

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 29 1960

*cho*  
**TELETYPE**

<i>[initials]</i>	Mr. Tolson
<i>[initials]</i>	Mr. Mohr
<i>[initials]</i>	Mr. Parsons
<i>[initials]</i>	Mr. Belmont
<i>[initials]</i>	Mr. Callahan
<i>[initials]</i>	Mr. [unclear]
<i>[initials]</i>	Mr. Malone
<i>[initials]</i>	Mr. McGuire
<i>[initials]</i>	Mr. Rosen
<i>[initials]</i>	Mr. Tamm
<i>[initials]</i>	Mr. Trotter
<i>[initials]</i>	Mr. W.C. Sullivan
<i>[initials]</i>	Tele. Room
<i>[initials]</i>	Mr. Ingram
<i>[initials]</i>	Miss Gandy

~~URGENT~~ 2-29-60 5-24 PM EST AJG *[Signature]*

TO DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC CHICAGO

FROM SAC, SAVANNAH 1 P

MELVIN HORACE PURVIS, FORMER SPECIAL AGENT. INFORMATION RECEIVED THIS DIVISION THAT MELVIN HORACE PURVIS COMMITTED SUICIDE TODAY. WIFE WAS IN YARD AT TIME OF SUICIDE. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SUBMITTED.

END AND ACK PLS

WA 5-23 PM OK FBI WA MS

CG *[initials]* OK FBI CG MS

TU DISC

*O.S.*  
REC-146 67-7489-583  
9 MAR 2 1960  
MR. DELOACH  
MR. CALLAHAN  
cc - Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Callahan

# Man Who Hated Violence Bagged Big Gangsters.

By Ray Morgan.

(A Member of The Star's Staff.)

**M**ELVIN H. PURVIS, a soft-spoken Southern lawyer who tracked down such gangsters as John Dillinger and Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd and made G-man a new phrase in the American language, died Monday in his home at Florence, S. C. He was 56 years old.

Mention of Purvis recalls a colorful but unmourned era in America. It was the era of swaggering hoodlums who in the 1930s cowed local law enforcement officials with machine-gun bullets and bombs. Gangland wars raged unchecked, particularly in the Chicago area, until a small band of federal agents, with Purvis in the fore, set about tracking the gangsters down.

That story reached its climax on the electric night of July 22, 1934, when Purvis sprang the trap on John Dillinger outside the tiny Biograph theater in East Chicago, Ind. The roar of gunfire that dropped Dillinger to the steaming pavement rocketed Purvis and the more than 20 federal agents who were working under his direction into national prominence and made the federal police agency feared by underworld figures everywhere.

Three months later, almost to the hour, Purvis led the charge of officers that brought Floyd to a bloody death, gun in hand, beside a corner crib on a farm near East Liverpool, O. The showdown came on the afternoon of October 23, 1934.

In Roger Touhy Case.

Purvis was painstaking in his pursuit of the lawless. He was credited with rounding up most of the hoodlums who followed the late Roger (the Terrible) Touhy and with sending Touhy himself and his three lieutenants to prison for the kidnaping of John (the Barber) Factor.

He engineered the raid on a Chicago North Side barber-shop which resulted in the capture of Vern Sankey, then "public enemy No. 1," who later committed suicide rather than face trial for the abduction of Charles Boettcher II, Denver.

Three agents under Purvis lost their lives bringing the gun-happy hoodlums to justice. Samuel P. Cowley and Herman E. Hollis, federal agents, were killed in a gun battle in a

Purvis-led move against Lester M. (Baby Face Nelson) Gillis in suburban Chicago on November 27, 1934. Gillis, or Nelson as he was better known, also was killed.

Another agent, W. C. Baum, was shot to death when Purvis and other federal agents sought unsuccessfully to take members of the Dillinger gang into custody in a tavern known as Little Bohemia lodge near Rhinelander, Wis., on April 23, 1934.

Witness Against Richetti.

Purvis became known in Kansas City when he played a part in the conviction of Adam Richetti, gangster here, in connection with the Union Station massacre. Work by Purvis and other federal agents had linked Richetti, Floyd and another underworld figure here, Verne Miller, to the massacre June 17, 1933, when five persons were slain as the three

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Parsons
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Malone
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Trotter
- Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Ingram
- Miss Gandy

*Davidson*

*file*

*[Large handwritten signature]*

The Kansas City Times

Date: MAR 3 1960

Kansas City, Missouri

Editor: Roy A. Roberts  
Publisher

Kansas City Division

Title:

KC File #

134  
67-NOT RECORDED  
3 JAN 24 1962  
~~52 MAR 21 1960~~

sought to free another gangster, Frank Nash.

Purvis had helped to capture Richetti near Wellsville, O., October 21, 1934. Floyd had escaped then, only to be tracked down next day by Purvis and other federal agents, a short distance away at the farm home near East Liverpool.

Miller, whom Purvis described later as suffering from "a clear case of galloping insanity," had been killed by his underworld companions. With Miller and Floyd dead, only Richetti was left to stand trial.

On June 13, 1935, Purvis walked into the courthouse here to testify against Richetti. Always frugal with words, Purvis got little chance to testify between long objections made by defense attorneys. He traced the capture of Richetti.

Perhaps the longest speech

Purvis made during his appearance on the witness stand was this laconic, almost classic description of the shooting of Floyd:

"I observed underneath the corn crib, elevated about one and one-half feet on stilts, the feet of a man leaving the car. I observed this man started to run. I recognized him as Charles Arthur (Pretty Boy) Floyd. I and others commanded him to halt. He continued to run a zig-zag course. He was shot."

#### Richetti to Gas Chamber.

Richetti was convicted of participating in the Union Station massacre and was executed in the gas chamber at the Missouri penitentiary in Jefferson City October 7, 1938.

On July 12, 1935, Purvis resigned from the FBI. There was some indication that J. Edgar Hoover, the chief of the federal agency, was unhappy with the individual publicity Purvis had been getting for his relentless activities. This was denied.

However, a New York Times story date-lined Chicago, reporting the resignation of Purvis, said:

"The head of the bureau here . . . denied rumors that he had 'differences' with his chief, J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was pointed out, however, that the publicity phrase 'J. Edgar Hoover announces' has been in use in every city except Chicago."

#### Preferred Obscurity.

Purvis certainly was no publicity seeker himself while he was an agent. He would have preferred it if he could have remained completely out of the stories of the day but his activities made that difficult. He was described by newsmen as "a clam personified" and his favorite reply to questions was, "Sorry, Colonel, I have no comment to make."

It may have been that Purvis had a deeper and more upsetting irritation, at least to him, with Hoover. Purvis said publicly that he had promised Mrs. Anna Sage, the "woman in red" who put the finger on Dillinger that hot July night, some help from the government in fighting deportation. The government refused to do anything for her and she was deported.

Who was this Purvis who grabbed the imagination of the American public when it was seeking for a challenger to the gun-slinging hoodlums? He was born on a tobacco farm near Timmonsville, S. C., and his father wanted him to be a tobacco farmer like himself. The son had his eyes on bigger things. He was graduated with a law degree from the University of South Carolina.

He spent 20 months practicing law as "a very junior partner" in a law firm in Florence, S. C. On New Year's day, 1927, he boarded a train for Washington, D. C., ostensibly to seek a diplomatic post. There were no openings in diplomatic posts, but he was told they were looking for bright, young lawyers as special agents in the Justice department.

Purvis was a small man, built like a jockey, being about 5 feet 4 inches tall and weigh-

ing 127 pounds. He spoke with a good-humored Southern drawl.

After he quit the FBI he served as a consultant on motion pictures, radio programs and, later, television programs. He acquired a radio station and a newspaper in Florence.

#### Preferred Quieter Role.

But his fame rested on the eight years he was a bloodhound on the trail of the biggest crooks of the day. He never relished that role. In a book he published in 1936, "American Agent," he wrote:

"I am not a gunfighter. I am not a wily sleuth. To tell the truth I was thoroughly frightened every time it fell to my lot to carry a gun on a foray of any kind.

"There were men who served with me who never knew the emotion of fear. They belonged to the glory company of history, those joyous daredevils who from time immemorial have been waiting for a commander to order a charge on the gateways of hell.

"I admire them but my nervous system is not built that way. I never led a raid without apprehension, and only the knowledge that there was a job to do kept me functioning . . ."

He went after some of the biggest criminals of them all after World War II when he was assigned to investigate German and Japanese war criminals, after serving in the Army as a colonel. Recently, he had done some investigative work for the Senate judiciary committee. He shot himself Monday, following a period of depression and ill health.

In one of his last public appearances, a speech before the National Crime Commission association in Wichita three years ago, he said:

"I long have maintained, and I shall continue to assert, there are two professions from which we respect the law, yet to which we give the best. These are the professions of the policeman and the doctor."



Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd.



Adam Richetti.



Melvin Purvis (above) and three of the gangsters he helped to send to death. John Dillinger, at the right in the bottom picture, was so insolently sure of himself that he posed chumily with the county prosecutor, Robert Estill (left), while in jail at Crown Point, Ind., awaiting trial for murder. He escaped a few weeks later, intimidating the guard with a wooden pistol.



# DILLINGER KILLER

# Famed G-Man Slays Himself

From Observer Wire Reports

FLORENCE, S. C. — Mild-mannered Melvin Purvis, whose FBI teams shot down John Dillinger and Baby Face Floyd in bloody gangster cleanups of the 1930s, died by his own hand Monday.

Purvis, 56, an attorney and radio station executive, shot himself with a .45-caliber Colt automatic pistol. His wife found his body.

Coroner William Eaddy ruled the death a suicide and said no inquest would be held. Purvis was ill, despondent and depressed, a spokesman said. Survivors include his wife and three sons.

Purvis was agent in charge of the FBI squad which tracked down and killed the infamous Dillinger in front of the old telegraph movie house in Chicago the night of July 22, 1934.

Dillinger, the nation's Public Enemy No. 1, died in a hail of FBI bullets. The G-men, under Purvis' direction, opened fire as Dillinger tried to draw his



MELVIN PURVIS

Purvis had directed the search for the desperado since Dillinger's daring escape from the Crown Point, Ind., jail on March

tip that led the G-men to Dillinger came from a woman friend who became known as "the Lady in Red" who accompanied the disguised Dillinger and a girl friend to the theater.

It was never disclosed who actually killed Dillinger, but the man that went with "getting Dillinger dead or alive" went to Purvis, a slightly-built 127-pound five-foot seven inch South Carolinian who was FBI agent-in-charge in Chicago during the heyday of gangsterism that Dillinger typified.

"Purvis was personally on the job that night," said Allen Leckerman, Atlanta, Ga., attorney who was in Purvis' squad of G-men. "About six of us surrounded Dillinger when he came out of the theater."

Purvis said years later that he was "scared as hell" when Dillinger appeared.

It was the Dillinger shooting that brought Purvis national headlines. Dillinger, called "the most brazen outlaw since Jesse James," had been sought across the country. He was blamed for at least 13 murders and bank robberies netting \$600,000, and had his face altered by plastic surgery.

"It was a good job the surgeon did on his face," Purvis said, "but I knew him the minute I saw him."

Purvis was the leader of another spectacular close-in Oct. 22, 1934 when he led three other FBI agents and four local police

See NOTED, Page 2A, Col. 3

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Carson	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Hendon	✓
Mr. Jones	✓
Mr. Quinn	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Mr. Gurnea	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Ingram	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

*file  
see*

CHARLOTTE OBSERVE  
Charlotte, N. C.  
3-1-60

RE: MELVIN PURVIS  
FORMER EMPLOYEE

42

*SEARCHED*

## Noted G-Man Kills Himself In Florence

Continued From Page 1A

officers on a raid on a farm near East Liverpool, Ohio, after receiving a tip that Pretty Boy Floyd was in hiding there.

Close-for-all shooting set around a haystack and Purvis was one of those who put a bullet into Floyd, ending his life.

Coroner William T. said a self-inflicted shot to the jaw brought death to Purvis at 11 a. m. in the upstairs hallway of his home. His wife, Mrs. Rosanne Purvis, ran from the garden when a shot rang out and discovered the body.

Purvis' offices at the Florence studios of station WOLS were crowded with mementoes of his FBI career, which began in 1927. Framed pictures of Hoover and crime-busting associates dotted the walls beside rifles and firearms.

In recent years, the slight, graying Purvis divided his time between business and the law. His office said he had been in Washington three weeks ago to help prepare recommendations for the improvement of federal justice administration for the U. S. Senate Judiciary Committee.

While in Washington he came down with the flu and suffered an arm injury, a family physician said.

Born at Timmonsville, S. C., Purvis was a 1925 graduate of the University of South Carolina Law School. After leaving the FBI he went into law practice in Washington, D. C. and later published an afternoon newspaper here for a time. He served in Africa, France and Germany in World War II and rose to the rank of full colonel.

He owned radio station WOLS in Florence.

He was an unsuccessful candidate for solicitor (prosecutor) of the 15th Judicial Circuit in 1948.

Purvis' application to the FBI for employment as an agent was almost turned down until J. Edgar Hoover's eye caught a notation on his recommendation from the University of South Carolina Law School which cited Purvis as having an unwavering devotion to duty.

- Tolson
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Belmont
- Callahan
- Malone
- McGuire
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Trotter
- W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Ingram
- Gandy

File

# The Man Who Got John Dillinger

Melvin H. Purvis, youthful chief of the Chicago office of the U. S. Dept. of Justice, today told the thrilling story of how he got John Dillinger.

—The Post, July 23, 1934

Melvin H. Purvis, leader of the agents of the Dept. of Justice who brought to an end John Dillinger's career, was the fifth of a family of eight and was born and reared in the small town of Timmonsville, S. C. His boyhood associates recall him as a rather quiet youth, of even temper, pleasant and affable, ready to do his share in any boyhood undertaking.

—The New York Times, July 24, 1934

Melvin H. Purvis, youthful attorney who turned sleuth, marked another notch on his gun today—the death of Pretty Boy Floyd. It was his men who relentlessly trailed the Southwestern gunman to his death just as they shot down John Dillinger in Chicago.

—The Associated Press, Oct. 23, 1934

Melvin H. Purvis, the head of the Chicago Bureau of Investigation of the Dept. of Justice who led the hunt that ended in the shooting of John Dillinger, announced his resignation today.

—The New York Times, July 12, 1935

A suggestion that dissension between Director J. Edgar Hoover and Melvin H. Purvis Jr., ace of the Chicago force of G-men went unconfirmed today at the Justice Dept.

—The Associated Press, July 13, 1935

Melvin H. Purvis now heads the "Melvin Purvis Junior G-Man Corps," an organization of children who eat Post Toasties.

—The World-Telegram, Sept. 12, 1936

Melvin Purvis, famous ex-ace of the G-Men, is expected to reenact the capture and killing of John Dillinger in a projected motion picture.

—The Daily News, March 27, 1937

Melvin H. Purvis settled some speculation as to his future activities today by announcing that he planned to write a series of magazine articles on his eight years in the war on criminals.

—The Associated Press, July 15, 1935

Ex-G-Man Melvin Purvis, who is credited with the extinction of John Dillinger, was northbound to New York yesterday with his bride, the former Mrs. Rosanne Wilcox Taylor, of Florence, S. C. They were married in Charlotte, plan a European honeymoon.

—The Daily News, Sept. 16, 1938

Col. Melvin Purvis, former FBI agent who captured John Dillinger, was reported reliably today to be in poor health.

—The Associated Press, March 27, 1937

Hundreds thronged the streets early today outside Chicago to see "The FBI" film about Dillinger at all over the city.

The spectacular home screen with "Law Breakers" and "Last night" was shown with Melvin Purvis, man who supervised the capture of Dillinger, as consultant.

—The Associated Press, July 15, 1935

Mild-mannered Purvis, whose FBI men shot down John Dillinger, and Boy Floyd is bloody in the cleanups of the 1930s, by his own hand today. Purvis said he had been in poor health recently.

—The Associated Press, March 27, 1937

- The Washington Post and Times Herald
- The Washington Daily News
- The Evening Star
- New York Herald Tribune
- New York Journal-American
- New York Mirror
- New York Daily News
- New York Post
- The New York Times
- The Worker
- The New Leader
- The Wall Street Journal
- Date

42

MAR 1 1960



Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E.A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. D. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. McGuire	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Ingram	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

# Why Did Purvis Quit FBI and Fame?

BY DON SULLIVAN

Why did Melvin Purvis, the quiet little G-man who cut down the criminal giants of the '30s, leave the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the height of his career?

Purvis, who killed himself yesterday, shot his way to fame as agent in charge of the Chicago office of the FBI from 1932 to 1935.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow in Florence, S. C.

The 5 foot 7 inch, 127 pound gangbuster led FBI agents in the capture and killing of John Dillinger, and personally shot down Charles [Pretty Boy] Floyd and George [Baby Face] Nelson.

### Smashed Touhy Gang

His line by line perusal of the ledgers of Samuel Insull led to the downfall of a 2 billion dollar utility empire; he personally captured Vern Sankey, wanted for two kidnappings, while Sankey sat in a barber chair, and it was Purvis who smashed the larger Touhy gang.

### Dropped from Sight

During those years the soft spoken southerner with the old eyes was the most famed investigator in America.

Then on July 13, 1935, Purvis quit the FBI. He said it was for "personal reasons" and characteristically, said he was not in Chicago and

Washington, D. C., were silent today on Purvis' reasons, but some secretly said their ton G-man quit for two reasons:

1. Purvis felt he should have been raised to No. 2 or 3 man in the Washington headquarters of the FBI because of his outstanding record.

2. Washington officials, jealous of Purvis' fame, quarreled over the tremendous amount of publicity he had garnered for himself. Purvis, an intensely proud man, quit in anger.

### Depressed, Ill

While mystery clouds Purvis' reasons for leaving his work as crime fighter, the circumstances of his suicide are clear.

Purvis was in poor health and suffering from great mental depression.

Yesterday he killed himself in his home in Florence, S. C. Purvis ended his life with a pistol.

His wife, Roseanne, heard the shot and found him dead on the second floor of their Florence home. Purvis left his wife and three sons, the youngest 14.

At his death, Purvis owned a small radio station, WOLS, in Florence, but reportedly was wealthy from the proceeds of a tobacco plantation owned by his father.

But, more than wealth, Purvis, the little big man, left his reputation.

