



Adam Ricchetti was tried and executed for killing Frank Hermanson. A Bureau agent killed Detective Hermanson. The agent killed two men before any "outlaw" even fired a shot. His fellow agents and agency covered it up and committed perjury.

KANMO Dossier

Union Station Shooting & Aftermath

by Ronald E Harlow

Order the complete book from the publisher [Booklocker.com](https://www.booklocker.com)

<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/12972.html?s=pdf>

**or from your favorite neighborhood
or online bookstore.**

KANMO Dossier

UNION STATION SHOOTING & AFTERMATH



(EVIDENCE PHOTO: STATE'S EXHIBIT 14)

**How the FBI got Missouri
to execute an innocent man for what an agent did.
A forensic exam of FBI KANMO #62-28915 case file
of the Kansas City Massacre investigation.**

DOSSIER SERIES COMPILED BY

Ronald E Harlow

Copyright © 2023 Ronald E Harlow

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-958889-18-3

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-958889-19-0

Ebook ISBN: 979-8-88531-465-7

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the author.

Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia.

Printed on acid-free paper.

BookLocker.com, Inc.

2023

First Edition

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication Data

Harlow, Ronald E

KANMO Dossier: Union Station Shooting & Aftermath by Ronald E

Harlow

Library of Congress Control Number: 2023903017

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
Forward by Fred Sustik	xi
Preface	xiii
Introduction	1
KANMO Dossier: Union Station Shooting & Aftermath	9
After the Shooting	57
June & July 1933 Vi and Verne Leave Chicago for New York.....	155
Ferris Anthon Murder.....	173
Vi & Verne Meet in Jersey.....	179
Verne Miller as Stephen J. Gross	197
Floyd & Ricchetti Shuffle Off to Buffalo.....	207
Back on Miller's Trail	215
Al Silverman Death	281
1934 January-April.....	355
July 1934 The John Lazia Murder.....	465
The Great Shotgun Coverup Two Shotguns and Two Shotgun Shell Cases at the Scene	513
Interpretation of Physical Evidence.....	533
The Coverup	553
The Trial	577
Impact on Ricchetti Trial.....	589
Pride and Prejudice.....	593
Frank Mulloy Connects Verne Miller to Charles Carollo	597
About the Author	603
Index	605

KANMO Dossier: Union Station Shooting & Aftermath



The Saturday afternoon edition of the Kansas City Journal-Post cost two cents. Readers received their two cents worth about the morning shooting. The front page story led with:

“GUNNER YELLED ‘UP’ AND A RAIN OF LEAD SPATTERED ON CAR”

“Frank Smith and R. E. Vetterli Tell of Worst Wholesale Massacre Since ‘Rubbing Out’ in Chicago.”

“Up-up-up-up-----UP!-----”

“Rat-ta-ta-ta-tat-----Rat-ta-ta-tat!!!”

“We didn’t have a chance---not a chance. They were firing from three sides of us. They just yelled ‘up! up!’ a few times and blazed away.”

“That, in substance, is the story of the worst whole-sale machine-gun massacre since the notorious “rubbing out” in Chicago on St. Valentine’s day, 1928.”

“It was told calmly and coolly by Frank Smith, Oklahoma City agent of the bureau of investigation of the department of justice and by R. E. Vetterli, who is in charge of the bureau in Kansas City.”

(Kansas City Public Library)

The narratives agents Smith and Vetterli gave about the gunmen showing up, ordering the lawmen to put up their hands, and opening up on them with machine gun fire without even giving the lawmen time to put up their hands was not true. However, they continued repeating their story and it remains the narrative repeated by the FBI.

A reporter who personally knew agent Ray Caffrey wrote an article which appeared in column two of the same front page. The reporter's name is not identified but he described Agent Caffrey, who had died in the shooting. Two brief paragraphs in the column brought forth the reporter's memory of Caffrey's thoughts about where his career was headed just the day before:

“He was not greatly perturbed at the reports from Washington that the bureau of investigation was soon to be abolished and a new federal detective setup inaugurated.

In conversation with the writer Friday he expressed the opinion that “there still would be some government investigation and they still would need investigators” under the new setup. His experience and his record, he felt, would be taken into account in the new organization.”

On Friday evening Hoover's bureau was headed off into oblivion, the same fate as the Prohibition division. If the truth were known about the shooting, Congress and the public likely would have demanded the bureau's immediate closure. But starting Saturday morning agents Vetterli, Smith, and Lackey made evidence disappear, covered up everything they could, stuck with their story, and committed perjury at trial along with two other agents. The marketing campaign Hoover ran the next two years completely changed the Bureau's future. Little was true, but the case was closed.

A couple of weeks after Adam Ricchetti was convicted of murdering Detective Frank Hermanson, the bureau officially became the Federal Bureau of Investigation, July 1, 1935. His bureau was saved, and Hoover became the most powerful bureaucrat in the country. There was a small matter of his own agent being the man who killed Hermanson, but no one let the truth get in the way of the state of Missouri executing Adam Ricchetti on October 7, 1938. A request for posthumous pardon for Ricchetti is in the governor's hands already.

The investigation file for the Kansas City Massacre shooting case utilized the acronym KANMO, File: 62-28915. The file is enormous. It occupies approximately 1.1 gig of memory, more than 20,000 pages, on your scribe's computer. As voluminous as the file is, many of the most important items are missing. Readers will know what those items are when they are finished.

The Dossiers are a forensic audit review, or investigation, of the Bureau's investigation. Every important aspect was reviewed in detail, to wash away what was not true, leaving behind what truth we could find. In many instances the truth was not clear, readers are invited to reach your own conclusions. This Dossier is the Union Station Shooting & Aftermath.

Saturday Morning June 17, 1933 Midnight to Murder

Along the inside of the south wall of the massive train station lobby, in the center between the east and west doors and just west of the ticket windows was an alcove for telephone booths. There was also a small alcove which contained just four booths, dedicated to long distance calls only.

At one minute after midnight Verne Miller made a call from Union Station long distance pay telephone number Grand 9110 to Emerson 2121 in St Paul. The phone number was for the Hollyhocks Inn which was run by Jack Pfeifer and Sap McKenna. The call lasted for two

minutes. (Section 17 Page 89 9.5.33 Vetterli KC to St Paul) (Section 26 Page 36-45 11.28.33 Trainor KC Report)

At about the same time a call was received at Emerson 2002 in St Paul, the telephone for the Green Lantern bar operated by Harry and Gladys Sawyer. Whomever called must have been calling person to person because the operator told the individual who answered the phone the caller was in Kansas City and asking for Harry Sawyer. He was not there, so the call was not completed. Gladys Sawyer reported in her Statement she overheard a conversation between her husband and Jack Pfeifer “and Jack mentioned a call was also received at the Hollyhocks Inn the same night.” (Section 10 Page 81 7.19.33 Hanni St. Paul to KC) (Section 10 Page 83-84 7.19.33 Hanni St. Paul to KC) (Section 13 Pages 3-42 7.27.33 Hall St Paul Report) (Section 60 Page 98-156 9.22.34 Suran Chicago Report)

Miller moved to an adjacent booth and at 12:05 am long distance pay telephone number Grand 9112 completed a call to Joplin 1541W2 for 4 minutes. The phone number belonged to Herb and Esther Farmer outside Joplin, Missouri. This was a risky call to make because the Farmers had a party line phone. A person could easily listen in on a conversation without the other parties knowing. It was a common form of entertainment for nosey neighbors. It is not known whether someone listened in on this call, but agents did talk with neighbors who had heard parts of several conversations on their phone this weekend. Interestingly, there was not information on what was overheard in any reports, though. Miller spoke first with Esther Farmer, then Frances Nash. According to Frances Nash, she was hysterical, uncooperative, said Miller assured her she would see her “Jelly” again, then hung up on her in frustration. (Section 26 Page 36-45 11.28.33 Trainor KC Report)

Importantly, Nash’s Statement said Miller wanted her to go to his apartment on South Boulevard in Chicago where he would meet her. It was the first indication her Statement might have been fictional. This

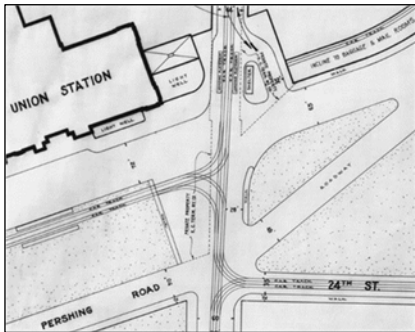
review uncovered the fact Miller had just moved out of the apartment in Chicago to a different location the day before!

Miller had not been at the station long enough to carefully look it over. He may have come across otherwise, but he preferred to carefully plan what he did in advance. Although the Bureau coerced a statement from Vivian Mathis to make up a story about Miller, Floyd, and Ricchetti spending the night at the Miller's Edgevale Road home, there is a better argument for them not planning on going to Edgevale at all. Her statement is set aside for now to review the investigation. Given what some witnesses around the station saw, the three men may have figured out their plan then slept for a few hours at the Baltimore Hotel or in their car nearby. Possibly on the southwest side of the parking plaza.

Floyd and Ricchetti had been on the road for two days and were no doubt dirty, hungry, thirsty, and tired. It is possible Miller got a room or two at the Baltimore Hotel for them to get cleaned up, and perhaps get some new clothes. Hotel laundries frequently ran all night and could even steam suits. William Weisman was seen buying bonded liquor accompanied by three unknown men and was possibly in one of the cars casing the station later. We simply do not know for certain where Miller, Floyd, and Ricchetti went and what they did. Vivian Mathis' story fills in some blanks but there are several reasons to doubt what she signed off on.

After a first run through they would have wanted to see the layout underneath the station. There might be an opportunity to grab Nash before the escort went upstairs. Conversely, they would have wanted to know if it would be possible for a local escort to meet the agents beneath the parking structure and take Nash away without ever walking through a public area.

The street improvement diagram and aerial photo are from between 1923 and 1930. The top right of the street diagram has a street labeled “incline to baggage and mail rooms.” The street connected to Grand Avenue to the east, or right, of the frame. This was the east access to the below grade workings of the station. The street proceeded from Grand Avenue, down to track level, along the retaining walls on the south side of the tracks, under the Main Street Bridge and trolley tracks, then from track level gradually up to the passenger loading platforms under the station then to the baggage loading docks on the west side.



Section of 1923 (Street As-Built)



Aerial, foreground Signboard Hill, Plaza Hotel on corner of Pershing and Main, top left-Broadway Bridge (Curtiss-Wright photo c1927)

Mail trucks, baggage trucks, and service vehicles used the street. It was not for public use. In the writer’s view, the restricted area beneath

the station is where an experienced escort detail would have met the train for prisoner transfer. Which is precisely why Miller would have wanted to know if it was an option.

On the west side of the station was a long row of docks where baggage trucks would be parked to load and unload baggage and freight going to and from hotels, residences, and businesses around the city. West of the docks the street paralleled the tracks and up an incline merging with Pershing Road just before Pershing intersected with Broadway, south of the Broadway Bridge.



View of the west side of the station and docks below
c. 1915-20 (KC Public Library)

After looking at the street beneath the station the men would have realized the best place to confront the escort was at the loading platforms before the escort ever got upstairs. Otherwise, if they just waited around in the parking lot Nash and his escort could arrive and leave from beneath the station and they would never see him.

Miller's original plan of following the Nash escort and overtaking them on the road outside the city had the best odds. They would want to make sure they had an eye on both the parking lot and the street below to ensure Nash did not get away without them seeing him.

Someone entered the station to find out the train schedule and how they could gain access to the platforms below. It was not Miller, Floyd,

or Ricchetti though. They had someone helping them. Other than the age and carrying a cane the man could be Ricchetti. How do we know? Someone saw him.

Spotted at the Station

According to the file, a Kansas City Star reporter talked with JD Jameson Saturday morning after the shooting, then talked with agent Calhoun about the fact Jameson had valuable information. It appears the reporter may have been from the Journal-Post instead but the author could not determine the matter positively. In an undated report the week between June 17 and June 24, WF Trainor interviewed JD Jameson and produced the following Report:

‘JD Jameson was first interviewed by Kansas City Star reporter (unclear, possibly Dan Larrimor or Kansas City Journal-Post reporter Dan Kelliher) who shared his notes with agent JR Calhoun. Red Jameson, an usher at the Union Station in Kansas City had advised him an individual had contacted Jameson on the morning of the fatal shooting of Special Agent Caffrey and had made inquiries as to the time of arrival of train 116 Missouri Pacific on which prisoner Nash and others were arriving. Agent Calhoun then inquired “with Mr. Leo, Chief Clerk to the Station Master at the Union Station and learned JD “Red” Jameson lives at 3427 Cypress Street, no telephone, and that he worked from midnight until 8:00 am.” “At the home of Mr. Jameson, I learned from him that on Saturday morning June 17, 1933 a well-built man about 40 years of age, 5 feet 9 inches, 160 pounds in weight, wearing a light grey summer suit, straw hat, and two-tone sport shoes, and carrying a cane, accosted Jameson and asked about the time of arrival for train 116 Missouri Pacific from Little Rock Arkansas and Coffeyville Kansas. (The names of Hot Springs and Fort Smith were not mentioned according to Mr. Jameson.) Mr. Jameson further stated this individual, who he identified from a photograph as Harvey Bailey, an escaped prisoner from the Lansing Kansas State Penitentiary, told him he and some of his friends wanted to go down to the station platform to take an invalid who would arrive on this train, but Jameson

told him he would have to get permission from the Station Master to be allowed to go down to the train. Jameson did not see the alleged friends of the man who talked with him. Jameson further stated he was an eye witness to the shooting in front of the station, advising he stood by the electric light pole between the east and west doors of the station and noted the individual whom he identified as Bailey stood just west of the car parked west of the automobile of agent Caffrey and fired a machine gun into the front of the car and later ran around to the rear of the car and fired again. Jameson further stated a young fellow whose first name was Paul, worked in the front end of the pantry room of the Fred Harvey Company, advised Jameson he also saw the shooting. Paul was in the parking lot just south of agent Caffrey's car and saw the men drive away in a pea-green colored automobile. (The information concerning Paul was given by me to agents Brantley and Anderson who were in the Station Master's office at the Union Station and these agents stated that they would endeavor to locate Paul and interview him.)'

(Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report, page 25-26)

Jesse Drew "Red" Jameson was born in Bastrop, Louisiana in 1899. Like many folks, he moved up to the Midwest in search of work along the river or rail routes where most of the jobs were. He ended up working over forty years at Union Station, primarily as a gate manager. There was a notation in the file a man meeting the same description as Jameson provided also inquired at the ticket windows about the train schedule, but the person's name was not noted. It is possible the person was Jameson, and he was working at the ticket window and as an usher, but the files are not clear about the matter. There easily could have been two different witnesses who saw the same man.

There were several issues with respect to what Jameson saw. Adam Ricchetti was not yet 24, Floyd was 29, and Verne Miller was 36. Only Miller looked like a 40 year old and none looked like the photos of Harvey Bailey on the wanted circulars. And none walked with a cane.

According to Sheriff Killingsworth, Floyd and Ricchetti were wearing a blue suit a brown suit. According to Frank Mulloy, Verne Miller was wearing either light brown pants with dark brown stripes or gray pants, a white shirt, and a two toned brown golf windbreaker jacket with lighter brown sleeves than the main body of the jacket. None was wearing a gray suit, although gray can be very light to very dark shades and appear slightly different depending on the observer.

There was something else. Note the wording Trainor used to describe how Jameson identified the man he encountered. Trainor said he “*identified from a photograph as Harvey Bailey an escaped prisoner from the Lansing Kansas State Penitentiary.*” Trainor did *not* say Jameson ‘identified Harvey Bailey from the escaped prisoner wanted poster or the Bureau circular.’ The question arises, “what photo of Harvey Bailey did Trainor and others display to witnesses?”



Harvey Bailey- 1920
Texas



Harvey Bailey Kansas
Pen 1932



Harvey Bailey
1933



Adam Ricchetti 1934



Adam Ricchetti 1937

Many eye witnesses identified a photo of Harvey Bailey they were shown as looking like one of the men they saw. The photo the Bureau

used for the Identification Order they distributed was the Kansas State Penitentiary Inmate #3045 Photo of Harvey Bailey taken at Lansing. It was taken when he was processed into the prison after his arrest in July 1932. Their Identification Order was prepared on June 22, 1933, several days after most of the witnesses identified a photo of Bailey as one of the men they saw. Again, what photo were the Bureau and the police department showing people before the Identification Order was printed? The answer is, we do not know.

John Harvey Bailey was born in August 1887. In 1920 he was 33 years old. Ricchetti was born in August 1909. In 1933 he was 23, almost 24 years old. The mug shot of Harvey Bailey taken in Texas in 1920 is quite different from his inmate photo a decade later. The photos only remotely look like the same person. When the photo was taken after his arrest in Dallas August 1933, he was 46 years old.

The 1920 Bailey photo looks remarkably like Adam Ricchetti. The photos of Bailey from a decade later do not resemble anyone involved in the case. The issue is raised because the average person would look at the Harvey Bailey photo on his Information Order and the matching photo on the Kansas State wanted poster and question how someone could mistake Ricchetti, Floyd, or Miller for Bailey. But looking at the 1920 photo of Bailey it is easy to understand how he and Ricchetti might look alike, especially wearing a fedora or straw panama hat.

Another man was reportedly seen with Floyd and Ricchetti several hours later, dressed very much the same as the man Jameson described. In fact, there were two men in the front seat of a car spotted on State Avenue at 10:15 am Saturday morning. Both men wearing light gray suits, the driver was wearing a straw hat, had a scar on his left cheek, and appeared to be 30 years old. The man in the back seat of the car was wearing a blue suit, his left arm was outside of the suit sleeve and his shoulder was bandaged.

It is possible the man Jameson saw is the same man seen driving the car on State Avenue. The man on State Avenue did not exit his

automobile. He was wearing a light gray suit and panama hat. He had a red colored scar on his left cheek. A red scar has not healed over completely so a man in some sort of a recent accident with a facial injury might also walk with a cane. Jameson did not describe the man he saw as having a scar on his face, but he may not have seen it. This is all speculation of course but was obviously well worth close investigation.



Aerial from southwest of Union Station
(c. 1930 Curtiss Flying Service)

Jameson described his viewpoint of the shooting as standing “by the electric light pole between the east and west doors of the station.” The light poles are difficult to see in the aerial photo, but one light pole is a faint vertical black line near the curb of the sidewalk, halfway between the two canopies on the south side of the station. The light pole Jameson stood by is between the two cars by the white rectangle next to the sidewalk in front of the station.

From the light pole he referred to, pedestrians walked between two more lights in the middle of the street and continued southward toward the rectangular concrete bus dock adjacent to the parking plaza. Police cruiser #103, or “hot shot” car the two detectives drove was parked in about the same location, facing the wrong direction, i.e., toward the east next to the station curb in the westbound traffic lane.

Since the man who apparently drove Ricchetti and Floyd into the West Bottoms was similar looking to Ricchetti and the witness saw them dressed similarly, in light gray suits, Jameson may have witnessed Ricchetti firing a machine gun from southwest of Caffrey's car. From a distance, Ricchetti may have looked just like the man Jameson encountered earlier in the morning asking about access to the passenger loading platforms.

Jameson mentioned the other employee named Paul who was south of Caffrey's car. He also saw the shooting. Apparently, they both saw the men drive off in a pea-green colored automobile. They were not the only people to witness a green car drive away at the same time as the dark colored Chevrolet. Curiously, there was not a record of an interview of "Paul" anywhere in the file. He was fortunate he was not struck by the shot which killed Caffrey.

Access to the Passenger Loading Platforms

After interviewing Red Jameson, agent Trainor returned to the station and interviewed the Assistant Station Master and his clerk:

'I interviewed Assistant Station Master RL Wagner and the Chief Clerk to the Station Master Mr. Lee regarding the possibility of any invalids having been taken from Missouri Pacific train #116 on the morning of June 17th or whether anyone requested a wheel chair be taken to this train. These gentlemen checked their records thoroughly and found no request had been made for a wheel chair for Missouri Pacific train #116 and Mr. Wagner stated he personally met the train and noted no invalid or sick person was taken from the train. Mr. Wagner advised Missouri Pacific train #116 arrived on track 25 at 7:12 am on the morning of June 17th. Mr. Wagner further advised that Theodore Scott, a red cap at the Union Station, took a boy passenger off Wabash train number 17 on track 17, this train arriving at 7:08 am on June 17, 1933 and Mr. Scott, who was being interviewed by agents Brantley and Anderson, confirmed this statement. Mr. Wagner further stated that at 7:23 am on June 17th train Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe

#5 arrived at the Union Station and a Catholic Sister was taken from the train in a wheel chair. He advised these were the only wheel chairs used at the Station on the morning of June 17th and he further advised the Wabash train was located at such distance from the Missouri Pacific train that it would have been impossible for anyone to have crossed the tracks from one train to another.”

(Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report, page 26)

The man Red Jameson encountered was attempting to learn how accessible the platforms were. No one sought permission to meet an invalid at the #116 train. Trainor’s memo did not reveal what time Jameson encountered the man so there is not a way to fill in the timeline with the information.

The shooting started at 7:23 am, about the same time as the AT&SF Train #5 arrived. The Catholic Sister who needed wheelchair assistance was on the train. The detail is important because Lottie West will claim she was assisting the Sisters in getting a cab in front of the station when the shooting started. An impossibility. The train may have arrived earlier than Wagner stated; however, train stations kept meticulous records of arrival and departure times. This review revealed the shooting started before the Sisters reached the exit doors.

More Activity Observed at the Station

A local barber told his barbershop owner about people he knew who were talking about seeing the whole shooting. A report was made to the Bureau office about two people in Olathe, Kansas who were telling folks they had witnessed the shootings. Agents OC Dewey and KR McIntire drove to Olathe to identify, locate, and interview the witnesses.

Margaret Turner

“Mrs. Turner stated on the early morning of June 17th she had one Walt Barry drive her from Olathe, Kansas to Kansas City in order that she

might meet a 3:30 am train on which a cousin of hers was coming from Mexico, Missouri.” She and Barry arrived at 2:30 am and Barry “parked her car in the plaza section in front of Union Station, facing south, and she went in to inquire as to when the train would be in from Mexico. She was advised that it would not be in until 7:30 am. She then returned to her automobile which is a green Dodge coupe and talked to Barry.” While they talked Barry commented he was not sure he was able to park where he was located, apparently because it was short term parking, so they “circled around the concrete and faced their car north, looking directly at the station. About the time they got into this position a Reo automobile drove up and occupied their former parking position, so they were facing the Reo directly and were only about 10 or 15 feet away. “Mrs. Turner stated about 3:00 am a black Chevrolet sedan or coach drove up near this Reo and the party’s exchanged recognition and a woman then got out of the Chevrolet and went to the depot.” The woman was dressed nicely in a long white dress, black coat, and white turban hat. “When this woman entered the depot, she remained about 10 minutes and during this time the black Chevrolet circled the plaza about three times. Then the woman came out of the station she looked to her right and then to her left and proceeded to walk to her left which is toward the east. Upon what Mrs. Turner described as a window that looks like a door at the Union Station the woman raised her hand and at this time the Chevrolet car was stopped right in back of Mrs. Turner’s car and they honked three times proceeded over and to the station platform and picked up this woman and disappeared. The woman was not seen after that.”

