

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS**

SUBJECT: PURPLE GANG

FILE:62-HQ-29632



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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September 21, 1933.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NATHAN.

[redacted] of the Daily News telephoned and stated that three members of the Purple Gang of Detroit were arrested at the Shoreham Hotel this morning and that Federal agents were present and aided in the arrest, and he desired to get further details on the matter. He stated that the arrests were made at 1:15 a.m. I advised that I was quite certain that the Federal agents were not our men, but suggested that he make inquiry of the Narcotic Bureau and the Prohibition Unit.

(b)(7)(c)

Very truly yours,

Director.

Handwritten vertical text on the left margin, possibly "Interviewed".

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Purple Gangsters Mowed Down in Gang Ride



LAST "PUBLIC" APPEARANCE OF EDDIE FLETCHER AND ABE AXLER.

Arraigned as "public enemies," Fletcher (left) and Axler are shown in court just a year ago. They were found slain early yesterday in the rear of Axler's car in a lonely Oakland County road,

and police today are without clues to the killers. It was in this last "public" appearance they gained the appellation of "enemies," Axler as No. 1, and Fletcher as No. 2. (This is a Times picture.)

THE DETROIT TIMES
November 27, 1933

62-29632-2



GANGSTERS, SLAIN TOGETHER, CAUGHT IN RECENT RAID
 re Axler (left) and Fletcher, diminutive
 e Gang gunmen, are being taken to police
 quarters for questioning after a public enemy
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 charged by superintendent.
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 discharged by superintendent.

AYINGS LEAVE LAST OF PURPLES LEADERLESS

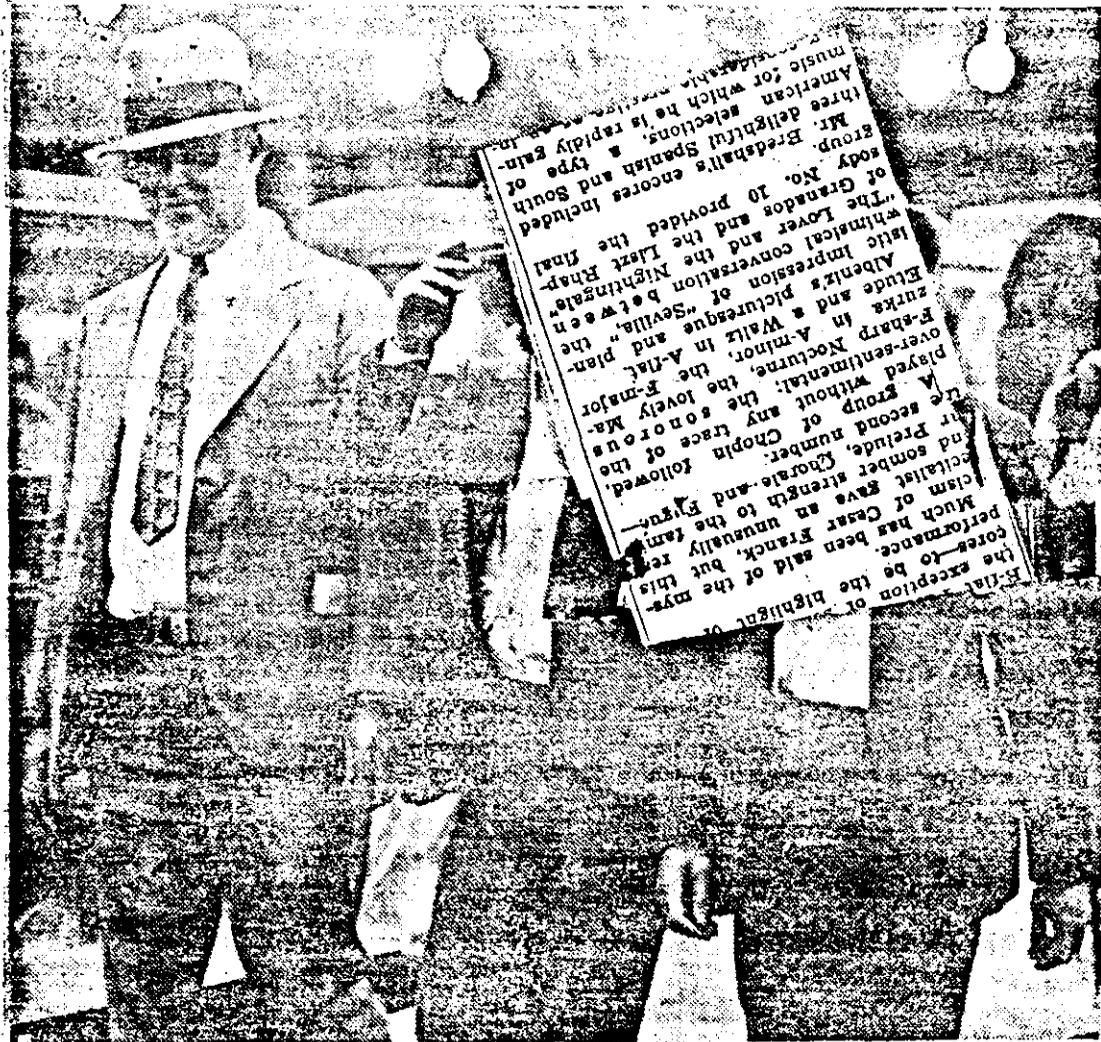
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 e. Fletcher's flattened and
 more close to his head by the
 ches of many pugilists during
 early ring career. And, above
 both are larceny-minded
 emers, killers with an
 andance of what police and
 aspapermen call "crazy nerve."
 Shortly after the close of the
 rld War Fletcher was a popu-
 118-pound preliminary fighter at
 old Military A. C. in Brooklyn.
 soon was taken into the stable
 a well-known manager, Silvey
 ns, who said:
 "I took the kid under my wing
 cause he's willing to fight four
 mes a week if you'd let him—
 nd when he gets paid off he
 rings his dough home to his
 uther."
CIT RING IN 1923
 Around Brooklyn, where Fletcher
 as known as a shy youth, the
 boxing fraternity was tremendously
 rprised when he eventually broke
 o print here as a notorious hood-
 im.
 Fletcher finally reached the main
 vent class in New York, but was
 ver a great fighter. He quit in
 1923, and shortly after moved to
 Detroit. He began fraternizing with
 he "mobs" and in 1925 he accepted
 nother bout because, he said, "the

boys want to see me in action just
 once."
 He boxed Don Burchard at Harry
 Harris' Fairview Club, Mack and
 Fairview avenue, and the mob saw
 him get decisively outpointed in
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 It was from this fight, some say,
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MORE VICIOUS KILLER
 Axler never was a pug. His nose
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 He had an aquiline nose, high
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 By repute he was a more vicious
 killer and a rougher fighter than
 Fletcher. It is said that once, when
 asked by a "Junior Purple" what
 he should do if police administer
 "Why, just spit in the officers'
 that's all!"
 Axler purportedly came here
 from New York a year or two after
 Fletcher's fight against Burchard.
 The two "killers of a feather" soon
 got together and began contribut-
 ing major performances to the
 "Purples'" lurid history.
FORMED FOR DEFENSE
 The time was 1928. Axler was 25,
 three years Fletcher's junior, but a
 more experienced gangster, having
 been a consort of "mobs" while
 Eddie was still a reputedly honest
 prizefighter.
 The Purple gang was organized
 supposedly as a defensive organi-
 zation, employed by local gamblers
 to defend their establishments from
 being pilfered by a gang of in-
 vaders from St. Louis known as
 "Egan's Rats."
 The St. Louis Rats were blamed
 for the kidnaping in March, 1926,
 of Meyer (Fish) Bloomfield, then a
 "stick man" at Charles T. "Doc"
 Brady's gambling place, 328 Grand
 River avenue, above the store
 where Dr. Julius C. Harris was
 shot and killed during an attempted
 holdup of "Goldie's handbook"
 Saturday night.
TURNED TO RACKET
 -The "snatching" of Bloomfield
 was the first of a lucrative series
 of kidnapings of rich gamblers for
 ransom money, and it soon became
 doubtful as to whether the "Pur-
 ples" were taking a defensive or
 an offensive part in the crimes.
 A few traitorous members of the

St. Louis gang seems to have
 merged with the Detroiters, the
 combination being strengthened by
 the addition of a dozen or so of
 accredited tough ones from New
 York.
 The new gang proceeded to work
 from the viewpoint that there is
 more profit in levying tribute than
 in being paid for bodyguard.
 In 1927 Axler and Fletcher occu-
 pied a suite in the Miraflores Apart-
 ments, 108 East Alexandria avenue.
 In this building they and their
 gang reputedly wiped out Frank
 Wright, Reuben Cohen and Joseph
 Bloom, three opposing gangsters, in
 what has become known as the
 "Miraflores massacre." In disposing
 of the trio, reputedly Chicago gang-
 sters, the Purples introduced ma-
 chine guns in Detroit gangster war-
 fare.
FORCED DYERS' TRIBUTE
 Axler and Fletcher, along with
 Fred "Killer" Burke, were arrested
 as suspects in the massacre. Police
 grilled them without result, and the
 three were eventually released.
 (Burke is now serving a life sen-
 tence for murder at Marquette
 Prison.)
 During 1927 the Purples exacted
 thousands of dollars
 tribute from Detroit cleaners and
 dyers as "protection" money.
 From the cleaners and dyers' war
 there is another story purport-
 ing to explain the origin of the
 gang's name.
 So-called "purple gangs" were
 known long ago, some historians
 claim. Dyers, they say, have been
 associated always with the purple
 dye because it was the first dis-
 covered by the Phoenicians, who
 originated the art of dyeing. Purple,
 therefore, has become the symbol
 of the dyer. Thus, according to this
 explanation, the "purple" gang be-
 comes the "dyers'" gang.
CONTINUED ACTIVITIES
 The lucrative cleaners and dyers'
 protection racket was broken up by
 the police with the arrest of 12
 Purples. Besides Axler and Fletcher,
 those arrested were Abe Bernstein,
 reputed leader; his brother, Ray;
 Abe Kaminsky, Abe Miller, Harry
 Keywell, Irving Milberg, George
 Cordell, Joe "Honeyboy" Miller,
 Sam Axler (Abe's brother) and
 Irving Shapiro.
 They were acquitted after a
 stormy trial.
 Although the edge had been
 taken off the protection racket, the
 Purples continued to operate as
 bootleggers, rum runners, hijackers,
 smugglers, handbook operators and
 dops peddlers.
 Prohibition agents finally brought
 liquor violation charges against
 four members of the gang and
 "made the charges stick." This was
 in 1929. Axler, Fletcher, Sutton