John Dillinger was wanted across the country. He and his gang, in a little more than a year, had robbed 4 banks of \$400,000, killed 10 men, wounded 7, and

*ask Sac who is doing this factoring*  
316

*I never heard of this before*

**THE CHICAGO AMERICAN**  
DIAMOND FINAL Edition  
Date 3-1-60  
Chicago, Illinois  
Page 8 Col. 6  
Part —  
Editor **HARRY REUTLINGER**  
CHICAGO OFFICE

#### Traps Failed

After three unsuccessful attempts to trap Dillinger in the following three months, Purvis and his agents laid in wait outside the Biograph theater, 2433 N. Lincoln av., on July 22. They had been tipped off by a mysterious "lady in red." For two hours FBI agents and Gary police waited and sweated in the hot night.

At 10:40 p. m., Dillinger and two women friends emerged blinking from the dark theater. Purvis, in the lobby, lit a cigar—the signal—and whispered to an agent nearby.

Dillinger, sensing danger, groped for a pistol in his pocket. Gunfire burst from both sides, and public enemy

#### No. 1 fell to the sidewalk.

dead. Purvis later revealed that the agents and police, after the shooting, swore to keep secret who fired the first shot at Dillinger.

Exactly three months later, on Oct. 22, Purvis and his agents cornered Pretty Boy Floyd, bank robber and killer, in a farm near East Liverpool, O.

Floyd tried to shoot his way out. Purvis' gunfire dropped the slick-haired desperado in a cornfield.

#### Dedicated Boss

Purvis was known by his fellow workers as a quiet, gentlemanly person when off duty, and as a relentless, nervous, dedicated boss when on the job. But none of the men questioned by CHICAGO'S AMERICAN professed a close personal relationship with the tough little G-man.

Purvis himself uttered his epitaph in 1957, when, recalling his experiences, he told a newsmen:

"I was often scared, but I never ran away."

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Belmont	_____
Callahan	_____
DeLoach	_____
Malone	_____
McGuire	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Ingram	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont *AHB*

DATE: 2-29-60

FROM : Mr. J. P. Lee *JPL*

SUBJECT: FORMER SA CROSWELL  
AMARILLO, TEXAS

The above-captioned individual contacted the writer on 2-29-60 at 10:45 p.m. and advised that he had previously worked for former SA Melvin Purvis and wanted to know where he could send flowers, since he had just heard on the radio of the death of Purvis. Croswell was advised that the newspaper stories concerning the death of Purvis bore the dateline of Florence, South Carolina.

ACTION:

For information.

*AP*  
*7:30*

7489-514  
52

52

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Lee

JPL:mtb  
(3) *mtb*

*3/8*

DC

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: February 29, 1960

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: MELVIN PURVIS  
SUICIDE 2-29-60

*C. D. DeLoach*  
*C. D. DeLoach*

Former Agent [redacted] who left the Bureau in 1951 and who is currently the Chief Counsel, Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee, called and in my absence talked to Wick. He talked of the suicide of Purvis.

[redacted] said that Purvis, who has been employed by a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee, has not looked well for the last several weeks, has not been eating and last week came down with the flu. Co-workers actually forced him to take a plane home to Florence, South Carolina, last week. He was ashen in color. [redacted] said he knows that Purvis had a disintegrated disc in his back and that has caused him considerable pain and Purvis feared that osteomyelitis (bone disease) had been spreading through his system. He told [redacted] not too long ago that he would "never take my own life - I've got too much to live for."

[redacted] said that Mrs. Purvis lives in Florence, South Carolina, was formerly active in the radio station Purvis has there but is now <sup>at home</sup> taking care of the three Purvis boys, one in grade school, one in high school and the oldest in college at the University of South Carolina.

[redacted] said he believed Purvis had been taking a considerable amount of drugs recently to ease the pain in his back.

74-1-585  
58 58

**ADDENDUM: 2-29-60, ECK:ejp:**

Reference is made to my previous memorandum today concerning the possibility of writing to Mrs. Purvis.

We conducted a recent special inquiry of Purvis for the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and several persons close to the Purvises advised [redacted]

1 - Mr. Jones

REW:sak *gt*  
(3)

*56*

*bb*

We are answering all press inquiries in this matter with no comment. It is recommended no letter be sent to Mrs. Purvis.

*we are preparing none*  
*Right of [redacted]*  
*2/29/60*

*[Handwritten initials and marks]*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson	_____
DeLoach	_____
Mohr	_____
Bishop	_____
Belmont	_____
Callahan	_____
DeLoach	_____
Malone	_____
McGuire	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Ingram	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: March 7, 1960

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

*MEMO TO PURVIS*  
*Rosen*

SUBJECT: ARTICLE IN "THE CHICAGO AMERICAN,"  
MARCH 1, 1960, ENTITLED "WHY DID  
PURVIS QUIT FBI AND FAME?"

The above-captioned article specifically stated, "FBI officials in Chicago and Washington, D. C., were silent today on Purvis' reasons, but some secretly said their top G-man quit for two reasons: (1) Purvis felt he should have been raised to No. 2 or 3 man in the Washington headquarters of the FBI because of his outstanding record. (2) Washington officials, jealous of Purvis' fame, quarreled over the tremendous amount of publicity he had garnered for himself. Purvis, an intensely proud man, quit in anger."

With reference to the statement attributed to Chicago Agents, "some secretly said," Mr. Tolson instructed: "Ask SAC who is doing this talking." With respect to (1) and (2) above reflecting the reasons for Purvis' resignation, Mr. Tolson noted, "I never heard this."

I called SAC Lopez in Chicago today. I asked him if he had talked to the writer of this article, Don Sullivan, and, if so, what did he tell Sullivan. Lopez stated that Sullivan called him February 29, 1960, and asked: (1) Did Lopez know Purvis? Lopez replied that he did not know Purvis. (2) What kind of person was Purvis reputed to be while in the FBI? Lopez told Sullivan he did not know inasmuch as he was not personally familiar with Purvis. (3) Why did Purvis quit the FBI? Lopez told Sullivan he had no knowledge whatsoever why Purvis quit the FBI. He stated Sullivan did not ask any further questions and did not talk to anyone else in the Chicago Office. Lopez stated that this very definitely is speculation on the part of Sullivan. He indicated the possibility of Sullivan having talked to U. S. Attorney Ticken, but stated this was highly improbable inasmuch as Ticken did not, according to Lopez' knowledge, know Purvis.

ACTION:

For information.

- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Jones

CDD/emb  
(4)

*Someone at Chicago must have talked*  
*7-93 489-581-93*  
*had in Lopez*  
*assumptions*  
*56*

**UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
BUREAU OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.**

March 3, 1960

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington 25, D. C.  
ATTN: Personnel Section

FILE REFERENCE RCC:MAS:dcp
NAME Melvin H. Purvis
DATE OF BIRTH (Mo/Da/Yr) October 24, 1903

In an application for benefits under the Civil Service Retirement Act, it is alleged that the above-named individual performed service as follows:

DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY	BUREAU OR BRANCH, AND LOCATION	
FBI	FBI, Washington, D. C.	
POSITIONS HELD	PERIODS OF SERVICE (Beginning and ending dates)	
	FROM	TO
	2-4-27	8-5-35

For use in connection with this claim, you are requested to furnish by indorsement on the reverse of this form a complete schedule of his or her employment in your office.

If the employee was on leave of absence without pay in excess of six months in the aggregate during any calendar year, please state particulars.

If the employee rendered service on a w.a.e. basis, the number of days actually employed should be shown.

REC-133

If the service claimed above cannot be verified it may be necessary to request a pay roll search in the General Accounting Office. You are, therefore, requested to give the disbursing reference if it is available. Reference should include the name and symbol number of the disbursing officer who made the payment, and any other data which will aid the General Accounting Office to find the desired information.

Sincerely yours,

*Andrew E. Ruddock*

Andrew E. Ruddock  
Chief, Retirement Division

*letter prep  
3-8-60  
adh SK*

## CERTIFICATE OF EMPLOYING AGENCY

FULL NAME OF FORMER EMPLOYEE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Last) (First) (Middle) (Month) (Day) (Year)

### SERVICE HISTORY

NATURE OF ACTION	POSITION	RATE OF PAY (Per annum, per diem, per hour, etc.)	EFFECTIVE DATE	DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY, INCLUDING BUREAU, BRANCH OR DIVISION WHERE EMPLOYED

### FISCAL DATA (IF AVAILABLE)

AGGREGATE BASIC EARNINGS FOR PERIODS SUBSEQUENT TO 7/31/20 DURING WHICH NO DEDUCTIONS WERE MADE			RETIREMENT DEDUCTIONS, IF ANY		
PERIODS OF SERVICE		AGGREGATE BASIC PAY	PERIODS OF SERVICE		GROSS RETIREMENT DEDUCTIONS
BEGINNING DATE	ENDING DATE		BEGINNING DATE	ENDING DATE	

Report of all Leave Without Pay in a Calendar Year When Such Leave in the Aggregate is in Excess of Six Months

CALENDAR YEAR	LEAVE WITHOUT PAY (In days)

The statements contained on this form are based on the official records of this office and are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Official Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Department or Agency)

REMARKS:

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

March 8, 1960

Mr. Andrew E. Ruddock  
Chief, Retirement Division  
Bureau of Departmental Operations  
United States Civil Service Commission  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ruddock:

Receipt is acknowledged of your inquiry dated March 3, 1960, regarding Mr. Melvin H. Purvis, your file reference RCC:MAS:dcp.

Mr. Purvis entered on duty in the Federal Bureau of Investigation on February 4, 1927, as a Special Agent, Grade CAF 8, \$2700 per annum. He did not have coverage under the Civil Service Retirement Act during his employment here. He received the following grade and salary changes:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
CAF 8	\$2800	10-1-27
	\$3000 (Welch Act)	7-1-28
	\$3100	12-1-28
CAF 9	\$3200	2-1-29
	\$3400	3-1-30
CAF 10	\$3600	7-16-30
	\$4000	8-16-30
CAF 11	\$4200	9-1-30
CAF 12	\$4600	11-16-30
	\$5000	3-16-31
	\$5200	11-16-31
	\$5400	2-1-32
CAF 13	\$5600	8-1-34
	\$5800	8-16-34

MAILED 19  
MAR 8 - 1960  
COMM-FBI

REC'D - READING ROOM  
FBI  
MAR 8 4 01 PM '60

✓

Mr. Purvis voluntarily resigned effective at the close of business August 5, 1935. Our records indicate his date of birth was October 24, 1903.

adh (3) 67-7488  
Agents have been subject to Retirement since 6-23-36 per P.L. 764, 74th Congress.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

- Tolson
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Belmont
- Callahan
- DeLoach
- Malone
- McGuire
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Trotter
- W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Nease
- Gandy

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

# Melvin Purvis Dies Of Wound by Pistol

By JOE MARTIN

Morning News Staff Writer

Melvin Purvis, the man credited with ending the criminal careers of John Dillinger and Pretty Boy Floyd, ended his own life Monday morning at his home on Cherokee Road.

Purvis, 56, who gained international fame as the FBI agent responsible for helping to curb crime, died at 11 a.m. of a self-inflicted pistol wound.

His wife, Rosanne, said she was working in the yard when she heard a shot in the house. Mrs. Purvis told Coroner William Eaddy and family doctor W. R. Mead she found her husband's body lying in the second floor hallway.

Dr. Mead said Mr. Purvis recently was named by Senator London Johnson as chief counsel for the Senate subcommittee on judicial machinery and that he had been in poor health for several years.

Mr. Purvis returned to Florence from Washington eight days ago. He was reported in a mentally depressed state about his health. "He was to see me Monday morning," Dr. Mead said.



MELVIN PURVIS

... former FBI agent

Mr. Purvis did not keep the appointment. Coroner Eaddy said when he arrived at the Purvis home he found the body lying in . (See MELVIN on Page 2)

FLORENCE MORNING NEWS  
FEB. 1, 1960

DATE 3/1/60

JAMES A. ROGERS  
Editor

JMB/

SAVANNAH DIVISION

ENCLOSURE

67-7 489-588

# Melvin Purvis Dies at Home At Age of 56

(Continued from page 1)

a pool of blood with a pistol next to an outstretched hand.

Mr. Purvis completed his law studies at the University of South Carolina and joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1927.

HE SERVED as field agent in charge at several FBI offices across the country prior to moving into Chicago, where he gained national recognition as the "man who shot Dillinger."

Aside from the Dillinger episode, however, Mr. Purvis helped track down such underworld characters as Baby Face Nelson and the recently-paroled Roger (Toughy) Touhy.

Touhy was the man convicted in the famous Chicago "Jake the Barber" kidnapping case.

After his career as captor of master criminals, Mr. Purvis went to San Francisco, Calif. where he set up law practice from 1936 through 1938.

He came back to his native Florence, where he continued his law practice until 1941.

After returning here, Mr. Purvis opened the "Florence Evening Star." After two years of operation he sold his interest and the paper ceased publication a year later.

When World War II began he was summoned to Washington, where he was put in charge of officer candidate school at Oglethorpe and Camp Custer.

After a brief period in America, Mr. Purvis was sent to Africa, where he served as Provost Marshal. He held similar posts in Italy and Southern France. He held the rank of colonel.

At the war end, Col. Purvis aided in gathering evidences used to convict Nazi war criminals.

AFTER HIS WORK in Germany, Mr. Purvis purchased radio station WOLS here.

From 1961 through 1963, he was chief council on the Manpower Policies and Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

Although Mr. Purvis' law practice was primarily devoted to an advisory capacity he, on occasion, did some courtroom work.

Born in Timmonsville Oct. 24, 1903, Mr. Purvis is survived by his widow and three grown sons, Melvin Jr., Phil Alston and Christopher Peronson.

## Purvis Rites Set for Noon Wednesday

Melvin H. Purvis, 56, attorney and former F. B. I. agent, died at 11 a.m. Monday at his residence, 1256 Cherokee Rd., of a self-inflicted gun-shot wound. He was owner of Radio station WOLS in Florence.

Funeral services will be conducted at noon Wednesday in St. John's Episcopal Church by the Rev. Joseph R. Horn III, rector, and the Rev. Joseph A. DiRadda, rector of All saints Episcopal Church. Burial will be in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Mr. Purvis was a native of Timmonsville. His parents were the late Melvin Horace and Janie Mirns Purvis of Florence and Darlington counties.

He was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church, a member of the Men's Club and a former vestryman of the church. Mr. Purvis was a Mason and a member of Hampton Lodge 204, A.F.M.; a member of Dalcho Conistory of Charleston; a Shriner and a member of Omar Temple, Charleston, the Jesters and the Pee Dee Shrine Club. He was a member of the Omar Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity; the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Melvin H. Purvis of Florence, formerly Rosanne Wilcox; three sons, Melvin H. Purvis Jr., junior at the University of S. C., Phillip Alston Purvis and Christopher Perrinean Purvis of Florence; seven sisters, Mrs. William Lee Davidson of Chester, Mrs. Henri R. Goring of Columbia, Mrs. S. Robert Lathan of Chester, Mrs. Samuel P. Swafford of Columbia, Mrs. David Rae Anderson of Chester, Mrs. Watson S. Eddy B. Sumpster and Mrs. Paul L. Howie of Darlington; and 8 brothers, Guy C. Purvis of Florence.

**GANGBUSTER**

# Purvis, Dillinger's Nemesis, Kills Self

FLORENCE (Special) — Melvin Purvis, the mild-mannered South Carolinian who spearheaded the bloody FBI gangster cleanups of the 1930's, died by his own hand Monday at his home.

It was Purvis' FBI teams that shot down John Dillinger and Pretty Boy Floyd, two of the nation's former top "public enemies."

Purvis, 36, had left the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1935 to follow careers in law and broadcasting. The fatal shot came from a chrome-plated .45 caliber automatic.

His physician said he had been depressed and in poor health recently. Acquaintances said Purvis often carried a weapon.

Coroner William T. Eaddy said a self-inflicted shot through the jaw brought death shortly before noon in the upstairs hallway of his home. His wife, Rosanne, ran from the garden when a shot rang out and found the body.

Twenty-five years ago, Purvis, a graduate of the law school of the University of South Carolina, headed a picked team of FBI agents as agent-in-charge of the bureau's Chicago office.

He led teams — and, some say, fired the fatal shots — that killed Dillinger and Floyd during the notorious gangland era. Purvis was instrumental in capturing Verne Sankey, also a No. 1 public enemy in his heyday. Sankey, taken in a Chicago barber shop, committed suicide after his capture.

It was the Dillinger shooting that brought Purvis national headlines. Dillinger, called "the most brazen outlaw since Jesse James," walked out of a Chicago movie house the night of July 22, 1934 and into a fusillade of shots from G-men when he started to run.

Dillinger, sought across the country for at least 12 murders and bank robberies netting \$500,000, had had his face altered by plastic surgery.

"It was a good job the g-men did on his face," Purvis said.



MELVIN PURVIS

I knew him the minute I saw him."

On Oct. 22, 1934, Purvis' men captured Pretty Boy Floyd. The slick-haired desperado met death in a cornfield north of East Liverpool, Ohio.

In recent years, the slight, gray-haired Purvis divided his time between business and the law. His summer offices at the Florence studios of radio station WOLS, of which he was president, were crowded with mementoes of his FBI career, which began in 1927. Framed pictures of J. Edgar Hoover and crime-busting associates dotted the walls beside rifles and other firearms.

His office said he had been in Washington three weeks ago to help prepare recommendations for the improvement of federal law.

The State  
Columbia, S. C.

S.L. LATIMER, JR.  
Editor

Date: 3/1/60

SAVANNAH  
DIVISION

ENCLOSURE

67-7 489-588

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
FROM : SAC, Savannah (77-2055)  
SUBJECT: MELVIN HORACE PURVIS  
FORMER SPECIAL AGENT  
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

DATE: 3/2

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Malone	✓
Mr. McGuire	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Ingram	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

Reference is made to Savannah teletype dated 2/29/60 advising that MELVIN HORACE PURVIS committed suicide that date.

Attached is an article which appeared in the Florence Morning News, March 1, 1960, as well as an article which appeared in The State, a daily Columbia, S. C. newspaper, dated March 1, 1960. Nothing further is known regarding the suicide by the resident agents assigned to Florence, S. C.

- 2 - Bureau (Encls. 2)
- 1 - Savannah

CWB:FMT

(3)

*Davidson*  
*Cavallari*

**EXP. PROC.**  
MAR 4 1960

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2- ENCLOSURE 24  
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REC-119  
MAR 19 1960

7 487-93  
MAR

588  
FBI

3/11/60

ENCLOSURE

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Parsons

DATE: February 29, 1960

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: ROGER TOUHY  
HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDINGS

Tolson  
DeLoach  
Mohr  
Bishop  
Casper  
Callahan  
Conrad  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

Stanford Clinton, Sr., Chicago attorney representing John "Jake the Barber" Factor in his million-dollar suit against the publisher of Touhy's book, "The Stolen Years," informed Agents of Chicago Division on 2/26/60, that in near future he was going to attempt to secure a deposition from Melvin Purvis relative to the FBI's alleged wire tapping in connection with Touhy's apprehension

Clinton commented that some years ago the FBI had refused to produce records before Judge John P. Barnes, U. S. District Court, Chicago, and since Touhy made allegations in his book that the FBI was allegedly aware through wire tap information that Factor had not been kidnaped, he hoped that both Purvis and the Director would modify their position in this matter and furnish information.