“There were two men in this Chevrolet car. Mrs. Turner stated about 15 minutes after every hour this Chevrolet returned to the plaza section and circled the plaza and the two men in the Chevrolet exchanged a short recognition with the two men in the Reo. Mrs. Turner stated that she got a very good look at the two men in the Reo and upon being shown all the photographs immediately picked out the pictures of Harvey Bailey and Wilbur Underhill.” “Both men were dressed in dark coats and dark slouch hats turned down. The one who looked like Underhill was behind the wheel and the one who looked like Bailey

got out of the car and walked over to the station once or twice. She saw him lift back his hat once and saw he had a lot of wavy hair.’

“About five minutes after 7:00 am when Mrs. Turner and Walt Barry were starting to get out of their car to go into the depot to meet the train a dark Buick sedan drove in from the west and did not turn into one of the regular parking spaces facing directly toward the depot but was at a right angle headed directly for her car, that she observed two men in this car although she was unable to identify these men from photographs.”

“She also noticed in this car what she described as some brown luggage.” She and Barry walked across the plaza into the depot and were talking with another “colored” woman who said she was waiting for her sister to arrive from Sedalia. “About 7:20 am a shot entered the depot through one of the windows and at first she thought one of the colored porters was moving one of his baskets. The next she knew there was a spray of bullets and she immediately lay down on the floor and did not see the shooting. In describing the occupants of the various cars and themselves she stated that the Reo was dark green with light wheels and the windshield had a chromium plated frame around it.”

“Mrs. Turner stated that at 4:15 am when this Chevrolet returned to make its round on the plaza she had gone into the station and when she came out to cross over the street to her automobile she had to stop and let this Chevrolet go by that at that time there were two men in the front seat and someone in the back.”

“On the subsequent returns of this Chevrolet she observed only two men in the car. She described this car as being a black Chevrolet sedan or coach without any license plates on the front but a Missouri license plate on the back. When the automobile drove up at 7:00 am and stopped at a right angle to the parking spaces she is not positive of the make of this car ... she became more or less certain it was a Buick automobile the automobile was dark in color, and she is not certain as to the license plates but believed the license plate was brown and

yellow for Missouri.” (Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report, page 32-35)

Walter Barry

‘Agents drove to Olathe and talked with Bart Miller, a porter in a local barber shop.’ “It was through information given by Miller to Mr. Harry Pheben, a barber, the identity of Mrs. Turner and Walter Barry was learned.” Agents talked to Miller and had him recount the story he heard Mrs. Turner and Barry tell, “which was to the effect they had actually seen the shooting take place.”

“Agents talked to Walter Barry, colored, who is about 20 years of age and is employed as a bus boy in Marshall’s café at Olathe, Kansas. Barry is somewhat frightened, but agents were able to have him talk... shortly after he and Mrs. Turner had parked the second time facing the depot he went to sleep and did not observe what was going on. At 7:00 am she awoke him and had him come into the depot with her. He did this but about 7:20 am walked out to the pavement on the outside of the depot and observed a man walk behind one of the cars near the Reo and extending his hand which contained a revolver fire directly at the officers who were getting into their automobile. A few seconds after this revolver shot the assailants started shooting with a machine gun and he immediately ducked for cover and did not observe the rest of the shooting... It was learned from Barry the officers drove up almost directly in front of his car which thereupon placed them within a few feet of the two men in the Reo car.”

“Mrs. Turner verified the fact that Walter Barry was asleep during most of the morning while they were waiting for the train to arrive. He did identify the car in front of them as being a Reo. He did not notice the Chevrolet circling the plaza in front of the depot and did not observe the woman get out. He did see the Buick automobile drive up at right angles just as they were getting out of their car to go into the depot.”

“There is attached hereto to the original copy of this memorandum a diagram of what Mrs. Turner described in her statement to agents.”

(Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report, page 35-36)

Unfortunately, there is not a diagram in the file which matches what she described or where her car or the Reo were parked. From their descriptions, the Green Reo was parked immediately east of the concrete bus dock where the pedestrian walkway crossed the driveway, and immediately west of the Ford which LT Mart parked in the space west of the green Plymouth which was parked west of Caffrey’s Chevrolet.

The green Dodge Margaret Turner and Walt Barry were in was parked in the space south of the Reo, facing toward the north, and on the west side of the parking lot light pole, immediately west of where Lottie West parked her Oakland. At 7:05 am they exited their car, both saw the dark Chevrolet or Buick sedan drive up from the west and pull in at a right angle facing toward the northwest, directly behind Lottie West’s car.

The Woman with the Turban Hat



Kansas City Journal-Post 6.17.33 Page 161
(Section 82 or SUB A1 Page 161-172)

The woman Margaret Turner saw with the white turban hat who exited the dark colored Chevrolet at 3:00 am was Number 5 in the images displayed in the *Journal-Post* newspaper, Mrs. CE Lacer, aka Frieda Lacer, of Milford Kansas. When Hoover read Margaret Turner’s interview, he thought the woman in the white dress, black coat lined

with a white material, and wearing a white turban hat, could have been Vivian Mathis. However, this review revealed it was Frieda Lacer. Turner said the man got out of the car to open the door to let the woman who was sitting in the back seat get out. He had on light trousers, dark coat, light hat.

The Shooting

As Frank Nash slept on the train to Kansas City, he had no idea a plan was afoot to free him. His friend Verne Miller was waiting for his arrival. Nash escaped from Leavenworth in 1930. He met Miller later the same year in Chicago after Miller, Vivian, and Sam Schrage returned from Montreal. Nash and Miller had become good friends and they made good partners.

According to Frances Nash, Miller had repeatedly confronted Nash about drinking heavily and walking around openly. Nash was inviting trouble. Was Miller helping Nash out of friendship, some psychological drive to prove himself, or ensuring Nash could not share what he knew about the Hamm kidnapping? There is no way of knowing what his motivation was. Perhaps a mixture of all three. Motivation is something which only occasionally helps solve a crime and is frequently never known for certain. We cannot merely accept Mrs. Nash's word in this case.

Miller had found two experienced gunmen to help recover Nash. It was alleged he knew Bureau agents had arrested Nash, but there is not any corroborating proof Miller knew who had him. Nash was not arrested either. It could have been what the lawmen told people but technically they had merely taken Nash into custody. They did not have an arrest warrant; he was simply wanted as an escaped prisoner.

Charles Floyd and Adam Ricchetti were likely catching what sleep they could. Although they were building their reputations on their own, they grabbed the opportunity to work with one of the most skilled gunmen and hired killers in the country to help recover Nash. Miller

managed to become a nearly invisible button man without law enforcement knowing he was anything but an occasional bootlegger and bank robber. The men planned to overtake the officers on the road after it left the station, unless an opportunity came up to take him sooner. The sun began to rise slowly about 4:51 am at Union Station.

At 6:00 am June 17 Herb Farmer drove Dick Galatas and pilot John Stover from the Connor Hotel in downtown Joplin to the airport just north of town, then returned home. By the time Galatas arrived home in Hot Springs about 10:30 am the shooting had happened. (Section 2 Page 101-105 6.24.33 Colvin OKC to KC, page 102)

About 6:30 am agents Reed Vetterli and Raymond Caffrey arrived at the station. Caffrey parked his 1932 Chevrolet coach in the first row of the short term parking plaza facing south, across the driveway from the east doors of the south side of the station. He still had his Nebraska license plates on his car. He was to drive Frank Nash and the other lawmen to Leavenworth in his personal car. Police detectives were to follow in the armored cruiser. He parked three spaces east of a green Reo with light colored wheels. No one had parked in the two spaces between them yet.

Caffrey and Vetterli had an unobstructed view of the men in the Reo and Mrs. Turner and Walt Barry in the green Dodge parked southwest of Caffrey. Margaret Turner was not asked whether she observed SAC Vetterli or agent Caffrey arrive and park two spaces to her northeast. Vetterli did not observe Margaret Turner, Walt Barry, or the two men in the green Reo when he and Caffrey parked at 6:30 am. He was not paying attention.

When they exited the car Caffrey put a Department of Justice placard, cut from the top of the annual DOJ calendar, in his rear window. Not the best of ideas but some agents did so to discourage parking tickets and prevent people from double parking behind them. Newspaper articles referred to Caffrey's Chevrolet as the "Federal Car" in various articles and drawings because of the DOJ placard in the back window.

Vetterli did not mention the parking placard in Caffrey's car in his official Report. In fact, he represented to Hoover he and Caffrey arrived separately. When Hoover inquired about newspaper photos and newsreel footage showing the DOJ placard in Caffrey's window Vetterli denied Caffrey did so, claimed some agents including Caffrey were known to do it on occasion, but he discouraged the practice. All lies.

The DOJ placard informed Verne Miller of something important. Caffrey's car could be the one the officer's use to drive Nash to his destination.

Oklahoma City SAC Ralph Colvin had requested Vetterli to meet agent Frank Smith, agent Joe Lackey, Chief Otto Reed, and Nash at the station with an automobile to transport them to Leavenworth. Vetterli called Caffrey to ask if he was available and called the police department to request the two men in charge of the "hot shot" riot car meet them for the trip to Leavenworth. Vetterli was called at home for the second time, approximately 9:00 pm, by Ralph Colvin and informed the train had departed and the approximate arrival time was 7:15 am.

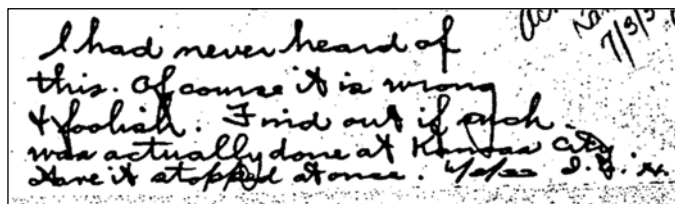
Vetterli's Report implied he and Caffrey drove to the station separately; however, Vetterli rode with Caffrey from the Kansas City office to the station in Caffrey's 1932 Chevrolet coach. Vetterli stated he "arrived at the station at about 6:30 am and made suitable arrangements with the Station Master so that the officers could go down to the train and meet the agents with Frank Nash as the train came in. A few minutes thereafter, Special Agent Caffrey appeared, as did City Officers Hermanson and Grooms, in charge of the riot car. We were on the station platform when the train pulled in from Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Special Agent Lackey first came out of the train to look the situation over." "Rather than waiting an hour for the train to layover before leaving to Leavenworth it was decided to place Frank Nash" "in the car of Special Agent Caffrey, accompanied by Special Agents Caffrey, Lackey, Smith, and Chief of Police Reed, and that the

car would be followed to Leavenworth by Agent Vetterli in his personal car and by the two city detectives.” (Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report, page 15-16)

Vetterli’s recitation of the plan to deliver Nash stands out as odd. He rode in Caffrey’s car to the station. It sat two people in front, three in the rear seat. He described talking with the Station Master, then “agent Caffrey appeared,” as though Caffrey was not present. Vetterli’s car was still parked at the office, so he may have planned to ride with the detectives in the riot car. The file does not state what his intention was.

SAC Dowd in Salt Lake wrote a memo to Hoover on June 29 and enclosed a newspaper clipping which included a photo. In part Dowd stated: “Recent newspaper photographs and moving pictures of the automobile fired upon supposedly by the friends of Frank Nash at Kansas City, Missouri on June 17th, 1933, which came to my attention, show what appears to be the top of a Department of Justice calendar with the words “Department of Justice” placed in the rear window of the car, presumably the car of Agent Caffrey.” (Section 5 Page 118-119 6.29.33 Dowd Salt Lake to Hoover)

At the bottom of the letter Hoover scrawled a note:



I had never heard of this. Of course it is wrong & foolish. Found out if such was actually done at Kansas City. Have it stopped at once. 7/19/33 J. E. H.

A few days after he was asked about the matter, Vetterli responded to Hoover with a memo stating: “No such card was on display on former Agent Caffrey’s car the morning of the shooting. No doubt the newspaper man searching through the car found the card and placed it on the car to make a better photograph.” (Section 6 Page 112 7.5.33 Vetterli to Hoover)

The kind folks at the Kansas City Public Library thoroughly searched their archives of the Kansas City Journal-Post, Kansas City Times, Kansas City Star and were unable to locate photos of the back sides of the cars, including Caffrey's. The article Dowd read must have been an AP or UPI story for him to see it in Salt Lake. He noticed the DOJ placard on newsreel too. The photo was likely taken by the police department photographer Ralph Bray and released to the press. The article is not in the KANMO file and there are no known shooting scene photos of the back, sides, or close-ups of the cars in the file either.



The author has several photos in his archive which were taken at the downtown parking garage where police processed Caffrey's car, and the Plymouth parked to its west. Sure enough Vetterli was lying, again.

The agents did not walk around the parking plaza to look for anything out of the ordinary, unusual, or suspicious. They arrived less than 45 minutes before the train arrived and had not even made advance arrangements for their escort to meet the train yet. They would not have had time to case the parking plaza even if they had thought to do so.



Cruiser #103 in the Background
(enlarged Harlow archive photo)

Vetterli & Caffrey walked into the station and spoke with the Station Master about being joined by other officers to meet the Pacific Flyer at the loading platform below the station. Detectives Hermanson and Grooms soon joined them after parking cruiser #103, the armored “hot shot” riot car in front of the station. They parked the armored car facing the wrong way next to the curb, just west of the street lamp and crosswalk at the center of the sidewalk. The four lawmen proceeded down to the platform and were standing there when the train arrived at 7:12 am.

Just like the parking plaza, agents Vetterli & Caffrey did not walk around and look for anything out of the ordinary, unusual, or suspicious while they were beneath the station on the loading platforms. They were completely unprepared to escort a dangerous prisoner through multiple public areas with many vulnerabilities. Which is why the shooting made for an excellent case study on prisoner transfers, protective security details, and forensic crime scene analysis.

Shortly after Caffrey and Vetterli arrived, LT Mart arrived for breakfast. He had borrowed his brother's Ford. He parked immediately east of the green Reo and in front of where Lottie West would soon park her Oakland. Mart, Turner, and Barry were not asked what time Mart parked next to the green Reo. Mart was also not asked for a description of the men in the Reo he parked next to. In fact, the Bureau did not talk with Mart until nearly a year later. At 7:25 am LT Mart left the Fred Harvey after finishing breakfast and the shooting started.

Approximately 6:45 am Lottie West parked her Oakland on the east side of the parking lot lamp pole near the concrete bus dock in the parking space immediately east of Margaret Turner and Walt Barry and directly in front of LT Mart. We do not know the exact time because neither Turner nor Barry were asked whether they observed Lottie West arrive, much less what time she arrived. According to her trial testimony, Lottie West arrived for work at her desk at 6:53 am. She was never asked what time she parked her car in the parking plaza, or whether she noticed Margaret Turner or Walt Barry in the green Dodge she parked next to, or the two men in the green Reo parked in front of the Dodge. She walked past both cars toward the concrete bus dock to walk across the driveway on the pedestrian crosswalk. Again, the Bureau did not ask some critical questions. Of course, they may have asked but did not enter the matter into the record.

When Lottie West arrived at her Traveler's Aid Society desk on the east side of the south door of the station lobby Harry Blanchard, a station usher, was seated at her desk in a chair for passengers. Night shift elevator operator Jack Clark and janitor Frank White were standing beside the desk talking with Blanchard. Nothing out of the ordinary, just a normal lull in activity as the night shift prepared to go off duty and the day shift prepared to go on duty at 7:00 am.

Lottie West saw a message she was to meet a disabled boy in a wheelchair on the Wabash #17. She walked a short distance to the Telegraph Room on the opposite side of the station doors from her desk and learned the train would arrive at 7:08 am. She then walked

north across the expansive station lobby, about 100 feet, to arrival Door B. From there she could walk downstairs to the loading platforms, meet the boy with the ushers, and help get him upstairs. But she did not get past the lobby threshold. She became involved in a conversation with the Assistant Station Manager RL Wagner and the manager of the Fred Harvey restaurant, Walter Daniel “WD” Rouzer. Which was part of her gossip routine.

At 7:00 am: ‘officer Mike Fanning, interviewed by Dwight Brantley, said he arrived for work at the station at 7:00 am and changed into his police uniform. He spotted the armored police car parked in front and walked back into the station through the west entrance to find out why it was there. He did not see any officers and began to walk back out the east entrance when he heard shooting. He went out the door, got behind an iron post, and drew his pistol. He saw a man shot down. He shot at a man as he ran toward a black car parked south of the officers’ car. He thought it was a Chevrolet. He did not think he hit the man or the car even though the man spun around. He went straight to the scene and was unable to identify any of the persons involved in the shooting after viewing photos of suspects.’ (Section 4 Page 85-139 7.3.33 Trainor KC Report, page 135)

At 7:05 am Margaret Turner and Walt Barry exited her car and noticed the dark colored sedan pull up at a right angle behind Lottie West’s Oakland facing directly at Turner’s car.

At 7:10 am Thirty year old Miss Parnie Millikan parked her green Plymouth between Caffrey’s Chevrolet and Mart’s Ford. Parnie and her 69 year old widowed mother Amanda Millikan left the car and went into the station to meet Mrs. Millikan’s sister. The Bureau never interviewed the women who arrived in the green Plymouth which ended up being held for evidence nor did they examine the vehicle. The police did talk with them because the car had to be processed. So, how do we know the green Plymouth parked at 7:10 am? In those days, newspapers frequently printed factual information:

“Escapes Death by Chance”

(June 17, 1933, unknown paper & writer; presumably,
KC Journal-Post)

“Miss Parnie Millikan 1317 Valentine Road lost a trifling argument with her mother as they sat in their motor car at the Union Station just before the gun battle today and thereby escaped being in the midst of the fusillade of bullets. A sister of Mrs. Amanda Millikan was to arrive from Chicago at 7:30 am. Mrs. Millikan and her daughter arrived at the Union Station at 7:10 am. ‘You go in, mother, and I’ll stay here in the car,’ suggested Miss Millikan. ‘No, you’d better come with me,’ Mrs. Millikan said. ‘There are two doors to watch, and I might not be able to watch both of them.’ Shortly after 7:20 am the Millikans left the station with their guest, Mrs. C. A. Hawkins of Othello, Washington. They found a crowd parked around the place where their car had been parked. The dead and wounded had not been removed. The Millikan car had been parked beside the car in which the detectives were shot. It was just west of it. A bullet had passed from front to rear through the Milliken car, directly in line with the position in which Miss Millikan would have been sitting if she had not gone with Mrs. Millikan to meet Mrs. Hawkins. There were many other bullet holes in the hood and cowl and in the body of the car. Bullets apparently had passed through the car both from the front and the rear.”

(Section 82 or SUB A1, Page 157)

To the points about Verne Miller wanting other men to help him and to carefully study the station instead of going straight home to get some sleep; if a mother wants her daughter to come inside the station with her so both doors are watched and her sister does not slip by, then it stands to reason Miller would share a similar concern.

The cars where physical evidence was retrieved, and assailants were viewed, are almost all in place. The Wabash #17 arrived on track 17 at the platforms at 7:08 am. No sooner had ushers Scott and Pemberton started up to the station when the Nash train arrived on track 25.

The Train Arrives

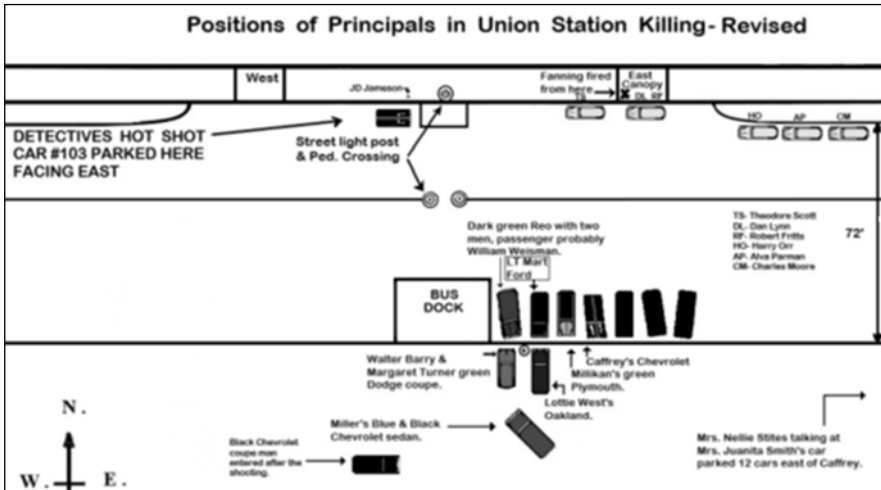
At 7:12 am the Missouri Pacific Flyer #116 from Fort Smith, Arkansas arrived three minutes early on track 25 at Union Station. It was a beautiful bright sunny Saturday morning the 17th of June 1933, just 71 degrees but headed to the nineties. A few minutes later a horrific incident took place. It became known around the country as the Kansas City Massacre.

In Kansas City the incident has always been referred to as the Union Station Massacre. The city was trying to build a reputation as a beautiful, sophisticated city for people to visit, locate businesses, and move their families. City visionaries did not want the reputation of being a smaller scale version of Chicago.

Vetterli remarked he “carefully looked over the situation and it appeared everything was quiet.” When the train arrived, agent Joe Lackey emerged from the stateroom in car 11, looked over things quickly, and returned to their car. He re-emerged with agent Frank Smith, McAlester Oklahoma Police Chief Otto Reed, and prisoner Frank Nash. Lackey stated: “everything appeared to be quiet in the station.” Lackey did not notice until it was too late, but he inadvertently picked up the shotgun Reed had been carrying, a Model 97 Winchester pump 16 gauge shotgun. Reed then picked up the gun Lackey had been carrying, a Model 12 Winchester pump 16 gauge shotgun. They all introduced one another on the platform. Nash was handcuffed at the wrists and was escorted up the stairs from the platform to the station.

While the escort proceeded through the station a few more people moved into position. Several people only saw bits and pieces of the

shooting. They are covered in the shooting scenario. The remainder of witnesses who saw more, such as where people were parked or other significant details prior to the shooting are summarized here.



