the theory that they had planned to prevent Nash from being returned to the federal penitentiary.

Nash is known by police to have smuggled arms into the Kansas state penitentiary at Lansing, Kas., for the Memorial day prison break in which eleven men escaped. Harvey

Bailey, one of the eleven, is known to police as a "buddy" of Nash.

Police believe it possible that Bailey engineered the station plaza massacre in an attempt to liberate his friend.

But the slaying of Nash along with four of his guards remained a puzzling question to police. They were unable to understand why no greater effort was made to protect Nash from the streams of gun bullets, if his freedom was the motive for the delivery plot.

Caught by Federal Men.

Nash was captured Friday in Hot Springs, Ark., by federal agents. He was brought to Kansas City on a Missouri Pacific train, arriving at the Union station at 7:12 o'clock, in custody of Chief Reed and Lackey and Smith. The three were met by the city detectives and by Vetterli and Caffrey.

As the investigation proceeded the police became more convinced that the mass murder was staged as a rescue of Nash.

Big Shot in Underworld.

Nash was revealed as a real "big shot" in the underworld, a criminal with brains and resourcefulness. He was known to have money. He was the kind of criminal, police reasoned, who would have money and men around him on whom he could rely.

Looking for a more specific motive for the rescue attempt, Thomas J. Higgins, chief of detectives and other investigators turned to the Kansas state prison break at Lansing Memorial day.

Harvey Bailey, known to be an associate of Nash, was one of the eleven men who gained liberty in the break, and Nash was credited with smuggling in the arms and laying the plans which made the delivery possible.

It is logical to suppose, the investigators reason, that Bailey, owing a debt of gratitude, would seek to repay Nash by staging the rescue party.

Friends Tipped Off?

Police believe friends of Nash drove all night from Hot Springs, Ark., where he was arrested Friday by federal agents, in order to intercept him at Kansas City.

Nash was brought in by train from Fort Smith, Ark., where he was taken in a motor car after his capture. The police theory is that his friends were tipped off to his arrest and immediately set plans in motion to liberate him.

There are many weak spots in the theory of a supposed prearranged plan between Nash and his associates for a rescue in case of his arrest.

One is the fact that Nash was taking a long chance on a plan that called for his friends to send two streams of machine gun bullets into a motor car in which he sat, even if the plan did call for him to "duck" out of range.

Another is that Nash was taken by automobile to Fort Smith. How his friends, if the machine gunners were his friends, could have learned that he was placed on a train there that would arrive in Kansas City at 7:10 o'clock Saturday morning is a mystery.

Telephone Call Check Fails to Yield Clew

A complete checkup late Saturday night by police officials on telephone calls that might have led to a "tip-off" that officers would arrive in Kansas City Saturday morning with Frank Nash, much- hunted criminal, proved futile, according to H. F. McElroy, city manager; E. C. Reppert, director of police, and T. J. Higgins, chief of detectives, who conferred for hours on the various theories that reached police headquarters concerning the Union station plaza massacre.

No telephone calls were registered that might have been sent by outside criminals to Kansas City confederates, the officials announced.

The officials also said a checkup of the various license plates reported as having been on the machine-gun cars had proved futile. Two city detectives were despatched to Elmer, Mo., to check one of the numbers and found the car, with plates and fastening bolts rusted, parked in the yard of a farmer.

A reward for the killers will be announced shortly, the officials said.

POLICE HAVE DESCRIPTIONS OF MURDERERS

Witnesses to Massacre at Union Station Quizzed Closely.

VARY AS TO DETAILS

But Officers Reconstruct Clear Picture of Tragic Events.

After a day spent in questioning a dozen or more witnesses to the machine gun massacre on the Union station plaza, police were well equipped Saturday night to press their search for the gunmen. In event the men are captured, it is believed they can be identified by one or more witnesses.

Thomas J. Higgins, chief of police and other members of the detective department questioned the witnesses who included policemen, cab drivers, station employes and spectators. While descriptions of the men and of the shooting varied yet from the mass of data acquired detectives reconstructed a clear picture of events and of the gunmen involved.

Jack Clark, 1619 Olive street, Negro elevator operator at the station, who saw two of the men station themselves by their motor car and open fire on the officers, told Chief Higgins he was "pretty sure" he could identify the men if he saw them again.

West on Thirty-first Street.

A new angle to the escape story was added by Robert D. Woods, 4429 Cleveland avenue, a street car operator. Woods told of seeing what he thought was the gunmen's car turn rapidly on to Main street, having come from the west on Thirty-first street. The car proceeded south on Main at a high rate of speed, according to Woods, and went through a red light at Linwood boulevard. It had been generally established by witnesses that the gunmen's car went west from the Union station plaza to Broadway and then turned south. According to Woods, it must have swung over to Main at Thirty-first street.

Woods had stopped his car at Thirty-first and Main streets about 9:23 o'clock Saturday morning to discharge passengers.

"I saw a coach or sedan," he said, "fairly new, and perhaps a Chevrolet, turn the corner on to Main street. It had come at a high rate of speed on Thirty-first street from the west. It turned the corner so fast it left the marks of the tires on the street.

Through Red Light.

"The car sped south on Main and because it was going so rapidly I watched it and saw that it ran through a red light at Linwood boulevard. Two men were in the front seat. The driver had a thin face, swarthy complexion, as if he had a coat of tan, and impression was that he wore a light brown soft hat. I didn't notice the other man. The car came on to the corner so fast that it ran over two safety buttons on the west side of Main just south of Thirty-first street."

Evidence that Raymond Caffrey, agent of the bureau of investigation, department of justice, who was slain by the gunmen, took part in the gun battle was given by Charles C. Moore, 3924 Harrison street, a driver for the Yellow Cab company. Moore was in the cab line at the station about fifty feet east of the entrance and about seventy-five feet from the government car. He said:

"A government man who I afterward learned was Caffrey stepped behind a car and fired at the man in the Chevrolet. Detectives Hermanson and Grooms were between this car and another car. Hermanson ran behind this car when the shooting started and was hit by some of the fire.

"He staggered for an instant and then ran toward the bandit car shooting. Grooms joined him and also started toward the bandit car. Just as they got near the front fender of the government car, the bandits opened up on them with either pump guns or machine guns and blowed them off the earth.

"Caffrey went down with a shot in the back and dropped the pop gun he had been firing. Officer Fanning ran out and shot at the bandits three times while they were in the car about to drive away. Fanning and I went to the government car. I picked up the pump gun that the government officer had dropped and ran around to the front of the car. The car that the four men used was a Chevrolet sedan about a 1932 model either dark blue or black and bearing a Missouri license.

Myron K. Fanning of the police motorcycle squad, on duty at the Union station, gave a detailed description of the shooting. Fanning on arriving at the station Saturday morning saw a detectives' cruiser car parked near the front entrance and before changing his clothes for duty walked about the lobby to see what was happening. When about twenty-five feet from the east door he heard firing outside and rushed to the plaza, he said.

Shoots at Bandit.

"One fellow with either a shotgun or a Tommy gun was standing in front of the government car firing at Caffrey. He was heavy set, about 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighed about 190 pounds. I shot once at this heavy set man and he ran and got into a dark blue Chevrolet sedan with three other men. I shot three

or four more times and I think I hit the car. The Chevrolet went west from the parking lot. Caffrey was down when I got to the scene of the shooting."

H. L. Orr, 2033 Kensington avenue, a Yellow Cab driver who was first in the cab line at the station, told of seeing the five men—the four officers and the prisoner—come out of the station entrance and cross the street to where the government car was parked.

"It was all so sudden," he said, "that it seemed to me the shooting started as soon as the five men got to the Chevrolet. Two of the men were with guns at the rear of the car. The three others were filing in between this car and the next one to it preparing to get into the government car.

Both Heavy Set.

"I did not see who did the shooting until it was all over. Then I saw two men run right in front of the car where the shooting occurred and get into a new 1933 Chevrolet sedan or coach which was dark blue or black. Both men were about 5 feet 7 inches tall and of medium build and about 30 years old. They wore blue or black suits and gray caps. They drove across the parking lot to Twenty-fourth then went west and turned south on Broadway."

Elmer Waldron, 205 West Fifteenth street, a Yellow cab driver told of seeing two of the gunmen get into a black Chevrolet sedan. One of the men put his pistol in a holster at his hip just before he got in, Waldron said. He described one of the men as wearing a blue serge suit, straw hat and white socks.

Lawrence M. Pecord, 1705 Jefferson street, a Yellow cab driver told of seeing a gun man come behind the government car and start firing into the back end of the car. "He first fired high up" said Pecord, "then he crouched down and fired low into the car."

Varying descriptions of the men who did the shooting were given by the witnesses questioned by police.

D. A. Solomon, 3409 Indiana avenue, station usher, said he had been engaged to meet the train and aid if there was any baggage. There was no baggage, but he followed the officers up into the station lobby and about half way across the street.

Runs for Shelter.

There he was told he would not be needed and he started back toward the station. As he reached the sidewalk he heard the opening shots. He glanced over his shoulder and fled for the protection of the Union station. What he saw in his over-the-shoulder glimpse was told the police.

"I saw two men in front of the officers' car," he said. "One appeared to be about 5 feet 10 inches and weighed about 140 pounds. The other appeared to be a small man, not more than 120 pounds in weight.

"The larger man had a machine gun which he was using. The first men to fall were the two Kansas City detectives who were not more than 8 feet from the machine gun."

Most of the witnesses said they saw two men but their stories varied as to the descriptions.

Sees Machine Gunner.

C. L. Ellis, 1708 Quindaro boulevard, Kansas City, Kas., a cab driver, said he heard a single shot and saw a man in a dark suit and panama hat firing a machine gun. Ellis told a dramatic eyewitness story.

"I saw this tall man weaving back and forth with a machine gun," he said. "As he fired he weaved back and forth and there were two or three bursts of firing. I dived onto the running board on the opposite side of the cab and did not raise up until I saw the men disappearing between two cars in the parking lot. I saw the motorcycle officer (M. K. Fanning) firing in the direction of the shots. He was behind a post that holds up the station canopy. He fired two or three shots."

Stands Over Victim.

Theodore Scott and W. H. Pemberton, station ushers, said they were putting a wheel car passenger in a cab when the firing opened up. They said they dashed back into the station lobby. Pemberton said he saw one of the bandits over a man firing down at him with an automatic pistol. It was believed Raymond W. Caffrey was the man on the ground and that he might have fired two shots at the slayers before they shot him down.

Pemberton and Scott said they heard Mrs. Lottie West of the Travelers Aid bureau yelling at Officer Fanning:

"Shoot at that one running, Mike."

Mrs. West had dashed out of the station from her desk near the door when the firing started. Fanning said he fired three shots and believed he hit the fleeing car.

H. C. Blanchard, 8607 Independence road, an usher, said he saw the slayers' car speed away but could give no description of it other than that it was a large, dark car.

A DELEGATION FROM M'ALESTER, OK., ARRIVES IN KANSAS CITY TO CONFER ON SLAYING OF CHIEF OF POLICE.

IN CONFERENCE (top)—A group of McAlester citizens arrived in Kansas City early yesterday morning to confer with the police here on details regarding the union station plaza slaying in which Otto Reed, chief of police of McAlester, was killed by machine gunners. At the left is Frank C. Higginbotham, executive secretary of the Oklahoma Police Officers' Association. In the middle is J. Bun McAlester, the mayor and son of the founder of the Oklahoma city. He is a Choctaw Indian. The two conferred with T. J. Higgins, chief of the Kansas City detectives, in seeking clues.

OKLAHOMA VICTIM'S SON (oval)—At the left is George Reed, son of the McAlester chief of police. With him is J. R. Calhoun, a federal agent. The two accompanied the body of Otto Reed to McAlester yesterday afternoon.

THE SLAIN OFFICER (right center)—Otto Reed, for twenty years an officer of high efficiency in McAlester, was one of the five men killed. Surviving him are the widow and three children.

A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE FAMILY (right, below)—Maj. Harry Chaney of McAlester came to Kansas City in order to co-operate with Kansas City police in seeking clues as to the identity of the slayers. He has been a friend of the family for many years.

KANS. CITY STAR 6-18-33

WIDE HUNT FAILS TO YIELD SINGLE 'PRETTY BOY' CLEW

Four Armored Motor Cars Comb Tourist Camps in Search for Outlaw.

Four armored motor cars filled with deputy sheriffs, city detectives and federal operatives, headed by Sheriff Thomas B. Bash, William G. Schickhardt, chief deputy sheriff and Sgt. B. H. Thurman, visited a farm house and several tourist camps in eastern Jackson county Saturday afternoon in a fruitless search for Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd and his accomplices who were known to have been in the neighborhood of Lees Summit Friday night.

Sheriff Jack Killingsworth of Polk county and an unidentified insurance man from Clinton, who were captives of the Floyd gang Friday and part of Friday night, were released near Lees Summit.

Search Farmhouse.

The Clinton man, who was kidnaped Friday afternoon at Deepwater, is believed to have returned to his home, but he has not told authorities there of his experience and his name has not been revealed by Sheriff Killingsworth.

The search in eastern Jackson county led first to a farm home on the Independence-Blue Springs road, about one and one-half miles northwest of Blue Springs. The armored cars were driven into the yard of the home which is owned by Guy Pettit, and officers armed with machine guns, automatic and repeating rifles and sawed off shotguns, supplemented by a tear gas gun, surrounded the house in a few seconds.

The occupants, Mr. and Mrs. Pettit, were quietly at work and were consternated when they found themselves surrounded by a large number of armed officers. No one was at the place but the Pettits. Officers had been informed that Mrs. Pettit was a relative of Floyd, but she denied any relationship to Floyd or any knowledge of him, other than what she had read.

Search Tourist Camps.

From the Pettit farm the posse headed toward U. S. 40 where two small tourist camps were searched for possible fugitives. The only occupant routed out at one of them was a young woman, frightened by the display of "artillery" and armored cars, who wandered about the grounds with a coat over her arm as if ready for instant flight should warfare break out. The second camp yielded no guests.

A test run from a point north and east of Lees Summit, where Sheriff Bash suspects that Sheriff Killingsworth and his fellow captive were released with the latter's motor car, showed that the distance was about fifteen minutes easy driving time, which checked with Killingsworth's explanation to Sheriff Bash over long distance telephone Saturday morning that he was released near Lees Summit and required about fifteen minutes to drive into town.

Kansas City Journal Post
6-18-33

Kansas Farmers Cheered by News Washington Will Act

KANSAS CITY JOURNAL-POST.

JUNE 18, 1933.

FEDERAL AGENTS FROM WIDE AREA INTO GRIM HUNT

Bureau of Investigation Chief Pledges Fight to Finish.

From the Journal-Post Washington Bureau.

WASHINGTON, June 17.—Picked federal agents from a wide area were ordered to Kansas City Saturday to take up the trail of the machine gun murderers who participated in the Union station plaza massacre of a department of justice agent, three police officers and their prisoner.

Agents from Chicago, San Antonio and other middle western points were ordered to the scene of the wholesale slaying with instructions to get their men and to use every resource of the government to bring to justice the murderers.

A cleanup of the lawless element in the hill sections of Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma, from which numerous forays into Missouri and Kansas have been made in recent months, was promised by federal authorities.

In Fight to Finish.

J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the bureau of investigation of the department of justice, declared that the government was in the chase until the slayers were captured.

"We never will stop until we get our men," Hoover asserted. "And we will go just as far in our efforts to run down the murderers as federal statutes will permit."

Raymond J. Caffrey, department of justice agent, who was fatally wounded by the outlaws as he and six companions prepared to take Frank Nash, escaped convict, back to the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, is the second man of that department to be killed in government service since the bureau was established in 1908. The federal authorities captured the first murderer, Martin Durkin, after a search of months. He killed Agent Shanahan in Chicago six years ago.

Trailing "Pretty Boy."

Department of justice officials also revealed Saturday that agents of the bureau have been on the trail of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, Oklahoma bad lands desperado, who kidnaped Sheriff Jack Killingsworth at Bolivar, Mo., Friday.

Federal authorities have been watching the increase of lawlessness in Missouri and Kansas, which has been marked in recent weeks by abductions, machine gun raids and prison breaks.

While they believe that a cleanup of the situation rests with local peace officers, the federal officials have agreed to cooperate in an effort to end the wave of crime which has swept that section of the country.

In their search for the slayers of the four officers and prisoner in Kansas City Saturday, the agents have agreed to ignore the dividing line between state and federal authority.

Officers Trace Tip-Off Reports in Hot Springs

HOT SPRINGS, ARK., June 17.—(UP—Reports that gangsters who killed four officers and their prisoner, Frank Nash, former two-gun desperado of Al Spencer's Oklahoma gang, were "tipped off" to the time of their arrival in Kansas City were being investigated Saturday night by government agents.

A car was reported to have followed the officers and beat them into Fort Smith, where they took a train to Kansas City. Reports were the occupants of the car were friends of Nash and that they had communicated with gangster friends, telling them when the officers and their prisoner would arrive.

Thrill Seekers, With Morbid Flair, Flock to Scene of Station Slaying

Curious Voice Theories; Bloodstains and Bullet Scars Are Closely Examined and Pointed Out.

Thrill seekers by the thousands thronged the Union station plaza Saturday afternoon and night to put fingers in the bullet scarred granite on the station front, point out the bullet riddled plate glass over the east entrance and to hunt for bloodstains, gruesome reminders of Saturday morning's massacre in which four officers were slain.

The curious assembled in knots to voice theories and to hear someone tell what he had heard. Rumors spread and were denied, but the bloodstains and the bullet scars were there to be inspected with forefingers and pointed out to the less informed who asked what it was all about.

Ushers, elevator boys and cab drivers were sucked into the eddying knots, eager to hear more details and anxious to voice some new theory as to what had happened when machine gunners shot down the officers and killed the captured convict, Frank Nash.

Evidence that at least eight bullets struck the front of the station was pointed out. Two bullets pierced the plate glass high above the station entrance at the east. Another bullet smashed into the steel canopy just above the head of Robert Fritts, Yellow Cab company starter.

Five holes in the granite indicated where five other bullets had been stopped in their flight toward the holiday crowd, mostly women and children, in the station.

Many in Street.

Employes at the station considered it a miracle that none was struck by the flying bullets. The morning trains were arriving and many persons were in the street on their way into the station lobby to meet friends and relatives from out of town.

When the firing started those outside dashed for the protecting walls of the station while those inside dashed to the door to see what was happening.

The more prudent yelled for everyone to keep inside the station. As the machine gun bullets pierced the plate glass in two places a fine spray of glass was sent almost across the station lobby. Bits were plucked from the counter of the Yellow Cab baggage stand.

Although the details of the story have been pieced together to make a long story the action all took place in such a short time that few stories agreed.

"It was over just like that," said Fritts as he snapped his fingers.

Ran For Cover.

Those outside the station, when they relaized what was happening, turned and ran wildly for cover. There was no fainting and screaming. It was all over before the women in the station realized what was taking place. A near panic ensued as the rumor started that the machine gunners were coming into the station. But it was over before this rumor gained headway.

Ray Whitlock, night operator at the Union station rushed back to his telephone board when he saw what had happened and sent out word to operators of Kansas City to warn officers to be on the lookout for the machine gunners' cars. He saw the cars leaving for the south and acted on the belief the slayers would go south.

Employes of the station pieced together their various theories. With evidence lacking, one was as plausible as the other.

M. K. (Mike) Fanning, motorcycle officer owes his life to the fact he became mixed in finding the two city detectives. The return of Nash was made quietly. The railroad had not been informed. Fanning, however, learned the two city detectives were in the station to meet a prisoner and was looking for them when the firing started. He dashed out and fired three shots from behind an iron pole. He then ran across the street, his gun gun levelled.

If the return of Nash had been handled in the usual way the railroad would have notified the station officer to meet the train and Fanning might have met the party and accompanied them to the car, it was pointed out.

It is expected that a new method of transferring prisoners here will be used as a result of the slayings. There always are many cars parked in the station parking lot and such wholesale murder as was accomplished Saturday morning is possible from the motor car ambush.

GUNNER YELLS 'UP' AND RAIN OF LEAD SPATTERS ON CAR

Frank Smith and R. E. Vetterli Tell of Worst Wholesale Massacre Since 'Rubbing Out' in Chicago.

"Up-up-up-up——UP!——"

"Rat-ta-ta-ta-tat——Rat-ta-ta-tat!!!"

"We didn't have a chance—not a chance. They were firing from three sides of us. They just yelled 'up! up!' a few times and blazed away."

That, in substance, is the story of the worst wholesale machine-gun massacre since the notorious "rubbing out" in Chicago on St. Valentine's day, 1928.

It was told calmly and coolly by Frank Smith, Oklahoma City agent of the bureau of investigation of the department of justice and by R. E. Vetterli, who is in charge of the bureau in Kansas City.

Regrets Loss of Friend.

Smith and Vetterli miraculously escaped death in the rain of lead that spattered the Union station plaza at 7:17 o'clock Saturday morning.

"I don't know how we escaped," said Smith, "and I don't care."

"My one great regret is that Ott Reed, one of the finest peace officers that ever walked, is dead. I got him into this and I got him killed. That's what he gets for being a good officer. I knew he was dependable and I needed dependable help Friday in Hot Springs."

Mr. Smith told the story of Frank Nash's arrest Friday in the Arkansas resort. Nash, notorious bandit, train robber, murderer, gangster, the man who was believed to have engineered the sensational prison break at the Leavenworth penitentiary last year and the equally wild-eyed break from the Kansas penitentiary Decoration day, was "taking the baths" in Hot Springs, Smith said he learned.

Linked in Two Breaks.

Nash had been the quarry of federal agents since his prison escape in 1930, and more particularly since agents had traced his connection with the two prison breaks in Kansas.

"We pegged Nash's car in front of the White Front pool hall. Reed, Lackey and myself. We watched until Nash came out the door and we took him quietly as possible and speeded out of town.

"We worked so quietly, the report got out in Hot Springs that gangsters had kidnaped a citizen. Hot Springs officers chased us twenty miles and stopped our car. We readily identified ourselves and were permitted to proceed, of course.

Officers Expected Trouble.