and Milberg were sentenced by
 Federal Judge Charles C. Simons to
 serve one year and 10 months in
 the Federal Penitentiary at Leaven-
 worth, Kan., and to pay fines of
 \$5,000 each.
COLLINGWOOD MASSACRE
 They served their sentences and
 did not get into serious trouble
 with the law again until Septem-
 ber, 1931. At that time the Purple
 gang was accused of perpetrating
 the "Collingwood massacre." Joe
 (Nigger) Lebovitz, Herman (Hymie)
 Paul and Izzy Sutker, members of
 the rival "Navy" gang, had been
 shot down and the Purples were
 blamed.
 Axler and Fletcher were ques-
 tioned and released. Ray Bern-
 stein, Harry Keywell and Irving
 Milberg were prosecuted, found
 guilty, and sent to Marquette Prison
 for life.
 Milford Jones, a notorious St.
 Louis gunman, was murdered as
 he stood at the bar of the swanky
 Stork Club, 47 Rowena street, in
 June, 1932, and again Fletcher and
 Axler were brought in for grilling.
 Both were released. The Jones
 murder remains so far a mys-
 tery.
 Last winter Axler and Fletcher
 attempted to re-enter professional
 boxing as managers. Their boxers
 were the veteran Morris Sherman,
 his brother, Jackie, a novice, Louis
 Mays, a Des Moines middleweight,
 and another boxer who was known
 to the boxing fraternity as "the for-
 mer light heavyweight champion
 of Jackson Prison." Other "legiti-
 ma" managers had better boxers
 and Fletcher finally said, "there's
 no dough here for me," and retired
 from the managerial end. Fletcher
 was last seen in the ring at Arena
 Gardens as a second for Louis
 Mays.
 But shortly before he was ar-
 rested as a public enemy again, a
 few weeks ago, Fletcher began is-
 suing circulars to promoters an-
 nouncing himself as the manager of
 Morris Sherman and seeking bouts
 for the fighter. He styled himself
 a "boxing manager" at the time of
 his arrest as an "enemy."
 After several members of the
 gang has been convicted on the
 Public Enemy charge and were
 sentenced to the House of Correc-
 tion for 90-day sentences, Axler and
 Fletcher, awaiting trial and under
 a bond of \$1,000 each to appear be-
 fore Judge John P. Scallen, jumped
 their bond. They were "lamsters"
 at the time of their sudden death.
 Axler and Fletcher, underworld-
 it's say, were the militant person-
 alities who held the remnants of
 the Purple gang together during
 the last half-year or so. With their
 (Continued on page 13)

Axler's a Police



GANGSTERS, SLAIN TOGETHER, CAUGHT IN RECENT RAID
Here Axler (left) and Fletcher, diminutive Purple Gang gunmen, are being taken to police headquarters for questioning after a public enemy roundup. Detective Mike Flannegan is accompanying them. The gang pair, slain on a "ride" in a lone Oakland County road early yesterday, at this time faced police together as they faced their murderer's yesterday. (This is a Times picture.)

Here are the records of Axler and Fletcher, Purple gangsters. Axler was arrested 18 times in New York and Detroit, was convicted three times. His police record follows:
April 2, 1920, arrested in New York, robbery and assault, missed by magistrate.
March 21, 1921, arrested in New York, grand larceny, discharged by a magistrate.
Dec. 6, 1931, sentenced to 5 years in Sing Sing Prison for burglary.
Dec. 7, 1925, arrested in Brooklyn, attempted attack on woman, discharged by a magistrate.
Oct. 27, 1926, arrested in Detroit as "Abe Gold" as a disorderly person, discharged as superintendent.
Oct. 31, 1926, arrested in Detroit as "Abe Gold" as a witness, discharged by superintendent.
March 29, 1927, arrested in Detroit as "Harry Levine" robbery armed, discharged by superintendent.
May 9, 1927, robbery armed, charged by superintendent.
Aug. 18, 1927, robbery armed, discharged by superintendent.

SLAYINGS LEAVE LAST OF PURPLES LEADERLE

The awesome news that Abe Axler and Eddie Fletcher "were just bumped off" electrified habitués of Detroit's underworld in the small, black hours. It came first before dawn yesterday as a rumor which was soon confirmed via the grapevine of the racket world. The previous chief topic in the hoodlums' delicatessen headquarters—"they stuck up Goldie's handbook and killed a guy"—was immediately superseded. Axler and Fletcher, inseparable pals and partners, pint-sized tough guys and killers, were "biggies" of the national underworld. In Detroit they had earned the odious reputations of Public Enemies No. 1 and 2, respectively. They were sawed-off Napoleons of the infamous Purple Gang and, from its rise to power in 1926 until they died with their shoes on, leading actors in its criminal history—a history vicious enough to cause Herbert Asbury, historian of American crime, to call it "the most efficiently organized gang of killers in the United States."
MUCH IN COMMON
The two gunmen had much in common. Both were native sons of Michigan. Both were shorter than five feet, and both possessed the aggressive urge of a "big guy" which is so often characteristic of little men. Both had dark, furtive, beady eyes. Both abnormal ears. Axler's

boys want to see me in action just once." He boxed Don Burchard at Harry Harris' Fairview Club, Mack and Fairview avenues, and the mob saw him get decisively outpointed in eight rounds. It was from this fight, some say, that the name "Purple" gang originated. Fletcher followed the then popular New York prize ring custom of dressing the fighter and his seconds in colored jerseys. The color of the jerseys, on this occasion, was a bright purple.
MORE VICIOUS KILLER
Axler never was a pug. His nose had not been knocked askew as Fletcher's was and his sizable ears had never been "cauliflowerized," but nonetheless his was the more sinister face of the two. He had an aquiline nose, high cheek bones, deep shadows under his small eyes, sunken cheeks, and a thin light mouth which turned up at the corners. By repute he was a more vicious killer and a rougher fighter than Fletcher. It is said that once, when asked by a "Junior Purple" what he should do if police administered "way, just spit in the eye" that's all! Axler purportedly came here from New York a year or two after Fletcher's fight against Burchard. The two "killers of a feather" took

St. Louis gang seems to have merged with the Detroiters, the combination being strengthened by the addition of a dozen or so of accredited tough ones from New York. The new gang proceeded to work from the viewpoint that there is more profit in levying tribute than in being paid for bodyguard. In 1927 Axler and Fletcher occupied a suite in the Miraflores Apartments, 106 East Alexandria avenue. In this building they and their gang reputedly wiped out Frank Wright, Reuben Cohen and Joseph Bloom, three opposing gangsters, in what has become known as the "Miraflores massacre." In disposing of the trio, reputedly Chicago gangsters, the Purples introduced machine guns in Detroit gangster warfare.
FORCED DYERS' TRIBUTE
Axler and Fletcher, along with Fred "Killer" Burke, were arrested as suspects in the massacre. Police griled them without result, and the three were eventually released. (Burke is now serving a life sentence for murder at Marquette Prison.) During the trial, the three admitted that they had collected tribute from Detroit's cleaners and dyers as "protection" money. From the cleaners and dyers war came another story purporting to explain the origin of the gang's name.

and Milberg were sentenced Federal Judge Charles C. Simon serve one year and 10 months in the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., and to pay fine of \$5,000 each.
COLLINGWOOD MASSACRE
They served their sentence but did not get into serious trouble with the law again until September, 1931. At that time the Purple gang was accused of perpetrating the "Collingwood massacre" (Nigger) Lebovitz, Herman (Hank) Paul and Izzy Sutker, members of the rival "Navy" gang, had shot down and the Purples blamed. Axler and Fletcher were mentioned and released. Ray Stein, Harry Keywell and Milberg were prosecuted, found guilty, and sent to Marquette for life. Milford Jones, a notorious St. Louis gunman, was murdered while he stood at the bar of the Stork Club, 47 Rowena street, June, 1932, and again Fletcher and Axler were brought in for the murder. Both were released. The murder remains a mystery.

Axler's and Fletcher's Police Records

Here are the records of Fletcher, Purple gangsters:
Axler was arrested 18 times in New York and Detroit, and was convicted three times.

His police record follows:
April 2, 1920, arrested in New York, robbery and assault, dismissed by magistrate.

March 21, 1921, arrested in New York, grand larceny, discharged by a magistrate.

Dec. 6, 1931, sentenced to 2 1/2 to 5 years in Sing Sing Prison for burglary.

Dec. 7, 1925, arrested in Brooklyn, attempted attack on a woman, discharged by a magistrate.

Oct. 27, 1926, arrested in Detroit as "Abe Gold" as a disorderly person, discharged by superintendent.

Oct. 31, 1926, arrested in Detroit as "Abe Gold" as a police witness, discharged by superintendent.

March 29, 1927, arrested in Detroit as "Harry Levine" robbery armed, discharged by superintendent.

May 9, 1927, robbery armed, discharged by superintendent.

Aug. 18, 1927, robbery armed, discharged by superintendent.

gain Abe Axler and Eddie

Nov. 27, 1927, robbery armed, discharged by superintendent.

July 23, 1928, pickpocket, discharged by superintendent.

Oct. 20, 1928, robbery armed, dismissed by Judge Frank Murphy.

April 4, 1929, robbery armed, dismissed by Judge Charles B. Lee.

May 14, 1929, sentenced to one year and 10 months in Leavenworth, and fined \$3,000 for violation of the United States code.

Nov. 16, 1931, robbery armed, charged by superintendent.

Oct. 18, 1931, charged with case still pending.

Fletcher was arrested 11 times in Detroit, and was convicted only once when he went to Leavenworth. His police record follows:

Oct. 31, 1926, arrested as police witness, released by superintendent.

Nov. 2, 1926, robbery armed, discharged by superintendent.

Dec. 14, 1926, robbery armed, discharged by superintendent.