Mrs. Juanita Smith

“Mrs. Juanita Smith, wife of Edgar Smith, an usher at the station, residing at 3012 Mersington, and employed at Holmes Cafeteria 1022 Baltimore Avenue, was interviewed. She stated it is the custom for her to come as far as the station each morning with her husband, and that she usually stops and remains seated in her automobile for a short time. On June 17th around 7:00 in the morning she was in the car and Mrs. Stites, the wife of another usher was there talking to her when to the west of them they heard some shooting. She described the position in which her car was as slightly to the east of the east entrance to the station. She got out of her car in an effort to see more but did not get a particularly good view of anything.” (Section 4 Page 85-139 7.3.33 Trainor Report, page 134-135)

Mrs. Nellie Stites

About 7:00 am station usher RJ Stites is dropped off for work by his wife Nellie. She left her car to talk with a friend who was the wife of another station usher named Mrs. Smith. Stites was slightly off on her time recollection because she had been talking with Juanita Smith for more than fifteen minutes before the shooting started. It did not start as soon as they began their conversation. Mrs. Smith was located approximately twelve cars to the east of Caffrey's car. Mr. RJ Stites told one of the agents his wife was in the parking plaza when the shooting started and may have seen something. When she talked to agent Brantley it appears she was interviewed at home, 2504 Kensington. The time, date, and location of the interview are not recorded:

“Mrs. Stites works at Donnelly's Garment Factory, 19th and Walnut Streets. She said it is her custom each morning to accompany her husband downtown and park the car near the Union Station. She remains around the car until time to go to work. A Mrs. Smith, whose husband works at the Union Station, is usually in the vicinity where she parks each morning. Mrs. Smith was present on Saturday, June 17th. Mrs. Stites got out of her car to go down to Mrs. Smith's car, a short distance away, and when she reached Mrs. Smith, they began a conversation and immediately heard some shots. At first, she didn't think it was shooting. She said she got on the running board of the car to see more clearly; that about 12 cars away, in a westerly direction, she saw a man with two automatic pistols in his hands. He was standing as if he were drawing a bead or aiming at something. He was standing in a straight posture, and she saw him shoot the pistols. There was a black Chevrolet coach or sedan nearby, with someone in it, and the front door was open. The car was headed in a northwesterly direction.

(Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report, page 30-31)

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Stites were talking at Mrs. Smith's car, parked in the plaza just east of the east entrance doors to the station and about 12 car spaces east of the shooting at Caffrey's car.

The Taxicab Stand **Robert Fritts**

According to his trial testimony, Robert Fritts was the cab starter at the station for Yellow Cab Company where he has worked for nine years. He has been posted at the east door at the front of Union Station for more than seven years. When the shooting began, he was next to the curb at the east door. No one was standing there with him at the curb. He specifically stated Lottie West was not standing near him or the curb when the shooting started. He had just called a cab up just before the Nash group came through and “loaded a crippled fellow, two redcaps, and just after this party went through, I called another one up for another load. He was sitting almost directly in front of the door.” Fritts saw two fellows shooting in the lot and after the shooting had started, he noticed the driver in front of the door, Dan Lynn, crawled out of his cab and Fritts thought he was shot.

Theodore Scott

Theodore Scott testified he had been an usher at Union Station the last ten years. When the shooting took place the morning of June 17, he was helping an invalid into a taxi. He estimated the cab was about 10 feet west of the iron post on the west side of the entrance canopy. The cab driver held the door open while he and another usher named Pemberton helped the person into the car.

Earnest Easter was the name of the 17 year old “invalid” loaded into the cab, along with his parents. They had arrived on the Wabash #17 at 7:08 am. The name of their cab driver is not in the record and no one interviewed the usher named Pemberton. The names of the Easter family members are not in the files anywhere. Presumably the Bureau never talked with them.

Redcaps Theodore Scott and Pemberton helped get the boy into the cab and Scott went inside the station to get change for Mr. Easter. Scott had just returned to the cab when the shooting started. Scott, the driver and the other usher, Pemberton, ducked down beside the car. Scott

behind the engine, driver behind the wheel, Pemberton on the running board. Scott testified another cab pulled up in front just about the time the shooting started, Dan Lynn.

Dan Lynn

Lynn was a cab driver for Yellow Cab. He was on the button, first in line at the cab stand, and was whistled up in front to load a passenger. He opened the right front door to take the passenger's bag and the shooting started. He went right out the door and got down on the north running board and remained there until the shooting was over.

Harry L Orr

Orr testified he was a taxi driver for about 3 ½ years at Yellow Cab Company. The first of the trains had begun pulling into the depot. He was number 3 or 4 in line when the line started moving. Dan Lynn was in line ahead of him and had just been whistled to the entrance door when 5 or 6 men came out of the east door of the station and started to cross the street.

Orr was then on the button, i.e., first in line. When everything broke out, he got out of his car because the right front door could not open from the inside, which put him in the middle of the street. Then he ran around the front of the car and squatted down behind the car on the north side. While he was squatted down, he was facing to the northwest, toward the station door. He only saw two fellows out front, Lynn, the driver ahead of him, and Fritts, the cab starter. Lynn was on his running board and Fritts was squatted down beside him at the side of Lynn's cab.

Alva Parman

Parman testified he was a cab driver for Yellow Cab Company where he has worked for 5 years. His cab was standing second from the button, i.e., behind Harry Orr's cab.

Charles C Moore

‘Charles Moore, Yellow Cab Company spoke with Trainor, was at the entrance to the station 30-40 feet from Caffrey’s car, no cars were moving behind Caffrey’s car, he heard “put ‘em up” he noticed a “a man standing about 15 or 20 feet from the front of the car of Caffrey.’ (Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report, page 36)

Charles Moore’s cab was next in line behind Alva Parman. He was much further away from Caffrey’s car than the 30-40 feet he stated in his interview. More like 30-40 yards. Otherwise, his information was very sound overall. Not perfect, but accurate as anyone could have been expected to be.

He saw much more of the action than the other witnesses. He was not asked to testify at trial though. Probably because he saw much more than the other witnesses. There were some things the Bureau preferred he not testify about. He was the first witness to the scene, *picked up the shotgun Vetterli dropped on the ground*, went to Caffrey as he was dying in *front* of his car, and was the official witness in police reports as discovering the body of Frank Hermanson.

Vetterli stated he “looked the situation over outside of the station before moving to Special Agent Caffrey’s car, which was directly in front of the east entrance of the station, everything appeared to be quiet, there being no unusual activity, and nothing at all to arouse suspicion. We immediately proceeded in a fan-like procession to the car of Special Agent Caffrey.” (Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report, page 15-17)

Apparently, none of the officers noticed the large blue and black Chevrolet sedan standing in the plaza angled toward the northwest behind an Oakland in the row immediately in front of them and two spaces west. Or the three men with the car, two of whom were standing on the Oakland’s running board looking over the roof of the car at them. Witnesses over a hundred feet away at the station entrance saw the car and the men, but the officers did not?

Confirming any suspicions about their lack of expertise, the officers broke their “fan like” procession and somehow got all six of them, plus the prisoner, bunched together in the narrow space between Caffrey’s Chevrolet and Parnie Millikan’s green Plymouth parked directly west of him. They had created a dangerous kill zone where they had no room to maneuver, no escape, and no perimeter protection. Just the sort of weakness a law enforcement officer or military man would exploit. Which is probably why Verne Miller decided to abandon his original plan to overtake the officers on the road and recover Nash immediately.

The assailants thought the lawmen would quickly see they were outgunned against machine guns and would willingly surrender their prisoner so they would live to fight another day. According to his later statements, this is exactly what agent Frank Smith was thinking when he saw the gunmen. Only an imbecile would start a fight when they had no chance.

For all the talk of the Italian Underworld involvement in the shooting, it must be remembered the Pendergasts who ran the Democrat political machine were first generation of Irish immigrants. And the Irish know Murphy’s Law. “Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong.”

The officers slid the passenger seat forward to gain entrance to the back seat. Nash climbed into the back seat. At this point a man with a machine gun dressed in a light gray suit moved in position behind Lottie West’s Oakland left front fender and engine bay two cars to their southwest. Another man wearing light brown or gray trousers with stripes, two toned shoes, a white shirt, brown golf wind breaker with light brown colored sleeves, and a brown “newsboy” or “sport” cap started walking from next to the Oakland to the north past LT Mart’s Ford coupe parked in the first row. Another man with two .45 Colt automatic pistols moved toward Mart’s Ford right front fender. He was wearing a blue suit, blue shirt, and white Panama hat.

While the assailants were moving into position, somehow completely unobserved by any of the officers, the prisoner, Frank Nash, was ordered to move from the back seat to under the steering wheel so the agents and police chief Reed could sit in back. Then the seat would be slid back into position for Nash to sit in the passenger seat and Caffrey in the driver's seat. Critically, the assailant with the machine gun moving to the north toward the station driveway did not see the prisoner changing his seating position. While the officers were getting into the car agent Caffrey began to walk around the front of his car to unlock the driver's side door and walk back to the left front of his car to take a guard position, approximately in front of the left headlight.

As Caffrey returned to the front of his car a loud voice, said "put 'em up, up, up." Detectives Hermanson and Grooms were standing toward the front side of Caffrey's passenger door and Vetterli slightly toward the rear of the door. The lawmen were trapped in two kill zones, standing between the cars and in the back seat of the car.

At this point anyone in their right mind would do as instructed, hand over the prisoner, and begin a search to recover the prisoner and his outlaw friends right away. But no, these were poorly trained Bureau agents. The policemen were detectives, not highly trained security detail personnel. This was a different era. The shooting demonstrated the need for specialized training.

Recall the earlier mention of an imbecile? Yes, an imbecile with the unfortunate name of Lackey was about to begin a chain reaction which would end or damage the lives of many people. From a distance it appeared Detective Grooms and agent Caffrey opened fire against the assailants, but it was not what happened.

Suddenly, a single shotgun blast inside Caffrey's car blew a hole in the front windshield. Agent Caffrey, standing in front of his own car, facing west toward the assailants, was hit in the right temple by a steel ball bearing fired from the shotgun. Witnesses said it appeared he fired a shot to his right, either toward his car and Nash or the assailant

moving toward the right rear. His pistol shot was possibly a muscle reaction because for all practical purposes, Caffrey was dead before he fired his gun, and fell forward, landing on his forehead in front of his car before rolling over. There was not a record made of what gun he was carrying, nor *whose* gun it was. Presumably, it was a .38 caliber Colt revolver capable of firing .38 Long Colt 150 grain ammunition, because the bullet which killed Chief Reed was fired from such a gun.

Depending on where the observer was, the two shots from Lackey and Caffrey were either heard as one shot or as two nearly simultaneous shots. But Caffrey was the first person anyone *saw* fire a weapon. The assailant in the street behind the green Plymouth was still moving toward the left rear of the car when the shooting started. After the two shots there was a moment of stunned silence, followed by another shotgun blast and a command from one of the assailants to "Let 'em have it." Witnesses saw Detective Grooms fire his Smith and Wesson .38, there was a burst of machine gun fire from the southwest into the group of officers, into the green Plymouth, and several shots hit the front of the station, the east canopy, and windows above the east entrance.

Witnesses saw the man behind Caffrey's car circle around firing into the rear of the car. As he reached the driver's side door he reached into the car, grabbed a shotgun, and dropped it on the ground. He looked inside and lifted the head of the man behind the steering wheel, his dead friend Frank Nash whom he expected to be seated in the back seat. Then said: "He's dead, they're all dead in here." As they ran to their car, officer Myron "Mike" Fanning began to fire at them from the station entrance. He did not think he hit anyone, but one man spun around and appeared to fall to the ground, got back up, and got into the car.

As they slowly rolled westward, gradually picking up speed, officers John Wiegand & Mike Fanning and cab driver Charles Moore ran out to the agent's car. SAC Vetterli got up off the ground from between the two cars, made his way around the back, picked up the shotgun

lying on the ground, leveled it at the escaping car, but did not fire. He never explained why not. Then he sat the gun down, ran toward the station asking for a riot call to be put in, then ran to the passenger side door of Caffrey's car to help with agent Lackey.

The Scene Immediately after the Shooting

“The first man to reach the death spot was John T Weigand uniformed patrolman assigned to the Union Station. I thrust my gun into the side of a man in the rear seat, later I learned it was Lackey.” “Don't shoot he said, I am an officer too.” (June 17, 1933, Kansas City Journal-Post, page 2)

When Officer Fanning got to the car, he also held his gun on agent Smith as Smith was climbing out of the car until he was convinced Smith was a federal officer. A police cruiser with Lieutenant J. G. Gibbs and Detective W. E. Parker pulled up on the scene as Fanning opened the passenger door. An exploded shotgun shell rolled out of the door onto the running board.

Vetterli arrived at the car and helped officer Fanning and Smith pull the injured Joe Lackey from the back seat. Dr. Frederick Olson had just arrived in an ambulance from General Hospital and helped treat Lackey until an ambulance from Research Hospital arrived.

Charles Moore picked up the shotgun on the driver's side. He did not shoot at the escaping gunmen, but he did get their license number. He walked to the *front of the car* where Caffrey was laying mortally wounded. He held Caffrey and thought Caffrey was trying to speak but his jaw was just moving up and down as his eyes stared blankly into the sky. Caffrey was brain dead but his heart was still beating. Caffrey's feet were toward the east, his head toward the west in a pool of blood. He had an abrasion on his forehead from when his head struck the ground.

Detectives Frank Hermanson and William Grooms were dead at the right front of Caffrey's car. Their bodies were intertwined with Hermanson lying on his back, feet toward the north, his head to the south next to the left front tire of the green Plymouth. The left side of his head was severely damaged, a wound which officers agreed must have been caused by a shotgun blast.

Grooms was lying partially on top of Hermanson, feet toward the station, head on Hermanson's chest. He had two machine gun bullet wounds, in his right chest through his heart exiting the left chest at his shoulder holster and another non-fatal wound to his lower back.

McAlester, Oklahoma Police Chief Otto Reed was dead in the back seat, a *.38 caliber Long 150 grain Colt revolver* slug hit him in the right temple and a *.45 machine gun* slug struck the right side of the back of his head. Reed was hit from two directions. He was on the back seat, feet toward the passage door, left leg crossed over the right, lying on his back with his head toward the driver's side. Agent Smith stated *Reed died immediately in the first volley.*

Agent Smith had leaned forward in the space between the two front seats and lay motionless playing dead. He was uninjured but badly shaken. Agent Lackey had three bullets in his spine and was in critical condition.

Prisoner Nash had a single gunshot to the head. The bullet jacket weakened as it passed through sheet metal in the back of the car, fragmented when it hit his head, and shattered the back of his skull. The lead core of the machine gun bullet passed through his brain and exited above his left ear. Fragments were found on the front seat, in the back, and one piece stuck to his scalp, outside the wound, on the back of his head. There were several surface stars on the inside of the driver's side window glass from fragment impacts. The lead core rolled out onto the pavement when the driver's side door was opened.

SAC Vetterli escaped with a single scratch on his left arm. Not a good day for the Bureau in their fight against crime. Not a good day for the truth either. A concerted effort to shield the Bureau's incompetence with a coverup ensued immediately. The Bureau attempted to memorialize agent Caffrey as bravely dying at the hands of machine gun wielding assassins, as well as Chief Reed, and detectives Hermanson and Grooms. The same story was given to their families. But the Bureau lied. Agent Lackey started the firefight. Caffrey was killed by Lackey. Hermanson was too. What was just described is not the official FBI version of the story; however, readers will see the documented truth and can make up their own minds.

The local police detectives knew they were looking at a friendly fire situation when they first arrived at the scene. The shooting was a local police matter with local jurisdiction. They would not participate in Vetterli's coverup. The next morning Chief of Detectives Thomas Higgins and Chief of Police Eugene Reppert stunned Gus Jones and George Harvey at police headquarters. Reppert started with saying "this is some mess you've gotten us in to." SAC Gus Jones offered to help the investigation in any way he could but was shocked to learn Reppert wanted nothing to do with anything, saying "this is a government case and not a police matter." The former Texas Ranger Gus Jones had no comprehension of what the police told him, and they were fortunate he restrained himself.

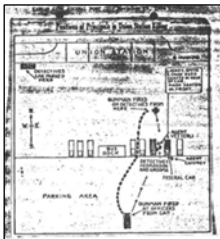
The police knew what had happened at the shooting scene. By Sunday morning Director Reppert and Chief Higgins likely already knew the key details and who the gunmen were. It appears Higgins and Vetterli must have agreed on what had happened, and Vetterli would be responsible for defending himself and his men. If Vetterli wanted the police to keep quiet, he would have to take public responsibility for the investigation. Higgins allowed Vetterli to leave the scene with two shotguns, at least one revolver, and two exploded shotgun shell cases.

Gus Jones had to recover from the shock of the Reppert meeting. He also had to confront his doubts about the Bureau's ability to run a

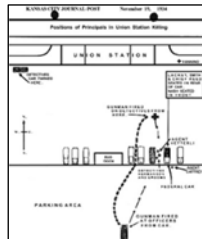
criminal investigation. The Bureau was good at throwing its weight around and intimidating people but doing everything itself was a different matter. Jones knew he had a problem and needed to figure out what course of action to recommend to Director Hoover.

Shooting Scene Diagrams

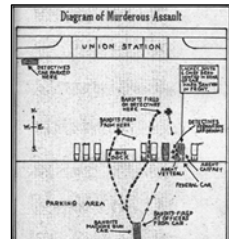
Although the Bureau did not produce any diagrams of the shooting scene which were preserved in the case file, several did appear contemporaneously in newspapers and are presented herein. These are from Section 72 Page 44 Diagram from Journal-Post 11.19.33 and other subsequent images from the J-P:



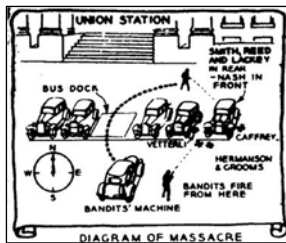
Original excerpt from J-P



Restored Image



Updated J-P version



Each of the diagrams has elements of truth but none are reliably accurate depictions of the scene. The images do produce a model to begin building around.

The Aftermath

Kansas City SAC Reed Vetterli had to walk a fine line. Appear to pursue the assailants, without pursuing the truth. No one could know what happened. It would cost him his job plus at least one other agent. He already knew what happened. Now he had to hope whomever the assailants were got killed before anyone learned what happened.

As investigators compiled their interviews it appeared Vetterli's identification of "Big Bob" Brady as an assailant could be a solid lead. Brady was part of a group of eleven prisoners who escaped from prison at Lansing a few weeks earlier. He was part of Harvey Bailey's bank robbery crew and Bailey was one of the escapees. They reportedly owed Frank Nash for helping them escape. Except, Nash had little or nothing to do with the Lansing escape on Memorial Day. It was the first of many guesses and poor logic to go bad.

The movie *Casablanca* was made in 1942. Claude Rains may have had Reed Vetterli in mind as an inspiration when he constructed his character Captain Louis Renault. For folks unfamiliar with movies, Captain Renault was the devious, corrupt, and seemingly incompetent policeman who said: "Major Strasser has been shot; round up the usual suspects" and earlier in the film "realizing the importance of the case, my men are rounding up twice the usual number of suspects."

Vetterli's course of action took the Bureau on a wild goose chase. A long list of suspects who had nothing to do with the shooting was compiled. None of the agents could describe or identify the assailants. They simply were not paying attention. They made up the prison break escapees as "the usual suspects." And of course, there was no way they would admit to Hoover it was all their fault and Lackey had killed a fellow agent. All to save face.

Vetterli's course of action had the effect of pursuing the Lansing escapees and killing them before anyone could learn they had nothing to do with the station shooting. Stating it was his plan all along might be giving him too much credit though.

An Example of Incompetency

A huge misstep early in the investigation provided a good illustration of Vetterli's core competence issues. Agents William Trainor and Hal Bray were in Joplin on Sunday June 18. The agents received information from the Oklahoma City office a call was made from the phone of Louise Connor in Hot Springs to a party line phone #1541-W-2 belonging to Herb and Esther Farmer on June 16 at 4:20 pm and 10:00 pm, and on June 17 at 9:51 am. It was learned later the calls to the Farmer home were made from her phone, but not made by Louise Connor. The calls were crucial to the timeline. It was also learned later at least one of the neighbors was listening in on the conversations. Getting the long distance call records to and from the Farmer #1541-W-2 was critical to the investigation. The information would lead to who was contacted in Kansas City and carried out the shooting. And possibly catch them before they fled.

“Special Agents Trainor and Bray investigated at Joplin, Missouri, on June 18th where it was ascertained all long distance telephone calls charged to telephones at Joplin, Missouri as of June 16, 1933, would not be of record at Joplin at that time, since the tickets pertaining to the calls had already been sent to the accounting office of the Bell Telephone Company at St. Louis, Missouri. *Therefore, the St. Louis office was immediately requested, from the Kansas City office, to check numbers emanating from Joplin, Missouri telephone #1541-W-2 and 4271, which latter telephone was found to belong to Frank Vaughn, as of June 18th.*” (Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report, page 53)

Chief Ed Portley at the Joplin Police Department heard what had happened in Kansas City and immediately suspected Herb Farmer was somehow involved. About noon on Saturday, June 17 he raided the Farmer home along with several of his men and the sheriff at Neosho. No one was home except the elderly grandfather of Esther Farmer. The home had the appearance of people packing and leaving in a hurry. After Trainor and Bray visited the Chief's office on the 18th the Chief explained the telephone company might not readily share the long

distance records, but he would call a friend who was in management at Bell. The man could not do anything about the records in transit to St. Louis but made the Farmer records for June 17 and 18 available. He also promised he would instruct his supervisors to watch local and long distance calls made on the line. No calls were made by the time the agents left Joplin on June 20.

There was an enormous failure which was almost completely concealed because records were missing. The wording of Trainor's memo "*St. Louis office was immediately requested, from the Kansas City office, to check numbers emanating from Joplin, Missouri telephone #1541-W-2*" implied something was done right away. But Vetterli did not call St. Louis requesting the records for the Farmers phone #1541-W-2. No, Vetterli wrote a letter! And not right away either. From the looks of the follow-up memo from St. Louis he sent a letter on June 20 requesting all calls to and from Joplin! He must have waited until after Trainor and Bray returned to Kansas City to follow up. Vetterli's failure resulted in Miller being able to leave Kansas City undetected the night of June 18.

There is not a record of Vetterli's letter to St. Louis. It magically disappeared from the file. However, there is a copy of the reply he received from the St. Louis office. On July 4, 1933, SAC Ladd sent a letter to Kansas City stating: "With reference to your letter of June 20th, 1933, please be advised arrangements were made by this office through the local telephone company to have all toll slips for June 16 and June 17, 1933 from Neosho, Missouri forwarded to George Smith, manager of the telephone company at Joplin, Missouri where they will be made accessible to an agent from your office." (Pages 41-56 7.4.33 St. Louis to KC)

The cover letter was followed by fifteen typed single-spaced pages of various phone records. The only call on the report which was relevant was 1541-W-2 to KCMO 7073 for 1 minute (Pages 41-56 7.4.33 St. Louis to KC, page 56)

Vetterli received 15 pages of useless documents for his file. The other calls made to and from the Farmer residence were not in the phone log the St. Louis office sent. The one call which was identified was to the home of Verne Miller. It was later determined the call was made at 10:17 pm June 16. Had Vetterli called St. Louis instead of sending a letter two days later the Bureau may have caught Miller before he left for Chicago!