"We expected trouble from the start. We knew Nash was a desperate man, a gangster well connected, a man who had done favors for the big guns of crime and had engineered two prison breaks. Purposely, we took the Joplin road out of Hot Springs and then doubled back to Fort Smith.

"If we hadn't worked quietly, we'd have got it in Hot Springs.

KANSAS CITY JOURNAL-POST.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1933.

The kidnaping report, in my opinion, was circulated to delay our flight with Nash, but it was sufficient to give the gangsters a crack at us. We were driving Lackey's Buick and we made good time into Fort Smith.

"At 8:30 o'clock Friday night, we took a Missouri Pacific train out of Fort Smith, for Kansas City. We debated whether to take Nash to Oklahoma City or Kansas City, but we felt the sooner we got him back to Leavenworth where he belonged the better it would be.

"We took a stateroom. I undressed Nash and put him to bed in a berth. Neither of the rest of us took off our clothes. We guarded him closely, although he assured us he didn't intend to make trouble. I doubt seriously if he knew such bloody plans were afoot as occurred Saturday morning.

Was Drinking Beer.

"He talked freely in general, but never did he get specific about his criminal activities. He had been operating a beer place in Chicago and was fond of the beverage, I guess, because when we took him in Hot Springs, he was drinking a bottle of 3.2 while standing in the doorway of the pool hall and race horse bookmaker's place.

"He was a bald headed man, you know, and we had some difficulty in identifying him. He was wearing a $100 toupe and had grown a quite respectable moustache. His conversation was that of a sophisticated city man of standing in the community. One of the first things I did was to yank that toupe off his head and then I knew we had Frank Nash."

The night was uneventful. Smith wired Oklahoma City to communicate with Vetterli in Kansas City that they were bringing Frank Nash.

Took Nash to Car.

"When we arrived Vetterli, Caffrey and the two city detectives met us at the train and we walked Nash, who was handcuffed, through the station and out to Caffrey's car, across the street.

"'Get in there, Frank,' I said to Nash. He got in the back seat.

"'Take the same position as Friday,' ordered Lackey, and Nash scrambled between the divided front seat of Caffrey's car into the driver's seat. Reed got into the car. I followed him, and then Lackey got in behind me. Vetterli and the two city detectives were going to drive back up town in the detectives' car and they were standing at the right of the car.

"While Nash was pulling down the right hand front seat, Caffrey went around the car to take the driver's seat. Just then——

Saw Spurt of Fire.

"'Up-up-up-up-up-up,' was spoken several times in staccato accents from two or more points to the south and west of our car. I looked up. I believed some local officers were shaking down a car. Just as I looked up, I saw a man to the southwest of me with what appeared to be a machine gun. I saw a spurt of fire from it. I drew my revolver, but immediately I ducked for the bottom of the car.

"I've been a government agent for eighteen years. I know when resistance is possible and I knew they had us there at the station Saturday morning. I felt hot bullets pass my cheek. I believe Hermanson and Grooms were the first to fall, but I believe Nash actually was hit by one or more of the first few shots. The gunners, apparently, were shooting directly at Caffrey when Nash was killed.

At Least Two Gunners.

"So far as I can remember, nobody in the car said a word. I saw Ott Reed crumple and I saw Lackey slump in his seat. The only glimpse I got of our assailant was that one awful eyeful of that man with the machine gun leveled at me.

"I heard shooting from more than one point. It is my belief that at least two, if not three guns were trained on our car. I only saw one, of course. I know there was shooting from the rear and slightly to our right. I know the man who shot at me was in front and slightly to the right and I am under the impression that a third man was firing from a point somewhere in between those two.

"It was not my time to die. I've been shot at before, but never with more chance of the bullets finding their mark. How Vetterli escaped is even more of a miracle. He was directly in the line of fire. Poor Hermanson and Grooms might as well have been artificial rabbits in a shooting gallery. Caffrey was killed before he knew we were in a fight. Ott Reed, I'm satisfied, heard nothing after that staccato command of 'Up-up-up.'

Bullet Hits Pistol Butt.

"Lackey was saved, in my opinion, because the bullet which struck him richocheted from his pistol butt into his abdomen. He was the only man not shot in the head.

"After the shooting I got out of the car and Vetterli and I, with the help of some people nearby, pulled Lackey out. He was in bad shape, but I told him he was all right. I sat down with him on the curb and he asked me to let him lie down. I held his head in my arms until I became cramped and asked somebody to bring a seat cushion.

"There are some points I don't get just straight. Whoever engineered that shooting, of course, had an object. It was either the liberation or the slaying of Frank Nash.

"If they had wanted to liberate Nash they should have opened fire sooner. Nash was the first in the car. They could have picked us all off while we still were on the outside, if they had begun firing then.

Had Masonic Card.

"I remember Nash's conversation on the way up here. I doubt if he knew a delivery was to be attempted.

"'You know I never gave an officer any trouble,' he said. 'You've got me and I'm going back to Leavenworth. I know that.'

"He was gentlemanly, even kind and considerate all the way. He was quite a dandy, too; well dressed, used good English, wore nose glasses, without the ribbon, had on this fine toupe which he said had cost him $100. He tried to give it to me as a souvenir. He did give me a Masonic card, showing he had been initiated into lodge No. 1127 in Chicago under the name of George W. Miller.

"'Tear this up,' he told me, 'I shouldn't have imposed on my friends that way.'

Smith has been an agent of the bureau of investigation for eighteen years. Since the service was established the oldest men in the organization in point of service.

He was one of the government men who worked up the evidence in the Osage Indian murder plots in Oklahoma, having been assigned to that job from Dallas, Tex., office. Since his presence was needed in the trials of W. K. Hale and others indicted in connection with the Osage Indian murder, he was transferred to the Oklahoma City office and has remained there since. His family lives in Oklahoma City.

Smith, for a man who had seen five men killed in a vicious ambush, was unusually calm. His only request was for a new shirt.

"This blood nauseates me, especially when I know it is the blood of my friend."

Vetterli was too busy to give his detailed story of the ambush other than to corroborate Smith's story.

WHAT WILL COME OF IT?

Few of the major crimes that have disgraced the nation and alarmed the people in recent years have brought such an awakening as has the slaying of federal and local officers at the union station in Kansas City. The perpetrators displayed a ruthless disregard for human life and a contempt for law and its agents. Both their attempt to free a criminal of long record and their method of procedure denote that they were criminals of long experience.

The awakening reaches far beyond the city where the crime was perpetrated. The federal government, already committed to a war on organized crime, responded quickly to the call made upon its resources in this instance, ordering men of experience and ability to the scene and the surrounding territory. The department of justice is pledged to give every possible assistance in running down the escaped murderers.

The local prosecutor and the chief of police have agreed to concentrate on a driving policy to rid the city of carriers of concealed weapons. The possession of deadly weapons is a felony. The possession of revolvers is punishable by imprisonment for a maximum of two years. Possession of a machine gun carries liability of two to thirty years. To possess a machine gun contrary to law brands the possessor as a crook and potential murderer. Whether for lack of co-operation from the prosecutor's office and the courts or for other reasons, the police have not borne down on the gun toters in effective fashion. The rigid enforcement of the weapon law would diminish crime and its dangers and rid the city of menac[illegible] underworld characters. In self-defense as well as for public protection the police should go after the holders of deadly weapons with relentless determination.

But it is not enough to clear the city of un-[illegible]l weapons. The drive must include all [illegible] of racketeers. It must include unceasing [illegible]ment of known criminals who cannot satisfactorily account for their means of living. It must include the lesser crimes, which are only training experience for major crimes.

Yet even if Kansas City had the most effective police department possible, it could not protect the people against raids from the outside, such as that made at the union station. Scattered local campaigns are not sufficient. There must be co-ordinated effort among states, municipalities, towns and counties, with the aid of the federal government. The responsibility of the clemency power, so often abused to the public danger, is illustrated in the case of Frank Nash, escaped convict, whom the slayers attempted to release. This notorious criminal, a worthless and dangerous wretch, was convicted of murder in Oklahoma and sentenced to life imprisonment, only to be released in a few months. Another sentence for twenty-five years was reduced to two years. It was for still another crime that he was serving when he escaped.

Yet for this hardened enemy of society, four officers have lost their lives and another is near death. This case and the demands of the time admonish parole officers and executives everywhere to hold criminals, the hardened, the murderous, their full time.

What is to become of this war on crime? If the department of justice is determined and aggressive, it can do much. It has unlimited resources, even if much too restricted jurisdiction. Its participation in the drive on crime should be inspiring on all other peace agencies throughout the country. If it encounters difficulties that should not impede its work, the country is likely to hear about it.

One thing is certain: Organized crime, including murder, banditry, kidnaping, racketeering and bombing, is going to get badly beaten or it is going to get a lot more destructive. It is entrenched. It has strong allies. It is tremendously resourceful. Its power does not lie in the bandit at large, but in pressure it can bring to bear. In the mobilization of forces to combat this enemy, an aroused, demanding public sentiment is a tremendous factor.

KANSAS CITY, JUNE 17, 1933—SATURDAY

SUB-MACHINE GUNS MOW DOWN POLICE

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17.—(AP)—Four officers were slain by machine gun fire and another was wounded in front of the Union Station here today by gunmen trying to free Frank Nash, Oklahoma mail train robber being returned to Leavenworth Federal Prison.

Nash, one of the few surviving members of the Al Spencer gang, was among those killed.

The killers fled in one or more automobiles after pouring a murderous fire into a parked car which the officers and their prisoner were boarding just south of the east door of the station.

LIST OF THE DEAD.

The dead:

FRANK NASH, the Federal convict being returned to Leavenworth.

RAYMOND J. CAFFREY, agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

W. J. "RED" GROOMS, city detective of Kansas City.

FRANK HERMANSON, city detective of Kansas City.

OTTO REED, chief of police of McAlester, Okla.

The wounded:

F. J. Lackey, agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Accounts differed as to the number of the killers. One eye witness said he saw only two. Another reporter the firing came from two automobiles, and some officers expressed the belief four men were involved.

CAUGHT AT HOT SPRINGS.

Frank Smith, investigator for the Department of Justice; Lackey and Reed arrived at the station shortly after 7 a. m. with Nash, captured

(Concluded on Next Page, Column 7)

Smith and Vetterli escaped injury.

The assailants fled west, but eluded police cars which rushed to the scene.

The officers had planned to drive to Leavenworth with the prisoner rather than wait for a train.

All the dead were shot in the head.

One taxicab driver, near the head of the line of cabs moving up to receive passengers at the station entrance, said his first impression was that somebody had set off firecrackers.

"A woman came dodging around the car," he said. "I asked what was the matter and she said: 'I'm trying to get out of the way of those bullets.'

"Then I saw the officers falling and some of them firing from machine guns as they fell. I also saw the car at the curb with its windows shattered by gunfire and the figure of Nash, his head lolled back over the back of the front seat of the car and very bloody."

4 MACHINE GUNS, HE SAYS.

Vetterli, who received a slight wound as bullets tore through his clothing, said the firing sounded as though it came from four submachine guns, but added that he could not be certain of the number of assailants.

"Just as we started to get in Caffrey's car in front of the station, they opened up on us with submachine guns," Vetterli said. "I don't know how many, but there were more than one. It sounded like four to me.

"All I know is that they were hidden behind cars and opened up on us. They killed Nash first. The bullets were flying so thick about us by then that I don't know who went next."

over

Detroit News

6-17-33

NOT RECORDED

62-28915-A

C

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

San Francisco "Call - Bulletin", dated 6/17/33.

4 SLAIN IN K. C. GUN BATTLE

KANSAS CITY, June 17 (AP).—Four men were killed and two were reported dying today after a gun battle at the union station between police and men apparently trying to effect the release of Frank Nash, fugitive from justice. Police said the dead included Nash.

The dead, in addition to Nash, were identified by police as Red Grooms, Frank Hermanson and the sheriff of McAlester, Okla.

The dying were reported as two United States bureau of investigation agents, Raymond J. Caffrey and F. J. Lackey.

NOT RECORDED

62-28915-A

A MASSACRE OF FIVE

Gangsters Slaughter a Government Agent, Two City Detectives, an Oklahoma Police Chief and a Bank Robber at Union Station Plaza.

SIXTH IS NEAR DEATH

Two Other United States Operatives, One of Them R. E. Vetterli, Escape Death Amid Fusillade as Companions Fall.

Persons in the Building, on the Walks and Roadway Are Terrorized When the Shooting Occurs Before Them.

DASH AWAY IN A MOTOR CAR

After Performing Their Murderous Deed, the Desperadoes Take Up Flight in a Machine Waiting in Parking Lot.

Kansas City's union station plaza became an arena of horror at 7:20 o'clock this morning when eight men were ambushed with machine guns, five of them killed outright, and a sixth critically wounded in a brief but murderous burst of fire.

Then the assassins fled and this afternoon still were the object of the most intensive search this city has witnessed in many years. Hundreds of police and federal authorities were scouring the city and peace officers from every nearby community were guarding highways. No information had been forwarded to the police that might give an indication of the direction the slayers had taken.

It was a massacre apparently built around a plan to release

KANSAS CITY, JUNE 17, 1933—SATURDAY—14 PAGES.

or slay Frank Nash, notorious Oklahoma train robber and killer being returned to the federal prison at Leavenworth, where he escaped three years ago.

As the machine gun foray burst out, the bullets took the life of Nash, the Oklahoma desperado, and also killed these officers:

Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent of the Kansas City office of the United States bureau of investigation.

Otto Reed, chief of police at McAlester, Ok.

Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detective.

W. J. Grooms, Kansas City detective.

The wounded were F. J. Lackey, special agent at Oklahoma City of the United States bureau of investigation, whose condition at Research hospital was considered critical, as he was shot three times in the back, and R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge at Kansas City of the bureau of investigation, who suffered only a slight wound in the left arm when a bullet grazed him.

A Dramatic Sequence to Officers.

Aside from the dramatic fusillade coming at a time of the morning when the union station at Kansas City was busy with incoming and departing passengers, the battle was of considerable significance to officers who have been watching the sequence of prison breaks at Leavenworth federal prison and the

Kansas state prison recently.

Nash was a friend of Harvey Bailey, leader of the gang in the Memorial day break from the Kansas prison at Lansing. Nash also has been sought by federal officers for questioning in connection with the prison break at the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth in December, 1931, when Warden T. B. White, then in charge of that institution, was kidnaped and wounded by escaping convicts.

In on Leavenworth Terror.

Nash also was a friend of Harold Fontaine, federal convict by whom the guns used in the federal prison break were sent to the prison.

"I don't believe they intended to kill Nash," said Mr. Vetterli, as he started to relate the horrors of the unexpected assault.

Thomas J. Higgins, chief of detectives here, went to the scene of the shooting and later discussed the case with Mr. Vetterli and Frank Smith, the other government agent who escaped the slaughter. Higgins said he was confident the shooting was a plot engineered for the release of Nash and he believed he knew some of the men involved.

The murderers poured lead into a parked car which the officers and their prisoner, Nash, were boarding just south of the east door of the station. Nash had just been taken from a Missouri Pacific train that had arrived at 7:15 o'clock from Fort Smith, Ark.

Believed Danger Was Over.

The officers knew that Nash was a desperate man, but believed they were not in any particular danger of an attempt to release him, since he was then in Kansas City, far from his Oklahoma hangouts and within an hour's motor ride of delivery to the federal prison at Leavenworth.

Confusing aspects of the massacre were presented to the station employees and the crowd of travelers. Some believed the assassins had two cars, others believed there was only one. Some witnesses believed Nash gave a signal to the killers by raising his handcuffed hands. Others believed he raised his hands to knock a pistol from the hand of Caffrey, the government agent, when the latter saw the assassins.

It was a scene of distorted sequence, all occurring in a few moments' time—a brief flash of fire, groans, writhings of the wounded and the stiffening of the bodies of the victims as they died.

To Station With Caffrey.

"We went down to the station to meet the officers who were bringing Nash back from Hot Springs," Mr. Vetterli continued. "Raymond Caffrey and I drove to the station in his Chevrolet coach. The two Kansas City detectives, Hermanson and Grooms, drove to the station in their car. We met the Missouri Pacific train and started over to Mr. Caffrey's parked car, headed south on the station drive directly across from the east door of the station.

"There were the eight of us, including Nash, the prisoner, and seven officers. We were to enter Mr. Caffrey's car and the Kansas City detectives were to follow us to Leavenworth in their car.

"I was standing at the rear west side of Mr. Caffrey's car. In the back seat were Mr. Lackey and Mr. Smith, the agents from Oklahoma, and Otto Reed, chief of police at McAlester, who came up with the prisoner.

Nash in Driver's Seat.

"Mr. Caffrey was to drive. Nash had sat in the driver's seat temporarily until the car was loaded and then he was to move over into the other front seat which was folded up to allow the three men to enter the rear seat.

"Caffrey stood on the pavement beside Nash on the east side of the car waiting for Nash to slide over into the folding front seat. Hermanson and Grooms were standing on the west side of the car and toward the front. Suddenly I heard a man say: 'Put 'em up. Up! Up!'

"I looked and saw a man with a machine gun blazing away from near the southwest corner of the car. He seemed to be standing up on something—perhaps it was a running board of a car parked in the parking lot. I don't know exactly. But he was very close to us.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

"Oakland, California Enquirer", dated 6/17/33.

U. S. ORDERS GANG SEARCH

WASHINGTON, June 17 (UP).—Shocked by the amazing defiance of gunmen at Kansas City who killed five men, including department of justice agents, in an attempt to rescue a federal prisoner, Attorney General Cummings today ordered every law enforcement facility of the government directed toward the capture of the gangsters.

Special agents of the department were ordered to the scene to augment representatives regularly stationed at Kansas City. J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the bureau of investigation, was in touch with the Kansas City office of the department by telephone. Cummings asked to be kept informed of any development.

STRANGE LAW

Curiously there is no federal statute which makes it a crime to kill a government agent. The federal law provides a penalty for assaulting a federal agent. For several years the justice department has recommended to congress that the murder of a federal agent should be made a criminal offense under the federal law but congress has not seen fit to act.

This does not prevent an exhaustive federal investigation and the cooperation of the government with the Missouri authorities in the effort to track down and prosecute the gunmen. Should any of the slayers be captured and brought to trial Cummings said the U. S. attorney at the Kansas City or a special assistant to the attorney general would be detailed to assist the state prosecuting office.

Rep. McKeown (D) of Oklahoma, member of the house judiciary committee, scored the gang outbreak in Kansas City and urged federal action.

"The government of the United States and the state governments should start at once to put their hands on outlawry in this country."

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62-28915-A

Mr. Nathan ✓
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

"Oakland, California Enquirer", dated 6/17/33.

Eyewitness in Story of Rail Depot Murders

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17 (INS). —"The battle started without warning when a small man dressed in a brown suit and armed with a machine gun stepped out from behind a parked automobile."

That was the description of the Union station massacre here today in which five persons were killed as witnessed by Mac Straley, employe of the book shop in the station.

"I was standing in the book shop when I saw a group of men walking across the floor. They were attracting a lot of attention and I stepped to the door to see what they were doing.

"I noticed one of the men was handcuffed.

"They walked through the entrance of the station and started toward a parked automobile out in front.

"As they were entering their car, a small man dressed in a brown suit and armed with a machine gun stepped out from behind a parked automobile.

"The shooting started without warning, so far as I could see. Everyone began hunting cover, and I ran back into the station."

ANOTHER WITNESS

H. M. McDonald also had a good view of the battle, although the gunmen were hidden from his view.

McDonald was enroute to his work and had just turned his car in front of the station when the battle started.

"I swung my car aside and attempted to find cover.

"Two policemen were standing in view in front of the station and firing their pistols rapidly.

"From behind another car, the gunmen were firing at the officers. It sounded like they were using machine guns.

"The battle was over in a moment, and when I looked again the policemen had been killed."

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62-28915-A

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

"Oakland, California Tribune", dated 6/17/33.

4 OFFICERS AND CONVICT MASSACRED

KANSAS CITY, June 17.—(AP)—Four officers were slain by machine gun fire, and another was wounded in front of the Union Station here today by gunmen who apparently sought to effect the release of Frank Nash, Oklahoma mail train robber being returned to Leavenworth Federal Prison.

Nash, one of the few surviving members of the Al Spencer gang of train robbers, also died in the hail of bullets.

The killers fled in one or more automobiles after pouring a murderous fire into a parked car which the officers and their prisoner were boarding just south of the east door of the station.

The dead:

Raymond J. Caffrey, agent of the Bureau of Investigation.

W. J. "Red" Groom, city detective of Kansas city.

Frank Hermanson, city detective of Kansas City.

Otis Reed, chief of police of McAlester, Okla.

Frank Nash, the Federal convict being returned to Leavenworth.

The wounded:

F. J. Lackey, agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

ACCOUNTS DIFFER AS TO NUMBER OF GUNMEN

Accounts differ as to the number of men in the killers' party. One witness said he saw only two men. Another reported the firing came from two automobiles, and some officers expressed the belief four men were involved.

Frank Smith, investigator for the Department of Justice; Lackey and Reed arrived at the station shortly after 7 a. m., with Nash, who escaped from the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth in 1930, and was arrested yesterday at Hot Springs, Ark. They were met by R. B. Vetterli, chief of the United States Bureau of Investigation for Kansas, Missouri.

Five Slain in Gun Battle to Release Captured Train Bandit

(Continued From Page 1)

the mail. I'm trying to get out of the way of those bullets."

"Then I saw the officers falling, and some of them firing from machine guns as they fell. I also saw the car at the curb with its windows shattered by gunfire, and the figure of Nash, his head lolled back over the back of the front seat of the car and very bloody."

Vetterli, who received a slight wound as bullets tore through his clothing, said the firing sounded as though it came from four machine guns, but added that he could not be certain of the number of assailants.

"Just as we started to get Mr. Caffrey's car in front of the station, they opened up on us with sub machine guns," Vetterli said. "I don't know how many machine guns were opened up on us, but there was more than one. It sounded like four to me but I don't know positively.

"All I know is that they were hidden behind cars and opened up on us. They killed Nash first. The bullets were flying so thick about us by then that I don't know who went next."

Windows in the station were broken and bullet marks were in the front of the big stone structure.

There was consternation among the large crowd of travelers.