April 25, 1927, charged with murder, discharged on writ.

May 9, 1927, Nov. 29, 1927, and February 1, 1928, robbery armed, discharged by superintendent.

June 11, 1928, arrested as disorderly person, discharged by superintendent.

Sept. 11 and Nov. 17, 1928, robbery armed, discharged by superintendent.

May 14, 1929, sentenced to one

PURPLES LEFT LEADERLESS

(Continued from page 3).
deaths, police claim, the reign of the notorious gang is virtually over.

Nearly all of its dominant members have either left Detroit or been killed or imprisoned. Ray Bernstein, Harry Keywell and Irving Milberg, Collingwood killers are life-timers at Marquette. In the same prison, Philip Keywell and Morris Rader are serving life sentences for killing a Negro boy who came across one of their liquor plants.

Abe Bernstein stays away from Detroit, and his brother, Joseph, is said to have quit gangdom entirely. Joseph "Honeyboy" Miller is in an Eloise home for the insane.

FWW ARE LEFT
Irving Shapiro, like Axler and Fletcher, "went out the hard way."

Remaining, police say, are only Izzy Bernstein, Harry Sutton, Harry Fleisher, Sam Drapkin and Dave Banks.

The delicatessen headquarters, where the gang met, and where friendly gangsters from other cities sat out the night with the Purples, has been almost deserted since the Fletcher and Axler, nattily dressed, perfumed and over-barbered, went "on the lam" and, unknowingly, took "the last roundup."

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During the Purple heyday, thousands of dollars in tribute flowed into Detroit from

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Milford Jones, a notorious St. Louis gunman, was murdered as he stood at the bar of the Stork Club, 47 Rowena street, in June, 1932, and again Fletcher and Axler were brought in for grilling. Both were released. The Jones murder remains a mystery.



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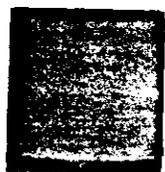
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Detroit Purple Gang Smashed By Own Greed

Police Say Leaders Could
Not Stand Prosperity
or Take Orders.

Detroit, Feb. 24 (AP).—The Purple gang is dead—by its own hand. Jealousy and greed did their work even before repeal of prohibition ruined the bootlegging and alcohol cooking business, says Chief of Detectives Fred W. Frahm.

"The Purples crumbled from within. The big shots couldn't stand prosperity and couldn't take orders. The final blow came last fall when Abe Axler and Eddie Fletcher, typical Purple gangsters, who rose to power in a weakened organization, were put on the spot in their own car."

Kidnaping, robbery, extortion, alcohol cooking and bootlegging, murder—all were written in the mob's record here, until the law and guns in the hands of their own members caught up with those around whom the gang had been built.

"No one is certain how the gang got its name," said Frahm. "It may have started when some merchants on the East side called a bunch of petty thieves 'Purple,' meaning off-color. Anyway, this bunch of kids, numbering 40 or 50, grew bolder as they grew older, and in 1926 the name 'Purple Gang' had gained a sinister aspect."

In July, 1930, Jerry Buckley, radio commentator, who had waged a campaign against gambling, was shot to death in a hotel lobby. The case still is unsolved, three men having been tried and acquitted, but the police began pushing the gang so hard that quarrels among its members were rumored, revenue fell off, and many of the members left town.

Police said the conviction of Ray Bernstein with Irving Milberg and Harry Keywell in the Collingswood Manor Massacre would "whip" the Purples. Three brothers, alleged leaders of the gang, left Detroit.

Axler and Fletcher, whose bodies were found only a few months ago, were said by police to have been the last of the old-time Purples, who tried to remain in Detroit and reorganize the old gang.

RECORDED

NOT RECORDED

62-29632 A

LC

Two Found Slain on 'Ride' Near Detroit

DETROIT, Nov. 26.—(AP)—The bodies of Abe Axler, 34, and Eddie Fletcher, 33, Detroit and New York police characters, were found in an automobile near fashionable Bloomfield Hills today. Both had been shot to death.

The men apparently had been slain several hours before. Each had been shot five times. Police believed the men had been slain while riding in the car and that their slayers had been with them.

Chicago Herald & Examiner

11-27-33

NOT RECORDED

61-11-111

**2 of 'Purple Gang'
N.Y. Killed in Detroit**
American 11-27-33

DETROIT, Nov. 26 (AP).—Stain in the manner of gangland, the bodies of Abe Axler, 34, Detroit public enemy and long known to New York police, and Eddie Fletcher, 33, identified with Axler in underworld activities here since 1926, were found early today in an automobile near fashionable Bloomfield Hills. The bodies were in the rear of a car owned by Axler's wife. An autopsy indicated the men had been dead thirty minutes. Each had been shot five times. Both men were reputed members of the "Purple Gang"

RECORD

63-29162

NOV 28 1933

RECORD

11

U. S. Bureau of Investigation.

Department of Justice

625 Lafayette Bldg.
Detroit Michigan
November 28 1933

W
W

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

Director
Division of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

to
include

There are being transmitted herewith newspaper clippings taken from The Detroit Times of November 27, 1933 which concern the murder of two alleged members of the Detroit Purple Gang, Abe Axler and Eddie Fletcher, who it will be noted, are allegedly recognized as Detroit Public Enemies Nos. 1 and 2. It will also be noted that the criminal records of the two above individuals are set out in these clippings.

For the Division's information with regard to fingerprint information, please be advised that the Detroit Police number of Axler is 29655 and Fletcher, 26544.

Very truly yours,

Wm Larson

Wm. Larson
Special Agent in Charge

WL:MED

3 Encls.

Wm
11/29

RECORDED
INDEXED
DEC 1 1933

62-29632-2
DEC 1 1933
DIRECTOR
EDWARD H. BRENNAN

AXLER AND FLETCHER SLAIN ON GANG RIDE AND BODIES ARE LEFT IN CAR

Abe Axler and Eddie Fletcher, machine gun terrorists of the Purple gang and recognized as Detroit's Public Enemies One and Two, had died today as they lived—by the gun.

Their bullet-riddled bodies, returned from their last ride in an isolated road in Oakland County early yesterday, lay in the Lewis Undertaking Parlors, 7739 John R. street, awaiting shipment to New York's East Side, their former home, for burial.

Meanwhile, police of Oakland and Wayne counties sought the motive of Detroit gangland's latest slayings and girded themselves to prevent reprisals from the few surviving members of the once powerful Purples. The double slaying marks the first time Purples have been taken for a ride.

KILLER BURKE'S PALS

Detectives were checking information today that a gang of alcohol distillers had the two killed for double-crossing them last Summer. The report is that while the distillers were in jail or hiding from police, Fletcher and Axler took charge of their distilleries but failed to turn over the profits.

The two gunmen, inseparable since their arrival from New York when they joined Fred "Killer" Burke and the late Gus Winkler in kidnaping and hijacking, and who have been charged with practically every crime of record, were found one clasping the other's hand, their bodies riddled, in the rear seat of a new car belonging to Mrs. Evelyn Axler, wife of Abe.

It was parked just off the Quarton road, 100 yards east of Telegraph road, facing east, in the exclusive Bloomfield Hill section, and powder burns convinced police the death guns were pressed against the victims' bodies.

Identification was traced first through the license number of Axler's car. The identifications were quickly corroborated by police, long familiar with the pair, and later by the widows.

Fred Lincoln, Bloomfield Township residential policeman, found the bodies, still warm, when he opened the door of the sedan, be-

lieving it to contain petters, at 2 a. m. yesterday.

Several Detroit homicide squad detectives, Oakland County deputies and underworld cronies of the gangsters believe Axler and Fletcher were killed in reprisal for "an old debt."

"They had a great many enemies and had been accused of numerous murders, including the machine gun massacre of three men in the Miraflores Apartment in East Alexander street in 1929," John Hoffman, lieutenant in charge of the special investigation squad, said. "It is likely some friends or relatives of murder victims caught up with them."

Intimates of the two revealed to the Times that both hoodlums had been back in Detroit the last 10 days after having jumped their \$1,000 bonds while awaiting trial as public enemies. The real reason they fled, the Times was told, was that they feared arrest in connection with the 3-year-old kidnaping of Abe Fein, sportsman, for whose abduction Joseph "Red" O'Riordan, also an alleged former member of the Killer Burke kidnap mob, is now awaiting trial.

The
Detroit
Times

11/27/33

62-29632-2

19055

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 4, 1934.

Mr. E.A. Hoover,
Dep't of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

AUG 10 1934
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS
KEEP ENVELOPES

Dear Sirs:

With the strides the department of which you are head, is making, it seems as if Detroit has been overlooked in the cleanup of gangsters. I take this liberty to write you as I am one whose legitimate business was muscled in on. I was given the opportunity to either permit a gang known as the "Purple Gang" take over my business or be found in the Detroit river.

My business is serving race results to clients, which since racing has been legalized in various sections of the country, is considered leg in Detroit. Several years ago this mob come to my office and announced would take charge and if I didn't like it my body would be found floating in the Detroit river. The head of this mob Jack Lewis and the Bernstein brothers are all killers of the worst type. Several of this mob are now serving life terms in the state prisons. Yet I am compelled to let the parasites run my business and take the biggest cut of the profits or a death.

At the time they took over my business there were several other small concerns of the same type which were ordered closed by the mob under penalty of death.

I pray that you will have your department make an extensive investigation of the "Purple Gang" activities in Detroit and give them the same dose your department has given some of the rest. They are also connected with the dope and liquor rackets here and in fact control both of them.

I dare not give you my name but an investigation will disclose what I have told you above is true and I trust you will do everything in your power to rid Detroit of this menace and put these rats where they really belong.

A Law Abiding Citizen.

RECORDED

INDEXED

AUG 11 1934

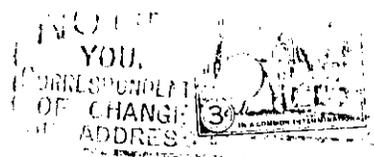
62-29632-3
AUG 6 1934
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

F116

1936

19056

0



Mr. E. A. Hoover,
c/o Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

62-24632-3

D. C. VICE LINKED TO GANGSTERS IN DETROIT

622 Women Arrested Here in
Past 20 Months; Conditions
In First Precinct Scored

Rumors that a white slave ring operating out of Detroit, Mich., controls a large portion of Washington's vice are being investigated by Commissioner Melvin C. Hazen.

