CHARLES "PRETTY BOY" FLOYD
KANSAS CITY MASSACRE
62-28915 · SUB A
SECTION 12

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

FILE NUMBER 62-28915 SUB A

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Kansas City Jour

# MRS. FLOYD AT RICCHETTI TR

Ricchetti Trial Witness

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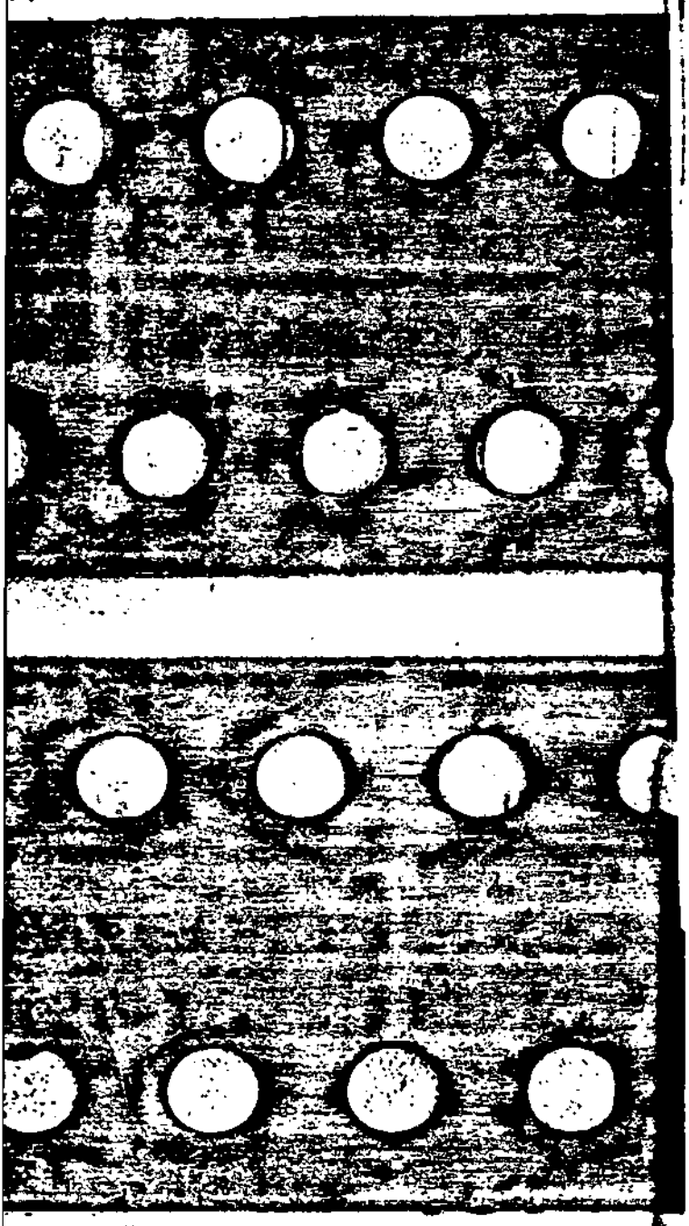
# RICCHETTI TRIAL?



## Ricchetti Trial Witness

Arthur H. Muchow, former superintendent of the bureau of identification, South Dakota state prison, was the first state witness called Thursday in the trial of Adam Ricchetti, accused of participating in the Union station massacre.

## RECOGNIZED IN COURT ROOM, RUMOR SAYS

### Sheriff Jack Killingsworth Identifies Machine Gun as 'Pretty Boy's'

A rumor that Mrs. Ruby Floyd, widow of Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd, was among the spectators at the trial of Adam Ricchetti, charged with the murder of Frank Hermanson, city detective, in the Union station massacre June 17, 1933, and the identification by Sheriff William (Jack) Killingsworth, Bolivar, Mo., of a machine gun alleged to have been Floyd's, enlivened the Thursday afternoon session of Ricchetti's trial before Judge Ray G. Cowan.

Identification of Mrs. Floyd was not positive. But persons who claimed to know the widow of the man the state claims was with Ricchetti and Verne Miller when the trio was alleged to have killed Hermanson, four other officers and Nash, asserted the court room spectator was the same woman who had appeared on the stage here with Floyd's son.

Killingsworth's testimony had to do with his abduction, June 16, 1933, the day preceding the massacre.

**Identifies Machine Gun**

Killingsworth said he was abducted by Floyd and Ricchetti in Bolivar when he entered a garage in which Joe Ricchetti, brother of the defendant, was employed. Adam Ricchetti told Floyd, "There's the sheriff," Killingsworth testified, and Floyd immediately covered him with a gun, and started with him to Kansas City.

Killingsworth then was handed a machine gun taken from Floyd when he was killed last October in East Liverpool, O., and he identified it as one he had seen the day he was abducted. The state attempted to have the jury inspect the gun, but defense objections prevented that move.

Killingsworth then was shown a [illegible]-caliber Colt automatic pistol which was taken from Floyd when he was killed, and was asked if he ever had seen it before. He replied that it was in the motor car the day he was abducted, but that he did not see it in Ricchetti's possession at any time. Ralph Laatshaw, Ricchetti's attorney, asked the court to instruct the jury to disregard all testimony concerning the gun, and Judge Cowan so ordered.

[illegible] Carter, [illegible] penitentiary in Leavenworth [illegible]

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[illegible] Trial Begins [illegible] Identification [illegible] William (Jack) Killingsworth, Bolivar, Mo., of a machine gun alleged to have been Floyd's, enlivened the Thursday afternoon session of Ricchetti's trial before Judge Kay G. Cowan.

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Karl Zarter, record clerk at the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, and Fred L. Morrison, deputy warden, were other witnesses of the afternoon session.

Taking of testimony in the case started Thursday after the state made its [illegible] statement.

An attempt to show that [illegible] witness upon whom the state is relying to convict Ricchetti did not connect him with the case on the day of the massacre was made when Thomas J. Higgins, chief of detectives, was cross-examined by Ralph Latshaw of defense counsel.

**Tells of Arresting Floyd.**

Higgins, on direct examination, had testified he knew Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd; that he had arrested him at Kansas City, and that he had seen pictures of Floyd taken here and in Kansas City, Kan. He then identified a picture of Floyd made here March 10, 1933, and another made of Floyd in Kansas City, Kan., [illegible] later.

Then Higgins told of his association with Hermanson and William J. Grooms, two of the four officers killed when gunmen attempted to release Frank Nash, escaped convict, while being taken in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth. The other four officers killed were Raymond J. Caffrey, agent in the federal bureau of investigation, department of justice, and Otto Reed, McAlester, Okla., police. Nash was also killed.

Higgins said he was [illegible]

Turn to Page 2, Column 4

# RICCHETTI NOT SUSPECT UNTIL AFTER ARREST?

Continued From Page 1.

several men had been killed there. He found that two of the men were Hermanson and Groom, members of the detective department of which he is the head.

**Witnesses Rounded Up.**

He told of rounding up witnesses and taking them to police headquarters to make statements. Among them was Mrs. Lottie West, in charge of the Travelers' Aid bureau at the Union station.

On cross-examination by Latshaw, Higgins said Mrs. West was shown a number of pictures of known criminals.

Among the pictures shown her, Higgins said, were those of Floyd, Bernard Phillips, Harvey Bailey, Bob Brady, William Underhill, Jim Clark and Ed Davis.

"And didn't she pick out the picture of Phillips as one of the men she had seen firing at the officers?" Latshaw asked.

"Yes," Higgins answered.

"But she didn't identify Floyd as one of the killers, did she?" Latshaw asked.

"She was still looking at the photographs I had placed before her, when she was called to the prosecutor's office to make a statement," Higgins said. "She had not identified Floyd's picture up to that time."

**"Still Working on It."**

Higgins then was asked how long he had worked on the Union Station massacre case.

"I am still working on it," he replied.

"Isn't it true," Latshaw asked, "that Ricchetti never was mentioned in connection with this slaying, that no circulars were sent out asking that he be picked up in connection with it and that there was no thought he was one of the killers until after his arrest in Ohio?"

Higgins was not permitted to answer when Judge Cowan sustained O'Hern's objection.

"Isn't it true," Latshaw then asked, "that Ricchetti was not brought back to Missouri from Ohio in answer to the charge of murder in connection with the Hermanson murder, but was extradited to answer a charge of killing Sgt. Bert Roth of the state highway patrol and Sheriff Roger Wilson near Columbia?"

Again the state objected, and again Judge Cowan sustained the objection.

**Knows of No Pickup Order.**

"Was any order ever issued," Latshaw asked next, "to have Ricchetti picked up in connection with the Union station killings?"

"Not to my knowledge," Higgins answered. "The federal government may have ordered a pickup for him, but I don't know about that."

A copy of the Journal-Post, dated July 6, 1933, then was introduced in evidence. It contained pictures of the men whose photographs had been shown to Mrs. West at police headquarters.

"Had a pickup order been issued for these men?" Latshaw asked, pointing to the pictures.

"Yes," Higgins said, "for those and others."

"For Bernard Phillips and Verne Miller?" Latshaw asked.

"Yes," Higgins replied.

"And for [illegible] Wilson man?"

"We have [illegible] Wolfgram," Higgins answered.

"Were the chief witnesses shown to identify those pictures [illegible] showed Mrs. West?" Latshaw asked.

[illegible]

[illegible] Floyd [illegible] of the car and [illegible] until they saw [illegible] the lights off. They were warned not to report to anyone that they had been kidnaped, O'Hern said.

**Met by Six or Seven Men.**

The two abducted men saw the car drive down a street, where it was met by a large, black motor car. Six or seven men got out of that car and aided Floyd and Ricchetti in removing their belongings from the car in which they had brought their prisoners to Kansas City. Among the belongings, he said, was a trunk.

Floyd and Ricchetti then drove away with their new-found friends, O'Hern said, and Killingsworth got into their car and drove to Lone Summit before they reported their abduction to Sheriff Thomas B. Bash.

Then, the following day, O'Hern said when the federal officers and Hermanson and Groom arrived at Caffrey's motor car with Nash, a man with a machine gun suddenly confronted them and commanded, "Up! Up! Up!"

At the same time, he said, two other gunmen appeared in front of the agent's car, with revolvers in their hands, and still a fourth man was to the rear of it.

**Machine Gun Opens Up.**

The machine gunner opened up a deadly fire, he said. The machine gunner was identified by witnesses to the shooting as Verne Miller, who previously had rented a residence at 8612 Edgevale road. Another man was identified as Floyd. When Floyd was killed in Texas, O'Hern said, the machine gun he had with him was identified as one from which bullets in the Union station massacre were fired.

One of the men with the machine gunner, O'Hern told the jury, had a revolver in his hand and fired at the officers while the machine gunner was firing at them.

"That man," O'Hern said, "was Adam Ricchetti, the defendant in this case. He was seen to get into the motor car in which the killers escaped from the scene."

O'Hern then told of Chief of Detectives Higgins finding discharged shells and cartridges at the scene of the shooting and said the state would prove those cartridges came from the guns fired by Floyd and Ricchetti. He indicated that ballistics would play a major role in Ricchetti's trial.

**Points to Fingerprints.**

He told then of the police finding Ricchetti's fingerprints on beer bottles in Miller's home on Edgevale road, and said the prints were found two days after the massacre. Latshaw objected to that statement, asserting it was twelve days after Hermanson was slain, and that the time was so remote such evidence could play no part in the present case.

Arthur H. Muchow, Long Beach, Cal., former superintendent of the South Dakota state prison, then was called as the first state witness. He told of photographing and fingerprinting Miller when the former sheriff was received at the penitentiary April 4, 1922, to serve a term of from two to ten years for embezzlement.

Chief Higgins followed Muchow on the stand. When he was excused, it was with the reservation that he could be recalled.

**Defense Motion Fails.**

Before O'Hern made his opening statement, the defense had sought to have the indictment against Ricchetti overruled on the ground that no Negroes, Italians or Greeks were on the grand jury which returned

[illegible] and Clarence [illegible] Frank Ray Jackson [illegible] Robert J. Pendleton, 3607 Olive street, Steve Burton, [illegible] Kansas City, [illegible]

62-28915-77

[illegible] objection.

"Isn't it true," [illegible] that Ricchetti was not brought [illegible] to Missouri from Ohio [illegible] answer [illegible] the charge of murder in connection with the Hermanson murder, but was extradited to answer a charge of killing Sgt. Ben Booth of the state highway patrol and Sheriff Roger Wilson near Columbia?"

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"Yes," Higgins replied.

"And for a man named Wiessman?"

"We knew him as Westerman," Higgins answered.

"Were any other witnesses called to identify those pictures you showed Mrs. West?" Latshaw asked.

**Confer Before Bench.**

Again the state objected, and Latshaw and James Daleo, associate defense counsel, and O'Hern and Russell T. Boyle, representing the state, grouped around Judge Cowan's bench and argued out of hearing of the jury. As they talked, one juror arose in his seat, snapped his fingers to attract the judge's attention, and asked: "May I ask a question?"

"No," Judge Cowan told the juror. Then he sustained the state's objection, and a recess was declared until 1:30 o'clock.

In his opening statement, O'Hern told the jury of the arrest of Nash in Hot Springs, and of Mrs. Nash's alleged efforts to get in touch with Verne Miller, former South Dakota sheriff, who was sentenced to prison for embezzlement while in office, and then turned gunman.

Miller, O'Hern said, was one of the gunmen involved in the Union station massacre. Miller, he said, assured Mrs. Nash by long distance telephone from Kansas City that "Jelly" (a nickname for Nash) would be freed.

**"Floyd at Her Desk."**

Then he told of Mrs. West going to her desk in the Union station lobby and finding a man she later identified as Floyd sitting in her chair. He detailed the progress of the group of officers who took Nash from the train and out to the motor car (Caffrey's) which was to transport him to prison. Then he told of the murderous attack on the officers, in which four of them and their prisoner were killed.

He next picked up the known trail of Floyd and Ricchetti on the day preceding the massacre.

Floyd and Ricchetti, he said kidnaped Sheriff Jack Killingsworth, Bolivar, Mo., and started with him to Kansas City. On the way, they also kidnaped Walter Griffith, a real estate dealer of Clinton, Mo., and kept Killingsworth and Griffith prisoners throughout the day.

O'Hern said the state would prove that Floyd and Richetti on the night of June 16 stopped the car in the [illegible]

[illegible] by Floyd and Ricchetti. He indicated that ballistics would play a [illegible] role in Ricchetti's trial.

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Kansas City Times Kansas City, Mo. June 13, 1938

# JURY AND JUDGE IN THE RICHETTI CASE

TO DECIDE FATE—The jury selected early last night to try Adam Richetti for first degree murder in connection with [illegible] more than a week's isolation from their families and friends. The members are, left to right, front row, Robert [illegible] and Robert J. Poulston; second row, Nicholas Pracul, Raymond S. Trone, Charles H. Carlock and John J. Jordan; top row, [illegible] Dewey Davis, Leo M. Brown, Norman V. Hash and Paul Calvert.

ON THE BENCH—Judge Ray [illegible] Cowan is presiding at Richetti trial.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

67-28915-A

# Pick Jury to Try Aid of 'Pretty Boy' Floyd

KANSAS CITY, June 13.—(AP)—A jury to try Adam Richetti, pal of the slain Charles ("Pretty Boy") Floyd, on a murder charge growing out of the Union Station killings of five men last year, was completed in Circuit Court here. W. W. Graves, prosecutor, said last night he will ask the death penalty for Richetti.

62-28715-A

THE CHICAGO AMERICAN

JUN 13 1935

Juanita Floyd, but did not definitely establish her relationship with the dead gunman. Beulah Baird was shot while in company of Floyd in Bowling Green, O., and told police there she was Juanita Ross.

the murder of Frank Hermanson, city detective, in the Union station massacre June 17, 1933, it was understood Saturday that Vivian Mathis, girl friend of Verne Miller, one of the alleged gunmen, would not be called as a state's witness.

It had been expected Miss Mathis would be called by the state to prove the presence in Miller's home on Edgevale road the morning of the massacre of Miller, Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd and Ricchetti.

**Cooked Their Breakfast.**

It was understood that Miss Mathis had made a statement to government agents when she was arrested on conspiracy charges following the massacre, in which she said she had cooked breakfast for the three alleged gunmen an hour and 15 minutes after they were said to have slain Hermanson, three other officers and Frank Nash, convict, who was being returned to the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth.

Before Miss Mathis would make a statement of any kind, it was said, she obtained a promise from the agents that she never would be called upon to tell of cooking breakfast for the three alleged killers.

The information, it was understood, was passed along to the state authorities, and it aided materially in convincing them they were correct in assuming Ricchetti was one of the slayers.

Identification of Ricchetti as one of the gunmen was made Saturday by F. J. Lackey, an agent of the federal bureau of investigation, department of justice, who was wounded seriously when the gunmen opened fire.

**Second Identification.**

Ricchetti previously had been identified as one of the gunmen by Mrs. Lottie West, head of the Travelers' Aid bureau in the Union station, who testified Friday.

Lackey was one of the federal agents who captured Nash in Hot Springs the day preceding the massacre. He told of bringing the prisoner to Kansas City and of taking him out to a parked car belonging to Caffrey.

Lackey said he, Frank Smith, a government agent, and Chief Otto Reed, McAlester, Ok., got into the back seat of Caffrey's car and Nash at first was placed in the driver's seat. Both Lackey and Reed carried shotguns, the agent testified.

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# TORCH SLAYING PENALTY STILL DIVIDES JURORS

## Vote on Noose in Edwards Case Reported Tied Up at 6 to 6.

By WALTER G. HEREN
Of the Journal-Post Staff.

WEST PLAINS, MO., June 15.—The jury deliberating

# LASKA CONVICTED OF TAKING SHARE OF RANSOM CASH

## Attorney Found Guilty of Conspiracy in Urschel Kidnap Case.

Picture on Picture Page.

OKLAHOMA CITY, June 15.—Ben B. Laska, Denver attorney, Saturday was found guilty of participation in the Charles F. Urschel kidnaping conspiracy.

A federal court jury returned a verdict that Laska knowingly accepted $10,000 of the $200,000 ransom paid for release of Urschel as a fee for defense of the kidnaper, Albert Bates.

United States Judge Edgar S. Vaught gave Laska three days in which to file a motion for a new trial. A hearing will be held July on his motion.

Sentence will be deferred until after the decision of Judge Vaught on the motion.

Immediately after the verdict was read, Molly O. Edison, Denver attorney and associate of Laska, was taken into custody and charged with perjury.

Mrs. Edison, who had testified for Laska, in his trial, pleaded not guilty to the charge against her. United States Commissioner George Eacook said he would set her bail at $5,000.

Laska will be free, pending sentence or granting of a new trial, on his original bond.

Almost in tears, and with nervously shaken, he called the verdict "the most unfair verdict in history."

Laska was convicted on testimony finding that of Mrs. Clare Feldman, the wife of Bates, and her son, Edward Feldman.

They told a story in which Laska was made the "master mind" of a scheme to keep Bates' $90,000 share of the ransom in safety.

Feldman told of making two payments to Laska and said he told the attorney each time the money was "hot."

James C. Mathers, an Oklahoma city attorney, was freed Friday of a charge that he accepted $1,000 of the ransom money when Judge Vaught sustained his motion that the evidence was insufficient.

## FIND BODY OF BOY

### Lower Clears Up Child's Disappearance.

By United Press.

NEW YORK, June 15.—The body of 8-year-old John Kaul, missing from his Manhattan home for nine days, was found Saturday floating in the East river.

Salvatore Lear, while eel fishing on the docks, noticed the body floating near the shore and notified police. Police said they positively identified the body as that of the child who disappeared June 6, while playing with his friends.

In a pants pocket was stuffed the white rubber ball which police believe Jackie was chasing when he fell into the river.

[illegible] need help of any kind [illegible] Main 4000 and ask for a [illegible] Ad taker. You can easily find [illegible] kind of help through its cloud-[illegible]

Mr. Nathan
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Fern
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# PURVIS TELLS FLOYD DEATH IN DEPOT TRIAL

Kansas City, June 14 (AP).—A department of justice agent's terse, matter-of-fact description of the last moments of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, southwestern desperado, highlighted the trial of Adam Richetti, former Floyd lieutenant, on a murder charge in the Union station slayings of five men here last June 17.

Melvin Purvis

Melvin Purvis, head of the Chicago bureau of the department of justice, related the details of Floyd's killing by federal officers at Wellsville, O., in October, 1934, two days after Richetti had been captured there.

The government charges Floyd, Richetti and Verne Miller, since killed in gangland fashion, ambushed an escort of federal agents and policemen in the Union station plaza as they were returning Frank Nash, an escaped convict, to the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, and machine-gunned to death four of the officers and Nash.

The dapper Richetti specifically is charged with the murder of Frank Hermanson, a Kansas City police detective.

Purvis said he and three other federal agents went to Wellsville, Oct. 21, 1934, to take Richetti into custody and to search for Floyd. Two days later they came upon the outlaw at a farmhouse eight miles from East Liverpool, O.

CHICAGO DAILY TIMES

JUN 14 1935

Kansas City Journal-Post

Kansas City, Missouri

June 14, 1935

62-28915

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boyd
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Hardo
Mr. Ke O
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilds

# WOMAN NAMES RICCHETTI AS PLAZA GUNNER

## Lottie West Takes Stand To Identify Massacre Suspect

Adam Ricchetti, charged with the murder of Frank Nash, former federal prisoner, positively was identified in the court room of Judge Kay Scrivener Friday afternoon as one of the gunmen who killed Nash June 17, 1933, when an attempt was made to take Frank Nash, convicted from the custody of officers returning him to the federal prison at Leavenworth.

Identification of Ricchetti was made by Mrs. Lottie West, in charge of the Travelers' Aid bureau in the Union station. She also said Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd was another of the gunmen.

Mrs. West told of the arrival of the officers with their prisoner and told how they escorted Nash through the station lobby and out to the motor car of Raymond J. Caffrey, agent of the federal bureau of investigation, in which he was to be taken to Leavenworth.

### Used Two Guns

She told of the positions he said he saw the gunmen grouped around the motor car and how long man had two guns with which he was firing at the officers.

"Have you seen that man since?" Mrs. West was asked by M. E. O'Hern, assistant prosecutor.

"Yes," she said.

"When?" O'Hern asked.

"He is that man sitting behind Mr. Daleo," Mrs. West answered. Daleo is one of Ricchetti's attorneys. The man sitting behind him was the defendant.

The pistol taken from Ricchetti when he was arrested in Wellsville, O., had not fired any of the empty cartridge cases found at the scene of the Union station massacre, Merle A. Gill, police department ballistics expert, testified Friday afternoon.

R. E. Vetterli, in charge of the St. Louis office of the federal bureau of investigation, stationed here at the time of the massacre and one of the men wounded by the gunmen, identified a picture of Floyd as that of one of the men involved in the shooting.

Mrs. Frances Nash, widow of Frank Nash, made a frank witness as she told of her association with Nash.

She became acquainted in the period with Verne Miller and the latter's girl friend, Vivian Mathis, whom she called Vi.

She told then of her and Nash's arrival in Hot Springs early the morning of June 13, 1933. The following day the federal agents arrested her husband.

### To Testify by Radio

She learned that Nash had been taken away by persons whom she described as a "group of men," and that relying on their promise she departed for Memphis where she met her husband. She enlisted his aid in finding the men, she said, and she [illegible]

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Kansas City Journal-Post

Kansas City, Missouri

June 14, 1935

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# WIDOW OF NASH TAKES STAND AT RICCHETTI TRIAL

Continued from Page One

where she and Galatas went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hart, friends. Then she called Verne Miller in Kansas City.

"Oh, Verne," she told him, "my Jelly's gone."

Then she became so hysterical she could not continue the conversation and Galatas was compelled to do the telephoning to acquaint Miller with what had happened in Hot Springs. Thus the state contends, started the chain of events that led to the massacre.

**"Don't Take On So Hard."**

The telephone calls to Miller were started about 9 o'clock the night of June 16, Mrs. Nash said—the night preceding the massacre—and at midnight the telephone in the Farmer home rang. The caller was Miller, who wanted to tell Mrs. Nash that she had nothing to fear, that she soon would see her "Jelly" again. She quoted him as saying: "Don't take on so hard, Frances. You'll see Jelly again."

Miller, she said, added that he was calling from the Union station in Kansas City. He suggested that she go to his apartment in Chicago and wait until there were developments which would bring "Jelly" back to her. She demurred, telling him she thought she would go to the home of her cousin in Winona, Ill., and Miller told her that would be satisfactory.

**Then Cross-Examined.**

Then came a radio announcement that Nash and four officers were killed by gunmen who had attempted to take her "Jelly" away from the men who had Nash in custody.

James Daleo, who, with Ralph Latshaw, is defending Ricchetti, cross-examined Mrs. Nash. He had her in minutest detail through her association with Nash before and after marriage, and asked her if it were not true that she was subject to prosecution under the Mann act and that she had been saved from prosecution because of a deal with the government through which she had testified at the conspiracy cases tried here and now was testifying in Ricchetti's trial.

Objections by state counsel prevented Mrs. Nash answering that question.

**Tell About Phone Calls.**

Mrs. Nash presented a picture of a prim school teacher on the witness stand. She used good English and a disarming frankness in answering embarrassing questions shot at her by Daleo.

When asked by the attorney how Nash was employed while she lived with him she answered naively, "He told me he was a bootlegger." She added that he also had made vague reference to an interest in slot machines.

Other witnesses at the morning session were district managers and two telephone operators in the Kansas City and Joplin offices of the Southwestern Bell Telephone company. Their testimony had to do with the telephone calls to and from Miller the night preceding the massacre.

**Not Widow of Floyd.**

A woman spectator at the trial, who was believed Thursday to be Mrs. Ruby Floyd, widow of Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd, turned out to be Beulah Baird, Salinas, Ok., formerly of Kansas City. Floyd was friendly with Beulah Baird and her sister, Rose Baird, while he was being sought by state and federal officers for various crimes.

The Baird sisters have been called as witnesses for the state.

The first two witnesses called Friday were Frank Baughman and Seth Wiard, the former from Washington and the latter from Cleveland.

Baughman, of a special squad of the federal bureau of investigation, identified two pistols which he said were sent to him in Washington by Melvin Purvis, Chicago, after the latter had taken them from [illegible]

torney, handed Smith a picture of Verne Miller.

"Do you know that man?" Graves asked.

"Yes," Smith answered, "that is the man who fired at me."

The firing, Smith said, seemed to come from the front and west of the car. There was some firing also from the rear of Caffrey's car, in which Smith was seated, and F. J. Lackey, another agent, was shot in the back.

Melvin H. Purvis, the "Little Mel" of the department of justice, who has won a reputation in law enforcement circles for his part in rounding up and killing criminals described as "public enemies," was the principal witness at Thursday afternoon's session.

**Proves Capable Witness.**

Purvis, the agent in charge of the Chicago office of the federal bureau of investigation, was a capable witness who refused to permit defense attorneys to inveigle him into making statements concerning things in which he had no part. This was demonstrated particularly on cross examination when one of Ricchetti's lawyers tried by various questions to get the witness to tell what he knew about the department of justice investigation of the Union station massacre. Purvis said he never took part in that inquiry and therefore was unable to tell how the case was handled. Likewise he refused to be led into telling about the search for a dozen or more suspects named in government circulars as the men sought for the crime.

**Tells About Battle.**

The witness had come to Kansas City for just such purpose—to tell of his part in the slaying of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd near East Liverpool, O., ten days after Ricchetti's capture in Wellington, O. Purvis, speaking [illegible] account of the battle between the outlaw and federal agents, said [illegible]

38915-H

[illegible], and Miller told her that would be satisfactory.

**Then Cross-Examined.**

Then came a [illegible] announcement that Nash and [illegible] officers were killed by gunmen who had attempted to take her "Jelly" away from the men who had Nash in custody.

James Daleo, who, with Ralph Latshaw, is defending Ricchetti, cross-examined Mrs. Nash. He led her in minutest detail through her association with Nash before and after marriage, and asked her if it were not true that she was subject to prosecution under the Mann act and that she had been saved from prosecution because of a deal with the government through which she had testified at the conspiracy cases tried here and now was testifying in Ricchetti's trial.

Objections by state counsel prevented Mrs. Nash answering that question.

**Tell About Phone Calls.**

Mrs. Nash presented a picture of a prim school teacher on the witness stand. She used good English and a disarming frankness in answering embarrassing questions shot at her by Daleo.

When asked by the attorney how Nash was employed while she lived with him she answered naively, "He told me he was a bootlegger." She added that he also had made vague reference to an interest in slot machines.

Other witnesses at the morning session were district managers and two telephone operators in the Kansas City and Joplin offices of the Southwestern Bell Telephone company. Their testimony had to do with the telephone calls to and from Miller the night preceding the massacre.

**Not Widow of Floyd.**

A woman spectator at the trial, who was believed Thursday to be Mrs. Ruby Floyd, widow of Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd, turned out to be Beulah Baird, Salisaw, Ok., formerly of Kansas City. Floyd was friendly with Beulah Baird and her sister, Rose Baird, while he was being sought by state and federal officers for various crimes.

The Baird sisters have been called as witnesses for the state.

The first two witnesses called Friday were Frank Baughman and Seth Wiard, the former from Washington and the latter from Cleveland.

Baughman is a special agent of the federal bureau of investigation and identified two pistols which he said were sent to him in Washington by Melvin Purvis, Chicago, after the latter had taken them from Floyd when "Pretty Boy" was killed near East Liverpool, O.

**Fired Test Shots.**

Baughman said the pistols had been in his possession ever since that time, with the exception of one day when he gave them to Wiard for the latter to fire test shots from them. Wiard formerly was an agent of the federal bureau of investigation, employed as a technician in the Washington laboratory. He testified to firing test shots from the weapons and of sending the bullets to R. E. Vetterli in the St. Louis office of the bureau for examination by a ballistician.

Frank Smith, one of the federal agents who aided in the capture of Nash in Hot Springs the day preceding the massacre, told of bringing the convict to Kansas City and taking him to the motor car in which Nash was to be transported to Leavenworth.

**In Rear Seat of Car.**

Smith was in the rear seat of the car, Nash under the steering wheel and just preparing to move over [illegible] the right side of the seat to make room for Caffrey, Smith said, when a man stepped out with a gun and said, "Up! Up! Up!"

The shooting started then, Smith said, and he ducked down into the bottom of the rear of the car. He looked up once, to stare into the muzzle of a long gun, and he felt the bullets burn his face, he said, as the gunman fired at him. He [illegible] head jerk in the [illegible] then saw blood spurt from [illegible]

[illegible]

torney, handed Smith a picture of Verne Miller.

"Do you know that man?" Gr[illegible] asked.

"Yes," Smith answered, "that [illegible] the man who fired at me."

The firing, Smith said, seemed to come from the front and west of the car. There was some firing also from the rear of Caffrey's car in which Smith was seated, and F. J. Lackey, another agent, was shot in the back.

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**Tells About Battle.**

The witness had come to Kansas City for just one purpose—to tell of his part in the slaying of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd near East Liverpool, O., two days after Ricchetti's capture at Wellesville, O. Purvis, speaking precisely, gave an accoount of the battle between the outlaw and federal agents, which ended with the fatal shooting of Floyd as he attempted to flee from the government men.

Purvis also identified a machine gun and two .45 caliber Colt automatic pistols taken from the slain badman.

The largest crowd of the day was on hand to hear the federal agent testify. Those who expected to see the typical movie type of sleuth were disappointed, as he had none of the characteristics generally associated with criminal investigators.

Kansas City Times

Kansas City, Missouri

June 15, 1935

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Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# SAW RICHETTI SHOOTING

## MRS. LOTTIE WEST SAYS HE USED TWO PISTOLS IN MASSACRE.

### "Pretty Boy" Floyd Sat Near Her Desk Before the Attack on Officers, the Travelers' Aid Secretary Testifies.

A little man attired in a brownish, odd-looking suit, his felt hat brim down, his skin sallow under his dark hair, stood in the union station parking lot, only a few feet from a group of officers and their prisoner, the morning of June 17, 1933. He had a blue-colored weapon in his right hand, a nickel-plated weapon in his left. Both guns were blazing.

That man, Mrs. Lottie West of the Travelers' Air Society said firmly in Judge Ray G. Cowan's criminal court late yesterday, was Adam Richetti, now on trial for the murder of Frank Hermanson, a city detective who lost his life with four other men in the union station slayings.

The identification was the most important link the state had established in two full days of testimony. Through two hours preceding Mrs. West's occupancy of the stand, there had been no mention of the defendant; instead, the trial had dealt almost wholly with Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, with whom Richetti was associated.

RUSSELL T. BOYLE . . . THE ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR HOLDS THE THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUN WHICH THE STATE ASSERTS FLOYD USED IN THE MASSACRE.

HER STORY TOLD SMOOTHLY.

The evidence Mrs. West offered moved along smoothly under the direction of Michael W. O'Hern, first assistant prosecutor. Her story began at 6:53 o'clock the morning of the massacre, opening with an inquiry she put to a man seated at the Travelers' Aid desk.

"Can I do anything for you?" Mrs. West asked the man. He was seated in the chair reserved for persons who go to the society for aid. She remembered yesterday afternoon that he did not answer; he did not look at her. She had a full view of his broad face and heavy shoulders, she said, both while he was seated and when he arose, walking out of the station at the east door.

"How was he dressed?" Mr. O'Hern inquired.

"He wore a blue serge summer suit," Mrs. West replied. "His pana-

16, it was announced today by Cannon, chief operating officer.

Before accepting the federal post a year ago, Mr. Kirk was general superintendent of the Missouri Pacific lines at Kansas City.

Mr. Cannon also announced that, effective the same date, the title of J. W. Rea of Kansas City would be changed from acting general superintendent to general superintendent of the western district, with headquarters in Kansas City, and that of J. Davis of Little Rock would be changed from acting superintendent of the Arkansas division to superintendent of that division.

## SWEITZER FIGHTS FOR JOB.

### Court Action Is Brought Against His Successor.

(By the Associated Press.)

CHICAGO, June 14.—Robert M. Sweitzer, whose ouster as county treasurer a week ago climaxed a six

2-28915-A

[redacted]

H[illegible]LL T. BOYLE . . . THE ASSIST[illegible] PROSECUTOR HOLDS THE THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUN WHICH THE STATE ASSERTS FLOYD USED IN THE MASSACRE.

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"How was he dressed?" Mr. O'Hern inquired.

"He wore a blue serge summer suit," Mrs. West replied. "His panama hat was turned down at the brim. He wore 2-toned oxfords."

The man, she said, was Charles Floyd.

ENTER STATION WITH NASH.

A moment after he had passed, the doors leading into the lobby from the sheds opened, she continued. Eight men moved across toward the door Floyd had passed through. One of them was Frank Nash, the escaped convict, his hands manacled.

"I recognized the other men as officers," Mrs. West said. "One was Frank Hermanson. Another was Raymond Caffrey (killed in the blast that followed). All of them were armed."

[illegible] Catholic nuns were at her desk, Mrs. West continued. They

(Continued on Second Page.)

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## SWEITZER FIGHTS FOR JOB.

### Court Action Is Brought Against His Successor.

(By the Associated Press.)

CHICAGO, June 14.—Robert M. Sweitzer, whose ouster as county treasurer a week ago climaxed a six months' investigation into an alleged shortage of $414,000 in his old accounts as county clerk, today struck back with a quo warranto suit against his successor, Joseph L. Gill.

The suit, filed in circuit court, was followed by a ruling of Judge Joseph Burke that there was "probable cause" for the proceeding. Gill was given until June 24 to file an answer.

Permission for filing the action, in which Sweitzer will seek to dislodge Gill and regain possession of his office, was granted by Otto Kerner, attorney general.

MRS. LOTTIE WEST . . . HER TESTIMONY LINKS ADAM RICHETTI DEFINITELY AS ONE OF THE ASSASSINS IN THE UNION STATION KILLINGS.

PHONE WANT ADS FOR THE SUNDAY STAR EARLY TODAY.

6 p.m. is the closing time for proper classification of want ads for The Sunday Star. Phone your copy early to HArrison 1700.—Adv.

Kansas City Times
Kansas City, Missouri
June 15, 1936

massacre scene and the last shell.

A POINT FOR THE DEFENSE.

Gill testified that none of the shells found at the station plaza tallied with test shells from the .45-caliber automatic pistol taken from Richetti at the time of his capture.

The trial will resume at 9:30 o'clock this morning. The state's case, members of the prosecution staff said, might be completed by noon. F. J. Lackey, a federal agent who was dangerously wounded in the station killings, would be the second witness who would identify Richetti as one of the participants, W. W. (Tom) Graves, prosecutor, said last night.

There would be no afternoon session today, Judge Cowan informed the jury and the counsel.

Both parties profit when they meet through Star Want Ads.—Adv.

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BELT BUCKLE—Sterling Silver—and belt ..... $5

CLUB SET (comb-tie-brush)—Of silver plate, chrome finish and with enamel..... $5

TIE CLIP and COLLAR HOLDER—Sterling silver, ..... $1.25

JACCARD'S

VE MY OLD GOLD

## SAW RICHETTI SHOOTING

(Continued from First Page.)

were seeking information concerning how they could reach the home of the Benedictine Sisters. Mrs. West arose and began to escort them to the sidewalk, where they could enter a taxicab.

"We were just behind the officers," the witness related. "The nuns weren't following me as I thought they were. I stopped on the edge of the sidewalk. The officers had spread out and then moved into the car. Nash was put in under the wheel. I saw two men standing on the running board of my own car, about four car widths south of the officers' car.

[illegible] nun car.

[illegible] of them was blond and bald. [illegible] was short and dark. [illegible] standing over the top of my car.

"Then I saw a heavy man in a [illegible] move in behind the officers. Some of the officers already were seated. Harrington and Grooms, other city detective, were behind the car. The man in the [illegible] had a machine gun.

[illegible] I could see the [illegible] in the hand. I believe [illegible] in the vest. There was [illegible] blond and in his shirt sleeves. [illegible] machine gun, too. He was [illegible]

[illegible]

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[illegible] Soap (plain [illegible]) 16c
[illegible] 19c
[illegible] 59c
[illegible] 25c
[illegible] 31c

## SAW RICHETTI SHOOTING

(Continued from First Page.)

were seeking information concerning how they could reach the home of the Benedicting Sisters. Mrs. West arose and began to escort them to the sidewalk, where they could enter a taxicab.

"We were just behind the officers," the witness related. "The nuns weren't following me as I thought they were. I stopped on the edge of the sidewalk. The officers had spread out and then moved into the car. Nash was put in under the wheel. I saw two men standing on the running board of my own car, about four car widths south of the officers' car.

HIDING BEHIND HER CAR.

"One of them was blond and hatless. The other was short and dark. They were staring over the top of my car.

"Then I saw a heavy man in a blue serge suit move in behind the officers. Some of the officers already were seated. Hermanson and Grooms, the other city detective, were behind the car. The man in the blue serge suit had a machine gun.

"He opened fire. I could see the gun jerking in his hand. I looked over a little to the west. There was a man, blond and in his shirt sleeves, with a machine gun, too. He was firing."

"Was that the same blond man who had been standing on the running board of your car?" Mr. O'Hern interrupted.

"I can't say."

"Did you see anyone else shooting?"

DESCRIBES HIS SUIT AND HAT.

"Yes. Over to my left and in front of the officers' car, a man in a brownish, odd-looking suit was standing. He wore a felt hat of a rich material, and its brim was down. He had two guns in his hands. Both guns were blazing."

"Do you recall any other identifying features of this man?"

"He was small. His skin was sallow. He had black hair."

"Have you seen him in this courtroom?"

"Yes," Mrs. West said. "He is sitting behind Mr. James Dalco (a Richetti counsel)."

"You are pointing at Adam Richetti?"

"Yes."

Ralph G. Latshaw, chief defense counsel, began an exhaustive cross-examination that pursued every detail of the scene that morning at the station. Mrs. West's testimony in which she said R. E. Vetterli was carrying a revolver again was covered thoroughly. Mr. Vetterli, on the stand just before Mrs. West, had testified he was unarmed that day.

VETTERLI TELLS OF SHOOTING.

Mr. Vetterli, now in charge of the St. Louis office of the division of investigation of the United States department of justice, related how Nash had been escorted across the lobby and placed in the car. He said he saw one of the killers stand up from behind a motor car hood and shout, "Up, up, up, up." A split second later, he said, another voice, behind the officers, cried, "Let 'em have it." The machine gun fire began.

"Do you know who that man was who appeared over the hood of the car?" Russell E. Boyle, an assistant prosecutor, asked. [illegible]

[illegible]


BELT BUCKLE—Sterling Silver—and [illegible] $5

CLUB SET (comb-in-brush)—Of silver plate, chrome finish and with enamel $5

TIE CLIP and COLLAR HOLDER—Sterling Silver, set $1.25

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Kansas City Star

Kansas City, Mo.

June 15, 1935

# LACKEY NAMES RICHETTI

## U. S. AGENT'S ACCUSATION BRINGS CHUCKLE FROM DEFENDANT.

### F. J. Lackey Tells of Capture of Frank Nash and Events Leading Up to the Union Station Massacre.

F. J. Lackey, agent of the United States bureau of investigation, and a survivor of the union station massacre, pointed a finger at Adam Richetti, on trial for murder, and identified him as one of the men at the station plaza who sent five men to their deaths.

Richetti, seated in front of the jury in Judge Ray G. Cowan's division of the circuit court, threw his head back, opened his mouth and chuckled and laughed as the identification was made.

OVER THE FRANK NASH TRAIL.

Lackey, who was with Frank Smith, another agent, and Otto Reed, chief of police of McAlester, Ok., when Frank Nash was arrested in Hot Springs, Ark., related the incidents of the arrest and the bringing of Nash to Kansas City on the way to Leavenworth. Nash was an escaped federal prisoner. Lackey told of the arrival at the union station and how he and the prisoner were met by local officers.

When they reached the motor car in front of the station, Lackey explained, Smith took a position in the center of the rear seat, Reed sat in the left rear seat and Lackey took a position on the right side of the rear seat. Nash was placed under the steering wheel temporarily.

"I noticed a man in front of the car," Lackey testified. "Then I heard him say, 'Up, up, up, get 'em up.' This man had a machine gun. I saw a second man who wore a brown summer suit and a felt hat. He was walking fast towards our car.

"I couldn't see below his waistline and don't know whether he carried a gun," he testified.

THE IDENTIFICATION FOLLOWS.

"Have you seen that man since then?" asked Michael W. O'Hern, assistant prosecutor.

"Yes," replied the witness.

"Do you see him in the courtroom?"

"Yes," said Lackey. "There's the man right there."

He pointed a steady finger at Richetti.

Richetti chuckled and it was heard throughout the courtroom.

The state expects to finish its case against Richetti late today after hearing a few more witnesses. Richetti's life will be asked for the crime which took the life of Nash and four officers. The defense will start presenting its case Monday.

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Mr. Egan
Mr. Fenton
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Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Scheidt
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

62-28915-17

# VERNE MILLER'S GIRL FRIEND W

Kansas Ci

Myster

62-28915-A

Kansas City Journal-Post Kansas City, Mo. June 15, 1938

# RIEND WON'T TESTIFY

## Mystery Woman of Ricchetti Trial

Here is the mystery woman of the Adam Ricchetti murder trial. Dressed in black, she has occupied a seat in the court room at every session of the trial. Some of the spectators and court attaches believed at first she was Ruby Floyd, widow of Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd, slain gunman. Still others believed she was Beulah Baird, friend of Floyd. When she was asked her name, she said she was Juanita Floyd, but did not definitely establish her relationship with the dead gunman. Beulah Baird was shot while in company of Floyd in Bowling Green, O., and told police there she was Juanita Ross.

## VIVIAN MATHIS STORY NOT TO ENTER RECORD

### She Is Reported to Have Admitted Cooking for Ricchetti Here.

### HEAR OF STATEMENT.

### Promise Made That She Wouldn't Be Called, Is Reported.

With the state's case nearing completion in the trial of Adam Ricchetti, charged with the murder of Frank Hermanson, city detective, in the Union station massacre June 17, 1933, it was understood Saturday that Vivian Mathis, girl friend of Verne Miller, one of the alleged gunmen, would not be called as a state's witness.

It had been expected Miss Mathis would be called by the state to prove the presence in Miller's home on Edgevale road the morning of the massacre of Miller, Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd and Ricchetti.

**Cooked Their Breakfast.**

It was understood that Miss Mathis had made a statement to government agents when she was arrested on conspiracy charges following the massacre, in which she said she had cooked breakfast for the three alleged gunmen an hour and 15 minutes after they were said to have slain Hermanson, three other officers and Frank Nash, convict, who was being returned to the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth.

Before Miss Mathis would make a statement of any kind, it was said, she obtained a promise from the agents that she never would be called upon to tell of cooking breakfast for the three alleged killers.

The information, it was understood, was passed along to the state authorities, and it aided materially in convincing them they were correct in assuming Ricchetti was one of the slayers.

Identification of Ricchetti as one of the gunmen was made Saturday by F. J. Lackey, an agent of the federal bureau of investigation, department of justice, who was wounded seriously when the gunmen opened fire.

**Second Identification.**

Ricchetti previously had been identified as one of the gunmen by Mrs. Little Wise, head of the Travelers' Aid bureau in the Union station, who testified Friday.

Lackey [illegible]

## TORCH SLAYING PENALTY STILL DIVIDES JURORS

### Vote on Noose in Edwards Case Reported Tied Up at 6 to 6.

By WALTER G. HEREN
Of the Journal-Post Staff.

WEST PLAINS, MO., June 15.—The jury [illegible]

## LASKA CONVICTED OF TAKING SHARE OF RANSOM CASH

### Attorney Found Guilty of Conspiracy in Urschel Kidnap Case.

Picture on Picture Page.

OKLAHOMA CITY, June 15.—Ben B. Laska, Denver attorney, Saturday was found guilty of participation in the Charles F. Urschel kidnaping conspiracy.

A federal court jury returned a verdict that Laska knowingly accepted $10,000 of the $200,000 ransom paid for release of Urschel as a fee for defense of the kidnapers, Albert Bates.

United States Judge Edgar S. Vaught gave Laska three days in which to file a motion for a new trial. A hearing will be held July [illegible] on his motion.

Sentence will be deferred until after the decision of Judge Vaught on the motion.

Immediately after the verdict was read, Molly O. Edison, Denver attorney and associate of Laska, was [illegible] and charged

POST OFFICE BOX 1987
PITTSBURGH, PA.

Charleston Daily Mail
Charleston, W. Va.
June 16, 1935

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Mr. Harbo
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Scheidt
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Richetti Is Placed At Murder's Scene

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 15 (UP).—Adam Richetti, the black-haired Ozark badman who tied in his fortunes with the late Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd and started on a crime trail that ended when he merrily surrendered in Ohio, will begin his fight Monday to escape the charge that he was a triggerman at the bloody Union station massacre.

It was just two years ago that gunmen killed four officers and their prisoner in front of the Union station. The state charges Richetti was one of the trio of killers. The other two allegedly were Floyd, killed in Ohio, and Verne Miller, Renegade sheriff, killed by Detroit's underworld.

The state had virtually concluded its case against Richetti when the week-end recess was taken today. Two witnesses, one of them F. J. Lackey, federal agent wounded in the mass slaying, pointed out Richetti and told the jury he was at the scene, firing two revolvers.

62-28915-18

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Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Pittsburgh Press June 16, 1935

# GANG PLOT LAID TO FLOYD'S PAL

## 'G Man' Wounded in Union Station Massacre Names Richetti

*By The United Press*

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 15—For the second time in his murder trial on charges growing out of the Union Station massacre Adam Richetti today was pointed out as one of the gunmen in the shooting.

Richetti

F. J. Lackey, Federal agent testifying for the state, identified Richetti as one of the gangsters who killed four officers and a Federal prisoner in a bungled attempt to liberate the prisoner as he was being taken to Leavenworth prison two years ago.

Lackey was severely wounded in the burst of fire from guns in the hands of Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd, Verne Miller and, according to the charges, Richetti.

Last night, Mrs. Lottie West, who saw the shooting, said Richetti was the man, dressed in an "odd-looking brown suit," whom she saw shooting with a gun in each hand.

Richetti was captured when Pretty Boy was shot down by Federal agents near Wellsville, O., last year.

62-28915-19

6 8

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Rambo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Scheidt .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....
.....
.....

# AGENT IDENTIFIES ADAM RICHETTI AT DEPOT TRIAL

Kansas City, Mo., June 15.—(AP)—F. J. Lackey, federal agent, today identified Adam Richetti as one of three gunmen who slew four officers and Frank Nash, their prisoner, at the Union station here in 1932 in an attempt to free Nash.

Lackey was wounded at that time. He testified today at Richetti's trial for murder in connection with the slayings.

"That man was one of them," he said pointing at Richetti.