NOT RECORDED

62-28915-A

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Mr. Nather
Mr. Tele
Mr. I
Mr. C

"San Francisco Call - Bulletin", dated 6/17/33.

RAIL DEPOT SCENE OF BATTLE

Victims Mowed Down by Pals of Prisoner Seeking to Effect Release

KANSAS CITY, June 17 (AP) — Four officers were slain by machine gun fire and another was wounded in front of the Union station here today by gunmen who apparently sought to effect the release of Frank Nash, Oklahoma mail train robber being returned to Leavenworth federal prison.

Nash, one of the few surviving members of the Al Spencer gang of train robbers, also died in the hail of bullets.

The killers fled in one or more automobiles, after pouring a murderous fire into a parked car which the officers and their prisoner were boarding just south of the east door of the station.

DEAD

Raymond J. Caffrey, agent of the bureau of investigation.

W. J. ("Red") Grooms, city detective of Kansas City.

Frank Hermanson, city detective of Kansas City.

Otto Reed, chief of police of [illegible] Alester, Okla.

Frank Nash, the federal [illegible] being returned to Leavenworth.

WOUNDED

P. J. Lackey, agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Accounts differed as to the number of men in the killers' party. One witness said he saw only two men. Another reported the firing came from two automobiles, and some officers expressed the belief four men were involved.

FUGITIVE CAUGHT

Frank Smith, investigator for the Department of Justice; Lackey and Reed arrived at the station [illegible]

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[illegible] from the federal penitentiary [illegible] Leavenworth in 1930, and was [illegible] yesterday at Hot Springs, Ark.

7 ESCORT NASH

They were met by R. E. Vetter[illegible] chief of the United States Bureau of Investigation for Kansas [illegible] western Missouri; Raymond J. Caffrey, an investigator for the bureau [illegible] Grooms and Hermanson. The seven escorted Nash, handcuffed, through the station to Caffrey's car, waiting outside and across the street in the shadow of the Liberty Memorial.

Three of the officers an dita[illegible] died on the spot. Caffrey died in [illegible] hospital. Lackey was wounded, Smith and Vetterli escaped.

ASSAILANTS ESCAPE

The assailants fled west, but eluded police cars which rushed to the scene.

The officers had planned to drive to Leavenworth with the prisoner rather than wait for a train.

All the dead were shot in the head.

One taxicab driver, near the head of the line of cabs moving up to receive passengers at the station entrance, said his first impression was that somebody had set off firecrackers.

"A woman came dodging around the car," he said. "I asked what was the matter, and she said, 'I'm trying to get out of the way of those bullets.'

"Then I saw the officers falling and some of them firing from machine guns as they fell. I also saw the car at the curb, with its windows shattered by gunfire, and the figure of Nash, his head lolled back over the back of the front seat of the car."

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
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Mr. Clegg

SLAY 5 IN ATTEMPT TO FREE PRISONER

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62-28915-A

Mr. Nathan
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Mr. Clegg

San Francisco "News", dated 6/17/33.

GANG KILLS OWN MAN AND FOUR OFFICERS

Several Wounded, Scores of Passersby Perilled in Kansas City

MACHINE GUNS USED

Union Station Plaza Scene of 'Rescue Massacre'; Assailants Flee

By United Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17.—A desperate underworld attempt to free a recaptured convict ended with the massacre of five men here today. They were shot down in a machine gun barrage at the Union Station plaza.

Three others were wounded by the gunfire and lives of scores of motorists and pedestrians passing the plaza were endangered.

Frank Nash, notorious Oklahoma outlaw, was one of those killed.

The other dead were officers escorting him back to the Leavenworth federal prison, from which he escaped in 1930.

No Warning

The slain officers were: Ott Reed, chief of police of McAlester, Okla.; Raymond J. Caffrey, agent of the Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; and William Grooms and Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detectives.

Without warning the murderous fire from three machine guns was turned upon the officers.

They were mowed down with no chance to defend themselves.

One gang of five machine gunners was in the automobile that had drove the plaza and [illegible]

NOT RECORDED
62-28915-A

GUNMEN SWOOP DOWN AND OPEN FIRE ON OFFICERS

Police Chief and Fugitive Slain in Battle at Kansas City Station.

GIVEN NO WARNING

Kansas City, Mo., June 17.—(AP)—Four officers were slain by machine-gun fire and another was wounded in front of the Union station here today by gunmen who apparently sought to effect the release of Frank Nash, Oklahoma mail-train robber being returned to Leavenworth federal prison.

Nash, one of the few surviving members of the Al Spencer gang of train robbers, also died in the hail of bullets.

The killers fled in one or more automobiles after pouring a murderous fire into a parked car which the officers and their prisoner were boarding just south of the east door of the station.

The Dead.

Nash, Frank, the convict.

Caffrey, Raymond J., agent of the bureau of investigation.

Grooms, W. J. ("Red"), detective of Kansas City.

Hermanson, Frank, detective of Kansas City.

Reed, Otto, chief of police of McAlester, Okla.

The wounded man was P. J. Lackey, agent of the federal bureau of investigation.

Accounts differed as to the number of men in the killers' party. One eyewitness said he saw only two men. Another reported the firing came from two automobiles, and some officers expressed the belief four men were involved.

Arrive with Fugitive.

Frank Smith, investigator for the department of justice; Lackey and Reed arrived at the station shortly after 7 a. m. with Nash, captured yesterday in Hot Springs, Ark. Nash escaped from the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth in 1930.

They were met by R. E. Vetterli, chief of the United States bureau of investigation for Kansas and Western Missouri; Raymond J. Caffrey, an investigator for the bureau; Grooms and Hermanson. The seven escorted Nash, handcuffed, through the station to Caffrey's car, waiting outside and across the street near the parking lot.

Three of the officers and Nash died on the spot. Caffrey died in a hospital. Lackey was wounded.

The assailants fled west, eluding police cars, which rushed to the scene.

The officers had planned to drive to Leavenworth with the prisoner rather than wait for a train.

All the dead were shot in the head.

Thought It Firecracker.

One taxicab driver, near the head of the line of cabs moving up to receive passengers at the station entrance, said his first impression was that somebody had set off firecrackers.

"A woman came dodging around the car he said. 'I asked what was the mater and she said, 'I'm trying to get out of the way of those bullets.'

"Then I saw the officers falling and some of them firing from machine guns as they fell. I also saw the car at the curb with its windows shattered by gun fire and the figure of Nash, his head lolled back over the back of the front seat of the car and very bloody."

Vetterli, who received a slight wound as bullets tore through his clothing, said the firing sounded as though it came from four submachine guns, but added that he could not be certain of the number of assailants.

Chicago Daily News
6-17-33

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

San Francisco "Call - Bulletin", dated 6/17/33.

BULLET HAIL MOWS DOWN OFFICERS

Gangsters Trap Detectives Returning Fugitive Convict to Prison

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17 (AP).—Underworld machine gunners shot and killed four officers and their prisoner, Frank Nash, Oklahoma train robber, in front of the Union station here today. One federal officer was seriously wounded.

Officials differed on whether the attack was an attempt to free Nash, who was being returned to the Leavenworth federal penitentiary, from which he had escaped, or whether the main purpose of the gangsters was to kill the outlaw.

The killers, believed to number four, fled in an automobile with their sub-machine guns barking. They surprised the officers and deliberately shot them down as they were entering a parked car, preparing to drive to Leavenworth with Nash.

Nash was reported to have been the first one killed, although one witness said he apparently gave the signal for the attack by raising his manacled hands.

Many officers expressed the belief the object was to deliver Nash from his guards. But T. J. Higgins, detective chief, advanced the theory it was Nash's life that was sought. He reasoned that Nash may have had information on gangs which his associates feared he might disclose to authorities and they decided to "rub him out."

H. E. Vetterli, chief of the United States Bureau of Investigation for Kansas and western [illegible]

NOT RECORDED
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Eyewitnesses in Varying Stories About Massacre

One Saw Gunner on Foot and Others Report Blast From Car.

Eyewitnesses of the shooting on the Union station plaza, which resulted in five men being killed and one wounded, gave different versions of the number of men in the attacking party and the directions from which they came.

One of the eyewitnesses, Mac Straley, an employe of the Harvey book shop in the Union station, said he was standing in the book shop about 7:20 o'clock when he noticed a group of men walking toward the east door of the station. Persons in the station lobby, he said, were glancing at the group and some of the waiting passengers started following the little group out of the door.

Straley said he stepped from the book shop, and when he saw that one of the men was a prisoner of the others and was wearing handcuffs, he followed.

Straley said the group walked to a waiting car, the prisoner in their midst, and were seated. The car they entered was parked facing south opposite the station.

Immediately after the group had taken seats in the car, Straley said, a small man wearing a brown suit, stepped from behind another parked car.

This man was armed with a machine gun, and, apparently with no word to his intended victims, began shooting.

H. M. McDonald, credit manager for the Cities Service Oil company, was en route to his office in a motor car. He had driven down Main street and started to make a left hand turn in front of the station, intending to go to Broadway. At that moment the shooting started.

McDonald swung his car to the right. Two policemen, he said, were standing in front of the station, firing with their pistols. From behind a parked car came the rat-

BULLET CLIPS HOLE IN VETTERLI'S COAT SLEEVE

R. E. Vetterli, special agent, department of justice, escaped uninjured Saturday morning but only by the narrowest of margins. The hail of gunfire which was turned upon those in and around the automobile intended to transport Frank Nash, convict, literally whistled around Vetterli. One bullet nipped a hole in Vetterli's coat sleeve.

Kansas City Journal-Post

6/17/33

Continued from Page 1.

a-tat of what McDonald believed was a machine gun. As the firing died down, McDonald drove back in front of the station and saw the men who had been killed in the battle.

The machine gun operator walked around the car of his victims slowly and deliberately, spraying bullets through the windows, according to the observation of Earnest Easter, 17 years old, Brunswick, Mo., an invalid, who saw the massacre from the seat of a taxicab.

Just Entered Cab.

Young Easter arrived on a train shortly before the shooting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Easter. He has been suffering from a fever for an extended period and was taken through the Union station lobby in a wheel chair to the taxicab loading dock south of the station. He had barely been seated in the cab when he heard the shots.

He looked around and saw the man with the machine gun pointing it through the windows. He also heard other shots but did not see where they came from.

The taxicab driver left the entrance to the station hurriedly and Easter was taken to the general hospital, where he was admitted for treatment for his ailment.

F. F. Lackey, agent of the bureau of investigation, who was one of those wounded, gave a brief statement at Research hospital to William Eldridge and L. L. Claiborne, city detectives.

Lackey was shot three times in the back, and is in a critical condition.

"We got off the train and walked up into the station," the two detectives quoted Lackey as saying. "We walked out in front of the station where I had my Chevrolet sedan parked, and we got into it. We were barely seated in the car, in which we planned to drive to Leavenworth, when two or three men stepped out from behind parked cars near mine.

"I heard one man yell, 'Let 'em have it!'

"I gained the fleeting impression that they were shooting at us with 30-30 rifles.

Nash was arrested in Hot Springs, and his return trip to the penitentiary was started late Friday. Accompanying him were Lackey and O. H. Reed, chief of police of McAlister, Ok.

Arriving here, they were met by Raymond J. Caffrey, Frank Smith and R. E. Vetterli, all agents of the bureau of investigation, department of justice, and Frank Hermanson and William Grooms, the city detectives.

In the report given to Chief of Detectives Thomas J. Higgins, Claiborne and Eldridge said Lackey told them Nash first was placed in the rear seat of the government car.

Told to Change Places.

Then, because it was believed he could be more carefully guarded, he was told to sit in the front seat. The change was made, and Reed remained in the rear seat.

There, Lackey's statement disagrees with the statements of other witnesses to the shooting.

Lackey told Hermanson and Grooms that Caffrey got into the front seat with Nash, while he, Vetterli, Smith and Reed climbed into the rear seat. Hermanson and Grooms, the two detectives, were standing outside the car.

Two men jumped out, armed either with rifles or shotguns and started firing. Lackey said he had a shotgun, but that the withering fire turned upon the officers by the ambushers, prevented him using it.

Slugs picked up after the battle, it was said, indicated the cartridges had been loaded with steel ball-bearings considerably larger than buckshot.

Sees Gunner on Foot.

Cecil Dowell, 20 years old, 415 Southwest boulevard, was driving a motor car along Pershing road when the shooting began. Dowell said the first shot sounded as if it were a firecracker. He stopped his car and got out in time to see a man standing in front of a motor car firing a machine gun. Another man was at the wheel of the car. When the man with the machine gun stopped firing, he got in the car and was driven rapidly away, Dowell said. Dowell ran to the scene of the shooting and found the dead and

NASH PLOTTER OF BREAK AT LANSING ON MEMORIAL DAY

Slain Convict Trailed More Than Year by Raymond Caffrey.

It was learned only last week that Frank Nash, desperado, over whose liberty five men lost their lives Saturday morning at the Union station, had plotted the sensational Memorial day break at the Kansas state penitentiary in which eleven men were freed.

For more than a year Raymond J. Caffrey, one of the bureau of investigation agents slain Saturday morning, had been looking for Nash as the man who, with Harold Fontaine of Detroit, engineered the federal prison break at Leavenworth December 11, 1931.

Caffrey, one of the ace agents of the service, is said to have entered the Leavenworth prison as a convict to obtain evidence which since has convicted Fontaine and which set every federal agent on the trail of Nash.

Snares Burke's Pal.

It was Caffrey, also, who snared Harvey Bailey, Nash's pal, and the pal of Fred Burke, notorious killer. Bailey led the Memorial day break.

Only last week Caffrey and agents from Oklahoma are said to have learned that Nash also supplied the arms with which the eleven convicts went over the wall with Warden Kirk Prather as hostage on Memorial day.

These arms were shipped into the prison as hospital supplies and obtained by stealth by Bailey, who, with Wilbur Underhill, "tri-state terror" of the Osage hills, led the Lansing break.

Caffrey's last mission, the escorting of Nash back to Leavenworth, was one of the happiest of his life. He had spent hours and hours of time seeking Nash.

His Life Mission.

A secretary in the bureau of investigation, whose eyes showed her grief, said Caffrey had made it his mission in life to find Nash and to take Bailey back to prison.

No man in the federal service had more earnest friends than Caffrey.

"Why did it have to be Caffrey?" was the universal question in the federal building.

Caffrey had been one of the most active agents in the service, a man whose cases "stuck" when they went to court. Hardly a day passed he was not in the office of William L. Vanceventer, United States district attorney, seeking filings on motor car thefts, white slave cases, thefts from interstate shipments of freight and other federal law violations.

In Shepherd Case.

Caffrey worked up the case against Maj. Charles Shepherd, the army doctor who was convicted of poisoning his wife. He had been active in Omaha in several notable federal investigations.

Omaha was his home. He was graduated there from Creighton university and was admitted to the bar in Nebraska.

He was not greatly perturbed at the reports from Washington that the bureau of investigation was soon to be abolished and a new federal detective setup inaugurated.

In conversation with the writer Friday he expressed the opinion that "there still would be some government investigation and they still would need investigators" under the new setup. His experience and his record, he felt, would be taken into account in the new organization.

Kansas City Journal-Post

6/17/33

Witnesses See Five Gunmen Open Fire on Officer's Motor Car

Mrs. Lottie West of the travelers' aid bureau at the Union station, and W. D. Rouzer, manager of the Fred Harvey restaurants, saw the five men open fire on the officers just after the prisoner had been put in a motor car.

Mrs. West and Mr. Rouzer were standing talking near the travelers' aid desk in the station when they saw officers escorting a handcuffed prisoner across the station lobby. They followed the officers outside and saw them take the prisoner toward a motor car parked on the plaza and facing south. Mrs. West's motor car was parked to the south and west of the officers' car and she observed that two men were standing on its running board.

Guards Relax.

As the officers placed the prisoner in their car, they relaxed momentarily and one dropped his riot gun to the side. At that moment a man stepped from behind another car parked to the west and in line with the officers' car. He opened fire on the officers with a machine gun. Simultaneously the men on the running board of Mrs. West's car also opened fire on the officers.

The three men then jumped in a car parked nearby and headed west. Mrs. West could not tell whether the car in which they escaped had a fourth man as driver.

Turns In Riot Call.

Mr. Rouzer, when the firing began, rushed inside the station to put in a riot call. Mrs. West hurried to the station entrance and sought to push back into safety a group of women, including several Catholic sisters who were standing at the entrance.

Mrs. West said that the man who stepped out with the machine gun was wearing a blue serge suit and a brown felt hat. As she saw the three men get into a car she got the impression that one was large and two were small.

One of the bullets pierced the pane of glass above one of the large doors in the Union station entrance.

Kansas City Journal-Post
June 17/33

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Gleen

NOT RECORDED

62-28915-A

THIS CLIPPING FROM
KANSAS CITY, MO.
JOURNAL POST

JUN 17 1933

KA[illegible]AS CITY J[illegible]

An Independent N[illegible]

Entered as second [illegible] City, Mo., under [illegible]

Kansas City, Mo., Saturday

FIVE SL[illegible]IN ON S[illegible]

STATION MASSACRE SURVIVORS TELL OF SIGNAL TO KILLERS

They Shouted 'Up Up,' Then Blazed Away--We Didn't Have a Chance'--Frank Smith and R. E. Vetterli, U. S. Agents, Explain

"Up-up-up-up——UP!——"

"Rat-ta-ta-ta-tat——Rat-ta-ta-tat!!!"

"We didn't have a chance—not a chance. They [illegible]ere firing from three sides of us. They just yelled 'up! [illegible]!' a few times and blazed away."

That, in substance, is the story of the worst whole[illegible]le machine-gun massacre since the notorious "rubbing [illegible]t" in Chicago on St. Valentine's day, 1928.

[illegible] Oklahoma City agent [illegible] investigation of the [illegible] and by [illegible] who is in charge of the [illegible]

Eyewitnesses in [illegible]

CITIES SERVICE FILES AMENDED STAR PETITION

$30,000,000 Damage Suit Is Revived by Legal Action.

NAMES 14 COUNTS

Newspaper Actuated Only by Desire to Injure, It Is Charged.

An amended petition in the $30,000,000 damage suit of the Cities Service Gas company against the Kansas City Star company was filed Saturday in the Independence division of the circuit court by R. R. Brewster, Madden, Freeman & Madden and Fruesuff, Robinson & Sloan, attorneys for the plaintiff.

The amended petition was filed after Judge C. Jasper Bell some weeks ago sustained a demurrer to the original petition on the ground that it did not conform technically [illegible]

Slain Convict

A Bertillon picture of Frank Nash, convict, who with four officers, was slain Saturday morning on Union station plaza.

NASH HUNTED IN CONNECTION WITH U. S. PRISON BREAK

Slain Man Supposed to Have [illegible]

AMB[illegible] AS S[illegible] PRIS[illegible]

Nash K[illegible] Out[illegible]

HARVE[illegible]

Fugitive [illegible] to H[illegible] R[illegible]

The slay[illegible] at the Unio[illegible] ing, is beli[illegible] a bloody [illegible] prison bre[illegible] months.

Agents o[illegible] tice have [illegible] Frank Nas[illegible] prisoner wh[illegible] Leavenwor[illegible] was the "o[illegible] [illegible]nwor[illegible] [illegible] of D[illegible] [illegible] pe[illegible] Memorial c[illegible]

JOURNAL-
...dent Newspaper
Saturday, June 17, 1933.
HOME EDITION
IN GREATER KANSAS CITY 2c PER 1 10c A WEEK COPY BY CARRIER

STATIC PLAZA

AMBUSH SEEN AS SEQUEL TO PRISON BREAKS

Nash Known to Have Been Outside Man in Two Escapes.

HARVEY BAILEY'S PAL

Fugitive Convicts Believed to Have Attempted to Return Favor.

The slaying in ambush of five men at the Union station Saturday morning, is believed by authorities to be a bloody sequel to two desperate prison breaks of the last eighteen months.

Agents of the department of justice have definite information that Frank Nash, the notorious escaped prisoner who was being returned to Leavenworth penitentiary Saturday was the "outside" man in both the Leavenworth federal penitentiary break of December 11, 1931, and the [illegible] penitentiary break on [illegible] memorial day.

[illegible] Bailey [illegible]

The Dea[illegible] and Woun[illegible]

The dead:

Ott Reed, [illegible] lice of McAlest[illegible]

Raymond [illegible] agent of the [illegible] investigation [illegible] of justice.

William [illegible] detective.

Frank Hermanson, [illegible] detective.

Frank Nash, convict.

The wounded:

F. F. Lackey, department of justice agent [illegible] Research hospital, serious condition.

POSSIBLE FLOYD LINK PROBED [illegible] MURDER OF [illegible]

Pre[illegible] Boy [illegible] Sheriff [illegible]

[illegible]ACHINE GUNS CUT [illegible]WN OFFICERS AND [illegible]ARDED PRISONER

Detectives, U.S. Department Justice Agent, Oklahoma Police Chief and Frank Nash Between Two Volleys.

Pictures on Page 2, Page 3 and Picture Page.

Caught between streams of murderous machine gun [illegible] four police and federal officers and a prisoner they were guarding were slain and a federal agent wounded early Saturday on the Union station plaza.

Marked for death without a chance to defend themselves, the officers died under a hail of bullets from machine guns in the hands of killers who were believed to [illegible]

KANSAS CITY JOUR

Machine Gun ill Four Peace Off

Man Being Returned in Co With Leavenworth Break

Continued from Page

the act of stepping into the federal car [illegible] running board, dying. Smith crouche[illegible] Reed and Lackey and was uninjured. [illegible] times in the back by machine gun slugs.

Grooms and Hermanson, taken c[illegible] gasped out their lives on the pavement [illegible] revolvers of the detectives were found [illegible] evidently had been drawn in a pitifully [illegible] this sudden storm of death.

Vetterli heard the dull hiss of bull[illegible] him. One passed through his coat sleeve. [illegible] lously escaped injury.

Fire Not Returned.

The suddenness of the attack and [illegible] slaying of their comrades left them ga[illegible] to act quickly enough to attempt to retu[illegible] swift moving machine gunners.

Holiday travelers streaming out of [illegible] greeted with a scene of horror. Men we[illegible] dying on the pavement. Blood flowed. Sever[illegible] cars parked nearby at the curb were pitted wit[illegible] and windshields were broken.