Instead, Vetterli missed the opportunity to get Miller in Kansas City and wasted the Bureau's resources, the time of his agents, the St. Louis Agents, and the support personnel. And caused the case to drag on. This is how important support personnel in an office, folks like a secretary, become resentful of upper management. Think of the time it takes to carefully type out 15 pages of records, in carbon paper triplicate, knowing someone will scrutinize everything for any errors, all for no useful purpose. One of the agents in the Kansas City office held a lifelong grudge against Vetterli for his incompetence. He did not go public but here it is, in black and white.

Who Was Brought in to Help?

Vetterli's Report cited the agents working on the case by June 25: "The investigation is being directed by Assistant Director, Harold Nathan." "This agent (Reed Vetterli) has been assigned to coordinate the facts and to render a report upon investigation which is being performed by Special Agents in Charge: Gus Jones, RG Harvey, RH Colvin and Special Agents: Dwight Brantley, Hal D Bray, RB Nathan, KR McIntire, HE Anderson, RC Suran, JR Calhoun, GC Dewey, BR Allen, JL Flood, WF Trainor." (Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report, page 18-19)

The agents came from several offices and many of the men listed would appear in reports as the case grew nationwide. Many more men flowed in and out of Kansas City over the summer of 1933.

The Special Agents in Charge leading the investigation started with the fifty year old former San Angelo, Texas Chief of Police, Texas Ranger, and Deputy US Marshal Gus Jones. Jones began his career with the Bureau in 1916 and was in charge of the San Antonio Office. He flew into Kansas City at 2:30 am Sunday morning to help with the investigation. Take any stereotype out there about a Texas police chief, Texas Ranger, and US Marshal and apply them to Jones. He was a tough no-nonsense lawman.

RG “George” Harvey was the SAC at Kansas City prior to Reed Vetterli. He knew the lay of the land, the “local conditions,” as the Bureau termed the corrupt political regime. Harvey became the SAC at Philadelphia when he left Kansas City. He was on leave and visiting Chicago when the shooting news broke. He immediately informed Hoover he would make himself available wherever he was needed. Not much is in the KANMO file on Harvey. He was not in Kansas City for an extended period for assistance. His role was envisioned for short term use as a local expert. Nine days after the shooting, on June 26 Hoover instructed, he “can be relieved of his duties in Kansas City, to proceed to Philadelphia.” (Section 5 Page 34-36 6.29.33 Memo of call with Vetterli)

RH “Ralph” Colvin was the Oklahoma City SAC. He was a few years older than Gus Jones and in charge of an equally tough territory. He worked for the Border Patrol along the US-Mexico border for seven years before joining the Bureau in 1918. Both Lackey and Smith worked for him and were acting under his orders when they grabbed Frank Nash in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Colvin was very much like Gus Jones, no-nonsense, straight-forward, get the job done. In many respects they were the last of the frontier lawman generation. They had no interest in political aspirations and zero tolerance for people who played politics. They were among a very few who could tell Hoover “what was what” and get away with it. Another such personality was on the rise in the Bureau and emerged during the investigation to become SAC in Kansas City when Vetterli

was transferred in September 1933, Edward E Conroy. Conroy went on to become one of the Bureau's most respected agents. Admittedly, Conroy became your scribe's favorite agent.

Hoover assembled the best people he could to solve the case and bring the station shooting perpetrators to justice. Unfortunately, when he unleashed the hounds, they were loosed on the wrong trail.



1933 Chevrolet Sedan

The Assailant's Car

The afternoon of Thursday June 15 Verne Miller and Vivian Mathis returned from Chicago. Vivian Mathis registered her 1933 Chevrolet sedan motor number 3505199 serial #17074 model IAC02 in Kansas City. She bought it new as Vivian Page for \$578 on March 21, 1933, from Gus Winkler's brother in law, Joe Bergl at Bergl Motor Sales in Chicago. Missouri license plate number 482-239 registered with Missouri title number 3756907 using address 3834 Main Street in Kansas City, the moving and storage business of June Kathrens, Kathrens Transfer Company. (FBI File 62-28915 Section 77 Page 8) (Section 76 Page 59-60 12.15.34 Nathan KC to Hoover)

In the era men still handled most business transactions and financial affairs. Traditions die hard and frequently do not go away fast enough. Verne and Vi had a partnership of mutual trust and respect. There was something else at work too. Vi liked the suburban setting. She had grown to like Kansas City. She enjoyed having her daughter Betty with

her. Her nesting instinct was taking over. Years of restlessness, not having roots, and missing watching her little girl grow up had caught up with her. She wanted to build a nest and settle down. The subject must have come up on their quick trip to Chicago. Otherwise, there was no need to make the effort to get Missouri license plates the same afternoon they got home. Vivian wanted to remain in Kansas City and stop moving around.

A century later it may not seem like a big deal, but in 1933 a woman buying a brand new car, and registering it by herself, was unusual. The writer's grandmother did the same thing, the same year in Bolivar, Missouri. Times have changed.

The only witnesses who saw the assailant's car move into place before the officers walked out to Caffrey's Chevrolet were Margaret Turner and Walter Barry. The car was seen driving into position from the west of the parking plaza and angled in behind Lottie's West's Oakland facing northwest. The front half of their car was concealed from view behind Lottie West's Oakland with only the back half of the car visible from the east doors. The assailants figured out which car Nash was going to and had their car two rows away facing west. They pulled into position about 10 minutes before the shooting began.

Witnesses described the car behind West's as black or dark blue and black. Based on witnesses the likely color scheme for the car was an Azure Blue (dark blue) body color and black top and bottom color for fenders and running boards with various colors such as yellow, red, or black wheels. The sedan model had suicide doors. Unless the observer was positioned at the right angle it would be difficult to distinguish if the color combination were dark blue and black, or all black. Hence the uncertainty from witnesses.

After the Shooting

According to witnesses, the last position the assailant's car was seen it was going west on Pershing Road when it went out of sight. No one was certain whether it turned right to go north on Broadway toward downtown; or turned left to proceed south to the suburbs or across the state line. Only one witness, Nellie Stites, thought she saw the car turn south; she "saw him after the shooting get into the Chevrolet sedan, which went west and seemed to turn south on Broadway." (Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report, page 30-31)

Several days after the shooting, agent Brantley interviewed Mrs. Nellie Stites: "She said there was a friend of hers, who saw the Chevrolet, and she works at Donnelly's. She does not know the name of this woman, but this woman told her she and her husband were on the way to work, in the vicinity of Trinity Lutheran Hospital, located in the vicinity of 30th and Wyandotte, when a black Chevrolet sedan or coach, containing two men, running at a very rapid rate of speed, almost collided with their car." (Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report, page 30-31)

30th was not a through street at Wyandotte. No doubt, Nellie Stites' co-worker must have seen the assailant's car, or their accomplices in the blue coupe, speeding eastward on 31st Street. The assailants had turned south on Broadway from Pershing Road, then east on 31st Street where they were spotted. They continued east on 31st about four blocks until they turned south again, this time on Main Street.

An observant street car operator provided solid information: 'agent Suran spoke with Robert D. Woods, a street car operator, who on June 17, 1933 at 7:25 am observed at the intersection of 31st and Main a dark sedan or coach about the size of a Chevrolet' "made a rapid turn from the west off of Thirty-first Street," 'the car turned south and as the turn was made the driver hit the safety buttons by the street car stop on Main Street,' "there were two men in the car, the driver was a dark

complexioned man with a rather long face, was wearing a soft brown hat.” He could not furnish a description of the second man in the car. The “expression on the driver of the car was that of a person laboring under a great deal of excitement, he seemed to be tense, and after they had run over the safety buttons, he observed them pass the red light at a high rate of speed at Linwood and Main Street.” (Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report, page 49)

Although not definitively confirmed, it is probable Robert Woods observed Adam Ricchetti driving, turning south on Main Street from 31st Street heading south.

Arrival at Edgevale Road

When Vivian Mathis was interviewed by Sam McKee in October 1934, she said she and Verne had three cars while they lived on Edgevale Road. When they first moved in Verne Miller had a large black 1933 7-passenger Chrysler Imperial Series 80 Sedan. She purchased the 1933 Chevrolet sedan in Chicago in March 1933. And they had a 1933 Essex Terraplane sedan Verne acquired for Freddie Barker and used the name Carter. This was the car identified in St Paul during the Hamm Kidnapping. (Section 65 Pages 93-125 10.11.34 Suran Chicago Report)

There were several versions of the story about what happened after the shooting, including how Verne and Vi got to Chicago and then New York. Her Chevrolet was never found by the Bureau or any police department. The operating theory was Joe Bergl made the car disappear and Miller bought another car from him for his drive to Cleveland, then New York. What really happened to her car is just a guessing game. No trace was ever found. Information developed Miller likely drove his 16 cylinder Cadillac from Chicago to New York after he got rid of the Chevrolet.

Vi had registered her Chevrolet and received Missouri license plate 482239 after she and Verne returned from Chicago on June 15. The

new plate was on the car Saturday morning and was seen by Charles Moore as it was driving away. License plates which still could serve a useful purpose were usually not discarded by the underworld. The original Illinois plate was probably still in the trunk of the car and Verne put it back on in the garage sometime during the day Saturday so it could be driven later and avoid someone recognizing the Missouri license number.

Was there another car or cars with Miller? A Possible Scenario to Consider

This scenario is informed conjecture based on eye witnesses, not proven fact. The police investigation and early Bureau investigation indicated there were more actors involved in the shooting but there are indications they were shielded by the shady relationship between the mob and police department. There were several activities in and around the station overnight. They could all be random acts or coincidences. If so, there is not a need to assign much importance to them. Of course, your scribe is not a big fan of random coincidences. On the other hand, consider the possibility the local mob provided a couple of cars and a few men to help surveille the station to assure Miller did not lose Nash in the busy morning confusion at the station. After all, everyone wanted his effort to recover Nash to take place on the road, not in the city.

Consider the possibility the dark blue 1932 Chevrolet coach was down below the station watching the loading platforms. The men saw the Nash escort come across the platform and up the stairs. The men knew the escort was not met below by local authorities, so they drove up the access street to Pershing, east on Pershing, and into the west side of the parking plaza. Verne Miller had already pulled up behind Lottie West's Oakland where the men in the green Reo were watching Caffrey's car. The Chevrolet coupe rolled to a stop west of Miller and signaled the Nash escort was on the way through the station. Miller and Floyd were next to the Oakland's driver's side door discussing

their plan in case an opportunity to take Nash arose. Ricchetti was behind the wheel to fill his role as getaway driver.

The escort crossed the driveway to Caffrey's Chevrolet without using the crosswalk. Someone, likely Ricchetti, was behind the wheel of Miller's car, started the car and let it idle, just in case they needed to move quickly to follow Nash out of the parking plaza. The men in the dark blue Chevrolet coach drove in close enough to watch where Nash's car went. A passenger got out of the car and started walking toward Miller's car.

This is mostly informed conjecture, but it does fit the facts. It is plausible. Is it the truth? We do not get to know. Just something to think about because the car appeared several times overnight and reappears in the investigation. Also, it helps explain why a car would stop where it did before the shooting started and would explain what eye witnesses saw.

Dark Blue 1932 Chevrolet Coach

Early reports had as few as two gunmen up to nine or ten. With several cars involved and some even reported men firing machine guns from cars driving by and approximately 100 shots fired. While the amount of ballistic evidence was surprisingly small, there was a case for several people in cars and on foot who at least were aware something was going to happen at the station even if they may not have actively participated in the shooting.

In the writer's view, the man who encountered JD "Red" Jameson during the early morning and asked about the train schedule and access to the loading platforms was likely part of a team casing the station. The description of a passenger in the green Reo does match the man Jameson encountered in the station. Jameson described him as "a well-built man about 40 years of age, 5 feet 9 inches, 160 pounds in weight, wearing a light grey summer suit, straw hat, two-tone sport shoes, and

carrying a cane.” (Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report, page 25-26)

A man with a similar description was seen at 10:15 am at a filling station on State Avenue with two men matching the descriptions of Floyd and Ricchetti. The man seen at 10:15 was driving “a dark blue 1932 Chevrolet coach, the two back fenders of this car were pretty badly dented.” (Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report, page 27-28)

Margaret Turner observed a dark colored Chevrolet sedan or coach several times between 3:00 am and 7:05 am. At first, she thought she saw the same car each time. But it turned out slightly different. The car at 3:00 am belonged to someone unrelated to the case, whose passenger was Mrs. Frieda Lacer. Margaret Turner and Walt Barry saw a car she first thought was the same one she observed during the night, but then they both became certain it was a dark colored Buick sedan. It drove up about 7:05 am and parked at an angle pointing toward their Dodge. In fact, the car Turner and Barry saw at 7:05 am was Verne Miller’s 1933 blue & black Chevrolet sedan.

The dark colored Chevrolet sedan or coach Margaret Turner saw drive through in front of the station may not have been a Chevrolet and it may not have belonged to either the Lacer party or the Miller party. And may even be completely irrelevant. But she did pick up on something suspicious, and it makes sense the car she saw was the dark blue 1932 Chevrolet coach spotted later at 10:15. She would not have seen the dented fenders in the darkness at 4:15 am and at 5:15 am there may not have been good enough light yet for her to notice either.

It is logical the man Red Jameson encountered regarding the loading platforms could easily be the same passenger Margaret Turner saw in the Green Reo and was the man seen at the wheel of the 1932 Chevrolet coach at 10:15 am. It is also logical the dark blue 1932 Chevrolet seen at 10:15 am could have been the same automobile Margaret Turner saw during the night. There is not a way to know for

certain though. But in a moment, a witness saw something which only makes sense if the car was part of the shooting plot.

Mrs. Juanita Smith, who was engaged in conversation with Nellie Stites when the shooting started, told agent Trainor as she was returning to her car “she almost ran into a black sedan or coach, a rather heavy set man was driving wearing a straw hat and was very tanned and she saw another heavy set well-dressed man running toward the car and the car moved slowly enough that the man was able to get in, and the car headed east toward Main Street. After viewing photos, she said the man running toward the car resembled Bernard Phillips.” (Section 4 Page 85-139 7.3.33 Trainor Report, page 134-135)

The car Juanita Smith almost ran into was the 1932 Chevrolet coupe driving eastward in the parking lot toward Main Street. Miller’s Chevrolet was driving west toward the station exit on Pershing Road. There were three men in the car she almost ran into. The driver was wearing a straw hat. His passenger who got out of the car before the shooting started jumped back into the car before her eye picked it up. As the car rolled east past the shooting a man running toward the car who got in before it drove away.

The man Smith saw get into the rolling car has a similar description to the man Margaret Turner saw driving the Green Reo. In the writer’s view, the man who ran toward the slow moving car in the plaza and resembled Bernard Phillips must have been part of the crew casing the station and watching the loading platform. Of, course, Bernard Phillips was killed in August 1932 by Verne Miller, but William Weisman was built similarly and resembled Phillips. Another witness who talked with the police department did identify Weisman as someone they saw but curiously the person’s name is not in the record. Chief Thomas Higgins did name Weisman as a suspect. The evidence is too thin to conclude Weisman exited his Reo and ran toward the blue Chevrolet coach after the shooting. It must be considered Floyd was shooting from behind the right front fender of the Mart Ford parked next to the

Reo and he was injured. Weisman could have assisted him. There are too many facts tying the two cars to the shooting to dismiss the matter.

Green Reo with Light Colored Wheels

If the 1932 Chevrolet were connected to Verne Miller's plan it would account for the second of two dark colored cars which were seen driving away from the scene at the same time. Of course, the man who got out of the green Reo, then was seen getting into the dark blue Chevrolet looked like either Wilbur Underhill, Bernard Phillips, or William Weisman. Which would mean the man who replaced him behind the wheel of the green Reo must have met the other suspects somewhere after the shooting and ended up driving the dark blue Chevrolet with Ricchetti and Floyd to State Avenue, then to the West Bottoms. Very plausible. Especially if the green Reo belonged to William Weisman. Weisman and Miller were friends, played golf together, and Weisman had been to the Edgevale Road home before. He was a trusted gunman.

A 7:22 am police radio call "to patrol car No. 43: Go to the Plaza Hotel across the street from Union Station, get to a telephone get me the information on shooting scrape." Car 43 called the dispatcher at 7:30 am with information on the shooting.

The Plaza Hotel was on the southeast corner of Pershing Road and Main Street, where Crown Center Hotel is in the current era. Your humble scribe worked there as he finished college. Behind the hotel to the south was a steep hill covered with large billboards. Locals called it "Signboard Hill." The Signboard Bar in the Hotel was named after the hill and had/has many photos and memorabilia associated with the site. The corner was much higher ground than the station and a good perspective to observe the shooting.

A hood named Robert Burns "was in Kansas City June 12 until June 26 when he went to St. Louis. Burns stated on June 17 he was standing in front of the Plaza Hotel and witnessed the shooting where he saw

two cars leave the scene one driving past the Plaza Hotel at a high rate of speed and the other going in the opposite direction. (Section 15 Pages 89-90 8.16.33 Ladd St Louis to KC)

Two Cars With Verne Miller?

Miller's 1933 Chevrolet sedan left the station headed west on Pershing Road, drove south on Broadway, east on 31st Street, then south on Main Street. The Yellow Cab carrying Ernest Easter was not far behind Miller as it rolled out of the station driveway onto Pershing Road. A second black or dark blue car left the station plaza on the east side on Main Street, went south on Main Street, then sped west on Pershing Road where it began to catch up to Miller's car but almost hit the third car, the green Reo with light colored wheels, as it came out of the station, turned east on Pershing, and sped past the Plaza Hotel, where Robert Burns was standing and happened to see two cars possibly aiding Miller leave the scene.

Police Director Reppert and Chief Higgins may have learned the names of the men who aided Miller, but the Bureau had no idea if the cars or the men were even connected to the shooting. None of the agents ever noticed either car. The local authorities chose to remain silent unless they had to share information. For many years local lore was several local underworld men were involved, and many fellows have implied or claimed outright they were a part of the scheme. If we believed all of them, there would be fifty or so accomplices who left the scene in two buses instead of cars. Before the shooting there were two men in the green Reo and two men in the dark blue Chevrolet. The driver of the Reo became a passenger in the Chevrolet when it sped away from the station.

Why would the driver, possibly William Weisman, get out of the Reo during the shooting? Charles Floyd was standing at the right front of LT Mart's Ford holding two .45 Colt automatics. The green Reo was parked next to where Floyd was standing. If Floyd was shot or fell and injured his shoulder, then the driver may have helped him get up and

into the waiting getaway car. Then hopped into the blue coupe as it rolled east toward Mrs. Smith and Main Street. When the cars left the station, there were three men in the blue Chevrolet coupe. The one man in the green Reo was formerly a passenger and became the driver. Who the men were remains unknown for certain, but one was likely William Weisman.

Be On the Look Out BOLO on Suspects

With respect to the suspect descriptions, there was not much useful information. A memo from Chicago on the 17th summed up everything they had so far: ‘recites who was killed and descriptions of the gunmen as’ “two white men, blue shirts, no coats, one approximately 33 years old with tan complexion, favorable appearance, about 5’8” tall 165-170 pounds, black Chevrolet sedan Missouri license number 422329, 428359, or 482239.” (Section 1 Page 13 6.17.33 Chicago SAC Smith)

The police department requested KMBC radio to make two public service announcements asking the public to “be on the lookout for two white men wearing blue shirts and no coats. Driving a new black Chevrolet sedan, Missouri license either 428329 or 482239. These men killed 2 Government agents, two Government prisoners, and two detectives in front of the Union Station a short while ago and are carrying a machine gun. They were last seen driving South through the Mission Hills District.” The public service announcement aired at 8:40 and 8:45 am. (Ricchetti Trial Exhibit Q)

Police Radio Log

The police radio was extremely active immediately after the shooting. Several pages of the call log were used as exhibits at Ricchetti’s trial and are summarized in a Kansas City Times article about the perjury trial for Thomas Higgins and Eugene Reppert: ‘Higgins testifies Lazia was on the list of potential suspects to consider, which surprised Prosecutor Milligan who was trying to establish the KCPD was

shielding Lazia from the feds. Three hundred names were provided on the suspect list.’ “Radio Log Is Introduced” the log of June 17 related to the massacre was read by Reppert’s attorney William Hogsett.” (Section 92 or SUB A11 Page 194-197 3.8.35 *Kansas City Times* “Lazia On Gang List”)

The Prosecutor was attempting to establish Director Reppert and Chief Higgins did not actively try to solve the case. The radio log information clearly demonstrated an active pursuit, at least to the untrained eye. When the suspect list containing 300 people was brought forward and John Lazia’s name was read aloud, the courtroom erupted in laughter. So much for proving perjury. Police were working to solve the case, just not the way the federal government wanted them to.

The way the radio logs were read into the record at the Reppert trial was not accurate. Rather than quoting the record, the timeline from the radio logs Saturday morning is quoted directly from the logs appearing in Defendant’s Exhibits M, N, O, and P at the Ricchetti Trial:

“7:21- Call #103-40-41-42-44 Go in front of Union Station assist in shooting scrape.” *Note car #103 in the 7:21 am call was the armored “Hot Shot” car of detectives Hermanson and Grooms. The other car numbers were being called to assist car 103.*

“7:22- #43 Go to the Plaza Hotel across the street from Union Station, get to a telephone get me the information on shooting scrape.” Car 43 called the dispatcher at 7:30 with information on the shooting.

“7:30- Attention all cars: Two white men in blue shirts no coats, in dark Chevrolet coach or sedan these men have machine guns, five men fatally wounded or killed, attempt to release federal prisoners, escaped going west into Penn Valley Park.”

“7:33- Attention all cars: The license on Chevrolet sedan used at station is MO 428-329.”

“7:35- Attention all cars: From information officer Grooms of #103 was killed Officer Hermanson fatally wounded.”

“7:40- Attention all cars especially outside peace officers in counties south of Kansas City: There have been seven persons either killed or fatally injured in front of the Union Station in shooting scrape when Federal Officer was returning prisoners through Union Station. Two men identified as officers of KCPD one killed one fatally injured. The two men who did the shooting wearing blue shirts escaped in Chevrolet sedan 1933 Missouri License 428329, black color, these men are armed with machine guns, escaped towards Penn Valley Park. Use all caution in the apprehension of these men.”