Richetti, lieutenant of the late "pretty boy" Floyd, laughed aloud as the agent made his identification.

The government claims that Richetti, Floyd and the late Verne C. Miller were the gunmen who killed Nash, City Detectives Frank Hermanson and William Grooms, Federal Agent A. Raymond Caffrey and Police Chief Otto Reed of McAlester, Okla.

62-28915-A

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE

JUN 16 1936

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Beaghman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Parsons .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Leitner .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Leach .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

# CALLS RICHETTI STATION KILLER

Kansas City, Mo., June 15.—F. J. Lackey, federal agent, today identified Adam Richetti as one of three gunmen who slew four officers and Frank Nash, their prisoner, at the Union station here in 1933 in an attempt to free Nash. Lackey was wounded at that time. He testified today at Richetti's trial for murder in connection with the slayings.

62-28915-17

CHICAGO DAILY TIMES

JUN 16 1935

POST OFFICE BOX 1987
PITTSBURGH, PA.

Pittsburgh Press
June 17, 1935

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Fimbo
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Scheidt ES
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

## TO ACCUSE RICHETTI

MRS. FRANCIS NASH

The widow of Frank Nash, convict slain in the Kansas City Union Station massacre two years ago, is shown entering court to testify against Adam Richetti, accused of being one of the machine-gunners who killed Nash and four officers.

# GANGSTER'S DEFENSE MAY START TODAY

## State Prepared to Rest Case In Mass Killing

*By The United Press*

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17—The state today prepared to rest its case in the trial of Adam Richetti, charged with operating a machine gun in the Union Station massacre in which four officers and a Federal prisoner were slain.

County Prosecutor W. W. Graves, Jr., said he believed the state had established "beyond a doubt" that Richetti, companion of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, stood on the firing line with Floyd and Verne Miller.

Meantime, one of the desperate band of outlaws who terrorized the Middlewest in 1933, sulked in the Missouri penitentiary. He was George McKeever, prototype of Floyd, who was sentenced by a jury Saturday night to die on the gallows for the killing of Sergeant Ben Booth of the Missouri State Patrol.

In the Ricchetti trial prosecutors based their hope for conviction on testimony of a Federal agent and another witness, both of whom pointed to the suave youth as one of the men who operated a machine gun in the Union Station massacre.

62-28415-17

Kansas City Journal-Post

Kansas City, Missouri

June 18, 1935

# DEATH ORDER FAILS TO ERASE RICCHETTI GRIN

## Verdict in Massacre Case Was 'Bum Rap,' Says Gunman.

### 'DIDN'T KNOW MILLER'

### Planning Appeal, He Insists He Wasn't Here Day of Murders.

Adam Ricchetti, condemned to death by a jury in the criminal court for participation in the Union station massacre June 17, 1933, still was smilingly evasive and noncommunicative Tuesday morning in the county jail.

He smiled when he answered questions on the witness stand in his own defense Monday. Tuesday morning, he still was smiling when he was taken into Sheriff Thomas B. Bash's office by William Calloway and John Kelley, deputy sheriffs, to pose for photographs for a Journal-Post photographer.

His appearance, however, was not that of the immaculately clad young man who had sat at the counsel table while W. W. Graves, jr., prosecutor, and his assistants, M. W. O'Hern and Russell T. Boyle, wove the web of evidence which caused the jury to declare him guilty of Frank Hermanson's murder and impose the penalty of death on the gallows for that crime.

#### Appearance Is Neat.

Instead, he was dressed in the rough denim which is the jail attire. Blue shirt, open at the throat; blue overalls, streaked white in many places, evidence of numerous washings; white socks which curled down over black oxfords—that was his apparel. His hair was neatly combed, his face in no need of a razor. A smile still hovered on his lips and his eyes twinkled. A cigaret was held between the fingers of his left hand.

"What do you think of the verdict?" one of his visitors asked.

"I think it was a bum rap," Ricchetti replied.

"Do you plan to take an appeal?" he was asked.

"I don't know about that," he smiled. "If there's any way to appeal, of course, I want to do it."

"But you were in Kansas City the morning of that shooting, weren't you?" his visitor questioned.

#### Didn't Know Miller."

For a moment, Ricchetti looked at the questioner. His eyes gave the impression he was smiling; an almost imperceptible curl of his lips vanished.

"No," he said, "I wasn't in Kansas City when that happened."

He emphasized "that" with an inflection of voice.

"Did you know Verne Miller?" came the next question.

"No, sir," Ricchetti answered. "I didn't know Miller."

"But you did know Pretty Boy Floyd? You were with him?"

There was no answer to that question. Ricchetti's smile indicated that he was tolerant of all stupid persons, particularly reporters.

"Then you haven't anything to say about your trial, the verdict, the

Turn to Page 2, Column 2.

Kansas City Journal-Post

Kansas City, Missouri

June 18, 1935

# RICCHETTI KEEPS HIS GRIN DESPITE VERDICT OF DEATH

Continued from Page 1.

witnesses who testified they saw you there at the scene of the massacre?"

"I haven't anything to say," he answered, good naturedly, "except that it was a bum rap."

**Has But "One Neck."**

He had not seen either of his attorneys, Latshaw or James Daleo, who were appointed by the court to defend him after he had told Judge Cowan that he had "only one neck and he was particular what happened to it," in objecting to the first attorneys named to represent him.

The interview was ended. Ricchetti got to his feet, shook hands with those in the sheriff's office, and turned smiling to Deputy Callaway, who lead him back to his cell. The deputy slapped him on the shoulder in friendly fashion. Together they walked down the jail corridor, Ricchetti chuckling over the failure of the reporter to persuade him to talk.

The conviction of Ricchetti and the imposition of the death penalty officially marked has solved the Union station massacre, which has occupied the attention of scores of government, county and city sleuths since the day of the crime—June 17, 1933.

**Last of Murder Gang.**

Ricchetti, according to federal agents, was the last surviving member of the little band of murderers who shot down four officers and their prisoners in a vain effort to free Frank Nash, recaptured government convict. The men named as his accomplices in the massacre, Verne Miller and Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, had been shot down while still at large. Miller was slain by criminals in Detroit and Floyd by government agents near East Liverpool, O., last October, just two days after Ricchetti's capture in Wellesville, O.

At Ricchetti's trial in the criminal division of the circuit court here, the state base its case principally on two witnesses who identified him as one of the killers and on the testimony of a fingerprint expert, who said that he discovered the accused man's prints upon a beer bottle in the residence Miller used as a hideout while in Kansas City.

**Convicted on Anniversary.**

The jury received the case at 4:44 o'clock Monday afternoon after listening to final arguments which lasted two hours. They began their deliberations just two years to the day after the station killing. The twelve men on the jury retired to begin their deliberations with the plea of state's attorneys for the death penalty still ringing in their ears. W. M. O'Hern, assistant prosecutor, was the last to speak in behalf of the state. He followed James Daleo, defense attorney, who attacked the state's evidence, particularly that part which dealt with the identification of his client.

W. W. Graves, prosecutor, also demanded the death penalty in his address to the jury. Ralph E. Latshaw, another defense attorney, sought to discredit the state's entire case.

Ricchetti received the verdict with a grin and a yawn. He had been awakened in his cell shortly after the jury had announced at 8:20 o'clock Friday night that it had reached a verdict.

"That's a hell of a thing to awaken a man for," was his only comment after hearing the clerk of the court read the verdict which assessed the death penalty.

The jury required only 2 hours and 11 minutes to vote that Ricchetti should die for his part in the station massacre. Only three ballots were taken.

While five men were slain at the Union station the morning of June 17, 1933, Ricchetti was tried only for the murder of Frank Hermanson, city detective. The other four victims were William J. Grooms, also a city detective; Raymond Caffrey, federal agent; Otto Reed, chief of police of McAlester, Ok., and Nash.

It was expected Tuesday that attorneys for Ricchetti would prepare to file a motion for a new trial within the next ten days. That action is necessary in carrying an appeal to the state supreme court.

The defense also indicated by objections at the start of the trial that the question of constitutional rights might be raised in order to carry the case to the United States supreme court if necessary.

62-28915-A

THE DETROIT NEWS, JUNE 18, 19

# CITY GASOLINE BID QUIZ ASKED

## Price-Fixing by 7 Major Firms Charged by Purchase Commissioner.

Informed that seven major gasoline companies again have submitted identical bids for furnishing the City with gasoline, the Council today decided to turn the bids over to Harry S. Toy, attorney general, who is conducting an investigation of alleged collusion between Michigan gasoline companies.

John J. Gorman, commissioner of purchases and supplies, called the Council's attention to the fact that all seven bids opened June 12 on a contract to supply the City with from 200,000 to 600,000 gallons during June and July quoted the same figures—.0839 cents a gallon for June purchases and not more than .0851 cents for July purchases.

The seven companies bidding were: Cities Service Oil Co., Petroleum Services, Inc., Highland Oil Corp., Socony-Vacuum Oil Co., White Star district; Standard Oil Co. of Indiana, Shell Petroleum Corp. and Gulf Refining Co.

"This is a plain case of price-fixing," Gorman said. "We haven't had a variance of a tenth of a cent in these bids in the last year. The City buys 6,500,000 gallons a year, 500,000 a month for the City's use and 500,000 gallons a month for the DSR.

"Because of the similarity of the bids, we have been picking the different companies in rotation. Maybe if we stayed with one company we would get a reduction, but it is hard to decide which one to choose. I have had a friendly feeling for the Highland Oil Corp. since the days when it was the only company that would sell City employes gasoline for scrip. But when you investigate, you find that the Highland company is the Hickok Oil Co., which in turn is the Pure Oil Co., which in turn is really the Standard Oil Co. They are all hooked up and the whole industry is owned by the pipe lines which have them by the throat."

**COUNCILMAN OBJECTS.**

Gorman named one company which, he said, "looks as much like an independent as any," but Councilman Smith objected that that company was controlled by one of the most vicious "gunmen."

"Let's send this evidence of price-fixing to Toy and ask him if there is any independent gasoline company in Michigan," Smith suggested. "It is certainly an unsavory situation if there is not."

Gorman said if the City owned its own storage tanks all the time, it could save about 1 cent a gallon on present prices. He was instructed to study the possibility of acquiring or building such storage facilities.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—(AP.)—Charging that independent gasoline and oil jobbers "are being squeezed out," a delegation from the National Oil Marketers Association today asked Atty.-Gen. Homer S. Cummings to "investigate the major oil companies to determine whether they are fixing prices for gasoline in violation of the anti-trust laws."

# RICHETTI IS GUILTY; EXECUTION ORDERED

## Law Catches Up With Gunman in Union Station Killing

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 18.—(AP.)—Adam Richetti, gallows gunman, contemplated death on the gallows today as state and Federal officials prepared to close the case of official vengeance for the slaying of five men in the station here two years ago.

Richetti, Missouri and Oklahoma gangster, was convicted last night of murder. The jury fastened the death penalty.

With his conviction the law marked off the last of the four accused as the actual slayers of four officers and their prisoner, Frank Nash, slain in a desperate rescue attempt.

Verne C. Miller died under the torture of fellow gangsters at Detroit.

In an Ohio farm [illegible] Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, [illegible]ous Oklahoma gunman, fell [illegible] the bullets of Federal and [illegible] officers.

ES

62-28915-A

Kansas City Star Kansas City, Mo. June 18, 1935

# STATION CASE NEAR END

## U. S. PROBABLY WILL DROP REMAINING INDICTMENTS.

### Richetti, Sentenced to Hang, May Get Delays of Approximately Two Years, by Motions and Appeals.

The federal charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice against Adam Richetti in connection with the union station plaza massacre June 17, 1933, probably will be dismissed soon, since Richetti was sentenced last night to be hanged for murder as one of the machine gunners in the station killings.

Maurice M. Milligan, United States district attorney, was out of the city today, but it is understood he expected to have the federal indictment against Richetti dismissed in the event Richetti was convicted of murder in the massacre case. A jury in the Jackson County criminal court convicted Richetti last night for the murder of Frank Hermanson, a city detective, who was one of the four officers killed.

TWO INDICTMENTS PEND.

Two indictments against Richetti still are pending in the federal court. One charges him with having conspired with other persons to obstruct justice in an attempt to deliver Frank Nash, escaped federal convict, from the four officers on the union station plaza. The other indictment accused he and Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd, his dead partner, with interstate transportation of a stolen motor car. Richetti and Floyed were accused of kidnaping Sheriff Jack Killingsworth of Bolivar, Mo., and of having transported him in the stolen motor car from Bolivar, Mo., to a point in the Central Industrial district here the night of June 16, 1933.

The indictments as to Floyd automatically became void with the death of Floyd on a farm near East Liverpool, O., last year.

Milligan had said previously he held the indictments against Richetti as a precautionary measure in the event he was acquitted in the Jackson County criminal court.

RICHETTI CONVINCED.

Richetti said today that it was the enormity of the crime that convicted him, not the evidence. He still maintained that he was innocent of participation in the station killing two years ago yesterday and that his conscience was clear so far as that was concerned.

"It would have been impossible," Richetti remarked today, "for the witnesses to have identified anyone from the distance from which they were standing. I wasn't there. Mrs. Lottie West could not have identified anyone who was standing 165 feet from her when the shooting occurred.

Richetti today blamed Mrs. Vivian Miller, or Mathis, wife of Verne C. Miller, slain gangster also accused in the massacre, as mostly to blame for his predicament. He believes she put government agents on his trail as one of the gunners.

Richetti said that he hadn't given the trial much consideration because he knew he was innocent of the crime. He spends most of his time at the jail in sleep, although he reads newspapers and magazine occasionally.

DELAYS AHEAD.

Richetti's attorneys have four days in which to file a motion for a new trial unless they ask for an extension which if granted, gives them ten days. Both defense attorneys have indicated that they intend to appeal the case. After the motion for a new trial is filed, the judge to set the time for a hearing.

If the court overrules the motion for a new trial the attorneys have a year in which to perfect their case for appeal to the state supreme court. It probably would take a year before the case would be decided by the supreme court.

## *The Richetti Verdict.*

The promptness with which the jury in Judge Cowan's court arrived at a verdict of guilty and a sentence of death in the case of Adam Richetti indicated the weight of the evidence that had been marshaled to show his active participation in the union station massacre of two years ago. The identification of Richetti was positive, and his association with "Pretty Boy" Floyd, another participant in the crime, was known. In the background was the extended criminal career of the man on trial.

The execution of Richetti will be a good riddance. It will represent a complete accounting for all three of the outlaws who were directly responsible for the station murders, Floyd having met death at the hands of federal agents and Verne C. Miller having become a victim of gangsters shortly after commission of the crime in Kansas City. The station massacre was one of the most flagrant offenses in the local annals of criminality. In good part, the penalty already has been paid. The conviction and sentence of Richetti carry the course of justice still further. Along with the fate of the others, it will constitute a terrible warning to gangdom.

62-28915-13

# RICHETTI TO JURY

**Trial Is Completed Shortly Before 5 o'Clock After Two Hours of Argument.**

## DELIBERATIONS ARE ON

**A Flat Denial of Union Station Massacre His Only Part in Brief Defense.**

## DEATH, LIFE OR ACQUITTAL

**The Verdict Must Be on First Degree Murder Charge, the Court Tells Jurors.**

The case of Adam Richetti, gangster companion of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, who is charged with first degree murder as a result of the union station massacre exactly two years ago today, was given to the jury at 4:44 o'clock this afternoon. Deliberations began immediately.

The week-long trial before Judge Ray G. Cowan in the Jackson County criminal court ended with a dramatic gesture by Michael W. O'Hern, assistant county prosecutor, who seized a machine gun and waved it before the jurors to demonstrate how easy it was to snuff out lives in a hurry.

**Defense Attacks Identification.**

Attorneys for the defense strongly attacked the testimony of Mrs. Lottie West and Francis J. Lackey, both of whom gave positive identifications of Adam Richetti as one of the participants in the murder of five men.

James Daleo, one of Richetti's attorneys, even fired a broadside at the federal bureau of investigation for its "desire to put men in the penitentiary."

Ralph S. Latshaw, Richetti's other attorney, in beginning the closing arguments for the defense, also opened fire on the government.

"This is a save-your-face case," he charged. "The department of justice," he charged. "This is a crime that machine-haunted body of men has been unable to solve. It hasn't had a positive identification of Richetti, and if the two would have done their work much earlier. Instead, the government waited one year and three months before filing charges against them.

**"No Bad Company Charge.**

"Remember," he continued, "Richetti is not charged with being an associate of a bad man. He's charged with one crime. You must realize an associate of Floyd comes before you with two and one-half strikes called on him, as they say in baseball. He may have done things violating the laws of the country, but he's not on trial for those things now."

Then Latshaw savagely indicted Mrs. West's testimony. Her minute description of the killers was impossible in the blast of gunfire, he charged. He pointed out "mistakes" in her testimony, that she said R. E. Vetterli, government agent, was armed, and that Kansas City officers carried shotguns.

"Her testimony teems with impossibilities and improbabilities," he said. "It is a save-your-face case. I've never seen a case trumped up like this one."

Daleo began by attacking further the testimony of Mrs. West and Lackey. He desired to know why Lackey had told police and newspaper men he "couldn't remember what happened, it all occurred in a flash."

**His Charge Arouses Reply.**

"If any one of you has a doubt as to this man's guilt," he argued, "It's your duty to hang out. Any time the United States government indicts a man, it believes he is guilty. It desires only to put him in the penitentiary."

O'Hern, concluding for the state, seized upon the attacks on the government agents.

"I shall not be unmindful of the defendant, nor will I attack our government and its department of justice," he began. "It will be a sad day if that body of men should crumple under the attacks of lawyers like Mr. Daleo. It would be a sad day if those brave, intelligent men can't face such hoodlums as Floyd, Miller and this defendant, Richetti.

O'Hern praised Mrs. West for [illegible] pistol and showed it to the jury.

"Mrs. West [illegible] defense witnesses did. That [illegible] to be introduced in her memory [illegible]

O'Hern took up two automatic pistols and asked why the sector of man shooting into a group of helpless men wouldn't be fixed on anyone's memory.

**In a Dramatic Climax.**

"I know these defense counsel [illegible] right of men like Vetterli, [illegible] Smith, Mr. Lackey and the keen, intelligent, young man, Melvin Purvis, who is known nationally for tracking down criminals, but the state of Missouri points a cold finger at the bier of dead men on the station floor and says, 'Gentlemen of the jury, this is murder in the first degree.'"

Death by hanging, life imprisonment or acquittal were the three alternatives Judge Cowan offered the jury in his instructions. Judge Cowan ruled that only first degree murder was to be considered by the jury. Following his instructions, closing arguments in the week-long case were begun by W. W. Graves, Jr., county prosecutor. Each side was allotted one hour, so Richetti's fate will be in the hands of the jury late this afternoon.

**Firm in His Denial.**

Richetti, the last defense witness, was on the stand less than a minute. After being sworn in and giving the usual identification, Richetti was asked by his attorney, Ralph S. Latshaw:

"Were you in Kansas City on June 17, 1933?"

"No, sir," Richetti replied firmly.

"Were you at the union station the morning of June 17, 1933?"

"No, sir," Richetti replied again.

"That's all," Latshaw said.

Richetti was not subjected to cross-examination by the state. Judge Cowan had ruled previously, basing his opinion on a decision of the state supreme court, that if only those questions were put to the companion gangster of Floyd, the state would not be permitted to cross-examine Richetti.

In beginning his arguments, Prosecutor Graves again read the instructions of Judge Cowan that it was not necessary to establish guilt, for Richetti to have fired the shot that killed Frank Hermanson, city detective; that if he were found to have been acting in concert with others, all were equally guilty of the shooting.

Graves then took up the trail of Richetti the day before the murder.

**Cites the Double Abduction.**

"There was no question he was at Bolivar, Mo., with Pretty Boy Floyd, the killer and outlaw, and that they had machine guns and pistols to use in any manner they found necessary," he said. "There is no question about the abduction of Sheriff Jack Killingsworth and Salesman Griffith, and that the two were brought to the Kansas City West Bottoms, where they were released that night.

"There is no question," Graves continued, "that the two immediately made contact with Verne C. Miller. The fingerprints on the beer bottle show Richetti was at Miller's home on Edgevale road that night."

Graves then reminded the jurors that Mrs. West identified Floyd as sitting at the Travelers' Aid desk in the union station lobby the next morning.

**"Two Saw Richetti There."**

"The defense is not going to deny Floyd was there, either," he said. "She saw Richetti there, a small man in a brown suit. She identified him as the man she saw shooting two pistols. Who is there to back her up?

"F. J. Lackey, government agent, who was shot four times and who was trapped in a bar like a rat, said he saw Richetti twice, once over the body of the motor car and once as Richetti walked by the car when the shooting ceased. There you have two positive identifications by reputable outstanding citizens.

"That's not all that couples the defendant [illegible] Verne C. Miller was there, that Frank Floyd was there and the defendant. [illegible] fingerprints from Richetti found in Miller's home.

62-28915-17

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Hobo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schmidt .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

# RICHETTI GUILTY IN KANSAS CITY GANG MASSACRE

Kansas City, Mo., June 17.—(AP)—Adam Richetti, former associate of the late "Pretty Boy" Floyd, was convicted tonight of the murder of City Detective Hermanson, one of the five men killed in Union Station plaza two years ago today as gunmen sought to release Frank Nash, recaptured federal convict. The jury recommended that he be hanged.

Richetti denied the charges on the witness stand.

Government witnesses testified that Richetti was present at the slaying scene with Floyd and Verne C. Miller, a former South Dakota sheriff who turned gangster.

The trio was branded as the machine gun slayers soon after the mass murder. Before the law could catch up with Miller, gangster enemies killed him near Detroit.

Then officers concentrated on Floyd, the bank robbing denizen of Oklahoma's Cookson hills. They finally found him near East Liverpool, O., but he fled and was shot to death.

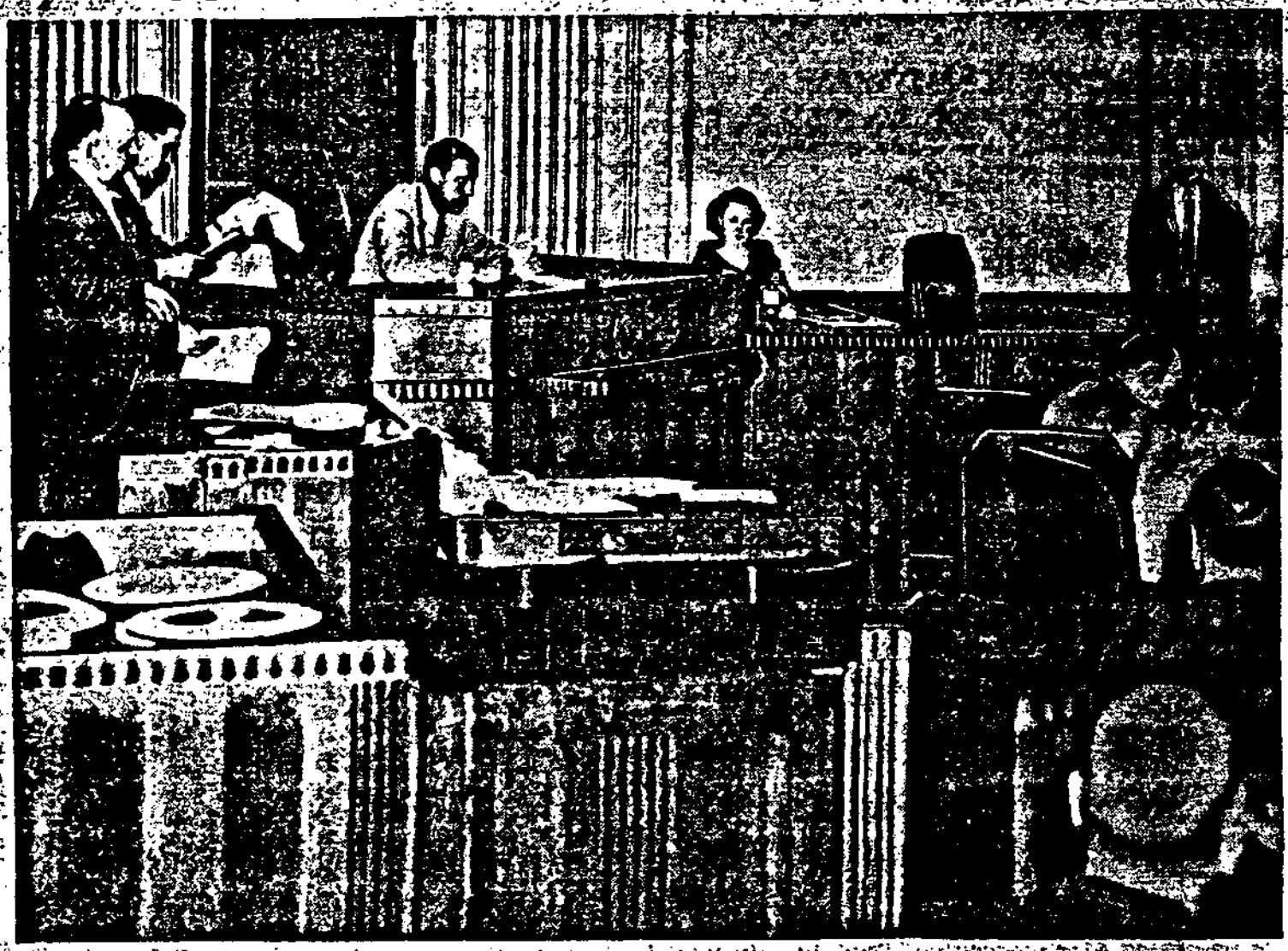
CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE

JUN 18 1935

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schmidt
Mr. Schilder

Kansas City Times Kansas City, Missouri June 18,

## HIS BACK TURNED, ADAM RICHETTI HEARS HIS SENTENCE TO DIE.



His back to the bench as the death verdict is read, Adam Richetti sits at the extreme right, beside his counsel, James Daleo, at the counsel table. Beyond them Michael Brennan, deputy sheriff, watches Richetti's face. Judge Ray G. Cowan looks over the sheaf of instructions returned him by the jury. Miss Beryl Finley, court stenographer, takes down the words of Harry Whitney, the clerk (extreme left). Beside Whitney stands Russell T. Boyle, an assistant prosecutor.

62-28915-A

# FORMER GUNMAN FACES GALLOWS

## Richetti Is Found Guilty of Taking Part in Kansas City Massacre.

By United Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 18—The four officers slain in the Union Station massacre, a crime which shocked the nation, were completely avenged today.

Adam Richetti, only surviving member of the gang of killers whose machine guns cut down Frank Nash, Federal prisoner whom they sought to free, and the officers escorting him, faced death by hanging.

A jury found him guilty last night, on the second anniversary of the crime.

### Others Are Dead

The other members of the gang are dead. Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd, legendary outlaw of Oklahoma's Cookson hills who became the nation's Public Enemy No. 1, was slain in Ohio a year ago by Federal agents led by Melvin Purvis.

Verne C. Miller, North Dakota deputy sheriff who turned outlaw, was slain by gangsters near Detroit.

Richetti, Floyd's lieutenant, surrounded and was brought to trial here on a murder charge in connection with the slaying of Kansas City Detective Frank Hermanson, one of the four officers guarding Nash.

Richetti helped to convict himself when he drank beer in a Kansas City house rented by Miller before the bungled attempt to liberate Nash. He left his fingerprints on the bottles he drank from, and those prints, coupled with two positive identifications, were the most damaging evidence submitted by the state at the trial.

### Identified by Two

Mrs. Lottie West, employe of the Travelers' Aid Society at the Union Station, and Francis J. Lackey, Department of Justice officers, positively identified Richetti as one of the three killers.

Richetti swore he was not in Kansas City at the time of the massacre. Ralph S. Latshaw, his attorney, described the charges against Richetti as "a 'save-your-face' case for the Department of Justice."

Richetti was awakened from a sound sleep and brought to the courtroom to hear the verdict. He grinned at Judge Ray G. Cowan when it was read, then, seeming to grasp the verdict's significance, looked about him dazedly.

In the elevator taking him back to jail he said to a guard:

"That was a hell of a thing to wake a man up for."

KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL,
Knoxville, Tennessee,
June 18, 1935.

Re: CHARLES ARTHUR "PRETTY BOY" FLOYD, wa, (Dec'd); ET AL;
CONSPIRACY TO DELIVER FEDERAL PRISONER.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Scheidt ..... E
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

62-28915-H

Kansas City Times

Kansas City, Mo.

June 18, 1935

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schmidt
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trac
Miss Gandy

62-28915

# DEATH FOR RICHETTI

## The Jury Sentences Him to Hang for Murder in the Union Station Massacre Two Years Ago.

## A QUICK VERDICT

**Only Three Ballots Are Taken in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes of Deliberation.**

## CONDEMNED MAN GRINS

**Without Speaking, He Goes Back to Jail After Hearing the Sentence.**

**On Second Anniversary of Crime, He Is the Only One Alive of Three Accused Men.**

## DEFENSE CASE IS BRIEF

**In Bitter Arguments, Attorneys Charge Federal Agents Seek "to Save Their Faces."**

It will be death for Adam Richetti.

The sallow little gunman, his eyes blinking and a half smile on his face, moved down from the county jail into Judge Ray G. Cowan's almost empty courtroom last night, grinned at the stoic jurors and slouched in his chair. He had been asleep. The verdict, reached at 8:20 o'clock after 2 hours and 11 minutes of deliberation, came from the lips of Harry Whitney, the court clerk, who chanted:

". . . find the defendant guilty and assess his punishment at death."

**Escorted Back to Cell.**

Richetti smiled broadly. He waved his hand in a deprecating half-circle. The deputy sheriff, William Calloway, led him back to the elevator, escorted him back to his cell. Richetti finally spoke.

"This," he said, "is a hell of a thing to wake a man up for."

Thus the union station massacre case, except for the appeal Richetti's counsel plans, now is ended. Richetti was the last man facing formal charges that grew from the slayings of four officers and the escaped convict, Frank Nash, two years ago yesterday. He was tried formally for the murder of Frank Hermanson, a city detective, the death penalty. Of the men he knew, only James Daleo, his attorney, was in the courtroom last night when the verdict was returned. Several federal agents sat behind him. A few workmen in the courthouse had assembled, and three women were present.

**Jury Waits for Him.**

The jury waited eight minutes for the deputy sheriffs to arouse Richetti. His eyes were still sleep-fogged when the verdict was read. Back in the jail quarters, he threw himself down on his bunk and closed his eyes again.

The case reached the jury following two hours of rail-thumping, hand-clapping oratory. Richetti himself had taken the stand for a brief moment, only long enough to deny that he was in Kansas City June 17, 1933, when the murders at the station were committed.

The final arguments were filled with acrimony. Richetti's counsel branded the prosecution as "a save your face case" for the department of justice agents; they attacked the identifications made by the state's two star witnesses, while W. W. (Tom) Graves, jr., prosecutor, and Michael W. O'Hern, his first assistant, hit savagely at the defense counsel's attack on federal agents.

**O'Hern Waves Machine Gun.**

Mr. O'Hern, the last of the four attorneys to speak to the jury, re-enacted two scenes from the massacre, utilizing the Thompson submachine gun and the two .45-caliber automatic pistols taken from Richetti and his killer associate, Floyd, at the time of Richetti's capture near Wellsville, O.

His feet spread, the machine gun raking the jury, Mr. O'Hern waved the weapon in wide arcs, commenting what a blast of fire that instrument could deal. And then, to emphasize his point, he placed the gun on the rail, just before the front row of jurors.

Ralph S. Latshaw, Richetti's other attorney, in beginning the closing arguments for the defense, also opened up on the government.

"This is a 'save-your-face' case for the department of justice," he charged. "This is a crime that much-vaunted body of men has been unable to solve. If they'd had a positive identification of Richetti and Floyd the two would have been filed on much earlier. Instead, the government waited one year and three months before filing charges against them.

**No "Bad Company" Charge.**

"Remember," he continued, "Richetti is not charged with being an associate of a bad man. He's charged with one crime. You must realize an associate of Floyd comes before you with two and one-half strikes called on him, as they say in baseball. He may have done things violating the laws of the country, but he's not on trial for those things now."

Then Latshaw savagely indicted Mrs. West's testimony. Her minute description of the killers was impossible in the blast of gunfire, he charged. He pointed out "mistakes" in her testimony, that she said R. E. Vetterli, government agent, was armed, and that Kansas City officers carried shotguns.

"Her testimony teems with impossibilities and improbabilities," he said. "It is a save-your-face case. I've never seen a case trumped up like this one."

Daleo began by attacking further the testimony of Mrs. West and Lackey. He desired to know why Lackey had told police and newspaper men he "couldn't remember what happened, it all occurred in a flash."

**His Charge Arouses Reply.**

"If any one of you has a doubt as to his man's guilt," he argued, "it's your duty to hang out. Any time the United States government indicts a man, it believes he is guilty. It desires only to put him in the penitentiary."

62-2891

[illegible] of Harry Whitney, the court clerk, who chanted:

"... find the defendant guilty and assess his punishment at death."

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Thus the union station massacre case, except for the appeal Richetti's counsel plans, now is ended. Richetti was the last man facing formal charges that grew from the slayings of four officers and the escaped convict, Frank Nash, two years ago yesterday. He was tried formally for the murder of Frank Hermanson, a city detective,

ADAM RICHETTI . . . SENTENCED TO DIE FOR THE UNION STATION MASSACRE.

who lost his life along with another detective, William Grooms; Otto Reed, chief of the McAlester, Ok., police, and Raymond J. Caffrey, a department of justice agent.

**Miller and Floyd Slain.**

And of the three men accused of the active participation in the massacre, only Richetti now lives. Verne C. Miller was the victim of a gangsters' "ride" a few months after the slayings. Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd was shot down by federal agents last fall near East Liverpool, O.

Three ballots were taken, said Lee Davis, the foreman, 3430 Cypress avenue. The first two were ten to two for conviction. All ballots were taken with death as the punishment.

The jury received the case at 4:44 o'clock yesterday afternoon. At 6 o'clock, Judge Cowan sent the jurors to dinner. They returned and resumed deliberations at 7:25.

Calloway said Richetti indicated at noon yesterday that he expected to be found guilty and, moreover, expected [illegible] to solve. If they'd had a [illegible] identification of Richetti and [illegible] the two would have been [illegible] much earlier. Instead the government waited one year and three months before filing charges against them.

**No "Bad Company" Charge.**

"Remember," he continued, "Richetti is not charged with being an associate of a bad man. He's charged with one crime. You must realize an associate of Floyd comes before you with two and one-half strikes called on him, as they say in baseball. He may have done things violating the laws of the country, but he's not on trial for those things now."

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"If any one of you has a doubt as to his man's guilt," he argued, "it's your duty to hang out. Any time the United States government indicts a man, it believes he is guilty. It desires only to put him in the penitentiary."

O'Hern, concluding for the state, seized upon the attacks on the government agents.

"I shall not be unmindful of the defendant, nor will I attack our governmen's and its department of justice," he began. "It will be a sad day if that body of men should crumple under the attacks of lawyers like Mr. Daleo. It would be a sad day if those brave, intelligent men can't face such hoodlums as Floyd, Miller and this defendant, Richetti."

O'Hern praised Mrs. West for standing her ground. He picked up the machine gun offered as an exhibit and showed it to the jury.

"Mrs West didn't duck," he said, "as the defense witnesses did. That picture will be imbedded in her memory until death. That is why she saw things in such detail."

O'Hern took up two automatic pistols and asked why the scene of men shooting into a group of helpless men wouldn't be fixed on anyone's memory.

**In a Dramatic Climax.**

"I know these defense counsel make light of men like Vetterli, Frank Smith, Mr. Lackey and the keen, intelligent, young man, Melvin Purvis, who is known nationally for tracking down criminals, but the state of Missouri points a cold finger at the heap of dead men on the station plaza and says, 'Gentlemen of the jury, this is murder in the first degree.'"

Death by hanging, life imprisonment or acquittal were the three alternatives Judge Cowan offered the jury in his instructions. Judge Cowan ruled that only first degree murder was to be considered by the jury. Following his instructions, closing arguments in the week-long case were begun by W. W. Graves, jr., county prosecutor.

**Firm in His Denial.**

Richetti, the last defense witness, was on the stand less than a minute. After being sworn in and giving the usual identification, Richetti was asked by his attorney, Ralph S. Latshaw.

(Continued on Second Page.)

## "A BENEFIT FOR ST. MARY'S."

**Building Fund Will Receive Proceeds of Carnival.**

A carnival sponsored by the St. Mary's hospital auxiliary will be held Saturday afternoon and night at the South Ridge Country Club, One Hundred and Tenth street and Grandview road. Proceeds will go into the building fund for the planned new St. Mary's hospital.

There will be a central tent, barkers, side shows, games of skill, pink lemonade, ice cream and balloons. Various attractions have been arranged, including monkeys, trained dogs and clowns.

A barbecue dinner at the clubhouse will be followed by entertainment and card games.

# RICHETTI TO DIE

(Continued from First Page.)

"Were you in Kansas City on June 17, 1933?"

"No, sir," Richetti replied firmly.

"Were you at the union station the morning of June 17, 1933?"

"No, sir," Richetti replied again.

"That's all," Latshaw said.

Richetti was not subjected to cross-examination by the state. Judge Cowan had ruled previously, basing his opinion on a decision of the state supreme court, that if only those questions were put to the companion gangster of Floyd, the state would not

MONTE-OLD SUITER, BLANCHES . . .

be permitted to cross-examine Richetti.

In beginning his arguments, Prosecutor Graves again read the instructions of Judge Cowan that it was not necessary to establish guilt, for Richetti to have fired the shot that killed Frank Hermanson, city detective; that if he were found to have been acting in concert with others, all were equally guilty of the shooting.

Graves then took up the trail of Richetti the day before the murder.

**Cites the Double Abduction.**

There was no question he was at Bolivar, Mo., with Pretty Boy Floyd, the killer and outlaw, and that they had machine guns and pistols to use

**HONOR SCIENCE EDITOR—(Wirephoto).**

Howard W. Blakeslee, science editor of the Associated Press, received a master of science degree yesterday from the University of Michigan.

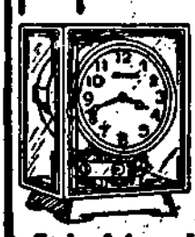
ruary 28, 1934, and had totals of $2,438.37, and $1,330.56.

Another was marked "C. V. Dillingham," with a slip dated May 2, 1933, $432.77, while one for Mrs. Cora Hartsell Smith had adding machine slips dated October 9, 1928; July 5, 1932, and January 5, 1933. It also included pencilled figures.

Records of Thomason's interests in the Lake Lotawana and Lake Tapawingo developments were revealed, including a warranty deed indicating that he owned twenty-five lots in Lake Tapawingo. There were deeds for lots in Blue Springs, all of which appared to be encumbered so that their value as assets could not be determined.

Twenty-seven shares of capital stock in the bank were found, two of them in Thomason's name and the others signed over to him by those to whom they were issued. There were also 200 shares in the Missouri-Wyoming Oil Company, apparently pur-

perpetual motion?



This clock will run a lifetime, without winding, oil or overhauling.

It is driven by temperature variations—requiring one thousandth the power of an ordinary clock.

Chrome Case.
9 inches high.

$225

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1017-19 Walnut-Kansas City, Mo.

TUBBABLE

Mother-Old Sister, Blanche . . .

be permitted to cross-examine Richetti.

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Graves then took up the trail of Richetti the day before the murder.

**Cites the Double Abduction.**

"There was no question he was at Bolivar, Mo., with Pretty Boy Floyd, the killer and outlaw, and that they had machine guns and pistols to use in any manner they found necessary," he said. "There is no question about the abduction of Sheriff Jack Killingsworth and Salesman Griffith, and that the two were brought to the Kansas City West Bottoms, where they were released that night.

"There is no question," Graves continued, "that the two immediately made contact with Verne C. Miller. The fingerprints on the beer bottle show Richetti was at Miller's home on Edgevale road that night."

Graves then reminded the jurors that Mrs. West identified Floyd as sitting at the Travelers' Aid desk in the union station lobby the next morning.

**"Two Saw Richetti There."**

"The defense is not going to deny Floyd was there, either," he said. "She saw Richetti there, a small man in a brown suit. She identified him as the man she saw shooting two pistols. Who is there to back her up?

"F. J. Lackey, government agent, who was shot four times and who was trapped in a car like a rat, said he saw Richetti twice, once over the hood of the motor car and once as Richetti walked by the car when the shooting ceased. There you have two positive identifications by reputable outstanding citizens.

"That's not all that cinches the identification. There is no question Verne C. Miller was there; that Pretty Boy Floyd was there, and the defense can't disprove those fingerprints of Adam Richetti found in Miller's home. When he drank beer in that house he sealed his doom."

## NO LIGHT ON THOMASON

(Continued from First Page.)

Notes were W. C. Porter, Thomas D. Pyatt and P. A. Lower.

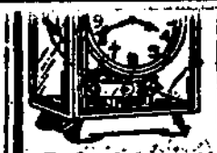
The only asset of apparent value was a note found in one of the boxes signed by H. L. Cater, contractor, in favor of the Blue Springs State Bank for $332.

**Figures Marked on Slip of Paper.**

Figures on a slip in an envelope marked "C. D. Lowe," showed a deposit of $60 on January 3, 1933, and calculations dated January 3, 1934, totaling $262.20 and $1,610.74. Another envelope marked "S. M. Johnson" had a single notation dated January 11, 1934, of $3,104. Still another marked "Mrs. Phoebe Carn," was dated Feb-

**NOTICE.**

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.
June 18, 1935. Vol. 96, No. 145.
The Kansas City Times (the morning Kansas City Star). The Kansas City Star every morning, evening and Sunday, thirteen times a week. Subscription rates, 15 cents a week delivered by carrier in Kansas City; by mail, postage prepaid, in Missouri and Kansas, 15 cents a week; elsewhere in the United States and island possessions, 25 cents a week; in foreign countries, 65 cents a week. Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at Kansas City, Mo., under the act of March 3, 1879. Publication office, Eighteenth street and Grand avenue.



without winding, oil or overhauling.

It is driven by temperature variations — requiring one thousandth the power of an ordinary clock.

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Mr. Quinn
Mr. Scheidt
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# GIVE RICHETTI DEATH PENALTY

## Gunman Is Convicted in Kansas City Massacre.

KANSAS CITY, June 17—(AP)—Adam Richetti, Oklahoma police character and friend of the late "Pretty Boy" Floyd, tonight was convicted of the murder of City Detective Frank Hermanson, one of five men killed in Union Station Plaza two years ago today as gunmen sought to release Frank Nash, re-captured federal convict.

His punishment was fixed at death.

**LAST SURVIVOR.**

Richetti, the government claimed, was the last survivor of a gangland trio which mowed down Nash and four of his captors two years ago today.

The other two, "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Verne C. Miller, are dead. Miller was found slain near Detroit several weeks after the station slayings and Floyd was killed by officers in Ohio last fall. Richetti, who was traveling with Floyd when the notorious Cookson Hills badman was killed, was captured and returned to Missouri for trial in another murder, of which he was later exonerated. He was then brought here for trial in the station case.

**GRINS AT JUDGE.**

Four officers and Nash were killed in the murderous onslaught of three machine gunners early in the morning of June 17, 1933.

Richetti was also under indictment for the murders of City Detective William Grooms, department of Justice Agent A. Raymond Caffrey and Otto Reed, chief of police of McAlester, Okla.

Richetti grinned at Judge Cowan as Lee Davis, jury foreman, read the verdict. The judge smiled.

62-28915-14

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL

JUNE 18, 1935

NEW YORK SUN, TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1935.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# KANSAS CITY GANG MEMBER TO HANG

## Convicted of Share in Union Station Massacre.

KANSAS CITY, June 18 (U. P.). —Adam Richetti, only surviving member of the gang that killed five men in the Union Station massacre, must hang.

A Criminal Courts jury so ruled last night, after 2 hours and 11 minutes of deliberation. The gang killed three policemen, a Federal agent, and Frank Nash, a Federal prisoner whom it was attempting to free, with machine guns.

Other members of the gang are dead. Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd, outlaw of Oklahoma's Cookson hills who became the nation's public enemy No. 1, was slain in Ohio a year ago by Federal agents.

Verne C. Miller, North Dakota Deputy Sheriff who turned outlaw, was slain by gangsters who tossed his body into a ditch near Detroit. Richetti, Floyd's lieutenant, surrendered and was brought to trial.

His conviction culminated a two-year effort of Federal and Kansas City officers to track down the killers. Ballistic and fingerprint experts read the clues which linked Floyd, Miller and Richetti to the massacre.

Richetti helped to convict himself when he drank beer in a Kansas City house rented by Miller before the bungled attempt to liberate Nash. He left his fingerprints on the bottles he drank from, and those prints, coupled with two positive identifications, were the most damaging evidence submitted by the State.

Richetti was awakened from a sound sleep and brought to the court room to hear the verdict. He grinned at Judge Ray G. Cowan. In the elevator taking him back to jail he said to a guard:

"That was a hell of a thing to wake a man up for."

115-17

# Surviving Gangster Is Found Guilty on Crime's Anniversary

## Defense Given 10 Days to Move for New Trial; Denial Will Bring Date for Execution

By United Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—The four officers slain in the Union Station massacre, a crime which shocked the nation, were completely avenged today.

Adam Richetti, only surviving member of the gang of killers whose machine guns cut down Frank Nash, Federal prisoner whom they sought to free, and the officers escorting him, faced death by hanging for his part in the massacre.

A criminal courts jury found him guilty last night after two hours and [illegible] minutes of deliberation, in which only three ballots were taken. The verdict was returned on the second anniversary of the crime.

The other members of the gang are dead. Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd was slain in Ohio a year ago when he refused to surrender to Federal agents led by Melvin Purvis.

Verne C. Miller, North Dakota deputy sheriff who turned outlaw, was slain by gangsters who tossed his body into a ditch near Detroit.

Richetti, Floyd's lieutenant, surrendered and was brought to trial here on a murder charge in connection with the slaying of Kansas City Detective Frank Hermanson, one of the four officers guarding Nash.

The trial culminated a two-year effort of Federal and Kansas City officers to track down the killers. Ballistic and fingerprint experts read the clues which definitely linked Floyd, Miller and Richetti to the massacre.

Richetti helped to convict himself when he drank beer in a Kansas City house rented by Miller before the bungled attempt to liberate Nash. He left fingerprints on the bottles he drank from, and those prints, coupled with two positive identifications, were the most [illegible] evidence submitted by the state at the trial.

Mrs. Lottie Wolf, employe of the Travelers' Aid Society at the Union Station, and Francis [illegible], Justice Department officer, positively identified Richetti as one of the three killers.

Richetti testified briefly, declaring he was not in Kansas City at the time of the massacre. Ralph S. Latshaw, his attorney, described the charges against Richetti as "a save-your-face case for the Justice Department."

"If they'd had a positive identification of Floyd and Richetti they would have filed on them much earlier. Instead they waited one year and three months."

Then, he said, the case was brought in state instead of Federal court.

Richetti was awakened from a sound sleep and brought to the court room to hear the verdict. He grinned at Judge Ray G. Cowan when it was read, then, seeming to grasp the verdict's significance, looked about him dazedly.

62-28915-11

WASH. NEWS

JUN 18 1935

Es

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1935.

# Adams Richetti Convicted In Kansas City Massacre

## 'Pretty Boy' Floyd's Aid Found Guilty on Anniversary

KANSAS CITY, June 17 (AP).—Adam Richetti, former running mate of the late Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd, was convicted tonight of the murder of City Detective Frank Hermanson, one of the five men killed in Union Station Plaza two years ago today as gunmen sought to release Frank Nash, recaptured Federal convict. The jury recommended that he be hanged.

The sharp-faced, hard-drinking Richetti denied curtly on the stand that he was one of the three gunmen involved, or that he was in Kansas City at the time of the shootings. Government witnesses said he was there with Floyd and Verne C. Miller, a former South Dakota Sheriff who turned gangster. The trio was branded as the machine gun slayers soon after the mass murder.

Before the law could catch up with Miller, gangster enemies killed him near Detroit. The government chase was threatening them, too. Then officers concentrated on Floyd. They finally tracked him down near East Liverpool, Ohio, but he fled and was shot to death.

Richetti had been arrested the day before in an officer's trap which Floyd escaped. He readily admitted he was Floyd's associate and had been in Kansas City the night before the Union Station slayings. But he insisted he was "dead drunk" when he arrived.

Nash, an escaped convict, had been arrested in Hot Springs, Ark. He was being transferred from train to motor car for the rest of the journey to Leavenworth Federal penitentiary when mowed down accidentally in the blast of fire which killed his captors.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Herbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Chief Clerk

# RICCHETTI TO HANG

Wash Herald 6/18/35

## Convicted in Gang Massacre

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 17 (U.P.).—A criminal courts jury tonight found Adam Ricchetti guilty of participating in the Union Station massacre two years ago today and decreed that he must die on the gallows.