Women screamed, men groaned at th[illegible] it seemed, knew what had happened to tu[illegible] plaza into a human butcher shop.

Heavy .45-caliber bullets from [illegible] machine guns [illegible] over against the Union station. One bullet pierced a [illegible] pane. Empty shells lay scattered on the pavement and parking space to the south of the roadway.

Police and ambulance sirens screamed, adding to [illegible] of confusion.

Throw Gun Into Car.

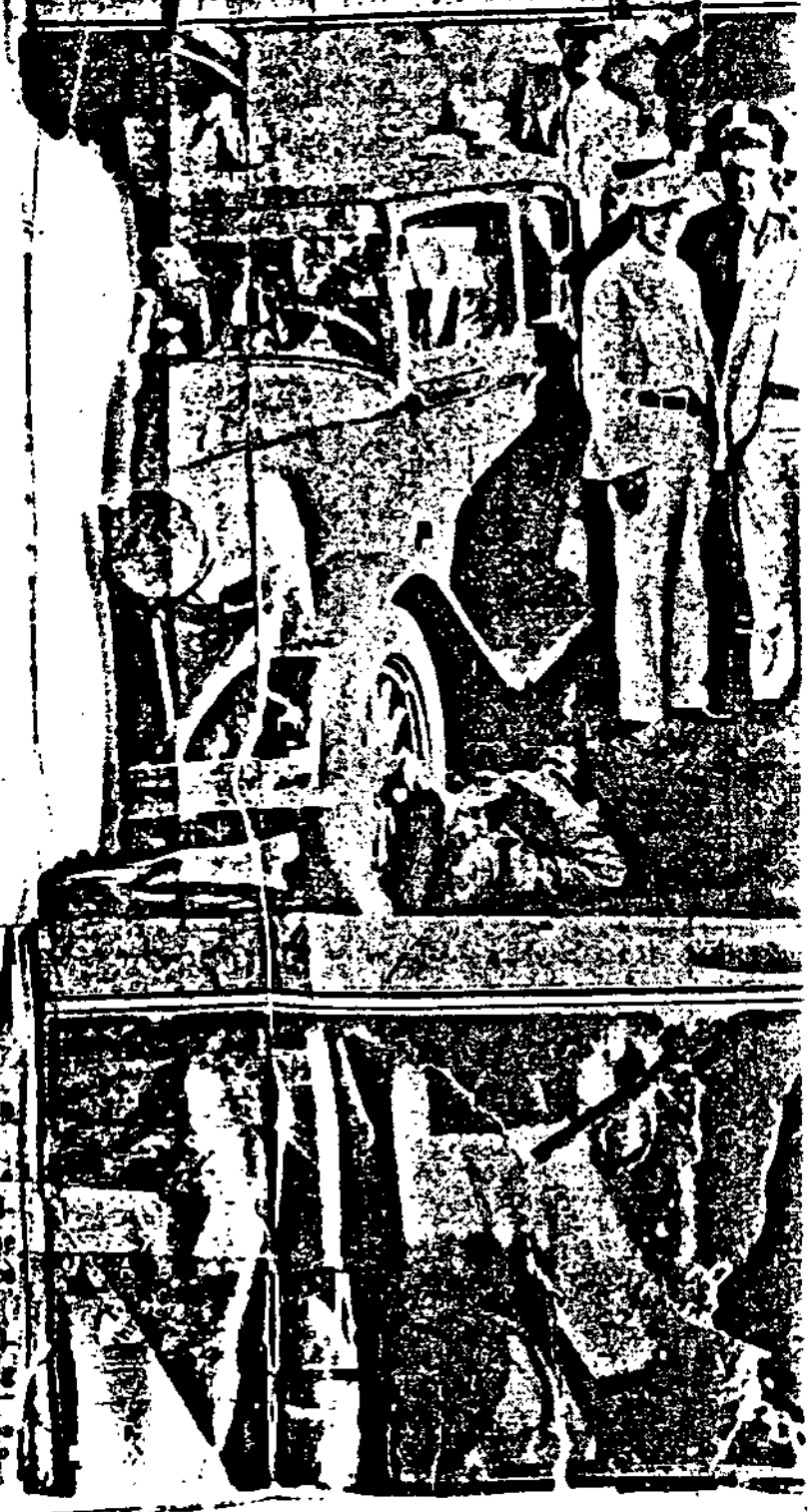
The two machine gunners who had approached the federal officers on foot tossed their smoking weapon into the green Reo, jumped in and sped west out of the parking place onto Pershing road and were gone.

The slow-moving Chevrolet car, its deadly mission fulfilled, picked up speed and disappeared west on Pershing road.

As the Reo sped away, M. K. Fanning, motorcycle patrolman assigned to the station plaza district rushed out of the station. From [illegible] hind a [illegible] he [illegible]

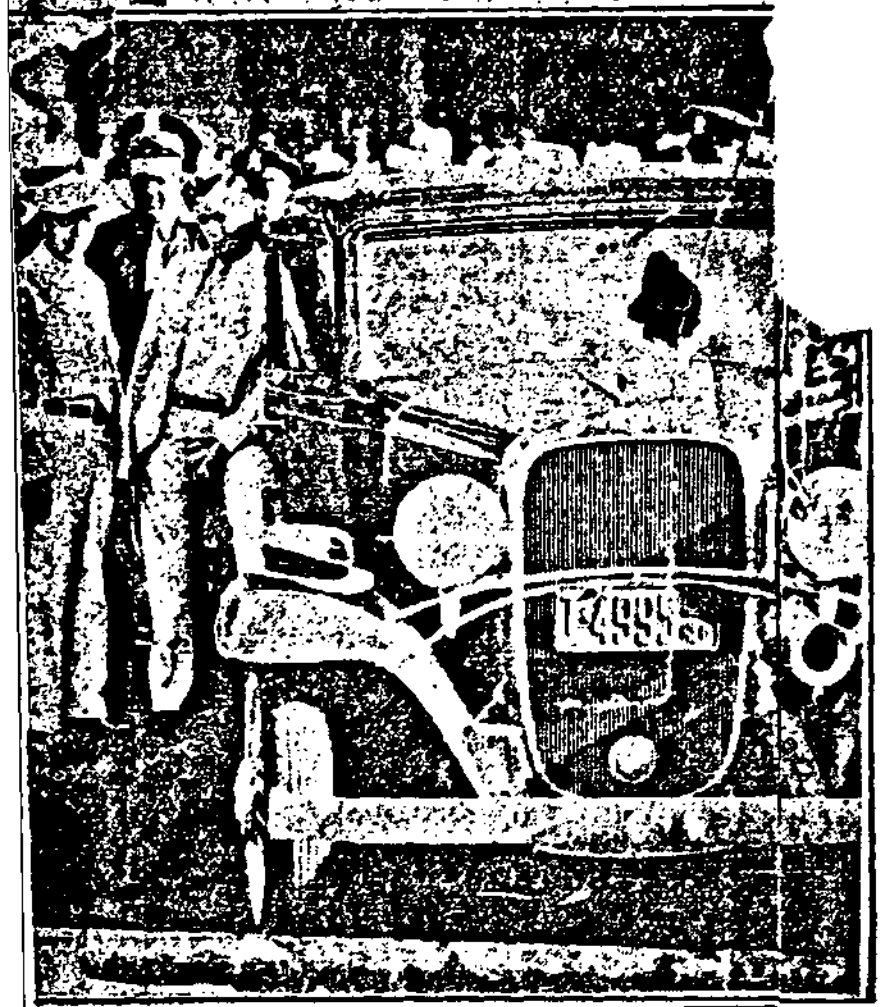
[illegible] ficers, it later was learned [illegible] police. There were several [illegible] guns in the hands of the guards. One eyewitness [illegible]

Victims of Machine Gun Massacre an



...e Officers and Pris... on Station Plaz...

...n Massacre and Riddled Government Car



...ATION AMBUSH ...ELIEVED SEQUEL ...F PRISON BREAKS

Continued from Page 1.

...ng to return the favor and ...e Nash.

To Clean Out Hills.

...least, government agencies ...e set to work at once Saturday ...rning to apprehend Bailey and to "clean out" the Osage hills of every outlaw hiding out in that strip of badlands along the Kansas-Oklahoma border.

There is still another theory which is advanced to explain the desperate ambush. That is, that Frank Nash would "talk" when he returned to the federal penitentiary.

This theory is untenable, according to those who know the inner workings of the Osage gang, of which Nash was the "gentleman" member. Nash never has been a squealer. The only fact behind such a theory is that Nash was one of the first killed in the massacre Saturday morning. Agents point out that, had the attacking mob fired sooner, they would have caught all of the officers in the party outside the motor car and could have mowed them down without harming Nash, unless by a stray bullet.

Single Bullet Wounds Found in Bodies of Four of Five Slain

Only one bullet wound was found in each of the bodies of four of the five men killed Saturday in the Union station plaze machine gun massacre. The fifth man was felled by two bullets.

Ott Reed, chief of police of McAlister, Ok., was shot twice by the machine gunners. Both bullets entered his head.

Raymond J. Caffrey, agent of the bureau of investigation, was felled by a single machine gun bullet which entered his right temple and passed through his head.

William Grooms, city detective, was struck by one one bullet. It penetrated his right side.

Frank Hermanson, city detective, was hit by one bullet. It struck him in the head.

Frank Nash, the captured convict, was hit in the back of the ...

workers already have accepted ... per cent cut.

"It is difficult to understand ... railroads should initiate a wage ... duction movement at the very ... ment when every other industry ... the country is attempting to ... crease wages and employes and ... working hours," Whitney said.

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UNION ...

[illegible] said it was Lackey." [illegible] he said, "I am [illegible] identified Vetterli. [illegible] in the front seat. [illegible] handcuffs, I later learned, was Nash, was slumped under the wheel with his head down on his chest. I lifted his head. He groaned and slid down in the seat, dead."

Agent Caffrey died soon after reaching the general hospital.

The body of Nash, who paid with his life in the rescue attempt, was found under the wheel of the federal car. Police advanced the theory later that he may have known of the delivery attempt and have slipped over under the wheel in an attempt to get out of the line of machine gun fire.

The two machine gun crews apparently had carefully planned out their delivery plot. They apparently had spotted the federal car in which Nash was to be taken to Leavenworth.

The gunners evidently had laid their plans so that the federal officers and police would be between two streams of bullets, one from the parking space just south of the roadway and the other from the plaza roadway.

Guards Had Riot Guns.

Nash was led up from the train sheds through the lobby of the station under guard of the eight of-

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[illegible] holes [illegible] pierced the [illegible] ing his [illegible]

Conflicting stories of the shooting came from many sources, but the police were convinced that the machine gunners used two cars.

Four or five motor cars parked at the curb near the police car were sprayed with bullets.

That the delivery plot may have been engineered by Harvey Bailey, escaped convict, and known to police as a "buddy" of Nash, was another police theory.

In Leaving Break, Too.

Bailey was the leader of the break at the Kansas state penitentiary at Lansing, Kas., Decoration day. Nash, police say, is known to have shipped into the prison the weapons used in the prison break. They were shipped in with hospital supplies.

Following this line of reasoning police believe it logical to conclude that Bailey would reciprocate by doing anything possible to keep his friend Nash from going back to the penitentiary.

Slain Federal Agent Was Nebraska Resident

By United Press.

OMAHA, June 17.—Raymond J. Caffrey, 30-year-old federal department of justice agent, killed in the Kansas City massacre, was a lifelong resident of Nebraska.

Born at McCook, he later moved to a farm near Stamford, Neb., with his family where he remained until he was about 19 years old, when he came to Omaha to enter Creighton university. He was graduated four years later and entered the government service almost immediately. He had been a secret service agent for six years.

Until a month ago Caffrey was in charge of the bureau of investigation here, being relieved by William Flood.

His mother, Mrs. E. F. Caffrey, and the remainder of the family still live here.

His wife was Regina Dolan of Des Moines, a niece of Mrs. Arthur F. Mullen, wife of the Nebraska Democratic leader.

Caffrey was popular here and his manner was quiet and unassuming. He was rapidly forging to the front as one of the bureau's best younger officers, Flood said.

Nash Suspected in Nebraska Bank Raids

LINCOLN, NEB., June 17.—(UP)—Nebraska authorities had planned to question Frank Nash, Oklahoma outlaw, shot down in the Kansas City gang slaying, in connection with a number of bank robberies in Nebraska, they disclosed Saturday.

"We had been hoping to get a look at Nash," State Deputy Burn said. "We have been checking [illegible]

[illegible] Tips to [illegible] Saturday [illegible] a garage [illegible] West [illegible] Thirty-eighth [illegible] found four [illegible] and debris [illegible] at 11 o'clock.

Police found [illegible] vacant and the outside garage locked. There [illegible] Model [illegible] visible and no indication that anyone had been on the premises for some time.

This was one of several tips to police concerning the whereabouts of the machine gunners that proved unfruitful.

Sheriff Sends Deputies to Patrol Highways

Sheriff Thomas B. Bash, immediately after receiving word of the [illegible] slaying at the Union station, sent all available deputies to patrol the highways leading out of Kansas City, in the hope the gangsters would be seen.

The deputies were armed with machine guns, riot guns and tear gas guns.

They planned to patrol the main highways and all side roads in Jackson county.

Wife, Parents and Sister Survive Grooms

William Grooms, city detective, slain Saturday, is survived by his widow, Mrs. Myrtle Grooms; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Warren S. Grooms, 304 West Thirty-fourth street, and a sister, Mrs. John Ratchford, 604 West Thirty-second street.

[illegible] high above the east door of the Union station is one of the large panes of glass remained Saturday a [illegible] reminder of the slaying which took place in the station plaza. Long after the [illegible] had been cleared of the [illegible] station attendants continued [illegible] it out.

[illegible] the small round hole bored [illegible] by one of the machine [illegible] Whether the bullet which had been sent [illegible] shot or whether it [illegible] will never be determined [illegible] found their marks [illegible]

[illegible] MONUMENT.

[illegible] ASS.—(UP)—This [illegible] tallest" monument [illegible] the historic Miles [illegible] wheel shaft [illegible] this claim [illegible] Washington monument [illegible] things are taller. [illegible] points to the [illegible] Miles in [illegible]

TWO MASSACRE SURVIVORS HEAR SIGNALS TO FIRE

Continued from Page 1

opinion, was circulated to delay our flight with Nash, but it was sufficient to give the gangsters a crack at us. We were driving Lackey's Buick and we made good time into Fort Smith.

"At 8:20 o'clock Friday night, we took a Missouri Pacific train out of Fort Smith, for Kansas City. We debated whether to take Nash to Oklahoma City or Kansas City, but we felt the sooner we got him back to Leavenworth where he belonged the better it would be.

"We took a staterooin. I undressed Nash and put him to bed in a berth. Neither of the rest of us took off our clothes. We guarded him closely, although he assured us he didn't intend to make trouble. I doubt seriously if he knew such bloody plans were afoot as occurred Saturday morning.

Was Drinking Beer.

"He talked freely in general, but never did he get specific about his criminal activities. He had been operating a beer place in Chicago and was fond of the beverage, I guess, because when we took him in Fort Smith, he was drinking a bottle of 3.2 while standing in the doorway of the pool hall and race horse bookmaker's place.

"He was a bald headed man, you know, and we had some difficulty in identifying him. He was wearing a $100 toupe and had grown a quite respectable mouriache. His conversation was that of a sophisticated city man of standing in the community. One of the first things I did was to yank that toupe off his head and then I knew we had Frank Nash."

The night was uneventful. Smith wired Oklahoma City to communicate with Vetterli in Kansas City that they were bringing Frank Nash.

Took Nash to Car.

"When we arrived Vetterli, Caffrey and the two city detectives met us at the train and we walked Nash, who was handcuffed, through the station and out to Caffrey's car, across the street.

"'Get in there, Frank,' I said to Nash. He got in the back seat.

"Taking the same position as Friday, I ordered Lackey and Nash scrambled between the divided front seat of Caffrey's car into the driver's seat. Nash got into the car. I followed him, and then Lackey got in behind me. Vetterli and the two but

FIRE

[illegible] sufficient [illegible] a crack [illegible] Lackey's [illegible] time into [illegible] night, we [illegible] in out of [illegible] City. We [illegible] Nash to [illegible] City, but [illegible] him back [illegible] belonged [illegible] I un- [illegible] to bed in [illegible] rest of us [illegible] guarded [illegible] insured us [illegible] trouble. [illegible] new such [illegible] occurred [illegible]

[illegible] neral, but [illegible] about his [illegible] had been [illegible] Chicago [illegible] average, I [illegible] ck him in [illegible] ing a bot- [illegible] the door- [illegible] face horse [illegible] man, you [illegible] difficulty [illegible] was wear- [illegible] grown a [illegible] che. His [illegible] a sophis- [illegible] ing in the [illegible] first things [illegible] pe off his [illegible] had Frank [illegible]

[illegible] d. Smith [illegible] communi- [illegible] nsas City [illegible] Frank [illegible]

[illegible] rd, Caff- [illegible] detectives [illegible] walked [illegible] through [illegible] ey's car, [illegible]

[illegible] said to [illegible] at. [illegible] d as Pri- [illegible] nd Nash [illegible] Nash [illegible] e driver's [illegible] I fol- [illegible] got in [illegible] the two but I told him he was all right. I

[illegible] was putting down the [illegible] front seat, Caffrey went around the car to take the driver's seat. Just then [illegible]

Saw Spurt of Fire

"'Up-up-up-up-up-up,' was spoken several times in staccato accents from two or more points to the south and west of our car. I looked up. I believed some local officers were shaking down a car. Just as I looked up, I saw a man to the southwest of me with what appeared to be a machine gun. I saw a spurt of fire from it. I drew my revolver, but immediately I ducked for the bottom of the car.

"I've been a government agent for eighteen years. I know when resistance is possible and I knew they had us there at the station Saturday morning. I felt hot bullets pass my cheek. I believe Hermanson and Grooms were the first to fall, but I believe Nash actually was hit by one or more of the first few shots. The gunners, apparently, were shooting directly at Caffrey when Nash was killed.

At Least Two Gunners

"So far as I can remember, nobody in the car said a word. I saw Ott Reed crumple and I saw Lackey slump in his seat. The only glimpse I got of our assailant was that one awful eyeful of that man with the machine gun leveled at me.

"I heard shooting from more than one point. It is my belief that at least two, if not three guns were trained on our car. I only saw one, of course. I know there was shooting from the rear and slightly to our right. I know the man who shot at me was in front and slightly to the right and I am under the impression that a third man was firing from a point somewhere in between those two.

"It was not my time to die. I've been shot at before, but never with more chance of the bullets finding their mark. How Vetterli escaped is even more of a miracle. He was directly in the line of fire. Poor Hermanson and Grooms might as well have been artificial rabbits in a shooting gallery. Caffrey was killed before he knew we were in a fight. Ott Reed, I'm satisfied, heard nothing after that staccato command of 'Up-up-up.'

Bullet Hits Pistol Butt

"Lackey was saved, in my opinion, because the bullet which struck him richocheted from his pistol butt into his abdomen. He was the only man not shot in the head.

"After the shooting I got out of the car and Vetterli and I, with the help of some people nearby, pulled Lackey out. He was in bad shape. [illegible] this hit [illegible] in my [illegible] some cramped and [illegible] bring a [illegible]

"There are some p[illegible] just straight. [illegible] that shooting of you[illegible] ject. It was either [illegible] liberation or the slaying of Frank Nash.

"If they had wanted to liberate Nash they should have opened fire sooner. Nash was the first in the car. They could have picked us all off while we still were [illegible] outside, if they had begun [illegible] then.

Had Masonic Card

"I remember Nash's conversation on the way up here. I doubt if he knew a delivery was to be attempted.

"'You know I never gave an officer any trouble,' he said. 'You've got me and I'm going back to Leavenworth. I know that.'

"He was gentlemanly, even kind and considerate all the way. He was quite a dandy, too. Well dressed, used good English. He wore nose glasses, without the ribbon, had on this fine toupe which he said had cost him $100. He tried to give it to me as a souvenir. He did give me a Masonic card, showing he had been initiated into lodge No. 117, in Chicago under the name of George W. Miller.

"'Tear this up,' he told me. 'I shouldn't have imposed on my friends that way.'

Smith has been an agent of the bureau of investigation for eighteen years. Since the service was established he is one of the oldest men in the organization in point of service.

He was one of the government men who worked up the evidence in the Osage Indian murder plots in Oklahoma, having been assigned to that job from Dallas, Tex., office. Since his presence was needed in the trials of W. K. Hale and others indicted in connection with the Osage Indian murder, he was transferred to the Oklahoma City office and has remained there since. His family lives in Oklahoma City.

Smith, for a man who had seen five men killed in a vicious ambush, was unusually [illegible]. His only request was for a me[illegible].

"This blood nauseates me, especially when I know it is the blood of my friend."

Vetterli was too [illegible] to give his detailed story of the ambush other than to corroborate Smith's story.

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THE KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE
4415 Warwick Boulevard

[illegible] Leavenworth pen-[illegible] year and the usually [illegible]ed break from the Kansas Penitentiary. Decoration day, was [illegible]ing the "[illegible]" in Hot Springs, [illegible]h said he learned.

Linked in Two Breaks.

Nash had been the quarry of federal agents since his prison escape in 1930, and more particularly since agents had traced his connection with the two prison breaks in Texas.

"We pegged Nash's car in front of the White Front pool hall, Red Lackey and myself. We watched until Nash came out the door and we took him quietly as possible and speeded out of town.

"We worked so quietly, the report got out in Hot Springs that gangsters had kidnaped a citizen. Hot Springs officers chased us twenty miles and stopped our car. We readily identified ourselves and were permitted to proceed, of course.

Officers Expected Trouble.

"We expected trouble from the start. We knew Nash was a desperate man, a gangster well connected, a man who had done favors for the big guns of crime and had engineered two prison breaks. Purposely, we took the Joplin road out of Hot Springs and then doubled back to Fort Smith.

"If we hadn't worked quietly, we'd have got it in Hot Springs. Nash had some buddies with him there. The kidnaping report, in my

Turn to Page 2, Column 4.