Files have been reviewed and it has been ascertained that the Bureau had no wire taps in the investigation of the Factor kidnaping, nor could any record be located as to any reference having been made concerning alleged wire taps in the hearing held by Judge Barnes in 1954, in connection with Touhy's habeas corpus proceedings. The file did reveal that the State's Attorney's office in Chicago had had wire taps on Touhy's defense attorney and on the home of a relative of a member of Touhy's gang.

ALLEGATION IN TOUHY'S BOOK

On page 193 Touhy writes concerning Factor's testimony at trial regarding a telephone call Factor received on 7/24/33, from one of his kidnapers, negotiating for the collection of an additional \$50,000 ransom. The book includes the statement that an FBI secretary made notes at an extension telephone.

FACTS

Factor did receive a telephone call on 7/24/33, from an individual he identified as one of his kidnapers, who wanted to know when they were going to get the additional \$50,000.

JRB:eam

(6) EEW

67-2489-58

REC-75 7-96-1118

10 MAR 14 1960

7-86-1118

Memorandum to Mr. Parsons

Factor made arrangements for this individual to call him back at 11 o'clock the following morning, at which time a Special Agent listened in on an extension telephone and made stenographic notes of the conversation. This was not a wire tap. The conversation consisted of Factor's difficulties in raising the \$50,000 because of stock market conditions. The caller informed Factor that he would contact him in another week.

[REDACTED]

b7C  
b6

OBSERVATIONS

The Bureau's position in refusing to make available our records pertaining to the Factor kidnaping has twice been upheld. On 6/2/49, former SAC George McSwain was adjudged in contempt by Judge John P. Barnes, Chicago, when he relied on Departmental order 3229 for refusing to produce Bureau files. On 2/26/51, the U. S. Supreme Court removed the contempt proceedings against McSwain. Asst. Dir. John F. Malone, then SAC at Chicago was adjudged in contempt before Judge Barnes on 9/18/52, for failure to produce Bureau files. This finding of contempt was reversed by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals on 11/19/52.

There is no reason for our position to be changed at this time. Factor's suit is a civil matter and is of no concern to the FBI. It in no way affects the cause of justice.

- 2 - *Centurion*  
*Jd.*

Memorandum to Mr. Parsons

It is not known why Stanford Clinton would want to obtain a deposition from former SAC Melvin Purvis, but it would appear that he is on a fishing expedition. Inasmuch as the files reveal no wire tap existed Purvis would be in no position to give any information concerning any alleged wire tap.

At such time as any request may be made by Stanford Clinton or others, the request will be declined.

L R

~~W~~

W

JRP

Addendum IDM:hcw 2/29/60

Note UPI news ticker, 2/29/60, indicates Melvin Purvis committed suicide at Florence, South Carolina.

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✓

~~W~~

# Most Anything At A Glance

BY ABIGAIL

The present plans of the Corporation of Emmitsburg to raise local inventory taxes on Emmitsburg merchants are bitter pills to swallow, many of them believe. A "special" concession was made two years ago when the local tax rate was revised upwards to 70c on the one hundred dollars of real estate and remained stationary at 50c on the hundred for local businessmen. However just recently the Town Council decided it was time to up the ante on the businessman and that's the way it will be unless Council can be persuaded otherwise. It is understood that a number of merchants will enter an official protest Monday night when the Council holds its regular meeting. It is common knowledge that taxes are at an all-time high and bitter resentment is generated each and every time another increase is proposed. It is the contention and consensus of the local business interests that the town is too small for anyone to ever get rich here and for that matter they feel that taxes have reached their zenith as every dollar spent these days represents a hardship on the business. It is highly likely there will be a delegation of the newly-formed Jaycees and the local Chamber of Commerce at Monday's meeting to protest the increase. It is felt generally that the alarming way in which taxes and the cost of living are rising that they are a deterrent to young men considering entering [business]. It is pointed out that it costs a considerable sum of money these days to open a business pay for rent, principal and taxes and the inventory tax was of a nature to start with represents an additional [burden].

"Another item which should be affirmed and undoubtedly modified is the sewer tax structure. Many of our local residents renting rooms and apartments are generally disgusted with the present method of assessing the tax and feel that some sort of relief or modification is needed. Some of our neighboring towns faced the same situation or dilemma when they installed sewerage systems in recent years. By trial and error they managed to correct the situation to the satisfaction of all concerned. Take for example an apartment owner who operated six apartments. In Emmitsburg he would be assessed \$150 in sewer tax alone. In contrast to this Thurmont has a rate structure which gives the apartment operator a "break." For the first apartment he is charged \$10 annually, and for each additional apartment the fee is \$4.00. You can readily see that a great injustice and hardship is being worked on local property-owners. Compare the difference in rates: In Emmitsburg a six-apartment house costs \$150 . . . in Thurmont the rate is \$30.00 for the same convenience or service. Apparently an imposition is being made on Emmitsburg apartment operators. P. S.: In addition Thurmont's tax rate is 60c on the hundred as compared with Emmitsburg's 70c on the \$100.

- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Malone
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Ingram
- Miss Gandy

EMMITSBURG CHRONICLE  
EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND  
MARCH 4, 1960

75

Dear Abigail:

The Monday evening TV news itemed the passing of Colonel Melvin Purvis—the man who some 25 years ago shot and killed the infamous Dillinger while an FBI man.

Mel Purvis retired from the FBI before the war. As most people know, the FBI boys are usually qualified attorneys. Purvis retired to private practice for reasons of health. Then came the war, and the Army grabbed him for the Judge Advocate General's staff. Purvis was a full colonel, and despite his health restrictions fighting him to the USA; he served most of the war in the European Theater.

It was just before Christmas in 1945 when he returned to the USA. I should know—I came back with him on the S.S. Lejuene. Mel was an inveterate gin rummy fan, and so was the ship's captain. I spent some an hour in the Captain's cabin kibitzing the games. Mel wanted me around, because he would then invariably win. When I wasn't there, the captain would sit around consuming the captain's refreshments and I watched them fight for hours over \$1.00.

One evening, as I sat in the cabin, just talking, I played with a very old 45 automatic. Obviously it was not war production. As a sudden thought, I blurted: "Is this the gun that killed Dillinger, Mel?" The reply was typical Purvis. "Two bullets from that gun came out of Dillinger at the autopsy. One would, have been fatal. Four other bullets from my boys also would have been fatal."

That same gun that killed Dillinger was used by Colonel Purvis to eliminate his suffering. When we got back to the USA Purvis returned to private law practice. His uniforms for military service were even then slightly oversized.

file

2

PURVIS

After 15 years comes the report of his death. Purvis was listed as suicide since he terminated himself.

There are many in Emmitsburg who will object to this—I can only quote an old Passamaquoddy Indian saying: "Let me not judge until I have walked in his moccasins for many moons." Colonel Melvin Purvis, in late 1945, was a year younger than the writer. He looked 15 years older.

—Phil Sharpe

#### Fractures Arm

Melvin Cregger, 9, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Cregger, Emmitsburg R2, was treated at the Warner Hospital, Gettysburg, Saturday for a fracture of his arm received in a fall.

#### 96th Birthday

Mrs. Mary C. Fuss, Emmitsburg, celebrated her 96th birthday quietly at her home on Tuesday.

# Purvis Death Recalls Dillinger Era

## Suicide of Agent Rolls Back Years to 1934 FBI Trap

BY CHESLY MANLY

**M**ELVIN PURVIS, who shot and killed himself on Feb. 29, evidently because of bad health, won international fame as special agent in charge of the Chicago office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the early 1930s. His fame was greatly surpassed, however, by the infamy of John Dillinger, who was killed by a squad of FBI agents led by Purvis near the Biograph theater, on Lincoln avenue, July 22, 1934.

Thruout the inhabited part of the world, from the bottom in Tierra del Fuego to the top in the high Himalayas, Dillinger's notoriety was spread by press, radio, and word of mouth. The mention of his name inspired wonder and awe, as much admiration for his audacity as aversion to his crimes. And people everywhere associated Dillinger with Chicago, which already had acquired a dubious world-wide

### Notorious Career Unparalleled

Dillinger's notoriety was spread through the world by press, radio, and word of mouth. His infamous career was unparalleled in the annals of criminology and journalism. Not even Al Capone contributed more to the page-turning reputation for sensationalism.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Boardman
- Mr. Parsons
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Malone
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Trotter
- Mr. W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Ingram
- Miss Gandy

*File  
Mr. Rosen*

*Heckling*

*Heckling  
free  
151*

**CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE**  
 THREE STAR  
 SPORTS FINAL Edition  
 Date **MAR 12 1960**  
 Chicago, Illinois  
 Page 10 Col. 1  
 Part 1  
 Editor **W. D. MAXWELL**  
**CHICAGO OFFICE**

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 PERS. FILES

reputation as the home of Al Capone, then in a federal penitentiary, and other notorious gangsters. To this day, tribesmen in central Africa and central Asia make some remark about gangsters when they meet a traveler from Chicago.

Dillinger was rated Public Enemy No. 1 by the FBI. He and his gang killed four policemen, three FBI agents, a sheriff, and nobody knows how many holdup victims. They took nearly \$500,000 in 13 bank robberies, one each in Chicago, Indianapolis, East Chicago, Ind.; Montpelier, Ind.; Daleville, Ind.; Greencastle, Ind.; South Bend, Ind.;



John Dillinger as a boy in Indiana and as a hardened and arrogant killer 25 years later.

Madison, Wis.; Farrell, Pa.; Bluffton, O.; New Castle, O.; Victoria, O.; and Mason City, Ia. They broke out of three prisons and they looted three police arsenals.

An FBI bulletin, dated March 12, 1934, said in part: "Wanted: John Dillinger, with alias, Frank Sullivan. Description: Age, 31 years; height, 5 feet 7 1/2 inches; weight, 135 pounds; build, medium; occupation, machinist; marks, a scar, 1/4-inch scar back left hand; scar middle upper lip; brown hair between eyebrows; mustache."

A photograph of Dillinger as a 6 year old boy, in knee breeches, sitting on a fence, is a study in juvenile perversity. His cap is fixed at a raffish angle, almost obscuring the left eye. With that sinister scowl, twisted cheek, and raffish mouth, he could be a future gangster or a precocious thief, but hardly anything else.

Dillinger's adult pictures, including those circulated by the FBI, are less repugnant. In moments of reflection, between prison breaks and bank holdups, he was a rather blithe spirit, regarded as good company by his gangsters and molls. When he smiled his cheeks were dimpled and there was a merry gleam in his sharp eyes. When holding panic stricken bank employees with a submachine gun, however, he was ice cold, firm hearted and trigger sensitive.

It has been said in mitigation of Dillinger's enormities that he did not mix with the torturing kidnapers of his day or share in the dark and corrupting evils of syndicated gangsterism. As a bank robber, he considered himself an aristocrat of criminals; he was imbued with professional pride.

But Purvis, in "American Agent," an autobiographical account of his FBI career, declared that Dillinger and his associates "killed wantonly, viciously, and unnecessarily."

### Slew Many and Stole \$500,000

Four policemen, three FBI agents, a sheriff, and an undetermined number of holdup victims were slain by Dillinger and his gang. They robbed 13 banks of nearly \$500,000, broke out of three prisons, looted three police arsenals.

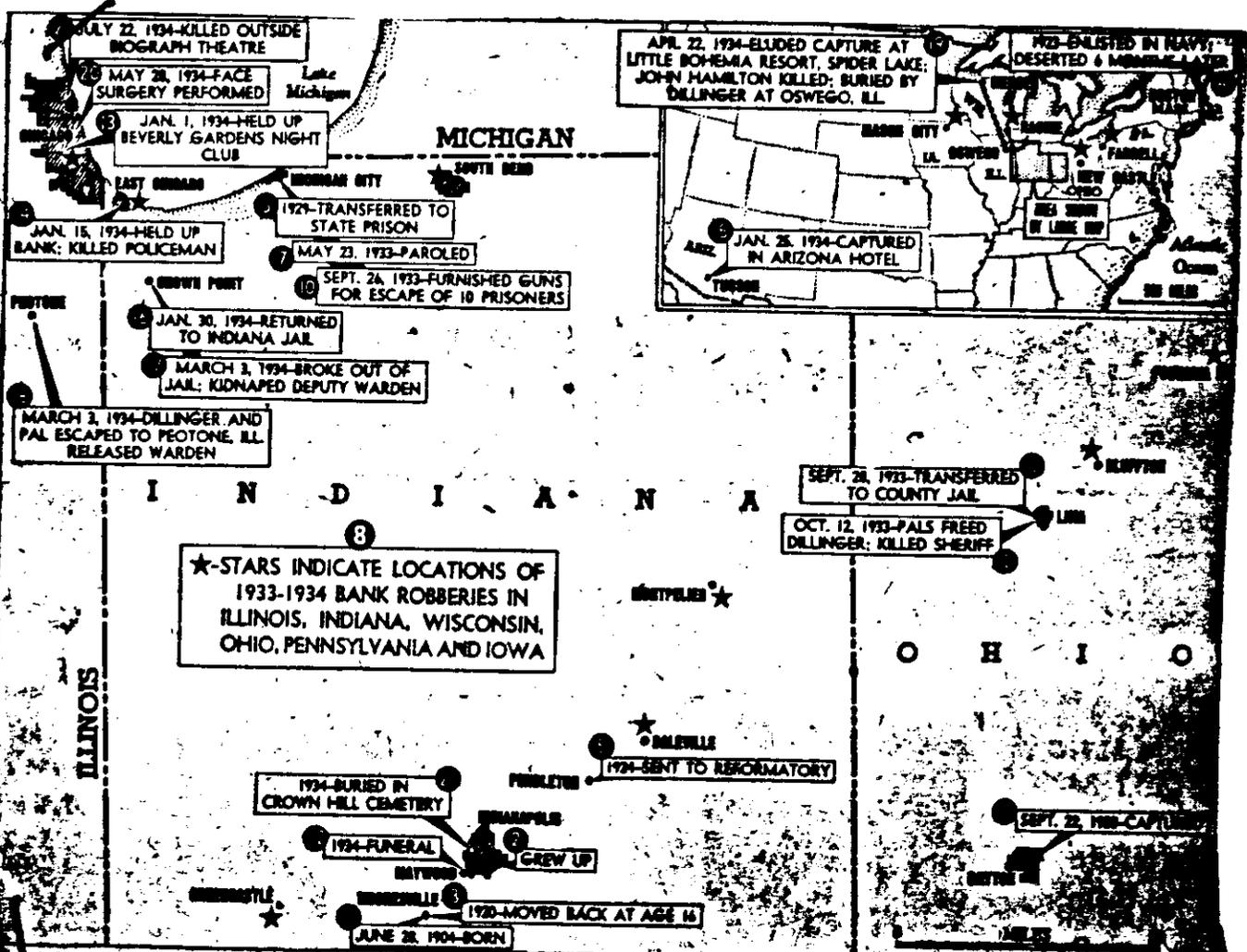
even when their own freedom and safety were not in jeopardy." That judgment would leave little room for romantic sentimentalizing about Dillinger and his gang.

Dillinger undoubtedly was psychopathic [mentally disturbed], tho he was not necessarily insane. Some unknown physical or emotional shock, or some congenital abnormality in his constitution, probably warped his mental development.

Dillinger was born in Mooresville, Ind., a small town near Indianapolis, on June 28, 1904. His father, John Dillinger Sr., a farmer, attended the Quaker church. His mother died when he was 3 years old. Soon after her death Dillinger's father moved to Indianapolis, where he ran a grocery store. The boy grew up in a poor section of the city, attended high school, played on the baseball team, and helped his father at the store. In 1920, when Dillinger was 16, his father moved back to Mooresville and opened another grocery store.

In 1923, having been filled by a young high school girl, Dillinger enlisted in the navy. Six months later he was in Boston and a reward of \$50 was offered for his apprehension, but he returned voluntarily and was given an honorable discharge.

On April 12, 1934, he married at 16-year-old



Numbers on the map tell chronology of events in John Dillinger's life of crime, which was ended when he was shot outside a movie theater on Chicago's north side. Bank robberies in six states were attributed to the gang and his earlier, heavy crimes during height of his lawless career.

girl. In the following September he and Ed Singleton, another Mooresville boy, robbed a 65 year old storekeeper named Frank Morgan. Morgan offered no resistance, but they hit him over the head with a lead pipe. Both were recognized and later identified by Morgan. Singleton, pleading guilty, testified against Dillinger and received a light sentence. Dillinger was sentenced to serve 10 to 20 years in the state reformatory at Pendleton.

From the beginning of his term in the reformatory, Dillinger bore a grudge against society. He was a sullen, troublesome prisoner. After two unsuccessful attempts to break out, he was transferred to the Indiana State penitentiary at Michigan City, where he studied criminal procedures under John Hamilton, Russell Clark, Charles Makley, and Harry Pierpont, all experienced bank robbers and long termers.

After Dillinger had been in prison nine years, all those who had been responsible, directly or indirectly, for sending him there, including his lead pipe slugging victim, signed a petition for his parole. Paul McNutt, Indiana's new Democratic governor, granted the petition. It was a costly error in terms of human life, bank deposits, and the public support of law enforcement agencies, but it was profitable for doctors and undertakers.

Dillinger was released on May 23, 1933, just 14 months before he was shot to death by FBI agents. In that 14

### Arizona Police Weren't Awed

Dillinger and three of his gangsters, all wanton killers, were arrested and disarmed without difficulty by Tucson, Ariz., policemen, who were not in the least awed by the bandits.

months he rivaled the new depression era President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, as a subject of front page news. It was an

unprecedented epoch in both journalism and criminology.

Before his release, Dillinger had promised to arrange for guns to be smuggled into the prison for his gangster mentors. He kept his promise, and on Sept. 26, 1933, Hamilton, Clark, Makley, Pierpont, and six other convicts shot their way out, severely wounding one guard and knocking down two others. Before leaving, they armed themselves with machine guns from the prison arsenal.