The District head today received a report from Captain William E. Holmes, commander of the First Police precinct, on the work of two detectives assigned to the investigation of vice in the downtown section which revealed that of a total of 1,453 arrests made by the pair in the last 20 months, 622 were women.

First Precinct Bad

Numerous complaints about the evil in the First precinct have been made to Commissioner Hazen, and police have been instructed to investigate the operations of out-of-town persons engaged in white slave practices.

Police headquarters detectives are tracing the rumor that the Detroit gang is operating here by investigating the records of each person arrested on charges of soliciting.

Most of those arrested are found to come from other cities, and it is said that there is a constant influx of recruits for the illicit trade.

The detective bureau is in constant communication by telegraph with the police of other cities in an attempt to get conclusive evidence of the local operations of the Purple Gang.

Law Seen Weak

One of the deterrents to stamping out the social evil here, it was pointed out by District officials, is the local law which fixes the police collateral for soliciting at \$25.

Corporation Counsel E. Barrett ~~Preddy~~ has drafted a bill for congressional action which will increase this penalty to \$100.

Mr. C. G. ...
Mr. E. ...
Mr. F. ...
Mr. H. ...
Mr. K. ...
Mr. L. ...
Mr. O. ...
Mr. S. ...
Mr. T. ...
Miss G. ...

Bryan

WASH

WASHINGTON
TIMES 1-10-35

62-29632

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

June 5, 1935.

Time-6:05 A. M.

RWF

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

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NATHAN

RE: Detroit Purple Gang

6
2

The Acting Captain of the Guard telephoned me this morning and advised that two men in an automobile were at the Ninth Street Gate; that the driver claimed to be an ex-policeman and the man with him was dressed as a woman. This ex-policeman states that this man with him is a member of Detroit's former Purple Gang and he brought him to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for questioning by our Agents. The Acting Captain of the Guard stated that the ex-policeman seemed to think he had a good thing for the Bureau.

I telephoned Mr. Ladd of the Washington Field Office right away and received instructions that they were to be held at the Ninth Street Gate and that he would have two Agents come down right away to contact them. I transmitted this information to the Acting Captain of the Guard who stated that he would have these men wait until the Agents showed up.

Respectfully,



R. W. Finkel.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-29632-4

JUN 7 1935

SEARCHED



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

TDQ:RCL

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

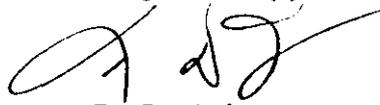
June 24, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON.

On June 21st [redacted] (b)(7)(c) in the Attorney General's office telephoned and stated that the telephone operator for the Attorney General had just received a telephone call which had been traced to Woodward and Lothrop from someone stating that she possessed considerable information relative to the workings of the Purple Gang in Detroit and wanted to know if we would be interested in chasing this matter down.

I informed [redacted] (b)(7)(c) that unless it was some violation over which the Federal Bureau of Investigation has primary investigative jurisdiction, the Bureau was unauthorized to take any action.

Respectfully,



T. D. Quinn.

RECORDED

62-29632-5

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
MAY 27 1935

827 Broad Street National Bank Building
Trenton New Jersey

RECORDED & INDEXED
AUG 8 1935

August 2, 1935
62-29632-6
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 5 1935 A.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

Special Agent in Charge,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

On July 31, 1935, [redacted]

[redacted] New Jersey, informed this office that there were three men and a woman in Trenton, who were seeking the release of [redacted], namely, [redacted] who was serving a sentence of fourteen to fifteen years for the robbery of a payroll at the Mansgrove, New Jersey National Bank; that this party from Detroit had contacted a local attorney named [redacted] who in turn had contacted [redacted] and had sought to obtain information from [redacted] as to just how he could get [redacted] from the "cage", the place of confinement.

At the time [redacted] at his office, there were three men and a woman there, all of whom appeared to be characters of disrepute, who anxiously desired the release of [redacted]

[redacted] stated that this office was notified because he had information [redacted] that [redacted] a renown private detective had connected [redacted] with the Purple [redacted] of Detroit, in some manner, and that [redacted] thought probably this office would be interested.

For your information a description of the four people in the office of [redacted] as described by [redacted] is as follows:

The leaders:

Age: 35 yrs.
 Height: 230 lbs.
 Weight: 5'10"
 Build: Very heavy
 Eyes: Very dark
 Hair: Coal black
 Complexion: Very dark
 Characteristics: Square face, peculiar in appearance; hanging jowls. Scar over right eye, possibly from a boil or carbuncle.

RECEIVED



ACC 66-3800-E-64

RECEIVED (b)(7)(C)(D)

Wore a big diamond ring
on his left hand.

The second man:

Height: 6'2"
Weight: 135
Age: 20
Complexion: Light
Build: Thin
Hair: Light
Characteristics: Very nice looking; possibly
of Jewish extraction.

The third man:

Height: 5'8"
Weight: 165
Hair: Dark
Age: 34 - 35
Eyes: Dark
Nationality: Possibly of Italian extraction.

The woman who gave her name as [REDACTED] and who visited [REDACTED] in the New Jersey
State Prison, is described: (b)(7)(C)(D)

Height: 5'2"
Eyes: Gray or blue
Weight: 95 - 105
Age: 20 - 22
Teeth: Good
Peculiarities: Very peculiar looking possibly due
to a cast in her eyes making the eyes
appear piercing or cross-eyed; also,
she squints.
Features: Sharp, gives her the appearance of a
shrewd woman.
Hair: Bobbed and dyed blonde.

Inasmuch as it is believed that these people will remain in
Tranton until contact can be made with Charles Kent and possibly effect

Special Agent in Charge, Detroit.

-3-

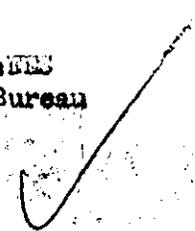
his liberation, it is desired that you review your files to ascertain whether or not any one or all of these persons are wanted by your office.

It is requested that you notify us as quickly as possible as to any action that you desire this office to take.

Very truly yours,

W. L. LINDSEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

NDW:TES
cc Bureau



10
Night Clerk advises of two men
in car at Ninth Street door - one
of them claiming the other to be a member
of the Detroit Purple Gang.

Matter referred to the Field office.

Field office advises they were a
couple of drunks and a memorandum
is being submitted.

g

266
29632

Post Office Box 2118
Detroit - Michigan
August 7, 1935

Special Agent in Charge
Trenton, New Jersey

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of August 2, 1935, relative to three men and a woman who were seeking the release of a prisoner, [redacted] held at the New Jersey State Prison, at Trenton.

(b)(7)(C)

A thorough search has been made of the file in the Detroit Office of all known members of Detroit's "Purple Gang" and the name [redacted] does not appear as a member of this gang.

(b)(7)(C)(D)

[redacted] state that they do not know of anyone ever having been connected with the "Purple Gang" by the name of [redacted]

(b)(7)(C)

From the descriptions of the four individuals seeking [redacted] release, it is impossible to identify them with the "Purple Gang."

(b)(7)(C)

Very truly yours

D. L. Nicholson
Special Agent in Charge

HER:AM
cc-Bureau

RECORDED & INDEXED

AUG 12 1935

62-29632-7

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 9 1935 A.M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

ALL REPORTS
C-10-11

P. O. Box 1276
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
October 25, 1935

JBL/aa

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

NOV 2 1935

Special Agent in Charge,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sirs

(b)(7)(C)(D)

[redacted] called the Oklahoma City office to day, and stated that he has some confidential information to the effect that two members of the Detroit Purple Gang are presently in Claremore. He desires to be advised whether there are any outstanding members of this gang who are wanted.

[redacted] has received considerable erroneous information in the past few months with reference to outstanding fugitives. However, as a matter of cooperation, it is requested that you advise by wire whether there are any outstanding members of this gang wanted at Detroit, and whether the Bureau is taking any active part in seeking their apprehension. It will be appreciated if you will forward your telegraphic reply as promptly after the receipt of this letter as possible.

Very truly yours,

DWIGHT BRANTLEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

cc Bureau

62-29632

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 26 1935

W. G. H.

68

(AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY)

Post Office Box 2118
Detroit - Michigan
October 26, 1935

Special Agent in Charge
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter under date of
October 23, 1935, wherein this office was advised that the

[REDACTED] has information to the effect that two members of the
Detroit Purple Gang are presently in Claremore and requesting
that this office ascertain whether there are any outstanding
members of this gang who are wanted. (b)(7)(D)

Confirming telegram of this date, please be ad-
vised that Special [REDACTED] was informed by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Detroit Police Department, that (b)(7)(C)
there are no outstanding members of the original Purple Gang
who are wanted by the Detroit Police Department. However,
[REDACTED] advised that Anthony Thomas, [REDACTED] (b)(7)(D)
and Philip Browne, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] who are not regarded as members of the original Purple
Gang but who associated with members of that gang, are
presently wanted by the Detroit Police Department in connection
with the murder of Frank Olsen on September 27, 1935, at
Detroit, Michigan. (b)(7)(C)

From [REDACTED] of the Homicide Squad,
Detroit Police Department, fingerprint cards and photographs of
the two above mentioned men were obtained and are being trans-
mitted herewith. [REDACTED] advised that "John Doe"
warrants are outstanding for the murder of Frank Olsen and that
it can be definitely established that Thomas and Browne murdered
Olsen in an attempted holdup. He requested that in the event
the two men reported to be in Claremore are identified as Thomas
and Browne they be arrested and held for the Detroit Police
Department and that the Detroit Police Department be notified.

A search of the files at the Detroit Office does
not reveal that the Bureau is taking any active part in seeking
the apprehension of the two above mentioned men.