His counsel, Ralph Latshaw, made a routine motion for a new trial and District Judge Ray G. Cowan allowed him 10 days in which to prepare the motion. If the motion is denied, the date for Ricchetti's execution will then be set by Judge Cowan.

62-28915-A

Washington Herald 6/18/35

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62-28915-A

ES

# Adam Richetti Is Found Guilty In Massacre

## Jury Recommends Hanging for Former Aid of Pretty Boy Floyd.

By the Associated Press.

Kansas City, June 17.—Adam Richetti, former running mate of the late "Pretty Boy" Floyd, was convicted tonight of the murder of City Detective Frank Hermanson, one of the five men killed in Union Station Plaza two years ago today as gunmen sought to release Frank Nash, recaptured Federal convict. The jury recommended that he be hanged.

The sharp-faced, hard-drinking Richetti denied curtly on the witness stand that he was one of the three gunmen involved, or that he was in Kansas City at the time of the shootings.

Richetti grinned at Court Judge Ray Cowan as Lee Davis, jury foreman, read the verdict. The judge smiled.

### Makes No Comment.

Hurried from his jail cell to hear the verdict, which was returned after 8 hours and 11 minutes of deliberation, Richetti did not speak either before or after the verdict. He was returned immediately to his cell.

Davis said the jury took but three ballots, the first being ten to two for conviction and death, and the last being unanimously for death.

Government witnesses said Richetti was with Floyd and Verne C. Miller, a former South Dakota sheriff who turned gangster. Before the law could catch up with Miller, gangster enemies killed him near Detroit. Then officers concentrated on Floyd, finally tracking him down near East Liverpool, Ohio, but he fled and was shot to death.

### Claimed He Was Drunk.

Richetti had been arrested the day before in an officer's trap which Floyd escaped. He readily admitted he was Floyd's associate and had been in Kansas City the night before the Union Station slayings. But he insisted he "was dead drunk" when he arrived.

Nash, an escaped convict, had been arrested in Hot Springs, Ark. He was being transferred from train to motor car for the rest of the journey to Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary when mowed down accidentally in the blast of fire which killed his captors.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Laughman
Chief Clerk

62-28915-12

WASH. POST

JUN 18 1935

MONDAY, JULY 8, 1935. KANSAS CITY JOURNAL-POST.

# RICCHETTI HURT IN DIVE FROM BUNK IN CELL

## But Convicted Murderer Denies That He Tried Suicide.

### HIS INJURY IS SLIGHT

### Slayer Also Reported to Have Butted Head Against Bars.

Adam Ricchetti, under sentence of death for the murder of Frank Hermanson, city detective, in the Union station massacre, apparently attempted suicide in his cell at the county jail about 3 o'clock Monday morning, when he plunged headlong from his bunk to the concrete floor, about two feet.

Deputies on duty at the jail at first denied Ricchetti had attempted suicide. They had orders from Sheriff Thomas B. Bash, they said, to say that Ricchetti was suffering from a stomach disorder and that it was for that reason the jail physician, Dr. E. A. Greaves, and a physician from the general hospital were called to attend the prisoner.

Pending arrival of the two physicians at the jail, Ricchetti was taken from the cell in which he has been confined since a Jackson county jury found him guilty of Hermanson's murder, and was transferred to a padded cell.

When the physicians arrived it was discovered that Ricchetti had suffered only a slight cut of the scalp. He denied to the physicians that he had attempted suicide. He said he had suffered from the intense heat Sunday and that an attack of indigestion followed. The physicians gave him an emetic and he was returned to his own cell on the eleventh floor of the courthouse.

Jail attaches expressed the opinion that Ricchetti had no intention of taking his life, but had sought to injure himself so he would be taken to the general hospital, in the belief that he would have a better chance to escape from custody.

It was reported that after his plunge from the cell bunk to the concrete floor, Ricchetti had butted his head against the cell bars, but this could not be confirmed.

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Mr. Harbo
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Scheidt
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

715-B

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
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Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Herbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Scheidt .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

# Tries Suicide

[Associated Press Photo]

Adam Richetti, the tough Ozark bad man who ran with Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd until Floyd was shot to death in Ohio, lost his nerve Monday and tried suicide. Richetti is under sentence to hang for his part in the Kansas City station massacre in which four officers and a prisoner were killed. Richetti, held in the death row in the Kansas City county jail, climbed to the top of his bunk and leaped head first to the concrete floor. Dazed but able to get to his feet, he then beat his head against the bars of his cell. Guards heard the commotion, rushed in and restrained him. His injuries were not serious.

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
JULY 8, 1935

THE DENVER POST
Denver, Colo.
July 8, 1935

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
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Mr. Egan
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Mr. Quinn
Mr. Scheidt
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# ADAM RICHETTI TRIES TO KILL SELF IN JAIL

Kansas City, Mo., July 8.—Adam Richetti, the tough Ozark bad man who ran with Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd until he was shot to death in Ohio, lost his nerve Monday and tried to commit suicide.

Richetti is under sentence to hang for his part in the union station massacre in which four officers and a prisoner were killed.

Richetti, held in the death row in the county jail, climbed to the top of his bunk and leaped head first to the concrete floor. Dazed but able to get to his feet, he then beat his head against the bars of his cell. Guards restrained him.

62-18915-N

Bur

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Scheidt .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

# RICHETTI, UNDER DEATH SENTENCE, ATTEMPTS TO DIE

Kansas City, Mo., July 8.—(UP)—Adam Richetti, the tough Ozarks badman who ran with Charles ("Pretty Boy") Floyd until he was shot to death in Ohio, tried suicide today.

Richetti is under sentence to hang for his part in the union station massacre in which four officers and a prisoner were killed.

Richetti, held in the death row in the county jail, climbed to the top of his bunk and leaped head first to the concrete floor. Dazed, but able to get to his feet, he then beat his head against the bars of his cell.

Guards heard the commotion, rushed in and restrained him. His injuries were not serious, doctors said, and he was not removed from the death cell.

Richetti, who teamed up with Floyd in the last years of that gangster's life, surrendered without a fight when he and Floyd were surprised by officers near East Liverpool, O., last fall. Floyd escaped but the next day was killed by federal agents.

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

July 8, 1935

Mr. Nathan
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Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# RICHETTI TRIES SUICIDE

**"Pretty Boy" Floyd's Aid Leaps Head First to Concrete Cell Floor.**

*By the United Press.*

KANSAS CITY, July 8. — Adam Richetti, companion-in-arms of the late "Pretty Boy" Floyd, today climbed to the top of his bunk in a death row cell in county jail and leaped head first to the concrete floor. Dazed, but able to get to his feet, he then beat his head against the bars in a suicide attempt.

Guards heard the commotion and rushed in and restrained him. His injuries were not serious.

NEW YORK TIMES

JUL 8 1935

62-28915-10

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Scheidt .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

## Headache

Adam Richetti, the tough Ozark bad man who ran with Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd until he was shot to death in Ohio, lost his nerve today and tried suicide in Kansas City, Mo. Richetti is under sentence to hang for his part in the Union Station massacre in which four officers and a prisoner were killed. Held in the death row in the county jail, he climbed to the top of his bunk and leaped head first to the concrete floor. Dazed but able to get to his feet, he then beat his head against the ~~bars of~~ his cell. Guards heard the commotion, rushed in and restrained him.

62-28915-A

WASH. NEWS

JUL 8 1935

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Scheidt
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tolam
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

KANSAS CITY, MO.--ADAM RICHETTI TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO COMMIT SUICIDE TODAY.
J 7/8--N1119A

Read to Mr. T.

62-38915 A

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schoeldt .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Mr. Candy .....

When a man wants to die, it is sometimes difficult. Adam Richetti, companion of "Pretty Boy" Floyd, the late gunman, is awaiting execution in Kansas City. Unwilling to wait, he climbed to the top of his bunk, dived head first, striking his head on the concrete floor. The skull did not break. Then he ran his head, full force, against the iron bars ~~of the~~ cell. Again, failure. Guards heard, and restrained him.

WASH HERALD

JUL 9 1935

62- 28915 A

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Scheidt
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Candy

The Evening Star

Washington, D. C.

July 9, 1935.

# KILLER TRIES SUICIDE

**Convicted "Pretty Boy" Floyd Gangster Batters Head.**

KANSAS CITY, July 9 (AP).—Adam Richetti, condemned former partner of "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Southwestern desperado, was confined in a padded cell for a short time yesterday after he had injured himself slightly in the Jackson County Jail, where he is awaiting execution.

Richetti, convicted of murder in the slaying of five men at the Union Station plaza here two years ago, battered his head against the floor and cell bars, inflicting wounds. He told a physician he had been suffering from a stomach ailment.

62-28915-A

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
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Mr. Keith
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Mr. Quinn
Mr. Scheidt
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

THE KANSAS CITY STAR JULY 9, 1935.

## RICHETTI IN A TANTRUM.

**Gangster Convicted in Massacre Case Injures Himself in Cell.**

Adam Richetti, condemned to die for participation in the union station massacre, disturbed the section of the county jail in which his cell is by falling from his bunk to the concrete floor several times at 3 o'clock this morning, and by battering his head against the floor and the cell bars.

Restrained by deputy sheriffs, Richetti was removed to a padded cell, and a physician examined him and reported that his head lacerations were not severe. Richetti told the doctor and the deputies he had been suffering from a stomach ache. Later he was returned to his proper cell.

62-27915-N

The Washington News
July 19, 1935.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Scheidt
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

## SO THEY SAY

IF THERE is a word which has been ridden to death today, it is the word "plan." I have seen nothing of planning by any foreign country which would lead me to think it is a universal panacea.—Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin.

• • •

THERE is no more reason for unemployed men in this country at this time than there is for ice bergs in Arizona.—Frank C. Clark, national commander, the Crusaders.

• • •

THAT was a hell of a thing to wake a man up for.—Adam Richetti, after being brought from his cell in Kansas City to be sentenced to death for participation in Union Station massacre.

• • •

MUSIC will some day rival football in popularity among the American people.—Jascha Heifetz, famed violinist.

62-28915-A

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Scheidt
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Massacre Widow Is Voted $5,000

WASHINGTON, July 29.—(AP)—The Senate today passed a House bill authorizing payment of $5,000 to the widow of Olin H. Reed of McAlester, Okla., slain at Kansas City June 17, 1933, while assisting federal officers in effort to arrest Frank Nash, gang leader. Nash and several officers also were killed by gangsters attempting to free Nash.

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER
July 30, 1935

62-28715-10

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

# Rule Richetti Must Hang

Kansas City, Mo. - (AP) - Adam Richetti, convicted in the Union station slayings June 17, 1933, and pal of the late Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, was a step nearer the gallows Monday after Judge Ray G. Cowan denied his motion for a new trial.

Judge Cowan set Oct. 4 as the date for his execution, although this appeared to be only a formality in view of the time necessary for Richetti's appeal to higher courts.

Richetti, weazel faced Oklahoma bandit captured when Floyd was making his last stand against federal authorities in Ohio, was convicted for the murder of Frank Hermanson, city detective, one of four officers mowed down in the Union station massacre that also took the life of Frank Nash, gunman-convict.

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
AUGUST 19, 1935

62-90915-4

PITTSBURGH PRESS August 20, 1935

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

# PRETTY BOY'S PAL SENTENCED TO HANG

## Ricchetti to Pay With Life For Massacre

*By The United Press*

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 20—Adam Richetti, who wielded a machine gun in the Union Station massacre two years ago as a favor to fellow gangsters, was sentenced today to be hanged on Oct. 4.

The swarthy, former oil field worker, was convicted last June for the murder of Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detective and one of the four officers slain in gangdom's abortive attempt to free Frank Nash, a recaptured convict. Nash was killed.

Richetti went into the massacre with his chief, the late Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd, a diminutive killer, and tall, blond Verne Miller, the "mad dog" renegade sheriff.

Sentencing of Richetti closed the government's drive to punish all persons involved in the hasty plot to gain Nash's freedom.

Richetti was captured near Willsville, O., last year when peace officers flushed Floyd and him out of a camp site. Floyd was killed the next day.

KRM

62-29715-X

Mr. Nathan ✓
Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn ✓
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Miss Gandy

# Ricchetti Goes To Gallows October 4

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 20. The Government today had cleaned its slate in the Union Station massacre here two years ago in which a Federal agent was slain by bandits in an attempt to free Frank Nash, Western desperado.

Adam Ricchetti, who used a machine gun in the massacre, was sentenced to death yesterday. He is scheduled to walk to the gallows October 4.

Other bandits participating in the massacre have either been arrested or shot to death in battles with Government agents. Leader of the mob, "Pretty Boy" Floyd, lost his life ~~several~~ months ago in a gun battle with police.

WASH. TIMES

AUG 20 1935

62-28915-A

6 E.

Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schmidt ✓
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

## *Richetti Hanging Is Set for Oct. 4; Appeal Planned*

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 19.—(AP)—Denied a new trial, Adam Richetti was sentenced today to be hanged Oct. 4 for the murder of Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detective, in the Union station slayings June 17, 1933, when four officers and Frank Nash, convicted bank robber, were killed by Nash's would-be rescuers. Richetti's appeal, however, was expected to prevent execution on that date.

KRM

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE
8-20-35

12-28915-A

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

N. Y. HERALD-TRIBUNE
Forwarded by New York Office

AUG 20 1935

## Kansas City Gangster Must Die

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 19 (UP).—Adam Richetti must die on the gallows October 4 for his part in the Union Station massacre here. The swarthy confederate of the late Charles ("Pretty Boy") Floyd was sentenced formally today by Judge Jay G. Cowan after he overruled a motion by the gangster's lawyers for a new trial.

62-28915-A

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
AUGUST 20, 1935

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

# Richetti to Hang Oct. 4 for Part in Gang Slayings

By United Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Adam Richetti was under sentence today to be hanged Oct. 4. He was convicted in June for the murder of Frank Hermanson, one of four officers slain in Kangdom's attempt to free a recaptured convict.

Sentencing of Richetti closed the Government's drive to punish all persons involved in the hasty "break" plot. Judge Ray G. Cowan of the Circuit Court pronounced sentence after overruling a motion for a new trial.

62-28915-A

THE WASHINGTON HERALD
AUGUST 20, 1935

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
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Mr. Egan
Mr. Fenwerth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Scheidt
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Ricchetti to Hang For Gang Slaying

Wash Herald 8/20/35

## *October 4 Set as End for "Pretty Boy's" Massacre Pal*

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 19 (U.P.).—Adam Ricchetti, who used a machine gun in the union station massacre two years ago as a favor to fellow gangsters, was sentenced today to be hanged October 4. He was convicted last June for the murder of Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detective and one of the four officers slain in an attempt to free Frank Nash, a recaptured convict. Nash was killed.

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62-28915-A

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WASH. HERALD

AUG 20 1935

62-28915-A

# LA CAPRA IS SLAIN

**Body of Former Kansas City Gangster Found on New York Highway.**

## SHOT THROUGH THE HEAD

**Identification Is Established by Fingerprint Records of Department of Justice.**

## IN FLIGHT SINCE SPRING

**Participants in Union Station Massacre Named by Him Before Federal Grand Jury.**

*(By The Star's Own Service.)*

NEW YORK, Aug. 20.—Michael LaCapra's long fight from the savage death promised him by Kansas City's underworld is ended.

His body, a bullet wound through the head, was found last night near Plattekill, N. Y. He had been dumped by his assassins along the Clintondale-Highland highway, sixty miles north of New York City.

**First Believed a Car Victim.**

Identification came tonight after fingerprints of the dead man were checked by the department of justice records in Washington, and discovered to be those of LaCapra. An earlier identification was slowed by the original belief the man was the victim of a hit-and-run driver.

The Associated Press reported that Dr. Joseph Jacobson of Kingston performed an autopsy which disclosed the man had been shot at the base of the skull, the bullet emerging near his forehead. Cleon Murray of Ellenville, district attorney, said:

"It looks like a gangsters' job."

**Slain Elsewhere a Theory.**

Sergt. John Lockhard said his belief was that the man was slain somewhere outside Ulster County, where he was found, and then dumped along the roadside by his assassins.

LaCapra had been in flight from Kansas City since last spring. He had given sensational testimony before a federal grand jury in the Missouri city, naming the participants in the union station massacre. Many Kansas City associates of the late John Lazia, North Side Democratic leader, were incriminated in the station murders by LaCapra.

## A LIFE LINKED WITH CRIME.

**LaCapra Dreamed of Himself as Head of Racketeering Kingdom.**

**LaCapra's Name Ordered Removed From Police Records.**

On June 7, 1927, the identification records of the Kansas City police department underwent a change. A note said:

"Remove and destroy all records, photographs, fingerprints, etc., of Michael J. LaCapra."

The record was signed as approved by L. R. Toyne, acting chief of police.

ter described him simply as "hoodlum."

Michael LaCapra was a little man, 37 years old, gray at the temples, fond of pin-striped suits, dangling gold watch chains, and discussions conducted along exact lines. Three times within the last twelve months he faced the reprisal death he realized had been apportioned him. He escaped twice. In the East, through sixteen weeks, he had slipped along. The killers caught him finally, did the typical act. They shot him through the head, dumped his lifeless body beside a road.

**From School to Streets.**

Of the three phases of his life, the first two may be passed quickly. He came from Italian parentage, obtained a grammar school education, drifted onto the streets and into gymnasiums. He was forward and scheming. In his middle 20s he decided the path to fortune was managing prizefighters, promoting an occasional match. He never discovered a top flight boxer. The best was Blas Rodriguez, a fly weight and bantamweight. LaCapra knew there was not much money in those low brackets, even for championship bouts.

The second phase might be told more adequately had LaCapra not gained political influence. He was achieving a police record of a kind. He was associated with shady politicians. He was a friend of Johnny Lazia, riding toward political power and gangster prestige in the North Side. LaCapra, to use his words, put in the "wedge."

**Known as Narcotic Peddler.**

LaCapra, officers remembered, was arrested several times as a narcotic peddler. He was out of town for a while. The next record the police entered against him was for flourishing a deadly weapon. LaCapra did that occasionally. He did it in drink. Some men said he did it when he used narcotics. Others swear LaCapra never used narcotics. The latter point to the fact that when he was examined last year in jail, there was no evidence of needle perforation scars, no

# LA CAPRA IS SLAIN

(Continued from First Page.)

death by Sheriff Tom Bash following a "spot" murder in front of the Steuben Club on Armour boulevard, had been present and had told him.

LaCapra told the government and a federal grand jury these things:

Verne C. Miller approached Lazia, seeking aid to deliver Frank Nash from the officers on the night before the station slayings.

**Suggested Floyd and Richetti.**

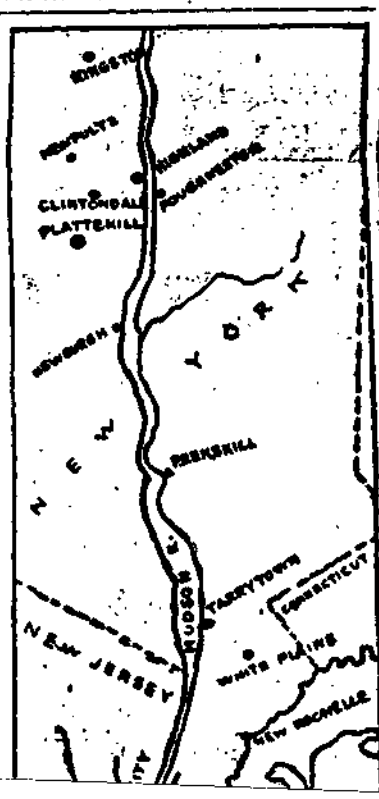
Lazia refused to allow any of his men to take part, suggested he get Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd and Adam Richetti, who just had arrived in town. Miller agreed.

In the massacre, Miller approached the federal agents' car and demanded Nash. W. J. Grooms, a Kansas City detective, opened fire. One of his bullets struck Floyd. Floyd and Miller, armed with machine guns, raked the car and the nearby officers. Richetti was armed with automatic pistols. Four officers and Nash were killed.

That night Miller walked down Baltimore avenue seeking Lazia. He found him later at the Harvey House at the station. He asked for protection so that Floyd and Richetti could leave town. An escort of North Side gunmen formed and Lazia announced loudly they should offer every protection. *Sotto voce*, with the killers out of earshot, Lazia instructed his men to take no chances.

**Knew His Fate.**

Floyd and Miller now are dead. Richetti has been convicted and sen-



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## A LIFE LINKED WITH CRIME.

### LaCapra Dreamed of Himself as Head of Racketeering Kingdom.

Michael James LaCapra, known also as Jimmy Needles and Jimmy Kansas, dealt in many things. He sold narcotics. He trained and managed prizefighters. He indulged

Michael LaCapra....Shot to Death on a New York Highway.

[illegible] pistol-waving maneuvers in [illegible]

tained a grammar school education, drifted onto the streets and into gymn[illegible]ns. He was forward and schem[illegible]g. In his middle 20s he decided the path to fortune was managing prizefighters, promoting an occasional match. He never discovered a top flight boxer. The best was Blas Rodrigues, a fly weight and bantamweight. LaCapra knew there was not much money in those low brackets, even for championship bouts.

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The third phase of his life began June 17, 1933. It was on that day that the union station massacre occurred. LaCapra, at the time, was not present. He was along Twelfth street, frequenting speakeasies and restaurants. Nothing came of his pursuits on that day until more than a year later.

A Friend of Lazia.

Lazia had been his friend. One early morning in July, 1934, Lazia was slain as he entered the Park Central hotel on Armour boulevard. Shortly thereafter, Jack Gregory was shot in an attempted "spot" killing. He recovered. He was released from the hospital, bound over on a robbery charge, and North Side men signed his $10,000 bond. He has not been seen since. Even members of the United States department of justice believe him dead.

His was not the first death, officers believed, in reprisals for Lazia's slaying. The word came that LaCapra had sought to take over Lazia's power, that he found men willing to aid him. Missing beside Gregory were two other men, Al O'Brien, a Gregory associate, and an Italian night club operator, known as "Little Nugie."

A Battle on North Side.

Less than a month after Lazia's death, LaCapra engaged in a revolver duel with pursuers on Independence avenue. He escaped. He left the city for Argonia, Kas. Near there, August 30, 1934, three Kansas City hoodlums drove up beside the wayfarer's motor car, fired a blast of shotgun shells at LaCapra. Buckshot struck him in the neck and arms. In a short time, he became the ward of the department of justice.

LaCapra began talking. He spoke of the night of June 16, 1933, and the following morning. His memory was exact. He told of the events leading up to the union station massacre, the [illegible], the subsequent meeting of

at the station. He asked for protection so that Floyd and Richetti could leave town [illegible] escort of North Side gunmen [illegible]d and Lazia announced loudly they should offer every protection. Sotto voce, with the killers out of earshot, Lazia instructed his men to take no chances.

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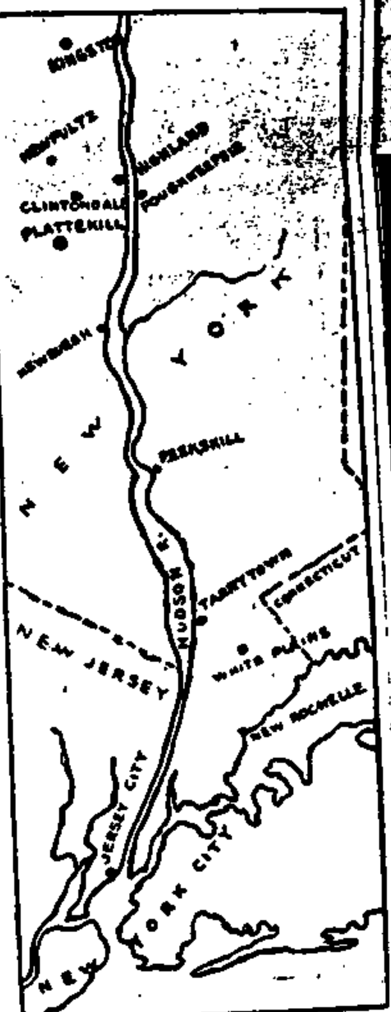


Where LaCapra Met Death ....Map of the Scene Related to Contiguous Territory.

tenced to hang for his part of the massacre. LaCapra, after a few weeks, was freed. He knew, and the whole town knew, that death was treading at his heels.

He came back to the city last February. He had been in the government hospital in Excelsior Springs, and shortly after his arrival, he began his pistol-waving, his threats of violence. Police forced him out of an apartment at 619 West Eleventh street, where he had barricaded himself. Not many weeks later, he moved East.

He spent some time in Washington. He was frequenting small boarding houses. He knew he was being pursued. He moved up and down the Atlantic seaboard. He sought sanctuary in towns he would have laughed at two years ago. He appeared only to eat. He spent most of his time in his bedroom.

They finally lured him out. It was the third time. They shot him through the back of the head. In one of his last letters here, he said:

"I'm getting awfully gray-headed."

the man had been shot at the base of the skull, the bullet emerging near his forehead. Cleon Murray of Ellenville, district attorney, said:

"It looks like a gangsters' job."

**Slain Elsewhere a Theory.**

Sergt. John Lockhard said his belief was that the man was slain somewhere outside Ulster County, where he was found, and then dumped along the roadside by his assassins.

LaCapra had been in flight from Kansas City since last spring. He had given sensational testimony before a federal grand jury in the Missouri city, naming the participants in the union station massacre. Many Kansas City associates of the late John Lazia, North Side Democratic leader, were incriminated in the station murders by LaCapra.

## A LIFE LINKED WITH CRIME.

**LaCapra Drowned of Himself as Head of Racketeering Kingdom.**

Michael James LaCapra, known also as Jimmy Hayden and Jimmy Kansas, dealt in many things. He sold narcotics. He trained and managed prizefighters. He indulged in pistol-waving maneuvers in saloons and on street corners. He talked exuberantly, none too wisely. He dreamed of his own little empire, a Utopian racketeering system with himself as head man. He loved Kansas City's Twelfth street, yet he spent the last year of his life either in jail or skulking in small rooming houses, dodging the violent death that was inevitable. The police history

MICHAEL LACAPRA....SHOT TO DEATH ON A NEW YORK HIGHWAY.

The second phase might be told more adequately had LaCapra not gained po[illegible] influence. He was achieving a police record of a kind. He was associated with shady politicians. He was a friend of Johnny Lazia, riding toward political power and gangster prestige in the North Side. LaCapra, to use his words, put in the "wedge."

**Known as Narcotic Peddler.**

LaCapra, officers remembered, was arrested several times as a narcotic peddler. He was out of town for a while. The next record the police entered against him was for flourishing a deadly weapon. LaCapra did that occasionally. He did it in drink. Some men said he did it when he used narcotics. Others never LaCapra never used narcotics. The latter point to the fact that when he was remanded last year to jail, there was no evidence of needle punctures over his evidence, after long examination, of that narcotics and nerve disorder that follows the experiences of addicts from the use.

The third phase of his life began June 17, 1933. It was on that day that the union station massacre occurred. LaCapra, at the time, was not present. He was along Twelfth street, frequenting speakeasies and restaurants. Stalked more of his pursuits on that day until more than a year later.

**A Friend of Lazia.**

Lazia had been his friend. One early morning in July, 1934, Lazia was slain as he entered the Park Central hotel on Armour boulevard. Shortly thereafter, Jack Gregory was shot in an attempted "spot" killing. He recovered. He was released from the hospital, turned over on a robbery charge, and North Side men signed his $10,000 bond. He has not been seen since. Even members of the United States department of justice believe him dead.

His was not the first death, officers believed, in reprisals for Lazia's slaying. The word came that LaCapra had sought to take over Lazia's power, that he found men willing to aid him. Missing beside Gregory were two other men, Al O'Brien, a Gregory associate, and an Italian night club operator, known as "Little Nugie."

**A Battle on North Side.**

Less than a month after Lazia's death, LaCapra engaged in a revolver duel with pursuers on Independence avenue. He escaped. He left the city for Argonia, Kas. Near there, August 30, 1934, three Kansas City hoodlums drove up beside the wayfarer's motor car, fired a blast of shotgun shells at LaCapra. Buckshot struck him in the neck and arms. In a short time, he became the ward of the department of justice.

LaCapra began talking. He spoke of the night of June 16, 1933, and the following morning. His memory was exact. He told of the events leading up to the union station massacre, the massacre, the subsequent meeting of the killers in the North Side, the words that passed there. He knew, LaCapra said, because his brother-in-law, Sammy Scola, later shot to

(Continued on Second Page.)

WHERE LACAPRA MET DEATH ....MAP OF THE SCENE RELATED TO CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY.

tenced to hang for his part of the massacre. LaCapra, after a few weeks, was freed. He knew, and the whole town knew, that death was treading at his heels.

He came back to the city last February. He had been in the government hospital in Excelsior Springs, and shortly after his arrival, he began his pistol-waving, his threats and violence. Police forced him out of an apartment at 819 West Eleventh street, where he had barricaded himself. Not many weeks later, he moved East.

He spent some time in Washington. He was frequenting small boarding houses. He knew he was being pursued. He moved up and down the Atlantic seaboard, [illegible] sought sanatoria in which [illegible] have hospitalized at two [illegible] appeared only to sink [illegible] of his mind to his [illegible] [illegible]

THE KANSAS CITY TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1935.

## LA CAPRA'S LAST RECEPTION IN KANSAS CITY.

Police bullets scarred this wall the night of last February 2, when the officers fought Michael LaCapra at 519 West Eleventh street. Police fired more than thirty shots at the rooms on the second floor where LaCapra was concealed. Circles surround the bullet marks. The body of LaCapra, a bullet hole through his head, was found Monday morning on a highway in New York.

KANSAS CITY, MO.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 21 1935
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ROUTED TO
FILE

62-28415-N

# GANG'S HAND SEEN IN UPSTATE KILLING

## La Capra Slain for Squealing in Kansas City Massacre, Say Police

*Special Dispatch to New York Post*

NEW PALTZ, N. Y., Aug. 21.—The police decided today that Michael James LaCapra, alis James Kennedy, who was found murdered near here Monday, was killed by gangsters because he squealed.

They suspected he had been taken for a ride when his body was found on a road and identified by fingerprints as a man twice arrested in New York City.

Suspicion became certainty today when Kansas City authorities informed them La Capra was the Government's star witness in the trial of Adam Richetti, under sentence of death for participating in the Union Station massacre at Kansas City on June 17, 1933.

**A Dapper Gunman**

La Capra, a dapper gunman, who had gone to Kansas City from New York, testified that Verne C. Miller, the machine gunner, who was murdered after the massacre, went to his friend, John Lazia, a Kansas City politician, for help in liberating Frank Nash, a Federal prisoner. Lazia, La Capra testified, refused to help Miller, but sent him to see Pretty Boy Floyd and Richetti, who were hiding in Kansas City.

The result of that alliance was the attack on the officers as they left the station with Nash. Four officers and Nash were killed.

**Richetti Convicted**

At Richetti's trial La Capra testified that Miller, Floyd and Richetti manned the machine guns which mowed the officers down. Richetti was found guilty, and was sentenced to death.

His former friends private passed a death sentence on La Capra. Two attempts were made to assassinate him, and he left Kansas City. But on Monday, his executioners apparently caught up with him.

When La Capra's body was found it was believed he had been struck by an automobile, but examination showed he had been shot and probably run over after he was tossed from the murder car.

Last night, La Capra was identified through the New York City Bureau of Criminal Identification.

He was arrested twice in 1932 for sale of narcotics and for carrying a gun. He beat the first charge on lack of evidence, and was given a suspended sentence on the other.

NEW YORK POST
Forwarded by New York Office

AUG 21 1935

62-28915-A

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WCNS169

ADD LACAPRA

SUSPECTING LACAPRA WAS KILLED BY GANGSTERS IN REPRISAL FOR HIS TIPS, CUMMINGS SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS INVESTIGATING HIS DEATH.

CUMMINGS DISCLOSED THAT LACAPRA VISITED THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND GAVE AGENTS INFORMATION ABOUT THE MASSACRE IN WHICH FOUR OFFICERS AND A PRISONER WERE KILLED IN JUNE, 1933. HE ALSO PROVIDED TIPS ON OTHER UNDISCLOSED MATTERS.

LATER HE GOT IN TOUCH WITH JUSTICE OFFICIALS AND SOUGHT TO DO ADDITIONAL WORK FOR THEM.

THIS OFFER WAS NOT ACCEPTED. BUT BECAUSE OF THE INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY GIVEN, LACAPRA WAS PAID AN UNDISCLOSED SUM TO ENABLE HIM TO GO SOMEWHERE AND MAKE A NEW START. THE NEXT HEARD OF HIM WAS WHEN HIS BODY WAS FOUND BY THE NEW YORK STATE ROADSIDE.

6/22--HAAAP

62-28915-A

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Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schmidt ✓
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

THE MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL

AUGUST 22, 1935

# Identify Murder Victim as 'Squealer'

Chicago Tribune Dispatch

New York, Aug. 22.—Fingerprints today definitely identified Jimmy Lacapra, also known as Jimmy Kansas, found murdered on the roadside near Plattskill, N. Y., as the same Jimmy Lacapra who squealed on the gangster machinegunners who staged Kansas City's Union Station massacre.

Lacapra had earned his freedom by testifying against six Kansas City underworld figures who plotted the bold stroke by which the late "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Verne Miller and Adam Richetti, with "tommy" guns, sought to liberate Frank Nash, a federal prisoner.

62-28915-A

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Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....


# KANSAS CITY JOURNAL-POST

*The Sentinel on the Hill*

61st Year, No. 335. Entered as second class mail matter at Kansas City, Mo., under the act of March 3, 1879 Kansas City, Mo., Friday, August 23, 1935. Publication Office: 22nd and Wyandotte. Published Daily and Sunday.


# LA CAPRA'S BROTHER DISAPP

## MASSACR
## HAVE

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Mr. Kelley
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan

JOURNAL-POST
on the Hill
day, August 23, 1935. Publication Office: 22nd and Oak Sts. Published Daily and Sunday. IN GREATER KANSAS CITY 2c PER 10c A WEEK COPY OF CARRIER

# HER DISAPPEARS

## MASSACRE TIPS MAY HAVE CAUSED 'RIDE'

### Friends Fear Sam Has Been 'Put on Spot,' by Gangsters

While a reopening of the Union station massacre investigation loomed as a result of recent information supplied the department of justice by Michael James La Capra, Kansas City gangster, who later was slain in Ulster county, N. Y., a new mystery involving the La Capra family confronted relatives in Kansas City.

It was said Friday that Sam La Capra, brother of the New York "ride" victim, had been missing from his usual haunts in Kansas City since word of the Ulster county killing was received here.

**Fear He Met Same Fate.**

Friends of the family were reported fearful that Sam La Capra had met the fate of his brother at the hands of local gunmen, who are known to have made two unsuccessful attempts on the life of "Mike" La Capra in 1934. One friend expressed the fear that Sam had been slain and his body [illegible] into the Missouri river, often the favorite method of Kansas City killers of concealing their crimes.

"Jimmy Needles," as "Mike" La Capra was known to the Kansas City underworld, was taken for a ride Monday night and his body, with a bullet in the head, left in an apple orchard alongside a lonely Ulster county road. Although it was found the same night, it wasn't until the next day that finger-print comparisons identified the body as that of the Kansas City racketeer.

Word of Jimmy Needles' death reached here Wednesday and it was about that time that Sam La Capra last was seen, it was said Friday.

**Called on Cummings.**

In a press conference in Washington Thursday, Homer S. Cummings, attorney general of the United States, promised a probe of the Ulster county killing. He announced at the time that Jimmy Needles had supplied his department, about six weeks ago, with valuable information concerning the Union station massacre in Kan-

Turn to Page 2, Column 4.

# LA CAPRA'S STORY MAY RENEW U. S. MASSACRE QUIZ

Continued from Page 1.

sas City. The information, Cummings indicated, had been authenticated and was reported to have involved Kansas City politicians with gangsters prior to the station massacre.

Whether Sam LaCapra knew anything concerning the reported revelations of his brother, is not known here, nor could any one advance a reason why Sam LaCapra should be sought by killers.

Sam La Capra was said to have called his mother Wednesday to inform her that he would see her later in the day at her home at 3214 Garner avenue, but he never arrived.

The Italian colony on the North side was reported buzzing with excitement Friday morning because of the latest trouble involving the La Capra family.

At first it was believed that Sam had gone on a vacation with a woman acquaintance, friends said Friday. But his absence continued to worry his family and a personal advertisement asking her to call a relative brought the family in contact with the young woman. Then it was learned definitely that none of his friends knew of his whereabouts from the time of his disappearance.

**Feared Gang Reprisals**

What part the government's investigation of Jimmy Needles' death may have in the inquiry into his brother's disappearance had not been determined Friday.

Cummings in his Thursday interview said that Michael James La Capra sought a department connection after turning over his "valuable information," but that his salary demands were excessive. Cummings also said that Jimmy Needles feared gang reprisals, asserting that gunmen from a number of cities were on his trail because of help he had given the government.

RPM

62-28915-A

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Mr. Tamm
Miss Gandy

ST PAUL DISPATCH

August 23, 1935

## TIP-OFF MAN FEARED GANGS, CUMMINGS SAYS

Washington, Aug. 23.—(AP)—Attorney General Cummings disclosed that Jimmie La Capra, who gave the government tips on the Kansas City union station massacre and was killed this week at Ellenville, N. Y., had feared a nation-wide gang pact to "rub him out."

Cummings said La Capra came to the capital recently to ask a large reward for his tips, claiming gangs in all the large cities were eager to kill him.

Federal agents are investigating his death.

62-28915-A

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Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn ✓
Mr. Schultz
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Troy
Miss Gandy

# Slain Man Feared Gang Vengeance

*By the Associated Press.*

Attorney General Cummings disclosed yesterday that Jimmie La Capra, who gave the Government tips on the Kansas City Union Station massacre and was killed this week at Ellensville, N. Y., had feared a Nation-wide gang pact to "rub him out."

At his press conference Cummings said La Capra came to the Capital recently to ask a large reward for his tips, claiming gangs in all the large cities were eager to kill him.

The Attorney General said La Capra was offered transportation to any point he might choose, as well as a small cash payment, but refused. He added Federal agents are investigating his death.

WASH. POST

AUG 23 1935

62-28715-1

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AUG 28 1935 AM

## U. S. Denies Paying Slain Gang Informer

*By the Associated Press.*

Attorney General Cummings denied yesterday that the Justice Department had paid Jimmie La Capra, Kansas City gangster recently slain in New York for "snitching."

His action was occasioned by published reports (not carried by the Associated Press) which quoted him as saying the murdered man was paid a last fee six weeks ago "for services rendered."

SAT/PM

WASH. POST

AUG 24 1935

62-28915-A

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Mr. Scheidt ✓
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THE DETROIT FREE PRESS, AUGUST 24, 1935

## Cummings Denies G-Men Bought Tip from Gangster

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23—(AP.) Attorney General Cummings denied today that the Justice Department had paid Jimmie Lacapra, Kansas City gangster recently slain in New York, for information.

He denied reports which quoted him as saying the murdered man was paid a fee six weeks ago "for services rendered."

Lacapra, who demanded aid, saying that he was "broke" and feared gangdom's retribution, was offered transportation to any point within reason and $60 for inormation on the Kansas City massacre. Lacapra refused the offer and left Washington, Cummings said.

62-28915-1

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS SEPTEMBER 30, 1935

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## Gallows Looms

Washington News 7/30/35

Death on a Missouri gallows draws near for Adam Richetti, above, confederate of the late "Pretty Boy" Floyd. For his part in the Kansas City Union Station massacre, in which three police officers died, the former Oklahoma oil field worker has been sentenced to hang on Oct. 4.

62-28915-A

THE KANSAS CITY STAR, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1935.

# MASSACRE CASE IS NEAR

## APPEAL OF FOUR WILL BE HEARD IN OMAHA NEXT WEEK.

### The Prison Sentences and Fines Against Mulloy, Stacci, Farmer and Galatas Will Be Taken Up.

The appeal cases of the four men convicted in the federal district court here for conspiracy to obstruct justice, based on the union station plaza massacre of July 17, 1933, will be argued before the United States circuit court of appeals next week at Omaha.

The cases are listed for Monday, although they may not be reached that day. They are those of Frank B. (Frits) Mulloy, Kansas City; Louis (Doc) Stacci, Chicago; Herbert Allen Farmer, Joplin, and Richard Tallman Galatas, Hot Springs, Ark. A jury in the court of Judge Merrill E. Otis last fall found the four men guilty of the conspiracy charge, and each was sentenced to two years at Leavenworth and fined $10,000, the maximum penalty.

Farmer, Galatas, Mulloy and Stacci were accused of having formed the chain of telephone calls that resulted in the station plaza massacre of four officers and Frank Nash, a federal prisoner. The charge against them of conspiracy to obstruct justice was based on the attempt to deliver Nash from the officers.

John S. (Jack) Cannon, Kansas City, and Henry Balaban, Chicago, are expected to argue the appeal for the defense. Sam C. Blair and Thomas A. Costolow, assistant United States district attorneys, will represent the government. The arguments probably will require a day.

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Miss Gandy

62-28915.

from THE ST. PAUL DISPATCH
October 7, 1935

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Mr. Foxworth
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Mr. Tracy
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# 4 CONVICTED IN MASSACRE PLOT APPEAL

Omaha, Oct. 7.—(AP)—The Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, in session here, heard arguments today in the appeal of four men convicted of conspiracy in the Kansas City Union station massacre of June 17, 1933, in which five men, including Frank Nash, escaped convict, were killed.

Charles Walden, Kansas City attorney representing the four convicted men, opened the arguments by attacking the government's indictment, asserting Nash was not properly committed to the custody of the attorney general; and also argued that Nash had been seized unlawfully in Hot Springs, Ark., by agents of the Department of Justice. He represented Richard T. Galatas of Hot Springs, Ark.; H. A. Farmer of Joplin, Mo., Louis Stacei of Maywood, Ill., and Frank Mulloy of Kansas City, all of whom were sentenced to two years in prison and fined $10,000 each. Two of the men—Galatas and Mulloy—were in the courtroom to hear the arguments.

Walden based his assertion that Nash was seized unlawfully by government agents on the argument that Federal officers did not, at that time, have the legal right to arrest a man.

He ridiculed the government assertion that it would have been possible to hatch a conspiracy to liberate Nash within eighteen hours after he was arrested.

OCT 10 1935 PM

62-28915-A

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KANSAS CITY JOURNAL-POST MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1935.

# 'ENEMIES SLEW NASH'

## Statement Made in Arguing Massacre Appeal.

OMAHA, NEB., Oct. 7.—(UP)—The Kansas City Union station massacre was staged by underworld enemies of Frank Nash, who sought his assassination, and not by his friends seeking to release him from officers, Charles B. Walden, Kansas City attorney, contended in arguing Monday before the United States circuit court officials for four persons convicted in Kansas City for conspiring to aid Nash's escape.

The men are Frank B. (Fritz) Mulloy, Kansas City; Louis Stacci, Chicago; Herbert Farmer, Joplin, and Richard T. Galatas, Hot Springs, Ark. Each is under a sentence of two years for conspiring to free Frank Nash, a recaptured convict, whose bid for freedom cost his life and that of four officers guarding him at the Union station the morning of June 17, 1933.

Thomas A. Costolow, Sam C. Blair and Randall Wilson, assistant United States district attorney, represented the government at the Omaha hearing. John S. Cannon, Kansas City lawyer, and Henry Balsban, Chicago, argued the cases for the defense.

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Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm ✓
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy
McGuire

62-28915-A

THE KANSAS CITY TIMES, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1935.

# REBUKES U.S. ATTORNEYS

## BRIEF PREPARATION IN MASSACRE APPEAL CARELESS, JUDGE SAYS.

### Failure to Consider Three Key Case Citations by Defense Draws Court's Remarks—Taken Under Advisement.

(By The Star's Own Service.)

OMAHA, Oct. 7.—After Judge A. K. Gardner of South Dakota had censured United States district attorneys at Kansas City for "careless brief preparation" the federal circuit court of appeals here today took under advisement the appeal of four men convicted in the Kansas City union station massacre of 1933.

Thomas Costolow of Kansas City, assistant United States district attorney, was the recipient of Judge Gardner's pointed remark. Judge Gardner pointed out as Costolow concluded his argument, that the prosecution had failed, in its brief, to consider three key federal court case citations in the defense counsel's brief.

"I can't understand how you could prepare a brief and make no reference to these cases," the judge said. "Do you expect the court to do this work for you or to ignore those decisions?"

Randall Wilson, first assistant district attorney, and Sam C. Blair, assistant, also attended the hearing.

"VICTIMS OF CIRCUMSTANCES."

Counsel for Richard T. Galatas of Hot Springs, Ark., H. A. Farmer of Joplin, Mo., Louis Stacci of Maywood, Ill., and Frank Mulloy of Kansas City asserted their clients were the innocent victims of "circumstantial evidence." The government's attorneys asserted the men were involved in a chain of telephone calls that led to the union station gunplay in which five men, including Frank Nash, escaped convict, were killed.

"They certainly weren't trying to arrange a polite social meeting in Kansas City," Costolow said.

All four men were convicted in federal district court of conspiracy to liberate Nash and were sentenced to two years in prison and fined $10,000, the maximum penalty under the statute. Mulloy and Galatas were in court today to hear arguments on their appeals.

James Daleo of Kansas City, defense counsel, contended his clients had no connection with the shooting at the station and asserted the attack was made to "kill Nash, not to liberate him."

SAYS NASH WAS DISGUISED.

Costolow challenged that contention, explaining Nash was disguised and that a government agent sitting in the back seat where a prisoner usually is held escaped uninjured.

"Because he dived to the bottom of the car," Daleo asserted in rebuttal.

Daleo also is counsel for Adam Richetti, who is under state sentence to hang as one of the trigger men in the station slayings. Richetti was to have been executed Friday night, but his pending appeal forced a stay of execution.

In addition to Richetti, the government asserts Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd and Verne Miller, both dead were the other machine gunners whose spray of bullets cut down Nash; a department of justice agent; two Kansas City detectives, and the chief of police of McAlester, Ok.

Judge Charles B. Faris of Missouri and Judge J. W. Woodrough of Nebraska sat with Judge Gardner on the case.

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Mr. Edwards
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Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

62-28915-A

THE KANSAS CITY TIMES, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1935.

## In Memoriam

IN loving memory of my husband, Charles Arthur Floyd, who passed away 1 year ago today, Oct. 22.

We never knew what pain he had,
We did not see him die:
We only knew he passed away,
And did not say good-by.
We are thinking of you, daddy dear,
Thinking of the past.
You left behind some broken hearts
That loved you to the last.
That never did, nor never will
Forget you, daddy dear.
And while you rest in peaceful sleep
Your memory we shall always keep.

Sadly missed by your wife, Beulah Jaunaita Floyd and pals, Rose and Adam.

Mr. Nathan
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62-28915-A

OKLAHOMA NEWS OCTOBER 23, 1935

# Eulogy to Pretty Boy In K.C. Paper

## Friends Insert 'In Memoriam' Notice on Anniversary of Death

By United Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Oct. 22.—The "In Memoriam" column of a Kansas City newspaper today carried a eulogy "in loving memory" of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, Southwestern desperado dead a year in the Department of Justice's drive against big-time criminals.

Floyd, whose long outlawry won him semi-legendary notoriety, fell mortally wounded by federal guns on Oct. 22, 1934. Adam Richetti, his companion, was captured in the coup at East Liverpool, O., convicted of participation in the Kansas City Union Station massacre and sentenced to death on the gallows. An appeal is pending.

The notice published today said:

"In loving memory of my husband, Charles Arthur Floyd, who passed away one year ago today, Oct. 22.

*We never knew what pain he had,*
*We did not see him die;*
*We only knew he passed away,*
*And did not say good-by.*
*We are thinking of you, daddy dear,*
*Thinking of the past.*
*You left behind some broken hearts*
*That loved you to the last;*
*That never did, nor never will,*
*Forget you, daddy dear.*
*And while you rest in peaceful sleep*
*Your memory we shall always keep.*

"Sadly missed by your wife, Beulah Juanita Floyd, and pals, Rose and Adam."

William and Wallace Ash were Kansas City underworld characters with whom Floyd consorted in the earlier years of his banditry. Beulah and Rose Ash were of the same family. The Ash brothers were found slain in underworld fashion near here when Floyd's infamous career was at its height. They were said to have turned informers.

The outlaw's marital status in this connection was hazy. At the time of his death he had an acknowledged wife, Mrs. Ruby Floyd,

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WHO

62-28915-A

ST PAUL DAILY NEWS 10-26-1936

## Minneapolis Hoodlum Dies In Car Accident

Louis (Louchy) Berman, 27, Minneapolis, underworld hoodlum, was killed in an automobile accident a few miles north of Kansas City, Wednesday night, according to word just received in St. Paul. Berman, under a federal alcohol tax unit indictment in Fargo, is a brother of Barney Berman, convicted as a money changer in the Urschel kidnaping case three years ago. Berman was questioned by Minneapolis police last winter in connection with the killing of Benny Ostrin in an underworld war.