Meanwhile Dillinger, after a series of bank robberies in Indiana, had been captured in Dayton and transferred to the county jail at Lima, O., a humiliating experience for a proud desperado. His newly liberated pals resolved to return the favor he had done for them. On Oct. 12, 1933, Clark, Makley, and Pierpont calmly entered the office of Sheriff Jesse Sarber and said they were police officers who had come from Michigan City to return Dillinger for violating his parole. When the sheriff asked to see their credentials, they drew their guns, said, "These are our credentials," and fired. The sheriff was mortally wounded before he could draw.

Mrs. Sarber and a deputy sheriff, who rushed into the sheriff's office, were put into cells and locked up. The bandits took the sheriff's keys and released Dillinger from his cell.

Dillinger went into winter headquarters in Chicago. On Nov. 15 he visited a dentist's office and eluded a trap set for him by Chicago police. On Dec. 14, John Hamilton, leader of the 10 convicts whom Dillinger had helped to escape from the Michigan City prison, killed Police Sgt. William T. Shanley in an automobile repair shop at 5320 Broadway, where he had taken his car to have a fender straightened. On New Year's eve, Dillinger and six other gangsters held up the Beverly Gardens, a night club on S. Western avenue. In a gun battle there, two policemen and two gangsters were wounded.

On Jan. 15, Dillinger and Hamilton, both armed with machine guns, held up the First National bank in East Chicago, Ind. Policeman William P. O'Malley entered dur-



Sheriff Lillian Holley in Lake county jail, at Crown Point, from which her notorious prisoner escaped.

ing the robbery and fired four times at Dillinger, who always wore a bullet proof vest. "You asked for it," Dillinger said viciously, pointing his machine gun at O'Malley. The policeman was killed instantly.

Dillinger was wanted in half a dozen states and often reported seen in half a dozen places at the same time. On Jan. 22 a fire in the Congress hotel, Tucson, Ariz., where Dillinger, Clark, Makley, and Pierpont were enjoying a respite from Chicago's winter weather, resulted in their capture. Firemen became suspicious when they found machine guns and other articles of gang warfare in the bandits' rooms, and later identified the desperadoes from photographs.

On Jan. 25 Tucson police found Clark in a bungalow, which he had just rented, and beat him into submission. Opal Long, his mistress, was arrested with him. On the same day, Pierpont was arrested at a tourist camp with his

moll, Mary Kinder. He offered no resistance, but in the police station later he suddenly reached for his gun—Arizona policemen, less awed than those of Chicago and Indiana in the presence of gangsters, had five guns leveled on Pierpont before he could draw. When they searched him they found two more guns, one in his shoulder holster and one in his sock.

Makley was arrested next and then Dillinger, both without difficulty. They waited for him at a bungalow, which he had rented three days earlier, and casually took him into custody when he drove up with Evelyn Frechette, his half-breed Indian sweetheart.

Pierpont, Clark, and Makley, charged with the slaying of Sheriff Sarber and the jail delivery of Dillinger in Lima, were turned over to Ohio authorities. Pierpont was electro-

### Was 'Firing Squad' Necessary?

The slaying of Dillinger by an FBI "firing squad" near Chicago's Biograph theater was a spectacular success. It is a reasonable conjecture, however, that a lone policeman from Tucson, Ariz., would have gone into the theater and brought Dillinger out alive and disarmed.

cuted. Makley, sentenced to die, was mortally wounded while trying to escape. Clark was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Dillinger was flown from Tucson to Chicago and then taken to Crown Point, Ind., to await trial for the slaying of Policeman O'Malley in the East Chicago bank robbery. A large sum of money taken from the bank had been found in his possession when he was arrested in Tucson.

When Dillinger arrived in Crown Point, he was persuaded to pose for a news photograph with Robert G. East, Lake county prosecutor, with their arms around each other. Dillinger, it was said, agreed reluctantly, either because



This was quartet of trigger happy criminals and one of their women, Ann Martin, standing in court in Tucson, after capture. Left to right: Russell Clark, Charles Makley, Harry Pierpont, and their chief, John Dillinger.



Prosecutor Robert Estill (left), of Lake county, Ind., lived to regret this picture of him posing with arm about John Dillinger, for a few weeks later Dillinger broke jail.

hated the "law" or was more concerned than the prosecutor about the propriety of such an exhibition.

This disgraceful incident assumed more significance on March 3 when Dillinger, holding the guards at bay with a wooden pistol which he had carved with a razor blade and blackened with shoe polish, walked out of the Crown Point jail.

Purvis, in his book, "American Agent," said there were rumors that Dillinger "crossed a palm with money" to pay for his escape.

Mrs. Lillian Holley, who had succeeded her husband as sheriff when he was killed while trying to arrest a mad dog, was widely blamed for Dillinger's escape. Purvis, however, chivalrously exonerated her.

The Crown Point jail break put the FBI on Dillinger's trail for the first time. Accompanied by Herbert Young, a Negro criminal who was slain two weeks later resisting arrest in Port Huron, Mich., Dillinger made off with a machine gun from the jail's arsenal and Sheriff Purvis's automobile. Presumably for possible use as a getaway car, they took along a deputy warden, whom they later killed, staging "The Last Roundup" while driving to Peotone, Will county, Ill.

## Psychopathic, but Not Insane

Dillinger probably was psychopathic, tho he was not necessarily insane. Some unknown emotional or physical shock, or some congenital abnormality, probably warped his mental development and predisposed him to violence.

Peotone, Will county, Ill. At Peotone, near Chicago, the deputy was released and the bandits disappeared.

The fact that Dillinger was wanted by state authorities for murder and bank robbery was of small consequence, but by transporting a stolen automobile in interstate commerce he had committed a federal—and fatal—offense.

Early Sunday afternoon, April 22, Purvis received a telephone call from H. C. W. Laubenheimer, United States marshal in Chicago. A man named Voss, at Rhinelander, Wis., whom the marshal knew, desired to furnish information about Dillinger. Purvis called Voss and learned that Dillinger, five members of his gang, and four women were staying at the Little Bohemia resort, on Spider Lake, near Mercer, Wis. Voss received information about the gangsters in a note inclosed in a package of cigars, handed to him by his brother-in-law, Emil Wanatka, proprietor of the lodge, who was a prisoner there with his wife and 8 year old son and two employes.

The Little Bohemia raid was destined for a tragic end. Its net result was the death of one federal agent and one innocent native, the wounding of several others, and the capture of three gangsters' molls. There were various reasons for the failure of the raid, of which the most important was lack of time to organize it properly. Voss had received information that the gangsters intended to leave the resort shortly after dinner, Sunday evening. Purvis and his men chartered an airplane, but planes in those days were slow and the nearest airport was at Rhinelander, 25 miles from Little Bohemia.

It was 6:30 p. m. when the Chicago agents reached Rhinelander and joined others from St. Paul, and they set out to commandeer cars for a 80 mile drive at night over back roads. When the agents stopped their cars near the resort, watch dogs barked insistently, warning the gangsters. Purvis failed to send agents to the back of the lodge, assuming that escape there would be impossible because it was on the lake.

As the agents deployed around the front of the lodge, five men came thru the brilliantly lit back door. Two ran back into the lodge and the other three immediately climbed into a parked car and started to drive away. Agents surrounded them in less than a minute.

they failed to obey. One man was killed and the two others were wounded, one seriously. As Purvis acknowledged, these men had come to the Little Bohemia only "to drink beer."

For a few minutes the noise was deafening as 16 FBI men exchanged fire with the gangsters, who were shooting

### Wooden Gun or 'Crossed Palm'?

Using a wooden pistol, carved with a razor blade and blackened with shoe polish, Dillinger walked out of the Crown Point, Ind., jail. It was reported, however, that he made his escape possible by "crossing a palm" with money.

from the upper windows of the lodge. All six gangsters got away, but one of them, George [Baby Face] Nelson, carried in the cabin on the right side of the lodge, where he was quartered, to exchange a few shots with Purvis.

After the shooting had stopped, agents threw tear gas shells thru the windows of the lodge. The proprietor, who had come out in the cold without a coat, was given permission to go to a neighbor's house and borrow one. He returned and said there was a gun battle at the neighbor's house. Agents who went to investigate found that Carter Baum, an FBI man, had been killed by one of the gangsters, who also had wounded Jay Newman, another FBI man, and Carl Christenson, a local constable. Later it was learned that Nelson was the killer.

The tear gas brought Marie Conforti, girl friend of Homer Van Meter; Helen Gillis, wife of Nelson; and Jean Delaney, Tommy Carroll's girl, out of the lodge. When the agents were able to search it, they found nobody else.

John Hamilton, leader of the 10 convicts whom Dillinger had helped to escape from the penitentiary at Michigan City, escaped from Little Bohemia with other members of the gang, but was mortally wounded in a gun fight with

a deputy sheriff a few days later. The FBI learned from one of the molls that Dillinger nursed the dying gangster and buried him in a gravel pit at Oswego, Kendall county, Ill., where the body was found in August, 1935.

Tommy Carroll was killed 15 days after the Wisconsin fiasco by two detectives in Waterloo, Ia.

Public clamor for a roundup of the Dillinger gangsters, dead or alive, grew hysterical and produced the greatest manhunt in American history.

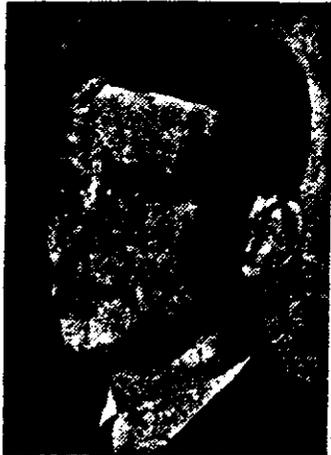
Dillinger, meanwhile, was hiding out in Chicago. On May 28 he submitted to surgery on his face in the hope of disguising himself. One James Probasco, for a suitable fee, permitted the use of his house for the operation and com-

### Dillinger Parole Dreadful Error

Dillinger's release on parole from the Indiana State penitentiary at Michigan City, by Gov. Paul V. McNutt, was a dreadful error, immensely costly in terms of human lives and bank deposits, but profitable to doctors and undertakers.

valescing period. Dr. William Loeser, who had served a term in Leavenworth penitentiary for a narcotics violation, performed the operation, assisted by Dr. Harold Cassidy, who also administered the anesthetic. Dillinger paid \$6,000 for the operation. A mole was removed from his forehead, a dimple from his chin, two slices of tissue from his cheeks near the ears. Unsuccessful attempts were made to alter his finger prints beyond the possibility of identification.

On June 30, shortly before noon, Dillinger and four members of his gang struck in South Bend, Ind., where they



Melvin Purvis—he took gun from dead gangster's hand. Sgt. Martin Zarkovich—his tip brought denouement.

robbed the Merchants National bank of \$29,890, killed a policeman, and wounded four other men.

While hundreds of shoppers were passing by, Dillinger and two companions, armed with machine guns, entered the bank, forced employes and customers to lie on the floor, and began scooping up the cash. When Howard Wagner, 32 year old traffic policeman, ran into the bank in pursuit of the robbers, he was shot and killed with a machine gun. Two bank officers and two bystanders were wounded. The three bandits then escaped in a car in which two others had waited.

Early the next morning, Dr. Leslie A. Laird of North Webster, Ind., near Warsaw, was slugged with a gun and left unconscious after he was forced to treat one of the bandits for gunshot wounds. South Bend police had pursued and shot up the car in which the gangsters escaped.

License plates on the car in the South Bend holdup also had been used on a car driven by three machine gun bandits who robbed the First National of Fostoria, O., of more than \$10,000 and killed Police Chief Frank Culp on May 3. Homer Van Meter, one of Dillinger's machine gunners, was identified as the leader of the Fostoria bank robbery. Van Meter was to die Aug. 23 from police bullets in St. Paul, Minn.

Like many far better men in the world's history and literature, Dillinger was betrayed by a woman. An unlettered country boy, he probably was not familiar with the illustrious precedents. At all events, he made a fatal mistake in trusting Mrs. Anna Sage, 42 years old, a former brothel keeper in Gary and East Chicago, Ind., where Dillinger had known her.

It may be assumed that no respectable woman would "rat" on an old customer for reward money, but Mrs. Sage had a more compelling motive. She was under an order of deportation to her native Romania, which she wished to avoid, and it occurred to her that the United States government might be so grateful for her help in capturing Dillinger that it would permit her to remain here. Mrs. Sage had an apartment on Halsted street, about directly back of the Biograph theater, which is at 2423 N.

### Little Bohemia Raid Big Fiasco

Dillinger and five members of his gang escaped from Little Bohemia, a northern Wisconsin resort near Menomonie, when it was raided by 16 FBI agents. One federal agent and an innocent citizen were killed and several men were wounded in this tragic fiasco.

Lincoln av. Dillinger had been going there with his girl friend, Polly Hamilton, a waitress in a Wilson avenue restaurant. Polly knew Dillinger as Jimmy Lawrence, and pretended to believe that he was a Board of Trade clerk. She had a room in a Wilson avenue hotel, but Dillinger would not go there or permit her to come to his hideout. Nevertheless, they enjoyed all the comforts of home, several times a week, in the convenient flat of Mrs. Sage, who provided meals and full privileges—living room, kitchen, bedroom, and bath.

Mrs. Sage confided her great design to an old and dependable friend, Martin Zarkovich, a detective sergeant in East Chicago. Zarkovich arranged for her to meet Purvis on Saturday, July 21. Purvis explained that Congress had authorized payment of a \$25,000 reward, in the discretion of the attorney general, for information leading to Dillinger's capture, and expressed confidence that she would get a large part of it.

Mrs. Sage was satisfied with that assurance about the reward money, but she told Purvis she wanted to get away from deportation. Purvis said he could make no promise that would be binding on the immigration authorities, but he did promise, however, to do everything he could to prevent her deportation. Mrs. Sage eventually received \$10,000 of the reward money, but was deported, in spite of what Purvis had promised.

described as "an invaluable service, ranking among the highest of those needed by our country at that time."

Mrs. Sage told Purvis that she had gone to the Marbro theater at 4110 Madison st., on the west side, and to the Biograph theater, at 2433 Lincoln av., on the north side, with Dillinger and the Hamilton girl. It was possible, she said, that they would go to one or the other the next day, Sunday. She agreed to let Purvis know if a theater visit was planned. Also she promised to wear an orange skirt, which would be a code message, "Here he is."

Sunday, July 22, 1934, was a sultry, oppressive day in Chicago, and the trek to the beaches started early. The temperature reached a maximum of 101 degrees.

John Dillinger remained in his north side hideout most of the day.

Melvin Purvis, striving to repress his nervous excitement, waited interminably, it seemed, in his apartment. Finally Mrs. Sage called, about 5 p. m. She had slipped out of her flat on the pretext of needing supplies for supper. "He's here; he's just come," she told Purvis. "We are going either to the Marbro or the Biograph."

Purvis sent two agents to the Marbro. He and another agent went to the Biograph. They agreed to call the office every five minutes.

About 8:30, Dillinger and the two women arrived at the Biograph. Dillinger wore dark glasses, a straw sailor hat, gray trousers, and no coat. Purvis was encouraged; with no coat, Dillinger could not be carrying many weapons. The two women entered the theater while Dillinger bought the tickets. Purvis bought a ticket and followed Dillinger into the theater, hoping to find three vacant seats behind him, from which agents could grab him and pinion his arms and head. But the theater was dark and Purvis could not find Dillinger. There was nothing to do but wait for him to come out, after the show.

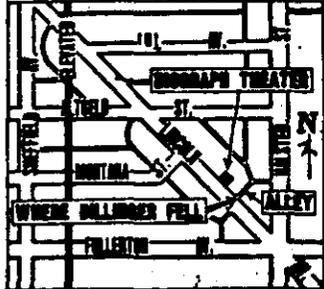
In about 25 minutes, FBI agents from the office and the Marbro theater arrived. Purvis deployed them up and down the street, at all exits from the theater, and in the alleys close by. Two policemen from East Chicago were stationed north of the theater. The men were instructed to keep their eyes fixed on Purvis. He would give the signal that Dillinger had been recognized by lighting a cigar. A wave of the hand was to follow as a signal to close in for the capture.

Purvis said his knees vibrated and his throat was parched from fright and nervousness as they waited for the next sign of picture.

feature at the Biograph. It starred Clark Gable and Dillinger's favorite movie players. Near the end, Gable, betrayed by his old buddy, William Powell, started down the "last mile" to a silver screen death. If Dillinger had ever read the Iliad, the Odyssey, or the Aeneid, he would have known about omens, and that betrayal episode on the screen would have warned him to get out of there, without the women. But he was an unlettered country boy and he stayed there, stupidly, until the show was over at 10:00 p. m.

Dillinger came out as he had gone in, between the women. All around them were women and children. Purvis and his men waited for the crowd to scatter. Dillinger and the women turned south in Lincoln avenue. As they passed a tavern next to the theater, Dillinger glanced briefly at a man in the doorway [Purvis], but apparently did not recognize him. As they walked toward an alley next to the tavern, Purvis lighted his cigar and then raised his hand. As the agents were closing in on Dillinger, the women on his right tugged at his shirt, as if in warning or alarm. Purvis nervously commanded:

"Stick 'em up, Johnny, we have you surrounded." Dillinger drew a .38 caliber pistol from a side pocket in his pants, but he never had a chance to fire it. A



Dillinger drew a .38 caliber pistol from a pocket. FBI fire brought him down. He fell in the alley and his feet on the sidewalk. He rolled his elbow across the sidewalk and bounced the gun head, and Purvis took the gun. Purvis was the man who shot Dillinger. He was the man who shot the man who shot Dillinger. He was the man who shot the man who shot Dillinger.

by a "firing squad." Purvis did not say whether he fired his own gun, but did say he tore two buttons off his coat, presumably when grabbing for the gun.

When the FBI fired, two women screamed. One said, "I am shot." Both had been hit by spent bullets, which fortunately lodged "in the fleshy part of their bodies," as Purvis delicately phrased it.

Dillinger's woman companions vanished in the crowd. In the newspapers Mrs. Sage was known as "the mysterious woman in red," tho she wore not a speck of red. Apparently someone thought her orange skirt looked red under the lights of the marquee.

When a newspaper artist [Ben Cohen, now of The Times staff] arrived at the scene to make sketches, he noticed

### Trust in Woman Misplaced

Like countless men in the world's history and literature, Dillinger was betrayed by a woman. A former brothel keeper whom he had known in Gary and East Chicago, Ind., turned him in in the hope of escaping deportation to Romania.

a pool of blood on the sidewalk where Dillinger fell. When he had finished his sketches the blood had been mopped up. "People with handkerchiefs," a policeman explained.