Very truly yours

W. J. West
Special Agent in Charge

AAK:AM
Enclosures
cc-Bureau

62-2963
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 28 1935

WJW

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED:	
DOMESTIC	FOREIGN
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE CABLE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED CABLE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK-END CABLE LETTER
SHIP RADIOGRAM	RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired, otherwise message will be transmitted at a full-rate communication

Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial Cables



All America Cables

Mackay

Radio

STANDARD TIME

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Detroit, Michigan
Oct. 25, 1935

D. Brantley
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
224 Federal Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

NO OUTSTANDING MEMBERS PURPLE GANG WANTED AIRMAILING PHOTOS FINGERPRINTS
ANTHONY THOMAS AND PHILIP BROWNE WANTED FOR MURDER AT DETROIT FORMERLY
ASSOCIATED WITH MEMBERS PURPLE GANG WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

AAM:AM
5:45 p.m.
cc-Bureau ✓

WEST
INDEXED
Mal

62-29632

OCT 25 1935

TWO

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

FILE NO. **32-60**

REPORT MADE AT: Oklahoma City, Okla.	DATE WHEN MADE: 11/27/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 10/23 to 11/15/35	REPORT MADE BY: (b)(7)(C)
TITLE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS (Alleged Members Purple Gang, Detroit, Michigan)			CHARACTER OF CASE: Identification (Fingerprints)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[REDACTED] received information that members of the Detroit Purple Gang were operating a night club between Tulsa and Claremore, Okla. Photographs and fingerprints of Anthony Thomas and Philip Browne were obtained from the Detroit office, and the photograph of Philip Browne under the alias of Harry Miller was tentatively identified as being one of the persons in the vicinity of Tulsa. Browne and Thomas wanted for murder by Detroit Police Department.

DETAILS:

At Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, **(b)(7)(C)(D)**

[REDACTED] contacted the Oklahoma City office, and stated that he had information to the effect that two members of the Detroit Purple Gang are presently in Claremore, Oklahoma. He requested that information be obtained as to whether any of the outstanding members of this gang might be presently wanted. A letter was directed to the Detroit office on October 23, 1935 requesting information concerning members of the Detroit Purple Gang, and a letter was received from the Detroit office under date of October 25, 1935 stating that there were presently no outstanding members of the original Purple Gang who were wanted for any offenses within the knowledge of the Detroit Police Department. Photographs and photostatic copies of fingerprints of Anthony Thomas, [REDACTED] and Philip Browne, [REDACTED] were transmitted to the Oklahoma City office. It was

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

[Signature]
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

- 1 - Bureau
- 1 - Detroit
- 1 - Oklahoma City

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

MS

62-29632-8

DEC 2 AM

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
ROUTED TO: FILE

RECORDED AND INDEXED

DEC 8 1935

CHECKED OFF: DEC 7 1935

INITIALED:

stated in this letter that these individuals are not regarded as members of the original Purple Gang, but that they were associated with members of that gang, and are presently wanted by the Detroit Police Department in connection with the murder of Frank Olsen on September 25, 1935 at Detroit in an attempted holdup.

(b)(7)(C)(D)

Copies of these photographs were furnished to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Information was received that [REDACTED] had obtained information concerning the parties and that the photograph of Philip Browne alias John Stone alias Harry Miller alias Percy Brown alias Phillip Brown had been tentatively identified as that of a person who had been in the vicinity of Tulsa and Claremore, Oklahoma recently.

(b)(7)(C)(D)

At Tulsa, Oklahoma,

Agent contacted [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] several weeks ago five men from Detroit who were rumored to be members of the Purple Gang had come to Tulsa, where they stopped at the Mayo Hotel. These men leased the Willow Night Club, located on the main highway between Tulsa and Claremore, and just outside of Tulsa County within the boundaries of Rogers County.

(b)(7)(C)(D)

[REDACTED] stated that he had not been able to secure data as to the registrations of these individuals at the Mayo Hotel, and had not been able to identify them by name or otherwise. He stated that the Willow Night Club and the Sheridan Night Club are operated as dancing and gambling houses, and that complete gambling equipment had been installed at the Willow Night Club; that these men were supposed to have obtained a lease with some silent partner, who was a resident of Tulsa or Claremore, and whose identity is unknown; that they did not share with this partner the profits taken in the operation of the Willow Night Club, and that after operating for about two or three weeks the partner attempted foreclosure proceedings, or at least to close up the club, in order to force a settlement; that a Deputy Sheriff from Claremore went out to the club to close it, whereupon he was taken into custody by the members of this gang, who kept him confined at the club until they loaded all the gambling equipment into trucks, and took it to some unknown destination. The club was then closed, the Deputy Sheriff released, and these men are supposed to have gone back to Detroit, this being about November 1st.

(b)(7)(C)(D)

[REDACTED] was advised as to the charges of murder pending in Detroit against Thomas and Browne, and the desire of the Detroit Police Department to cause their apprehension. He stated that he believed he might be able to ascertain the present whereabouts of the men who operated the Willow Night Club as he had heard they had gone back to Detroit, and that [REDACTED] might be able to ascertain something definite as to their present whereabouts. [REDACTED] stated that there was a rumor that two of these men had again come to Tulsa for the purpose of reopening the Willow Night Club, but that he had not been able to verify this information. (b)(7)(C)(D)

Since it appears that no Federal violation is involved, and that the purpose of this inquiry was for identification purposes only, this matter is considered closed by the Oklahoma City office.

Copies of this report are being furnished to the Detroit office.

[REDACTED]

(b)(7)(D)

C L O S E D

Post Office Box 2118
Detroit, Michigan
December 2, 1935

Special Agent in Charge
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS
(Alleged Members Purple
Gang, Detroit, Michigan)
Identification (Fingerprints)

(b)(7)(c)

Reference is made to report of Special Agent [redacted]
[redacted] Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, dated 11/27/35. Please be advised that
the information contained in reference report [redacted]

[redacted] that recently in the city of Detroit there had been another murder dur-
ing the commission of a holdup, which crime resulted in the arrest of
Anthony Thomas, [redacted] that Jack Budd had also been arrested
and has been charged with homicide. [redacted] further stated
that in September 1935 there had been a holdup and murder at 647 Wood-
bridge Street, Detroit, Michigan; that Anthony Thomas had been identified
as being implicated in that murder; also that it is believed Philip Browne,
[redacted] was the man who drove the car in this holdup and
murder. In reference to the other murder, which happened approximately
two weeks ago, [redacted] stated that inasmuch as Anthony Thomas
and Philip Browne alias Harry Miller have been associated in various
crimes in the city of Detroit, it is quite possible Browne returned to
Detroit and was also involved in the second murder, as the driver of
that car has not been identified to date.

(b)(7)(c)(D)

[Large redacted block]

RECORDED

Very truly yours,
INDEXED

DEC 5 1935

W. S. West

Special Agent in Charge

62-29632-9

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DEC 2 1935 A.M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

10-1032
3-10-35

4/17/36

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

FILE NO. 32-60

REPORT MADE AT Oklahoma City, Okla.	DATE WHEN MADE 1/10/36	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/19, 20, 30/35	REPORT MADE BY (b)(7)(C) [REDACTED]
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS (Alleged Members Purple Gang, Detroit, Michigan)			CHARACTER OF CASE Identification (Fingerprints)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

All gambling establishments in Tulsa County, Okla. have been closed due to a Grand Jury investigation in connection with the death of two men occurring at the Sheridan Club in the early part of December, 1935. Officers of the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation state that there has been no indication that the persons wanted for murder at Detroit have been in the vicinity of Tulsa.

C

REFERENCE: Letter from Detroit office dated December 2, 1936.

DETAILS: At Tulsa, Oklahoma.

For the general information of the Bureau and the Detroit office, gambling activities in Tulsa County, Oklahoma were suspended in the early part of December, 1935, and all habitués not being arrested have departed for parts unknown. These activities were suspended due to a Grand Jury investigation in connection with the murder of George Stewart, former police officer at Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Lewis Pappan, special employee of the United States Internal Revenue Bureau, occurring at the Sheridan Club. Three employees of this club have been indicted by the Grand Jury for these murders, and the Grand Jury has ordered the closing of the Sheridan Club and all similar establishments.

Agent has had frequent contacts with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Wright Brantley</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2 - Bureau 2 - Detroit 2 - Oklahoma City MS	62-29632-10	JAN 18 1936
	JAN 17 1936 OKLA. CITY P.M. [STAMP]	

COPIES DESTROYED
JAN 27 1964

the information which he had obtained previously relative to the possible presence in Tulsa of Anthony Thomas and Phillip Browne was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] that the Willow had never reppened since the information was furnished which was contained in the report of this agent of November 27, 1935. [REDACTED] were actively engaged in the general investigation growing out of the murder of Stewart and Pappan relative to gambling activities, and they have contacted many many confidential informants and others connected with the underworld and particularly gambling activities in Tulsa County. They stated that they had exhibited the photograph of Brown alias Harry Miller to many of these informants, but had not been able to secure any information indicating that Browne was in the vicinity of Tulsa. [REDACTED] still retains the photographs, and stated that if Browne should make his appearance in Tulsa, he would cause his apprehension, and communicate with the Police Department at Detroit. (b)(7)(c)

It appears that there is no further investigation that can be conducted by the Bureau in connection with this matter.

C L O S E D

Detroit Mich.

June 25, 1936.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Dept. of Justice
Washington, D.C.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
ENVELOPE ATTACHED

Dear Sir;

How can you expect us to run our business so that we can pay income taxes, if you allow this man Robert Fisher, reputed front man for the Purple Gang to violate the Federal laws by bringing in here several prints of the fight pictures and then holding us up for them.

Formerly the prints were made here which gave somebody some work at least but now they are so greedy that they bring them all in and when we offer to do the same they threaten us with violence.

How come that you protect them by letting them do this in violation of the law if we are not protected against them.

We think that this is an outrage and you should investigate this matter right now and not let these gangsters make thousands every year at this racket and pay no income tax, get away with it.

Can't we have some protection, please.

We are trusting you will not let anyone see this letter because we don't want no stink bombs put in our theatres or else the back blown up, or even worse.

Everybody here seems to know what is going on except your men who should be giving us protection and we don't dare to complain to them locally. One of these days there is going to be something serious happen and there will be a fine stink about it.

If they can bring in the prints why can't we? We can buy them alright but they won't stand for us bringing them in, so it is by your department that they have us where they want us.

Detroit Theatre Owners.