KMBC HIGHLIGHTS

5:00—Political Situation in Washington Now. Last minute news from the nation's capital.

5:15—Big Brother club with Big Brother Jack and his Little Brother.

5:20—Howard Ely at the organ from KMBC's Egyptian studios.

6:15—The Magic Voice, popular radio drama, featuring the colorful voice of Elsie Hitz.

7:30—N. C. A. A. track and field championship meet from Soldier field, Chicago.

8:30—Dr. Harris Jenkins. "Questions and Answers" moved to this hour for Saturday night only.

8:45—Gertrude Niesen, sensational torch singer who has been called the Garbo of the air, appearing with Freddie Rich's orchestra.

9:00—Freddie Martin's orchestra opens the evening dance session, to be followed by Ben Pollack, Don Bestor and Gus Arnheim.

11:15—Billie Gaus, organist, closes the KMBC evening with a program of popular and semi-classic melodies.

(Complete Programs on Page 3.)

[illegible] of his business this is a [illegible] party and the directions from which they came.

One of the eyewitnesses, Mac Straley, an employe of the Harvey book shop in the Union station, said he was standing in the book shop about 7:20 o'clock when he noticed a group of men walking

BULLET CLIPS HOLE IN VETTERLI'S COAT SLEEVE

R. E. Vetterli, special agent, department of justice, escaped injury Saturday morning but only by the narrowest of margins. The hail of gunfire which was turned upon him in and around the automobile intended to transport Frank Nash, convict, literally whistled around Vetterli. One bullet nipped a hole in Vetterli's coat sleeve.

toward the east door of the station. Persons in the station lobby, he said, were glancing at the group and some of the waiting passengers started following the little group out of the door.

Straley said he stepped from the book shop, and when he saw that one of the men was a prisoner of the others and was wearing handcuffs, he followed.

Straley said the group walked to a waiting car, the prisoner in their midst, and were seated. The car they entered was parked facing south opposite the station.

Immediately after the group had taken seats in the car, Straley said, a small man wearing a brown suit, stepped from behind another parked car.

This man was armed with a machine gun, and, apparently with no word to his intended victims, began shooting.

H. M. McDonald, credit manager for the Cities Service Oil company, was en route to his office in a motor car. He had driven down Main street and started to make a left hand turn in front of the station, intending to go to Broadway. At that moment the shooting started.

McDonald swung his car to the right. Two policemen, he said, were standing in front of the station, firing with their pistols. From behind a parked car came the rat-

Turn to Page 2, Column 6.

THE WEATHER.

Fair Saturday night and Sunday; slightly warmer Sunday. River stage 12.7 feet, no change in 24 hours.

HOURLY TEMPERATURES.

Midnight	74	6 a. m.	69	12 noon	82
1 a. m.	73	7 a. m.	71	1 p. m.	83
2 a. m.	72	8 a. m.	71	2 p. m.	85
3 a. m.	70	9 a. m.	75		
4 a. m.	70	10 a. m.	78		
5 a. m.	69	11 a. m.	80		

[illegible] articles and [illegible] the [illegible] company [illegible] and unfair [illegible] the distributing co[illegible] By contract, [illegible]

[illegible] to Page 4, Column 2.

[illegible] prisoner [illegible] [illegible] Green, serving 25 years for postal robbery, Grover D. Harris, serving [illegible] years for assault on a mail custo-

Turn to Page 2, Column 3.

Scene of Bloody Massacre on Union Stati[illegible]

A crowd which hurriedly assembled at the parking space south of the Union station Saturday morning where two city detectives, a federal officer, the chief of police at McAlester, Okla., and a recaptured federal prisoner were slain by machine gunners. The gunners concentrated their fire on a car which contained

[illegible] Bailey, with his [illegible] of escaped prisoners and Oklahoma outlaws, came to the Union station Saturday [illegible]

Turn to Page 2, Column 2.

[illegible] Bailey [illegible] other men, [illegible] Missouri, [illegible] the sheriff [illegible] Three [illegible] worth [illegible] motor car [illegible]

Turn to [illegible] Column 2.

Union Station Plaza Where Five Were Slain

—Photo by George Crothen of the [illegible]

[illegible] Frank Nash, being returned to the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, and Ott Reid, McAlester chief of police. The rear car in the photograph still contained the bodies of Nash and Reid when the picture was taken. Others slain were William Grooms and Frank Hermanson, city detectives, and Raymond J. Caffrey, agent of the bureau of investigation, department of justice.

[illegible] bandits in Oklahoma. He [illegible] justice [illegible] his escape from the federal [illegible] Leavenworth in 1[illegible].

He was being returned to the penitentiary when the machine gun massacre mowed down four of his guards and turned the plaza into a bloody shambles at 7:17 o'clock Saturday morning.

In custody of Ott Reed, chief of police of McAlester, Ok., and Frank Smith and F. F. Lackey, agents of the federal bureau of investigation of Oklahoma City, Nash arrived at the Union station on a Missouri Pacific train at 7:12 o'clock Saturday morning.

Taken to Car.

He was escorted to a waiting motor car. The car, a Chevrolet, was parked on the south side of the plaza roadway across from the east entrance of the station.

At the car the officers and Nash were met by R. E. Vetterli, chief of the bureau of investigation here; Raymond J. Caffrey of the bureau of investigation here, and two city detectives, William Grooms and Frank Hermanson.

Nash was handcuffed. He was placed in the Chevrolet car first. He was placed in the front seat. Then Chief Reed got into the rear seat with Agents Smith and Lackey.

The other four officers were standing beside the car.

Suddenly two men stepped from behind a green Reo motor car which was parked in the parking space south of the roadway. The Reo was about thirty feet south and east of the federal car.

In the hands of one of the two men was a machine gun. Apparently without a word of warning the weapon was leveled. It began a rattle of death. The heavy slugs beat a tattoo against the federal car.

Another machine gun pointed out of the window of a slowly moving Chevrolet car passing along the roadway to the rear of the federal car joined in the butchery.

In the Chevrolet car were two or three men, witnesses were not sure.

Bullets Find Marks.

Chief Reed slumped over in the seat dead. Caffrey, in

Turn to Page 2, Column 1.

Mr. Nathan ✓
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

5 DIE IN BATTLE IN KANSAS CITY

Evening Ledger 6-17

4 Officers Among Victims as Gang Tries to Free Captured Train Robber

Kansas City, June 17.—(AP)—Five men were killed and one was reported dying today, after a gun battle at the Union Station between police and men apparently trying to effect the release of Frank Nash, fugitive from justice. Police said the dead included Nash.

The dead, in addition to Nash, were identified by police as Red Grooms, Frank Hermanson, Raymond J. Caffrey, and the Sheriff of McAlester, Okla. The dying man is F. J. Lackey.

As a group of officers surrounding Nash came out the front doors of the station, and prepared to get into a car, the group was fired on by men in a motorcar which sped swiftly from the scene.

Some officers expressed the belief an effort was made to "rub out" Nash, a member of the Al Spencer band of train robbers, rather than effect his release. Nash was captured in Arkansas, and was being returned to the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary under heavy guard.

Grooms and Hermanson were city detectives, while Caffrey and Lackey were reported to be United States Bureau of Investigation agents.

Two armored cars of the Kansas City police department were immediately dispatched to search for the slayers. Their car was reported as a black sedan.

Kansas City Evening Ledger

6/17/33

NOT RECORDED

62-28915-A

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Glavin

NASH PLOTTER OF BREAK AT LANSING ON MEMORIAL DAY

Slain Convict Trailed More Than Year by Raymond Caffrey.

It was learned only last week that Frank Nash, desperado, over whose liberty five men lost their lives Saturday morning at the Union station, had plotted the sensational Memorial day break at the Kansas state penitentiary in which eleven men were freed.

For more than a year Raymond J. Caffrey, one of the bureau of investigation agents slain Saturday morning, had been looking for Nash as the man who, with Harold Fontaine of Detroit, engineered the federal prison break at Leavenworth December 11, 1931.

Caffrey, one of the ace agents of the service, is said to have entered the Leavenworth prison as a convict to obtain evidence which since has convicted Fontaine and which set every federal agent on the trail of Nash.

Snares Burke's Pal.

It was Caffrey, also, who snared Harvey Bailey, Nash's pal, and the pal of Fred Burke, notorious killer. Bailey led the Memorial day break.

Only last week Caffrey and agents from Oklahoma are said to have learned that Nash also supplied the arms with which the eleven convicts went over the wall with Warden Kirk Prather as hostage on Memorial day.

These arms were shipped into the prison as hospital supplies and obtained by stealth by Bailey, who, with Wilbur Underhill, "tri-state terror" of the Osage hills, led the Lansing break.

Caffrey's last mission, the escorting of Nash back to Leavenworth, was one of the happiest of his life. He had spent hours and hours of time seeking Nash.

His Life Mission.

A secretary in the bureau of investigation, whose eyes showed her grief, said Caffrey had made it his mission in life to find Nash and to take Bailey back to prison.

No man in the federal service had more earnest friends than Caffrey.

"Why did it have to be Caffrey?" was the universal question in the federal building.

Caffrey had been one of the most active agents in the service, a man whose cases "stuck" when they went to court. Hardly a day passed he was not in the office of William L. Vanceventer, United States district attorney, seeking filings on motor car thefts, white slave cases, thefts from interstate shipments of freight and other federal law violations.

In Shepherd Case.

Caffrey worked up the case against Maj. Charles Shepherd, the army doctor who was convicted of poisoning his wife. He had been active in Omaha in several notable federal investigations.

Omaha was his home. He was graduated there from Creighton university and was admitted to the bar in Nebraska.

He was not greatly perturbed at the reports from Washington that the bureau of investigation was soon to be abolished and a new federal detective setup inaugurated.

In conversation with the writer Friday he expressed the opinion that "there still would be some government investigation and they still would need investigators" under the new setup. His experience and his record, he felt, would be taken into account in the new organization.

Kansas City Journal-Post
6-17-33

NOT RECORDED
62-28915-1

TAXI STARTER SEES MASSACRE—Robert Fritts, 212 Chelsea avenue (above) taxi starter at the Union station, witnessed the Union station massacre from a point near the east door of the station.

MOTORCYCLE PATROLMAN TO THE SCENE—Mike Fanning, motorcycle patrolman at the Union station, who with Charles Moore, taxi driver, removed the massacred officers' pistols after the shooting Friday morning at the Union station.

NARROW ESCAPE—Miss Fernie Millikan, 1317 Valentine road, whose Plymouth coach, shown above, was riddled with bullets, came near to being in the thick of the shooting at the Union station. The Millikan car was parked west of the federal car in which the officers were shot. Miss Millikan had intended sitting in her car while her mother went into the station to meet an arriving guest. One bullet passed through the car from front to rear in line with where Miss Millikan would have been sitting if she had remained in the car.

FIRST TO REACH BODIES—Charles Moore, 3934 Terrace street, (above), a driver for the Yellow Cab company, rushed from his car to the bodies after the machine gunners completed their work. Moore and Mike Fanning, motorcycle patrolman, removed the pistols from the murdered officers.

The Washington Daily News

FIVE KILLED IN GUN BATTLE

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1933

NOT RECORDED

62-28915-A

Machine Gun Fired at Police in Fight to Free Desperado

Massacre Occurs in Front of Kansas City Station During Transfer of Convict to Car

By United Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Five men were killed and a sixth was wounded in a massacre in front of the Kansas City union station today.

The killings resulted from an attempt by gangsters to liberate Frank Nash, Oklahoma outlaw who was being returned to the Leavenworth Federal Prison from which he escaped in 1930.

MANY IN PERIL

Bullets sprayed the front of the station. Lives of many on the sidewalk were imperiled by the cross fire of bullets.

The gangsters struck suddenly, and bullet fire felled several of the officers guarding Nash before they could return the fire.

Four of the dead were: Otto Leed, sheriff of McAlister, Okla., and two Kansas City policemen and Nash.

Nash was arrested in Hot Springs, Ark., after he had been trailed there by Government agents.

Fearing an underworld attempt to free him, Nash was taken secretly by auto to Fort Smith, and there the officers took a train for Kansas City.

EXTRA GUARD PRESENT

A detail of Kansas City police was at the station to furnish an additional guard for Nash, who had boasted that he would never be taken back to Leavenworth alive.

The officers and their prisoner emerged from the train, walked thru the station concourse and out to a waiting auto.

They entered the auto and were preparing to drive away when another car came up.

Suddenly machine guns opened fire from the other auto.

The battle lasted but a moment and two of the gangsters escaped after the killings.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

WASHINGTON TIMES
THE NATIONAL DAILY

16,190 Entered as Second Class Matter At Postoffice of Washington, D. C. SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1933 Published Each Day THREE CENTS

POLICE, THUGS IN BATTLE; 5 SLAIN

Gangsters Kill Four in Effort to Rescue Leavenworth Prison Fugitive

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17 (I.N.S.).—Four policemen and a prisoner were killed and another policeman was wounded here today when the police engaged in a battle with gunmen at the Union Station.

The police were returning Frank Nash, an escaped convict from Leavenworth Penitentiary. He was captured yesterday near McAlester, Okla.

Met By Gang

As the officers, who had been met by city detectives, emerged from the train, they were met by a gang of gunmen.

The gunmen attempted to wrest Nash from the policemen. They found him chained to two of the officers.

Raymond J. Caffrey, of the Department of Justice, opened fire with his revolver.

The gangsters returned the fire.

Washington Times
6/17/33

NOT RECORDED
62-28915-11

4 OFFICERS, CONVICT SLAIN

MACHINE GUN GANG ESCAPES AFTER DUEL IN RAIL STATION

KANSAS CITY, June 17. — (AP.)—Underworld machine gunners shot and killed four officers and their prisoner, Frank Nash, Oklahoma train robber, in front of the Union Station here today.

One federal officer was seriously wounded.

Officials differ on whether the attack was an attempt to free Nash, who was being returned to Leavenworth federal penitentiary from which he had escaped, or whether the main purpose of the gangsters was to kill the outlaw.

The killers, believed to number four, fled in an automobile with their sub-machine guns barking after surprising the officers and deliberately shooting them down as they were entering a parked car, preparing to drive to Leavenworth with Nash.

Nash was reported to have been the first one killed, although one witness said he appeared to have given the signal for the attack by raising his manacled hands.

Many officers expressed the belief the object was to deliver Nash from his guards. But T. J. Kis[illegible]

Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph June 17, 1933.

UNITED STATES
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 19 1933

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

Four Officers, Convict Slain by Gangsters

(Continued From Page One)

gins, detective chief, advanced the theory it was Nash's life that was sought. He reasoned that Nash may have had information on gangs which his associates feared he might disclose to authorities and they decided to 'rub him out.'

OFFICERS FIGHT

R. E. Vetterli, chief of the United States Bureau of Investigation for Kansas and Western Missouri, exchanged shots with the slayers and escaped injury as did Frank Smith, a Department of Justice investigator.

A motorcycle patrolman, who rushed from the station, fired three shots at the fleeing car.

The dead:

FRANK NASH, the convict.
RAYMOND J. CAFFREY, agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
W. J. "RED" GROOMS, Kansas City detective.
FRANK HERMANSON, Kansas City detective.
OTTO REED, chief of police of McAlester, Okla.

The wounded:

F. J. LACKEY, agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Accounts differed as to the number of men in the killers' party. One eye witness said he saw only two men. Another reported the firing came from two automobiles, and some officers expressed the belief four men were involved.

RETURNING TO PEN

Frank Smith, investigator for the Department of Justice, Lackey and Reed arrived at the station shortly after 7 a. m. with Nash, captured yesterday in Hot Springs, Ar. Nash escaped from the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth in 1930.

They were met by R. E. Vetterli, chief of the United States Bureau of Investigation for Kansas and Western Missouri; Raymond J. Caffrey, an investigator for the bureau; Grooms and Hermanson. The seven escorted Nash, handcuffed, through the station to Caffrey's car.

Three of the officers and Nash died on the spot. Caffrey died in a hosptial. Lackey was wounded. Smith and Vetterli escaped.

The assailants fled west, but eluded police cars which rushed to the scene.

The officers had planned to drive to Leavenworth with the prisoner rather than wait for a train.

All the dead were shot in the head.

EYE-WITNESS STORY

One taxicab driver, near the head of the line of cabs moving up to receive passengers at the station entrance, said his first impression was that somebody had set off firecrackers. He said:

"A woman came fledging around the car. I asked what was the matter and she said, 'I'm trying to get out of the way of those bullets.'

"Then I saw the officers falling and some of them firing from machine guns as they fell. I also saw the car at the curb with its windows shattered by gunfire and the figure of Nash, his head jolted back over the back of the front seat of the car and very bloody."

KILLED FIRST

Vetterli, who received a slight wound as bullets tore through his clothing, said the firing sounded as though it came from four submachine guns, but added that he could not be certain of the number of assailants. He said:

"Just as we started to get in Caffrey's car in front of the station, they opened up on us with sub-machine guns.

"They were hidden behind cars and opened up on us. They killed Nash first. The bullets were flying so thick about us by then that I don't know who went next."

Windows in the station were broken and bullet marks were left on the front of the big stone structure.

There was consternation among the large crowd of travelers in the station.

One man, as he stepped out of the station, asked:

"My God! Is this Chicago?"

FIRES AT SLAYERS

Mike Fanning, a motorcycle officer, who rushed from the station, said he fired three times with his pistol at the slayers' car as it was pulling away. He said some of the men were still shooting from the running board. He said he was certain there were four men in the automobile.

Fanning related that he took "deliberate aim and cracked down on them before they were out of range," but did not know whether his shots took effect.

The Evening Star
WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION
WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1933—TWENTY-SIX P.

GANG GUNS SLAY FOUR OFFICERS AND ROBBER IN BATTLE

F. J. Lackey, U. S. Agent, Shot and R. J. Caffrey Killed at Kansas City.

BAND SOUGHT TO FREE FUGITIVE FROM CUSTODY

Machine Gun Pours Hail of Bullets Into Car Containing Frank Nash and Captors.

By the Associated Press.

KANSAS CITY, June 17.—Four officers were slain by machine-gun fire and another was wounded in front of the Union Station here today by gunmen, who apparently sought to effect the release of Frank Nash, Oklahoma mail train robber, being returned to Leavenworth Federal Prison.

Nash, one of the few surviving members of the Al Spencer gang of train robbers, also died in the hail of bullets.

The killers fled in one or more automobiles after pouring a murderous fire into a parked car which the officers and their prisoner were boarding just south of the east door of the station.

Dead and Wounded.

Slain in Battle

F. J. LACKEY.

FRANK NASH.

The dead:

Frank Nash, the Federal convict being returned to Leavenworth.

Raymond J. Caffrey, agent of the Bureau of Investigation.

W. J. "Red" Grooms, city detective of Kansas City.

Frank Hermanson, city detective of Kansas City.

Otto Reed, chief of police of McAlester, Okla.

The wounded:

F. J. Lackey, agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, formerly attached to the Washington office.

Accounts differed as to the number of men in the killers' party. One eyewitness said he saw only two men. Another reported the firing came from two automobiles, and some officers believed four men were involved.

As a group of officers surrounding Nash came out the front doors of the station and prepared to get into a car the group was fired on by men in a motor car, which sped swiftly from the scene.

Some officers expressed the belief an effort was made to "rub out" Nash rather than effect his release.

Two armored cars of the Kansas City Police Department were immediately dispatched to search for the slayers. Their car was reported as a black sedan.

Cab Starter Tells Story.

Robert Pritt, a cab starter at the station, told this story:

"I guess I saw all the shooting.

"I was calling and starting cabs on the wide sidewalk in front of the east entrance of the station. The officers and their prisoner came out of the entrance and passed me, crossing the street directly in front of me. There were five men with the prisoner. Frank Nash (I learned who it was later) was handcuffed.

"They went straight to the car parked across the street and Nash climbed in first. As soon as he seated himself, he raised both his hands in the air. It looked like a signal.

"At that moment the gunfire broke loose. It came from two men over in the parking lot opposite the station and beyond Nash. They seemed to be firing with a machine gun over his head.

"The officers were mowed down by the fire. As they crumpled, some of them returned the fire.

"I don't know who got Nash. One of our cabs was in front of me. Its driver went down. I thought he was shot. He had merely ducked out of range.

"Then I saw the two men who had opened fire dash for a car. It looked like a Reo car. So far as I could tell, there were only two men. I did not see any one waiting at the wheel of the car.

"They jumped in and roared out of the lot and away.

"I could not tell how old they were. I cannot give a good description of them, but they wore dark suits and caps.

"I saw a man pick up some gun shells on the side of the car Nash was in, out in the street. They must have come from the officers' guns."

Frank Smith, investigator for the Department of Justice: Lackey and

(Continued on Page 3, Column 3.)

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Ms Gleary

NOT RECORDED

62-28915-A

GANG GUNS SLAY FIVE MEN IN BATTLE

Four Officers, Two U. S. Agents Killed in Kansas City Ambuscade.

(Continued From First Page.)

Reed arrived at the station shortly after 7 a.m. with Nash, captured yesterday in Hot Springs, Ark. Nash escaped from the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth in 1930.

They were met by R. E. Vetterli, chief of the United States Bureau of Investigation for Kansas and Western Missouri; Caffrey, Grooms and Hermanson. The seven escorted Nash, handcuffed, through the station to Caffrey's car, waiting outside and across the street near the parking lot.

Three of the officer's and Nash died on the spot. Caffrey died in a hospital. Smith and Vetterli escaped.

The assailants fled west, but eluded police cars which rushed to the scene.

The officers had planned to drive to Leavenworth with the prisoner rather than wait for a train.

All the dead were shot in the head.

One taxicab driver, near the head of the line of cabs moving up to receive passengers at the station entrance, said his first impression was that somebody had set off firecrackers.

"A woman came dodging around the car," he said. "I asked what was the matter and she said, 'I'm trying to get out of the way of those bullets.'

Nash Killed First.

"Then I saw the officers falling and some of them firing from machine guns as they fell. I also saw the car at the curb with its windows shattered by gunfire and the figure of Nash, his head lolled back over the back of the front seat of the car and very bloody."