At the Cook county morgue the next day 15,000 persons filed by and viewed Dillinger's body. Men and women fought for a final glimpse of the dead gangster when an undertaker from Mooresville, accompanied by Dillinger's father, took him away in an ancient black hearse.

Dillinger's family gave him "a decent Christian funeral" in the home of his sister, Mrs. Audrey Hancock, in Maywood, a suburb of Indianapolis. In spite of protests from other burial lot owners, he was buried in Crown Hill cemetery, not far from the graves of James Whitcomb Riley and Benjamin Harrison, president of the United States from 1893 to 1897.

An epilogue of the Dillinger saga was the so-called

battle of Barrington, four months later, in which "Red Face" Nelson, Dillinger's most dreaded associate and his successor as Public Enemy No. 1, killed two FBI agents and was himself mortally wounded.

On Nov. 27, 1934, Nelson and John Paul Chase, in a car with Nelson's wife, fought a running highway gun battle with two FBI agents in another car. Both cars were shot up, but nobody was hurt. Later two other FBI agents, Sam Cowley and Ed Hollis, chased Nelson's car into Barrington, 35 miles northwest of Chicago. Suddenly, Nelson stopped and got out of the car. When the two agents came after him, he emptied his machine gun at them. Chase joined the battle and Nelson's wife reloaded guns for both men. Hollis was killed and Cowley was mortally wounded. Nelson also mortally wounded, escaped in the agents' car, but his body, naked and wrapped in a blanket, was found the next day at the entrance to St. Paul's Lutheran cemetery in Hill Center [now Skokie].

All of the 10 men who escaped from the Michigan City penitentiary with Dillinger's assistance were either returned to prison or killed. These included four leading members of Dillinger's gang, of whom three were killed, one executed and one was sentenced to life imprisonment. Other members of the gang were either killed or sent back to prison. Most of the molls received short prison terms for "harboring."

Purvis, who was only 30 when Dillinger was shot, resigned from the FBI one year later. Purvis practiced law in Washington and was president and part owner of a gas station in Florence, S. C., where he killed a mobster on Feb. 22.



Mrs. Anna Sage—the "woman in red" wore orange.



Polly Hamilton—her movie date was Dillinger's last.



Bullet shattered window of roadhouse near Mercer, Wis., after battle won by Dillinger and his gang. Right: Dillinger posing for snapshot at Mooresville, Ind., holding machine gun and the wooden pistol he said he used in Crown Point jail break.



Helen Gillis—her husband known as Baby Face.



Evelyn Frechette—one of Dillinger's sweethearts.

148



Baby Face Nelson—killed in battle with FBI men. John Hamilton—he ended in a gravel pit grave.



Homer Van Meter—a tough killer was killed. Tommy Carroll—gunner in Iowa ended his career.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 7 1960

WESTERN UNION

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Malone	✓
Mr. McGuire	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Ingram	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

*file*

BIA002 (1052 AME MAR7 60) AA057 A

FEA047 PD FLORENCE SOCAR 7 956AME

*Melvin Purvis*

J EDGAR HOOVER

DIRECTOR F B I WASHDC

~~WE ARE HONORED~~ WE ARE HONORED THAT YOU IGNORED MELVINS  
DEATH. YOUR JEALOUSY HURT HIM VERY MUCH BUT UNTIL THE END I  
THINK HE LOVED YOU

*7 489-570*

ROSANNE MELVIN JR ALSON AND CHRISTOPHER PURVIS

MAR 16 1960

*No*

MR. DELOACH

*42*

*It was well we didn't  
write as she would  
doubt have distorted it.  
cc - Mr. Tolson  
K.*

*Originals*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 7 1960  
*CS*

WESTERN UNION

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. DeLoach	<i>✓</i>
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Rosen	<i>✓</i>
Mr. Tamm	<i>✓</i>
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

BIA002 (1052 AME MAR7 60) AA057 A

TEA047 PD FLORENCE SOCAR 7 956AME

J. EDGAR HOOVER

DIRECTOR F B I WASHDC

~~WE ARE HONORED~~ WE ARE HONORED THAT YOU IGNORED MELVINS  
DEATH. YOUR JEALOUSY HURT HIM VERY MUCH BUT UNTIL THE END I  
THINK HE LOVED YOU

ROSANNE MELVIN JR ALSON AND CHRISTOPHER BURVIA.

MAR 11 5 51 PM '60

*Being handled  
as a matter of  
internal security  
affairs*

DRAC--MR. MOHR FOR DIRECTOR

*3*  
*EOC*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : MR. MOHR *IPM*

DATE: 6-29-60

FROM : N. P. CALLAHAN *nm*

SUBJECT: TO PAY GRATUITY TO HUGH WILLCOX AND A. P. SKINNER, EXECUTORS OF THE ESTATE OF MELVIN H. PURVIS. S. RES. 341 (86th CONGRESS)

*off*  
*Salpini*  
FLORENCE, S CAROLINA

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Yesterday the Senate agreed to the above resolution as amended which provides that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to pay to Hugh Willcox and A. P. Skinner, executors of the estate of Melvin H. Purvis, an employee of the Senate at the time of his death, a sum equal to 8 1/2 months' compensation at the rate he was receiving by law at the time of his death, said sum to be considered inclusive of funeral expenses and all other allowances.

The resolution as originally introduced on June 22, 1960, provided for the payment of such gratuity to Rosanne Willcox Purvis, the widow of Melvin H. Purvis; however, as it was passed yesterday, Rosanne Willcox Purvis, widow of Melvin H. Purvis, was deleted from the resolution.

[REDACTED SECTION]

*b7c*  
*b6*

It would appear, however, that Hugh Willcox is father or brother of Mrs. Rosanne Purvis.

Melvin H. Purvis committed suicide on February 29, 1960, and he was formerly employed as a Special Agent of the Bureau from February 4, 1927, to August 5, 1935.

*7489-571*

Enclosed is a copy of Senate Resolution 341 as agreed to by the Senate with the amendment incorporated therein. No further action is necessary on this resolution.

Enclosure

*Director already aware of -*

PGT:cim  
(3)  
1 - Mr. DeLoach

*IPM*  
*5/6/30*

*74*  
*6/30*

*3/10*

Calendar No. 1726

80TH CONGRESS  
2d Session

**S. RES. 341**

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**RESOLUTION**

To pay a gratuity to Rosanne Willcox Purvia

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By Mr. HAYDEN

JUNE 22, 1960

Ordered to be placed on the calendar

Calendar No. 1726

86TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S. RES. 341**

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*File  
pym*

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 22, 1960

Mr. HAYDEN, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, reported the following resolution; which was ordered to be placed on the calendar

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**RESOLUTION**

1       *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate hereby is  
2 authorized and directed to pay, from the contingent fund of  
3 the Senate, to Rosanne Willcox Purvis, widow of Melvin H.  
4 Purvis, an employee of the Senate at the time of his death, a  
5 sum equal to eight and one-half months' compensation at  
6 the rate he was receiving by law at the time of his death,  
7 said sum to be considered inclusive of funeral expenses and  
8 all other allowances.

V

*P*  
MELVIN H. PURVIS  
Deceased  
Former Special Agent

*File*

ENTERED ON DUTY: February 4, 1927,  
in grade CAF 8,  
at \$2700 per annum.

RESIGNED: August 5, 1935, at which  
time he was in grade GS 13,  
at \$5800 per annum

*at*

*45*

*6/3/35*

Calendar No. 1726

80TH CONGRESS  
2d Session

**S. RES. 341**

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## RESOLUTION

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---

To pay a gratuity to Rosanne Willcox Purvis.

By Mr. HAYDEN

June 22, 1960

Ordered to be placed on the calendar

Calendar No. 1726

86TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 341

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6 the rate he was receiving by law at the time of his death,  
7 said sum to be considered inclusive of funeral expenses and  
8 all other allowances.

v

↓  
"Hugh Willeox and A.P. Skinner,  
executors of the estate of"

67-2489-591

# MELVIN PURVIS' FUNERAL TO BE HELD TOMORROW

FLORENCE (AP)—Slight, graying Melvin Purvis, who led one of the FBI's greatest manhunts, will be buried following funeral services here tomorrow.

Noon funeral services are set for St. John's Episcopal Church with the Rev. Joseph R. Horn III, rector, and the Rev. Joseph A. Diraddo officiating. Burial will be in Mount Hope cemetery.

The 56-year-old former FBI agent died by his own hand at his home here yesterday.

Purvis, who weighed only 127 pounds and stood 5-foot-7, gained national fame when he led a team of FBI agents that shot down John Dillinger and Pretty Boy Floyd during the 1930s. He later left the service, returned to law practice and, at his death, owned Florence radio station WOLS.

The mild-mannered Purvis had been in Washington three weeks ago, his office said, to prepare recommendations for the improvement of federal justice administration for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. A family physician said that while there, Purvis had an attack of flu and suffered an arm injury. The physician said Purvis also had been depressed recently.

Coroner William T. Eaddy said Purvis died of a self-inflicted shot through the jaw. Death came shortly before noon in an upstairs hallway of the Purvis home. The widow, Mrs. Rosamie Purvis, was in the garden when she heard a shot, ran into the house and found the body.

Purvis-led FBI agents killed Dillinger as he walked from a Chicago movie house on July 22, 1934. Dillinger's face had been altered by plastic surgery and Purvis said it was a good job. "But I knew him the minute I saw him."

Floyd was shot to death by Purvis' men Oct. 22, 1934 in a cornfield north of East Liverpool, Ohio. Verns Sankey, a No. 1 public enemy of his era, also was captured by Purvis' men in a Chicago barber shop. Sankey took his life after he was captured.

Purvis concluded eight years at the FBI in 1935 when he resumed law practice in East Flor-



MELVIN PURVIS

cisco. He returned to Florence in 1961 with the broadcasting concern. His office contained many mementos of his career as a crime fighter.

A graduate of the University of South Carolina Law School, Purvis was born Oct. 24, 1903, at Timmonsville. He served in the Army in World War II, and investigated evidence against accused German and Japanese war criminals after hostilities ceased.

Survivors, besides the widow, include three sons, Melvin Jr., a junior at the University of South Carolina; Phillip Alston, an attorney in Florence; and Christopher Perrineau, both in Florence.

*VERS FILE*

*File*

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The Columbia Record  
Columbia, S.C.

Date: 3-1-60

HENRY CAUTHEN,  
Editor

SAVANNAH  
DIVISION

74

NOT RECORDED  
8 AUG 9 1960

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 12-16-60

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: AN ARTICLE IN THE JANUARY, 1961,  
'PAGEANT' MAGAZINE ENTITLED  
'THE MAN WHO CLEANED UP THE '30'S'  
BY AL SILVERMAN

*✓ M. A. Jones*  
*12/16/60*  
*W.C. Sullivan*

The captioned magazine contains a 7-page article re Melvin Purvis and his exploits while a Special Agent in the Bureau. The only reference to the author, Al Silverman, on the basis of information known about him, is one mention that he edited a manuscript for "Saga" magazine in 1956 which was published under the title "The Case History of a Turncoat." This article was actually written by Irving Wallace and dealt with the story of an American soldier who was converted to communism when captured during the Korean War. Silverman's name was carried as co-author only because he edited the original writing of Wallace. (100-404372-182)

The article in "Pageant" is similar to many previous stories written about Purvis and gives much more credit to his participation in the Dillinger and "Pretty Boy" Floyd cases than actual facts warrant. The author is very sympathetic to Purvis throughout the article and leaves the definite impression that it was through the organization, ability and brainwork of Purvis that the gangster era in the early '30's was brought to a close. It was stated that no satisfactory reason was given for Purvis' resignation from the FBI although there were rumors that he had an argument with the Director and that he was upset because steps were not taken to prevent the deportation of Anna Sage who had originally reported that Dillinger was going to attend a theater on the night he was killed. The article quotes Purvis after his resignation was announced as saying, "Frankly, I'm glad to get out of here." And Silverman states that Purvis was mad about something.

The last portion of the article deals with Purvis' activities after he left the Bureau up until his death on 2-29-60. Silverman attempts to create the impression that Purvis did not kill himself and that his death was the result of an accident.

There would appear to be no purpose in writing Silverman to point out the inaccuracies in his article as he has obviously obtained his information from previous stories written on Purvis and any letter would only serve to spotlight the latest story.

RECOMMENDATION:

(3) For information.

JR:sk  
(3)

*1489-592*  
*TH 02*  
*12/17*  
*12/16/60*  
*12/17*  
*12/17*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 1/4/61

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: AN ARTICLE IN THE JANUARY, 1961, "PAGEANT" MAGAZINE ENTITLED "THE MAN WHO CLEANED UP THE 30'S" BY AL SILVERMAN

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The "Florence Morning News" of Florence, South Carolina, in its issue dated 12/20/60, carried an account of this article. In noting that the article was written by Al Silverman, the Director has asked "Do we know anything about Silverman? H."

There is attached a memo from Mr. Jones to Mr. DeLoach dated 12/16/60 which reviews the article as it appeared in "Pageant." The only reference to the author, Al Silverman, on the basis of information known about him, is one mention that he edited a manuscript for "Saga" Magazine in 1956 which was published under the title, "The Case History of a Turncoat." That article was actually written by Irving Wallace and dealt with an American soldier who was converted to communism when captured during the Korean War. Silverman's name was carried as co-author since he edited Wallace's original writing.

A search of Bureau indices on 1/3/61 failed to show any additional information identifiable with Silverman since his background is unknown. The New York Office has been requested to determine Silverman's identity through established contacts inasmuch as the editorial offices of Hillman Publications, the publishers of "Pageant," are located there.

We have had favorable relations with "Pageant" Magazine, and they have printed a number of favorable articles regarding the Bureau. The Director saw Alexander Hillman of Hillman Periodicals on 5/6/60, and we cooperated with him concerning an article and special picture story on FBI tours.

We will follow closely and advise.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For the Director's information.

Enclosure

67-441-543  
 RECORDED  
 JAN 10 1961  
 15

JCFM:dau/paw  
(5)

JAN 17 1961  
 1-5-61  
 200-1000

D.14  
 file  
 23

DX

PLRS

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

January 27, 1961

*maxwell*

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Attn: Personnel Section  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

I am undertaking the task of writing a book about famous and near famous people who are or were employed by our Federal government. The book will be comprised of a short biography of such people as the President, Director of Internal Revenue Service, and your own Mr. Hoover.

I wish to include Mr. Mervin Purvis, and Mr. Dave O'Bryan, who use to be and may still be District Agent at Dallas, Texas. Mr. O'Bryan, I understand, was at one time an All-American football player at Texas Christian University.

It would be kindly appreciated if any information regarding birth dates, family background, and outstanding achievements, etc. regarding these individuals that you could offer would greatly be appreciated.

REC-149 87-7487-594

Your Service is doing a fine job, and I know, we the American people appreciate it. Keep up the good work.

Thanking you in advance, I remain;

Sincerely Yours,  
*Ross A. Griffin*  
Ross A. Griffin  
U.S. Weather Bureau  
Fairbanks, Alaska

RECORDED

JAN 30 1961

*maxwell 2-7-61  
at 4/1/61*

EX - 127

REC-92 92-5-46906

XEROX  
FEB 15 1961

FEB 8 1961

*maxwell*

PERS. FILE

REC-32 14-5-46906

February 7, 1961

AIRMAIL

EX-127

Mr. Ross A. Griffin  
c/o U. S. Weather Bureau  
Fairbanks, Alaska

*Mervin Purvis*

Dear Mr. Griffin:

Your letter of January 27 was received as Mr. Hoover was leaving the city and he asked me to acknowledge it for him. He wanted me to tell you that as a matter of policy it is not possible to furnish the information that you requested. You may wish to correspond directly with the persons named in your letter or, if deceased, with their immediate families.

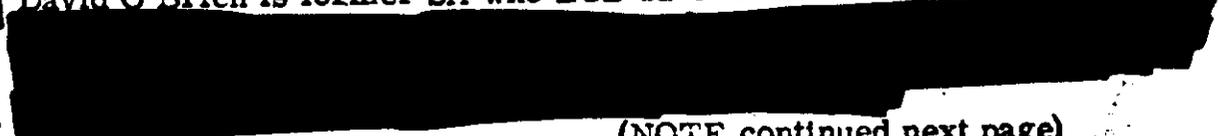
FEB 7 3 39 PM '61  
REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI

Sincerely yours,

MAILED 9  
FEB - 7 1961  
COMM-FBI

Helen W. Gandy  
Secretary

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record identifiable with Ross A. Griffin. It is apparent from his letter that he is a neophyte writer and he is going about the research for his proposed book in a very amateurish fashion. David O'Brien is former SA who EOD 12-9-40 and resigned 6-22-51. At



- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- W. C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

AFH:dmk (3)

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

(NOTE continued next page)

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

Mr. Ross A. Griffin

2-7-61

**bb** NOTE CONTINUED: 

Melvin H. Purvis EOD 2-6-27 and resigned 8-5-35. He committed suicide on 2-29-60. He has received extensive publicity over the years and constantly capitalized on his experience with the Bureau.

In view of the records of the two individuals about whom the correspondent inquired, it is believed that this in-absence letter is appropriate to discourage any additional correspondence.

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: March 8, 1961

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: STORY CAPTIONED "ACTION SAGA OF J. EDGAR HOOVER'S TOP 'UNTOUCHABLE'" IN MARCH ISSUE OF "STAG" MAGAZINE

1961

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- DeLoach
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Ingram
- Gandy

Attached is a copy of the March issue of "Stag" magazine which is a monthly publication; a majority of the stories carried in this magazine revolve around sex and are accompanied by pictures devised to arouse prurient interest. The March issue of this magazine carries a story entitled "J. Edgar Hoover's Top 'Untouchable,'" written by Curtis Rodann and features former Special Agent Melvin Purvis.

OBSERVATIONS:

The title of this story is carried on the cover of the magazine in bold yellow type in order to attract attention to the feature. The story is written in a glamorous form, bringing all the attention to focus on former Special Agent Melvin Purvis. Some of the facts pertaining to certain cases are a little distorted and would lead the reader to believe that most of the accomplishments of the FBI during the early 30's were carried out by Melvin Purvis and his men. The article carries various photographs of infamous criminals and also two of Mr. Hoover shaking hands with Melvin Purvis, one of which is captioned, "Purvis gets congratulations from boss Hoover after nailing John Dillinger."

The Bureau extended no cooperation in connection with this article and due to our relations with former Special Agent Melvin Purvis, it is felt that no contact with the publisher should be made.