Then nothing for 40 minutes, Chief Higgins arrived on scene approximately 8:00 am.

“8:20- Pickup on shooting: two white men wearing blue shirts, Missouri License #428329 or Missouri License #482239, black Chevrolet sedan armed with machine guns. Escaped going south to Penn Valley Park, probably headed for Kansas.”

“8:24- Attention all cars: Be on lookout for two white men, *dark shirts in small dark coupe. Just seen going south through Mission Hills District on Highway 50 headed west, driving very fast, appeared very nervous.*”

“9:03- Pickup on shooting & murder: Two white men, wearing blue shirts, #1 round face, smooth shaven, both very neatly dressed. These men murdered some peace officers at the Union Station, escaped in Black Chevrolet sedan Missouri License #428329 or Missouri License #482-239, escaped going south through Penn Valley Park, may be headed towards Kansas.”

10:16- Pick up on shooting & murder: wearing blue shirts, very neat looking, #1 round face, smooth shaven. Shot peace officers at Union

Station, escaped in Chevrolet Sedan black color. Missouri License #428329 or #482239. Went south through Penn Valley Park.”

For all their efforts, the police never found a trace of the suspects. Of course, there was not much of a description to go by. Two white men who were “neatly dressed” wearing blue shirts and no coats, a Chevrolet sedan or coupe, or maybe both? Imprecise, two similar appearing cars.

Word there was a federal prisoner at 7:30 am and a federal officer at 7:40 am. The federal aspect was added after detectives had talked with agent Vetterli. A car registered with a matching number for one of the three broadcast was found in rural Missouri. An airplane trip was made by police right away, and it was quickly determined the car was not the one they were looking for.

Bureau Follows up on License Plates

Desperate to make progress and out of leads, Vetterli decided to track down the license plates the police followed through on the day of the shooting. In September! By the time the report on the requested plates came back Vetterli had been transferred to San Francisco.

‘License numbers traced from Union Station witness reports 498239 was a Hupmobile sedan owned by Joe Golder. License 498329 Chevrolet coach owned by Fred Parker at Neely’s Landing. Neely’s Landing was across the state at Cape Girardeau. License 428329 was a Ford Touring car owned by John Sampson at Elmer Missouri. Request investigation of each individual especially Fred Parker at Neely’s Landing.’ (Section 17 Pages 22-23 9.2.33 Vetterli KC to St Louis)

‘No information of value at Neely’s Landing or Jackson Missouri. Fred Parker is a known good citizen with good reputation. Viewed the 1930 Ford Model A coach with Missouri 1933 tags 498-329 belonging to Parker. Parker stated the tags were formerly on a 1930 Chevrolet

coach he traded for the Ford in March 1933.’ (Section 23 Page 33-37 10.28.33 Gross St Louis Report)

For some reason SAC Vetterli had waited until September to trace the license numbers broadcast by police on June 17. Vetterli checked all the numbers reported except 482239.

The Correct License Number

The police radio log disclosed at 8:20 am the same two license numbers were broadcast included the correct 482239. Shortly thereafter, at 8:24 am, the police radio broadcast a BOLO “for 2 white men, dark shirts in small dark coupe. Just seen going south through Mission Hills District on Highway 50, headed west, driving very fast, appeared very nervous.” (Ricchetti Trial Exhibit N)

The 8:20 broadcast had the correct license number for Vi Mathis’ Chevrolet. The 8:24 broadcast had some of the information from the 7:25 am sighting by Robert Woods but placed them in the wrong part of town. Robert Woods spotted the getaway car at 31st Street and Main heading south. Something significant is off between the 8:20 and 8:24 calls. Because Highway 50 has had several routes through Kansas City over the decades, it requires a little local knowledge to understand just how significant the discrepancy is.

Historic Interlude- Highway 50 through Kansas City

In Kansas City and westward Highway 50 was built over many of the original routes of the southern route of the Oregon Trail, the California Trail, and the Santa Fe Trail.

Technically the Santa Fe began at Franklin, Missouri, which was northwest of Jefferson City and on the north side of the Missouri River from Booneville. Yes, named for Daniel Boone. The Santa Fe Trail entered Kansas City to pick up provisions along the Missouri River. The primary docks were north of downtown in what is known locally

as the River Market. Eventually another dock about eight miles west was built and frequently used, Westport Landing.

East of Kansas City Highway 50 passed through Jefferson City and Lees Summit. Then it angled to the northwest through Raytown to Kansas City. Until 1926, Highway 50 followed the same route as Missouri Route 12.

Many folks consider the official start of the Santa Fe Trail to begin at Westport Landing because folks taking the river route joined several overland routes to head west from Westport. Daniel Boone's grandson Albert had a general store in a Westport building constructed in 1851 and sold his share in the store to Robert Campbell in 1859. At the same time, he sold his home to frontiersman Jim Bridger. Jim Bridger had a blacksmith shop below and west of the building for many years. The old general store at current day 500 Westport Road is still there.

For the last seventy years a business has continued to be in the same building, Kelly's Westport Inn. It is rumored your occasionally undisciplined scribe was reportedly seen there in the 1970's and 1980's and even played in The Shillelagh Open Golf Tournament a few times. All unsubstantiated rumors and allegations. Especially anything overheard about any alleged events occurring on St Patrick's Day. Said alleged stories ought to be ignored. Nothing to see.

Back to Highway 50

From Kansas City the Santa Fe Trail, later Highway 50, angled to the southwest through Olathe where it was known as the Old Kansas City Road. From Olathe, HWY 50 went southwest to Wichita, Dodge City, and on to Santa Fe New Mexico.

The interstate highway system began changing cross-country routes in 1955 and by the current era HWY 50 is routed from Lees Summit to I-470 west to I-435 west. Well south of downtown at about 103rd Street. Then west to I-35 at Lenexa, Kansas, south through Olathe and

points southwest. Much of the original 50 HWY route north of Lees Summit is presently HWY 350.

The challenge to understanding the police logs is in the 1930's the route was somewhere in between the old and the new routes and not easy to recognize in the current era.

Much of the construction of the Plaza and the Brush Creek drainage channel was being done in the early 1930's. No expense was spared in providing plenty of concrete to line the drainage channel. Of course, the owner of the concrete contract and concrete company was Boss Tom Pendergast. Highway 50 still went from Lees Summit northwest through Raytown along the current HWY 350 and became what is known as Blue Parkway which became Swope Parkway where it crossed Prospect and HWY 71 southeast of the city. The entire drainage basin route is commonly referred to among locals as Brush Creek Parkway but changes names in multiple locations. Swope Parkway continued west along Volker Boulevard, became Ward Parkway south of 47th Street at The Plaza, then became Shawnee Mission Parkway at the Kansas State Line. It continued west through Mission Hills, Fairway, and Roeland Park to HWY 169 and 69 in Kansas where it proceeded to the southwest to Olathe and westward from there.

Much like Route 66, by 1933 Highway 50 had the added benefit of being paved instead of just being gravel or dirt.

Why Highway 50 is Important

This little historic interlude reveals the police department radio information at 8:24 located the suspects' car at approximately the 4800 block west of State Line, at least three miles southwest of where Robert Woods saw them at the 3100 block of Main Street. More importantly, the transmission placed them in the state of Kansas, an entirely different jurisdiction. The author thinks this call was planted by Chief Higgins to effectively end the search.

The radio call at 9:03 am had the correct license number of 482239 and stated the suspects “escaped going south through Penn Valley Park, may be headed toward Kansas.” (Ricchetti Trial Exhibit O)

At 10:16 am the final radio log documented for the assailants, the same information with the correct license number was distributed as the 9:03 log. (Ricchetti Trial Exhibit P)

By the time the radio calls with the license number for Vi Mathis’ car started being broadcast at 8:20 and 8:24, Verne Miller had already arrived home at 6612 Edgevale Road.

There is no known attempt to trace the registration address for #482239 the day of the murders or any time thereafter. It is probable the police department did trace the plate but there is not anything in the public domain. Chief Higgins was corrupt, but he was not incompetent. Also, Vivian registered the car as V. Page and used the address of June Kathrens’ storage company at 39th and Main, not the Edgevale Road home.

By all appearances, the shooting assailants had simply vanished.

The Disappearing Act

All good forensic people know there are no coincidences; guns do not cause violence on their own without help; and people do not just vanish into thin air. Well, except perhaps if aliens are involved. By piecing together clues, leads, and information it is possible to arrive at the most likely course of action Verne Miller took.

The first two clues are in the radio broadcasts immediately after the shootings. Mob boss John Lazia knew Miller, Charles Floyd, and Adam Ricchetti were going to try to grab Frank Nash Saturday morning. He was hoping they would do so on the road after leaving the station so there would not be any trouble in Kansas City. Given his network, and his office location at police headquarters, he probably

found out about the shooting as soon as it happened. Whether he warned Chief Thomas Higgins about the effort in advance is not known but it is possible. It does appear to the writer Lazia informed Higgins soon after the shooting who was involved and asked him to back off. Higgins took more than a half hour to appear at the station and the correct plate number was not broadcast until 8:20.

Chief Higgins arrived at the Station “by 8:00 am” and talked with some of his best men. Lieutenant J. G. Gibbs and Detective W. E. Parker saw the shotgun in the back of the car, the second shotgun which had been on the ground Charles Moore picked up, and they saw the exploded shotgun shell case roll out of the passenger door when it was opened just as they arrived on the scene. Both men knew the blast which scattered the glass on the hood and on the ground came from the car’s back seat. Gibbs expressed his opinion at the scene he thought Hermanson had been killed by a shotgun blast from the “vicinity of the rear seat of the Chevrolet.” Detective Frank Howland and Lieutenant Frank Collins saw the empty shotgun shells, one on the ground and one in the back of the car.

The Brock brothers were there and began to gather evidence. Any seasoned investigator would have known from the locations of the bodies and the two exploded shotgun shells in the car at least one death, agent Caffrey, was probably from “friendly fire” and the death of Detective Hermanson from an apparent shotgun blast was also probably from “friendly fire.” A quick sniff of a shotgun barrel would indicate if the weapon had been fired. *One of the shotguns was fired.*

The police radio log book entry at 8:24 am is a clue Higgins planted a diversion. It appeared to follow up the earlier and accurate broadcast about the sighting at 31st Street and Main. Except the broadcast provided false information describing the two white men as wearing “dark shirts, in small dark coupe. Just seen going south through Mission Hills District on Highway 50, headed west.” The broadcast described the men as wearing dark shirts instead of light blue, as a small coupe instead of a large four door sedan, and in Mission Hills

headed west, which placed them in the wrong location *and* outside KCPD jurisdiction. (Ricchetti Trial Exhibit N)

The 8:24 radio call was only four minutes after a call providing correct information. Mistakes happen; however, the call was not a mistake or a coincidence. No, the radio call certainly smells like a deliberate plant to place the getaway car in the wrong location, in a different jurisdiction, to effectively derail pursuit. Who did it is not known, but it probably would not have happened without authorization from Higgins. More importantly, no one investigated the matter.

A second clue within the radio call logs is the absence of two things. The calls put out after the 8:24 call had the correct license and description but no more location siting. The urgent search was off track. (Ricchetti Trial Exhibit N)

The other thing missing is follow up on the license number 482239. It is hard to believe the police did not trace the registration address for the number. When they did, they would have talked with June Kathrens, owner of 3834 Main Street. Kathrens knew Higgins personally and would have had to cooperate with him. He was a contact man with the Outfit in Kansas City, which Higgins would have already known. Kathrens was Miller's reference when Miller rented the Edgevale home from Newman McFarland and Kathrens arranged Miller's purchase of the washing machine for the home. Higgins never publicly disclosed how his department was able to identify Miller as a suspect and where he was living. It *may* have been June Kathrens but no doubt John Lazia had already told Higgins.

Chief Higgins had some important decisions to make Saturday morning before he even arrived at the station. Who he talked with and when is not known. What is known is he did not name Miller and Weisman as suspects until well after they were long gone. The article in the paper after they had left town was still connecting Solly Weissman to the story, falsely stating William Weisman was his brother. However, Solly was killed in 1930 in Kansas City and the two

were not related. Interestingly, for all the attention William Weisman received in the case, the small photo Higgins provided to the Journal-Post is the one time an image of Weisman appears in the entire KANMO case file! Even the New York office did not have a photo.



(Article from Kansas City Journal-Post)

Local Reaction

The immediate buzz in the city was thoroughly covered by the Kansas City Journal-Post, which was more of a sensationalist tabloid than the staid Kansas City Star. A few early articles are summarized here to get a flavor of what was happening and gather some details about the scene.

“Witnesses See Five Gunmen Open Fire on Officer’s Motor Car”
‘Lottie West was standing next to the Traveler’s Aid desk talking with the Fred Harvey manger WD Rouzer when the officers escorted Nash through the station and followed them outside. Her car was parked to the south and west of the Caffrey car. West saw two men standing on

the running board of her car. After the guards loaded Nash they appeared to relax and one of them dropped his riot gun to the side. At that moment a man stepped from behind another car parked to the west and in line with the officer's car and opened fire with a machine gun. The man standing on her running boards also started firing. Then the three men jumped in a car and headed west. She could not tell if there was a fourth man who was driving. When the firing started Mr. Rouzer ran inside and made a riot call. West said the man with the machine gun was wearing a blue serge suit and a brown felt hat. One man was large and the other two were small. One of the bullets pierced the pane of glass above one of the large doors in the station entrance.' (Section 82 Page 114 6.17.33 *Kansas City Journal-Post*)

WD Rouzer, aka Walter Daniel Rouzer, Senior, managed the Fred Harvey restaurant and attended numerous suspect lineups. So did Lottie West and cab starter Robert Fritts. None ever identified anyone at the lineups. West did claim to identify a photo of Floyd on Monday June 19 at Sheriff Bash's office and identified Ricchetti at his trial. The article stated Rouzer and West were standing at her desk in the lobby when the Nash escort walked past and out the door. The inaccuracy was not the fault of the reporter. West had already begun to conflate where she was and what she saw with what she heard from others. This was merely the beginning of many inaccurate and conflicting statements she made. West became the government's star witness.

"Thrill Seekers With Morbid Flair Flock to Scene of Station Slaying"
"Evidence at least eight bullets struck the front of the station." "Two bullets pierced the plate glass high above the station entrance at the east another bullet smashed into the steel canopy just above the head of Robert Fritts." "Five holes in the granite indicated where five other bullets had been stopped." "Fanning learned two city detectives were in the station to meet a prisoner and was looking for them when the firing started." "He dashed out and fired three shots from behind an iron pole. He then ran across the street his gun levelled." (Section 82 Page 93 6.18.33 *Kansas City Journal-Post*)

Subsequent articles on Fanning in November 1934:

Articles “Love For Mother Featured Life Of Slain Policeman” and “Station Killing Laid To Worry And Liquor” about patrolman Myron K “Mike” Fanning who had fired shots as the gunmen left the station; intoxicated when he killed patrolman Grant Schroder; they were friends and Schroder’s mother knew Fanning; Mrs. H.C. Schroder worked at the gift shop at Fred Harvey’s; Fanning was concerned about the grand jury efforts to blame his .38 for the deaths of officers at the station shooting; a fellow motorcycle patrolman E.O. Feeny quoted saying Fanning seemed worried and morose after his grand jury testimony in October “they’re trying to blame me for some of that killing at the Union Station.” (Section 91 or SUB A10 Page 154-159 11.27.34 (Tuesday) Journal-Post)

The loose-lipped ballisticsian Merle Gill was still vainly trying to figure out where the .38 Colt bullet in Chief Reed’s head came from, and casually told the grand jury it could have come from poor officer Fanning’s weapon.

Vivian Tells the Bureau More of What They Want to Hear

Over a year later, the Bureau summarized where Verne Miller, Charles Floyd, and Adam Ricchetti were the night before the shooting and the day after by using the Statement they coerced out of Vivian Mathis. And keep in mind the interrogations continued several more days after the first statement was signed and additions were required. So, after approximately 16 days of abusive interrogations in three states, without her attorney present it should not be surprising, she gave the Bureau what they wanted to hear. True or not true. Which is why coerced confessions are considered useless.

Several areas of her Statement are demonstrably false. Many things in her Statement are verifiably true too. We have an old saying in Missouri: “it’s raining cats and dogs.” Just because there are not any dogs or cats outside, does not mean it is not raining. There was a failure

to verify the information Vivian provided. Under the circumstances though, it appears there was an agreement between her and Sam McKee involving her providing what he wanted, and he would look beyond her “inaccuracies.” At least it is the feel the documents had to the writer. She went from not giving up anything to providing a story which was plausible and conveniently tied Miller, Floyd, and Ricchetti up in a bow.

Hoover must have smelled a rat though. In January 1935, Hoover wrote a memo to AD Harold Nathan and AD Edward A Tamm stating he wanted a memo addressing four deficiencies in the investigation which concerned him. One of which was the failure to verify the Vivian Mathis Statement. The other three things he cited in his memo were also items which looked suspiciously like they might not have been true. (Section 78 Page 225 1.7.35 Hoover to AD Harold Nathan and AD Edward A Tamm)

The Bureau’s Story about the Assailants

The story the Bureau went with was Miller drove Floyd and Ricchetti to his home sometime after midnight Friday night. He woke up Vivian, had Vivian take Betty into their room, and Floyd and Ricchetti slept in Betty’s room. Vivian did not know when they left in the morning, but when they came to the house Verne woke her up, told her to get herself and Betty dressed and be ready when Frank Mulloy arrives to take them to his house.

Mulloy arrived, she and Betty went to his house. She and Edna Mulloy prepared breakfast for Betty, Frank, and their daughter Rosemary. As a special treat, after Mulloy returned from working at his brewery Saturday, Frank and Edna Mulloy took Rosemary and Betty to the live performance at the Waldo Theater on Saturday evening. Still a fun evening a century later.

Verne called about an hour after she arrived at Mulloy’s. Mulloy had left to go to work at his brewery, so she called a cab to take her to get

some groceries. Then she walked about four blocks to their home on Edgevale Road. When she got home, she made breakfast, but no one was hungry. She also made coffee for everyone. Verne told her about the shooting and Frank Nash being killed. Verne also told her Floyd's name, and he was injured. She said, "it must not have been very serious because a doctor was not called." Verne did not tell her Ricchetti's name, but she identified a photo of Ricchetti as the man she saw. They all remained at the house all day long.

Verne left the house after dark and returned about an hour or so later. Someone came to the front door and Verne told her to go into the bedroom. Verne talked to the man on the front porch, but she did not hear what they said. When she came out about ten minutes later Floyd and Ricchetti were gone. The next day she called and asked the Mulloys to bring by Betty whenever they want to.

Like nearly everything else Vivian told the Bureau, most of what she told them about the events from midnight to sometime in the evening of June 17 *could* be true. Things *could* have happened exactly as she said they did. There is a clue something is off though. Evidence is not always something tangible, something you can see or touch. Sometimes evidence is the absence of something. Something is missing. Something ought to be someplace, and it is not. Like the call logs were a little off. In this instance it is the beds.

The Beds

Peter Falk created a great persona for the famous Lt. Columbo. Imagine hearing him say: "You know what bothers me? It's those beds. Something has always bothered me about those beds. When they moved into this house, Verne and Vi bought two new beds and mattresses. They put those in the extra room downstairs, and they moved the ones in there up to the attic bedroom. You see what I mean? They had one large bed in their room, two beds in the attic bedroom, and two new beds in the extra room downstairs. You know, the one where the little girl was sleeping. So, what bothers me is this, why did

Verne wake up his wife and risk waking up their little girl? Two things my wife would not like. No, my wife would not like that at all! The stories I could tell you!!! Why would he risk getting her mad if there were two beds in the upstairs room they coulda slept in? I mean, if they were good enough for Alvin Karpis, Fred Barker, or Lillian Holden, why would these two killers need something better? Do you see what I mean? I dunno why it bothers me, but it does. Do you know there's a reasonable explanation for everything if you just put your mind to it? I'm sure there is a perfectly reasonable explanation about those beds..."

Was Floyd Wounded?

Which doctor treated the men associated with the shooting was local lore for decades. Everyone knew someone who knew someone who knew. Much of the lore has disappeared like the power of Pendergast and the local underworld. Examining the angle does present an opportunity to understand the local scene, how things worked, and sheds light on the shooting scene dynamics.

Saturday Morning at Edgevale Road

There were several stories contrived about Verne Miller's whereabouts Friday night the 16th and Saturday morning the 17th. Some of the details will never be known for certain; however, there is sufficient consistency between Vivian Mathis and Frank Mulloy on something important. Verne had arrived at Edgevale Road about 8:00 am. Mulloy told the Bureau he received a phone call from Miller requesting he come to Miller's house.

When Frank Mulloy arrived, Verne asked him "to get hold of a doctor right away." Frank suggested Verne call Dominick Nigro. Verne called for Nigro in Mulloy's presence "but was advised the doctor was out of the city. Miller told me he would try to reach someone else. I told him at this time I didn't know any other doctor to call. I noticed Miller had an injured finger. I cannot say on which hand or what finger

it was, but I do remember he had some kind of rag around the finger on which there appeared to be blood. He did not say how his finger was injured. I remained at Miller's residence about 10 minutes and when I left with Vivian and her daughter, I drove them to my home and left them there. I remained long enough to have breakfast, however. While at Miller's residence I observed that the doors between the living room and the bedroom were closed. I did not see anyone in the house on this occasion. From my home I went to work at the brewery and remained there all day except for the noon hour when I had lunch at the 1801 Main Street Restaurant." Mulloy claimed a man named McShayne with the Burlington Railroad talked about the shooting which is where he said he first heard about the shooting. (Section 63 Page 53-58 10.4.34 Frank Mulloy Statement, page 238)

Frank Mulloy's Statement was taken five days after Vivian Mathis' first Statement. They both only gave up the information they knew they had to. Neither stated anything implicating themselves or anyone else in the murder case except for Miller, who was already dead, and Floyd and Ricchetti. And most folks thought those two would be dead soon.

The agents thought they knew what had happened and wanted a narrative fitting the facts as they saw them. Vivian figured out what the agents wanted to hear over the two weeks of continual interrogations and went along when she sensed she was telling them what they wanted to hear. Sam McKee clarified for her exactly what he wanted when she was finally brought to Chicago. A lot of what she gave the agents was not true, but it was plausible, and it fit the narrative they were committed to. *The Bureau wanted to believe her story.* If the Bureau ever tried to double-cross her, and they did, she would easily be able to deny what she admitted to, claim coercion, kidnapping, lack of due process, denial of legal representation, and horrendous treatment of a woman, possibly including violating the Mann Act, for why she provided false information. The publicity alone would cripple a prosecution.