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# K. C. GUNMEN MAY HAVE WIPED OUT GANG IN EAST

Continued From Page 1.

pers at the Union station June 16, 1933.

Whatever the reason Kansas City killers may have had for wanting to put La Capra out of the way before he began talking of the station massacre, there was little doubt, subsequent happenings disclosed, that they now were after him in earnest.

It eventually became so hot for "Jimmy Needles" that he fled to Washington to seek protection from the federal bureau of investigation, department of justice, according to statements made by him while in the national capital.

**Told of Giving Aid.**

La Capra, shortly before his ride to death in the Ulster county apple orchard, talked of his negotiations with the department of justice. He complained that he had furnished valuable information against Kansas City gunmen and their part in the Union station massacre.

He wanted, he declared, sufficient money for a new start in life and government aid in getting away from the killers he believed were trailing him. This was not forthcoming.

Little was heard for several weeks of La Capra, whose only claim to underworld importance while in Kansas City was the fact someone wanted to kill him. Then his body was discovered in the Ulster county apple orchard August 19. The body was unidentified for two days and then it was discovered that it was that of the man who said he had aided the government in solving the Union station killing.

**In Return for "Favor?"**

At that time it was the conclusion of Kansas City authorities as well as New York investigators that eastern gunmen had put La Capra on the spot. The motive was indefinite, but some, at that time, believed it may have been because of his attempt to "muscle in" on New York rackets.

But the newest reports received here are that the man who wants to control all rackets arranged to have his men kill La Capra as a gesture to Kansas City gangsters, who are reported to control a number of lucrative rackets of their own. In return for "favor," it has been said, the Easterner had a plan of reciprocity that would help him to further his own ambitions.

All the details of the various plots and counter plots probably never will be known, but some insist that the Kansas Cityans finally were called by the eastern gang chief to repay the debt they owed him for La Capra's death.

[illegible]

"Dutch Schultz" [illegible] organized [illegible] stumbling block [illegible] control all of the East, is a start in building his empire of crime. He decided that the gang must be removed and he is reported to have called upon the Kansas City underworld for help, with the result that Schultz and at least nine members of his gang are dead and as many more seriously wounded.

The killers from the Middle West, according to the report, engaged in sporadic sniping for a few weeks, accounting for five of Schultz's men. Then last Friday they began a mopping up campaign which brought about the death of the leaders and three of his principal lieutenants and the wounding of several more.

**Gang Made Millions.**

Witnesses who saw three separate engagements between the gunmen that night in New York and Newark, N. J., report that three men took part in the one that killed "Dutch" Schultz and his two bodyguards. Two men were seen to flee at almost the same time from a busy Nwe York corner after another member of Schultz's gang was dropped by their bullets.

Schultz and his followers were reported to have made millions in the East since prohibition through their control of the policy and loan shark rackets.

Loan sharks and operators of policy games also are reported to have had several prosperous years in Kansas City.

# N. Y. Official Supports Theory K. C. 'Torpedoes' Slew Schultz and Pals

NEW YORK, Oct. 28.—(Special)—A squad of dead-eyed gunmen from Kansas City was imported for the slaying of Arthur (Dutch Schultz) Flegenheimer, czar of the New York underworld, and three of his chief lieutenants, it was learned here Tuesday.

The two sharpshooters who riddled Schultz, Abe Landau, Otto [illegible] gunmen who dropped [illegible] barber shop [illegible] a saturnine and [illegible]

This theory was [illegible] one of the biggest law [illegible] officials of the East, [illegible] cidentally, is as familiar with the Kansas City underworld as with New York's. In the interests of justice, his name cannot be quoted.

When confronted with this theory Arthur Irwin, secretary to Police Commissioner Valentine, readily admitted that New York police are working on the theory that out-of-town "torpedoes" were imported for the important gangland executions.

"We have sent out queries to police departments of Kansas City, Chicago, St. Paul and Detroit, asking for information as to the movements of known killers of gangs in those cities on the dates of the shooting here," Irwin said.

Irwin would not give any more specific information on the out-of-town search, however.

In the opinion of the first-mentioned official, the Schultz killings were carried out by a Kansas City mob in repayment for the execution on August 20 of Jimmy (Needles) La Capra near Plattskill, N. Y.

"This Kansas City mob wanted La Capra out of the way for a number of reasons, including "squealing," the official said. "So it got an Italian mob in New York to do the job.

"The New York Italian gang wanted Schultz out of the way. The job was too big, too 'hot', too difficult, for known gangsters of this city. So the New Yorkers called on Kansas City to reciprocate for its recent favor."

The "technique" of importing gunmen for important gangland killings is old. Capone and other Chicago underworld moguls frequently traded executioners with New York gang chieftains during prohibition.

It is easier for a strange gunman to approach a big shot gangster in his own domain. Besides, gang leaders frequently don't want their own minions to know too much about the executions they order. It isn't safe, for a number of reasons.

KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST

OCTOBER 29, 1935

# MOB PAID DEBT TO LACAPRA SLAYERS, IS LATEST THEORY

Those ruthless moves against the Dutch Schultz's gangs followed within a few days the slaying and wounding of half a dozen more of his followers by unknown gunners.

And the unknown gunners, it has been said here, were men from Kansas City who were repaying the debt they owed the New York "big shot" for his services in removing La Capra for them.

**Two Attempts on Life.**

Kansas City gunmen were determined to "get" La Capra because of what aid he may have been able to give federal authorities by appearing before them with information during their investigation of the Union station massacre.

Before La Capra fled from Kansas City there were two known attempts on his life. He hinted at several others during the many times he openly talked of what he knew of gang activities here. One attempt was in August, 1934, when he shot it out with a motor car load of gunmen at Independence avenue and Benton boulevard. The second attempt came a few weeks later in September when gunmen followed him from Kansas City to a point near Wichita, Kas.

At that time La Capra reported to Kansas authorities that the gunmen fired into his car, wounding him slightly. He escaped only by pretending that he was mortally wounded.

**Started Underworld.**

Returned to Kansas City by federal authorities, La Capra startled the underworld and others by making a lengthy statement in which he charged John Lazia, North side politician, who was slain in July, 1934, and his followers with a part in the plot to free Frank Nash, recaptured federal convict, which resulted in Nash's death and that of four oth-

Turn to Page 2, Column 4.

## New York Big Shot Believed to Have Ordered Jimmy 'Needles' Killed.

Underworld whisperings of a super gang chieftain who has ambitions to control the rackets of the nation by eliminating all sectional leaders reached Kansas City Tuesday with the report Kansas City gunmen may be involved in the resumption of bloody gang warfare in New York which has taken the lives of ten racketeers there in the last few weeks.

Should enough evidence support such a theory there is a possibility that Kansas City's Union Station plaza massacre and the apple orchard killing August 19 of Michael James (Jimmy Needles) La Capra again may be drawn into the national spotlight.

The report received here Tuesday was that Kansas City gunmen paid a debt to the unknown super chief last week by an orgy of killing that left Arthur (Dutch Schultz) Flegenheimer, ace New York gang leader, mortally wounded and three of his most trusted lieutenants dead. In that battle on widely separated fronts in Newark, N. J., and New York seven men were shot down within a few hours.

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Mr. [illegible]
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# NASH GROUP GUILT UPHELD BY COURT

## U. S. Circuit Bench Says Four Had Fair Trial.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 18 (A. P.)—The United States Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed today the conviction of four men sentenced in Kansas City last January for conspiracy to release Frank Nash, escaped convict, who was slain with four peace officers on the Union Station Plaza at Kansas City on June 17, 1933.

The four were Louis (Doc) Stacci of Chicago, Frank Mulloy of Kansas City, Richard T. Galatas of Hot Springs, Ark., and Herbert A. Farmer of Joplin, Mo.

In an opinion filed on the opening day of a new term of court, the court stated that the case was "tried by the lower courts with great care and marked impartiality. The defendants were ably defended and were afforded a fair trial."

The defendants, each sentenced to two years in prison and fined $10,000 each, had listed in their appeal many assorted errors and said the court instructed the jurors along lines prejudicial to the defense.

The four men, together with three women, were convicted on January 5 last after a week's trial before United States District Judge Merrill E. Otis.

Probation was decreed for the women; Mrs. Vivian Mathis, also known as Mrs. Verne Miller, wife of one of the three machine gunners the Government alleged took part in the shooting; Mrs. Richard T. Galatas and Mrs. Herbert A. Farmer.

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NEW YORK SUN
Forwarded by New York Office

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62-28915-A

St. Paul Dispatch - 11/18/35

# CONVICTION OF 4 IN MASSACRE CASE UPHELD BY HIGH COURT

St. Louis, Nov. 18 (AP)—The United Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed today the conviction of four men sentenced in Kansas City last January after conviction of conspiracy to release Frank Nash, escaped convict who was slain with four officers on the Union Pacific station plaza at Kansas City June 17, 1933.

The four were Louis (Doc) [illegible] Chicago; Frank (Fritz) Mulloy, Kansas City; Richard T. Galatas, Hot Springs, Ark., and Herbert A. Farmer, Joplin, Mo.

In an opinion filed on the opening day of a new term of court, the court stated the case was "tried by the lower courts with great care and marked impartiality. The defendants were ably defended and were afforded a fair trial."

The defendants, each sentenced to two years in prison and fined $10,000 each, had listed in their appeal many assorted errors and said the court instructed the jurors along lines prejudicial to the defense.

The four men, and three women, were convicted last January 8 after a week's trial before United States District Judge Merrill E. Otis.

The women were put on probation. They are: Mrs. Vivian Mathis, also known as Mrs. Verne Miller, wife of one of the three machine gunners the government allegedly took part in the shooting; Mrs. Richard T. Galatas and Mrs. Herbert A. Farmer.

Slain with Nash in the delivery attempt, in which Nash was accidentally killed, were Raymond [illegible] Caffrey, federal agent; Otto [illegible], police chief of McAlester, Okla.; William Grooms and Frank [illegible]manson, both Kansas City [illegible]tives.

Charles Arthur (Pretty [illegible]) Floyd, Oklahoma [illegible], slain by government agents [illegible] Ohio, and Adam Richetti, [illegible]cted in connection with the [illegible]ings and now under death [illegible] at Kansas City, were named [illegible] the government as Miller's [illegible] Miller was slain in [illegible] 1933, apparently in a [illegible]

62-28915-A

KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST NOVEMBER 18, 1939

# STATION MASSACRE TERMS UP

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are Richard T. Galatas, Hot Springs, Ark., gambler; Louis (Doc) Stacci, Chicago, Ill.; Herbert A. Farmer, Joplin, Mo., farmer and gambler, and Fritz Mulloy, Kansas City, gambler and night club operator.

In its first important decision since moving into the new federal building here the court held that the trial of the four at Kansas City was featured by "fairness and marked impartiality."

The four men whose sentences in the federal penitentiary on charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice were affirmed Monday in St. Louis by the United States circuit court of appeals, were convicted in the federal court here at their trial before Judge Merrill E. Otis.

The government charged that the defendants, Richard Tallman Galatas, Hot Springs; Louis (Doc) Stacci, Chicago; Herbert Allen Farmer, Joplin, and Frank B. (Fritz) Mulloy, Kansas City, set the wheels in motion that led to the Union station massacre, June 17, 1933, when Frank Nash, convict, and four of the men who had him in custody, were slain by gunmen who endeavored to effect Nash's

KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST NOVEMBER 18, 1935

# TERMS UPHELD

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are Richard T. Galatas, Hot Springs, Ark., gambler; Louis (Doc) Stacci, Cicero, Ill.; Herbert A. Farmer, Joplin, Mo., farmer and gambler, and Fritz Mulloy, Kansas City gambler and night club operator.

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The government charged that the defendants, Richard Tallman Galatas, Hot Springs; Louis (Doc) Stacci, Chicago; Herbert Allen Farmer, Joplin, and Frank B. (Fritz) Mulloy, Kansas City, set the wheels in motion that led to the Union station massacre, June 17, 1933, when Frank Nash, convict, and four of the men who had him in custody, were slain by gunmen who endeavored to effect Nash's rescue.

The government's case was built on the theory that the gunmen actually participating in the massacre were Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd, Verne Miller and Adam Ricchetti. Floyd later was killed by federal officers when he attempted to evade arrest in Ohio. Miller's bullet-riddled body was found in a roadside ditch near Detroit, where it had been tossed by gangsters.

## U. S. APPEALS COURT RULES 4 MUST SERVE

### Galatas, Stacci, Farmer and Mulloy Also Face $10,000 Fines.

Pictures on Picture Page.

By United Press.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 18.—The United States circuit court of appeals Monday affirmed the convictions and fines of four men charged with conspiracy in connection with the Union station massacre in Kansas City June 17, 1933. Gunmen killed Frank Nash, notorious Middle West gangster, and four officers in an attempt to prevent Nash from being taken to the Leavenworth federal prison.

The four who appealed were sentenced to two years in Leavenworth penitentiary and fined $10,000 each. They

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**Sentenced to Die.**

Ricchetti, captured in Ohio and returned to Kansas City for trial, was found guilty of murder and sentenced to die on the gallows October 4 for the slaying of Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detective, one of the four officers killed.

The appeal to the United States circuit court of appeals, however, automatically gave Ricchetti a stay of execution. He is in the Jackson county jail.

The other men slain besides Hermanson and Nash were William J.

Turn to Page 2, Column 3.

# FOUR CONVICTIONS IN K. C. MASSACRE PLOT ARE UPHELD

Continued from Page 1.

J. Grooms, Kansas City detective; Raymond J. Caffrey, special agent of the bureau of investigation, department of justice, and Otto Reed, McAlester, Ok., police chief. Frank Lackey and R. E. Vetterli, also agents of the bureau of investigation, were wounded, Lackey dangerously.

Nash had been arrested in Hot Springs, where he had met his wife, Frances Nash, former employe of Stacci in the latter's night club at Maywood, Ill., a Chicago suburb.

The government alleged that immediately after her husband's arrest, Mrs. Nash communicated with Galatas, Hot Springs gambler and politician, and set the wheels in motion by calling upon Nash's friends to rescue him from the officers who were returning him to the penitentiary in Leavenworth, from which he had escaped some months earlier.

**Check Telephone Calls.**

Galatas and his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Galatas, were alleged to have communicated with Farmer and his wife, Mrs. Esther Farmer, in Joplin, to which place Galatas and Mrs. Nash went immediately in an airplane.

The Farmers and Mrs. Nash then were alleged to have communicated by telephone with Stacci in Chicago and the latter got in touch with Mulloy in Kansas City. Soon thereafter, Mrs. Nash was alleged to have talked with Verne Miller, a friend of Mulloy's, who promised her that Nash would be liberated.

Those telephone calls were made, the government established, on June 16.

The following morning gunmen opened fire on the officers as they were in a motor car that was to take Nash back to the penitentiary at Leavenworth. Nash and the four officers were killed.

As a result of the investigation that followed Galatas and Mrs. Galatas, Farmer and Mrs. Farmer, Mulloy and Stacci and Vivian Mathis, who had been living here with Verne Miller, were indicted.

The specific charge against them was that they had sought to obstruct justice by releasing a prisoner who was in the custody of the attorney general of the United States.

**Mrs. Nash Not Prosecuted.**

Mrs. Nash was not prosecuted because she gave testimony for the government. All the others were convicted January 5, 1935. The maximum sentences, two years in the penitentiary and a fine of $10,000, were imposed on Galatas, Mulloy, Stacci and Farmer. One year and a day in the penitentiary and a fine of $500 was the sentence imposed on each of the three women, with the penitentiary sentence set aside and the women placed on probation for three years. The court held that the fines must be paid by September 1, 1935.

Appeals immediately were taken by the attorneys for the four men, all of whom, with the exception of Stacci, were liberated under $5,000 bond. Stacci elected to begin serving his sentence while the appeal was pending.

The mandate of the United States circuit court of appeals has not yet been received in Kansas City. After it arrives here the convicted men will have thirty days in which to surrender.

KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 18, 1935

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**COURT DECREES PRISON FOR FOUR**—These four men, convicted in the federal court here of conspiracy to release Frank Nash, a federal prisoner, must serve the prison sentences imposed upon them by Judge Merrill E. Otis, the United States circuit court of appeals ruled in a verdict handed down Monday in St. Louis. The conspiracy charge was in connection with the Union station massacre, June 17, 1933, when Nash and four of the officers who had him in custody were killed by gunmen alleged to be Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, Verne Miller and Adam Ricchetti. The convicted men are Richard T. Galatas, Hot Springs, (upper left); Herbert Allen Farmer, Joplin, (upper right); Louis (Doc) Stacel, Chicago (lower left) and Frank R. (Frits) Mulloy (lower right).

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THE KANSAS CITY STAR NOVEMBER 18, 1935

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# PLAZA TERMS HOLD

Four Men, Convicted Here, Must Serve, Appeals Court Decides.

## "GIVEN A FAIR TRIAL"

Fritz Mulloy, Louis Stacci, Herb Farmer and Richard Galatas to Prison.

## TWO YEARS, $10,000 FINE

Women Also Were Sentenced in Case, but Are Free on Probation.

*(By the Associated Press.)*

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 18.—The United States circuit court of appeals today affirmed the conviction of four men sentenced in Kansas City last January after conviction of conspiracy to release Frank Nash, escaped convict, who was slain with four officers on the union station plaza at Kansas City June 17, 1933.

The four were Louis Stacci, Chicago; Frank (Fritz) Mulloy, Kansas City; Richard T. Galatas, Hot Springs, Ark., and Herbert A. Farmer, Joplin, Mo.

### Tried With Great Care.

In an opinion filed today the court stated the case was "tried by the lower courts with great care and marked impartiality. The defendants were ably defended and were afforded a fair trial."

The defendants, each sentenced to two years in prison and fined $10,000, had listed in their appeal many assorted errors and said the court instructed the jurors along lines prejudicial to the defense.

The four men and two women were convicted last January after a week's trial before Judge Merrill E. Otis. One woman defendant, Vivian Mathis, pleaded guilty.

Probations were decreed for the women; Mrs. Mathis, also known as Mrs. Verne Miller, wife of one of the three machine gunners the government alleged took part in the shooting; Mrs. Richard T. Galatas and Mrs. Herbert A. Farmer.

### Federal Officer Slain.

Slain with Nash in the delivery attempt, in which Nash was accidentally killed, were Raymond J. Caffrey, federal agent; Otto Reed, police chief of McAlester, Ok., and William Groome and Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detectives.

The machine gunners fired from behind parked motor cars about 7:15 o'clock, as the officers marched from the station door with their prisoner, captured in Hot Springs, Ark., the day before. They planned to return him to Leavenworth federal penitentiary by motor car.

Charles Arthur (Pretty Boy) Floyd, Oklahoma desperado, later slain by government agents in Ohio, and Adam Richetti, convicted for the massacre and now in jail in Kansas City, were named by the government as Miller's aids. Miller was slain in Detroit late in 1933, apparently in a gang war. Richetti is under sentence to be hanged, but has an appeal pending.

### Released for Her Testimony.

Mrs. Nash, wife of the slain convict, was one of the original conspiracy defendants, but testified for the government and was released.

The government asserted the defendants, by a series of telephone calls, arranged for the three men to attempt Nash's delivery. Those accused of conspiracy asserted they did not know Nash's real identity and were under the impression he had been kidnaped.

Judge Otis sentenced each of the women to a year and day in prison and fined them $500 each, before placing them on probation.

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# START OF CRIME'S FALL.

**Station Massacre Aroused U. S. to Stamp Out Gangs.**

Steadily justice is moving to collect in the Kansas City union station massacre of June, 1933, a crime which was used by the government as a forefront case in a war on crime and organized criminals.

There remains now for the mandate of the United States circuit court of appeals to arrive for the official notification of the affirmation of the convicting jury in federal court and complete accord with the fairness and judicial acts on the part of the trial court, Judge Merrill E. Otis.

Upon receipt of the mandate, which may not arrive for two weeks, the four convicted men, Louis Stacci, Richard T. Galatas, Herbert A. Farmer and Frank B. Mulloy, will have thirty additional days in which to comply with the affirmed verdict and sentence. Each man was sentenced to two years in prison at Leavenworth and each was fined $10,000.

All the defendants except Stacci are free on $5,000 bonds. They were taken to prison at Leavenworth following their trial last January and each, through attorneys, filed appeals to the United States circuit court of appeals. Stacci chose to remain in prison and is still there, causing speculation that he may have chosen the security of prison against fear of being "bumped off" in some underworld feud.

After several weeks in prison, "Fritz" Mulloy returned to Kansas City and has been operating a night club. Galatas, once a booking "magnate" and gambler at Hot Springs, Ark., has been associated with Mulloy in the night club venture. "Deafy" Farmer, a gambler, is on his farm near Joplin.

Attorneys for the defendants had not decided whether the cases will be referred to the United States supreme court on applications for writs of *certiorari*.

Elizabeth Galatas, Esther Farmer and Vivian Mathis were placed on probation by the court. Vivian Mathis aided the government in the trial. She was a companion of Verne Miller, one of the killers in the massacre, allegedly associated with "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Adam Richetti, a Floyd lieutenant, in the actual shooting at the union station.

## TO ASK A REHEARING.

**If That Move Fails, Attorney Says, Case Will Go Higher.**

James Daleo, lawyer, who, with Charles S. Walden, represented Frank B. Mulloy, Herbert A. Farmer, Richard T. Galatas and Louis Stacci, said he was disappointed at the affirmation of the conviction and sentences by the circuit court of appeals. He said a motion for rehearing will be filed with that court.

"If that is denied," said Daleo, "we probably will file an application before the United States supreme court for a writ of certiorari seeking a review of the case."

HUNTINGTON HERALD DISPATCH November 19, 1935
(Huntington, W. Va.)

# COPS 'CLEAN UP' UNION STATION MASS KILLINGS

## Kansas Court Upholds Sentences of Four In Nash Rescue Plot

KANSAS CITY, Nov. 18. (AP)—The government claimed a cleanup tonight in its prosecution of Kansas City's union station quintuple slaying.

The federal circuit court of appeals at St. Louis upheld the conviction of four men for conspiracy in a plot to free Frank Nash, escaped convict, which resulted in the slaughter of four officers and Nash as well June 17, 1933.

"That cleans it up," said Maurice M. Milligan, U. S. District attorney.

Attorneys for the four — Louis Stacci, Chicago; Frank "Fritz" Malloy, Kansas City; Richard T. Galatas, Hot Springs, Ark., and Herbert A. Farmer, Joplin, Mo.—said they would seek a new hearing.

Penalties were fixed at two years imprisonment and fines of $10,000 each after their conviction here last January.

The government charged that the men, together with three women, arranged for the bloody attempt to liberate Nash. Investigators solved the crime by tracing telephone calls.

Machine gunners fired from behind parked motor cars as Nash, captured in Hot Springs, Ark., was led from the Union station by officers who planned to return him to Leavenworth (Kas.) federal penitentiary by motor car.

Slain with Nash were Raymond J. Caffrey, federal agent; Otto Reed, Chief of Police at McAlester, Okla., and William Grooms and Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detectives.

Adam Richetti, convicted as one of the gunners, is under sentence to hang. His fellow killers, the government contended, were Verne Miller, slain near Detroit by former associates, and Charles Arthur "Pretty Boy" Floyd, killed by Ohio officers.

Probations were granted the three accused women, Mrs. Vivian Mathis, also known as Mrs. Verne Miller; Mrs. Richard T. Galatas and Mrs. Herbert Farmer.

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Penalties were fixed at two years imprisonment and fines of $10,000 each after their conviction here last January.

The government charged that the men, together with three women, arranged for the bloody attempt to liberate Nash. Investigators solved the crime by tracing telephone calls.

Machine gunners fired from behind parked motor cars as Nash, captured in Hot Springs, Ark., was led from the Union station by officers who planned to return him to Leavenworth (Kas.) federal penitentiary by motor car.

Slain with Nash were Raymond J. Caffrey, federal agent; Otto Reed, Chief of Police at McAlester, Okla., and William Grooms and Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detectives.

Adam Richetti, convicted as one of the gunners, is under sentence to hang. His fellow killers, the government contended, were Verne Miller, slain near Detroit by former associates, and Charles Arthur "Pretty Boy" Floyd, killed by Ohio officers.

Probations were granted the three accused women, Mrs. Vivian Mathis, also known as Mrs. Verne Miller; Mrs. Richard T. Galatas and Mrs. Herbert Farmer.

POST OFFICE BOX 1525
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62-28915-A

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# ..'ARTMENT OF ..STICE

## NEWS AND EDITORIAL CLIPPINGS

From - HENRY SUYDAM
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ROOM 5116

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| 16 Mr. Carusi, Executive Ass't To the Attorney General | |
| 17 | |

Huntington (W.Va) Advertiser, 11/19/35

### Perfect Score for G-Men

The United States circuit court of appeals yesterday upheld the prison sentences and heavy fines imposed by a lower court upon four men implicated in the shooting up of the Kansas City union station in an effort to free Frank Nash, notorious middlewest outlaw, nearly two years ago.

The Kansas City depot slaughter was one of the most daring, defiant challenges to law enforcement in the annals of American crime. Nash was being escorted from Arkansas where he had been captured to Kansas to stand trial for murder and mail robbery. Underworld associates met the train. Police escorts had no more than stepped upon the station platform with their prisoner when a volley of shots rang out. Nash and four officers fell dead before the gunmen's fire.

The men whose sentences were confirmed yesterday had no actual part in the slaughter, though they figured in the conspiracy to free the outlaw Nash.

"Pretty Boy" Floyd was leader of the gang. He was pursued for months for his part in the crime. He finally was run down and killed by federal agents on a northern Ohio countryside. Verne Miller, another killer, was slain when he refused to surrender to police in Detroit. Adam Richetti, last of the trio of actual killers, is awaiting execution in the Kansas penitentiary. Three women implicated in the plot are under probation.

Thus, every person implicated in the conspiracy and slaghter, ten in all, is dead or accounted for. It is another impressive mark for the G-men in running down dangerous criminals. The federal sleuths had only meager clues to work on in the beginning, chiefly telephone calls they were able to check, but they followed the trail through to a one hundred per cent record. Theirs is the kind of performance to give the average citizen a sense of security and confidence, a feeling that criminals of the American underworld, cunning and slippery as they are at times, are no match after all for the trained and courageous men whom Uncle Sam has working night and day for society's protection and the punishment of its murderous, robbing enemies.

ack
Letter Clyde A. Wellman
11-29-35
RGJ (Pr)

62-28915-A

THE KANSAS CITY STAR WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20, 1935.

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## COURT SENDS A LETTER.

### Official Notice of Station Massacre Convictions Is Received.

A letter officially notifying Maurice M. Milligan, United States district attorney, of the affirmation of the convictions of four men in the union station plaza massacre conspiracy case was received today from E. E. Koch, clerk of the United States circuit court of appeals at St. Louis. The defendants must surrender within thirty days after the mandate, not yet received, is recorded in the court here.

The opinion was written by Judge Archibald K. Gardner, Huron, S. D. and was concurred in by Judge Charles B. Faris, St. Louis, and Judge Joseph W. Woodrough, Omaha.

The four men whose convictions were affirmed and who must serve two-year prison sentences each were Frank B. (Fritz) Mulloy, Kansas City; Richard Tallman Galatas, Hot Springs; Louis (Doc) Stacci, Chicago, and Herbert Allen Farmer, Joplin.

62-28915-A

# DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

## NEWS AND EDITORIAL CLIPPINGS

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| 10 Mr. Hoover, Director of Bureau of Investigation | ✓ |
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CRIME INVESTIGATION

Missoula (Mont) Missoulian, 11/20/35

## CLEANED UP.

With the denial by Federal court of new trials for four men convicted of conspiracy in a plot to free Frank Nash, escaped convict, which plot resulted in the deaths of Nash and four officers in the massacre at Kansas City's Union station in June, 1933, the Department of Justice says that the famous case now has been cleaned up.

Three men were concerned in the actual killings, their fingers pulling the triggers of machineguns that poured a deadly stream of lead into the sedan containing six men, only one of whom escaped with his life. Two, Verne Miller and Charles Floyd, are dead, the former slain by his own gang and the latter killed by officers in Ohio. The third, Adam Richetti, is under sentence to hang.

The four denied new trials planned the freeing of Nash, when appealed to by Nash's wife. Each has been sentenced to two years in prison and a fine of ten thousand dollars.

It has taken more than two years of steady work to bring about this cleanup, which permits the G-men to mark "finis" against the record of another famous piece of outlawry.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20, 1935

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## *Sentences Affirmed.*

The United States court of appeals for the eighth circuit has affirmed the conviction of four men found guilty of conspiracy in the union station massacre case here, in terms that will be particularly satisfactory to everyone who followed the solution of this crime by agents of the federal bureau of investigation and the subsequent presentation of the evidence in court.

The appellate tribunal found that the case was "tried by the lower court with great care and marked impartiality" and that the defendants were ably represented by counsel and received a fair trial. This certainly was the impression created on the layman by the conduct of the hearing before Judge Merrill E. Otis in the federal district court in Kansas City. The affirmation by the court of appeals not only reflects credit on the handling of the trial by Judge Otis, but is a tribute to the thoroughness with which the evidence was assembled by the government agents under Edward Conroy and presented by Maurice Milligan, the United States district attorney, and his first assistant, Randall Wilson.

62-28915-A

KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21, 1935

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## U. S. JUDGE IN ERROR

### *Attorney Criticized Through Misunderstanding.*

When Thomas A. Costolow, assistant United States district attorney, argued the Union station massacre case before the United States circuit court of appeals at Omaha several months ago, Judge Archibald K. Gardner of that court subjected him to a gruelling examination and irritably made some disparaging remarks about the government's brief.

When the court handed down its opinion in the case, affirming the verdict against four defendants convicted in the United States district court here before Judge Merrill E. Otis last January, it was Judge Gardner who wrote the opinion favorable to the government's case and praised the thoroughness with which it had been prepared and prosecuted.

It was recalled Thursday that Judge Gardner's criticism arose from a misunderstanding at the time it was made. The judge criticized Costolow for not citing two precedents which it developed were not material.

62-28915-A

KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST DECEMBER 2, 1935

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## MASSACRE CASE PLEA

### *Four Men Convicted File Petition.*

A petition for a rehearing in the United States circuit court of appeals in St. Louis of the Union station massacre case was filed Monday by attorneys for the four men convicted of conspiracy to release Frank Nash, convict, from the custody of federal officers.

That conspiracy, the government alleged at trial of the four defendants, led to the Union station massacre, June 17, 1933, when Nash and four officers were killed by gunmen on the station plaza.

The defendants for whom the petition was filed are Richard Tallman Galatas, Hot Springs; Herbert Farmer, Joplin; Louis Stacci, Chicago, and Frank B. (Fritz) Mulloy, Kansas City.

Each of the four was convicted by a jury in the federal court here, and each was given the maximum penalty, two years in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth. All except Stacci since have been at liberty under bond pending an appeal to the United States circuit court of appeals. Stacci elected to begin serving his sentence immediately after his conviction.

About two weeks ago the United States circuit court of appeals upheld the verdict of the jury in the federal district court here.

62-28915-A

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Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Quinn
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Fear of Gang Reprisals Drives Doctor to Death

Kansas City, Mo. - (AP) - Out of the shadowy gangland of his own fears and fancies, death came Saturday for Dr. Robert J. Fowlston, one of the 12 jurors who condemned Adam Richetti to die for the Union station assassinations of four officers and their prisoner here June 17, 1933.

Fowlston was found shot to death in his home with a pistol and a shotgun by his side.

The vivid picture of gangster assassination had never left him since he served on the Richetti jury last June, his brother, George, said.

Fearful of vengeance he secluded himself in his home, watching nightly with his guns for assassins who never came. Shadows in the streets shook him into panic. Noises of the night roused terror.

George Fowlston found the body in the tightly locked and shaded home Saturday.

"I can't go on—" said a note in his brother's hand.

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
DECEMBER 8, 1935

62-28915-A

THE KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST KANSAS CITY MISSOURI DECEMBER 8, 1935

# R. J. FOWLSTON, ONE OF RICCHETTI JURORS, IS SUICIDE

## Brother Says Victim Feared Violence; Mother Killed Self, Too.

Robert J. Fowlston, 33 years old, member of the jury which sentenced Adam Ricchetti to hang for participation in the Union station massacre, committed suicide late Saturday at 2637 Lister avenue, where he had lived alone since his mother took her life in the same house a year ago.

George Fowlston, 2326 Jackson avenue, a brother, said Fowlston had been brooding over the possibility that he might meet violence as a result of the Ricchetti verdict. There was no evidence, however, that he had received any threats. A note near his body said "it seemed useless to go on" and described himself as "a burden."

Fowlston shot himself with a shotgun. A pistol near his body contained an unfired cartridge bearing the marks of a firing pin. Police believe he made an unsuccessful attempt to shoot himself with the pistol before using the shotgun.

Police said they were informed that Fowlston was graduated several years ago from a medical college but failed to obtain a license to practice because the school did not meet required standards. Several surgical instruments were found in the house.

Fowlston is survived only by his brother.

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62-28915-A

THE KANSAS CITY STAR DECEMBER 8, 1935

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# DEATH A RICHETTI ECHO

## DR. R. J. FOWLSTON, JUROR IN MASSACRE TRIAL, A SUICIDE.

**He Had Brooded Over His Experience of Weighing Justice in Union Station Slaying, a Brother Relates.**

Dr. Robert J. Fowlston, one of the jurors who last June returned a death verdict against Adam Richetti in the union station massacre case, ended his own life yesterday in his bleak, unkempt bachelor abode at 2637 Lister avenue.

Richetti, whom Fowlston and eleven others voted should hang, still lives, beneficiary of the fact the law abridging appeal periods did not become effective until after his conviction June 17, the second anniversary of the massacre.

Fowlston, a lonely, frustrated man, 33 years old, found only added nervousness and fright from his jury box observance of gangsters in action, according to his brother. For a period after the Richetti verdict he imagined he was being shadowed and that the Lister avenue house was under surveillance. So far as known he received no tangible threats. His illusions, if such they were, augmented an already depressed mood.

After the marriage of a brother, his only relative, Fowlston lived alone in the Lister avenue house, where his mother ended her life a year or so ago. He was despondent over intermittent employment and his brother had not been able to persuade him to give up his solitary mode of life. This was urged again at a Thanksgiving dinner.

The brother, George Fowlston, 2326 Jackson avenue, discovered the suicide when he called at the Lister avenue house early last night. Beside a discharged shotgun was this note:

I am trying to take my own life as it seems useless to try and go on being a burden and of no use. Robert.

Fowlston received a medical college diploma in 1924, but the diploma lost all value to him in the disrepute that fell upon the now defunct school in the "diploma mill" accusations of a decade ago. Fowlston was further handicapped by a crippled foot, but wore a brace. His employment mostly had been as a shipping clerk in downtown stores.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 o'clock Monday morning at the Lindsey chapel.

DR. ROBERT J. FOWLSTON, WHO ENDED HIS LIFE YESTERDAY.

62-28915-A

St. Paul Pioneer Press

12-9-35

# VOTED FOR CONVICTION OF RICHETTI

## Brother Tells How Doctor Kept Guns Near, Peered From House.

Kansas City, Dec. 9.—(AP)—Fear of gangster reprisals gripped Dr. Robert J. Fowlston from the time that he and eleven fellow jurors brought in a death penalty verdict last June 17 against Adam Richetti for the 1933 quintuple slayings at the Kansas City Union station.

That fear haunted him, although apparently unwarranted, until he was found dead here of a self-inflicted bullet wound.

Fellow jurors and a brother disclosed facts about the man's frightened existence.

"He talked about gang vengeance at the trial," recalled Juror Leo M. Brown, "but never once did he suggest that Richetti be freed."

Another juror, George O. Dewey, said he recalled that Fowlston had seemed apprehensive of possible consequence of the jury's action.

George Fowlson told of the long tortured months his brother had spent.

"Robert imagined he was being shadowed," Fowlston said. "He thought his house was under surveillance.

"He stayed inside as much as possible and, peeking through the blinds, thought he saw lurking shadows in the streets. Noises startled him immeasurably.

"He kept the shotgun and pistol with him in his house."

Police decided that Doctor Fowlston killed himself with a shotgun after vainly attempting to fire a misfit cartridge in a pistol.

Richetti still lives, awaiting the outcome of an appeal to save him from the gallows. He was convicted of participating in a plot to rescue a gangster from officers. The gangster and four officers were mowed down by the would-be rescuers' machine guns.

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Mr. Parsons
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Mr. Lester
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62-28915-A

THE KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST KANSAS CITY MISSOURI
DECEMBER 9, 1935

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Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

## LOSE IN STATION CASE

### *Four Denied Rehearing in Massacre Plot.*

The United States circuit court of appeals in St. Louis Monday denied a motion for a rehearing in the case of the four men convicted of conspiracy in the Union station massacre.

The defandants are Richard Tallman Galatas, Hot Springs; Herbert Farmer, Joplin; Louis (Doc) Stacci, Chicago, and Frank B. (Fritz) Mulloy, Kansas City.

All were convicted in the federal court here and sentenced to two years in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth. The charge against them grew out of an attempt by gunmen to free Frank Nash, convict, who was being returned to the Leavenworth penitentiary.

Nash and four officers were killed by the gunmen.

Stacci elected to begin serving his sentence pending the outcome of the appeal. The other three are at liberty under bond.

62-28915-A

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# OUTLAW HIDEOUT TO BE GARDEN SPOT

## U. S. Is Spending $3,000,000 on Oklahoma Hill Country

BRAGGS, Okla., Dec. 12—(AP)—The government has started a $3,000,000 drive to make a garden spot of one of the nation's most notorious outlaw hideouts.

Out of the Cookson hills which tossed back many a wilderness taunt at manhunts in east central Oklahoma, the federal resettlement administration has plotted a 34,000-acre tract. It is the administration's biggest project.

If $3,000,000 isn't enough to press civilization upon the bottomless bogs, stone strewn fields and dense brush country, the administration is prepared to spend more.

Modern scenic highways will be cleaved out of the obscure trails up which Pretty Boy Floyd, Al Spencer and many other bad men once scurried. Mountainside farm tracts will be combed out of the moonshiners' nests.

Several hundred mountain families will be moved to more fertile lands. Then the government will send workers to remove the scar of lawlessness from the Cookson hills.

The region was among the worst of the Indian territory's bad lands. Henry Starr and his equally dangerous sister, Belle, headquartered in these hills. Al Spencer and Ford Bradshaw used them for hideouts.

The boom time bank raiders, Matt and George Kimes, now convicts, often were traced to the fringe of the wild rocks. And Floyd and his one time companion, George Birdwell, were said to have plotted their forays from the safety of the valleys.

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL
DECEMBER 13, 1935

62-28915-A

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RECEIVED

RICHARD GALATAS, HERBERT FERRER AND FRANK MULLOY PETITION [illegible] THE SUPREME COURT TODAY TO REVIEW THEIR CONVICTION AND SENTENCING [illegible] CITY ON [illegible] OF [illegible] IN THE UNION STATION [illegible]

PCB.

Read Our Tourism

62-28915-A

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KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST - JANUARY 13, 1936

# 3 CONVICTED IN MASSACRE ASK COURT REVIEW

## High Tribunal Is Petitioned by Galatas, Farmer and Mulloy.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—(UP)—Richard Galatas, Herbert Farmer and Frank Mulloy Monday petitioned the supreme court to review their conviction and sentencing in Kansas City, Mo., on charges of participating in the Union station massacre in which four peace officers and Frank Nash, a federal prisoner, were killed in June, 1933.

Each of the three has been sentenced to two years in Leavenworth penitentiary and fined $10,000.

James Daleo, their counsel, charged that there was undoubtedly a conspiracy among Verne Miller, Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd and Adam Riochetti to liberate Nash, Leavenworth fugitive, who had been apprehended in Little Rock, Ark.

The lawyer charged that there was not sufficient evidence against his clients to justify their conviction.

He also held that the indictment was defective. The lower court, he said, should have decided whether Nash originally had been properly committed to Leavenworth. If not, the lawyer contended, the indictment against his clients would have been deficient.

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KANSAS CITY MO
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 13 1936
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THE KANSAS CITY TIMES KANSAS CITY MISSOURI JANUARY 14, 1946

# MASSACRE CASE GOES UP

## U. S. SUPREME COURT IS ASKED TO REVIEW CONVICTIONS.

### Galatas, Farmer and Mulloy, Found Guilty of Conspiring to Release Frank Nash, Carry on Fight.

WASHINGTON BUREAU
THE KANSAS CITY STAR
610 ALBEE BUILDING

*(By The Star's Correspondent.)*

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—An application for a writ of certiorari to permit a review of the conviction of Richard Tallman Galatas, Herbert Allen Farmer and Frank D. Mulloy on the charge of conspiracy to release the late Frank Nash, who was slain in the Kansas City union station massacre, was filed today in supreme court.

The conviction was upheld in the circuit court of appeals. The supreme court is expected to pass on the application in the next three or four weeks.

The application before the highest court alleges that the indictment returned against the three was insufficient, objections are made to the evidence on which the convictions were obtained and the instructions to the jury are attacked.

The application asserts Galatas was acquainted with Nash only under the name of Miller.

It also states Galatas knew Verne Miller, the machine gunner in the union station massacre, but not by that name: that Galatas believed he was a business man.

The government charge that the three defendants conspired to procure the escape of Nash, is called in the application a mere legal conclusion, not supported by the evidence.

Mulloy, Galatas, Farmer and Louis Stacci of Chicago were convicted January 5, last year, after a week's trial in the federal court of Judge Merrill E. Otis. Each was sentenced to serve two years in prison and fined $10,000 for conspiracy to release Frank Nash, recaptured convict, who was slain with four officers on the union station plaza in Kansas City June 17, 1933. Stacci is at Leavenworth serving his term; the others are free on appeal bonds of $5,000 each.

62-28915-A

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Miss Gandy .....

# THREE FACING PRISON IN 'MASSACRE' CASE PLEAD FOR FREEDOM

Washington, D. C., Jan. 13.—(AP)—Three persons facing two year prison terms and $10,000 fines for conviction of conspiracy in the Kansas City Union station massacre today asked the Supreme court to free them.

The appeal was filed for Richard T. Galatas, Herbert A. Farmer, and Frank B. Mulloy. The three appealed from a ruling by the Eighth District Court of Appeals last Nov. 18 which affirmed the conviction and the sentence imposed by the federal district court of western Missouri.

Four officers and Frank Nash, escaped convict who had been recaptured, died in the Union station massacre when friends of Nash used machine guns in an attempt to free him.

The high court appeal contended the conspiracy indictment against Galatas, Farmer, and Mulloy was faulty and the evidence on which they were convicted insufficient.

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE

1-14-36.

62-28915-A

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DAILY CAPITAL NEWS JEFFERSON CITY MISSOURI JANUARY 14, 1936

# Three, Convicted of Conspiracy, Appeal

## Galatas, Farmer and Mulloy Take Case to Supreme Court

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—(AP)—Three persons facing two-year prison terms and $10,000 fines for conviction of conspiracy in connection with a bloody Kansas City union station massacre asked the supreme court today to free them.

The appeal was filed for Richard T. Galatas, Herbert A. Farmer and Frank B. Mulloy.

The three appealed from a ruling by the eighth district court of appeals November 18 last which affirmed the conviction and the sentence imposed by the federal district court of western Missouri.

Four officers and Frank Nash, escaped convict who had been recaptured, died in the union station massacre when friends of Nash used machine guns in an attempt to free him.

The high court appeal contended the conspiracy indictment against Galatas, Farmer and Mulloy was faulty and the evidence on which they were convicted insufficient.

The brief contended the Kansas City killers were Vern Miller, "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Adam Richetti.

It said that when Nash was recaptured by federal officers in June, 1933, his friends and other witnesses, including Galatas, thought he was kidnaped.

Galatas, the brief contended, aided Mrs. Nash, wife of the convict, on this theory.

Counsel for the trio contended the government evidence at the trial failed to prove the three conspired against federal officers.

62-28915-A

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FORT SMITH RECORD JANUARY 14, 1936

# THREE MEN CONVICTED IN MASSACRE APPEAL

**Trio Facing Prison Terms and Heavy Fines in Conspiracy Case Ask Court to Reverse Ruling**

Washington, Jan. 14.-(AP)-Three persons facing two-year prison terms and $10,000 fines for conviction of conspiracy in connection with the Kansas City union station killings asked the supreme court Monday to free them.

The appeal was filed for Richard T. Galatas, Herbert A. Farmer and Frank D. Mulloy.

The three appealed from a ruling by the eighth district court of appeals Nov. 18 last which affirmed the conviction and the sentence imposed by the federal district court of Western Missouri.

Four officers and Frank Nash, escaped convict who had been recaptured, died in the union station massacre when friends of Nash used machine guns in an attempt to free him.

The high court appeal contended the conspiracy indictment against Galatas, Farmer and Mulloy was faulty and the sentence on which they were convicted insufficient.

The brief contended the Kansas City killers were Vern Miller, "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Adam Richetti.

It said that when Nash was recaptured by federal officers in June, 1933, his friends and other witnesses, including Galatas, thought he was kidnaped.

Galatas, the brief contended, aided Mrs. Nash, wife of the convict, on this theory.

Counsel for the trio contended the government evidence at the trial failed to prove the three conspired against federal officers.

62-28915-A

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**'PRETTY BOY'**

Q. Where and when was "Pretty Boy" Floyd, who was associated with the Dillinger gang, killed? Was he married?

A. He was shot and killed on a farm about 7 miles north of East Liverpool, Ohio, Oct. 23, 1934. He was twice married. His first wife divorced him and his second wife left him, taking their small son with her.

62-28915-A

ST PAUL DISPATCH

FEB 17, 1954

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# 3 CONVICTED IN 'MASSACRE' LOSE APPEAL

Washington, Feb. 17.—(AP)—Three men convicted of conspiracy in connection with the Union Station massacre at Kansas City lost today in the Supreme court in their appeal for freedom.

The court refused to interfere with the ruling of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals last November 18, which approved their sentences.

The trio—Richard Galatas, Herbert Farmer and Frank Mulloy—facing sentences of two years in Leavenworth, Kan., penitentiary and fines of $10,000 each, had denied in a joint petition to the high court that they were implicated in the massacre, which was fatal to a convict and four officers.

Counsel for the three contended the government had not offered sufficient evidence to prove they conspired to release Frank Nash, convict, who died with the officers

62-28915-A

KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST - FEBRUARY 17, 1936.

# TRIO TO PRISON IN MASSACRE

## Galatas, Mulloy and Farmer Denied Review.

By United Press.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Richard T. Galatas, Herbert Farmer and Frank B. (Fritz) Mulloy Monday lost their fight against conviction on charges of aiding in the Kansas City Union station massacre of June 17, 1933. The supreme court Monday refused to review their cases. The sentences had been affirmed by the appeals court.

Each defendant was sentenced to two years in prison and fined $10,000.

None was accused of actual participation in the shooting which resulted in the death of four officers and Frank Nash whom federal agents was returning to Leavenworth prison from which he had escaped.

The charge against them was conspiracy to remove a prisoner from the custody of the attorney general.

Evidence at their trial indicated they had been present when Nash was picked up by federal agents at Hot Springs, Ark., and had assisted in keeping in touch with the movements of federal agents as the prisoner was transported back to Leavenworth.

The shooting was attributed to Verne Miller, "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Adam Richetti.

At the office of Maurice M. Milligan, United States district attorney, it was said Richard T. Galatas, Herbert A. Farmer and Frank B. (Fritz) Mulloy would have 30 days from the time the supreme court's mandate is received here, in which to surrender.

A fourth man who was convicted, Louis (Doc) Stacci, Chicago, elected at the time he was sentenced, to begin serving his sentence and he has since been in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth.

Galatas' home was in Hot Springs. Farmer lived in Joplin and Mulloy is a Kansas Cityan.

It probably will be some time in April, it was said at the district attorney's office, before the three men begin serving their sentences.

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Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trent
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Mr. Rosen

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# NEGRO CONVICTIONS VACATED BY COURT

## Justice Hughes Likens Mississippi Case to 'Rack and Torture' to Get Confessions.

## OFFICERS WHIPPED MEN

## Supreme Tribunal Refuses to Review Trial of 3 White Men in Kansas City Massacre.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (AP).—Asserting that "the rack and torture chamber may not be substituted for the witness stand," the Supreme Court today set aside the death sentences imposed on three Mississippi Negroes for murder.

Almost simultaneously the high court refused to interfere with penitentiary sentences given to three men—Richard Galatas, Herbert Farmer and Frank Mulloy—for conspiracy in connection with the 1933 Kansas City massacre involving an attempt to free Frank Nash, a convict, from police and Federal agents.