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

Bufiles reflect no identifiable information on Curtis Rodann, author of this article.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

Enclosure  
 1 to Mr. DeLoach  
 KBP:cau (6)

67-1427-595  
 Searched \_\_\_\_\_ Numbered \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL FILED IN 67-10430-30

ENCLOSURE

EX-101

REC-72 67-96472-30

V. [Handwritten initials]

XERO [Handwritten initials]  
APR 5 1961

CRIME RESEARCH  
 PERS. FILES  
 [Handwritten initials]

This article is selected and  
 filed in Bureau file  
 3/22/61 (258)

Dwight M. Stanley Jr.  
Manager

**ST JLEY  
PE. JONNEL  
SERVICE**



SUITE 101 MANPOWER BLDG. 413 W. MAIN AVE. GASTONIA, N. C. PHONE 864-7718

November 10, 1965

*Per 611 (Service Unit)  
no identifiable  
info re inquirer.  
WJH  
11-15-65*

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I knew Mr. Melvin Purvis on a casual basis during the time he was alive and also his son. I went to school in Florence, South Carolina for one year and it was during this time that I became acquainted with Mr. Purvis and his son.

Since the death of Mr. Purvis and after trying to get some information together as to the cause of this death, I understand that this was originally ruled as a possible heart attack, but through some various sources I understand that there was some question in the doctors minds as to the cause of death. After doing some intensive reading on Mr. Purvis' background and noting in one article that I read that someone closely connected with John Dillinger who had been sent up through a conviction of Mr. Purvis' had made the statement that he would take care of Mr. Purvis immediately upon his release from prison.

I am not sure how correct my dates are, but from what I can find out it seems as if this gentleman was released from prison one or two days prior to Purvis mysterious death.

REC-139

NOV 18 1965

I have discussed this matter and the information that I have compiled with Mr. Brannon with the Central Intelligence Agency, during my last trip to Washington and we feel that this certainly would be worth looking into. Mr. May is my wife's, Father's, Brother and this is the reason that I brought this information to his attention and asked his opinion on it.

11-18-65-596

3  
WJH

*Let to J. Stanley  
11-14-65  
WB-1-3/Jan*

CORRESPONDENCE  
PERS. REC. UNIT

November 10, 1965

If you could offer me any assistance in  
this matter, I would certainly appreciate it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dwight M. Stanley, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Dwight M. Stanley, Jr.

REC-139

November 17, 1965

NOV 17 10 15 AM '65  
READING ROOM  
FBI

Mr. Dwight M. Stanley, Jr.  
Stanley Personnel Service  
Suite 101, Manpower Building  
413 West Main Avenue  
Gastonia, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Stanley:

Your letter of November 10, 1965, concerning the late Mr. Melvin H. Purvis was received as Mr. Hoover was leaving the city and he asked me to acknowledge it for him.

Mr. Hoover asked me to inform you that as a matter of policy it is not possible to be of assistance to you in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Gandy  
Secretary

WBH:mfs:jah  
(3)

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record identifiable with inquirer. Purvis EOD 2-6-27, resigned 8-5-35, and committed suicide 2-29-60. He received substantial publicity over the years and constantly capitalized on FBI experience. An in-absence reply should discourage additional correspondence. Judging from inquiry, the inquirer is unaware Purvis committed suicide. Inquirer doesn't specify why he seeks information concerning cause of death of Purvis, stating he has read that some convict closely connected with Dillinger threatened to take care of Purvis upon release from prison and allegedly was released one or two days prior to Purvis's death.

*[Vertical handwritten note: "Purvis's death"]*

*[Handwritten note: "CAD-WBKH"]*

MAILED 10  
NOV 17 1965  
COMM-FBI

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

P. O. Box 538  
Waldport, Oregon  
October 31, 1966

17594



The F. B. I.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

Would you please send me,  
or tell me where I may obtain,  
a biography or an autobiography  
of Melvin Purvis, government  
agent of the 1930's.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,  
(Miss) Patricia Dunlap

11-8-66  
ed/jdm  
ITC 11-8-66  
jdm

~~CORRECTED~~  
INDEXED  
mml

TRUE COPY

P. O. Box 538  
Waldport, Oregon  
October 31, 1966

The F. B. I.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

Would you please send me, or tell me where I  
may obtain a biography or an autobiography of Melvin Purvis,  
government agent of the 1930's.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Patricia Dunlap

PATRICIA DUNLAP  
P.O. Box 538  
WALDPART, OREGON  
97394

NOV 9 1966

REC-141

7489-597
Numbered 83
5 NOV 10 1966

THINK

PERS. REC. UNIT

10-11-66  
11-2-66



1337 East 4th South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102  
May 18, 1971

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Sir:

It is my desire to locate former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent Melvin Purvis. Mr. Purvis was with the Bureau during the early 1930s.

If his now-residency is unknown, his place of birth would be helpful; possibly, also, the maiden name of his wife and her birthplace.

Any assistance you can give me will be appreciated.

Yours truly,

*J. Angyle Jordan*  
J. Angyle Jordan

7489-598  
48

*WFO #597  
found at PEP  
5-26-71  
OK with  
Jordan*

MAILED 8  
MAY 27 1971  
FBI

148

REC-141

November 8, 1966

PERS. REC. UNIT

Miss Patricia Dunlap  
Post Office Box 538  
Waldport, Oregon 97394

Dear Miss Dunlap:

Your letter of October 31st has been received during Mr. Hoover's absence; however, you may be sure it will be brought to his attention upon his return.

While I know Mr. Hoover would like to be of assistance, it is not possible for him to furnish any information regarding Mr. Melvin H. Purvis except that he was employed by this Bureau as a Special Agent from February 6, 1927, until August 5, 1935.

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Gandy  
Secretary

NOTE:- Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. Purvis EOD 2/6/27, resigned 8/5/35, and committed suicide 2/29/60. He received substantial publicity over the years and constantly capitalized on FBI experience. In view of this, an in-absence is deemed appropriate.

ED:jdm (3)

MAILED 9  
NOV 8 1966  
COMM-FBI

*Handwritten notes:*  
E R I  
NOV 8 10 00 AM '66  
Purvis  
Helen Gandy  
Ed

NOV 8 4 55 PM '66

REC'D - RECORDING ROOM

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Wick
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

Joyce Purvis  
8039 Chariot Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75207  
July 21, 1972

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.  
Agent's Records Dept.

If possible, please send information regarding one of your 1930's agents, Melvin Purvis, who was the head of the Chicago Dept. at that time. I am tracing my family tree and believe ~~of my relatives~~ <sup>7-26-72</sup> ~~one of my relatives~~ <sup>599</sup>. If you could send me the names of his parents and his birthplace, and a copy of a photograph of him, I would be greatly appreciative.

Thank you for your time,  
Joyce Purvis

~~RECEIVED~~  
JUL 27 1972

CORRESPONDENCE

EXTRA REC 8...

ack  
7-26-72  
RWE/pan

mmf

161

July 26, 1972

Miss Joyce Purvis  
8039 Chariot Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75227

Dear Miss Purvis:

It is a pleasure to be of assistance in reply to your inquiry of July 21st regarding Mr. Melvin Horace Purvis, Jr. Mr. Purvis was born on October 24, 1903, at Timmons-ville, South Carolina, to Mr. Melvin Horace Purvis and Mrs. Janie Mims Purvis. He entered on duty with this Bureau on February 4, 1927, and resigned on August 5, 1935.

I regret that we do not have a photograph of Mr. Purvis we can send you. I hope this data will be of aid.

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray III

L. Patrick Gray, III  
Acting Director

*(Handwritten initials)*

MAILED 5  
JUL 26 1972  
FBI

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Mr. Purvis committed suicide on 2-29-60. Mr. Dalbey has indicated that there is no objection to furnishing correspondent the data requested.

- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Bates \_\_\_\_\_
- Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Campbell \_\_\_\_\_
- Cleveland \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Dalbey \_\_\_\_\_
- Jenkins \_\_\_\_\_
- Marshall \_\_\_\_\_
- Miller, E.S. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ponder \_\_\_\_\_
- Soyars \_\_\_\_\_
- Walters \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kinley \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Armstrong \_\_\_\_\_
- Ms. Herwig \_\_\_\_\_
- Mrs. Neenan \_\_\_\_\_

RWE:ncr (3)

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

145

*(Handwritten signatures and initials)*

W  
27

Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Baker	_____
Mr. Bates	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Cleveland	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Dalbey	_____
Mr. Jenkins	_____
Mr. Marshall	_____
Mr. Miller, E.S.	_____
Mr. Ponder	_____
Mr. Soyars	_____
Mr. Walters	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Kinley	_____
Mr. Armstrong	_____
Ms. Herwig	_____
Mrs. Neenan	_____

September 19, 19

Information  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

C/P

In looking through the April 1936 issue of The Farmer's Wife Magazine, I noticed a Post Cereal advertisement asking children to join the Melvin Purvis Junior G-Men Club. Everyone joining the club (by sending in two box-tops) received a Junior G-Man Club badge.

As a nostalgia buff, I would like very much to obtain the rights to reproduce a small quantity of these badges for sale to collectors. However, I have no idea how to contact Mr. Purvis or his heirs.

7489-600

I thought that since he is a former F.B.I. agent, your agency might be able to forward the enclosed letter (relating to this matter) to Mr. Purvis or his family. I have left the letter unsealed, should you wish to examine it.

Many thanks for any help you may be able to provide.

Sincerely,

*Peter Collinson*

Peter Collinson  
2040 S. Summerton Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI. 48858

*[Handwritten initials]*  
MARE

ack  
9-27-72  
REW/mle

7 SEP 28 1972

3 ENCLOSURE

CORRECTION

September 19, 1972

I am writing concerning the Melvin Purvis Junior G-Man badge referred to in the attached advertisement (April 1936 issue of The Farmer's Wife Magazine). As a nostalgia buff, I am interested in the possibility of obtaining the rights to reproduce, for sale, a replica of this premium. (Because I had no idea who to contact in this regard, the F.B.I. has been kind enough to forward this letter to you.)

My hope is to order a lot of 500 or 1,000 of the item from a novelty company which used to produce many of the premiums distributed by breakfast food firms. As there are a very limited number of nostalgia fans around who are interested specifically in this kind of thing, I would expect to make little if any profit. The whole project would, I think, be more of a service to my fellow collectors than anything else.

My questions are these:

1. Is it possible for me to obtain the rights to do this through an agreement with you?
2. If so, what would these rights cost? (I would be happy to pay a reasonable percentage of the price of each item actually sold. I could not, however, afford any large initial payment or guarantee.)

I'm sorry to bother you with such a small matter, but there are those to whom having such an item would mean a great deal.

Sincerely,

*Peter Collinson*  
Peter Collinson  
2040 S. Summerton Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI. 48858

67-7489-600

P.S. I am presently distributing replicas of a 1940 Captain Midnight medal under a similar arrangement with Skelly Oil Company and Ovaltine Food Products.

67-7489-600

ENCLOSURE

The Inside Story of

# MELVIN PURVIS



MELVIN PURVIS, formerly the ace G-Man of the Department of Justice, who directed the capture of Dillinger, "Preppy" Floyd, "Baby Face" Nelson, and scores of other public enemies. Mr. Purvis reveals here the story and methods used in capturing desperate criminals. For obvious reasons, the names of the characters involved have been changed. The methods of apprehending criminals, and the inside story of the capture of typical law-breakers, are here with a finished and clinching proof that CRIME DOES NOT PAY.

## THE SCRAM CHART OF HOW A MILEAGE GAUGE WORKS

OH, MR PURVIS, TELL US ABOUT THE TIME YOU CAPTURED THE BARKUS GANG!

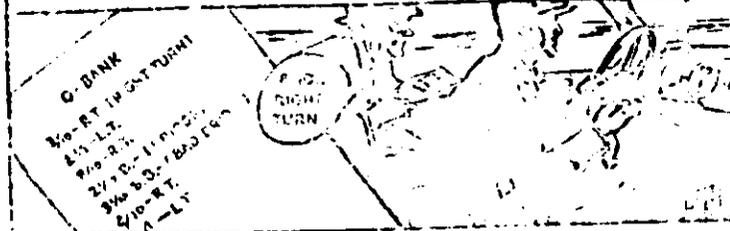
OH, YES, ED!

WELL, THIS NOTORIOUS BARKUS GANG HAD JUST MADE A RAID ON A SMALL ILLINOIS BANK. WHEN MY G-MEN AND I ARRIVED, THERE WERE NO CLUES UNTIL...

HERE'S HOW A SCRAM CHART WORKS: SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE ROBBERY THE BANDIT CAR DRIVES CAREFULLY OVER THE ROUTE PLANNED FOR THE GET-AWAY, SELECTING LITTLE-USED ROADS. EXACT MILEAGES ARE NOTED ON THE CHART. WHEN THE BANDIT CAR DRIVES UP TO THE BANK, THE MILEAGE GAUGE IS SET AT ZERO. WHEN THE CAR ROADS AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF THE ROBBERY, A BANDIT CALLS OFF THE MILEAGES AT WHICH TURNS ARE TO BE MADE..... "3/40THS OF A MILE RIGHT TURN... 2-1/2 MILES, LEFT TURN," ETC.

NOW, WE KNOW EXACTLY WHICH WAY THEY'RE GOING!

MAYBE... YOU REMEMBER THAT MAP-WAS THE ROADS THEY'RE MARKED AHEAD WATCHED... I'LL BE A MUNCH!



### AT THE CROSSROADS

THERE THEY GO! WERE TOO LATE!

TOO LATE, NOTHING! IT'S SHUT OUT!

STICK 'EM UP, JOE BARKUS! WE'VE GOT YOU AND YOUR GANG DEAD TO ME!

IT'S MELVIN PURVIS!

YOU KNOW, PAUL AND JOAN, A G-MAN NEEDS A HEARTY, SATISFYING BREAKFAST. THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS EAT...

# IRVING

THE AGE OF IRVING CAPTION



WE DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY THEY WENT.

MR. PURVIS, DOES THIS MEAN ANYTHING? IT BLEW OUT THE WINDOW OF THAT GANG'S CAR AS IT SPED PAST MY GROCERY.



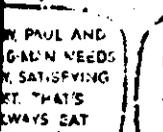
BE YOU FOLLOW THE MAP-H-AY. THE IN THEY'VE LED AHEAD AND... YOU PLAY HUNCH!



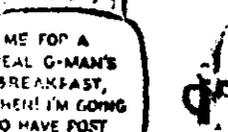
MY HUNCH IS THE SCRAM CHART, THE WHOLE PLAN IS TO KEEP ON THE L.A. — AND I'M GOING TO KNOW A SHORT STEP ON IT AND...



...THEY'VE BEEN TO... THEIR... THEY'LL... THE FORMER... THE... YET!



W. PAUL AND GARDEN NEEDS Y. SATISFYING ET. THAT'S ALWAYS SAT



ME FOR A REAL G-MAN'S BREAKFAST, THEN! I'M GOING TO HAVE POST

September 27, 1972

~~Mr. Peter Collinson~~  
~~2040 South Summerton Road~~  
~~Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48858~~

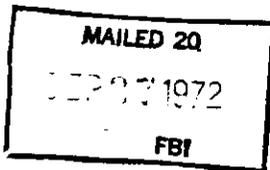
Dear Mr. Collinson:

In reply to your communication of September 19th,  
Mr. Melvin Horace Purvis, Jr., died on February 29, 1960. At the  
time of his demise, his widow, the former Miss Roxanne Willcox,  
resided in Florence, South Carolina. I am returning your enclosures.

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray III

L. Patrick Gray, III  
Acting Director



Enclosures (3)

NOTE: Purvis EOD 2/4/27, resigned 8/5/35, and committed suicide  
2/29/60. He received substantial publicity over the years and constantly  
capitalized on FBI experience.

REW:mls (3)

*mls*

*19/5/1972*  
*per*  
*Gene*  
*REW*

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Cleveland \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Dalbey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Jenkins \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Marshall \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Miller, E.S. \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ponder \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Soyars \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kinley \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Armstrong \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Herwig \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Neenan \_\_\_\_\_

~~SEP 27 1972~~ 150  
9 OCT 16 1972

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 1/25/74

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (94-NEW)(C)

ATTN: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
DIVISION

SUBJECT: "MELVIN PURVIS"  
AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTIONS  
TELEVISION PILOT  
RESEARCH

OO: Bureau

The entertainment industry publication "Daily Variety" in its issue dated 1/24/74 contained an article which reported that ABC - TV had forty television pilots in preparation for next season. Included in the list was "Melvin Purvis" based on the FBI Agent of the DILLINGER era, produced by DAN CURTIS for American International Productions (AIP) from a JOHN MILIUS script. It was reported that filming would commence 1/28/74.

The Bureau will recall that in 1973 AIP released the motion picture "Dillinger" which was written and directed by JOHN MILIUS. By letter dated 5/7/73 captioned "DILLINGER, AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTIONS, MOTION PICTURE WITH FBI PORTRAYALS, RESEARCH" the Bureau was advised that AIP reportedly had planned to follow the production of "Dillinger" with films entitled "Baby Face Nelson," "Machine Gun Kelly," and "Pretty Boy Floyd." It is apparent that captioned television production is part of this same series of productions, and probably was inspired by the financial success of the motion picture "Dillinger."

Los Angeles indices contain no information identifiable with DAN CURTIS and contains no additional information concerning JOHN MILIUS.

The above is furnished for the information in the event AIP or ABC contacts the Bureau for cooperation or assistance in connection with the production of this television pilot.

- 3- Bureau
  - 2- Los Angeles
  - 1 - 94-1983 (AIP)
- RMW:fet  
(5)

FEB 28 1974

RESEARCH SECTION

See Memo from to French 2/14/74  
GWS

*Handwritten notes:*  
4/17/74 in Sacramento  
showing to give AIP  
filming re ending matter  
DLD 1/30/74



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Franck

DATE: 2-14-74

FROM : Mr. Heim

SUBJECT: MOTION PICTURE REGARDING FORMER  
CHICAGO SAC MELVIN PURVIS  
BEING MADE FOR TELEVISION

Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

By letters dated January 25 and February 5, 1974, the Los Angeles Office has advised that American International Pictures is making a motion picture for ABC-TV's "Movie of the Week" series that will bear the title "Melvin Purvis" or "Purvis--G-Man."

This film reportedly will be a "spin-off" of the character of Melvin Purvis (who was SAC of our Chicago Office in the mid-1930's) as Purvis was portrayed in the 1973 motion picture "Dillinger" which was also produced by American International Pictures.

American International Pictures is well-known to us as an independent motion picture company that has specialized in low-budget (or "B") movies, including films glorifying notorious hoodlums. Representatives of American International Pictures have contacted us on a number of occasions in the past, but we have not extended cooperation to this outfit.

According to an article in the January 30, 1974, issue of "Daily Variety," the film about Melvin Purvis will be the first motion picture that American International Pictures has made especially for television.