Her information pertaining to when Miller arrived at home Saturday morning built on her earlier information in her Statement about the night before:

‘The following morning about 9:00 am Verne came into my room and awakened me, he was fully dressed, and he told me to get dressed and he was going to call Fritz Mulloy and ask him to come for me. I sensed that something was wrong but asked no questions as his request was not unusual in light of my past experiences. I got dressed and dressed Betty. After I got dressed, I saw nobody except Verne. The door to Betty’s room was closed. Shortly after getting dressed Fritz Mulloy arrived and drove Betty and me to his house. I remained at Mulloy’s house about an hour and during this time Mrs. Mulloy and I made breakfast for Betty and for Rose Marie Mulloy. After breakfast Verne called and told me to come home but to leave Betty at the Mulloy’s. I called a taxi and directed the driver to take me to a grocery store about four blocks from my home. I purchased some groceries and walked home. While in the taxi the driver talked about some people having been killed in a gun battle at Union Station that morning.’

‘On arriving home, I found Verne and two men I had never seen before. Sometime during the day Verne told me one of these men was named Floyd, he did not tell me the name of the second man. I have been shown photos and recognize these men were Charles Floyd and Adam Ricchetti. Floyd was in Betty’s bed because of a wound he had in his left shoulder. I do not know how serious his wound was but know no one was called to treat him. Verne had a small wound on his right little finger, but he did not tell me how he had acquired it. Verne told me that they had been to the station to get Frank, there had been some shooting and Frank had been killed. He also said Floyd had been wounded. I knew he felt badly about the matter from the way he looked and talked. I prepared breakfast but none of them cared for anything to eat. The four of us remained in the house the entire day of June 17.’
(Section 63 Page 116-121 10.1.34 Cowley Chicago to Hoover re 9.30.34 Vivian Mathis Statement)

According to the stories, Verne got home, told Vi to get dressed and get Betty dressed. He would call Mulloy and ask him to take them to his house. Supposedly Floyd and Ricchetti were in Betty's room and Vi never saw them until *after* she returned from Mulloy's home. The night before she went in the room when she was half asleep and brought Betty into her room with Verne. So, how did she get Betty dressed? Betty's clothes were in Betty's room. Exactly how did Vi get Betty dressed for the ride to Mulloy's without seeing Floyd and Ricchetti in Betty's room? According to Vi, when she and Betty were dressed and ready to go, they came out of her bedroom. Betty's door was closed. When Mulloy arrived, they left with him.

According to Mulloy he arrived while Vi was getting herself and Betty dressed. Somehow doing so without going into Betty's room. Mulloy was there for ten minutes before he left with Vi and Betty. Something is also off here too. Agents allowed Vi and Mulloy to confirm the story without having to fully corroborate each other. Obviously, Sam McKee did not care if the story held up.

What did Mulloy and Verne talk about for ten minutes? Verne was already a patient of Dr. Nigro's. He did not need Frank Mulloy to come over and remind him. He could have easily stopped by Nigro's home on the way to the Edgevale house. And he may have.

For argument's sake, let us play this out. Miller is agitated, maybe his mind is not working right, he forgot all about Doc Nigro even as he drove past Nigro's house. He called Nigro when Mulloy suggested it. He learned Nigro was out of the city. Mulloy was there for ten minutes and the phone call took much less than one minute. What happened the next nine minutes? Any great ideas? Maybe, "how did you hurt your finger?" Or "how 'bout those Yankees?" Columbo thinks "there is something bothering me about this story."

Frank Mulloy and his wife became good friends with Verne and Vi and their daughters had become good friends too. Doing a favor for one another was not unusual. But Mulloy did not spend ten minutes

talking with Verne about nothing in particular. He was Miller's local contact and Miller needed help from people who would keep things quiet.

There is no reason to doubt Verne Miller arrived at home Saturday morning about 8:00 am. He left the Station by 7:25 and could easily have made it home in less than 20 minutes. A century later, under normal conditions the drive between the station and Edgevale Road is about twenty minutes even in traffic. So, if he truly needed a doctor right away, he could have stopped at Dr. Dominick Nigro's home on the way. He probably did stop there and arrived home before 8:00 am. There are no indications the Bureau ever interviewed Nigro or anyone at his home.

Nigro's office was downtown. But this was a Saturday morning. He lived at 207 E 51st Terrace in south Kansas City. Just two blocks east of Main Street and about a mile and a half north of Miller's residence. He was Verne's doctor since Verne started coming to Kansas City a few years earlier. Your scribe used to live nearby in the same neighborhood on 54th Street. It was not a high traffic area and would have been very easy for Miller to stop at Nigro's home without drawing attention. Instead, we are told Verne did not call Nigro until after Mulloy suggested doing so.

Also, Mulloy said he was called about 8:00 am and Vivian thought Verne arrived home about 9:00 am. Vivian was a notoriously late sleeper. Her daughter Betty told agents she and Verne "had much fun" waking Vi up in the mornings when she preferred to sleep. Vi probably did not remember the time Verne arrived because she was asleep and was being interviewed more than a year afterward. And she had been in prison most of the last year. The exact time was probably not seen as being important to her or the agents. Betty was probably already awake and up when Verne arrived home. The 8:00 am time is confirmed by Mulloy, who arrived to drive them to his home shortly thereafter.

With respect to the interview being over a year since the event, Verne Miller had been murdered almost a year prior and Charles Floyd and Adam Ricchetti had not been located yet. In her mind, she was not betraying anyone by providing the information in her Statement because Verne was already dead and if she had to, she could recant anything said against Floyd or Ricchetti. Vi knew she had to make sure she did not implicate anyone she knew in the underworld. If she gave up Buchalter, Balestrere, Costello, Nitti, or folks like them then she, her parents, and Betty would all be in danger.

What was not corroborated by Mulloy was the presence of Floyd and Ricchetti in the home. The Bureau thought they could prove Ricchetti was in the Edgevale home with a fingerprint. But there is a good argument against the fingerprint evidence.

What could have been proven, if the Court allowed them to do so, was the Bureau's print expert was in the home three days *after* Chief Higgins was there specifically looking for prints, *not before*. How did the Bureau find the prints when an experienced police chief missed them? Furthermore, *Vetterli committed perjury with respect to the date of agent Brennen's gathering evidence*. The fingerprint evidence is doubtful and addressed in the supreme court review. The evidence would be thrown out of court in the current era.

For argument's sake, the presence of a fingerprint would only mean it was probable Ricchetti was in the home. Normally there is not an inference of time with respect to fingerprint evidence. Hence, the reason Vivian's Statement was sure to mention she had never seen Floyd or Ricchetti before. The Bureau wanted to establish Ricchetti was only there on June 17th, the day of the shooting.

Despite some shaky issues legally, a preponderance of evidence indicates all three went to Edgevale after the shooting. In case there was trouble Miller wanted Vi and Betty out of the house. He needed to make calls and think through his options without distractions. He also had to assume his car had to be kept out of sight in the garage

during the daytime. He did need a doctor and some help right away, so he called his contact man, Frank Mulloy.

Floyd's Injury

There is not any proof Floyd was injured in the shooting. He did not have a visible scar from a shoulder wound when his autopsy was done, even though many reports circulated about him being shot in the shoulder by Detective Grooms. In fact, both his autopsy doctor and girlfriend/wife Beulah Baird/Juanita Floyd said other than the wounds which killed him, the only obvious wound he had was on his left shin from a "grazing bullet wound."

If Floyd were injured during the shooting, there are two alternative theories to a bullet wound. First, he could have fallen and hurt his shoulder or even cracked a couple of ribs. Second, he may have been hit by one of the steel ball bearings fired by Lackey in the same blast which killed Hermanson. If he were hit by a ball bearing slowed down somewhat by a ricochet or passing through an object such as thick glass, or Hermanson's head, he could have had a broken rib or other bone without the skin being broken. Or at least not leaving a large wound. Floyd was known to wear a bullet proof vest. Even current era ballistic vests do not fully protect against all injuries. If Floyd were hit in the shoulder by a bullet from Grooms' Smith & Wesson or steel ball bearing fired from a shotgun, a ballistic vest in the era would have saved his life but he would have had at least a very bad bruise if not a broken bone or two.

Finally, with respect to Floyd and Ricchetti possibly being in Betty's room either the night before or during the day, let us keep in mind the reason Verne and Vi rented the home was to use as a base for the Lansing prison break on Memorial Day. Alvin Karpis, Fred Barker, Lillian Holden, and Paula Harmon were all living there at times in April and May. Verne purchased two single beds and two mattresses for the second bedroom downstairs after he rented the home. The

original beds were taken up to the attic bedroom. The home was set up to sleep six people.

When Waldo Transfer moved the personal items from the house the new beds were taken away along with the washing machine he purchased. When the owner inspected the home, the double bed was still in the large bedroom, the second bedroom was empty, and the attic bedroom had the two single beds which were originally downstairs. While Verne and Vi were in Chicago in late April and May almost any of the four house guests could have been in the room. So, there could have been people in the home for a short visit Verne and Vi never even knew about. In other words, there was no need to put Floyd and Ricchetti in Betty's room.

According to owner Newman McFarland when he went into the Edgevale house after Miller left, "in the attic a soft brown felt hat was found and the tag said it was purchased in Chicago, also in the attic was found a bed pan, a syringe, and the floor had markings from the beds being moved around, an electric heater, and evidence of a wounded person being kept there." (Section 4 Page 85-139 7.3.33 Trainor KC Report, page 115)

Miller needed Mulloy's help with Vi and Betty. He needed them safely away from the action. He already knew Doc Nigro but probably no other doctors. He needed to know who else he could go to. And not just for his finger. Floyd was injured. For all the talk about Floyd being badly wounded by a bullet in the shoulder, it does not appear he was. But too many folks who were close to the situation thought he was shot and at least knew he was hurt. He must have either fallen and been hurt or perhaps hit by a ricochet which did not make a big wound but perhaps broke a rib or two. Miller needed to know what the medical options were. Just as important, he needed someone to let John Lazia know what was happening and to see how much heat was on him.

Making a call from his house to downtown would produce a phone record so Mulloy probably stopped to make one or two calls on the

way to his home. Perhaps from a phone booth at a nearby market so Vi could get some things for breakfast?

Judging by how the radio call timeline went, it appears the trip to the grocery store for groceries Vi described in her Statement could have happened both on the way to Mulloy's and on her way back home. The nearest grocery store and other commercial uses was on Wornall Road, about four or five blocks west of the Edgevale home. If Mulloy left the Edgevale home with Vi and Betty shortly after 8:00 and went to a grocery on Wornall then Mulloy could make telephone calls from a phone booth while Vi got groceries.

Mulloy probably called John Lazia at his office at police headquarters and together, they panicked. Lazia could handle calming down the police pursuit. If this is how things really unfolded, Lazia received a call from Mulloy by 8:15 am and was able to talk with Director Reppert or Chief Higgins in time for the 8:24 radio call to be on the air which had the effect of derailing an active pursuit.

A doctor was possibly harder than the police. With Nigro reportedly out of town, there were effectively only two choices. To this day there is no public knowledge confirming which doctor was able to help. Even by the time the shooting happened doctors were tired of the local criminal element. Especially the Italian doctors who continued to be guilted into helping their fellow Italians in the underworld. But there are realities which must be recognized. The first is, a doctor's role is to help people by applying their medical knowledge. What someone does for a living, their race, their sex, and so on ought not influence their willingness to help. The second is, the culture they lived in required people to take care of their own. What does the doc say to the godfather of their child if the godfather needs medical treatment for one of his men?

A Doctor's Dilemma

Mulloy's 85th Street Tavern was located at 310 W 85th Street. The building was located on the northeast corner of 85th Street and Wornall Road. It was at the southwest corner of a large farmland parcel once owned by Napoleon Boone. Yes, another one of those Daniel Boone folks found their way into the narrative. Kansas City Star owner and real estate developer William Rockhill Nelson bought most of the Boone Farm and over the years pieces of it were sold off. A large portion became the Napoleon Boone Estate Subdivision. The entire property was outside the city limits until 1947 and was gradually annexed into the city until the sprawl is more than 15 miles south a century later.

Lot 12 Block 8 Commissioner's Plat of the Napoleon Boone Estate was wisely purchased by a young immigrant stone mason who built a stone structure on the corner which produced cash flow to support him and his family long after he died. James and Josephine Balestrere owned 310 West 85th Street. The original building no longer exists. In the current era a retail shopping center sits on the corner. Complete with a liquor store, of course.

Mulloy's life probably flashed in front of him when he learned he would have to explain things to Big Jim Balestrere or Tony Gizzo. He could not expose them to anything. He would have to take the fall or accept the consequences.

The Bureau did not know any of this information because Mulloy stayed quiet. By the time they interviewed Mulloy for his official Statement, Miller was dead nearly a year. They wanted to build a case against Floyd and Ricchetti. But the Bureau was also prosecuting Mulloy as part of a conspiracy to rescue Frank Nash. He played no part in a conspiracy and was just caught up in the net because he passed a couple of phone messages on. There is not any indication he even knew Frank Nash. If anyone in the whole matter got a bad rap it was Frank Mulloy. The Bureau gave him no reason to help them, but they gave him a pass on his statement too. It fit their narrative.

Mulloy must have told Lazia what was happening, talked of the need for a doctor, and let Lazia work on things while Mulloy took Vi and Betty to his home. Vi and Edna Mulloy made breakfast. After breakfast Frank left for downtown to his brewery. Or so he said. There were no telephone records requested for the Mulloy telephone, so it is not known if a call outside their exchange was made or received. A call between their home and the Miller home would not have been on record anyway. If an urgent need for a doctor existed, a call must have been made before Frank Mulloy left for his brewery. If Miller and Floyd needed a ride toward downtown Mulloy could have done so without altering his timeline much if at all.

By the time Mulloy left his home a doctor was found for Floyd and Miller. Whether he had a hand in helping is not knowable. One thing is nearly certain, there is no way Frank Mulloy did not know about the shooting until he was at lunch four hours later.

The Options

There were three excellent Italian doctors who served the Italian neighborhoods in those days. Dr. Dominick Nigro, Dr. Peter DeMaria, and Dr. Louis Tremonti.

The record indicated Dr. Nigro was out of the city on June 17 and not available. There is no reason to doubt this was the case. Many folks in the city started keeping summer homes on lakes east of the city to either live full time or as getaways in the summer to escape the heat and humidity of the city. Your scribe has even been to one of the Nigro lake homes himself.

It is important to note the Bureau never bothered to investigate the matter at all. At least, if they did it is not in the file. The city police did talk with Nigro, but the results of their findings are unknown. All three doctors were called to the grand jury but, again, we do not have records of what if anything they may have testified to. The prosecutor intentionally subpoenaed everyone he could think of in hopes of

causing fear and flush out information. And everyone got their name sullied by the media at the same time. Implied guilt by implied association.

A call between Mulloy and Lazia probably resulted in Lazia calling off Higgins before 8:24 am. And Lazia or someone else, probably Dominic Binaggio, would call Mulloy or Miller when a doctor was lined up. Assuming this is the correct course of events, it is about 8:30 am Saturday morning.

Most of the inside information was Dr. Peter DeMaria treated Miller and Floyd. On the other hand, local lore says Dr. Louis Tremonti was able to treat them. Remarkably, the Bureau never interviewed either one!

There is not a historical record to solve the mystery. In the end, it is not as important to determine who treated the men as knowing who needed medical attention and why. As someone who has had a broken finger, broken ribs, ankle, separated shoulder, and a few other things; broken ribs hurt worse than anyone can imagine. There is not much which can be done but there is certainly a sense of urgency required, and pain medication.

The writer has known several members of the Nigro, DeMaria, and Tremonti families. However, things learned in a confidential setting are not things to circulate publicly. It is not critical to know *who* treated the men. The important piece is *both* Miller and Floyd needed medical care. What can be shared about the doctors reveals some significant information about the era, the men, and ultimately a rationale which is different and more interesting than the story the Bureau made up and sold to the public.

The important aspects of the case are revealed while an argument for each doctor is set forth. Readers may draw their own conclusions about who may have been the person who treated the suspects.

If You Like Your Doctor, You Can Keep Your Doctor



Argyle Building 306 E 12th Street

The Case for Dr. Nigro

Many criminal investigations can taint the names and reputations of people who are mentioned while working the case. The Bureau and the Justice Department did, and still does, go out of its way to label someone an “associate, lieutenant, close friend, source, known connection” or some other label besmirching someone’s character or implying some sort of guilt.

If the government wants to smear someone they can do so unconstitutionally, and a citizen has no recourse because courts do not enforce slander or libel claims. Courts have extended a foreign concept of sovereign immunity to a government which does not serve a sovereign nor is there even an implied right for the government to lie, cheat, or steal while serving the People.

All three doctors suffered damaged reputations from how officials handled the case, Dr. Nigro more so than the others. Which is why he is described here even though he was not in town. Nigro was a great example of living the American dream, moving from a land of conflict to a free country and becoming a well-educated and respected doctor.

Dr. Dominick Nigro was more widely known than DeMaria and Tremonti. He was born in 1893 and his family immigrated from Marano di Napoli, Italy in the late 1890's. The city is northwest of Naples.

Nigro graduated from Notre Dame and was a life-long supporter of the university. He graduated medical school from Creighton University at Omaha, Nebraska. He served as commissioner of communicable diseases for the Kansas City Health Department, hence the reason so many of the gangster records disclose his name so often. He was not a "gangster" doctor, he just happened to specialize in a field so many of them needed treatment for.

He became friends with Knute Rockne and raised money for a memorial to the famous coach. His saddest day may have been when Rockne's plane crashed. He was active in Democrat Party politics, as was his cousin Marion Francis Nigro and many others in the family. He significantly contributed to civic causes and sports in Kansas City. Frankly, the Bureau, police department, and newspapers owed his family an apology for how his reputation was harmed. At least in the writer's view.

Nigro's office was Suite 525 on the 5th floor of the Argyle Building, 306 East 12th Street at 12th and McGee downtown. He was reportedly out of town the 17th but he should still be considered in case the record is wrong or a diversion. Like the other doctors, he would be far more likely to be at home on a Saturday morning than the office. The route Miller drove from the station to his home on Edgevale went within two blocks of Nigro's home in south Kansas City. It would have been the easiest connection and would be surprising if Miller did not proceed there first.



Waldheim Building 6 E 11th Street

The Case for Dr. DeMaria

Dr. Peter DeMaria's office was downtown in the Waldheim Building at 6 East 11th Street, Suite 406. As an aside, when the Waldheim building was demolished in 1986 it had the distinction of being the tallest building in downtown Kansas City to be demolished up to that date.

Local Underworld informant James LaCapra told the Bureau he thought DeMaria treated Floyd, but he did not know for certain. He knew enough to tell them DeMaria's office was at 11th and Main. But LaCapra was of the opinion Floyd was treated at the home of Dominic Binaggio, not at one of the doctor's offices.

There are two challenges to DeMaria treating Floyd and Miller. He was the daytime assistant superintendent of Research Hospital. It is not known if he was on duty June 17. If not, he may have been called in because the shootings would have strained the hospital staff. He probably would not have been available to go to the Edgevale home to treat the men, nor treat them at his own home, so he would have had to meet them at Binaggio's or at his office. Going to DeMaria's office would mean a risky trip downtown where the men might be recognized by almost anyone on the street.

Like many people in the older neighborhoods Dr. Peter DeMaria moved to the suburbs southeast of town during World War II. He purchased a property at 8125 East Gregory Boulevard with a nice home on the southwest corner of Gregory and Manchester. Very close to Raytown city limits and within the Raytown School District in the current era. The property was large enough to create several lots to build on later. The home is still there and has a lot of curb appeal. He ultimately moved part of his practice there. Your scribe's family lived about eight houses away, and he and his wife were still living there when your scribe graduated high school in the 1970's.



3900 Benton Boulevard

The Case for Dr. Tremonti

Dr. Louis Tremonti would be the one least likely to be guilted into helping. He was older than the others, successful, nearing retirement and ready to slow down. And he wanted absolutely nothing to do with underworld shenanigans. A common sentiment among Italians in the city, by the way. He was born December 17, 1882 in Gibellina, Province of Trapani, Sicily.

A few years earlier Tremonti and his wife Lois Gloria purchased a landmark property known as the Rice home in Raytown at 8801 East 66th Street, or 66th and Blue Ridge Cutoff. It was a simple cabin constructed in the 1830's and 1840's by Archibald Rice and one of, if

not the oldest, structures in Jackson County. Two lots came with the property and it was only about a mile from Dr. DeMaria's home. They wanted the property as a retirement home in the suburbs where he could still occasionally practice medicine.

The Tremonti's added a second floor, built an addition, and made all sorts of improvements including an office for Dr. Tremonti. They had not finished the project at the time of the shooting and unless he was reached early enough on Saturday morning, he might be working at the new home all day.

Just how easily could Dr. Tremonti be located on Saturday morning? He would either be at home with his family or at the new home project. He lived at 3900 Benton Boulevard. The corner of Benton and 39th Street. A nice modest home in the Kansas City suburbs in the era, built in 1920. Complete with wonderful hand cut stone foundation, a full stone basement, garage, and matching stonework on a nice fireplace. The stonemason? James Balestrere.

The benefit to Dr. Tremonti, if Dominic Binaggio could persuade him to help, is the drive to his home would be safer for the men to travel unseen. Or perhaps he could go to the Edgevale home to do what was needed, then drive a few miles east to work on his home with a healthy bonus for his trouble. Or even go to Binaggio's home to treat the men. Fortunately, Dominic Binaggio owned and lived at 3810 Benton Boulevard. Binaggio could walk a block and personally ask his neighbor for help.

Dr. Tremonti passed away in 1949. His brother Frank continued living at the Benton home long after Louis and Lois Gloria moved to their new home. Frank passed away in 1952. Frank's wife Antonietta passed away in 1957. They had one son the writer knows of. Perhaps he lived in the home another year or two because Lois Gloria Tremonti waited to sell the 3900 Benton house until 1959.

In 1978 the 66th and Blue Ridge home was put on the National Register of Historic Places and in June 1989, Lois Gloria Tremonti deeded the property to the Friends of the Rice-Tremonti Home, a nonprofit set up to preserve and maintain the property.

Pick Your Doctor

Everyone who has read this far knows much more than the Bureau did. Probably more than the Bureau knows today. What is most important is the reader has a good understanding of what pressures these doctors would have been under to help. These doctors were good people and they had good families. Your scribe was blessed to know people in all three families.

The story provided by Vivian Mathis basically said Verne called her later in the morning to return to the house but to leave Betty at the Mulloy's. She took a taxi because Frank Mulloy was at work. She told agents she took a taxi to a nearby grocery store where she bought groceries and walked home. When she returned, she met two men she had never seen before. Verne told her at some point one was Floyd. She recognized a photo of Adam Ricchetti. They all sat around the house and Verne read newspapers. At dark, Verne left for an hour or so, and returned to the house. Then a man showed up, he and Verne talked on the porch, and when she came out Floyd and Ricchetti were gone. Fair enough. Maybe it happened just like that. We all know enough now to realize she just came up with a story to make the agents happy.