Vetterli, who received a slight wound as bullets tore through his clothing, said the firing sounded as though it came from four sub-machine guns, but added that he could not be certain of the number of assailants.

"Just as we started to get in Caffrey's car in front of the station, they opened up on us with sub machine guns," Vetterli said. "I don't know how many machine guns were opened up on us, but there was more than one. It sounded like four to me but I don't know positively.

"All I know is that they were hidden behind cars and opened up on us. They killed Nash first. The bullets were flying so thick about us by then I don't know who went next."

Windows in the station were broken and bullet marks were left on the front of the big stone structure.

LACKEY A G. W. GRADUATE.

Attained Prominence in Virginia McPherson Inquiry.

With a license number as the chief clue, the United States Bureau of Investigation today mobilized all available agents in search for the murderers of Special Agent Raymond J. Caffrey of the bureau and two city detectives, although there is no Federal law against killing a Federal officer.

The astounding fact that the Kansas City killers committed no Federal offense when they mowed down two Government investigators with machine guns today recalled futile efforts of the Department of Justice in the past to obtain legislation to correct this condition. Government officials said it is a Federal crime to assault a Government officer, but not to kill him.

Lackey Well-Known Here.

Francis J. Lackey, a special agent of the bureau, who was shot three times in the back, is well-known here. He is a graduate of George Washington University and married Miss Caroline West of Alexandria, Va., formerly employed at the Department of Justice. Lackey attained prominence in the investigation of the death of Virginia McPherson at the Park Lane Apartments several years ago.

Bureau of Investigation officials were preparing a press statement describing the capture of Frank Nash yesterday at Hot Springs, Ark., when word came of the shooting at Kansas City. Nash was described as "one of the most notorious fugitives from justice," a confederate of the Capone gangsters, Thomas Holden and Francis L. Keating, who were sought widely as possible suspects in the Lindbergh kidnaping.

Holden and Keating were captured by Federal agents last July on a golf course at Kansas City and returned to Leavenworth penitentiary, from which they had escaped. This pair, with Nash, were said by the Department of Justice to have been the outside conspirators in the famous prison break at Leavenworth in December, 1931, when Warden Tom White was kidnaped and later released, seriously wounded. The trio were accused of shipping guns into the prison in a barrel of shoe grease.

FOUR MEN WOUNDED.

Policemen and Robber Suspects in Gun Battle.

LAFAYETTE, Ind., June 17 (AP).—Two policeman and two suspected robbers lay near death today from wounds received in a spectacular pistol and submachine gun battle in downtown Lafayette late yesterday that ended only when an outsider entered the fray.

The suspects walked into a police trap laid in a physician's office where they sought medical aid. They drew guns and emerged from the building with pistols blazing at a cordon of patrolmen. They fled into an areaway by the post office.

Here, however, Harry H. Huston, 23, assistant manager of a sanitarium, who first tipped the police to their quarry, took charge. He grabbed a submachine gun from a wounded policeman, ran to a second-story vantage point and mowed down the fugitives as they ran.

The critically wounded are Patrolmen J. Wesley Wilson, 43, four bullets in the abdomen, and Paul Klinker, 30, shot in abdomen and shoulder, and the suspects, Robert Sanders, 33, who first gave his name as P. T. Murphy of Nashville, Tenn., and Frank Byrd, 29, of Indianapolis.

Patrolman James McDonald, 26, was shot in the knee and a stray bullet clipped the right ankle of Paul Roby, 14, walking with his parents and sister three blocks from the scene.

Ruth Edgar, 19, of Frankfort, Ind., companion of the suspects, escaped unhurt, although she was in the thick of the gunfire. She was sitting in an automobile in which police found guns, ammunition and fishing tackle. Search of the prisoner's revealed $1,500 in Byrd's possession and $850 in Sander's clothing.

ESCAPED CONVICTS SLAIN.

Officers Await Fugitives After Robbery Tip.

CHICAGO, June 17 (AP).—Two men sought since their recent escape from the county jail were shot and killed last night by detectives stationed in the home of Robert Orzak.

They were Cecil Neal and John Holland. The detectives were placed on guard after Orzak said he had been informed a plot was brewing to rob him of $3,000.

A 3-year-old girl was struck in the leg by one of the bullets as the two detectives exchanged fire with the pair.

Both men were fugitives under $10,000 bond each on robbery charges.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

OFFICERS MASSA

FOUR

CRED

CONVICT DIES WITH CAPTORS AS PALS FIRE

Three Machine Guns Blaze In Kansas City Union Station Plaza

HUNDREDS MENACED

U. S. Agent, Police Chief, Detectives Are Killed, Three Others Wounded

By The United Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17.—A desperate underworld attempt to free a recaptured convict ended with the massacre of five men here today.

They were shot down in a machine gun barrage at the Union Station Plaza.

Three others were wounded by the gunfire and lives of scores of motorists and pedestrians passing the Plaza were endangered.

Frank Nash, notorious Oklahoma bank and train-robber, was one of those killed.

The other dead were officers escorting Nash back to Leavenworth Federal Prison, from which he escaped in 1930.

The slain officers were:

Ott Reed, Chief of Police of Muskogee, Okla.

Raymond J. Caffrey, U. S. Department of Justice agent.

William Grooms and Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detectives.

F. P. Lackey, another Department of Justice agent, was shot three times and desperately wounded. R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation here, was wounded in the arm. Bullets ripped his clothing, but he escaped with one wound.

Without warning the murderous fire from three machine guns was turned upon the officers as they left the station with their prisoner.

Gang Strikes Suddenly

They were mowed down with no chance to defend themselves.

One gang of five machine gunners was in an auto that sped down the Plaza and raked the group of officers with gunfire.

A second car that drove through the Plaza at high speed was believed also to have contained gangsters linked with the plot to liberate Nash.

The gangsters struck suddenly, and bullets felled the officers before they could return the fire.

Nash was arrested in Hot Springs, Ark., after he had been trailed there by government agents.

Convict's Boast Comes True

Fearing an underworld attempt to free him, Nash was taken secretly by auto to Port Smith, and there the officers took a train for Kansas City.

A detail of Kansas City police was at the station to furnish an additional guard for Nash, who had boasted he never would be taken back to Leavenworth alive. He was right.

The officers and their prisoner emerged from the train, walked through the station concourse and got to a waiting auto. Just as they

(Continued on Page 1)

FOUR OFFICERS DIE IN CONVICT BATTLE

(Continued from Page 1)

entered it, machine gun fire blazed from the underworld car.

The battle lasted but a moment. Two of the gangsters escaped after the killing.

UNITED STATES
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 19 1933
OFFICE

NOT RECORDED
62-289

Pittsburgh Press June 17, 1933

FOUR OFFICERS AND PRISONER KILLED IN BA

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

POLICE, THUGS IN BATTLE; 5 SLAIN

Gangsters Kill Four in Effort to Rescue Leavenworth Prison Fugitive

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17 (I.N.S.).—Four policemen and a prisoner were killed and another policeman was wounded here today when the police engaged in a battle with gunmen at the Union Station.

The police were returning Frank Nash, an escaped convict from Leavenworth Penitentiary. He was captured yesterday near McAlester, Okla.

Met By Gang

As the officers, who had been met by city detectives, emerged from the train, they were met by a gang of gunmen.

The gunmen attempted to wrest Nash from the policemen. They found him chained to two of the officers.

Raymond J. Caffrey, of the Department of Justice, opened fire with his revolver.

The gangsters returned the fire.

NOT RECORDED

62-28915-A

Washington Times
June 17, 1933.

FIVE KILLED IN GUN

Machine Gun Fired at Police in Fight to Free Desperado

Massacre Occurs in Front of Kansas City Station During Transfer of Convict to Car

By United Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Five men were killed and a sixth was wounded in a massacre in front of the Kansas City union station today.

The killings resulted from an attempt by gangsters to liberate Frank Nash, Oklahoma outlaw who was being returned to the Leavenworth Federal Prison from which he escaped in 1930.

MANY IN PERIL

Bullets sprayed the front of the station. Lives of many on the sidewalk were imperiled by the cross fire of bullets.

The gangsters struck suddenly, and bullet fire felled several of the officers guarding Nash before they could return the fire.

Four of the dead were: Otto Leed, sheriff of McAlister, Okla., and two Kansas City policemen and Nash.

Nash was arrested in Hot Springs, Ark., after he had been trailed there by Government agents.

Fearing an underworld attempt to free him, Nash was taken secretly by auto to Fort Smith, and there the officers took a train for Kansas City.

EXTRA GUARD PRESENT

A detail of Kansas City police was at the station to furnish an additional guard for Nash, who had boasted that he would never be taken back to Leavenworth alive.

The officers and their prisoner emerged from the train, walked thru the station concourse and out to a waiting auto.

They entered the auto and were preparing to drive away when another car came up.

Suddenly machine guns opened fire from the other auto.

The battle lasted but a moment and two of the gangsters escaped after the killings.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

Daily News
June 17, 1933

NOT RECORDED
62-28915-A

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Clegg

GANG GUNS KILL 4 OFFICERS AND THEIR PRISONER

Open Fire on Outlaw and His Captors Outside Railway Station in Kansas City

FEDERAL AGENT KILLED, ANOTHER MAN WOUNDED

Kansas City, June 17—(AP)—Underworld machine gunners shot and killed four officers and their prisoner, Frank Nash, Oklahoma train robber, in front of the Union Station here today.

One Federal officer was seriously wounded.

Officials differed on whether the attack was an attempt to free Nash, who was being returned to the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary from which he escaped, or whether the main purpose of the gangsters was to kill the outlaw.

The killers, believed to number four, fled in an automobile with their sub-machine guns barking after surprising the officers, and deliberately shooting them down as they were entering a parked car, preparing to drive to Leavenworth with Nash.

Nash was reported to have been the first one killed, although one witness said he apparently had given the signal for the attack by raising his manacled hands.

Many officers expressed the belief the object was to deliver Nash from his guards. But some advanced the theory it was Nash's life that was sought. They reasoned that Nash may have had information on gangs which his associates feared he might disclose to authorities and they decided to "rub him out." An eye-witness said one of the gangsters looked like "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Oklahoma desperado.

R. E. Vetterli, chief of the United States Bureau of Investigation for Kansas and Western Missouri, exchanged shots with the slayers and escaped injury as did Frank Smith, a Department of Justice investigator.

The dead:

Frank Nash.

Raymond J. Caffrey, agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

W. J. "Red" Grooms, city detective of Kansas City.

Frank Hermanson, city detective of Kansas City.

Otto Reed, chief of police of McAlester, Okla.

The wounded:

F. J. Lackey, agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Frank Smith, investigator for the Department of Justice; Lackey and Reed arrived at the station shortly after 7 A. M., with Nash, captured yesterday at Hot Springs, Ark. Nash escaped from the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth in 1930.

They were met by Vetterli, Caffrey, Grooms and Hermanson. The seven escorted Nash, handcuffed, through the station to Caffrey's car, waiting outside and across the street, near a parking lot.

Three of the officers and Nash died on the spot. Caffrey died in

(Continued on Last Page, Column Four)

GANG GUNS KILL 4 OFFICERS AND THEIR PRISONER

(Continued from the First Page)

a hospital. All the dead were shot in the head.

The officers had planned to drive to Leavenworth with the prisoner rather than wait for a train.

Lackey said at the hospital he had been trailing Nash for three years.

"When we gathered at the car we had got Nash into the front seat," he said, "two men stepped out from between cars parked south of the Government armed car, I believe, either with shotguns or rifles.

"One of them said, 'Let them have it' and before any of the officers could get their firearms, the shooting began. There were shotguns and other weapons in the car, but we could not get them."

Vetterli said the firing sounded as though it came from four sub-machine guns, but added that he could not be certain of the number of assailants.

"Just as we started to get in Caffrey's car in front of the station, they opened up on us," Vetterli said.

"They killed Nash first. The bullets were flying so thick about us by then that I don't know who went next."

Robert Fritts, a cab starter at the station, gave this account of the shooting:

"I was calling and starting cabs on the wide sidewalk in front of the east entrance to the station. The officers and their prisoner came out of the entrance and passed me, crossing the street directly in front of me. There were five men with the prisoner, Frank Nash (I learned who it was later) who was handcuffed.

"They went straight to the car parked across the street and Nash climbed in first. As soon as he seated himself, he raised both his hands in the air. It looked like a signal.

"At that moment the gunfire broke loose. It came from two men over in the parking lot opposite the station and beyond Nash. They seemed to be firing with a machine gun over his head.

"The officers were mowed down by the fire. As they crumpled, some of them returned the fire.

"I don't know who got Nash. One of our cabs was in front of me. Its driver went down. I thought he was shot. He had merely ducked out of range.

"Then I saw the two men who had opened fire dash for a car. So far as I could tell, there were only two men. I did not see anyone waiting at the wheel of the car.

"They jumped in and roared out of the lot and away."

T. J. Higgins, chief of detectives, said he believed Harvey Bailey, one of the leaders of the Memorial Day prison break at the Kansas State Penitentiary at Lansing, was involved in the plot, but not an actual participant in the shooting. Bailey, notorious bank robber, who is still at large, was described as a friend of Nash.

Higgins mentioned the possibility that Floyd, who kidnaped Sheriff Jack Killingsworth at Bolivar, Mo., yesterday and released the officer near Kansas City last night, was in the Nash plot, but he was more doubtful of Floyd than of Bailey.

Windows in the station were broken and bullet marks were left on the front of the big stone structure.

There was consternation among the large crowd of travelers.

"My God," asked one man as he stepped out of the station, "is this Chicago?"

Mike Fanning, a motorcycle officer, who rushed from the station, said he fired three times with his pistol at the slayers' car as it was pulling away. He said some of the men were still shooting from the running board. He said he was certain there were four men in the automobile.

Fanning related that he took "deliberate aim and cracked down on them before they were out of range," but did not know whether his shots took effect.

Charles Moore, taxi driver, reported he was in his cab only a few feet away when he saw some men standing on the running board of one automobile fire into another car.

"I am certain there were four men in the party," he said. "One of the men near the car being fired upon, ran around his automobile and from the rear began to fire on the attackers with a pump gun. These men continued to fire into the car and drove away as Mike Fanning appeared and began deliberately firing into the moving car."

Philadelphia-Bulletin 6/17/33

NOT RECORDED
62-28915-A

Fanning and Moore agreed the officer returning the fire with a pump gun was Vetterli.

W. H. Pemberton, a station "red cap," who witnessed the shooting, told of seeing a group of men walk across the platform toward some parked cars.

"Someone said 'that doesn't look like him' and someone else asked 'like who?'

" 'Pretty boy Floyd,' was the answer," Pemberton said.

"That made me look closely at the man they were talking about.

"Some of the officers got in the right hand side of their car and at least one walked around the car to get in the left side.

"I looked away at the moment and then heard a shot. When I looked back, I saw fighting going on at close range beside the car.

"One of the men was firing at another one with what I believe now must have been a sub-machine gun. He was standing within a foot of the man he was shooting. Bullets began whipping around me and I ran into the station."

Hot Springs, Ark., June 17—(AP)—Frank Nash, Oklahoma desperado, was known as "Doc Williams," a quiet man, who tipped liberally on his visits to night clubs during his two weeks' stay here.

His capture by Government agents in the downtown section yesterday led Hot Springs police at first to believe he was the victim of a kidnaping plot.

Three men walked in a cigar store, purchased cigars, then drew revolvers and surrounded "Williams" as he was drinking a bottle of beer.

Two of them shoved their guns into his stomach while the third stood watch outside the store beside an automobile.

"Put that beer down and get into that automobile," commanded one.

"Williams" complied reluctantly and was pushed into the car.

As the automobile sped away towards Little Rock, police received reports that some one had been kidnaped or "taken for a ride" and immediately sent out requests to officers in neighboring cities to watch all highways and stop the sedan.

The car was stopped at Benton. Officers there questioned the occupants and permitted them to proceed when they identified themselves as Federal officers returning a prisoner to Missouri.

U. S. Mobilizes for Roundup of Kansas City Slayers

Washington, June 17—(AP)—Attorney General Cummings today ordered every law enforcement agency under his command into the quest for the gangsters who took part in the Kansas City shooting this morning.

Additional Justice Department agents were ordered immediately to the scene of the killing. The Attorney General considers the slayings a direct defiance of the Government.

While Cummings was keeping in close touch with the situation himself, the chief of the Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover, was actively directing the search.

A MASSACRE OF FIVE

Gangsters Slaughter a Government Agent, Two City Detectives, an Oklahoma Police Chief and a Bank Robber at Union Station Plaza.

SIXTH IS NEAR DEATH

Two Other United States Operatives, One of Them R. E. Vetterli, Escape Death Amid Fusillade as Companions Fall.

Persons in the Building, on the Walks and Roadway Are Terrorized When the Shooting Occurs Before Them.

DASH AWAY IN A MOTOR CAR

After Performing Their Murderous Deed, the Desperadoes Take Up Flight in a Machine Waiting in Parking Lot.

Kansas City's union station plaza became an arena of horror at 7:20 o'clock this morning when eight men were ambushed with machine guns, five of them killed outright, and a sixth critically wounded in a brief but murderous burst of fire.

Then the assassins fled and this afternoon still were the object of the most intensive search this city has witnessed in many years. Hundreds of police and federal authorities were scouring the city and peace officers from every nearby community were guarding highways. No information had been forwarded to the police that might give an indication of the direction the slayers had taken.

It was a massacre apparently built around a plan to release

Kansas City Star
6/17/33

or slay Frank Nash, notorious Oklahoma train robber and killer, being returned to the federal prison at Leavenworth, where he escaped three years ago.

As the machine gun foray burst out, the bullets took the life of Nash, the Oklahoma desperado, and also killed these officers:

Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent of the Kansas City office of the United States bureau of investigation.

Otto Reed, chief of police at McAlester, Ok.

Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detective.

W. J. Grooms, Kansas City detective.

The wounded were F. J. Lackey, special agent at Oklahoma City of the United States bureau of investigation, whose condition at Research hospital was considered critical, as he was shot three times in the back, and R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge at Kansas City of the bureau of investigation, who suffered only a slight wound in the left arm when a bullet grazed him.

A Dramatic Sequence to Officers.

Aside from the dramatic fusillade coming at a time of the morning when the union station at Kansas City was busy with incoming and departing passengers, the battle was of considerable significance to officers who have been watching the sequence of prison breaks at Leavenworth federal prison and the Kansas state prison recently.

Nash was a friend of Harvey Bailey, leader of the gang in the Memorial day break from the Kansas prison at Lansing. Nash also has been sought by federal officers for questioning in connection with the prison break at the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth in December, 1931, when Warden T. B. White, then in charge of that institution, was kidnaped and wounded by escaping convicts.

In on Leavenworth Terror.

Nash also was a friend of Harold Fontaine, federal convict by whom the guns used in the federal prison break were sent to the prison.

"I don't believe they intended to kill Nash," said Mr. Vetterli, as he started to relate the horrors of the unexpected assault.

Thomas J. Higgins, chief of detec-

tives here, went to the scene of the shooting and later discussed the case with Mr. Vetterli and Frank Smith, the other government agent who escaped the slaughter. Higgins said he was confident the shooting was a plot engineered for the release of Nash and he believed he knew some of the men involved.

The murderers poured lead into a parked car which the officers and their prisoner, Nash, were boarding just south of the east door of the station. Nash had just been taken from a Missouri Pacific train that had arrived at 7:15 o'clock from Port Smith, Ark.

Believed Danger Was Over.

The officers knew that Nash was a desperate man, but believed they were not in any particular danger of an attempt to release him, since he was then in Kansas City, far from his Oklahoma hangouts and within an hour's motor ride of delivery to the federal prison at Leavenworth.

Confusing aspects of the massacre were presented to the station employees and the crowd of travelers. Some believed the assassins had two cars, others believed there was only one. Some witnesses believed Nash gave a signal to the killers by raising his handcuffed hands. Others believed he raised his hands to knock a pistol from the hand of Caffrey, the government agent, when the latter saw the assassins.

It was a scene of distorted sequence, all occurring in a few moments' time—a brief flash of fire, groans, writhings of the wounded and the stiffening of the bodies of the victims as they died.

To Station With Caffrey.

"We went down to the station to meet the officers who were bringing Nash back from Hot Springs," Mr. Vetterli continued. "Raymond Caffrey and I drove to the station in his Chevrolet coach. The two Kansas City detectives, Hermanson and Grooms, drove to the station in their car. We met the Missouri Pacific train and started over to Mr. Caffrey's parked car, headed south on the station drive directly across from the east door of the station.

"There were the eight of us, including Nash, the prisoner, and seven officers. We were to enter Mr. Caffrey's car and the Kansas City detectives were to follow us to Leavenworth in their car.

"I was standing at the rear west side of Mr. Caffrey's car. In the back seat were Mr. Lackey and Mr. Smith, the agents from Oklahoma, and Otto Reed, chief of police at McAlester, who came up with the prisoner.

Nash in Driver's Seat.

"Mr. Caffrey was to drive. Nash had sat in the driver's seat temporarily until the car was loaded and then he was to move over into the other front seat which was folded up to allow the three men to enter the rear seat.

"Caffrey stood on the pavement beside Nash on the east side of the car waiting for Nash to slide over into the folding front seat. Hermanson and Grooms were standing on the west side of the car and toward the front. Suddenly I heard a man say: 'Put 'em up. Up! Up!'

"I looked and saw a man with a machine gun blazing away from near the southwest corner of the car. He seemed to be standing up on something—perhaps it was a running board of a car parked in the parking lot. I don't know exactly. But he was very close to us.

A CITY OF ARMS

Every Available Officer Is Thrown Into the Search for the Station Plaza Assassins.

ORDERS ARE SHOOT TO KILL

The Murderous Fugitives Are Known to Be Merciless, So No Chances Are Taken.

Officers Say That If the Men Are Cornered, They Will Not Be Taken Alive.

WITHOUT A CLUE TO GO ON

However, Every Effort Is Made to Find Out Which Way the Car Went After Outburst.

ONLY TWO DESCRIPTIONS.

The descriptions of two of the machine gunners are as follows:

One about 30 to 35 years old, 5 feet, 8 inches tall, weighing about 200 pounds; wore a panama hat, dark suit and had a brown face; carried two automatic weapons.