This same article in the January 30th issue of "Daily Variety" also indicates that well-known actor Dale Robertson has signed to play the role of Melvin Purvis.

b6  
b7C  
b2

[REDACTED]

18

RECOMMENDATION:

FEB 19 1974

For information. We should furnish no cooperation to either American International Pictures or ABC-TV in connection with the production or publicizing of this made-for-television motion picture.

1 - Mr. Franck  
GWG:vag (6)

1 - Mr. Walsh

*J. P. [Signature]*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

DALE ROBERTSON

### CASUALTY 'PURVIS'

Dale Robertson has been signed to portray the title role in "Purvis-G-Man," American International Pictures' pilot-film for the ABC-TV "Movie-Of-The-Week" series. Don Curtis will direct the film which marks AIP's first venture into motion pictures made especially for tv.

The picture is a spin-off of the character of Melvin Purvis, as portrayed in the recent hit movie "Dillinger," depicting exploits of the FBI agent.

Production will begin this week on location in Sacramento and will later move to locations in the L.A. environs. Elliot Schick is exec-in-charge-of-production for AIP.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 8  
"Daily Variety"  
Hollywood, Calif.

Date: 1/30/76  
Edition: Wednesday  
Author:  
Editor: Eric M. Pryor  
Title: "MELVIN PURVIS"  
AIP  
TV PILOT  
Character: RESEARCH  
or  
Classification: 94-2001  
Submitting Office: M.  
 Being Investigated

94-6-17

SEARCHED

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 2/5/74  
ATTN: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (94-2284) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MELVIN PURVIS -  
AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTIONS  
TELEVISION PILOT  
RESEARCH  
OO: Bureau

Re Los Angeles letter, dated 1/25/74.

Enclosed are two copies of an article which appeared in the 1/30/74 issue of the entertainment industry publication "Daily Variety".

The enclosed article reports that the actor DALE ROBERTSON has been signed to portray the title role in captioned television pilot. The article also suggests the title of this film has been changed to "Purvis - G-Man", and notes the picture is a spin-off of the character of MELVIN PURVIS as portrayed in the recent motion picture "Dillinger".

As the Bureau is aware, ROBERTSON is a well known actor who has specialized in western roles. He was born 7/14/23, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

For information.

EX-101

*See memo Helm to Frank 2/14/74  
RUC*

FEB 19 1974

RESEARCH SECTION  
*RUC*

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
  - 2 - Los Angeles  
(1 - 94-1983) AIP)
- RMW/pml  
(5)

5 FEB 28 1974



- Assec. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. \_\_\_\_\_
- Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_
- Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_
- Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Inspection \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_
- Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

# Watered-Down 'Bonnie & Clyde'

ABC's Tuesday Movie of the Week (tonight at 8:30 on WMAL-TV) is billed as "Melvin Purvis, G-Man," but it comes on more like a watered-down version of "Bonnie and Clyde." No sex, no nudity and no blood.

Not that these are requisites for a film about famous gangsters of the 1930s. But for audiences used to seeing machine gun bullets rip people apart at their neighborhood theater, "Melvin Purvis, G-Man" is going to seem pretty tame and perhaps not very authentic.

What is authentic is the nostalgic 1930s background; the men wear baggy double-breasted suits and big, floppy fedoras, the music is tummy and jazzy and the cars, everything from a Rolls Royce to a bright blue Ford, are enough to swoon about.

AGAINST THIS background are, for the most part, cardboard people. The ill-starred lovers in this film are "Machine Gun" Kelly (Harris Yulin) and his wife, Kate (Margaret Blye), a tough gun moll reminiscent of the babes in old Jimmy Cagney movies. But instead of being gunned down after an auto chase, they are quietly apprehended in their bed in a hotel room where Kate is comforting her husband who is in tears because he's just learned that all the loot in the suitcase is in marked bills.

The hero is Melvin Purvis, who is christened G-Man (government man) by Kelly at the film's end. He is played by none other than that old Oklahoma cowpoke, and star of countless TV Western series, Dale Robertson. Purvis wears a magnificent beige coat with a big fur collar and a big white scarf to the snoot-

out. He coolly lights up a new stogie and calls for his Tommy-gun before opening fire on the Kellys. "There's plenty of time, those gangsters don't stand a chance against me," he draws.

The showdown takes place in broad daylight, and you've never heard so much shooting or seen so little blood. One crook even dives out of a closed second story window without causing himself noticeable harm.

IN WHAT IS probably the key scene in the film, Purvis talks Buckwheat, one of the gangsters, down from his perch on the second floor landing. "Son," Robertson draws, "this is Melvin Purvis down here. You're going to have to shoot a lot straighter than that to hit me."

Buckwheat succumbs. "I

don't want to die, Mr. Purvis."

"It will be all right, son," says Purvis, his arm around Buckwheat, patting his shoulder gently. That's a high point of the dialogue.

In what seems to be a last-ditch effort to breathe some motivation into the characters, Kate rejects the largesse of a socialite dilettante and, screams at him about how she came from a poor family and grew up in a tarpaper shack.

"George and I are killers and bank robbers," she yells hysterically as matrons drag her out of the jail's visiting room. "But you done this to us."

—JUDY FLANDER



Dale Robertson as Melvin Purvis, G-Man.

- The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_
- Washington Star-News 0-2
- Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_
- The Los Angeles Times \_\_\_\_\_

Date APR 9 1974

44-1671-6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Franck *ok*

DATE: 4/11/74

FROM : Mr. Heim  
*LJH*

SUBJECT: MOTION PICTURE ENTITLED  
*X* "MELVIN PURVIS, G-MAN"  
TELECAST BY ABC NETWORK  
APRIL 9, 1974

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. \_\_\_\_\_
- Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_
- Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_
- Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Inspection \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_
- Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

*N.Y.*  
On Monday, April 15, 1974, Director Kelley is scheduled to meet in New York City with Elton H. Rule, President and Chief Operating Officer of the American Broadcasting Companies. For the past nine years, the ABC network has telecast our Sunday night television series ("The FBI"); and according to Quinn Martin, ABC-TV has until April 15 to advise whether it desires to renew "The FBI" for a 10th season on the ABC network beginning next September.

In contrast to the fair and factual treatment accorded the Bureau by ABC in its telecasting of our TV series, the ABC network featured a new motion picture last Tuesday night (April 9) that represented a cheap, tasteless effort to commercialize on the name of former SAC Melvin Purvis and his association with the FBI.

This motion picture, entitled "Melvin Purvis, G-Man," was especially made for ABC's Movie-of-the-Week feature by American International Pictures. It was made to serve as a "pilot" program for possible adaptation to a television series that would dramatize exploits of the FBI--featuring the late former SAC Purvis--in the 1930's. The ABC Network did not advise us of its intention to have this film produced; nor were we afforded an opportunity to review the script.

Enclosure

**ENCLOSURE**

- 1 - Mr. Franck - Enclosure
- 1 - Mrs. Metcalf - Enclosure
- 1 - Telephone Room - Enclosure

GWG:djm (7)

*hwh*

*Memo Franck  
to [unclear]  
4-16-74  
RPF: [unclear]*

*SI-112*  
**REG-16**

**APR 22 1974**  
CONTINUED OVER

PERS. REC. UNIT.

*47*

*20*

*File 8  
Buh*

Mr. Heim to Mr. Franck Memorandum  
RE: MOTION PICTURE ENTITLED "MELVIN PURVIS, G-MAN"  
TELECAST BY ABC NETWORK, APRIL 11, 1974

Although the film was self-labeled at the outset as fictional, its portrayals of Melvin Purvis and other FBI personnel not only lacked authenticity, but they were near-comic and offensive. Comments concerning the film by persons both within and without the FBI have overwhelmingly been critical. (A critical review which appeared in the "Washington Star-News" on April 9 is attached.)

If an opportunity presents itself during the Director's conference with Elton Rule on Monday, it is felt that Mr. Kelley might want to advise Mr. Rule of our unfavorable reaction to the ABC-TV Movie-of-the-Week entitled "Melvin Purvis, G-Man" and tell Mr. Rule that the FBI strongly hopes ABC does not plan to adapt this film to a television series.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information in connection with Mr. Kelley's conference on Monday, April 15, 1974, with Elton Rule, President and Chief Operating Officer of the American Broadcasting Companies.

*10/1*  
*REF*  
*9/12*  
*mel*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Asst. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lab. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. McDermott *[Signature]*

DATE: 12/24/74

FROM : Mr. Heim *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: FORTHCOMING FILM CONCERNING MELVIN PURVIS AND THE KANSAS CITY MASSACRE

The Los Angeles Office has advised that Twentieth Century-Fox plans to produce a made-for-television movie this winter tentatively entitled "Melvin Purvis--The Kansas City Massacre." Reportedly, this film will be patterned along the lines of the cheap, tasteless movie entitled "Melvin Purvis, G-Man" which was made by American International Pictures several months ago and was shown by the ABC Television Network last April. The Los Angeles Office has been informed, in fact, that substantially the same production staff which produced "Melvin Purvis, G-Man" has been hired to produce "Melvin Purvis--The Kansas City Massacre" for Twentieth Century-Fox.

At this point, a cast has not yet been hired for the new film. Nor is it known whether Dale Robertson, whose portrayal of Melvin Purvis was both unrealistic and objectionable in the "Melvin Purvis, G-Man" film, will play the role of former SAC Purvis in the new movie.

According to the Los Angeles Office, Twentieth Century-Fox is aware of the fact that the FBI felt that American International Pictures did a very shoddy job with "Melvin Purvis, G-Man"--however, that movie earned sufficiently high television ratings when it was shown on ABC-TV that Twentieth Century-Fox feels it would be worthwhile to make a second Purvis film.

OBSERVATIONS:

SL 109

REC-50 94-2-4-1-298

Apparently, Twentieth Century-Fox hopes that the second Purvis film will prove to be a stepping-stone to a new television

- 1 - Mr. McDermott
- 1 - Mr. Walsh

JAN 7 1975

CONTINUED - OVER

GWG:lad  
(6)

*[Handwritten initials]*

*[Handwritten signature]*  
JAN 10 1975



2 JAN 1 1975

PERS. REC. UNIT

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-23000-298

Mr. Heim to Mr. McDermott Memorandum  
RE: FORTHCOMING FILM CONCERNING MELVIN PURVIS  
AND THE KANSAS CITY MASSACRE

series that will portray the late Melvin Purvis as principally responsible for solving the FBI's most celebrated cases, as well as for apprehending the most notorious criminals, of the 1930's. A cursory review of material available in the Research Section does not indicate that former SAC Purvis played a prominent role in the investigation of the Kansas City Massacre—other than the fact that he was one of four FBI Agents on the scene at the time that one of the subjects of this case, Charles Arthur "Pretty Boy" Floyd, was fatally shot near Clarkson, Ohio, in October, 1934.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information. The Los Angeles Office is aware that we do not want to lend any help or encouragement to the further exploitation of Melvin Purvis' memory by characters such as those who produced "Melvin Purvis, G-Man."

*MCD*  
*am*

*NOV*  
*18*

*K*

JAN 19 1982

Mrs. Fred E. Murphy  
1705 Sycamore Circle  
Manchester, Tennessee 37355

Dear Mrs. Murphy:

This is in further response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request concerning Melvin Purvis.

Former Special Agent Melvin Horace Purvis was born on October 24, 1903, in Florence County, South Carolina to Melvin H. Purvis and Janie Mims Purvis. He married Rosanne W. Purvis (last name unknown).

Mr. Purvis entered on duty with the Department of Justice on February 4, 1927, and became a Special Agent on February 1, 1929. On August 5, 1935, Agent Purvis resigned to practice law in California.

On February 29, 1960, Mr. Purvis died in Timmonsville, South Carolina, where he grew up.

Enclosed is your self-addressed, stamped envelope as this is not necessary when corresponding with this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

REC-110

James E. Hall, Chief  
Freedom of Information-Privacy  
Acts Section  
Records Management Division

7489-607  
3 JAN 21 1982 Y6

Enclosure

NOTE: Response co-ordinated with SA Donald L. Smith on 12-22-81.

jt:avs (4)

AWS

- Exec. Inv.
- Exec. Adm.
- Exec. LES
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv.
- Crim. Inv.
- Ident.
- Intell.
- Laboratory
- Legal Coun.
- Plan. & Insp.
- Rec. Mgnt.
- Tech. Serv.
- Training
- Public Affs. Off.
- Telephone Rm.
- Director's Sec'y

MAILED 6  
JAN 19 1982  
FBI

MAR 17 1982

MAR 1 1982

58 MAR 23 1982

SEP 14 1981

MURPHY  
1705 SYC. LONE CIRCLE  
MANCHESTER, TN 37355

Request No. 213000

RE: MELVIN PURVIS

Dear Requester:

This is to acknowledge receipt by FBI Headquarters of your recent Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request and to advise you we will comply with your request according to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 (a)(6)(A)(i) and other Federal statutes and regulations. Additional information, if needed, will be requested by separate letter.

A search of the indices to our records will be made to determine if we have the information you seek. If the search fails to locate record(s) pertaining to your request, you will be notified. If the search locates a record(s) which may be responsive to your request, it will be retrieved and processed according to the provisions of the FOIPA.

Your request has been assigned the number indicated above. Please use this number in all correspondence with us.

Sincerely yours,

*James K. Hill*  
Chief  
Freedom of Information-  
Privacy Acts Branch SECTION  
Records Management Division

Computer printout (4)

MAILED 16  
SEP 15 1981  
FBI

REC-110

7489-606  
8 MAR 11 1982 40

3 MAR 4 1982

3 MAR 15 1982 KA

*Handwritten initials and numbers*

*Handwritten initials*

1705 Sycamore Circle  
Manchester, Tennessee 37355  
August 29, 1981

William Webster, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D. C. 20013

Dear Sir:

*Deceased*  
*[Signature]*

I am working on the Purvis Genealogy and have been told that Melvin Purvis was an outstanding member of the FBI.

Would you be so kind as to send me any information you may have that you would not consider classified?

I am primarily interested in his parents names, their place of residence, his date of birth and death, time of service and any other pertinent data concerning him and his immediate family.

Thank you for any help you may be able to give. I am enclosing a self addressed, stamped envelope for your convenience. If there are any charges, please let me know and I will send my check.

Yours very truly,

*[Signature]*  
Mrs. Fred R. Murphy

*PROS, Baker  
Rundhahn  
AF USA*

REC-110

7489-605  
8 MAR 22 1982

SEP 1 1981  
3-4-82

*[Signature]*  
FILE

19  
3 MAR 15 1982

*Adm. 1451  
[Signature]*

318 100

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Records Systems/Services Sections

FOIPA 9-17, 19 81

- Name Searching Unit, 4543, TL# 115
- Service Unit, 4654, TL# 225
- Special File Room, 5991, TL# 122
- Forward to File Review, 5447, TL# 143
- Attention \_\_\_\_\_
- Return to Arrington 6958 314 3291  
Supervisor, Room, TL#, Ext.

Type of Search Requested: (Check One)

- Restricted Search (Active Index - 5 & 20)
- Restricted Search (Active & Inactive Index - 5 & 30)
- Unrestricted (Active & Inactive Index)

Special Instructions: (Check One)

- All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
- Subversive Search
- Nonsubversive Search
- Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only 20
- Exact Name Only On the Nose
- Buildup  Variations 9-28
- Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_

Subject Melvin Purvis  
 Birthdate & Place 10-24-03 Tennessee  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ S.C.

Localities \_\_\_\_\_

R# 107 Date 9/20 Searcher Initials AN

Prod. 9

	FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
<u>I</u>	<u>62-73886</u>	<u>37pg. 1 sect.</u>
<u>I</u>	<u>77-81452</u>	<u>161pg. 1 sect.</u>
<u>I</u>	<u>191-28173-1</u>	
<u>I</u>	<u>94-67156-21</u>	
<u>(100)</u>	<u>157-6-32-193</u>	
	<u>Melvin A. (B.)</u>	
<u>N-1</u>	<u>7-17715</u>	
	<u>Melvin A.</u>	
	<u>77-81452</u>	
<u>I</u>	<u>07-7489</u>	<u>7 sect.</u>
<u>I</u>	<u>62-116606-1</u>	<u>SFR</u>
	<u>Melvin Harva</u>	
<u>I</u>	<u>77-81452</u>	
	<u>Melvin</u>	
	<u>NAME</u>	
	<u>Mel</u>	
	<u>NAME</u>	

OCT 22 1981  
 JAN 23 1984

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

R# 456 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Searcher Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Prod. 13

FILE NUMBER SERIAL

	<u>FILE NUMBER</u>	<u>SERIAL</u>
<u>H</u>	<u>47-98560</u>	<u>MF 31</u>
<u>NR</u>	<u>47-12587</u>	<u>MF</u>
<u>NR</u>	<u>47-21351</u>	<u>MF 309</u>
<u>J</u>	<u>47-25860</u>	<u>MF 302</u>
<u>H</u>	<u>47-34671</u>	<u>MF 309</u>
<u>NR</u>	<u>52-66954</u>	<u>MF 30</u>
<u>I</u>	<u>80-84</u>	
<u>NR</u>	<u>88-13903</u>	<u>MF 309</u>
<u>I</u>	<u>94-2-13140</u>	
<u>I</u>	<u>94-8 sub 313-1</u>	
<u>I</u>	<u>94-8 sub 813-0</u>	
<u>I</u>	<u>94-3-4 sub 25-87</u>	
<u>I</u>	<u>94-3-4-8 sub 25-79</u>	
<u>I</u>	<u>94-4-2411-2</u>	
<u>I</u>	<u>94-4 sub 648-5</u>	
<u>I</u>	<u>94-8 sub 815-2</u>	
<u>I</u>	<u>94-8-812 702-15</u>	
<u>I</u>	<u>62-29777-2-93</u>	<u>HP 1276</u>
<u>D</u>	<u>66-4760-90</u>	
<u>I</u>	<u>94-8 sub 61-9</u>	

OCT 22 1981  
JAN 23 1982



REC-341

December 4, 1980

Mrs. Robert Thompson  
Post Office Box 24  
Moore, Montana 59464

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Your recent communication requesting information concerning former Special Agent Melvin H. Purvis has been received. Although the FBI does not have any preprinted material to furnish you, it is suggested that you contact "The News and Courier," Charleston, South Carolina, since the January 16, 1960, edition of that paper contained extensive biographical data concerning Mr. Purvis.

Additionally, it is quite possible that the badge that your husband found was a "Melvin Purvis Junior G-Man Corps Badge," the result of a promotional endeavor sponsored by the General Foods Corporation in the 1930's.