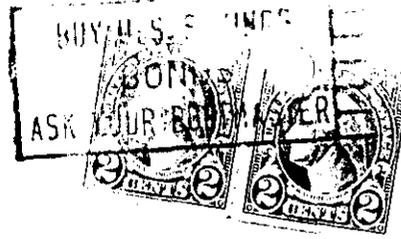
RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-296321-11

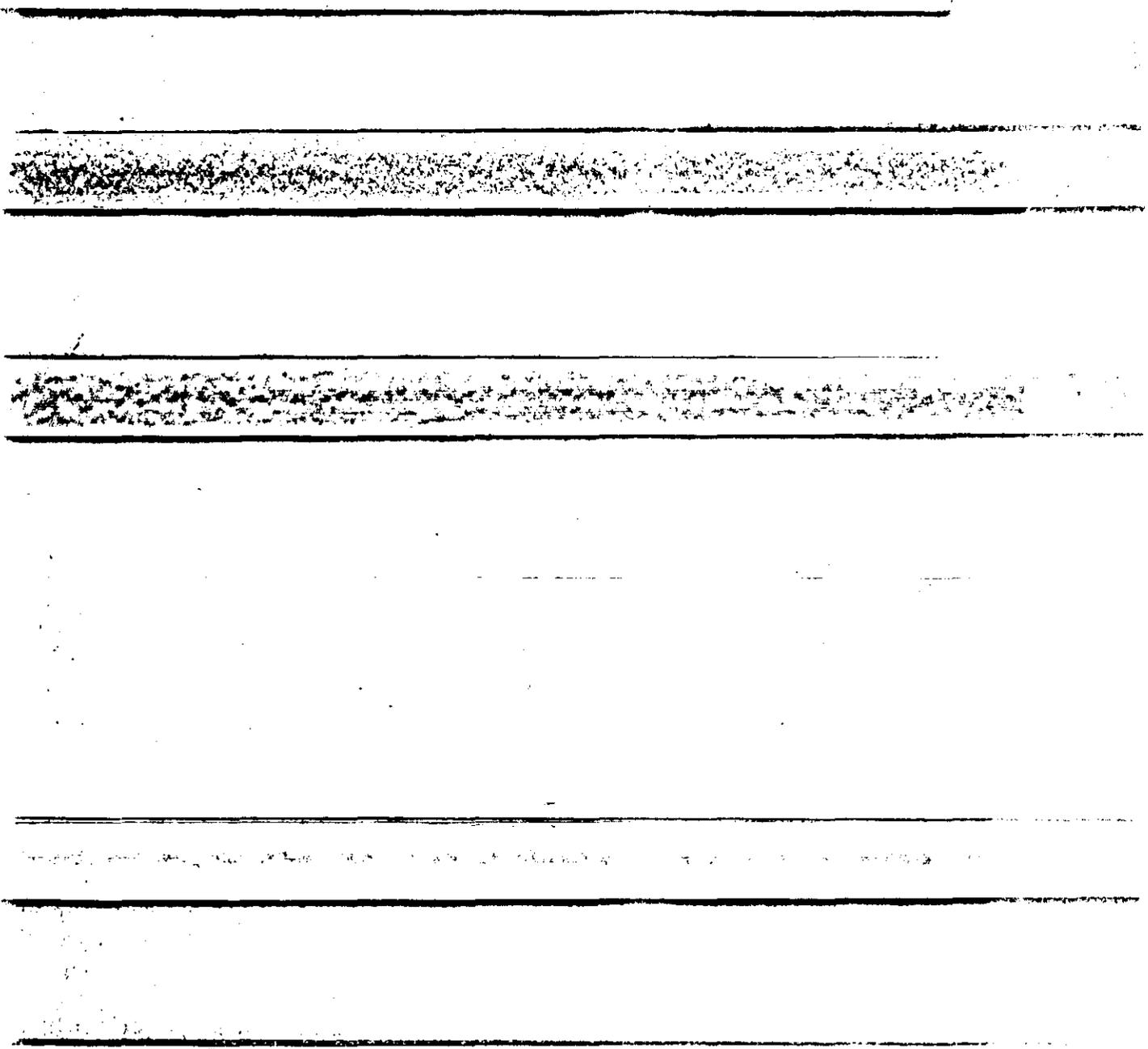
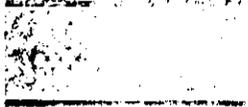
JUN 27 1936

JUN 27 1936

FILED



Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.



Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

610 Alonzo Ward Hotel Building
Aberdeen, South Dakota

July 25, 1936

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

(b)(7)(C)(D)

At the suggestion of [redacted]

[redacted] an Agent recently interviewed one [redacted]

[redacted] which interview was had in the presence of [redacted]

[redacted] name of Bill Silverthorn, alias Shoik Silvers and Bob Walker. That this Silverthorn was a member of the Purple Gang in Detroit, and was purposely arrested with a stolen automobile in his possession at Deadwood, S. Dak., in order that he might be given a prison sentence to keep the Purple Gang from putting him on the spot. Silverthorn was later paroled about December, 1935.

(b)(7)(C)(D)

That in 1932 or 1933 Silverthorn was the driver of getaway cars for the Purple Gang and that Kenneth Thompson and a man by the name of "Shaky" were members of the Purple Gang also, and are presently living at 202 1/4 Keating Ave., Detroit, Mich. That Silverthorn left Sioux Falls on a bus April 3, 1936, for his mother's home in Midway, Pa.

(b)(7)(C)(D)

[redacted] a negro named William Lee, a former inmate of the South Dakota Prison, is at present residing at 510 Stockton Street East, San Francisco, Calif. That Lee is also a member of the Purple Gang and is a fence for this gang, smuggling dope, guns, jewelry, bullet proof vests, steel helmets, etc., to and from China. That [redacted] Daytona Beach, Fla., is a cousin of Silverthorn and has a brother who is a chemist, who makes explosive pills that kill instantly upon being thrown on the floor.

San Francisco check

(b)(7)(C)

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-29632-12

That Silverthorn was formerly connected with a counterfeit ring at 602 Monroe Street, Minneapolis, Minn., and that the party formerly living there is at the present time incarcerated in Leavenworth Penitentiary, but there is supposed to be some counterfeit money buried in the basement of 602 Monroe Street.

To [redacted]

COPIES DESTROYED
348 AUG 27 1964

No. 2

Silverthorn came to South Dakota in a stolen Chevrolet coupe and abandoned the automobile at Beulah, Wyo., and he was returned to Deadwood, S. Dak., and sent to prison. According to this informant Silverthorn was supposed to be connected with a kidnaping in Detroit, where a 19 year old girl was kidnaped and transported to Canada, later being released on the payment of \$18,000 to Silverthorn and other members of the Purple Gang. That Silverthorn was apprehended and brought to trial on this kidnaping charge. However, that the Victim had fallen in love with him during the time that she was held, and would not identify him as the kidnapor, and accordingly Silverthorn was released.

That three days after Silverthorn married his present wife, named Bertha, his father-in-law was slain, and \$16,000 of insurance was paid to Bertha. That Silverthorn was questioned regarding the death of his father-in-law at Midway, Pa. However, having a perfect alibi, he was released.

That Art Aramson, 117 Forest Street, Lead, S. Dak., [REDACTED] to be a member of the Purple Gang also, and is at the present time at Midway, Pa., visiting Silverthorn.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Silverthorn has a machine gun buried under the home of his mother-in-law at Midway, Pa., and that he is supposed to be an expert shot. That Silverthorn is practicing shooting every day, and is supposed to be a killer of the worst type.

(b)(7)(C)(D)

[REDACTED] is very much interested in learning the present whereabouts of Silverthorn, as he is suspected of having murdered one Joe Kluthe on March 27, 1936, at Sioux Falls, S. Dak. That a bullet removed from the murdered man's head had been forwarded by the Sioux Falls Police Department to the Technical Laboratory in Washington, and that, it being known that Silverthorn had a .32 automatic, if the fatal

Handwritten: Silverthorn

Handwritten: very much

No. 3

bullet is found to be from a gun of such calibre, murder charges will be brought against Silverthorn by the Sioux Falls Police Department.

Photographs of Silverthorn and of William Lee are being enclosed with this letter to the Director. The numbers on the photographs are South Dakota Penitentiary numbers.

This information is conveyed to the Bureau for whatever action it deems advisable.

Very truly yours,



WERNER HANNI
Special Agent in Charge

WH:B
Encl. (2)

85635-001

Jim Silverthorn - 1934
 Age - 20
 Height - 5' 4 3/4"
 Weight - 130 lbs.
 Eyes - Grey
 Hair - Dk. Chestnut
 Complexion - Dark
 Build - Medium
 Tattoo woman right arm
 upper serpent collar on
 dagger, word John, Bill &
 Art, right forearm outer.
 Flying Dragon rt. hand
 outer. Ladies head &
 serpent right wrist outer
 strata left rt. forearm
 inner left hand left arm
 upper. Cow girl - 1941
 head in star like nose,
 word panama, 1920 left
 forearm inner.
 Kemple on chest.

William Lee 1934
 Height - 5'8 3/4"
 Age - 39
 Weight - 137 lbs.
 Eyes - Maroon
 Hair - Black
 Complexion - Black
 Build - Medium
 Irreg scar upper lip center
 2 Birth marks on nose
 1 " " under rt eye



RECORDED

EFE:RD
62-29632-12

August 10, 1936

[REDACTED] (b)(7)(c)
Chief,
Secret Service Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The Bureau is in receipt of information obtained from a confidential source to the effect that a counterfeiting ring was formerly operated at 602 Monroe Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

It is further indicated that although the activities of this ring have been greatly curtailed by reason of the fact that the party living at this address is, at the present time, incarcerated in the Leavenworth Penitentiary, there is supposed to be some counterfeit money buried in the basement at this address.