Chief Justice Hughes delivered the unanimous opinion granting a new trial to the Negroes if the case is prosecuted further. He declared:

"It would be difficult to conceive of methods more revolting to the sense of justice than those taken to procure the confessions of these petitioners."

He referred to testimony that confessions were obtained by hanging one of the Negroes from a tree for a time and whipping the others while naked with a rubber strap with buckles on it. A deputy sheriff was alleged to have been present both times, with two other officers present at the whipping.

The Mississippi Negroes, Ed Brown, Henry Shields and Yank Ellington, were convicted of slaying Raymond Stewart, a white planter, in Kempter County, Miss.,

"Aside from the confessions," Justice Hughes said, "there was no evidence sufficient to warrant the submission of the case to the jury. That the evidence established that the confessions were procured by coercion was not questioned.

"The State may not permit an accused to be hurried to conviction under mob domination, where the whole proceeding is but a mask without supplying corrective process."

Action in the Kansas City massacre case consisted of a mere refusal to review the conviction of the men which had been upheld by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. They were sentenced to two years at Leavenworth penitentiary and fined $10,000 each.

Their counsel contended that the government had not proved they conspired to obtain the release of Nash, who was slain with officers in the rescue attempt.

The attorneys contended that "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Verne Miller, outlaws later slain, and Adam Richetti were the guilty persons.

In the case of the three Negroes, Justice Hughes asserted that evidence that the confessions "were procured by coercion was not questioned."

"There is no dispute as to the facts upon this point," he continued, adding that they were "clearly and adequately stated in the dissenting opinion of Judge Griffin of the Mississippi Supreme Court, with whom Judge Anderson concurred, showing both the extreme brutality of the measures to extort the confessions and the participation of the State authorities."

THE NEW YORK TIMES
FEB 13 193

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| Mr. Tamm |
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| Miss Gandy |

# COURT SPARES CONVICTED MEN

## U. S. Tribunal Sets Aside Death Sentence — Hits 'Torture Chamber'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (AP)—Asserting "the rack and torture chamber may not be substituted for the witness stand," the Supreme Court today set aside the death sentences imposed on three Mississippi Negroes for murder.

Almost simultaneously the high court refused to interfere with penitentiary sentences given three men—Richard Galatas, Herbert Parmer and Frank Mulloy—for conspiracy in connection with the 1933 Kansas City massacre involving an attempt to free Frank Nash, a convict, from police and federal agents.

Chief Justice Hughes delivered the unanimous opinion granting the Negroes a new trial—if the case is prosecuted further. He declared: "It would be difficult to conceive of methods more revolting to the sense of justice than those taken to procure the confessions of these petitioners."

He referred to testimony that confessions were obtained by hanging one of the Negroes from a tree for a time and whipping the others while naked with a rubber strap with buckles on it.

Boston Herald
2/18/36

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JAMESTOWN (N.Y.) POST
2/18/36

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# THREE NEGROES WIN RETRIAL, IN SUPREME COURT

## Tribunal Rules Three Mississippians Convicted Only by Confessions Forced by Beatings.

## KANSAS CITY MEN LOSE IN APPEAL

## Court Refuses To Review Conviction of Two for Part in Station Massacre Effected in Move To Free Pal.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Asserting "the rack and torture chamber may not be substituted for the witness stand" the Supreme Court today set aside the death sentences imposed on three Mississippi negroes for murder.

Almost simultaneously the high court refused to interfere with penitentiary sentences given three men—Richard Galatas, Herbert Farmer, and Frank Mulloy—for conspiracy in connection with the 1933 Kansas City massacre involving an attempt to free Frank Nash, a convict, from police and Federal agents.

Chief Justice Hughes delivered the unanimous opinion granting the negroes a new trail—if the case is prosecuted further. He declared:

"It would be difficult to conceive of methods more revolting to the sense of justice than those taken to procure the confessions of these petitioners."

He referred to testimony that confessions were obtained by hanging one of the negroes from a tree for a time and whipping the others while naked with a rubber strap with buckles on it.

The negroes, Ed Brown, Henry Shields, and Yank Ellington—were convicted of slaying Raymond Stewart, a white planter, in Kemper County, Mississippi, on March 30, 1934.

"Aside from the confessions," Hughes said, "there was no evidence sufficient to warrant the submission of the case to the jury * * * That the evidence established that the confessions were procured by coercion was not questioned. * * *

"The state may not permit an accused to be hurried to conviction under mob domination—where the whole proceeding is but a mask, without supplying corrective process."

Action in the Kansas City massacre case consisted of a mere refusal to review the conviction of the men. They were sentenced to two years at Leavenworth Penitentiary and fined $10,000 each.

Their counsel contended the government had not proven they conspired to obtain the release of Nash, who was slain with officers in the rescue attempt.

The attorneys contended that "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Vern Miller, outlaws later slain, and Adam Richetti were the guilty persons.

62-28915-A

THE KANSAS CITY JOURNAL - POST FEBRUARY 27, 1936

# DEADLINE SET FOR TRIO'S SURRENDER IN MASSACRE CASE

## Three Convicted of Conspiracy Must Give Up Before March 28.

Three men, convicted of conspiracy in connection with the Union station massacre, must surrender before March 28 to serve 2-year terms in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth.

They are Richard Tallman Galatas, Hot Springs, Ark.; Frank B. (Fritz) Mulloy, Kansas City, and Herbert Allen Farmer, Joplin. Mandates for their commitment were received by the United States district court here Thursday. The mandates necessitate their surrender or arrest within 30 days.

All three have exhausted every legal recourse. Only two weeks ago, the United States supreme court declined to review their cases. They had appealed first from the district court here to the United States circuit court of appeals. It had affirmed the verdict and sentence of the lower court.

The men were alleged to have conspired to effect the release of Frank Nash, a federal prisoner. Nash and four officers were slain June 16, 1933, at the Union Station plaza when an attempt was made by gunmen to free Nash from custody of federal officers who were taking him to the Leavenworth penitentiary from which he had escaped three years before.

Besides Galatas, Farmer and Mulloy, a fourth man, Louis (Doc) Stacci, Chicago night club operator, also was convicted of conspiracy. He elected to begin serving his sentence and almost has completed his term.

Adam Ricchetti, allegedly one of the gunmen in the massacre, was convicted of murder in the Jackson county circuit court here, and sentenced to death. He is held in the county jail, pending the outcome of his appeal to the supreme court of Missouri.

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Mr. Johnson
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THE KANSAS CITY STAR KANSAS CITY MISSOURI MARCH 20, 1936.

# TO PRISON IN MASSACRE

## TERMS FOR MULLOY, GALATAS AND FARMER BEGIN FRIDAY.

### Three of Four Men Convicted in Union Station Plaza Killings Are to Serve 2-Year Sentences.

Three of the four men convicted for conspiracy to obstruct justice as a result of the union station plaza massacre of June 17, 1933, must surrender Friday to the United States marshal to begin serving sentences of two years each in the federal prison at Leavenworth.

The three are Frank B. (Fritz) Mulloy, Kansas City night club owner; Richard Tallman Galatas, Hot Springs, Ark., and Herbert Allen Farmer, Joplin, Mo., professional gambler. The United States supreme court recently refused to review the case after the circuit court of appeals affirmed their convictions by a jury in the court of Judge Merrill E. Otis. The sentences were the heaviest that could have been given for conspiracy.

STACCI "TOOK HIS MEDICINE."

Louis (Doc) Stacci, Melrose Park, Ill., night club owner, who appealed to the United States circuit court of appeals, but did not carry his case to the supreme court, is serving out his 2-year sentence at Leavenworth. He will be eligible to file application for a parole soon. He has served almost two-thirds of his sentence.

The wives of Galatas and Farmer were convicted with their husbands, but Judge Otis granted probations as to them. The court also placed Mrs. Frances Nash, widow of the convict slain in the station plaza killings, and Miss Vivian Mathis, who posed here as the wife of Verne C. Miller, slain machine gunner in the massacre, on probation. Mrs. Nash now is living with her parents in Minnesota and Miss Mathis is said to be living in Chicago.

FLOYD AND MILLER DEAD.

Two of those named by the government as the actual machine gunners in the station slayings are dead. They were Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd and Miller. Floyd was slain by federal agents near East Liverpool, O., about a year ago and Miller met his death in gangland fashion. His nude, bullet-riddled body was found on the outskirts of Detroit.

The convicted conspirators were charged by the government with making the chain of telephone calls that resulted in the massacre of four officers and Nash. Adam Richetti, convicted in the Jackson County criminal court for murder as one of the killers of the officers and Nash, has been sentenced to be hanged. He is held in the county jail while attorneys carry an appeal of his conviction to the state supreme court.

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JOSEPH

THE KANSAS CITY STAR MARCH 27, 1936. KANSAS CITY MISSOURI.

# FRITZ' MULLOY'S PROBATION PLEA DENIED BY OTIS

## Kansas Cityan to Begin Serving His 2-Year Term Saturday.

An eleventh hour move of Frank B. (Fritz) Mulloy to avoid serving a 2-year sentence in the federal penitentiary on a conspiracy charge in connection with the Union station massacre, was unsuccessful Friday.

Pleading innocence of any wrongdoing in the case, Mulloy, through his attorney, James Daleo, made application for probation to Judge Merrill E. Otis of the federal court, in whose court he was sentenced in January, 1935.

Judge Otis, after hearing the probation arguments, declined to intervene in Mulloy's behalf, holding that there was evidence at the trial to "connect the defendant with the crime."

**Surrenders to Marshal.**

The hearing followed Mulloy's appearance at the office of Henry L. Dillingham, United States marshal Friday morning where he surrendered to begin serving his sentence.

Mulloy was informed when he surrendered that he had one more day of liberty, if he chose to take it; that he was not due to surrender until Saturday.

"I'll take the extra day," Mulloy said.

He was instructed to appear at the marshal's office not later than 1 p. m. Saturday, when deputy marshals will take him to Leavenworth to begin the sentence.

Mulloy was convicted, along with two others, of conspiracy to free Frank Nash, a recaptured federal convict, in the Union station massacre in June, 1933. The other convicted were Herbert Allen Farmer, Joplin gambler, and Richard Galatas, Hot Springs, Ark. All three were sentenced to two years in the penitentiary and fined $10,000 each.

**Cites Appeals Ruling.**

In denying probation, Judge Otis said the United States court of appeals had affirmed the sentence although saying in its opinion the case against Mulloy was weaker than that against the other defendants.

"If I thought there was a miscarriage of justice," said the judge, "I might consider probation. But I cannot say there was not evidence to connect the defendant with the offense, because there was."

The three convicted conspirators appealed their sentences but the higher courts confirmed them and the trial court ruled they must start their sentences Saturday.

Galatas was reported to be in Kansas City Friday, ready to surrender to the marshal on the date set. Farmer was believed to be still in Joplin.

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E. E. JOSE

THE KANSAS CITY MISSOURI STAR MARCH 29, 1936.

# LOCK ON MASSACRE CASE

## KEY TURNS ON LAST OF GROUP ACCUSED IN STATION KILLINGS.

### Mulloy, Galatas and Farmer Are Dressed in at Leavenworth Prison After Having to Wait to Be Admitted.

*(By a Member of The Star's Staff.)*

LEAVENWORTH, KAS., MARCH 28.—A large black motor car slid to a stop this afternoon in front of the United States penitentiary and out stepped three men, faces drawn, heads bowed. They started up the long flight of steps to the prison entrance.

"Hey, there, you guys; come back here," a guard in an outpost tower shouted.

FACE A TOWER.

The three men turned, walked back and faced the guard in the tower.

"Now, what do you want behind those walls; what's your business?" the guard demanded.

"We've got some time to serve and we want to serve it," one of the three grim-faced men volunteered.

"What are your names?"

One of three explained they were Frank B. (Fritz) Mulloy, Herbert Allen Farmer and Richard Tallman Galatas.

"Oh, the Kansas City station boys, huh; okay, pass on. Report to warden's office."

The three then began the 5-minute climb up the steps. Another guard slowly opened the first door and admitted them. Another door swung open and the "station boys," as the guards began calling them, entered. They went to the office of Warden Fred Zerbst and told him they desired to surrender to begin serving their terms.

REFUSED ADMITTANCE.

"Where are your commitment papers?" Warden Zerbst asked.

"We don't have them," Mulloy replied.

"Well, you can't get into this penitentiary without them."

"But——" Galatas started. He did not get time to answer when Warden Zerbst lifted up the receiver and placed a long-distance call to Henry L. Dillingham, United States marshal, at the federal building at Kansas City. The call quickly was put through.

"Say, Henry," Warden Zerbst said. "Your station boys are up here at my office and want in, but I can't let them in until I get the proper commitment papers. This is Warden Zerbst."

Marshal Dillingham informed the warden he would leave immediately for the prison with the papers.

"Well, you boys wait in the hall outside my office until the United States marshal gets here. Nothing I can do until I get the papers. Why didn't you surrender to the marshal at Kansas City?" the warden asked.

There was no reply.

A SHORT WAIT.

Mulloy, Farmer and Galatas waited from 2:18 o'clock until 3:25 o'clock, when the marshal's car stopped near the guard tower in front. Mulloy, looking out a window of the prison, saw him first. "Here he comes," he told his companions. They looked outside.

Soon Marshal Dillingham and Robert Pulliam, a deputy, entered. Mulloy, Farmer and Galatas shook hands with the marshal.

"We appreciate all you've done for us," Mulloy volunteered. "You were very kind, and we want to tell you."

By this time Warden Zerbst had left his office for a drive. A guard escorted the three defendants to the office of the captain of the guards. Dillingham and Pulliam followed. The captain was given the commitment papers and the three men formally were admitted. From then on they were three among more than three thousand convicts. They were paying penalties upon convictions or pleas of guilty for violating federal laws. They admitted they participated in communications that resulted in a crime that shocked the nation the morning of June 17, 1933, when gangsters mowed down four officers, one a federal agent, and Frank Nash, escaped federal convict, on the union station plaza.

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Mr. Fenworth
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Joseph
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy
Mr. Rosen

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R. F. JOSEPH

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Rosen

# Dillinger Cost

## *Senate Pays Claims In His Killing*

The slaying of John Dillinger and the Kansas City massacre were recalled to the Senate yesterday when it enacted bills paying claims resulting from the two cases.

The Senate passed one House bill, awarding $5,000 to the widow of Policeman William J. Grooms, of Kansas City, killed in the Kansas City massacre.

RECEIVED
DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

62-289157-A

WASH. HERALD

APR 25 1936

R. E. JOSEPH

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

June 4, 1936

The following is an abstract of the fingerprint record of one Charles E. Underhill, with alias, on file in the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

As Charles E. Underhill, alias C. E. Underhill, #15191, received State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, November 17, 1913, from Jasper County, crime murder 1st degree; sentence - life.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR KANSAS CITY MISSOURI MAY 22, 1936.

# FREED AFTER 23 YEARS

## PARK PAROLES CHARLES E. UNDERHILL, SERVING LIFE TERM.

**Brother of Notorious Outlaw, Sentenced for Joplin Holdup Murder, Will Be Employed Here.**

JEFFERSON CITY BUREAU
THE KANSAS CITY STAR
(By a Member of The Star's Staff.)

JEFFERSON CITY, May 21.—Governor Park today issued a parole to Charles E. Underhill, a brother of the notorious bandit, Wilbur Underhill, and an inmate of the Missouri prison almost twenty-three years under life sentence for first degree murder.

Charles Underhill was paroled to W. Randall Smart, Kansas City lawyer and member of the Jackson County delegation in the Missouri legislature, who acted as sponsor for the parole. His record shows he entered the prison October 29, 1913, for the killing of Phillip Burton, a peanut vendor in Joplin, in an attempted holdup. Earl Louk, a companion of Underhill's in the slaying, also was sentenced to life imprisonment. He was paroled in 1922.

Underhill will be given employment by F. E. Dugan, manager of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company in Kansas City, according to the parole papers. The files show that M. E. Crogan and John C. Carr, Kansas City lawyers, recently have been active in behalf of the parole and that Floyd E. Jacobs, Kansas City lawyer, also has urged clemency.

In recent years Underhill, who was only 19 when he entered the penitentiary, has been an excellent inmate, according to prison officials. He now is 42 years old. He has been assigned as a night watchman on one of the prison farms more than a year.

Underhill was one of the oldest inmates in point of time served. Hayden Peeples, a Buchanan County Negro, has been in the prison longest, having served twenty-seven years under a life sentence.

Wilbur Underhill, brother of the paroled man, was wounded fatally by a posse at Shawnee, Ok., December 30, 1933. He had been a leader in the sensational Memorial day break from the Kansas penitentiary earlier in the year, and had a long criminal record.

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Mr. T[illegible]
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THE KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST KANSAS CITY MISSOURI MAY 24, 1936.

# Missouri's G-Men of Highways Play Major Role in War on Public Enemy

## Minor Traffic Violations Often Uncover Criminal Records of Offenders; Trooper's Work Is Varied.

One day, when the state highway patrol was searching Missouri for Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, Col. B. Marvin Casteel, superintendent, and several troopers stopped in a small town near St. Joseph for lunch.

A St. Joseph banker was in the restaurant. He saw guns in Colonel Casteel's motor car. Trembling a little, he leaped into his car and sped to St. Joseph. There he closed his bank. He thought armed desperadoes were about to descend upon it.

Colonel Casteel is not flattered by the error, of course, but he gets a chuckle out of it.

Casteel and the 95 men under his command are formidable agents of the law. Tall, for the most part, they are strong and straight men of military bearing. They work day and night and may be encountered on almost any highway in the state.

**Make Many Arrests.**

Although the highway patrol was inaugurated chiefly for the control of traffic, the patrolmen also are available for the enforcement of all laws and have made many arrests of felons and aided in the capture of others. In the last three months the highway patrolmen arrested 560 persons who had violated laws of this and other states.

The patrol made a total of 2,840 arrests and recovered 84 stolen motor cars in the three months.

Most of the arrests were for driving motor cars recklessly, or other violations of state highway laws.

"Pretty Boy" Floyd has paid with his life for a series of crimes. There are many others like him to the extent they are violating the state and national laws. And the patrol is as eager to apprehend them as it was to bring Floyd to justice. Its job goes on 24 hours a day. Its troopers are on duty nearly 12 hours a day—sometimes, in emergencies, much more than that.

**Turned Wife to Camp.**

The state highway patrolmen played an important part in the arrest of Clarence Sparger and John Langan, bank robbers, in a tourist camp near Hickman Mills April 21. They have figured conspicuously in the arrest of many other criminals. But for the most part their prisoners usually were turned over to local peace officers or the government for prosecution.

It is understood the highway patrol obtained the information which led to the apprehension of the two bank robbers just mentioned. They were captured after a shooting fray at the tourist camp in which Sparger was wounded. Troopers learned Mrs. Sparger was at the camp. Sparger's arrest and subsequent com-

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mitment to the federal penitentiary under a 25-year sentence, therefore, may be checked up to the age-old maxim "cherechez la femme." The troopers traced her to the tourist camp and then they and special agents of the federal bureau of investigation pounced upon their quarry.

After an hour's gun battle the suspect surrendered. There they also found and arrested Langan.

**Escorted to Bethany.**

Wednesday Casteel and his troopers escorted Langan to Bethany, Mo., where the suspect pleaded guilty to a charge of second degree burglary in connection with the attempted robbery of the Citizens bank of Blythesdale, Mo., in September, 1935. He was sentenced in circuit court to 10 years in the penitentiary. He was returned to the Jackson county jail to face two federal charges of transporting stolen motor cars across state lines.

"Approximately 90 per cent of the criminal cases which come our way," Casteel said, "are developed when persons are arrested for violating laws of the highway. We find out, after we have made arrests for these comparatively minor offenses, that some of our prisoners have committed graver violations of the laws."

The state highway patrol gradually is increasing the efficiency of identification which makes possible this crime detection. A little more than a year ago it established an identification bureau at its headquarters in Jefferson City. Already the fingerprints of 45,000 to 50,000 suspects are on file there.

**File Fingerprint Records.**

The police departments of most of the principal cities and some of the smaller ones, as well as sheriffs of many Missouri counties, file fingerprint records with the highway patrol. Even peace officers of other states have contributed to the collection and, likewise, the United States marshals in Missouri.

Colonel Casteel is patterning his crime detection bureau after the national bureau at Washington. Six men are employed there. One of them is a skilled chemist and a ballistician. He has been trained to utilize the most modern methods of scientific crime detection.

The highway patrol also operates a radio station at Jefferson City in connection with its police work. Four dispatchers are on duty there.

**Fewer Deaths in 1935.**

Colonel Casteel and his men have concentrated their efforts on reducing highway accidents, which have claimed a bloody toll in all states. The effort was enhanced and the power of the patrol for apprehending felons increased by the addition of 35 troopers in July, last year.

"I believe," Colonel Casteel said, "that a reduction in the number of deaths on the highway in 1935 is traceable, at least in part, to the enlistment of more men. There were 92 fewer deaths in 1935 than in the preceding year."

The highway patrol also has operated with marked success in collecting fees due the state from motorists, Casteel said.

Casteel estimated that his force was responsible for payment of at least 10 per cent of the motor license tax and possibly 50 per cent of the chauffeur license tax.

The highway patrol also acts as agent for enforcement of the trucking laws for the public service commission. In this connection, Casteel said, the patrol probably makes it possible for the commission to turn in to the state treasurer considerably more money from license fees than it could if the highway patrol did not exist.

THE KANSAS CITY TIMES KANSAS CITY MISSOURI JUNE 2, 1936.

Mr. Nathan
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Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Josephs
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

## POLICE WIDOW'S FUND PASSES.

### President Now Must Approve $5,000 for Mrs. Montie Hermanson

WASHINGTON BUREAU
THE KANSAS CITY STAR
610 ALBEE BUILDING

*(By a Member of The Star's Staff.)*

WASHINGTON, June 1.—The widows of both the Kansas City police officers who lost their lives in the union station massacre virtually were assured today of $5,000 from the government. A measure appropriating that amount to Mrs. Montie Hermanson passed the senate today and was sent to the White House for President Roosevelt's approval.

A similar measure to pay Mrs. Myrtle Grooms $5,000 passed congress several weeks ago and promptly was approved by the President. These two measures were sponsored jointly by Representative C. Jasper Bell and Senator Harry S. Truman, on the recommendation of Otto P. Higgins, director of police in Kansas City.

62-28915-A

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
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Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
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Mr. Quinn .....
Schilder .....
Tamm .....
Tracy .....
Candy .....

REC

# One Fender Belonged to 'Pretty Boy'

Wichita, Kan. - (UP) - Ben Preston, mechanic, owns what is probably the world's most gruesome automobile.

His car has been assembled from parts of 25 automobiles in which 37 persons were killed.

One fender was taken from a car used by Eddie Adams, notorious Kansas bandit, just before he was killed by Wichita police several years ago. Another fender is from a car used by the late Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd.

Preston began a year ago to collect various parts from wrecked machines. He was assisted in assembling the machine by Ray Wilt and E. D. Frazee. It is a roadster and capable of traveling 70 miles an hour.

Although Preston said he does not intend to drive the car at that speed, he does not stand in fear of its gruesome reminders. He said that he assembled the machine as a hobby but it will stand out as a warning to other motorists.

Milwaukee Journal
July 5, 1936

62-28915-A

14

ST. PAUL DISPATCH

7-17-36

# GANGS SPELL GRIEF TO NASH'S WIDOW

## *Frances Miller, Ex-School Ma'am, Would Rather Be on Relief*

A cultured Aurora, Minn., woman, for three years a sufferer from the woes and misery which only gangland can deal, walked out of a Federal court kidnaping trial Thursday, a prayer on her lips—"Never let me hear of gangs or gangsters again."

She is Mrs. Frances Miller, widow of the notorious Frank Nash, slain with four police officers in the Kansas City massacre June 17, 1933. She had just finished testifying that Jack Peifer, charged with complicity in the William Hamm kidnaping had associated with the Karpis-Barker gangsters in June, 1933, preceding the abduction.

"I'm a gangland widow, and I've spent three of the unhappiest years anybody could," she said. "I hope this is the last time I will be called to talk about criminals."

Mrs. Miller—she married Nash when he used the name of George Miller—started out to be a school teacher. Eldest child of an ore miner, she worked and studied hard to gain an education. She attended a teachers' college in Wisconsin and taught school for several years. Her first marriage ended in a divorce. Forced to provide for her daughter, she obtained employment as a cook in a Lake county, Ill, summer resort. It was there that she met Nash, posing as a restaurant man from Chicago. After her marriage to Nash, she learned he was a bootlegger. She lived luxuriously in a Chicago apartment for several months and was able to send her daughter, now 9 years old, to school.

She believed Nash's flashily dressed associates were bootleggers too, she said. Then came tragedy. Nash was captured and slain by his own henchmen who were trying to free him from police. Since then Mrs. Miller has lived in fear of gangsters.

She testified for the government against the men who tried to free her husband. She has been questioned numerous times by agents as to her knowledge of gangsters sought by the G-men. Every time Nash's friends were suspected of crimes, she was queried as to what she knew about the suspects.

Now she is back at Aurora with her daughter. She is on the relief roll, and she would rather stay there than face another court.

62-28915-A

PLEASE RETURN TO
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SYMBOL

PAPER

CITY

DATE

## Now They Are G-Men

Making a virtue of necessity, the department of justice, through the authoritative voice of J. Edgar Hoover, has conceded that its operatives of the federal bureau of investigation may hereafter be styled "G-men." George (Machine Gun) Kelly, first employed this graphic sobriquet, at the time of his capture, and both press and pictures soon adopted it. The operatives themselves wished to be known as "FBI-men." The quite evident defect of this entitlement is that it does not click, as the phrase would declare. The term "G-men" was of criminal origin, and obviously it abbreviates "government men," but it possesses that certain terseness which popular speech requires. We need not look a lingual gift horse in the mouth.

Vitality of language necessitates constant mutation, and slang—commonly of base origin—takes the short cut to effectiveness. Rat. Fence. Moll. Rod. Grand. Heat. Spot. Finger. Americans readily define these equivalents of ideas, which is all any word can be, though their origins are in the underworld. With one or two exceptions, perhaps, it would prove quite impossible to convey the idea as instantly and effectively by any other means. Development of the idea would necessitate not one word, but several, or even more than several, and then they should lack for real vitality. It is entirely futile to protest the development of language through the medium of criminal argot. Language makes its own growth, and the lexicographers merely trail after it.

Contributions to the vitality of language do not confine themselves to ignoble birth, and, anyway, who are we to ask for pedigree that is unblemished? The science of aviation has coined words to its need, a great many words, or adapted words already existing. A "blimp" is a small non-rigid dirigible, and the men who write the dictionaries incline to the opinion that it may be—though, mind you, they do not know—a play on the word "limp." But at the use of the word itself the visualization arises. In aeronautics the "ceiling" is not the top of a room, but is the maximum height at which an airplane, flying above sea level, can maintain horizontal flight; or, as may be, it is the top limit of visibility for flying, under prevailing conditions of weather. These remarks no more than scratch the surface of the subject.

So J. Edgar Hoover gave in. What was there for him to do, save this? You cannot buck the growth of language. It takes its own course and will admit of no pedantic objection or professorial obstacle. The mutations may seem uncouth to some of us, at the time of their occurrence, but presently they are language and no longer uncouth.

no action
rcb 9-17

copy in 511-A

62-28915-A

C O

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Beaghman .....
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Mr. Dawsey .....
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Herald - Post 9-25-36.

# Between-Editions

By JAMES J. HART.

MAN ABOUT DERBYTOWN.

The lady of my heart is one
Who has no peer beneath the sun:
But mortal truths have mortal sequels—
Beneath the moon I know her equals.
—Hoffenstein.

CITY DESK.

The Aufenkamp case may be transferred to the funny house before the trial . . . Federal dicks are now admitting that Verne Miller, the infamous bandit responsible for the Kansas City Union Station massacre, was killed in a Louisville bathhouse and his body smuggled to Detroit, where he was "found" . . . Dr. John Clem married a Miss Margaret Armstrong. Attorney John Clem also wed a Miss Margaret Armstrong. None is related . . . Doctor Clem owns the largest collection of the quatrains and various translations of The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam in the United States . . . Portrait: That Male High professor driving a car with an Indiana license . . . Death Takes A Holiday: The law firm of Leibson and Goldman were handling the defense of one Leslie Wright in Police

HERALD-POST
9/25/36.

62-28915-A

THE KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST KANSAS CITY MISSOURI DECEMBER 19, 1936.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
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## The Inaccurate Eye

George McKeever, hanged in Fulton for the murder of Sgt. Ben Booth of the Missouri highway patrol, was convicted on overwhelming evidence. Yet prior to his arrest, 19 persons identified photographs of Pretty Boy Floyd and Adam Ricchetti as Booth's murderers. The two were not associates of McKeever, and they were far from the scene at the time.

Floyd and Ricchetti may have deserved hanging for other reasons, but had the state relied on visual evidence in the Booth case, they might have been hanged for a crime they did not commit. It is conceivable that a person guilty of no crime at all could have been hanged for it, under similarly erroneous identification. The eye is an excellent mechanism in itself, but it is undependable because it is controlled by the brain back of it. The brain sees what it wants to see.

The story of how McKeever eventually was apprehended on scientific ballistic evidence supplied by Merle Gill, Kansas City police ballistician, is well known. Microscopes and magnifying cameras have no imagination. They see what they see. Another man might have been hanged at Fulton Friday morning if they did not.

62-28915-A

THE KANSAS CITY TIMES KANSAS CITY MISSOURI JANUARY 13, 1937.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
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Mr. Egan
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# NO PAROLE FOR MULLOY

## FEDERAL BOARD ACTS ON PLEA IN MASSACRE CASE.

### No Reason Given for Rejecting Application of Prisoner Whose Telephone Was Used to Contact Gang.

*(By a Member of The Star's Staff.)*

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—The federal parole board today denied the application for parole of Fritz Mulloy, convicted of conspiracy in the union station massacre of June 17, 1933.

A member of the parole board made the announcement that Mulloy's application was turned down, but did not reveal the reasons for the board's action.

When Mulloy was on trial the government asserted the telephone in his home in Kansas City was used to connect the killers and pave the way for the five murders committed at the station.

Mulloy was an acquaintance of Verne C. Miller, the slayer who sought out Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd and Adam Richetti to aid him in the attempted delivery of Frank Nash, the escaped convict, from federal and state authorities. Captured in Mulloy's home three weeks after the massacre was James (Fur) Sammons of Chicago. Mulloy was not present when Sammons, who had no connection with the massacre, was taken.

Judge Merrill E. Otis, who was on the bench at the time the conspiracy case was tried, recommended last month that Mulloy be paroled. He declared the evidence against Mulloy was less conclusive than it was against the other defendants, and that the circuit court of appeals had said the evidence against Mulloy did not measure up to that against the others. Mulloy's sentence is two years.

62-28915-A

THE OKLAHOMA NEWS
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
March 7, 1937

# My Brother Was a Bandit

62-28915-A

*by*

*Jimmie*

*Birdwell*

*As Told to*

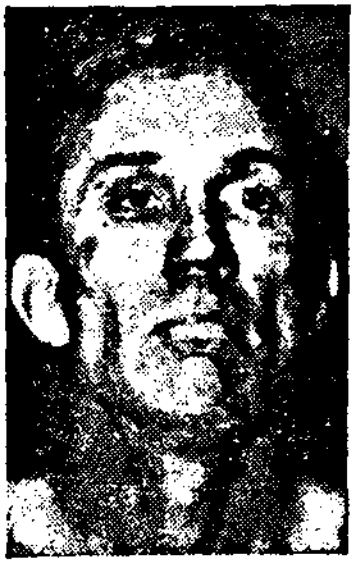
*Ed Wallace*

Jimmie Birdwell

Pretty Boy Floyd

*George Birdwell became a desperado and Pretty Boy Floyd's partner because he wanted to, although he knew the end of the trail meant the penitentiary, the electric chair or the grave, says Jimmie Birdwell, his brother. In George's first job, he helped rob a bank and next morning deposited his share of loot in the same bank.*

*With every peace officer in the Southwest looking for him, Birdwell gave a big Thanksgiving Day dinner for his family in wooded hills north of Wewoka. Machine guns were used to hold down the tablecloth and all bowed their heads as the bandit's mother offered thanks and prayed for safety of her desperado son.*



George Birdwell

*Life, which contained much courage and bravado, came to an inglorious end in foolish attempt to rob Negro bank while drunk.*

*His family kept a log of his robberies on big calendar which hung in their home, not to glorify his crimes, but to remind themselves that a man of such energy and cunning might have gone far had he preferred to live within the law.*

MY brother, George Birdwell, lived an outlaw life as brilliant as a ship's rocket—then died as ingloriously as a cigar stub dropped into an ash can.

George was credited with being the brains and the avery behind the career of Pretty Boy Floyd, but he was shot wn by a Negro as he tried to rob the Boley bank—probably the siest job he ever tried.

George became a desperado because he wanted to. For o other reason. He just naturally wanted to go bad. And e did it.

His family never has tried to excuse him for his depredaoms. We spent days and weeks in the constant dread of the our when newspapers would tell us that he had been slaughered by the forces of law. We never expected him to be aken alive or to reform. We kept a log of his robberies on big calendar at home. When the papers would report a robbery we would mark it up on the calendar together with the ank and the amount.

Living right didn't produce enough excitement to suit George.

When he joined up with Pretty Boy Floyd at Earlsboro, Okla., he had a good job with the Magnolia Oil Co. He was a refinery engineer and probably was making about $160 a month.

Unlike Charley Floyd, he cared little for the company of women. So far as I know, he probably was faithful to his wife and provided well for her and his four children. None of these children has shown any tendency to follow the pattern of their father.

George was the sort of fellow who always was fighting with someone, but never licking anybody. He got more whippings than any other man I ever saw, but never seemed to have an enemy. He just naturally liked to fight and after the fight was over he was ready to buy the drinks for friends and enemies alike.

He seemed to consider it a personal favor when someone would fight with him and, consequently, give him a whipping.

But he had a disposition which provided plenty of fights. One of his favorite jokes was to take a 45-calibre pistol out of his pocket, fire it six times and then put the smoking gun into a stranger's pocket.

When the cops would come and arrest the man with the pistol, George would accompany him to the police station and pay the fine. He was just the sort of person who thought that was fun. He started that while he lived in Amarillo.

George's pet hobby was his attention for his mother and father. He was generous, kind in his way, and would rather be giving things to his friends and family than anyone I ever saw.

## Didn't Hold Floyd in High Esteem

Yet, he could rake a moving automobile with a machine gun and cut every connection on the motor. He could change a tire with one hand and cover a peace officer with a pistol in the other. He could change the ammunition drums on an automatic rifle as quick as most men could remove their hat.

He had lots of nerve and the peace officers think Pretty Boy would have surrendered on one occasion or more, if George hadn't been along.

George was the kind of fellow who would rob a bank, then deposit all the money again within a few hours. He did that at Earlsboro, the first bank he ever held up.

One officer said George threatened to turn a machine gun on Pretty Boy one day when a surrender seemed the safest thing to do. Still, the officers never got close enough to them to know much about things like that and I've never been able to verify the story. I do know that George didn't think Floyd was the brave bandit that others thought he was.

George met Pretty Boy Floyd in the spring of 1931 at the Magnolia camp near Earlsboro. Pretty Boy came in there frequently to visit his brother, Bradley Floyd, who was a truck driver for the Magnolia.

They got pretty well acquainted, like fellows will, and it wasn't long before Pretty Boy was telling him about his robberies. George went along with his job and Pretty Boy spent lots of time with him in the engine room of the plant.

One day Bill Miller, a friend of Pretty Boy, came to town and they decided to rob the Earlsboro bank. George wanted to go in with them and they decided he could.

They sent their wives out for a ride in George's car and went to Earlsboro about 1 p. m. They knocked over the bank without any trouble and carried away about $3600. They went straight out to George's house, divided the money and Floyd and Miller left the country that afternoon.

George's part was about $1200 and he deposited it in the same bank the next morning shortly after it opened.

The cashier said: "Pretty good, George, rob the bank one evening and put the money back the next morning."

George kidded along with the cashier for a few minutes and then picked up his deposit slip, stuffed it into a pocket, and left. No one suspected that it represented the same money which was taken out a few hours before.

Floyd and Miller took a turn out through Kentucky and Ohio, knocking off a few banks. George followed them through the newspaper stories. Bill Miller was killed in Bowling Green, O., when he and Pretty Boy attempted to buy some clothes and were recognized. Floyd came back to Earlsboro to rest awhile.

During this visit, he and George were together for a few weeks. This time they decided to rob a few banks in Oklahoma.

George quit his job with the Magnolia and they settled down for a few weeks to plan the robberies.

Up to this time no one suspected that George was a robber, or that he was even acquainted with Floyd.

"Be sure you know what you're doing," Floyd told him. "If you want to come along with me I'd like to have you. But get it in your head that once you're started there isn't any turning back. You're long gone."

George told him that he knew what he was doing and still wanted to go along.

"Okay," said Floyd. "Now it's one of three things for us both — the penitentiary, the electric chair or the grave."

That was the beginning of the Pretty Boy Floyd and George Birdwell friendship, the most colorful of the latter day outlaws in Oklahoma. So far as his family knows, George never regretted the decision. He tied up with Floyd, knowing that he couldn't win.

George and Floyd robbed 15 banks in Oklahoma and Texas after forming this partnership, and George wasn't recognized until they robbed a bank at Shamrock. It was there that the bankers found out the new companion of Floyd and put a price on his head.

When the peace officers learned that George had been connected with the Shamrock robbery they descended upon his home at Earlsboro like chicken hawks.

Our mother and father had gone to Earlsboro to visit George and his wife had not told them that he had joined up with Floyd. They supposed he was still working for the Magnolia company. When the officers came in on them they were very upset. My father was sick and the officers weren't very gentle with him, we were told.

He was cuffed around considerably by officers who tried to get information about George when in truth the old man hadn't known anything about his outlaw career until the laws arrived. Thirty minutes after the officers left George and Floyd drove into the yard and parked their car behind the house. My mother and George's wife had decided not to tell them about the officers for fear they would get mad and do something dangerous to their lives.

But they hadn't reckoned with the children. George's oldest boy told him that the officers had been there and described how they had tried to get information.

That so infuriated George that he and Floyd got back into the car and tore off down the road with machine guns resting between them in the front seat. They failed to find the officers they suspected and came back within a few hours.

It was soon after this that the newspapers began printing the famous headlines:

OFFICERS AGAIN ESCAPE FROM PRETTY BOY FLOYD

Our father was sick for about three weeks after this before he died. George and Floyd were out robbing banks during this time and watching the newspapers for information on father's condition.

## Carried Machine Gun to Father's Casket

Immediately after his death the stories began that George and Pretty Boy would attend father's funeral.

George wanted to do this, but Floyd suggested something else.

"That would end in one thing," said Pretty Boy—"a gun battle in the church or at the graveyard. If you want to see your father before he is buried we'll go to the funeral home in Earlsboro."

Very quietly they entered Earlsboro the afternoon of the day before the funeral. George was driving the car and Pretty Boy held a machine gun. They saw a policeman on the street and pulled up to the curb beside him. Floyd said, "Get in," and he crawled into the back seat. They rounded up another peace officer, loaded him into the car, then drove to the funeral home.

Pretty Boy held the machine gun on the officers while George went into the establishment and asked to see our father. The undertaker took him into a room and raised the lid of a gray casket.

George stood there for more than 10 minutes looking upon the sunken face of the man who had reared us. Tears came into his eyes and he stood there alone. A machine gun, loaded to the last shell, was held under his arm. Finally he turned away and returned to the parked car.

He stepped in under the wheel, clicked the car into gear and drove away. A few blocks out of Earlsboro they stopped, unloaded the guns carried by the officers and told them they were going to George's house.

They drove to his house, ate supper, tried to comfort my mother and the grandchildren, and stayed around for more than three hours. No officers showed up to arrest them.

George always visited his family, even when every sheriff and policeman in the country was looking for him. That never seemed to complicate his life. When he wanted to come home he would come. It might be at 2 a. m. on a dark rainy morning, or was just as likely to be at noon.

On Thanksgiving Day, 1931, when every officer in the Southwest was looking for him and Floyd, my brother decided to entertain my mother and family at a big Thanksgiving dinner.

The Thanksgiving dinner was held in the thickly wooded hills 15 miles north of Wewoka. There was turkey and dressing, cranberry sauce, celery, olives and everything that an ordinary family might have for such a feast. The big dinner was spread out on new white table cloths and four machine guns were laid at the four corners of the table.

## Clash With Law Proved Type of Pair

Amid these strange surroundings the Birdwell family gathered that bright November day. My mother gave thanks at the beginning of the meal, asking for the safety of her desperado son and giving thanks for such blessings as she could recall. It may seem strange, but emotions never change for a mother and the family was happy together for a few fleeting hours.

George and Floyd had their closest brush with the law at Stonewall a few months after that. Ross Pearce and Bill Eads, Oklahoma County deputy sheriffs in charge of the raiders, have told me the exact story of their battle with Pretty Boy and my brother.

The outcome of this battle convinced even the federal officers that they were dealing with the smoothest and deadliest partnership which was ever formed in the Southwest.

Six machine guns and a half-dozen automatic rifles were used in the combat, but George and Pretty Boy outmaneuvered the posse and escaped for another series of bank robberies.

In late August of 1932, Eads and Pearce led a posse through the heavy timber of a little creek bottom north of Stonewall. A woman living at a farm house near the Birdwell-Floyd hideout had told Sheriff Franklin of Ada that she had recognized the two desperadoes.

Among the others who took part in the gun battle were Allen Standfield, now a U. S. marshal; O. P. Ray, former head of the State Crime Bureau; Pete Anderson, town marshal at Stonewall, and Charles M. Reber, then head of the state finger print department.

Pretty Boy and George were sitting on the front porch of their little farm house hide-out when the officers surprised them. Their automobile was locked in the barn and their machine guns and pistols were locked in a grain bin inside the locked barn. The officers had surrounded the hideout except for a short road which led from the house to a section line.

When George and Floyd saw the officers they fled to the barn to get their cars. A splutter of machine-gun bullets raked the ground behind them.

Pretty Boy climbed on George's back and tore a board loose from the barn door. He ripped off another and then they tore loose the lock.

The officers had taken advantage of this to close in on them. By this time Pearce was within 30 yards of the barn.

George and Pretty Boy took the boards they had ripped from the door and raked their machine guns toward them in the bin. Finally they were able to work them within arm's length and finally to rescue them from the bin.

They loaded the guns into the car and started the engine. They roared out into the lot and Pearce leveled down upon them with a machine gun. This volley of fire took out the windshield and a window in the front door, but neither George nor Pretty Boy was hurt. Finding they would have to escape a constant volley of machine gun fire if they attempted to drive away, the two desperadoes took the machine guns and ran back into the barn.

Then began one of the smokiest fights which ever occurred in Oklahoma history.

Pretty Boy and George climbed into the barn loft and began raking the area with machine gun fire.

Each time they turned loose a volley, Pearce would return the fire. He was laying upon the ground behind a rail fence which circled the barn and returned their fire by drilling round after round into the little barn.

While this duel was going on, Eads was walking toward Pearce.

"What are you shooting at," he asked Pearce, and at that moment a stutter of machine gun slugs tore up the ground a few feet before him. Eads fell forward on his rifle.

Reber, the finger print expert, watching the duel through an old-fashioned telescope then called to Pearce to ask if Eads was hurt.

Pearce looked back at Eads and asked how bad he had been hurt.

"I'm not hurt at all," said Eads, "but I think we've made Birdwell and Floyd mighty mad at us."

Meanwhile the finger print expert and Sheriff Franklin were cracking away with their rifles. Reber, according to other officers, fired 86 shots at the car which had been abandoned in the barn yard, attempting to put the motor out of order.

Eads then crawled over to Pearce and they made the fighting a foursome, riddling the barn with machine-gun fire and the next moment crouching against the ground which would be tossed into a dusty cloud by the bullets from Birdwell and Floyd.

The battle ended with a desperate dash made by the two outlaws.

## Passed by Posse at Bridge

Floyd ran to the fence which shielded the two officers and sprinkled them with machine gun slugs. The earth bounced in their faces and the compression lifted them several inches into the air, but all the bullets missed them.

At the same time George jumped into the car and started the motor. Floyd got in beside him and they rocketed down the lane to the section line. Since the lane had been left unprotected they escaped with nothing more than a few volleys of lead which they returned, also without effect.

George and Pretty Boy drove down the section line a mile and a half and stopped to fix a flat tire.

After repairing the tire they drove on a few miles and buried the machine guns which they had wrapped in their coats. They went to Franks, Okla., got an old truck and came back to Seminole County.

As they crossed the bridge at Calvin, an armed posse was standing at the entrance. Pretty Boy is reported to have said: "Well I guess this is where they are waiting for us."

But the posse didn't stop them and they were off on another circuit of Oklahoma bank robberies.

Less than four months later the outlaw firm of Birdwell and Floyd was broken up by the death of my brother at Boley, Okla.

After their escape from the law at Stonewall the two men became convinced more than ever that nothing awaited them but the grave. They had long abandoned any hope of ever leaving their outlaw days behind. They began robbing a bank every week, and then the stories began to circulate that Floyd was dead or badly wounded.

In reality, they merely were resting up for awhile at a little hideout near Earlsboro. They were harried and nervous and spent much of their time drinking and playing poker.

During the last months of George's life he drank to excess, carelessly, as though there weren't a price on his head which every police officer in the Southwest was itching to collect.

## Remained Husband, Son and Brother

It was during one of these drunks that he went to Earlsboro and began drinking with a Negro named Pete Glass who ran a little dive there.

In their drunken conversation they decided to rob the bank at Boley, a Negro town near there. A third man named Patterson joined them.

They climbed into George's car and drove to Boley, arriving there about noon. George parked on the wrong side of the street, but near the bank, and the three walked in, keeping their guns covered.

They scooped about $700 from the cash drawer during the robbery, but George allowed the cashier to walk away from him and enter the vault. When the Negro banker entered the vault he took a rifle, aimed, and shot George beneath the heart.

Patterson had Pete Glass carry George out of the bank and then told him to bring the car to the curb to load him in. Witnesses said Glass had no sooner climbed under the wheel that a bullet, fired by ambushers, hit him between the eyes.

Several hours elapsed before George received emergency treatment. An ambulance was called after the excitement had cooled down and he was taken to Okemah where he died.

Two days later the Birdwells gathered at the family burial lot in Seminole and laid him beside our father and another brother.

George's death in the Negro bank was an inglorious end to his life of outlawry which had contained so much courage and bravado. We believe it was because he had seen for many months that the end was inevitable at one place or another. We know that the thrill had worn away long before the end. Letters and visits home had revealed that.

The newspapers said that Oklahoma's wildest bandit in modern times had been slain. But to his wife he remained husband. Our mother called him her son. I felt no shame in calling him my brother.

TOLEDO BLADE 6/12/37

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Downey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# AMATEUR SLEUTHS AID AND HINDER MAN-HUNTS

## Hoover Tells of Valuable Tips Received On Kidnapers

### DOESN'T ENCOURAGE YOUNG 'UNS

WASHINGTON, June 12 — Amateur sleuths are both a blessing and a hindrance to G-men in their search for kidnapers, bank robbers and other elusive law violators.

J. Edgar Hoover, who heads all justice department agents, praised some amateur detectives, but immediately voiced fervent hope correspondence course sleuths "who go around wearing Sherlock Holmes hats" would do their sleuthing at home.

"Many clues furnished the Federal Bureau of Investigation have been of great value," Hoover said. "But it would be very dangerous, to encourage would-be detectives. They would swamp us."

The best tip-offs given by civilians thus far have been the whereabouts of long-sought fugitives. Richard "Nick" Galatas, wanted in connection with the Kansas City massacre, was "fingered" by an amateur sleuth, Hoover recalled, and Francis Leo Oley, sought in connection with the 1933 kidnaping of John J. O'Connell, Jr., at Albany, N. Y., was recognized at Denver, Colo., by a young girl who had seen his picture in a detective story magazine.

Dozens and perhaps hundreds of civilians' tips have proved valuable to G-men, Hoover said, but none has helped solve the Mattson case, only unsolved federal kidnaping. "And we investigated every tip given us," the director added ruefully.

"I don't either encourage or discourage amateur detectives," Hoover concluded. "It would invite crime."

62-28915-5

THE KANSAS CITY STAR KANSAS CITY MISSOURI JULY 18, 1937.
FROM THE KANSAS CITY FIELD DIVISION OFFICE DWIGHT BRANTLEY SAC.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Torrey .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Dunlop .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Fitzworth .....
Mr. Gavin .....
Mr. Hardo .....
Mr. Jones .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Madden .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Avery .....
Mr. Handy .....