Sincerely yours,

*RS*  
Roger S. Young  
Inspector in Charge  
Office of Congressional  
and Public Affairs

NOTE: Correspondent's inquiry concerns former SA Melvin H. Purvis, Jr., who EOD 2/4/27, resigned 8/5/35, and committed suicide 2/29/60 (Bufile 67-7489). He received substantial publicity over the years and constantly capitalized on his FBI experience.

BIM:sah (3)

MAILED 5

DEC - 5 1980

- Exec AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Exec AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Exec AD LES \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

*del*

DEC 2

RECEIVED

DEC 4 1980  
DEC 2 1 18 PM '80

~~23 DEC 10 1980~~

PERS. REC. UNIT

RECEIVED

*BIM*

10 JAN 8 1981



F. B. I.  
Washington, D.C.

Nov 5, 1980  
Moore, Mont.

Dear Mrs. Melvin J. Purvis

I am writing you in hopes that you can give me some information that I need.

I live in Moore, Montana, a town of about 200 population in the central part of the state.

This summer my husband found a badge with the name of Melvin Purvis on it. It is a secret operator badge with four stars & the American seal on it. It says on the bottom Guard of —. The last word is not plain enough.

I have read several 67-147-1004  
SEARCHED SERIALIZED INDEXED  
9 DEC 29 1980 and the capture of the Dillinger gang, but would like to know more about his personal life, family & etc, also if he was ever around this area, as it would be interesting to see how his badge got here.

Any information that you can give me would be greatly appreciated, as it isn't everyday someone finds an F.B.I. badge in their yard.

Am sending a drawing of the badge.

~~23 DEC 10 1980~~  
CORRESPONDENCE

From what I have read Melvin Purvis was head of the F.B.I. office in Chicago in 1932. He joined the F.B.I. in 1927, and retired from it in 1935.

Please send me any information that you might have.

Sincerely  
Mrs. Robert Thompson  
Box 24  
Morie, Mont. 59464



Actual Size

August 31, 1977

Mr. Christopher P. Purvis  
1356 Cherokee Road  
Florence, South Carolina 29501

Dear Mr. Purvis:

I was indeed sorry to learn of your mother's death and you have my heartfelt sympathy. Words are most inadequate at a time like this, but I hope you and the other members of your family will find solace in the knowledge that our thoughts and prayers are with you in your bereavement.

May God bless and comfort you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence Kelley  
Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

1 - Columbia (80-0)  
Reurlet 8-24-77.

NOTE: Christopher Purvis is the son of former SA Melvin H. Purvis who EOD 2-4-27 and resigned 8-5-35.

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. MN:rfw/blm (4)
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Fin. & Pers. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MAILED 5  
AUG 31 1977  
FBI

APPROVED:

Director \_\_\_\_\_  
Assec. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. MH/PL  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_

Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fin. & Pers. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Columbia (80-0)

SUBJECT: DEATH OF MRS. ROSANNE W. PURVIS  
WIDOW OF FORMER SPECIAL AGENT  
MELVIN H. PURVIS

DATE: 8/24/77

Assoc. Dir.	
Dep. Dir.	
Dep. AD Adm.	
Dep. AD Inv.	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Crim. Inv.	
Fin. & Pers.	
Ident.	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Legal Coun.	
Plan. & Insp.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Spec. Inv.	
Train. Serv.	
Off. Cong. & Public Affs.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

For the information of the Bureau, Mrs. ROSANNE W. PURVIS, 1356 Cherokee Road, Florence, South Carolina, widow of former FBI Agent MELVIN H. PURVIS, died Tuesday, August 23, 1977, in a local Florence hospital after a long illness. Funeral services will be at 4:00 PM, August 25, 1977, at St. John's Episcopal Church, Florence.

Mrs. PURVIS is survived by three sons, MELVIN H. PURVIS, JR., New York, New York, P. ALSTON PURVIS of the Netherlands, and CHRISTOPHER P. PURVIS of 1356 Cherokee Road, Florence, South Carolina.

The Bureau may consider sending a letter of condolence to CHRISTOPHER P. PURVIS of 1356 Cherokee Road, Florence, South Carolina 29501.

- 2 - Bureau
- 1 - Columbia

SJP:jac  
(3)

7489-603

EXP. PROC. 5  
33 AUG 27 1977

*Christopher P. Purvis*  
LET TO PURVIS  
8-31-77  
MN:yu - /elm

CORRESPONDENCE

THREE



July 11, 1977

Mrs. Ruth Porter  
2488 Southeast 23rd Avenue  
Albany, Oregon 97321

Dear Mrs. Porter:

Receipt is acknowledged of your inquiry which was received in this Bureau July 1, 1977, regarding Mr. Melvin Purvis, a former employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Our records indicate that Mr. Purvis died on February 29, 1960, in Florence, South Carolina.

With regard to your desire to research your family tree, it is suggested you contact the National Archives and Records Service, Central Research Division, Pennsylvania Avenue and Eighth Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C. 20408.

I hope the above information will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley  
Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

Mr. Purvis EOD 2-4-27, resigned 8-5-35, and committed suicide 2-29-60. He received substantial publicity over the years and constantly capitalized on FBI experience. His personnel file does not indicate up-to-date information regarding his relatives. Address of Archives received by telephone call to 523-3183.

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Fin. & Pers. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgmt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

AGT:gab (3) 67-7489  
575 2ab

JUL 14 1977

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

MAILED 18  
JUL 11 1977  
FBI

FBI/DOJ

June 27, 1977

Personnel Department  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like some information, please.

Back in the days when Government men were called G Men, instead of FBI men, I had a 2nd or 3rd cousin who worked for your organization. His name was Melvin Purvis. However, my relatives did not keep very good track of each other, so now I am wondering, can you tell me the names of his parents and grandparents, so I can locate them on my family tree? We both descended from John Purvis and Sarah Ginn who had seven children. I descended then, from William Purvis who had 17 children, as did one of his brothers, so you can see why my ancestors lost track of each other.

If you cannot give me his parents and grandparents names, can you tell me any other place I can write to find out?

I will really appreciate any help you can give me, and I am inclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your convenience.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Ruth Porter*

Mrs. Ruth Porter  
2488 S. E. 23rd Ave.  
Albany, Oregon 97321

7489-602  
12 JUN 12 1977

UTed  
letted  
7-1-77  
MB

THREE

June 16, 1977

Mr. Wilford L. Jones  
6679 Northeast Peterson Lane  
Albany, Oregon 97321

Dear Mr. Jones:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter which was received in this Bureau June 13, 1977, regarding Mr. Melvin Purvis, a former employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Our records indicate that Mr. Purvis died on February 29, 1960, in Florence, South Carolina.

Sincerely yours,

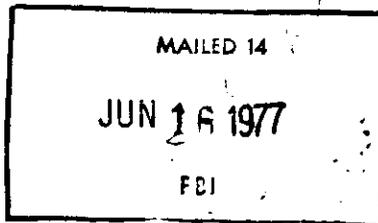
C M Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

OS  
AGT:gab (3) 67-7489

Mr. Purvis EOD 2-4-27, resigned 8-5-35, and committed suicide 2-29-60. He received substantial publicity over the years and constantly capitalized on FBI experience.

- Assec. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Fin. & Pers. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_



MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

6679 NE Peterson Lane  
Albany, Oregon 97321  
June 8 1977

Federal Bureau Investigation  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sirs

I would like to know if you would be able to give me the address of Mr. Melvin Purvis who used to be a member of your F. B. I.

I went into a business adventure with several men, back in 1936 and Melvin was one of the men and over all these years I lost his address and I need it so I can find the rest of our partners for Business reasons.

Thank You

Wilford L. Jones

7489-601

50

512-600  
LTP:PLP  
6-12-77  
Jeb

THREE

(FIELD)

Assignment History of IRVING H. FURBER

Entered on Duty at Atlanta, Ga. on February 4, 1937

Office Date Entrance Salary \$2700

Dallas, Texas  
 New York, N. Y.  
 Norfolk, Va.  
 New York, N. Y.  
 Clerk  
 Columbus, Ohio  
 Cincinnati, Ohio  
 Chicago, Ill.  
 Cincinnati, Ohio

Salary Changes		
Date	Grade	Salary
10-1-27	Caf-8	\$2800
7-1-28	Caf-8	\$3000 WELCH
12-1-28	Caf-8	\$3100
2-1-29	Caf-9	\$3200
5-1-30	Caf-9	\$3400
7-15-30	Caf-10	\$3600
8-15-30	Caf-10	\$4000
9-1-30	Caf-11	\$4200
11-15-30	Caf-12	\$4300
3-1-31	Caf-12	\$4600
11-15-31	Caf-12	\$4800
1-1-32	Caf-12	\$4900
2-1-32	Caf-12	\$5000
8-15-34	Caf-13	\$5800
RESIGNED	8-5-35	

Sp. Act. in Chg. 11-1-30  
 Washington, D. C.  
 Sp. Act. in Chg. 4-8-31  
 Chief Clerk - Div. of C-2-31  
 Washington City, Okla. Co.  
 Sp. Act. in Chg. 11-15-32

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Post Office Box 812,  
Chicago, Illinois.

July 1st, 1935

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
United States Department of Justice,  
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th Street, N.W.,  
Washington, D. C.

67-7489-360v

Dear Sir,

In compliance with Section 35 of the Manual of Rules and Regulations, the following information is submitted:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (a) Marital status:   | Unmarried,  |
| (b) Names of Societies or organizations with which connected: | Kappa Alpha (Southern),<br>College social fraternity.   |
| (c) Legal Residence:  | Timmons ville, S. C.  |
| (d) Education:  | Graduated Timmons ville, S. C.<br>High School; LL.B. degree,<br>University of South Carolina. |
| (e) Person to be notified in emergency:                       | Mr. M. H. Purvis,<br>Timmons ville, S. C.   |
| (f) Relatives in Government Service:                          | None.   |
| (g) Office of preference:                                     | Chicago, Illinois.  |

Very truly yours,

*M. H. Purvis*

M. H. PURVIS,  
Special Agent in Charge

MHP:mwc

Place Chicago, Illinois

Date June 20, 1934

Special Agent in Charge M. H. PURVIS

I. DEGREE: SCHOOL: LOCATION:  
LL.B. University of South Carolina Columbia, S. C.

II. BARS: YEAR ADMITTED:  
South Carolina 1925

III. CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS: YEAR:

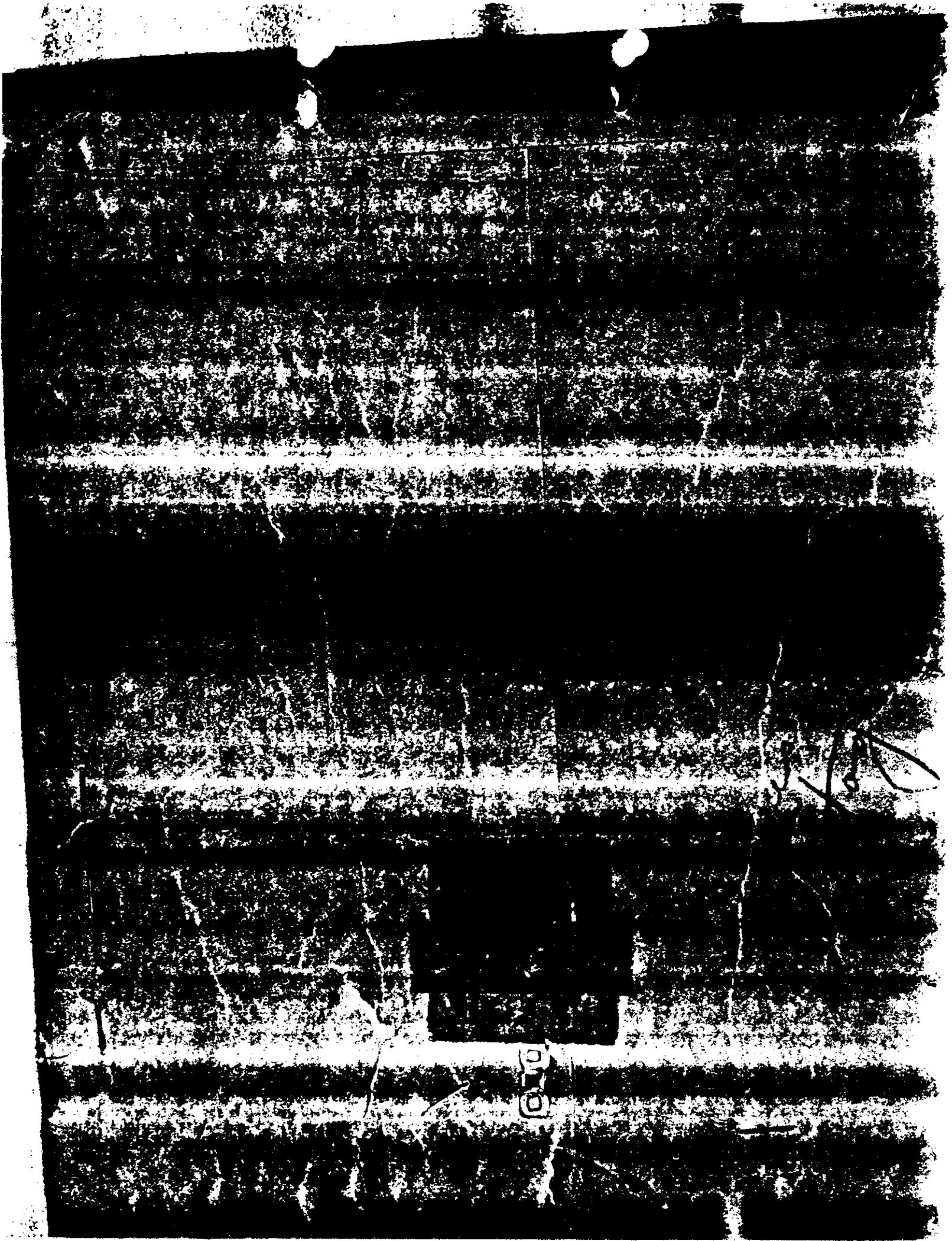
IV. LANGUAGES: INDICATE DEGREE OF PROFICIENCY:

V. SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS: INDICATE DEGREE OF PROFICIENCY:  
(Vocations, avocations, and miscellaneous qualifications.)

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
OCT 5 1934 AM  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
CH. CLK. DIV 4 FILE

*Handwritten initials*

M. H. Purvis  
Special Agent in Charge.





Efficiency Ratings:

3-31-27	88
9-30-27	
3-31-28	86.05
9-30-28	81.5
5-15-29	82.24
9-30-29	69.8
3-31-30	90.2
9-30-30	
3-31-31	
9-30-31	
3-31-32	
9-30-32	

PURVIS, MELVIN H.

CAF 13 5800

CHICAGO

11-17-32

Address: 11 East Scott St., Apt.: 2d Floor East  
Tel. No: Superior C873 unlisted

Legal Residence: Timmensville, S.C. (Charlotte)

Office Preference: None

Marital Status: Single

Education: LLB

E.O.D. Div: 2-4-27

Spec. Qual:

(B) (x)

(AT) (x)

Fire Arms: (IX)

(FP) ( )

(WT) ( )

DEGREES:

LL. B. Univ. of S. C. ✓✓✓ Columbia, S. C.

B.A.S:

South Carolina 1925 ✓✓✓

LANGUAGES:

SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS:

PURVIS, M. H. ✓

L.T. ✓

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT

Florence, S. C.

December 18th, 1926.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,  
Washington, D. C.

I herewith make application for appointment to the position of Investigator in the Department of Justice, and for your use in this connection submit the following information:

1. Name in full PURVIS, MELVIN HORACE, JR.  
(Family name) (Given name) (Initial)

2. Legal residence Timmons ville, S. C.

3. Mail and telegraphic address Box 18, F. & M. Bank Building.  
(10/24/1903)

4. Age on last birthday 23 Weight 140 Height 5 feet, 9

5. (a) Place of birth Timmons ville, S. C. (b) Present citizenship Timmons ville,

6. Place of birth of (a) father Timmons ville, S. C. (b) mother Timmons ville, S. C.

7. Were you ever in the service of the United States? No.

8. If so, when, and in what department of the service?

9. Are you married? (If married woman, state whether husband is in Federal service.) No.

~~I am not married.~~

Are you physically capable of discharging the duties of the position sought? (Any physical defects should be fully described.) Yes. No physical defects.

7489

11. Have you ever been a defendant in a criminal case in court? ... No.

Specify:

12. Education: (Under this head your entire educational training should be given in chronological order, with the period spent in each institution, degrees taken, etc. Knowledge of any languages other than English should be indicated first.)

I graduated from Timmonsville High School which was a State High School. I attended the University of South Carolina and there received the degree of LL.B.

13. Experience: (Under this head, in chronological order, state your entire business and professional experience, including names of employers and dates.) ... Since Graduation from the University of South Carolina with the degree of LL.B. I have been associated with the Firm of Willcox & Hardee in the practice of Law. My association with the above firm began on June 22nd, 1925 and is same at present. During the past two years I have also been engaged in making adjustments on fire losses for various

Insurance Companies.

14. Have you ever been discharged from a position? NO.

15. References to persons well qualified to judge as to your fitness for the position sought:

Mr. Fred L. Willcox, Florence, S. C.

Mr. A. L. Hardee, Florence, S. C.

Mr. R. B. Fulton, Florence, S. C.

Mr. Henry E. Davis, Florence, S. C.

Mr. J. H., McSween, Timmons ville, S. C.

Mr. R. W. Sharkey, Florence, S. C.

Mr. Douglas McKay, Columbia, S. C.

Mr. Sam J. Royal, Florence, S. C.

16. Give names of societies or organizations with which connected:

Kappa Alpha fraternity. (Southern)

18. Are you now employed? If so, give name and address of employer, and rate of compensation received. What is the highest compensation you have ever received in any employment, and for what period? I am now engaged in the practice of Law. Since June 22, 1925 I have been with Wilcox & Hardee, Attorneys, at Florence, S. C. I do not receive a salary.

19. Are you in a position to accept temporary employment at anytime, without previous notice, and, if notice is required, how much? I am in a position to accept temporary employment at any time without previous notice.

20. Are you willing and prepared to accept assignment to any part of the United States where services are required? Yes.

21. Attach unmounted photograph not larger than 3 by 4 inches. Write your name on the back of photograph.

Respectfully,

Melvin A. [Signature]  
(Signature of applicant.)

(Return this form to The Attorney General, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.)

NOTE.—If the applicant desires to make any further remarks or statement concerning his qualifications or in answer to any question contained in the application, the same should be made on a separate sheet of paper, numbering the remarks in accordance with original questions.