Although the Bureau is unable to vouch for the authenticity of this statement, same is being furnished you for your information and any attention you may deem appropriate.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

e

MA 29632 6/11

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten mark]

RECORDED

EFE:RD
62-29632-12

August 10, 1936

62-29632

Special Agent in Charge,
Jacksonville, Florida.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
(Alleged Members Purple Gang,
Detroit, Michigan)
Identification - (Fingerprints)

Dear Sir:

The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from the Aberdeen Office dated July 25, 1936 which sets forth the results of an interview had with [REDACTED]

(b)(7)(C)(D)

During the course of this interview [REDACTED] that a [REDACTED] one Bill Silverthorn, an alleged member of the Purple Gang in Detroit, resides at [REDACTED] Florida and has a brother who is a chemist engaged in making explosive pills which will cause instantaneous death upon being thrown on the floor. (b)(7)(C)(D)

In view of this statement the Bureau desires that an appropriate check be made at 335 South Atlanta Avenue for the purpose of determining the identity of Naomi Metzall, as well as the veracity of these statements.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten mark]

RECORDED
EFE:RD
62-29632-12

August 10, 1936

62-29632

Special Agent in Charge,
San Francisco, California.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
(Alleged Members Purple Gang,
Detroit, Michigan)
Identification - (Fingerprints)

Dear Sir:

The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from the Aberdeen Office dated July 25, 1936 which sets forth the results of an interview had with one [REDACTED]

During the course of this interview [REDACTED] (b)(7)(C)(D) information to the effect that a former inmate of the South Dakota Prison, one William Lee, is at the present time residing at 510 Stockton Street East, San Francisco, California. He further indicated that Lee is allegedly a member of and a fence for the Purple Gang and is engaged in smuggling dope, guns, jewelry, bullet-proof vests, and steel helmets to and from China.

In view of this statement the Bureau desires that an appropriate check be made by your office at 510 Stockton Street East, for the purpose of determining the veracity of [REDACTED] statements. (b)(7)(C)(D)

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

c

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

EFE:RD
62-29632-12

August 10, 1936

RECORDED 62-29632 - 12

Special Agent in Charge,
Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
(Alleged Members Purple Gang,
Detroit, Michigan)
Identification - (Fingerprints)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of July 25, 1936 setting forth the information obtained as a result of an interview had with [REDACTED]

It is noted in the last paragraph on page 2 of this letter that Officer [REDACTED] of the Sioux Falls, South Dakota Police Department has indicated that Bill Silverthorn, with aliases, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is being sought by the Sioux Falls Police Department as a possible suspect for the murder of one Joe Kluthe. It is further indicated therein that the bullet removed from the murdered man's head was forwarded by the Sioux Falls Police Department to the Technical Laboratory of this Bureau to determine whether same was a .32 caliber automatic bullet. You are advised that a check made in the Technical Laboratory fails to reflect any record of this bullet ever being received there for examination. The Bureau therefore desires that Officer [REDACTED] be re-contacted in regard to this matter.

It is further desired that your office make an appropriate effort to ascertain whether any process may be outstanding for the arrest of Silverthorn in connection with the murder of Joe Kluthe, with a view to instituting an appropriate investigation under the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution Statute.

This matter should be given your prompt attention.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
Post Office Box 4907,
Jacksonville, Florida,
September 18, 1936.

Des (8)

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

4

Dear Sir: RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
(Alleged Members Purple Gang,
Detroit, Michigan.)
Identification - (Fingerprints)

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 10, 1936,
(62-29632).

Please be advised that Special Agent (A) [redacted] inter-
viewed [redacted] at her home located at [redacted]
Florida. [redacted] stated that she had
lived in Florida for a number of years, although she would not
state where she had resided previous to that time. She stated
[redacted] Bill Silverthorn, but did not know his
present whereabouts; that she resides at the home of her father,
[redacted] whose occupation she gave as being a printer; that
she had only one brother and one sister who Agent [redacted] observed and
estimated their ages to be approximately five and six years, respective-
ly. *(b)(7)(C)*

[redacted] further stated that she had no immediate relatives
who had any knowledge of chemistry whatsoever and that the only other
occupants of [redacted] were her uncle, [redacted]
and her mother, [redacted]

An examination of the 1934 Daytona Beach City Directory
reflected that the occupants of [redacted] were

[redacted] occupation, printer; and [redacted]

(b)(7)(C)

[redacted] Daytona Beach Police Department, checked
his records and advised Agent [redacted] that he had no information con-
cerning either of the aforementioned parties.

RECORDED & INDEXED
Very truly yours,

R. B. Nathan

R. B. Nathan
Special Agent in Charge.

62-29632-14

TWB:EEJ

SEP 26 1936

[Handwritten signature/initials]

610 Alonzo Ward Hotel Building
Aberdeen, South Dakota

October 7, 1936

Special Agent in Charge
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS,
(Alleged Members Purple Gang,
Detroit, Michigan)
Identification - (Fingerprints)

During July 1936 Officer [redacted] of the Sioux Falls, South Dakota Police Department, furnished information that a bullet removed from the head of Joe [redacted], believed a murder victim, had been forwarded to the Technical Laboratory of the Bureau for examination to determine whether it was a .32 caliber automatic bullet. By letter dated August 10, 1936 the Bureau advised the Aberdeen office that the bullet had not been received at the Laboratory. Subsequent investigation at Sioux Falls failed to locate the bullet and Officer [redacted] advised that he believed that the bullet had been forwarded by [redacted] (formerly a member of the police department and now residing at 1100 S. Avenue, Lawton, Oklahoma.) (b)(7)(C)

It is requested that [redacted] be interviewed to ascertain whether he forwarded the bullet to the Technical Laboratory of the Bureau and, if not, whether he knows where it is located.

Very truly yours,

WARREN HANF
Special Agent in Charge

WHR:G
CC: Bureau

RECORDED

62-29632-15

OCT 19 1936

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

610 Alonzo Ward Hotel Building
Aberdeen, South Dakota

WSD(1)

October 7, 1936

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
(Alleged Members Purple Gang,
Detroit, Michigan)
Identification - (Fingerprints)
Bureau file 62-29632-

H
a
P
7

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 10, 1936

Special Agent [redacted] interviewed Officer [redacted] of the Sioux Falls, South Dakota Police Department and was advised by Officer [redacted] that he did not forward the bullet himself but was of the opinion that the bullet had been forwarded to the Bureau by [redacted] formerly an officer of the Sioux Falls Police Department. After interviewing [redacted] Agent [redacted] interviewed [redacted] County Prosecuting Attorney, and Deputy Sheriff [redacted] of Sioux Falls, South Dakota and neither could furnish information as to the location of the bullet. Each searched their files and each inquired of the coroner without results. (b)(7)(C)

Officer [redacted] further advised Agent [redacted] that no process had been issued for the arrest of Bill Silverthorn and that he now doubts that the information furnished by [redacted] was of value as [redacted] had recently furnished information to the Police which, upon being checked, had been found to be false and merely a mental whim of [redacted]. (b)(7)(C)(D)

[redacted] is now located at [redacted] Oklahoma, and a letter is being addressed to the Oklahoma City office requesting that office to interview [redacted] ascertaining whether he forwarded the bullet to the Bureau or knows its location.

Very truly yours,

Werner Hanni
WERNER HANNI
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-29632-16

WHH:G

CT 201335

[Handwritten initials]

LER:MM
32-60

P. O. Box 1876,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,
October 22, 1936

Special Agent in Charge,
Aberdeen, South Dakota

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS
(Alleged Members Purple Gang,
Detroit, Michigan)
Identification - (Fingerprints)

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter of October 7, 1936 in
this matter, there is transmitted herewith a letter dated October
22, 1936, sent to me by Mr. [redacted] concerning the .32 caliber
bullet of interest in the Joseph [redacted] case. (b)(7)(c)

Very truly yours,

DWIGHT BRANTLEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

Encl.

✓ CC Bureau ✓

10/22/36
RECORDED
INDEXED

62-29632-17
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 23 1936
W. J. [redacted]
(in)

C
O
P
Y

Lawton, Oklahoma
Oct. 22, 1936.

32-60
Mr. Dwight Brantley,
P. O. Box 1276,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sir:

With reference to basic communications regarding the bullet, which was removed from the head of Joe Kluthe, will state that this bullet was sent to the Ballistic Department of the Technical Laboratory, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C. about two or three days after I had received it from Deputy Sheriff Len Hough last spring.

The box, which was small, in which this bullet was forwarded also contained two test bullets fired from a .32 caliber revolver, that had been found in the ditch along an outlying street the next day after the finding of Kluthe in the river. These bullets were properly labeled for information at Washington, D.C.

In connection, the bullet removed from Kluthe's head was apparently identical to a number of cartridges found in the overcoat pocket that Kluthe was wearing at the time of his removal from the river. These were missing from the box. Those found in the overcoat pocket however were so water-soaked it was impossible to obtain a test bullet from the revolver mentioned above and similar cartridges were used to obtain the test bullets sent forward.

I was transferred from the identification office shortly thereafter and although I mentioned it several times there at the department no one seemed to know whether or not a reply had been received from Washington.

Any further information you need that I can supply kindly write me Box 21, Fort Sill, Okla.

Very truly yours,

(S) [Redacted] (b)(7)(c)
Lt. P.M.S.

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848 AUG 27 1964

62-29632-17

EPC:EAM:ERM

62-29632-17

November 18, 1936.

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
(Alleged Members Purple
Gang, Detroit, Michigan)
Identification - (Fingerprints)

Dear Sir:

With reference to the letter of October 30, 1936,
concerning the evidence and test bullets reported to have
been forwarded to the Bureau for examination in its
Technical Laboratory by [REDACTED] a former member of
the Sioux Falls Police Department, and presently residing
at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, you are advised that additional
search has been made of the Bureau's records upon the basis
of the information furnished in your letter, but it would
not appear that this evidence was ever received in the
Bureau. (b)(7)(C)

It is desired that this information be furnished
to the Sioux Falls, South Dakota Police Department.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

CC - Oklahoma City.

NOV 19 1936

RECORDED
INDEXED

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

INC:ON
62-29632

November 13, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NATHAN *bn*

Re: Unknown Subjects;
(Alleged Members Purple Gang,
Detroit, Michigan)
Identification - (Fingerprints)
Bureau file #62-29632.