She probably did get a call from Verne to come home without Betty and to please get some newspapers for him so he could read about what people saw. The call from Verne was about 10:00 am. Nearly two hours after Mulloy had picked her and Betty up. And one hour after the 9:00 am time she told the Bureau Mulloy had picked her up in her Statement. She told the Bureau she remained at Mulloy's for about an hour. So, the 10:00 am time is consistent with the timeline she gave

the Bureau. She was off on what time Mulloy had picked her up though.

Miller had likely been listening to the radio all morning. He later told a doctor at The Greenbrier he had “suffered a nervous breakdown in the Spring.” Vi knew how bad his stomach was when he was under stress. She probably got him some sweet milk or buttermilk, whether she was asked to or not. She took a taxi to the grocery and got a newspaper. Probably two or three, some milk, cigarettes, and walked four or five blocks home. When Vi got home only Verne was there.

Thus far, a blend of the Bureau’s story combined with accurate evidence and some local knowledge has produced a slightly different, and much more feasible alternative for what happened on Saturday morning. Why is the writer convinced this alternative is more likely? Other than what has already been set forth, there is something buried in a long memo put together by SAC Vetterli in the week following the shooting. The date the two interviews were done by agent Suran is not provided. The only available copy is almost unreadable, but the best transcription possible follows.

Suran Memo

“Special Agent RC Suran rendered the following memorandum concerning an interview with CM Moore, pertaining to the probable identity of the persons who made their escape after shooting:

Mr. CM Moore 1101 State Street (sic, s/b State Avenue), Kansas City, Kansas, who operates a filling station at that address, was interviewed by this agent concerning three men who filled their car with gas at this station about 10:00 am on June 17, 1933. Mr. Moore stated that he personally did not observe the men, but his employee Edward Shoptaw, serviced the car for the suspicious looking men. Mr. Shoptaw, who resides at 1136 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City,

Kansas advised that about 10:15 am on June 17, 1933 a dark blue 1932 Chevrolet coach appeared at the filling station at 1101 State Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas. The two back fenders of this car were pretty badly dented. Mr. Shoptaw stated there were three men in the car, two in the front and one in the rear seat. Mr. Shoptaw described the one driving the car as being:

5 feet 10 inches

About 30 years of age

A red scar on his left cheek extending to about ¼ inch below his left ear to a point on his chin

Jewish in appearance

Dark complexion

Wearing a light gray double breasted suit

White shirt and panama hat

This man purchased some gasoline and handed Mr. Shoptaw a \$5.00 bill and was given \$4.00 in change. The purchaser stated he was in a hurry and did not wait for the remaining 40 cents due him. The other man in the front seat appeared to be:

Between 26 or 27 years of age

Clean shaven

Wearing a gray double breasted suit

Gray shirt with tie to match

The man sitting in the rear seat wore:

A dark blue suit

Blue shirt; panama hat

Appeared to be about 35 years old

This man's left shoulder appeared to be injured; his shirt was unbuttoned from the neck and Mr. Shoptaw stated he could observe a bandage on his shoulder. His left arm was out of the sleeve of his coat. The other two men called the man in the rear seat by the name of

Marty on several occasions. They asked how far it was to Topeka, Kansas.

Mr. Shoptaw was displayed the photographs of the escaped convicts from Lansing, Kansas and selected the photograph of Bob Brady as being the likeness of the man sitting in the back seat. However, he would not make a positive identification.”

(Section 3 Page 7-66 6.25.33 Vetterli Report,
page 27-28)

There is not a stand-alone report of the interview, no dates, and no follow up. Suran only had photos of the Lansing escapees. No photos of Floyd and Ricchetti. Shoptaw’s descriptions were similar to eye witness and Killingsworth’s descriptions. The station owner reported the incident because Edward Shoptaw thought they were acting suspiciously.

Gasoline in was much cheaper in 1933 than in the current era. The tank was filled with 60 cents of gasoline at less than 10 cents per gallon. The driver gave Shoptaw a \$5.00 bill, received \$4.00 but did not wait for the change. In those days when so many people had nothing, walking away from 40 cents was a big deal. Suspicious, even.

Agent Suran’s interview notes, in addition to not being dated, do not include anything about the filling station owner CM Moore or more importantly, his employee Shoptaw. Some additional information about Shoptaw is provided here to understand things a little better. Edward Shoptaw was approximately fifty years old. He and his wife were from Arkansas and like everyone else he was just trying to make a living so they could eat. They lived a block away from the filling station on Minnesota Avenue. He was obviously observing the men closely. They even noticed he was paying close attention. Hence, repeatedly calling the injured man in the back seat “Marty”, asking how far it was to Topeka, and driving off without waiting for their change. The men in the car were providing information a rookie would

fall for and not pursue the matter further. Which is precisely what happened.

Agent Suran had driven to Bolivar Missouri with agent Rhodes, Sheriff Bash, and Deputy Sheriff Jim Thorpe on Saturday afternoon June 17. The men interviewed Sheriff Killingsworth and several other people in Bolivar about what had happened there. They returned to Kansas City the next day. Which tells us Suran's interviews with Moore and Shoptaw must have occurred between Monday June 20 and Friday June 24 for them to be included in Vetterli's Report, which was typed on June 25. Also note, Suran stated he showed Shoptaw "photographs of the escaped convicts from Lansing." Those photographs became available for the circulars on June 22, so the interview likely took place on June 23 or June 24. The circulars had a much more recent photo of Harvey Bailey taken in 1932 than the older 1920 photo, so it is not surprising Shoptaw did not pick a photo of Harvey Bailey as a match for Ricchetti as other witnesses did. Additionally, even Reed Vetterli mistook the glimpse he got of Floyd at the station for Bob Bailey. Therefore, it is not surprising Shoptaw thought the photo of Bob Bailey resembled the man in the rear seat for Bailey, if indeed the man was Charles Floyd.

Shoptaw did not need notes to recount his observations. Yet he provided detailed information. Suran sat in on the interview of Sheriff Killingsworth in Bolivar where Killingsworth provided detailed descriptions of Floyd and Ricchetti. Considering Shoptaw was interviewed several days after the fact, he provided descriptions remarkably like what Killingsworth provided. Also, Suran heard Killingsworth recite the route they drove going into the West Bottoms. The route information was never made public.

There is still a filling station at 1101 State Avenue nearly a century later. It is on the southwest corner of State Avenue and 11th Street. One block south is Minnesota Avenue. The night before Floyd, Ricchetti, Killingsworth, and Griffin drove past this location toward the east and turned right to drive down into the West Bottoms. Yet Suran, one of

only two agents to know the descriptions of Floyd and Ricchetti and know their route on June 16 failed to connect the men Shoptaw observed in the car to the suspects.

By no means was Edward Shoptaw's sighting a positive identification, but it is remarkably compelling. Perhaps he would have confirmed the identifications if someone had followed up with him. Perhaps not. Besides, at the time of the interview, the week following the shooting, the Bureau did not think Floyd had anything to do with the shootings. They were not interested in pursuing Floyd leads yet. They had convinced themselves they were after Harvey Bailey and Wilbur Underhill.

This is a problem with Bureau thinking which continues in the current era. People trained to investigate "what happened" go where facts lead them such as forensic oriented folks like police detectives and plane crash investigators. People who have an agenda or are intellectually lazy attempt to fit "facts" to a theory, narrative, or point of view.

At 10:15 am the dark blue Chevrolet coupe with rear end damage was seen at 11th and State Avenue. Driven by a gangster-looking fellow with a fresh scar on his left cheek. The driver also matched the description usher Red Jameson gave of the man who inquired about access to the loading platforms at the station early in the morning and was first a passenger, then the driver of the green Reo parked west of Caffrey. The two passengers in the car had descriptions similar to Ricchetti and Floyd and the one similar to Floyd had a bandaged left shoulder. They were on a well-worn path Floyd used to go in and out of the West Bottoms as recently as 12 hours before.

Floyd would have wanted to avoid going downtown unless there was no other choice. Whether Floyd was taken to a doctor, brought to Edgevale or another location, the two quickest and safest routes to the West Bottoms from south Kansas City were across 63rd Street to the State Line or 39th Street across the State Line and north on Rainbow Boulevard. Floyd knew the 39th Street route the best.

Floyd had received medical care in Missouri. Dominic Binaggio or someone else had arranged a driver to take Floyd and Ricchetti to Binaggio in the Bottoms. Binaggio and Steve Oliver operated the place at 9th and Hickory and another on the same block. Loren Oliver had a house at 18th and Holly, and Binaggio owned 1640 St. Louis Avenue, adjacent to the Missouri-Kansas State Line in the Bottoms.

Context

US Attorney Maurice Milligan and Assistant US Attorney Randall Wilson were preparing the federal Conspiracy to Deliver case for the Grand Jury in September and early October 1934. The case was brought against anyone who the Bureau thought was involved with attempting to rescue Frank Nash. Specifically, the people indicted were Richard Galatas, his wife Elizabeth Galatas; Herbert Farmer, his wife Esther Farmer; Frances Nash, Frank Mulloy, Louis Stacci, and Vivian Mathis. Louise Connor was indicted but charges were dropped.

As usual, WF Trainor was tasked with the job of preparing a report summarizing the Bureau's case to assist Milligan with the prosecution. He was most familiar with the intricacies of the case files. His report was dated October 19, 1934, after the Bureau had completed interviewing and getting statements from people in September and October. Although the Bureau promised Vivian Mathis her statement would remain confidential, bits and pieces did leak out and Trainor used it extensively in the narrative he set forth October 19.

Trainor's narrative stated Floyd and Ricchetti spent the night of June 16th at the Edgevale Road home, attempted to rescue Nash, and returned Saturday morning, where they remained all day on the 17th. 'The report stated Miller attempted to reach Doctor Nigro to treat Floyd but learned he was outside of the city and some other doctor who is unknown was called.' Floyd remained in bed all day with a bullet wound in his shoulder.

Without Vivian Mathis' Statement, there was no evidence or even a partially substantiated theory about the whereabouts of Floyd and Ricchetti. Her Statement and Mulloy's Statement closed the circle of suspects who could be prosecuted for conspiracy. Without those Statements the prosecution could not even establish Floyd and Ricchetti were involved, or they even knew Verne Miller. Unknown to the Bureau, Vivian Mathis could revoke her Statement if necessary and blow up any kind of case against Floyd or Ricchetti. It was the only leverage she had, and it was important to not let anyone know until and unless it was necessary.

Before the federal conspiracy trial began the end of December Vivian received confirmation her statement had leaked out. An unnamed high-ranking attorney at the DOJ was confirmed as a leaker. She also learned all the people indicted and who would be on trial with her had provided statements to the Bureau except for Louis Stacci. Vivian could revoke her Statement at any time because she was coerced into swearing things which she could prove were not true and because the terms of her agreement to provide a statement were violated by the Bureau and the justice department.

In effect, the Bureau traded off verifying the accuracy of what Mulloy and Mathis signed off on so they could get at least get a conviction of some kind against people who they could identify. Ultimately, Frank Mulloy spent two years at Leavenworth and Alcatraz. Vivian Mathis had already served a year in a women's prison for harboring Verne Miller. She received a suspended sentence and a fine for her part in a conspiracy. Their Statements protected the local underworld from prosecution.

Who Harbored Floyd and Ricchetti? Three Fingered Jack White

Three days after the shooting a CI in Chicago called the Chicago office and reported Floyd was being harbored "in the Italian quarters, Kansas City, which district bears a decidedly tough reputation. The leader of

the Italian gang is John Lazia, his partners being Charlie Corolla (sic, Charlie Carrollo) alias "Charlie Wop." For identification, Charlie Carrollo has a brother, Pete Carrollo, who has been sentenced for a long term in the Missouri State Penitentiary. The gunman for the Kansas City gang is Joe Lusco, who uses a machine gun in his operations. The informant further advised Pretty Boy Floyd and Frank Nash recently formed a friendship; Verne Miller, frequently mentioned in instant file, is very friendly toward Nash and Miller was recently in Hot Springs, Arkansas; Miller is driving a new Cadillac sedan blue or black in color bearing a blue and white license, the first numbers being 207." (Section 2 Page 21-22 6.20.33 Smith Chicago to KC)

The only person in position to know everything in the CI report was Three Fingered Jack White. He was convicted of carrying concealed weapons in May and was out on bond while under appeal. He, like Gus Winkler, had become an informer hoping the Bureau would help get rid of his enemies. White had met with Verne Miller and Sam Schrage in Chicago the end of April and must have seen or ridden in Miller's new Cadillac he kept there. Miller and White saw one another in Hot Springs again in May, had dinner with Frank and Frances Nash, and mingled with the remainder of the large gangster convention at the Arlington Hotel.

Charles Carrollo was the Kansas City enforcer for Hot Springs and had been working with Frank Nash on either making the book run by Richard Galatas profitable or perhaps taking it over. Nash probably met Floyd through Carrollo in Hot Springs, Wichita, Tulsa, or a similar location. The details are unknown.

Somehow White had almost immediately learned Charles Floyd, and by implication Ricchetti, were being held in the "Italian district by an Italian gang." Considering White was one of Lazia's contact men in the Outfit he might have received the information direct from Lazia. But White was in close contact with Louis Stacci too. And Stacci had to know he could be in trouble because he helped Verne Miller connect

with Frances Nash the night of the 16th. Stacci was in deep enough trouble he ended up doing two years at Leavenworth.

Harry Evans

At the Adam Ricchetti trial, Chief of Detectives Thomas Higgins could not remember the exact date he hired the Burns Detective Agency to assist with the shooting investigation but said it was early on, in the first two weeks to 30 days. The Bureau learned of their involvement almost right away. On Friday June 30, 13 days after the shooting, a ‘CI local who was an underworld figure called the Bureau’s Chicago office.’ The CI was almost certainly Harry Evans. The CI called agent Smith to advise him he was leaving for Kansas City at 6:10 pm at the request of Burns Detective Roy Lapitz to “obtain information regarding the murder of Special Agent Caffrey and three police officers.” Evans advised he has recently been in Kansas City and learned agent “Caffrey and the police officers were killed by Charles “Pretty Boy” Floyd and Adam Ricchetti; immediately after the murders were committed Floyd and his companion were concealed by Johnny Lazia, a well-known Italian of Kansas City; about 8 hours after the persons were slain Lazia assisted Floyd and his companion in leaving Kansas City. Apparently, Evans called at this office for the purpose of obtaining protection while at Kansas City, inasmuch as he is fearful Chief of Detectives Higgins and other local police may arrest him while associating with other underworld characters.” Evans was advised of the Kansas City office location in the event he has information to share. (Section 5 Page 63-64 6.30.33 D.O. Smith Chicago to KC)

Harry Evans visited Kansas City immediately after the shooting and obtained underworld information about what had happened. As it turned out, it was reliable information. Apparently, Burns struck a deal with him to learn more and wired him \$40 in advance to make a return trip. The Bureau did not take him up on his offer the first time around and lost out to Burns. He obviously preferred to work with the Bureau. He was on the police radar in Kansas City and was being held in

Chicago. By the time the Bureau realized Evans was worth following through with he was incarcerated in New York or New Jersey. In September 1934 SAC Purvis in Chicago sent a heavily redacted letter to New York suggesting they interview him.

(Harry Evans), which was redacted, ‘a well-known police character working as a CI for the Burns Detective Agency of Chicago made several trips to Kansas City immediately after the massacre. He reported that through his contacts in the Italian Underworld in Kansas City he had heard that Charles Arthur Floyd and Adam Ricchetti participated in the massacre and they were concealed by John Lazia a local Italian politician and about 8 hours after the massacre Lazia assisted Floyd and his companion in leaving Kansas City. There has been some substantiation from other sources of the information furnished by (Harry Evans) and the Kansas City office has requested he be interviewed concerning this matter and for complete information which he may possess concerning the Kansas City contacts of Charles Arthur Floyd. The Chicago office has made efforts to locate (Harry Evans) and received the information (paragraph redacted) and is now serving time. The records of the Chicago Police Department bear the notation that (Harry Evans) was released after his arrest (remainder redacted).’ Handwritten notes on the first page “See 62-28915-1-35 also 62-28915-2968.” (Section 58 Page 97-98 9.11.34 Purvis Chicago to NYNY)

By June 30 there was underworld confirmation both Floyd and Ricchetti were involved, and they were immediately sheltered by Lazia’s organization before being aided in leaving town. Nothing about medical attention yet though.

Michael James LaCapra

Extensive information was learned from Michael LaCapra over a year after the shooting. His brother in law Sam Scola was killed by Sheriff Thomas Bash in August 1933. Over the ensuing year LaCapra had lost his protection in the underworld and his income was hurting. He

organized the July 10, 1934, murder of John Lazia and it blew back on him. His life was in danger and he was willing to give up inside information he learned from Sam Scola in hopes the Bureau would get rid of his enemies. Scola was part of a crew which included Tony Gizzo, Tano Lococo, Charlie Gargotta, and Charlie Carrollo. They worked with John Lazia, Dominic Binaggio, Joe Lusco and others as enforcers and collectors where and when necessary.

According to the Bureau, information from Michael LaCapra was:

“Floyd and Ricchetti for a few days after the massacre were harbored at Kansas City by the Italian underworld, the name of the party who harbored them not yet being definitely established, and he stated a few days after the massacre acquired a stolen Buick Sedan, then in possession of one Jack Griffin and Edward Wilhite at Kansas City secured by Sam Scola (now deceased) former henchman of John Lazia, at Lazia’s request, for the purpose of the use of Floyd and Ricchetti in leaving Kansas City. LaCapra was present with Wilhite and Griffin when Scola came to get the car and he was told by Scola that same was desired by Lazia for the purpose mentioned. Scola also informed LaCapra that he, Scola, Charles Carrollo, Charles Gargotta, Tano Lococo, Tony Gizzo, and Gus Fascone (now deceased), were directed by Lazia, also now deceased, to escort Floyd and Ricchetti from Kansas City, which they did, and it was understood by LaCapra, according to information which later reached him through Edward Wilhite, the Buick sedan which was turned over for the purpose heretofore mentioned was a few days later recovered, deserted, near Cleveland, Ohio. Investigation was developed that a Buick sedan fully answering the description given by LaCapra stolen in St Louis, Missouri, on April 30, 1933, was on June 24, 1933, recovered by officers between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio, deserted and

containing the dead body of Nathan Gerstein, a known gangster who had been murdered. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that Gerstein has no apparent connection with this case and that he arrived in Cleveland, Ohio, from New York on June 22, 1933.”

(Section 66 Page 181-208 10.19.34 Nathan KC to Hoover, page 186)

Building on the information LaCapra provided which was used in the narrative, there were several additional pieces of information in his Statement related to Floyd being shot and medical treatment which are relevant to this review. He said his brother in law: “Sam was told after it happened was Verne Miller said: “Come on Frank” and as Frank went to step out of the car he stumbled because he was handcuffed to a sheriff. The sheriff he was handcuffed to fired and shot Floyd in the shoulder and then they started blasting away. They went west and finally were met by someone; I never did hear who. They were hidden in the Bottoms again where Floyd had been.”

With reference to Nash, he was handcuffed but not cuffed to anyone; he was seated behind the steering wheel with his shoulder and back leaning against the driver’s door. “The sheriff” who someone thought shot Floyd was not a sheriff. Witnesses saw both agent Caffrey and detective Grooms fire their weapons. Caffrey was in front of his car and Grooms was on the right in front of the passenger door. It is not known which man LaCapra was referring to as “a sheriff,” probably Grooms. Whoever it was, from the observer’s perspective it looked like one of the officers was the one who started the shooting. The observer was likely a man in the Green Reo or the dark blue Chevrolet coupe.

La Capra continued: “I know it to be a fact from a good source that Reppert and Jeff Rayen knew all about what took place in that massacre. Three men were on the job, Floyd, Miller and some other fellow. I heard rumors it was a fellow by the name of Nelson and Sam Scola told me it was a fellow by the name of Ricchetti.”

Director Reppert and Jeff Rayen, as well as Tom Higgins and his detectives no doubt knew exactly what happened within an hour or two after the shooting.

LaCapra said Verne Miller left town shortly after talking with Lazia at the station the evening after the shooting, he thought perhaps it was the next day, he “told Floyd he would meet him in Cleveland. Floyd’s intention was to lay over here until his wound was healed but Johnnie got after Dominic Binaggio and said: ‘We have to get that fellow out of town.’ Dominic said: ‘He is in pretty bad shape’ and Johnnie said ‘Well, try to see if he can make it’ and he went to Floyd and Floyd must have asked him for an automobile to get out of town in and he asked Johnnie Lazia for the car.”

After Sam Scola talked Griffin and Wilhite into handing over the stolen Buick “Sam drove the car out of the garage and they went to the Bottoms, and Sam Scola, Charlie Gargotta, Tano Lococo, Tony Gizzo, and Dominic Binaggio were all together and they drove him to Missouri Avenue and Grand Avenue where they met Lazia. They had a side door there they could let you in, or else go through the front. They had a private room right back of the prescription counter” ... “just in back of the swinging doors of the prescription counter there was an entrance to a large room where there was a round table. It was a private room. They asked Floyd if he could make it and he asked for a machine gun. He took it up in his left arm and held it up and said he thought he could make it.” ... “Floyd and this other fellow got in this Buick sedan and the others were tailing them. Yes, there was a doctor but I never asked about it. That never came up. I am pretty sure it was Dr. DeMaria. He is the only one they trust. They won’t trust Nigro. Doc don’t want any more of that stuff. Doc is a pretty clean fellow. Lots of things he done through fear. I did hear something about some other doctor too but I will get that. I have someone who will give me this information; he will recollect a whole lot better than me because I really didn’t pay a lot of attention. Floyd left and immediately went to the outskirts of Cleveland and that’s where he was taken care of by the

Davis mob, until he met Verne Miller because Verne had told him if he happened to come back east, they would make some money.” (Section 64 Page 120-146 9.14.34 Kansas City: the Michael LaCapra interview talking with Trainor and Milligan; interview is referenced to in Section 65 page 69 10.11.34 Trainor Report)

Summary

One of these doctors treated Floyd. The three most direct sources of information with respect to Floyd being wounded, treated, and how he was moved out of Kansas City were reviewed. At this point the reader is invited to pick which doctor they think helped. No more clues shall be offered.

More important than which doctor was involved, probing into the matter has confirmed Verne Miller, Charles Floyd, and Adam Ricchetti were the gunmen. They did not start the shooting, the officers did. Both Miller and Floyd were injured. Floyd and Frank Nash knew one another before the shooting. Verne Miller left town a day or two after the shooting. Floyd and Ricchetti were harbored in the West Bottoms until they left town and Floyd was treated by a doctor *before* they were in the Bottoms. The car they left town in was stolen by other people, Griffin & Wilhite, given to them by Lazia, and they left for Cleveland. In Cleveland they were harbored by the Moe Davis mob, who the Bureau knew nothing about. And Verne Miller was supposed to meet them in Cleveland. The Bureau also learned Lazia formerly ran the Underworld in Kansas City and who his top people were.