Chipman

## MULLOY TO BE FREED SOON.

**Term of Station Massacre Conspirator Ends in September.**

Frank B. (Fritz) Mulloy, Kansas City's only inmate of Alcatraz federal prison at San Francisco, will "shove off" from the island for the mainland the last of September, one of the few prisoners ever to leave that penitentiary.

Federal authorities said yesterday Mulloy's 2-year sentence as a conspirator in the Union station plaza massacre of June 16, 1933, would be completed late in September. To be released at the same time will be Herbert Allen Farmer, Joplin, Mo., gambler, and Richard Tallman Galatas, Hot Springs. They also received sentences of two years each as conspirators in the massacre plot, in addition to fines of $10,000.

In the trial, the government contended that Mulloy, Galatas and Farmer formed the chain of telephone calls that resulted in the massacre of Frank Nash, escaped convict, and four officers in front of the Union station.

Mulloy, Farmer and Galatas began serving their terms at the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, March 28, 1936. Early in August, the three were taken quietly out of the Leavenworth prison and hurried off to the prison high on a rock in the San Francisco bay.

62-28915-18

THE KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST KANSAS CITY MISSOURI JULY 18, 1937.
FROM THE KANSAS CITY FIELD DIVISION OFFICE DWIGHT BRANTLEY SAC.

# THREE IN UNION STATION MASSACRE SOON TO BE FREE

## 'Fritz' Mulloy, Farmer and Galatas Finish 'Time' in September.

Three of the four men convicted in federal court here of setting in motion the chain of events leading up to the Union station massacre in Kansas City June 17, 1933, will complete their terms in Alcatraz prison late in September.

The three are Frank B. (Fritz) Mulloy of Kansas City, Herbert A. Farmer of Joplin and Richard T. Galatas, Hot Springs, Ark.

They were convicted January 4, 1935, along with Louis (Doc) Stacci, Chicago night club operator, and two women, of conspiracy to obstruct justice. They were accused of hatching the plot to free Frank Nash, train robber, from agents of the federal bureau of investigation, who were taking him from Hot Springs, Ark., to the federal prison at Leavenworth—a plot which resulted not only in the death of four officers, but of Nash also.

Mulloy, Farmer and Galatas, sentenced to two years each, went to the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth and later to Alcatraz after the United States supreme court refused to review their conviction. Stacci, meanwhile had started serving his term, although he also appealed. The women, Mrs. Farmer and Mrs. Galatas, were placed on probation.

The impending release of the trio was called to attention Saturday by Maurice M. Milligan, United States district attorney.

Fines of $10,000 each also were imposed upon the perpetrators of the massacre in addition to the sentences. When their terms end the latter part of September, Milligan said, they will be free men again if they can pay the $10,000 fines. If not, they may take paupers' oaths, serve another 30 days each and then be free.

Three men, Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, Adam Richetti and Verne Miller, were alleged by the government to have been the gunmen in the massacre. Richetti was the only one brought to trial. He was convicted of the crime and now is in the county jail awaiting death on the gallows. Miller was slain by other gangsters near Detroit and Floyd was slain by federal agents while fleeing arrest in Ohio. Richetti was with Floyd at the time he was slain.

Vivian Mathis, associate of Verne Miller, also was charged with engineering the massacre plot. She entered a plea of guilty at the outset of the conspiracy trial, however, and was placed on probation with the other two women.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Bowman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Downey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Miss Gandy
Chapman

62-25915-K

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Downey .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Joseph .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilt .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....
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THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR
8-1-37

# Trio in Massacre Near End of Term

Kansas City, Mo., July 31.—(U.P.)—Three men who participated in Kansas City's Union Station massacre in 1933 will complete their two-year sentences in Alcatraz prison in September.

The three are Frank B. Mulloy, Kansas City; Herbert A. Farmer, Joplin, Mo., and Richard T. Gillas, Hot Springs, Ark. They were convicted on Jan. 4, 1935, of conspiracy to obstruct justice.

They were accused of hatching the plot to free Frank Nash, train robber, from government agents who were taking him from Hot Springs, Ark., to the Federal prison in Leavenworth—a plot which resulted not only in the death of four officers, but also of Nash.

Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, Verne Miller and Adam Richetti were alleged by the government to have been the gunmen in the massacre.

The three men about to be released were fined $10,000 each in addition to the prison sentences. When their terms end they will be free if they pay the $10,000 fine. If not, they may take pauper's oaths, serve another 30 days each, and then be free.

62-28915-10

1

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Dawsey .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Jones .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....
.....

Criminal Case.

THE OAKLAND TRIBUNE, August 2, 1937

# THREE GANGSTERS NEARING FREEDOM FROM ALCATRAZ

Alcatraz Prison terms will end next month for three of the men who participated in Kansas City's Union Station massacre in 1933.

They are Frank B. Mulloy, Kansas City; Herbert A. Farmer, Joplin, Mo., and Richard T. Galatas, Hot Springs, Ark., convicted of conspiracy to obstruct justice.

The men were accused of hatching the plot to free Frank Nash, train robber, from government agents who were taking him from Hot Springs to Leavenworth, a plot which resulted in the death of four officers and Nash.

Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Verne Miller, and Adam Richetti were alleged by the government to have been the gunmen.

The three Alcatraz prisoners were fined $10,000 each, in addition to two-year terms. When their terms end in September they may take paupers baths, serve another 30 days each, then be free.

62-28115-1

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Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Dawsey .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Joseph .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Shidler .....
Mr. Trent .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....
.....
.....

# Terms for Trio in Kansas City Killings Ending

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 12.—(UP)—Three men who participated in Kansas City's Union Station massacre in 1933 will complete their two-year sentences in Alcatraz prison in September.

The three are Frank B. Mulloy, Kansas City; Herbert A. Farmer, Joplin, Mo., and Richard T. Galatas, Hot Springs, Ark. They were convicted on Jan. 4, 1935, of conspiracy to obstruct justice.

They were accused of hatching the plot to free Frank Nash, train robber, from government agents who were taking him from Hot Springs, Ark., to the Federal prison in Leavenworth—a plot which resulted not only in the death of four officers, but of Nash also.

Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, Verne Miller and Adam Richetti were alleged by the government to have been the gunmen in the massacre.

The three men about to be released were fined $10,000 each in addition to the prison sentences. When their terms end they will be free if they pay the $10,000 fine. If not, they may take pauper's oaths, serve another 30 days each, and then be free.

62-28915-10

LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

AUG 13 1937

# Massacre Bullet Cut Out of G-Man

Wash Post 8-27-37

Baltimore, Aug. 26 (AP).—Dr. Walter E. ODandy, Johns Hopkins Hospital surgeon, said today that he removed yesterday one of three bullets which lodged in a Federal agent's backbone in the Kansas City massacre of 1933, and would probe for another in a week or ten days.

The agent is F. J. Lackey, who was guarding a prisoner in Kansas City, when gunmen attempted a rescue. The prisoner was killed and Lackey was struck by three bullets. ne was removed at once.

62-28915-A

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Forworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hottel
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Naughten
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# MASSACRE AIDE QUITS ALCATRAZ

Herbert Allen Farmer, Joplin, Mo., gambler, will quit Alcatraz Island's bleak hospitality today to take the pauper's oath en route to freedom.

Sentenced to two years for a minor part in the sensational 1933 Kansas City depot massacre in which four Federal agents and a prisoner were slain, Farmer won reduction of his sentence for good behavior.

He will appear before United States Commissioner E. E. Williams today to rid himself of a $10,000 fine imposed at the time of the sentence.

According to Government records, it was Farmer who put Mrs. Frank Nash, wife of the slain prisoner, in touch with Verne Miller who engineered the bloody attempt to rescue Nash. Miller wielded the machine gun which mowed down Nash and the agents. The Government tried Farmer on charges of conspiring to aid in the escape of a Federal prisoner.

62-29815-A

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER SEPT. 21, 1937

# Alcatraz Convict Freed; 'Going Home To His Cow'

## *Takes Pauper's Oath and Avoids Fine of $10,000*

Herbert Allen Farmer, gambler implicated in the 1933 Kansas City depot massacre, yesterday was released from Alcatraz Prison—and said he was going home to his cow.

Startled, United States Commissioner E. E. Williams elicited the information that a 12-year-old cow is Farmer's only asset, other than $20 given him by the Federal Government. Advancing that claim in support of his pauper's oath, Farmer was told he could keep the cow.

**AVOIDS PAYING FINE.**

The pauper's oath avoided payment of a $10,000 fine.

Glad to get out, Farmer still insisted that Alcatraz wasn't bad, as prisons go.

**"I got along fine," he said.**

He worked in the prison mat factory. The first thing Farmer intends to do, he said, is buy a pair of "store" socks. "Alcatraz socks are tough on the feet," he said.

Farmer, 45, whose home is in Joplin, Mo., served seventeen months of a two-year term imposed for conspiracy to assist the escape of a Federal prisoner, Frank Nash.

**MACHINE GUN BLAST.**

It was through Farmer, Federal officials said, that Mrs. Frank Nash made a contact with Verne Miller, gunman. Miller manned the machine gun which sprayed death and injury around the Kansas City railroad station in June, 1933, in an effort to liberate Nash. The effort failed; one of the bullets killed Nash.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Herbo
Mr. Hotel
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Houghton
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

62-28915-A

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER SEPT. 22, 1937

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Bowman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Gavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hottel
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Naughten
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm

Page 30

# GANG KILLING FIGURE ENDS PRISON TERM

## Herbert Farmer Takes Pauper's Oath on Alcatraz Release

Herbert Allen Farmer, 45, was free today after serving a 17-month term in Alcatraz Prison for conspiracy in connection with the Kansas City Union Station massacre in 1933.

Farmer, who has grown deaf, took a pauper's oath, saying his worldly possessions were $26 and a 12-year-old cow in Joplin, Kas.

He was imprisoned for sheltering Mrs. Frank Nash, wife of the bank robber whom the killers were trying to free. While she was Nash's guest, she was plotting with Verne Miller, machine gunner in the slaughter, the Government charged.

SAN FRANCISCO NEWS SEPT. 22, 1937

62-28915-A

From the Reno Evening Gazette
September 23, 1937
Editorial
Graham Sanford- Editor

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hottel
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Naughton
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tracy
Mrs. Gandy

Lawler 9/5

## CRIME DIDN'T PAY

ONE OF the first "graduates" of Alctraz prison is Herbert Allen Farmer of Joplin, Mo. For good behavior he was given eleven months off his original two-year sentence for his part in the Kansas City massacre when a group of gangsters used machine guns to try to liberate Frankie Nash, who was being held prisoner by "G-men." Nash and a government agent were killed and several others were wounded. Farmer and his wife were convicted of sheltering the gang, the latter being given a suspended sentence, and the former the two-year term.

Most of the kidnapers and the payroll bandits and the post office robbers that flourished before the "G-men" got on the job are still languishing behind the bars at Alcatraz, Atlanta and in other prisons—those who aren't under the ground. The release of Farmer serves to recall the heyday of the American gangs, now almost extinct. It serves to emphasize by contrast the virtual disappearance of the big-money criminals from the American scene.

Farmer, it seems, got little out of his connection with big time crme. He signed a pauper's oath when he entered prison, and was informed he might exempt a horse, a cow, a hog and a sheep on his farm. He left for Joplin after being freed from prison, with $20 of Uncle Sam's money and a ticket home.

The graduate of Alcatraz will not find many "jobs" safe or profitable these days. Presumably he will go back to farming with the horse, hog, cow and sheep that were left him. He may be the living embodiment of "crime doesn't pay." Somewhere or other the big payoff he expected when he joined that gang in other days failed to materialize and he lost a couple of years of his time, counting all the days he was in jail, in addition.

62-28915-18

Submitted by SAC Zimmer
Salt Lake City Field Division
October 6, 1937

THE JOURNAL POST KANSAS CITY MISSOURI OCTOBER 30, 1937.
FROM THE KANSAS CITY FIELD DIVISION OFFICE DWIGHT BRANTLEY SAC.

# MULLOY PENALTY PAID

## Massacre Case Figure Free Tomorrow.

Frank (Fritz) Mulloy, convicted in the federal court here in 1935 of conspiracy in connection with the Union station massacre, will be released form the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth tomorrow morning.

Mulloy originally was sent to Leavenworth to serve two years, but later was transferred to Alcatraz prison in San Francisco bay. Time off for good behavior cut his sentence about four months, and in September he was taken back to Leavenworth.

In addition to his 2-year sentence, however, he had been fined $10,000. Unable to pay the fine, he had filed a pauper's oath with the government and was required to serve 30 days' additional time in prison in lieu of paying the fine.

The 30 days now has expired and Mulloy will be given his freedom tomorrow. He is expected to return to Kansas City.

62-28915-15

C a

Washington Post - 11/26/37

# "Pretty Boy Floyd" Gangster Is Freed After Alcatraz Stay

By the Associated Press.

Frank B. Mulloy, 45-year-old member of the once notorious "Pretty Boy" Floyd gang has been released after spending 14 months at Alcatraz.

The former gangster was freed at Leavenworth Penitentiary, Kans., September 20, Prison Bureau records showed yesterday, when he completed a two-year sentence imposed January 5, 1935, for conspiring to obstruct justice.

The sentence, served at Leavenworth and Alcatraz, was reduced 22 days for good behavior. Last December the Federal Board of Pardons refused to grant Mulloy's plea for parole.

After careful consideration," Chairman Arthur D. Wood asserted at that time, "it was determined to be incompatible with the welfare of society to release him."

In addition to the two-year sentence, Mulloy was ordered to pay a $10,000 fine. He was confined in Alcatraz Island, in San Francisco Harbor, on August 6, 1936.

62-28915-16

Mr. Nat...
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hottel
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nease
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Penzig
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Cate

## Floyd Gang Member Ends Prison Term

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25. (AP) Frank B. Mulloy, 45 years of age, member of the once notorious "Pretty Boy" Floyd gang, is free today after spending fourteen months at Alcatraz and ten months at Leavenworth. A two-year sentence for conspiring to obstruct justice was reduced twenty-two days for good behavior.

62-78715-18

LOS ANGELES TIMES

NOV 26 1937

D O

# 'Pretty Boy' Gang Ally Out of Prison

Frank B. Mulloy, 46, member of the "Pretty Boy" Floyd gang was freed September 29 at Leavenworth Penitentiary, Kansas, it was revealed yesterday.

Sentenced to two years for conspiring to obstruct justice, Mulloy did nine months at Leavenworth, and 14 months at Alcatraz Prison, where he was refused parole last December.

He was returned to Leavenworth in September and released 22 days early for good behavior.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Crowl .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Hotel .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. McIntire .....
Mr. Naughten .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Pennington .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....
.....

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

FORWARDED BY
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

NOV 26 1937

The Alabama Journal,
Montgomery, Alabama,
November 26, 1937.

# Floyd Gangster Completes Term

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—(AP)—Frank B. Mulloy, 45-year old member of the once notorious "Pretty Boy" Floyd gang, was free today after spending 14 months at Alcatraz. The former gangster was freed at Leavenworth penitentiary, Kans., September 29, prison bureau records show, when he completed a two-year sentence imposed January 5, 1935, for conspiring to obstruct justice.

The sentence, served at Leavenworth and Alcatraz was reduced 22 days for good behavior. Last December the federal board of pardons refused to grant Mulloy's plea for parole.

In addition to the two year sentence Mulloy was ordered to pay a $10,000 fine. He was confined in Alcatraz, grim island prison in San Francisco harbor, from August 6, 1936, to September 28.

62-28915-6

BKW

THE KANSAS CITY TIMES KANSAS CITY MISSOURI DECEMBER 18, 1937.
FROM THE KANSAS CITY FIELD OFFICE DWIGHT BRANTLEY SAC.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Crowl .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Hecho .....
Mr. Hottel .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. M[illegible] .....
Mr. Nat[illegible] .....
Mr. Nich[illegible] .....
Mr. P[illegible] .....
Mr. R[illegible] .....
Mr. S[illegible] .....
Mr. Te[illegible] Eatm
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss C[illegible] .....
.....

## TWO APPEALS ARE PENDING

**Adam Richetti and Granville Allen, Negro, Await Decisions.**

The eventual fate of two condemned men in the Jackson County "death house" still remained in the balance yesterday after the Missouri Supreme court had ruled on the cases of three other men.

Adam Richetti, former companion of "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Granville Allen, Negro, who killed a man who surprised him while he was robbing a home, still await word on their appeals.

Richetti was convicted June 17, 1935, for his part in the Union station massacre of June 17, 1933. It was alleged he was a companion of Floyd, killed in a gun fight with F. B. I. agents in Ohio. Richetti was tried for the murder of Frank Hermanson, a city detective, slain by bullets from the gangsters' weapons.

Allen was found guilty of slaying Howard Preston in a scuffle the night of October 20, 1936, when Preston and his wife surprised the Negro while he was burglarizing their apartment at 1010 Chestnut avenue. He was sentenced to be hanged April 30 this year, but appealed to the supreme court.

62-28915-10

THE KANSAS CITY STAR KANSAS CITY MISSOURI DECEMBER 29, 1937.
FROM THE KANSAS CITY FIELD OFFICE DWIGHT BRANTLEY SAC.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lottel
Mr. Leat
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Washington
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Lamb

## PAYS A MASSACRE FINE

### MRS. VIVIAN MATHIS SENDS $500 TO SETTLE ACCOUNT.

**Only Woman Convicted Who Has Not Paid Is Mrs. Esther Farmer—January 5 Is the Deadline.**

The federal government is nearing the final entry in its record of the prosecution that resulted from the Union station massacre June 17, 1933.

Lewis J. Grout, chief probation officer, today received five $100 United States money orders from Mrs. Vivian Mathis, Sioux Falls, S. D., as payment of the $500 fine imposed upon her by Judge Merrill E. Otis after she pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to obstruct justice.

THREE WOMEN FINED.

Mrs. Mathis, Mrs. Elizabeth Galatas, Hot Springs, Ark., and Mrs. Esther Farmer, Joplin, all sentenced on conspiracy charges, were given until January 5, 1938, by Judge Otis to pay the $500 fine he imposed on each of them. Mrs. Galatas already has paid her fine.

Grout said he conferred with Mrs. Farmer recently, reminding her the date on which the fine is due. He told her, he said today, that if the money were not received before January 5, she would be taken before Judge Otis.

Grout took the $500 received today from Mrs. Mathis, who posed here as the wife of the late Verne Miller, gangster participating in the massacre in which five men were killed and two injured, to A. L. Arnold, clerk of the federal district court. Grout obtained a receipt for the money and mailed it to her. He said Mrs. Mathis now is working as a switchboard operator in an apartment hotel in Sioux Falls.

EACH TO AN INSTITUTION.

The three women were sentenced to one year and a day at the United States Industrial Institution for Women at Alderson, W. Va., and placed on probation by Judge Otis, with the provision the $500 fines must be paid.

Frank B. (Fritz) Mulloy, Richard Tallman Galatas, Herb Farmer and Louis (Doc) Stacci were convicted in federal court here on charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice as a result of the massacre and each was sentenced to two years at Leavenworth and fined $10,000. Stacci served his time at Leavenworth, the other three men being transferred to Alcatraz. All the men now are free. Miller was slain by gangsters, who left his body by a roadside outside Detroit.

62-28915-A

THE WASHINGTON TIMES, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1938

MASSACRE GUNMAN EXECUTED:

# Last 'Pretty Boy' Gangster Dies

## BRAVADO GONE, DESPERADO IN TERROR AT END

### Whimpers and Cringes; All Over in 15 Seconds

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Oct. 7 (I.N.S.).—Adam Richetti, last of the Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd gang of desperadoes, died in the lethal gas chamber early today for taking part in the Kansas City union station massacre of 1933.

The 28-year-old, gaunt gangster maintained his silence of the past three months until he was at the door of the death chamber, where he shuddered slightly and said:

"What have I done to deserve this?"

**SHRINKS AND SCREAMS**

He was quickly strapped in the chair and the door locked. As the gas was turned on, he twisted and strained at the thongs over his arms and legs. He shrunk from the tendrils of gas climbing around him and screamed:

"No, no!"

But within 15 seconds he was unconscious. His head slumped forward and four minutes after the gas was released he was pronounced dead.

**FIRST TO PROTEST**

He was the first of six men to die in the chamber to make any protest.

Richetti was executed for aiding Floyd and Vernie Miller in the machine gun slaying of four officers and Frank Nash in front of Kansas City's big union station on June 17, 1933, in an attempt to save Nash from being returned to Leavenworth penitentiary.

A sheriff in Wellsville, Ohio, captured Richetti when he was trying to hitchhike to Canada with Floyd. Floyd was killed soon after in a gun fight with G-men. Miller was taken for a ride by Detroit gangsters.

# Screaming in Gas Cell

CAT ✓

62-28915-A

~~62-29815-A~~

THE KANSAS CITY TIMES KANSAS CITY MISSOURI JANUARY 6, 1938.
FROM THE KANSAS CITY FIELD OFFICE DWIGHT BRANTLEY SAC.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hottel
Mr. Leate
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Naughton
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Rosen
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Miss Gandy

# JAIL IN MASSACRE CASE

## MRS. ESTHER FARMER BEGINS A 30-DAY SENTENCE.

**After Payment of $500 Fine in Installments Is Amicably Arranged, She Decides to Serve Term Instead.**

Three agencies of the United States government fairly bent double extending co-operation to Mrs. Esther Farmer yesterday afternoon, but Mrs. Farmer, once a Thespian and still chock full of temperament, said no, she'd have none of it. Instead, she got thirty days in the Jackson County jail.

Chubby and volatile, Mrs. Farmer appeared in the federal probation offices with her husband, Herbert A. Farmer. The couple and five other persons were convicted of conspiracy to obstruct justice in connection with the Union station massacre. Mrs. Farmer had three hours left until the 5 o'clock deadline for payment of a $500 fine imposed for her part in the series of long distance telephone calls that set the stage for the slayings.

At the time Mrs. Farmer was implicated in the massacre case, she was described by the office of the United States district attorney and agents of the federal bureau of investigation as a former actress. The report stated she had appeared with a troupe traveling with a circus.

### TRIP ON BORROWED MONEY.

Farmer, a big man with a bigger voice, yesterday shouted to Hal Bray, a probation officer, that he had borrowed $70 in his home town of Joplin to make the trip. Mrs. Farmer had $50 of that amount, he said, and she was willing to offer that as an installment on the fine.

Bray was dubious. He led the Farmers to the offices of the clerk of the court, then sought out Judge Merrill E. Otis, who had imposed the sentences. Bray was of the opinion, he told the Farmers politely, that in a case such as Mrs. Farmer's, the government couldn't collect in payments.

Judge Otis thought otherwise. He suggested that the clerk take Mrs. Farmer's $50 and request her to pay that amount the first of each month until the fine was paid. Bray returned and conveyed that information to the visitors, then prepared a receipt for the money Mrs. Farmer handed him.

### A CONFERENCE IN CORRIDOR.

The couple waved good-by and went into the corridor. There was the sound of conversation—Farmer's hearty tones and Mrs. Farmer's sibilant declarations. A moment later, her husky husband trailing her, she bounced back into the clerk's office, her mouth set with resolve.

She mentioned the pauper's oath, saying something about she'd take it, serve thirty days and not have to pay the fine. Then she cried:

"Give my money back. I'd rather go to jail."

The startled Bray handed her the money, which lay on the desk where he had been preparing a record for her installments. She tossed him the receipt and whirled toward the doorway.

"Hey," Bray shouted as she swept into the corridor, "you wait a minute. You can't walk out, you know."

### PAROLE BARS HIS BUSINESS.

Both of the Farmers came back. Farmer began an explanation. He had just been parpled from Alcatraz, he said, and since his business was gambling, he had had no chance to make any money. It would be a violation of his parole, he said candidly, if he started going into gambling houses or engaging in his true vocation.

"So," he boomed, "how could we pay the fine?"

"Somebody else has to decide this thing," the agitated Bray put in. "Let's find the judge again."

Judge Otis, meantime, had left the federal building to go to the Irving-Pitt building, 816 Locust street, and inspect the quarters he and other federal authorities will occupy, beginning today, while the old federal building is razed and replaced with a new one. The Farmers and Bray walked to the new federal quarters.

62-25115-10

C D

Mr. Nease
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Farnsworth
Mr. Gavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hottel
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Naughton
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

THE KANSAS CITY STAR KANSAS CITY MISSOURI JANUARY 11, 1938.
FROM THE KANSAS CITY FIELD OFFICE DWIGHT BRANTLEY SAC.

## *Gargotta and the Prosecutor*

The case of Charles Gargotta stands on the docket as a clear-cut test for the prosecutor. Gargotta is charged with assault with intent to kill, a charge growing out of the Armour boulevard gang shooting four and one-half years ago.

This case never has been tried. It is based on the testimony of Thomas B. Bash, sheriff at the time, his deputies and eyewitnesses. In the Gargotta murder trial Sheriff Bash testified that the North Side politician and "big shot" had advanced on him shooting until confronted by the sheriff's riot gun.

W. W. Graves, jr., prosecutor, has given two reasons for his lack of interest in the case. He said it is so old that the witnesses are scattered. He doubted his ability to get a conviction because Gargotta was freed in the murder trial that grew out of the same affair.

It is hard to see how either point could carry any weight. The case is old only because the prosecutor's office has permitted it to drag through the years. And the important witnesses still are available.

The comparison with the murder case is far-fetched. Gargotta was acquitted of the charge of murdering Ferris Anthon, although the jury was divided in the early ballots. The reasons as revealed by a check of the jurors centered on two points. The only witness to the killing, Mrs. Anthon, did not identify Gargotta. The jury was confused over the testimony about the revolver that fired the fatal shot. Later the detective responsible for the confusion was convicted of perjury and sent to prison.

Neither the identification of the revolver nor Mrs. Anthon's opinion has anything to do with the charge of assault with intent to kill Sheriff Bash. This case stands on the testimony of the sheriff who stopped Gargotta on the spot and of eyewitnesses.

The only question is whether such a serious charge is to continue to be ignored by the prosecutor's office.

62-28915-A

Bray placed Mrs. Farmer in the custody of Edward McDonald, a deputy United States marshal, then went to Judge Otis's chambers. He outlined preceding events, mentioning that Mrs. Farmer had spoken rather fuzzily of the pauper's oath.

THE FINE STILL STANDS.

"I don't recall the terms of Mrs. Farmer's punishment," Judge Otis said. "But I'll arrange it so she will have to serve only thirty days in jail, for failure to pay the fine. If necessary, I'll modify her sentence so that will be the only time she has to serve. But any time the government learns she has $500, your office is at liberty to obtain a judgment against her."

Bray returned and gave his instructions. Mrs. Farmer went to jail. Her husband left. Judge Otis was free to continue his inspection.

When a jury found Mrs. Farmer, her husband and five other persons guilty, Judge Otis imposed a sentence of a year and a day in prison upon her, then set the sentence aside and

(Continued on Second Page.)

## JAIL IN MASSACRE CASE

(Continued from First Page.)

imposed the $500 fine and placed her on probation for three years. That was in 1935. Two other women, Mrs. Elizabeth Galatas and Mrs. Vivian Mathis, have paid fines of a similar amount. Four men, Frank W. (Fritz) Mulloy, Richard T. Galatas, Farmer and Louis (Doc) Stacci, have served out sentences of two years in federal penitentiaries.

Aside from Mrs. Farmer's present jail sentence and the necessity to pay the fine if she ever obtains the money, only one other factor in the prosecution of the massacre case remains. Adam Richetti is awaiting execution in the Jackson County jail. His case now is being reviewed by the Missouri Supreme court. Verne Miller, one of the killers, was stabbed to death in a "spot" murder near Detroit, and Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd was slain by federal agents in Ohio shortly after Richetti was captured.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Crowl .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Hottel .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. McIntire .....
Mr. Naughton .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Pennington .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

# Noted Kansas City 'Gunman' Witness in Lawsuit Here

## Conducted Inquiry in Caffrey Killing

One of the country's most noted "gunmen" arrived here Tuesday and will be here most of today. Police, however, are not worried, because Merle A. Gill, Kansas City, is on the side of law and order. He was here to testify in a lawsuit in District Judge Yeager's court.

Mr. Gill calls himself a forensic ballistician, which means he can take a bullet from a dead man and tell from which of a thousand guns it was fired.

His most noted case was the Kansas City massacre, in which four officers, including a former Omahan, Ray Caffrey, department of justice agent, were slain by gangsters. Mr. Gill has had contact with most of the "big name" gangsters of recent years.

Mr. Gill says the sawed-off shotgun is the most dangerous weapon made today.

For home use, as burglar protection, Mr. Gill recommends a hammerless .38-caliber short barrel revolver, secreted high in a closet, never in a dresser drawer when there are children.

Mr. Gill testified in the suit of Mrs. Ethel R. Falkinburg, widow of Orville G. Falkinburg, against the Prudential Insurance company. She seeks seven thousand dollars for her husband's death in 1935. He died of a gunshot wound.

Merle A. Gill . . . one of the nation's noted "gunmen."

Omaha, Nebraska,
World Herald,
Evening Edition,
March 30, 1938.

62-28915-A

THE KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST MAY 3, 1938. FROM THE KANSAS CITY OFFICE
DWIGHT BRANTLEY SAC.

# Adam Ricchetti to Die for K. C. Massacre, Supreme Court Rules

## 'Can't Do That to an Innocent Man'

—Journal-Post Photo.

Adam Ricchetti, condemned for the murder of Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detective, in the Union station massacre, June 17, 1933, is shown here seated on his bunk today in the death cell in the county jail as he was being informed by J. A. Purdome, chief deputy sheriff (standing), that the supreme court had affirmed his death sentence. "There's been a mistake," Ricchetti told Purdome. "They can't do that to an innocent man."

## Judge Cowan Is Directed to Resentence Him to Gas Chamber.

### COMPANION OF FLOYD

**Opinion Cites Crime Partnership With 'Pretty Boy' in Reaching Decision.**

Additional Pictures on Picture Page.

By WALTER G. HEREN
Of the Journal-Post Jefferson City Bureau.

JEFFERSON CITY, May 3.—Adam Ricchetti must pay in Missouri's lethal gas chamber for participation in the Union station massacre in Kansas City, June 17, 1933, division No. 2 of the state supreme court ruled today.

Ricchetti's conviction and death sentence in the Jackson county circuit court were upheld in a 30-page opinion written by Judge George Robb Ellison and concurred in by Judges E. M. Tipton and C. A. Leedy, jr., the other members of division No. 2, which handles all criminal cases.

62-28915-A

Although five men were killed in the desperate attempt to release Frank Nash, notorious escaped Leavenworth convict, from custody of federal agents as he was being transferred from a train to a motor car in front of the Union station, Ricchetti will pay the penalty for the slaying of Frank Hermanson, one of two Kansas City detectives who were slain. W. J. Grooms, Hermanson's detective partner; Chief Ott Reed of the McAlester, Ok., police department; Raymond J. Caffrey, FBI agent, and Nash were the other victims.

Judge Ellison, in writing the lengthy opinion, went thoroughly into the evidence in the case and examined carefully the assignments of error specified by Ralph S. Latshaw, Ricchetti's counsel, and came to the conclusion that the evidence was ample that no prejudicial error had crept into the trial.

**Originally Sentenced to Hang.**

While Ricchetti originally was sentenced to hang in the Jackson county courthouse, Judge Ellison remanded the case back to Judge Ray G. Cowan, who tried it, with instructions to resentence the slayer in accordance with the lethal gas execution law passed by the 1937 legislature. Judge Cowan, in resentencing Ricchetti, will fix the date for the execution to be held in the little stone building inside the prison walls here, wherein is housed the gas chamber.

Two other men also were consigned to the death chamber in the group of opinions handed down today. They are Byron E. King, St. Louis former convict, who killed George Speer, a taxi driver, in St. Louis January 16, 1936, and Raymond Batson, a Negro, who killed Justice Phillip Rabenau of St. Louis county, December 28, 1934, in an argument over a minor criminal case. Batson also killed Dr. William Edward Poole, a spectator, in the courtroom at the same time. He had been sentenced to hang for the killing of Dr. Poole, but that case had been reversed. In the Rabenau case, the court affirmed the death sentence.

**Cites Alleged Errors.**

The chief assignments of error upon which Ricchetti's lawyer relied for a reversal of the case were:

Refusal of the trial court to quash the indictment because the grand jury which returned it was improperly drawn.

A contention that no substantial evidence had been produced to support the verdict.

That the verdict was the result of passion and prejudice induced by the atrocity of the crime, misconduct of the state's counsel and errors of the court.

That the court gave erroneous instructions.

That prejudicial statements were made by the prosecuting attorneys in final arguments.

The objection to the grand jury was that no "Negroes, Italians, Greeks, Chinese or Japanese" were in the jury wheel when the names of the jurors were drawn. Judge Ellison pointed out the statute required objection to a grand jury be made when the jury is sworn.

On the question of insufficient evidence, Judge Ellison presented an exhaustive review of 1,163 pages of the record in the case.

**Points to Identifications.**

He pointed out that the state's theory of the case was that Ricchetti, Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd and Verne Miller participated in the plot to free Nash, that Ricchetti and

Turn to Page 3, Column 1.

# SUPREME COURT JUSTICES RULE CONVICTION OK

## Judge Cowan Is Directed to Resentence Him to Lethal House.

### COMPANION OF FLOYD

### Opinion Cites Crime Partnership With 'Pretty Boy' in Reaching Decision.

Continued from Page 1.

Floyd, the day before the crime, had kidnaped Sheriff Jack Killingsworth, Polk county, in a Bolivar garage, and Walter L. Griffith, Clinton, and by devious route had arrived in Kansas City at 10:30 o'clock the night of June 16, prior to the massacre at 7:15 o'clock the next morning.

The evidence showed, Judge Ellison wrote, that Miller had been identified by Walter Smith, government agent, who escaped unscathed from the fusillade; that Floyd was identified by Reed Vetterli, at that time chief of the FBI office in Kansas City, and by Mrs. Lottie West of the Travelers' Aid bureau, and that Ricchetti was identified by Mrs. West and by F. W. Lackey, federal agent. Vetterli was wounded slightly in the shooting affray and Lackey was dangerously wounded.

**Admitted Kidnaping.**

Ricchetti, at the trial, admitted he had participated with Floyd in the kidnaping of Killingsworth and Griffith and had proceeded with the captives to Kansas City, but denied he remained in Kansas City the next day and was not in the vicinity of the Union station. Sheriff Thomas Bash of Jackson county testified that Ricchetti told him he had left Kansas City sometime in the night of June 16.

Much weight was given by Judge Ellison to the testimony regarding weapons found in the possession of Floyd when he was slain, and Ricchetti captured in October, 1934, in Ohio, and to ballistics evidence produced by state and government experts.

Vetterli's testimony, in addition to his identification of Floyd, was that a machine gun, found with Floyd when he was killed had "similar physical characteristics" to one he saw Floyd use in the massacre.

**Weapons Checked.**

Sheriff Killingsworth testified the machine gun was the one Floyd and Ricchetti had during the flight from Bolivar after the kidnaping. He also testified Floyd and Ricchetti had three automatic pistols, similar to the ones found in their possession 16 months after the massacre.

Thomas J. Higgins, detective chief in Kansas City, testified he picked up a bullet from an automatic pistol at the scene of the crime, and Merle Gill, Kansas City ballistic expert, as well as FBI ballistics men, testified that a bullet fired from Floyd's gun, after he was slain, was similarly grooved and fired from the same weapon as the bullet Chief Higgins found.

"A greatly enlarged photograph of the microscopic image so indicates, even to an untrained eye," Judge Ellison commented.

"We think," said the court, "the evidence here did connect the appellant (Ricchetti) with the machine gun, also, both in Ohio and on the kidnaping flight and that there was substantial identification of it as one of the machine guns used in the massacre."

**Pair Acted Together.**

The defense contended the connection was "too remote" and that although such evidence might connect Floyd with the Union station crime, it did not connect Ricchetti.

"But," wrote Judge Ellison, "the evidence does show Ricchetti and Floyd were acting together in the kidnaping. Eyewitnesses saw them both taking part in the massacre using pistols. The ballistics evidence

indicates the pistol was fired at that time and place, they fled together, and 18 months later still were found together in Ohio. They acted together in resisting arrest in Ohio.

"There is enough here to indicate concerted action in a general course of outlawry, including the Union station massacre and that the pistol in question was one of their implements. This evidence tends to show Floyd took part in the massacre, and, in view of appellants' (Ricchetti's) association with him it also tends to corroborate the identifying testimony connecting appellant therewith. We think the court did not err in admitting it."

**Objection Mere Argument.**

The defense also contended the court erred in admitting evidence that Ricchetti's fingerprint was found on a beer bottle in the home of Verne Miller on Edgevale road, where the former South Dakota sheriff who went wrong had been living for two months prior to the massacre and where telephone calls were received from Frank Nash's wife and from Richard Galatas, Hot Springs gambler, informing Miller that Nash had been taken by the agents and desired rescue at the Union station.

Objection to the fingerprint evidence was made because the defense contended that 12 days elapsed before the prints were taken from the bottle. Judge Ellison dismissed the objection as "mere argument" pointing out that fingerprint experts had testified that the print on the bottle was identical with Ricchetti's print taken since his arrest.

The defense also asserted evidence of the telephone conversations between Mrs. Nash, Galatas and Miller were hearsay and should not have been admitted in the Ricchetti trial, since he was on the highway with Sheriff Killingsworth at the time they were had.

**Criticises Prosecutor.**

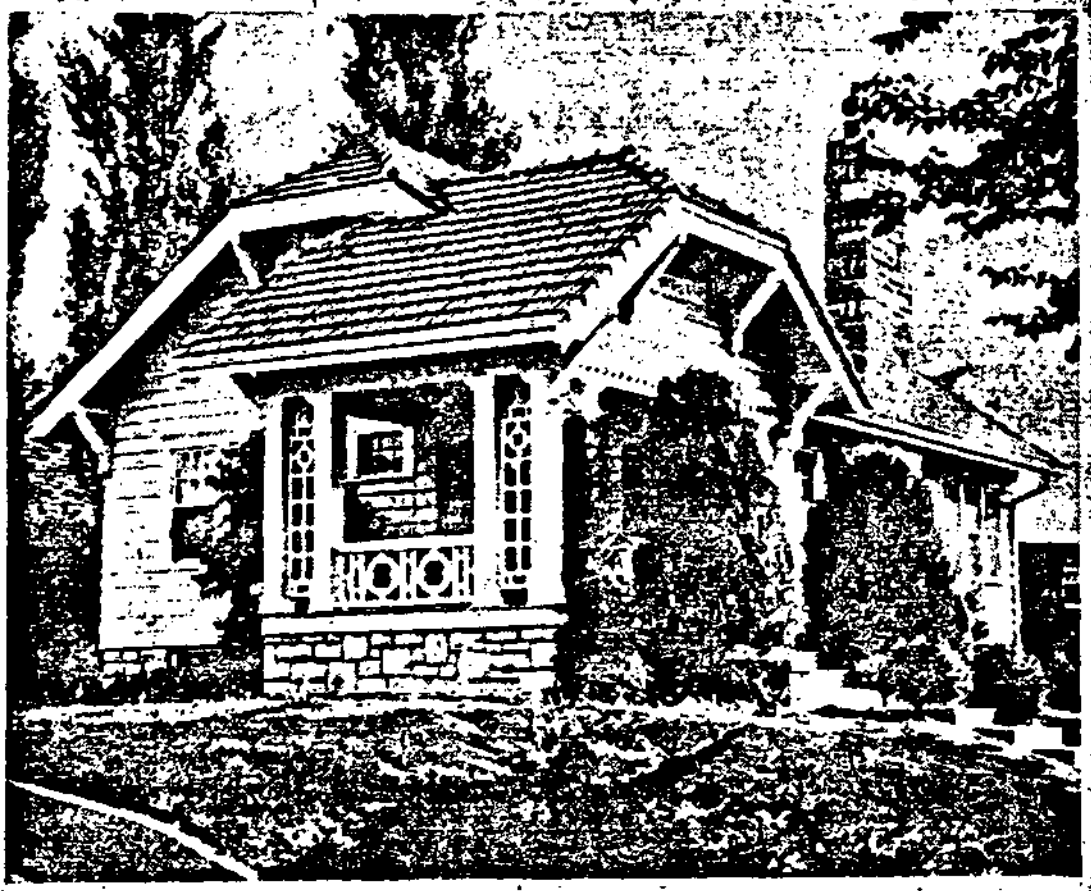
Judge Ellison said it made no difference when Ricchetti entered into the conspiracy and that the telephone calls were part of it and admissable.

Judge Ellison found that the court had not erred in its instructions to the jury, that the fact federal agents, at first were looking for the Harvey Bailey gang, made no difference.

The opinion criticized the prosecuting attorney for asking leading questions of witnesses, which drew admonishings from the trial court and called the conduct of the case in certain respects, "a reckless course", which might have caused a reversal, but concluded the defense was not entirely "self-effacing" in the case and that no prejudicial error had been permitted.

Ricchetti when first arrested in Ohio, was returned to Columbia, Mo., and held for several weeks as a suspect in the roadside slaying of Sgt. Ben Booth of the highway patrol and Sheriff Roger Wilson of Boone county. It later developed the McKeever gang had committed the Booth-Wilson murders, and George McKeever later was hanged in Fulton for the crime. Ricchetti then was taken to the Jackson county jail and four months later was indicted in the Union station massacre.

## Scene of Rendezvous on Eve of Massacre



Soon after the Union station massacre, Verne Miller, known here as Vernon Moore, fled the bungalow at 6616 Edgevale road, shown above, where he and his common law wife, Vivian Mathis, had been living. On a beer bottle at the bungalow were found Adam Ricchetti's fingerprints, government agents said. The department of justice learned Ricchetti and Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd were visitors at the Miller home the night before the killing. They had just kidnaped a sheriff at Bolivar, Mo., and freed him in the West bottoms of Kansas City.

# RICCHETTI GETS NEWS CALMLY

## Condemned Man Insists He's Innocent.

To sheriff's deputies fell the task today of telling Adam Ricchetti that he must die for the part he played in the Union station massacre.

After receiving word that the supreme court had affirmed the Jackson county circuit court's decision that he was guilty of the murder of Frank Hermanson, one of the five victims of the massacre, J. A. Purdome, chief deputy, and Pat Brennan and Robert Best, also deputies, went to Ricchetti's cell on the thirteenth floor of the jail.

"All right, Adam," Purdome spoke to the prisoner, "we're going downstairs."

The death cell in the jail is on the eleventh floor. The deputies did not immediately tell Ricchetti that the death cell was their destination. The doomed man flashed them an inquiring glance.

**Resents Photographs.**

He said nothing, however, as the elevator dropped to the eleventh floor. When the door opened, the three deputies and their prisoner were confronted by newspaper photographers and reporters.

Ricchetti stepped from the elevator. Simultaneously flash bulbs in two photographers' cameras made brilliant light.

Ricchetti's beard was heavy. He had not shaved for several days. His striped unionalls—the uniform worn by all prisoners save those condemned to death—were open at the throat, exposing a hairy chest.

Ricchetti stepped back, blinking as the flashbulbs lit up the interior of the jail. A frown crossed his face. But he was, as yet, unaware of the reason for his picture being taken.

"Hey, you!" he exclaimed to a photographer. "You can't do that. You fellows didn't ask me for a picture. You'll be likely to get into trouble if you take pictures of me without my consent."

**Combs Hair Nervously.**

He reached swiftly into his pocket and withdrew a comb. He ran the comb through his hair with quick, nervous gestures. Jail attendants said he spent much time in his cell combing his hair. It is beginning to grow thin.

For almost 10 minutes he moved the comb industriously through his hair while the photographers continued to take pictures.

A reporter assigned to duty at the courthouse stepped forward. Ricchetti knew him because of his frequent appearances before the condemned man's cell.

"Adam," the reporter said, "do you want to be interviewed this morning?"

Ricchetti's steady gaze was fastened upon the reporter. Apparently he was beginning to realize that

Turn to Page 2, Column 2.

# RICCHETTI GOES TO DEATH CELL AT COUNTY JAIL

Continued from Page 1.

something had occurred which once more made him news. But he did not have an inkling as to the supreme court's decision—yet.

**Wants No Interview.**

"No," he said, shortly, "I don't care to be interviewed."

The reporter tried again. "Maybe—"

"I don't want to talk to anyone," Ricchetti announced distinctly. "Anyone—did you hear?"

"But can't you tell me something about your parents, your brothers and sisters?" the reporter persisted.

"My parents live in Lehigh, Ok.," Ricchetti said slowly. "I've got a brother in Bolivar. They'll probably be here to see me soon."

He still was not aware that his parents would have little time to see him here. That he soon was to be removed to the state penitentiary to spend his remaining time on earth before guards lead him to the lethal gas chamber behind prison walls in Jefferson City.

**Gets Shave and Shower.**

In the dressing room, a jail trusty shaved Ricchetti. Then he stepped under the shower, where he remained 10 minutes. He then was attired, in white unionalls and moved to the death cell. The three deputies and reporters and photographers crowded in after him.

"When do I 'can' out?" Ricchetti asked, indicating that he believed he was to be released.

For 15 seconds no word was spoken. Then a deputy said in a husky voice, "The middle of next week, Adam."

To relieve the tension, another man in the cell asked: "What are you going to do, Ricchetti, when you go out?"

"I don't know," the condemned man said after a moment's pause. "I have no place to go. Maybe I'll go back to the farm."

It was then Purdome spoke. "Adam," he said, "I've some bad news for you. The supreme court has affirmed your death sentence."

**"Must Be Some Mistake."**

"There must be some mistake," Ricchetti said calmly. "They can't do that to an innocent man."

He was locked in the death cell. Then Purdome went out and bought a handful of cigars for the condemned man. A reporter seized the opportunity to ask him a question.

"Don't you want to notify your folks?" he was asked.

"Why should I?" Ricchetti countered. "You fellows are working for me. All these pictures—" He waved a hand toward the photographers who still were busy making pictures.

"Do you remember anything about the Union station massacre?" he was asked next. "The plans the night before, the——"

"I have nothing to say," Ricchetti, replied. "All I could do would be to get someone in bad."

"How about religion?" the reporter asked. "Are you a member of any church; have you professed——"

"Why should I?" Ricchetti countered, and let it go at that.

# RICCHETTI END TO CLOSE LONG CRIME CAREER

## Oklahoma Youth Jumped Bank Robbery Bond to Join Floyd.

### DENIES HIS GUILT

### In Jail Since Conviction He Has Been a 'Lone Wolf.'

The supreme court's decision affirming the sentence of the Jackson county circuit court that Adam Ricchetti must die for his part in the Union station massacre marks a closing chapter in the life of a man whose closest associate was Charles A. (Pretty Boy) Floyd, notorious Oklahoma bandit-killer.

It was Floyd, Ricchetti and Verne Miller, another notorious killer, the government alleged, who pulled the triggers of the guns which blasted life from the bodies of five men on the Union station plaza that morning of June 17, 1933, and wounded two others.

Floyd met death at the hands of G-men in Ohio and Miller was taken for a gangland ride near Detroit. Ricchetti, captured in Ohio, first was taken to Columbia, Mo., where he was wanted for the murder of Sheriff Roger Wilson of Boone county and Sgt. Ben Booth of the state highway patrol. Wilson and Booth were killed by two gunmen near Columbia June 14, 1933, just four days prior to the Union station massacre.

**Another Confession.**

Ricchetti positively was identified by several witnesses as the gunman who killed Sergeant Booth while the latter and Wilson were lying in wait at the junctions of highways No. 40 and No. 63 for bandits who had robbed a Mexico, Mo., bank earlier that day.

Then an Iowa farm hand confessed that he was one of the gunmen who had killed the two officers near Columbia. He admitted he had fired the fatal shots into Sergeant Booth's body, and bullets from his gun substantiated his story. When the Boone county charges against him were dismissed Ricchetti was brought to Kansas City to face charges of participating in the Union station massacre and firing the bullet that killed Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detective.

Persons who saw the Union station slayers identified Floyd and Miller as two of the gunmen, and it was known Ricchetti had been with Floyd on June 16, 24 hours before the five men were slain.

**Kidnaped Sheriff.**

It was on June 16 that Floyd and Ricchetti, fleeing from law enforcement officers in Oklahoma, Floyd's native habitat, arrived in Bolivar, Mo. The motor car they were driving needed repairs. Ricchetti's brother, Jack, was employed in a Bolivar garage, and Ricchetti had told Floyd that "Joe will fix our car."

While the two bandits were in the garage, Sheriff Jack Killingsworth arrived. Ricchetti recognized him as he approached and warned Floyd, "There's the law."

The two bandits kidnaped Killingsworth, and started for Kansas City with him, driving devious routes to reach Kansas City under cover of darkness. On their way here they encountered Walter L. Griffith, a Clinton, Mo., insurance man, and also kidnaped him.

Killingsworth's testimony had much to do with the conviction of Ricchetti, the sheriff claiming that he could identify a machine gun which the two bandits were said

Turn to Page 2, Column 5.