Reference is made to the attached letter from the Aberdeen Bureau Office relative to a questioned bullet removed from the head of one Joe Kluthe, which is reported to have been sent to the Technical Laboratory of this Bureau by [redacted] of the Sioux Falls, South Dakota Police Department some time last spring. *(b)(7)(C)*

Although a check had previously been made in the laboratory last August for such a questioned bullet with negative results, upon receipt of the instant letter I had [redacted] of the laboratory conduct a second search in an effort to make sure that we were not overlooking the questioned specimen. [redacted] again reports that this bullet is not in the Technical Laboratory ammunition files. Moreover, a search of both the laboratory and investigative files on the above-entitled matter fails to reveal any correspondence whatever from [redacted] submitting such evidence to the Bureau, the Files Section having advised that they have searched under every possible reference available. Accordingly, it would appear that the questioned bullet referred to has never been received by this Bureau. *(b)(7)(C)*

Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey
E. P. Coffey.

RECORDED

62-29632-18

RECEIVED
ENCLOSURE
in file
Nov 17 1936

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
610 Alonzo Ward Hotel Building,
Aberdeen, South Dakota.

October 30, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
(Alleged Members Purple Gang,
Detroit, Michigan)
Identification - (Fingerprints)
Bureau file #62-29632.

Reference is made to a letter from the Aberdeen Bureau Office dated October 7, 1936.

On October 25, 1936, the Aberdeen Bureau Office received from the Oklahoma City Bureau Office a letter signed by [redacted] of Fort Sill, Oklahoma, who was formerly a member of the Sioux Falls, South Dakota Police Department. In this letter [redacted] advises that the bullet which was removed from the head of Joe Kluthe was forwarded to the (Ballistic Department of the Technical Laboratory, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C.) last spring, exact date not furnished.

That the bullet was forwarded in a small box, and that this box also contained two test bullets which had been fired from a .32 caliber revolver, found on an outlying street, the day after Kluthe's body was found in the river.

The letter further advises that the bullet removed from Kluthe's head was apparently identical with a number of cartridges found in Kluthe's overcoat pocket, and that five of these cartridges were missing from the box of bullets in the pocket. Further that the bullets found in the pocket were so water soaked that it had been impossible to make a comparison test of the revolver which was previously mentioned.

If further information is desired relative to the bullets forwarded to the Bureau, [redacted] has furnished his address as Box 21, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

Very truly yours,

Werner Hanni
WERNER HANNI,
Special Agent in Charge.

WHH:HEW.

Trans for [unclear] 10/30/36

62-29632-18

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

No further investigation is being conducted by the San Francisco Bureau Office, unless specific request is received from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,



W. L. LISTERMAN,
Special Agent in Charge.

FCD:IST
Refer file
#62-1456.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
1105 Mills Tower
220 Bush Street
San Francisco, California
November 9, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir: Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS
(Alleged Members Purple Gang,
Detroit, Michigan).
Identification - (Fingerprints).

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated

August 10, 1936 (62-29632).

[redacted] who had been interviewed by the Aberdeen Bureau Office, and had furnished information to the effect that one William Lee, allegedly a member of, and a "fence" for the Purple Gang, engaged in smuggling dope, guns, jewelry, bullet-proof vests, and steel helmets, to and from China, was allegedly living at 510 Stockton Street East, San Francisco, California.

This will advise that there is a Stockton Street in San Francisco, which street runs in a North and South Direction, and there is no street designated as Stockton Street East. Investigation at 510 Stockton Street by Special Agent [redacted] of this office, revealed that same is a rather respectable apartment house. [redacted] who advised Agent [redacted] that she has been the manager for over a period of two years, stated that she can recall no one by the name of William Lee having resided at that place during that period.

At the San Francisco Police Department it was determined that that Department has a record of more than twenty William Lees, and it was impossible, on the information furnished the San Francisco Bureau Office, to determine any further information regarding this particular individual.

62-29632-19

COPIES DESTROYED
848 AUG 27 1964

[Handwritten signature]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: April 15, 1948

FROM : SAC, Miami

Attention: Identification Division
Single Fingerprint SectionSUBJECT: DETROIT PURPLE GANG
NATIONAL STOLEN PROPERTY ACT

According to information received by the Miami Office, the following individuals are presently members of the notorious DETROIT PURPLE GANG:

HARRY FLEISCHER, wa. 257293
Harry Fleisher, Harry Flaish,
Harry Flaish, Harry Fleish,
Henry Fink;
Michigan State Police No. 155743
Detroit PD No. 16151

SAM FLEISHER, wa. 941717
Sam Fleish;
Michigan State Police No. 117616

SAM ABRAMOWITZ, wa. 160527
Sam Abramowitz, Sam Alpert,
Sam Achever, Sam Abramowitz,
Louis Abrowitz, Louis Abramowitz;
Michigan State Police No. 35987
Detroit PD No. 32178

CHARLES LEITER, wa. 1137517
Charles Lieter;
Michigan State Police No. 98127
Detroit PD No. 32564

ISADORE SCHWARTZ; 1461125 &
Michigan State Police No. 1INDEXED
Detroit PD No. 21483

MORRIS RAIDER, wa. 342724
Maurice Raider;
Michigan State Police No. 69610
Detroit PD No. 10320

PETER APOSTOLAKOS, wa. 4362641
Peter Apostolopoulos, Peter Apostolakoos,
Pete Apostles, Pete Apostelopolos,
Peter Poulos, Peter Mahoney, Peter Brown;
Michigan State Police No. 261209
Detroit PD No. J-28135

RECORDED

162-29632
F B I
21 APR 20 1948

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348 AUG 27 1964

Director, FBI

April 15, 1948

~~MIKE~~ ~~SELIK~~, was. 514465
Mike Salik, Myron Sellik;
Michigan State Police No. 51576
Detroit PD No. 41572

~~DAVE~~ ~~MAZROFF~~, wa. 369778
Dave Miller;
Michigan State Police No. 73310
Detroit PD No. 40764

~~HYMIE~~ ~~ALTMAN~~, was. 387665
Harry Altman, Harry Stein;
Michigan State Police No. 75535
Detroit PD No. 6887

~~HARRY~~ ~~MELTZER~~, was. 2320000
Harry Melcher, Chuck Melcher;
Michigan State Police No. 250560
Detroit PD No. 73118

~~SIDNEY~~ ~~COOPER~~; 466551
Michigan State Police No. 91434
Detroit PD No. 43813

~~LEO~~ ~~BROWN~~, was. 774047
Henry Lukas, Henry Lukes,
Henry Luks, Leo Lukes;
Michigan State Police No. 102473
Detroit PD No. 45595

~~JOSEPH~~ ~~BOMMARITO~~, wa. 634041
Joe;
Michigan State Police No. 94896
Detroit PD No. 44123

~~ALFRED~~ ~~HURNER~~; 2219359
Michigan State Police No. 257369
Detroit PD No. 74458

HARRY FLEISCHER and MIKE SELIK are reported to have been in Hollywood, Florida, during the 1946-47 winter season. HARRY FLEISCHER is also reported to have been in Miami Beach with two associates during the present winter season. This information has not been verified as yet, and it is not known how many other members of this gang may have been in the

Director, FBI

April 15, 1948

Miami area in recent years. However, in view of their reputations as stick-up men and burglars, it is requested that their fingerprints be compared with the unidentified latent fingerprints in the various jewel theft cases.

CAH:mb
87-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Date recorded: 4-22-48 9:00

Single Fingerprint Report

Case: RE: DETROIT PURPLE GANG
NATIONAL STOLEN PROPERTY ACT

Number: 62-29632-200

Specimens: Compare fingerprints following named suspects with the
unidentified latents in the various jewel theft cases in the
Miami area:

no pp HARRY FLEISCHER, was., Michigan State Police #155743 *FBI 25*
Detroit PD #16151
no pp SAM FLEISHER, wa., Michigan State Police #117816 *FBI 9*
no pp SAM ABRAHAMOWITZ, was., Michigan State Police #38987 *FBI 16*
Detroit PD #32178
no pp CHARLES LEITER, wa., Michigan State Police #38127 *FBI 11*
Detroit PD #32564

See below

Examination requested by: SAC, Miami

Date received: 4-22-48 amb

Date of reference communication: 4-15-48

Examination requested: Fingerprint

Result of examination:

Examination by: [REDACTED]

Evidence Noted by:

no pp ALFRED KURNER, Michigan State Police #257869 / *35*
Detroit PD #74458
no pp ISADORE SCHWARTZ, Michigan State Police #11243 *186*
Detroit PD #21483
no pp MORRIS RAIDNER, wa., Michigan State Police #69610 *FBI 34*
Detroit PD #10320
no pp PETER APOSTOLAKOS, was., Michigan State Police #261209 *5*
Detroit PD #J-29135
no pp MIKE SELIK, was., Michigan State Police #81576 *555 510*
Detroit PD #41572
no pp DAVE MAZHOFF, wa., Michigan State Police #73310 *FBI 261*
Detroit PD #40764
no pp MYMIE ALTMAN, was., Michigan State Police #75535 *FBI 28*
Detroit PD #6837
no pp HARRY MCLESTER, was., Michigan State Police #250560 *2 3*
Detroit PD #73118
no pp SIDNEY COOPER, Michigan State Police #91484 *1*
Detroit PD #43813
cc: 87-5366 *no pp* LEO BAWN, was., Michigan State Police #102473 *FBI 12*
Detroit PD #45595
no pp JOSEPH BOMBARINO, was Michigan State Police #44896 *FBI 6*
Detroit PD #44123

SFP-27

1-915 (over) 4.23

April 28, 1948

SAC, Miami

Director, FBI

DETROIT PURPLE GANG
NATIONAL STOLEN PROPERTY ACT

Reurlet 15th instant.

Latent impressions previously submitted in the various
Miami jewel theft cases not identical fingerprints of following
listed individuals:

NAME	FBI NUMBER
Harry Fleischer, was.	259293
Sam Fleisher, wa.	941717
Sam Abramowitz, was.	160977
Charles Leiter, wa.	1197517
Isadore Schwartz	1461125
Morris Raider, wa.	342724
Peter Apostolakes, was.	436264
Mike Selik, was.	514445
Dave Kasroff, wa.	369778
Elysis Altman, was.	387668
Harry Keltner, was.	2370600
Sidney Cooper	466551
Leo Egan, was.	734047
Joseph Bumarito, wa.	634041
Alfred Kurnar	2219339

No palmar impressions on file for the above persons.

RECORDED - 45

CHH:CJO

62-29632 -20

EX - 22

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 12

★ APR 29 1948 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

MAY 24 1948

V.B.

RECEIVED