Second about 40 to 45 years old, and smaller and of lighter complexion than the first.

The police have not been furnished descriptions of the one or two other men believed to be in the gang.

Every available resource of the police department and governmental agencies was thrown into the search this afternoon for the bandits who killed five persons and wounded two at the union station plaza early today, but apparently the trail was fading.

Eugene C. Reppert, director of police, and Thomas J. Higgins, chief of detectives, were directing the search from Higgins's office.

Every few moments through the day telephone messages were received from citizens telling of a suspicious circumstance somewhere in or near the city and waiting police immediately followed them up.

Each Clue Dwindles Away.

A dozen or more quick trips were made by police in response to such calls. But nowhere did they find trace of the bandits.

Police were out in pairs, with orders to shoot to kill. There is personal resentment among officers over the wanton shooting of their fellow patrolmen and the federal agents. There was no need for Director Reppert to pass the word to shoot.

As the afternoon wore on and no word came from distant points of the bandit car there was a growing belief at headquarters that the bandits who sprayed death at the union station had not left the city.

It was regarded as probable that arrangements for a quick hide-out had been made before the shooting began and that probably the cars sped only a few miles before going into hiding.

This opinion was fathered by the failure to receive anything tangible from officers who are out watching highways in all directions from Kansas City.

Word Out to All Towns.

Immediately following the shooting telephone and radio passed the word to all cities and towns within 100 miles of Kansas City in Missouri and in Kansas, giving a description of the cars and the nature of the crime.

Until late today there was doubt in the police department whether a machine gun had been used in the slaying. It was a ball-bearing, such as are used in bandit shotguns, that killed Agent Raymond J. Caffrey. But a search in the car of Miss Parnie Milliken, which was riddled by bullets as it stood close beside the Caffrey car, disclosed two .45 caliber bullets which were identified as from a machine gun by police experts.

Police were reconstructing the crime this afternoon. They were examining the wounds in the several bodies, the holes in the motor cars and the empty cartridges found about the scene of the shooting. They were examining also the bullets taken from bodies and cars.

Weapon Discharged Twice.

The pistol dropped by Detective W. J. Grooms when he fell showed it had been discharged twice. Apparently he fired twice at the bandits before he was shot down.

If Grooms and Detective Frank Hermanson had remained with their own police car, it was explained at police headquarters, they could have participated in the fight with comparative safety. The car, No. 103, is the only armored car in the police department. It is encased in bullet-proof metal and glass.

Instead, they left it at the curb immediately south of the union station and walked to the government car, in which agents were placing Nash, the bank robber. Therefore they were directly in the line of fire when the bandit guns opened up. Both fell together, fatally wounded.

F. J. Lackey, federal agent, who was shot three times in the back, still was alive at Research hospital late today. It was said he had a chance for recovery, although loss of blood would count against him.

Late this afternoon Frank Smith, agent at Oklahoma City, boarded a plane for Oklahoma City to return to his routine work in the federal building there.

KANS. CITY STAR
6-17-33

Omaha
World-Herald

KILL 5 AT K. C. UNION DEPOT

6-17-33

SLAIN AGENT WAS GRAD OF CREIGHTON IN '25

Raymond Caffrey Was Resident Agent Here.

Raymond J. Caffrey, department of justice investigator, fatally shot in a gun fight in the Kansas City union station this morning, was son of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Caffrey,

Raymond J. Caffrey.

815 North Thirty-fifth street.

He was department investigator in Omaha from August last year until several months ago, when he was transferred to Kansas City. His home here was then at 2765 California street. He was graduated from the Creighton university law college in 1925. His wife and only child, Jimmy, 4, were with him in Kansas City.

Caffrey became nationally known in his work about a year ago, when he and other agents arrested Harvey Bailey, former companion of Fred "Killer" Burke, as he was playing golf on a Kansas City course. Bailey was suspected of a series of bank robberies. He was convicted of a robbery at Fort Scott, Kans., and was sentenced to from 10 to 50 years in the Kansas penitentiary at Lansing.

Bailey was a leader in the penitentiary break there recently, when a group of convicts escaped. Some of them are still at large.

Arrested with Bailey on the Kansas City golf course were Thomas Holden and Francis Keating, who were escaped convicts from the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kans. They were identified as members of a mob that robbed the Northwestern National bank at Minneapolis on March 29, 1932. The loot in this robbery was reported to include about 200 thousand dollars cash. They were also identified as having had a part in the robbery at Menominee, Wis., in October, 1931, in which the bank president's son was kidnaped and murdered.

Frank Nash, who was killed in the battle in Kansas City today, had been arrested about a year ago by Caffrey and other agents in Kansas City. Nash at that time was with Keating and Holden. He was believed then to be a member of "Killer" Burke's gang.

Detective Inspector A. C. Andersen, informed of the gun fight this morning, recalled that he had hunted Nash in Seminole county, Oklahoma, last year. At that time, Andersen was on assignment to get "Pretty Boy" Floyd, the outlaw. Nash was known to agents as a companion of Floyd.

EX-OMAHA AGENT SLAIN; FAIL IN ROBBER'S RESCUE

Frank Nash, Fugitive Train Robber, Among the Dead.

ATTACKERS FLEE

Kansas City, June 17 (AP).—Five men were killed and another was reported dying today after a gun battle at the Union station between police and men apparently trying to effect the release of Frank Nash, fugitive from justice. Police said the dead included Nash.

The dead, in addition to Nash, were identified by police as Red Grooms, Frank Hermanson and the sheriff of McAlester, Okla., as well as Raymond J. Caffrey, United States bureau of investigation agent. Caffrey transferred here recently from Omaha. J. F. Lackey, another agent, is said to be dying.

As the officers surrounding Nash came out the front doors of the station and prepared to get into a car, the group was fired on by men in a motor car which sped swiftly from the scene.

Think Attack on Nash.

Some officers expressed the belief an effort was made to "rub out" Nash, a member of the Al Spencer band of train robbers, rather than effect his release. Nash was captured in Arkansas and was being returned to the Leavenworth penitentiary under heavy guard.

Grooms and Hermanson were city detectives.

Two armored cars of the Kansas City police department were immediately dispatched to search for the slayers.

Seized at Hot Springs.

At liberty since he escaped from the Leavenworth, Kans., federal penitentiary in 1930, Nash was seized from a Hot Springs, Ark., street by three federal agents, brought to Fort Smith amid considerable secrecy and started back to Kansas City last night.

Betrayed by one of their comrades, Nash and four others of the Spencer bandits who preyed on northeast Oklahoma 10 years ago, were given 25-year federal prison terms for robbing a mail train at Okesa, Okla. Two of the five, Grover C. Durrill and George Curtis, were slain in a break from the Leavenworth prison about a year after Nash got away.

Spencer had been killed while resisting arrest following the Okesa robbery.

Eye-Witness Tells Story of Shooting.

BY ROBERT FRITTS.
(Cab Starter, Kansas City Union Station.)

Kansas City, June 17 (AP).—I guess I saw all of the shooting.

I was calling and starting cabs on the sidewalk in front of the east entrance of the station. The officers and their prisoner came out of the entrance and passed me, crossing the street directly in front of me. There were five men with the prisoner. Frank Nash (I learned who it was later) was handcuffed.

They went straight to the car parked across the street and Nash climbed in first. As soon as he seated himself, he raised both his hands in the air. It looked like a signal.

Fire with Machine Gun.

At that moment the gunfire broke loose. It came from two men over in the parking lot opposite the station and beyond Nash. They seemed to be firing with a machine gun over his head.

The officers were mowed down by the fire. As they crumpled, some of them returned the fire.

"In don't know who got Nash. One of our cabs was in front of me. Its driver went down. I thought he was shot. He had merely ducked out of range.

Saw Two Men Flee.

Then I saw the two men who had opened fire dash for a car. So far as I could tell, there were only two men. I did not see anyone waiting at the wheel of the car.

They jumped in and roared out of the lot and away.

I could not tell how old they were. I cannot give a good description of them, but they wore dark suits and caps.

I saw a man pick up some gun shells on this side of the car Nash was in, out in the street. They must have come from the officers' guns.

Tokio Bonds Rise.

Paris, June 16.—A sharp rise in city of Tokio bonds which closed at 860 today after being 730 only two days ago, has aroused the belief the Japanese intend to meet service on these bonds in gold pounds as the French courts ordered.

5 SLAIN IN K. C. DEPOT!

OMAHA, SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1933—TWENTY-TWO PAGES

GUNMEN TRY TO SEIZE PAL, KILL 4 OFFICERS, INCLUDING OMAHA MAN

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17, (INS)—Four officers and a prisoner were killed and two officers were wounded here Saturday when the officers engaged in a battle with gunmen at the Union station.

Those killed were:

Frank Nash, ex-convict.

Raymond J. Caffrey of Omaha, United States Department of Justice.

Chief of Police Ott Reed of McAlester, Okla.

Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detective.

"Red" Grooms, Kansas City detective.

Two local Department of Justice operatives, R. E. Vetterli and F. F. Lackey, were wounded and rushed to a near-by hospital. The extent of their injuries has not been ascertained.

Nash, suspected by Department of Justice investigators of being one of the plotters of the prison break two years ago, in which Warden White was kidnaped, had been arrested near McAlester, Okla.

He was handcuffed and chained to Caffrey. With them was the McAlester chief, Ott Reed.

GANGSTERS APPROACH

They were met at the Union station by Detectives Hermanson and Grooms and by Department of Justice Operatives Lackey and Vetterli.

Caffrey and his prisoner had left their train and made their way up through the waiting room in the spacious Union depot. They had been joined by the local officers and were approaching the main corridor when accosted by the gang of gunmen.

The gunmen advanced to meet them and demanded that the prisoner be turned over to them. Caffrey whipped his revolver from his hip and answered them with a blaze of bullets.

Response of the gunmen was immediate and in kind. While the screams of horror-stricken women and children reverberated through the tall corridors of the Union station, they were drowned out by the stacatto belching of a dozen revolvers.

When the smoke of battle had cleared away and the gangsters had escaped five men were dead and two others wounded. More than 100 shots had been fired.

Raymond J. Caffrey, 2765 California St., was a graduate of Creighton law school. He was recently transferred to Kansas City in the shift of the bureau of investigation of the Department of Justice there.

"Caffrey was one of the finest officers that ever lived," said Inspector A. C. Andersen, chief of detectives, formerly special agent with the government prohibition service.

Nash One of Notorious Al Spencer Outlaws

FORT SMITH, Ark., June 17, (AP)—Frank Nash, slain in the Kansas City Union station gun fight Saturday, was one of the few surviving members of the Al Spencer band of train robbers.

At liberty since he escaped from the Leavenworth federal penitentiary in 1930, Nash was seized on a Hot Spring (Ark.) street by three federal agents, brought to Fort Smith amid considerable secrecy and started back to prison aboard a train Friday night.

Betrayed by one of their comrades, Nash and four others of the Spencer bandits who preyed on northeast Oklahoma 10 years ago, were given 25-year federal prison terms for robbing a mail train at Okesa, Okla. Two of the five, Grover C. Durrill and George Curtis, were slain in a break from the Leavenworth prison about a year after Nash got away.

Spencer was killed while resisting arrest following the Okesa robbery.

THE HERMANSON HOME (top left)—The home of Frank Hermanson, city detective, at 8123 Olive street, with its well landscaped y flowers and shrubs, which told of the joy of life of the slain officer with his wife and son.

"WE WERE SUCH PALS" (top right)—Robert Hermanson, 21-year-old son of the slain officer, who "couldn't realize it was true," sobbed as he told of how he and his father were real "pals" and had such good times together.

VICTIM OF MURDEROUS ATTACK (below, left)—A new picture of Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent of the Kansas City office of States bureau of investigation.

HIS DAD WILL NEVER COME HOME (below, center)—The 6-year-old son of Caffrey, Jimmy Caffrey, knew only that something t happened to daddy and that he would never see him again.

LEFT A WIDOW BY MASSACRE (below, right)—Mrs. Monte Hermanson, widow of Frank Hermanson. She did not learn of the tru her husband until two hours after the station slaughter.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR, SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1933.

A SIGNAL TO OPEN FIRE

FRANK NASH LIFTED HIS ARMS AND THE BATTLE BEGAN.

Robert Fritts, Taxicab Starter, Saw Two Men in Union tation Parking Lot "Mow Officers Down."

"I guess I saw all the shooting," Robert Fritts, Yelow Cab starter, said.

"I was calling an dstarting cabs on the wide sidewalk in front of the east entrance on the station. The officers and their prisoner came out of the entrance and passed me, crossing the street directly in front of me. There were five men with the prisoner. Frank Nash (I learned who it was later) was handcuffed.

"They went straight to the car parked across the street and Nash climbed in first. As soon as he seated himself, he raised both his hands in the air. It looked like a signal.

FIRE FROM MACHINE GUN.

"At that moment the gunfire broke loose. It came from two men over in the parking lot opposite the station and beyond Nash. They seemed to be firing with a machine gun over his head.

"The officers were mowed down by the fire. As they crumpled, some of them returned the fire.

"I don't know who got Nash. One of our cabs was in front of me. Its driver went down. I thought he was shot. He had merely ducked out of range.

"Then I saw the two men who had opened fire dash for a car. It looked like a Reo car. So far as I could tell, there were only two men. I did not see anyone waiting at the wheel of the car.

OUT OF THE LOT AND AWAY.

"They jumped in and roared out of the lot and away.

"I could not tell how old they were. I cannot give a good description of them, but they wore dark suits and caps.

"I saw a man pick up some gun shells on this side of the car Nash was, out in the street. They must have come from the officers' guns."

BOTH KNOWN FOR COURAGE.

Kansas City Detectives Slain Rated Among Force's Bravest.

The two Kansas City detectives slain, William J. (Red) Grooms and Frank E. Hermanson, were regarded as among the most fearless men on the Kansas City force.

It was that characteristic which had led them to be selected often for the duty of patrolling the downtown district in a machine-gun equipped motor car at night, alert and ready to shoot it out with the most daring enemy that might develop. Often on that assignment the two men rode together.

Grooms was only 29 years old. He had been on the police force here only a little more than a year, having been appointed a patrolman May 15, last year. Promotion came quickly, and he was made a detective the first of this year. His nick-name "Red" was derived from the color of his hair. Grooms was married and lived at 3927 Roanoke road.

Hermanson, the other Kansas City detective to fall before the bandit, was a more experienced police officer. Two days ago he had celebratd his thirteenth anniversary on the force.

Obviously, therefore, he was a holdover from the days of Republican control of the police department. Under that regime he had been a booking clerk, and with tthe change in administration had become a patrolman. Efficiency in that role won him recognition, and he was promoted to the rank of detective just six weeks ago.

Hermanson was 46 years old, married, and lived at 6123 Olive street.

Thrill Seekers, With Morbid Flair, Flock to Scene of Station Slaying

Curious Voice Theories; Bloodstains and Bullet Scars Are Closely Examined and Pointed Out.

Thrill seekers by the thousands thronged the Union station plaza Saturday afternoon and night to put fingers in the bullet scarred granite on the station front, point out the bullet riddled plate glass over the east entrance and to hunt for bloodstains, gruesome reminders of Saturday morning's massacre in which four officers were slain.

The curious assembled in knots to voice theories and to hear someone tell what he had heard. Rumors spread and were denied, but the bloodstains and the bullet scars were there to be inspected with forefingers and pointed out to the less informed who asked what it was all about.

Ushers, elevator boys and cab drivers were sucked into the eddying knots, eager to hear more details and anxious to voice some new theory as to what had happened when machine gunners shot down the officers and killed the captured convict, Frank Nash.

Evidence that at least eight bullets struck the front of the station was pointed out. Two bullets pierced the plate glass high above the station entrance at the east. Another bullet smashed into the steel canopy just above the head of Robert Fritts, Yellow Cab company starter.

Five holes in the granite indicated where five other bullets had been stopped in their flight toward the holiday crowd, mostly women and children, in the station.

Many in Street.

Employes at the station considered it a miracle that none was struck by the flying bullets. The morning trains were arriving and many persons were in the street on their way into the station lobby to meet friends and relatives from out of town.

When the firing started those outside dashed for the protecting walls of the station while those inside dashed to the door to see what was happening.

The more prudent yelled for everyone to keep inside the station. As the machine gun bullets pierced the plate glass in two places a fine spray of glass was sent almost across the station lobby. Bits were plucked from the counter of the Yellow Cab baggage stand.

Although the details of the story have been pieced together to make a long story the action all took place in such a short time that few stories agreed.

"It was over just like that," said Fritts as he snapped his fingers.

Ran For Cover.

Those outside the station, when they relaized what was happening, turned and ran wildly for cover. There was no fainting and screaming. It was all over before the women in the station realized what was taking place. A near panic ensued as the rumor started that the machine gunners were coming into the station. But it was over before this rumor gained headway.

Ray Whitlock, night operator at the Union station rushed back to his telephone board when he saw what had happened and sent out word to operators of Kansas City to warn officers to be on the lookout for the machine gunners' cars. He saw the cars leaving for the south and acted on the belief the slayers would go south.

Employes of the station pieced together their various theories. With evidence lacking, one was as plausible as the other.

M. K. (Mike) Fanning, motorcycle officer owes his life to the fact he became mixed in finding the two city detectives. The return of Nash was made quietly. The railroad had not been informed. Fanning, however, learned the two city detectives were in the station to meet a prisoner and was looking for them when the firing started. He dashed out and fired three shots from behind an iron pole. He then ran across the street, his gun gun levelled.

If the return of Nash had been handled in the usual way the railroad would have notified the station officer to meet the train and Fanning might have met the party and accompanied them to the car, it was pointed out.

It is expected that a new method of transferring prisoners here will be used as a result of the slayings. There always are many cars parked in the station parking lot and such wholesale murder as was accomplished Saturday morning is possible from the motor car ambush.

PLAZA A SHAMBLES

Visitors Are Greeted by Scenes of Horror Where Officers Were Slain.

CAR RIDDLED BY BULLETS

Broken Windows and Marks of the Slugs Draw the Attention of Crowds.

ALL OVER IN A FLASH

The Startling Suddenness of the Shooting Leaves Few With a Clear Picture of It.

Horror spread over the Union Station plaza today following the slaying of the four officers and convict as crowds gathered around the two motor cars and the scene of the shooting.

Gasps from women as they saw the bullet ridden bodies and cars and the blood-soaked spots where the officers had fallen. Between the two police cars were the bodies of two of the officers. The others had been covered with sheets inside the cars.

Officers detailed to the scene following the slaughter fought to keep the crowds back and regulate the traffic which blocked the plaza.

Bullet Marks Draw Crowd.

Visitors arriving for a day of shopping stepped out of the station, glanced around and saw the bullet marks on the station and the broken windows. They learned in a few seconds of the slaying and called their friends and related the meager details they had learned.

Every telephone in the station was in use and the redcaps and other attendants at the station stood around almost motionless for the first time after the realization of what had taken place at their front door.

"My God!" asked one traveler as he stepped out of the station, "is this Chicago?"

A Volley of Shots.

The shooting took place so suddenly that even the taxicab barkers hardly had time to realize what had happened. They had heard a volley of shots. They had heard shouts and screams and the fatally wounded officers fell to the ground. That was all they could seem to remember.

The car in which the officers planned to take Frank Nash to Leavenworth was riddled with bullets, as was another car parked in the stall to the west. The officers apparently were about to get into the car after placing their prisoner inside, when the machine gunners passed by with their fusillade of death.

Huge Crowd at Scene.

Nash was slumped over in the seat.

Two hours after the shooting the crowd became so dense about the scene it was impossible to get near the cars in which the slaying took place.

City detectives and patrolmen stood around the car bewildered. They seemed lost as to what to do. There was not the slightest clue upon which to start the search for the brutal murders. They mourned the loss of their fellow officers. Their voices carried a tone of sadness as they asked the crowd to move back.

Curious persons attempted to shove and crowd their way in close by the slain men. Cars parked in any fashion on the plaza directly in front of the station entrance making the arrival and departure of travelers to and from the station almost impossible.

A Narrow Lane for Cars.

After a while it was necessary to keep motor cars moving through a narrow lane between the parked cars in the center of the street.

Fingers of the curious crowd pointed at bullet holes high up on the station in one of the large windows. That added further mystery to the slaying, as the muderers had shot towards the south.

"Did the officers shot back?" one person inquired.

Car Nearly Cut in Two.

The top part of the car used by the officers was almost cut off by the line of death-dealing bullets from the machine guns. All of the glass and the side posts were riddled with bullet holes.

The owner of the second car, which was also badly riddled by the fusillade of bullets, could not be learned.

The back end of the Chevrolet in which the officers were about to depart contained nine bullet holes and the front of the car contained many more. Some observers say the officers returned the fire at the slayers as they shot from the inside of the parking station.

KILL FIVE AT STATION

Two Government Agents, Two Detectives and a Bank Robber Are Shot Down in a Burst of Fire.

SIXTH IS NEAR DEATH

Two Other U. S. Operatives Escape in the Shower of Bullet as Comrades Go Down.

The Tragedy Occurs at 7:20 o'Clock in Front of the Building and Terrorizes Many Persons.

TWO CARLOADS OF GANGSTERS

Kansas City Star
6/17/33

Flight of the Murderous Band Is Quick and Witnesses Say Through Penn Valley Park.

Two government agents, two city detectives and a recaptured bank robber were killed by two carloads of gangsters outside the union station at 7:20 o'clock this morning. A third government agent was wounded critically.

The murderers poured lead from machine guns into a parked car the officers and their prisoner, Frank Nash, were boarding just south of the east door of the station.

Two other government agents at the spot escaped injury in the rain of bullets.

The dead:

Raymond J. Caffrey, internationally known and veteran agent for the United States bureau of investigation.

Otto Reid, chief of police of McAlester, Ok.

Frank Hermanson, a city detective.

W. J. Grooms, a city detective.

Frank Nash, recaptured member of the notorious Al Spencer gang of Oklahoma train robbers.

Three Wounds in Back.

The wounded federal agent, F. J. Lackey of Oklahoma City, is in Research hospital with three bullet wounds in his back. Those who escaped slaughter are R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge here for the United States bureau of investigation, and Frank Smith, an agent under Vetterli.