# RICCHETTI END TO CLOSE LONG CRIME CAREER

Continued from Page 1.

to have had in their possession at the time of the kidnaping. The sheriff said he noticed an emery wheel had been applied to the gun to erase the numbers on it. That gun later was found when Floyd was killed by government agents in Ohio.

The government claimed Floyd and Ricchetti, upon their arrival in Kansas City, went to 6612 Edgevale road, where Verne Miller, posing as a business man who spent much of his time playing golf, was living with a woman who claimed to be his wife and her daughter.

It was in that house, less than 12 hours before the massacre, the government contended, that final plans were made for the attempt to release Frank Nash, notorious convict, from the custody of government agents who were returning him to Leavenworth from Hot Springs, Ark.

To substantiate the claim that Ricchetti was present in Miller's home—despite his denial—the agents produced a beer bottle on which it was said his fingerprints had been found.

Witnesses to the massacre—including Mrs. Lottie West of the Travelers' Aid society—identified him as a man they had seen firing at the officers with Nash. Mrs. West said he had a blue-colored gun in one hand and a nickel plated gun in the other.

**Drove Killers' Car.**

Killingsworth said that during the ride from Bolivar, Ricchetti lay drunk in the rear seat of the motor car shouting imprecations, occasionally falling into a drunken stupor.

But, on the night of June 16, the government alleged, Ricchetti grew sober while Floyd and Miller planned the details of the rescue attempt they were to make to release Nash. And it was Ricchetti, the prosecution contended, who drove the killers' car to the Union station plaza, where they opened fire on the G-men and the two Kansas City detectives, Hermanson and William J. Grooms.

Ricchetti admitted he drove to Kansas City with Floyd. He confessed he and Floyd kidnaped Killingsworth and Griffiths. But, he said, the morning of June 17 when outlaw guns were blasting the lives of the officers at the Union station plaza, he and Floyd were far to the south of Kansas City on their way to Texarkana, Tex.

Ricchetti said he was a native of Lehigh, Ok. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. Ricchetti, he said, now are living in Strong, Tex. He was one of nine children, six boys and three girls. Originally the elder Ricchetti was a coal miner, but for many years he has been a farmer.

Ricchetti said he finished the eighth grade in school and then ran away from home. In 1928, after he had worked at various jobs as a painter and mechanic, he was picked up in Hammond, Ind., he said, on a charge of robbery and sentenced from 1 to 10 years at the reformatory at Pendleton. He served two years, was released on parole and went to Oklahoma to the home of a brother-in-law, W. A. Smalley, near Wewoka. He worked on a farm there for a year.

In 1933 he started through Texas on a gambling tour, and was arrested for a bank holdup at Mill Creek, Ok., upon his return. Because there was no jail available, he was taken to the state penitentiary where he was held for six months, awaiting trial. Eventually his brother-in-law arranged bond, and he was released.

**Met "Pretty Boy" at Dance.**

Two weeks later he went to a dance at Earlsboro, Ok., and it was there he met "Pretty Boy" Floyd. He had known Floyd before, he said, in the various oil fields in which he had worked, and he had sensed the fact that Floyd was "hot"—meaning he was a fugitive from the law.

At the dance, he said, Floyd introduced him to some girls, and while they were talking some men arrived, wearing big hats. Someone said, "There's the law," and Floyd and his companion, George Birdwell, fled.

Ricchetti decided about that time to "skip bond" on the bank robbery charge, and went through Texas and into Old Mexico. When he returned to Oklahoma he also was "hot" because of his bond-skipping, so when he ran into Floyd at another dance, they decided to join forces and hide out.

On the day before the massacre, Ricchetti said, he and Floyd drove through Kansas City and the car started developing trouble when they approached Bolivar, Mo. Ricchetti said he had worked in the garage and he directed Floyd to it. Then Killingsworth approached and Ricchetti told Floyd the sheriff's

identity. "I was drunk that day," he said, "and suggested that we kidnap the sheriff, and that's what we did.

**Hid Out Long Time.**

"I don't remember exactly what we did after that," Ricchetti said, "but we hid out in the country a long time. I remember crossing a long viaduct into Kansas City. Then I don't remember any more. I was so drunk, until I was in the car again and we were out in the country. We drove on south and that night we were in Texarkana. That was the night of the day of the shooting at the Union station.

"Floyd said then he was going into Arkansas, and we separated. I went to Texas and later to Mexico. I didn't see Floyd again until I met him on a street in Toledo, and I wouldn't have recognized him then if he hadn't spoken to me. He was carrying a blanket over his arm and under it was a machine gun."

Ricchetti said Floyd was endeavoring to get into Canada. Neither of them had any money and they were without a car so they started hitch-hiking. Eventually they reached Wellsville, O. It was there John Fultz, chief of police, was told two suspicious characters were loitering near the town. He went out to investigate and arrested Ricchetti, but Floyd made his escape.

**Floyd Slain.**

A few days later, G-men overtook Floyd in his flight and killed him. Then Ricchetti was returned to Columbia to answer the charge of murdering Sergeant Booth, and when the Iowa farmhand's confession cleared him of that charge, he was brought to Kansas City.

He since has been confined in the county jail here. On July 8, 1935, physicians were called to the jail by attendants who said Ricchetti had attempted to commit suicide by leaping head first from his bunk to the concrete floor.

It was found, however, that he had suffered only a slight scalp wound. Ricchetti denied he had attempted suicide. He said he had suffered from the intense heat and then had been stricken with indigestion and fell from his bunk.

**"Lone Wolf" in Jail.**

Ricchetti's relatives have not visited him since he was placed in jail here. He has become known as a "lone wolf" among the county prisoners. He is a dark complexioned man, 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighs 155 pounds. His face has a sardonic cast and is heavily lined. When other prisoners are permitted to mingle together in the "bull pen" of the jail, Ricchetti remains in his cell.

Persons who have attempted to be friendly with him have been repulsed. He responds to all overtures of friendship with a stock phrase—foul words.

At the time of his trial he told sheriff's deputies that he expected to be convicted and sentenced to death. He was asleep the night the jury brought in the verdict of guilt. Aroused and taken to the courtroom, where he heard the words dooming him to death, he made no comment.

Later, however, when he was escorted back to his cell he remarked to a deputy: "That's a hell of a thing to wake a man up for."

Evening Herald and Express,
Los Angeles, Cal.,
May 3, 1938.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hottel
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Floyd Gang Aide to Die in Gas Chamber

By United Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., May 3.—Adam Richetti, onetime friend and champion of Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd, must die in Missouri's lethal gas chamber for his part in the Kansas City Union Station massacre of June 17, 1933, division two of the State Supreme Court ruled today.

Richetti, believed to be the last survivor of the notorious Floyd gang, was convicted by the Jackson County Circuit Court of participating in the bloody attempt to release Frank Nash, escaped convict from Leavenworth.

Five persons were dead when Floyd, Richetti and Verne Miller, both now dead, stopped firing at detectives and federal agents in front of Kansas City's crowded Union Station.

In addition to Nash, a midwest desperado, those killed were Raymond J. Caffery, Federal Bureau of Investigation agent; Chief Otto Reed of the McAlester, Okla., police department, and two Kansas City detectives, W. J. Grooms and Frank Hermanson. Richetti was charged with slaying Hermanson.

Richetti's death sentence was upheld in a 30-page opinion written by Judge George R. Ellison. The other members of the division, Judge Ernest M. Tipton and C. A. Leedy jr., concurred.

62-28915-A

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Beckman .....
Mr. Clegg .....

THE KANSAS CITY STAR MAY 3, 1938 FROM THE KANSAS CITY OFFICE
DWIGHT BRANTLEY SAC.

# RICHETTI TO DIE

Supreme Court Denies Appeal of Gangster Convicted in Union Station Massacre.

## IN LETHAL GAS ROOM

Resentencing in Circuit Court Will Precede Removal to State Prison.

## RULES THE TRIAL WAS FAIR

Judge Ellison Says Hearing Was Two Years After Crime, Allowing "Cooling Time."

JEFFERSON CITY BUREAU
THE KANSAS CITY STAR
*(By a Member of The Star's Staff.)*

JEFFERSON CITY, May 3.—Adam Richetti, gangster companion of "Pretty Boy" Floyd, must die in the lethal gas chamber of the Missouri prison for his part in the Union station massacre at Kansas City June 17, 1933, division No. 2 of the Missouri Supreme court ruled today.

A date for his execution will be set by the Jackson County Circuit court, in accordance with a recent ruling of the high court. Richetti originally was sentenced to be hanged in the Jackson County jail, but the law providing for the gas chamber in the state prison was enacted while his case was on appeal and therefore the new method will be used.

### Time for a Motion.

It may be several weeks before the circuit court can set the execution date. Under court procedure Richetti will have ten days to file a motion for a supreme court rehearing. If that is done, the mandate of the supreme court will be withheld until after the high tribunal passes on the reconsideration application.

Richetti was convicted specifically of the killing of Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detective, who was one of the officers slain in the station massacre.

Hermanson and William J. Grooms, another Kansas City detective, were at the station at the request of federal officers to assist in the transfer of Frank Nash, gangster, from a train from Hot Springs, Ark., to a motor car for transportation to the penitentiary at Leavenworth.

Friends of Nash, conspired to release him, waited behind parked cars on the station plaza. When the gangster and his escort appeared the waiting friends went into action, killing Nash and four officers, Hermanson and Grooms among them.

### Only State Trial.

Richetti is the only person to be tried in the state courts on the murder charge. The federal government arrested and convicted some of the go-betweens, but did not try any of the principals.

Evidence was presented in the trial, before Judge Ray G. Cowan, that Richetti and Floyd arrived in Kansas City about 10:45 o'clock the night before the massacre.

Floyd was identified as one of the participants in the massacre by R. E. Vetterli, federal agent then in charge of the Kansas City bureau, and by Mrs. Lottie West, Travel Aid society representative at the station. Richetti was identified as another participant by Mrs. West and by F. J. Lackey, federal agent, who was wounded in the shooting.

### In Verne Miller's Home.

Testimony was introduced at the trial that fingerprints of Richetti and Floyd were discovered on empty beer bottles found in the Kansas City residence that had been occupied by Verne Miller, machine gunner, who was another of the killers in the massacre.

Officers at Wellsville, O., in October, 1934, killed Floyd and captured Richetti.

Richetti's defense was an alibi. He said he had left Kansas City between midnight and early morning the day of the station shooting and denied he had been at the station plaza that morning.

In the appeal, lawyers for Richetti attacked the indictments as faulty because the list of grand jurors did not include the names of any Negro, Italian, Greek, Chinese or Japanese citizens of Jackson County. The allegation that the indictment was faulty was based on the Scottsboro case ruling by the United States Supreme court.

Judge George R. Ellison, who wrote the Richetti opinion, dismissed that attack on the ground the challenge against the grand jurors had not been made at the proper time.

### Faults Are Present.

It also was claimed by defense attorneys that numerous inconsistencies and contradictions in the testimony of state witnesses were sufficient to destroy the correct identification of the defendant.

Judge Ellison recognized inconsistencies and contradictions existed, but asserted the identification was corroborated by other evidence he said was competent.

Complaint was made that the verdict was the result of passion and prejudice against Richetti and that it was impossible for Richetti to get a fair trial.

"The trial did not start until June 10, 1935, almost exactly two years after the massacre," Judge Ellison wrote. "There was plenty of cooling time. While every defendant is entitled to a fair trial, no man can expect the law to do the impossible and shield him altogether from the consequences of his own criminal notoriety and inhumanity."

Judges E. M. Tipton and C. B. Leedy, jr., the other members of division No. 2 which handles appeals in criminal cases, concurred in the decision.

62-28915-A

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Crowl .....
Mr. Dawsey .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Bottel .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. M[illegible] .....
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# "Pretty Boy's" Pal Must Die

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., May 3 —(UP)—Adam Richetti, one-time friend and champion of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, must die in Missouri's lethal gas chamber for his part in the Kansas city union station massacre of June 17, 1933, division 2 of the state supreme court ruled today.

Richetti, believed to be the last survivor of the notorious Floyd gang, was convicted by the Jackson county circuit court of participating in the bloody attempt to release Frank Nash, escaped convict from Leavenworth.

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Seattle Star
Seattle, Washington
May 3, 1938

62-28915-A

# Floyd Gang Aide to Die in Gas Chamber

By United Press

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Five persons were dead when Floyd, Richetti and Verne Miller, both now dead, stopped firing at detectives and federal agents in front of Kansas City's crowded Union Station.

In addition to Nash, a midwest desperado, those killed were Raymond J. Caffery, Federal Bureau of Investigation agent; Chief Otto Reed of the McAlester, Okla., police department, and two Kansas City detectives, W. J. Grooms and Frank Hermanson. Richetti was charged with slaying Hermanson.

Richetti's death sentence was upheld in a 30-page opinion written by Judge George R. Ellison. The other members of the division, Judge Ernest M. Tipton and C. A. Leedy jr., concurred.

Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Dewey
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Herl[illegible]
Mr. Hot[illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Miss [illegible]

67-78915/A

LOS ANGELES HERALD-EXPRESS

MAY 3 - 1938

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nease
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hottel
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Richette Must Die In Mo. Gas Chamber

Jefferson City, Mo., May 3 (AP).—Pallow-faced little Adam Richetti—the last of Pretty Boy Floyd's deadly band—was condemned to Missouri's lethal gas chamber by the State Supreme Court today for the bloody Kansas City Union Station massacre of 1933.

62-28915-A

WASH. POST
MAY 3 1950

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Crowl .....
Mr. Dawsey .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Hottel .....
Mr. Lester .....

# ~~Last of~~ the Floyd ~~Gang~~ Again Sentenced to Die

## Richetti Faces Gas Chamber Now Instead of Noose

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., May 3 (AP).—Adam Richetti, the last of "Pretty Boy" Floyd's band, was condemned to Missouri's lethal gas chamber by the State Supreme Court today for the Kansas City Union Station massacre of 1933.

The court affirmed his conviction of nearly three years ago and ordered him to the Kansas City trial court for resentencing. His original sentence, hanging, was passed before the change in the state's method of execution. A motion for rehearing may delay the execution for months.

Four officers and their prisoner were killed in the massacre, a bungled attempt to rescue Frank Nash, an escaped convict, from authorities taking him back to prison early on June 17, 1933.

CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE

62-28915-A

DATE MAY 4 1936

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Crowl .....
Mr. Dawsey .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Forworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Hottel .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. McIntire .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Pennington .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....
.....

# Pays Penalty

MASSACRE ACCOMPLICE TO DIE BY LETHAL GAS.

*ADAM RICHETTI.*

*Richetti, convicted participant in the Union Station massacre at Kansas City June 17, 1933, in which five persons were slain, is shown as he was being escorted yesterday to the death cell after the State Supreme Court affirmed the death penalty given him in 1935. He will die in the lethal gas chamber of the State Prison, at Jefferson City, on a date yet to be fixed.*

*—Copyright, A. P. Wirephoto.*

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WASH. STAR 62-78915A

Mr. Nathan ....
Mr. [illegible] ....
Mr. [illegible] ....
Mr. [illegible] ....
Mr. Coffey ....
Mr. Crowl ....
Mr. Dewey ....
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Mr. [illegible] ....
Mr. [illegible] ....
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# Pays Penalty

**MASSACRE ACCOMPLICE TO DIE BY LETHAL GAS.**

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*Richetti, convicted participant in the Union Station massacre at Kansas City June 17, 1933, in which five persons were slain, is shown as he was being escorted yesterday to the death cell after the State Supreme Court affirmed the death penalty given him in 1935. He will die in the lethal gas chamber of the State Prison, at Jefferson City, on a date yet to be fixed.*
*—Copyright, A. P. Wirephoto.*

MAY 4 - 1938

62-28915-10

Mr. Nat
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hottel
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Schilletter
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Richetti Must Die, High Court Rules

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., May 3 (I.N.S.).—Adam Richetti, confederate of Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd, slain gang leader, must die in Missouri's lethal gas chamber for his part in the Kansas City Union Station massacre, the State Supreme Court ruled today.

Five men, four of them peace officers, were slain in the massacre June 17, 1933, in a gangland plot to free Frank Nash, a recaptured convict. Nash himself was killed.

9

62-28915-18

WASH. HERALD

THE KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST MAY 11, 1938. FROM THE KANSAS CITY OFFICE
DWIGHT BRANTLEY SAC.

# LAWYERS FILE RICCHETTI PLEA

## Motion for Rehearing Made at Jefferson City.

From the Journal-Post Jefferson City Bureau.

JEFFERSON CITY, May 11.—Ralph Latshaw and James Daleo, attorneys for Adam Ricchetti, today filed a motion for a reahearing in Ricchetti's case.

Division No. 2 of the supreme court last week affirmed Ricchetti's death sentence for participation in the Union station massacre June 17, 1933, in Kansas City.

"In our humble judgment," said Latshaw, "the opinion in realty rewrites most of the basic and fundamental criminal law of Missouri."

The motion cited also the Scottsboro case of the United States supreme court regarding grand juries as the basic law of the country and asserted that Judge George Robb Ellison's opinion in the Richetti case disregarded that decision, in which the Scottsboro Negro defendants were granted new trials because no Negroes were on the grand jury which indicted them. Latshaw contends the indictment against Ricchetti was faulty because names of no Negroes, no Italians, Chinese, Japanese or Greeks were in the grand jury wheel from which the jury that indicted Ricchetti was drawn.

**Prejudice Alleged.**

Public prejudice also was cited to refute the opinion of Judge Ellison that plenty of "cooling time" elapsed between the massacre and the trial of Ricchetti. Latshaw asserted two motion pictures, "G-Men" and "Public Hero No. 1," had played Kansas City theaters just prior to the trial and in the latter named picture a scene, depicting the Union station massacre, was included.

Latshaw also attacks the identification of Ricchetti as indefinite and urged the court to reconsder its statement that finger print pictures and ballistics evidence tended to corroborate the identification.

**Convicted as Participant.**

Ricchetti was convicted as a participant with Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd and Verne Miller in the Union station crime in which four officers and Frank Nash, a convict, were killed by gangsters in an effort to liberate the convict, who was being returned to the Leavenworth penitentiary.

If the motion for a rehearing is denied, defense attorneys asked that the Ricchetti case be transferred to the court en banc for consideration. The court en banc consists of all seven supreme judges. Division 2, which handles criminal cases, is composed of only three of the judges.

62-28915-A

THE KANSAS CITY STAR MAY 11, 1938. FROM THE KANSAS CITY OFFICE
DWIGHT BRANTLEY SAC.

Mr. Nat[illegible] .....
Mr. Tel[illegible] .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
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Mr. Crowl .....
Mr. Dewsey .....
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Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Hayho .....
Mr. Hott[illegible] .....
Mr. L[illegible] .....
Mr. M[illegible] .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. [illegible] .....
Mr. Schn[illegible] .....
Mr. Tan[illegible] .....
Mr. Tr[illegible] .....
Miss G[illegible] .....

## ASK A RICHETTI REHEARING

**Presentation of Case Before Court En Banc Also Is Sought.**

JEFFERSON CITY BUREAU
THE KANSAS CITY STAR
*(By a Member of The Star's Staff.)*

JEFFERSON CITY, May 11.—Lawyers for Adam Richetti, pal of "Pretty Boy" Floyd, whose sentence to die for his part in the Union station massacre in Kansas City in June, 1933, was affirmed last week by the Missouri Supreme court, division No. 2, today filed a motion for a rehearing by the court.

In addition the lawyers request transfer of the case to the court *en banc*, for a hearing before all seven members of the tribunal, if the rehearing motion is denied.

The motion asserted that the ruling in the opinion, prepared by Judge George R. Ellison, overruled and rewrote the "basic and fundamental criminal law" of the state. This charge was directed against the ruling that evidence presented in the case showed that Richetti was engaged with Floyd in a "general course of outlawry."

The motion was filed by Ralph S. Latshaw and James Daleo, lawyers for the gangster.

Filing of the motion means several weeks' delay in execution of the death sentence. The motion will be passed upon at the first conference of division No. 2, which probably will not be held until late this month.

62-28915A

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
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Mr. Dawsey .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Hottel .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. McIntire .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Pennington .....
Mr. Scott .....
Mr. [illegible] Edm
Mr. [illegible] .....
Miss Candy .....
.....

# No Mercy?

**ADAM RICCHETTI.**

**With an expression of disbelief, Ricchetti registered surprise in the Jackson, Mo., County jail when told that the Missouri Supreme Court had denied his appeal that the death sentence decision of a lower court be set aside on prejudicial error. Ricchetti was condemned to die for the murder of Detective Frank Hermanson during the Kansas City Union station massacre in 1933.**

SAN FRANCISCO KERS

FORWARDED BY
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

MAY 12 1933

62-28915 A

THE KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST AUGUST 2, 1938. FROM KANSAS CITY OFFICE
E. P. GUINANE SAC,

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Gandy
Carter

# ADAM RICCHETTI GOES TO PRISON TO WAIT DEATH

## Sheriff and 7 Deputies Take Killer to Jefferson City.

### TO DIE OCTOBER 7

### Floyd Pal Will Pay Penalty for Station Massacre.

Adam Ricchetti, sentenced to die October 7 in the lethal gas chamber in the state penitentiary at Jefferson City for his part in the Union station massacre, was taken under heavy guard to the prison early today to await the date of his execution.

Sheriff James A. Williams, Chief Deputy J. A. Purdome and six deputies accompanied Ricchetti. The party traveled in two cars, Ricchetti's being followed by the second car. The removal was at 6:25 o'clock this morning and was executed quietly.

Ricchetti's removal from the Jackson county jail, where he had been held since November, 1935, came on the heels of an examination of the condemned man by three psychiatrists appointed by Judge Ray G. Cowan.

Judge Cowan ordered the examination as a courtesy to Ralph S. Latshaw, attorney for Ricchetti, who contends that his client is insane. Ricchetti's behavior for several months has been considered odd by those in a position to observe him.

J. A. Purdome, chief deputy sheriff, late yesterday asked the prisoner what he wanted for dinner. Ricchetti stared at him before answering. Then he said: "You ought to know. You work for me."

Ricchetta, a former associate of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, was captured near Wellsville, O., by two police officers who surprised him and Floyd resting on a blanket near a highway. Floyd escaped at the moment, but was shot to death two days later by FBI agents.

Investigation convinced police and federal agents that Floyd, Ricchetti and Verne Miller, former South Dakota sheriff who had turned gangster, were the three triggermen involved in the slaying of five men at the Union station here, June 16, 1933. Miller later was riddled with gangster bullets near Detroit.

**SHERIFF REACHES PRISON WITH ADAM RICCHETTI.**

From the Journal-Post Jefferson City Bureau.

**JEFFERSON CITY, Sept. 2.—Sheriff J. L. Williams and six deputies arrived here shortly before 10 o'clock this morning with Adam Ricchetti.**

**The prisoner's face appeared pasty and his thinning hair was slicked back. He said he never had been a prisoner in the Missouri penitentiary, but once had come here "after a man."**

**He was dressed in and was to be taken to the death house.**

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62-28715-A

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Dewey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Fenworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Back Of Organized Gangsterism Broken

## G-Man Tactics Have Ended Era of Big Gangs in America and Now Only Small Fry Hoodlum Outfits Reman On Nation's Crime Roster.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—(AP)—The big gangs are gone! The crews of specialists in murder, bank robbing and kidnaping who terrorized Americans for many years have been wiped out, J. Edgar Hoover said today, and all that remains are small-fry local hoodlum outfits living off slot machines and the numbers racket.

The kidnapings of recent years have been the work of solitary plotters—often bungling amateurs, the chief G-man pointed out; and bank robbery has dropped to a comparatively unimportant place in the nation's crime roster.

The tide which reached its heights when small-town store-keepers no longer left their cars parked unlocked on Main street and small-town bankers banded together in protective associations receded before the relentless detective work of Federal agents unleashed by new laws.

Law officers agree generally that the grisly "Kansas City Massacre" in 1933 marked the apex of gangster rule in America, but for sheer bravado and insolence of a different nature the Karpis-Barker gang's game of baseball stands alone.

**PLOTTED NEW CRIMES.**

Few law enforcement officers even now know about that game. Certainly, none of them in the vicinity of Cleveland, O., knew of it that warm afternoon when the Karpis-Barker gang, often called the "Kansas City mob," gathered with their "molls" at a suburban lake resort to plot new crimes and incidentally to enjoy themselves.

The date of the game and the line-ups are unknown, but the players, their substitutes, and even the umpires, all were wanted men; known kidnapers, bank robbers or murderers.

It was a fairly good game.

"They played nine full innings," an onlooker recalled later.

"Pretty good baseball, too."

Few of the gang are alive today. Kate (Ma) Barker, Dr. Joseph P. Moran, "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Fred Barker, Charlie Harmon, and Frank Nash, all one-time members of the group, are dead; victims of fellow gangsters' guns or Federal agents' bullets.

Alvin Karpis, whose cold-blooded ways won him the sobriquet of "old Creepy," Harvey Bailey, "Machine Gun" Kelley, Albert Bates, and Arthur Barker, of the same gang, are thinking things over on "the rock"—Alcatraz island.

During the post-prohibition era Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, estimated that the nation's annual crime bill was $15,000,000,000 or $120 per capita.

**USED AIRPLANES.**

But it was during prohibition, not after, that gangsterism obtained it real foothold in America. Modern gangs with their airplanes, secret hideouts, "strong arm squads," girl companions, and hired "mouthpieces" were the product of bootleg liquor and prosperity, he said. By comparison, the notorious James brothers and other train robbers at the turn of the century, were "pikers," small-timers in the world of crime.

Encouraged by the public's apathy to prohibition lawlessness, the ruthless, quick-shooting "purple gang" of Detroit, with "connections" in New York, Chicago, and St. Louis, thrived). "Al Capone took over Chicago's beer racket while scores of lesser gangs, usually of transient membership, wandered from city to city, vying wth each other for control of the beer and liquor trade.

In Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, Walter Lagenza, who was captured only after he broke both legs in an escape attempt, assembled the dreaded "Tri-State" gang, enlisting the aid of Robert Mais, Arthur Misanas, John Kendrick, and "Big Bill" Phillips.

**BEER BARONS.**

John Dillinger's ill fame spread far. From Chicago's West Side emerged the six "terrible Touhys" to take over the beer business in Cook county's northwest corner.

Charlotte, N.C.
Observer
8-14-38

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
AUG 16 1938
CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NOTE TO
Bureau

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62-28915-A

# G-MEN SEE ERA OF GANGSTER GONE

## 'Kansas City Massacre' in 1933 Called Apex of Rule by 'Mobs.'

By the Associated Press.

The crews of specialists in murder, bank robbing and kidnaping who terrorized Americans for many years have been wiped out, the Department of Justice feels, and all that remains are small-fry local hoodlum outfits living off slot machines and the numbers racket.

The kidnapings of recent years have been the work of solitary plotters—often bungling amateurs; and bank robbery has dropped to a comparatively unimportant place in the nation's crime roster.

The tide which reached its height when small-town storekeepers no longer left their cars parked unlocked on Main street and small-town bankers banded together in protective associations receded before the relentless detective work of Federal agents unleashed by new laws.

Law officers agree generally that the grisly "Kansas City massacre" in 1933 marked the apex of gangster rule in America, but for sheer bravado and violence of a different nature the Karpis-Barker gang's game of baseball stands alone.

**Played Nine Innings.**

Few law enforcement officers even now know about that game. Certainly, none of them in the vicinity of Cleveland, Ohio, knew of it that warm afternoon when the Karpis-Barker gang, often called the "Kansas City mob," gathered with their "molls" at a suburban lake resort to plot new crimes and incidentally to enjoy themselves.

The date of the game and the lineups are unknown, but the players, their substitutes and even the umpires all were wanted men; known kidnapers, bank robbers or murderers.

They played nine full innings, an onlooker recalled later. "Pretty good baseball, too."

Few of the gang are alive today. Kate (Ma) Barker, Dr. Joseph P. Moran, "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Fred Barker, Charlie Harmon and Frank Nash, all one-time members of the group, are dead, victims of fellow gangsters' guns or Federal agents' bullets.

Alvin Karpis, whose cold-blooded ways won him the sobriquet of "Old Creepy"; Harvey Bailey, "Machine Gun" Kelly, Albert Bates and Arthur Barker, of the same gang, are thinking things over on "the Rock"—Alcatraz Island.

During the post-prohibition era J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, estimated that the Nation's annual crime bill was $15,000,000,000 or $120 per capita.

**Product of Bootleg Era.**

But it was during prohibition, not after, that gangsterism obtained its [illegible] in America. Modern gangs with their airplanes, secret hideouts, strong arm squads, girl companions, and hired "mouthpieces" were the product of bootleg liquor and prosperity. By comparison, the notorious James brothers and other train robbers at the turn of the century, were "pikers," small-timers in the world of crime.

Encouraged by the public's apathy to prohibition lawlessness, the ruthless, quick-shooting "purple gang" of Detroit, with "connections" in New York, Chicago and St. Louis, thrived. "Al" Capone took over Chicago's beer racket while scores of lesser gangs, usually of transient membership, wandered from city to city, vieing with each other for control of the local beer and liquor trade.

In Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, Walter Lagehza, who was captured only after he broke both legs in an escape attempt, assembled the dreaded "Tri-State" gang, enlisting the aid of Robert Mais, Arthur Misanas, John Kendrick and "Big Bill" Phillips.

John Dillinger's ill fame spread far. From Chicago's West Side emerged the six "terrible Touhys" to take over the beer business in Cook County's northwest corner. The bank-robbing Gant brothers terrorized the South. The Oley gang included nearly a score of kidnapers, robbers and auto thieves. Hi-jacking, smuggling and wholesale murder were commonplace.

**Seven Massacred in Chicago.**

In a Chicago garage, "Killer" Burke's sharp-shooters lined up seven white-faced men against a wall, then cut them to pieces with machine guns. Newsmen called it the "Saint Valentine's Day massacre." They called the Kansas City gun battle June 17, 1933, a massacre." The shooting started when "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Adam Richetti and Verne Miller tried to take Frank Nash from seven law officers. When the smoke cleared, Nash and six officers lay dead or wounded on Union Station Plaza. Only two recovered.

The Kansas City outrage was the beginning of the end for organized gangsterism. The public was aroused. At Attorney General Cummings' urging Congress passed 11 crime laws. Federal agents were authorized to carry firearms. Slaying a Federal officer was made punishable by death. G-men were authorized to investigate the robbery of any bank in the Federal Reserve System or any bank holding Government insured deposits. The Lindbergh kidnap law was broadened. In short, the war on gangsterism was on.

Meanwhile, gangs whose funds were running low had turned to a crime mostly new for them—kidnaping. At first they picked victims they knew, men who would pay up and shut up. Then the Touhys "snatched" John (Jake the Barber) Factor in Chicago. Factor talked and kidnaping came out in the open.

Headlines screamed the same story over and over. Alton, Ill.—August Luer, $10,000. Ransom Paid—Oklahoma City—Charles F. Urschel, $200,000 Paid; Albany, N. Y.—John J. O'Connell, Jr., $40,000 Paid; St. Paul, Minn.—Edward G. Bremer, $200,000 Paid; Louisville, Ky.—Mrs. Alice Speed Stroll, $50,000 Paid; Tacoma, Wash.—George Weyerhaeuser, $200,000 Paid; Harwichport, Mass.—Peggy McMath, $30,000 Paid.

Justice Department men turned on the "heat."

**Dragnet Tightened.**

As the dragnet tightened around kidnapers, at least 22 gangs turned to bank robbery, overlooking the fact that the new law would keep G-Men on their trail. Mr. Hoover's list of public enemies increased to 14,000.

Then the rout began.

Treasury agents sent Al Capone to Alcatraz. The Karpis-Barker and the purple gang were annihilated. The tri-state gang, the Gants and the Oleys were included in the roundup. The day of roving gangs was over.

"A big factor, and one which was largely responsible for breaking the back of organized gangsterism, was our concentration on the 'criminal fringe,' the hangers-on," Mr. Hoover explains.

"Strip gang of its smaller fry, the doctors, lawyers, girl companions, mechanics and drivers, and the leaders are flushed into the open.

"Once we get them on the run," he added, "it is only a matter of time."

Today, the Department of Justice knows of no single gang engaged in kidnaping or bank robbery.

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WASH. STAR
AUG 15 1938

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"Once we get them on the run," Hoover added, "it is only a matter of time."

The F. B. I's policy, he said, is to treat the criminal "like a typhoid germ. Isolate him. Make him a lone wolf."

Sooner or later, special agents will pick up his trail or he will be spotted by some sharp-eyed citizen who has seen his picture in a magazine or newspaper.

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THE KANSAS CITY STAR AUGUST 17, 1938. FROM THE KANSAS CITY OFFICE. DWIGHT BRANTLEY SAC.

# RICHETTI HAD BIG KNIFE.

## JAILERS TAKE 4-INCH BLADE FROM PRISONER.

### Steel Arch From Right Shoe Had Been Honed on Concrete Floor to Make Sharp Edge.

Adam Richetti, whose motion for a rehearing was overruled today by the Missouri Supreme court, caused temporary excitement at the county jail today when deputy sheriffs found a 4-inch piece of steel in the pocket of his jail coveralls.

Richetti had removed the steel arch support from his right shoe and sharpened one end on the concrete floor of his cell. The blade was about one-half inch wide.

DISCOVERED ON HIS REMOVAL.

The instrument was found when he was removed from a cell on the eleventh floor of the jail to a solitary cell on the twelfth floor, upon receipt of word that he was to be resentenced within a few days to die in the state lethal gas chamber.

J. A. Purdome, chief deputy sheriff, appeared unexpectedly at Richetti's cell and ordered him to emerge for a complete change of clothing. Purdome explained that was a precautionary measure before removing the prisoner to another cell. The reason, Purdome said, was to balk any attempt to remove to his new cell anything that might be concealed on his person. The blade was found when his coveralls were searched.

After finding the instrument, Purdome removed the steel support from Richetti's other shoe.

HE CURSES THE DEPUTIES.

Richetti glared and cursed throughout the entire procedure.

Richetti made little comment when Purdome informed him his request for rehearing had been denied, other than to stage a brief act feigning insanity.

He denied sharpening the blade and declared the support came loose and fell out of his shoe and he merely put it in his pocket.

Added precautions were taken by removing all metal buttons and buckles from his new coveralls.

In the denial of a rehearing before the Supreme court, Richetti's last hope of escaping the lethal gas chamber is blasted. The court affirmed his death penalty last May.

RESENTENCE WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

The sallow-faced gunman will be taken into the Jackson County Circuit court within two weeks to be resentenced, to conform to the court's ruling that he die in the gas chamber. At the time of his trial hanging was the legal method of execution.

Richetti is the last of the three outlaws on whom the government pinned the five massacre slayings June 17, 1933. "Pretty Boy" Floyd was slain by officers in Ohio and Verne Miller was killed by other gangsters near Detroit.

Granville Allen, 25-year-old Negro, also was moved to a cell in the "death row" on the twelfth floor of the courthouse. He made no comment when informed the supreme court had affirmed his death sentence. Allen was convicted in the circuit court here of the murder October 28, 1936, of Howard Preston, 47 years old, 1010 Chestnut avenue, after being surprised in an attempt to rob Preston's apartment.

445

62-28915-18

Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Nathan .....
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Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. McIntire .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....
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THE WICHITA EAGLE AUGUST 18, 1938. FROM THE KANSAS CITY OFFICE
E. P. GUINANE SAC.

## CRUDE KNIFE FOUND ON DOOMED RICHETTI

KANSAS CITY, Aug. 17.—(AP)—Deputy sheriffs found a crude four-inch knife on Adam Richetti today as the gangster, convicted for his part in the 1933 union station massacre, was taken to "death row" following denial today of his appeal for a rehearing by the state supreme court.

The blade was half an inch wide and had been made from an arch-support, removed from Richetti's right shoe. It had been sharpened by laborious grinding on the cement floor of his cell on the 11th floor of the Jackson county jail.

62-28915-A

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THE KANSAS CITY TIMES AUGUST 20, 1938. FROM THE KANSAS CITY OFFICE
DWIGHT BRANTLEY SAC.

# A NO. 1 CRIME CASE

Detective Work Leading to Richetti's Conviction Stands Out, Hoover Says.

## CLUES IN FINGERPRINTS

Bottles Found in Verne Miller's Home Linked Gunman to Station Massacre.

WASHINGTON BUREAU
THE KANSAS CITY STAR
610 ALBEE BUILDING
(By a Member of The Star's Staff.)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19.—Adam Richetti and his tell-tale fingerprints on a beer bottle will survive now in the annals of modern criminology long after he pays the penalty for participation in the union station massacre of 1933 with death in Missouri's lethal gas chamber.

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the bureau of investigation of the department of justice, considers the apprehension and subsequent conviction of Richetti as the No. 1 case of its kind in the annals of crime detection. Only last week, Edmund P. Coffey, administrative head of the FBI crime laboratories, told Kansas City officials that the Richetti trial already had gained world-wide attention because the case against the gunman confederate of "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Verne Miller was made entirely upon the fingerprints found on beer bottles at the South Side home occupied by Miller in Kansas City.

### No Other as Outstanding.

Today an official of Mr. Hoover's G-man unit said many clues had been obtained from fingerprints but none as outstanding as in the Richetti case.

In the confidential files of the justice department the memorandum on Richetti tells how police officers traced telephone calls from the home of Herbert Farmer in Joplin to Miller's hideout in Kansas City and how beer bottles, hidden in the attic, were found when agents raided the house expecting to capture Miller.

"Photographs were made of the latent fingerprints appearing on the beer bottles and were forwarded to the bureau for examination," the official and confidential memorandum reads. "The latent fingerprints found on the beer bottles were searched through the files of the single fingerprint section and identified with the known fingerprints of Adam Richetti, and a positive identification was made. That definitely indicated that Richetti had been in the home of Verne Miller at a time immediately preceding the massacre on the morning of June 17, 1933."

### Captured in Ohio.

Richetti was captured in the vicinity of East Liverpool, O., October 20, 1934, and was returned to Kansas City for trial. On June 17, 1935, a Jackson County jury found Richetti guilty, and imposed the death sentence. Miller was killed on the outskirts of Detroit November 29, 1933. Floyd was killed by federal agents near Clarkson, O., October 22, 1934.

Jack B. Jenkins, now superintendent of the Kansas highway patrol, found Richetti's fingerprints on the bottles. At that time he was serving as head of the identification bureau of the Kansas City, Kansas, police department.

The fingerprints were introduced into the trial by John E. Brennan, St. Paul, a fingerprint expert of the FBI. His testimony was guided by Russell T. Boyle, Michael W. O'Hern, assistant prosecutors, and W. W. Graves, jr., the prosecutor.

The trial lasted eight days. It took the jury 2 hours and 11 minutes to reach the verdict.

## DEATH WATCH FOR TWO

Adam Richetti and Granville Allen, Negro, Await Executions.

A death watch was posted yesterday afternoon before the cells of Adam Richetti and Granville Allen on the twelfth floor jail of the courthouse.

Wednesday Richetti's motion for a rehearing on his death sentence for his participation in the Union station massacre was denied by the Missouri Supreme court. On the same day the death sentence of Allen, 25-year-old Negro convicted of the slaying of Howard Preston, was affirmed by the court.

The two men were moved to death row Wednesday. Richetti will be resentenced in the circuit court, within the next two weeks, to death in the gas chamber. He originally was sentenced to die by hanging, but the state law has been changed since the conviction.

62-28915-A

AUG 31 1938

Mr. Tolson
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Mr. Dawsey
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Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Gravin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Trent
Miss Gandy

KANSAS CITY.--ADAM RICHETTI, THE SOUTHWESTERN DESP
KANSAS CITY.--ADAM RICHETTI, THE SOUTHWESTERN DESPERADO WHO WAS CONVICTED OF A PART IN THE UNION STATION MASSACRE IN 1933, IN WHICH FIVE MEN WERE SLAIN, TODAY WAS ORDERED EXECUTED IN THE STATE'S GAS CHAMBER OCT. 7.

RICHETTI WILL BE TAKEN TO JEFFERSON CITY. HE PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO HANG, BUT A CHANGE IN THE LAW, MAKING THE PRISON GAS CHAMBER THE LEGAL MEANS OF EXECUTION, MADE RE-SENTENCING NECESSARY.

8/31--R342P J

DIRECTOR OF JUSTICE
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KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST OCTOBER 6, 1938. FROM THE KANSAS CITY OFFICE
E. P. GUINANE SAC.

**Gas Chamber Awaits**

Adam Ricchetti, shown wistfully peering through prison bars, today awaited execution in the penitentiary for participation in the Union station massacre.

62-26915-1c

# Ricchetti Pays Penalty in Gas Cell Tonight

Jefferson City—(Special)—Adam Ricchetti washed his hands and combed his hair time after time today as he waited the call to march to the death chamber.

This was his last day. Tonight, soon after midnight, he will be put to death in the lethal gas chamber.

The prisoner continued his refusal to talk freely with officers. He indicated he wished to spend his remaining hours in solitude. The hand washing and hair combing has been a pastime for months.

The execution of Ricchetti, 29-year-old gangster, closes the government's books on cases growing out of the Kansas City Union station massacre in which four officers and one desperado were killed.

**Pretty Boy Involved**

Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, Verne Miller and Ricchetti were named by government agents as the machine gunners in the massacre. They opened fire on federal and local officers who were taking Frank Nash from Hot Springs, Ark., where the latter were captured, to the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth June 17, 1933.

The officers and Nash were in an automobile in front of the Union station when the three desperadoes, armed with machine guns, stepped up. Nash had just been transferred from a train to the car, preparatory for a drive to Leavenworth.

The gun fight started when one of the officers started to draw a revolver. Raymond J. Caffrey, federal agent; Police Chief Ott Reed of McAlester, Ok., W. J. Grooms and Frank Hermanson, Kansas City detectives, and Nash were killed in the barrage from the gangsters' guns.

**Sought to Free Nash**

After an investigation, G-men learned that Miller, Floyd and Ricchetti had been informed of Nash's capture soon after he was taken into custody and they had made arrangements to try to free him when he was brought through Kansas City.

After the massacre, Miller, said to be the leader of the gang, was killed by gangsters' bullets near Detroit. Ricchetti and Floyd were trying to hitch-hike a ride to Canada when they encountered officers near Wellsville, O.

Ricchetti was captured by Police Chief John Fultz of Wellsville after a harmless exchange of shots. Floyd escaped, but was shot and killed a short time later by G-men near Wellsville.

After his capture, Ricchetti was taken to Columbia, Mo., to face murder charges in the slaying of Sheriff Roger Wilson and Sgt. Ben Boothe of the state highway patrol three days before the Union station massacre. Ricchetti was freed of that charge after it was determined the officers were killed by the McKeever gang of Iowa.

**Sentenced to Be Hanged**

Ricchetti then was taken to Kansas City and convicted of the slaying of Hermanson. He was sentenced to be hanged. The supreme court upheld the conviction, but ordered that he be resentenced to die in the lethal gas chamber which, in the meantime, had become the legal method of execution in Missouri.

Ricchetti was born in Texas, but spent most of his life in the Oklahoma oil fields where he met Floyd. Ricchetti was arrested many times and served a term in the Indiana state prison before he teamed up with Floyd.

The two were named in many bank robberies and killings prior to the Union station massacre.

Ricchetti has dark hair, brown eyes, high cheek bones and is about 5 feet 7 inches tall. Alienists examined him in Kansas City, before he was taken to death row in the state prison, and reported he was sane.

During the months he was held in jail and prison, Ricchetti frequently boasted he would not be executed that gangster associates would "spring" him.

## Detectives Invited

Louis A. Myers, detective sergeant, and Robert E. Hermanson, patrolman, today received invitations from Warden J. Frank Ramsay, of the Missouri state penitentiary at Jefferson City, to attend the execution of Adam Ricchetti early Friday morning as witnesses.

Ricchetti is to die in the lethal gas chamber for his part in the Union station massacre June 16, 1933, when Hermanson's father, Frank Hermanson, a city detective, was one of five men slain.

THE KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST OCTOBER 6, 1938. FROM THE KANSAS CITY OF

E. P. GUINANE SAC.

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Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

## *When Ricchetti Dies*

The scheduled death of Adam Ricchetti in the lethal gas chamber at Jefferson City tomorrow will draw the curtain on an episode which unfairly cast a reflection on Kansas City in the national eye.

The Union station murders and the Valentine's day massacre in Chicago are the two worst underworld crimes in history. Throughout the country it was assumed that since Kansas City produced a massacre as bad as the one in Chicago, there was no difference in the quality of law enforcement in the two cities.

The Union station killings occurred here only because this city chanced to be a railroad transfer point for the federal prison at Leavenworth. The killers were not Kansas City criminals. All that was little noted by outsiders. They assumed automatically that Kansas City was another Chicago. Even Chicago professed to be horrified. Yet had Frank Nash and his captors carried tickets direct to the Leavenworth prison, the massacre would not have occurred and Kansas City's name would have been spared an undeserved stigma.

62-28915-A

# RICHETTI, SILENT ON SLAYINGS DIES

## Last of Trio Figuring in Kansas City Massacre Executed by Gas.

By the Associated Press.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Oct. 7.—Adam Richetti, last survivor of a desperate trio which terrorized the Midwest a few years ago, was executed in Missouri's lethal gas chamber early today for his part in the 1933 Kansas City Union Station massacre of four officers and their prisoner.

Death of the sardonic, sallow-faced pal of Pretty Boy Floyd blasted the last hope of officials for a first-hand account of the sensational mass murders.

Richetti murmured only seven words as authorities strapped him into the chair: "What have I done to deserve this?"

**Struggles as Fumes Strike.**

Blindfolded, he walked calmly into the tank, its sixth victim. He gulped several times as officials released the gas, uttered one sharp gasp as deadly fumes filled the chamber, and struggled momentarily. He was pronounced dead four minutes after the gas was released.

Richetti, Floyd and Verne Miller, a former South Dakota sheriff who turned gangster, were named by Federal officials as the actual Union Station murderers.

The massacre was a bungled attempt to rescue Frank Nash, an escaped convict, from officers taking him back to Leavenworth, Kans., Federal prison.

Killed in the battle of machine gun, shotgun and pistol fire in the edge of Kansas City's downtown business district were Federal Agent A. J. Caffrey; Police Chief Otto Reid of McAlester, Okla.; two Kansas City policemen William J. Grooms and Frank E. Hermanson—and Nash.

**Victim's Son Sees Execution.**

Robert Hermanson, son of one of the victims and now a Kansas City policeman, witnessed the Richetti execution.

A painstaking check of all long-distance telephone calls the night before the massacre, June 17, 1933, finally furnished officers the clue which solved the case.

Richetti was the only one of three named specifically by the Government as the assassins to face trial. Miller was slain by other gangsters near Detroit. Floyd, the elusive Oklahoman who began as a small-town bank robber and eventually led his murderous gang throughout the Midwest, was slain escaping a trap set by officers in Ohio.

Richetti was caught in the same trap near Wellesville, Ohio, in 1934, returned, convicted of murdering Hermanson and sentenced to die.

Contending he had been given a "bum rap," he fought three years through the courts in a futile attempt to escape execution.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boyd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Evans
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Gandy
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hester
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

62-28915-16

# RICHETTI EXECUTED

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. [illegible]
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Forworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Berbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

## Was Trigger Man of Kansas City 5-Man Massacre

### "What Did I Do to Deserve This?" Blubbers Slayer as He Is Strapped to Chair; Screams as Gas Floats Up

By United Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Oct. 7—Adam Richetti, a professional killer, who, with leveled machine gun, mowed down five men in the Kansas City Union Station massacre of 1933, died in the lethal chamber today, murmuring: "What did I do to deserve this?"

ADAM RICHETTI

Richetti was one of the most vicious criminals of his generation, one of the last survivors of the killing kidnapers and bandits, who have been all but exterminated by G-men.

At 1 a. m. today he was led into the lethal chamber of the Missouri State Penitentiary and strapped to the chair.

He blubbered, declared his innocence.

He had watched many men die, some from over his blazing machine gun, others—and these included his erstwhile chieftain, Pretty Boy Floyd—from the bullets of sheriffs and G-Men which missed him, but he did not die prettily.

As the door closed on him, he screamed, and, thru the observation window, witnesses saw him screaming and cringing in the chair.

A few seconds later the white plumes of the gas rose from beneath him and choked his life out.

**TALKS WITH PRIESTS**

The gangster spent almost all of his last day with two priests. Yesterday afternoon he listened to a radio account of the second game of the World Series, but was sullen, highly nervous, smoked much, called constantly for water. After a full dinner, he consulted the priests again, then spent his last few hours staring moodily from his cell.

Richetti died at 29 and had been a criminal notorious in the Southwest for some 10 years. But he did not gain national notoriety until he teamed up with "Pretty Boy," a killer from the Cookson Hills of Oklahoma who, despite his depredations, led for a while a charmed life.