Caffrey, Lackey and Smith captured "Doc" Nash on a street in Hot Springs, Ark., yesterday morning, after a long search that began when Nash escaped from the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth in 1930.

With Chief Reid of McAlester, who

aided in the search for Nash, the three government men boarded a Missouri Pacific train yesterday to return their prisoner to Leavenworth. The train arrived at the union station today at 7:15 o'clock.

Walk to Motor Car.

Vetterli and the two city detectives met the group at the station. The combined group, of eight men, walked out of the station lobby to a government motor car in which Nash was to be taken the remainder of the way back to Leavenworth.

All eight men gathered around the government car, which was parked heading south, its front facing the cinder parking lot and its rear extending into the brick drive that adjoins the station.

Nash was put into the front seat. Caffrey and Lackey got in the car. The five other men stood around it, intent on entering or seeing that all who were to ride in it got away safely. Vetterli and the two city detectives planned to leave later in their own car, parked west of the west door of the station.

Few other persons about the station paid attention to the scene. All surroundings seemed peaceful.

A Car Rolls Up.

Quietly a dark car rolled westward on the station drive and paused a minute behind the parked car. Machine guns spurted, filling the rear of the parked car with holes. The men in or around the car writhed, fell or doubled up from wounds.

Shots came from in front of the parked car, too. Another gangster machine gun, taken from a second car, paused in the station cinder lot, was shooting from that direction.

The whole murderous scene took only a few moments' time. The two gang cars sped away to the west.

Smith and Vetterli, miraculously spared, began aiding their smitten comrades. M. K. Fanning, motorcycle patrolman, heard the shots from within the union station and dashed out, too late to fire at the gang cars. People ran toward the scene from the station and there was an interlude of horror as the sickening sight spread before them.

Nash the Intended Victim.

Chief Thomas J. Higgins of the Kansas City detective department believes the gangsters' main purpose was to kill Nash. The fact they had to kill most of his captors to get Nash was of no concern to them. Higgins reasoned that Nash may have had information on gangs and might have imparted it to the officers or to the prison authorities later.

ESCAPES DEATH BY CHANCE

Mother Insists Daughter Leave Car, Later Riddled by Bullets.

Miss Parnie Millikan, 1317 Valentine road, lost a trifling argument with her mother as they sat in their motor car at the union station just before the gun battle today, and thereby escaped being in the midst of the fusillade of bullets.

A sister of Mrs. Amanda Millikan was to arrive from Chicago at 7:20 o'clock. Mrs. Millikan and her daughter arrived at the union station at 7:10 o'clock.

"You go in, mother, and I'll stay here in the car," suggested Miss Millikan.

"No, you'd better come with me," Mrs. Millikan said. "There are two doors to watch and I might not be able to watch both of them."

Miss Millikan finally agreed to go into the station to meet the visitor. Shortly after 7:20 o'clock the Millikans left the station with their guest, Mrs. C. A. Hawkins of Othello, Wash.

They found a crowd around the place where the car had been parked. The dead and wounded had not been removed.

The Millikan car had been parked beside the car in which the detectives were shot. It was just west of it.

A bullett had passed from front to rear through the Millikan car, directly in line with the position in which Miss Milkan woud have been sitting if she had not gone with Mrs. Millikan to meet Mrs. Hawkins. There were many other bullet holes in the hood and cowl and in the body of the car. Bullets apparently had passed through the car both from the front and the rear.

Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Edwards.....
Mr. Clegg.....

Victims of Gunmen's Blast

Three of the victims of the machine gun "mob" at the Union station plaza Saturday morning. At the left is Raymond J. Caffrey of Kansas City, agent of the bureau of investigation, department of justice. In the center is Frank Hermanson, city detective. Hermanson was killed at the scene and Caffrey died at the hospital. At the right is William Grooms, city detective, who died at the scene.

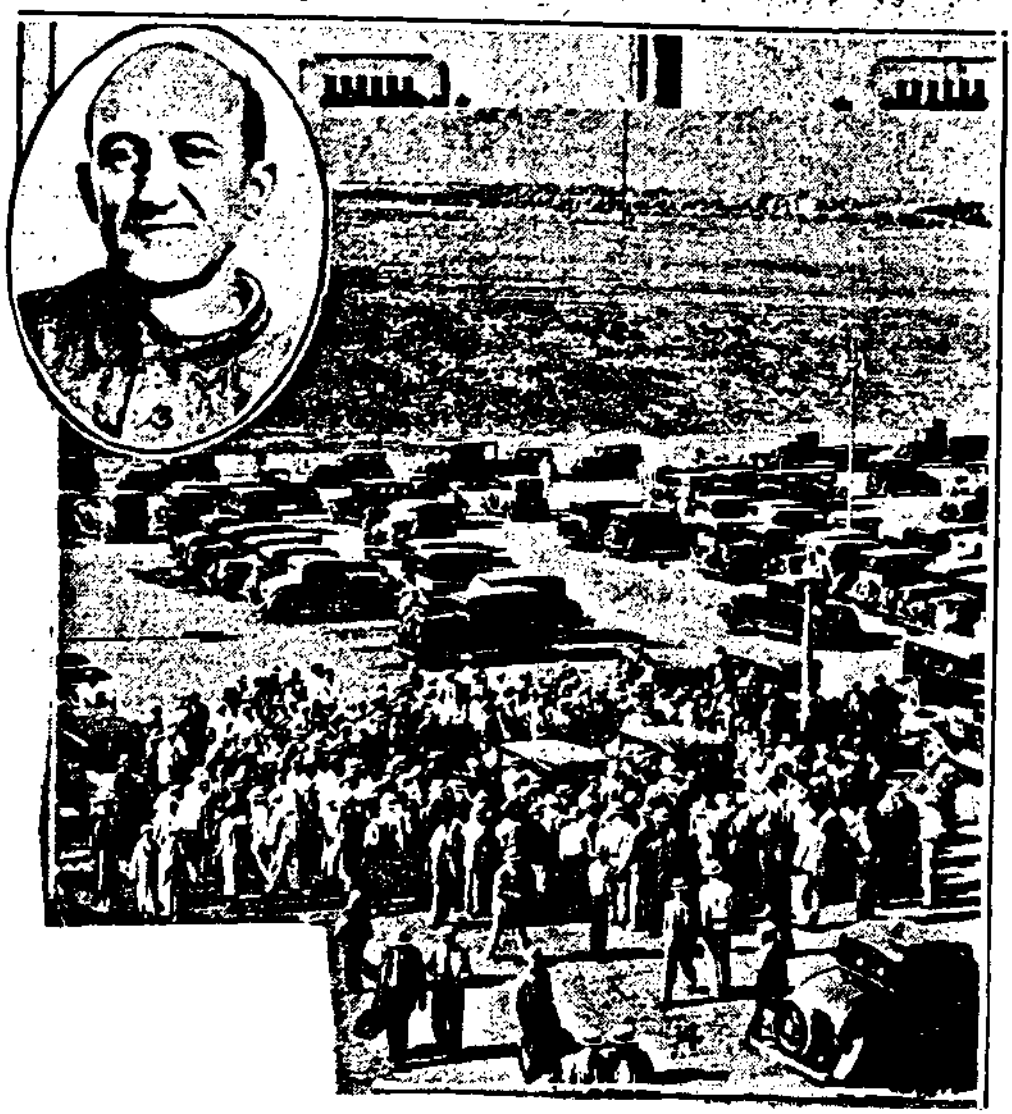
Slain Convict

KANSAS CITY JOURNAL-POST.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1933.

62-28915-A

CONVICT VICTIM (3)—Frank Nash, the convict who was being returned to Leavenworth by federal officers and detectives, was killed by the gangster bullets. It is believed the desperadoes were attempting to liberate Nash from his captors.



CROWD ATTRACTED TO SCENE (4)—Hundreds of persons thronged the station plaza following the shooting, and for some time traffic was at a standstill. In the center of the crowd is seen Caffrey's car (at the left) and another bullet ridden car.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1933.

AN EYE WITNESS (8)—Robert Fritts, taxicab starter at the station, was at his post in front of the east entrance to the station. He witnessed the entire shooting.

CITY DETECTIVE KILLED (9)—W. J. (Red) Grooms, city detective, who also was a victim of the assassins' attack. He had accompanied Vetterli and Hermanson to the station to meet the train and aid in taking Nash to Leavenworth.

BULLET-RIDDLED CAR OF OFFICERS (10)—The Chevrolet sedan, owned by Caffrey, in which it was planned to drive Nash to the penitentiary. The car was struck by bullets in the rear, front and left side. Nash had entered the car when the shooting started and was killed.

ONE OF THE VICTIMS (1)—Raymond J. Caffrey, veteran agent of the federal bureau of investigation, who was wounded fatally by the fusillade of machine gun bullets. Caffrey's car, in which the officers and robbers were preparing to drive to Leavenworth, was the target of the murderers.

CHIEF AGENT ESCAPES (2)—R. E. Vetterli, in charge of the bureau of investigation here, miraculously escaped the rain of bullets from the gangster guns.

IN THE LINE OF FIRE (5)—Mrs. O. E. Lacer, Milford, Kas., who walked out of the station just as the shooting started. She screamed, and it was believed at first she had been struck by one of the bullets.

BULLET RIDDLED HATS (6)—The hats of two of the officers found on the ground after the shooting. They are shown on the hood of the Plymouth sedan parked next to Caffrey's Chevrolet car. The Plymouth, owned by Miss Parnie Millikan, 1217 Valentine road, had been parked there shortly before the shooting.

ANOTHER VICTIM (7)—Frank Hermanson, city detective of Kansas City, who was killed by the gangster bullets. He was assisting the federal officers in taking Frank Nash to the penitentiary.

MACHINE GUNNERS CUT DOWN FOUR ON STATION PLAZA

Slain Detective May Have Killed Guarded Prisoner to Prevent Gunmen's Effort to Liberate Him.

Pictures on Page 2, Page 3 and Picture Page.

Was a bold attempt to rescue Frank Nash, desperate convict, from police and federal officers frustrated Saturday morning by a shot from a dying policeman's pistol?

That question was asked Saturday afternoon as police checked up on details of the massacre of four officers on the Union station plaza as they stood guard over Nash.

It was found that the pistol of William Grooms, a city detective, who was one of those slain, had been fired twice.

Only an examination of the bullet that killed Nash will show whether he was shot by Grooms or slain by a bullet from one of the machine guns in the hands of the killers who slew the officers.

Marked for death without a chance to defend them-

The Dead and Wounded

The dead:

Ott Reed, chief of police of McAlester, Ok.

Raymond J. Caffrey, agent of the bureau of investigation, department of justice.

William Grooms, city detective.

Frank Hermanson, city detective.

Frank Nash, convict.

The wounded:

F. F. Lackey, department of justice agent in Research hospital; serious condition.

Kansas City Journal-Post

Kansas City, Mo., Saturday, June 17, 1933.

selves, the officers died under a hail of bullets from machine guns.

Caught at Hot Springs.

Nash, the slain prisoner, had been captured Friday at Hot Springs, Ark., by federal agents. He was known to police as a member of the famous Al Spencer gang of bank and train bandits in Oklahoma. He had been a fugitive from justice since his escape from the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth in 1930.

He was being returned to the penitentiary when the machine gun massacre mowed down four of his guards and turned the plaza into a bloody shambles at 7:17 o'clock Saturday morning.

In custody of Ott Reed, chief of police of McAlester, Ok., and Frank Smith and F. F. Lackey, agents of the federal bureau of investigation of Oklahoma City, Nash arrived at the Union station on a Missouri Pacific train at 7:12 o'clock Saturday morning.

Taken to Car.

He was escorted to a waiting motor car. The car, a Chevrolet, was parked on the south side of the plaza roadway across from the east entrance of the station.

At the car the officers and Nash were met by R. E. Vetterli, chief of the bureau of investigation here; Raymond J. Caffrey of the bureau of investigation here, and two city detectives, William Grooms and Frank Hermanson.

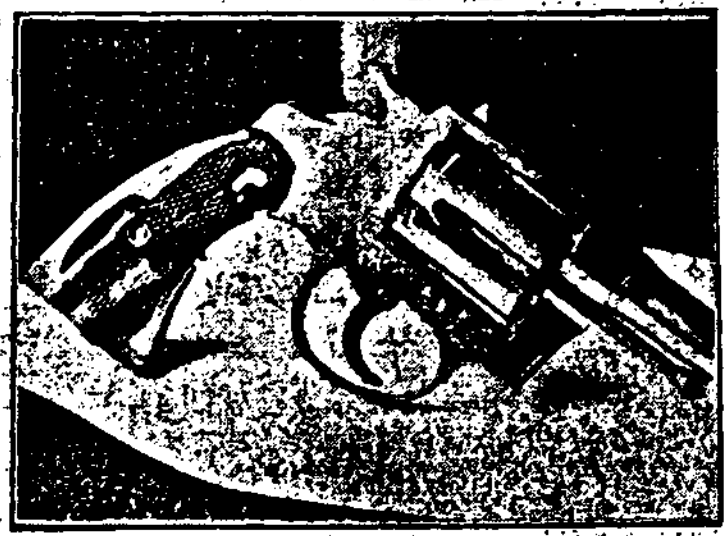
Nash was handcuffed. He was placed in the Chevrolet car first. He was placed in the front seat. Then Chief Reed got into the rear seat with Agents Smith and Lackey.

The other four officers were standing beside the car.

Suddenly two men stepped from behind a green Reo motor car which was parked in the parking space south of the roadway. The Reo was about thirty feet south and east of the federal car.

In the hands of one of the two men was a machine gun. Apparently without a word of warning the weapon was leveled. It began a rattle of death. The heavy slugs beat a tattoo against the federal car.

TWO SURVIVORS OF MASSACRE—R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge of the federal bureau of investigation in Kansas City, and Frank Smith, agent of the bureau in Oklahoma City, survived the withering machine gun fire at the Union station Saturday morning. Vetterli received a slight wound in the left arm. Smith, crouched in the tonneau of the car, after the first flash of machine gun fire, felt hot lead almost brush his cheek.



PISTOL STOPS BULLETS—This pistol, in a hip holster carried by F. F. Lackey, department of justice agent of Oklahoma City, may have saved the life of the agent. Two bullets struck the handle of the pistol, shattering it. The bullets apparently ricocheted into Lackey's hip and back. He is in Research hospital in a dangerous condition, but it is believed he will recover.

TAXI STARTER SEES MASSACRE—Robert Fritts, 2212 Chelsea avenue (above) taxi starter at the Union station, witnessed the Union station massacre from a point near the east door of the station.

FIRST TO REACH BODIES—Charles Moore, 2824 Terrace street, (above), a driver for the Yellow Cab company, rushed from his car to the bodies after the machine gunners completed their work. Moore and Mike Fanning, motorcycle patrolman, removed the pistols from the murdered officers.

NARROW ESCAPE—Miss Purple Millikan, 1317 Valentine road, whose Plymouth coach, shown above, was riddled with bullets, came near to being in the thick of the shooting at the Union station. The Millikan car was parked west of the federal car in which the officers were shot. Miss Millikan had intended sitting in her car while her mother went into the station to meet an arriving guest. One bullet passed through the car from front to rear in line with where Miss Millikan would have been sitting if she had remained in the car.

MOTORCYCLE PATROLMAN TO THE SCENE—Mike Fanning, motorcycle patrolman at the Union station, who with Charles Moore, taxi driver, removed the massacred officers' pistols after the shooting Friday morning at the Union station.

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Nash, the slain prisoner, had been captured Friday at Hot Springs, Ark., by federal agents. He was known to police as a member of the famous Al Spencer gang of bank and train bandits in Oklahoma. He had been a fugitive from justice since his escape from the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth in 1930.

He was being returned to the penitentiary when the machine gun massacre mowed down four of his guards and turned the plaza into a bloody shambles at 7:17 o'clock Saturday morning.

In custody of Ott Reed, chief of police of McAlester, Ok., and Frank Smith and F. F. Lackey, agents of the federal bureau of investigation of Oklahoma City, Nash arrived at the Union station on a Missouri Pacific train at 7:12 o'clock Saturday morning.

Taken to Car.

He was escorted to a waiting motor car. The car, a Chevrolet, was parked on the south side of the plaza roadway across from the east entrance of the station.

At the car the officers and Nash were met by R. E. Vetterli, chief of the bureau of investigation here; Raymond J. Caffrey of the bureau of investigation here, and two city detectives, William Grooms and Frank Hermanson.

Nash was handcuffed. He was placed in the Chevrolet car first. He was placed in the front seat. Then Chief Reed got into the rear seat with Agents Smith and Lackey.

The other four officers were standing beside the car.

Suddenly two men stepped from behind a green Reo motor car which was parked in the parking space south of the roadway. The Reo was about thirty feet south and east of the federal car.

In the hands of one of the two men was a machine gun. Apparently without a word of warning the weapon was leveled. It began a rattle of death. The heavy slugs beat a tattoo against the federal car.

TAXI STARTER SEES MASSACRE—Robert Fritz, 2212 Chelsea avenue (above) taxi starter at the Union station, witnessed the Union station massacre from a point near the east door of the station.

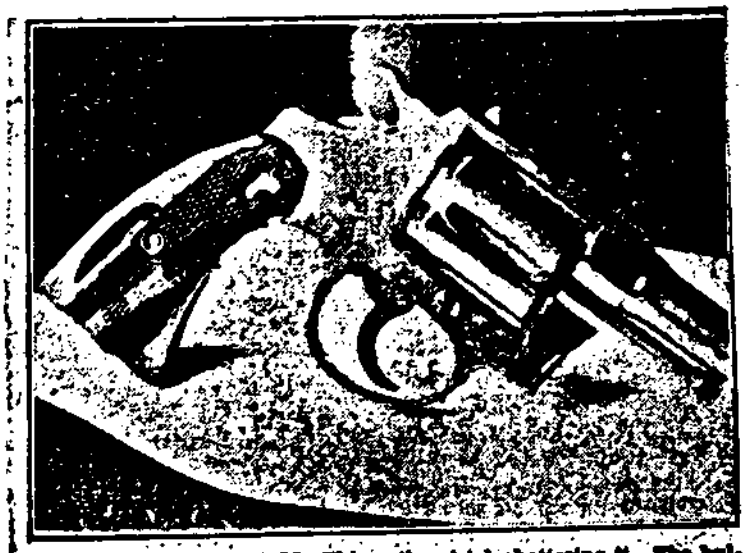
FIRST TO REACH BODIES—Charles Moore, 2024 Terrace street, (above), a driver for the Yellow Cab company, rushed from his car to the bodies after the gunshine gunners completed their work. Moore and Mike Fanning, motorcycle patrolman, removed the pistols from the murdered officers.

NARROW ESCAPE—Miss Pauline Millikan, 1517 Valentine road, whose Plymouth coach, shown above, was riddled with bullets, came near to being in the thick of the shooting at the Union station. The Millikan car was parked west of the federal car in which the officers were shot. Miss Millikan had intended sitting in her car while her mother went into the station to meet an arriving guest. One bullet passed through the car from front to rear in line with where Miss Millikan would have been sitting if she had remained in the car.

MOTORCYCLE PATROLMAN TO THE SCENE—Mike Fanning, motorcycle patrolman at the Union station, who with Charles Moore, taxi driver, removed the massacred officers' pistols after the shooting Friday morning at the Union station.

TWO SURVIVORS OF MASSACRE—R. E. Vetterli, agent in charge of the federal bureau of investigation in Kansas City, and Frank Smith, agent of the bureau in Oklahoma City, survived the withering machine gun fire at the Union station Saturday morning. Vetterli received a slight wound in the left arm. Smith, crouched in the tonneau of the car, after the first flash of machine gun fire, felt hot lead almost brush his cheek.

SAW GUNNERS OPEN FIRE—Mrs. Lottie West of the travelers' aid bureau at the Union station saw five men open fire on federal agents and city detectives Saturday morning.



PISTOL STOPS BULLETS—This pistol, in a hip holster carried by F. F. Lackey, department of justice agent of Oklahoma City, may have saved the life of the agent. Two bullets struck the handle of the pistol, shattering it. The bullets apparently ricocheted into Lackey's hip and back. He is in Research hospital in a dangerous condition, but it is believed he will recover.

4 OFFICERS PERISH WITH PRISONER

Two Others Wounded in Kansas City Depot Battle.

WASHINGTON, June 17.—(AP)—Attorney General Cummings today ordered every law enforcement agency under his command into the quest for the gangsters who took part in the Kansas City shooting this morning. Additional Justice Department agents were ordered immediately to the scene of the killing. The Attorney General considers the slaying a direct defiance of the government.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17.—(By International News Service.)—Before the eyes of hundreds of horror-stricken travelers who miraculously escaped death, five gunmen fought a pitched battle with six officers on Union Station plaza here today, killing four officers and Frank Nash, notorious escaped convict, whose release the gunmen vainly sought to effect with bullets. The two other officers were wounded.

Pictured by department of justice men as one of the toughest mobsters that ever came out of the Southwest, Nash was killed by a bullet from the guns of his own gang.

EYE-WITNESS TELLS STORY

BY ROBERT FRITTS.
Cab Starter, Kansas City Union Station.

KANSAS CITY, June 17.—(AP)—I guess I saw all of the shooting.

I was calling and starting cabs on the wide sidewalk in front of the east entrance of the station. The officers and their prisoner came out of the entrance and passed me, crossing the street directly in front of me. There were five men with the prisoner. Frank Nash (I learned who it was later) was handcuffed.

They went straight to the car parked across the street and Nash climbed in first. As soon as he seated himself, he raised both his hands in the air. It looked like a signal.

GUNFIRE STARTS.

At that moment the gunfire broke loose. It came from two men over in the parking lot opposite the station and beyond Nash. They seemed to be firing with a machine gun over his head.

The officers were mowed down by the fire. As they crumpled, some of them returned the fire.

I don't know who got Nash. One of our cabs was in front of me. Its driver went down. I thought he was shot. He had merely ducked out of range.

GUNMEN GET AWAY.

Then I saw the two men who had opened fire dash for a car. So far as I could tell, there were only two men. I did not see anyone waiting at the wheel of the car.

They jumped in and roared out of the lot and away.

Chicago, American

EVENING
CHICAGO, SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1933