**A BIT CARELESS**

In 1933, their pal, Frank Nash, was arrested in Hot Springs, Ark., by Federal agents and was taken to Kansas City by train.

Richetti, Floyd and Verne Miller decided to rescue him. When Nash, manacled and surrounded by Federal agents, stepped off the train and out of the Kansas City Union terminal, they were met by a blaze of machine gun fire. The gunners were careless. Not only did they kill Nash's four guards, but Nash.

Miller a year later was killed by gangster associates near Detroit, and, two years later, Pretty Boy and Richetti were trapped by G-Men near Wellsville, O. Pretty Boy was killed and Richetti captured.

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The massacre was a bungled attempt to rescue Frank Nash, an escaped convict, from officers taking him back to Leavenworth, Kans., Federal prison.

Killed in the battle of machine gun, shotgun and pistol fire in the edge of Kansas City's downtown business district were Federal Agent A. J. Caffrey; Police Chief Otto Reid of McAlester, Okla.; two Kansas City policemen, William J. Grooms and Frank E. Hermanson—and Nash.

### Victim's Son Sees Execution.

Robert Hermanson, son of one of the victims and now a Kansas City policeman, witnessed the Richetti execution.

A painstaking check of all long-distance telephone calls the night before the massacre, June 17, 1933, finally furnished officers the clue which solved the case.

Richetti was the only one of three named specifically by the Government as the assassins to face trial. Miller was slain by other gangsters near Detroit. Floyd, the elusive Oklahoman who began as a small-town bank robber and eventually led his murderous gang throughout the Midwest, was slain escaping a trap set by officers in Ohio.

Richetti was caught in the same trap near Wellsville, Ohio, in 1934, returned, convicted of murdering Hermanson and sentenced to die.

Contending he had been given a "bum rap," he fought three years through the courts in a futile attempt to escape execution.

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Mr. Coffey
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Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Nichols
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Traut
Miss Gandy

62-28915-A

MASSACRE GUNMAN EXECUTED:

# Last 'Pretty Boy' Gangster Dies Screaming in Gas Cell

## BRAVADO GONE, DESPERADO IN TERROR AT END

### Whimpers and Cringes; All Over in 15 Seconds

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Oct. 7 (I.N.S.).—Adam Richetti, last of the Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd gang of desperadoes, died in the lethal gas chamber early today for taking part in the Kansas City union station massacre of 1933.

The 28-year-old, gaunt gangster maintained his silence of the past three months until he was at the door of the death chamber, where he shuddered slightly and said:

"What have I done to deserve this?"

**SHRINKS AND SCREAMS**

He was quickly strapped in the chair and the door locked. As the gas was turned on, he twisted and strained at the thongs over his arms and legs. He shrunk from the tendrils of gas climbing around him and screamed:

"No, no!"

But within 15 seconds he was unconscious. His head slumped forward and four minutes after the gas was released he was pronounced dead.

**FIRST TO PROTEST**

He was the first of six men to die in the chamber to make any protest.

Richetti was executed for aiding Floyd and Vernie Miller in the machine gun slaying of four officers and Frank Nash in front of Kansas City's big union station on June 17, 1933, in an attempt to save Nash from being returned to Leavenworth penitentiary.

A sheriff in Wellsville, Ohio, captured Richetti when he was trying to hitchhike to Canada with Floyd. Floyd was killed soon after in a gun fight with G-men. Miller was taken for a ride by Detroit gangsters.

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Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

62-28715-A

THE KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST OCTOBER 7, 1938. FROM THE KANSAS CITY OFFICE
E. P. GUINANE SAC.

# Killer of Others, Ricchetti Cringes as Gas Ends Life

*Jefferson* City — (UP) — Adam Ricchetti, professional killer, who helped mow down five men in the Kansas City Union station massacre of 1933, died in the lethal chamber early today, murmuring: "What did I do to deserve this?"

Ricchetti was one of the last survivors of the killing kidnapers and bandits all but exterminated by G-men and other authorities.

A few minutes after midnight he was led into the lethal chamber of the penitentiary and strapped to the chair. He blubbered, declaring his innocence. He had watched many men die, some over his blazing machine gun, others—and these included his erstwhile chieftain, Pretty Boy Floyd—from the bullets of sheriffs and G-men, but he died cringing. As the door closed on him, he screamed, and, through the observation window, witnesses saw him screaming and struggling in the chair. A few seconds later the white fumes of the gas rose from beneath him and choked his life out.

**Day With Priests**

The gangster spent almost all of his last day with two priests. Yesterday afternoon he listened to a radio account of the second game of the World series, but was sullen, highly nervous, smoked much and called constantly for water. After a full dinner, he consulted the priests again, then spent his last few hours staring moodily from his cell.

Ricchetti died at 29 and had been a criminal notorious in the Southwest 10 years. But he did not gain national notoriety until he teamed up with "Pretty Boy," a killer from the Cookson hills of Oklahoma who, despite his depredations, was leading a charmed life.

In 1933 their pal, Frank Nash, was arrested in Hot Springs, Ark., by federal agents and was taken to Kansas City by train.

**Paged as Innocent**

Ricchetti, Floyd and Verne Miller decided to rescue him. When Nash, manacled to federal agents and surrounded by federal agents, stepped off the train and out of the Kansas City Union terminal, they were met by a blaze of machine gun fire. The gunners were careless. Not only did they kill Nash's four guards, but Nash.

Miller a year later was killed by gangster associates near Detroit, and, two years later, Pretty Boy and Ricchetti were trapped by G-men near Wellsville, O. Pretty Boy was killed and Ricchetti was captured.

Ricchetti insisted he was innocent of any participation in the massacre, but the state produced a conclusive case in his trial in Kansas City and he was convicted.

Among the 40 witnesses at the execution were Courtney Riley Cooper, author, who is writing a book on crime. Also present were J. A. Purdome, Jackson county deputy sheriff, in whose custody Ricchetti remained during the three years he was in jail in Kansas City, and Robert Hermanson, son of the detective Ricchetti was specifically convicted of murdering.

## Spotlight on K. C.

Ricchetti died for a crime which startled the nation and placed Kansas City in a spotlight of unfavorable publicity.

The massacre occurred before 8 o'clock the morning of June 17, 1933, as half a dozen city detectives, agents of the federal bureau of investigation and the chief of police of McAlester, Ok., escorted Frank Nash, mail train robber and escaped convict, from the Union station to a motor car in front for transportation to the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth.

The little group walked across the street to a parked police car. Their first inkling of trouble came with the shouted command:

"Up! Up! Put 'em up!"

Then, without waiting for their victims to comply, the gunmen, concealed behind parked motor cars, opened up with machine guns and pistols. Five men were left dead on the street there and in the parked police car. They were Frank Hermanson and William Grooms, city detectives; Otto Reed, McAlester police chief; Raymond J. Caffrey, FBI agent, and the prisoner, Nash.

**Agents on Trails**

Before an hour had elapsed federal agents and city detectives, who had flocked to the scene of the massacre to start the task of tracking down the killers, had been informed by an eye witness that one of the gunmen bore a striking resemblance to pictures of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, Oklahoma desperado.

The afternoon before Floyd and Ricchetti had sprung into the news by their abduction of Sheriff Jack Killingsworth at Bolivar, Mo. The fugitives had been trailed all day by peace officers and their trail had led toward Kansas City. Killingsworth had been released the same night in what he latter described as the Central industrial district.

A dozen federal agents were summoned to Kansas City to solve the crime and their first instruction was to "get Floyd and Ricchetti."

In another week the name of Verne Miller, one time South Dakota sheriff and later a paid underworld killer, was drawn into the investigation. His hideout in a respectable residential section in southwestern Kansas City was discovered and the hunt for him began by all law enforcement agencies in the United States.

**Miller Elusive**

It generally was believed that Floyd and Ricchetti had fled to their retreat in the Cookson hill country of Oklahoma, a spot so inaccessible that it would require a regiment of men to flush their quarry. But Verne Miller was easier to locate. He was trailed from city to city, federal agents and police laying

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Burr

trap after trap for him. His escape from several was almost miraculous. In Chicago he managed to elude a posse of government men and city police who surrounded the hotel where he had been spotted.

While the search for the three killers continued, federal agents here managed to round up all the small fry believed involved in a plot to free Nash, who, the day before the massacre, had been captured in Hot Springs, Ark.

Many reports were received that the elusive Miller had become so "hot" because of his part in killing a federal agent that all underworld retreats were closed to him. Some verification of that report came in November, 1933, when Miller's body was found in a ditch near the city limits of Detroit, obviously a victim of gangland killers.

**Effort Doubled**

With Miller accounted for, efforts to capture Floyd and Ricchetti were redoubled. Finally on October 20, 1934, word was flashed from Wellsville, O., that Ricchetti and Floyd had been surprised just outside the little city and Ricchetti had been captured. A posse was scouring the woods for his companion who had managed to escape.

A squad of federal agents, headed by Melvin Purvis, chief of the Chicago bureau, went to Wellsville by airplane. Three days after Ricchetti's capture Floyd was mortally wounded by the government men as he fled across a cornfield a few miles from Wellsville.

Ricchetti was returned to Kansas City in November, 1934, and a county grand jury indicted him for first degree murder for the slaying of Grooms, Hermanson, Reed and Caffrey.

**Brought to Trial**

June 10, 1935, he was brought to trial in the Jackson county circuit court for the murder of Hermanson and a jury found him guilty and sentenced him to hang. He was placed in a cell in death row in the county jail and remained there for three years while his case was being considered by the state supreme court. Then this spring that high tribunal confirmed the verdict of the lower court. In the meantime, attorneys for the condemned man asserted he had lost his reason and should be granted a reprieve. A commission was appointed to examine him and their verdict was that he was sane.

way, Ricchetti was taken again into court and the date of his execution in the lethal gas chamber, which had replaced the gallows as the legal means of putting criminals to death in Missouri, was set for the morning of October 7.

**Product of Slayer's Pencil—**

Columbia's Chief of Police Orville H. Pollock views the "Ricchetti Girl," a sketch pencilled on the wall of Ricchetti's cell in the Columbia city jail where Ricchetti was held in 1934 several months before he was transferred to Kansas City to face charges in connection with the Union station massacre. At right is Carl Gentry, noted midwestern artist, recognized as a specialist on charcoal and ink drawing.

# Cell Wall Furnishes Proof of Gangster's Artistic Skill

Columbia, Mo.—(Special)—Adam Ricchetti, who died in the lethal gas chamber in the Missouri penitentiary early today, left behind him in jail here evidence that he might have had a successful career as an artist.

Captured in Ohio at the time of the slaying there of his buddy, "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Ricchetti was brought to Columbia to face first degree murder charges for the killings of State Highway Patrol Sergeant Ben Booth, Columbia, and Boone County Sheriff Roger Wilson at the intersection of U. S. 40 and U. S. 63 here three days previous to the Kansas City Union station massacre.

While in the Columbia city jail the wiry, black-haired gangster, then 26 years old, spent time sketching with a pencil on the painted, metal walls of his cell. Later occupants have mutilated or completely destroyed all but one of these examples of Ricchetti's artistic expressions.

Even this one now remaining has not entirely escaped the ravages of the intervening years since 1934 when it was penciled on the wall of the lonely cell. The sketch, a 4-foot semi-nude, never was coated over with a preservative to insure its endurability.

Less gifted pencils have almost destroyed what officials say was remarkable shading; cruder hands have attempted to place shoes on the feet of the "Ricchetti girl." But artists, viewing the work, have termed Ricchetti's instinctive sense of shading and proportion almost amazing. The sketch is all the more remarkable when it is remembered that it was done with no referance to any models.

"In permitting the 'Ricchetti girl' to be photographed now for the first time, I have only one idea in mind," said Chief of Police Orville H. Pollock. "Ricchetti is gone. He has paid the supreme penalty for a life of crime. This picture shows that, had things been different, Ricchetti could have been a successful commercial artist, a useful, constructive citizen in his community. Instead, he became a criminal, and he paid with his life."

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# Killer Dies

## *Richetti Executed By Missouri*

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Oct. 7 (Friday) (U.P.).—Adam Richetti, last of Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd's gang of killers, was executed in the State's lethal gas chamber early today.

The short swarthy gunman was convicted of participating in the bloody Kansas City Union Station massacre of 1933.

Richetti still insisted he was innocent of any part in the shooting in which four officers and Frank Nash, gangster friend of both Richetti and Floyd, were killed.

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FROM "THE ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH"
St. Louis, Missouri
October 9, 1938

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# RICHETTI EXECUTED FOR KANSAS CITY 'MASSACRE' OF '33

## Gangster Put to Death in Prison Gas Chamber for Part in Killing of Four Officers and Convict.

## LAST OF THREE MEN ACCUSED OF CRIME

## 'What Have I Done to Deserve This?' He Asks—Observers Hear His Scream as Fumes Rise.

By the Jefferson City Correspondent of the Post-Dispatch.

JEFFERSON CITY, Oct. 7.—Adam Richetti, gangster associate of the late "Pretty Boy" Floyd, was executed in the lethal gas chamber in the Missouri Penitentiary here at 12:10 a. m. today for a part in the Kansas City Union Station killings in June, 1933.

He went to his death without breaking the silence he has maintained concerning his criminal record. Prison officials said two Federal Bureau of Investigation agents who attended the execution talked to Richetti yesterday, but said he made no disclosures to them.

Richetti was the sixth man to die in the lethal gas chamber since last March 4, under an act passed by the 1937 Legislature substituting gas for hanging.

He was removed from the cell building, where he has been confined with three other men under death sentence, about 11 o'clock, and was taken to the death house, at the east end of the penitentiary, in an automobile. A Catholic chaplain was with him until he was placed in the gas chamber.

### Richetti's Last Remarks.

He retained his composure while the death warrant was read and he was led, blindfolded and clad only in shorts, into the chamber and strapped into one of the two seats. As the straps were fastened he asked one of the officers, "What have I done to deserve this?"

After the steel door was bolted shut and the mechanism which starts generation of the deadly hydrocyanic gas was placed in operation, Richetti broke for a moment and a muffled scream was heard through the steel and glass walls of the gas tank. Attending physicians, watching through a glass window, said he was unconscious 30 seconds after the gas was turned on and that he was dead in three and a half minutes.

Warden J. Frank Ramsey said Richetti made no requests of prison officials and none of his relatives was present at the execution. Two brothers, Joe Richetti of Bolivar, Mo., and Dave Richetti, residing in Ohio, visited him yesterday. The body will be taken to Bolivar for burial, officials said.

Richetti had written no letters since he was received at the prison Sept. 2, although he received many letters from relatives. He conversed little with guards or visitors.

Guard forces in the towers on the prison walls and at several other points in the prison were doubled last night during the execution.

### Convicted Three Years Ago.

The 28-year-old gangster was convicted of murder on June 17, 1935. Three police officers, a Federal agent and Frank Nash, a Federal convict, were shot down in the Kansas City Union Station plaza in a bungled attempt by three men to rescue Nash as he was being returned to the Federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan., after an escape.

The officers were killed by machine gun bullets as they were transferring Nash from a train to an automobile to take him to Leavenworth. They were Raymond J. Caffrey, a Federal agent; Chief of Police Otto Reid of McAlester, Ok., and City Detectives Frank E. Hermanson and William J. Grooms of Kansas City.

The death sentence was imposed on Richetti, on a charge involving the murder of Hermanson, whose son, Robert Hermanson, now a detective in the Kansas City police department, attended the execution.

Richetti originally was sentenced to be hanged in Jackson County, as his conviction was obtained prior to enactment of the lethal gas execution law, which became effective Sept. 6, 1937. When the Missouri Supreme Court affirmed the conviction last May 2, it remanded the case to the Jackson County Circuit Court with instructions that Richetti be re-sentenced to death in the gas chamber.

### Last of Accused Men.

He was the last of the three men charged of the wholesale [illegible]

## Put to Death by Gas

—Associated Press Photo.

ADAM RICHETTI

## RICHETTI EXECUTED FOR KANSAS CITY 'MASSACRE' OF '33

Continued From Page One.

The other two, Verne C. Miller of Kansas City, and Floyd, notorious outlaw and killer, died violent deaths without reaching a trial.

Miller was killed near Detroit, apparently by other gangsters. Floyd was killed by Federal agents near Wellsville, O., in October, 193[illegible]. Richetti, who was with Floyd, was arrested at that time and returned to Kansas City for trial.

A contention by counsel for Richetti that he was insane was rejected by medical experts who examined him in Kansas City after his conviction and in the penitentiary here.

Three other men who are in the prison awaiting the death penalty and the execution dates are Granville Allen, Negro, of Kansas City, murder in a robbery, Oct. 28; Byron E. Klag of St. Louis, murder of a taxicab driver in a $9 holdup, Nov. 3, and Oscar Ralph Ashworth, St. Joseph, abduction of a 7-year-old girl, who was criminally assaulted, Nov. 3.

### Richetti Unmolested During Underworld Regime.

Richetti, lieutenant of Charles Arthur (Pretty Boy) Floyd, notorious outlaw, was [illegible] gangsters who visited [illegible] unmolested during the reign of John Lazia, [illegible] political leader in the [illegible] organization often termed the "unofficial" chief of police.

Federal investigators charged that Lazia, subsequently machine-gunned to death while awaiting the outcome of an appeal from an income tax evasion conviction, was instrumental in obtaining Floyd and Richetti to aid Verne C. Miller in the attempt to free Nash and after the shooting helped them to escape from the city.

Richetti, who took the stand briefly to deny participation in the killings and to assert he was in Chicago at the time, was identified by three witnesses as the man who operated a machine-gun in the attempt to rescue Nash. Two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, R. E. Vetterli, formerly of St. Louis, and E. J. Lack, told of watching him advance at their car.

Sheriff Jack Killgallon, who was kidnaped at Bolivar, Mo., the day before the shooting, was forced to accompany his captors to Kansas City, where he was released. He testified his abductors were Floyd and Richetti. He identified the machine gun used in the shooting as one he had seen in their car.

A Federal grand jury investigating the shooting charged that "conspiracy crime" existed in Kansas City and that criminals there maintained connections with gangs in certain other cities. It indicted on perjury charges Eugene C. Reppert, director of police at the time of the crime; Thomas J. [illegible], chief of detectives, and [illegible] Rayen, detective lieutenant. Reppert was acquitted and the charges against the other two were dismissed.

At the Reppert trial [illegible] was undisputed that [illegible] used as standard equipment [illegible] cars manned by two [illegible] who were killed were [illegible] terously before the [illegible] the police station, [illegible] to their death [illegible] with their revolvers [illegible] no chance to use [illegible] gangsters' machine guns.

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# SANITY TEST SET FOR ALCATRAZ FELON

## Attorney Says Accused Killer Won't Co-operate

By United Press

SACRAMENTO, Oct. 10.—Federal Judge Harold Louderback today ordered the murder trial of James C. Lucas, involved in an Alcatraz Prison escape attempt, continued until Oct. 31 pending a sanity hearing.

Judge Louderback is expected to authorize the appointment of Dr. Joseph Caton of Stanford University to determine if Lucas is sane, before the trial date.

According to U. S. Atty. Frank Hennessy, the examination was sought by Lucas' attorney, Harold C. Faulkner, because the convict has "refused to answer questions or otherwise co-operate with counsel."

62-29976

SAN FRANCISCO NEWS

FORWARDED BY
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

OCT 10 1938

MIAMI DAILY NEWS, 10-17-38

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## Richetti

More than the proper extinction of a wholesale murderer lay behind the execution at Jefferson City of Adam Richetti of the Kansas City "Union station massacre." Cringing like the coward which the average gunman is, Richetti went to his death in a drama in which more than the distorted mind of a professional killer had its part. There is a thread of politics through the transactions leading to this sequel to give the citizen pause. Politics mixed with murder! It can happen. It did happen here.

The story is familiar. Frank Nash, escaped convict, member of the Barker-Karpis gang, pal of "Pretty Boy" Floyd, was arrested by federal men in Hot Springs, where he had been staying, presumably with the knowledge of the local police. Moving against the opposition of the police, the federal men took Nash to Kansas City, whence he was to be returned to Leavenworth. There they were met by Gunmen Richetti, Floyd and Miller, who, tipped of their coming, were waiting to rescue Nash. In the ensuing battle four officers and Nash himself were killed. The gunmen escaped.

Floyd was killed by G men long afterward. Miller was shot by gangsters like himself. Richetti was captured. All this was five years ago. Now at last the third of the gangsters directly involved in the Kansas City massacre is liquidated. But the story is not done.

There remains the evidence that the gangsters who pulled off the massacre were living, protected by politics, in Kansas City when they undertook the job. There is evidence that powerful politics in Kansas City aided the murderers to leave Kansas City uncaught when the job had been done.

Richetti died, in the gas chamber at Jefferson City, a coward's death. The partnership between politics and crime which made Richetti possible has not yet, like Richetti, been destroyed. That is the sadness of a tale which, despite its gruesomeness, might otherwise, for its proper ending, be a fairly pleasant one.

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News (D)
Miami, Fla

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OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES - JANUARY 26, 1939

# Thefts From Grave Harass 'Ghost' of Pretty Boy

## Tombstones Are Stolen, Even Earth Removed

TWO marble tombstones have been stolen from the grave of Charles Arthur "Pretty Boy" Floyd since he was buried in the little cemetery near Akins, Sequoyah county, in the autumn of 1934. Thus criminals have preyed on the grave of a criminal and the notorious outlaw has not been permitted even to rest in peace.

And tourists have scooped up so many handsful of earth from the top of the grave, presumably for souvenirs, it is frequently necessary to replace the earth.

To prevent these thefts of stones and the carrying away of earth, the grave was left unmarked for a time. Now the only marker is a metal standard with a written inscription.

62-28915-A

*ANHUNTS BY THE G-MEN—*

# Karpis-Barker Gang

## OUT OF THE OZARKS CAME MA BARKER AND HER SONS TO GATHER KINDRED SPIRITS INTO ONE OF NATION'S WORST BUNCH OF TERRORISTS—BUT THE FBI GOT 'EM

By JOSEPH GUIRE, *Press-Scimitar Staff Writer*

With machine guns in their hands, six of the most desperate criminals ever assembled under one roof sat silently waiting in an Aurora, Ill., apartment thruout the night of April 28, 1934.

There were Arthur (Doc) Barker, Harry Campbell, Volney Davis and William Weaver—four of the most important members of the large Karpis-Barker crime syndicate—and their two guests, John Dillinger and Homer Van Meter, who were fleeing the G-men.

The six kept sharp eyes and their guns trained on the doors and windows to that apartment.

They waited and listened for expected visitors.

"Won't the G-men be surprised by such a warm reception?" one of the gunmen asked.

Sardonic grins crossed the faces of the other five.

Gun-fingers tightened and ears were cocked.

The Karpis-Barker gang, which originated under the tutelage of Kate (Ma) Barker in the southern Missouri Ozarks, that night had reached the peak of its recklessness. They no longer fled the law. They waited for the law to catch up. They came finished with success under the leadership of the Barkers and Alvin Karpis, who was elsewhere that night. From two kidnapings, by bank robberies, mail and train robberies, the gang took loot.

G-men that night did not make the expected call. Yet, today, those six and nearly all their associates lie, their bodies bullet-riddled, beneath the earth, or else are incarcerated for life behind the heavy bars of Alcatraz—

Because G-men had calling cards aplenty and they only bided their time . . .

### SPURNS WIFE'S PLEA

RUSSELL GIBSON

"Honey, don't go out there! They'll kill you! Russell, surrender! Oh, please . . ."

But Russell Gibson, who specialized in the bank robbery division of the Karpis-Barker syndicate's crime activities, pushed his pleading wife aside. He donned a "bullet-proof" vest, stuck a .38 Colt

"Murray, the "flapper bandit" who traveled about with him. Sometimes they would leave the gang for money-spending spree at high-class resorts.

Thru checking of auto licenses and other investigation, G-men learned that Davis had stored an auto at a Kansas City, Mo., garage. He was captured when he appeared at the garage.

G-men started with him by plane to Chicago. The plane had to make a forced landing on the way. In the excitement, Davis escaped. He was recaptured in Chicago four months later, is now serving a life term at Alcatraz.

### SLAIN BY GANGSTERS

"SHOTGUN" ZIEGLER

J. George (Shotgun) Ziegler is thought to have been one of the machine-gunners at the St. Valentine's Day massacre, Feb. 14, 1929, when several gangsters were lined up against a garage wall and murdered.

After that date, he aided the Karpis-Barker gang in successfully kidnaping William A. Hamm Jr. for $100,000 and Edward G. Bremer for $200,000.

Then, one night, Ziegler or Fred Goeta, as he also was known, stepped out of a Cicero, Ill., speakeasy.

Several shotgun blasts hit him in the face and killed him. His face torn to bits, he was identified by police thru fingerprints.

It was a gangster revenge death.

Ironically, Ziegler's nickname was "Shotgun" because of his love for that weapon.

### PALS TURN ON HIM, TOO

will do no more operating. The police probably have "had him up by now."

Dr. Moran's body, so far as known, has never been found.

### END OF CAREER—PRISON

ALVIN KARPIS before—

—KARPIS after a face lift

This is how G-men connected the Karpis-Barker gang with the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer: Gasoline cans—extra supply for the get-away car—and a flashlight were found near the pay-off scene.

Examination by the FBI technical laboratory at Washington, D. C., showed on the can a latent fingerprint which, when checked with files was found identical with the right fingerprint of Arthur Barker.

A saleslgirl at a St. Paul store which sold the type of flashlight found was shown some photographs. She thus identified Alvin Karpis as having purchased a flashlight from her.

Karpis helped engineer the gang's two successful kidnapings, a mail truck robbery, a train robbery and several big bank robbery.

He escaped from prison once.

He escaped numerous police traps.

shore cottage where Kate (Ma) Barker and her son, Fred, made their last-stand fight against G-men.

The collection includes two machine guns, three high-powered rifles, three pistols, bullet-proof vests and a big supply of extra bullet clips.

### SURROUNDED—GIVE UP

At 5:30 p.m., May 1, 1936, G-men surrounded the apartment house at 3248 Canal Street, New Orleans.

Inside was Alvin Karpis and his henchman, Fred Hunter.

G-men waited.

Shortly, Karpis and Hunter came out and started to enter a parked auto.

"Surrender, Karpis and Hunter," G-men commanded from behind their pointed machine guns.

The two criminals, seeing they had no chance, complied. So, at last and easily, Alvin Karpis was in the hands of the law.

Search revealed two rifles, three .45 pistols, a .38 pistol and a .380 pistol on the person of the two criminals or in their autos and apartment.

G-men raided Harry Campbell's apartment in Toledo, Ohio, at daybreak six days later and captured him. He did not have a chance to use the .45 pistol under his pillow.

G-men had busted the Karpis-Barker gang.

### KARPIS NOT 'UNARMED'!

RUSSELL GIBSON

"Honey, don't go out there! They'll kill you! Russell surrender! Oh, please . . ."

But Russell Gibson, who specialized in the bank robbery division of the Karpis-Barker syndicate's crime activities, pushed his pleading wife aside. He donned a "bullet-proof" vest, stuck a .38 Colt automatic pistol in his belt and reached for a Browning automatic rifle.

The scene was an apartment at [illegible] Avenue, Chicago, Ill., at about 10:45 p.m., Jan. 8, 1935.

G-men had flushed part of their quarry. They were at the Gibson front door.

Gibson carefully opened the door. A G-man stood several feet away.

Gibson fired with his rifle. The G-man fired, too. He was a little quicker and his aim better. Gibson, his sobbing wife behind him, fell mortally wounded.

Karpis-Barker "syndicate" had lost one associate.

## TOUGH MOTHER—TOUGH SONS

KATE (MA) BARKER

FRED BARKER

Kate (Ma) Barker was the mother of Fred and Arthur Barker. She was as tough as any of her sons.

For many months she lived in luxury with part of the spoils acquired by her outlaw sons. In St. Paul, Chicago and other large cities, she rented expensive apartments and wore fine clothes. She often hid out with her sons when the chase became hot.

She and Fred were occupying a cottage on the shores of Lake Weir, near Ocala, Fla., early on Jan. [illegible], 1935.

Their slumber was disturbed by a sudden command from FBI special agents, who had surrounded the house, that the occupants surrender.

The agents waited 15 minutes. Then they heard a voice, "All right, go ahead."

A blast of machine-gun fire came from the house. G-men answered with machine guns and tear gas.

G-men soon entered.

"Ma" Barker and her son had battled unto death. By the body of Fred lay a .45 pistol.

By "Ma" Barker's left hand lay a machine gun.

VOLNEY DAVIS AND MOLL

WILLIAM HARRISON

"Thought-cha was smart by all that wise talk, didn't cha, guy?" several of his gangster pals asked Gang Member William J. Harrison in an old, deserted barn, near Ontarioville, Ill., the night of Jan. 8, 1935.

Harrison, a member of the gang's inner circle, had divulged too much information to other members of the mob. The "big shots" lured him to this barn.

"This is whatcha get," they said, and as Harrison begged for mercy, they shot him dead.

They soaked his body in gasoline and set the barn on fire.

G-men identified the body by a wrist watch and gold-linked bracelet found at the site by local police.

G-men later pieced together the story from captured criminals.

## EX-LEGISLATOR GETS HIS

An ex-Illinois state legislator, John J. (Boss) McLaughlin Sr. helped Karpis-Barker and associates exchange their ransom monies for unmarked currency.

M'LAUGHLIN

"Ward Heeler" McLaughlin was most indignant when FBI agents arrested him. His wife sent telegrams of protest to President Roosevelt and the U. S. attorney general.

G-men say that McLaughlin, on a five per cent fee basis, helped in the exchange of a large part of $300,000 in ransom money from two kidnapings.

In June, 1935, he was sentenced at a St. Paul, Minn., Federal Court to five years in prison and died in prison a few months later.

## DOCTOR TOO CONFIDENT

Washington, D. C., showed on the [illegible] fingerprint which when checked with the [illegible] was found identical with the right fingerprint of Arthur Barker.

A salesgirl at a St. Paul store w[illegible] sold the type of flashlight found was shown some photographs. She thus identified Alvin Karpis as having purchased a flashlight from her.

Karpis helped engineer the gang [illegible] successful kidnapings, a mail truck robbery, a train robbery and several big bank robberies.

He escaped from prison once.

He escaped numerous police traps.

He and Harry Campbell once fought [illegible] out with three local officers in the hallway of an Atlantic City, N. J., hotel and escaped.

Karpis traveled often by airplane. One of his hideouts was a Toledo, Ohio, house of [illegible] "mail," Doris Delaney, [illegible] Spaniel.

He took time out for vacations at Hot Springs, Ark., Havana, Cuba, and for deep-sea fishing off Corpus Christi, Texas.

Most of his original gang was killed or captured. He formed a new gang. Wise as a fox, he was one of the last to be snared. But today he's at Alcatraz, for keeps.

## BARKERS HAD ARSENAL

Look at the guns taken from the [illegible] lake.

• • •

## WHAT THE KARPIS-BARKER GANG GOT

Loot obtained by the Karpis-Barker [illegible] included:

$100,000—ransom money, William [illegible] kidnaping.

$200,000—ransom money, Edward [illegible] kidnaping.

$240,000 in bonds and an indefin[illegible] amount of cash—Cloud County Bank daylight robbery, Concordia, Kan.

$34,000 in cash and additional thousands in securities—Erie train robbery at Garretsville, Ohio.

$72,000 in cash and bonds—Warren, Ohio, mail truck robbery.

*This was not all.*

*Death and prison must be added.*

[illegible] days later and [illegible] tured him. He did not have a chance to use the pistol under his pillow.

G-men had posted the Karpis-Barker gang.

## KARPIS NOT UNARMED

Luggage and guns taken from Karpis' apartment at New Orleans. Fishing tackle box in the foreground. Karpis was vacationing at the time spending some of the million he and his ill-fated gang took in booty.

• • •

## Memphis FBI Agent in Charge Has Told Stories

*Special Agent in Charge Howard B. Fletcher of the Memphis office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, has told thru The Press-Scimitar these stories of how the G-men solved mysterious kidnapings and broke up bank robbery gangs.*

FLETCHER

KATE (MA) BARKER AND FRED BARKER

Kate (Ma) Barker was the mother of Fred and Arthur Barker. She was as tough as any of her sons.

For many months she lived in luxury with part of the spoils acquired by her outlaw sons. In St. Paul, Chicago and other large cities, she rented expensive apartments and wore fine clothes. She often hid out with her sons when the chase became hot.

She and Fred were occupying a cottage on the shores of Lake Weir, near Ocala, Fla., early on Jan. 16, 1935.

Their slumber was disturbed by a sudden command from FBI special agents, who had surrounded the house, that the occupants surrender.

The agents waited 15 minutes. Then they heard a voice, "All right, go ahead."

A blast of machine-gun fire came from the house. G-men answered with machine guns and tear gas.

G-men soon entered.

"Ma" Barker and her son had battled unto death.

By the body of Fred lay a .45 pistol.

By "Ma" Barker's left hand lay a machine gun.

VOLNEY DAVIS AND MOLL

VOLNEY DAVIS

Official FBI records say Volney Davis took part in several of the gang's bank robberies—one of which grossed the gang more than $240,000—and in at least one kidnaping.

Davis lavished much money on his moll, Edna

tured criminals.

EX-LEGISLATOR GETS HIS

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M'LAUGHLIN
died in prison a few months later.

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In June, 1938, he was sentenced at a St. Paul, Minn., Federal Court to five years in prison and

DOCTOR TOO CONFIDENT

DR. MORAN

Karpis-Barker syndicate had a staff physician, Dr. Joseph P. Moran, to tend to wounds and attempt face and fingerprint-changing operations.

The mobsters would sneak to Dr. Moran's office when they got nipped by law officers' bullets while out on their forays.

"I've got you guys in the palm of my hand," Dr. Moran drunkenly said to the Barkers and Russell Gibson at a gay party.

That was his death warrant.

Dr. Moran left the party with two of the gang.

Fred Barker soon after was heard to say, "Doc

Look at the guns taken from the lake.

Memphis FBI Agent in Charge Has Told Stories

FLETCHER

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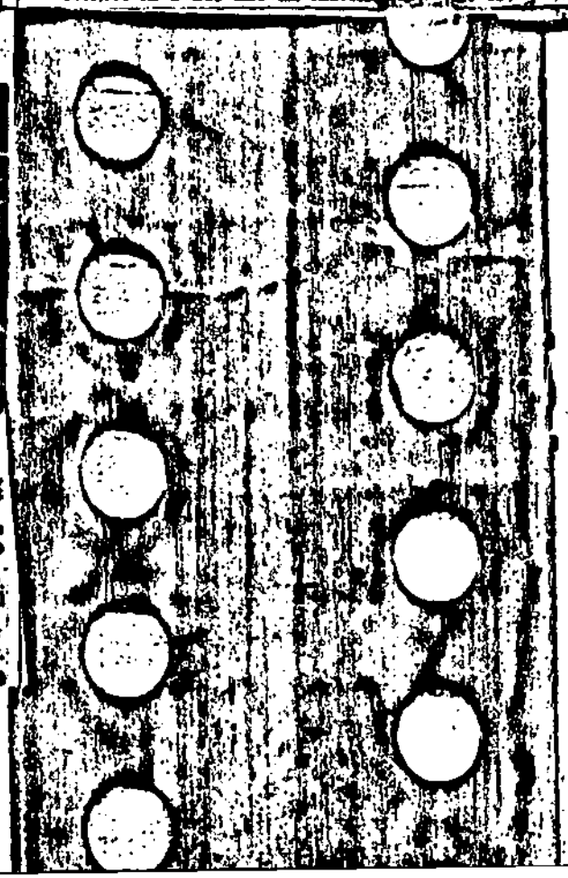
$240,000 in bonds and an indefinite [illegible] of cash—Cloud County Bank daylight robbery, Concordia, Kan.

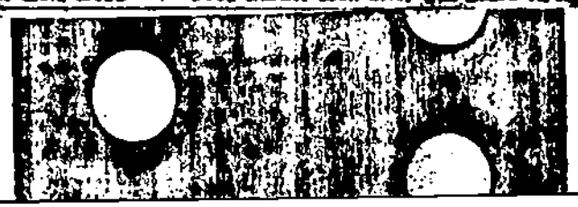
$34,000 in cash and additional thousands in securities—Erie train robbery at Garrettsville, Ohio.

[illegible]00 in cash and bonds—Warren, Ohio, mail truck robbery.

This was not all.

Death and prison must be added.





Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Carden
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Hollerman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

# Nab Ex-Karpis Aid In Bank Holdup

Cincinnati, Oct. 1 (AP)—Benson Groves, 60, identified by post office inspectors as a one-time member of the Al Karpis gang and sought for six years in connection with a $46,000 mail-train robbery at Garrettsville, O., in 1935, was captured today after a frustrated attempt to rob a bank branch in suburban Carthage. Groves was the last of five bandits known to have taken part in the 1935 robbery to be captured.

175

CLIPPING FROM THE
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

DATE OCT 2 - 1941
FORWARDED BY N.Y. DIVISION

0-10 (Rev. 9-7-56)

GIR 6

Tolson
Nichols
Boardman
Belmont
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Nease
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

**Lowella Parsons:**

# John Paul Jones Story Is Given a Dusting Off

HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 16 (INS) — Some of New York's top financiers are backing the spectacular Todd-A-O movie, "John Paul Jones," story of the father of our Navy, with locations in Virginia, Italy and Spain.

Parsons

Academy Award-winner (for his writing on "Around The World In 80 Days") John Farrow has been chosen to write and direct. It's a wise choice because Johnny has a distinguished war record as a naval officer and John Paul Jones is one of his heroes. Samuel Bronston is the producer.

The top brass associated with this film includes Rear Admiral J. L. Pratt, chairman of the board, and Fleet Commander Chester W. Nimitz, five-star admiral, is top consultant.

The "John Paul Jones" story, which has been off and on again for years with many stars interested in playing the heroic Jones, is so recently reactivated that no star has yet been chosen.

WHEN JOHNNY Meyer told me that his next picture is the story of the notorious gangster, "Pretty Boy" Floyd, I asked him, why a gangster movie?

He said, "I won't glamorize Floyd, but gangster pictures are coming back, and I think they are good propaganda weapons against crime. In the 30's we had a lot of gangster films and not nearly the juvenile delinquency we have today. The kids were shown how miserable the Dillingers and Capones were for all their blood money."

I was interested to hear that "Pretty Boy" Floyd's son, Charles Dempsey Floyd, who lives in Richmond, Calif., is eager to have the movie of his father's life made because he believes it will be a deterrent to crime. Charles is a scout master and has devoted much time to traveling around the country to speak to boys' groups on the subject of juvenile delinquency.

And speaking again of Johnny, his first picture, "Action Of The Tiger," starring Van Johnson and Martine Carol, gets a national Labor release from MGM.

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162-28915-A
NOT RECORDED
126 AUG 28 1957

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Wash. Star
N. Y. Herald Tribune
N. Y. Journal-American
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N. Y. Daily News
N. Y. Times
Daily Worker
The Worker
New Leader

Date AUG 17 1957

64 AUG 30 1957 F-340

0-19 (Rev. 1-30-74)

Assoc. Dir. ✓
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Dep. AD Inv. ___
Asst. Dir. ___
Adm. ___
Comp. Syst. ___
Ext. Affairs ✓
Files & Com. ___
Gen. Inv. ___
Ident. ___
Inspection ___
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Director Sec'y ___

# How 'Pretty Boy' Floyd Died

The Times carried a story (Oct. 19) with an Akron, Ohio, dateline, headed "Eyewitness Tells How 'Pretty Boy' Floyd Died." On Oct. 26 The Times had an editorial, "Questions for the FBI," in which you call on the FBI to answer the charge of Chester C. Smith, a retired policeman of East Liverpool, Ohio, that Floyd "was deliberately shot to death by order of an FBI agent as Floyd lay wounded in an Ohio cornfield."

This is a serious charge against persons no longer living, and it is to be hoped that the FBI will make public all the information that it has about Floyd's death. It is doubtful, however, that there is in the FBI any evidence directly bearing on Smith's charges, because it is not believed that anyone in the FBI ever heard a hint that an FBI agent was ordered by his superior to deliberately and cold-bloodedly kill a prisoner who was helpless.

Because of my involvement in the FBI's investigation of the Kansas City Union Station massacre case, and my knowledge of the agents accused in The Times' columns, I feel constrained to state the following:

1—At the time of Floyd's death I was special agent in charge of the Kansas City office of the FBI, and as such had overall supervision of the investigation of the Union Station massacre case. We received copies of all reports and other communications dealing with this case from all bureau offices. At no time was there any hint that Floyd was killed deliberately while in custody. We wanted him alive for questioning, hoping that this would assist in solving other cases. Floyd's companion, Adam Richetti, was brought back to Kansas City and extensively questioned before being convicted of murder in the Missouri court and executed.

2—In his book, "American Agent," published in 1936, Melvin Purvis tells of the apprehension and death of Floyd in some detail. After telling how the officers approached Floyd as he lay wounded, but still trying unsuccessfully to fire his automatic, Purvis wrote:

"I said to him, 'You're Pretty Boy Floyd.' He replied, 'I am Charles Arthur Floyd.' He did not seem to like the appellation. After a few minutes I left the scene to call an ambulance and to call the director in Washington. One of the special agents and I drove at breakneck speed to the next farm where there was a telephone. The Conkles, on whose farm this capture had been made, had no telephone."

3—The story in The Times quotes officer Smith as saying that, after Purvis had asked Floyd whether he had participated in the Union Station massacre and received the response "I wouldn't tell you son-of-a-bitch anything," Purvis turned to fellow FBI agent Herman Hawless and commanded "Shoot him." Hawless leveled his revolver and shot Floyd once in the breastbone.

It seems certain that "agent Herman Hawless" was Special Agent Herman Edward Hollis, a fine and dedicated agent assigned to Purvis' office in Chicago. Pretty Boy Floyd died in a field in Ohio on Oct. 22, 1934, as the result of wounds received while attempting to escape from federal and state officers. A little more than a month later, on Nov. 27, 1934, Special Agent Hollis, along with FBI Inspector Sam Cowley, died near Chicago in a gun battle with another fugitive, Babyface Nelson. Nelson was also mortally wounded in this battle, dying a short time later. Congress voted an award to the widows of Cowley and Hollis.

Mel Purvis was a close personal friend of mine. He was a fine individual and a dedicated and capable law enforcement officer. My personal acquaintance with Ed Hollis was less intimate, but I have equal respect for his dedication and character. It seems a shame that after 40 years there is this effort to besmirch the character of these men.

ROBERT BRUCE NATHAN
South Pasadena, Calif.

REC-67 62-25115-A

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141 NOV 20 1974

EX-104

The Washington Post ___
Washington Star-News ___
Daily News (New York) ___
The New York Times ___
The Wall Street Journal ___
The National Observer ___
The Los Angeles Times Part II 4

Date NOV 9 1974

56 NOV 25 1974

PERS. REC. UNIT

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Did He Really Try to Escape?

There have been various stories [illegible] on the death of Charley Arthur Floyd—"Pretty Boy"—and I felt I should make comment as I wrote and directed "The Story of Pretty Boy Floyd" for ABC movie-of-the-week that aired May 7th of this year, and I did some very interesting research before taking on the project.

I went to Sallisaw, Okla., and spoke with his sisters, Mary, Ruth, his brother, Bradley, and his 94-year-old mother, Mamie Floyd.

I only spent a few days with them, but we became fast friends, and still keep in contact.

I also met with his son, Jack Floyd, and he corroborated many of the aspects I put into the script that could only come from deduction on my part.

Regarding his death, I felt that Charley—his mother said that was his true name, not Charles, even though the stone mason put Charles on his gravestone—had decided that his time had come, and was, literally, committing suicide in that field in Ohio.

The fact that he had two loaded guns, not one shot having been fired, put me on that track. For Charley was Public Enemy No. 1 at the time, and was a deadly shot.

Jack Floyd told me that he had been trying to tell people that for years. I only met Jack after I had written the script, but on many points like that he verified my earlier deductions.

Nobody, of course, can really know what happened 40 long years ago. Though the TV show, as it came out, was "based on fact and first-hand reports," I truly believe it came closer to the truth than many other stories of Floyd.

If Charley Floyd had been trying to really escape, he most certainly would have used those two weapons. Instead, he left the safety of a shed, struck out for an open field, refused to halt when ordered, and didn't defend himself. This action from the same man who had shot his way through more than a dozen FBI agents in a cramped hallway of a hotel only a year or so before.

58 FEB 27 1975

EX-117

REC-43 62-28915-A

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File in 62-28915

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Plan. & Eval. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____
Legal Coun. ____
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Director Sec'y ____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-4 LOS ANGELES TIMES
~~LOS~~ ANGELES, CA

Date: 11/23/74
Edition: Saturday Final
Author: Clyde Ware
Editor: William F. Thomas
Title: SHOOTING DEATH OF PRETTY BOY FLOYD

Character:
or
Classification: LA-80-420*
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

This action from the man who lifted a submachine gun with his two .45s, and killed a deputy while only getting one glancing bullet in his foot.

His brother, Bradley, 75, gave me a terrific clue to the nature of Charley Floyd when I asked him if he hadn't ever hankered to go with Charley on some of his exploits. After all, it was Depression time, and Charley was a hero, living high.

Bradley grumbled a bit; then confessed that Charley wouldn't let him. And he went on to tell me—with Mary adding insights—of the time E. W. Floyd, the youngest brother, wanted to go with Charley, take up a life of crime. Charley literally fought the young man, beat him, wouldn't let him do it.

E. W. Floyd went on to become sheriff of their county and was in office for over two decades until his death in 1971.

Today, E. W.'s grave lies outside Sallisaw, a huge and impressive stone, with his sheriff's insignia proudly displayed on it. A few feet away, the tiny, chipped stone of his famed brother lies. People still come to look at it—and some still knock off a piece of the stone as a souvenir.

As I stood over his grave, I felt a great obligation to try to [illegible] as much about Charley Arthur [illegible]yd the man as I could. In TV, we have many restrictions, of course, but I do think we managed to stay true to the spirit of the time and the happenings, if we didn't make a strict chronicle of his life.

I don't believe Charley Floyd left Purvis any choice. I believe the Floyds aren't the kind of people who take their own lives. They have too much of a basic honesty, pride, love and sense of decency.

The Sunday I was there, we had to wait till Mama Floyd got home from church before we could talk. Her sons didn't curse in their house. And they have a sense of family and loyalty that could be a segment of the Waltons.

Charley wanted to end it all, his soul was agonizing, and he simply chose the only way out he knew.

This, at least, was my feeling. And his son, Jack, concurred totally, though I didn't meet Jack until after I had already written the story that way.

There has been so much controversy on the subject, that I felt I should give another side—one that I built from extensive research, and the personal evaluations after talking with many of the involved.

Still today, in the Cookson Hills of Oklahoma, you can't hear a disparaging word about Charley Arthur.

It was Charley's greatest sense of pride that not one person would turn him in to the law, even though the reward was high in extremely bad times.

I believe that his last words would have been asking if Eddie Richetti had turned him in—and that he would have spoken of his mother. That's what I put into the script. And one of Purvis' accounts said he asked if Eddie told on him.

When Bonnie and Clyde came into the Cookson Hills, according to his brother Bradley, Charley wouldn't have anything to do with them.

They shot into crowds to escape, killed people. And Charley, he maintained to his dying day, would only shoot at the law when they were shooting at him. A small distinction, possibly, but very real, moral.

Charley told Bradley to change their license plates and tell them he said to move on. Bradley did, and they did. Charley wouldn't give them refuge.

CLYDE WARE
Hollywood

Cont'd
Okla

0-19 (Rev. 1-30-74)

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
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Ident. ____
Inspection ____
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Plan. & Eval. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
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Director Sec'y ____

Emm

Charles Arthur O. Floyd

Pretty Boy Floyd

I have been following with great personal interest the controversy over the gangster, Pretty Boy Floyd. So please allow me to add a little information.

From two very reliable sources, both persons have told me the same story. Floyd did not commit suicide, and was very much trying to get away when he was killed. The first source was from my childhood schoolteacher at Calcutta Elementary by the name of Taylor on whose farm the shooting occurred.

The second source is from the gentleman in uniform at the far left of the picture you ran in the paper (Letters, Nov. 23). His name was Capt. James N. McFarland of the East Liverpool Police Department, who also was on the farm at the time of the shooting.

I consider these two sources to be honest and accurate. I'm very sure my schoolteacher and my grandfather wouldn't lie to me.

JAMES N. McFARLAND II
Los Angeles

The Washington Post ____
Washington Star-News ____
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
The National Observer ____
The Los Angeles Times PT 8, P3

Date DEC 1 1974

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NOT RECORDED
145 JAN 14 1975

File in 62-28915
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70 JAN 16 1975