Probing the matter has also confirmed the Bureau was on a wild goose chase in the months following the shooting and added to the growing evidence the Kansas City Office had botched the prisoner escort detail, failed to be aware of their surroundings or observe their attackers, and concealed vital evidence.

Vivian Mathis' Story Saturday and Sunday after the Station Shooting

Vivian's Statement was quite long and comprehensive. Keep in mind, her statement was coerced and in certain places contains information the Bureau *wanted* in the statement, *not* what happened. The portions relevant to Saturday, Sunday, and her trip to Chicago are reviewed here.

Vivian Mathis was released from the United States Detention Farm, Milan, Michigan under a conditional release at 8:30 P. M. on September 18, 1934 and was immediately taken into custody by Special Agents D. P. Sullivan, D. E. Hall and R. C. Suran. Prior to the release of Vivian Mathis, Special Agent D. E. Hall made appropriate arrangements with Superintendent John J. Ryan of the United States Detention Farm, not to release Vivian Mathis until such a time as Division Agents desired and Mr. Ryan cooperated fully in this respect.

Immediately upon taking Vivian Mathis into custody the Agents proceeded by unfrequented roads to an apartment at 12134 Lincoln Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, which apartment had previously been rented by Special Agents Sullivan and Suran. Vivian Mathis was interrogated by Special Agents Sullivan and Suran and she continued to deny she knew the identity of the assassins in the instant case but made a few inconsequential admissions.

Agent Suran returned to Chicago, Illinois on September 27, 1934, pursuant to instructions received from Inspector S. P. Cowley and the interrogation of Vivian Mathis was continued by Special Agents Sullivan and Earl M. Blank with negative results. Vivian Mathis was brought to the Chicago office by Special Agents Blank, McCallum and Sullivan via automobile on September 30, 1934, and the questioning of Vivian Mathis was continued by Special Agent S. K. McKee. On the night of September 30, 1934 the following signed statement was secured from Vivian Mathis, after she was assured, under authority from Inspector S. P. Cowley, that the information furnished would be held in strict confidence:

(Section 62 Page 116-121 10.1.34 Cowley Chicago to Hoover, first
Vivian Mathis Statement)

According to her Statement, Vivian Mathis arrived at home at approximately 10:00 am Saturday morning after walking a few blocks home from a grocery store. When she arrived two men she had never seen before, Floyd and Ricchetti, were at the house with Verne.

She and Verne were home all afternoon Saturday June 17. She also said Floyd was in Betty Mathis' bed with a wound of some kind which did not require a doctor to be called and Adam Ricchetti was in the home all day. No one went anywhere or talked to anyone the entire day. Verne read some newspapers. No one wanted to eat anything for breakfast. Floyd had a cup of coffee and Ricchetti had several cups of

coffee. She was silent on whether anyone ate anything for lunch or dinner, bathed, etcetera.

Verne did tell her “they had been to the station to get Frank; there had been some shooting, and Frank had been killed. He also said Floyd had been wounded. I do not remember whether he said anything about any officers having been shot. I knew he felt badly about the matter from the way he looked and talked.”

It must have been an interesting day and an agonizing wait for darkness to come. Ricchetti was a quiet person, but the others were talkative jovial people. Remember, there was not a television to watch in those days either. A chase was afoot for their involvement in the murders of several law enforcement officers and a friend of Verne, Vi, and Floyd. But nothing was said or done?

“Sometime after dark Verne left the house by himself. He was away for about an hour. I do not know where he went. After he returned, we were talking in the living room when I heard someone walk onto the porch. Verne asked me to go into our bedroom, which I did. I at no time saw the person who came onto the porch and have never known his identity. I remained in the bedroom about twenty minutes. When I came out into the living room both Floyd and Ricchetti were gone.”

Daylight Savings Time was not in use those days. Sunset would have arrived about 7:45 pm in Kansas City. Vi’s Statement does not mention anything about the dog making any noise. They normally kept Teddy, a bulldog, chained to the front porch. Interesting, he did not make noise, bark, or create some sort of commotion?

Vi told the Bureau she and Verne remained at home all night and he told her they would leave the next day:

“The next day Verne called a friend, whose name I cannot remember at this time, but whom I know was engaged in the jewelry business in Kansas City. He made arrangements for this man to drive me to Des

Moines, Iowa. This man picked me up during the afternoon, and after getting Betty from Mulloy's home, we drove to Des Moines, Iowa, arriving sometime after dark. Betty and I took a night train to Chicago, Illinois, arriving on Monday morning, June 19.

In accordance with prior arrangements Verne and I had made I took a taxicab with Betty and proceeded to a dressmaker's shop operated by one Madame Therese on Harding Avenue near Cermak Road, where I waited for Verne. Verne met me there late in the evening and we drove in his car to the apartment of Volney Davis in Maywood, Illinois. Volney Davis and his wife lived in the apartment. We spent Monday night in this apartment. On the following day we went to an apartment on which I was still paying rent and which I remember was located in a building near Cleveland Avenue and the elevated car tracks in Berwyn, Illinois. We spent Tuesday night in this apartment. We may have spent one more night in Chicago, but I am not sure as to this point. If we did, this night was spent at the apartment of Volney Davis. However, on either Wednesday or Thursday afternoon, Volney Davis and I drove Verne to the airport where Verne took a plane for New York City. I returned to Volney Davis' apartment with him, and Betty and I remained there for the night. On the following morning Betty and I went to Minneapolis, Minnesota via airplane, our destination being the home of my parents in Brainerd, Minnesota.

I have read this Statement consisting of ten pages and know the contents to be the truth and to be composed of substance furnished by me."

(Section 62 Page 116-121 10.1.34 Cowley Chicago to Hoover, Vivian Mathis Statement)

Most of her Statement pertaining to Saturday, Sunday, and trip to Chicago & Brainerd was not true. Hoover criticized the fact his agents did not bother verifying what she told them. The Bureau's number one goal was to tie Floyd and Ricchetti to Verne Miller, which her Statement accomplished. Next, they needed to know where Floyd and Ricchetti went and how she and Miller met again in New York.

Let us make a few observations about Vi's Statement:

Observation: Someone Cannot Count

She agreed she was signing a Statement consisting of ten pages. Yet there are only five pages. Where did the other five pages go? More importantly, what information was included in those missing pages?

Observation: What Really Happened Before Arriving in Chicago

What did you do all day after 10:00 am Saturday? Nothing, even backgammon, listen to the radio, anything at all? Considering ten days of harsh interrogation had taken place so far, there was not much curiosity about Saturday and Sunday. Perhaps five more days of interrogation by Sam McKee would produce more detail? No, afraid not. The simple farm girl was not giving up anything more than she had to. The interrogations were nearly a year after Verne was murdered, she had just been released from prison for harboring Miller, the Bureau kidnapped her and was keeping her from seeing her daughter. And she was being threatened with more prison time for her role in the conspiracy to rescue Nash.

Whether Floyd and Ricchetti remained at Edgevale until evening, or they were taken care of by a doctor and brought to the West Bottoms does not make much difference in the timeline for Verne and Vi. They were likely going to be concerned with what to do next. There is not any indication Verne or Vi went anywhere during the day Saturday until Verne left the house after dark.

Like it or not, Vi was going to have to move to another city again. They probably talked through their options. Verne would need to talk

with John Lazia but there was probably no way he could remain in Kansas City. They had to start packing their things and figure out where to go and what to do. The phone company did not have any records of long distance calls available after June 16 so if any were made, they would not be available until the next month's billing cycle or a request made of the telephone company. There is not a record of a request for phone records at the house for the time from June 17 until it was disconnected in July. According to an interview of Frances Nash, Verne Miller called the Farmer residence outside Joplin the afternoon of June 17 and spoke with Esther Farmer. "Verne asked her where Mrs. Nash is and said she should be told to go home immediately." As though it was an afterthought, at the end of his interview with Frances Nash the agent stated: "For whatever purpose it may serve, Mrs. Nash said Verne Miller had a large brown pet bull dog and the name of this dog is Teddy." (Section 15 Page 67-84 8.11.33 Trainor KC Report, page 74-75)

The timing of Miller's call to the Farmer home could not have been in the afternoon, as Frances Nash said. The Joplin police chief raided the home at noon and everyone except Esther Farmer's elderly grandfather had gone. Miller must have called Saturday morning.

Miller tried to contact John Lazia several times without success. He did communicate with Dominic Binaggio, either directly or indirectly through Floyd and Ricchetti. He also would have talked with his friends Red Ward and William Weisman. They still lived in a suite at the President Hotel, and both took bets with Sam Scola at The Annex at the Baltimore Hotel. Calls to hotel switchboards were very hard to trace. His frequent golf partners George Sadlo and Ben Whitaker may have been contacted too. The more time passed without hearing from Lazia would have frustrated Miller more and more. He had become accustomed to working with people who followed through quickly, whether they wanted to or not. Laggards like Lazia angered him. Miller had done all he could. He did not want to venture outside in the daylight when he would be too easy to recognize.

Tension had risen in the local underworld anyway, but the shooting became a make or break event for some relationships. Lazia was stalling for time while thinking his way through what to do. Or more precisely, waiting for Balestrere or the DiGiovanni's to tell him what to think and do. Lazia's greed and indecision had caused more problems than any of them realized.

The Bureau had information Sammy Sadlow ran The Annex. But someone gave them bad information. They mixed up his last name. Sam Scola was a contact man there, as were Charlie Binaggio and Charlie Gargotta. Scola was a smart reliable enforcer and had a promising future, but he was too young to run a place on his own. George Weinbrenner and George Sadlo were brought in to run the place at Lazia's request. They were doing a good job with Ben Whitaker on Green Hills but Lazia was complaining about his take at The Annex.

In truth, Lazia was a terrible gambler and lost more money than he could afford on horse racing. He needed more cash than the various operations could produce. He decided to solve his gambling problem by taking other people's money. Never a good solution. He would pay dearly for doing so. Eventually Tom Pendergast would too. Though their consequences were different.

Even more confusing than the Sam Scola mix-up, was George Weinbrenner and George Sadlo lived at the President when they were in town and would both use the last name Sadlow from time to time. To compound the confusion even more, Ben Whitaker, an agent for the General News Service wire would use the name WF Sadlow or Ben F Sadlow or Sadlo.

George Weinbrenner, known as The Dutchman, built a small empire by providing quality equipment for the gaming industry. He also knew how to run a gambling house and left a successful partnership in Detroit. He and George Sadlo were both from St. Louis. Sadlo had risen high in The Combination in New York and New Jersey. He was

on loan from Meyer Lansky to help Kansas City after running Florida and Brownsville/Matamoros. Sadlo was good friends with William Weisman, also born in St. Louis, and Red Ward. Verne Miller knew all of them.

Another situation with the locals had just arisen which was poorly timed. Fred Strose ran the dice game at The Annex. In April, a prostitute and thief named Mabel Mueller, aka Maxine Miller brought a man she knew as Mr. Martin into The Annex. Martin was Edward LaRue aka Eddie Doll, Eddie Lorraine, plus other aliases. He had “cleaned up” in a dice game while using loaded dice. LaRue had walked away with over \$400 in winnings. Enough to buy a new car in those days. Strose must have figured out later LaRue used Maxine Miller to help him cheat, or Weinbrenner figured it out by examining the die. (Section 24 Page 245-247 11.15.33 Purvis Chicago to KC)

A month later Maxine Miller, who worked for Louis Stacci in Chicago, rolled the same man, Eddie LaRue, for \$150, at the Phillips Hotel. (Section 18 Page 35-37 9.13.33 Conroy KC to Chicago)

William Weisman gave Maxine Miller a beating. Badly enough she had to stay with a friend a few weeks to recover before she returned to Chicago in July. He got both John Lazia and Louis Stacci mad at him, even though she helped take money from The Annex Lazia received a cut from. A no-win proposition for Weisman. The night of June 16 Weisman purchased bonded liquor from Mamie Goss who peddled narcotics, booze, and women. He was accompanied by three other men she did not know. Maxine Miller subsequently learned William Weisman knew the men involved in the shooting and told Mamie Goss. (Section 18 Page 35-37 9.13.33 Conroy KC to Chicago) (Section 22 Page 97 10.22.33 Conroy KC to St Louis) (Section 54 Page 70-74 8.16.34 Nathan KC to Hoover)

Saturday Night June 17

It is not known whether Miller made phone calls or requested help finding John Lazia but judging from what he said to Lazia at the Fred Harvey he must have tried to connect and Lazia was avoiding him. Miller went downtown and walked into the Baltimore Hotel.

The information Vivian provided in her statement began to be verified by other activities on Saturday evening. Miller had left home about dark Saturday, sometime after 8:00 pm.

Michael James LaCapra

On September 5, 1934 James LaCapra talked at length with WF Trainor. He provided information and insight the Bureau desperately needed. Information pertaining to the weekend of the shootings is extracted from the interview here. It was deemed valuable enough Trainor and US Attorney Milligan did a follow up interview with LaCapra nine days later:

“LaCapra stated he knows as much about the Massacre as anyone still alive in Kansas City, he secured his information from his brother in law Sam Scola. Verne Miller came to Kansas City prior to the Massacre and knew Lazia and made arrangements to live in Kansas City. Miller regularly met with Lazia at Harvey’s Restaurant at Union Station and at 1106 Baltimore Avenue.... He advised on June 16, 1933 Verne Miller approached John Lazia about helping a friend and Lazia said he didn’t want any heat on his own boys but there was another man who did not belong there but he could use as he was permitted to stay in town at that time. According to LaCapra the other man was Charles Floyd who was being harbored by Dominic Binaggio who operates a gambling establishment at the Sexton Hotel.... *Miller is said to have met John Lazia on the night of June 17 and apologized to Lazia for the heat he had put on the town. Miller explained to Lazia how*

it happened and assured Lazia when they went to the station he had not anticipated there would be any shooting and he was merely going to take Nash and whatever officer he might be handcuffed to and if necessary cut the arm from the officer and release him shortly thereafter. LaCapra stated Floyd went to the residence of Dominic Binaggio in Kansas City after the massacre where his wound was treated, he does not know what doctors treated Floyd's wound but expressed a very strong opinion it was Dr. DeMaria who has an office in the Waldheim Building at 11th and Main.... When Floyd left Cleveland the summer of 1933 he went east and "picked up some money with Verne Miller" but was not definite about what type of job Floyd did. 'LaCapra said Floyd had never done anything to him and he would not furnish anything on him, but he was providing information on the massacre truthfully because of the heat put on him by people in Kansas City. He is positive John Lazia told Police Director Eugene Reppert who participated in it and the Police Department did nothing to solve it because they already knew. He is certain Jeff Rayen and Thomas Higgins of the KCPD both know everything. LaCapra wants to know what the Bureau could do to protect him. He wants to stay in Kansas as long as possible but he does not intend to slip into Kansas City and do another interview. His brother Anthony LaCapra 3214 Garner in Kansas City would assist the office with an interview.'

(Section 57 Page 90-112 9.5.34 Trainor KC Report)

On September 14 LaCapra talked again at length with Trainor and US Attorney Milligan. He expanded on the previous information he gave Trainor. It was a long rambling disjointed interview. James LaCapra, aka Jimmy Needles, may have been under enough stress he had to be under the influence of narcotics to calm his nerves. He conveyed in as

much detail as he could recall what his brother in law Sam Scola told him about Miller and Lazia meeting the night of June 17, beginning with where Floyd and Ricchetti went after the shooting:

“They went west and finally were met by someone; I never did hear who. They were hidden in the Bottoms again where Floyd had been. Along about nightfall Verne Miller came up on Baltimore. I was there and several of the other boys, and of course the general run of talk was he sure had a lot of guts to be around the streets.” ... “Miller asked for Johnnie. Just a short time before that Johnnie was on his way to the Union Station to get something to eat at Harvey’s with a few of the boys, Sam Scola, Tony Gizzo, Charley Gargotta, and Charles Carrollo and we told him he was down to the station and he immediately went to Harvey’s Restaurant and when he saw Johnnie he said “I have been looking for you all day. I don’t think I would have to lose as much time waiting on the pope as I do waiting on you.” That made Lazia feel embarrassed before the boys and finally Verne Miller smoothed it over and made a joke about it, but he was pretty sore about the way Lazia was giving him the run around because Johnnie didn’t want to have to stand the heat after it was turned on. Miller said to Johnnie he was sorry so much heat had been brought about and Johnnie says, “*I know it couldn’t be helped*” and Miller said “*Well, I am glad you know it couldn’t be helped.*” Afterwards Johnnie and him went into a huddle. He explained it afterwards to several of the boys the way I have already explained it. Verne Miller left here shortly after that. I think it was the next day. Where he went I never knew, but he told Floyd he would meet him in Cleveland.”

(Section 64 Page 120-146 9.14.34 Kansas City
Trainor, Milligan, LaCapra)

The information LaCapra provided was consistent with the timeline and events Vivian Mathis provided, but something important is missing again. Why did Trainor, or Milligan for that matter, not ask LaCapra why “*it couldn't be helped?*” The underworld already knew the officers opened fire, but Miller knew where the shots came from. He explained it all to Lazia. Why would Trainor and Milligan have such lack of curiosity? Just an informed guess, but *suppose Trainor and Milligan already knew there was something wrong with the shooting and the gunmen had no choice but to shoot back?*

LaCapra was a drug addict, motivated to save his life. Honestly, for many decades the writer never believed LaCapra's information about the shooting was true until this forensic audit of the files. Nothing anyone said ever convinced your scribe Jimmy LaCapra's information was legitimate. However, thoroughly reviewing every angle converted a bona fide skeptic LaCapra was providing mostly valid information after all. The bottom line of LaCapra's story does get corroborated either directly by others or from the circumstantial evidence. The information about Weisman and the LaCapra information is more likely true than false.

Miller and Weisman Named as Suspects

It was not public yet, but Chief Higgins had word William Weisman was involved in the shooting. He was likely the large man driving the Reo who was seen running to the dark blue Chevrolet coach which drove though the parking plaza. At least one witness did tell the police his was one of the photos they recognized as someone they saw. Higgins never identified who the witness(es) was though. It is not known when he departed but on July 5 KCPD named him as a suspect. By then Weisman was back in New York and so was Verne Miller. Higgins never revealed his source, but the newspapers were told Miller used a machine gun, he recruited Weisman the night before, and Weisman was seen using two .45 automatics. Higgins was diverting attention from Floyd to Weisman.

Weisman and James Fur Sammons resembled one another, and both were living in Kansas City. Witnesses thought a man named John O'Hara may have been the man they saw running to the Chevrolet coach in the plaza. The Bureau had received information from a phone tap in Chicago on a call to the phone at O'Hara's Kansas City residence. The home was raided and Sammons, using the names James O'Hara and John O'Hara, was located after the police named Weisman as a suspect and he was arrested on July 6. Vetterli sent his fingerprints to the Lab and learned O'Hara was James Sammons. He had two .38 Police Positive Colt revolvers in his possession. They were checked against the shooting evidence. It was discovered one was never fired and the one which had been fired was not a match for the case.

The Bureau had a "telephone tap on a certain house in Chicago information was received that a certain man there wanted two trousers from the cleaners immediately as he had to leave town." The home in Chicago with the phone tap was not identified but was Jack "Three Fingered" White. Sammons was known as a psychopathic killer and White sent him a message. Two Bureau agents and two Jackson County Sheriff deputies went to the address the Chicago number called and arrested a man there who was in possession of a gun and identified himself as John O'Hara. Chicago authorities confirmed Sammons was on the Public Enemies list and wanted in Chicago. He was wanted in other locations too and was not one of the station assailants. However, it is very possible Sammons was present during the shooting as an observer or possibly a backup, too many people recognized him as someone they saw to ignore the likelihood he was there. (Section 6 Page 140 7.8.33 AD Harold Nathan Memo to Hoover)

Sammons and his wife Pearl Barry were frequent visitors to Miller's apartment at 419 South Boulevard in Oak Park. At times Sammons lived at the apartment too, as did Fred Burke. When Sammons purchased a new Chevrolet Special Coupe serial 37342 motor 3334510 August 1932 from Bergl Motors he used the South Boulevard address for his registration. (Section 24 Page 21-32 11.3.33 Chicago to File)

Sammons' explanation to Frank Mulloy about his connection to Verne Miller was they had met in Chicago at the Tunney fight, and he lived at 419 South Boulevard with Miller.

With the arrest of Sammons on July 6, Higgins was free of all the big shot New York and Chicago gunmen who had attracted so much attention to his formerly quiet graft and corruption operation. The only one left was Red Ward, who left town the end of June and returned before the end of July. He was permitted to remain unmolested because he had not caused any trouble. Besides, he was far too connected.

Observation: Vi's Travels From Kansas City to Chicago

Vivian's information about how she and Betty got from Kansas City, to Chicago, to Brainerd, and back to Chicago was almost all fiction:

1. Vivian claimed Verne arranged for his jeweler friend to drive her and Betty to Des Moines and they took a night train to Chicago from there. They arrived Monday morning. They went to a dress maker's shop on Harding Avenue run by Madame Therese where they waited until late evening for Verne to arrive. Harding and Cermak intersect where the original Route 66 ran through Chicago at a southwest to northeast diagonal. The Bureau never talked with anyone at the shop to confirm her presence at the store. Misguided prosecutions for violations of the Mann Act did invite unmarried couples to lie about how they travelled from one state to the other. Her story was not true. Why this part was not true is a guessing game. It may be as simple as avoiding confession to a Mann Act violation. She did say Verne met them "in his car" so she may have been trying to avoid crossing state lines with a fugitive issue too. When she said "in his car" did she mean her blue and black Chevrolet, or did she mean his 16 cylinder Cadillac he kept in Chicago? As specific as

she was about the location, there is not any reason to doubt she was at the dress maker's shop. Probably just shopping though. Six months earlier Betty had told the Bureau's agent Anderson they all drove to Chicago together. Yet no one caught the obvious conflict in her story. When the Bureau finally talked to Martin Schwartzberg, the man who supposedly drove her to Des Moines, he had no idea what she was talking about. Hoover realized she had fooled everyone, including him.

2. The easiest item to verify or disprove in the Vivian Mathis Statement was the location of the apartment she told the Bureau she, Betty, and Verne stayed on the Tuesday after they arrived in Chicago which she was still paying rent on. An apartment in Berwyn on Cleveland Avenue near the overhead tracks. There were not any streets in Berwyn, Illinois named Cleveland Avenue! Suran missed many things, but Sam McKee should have recognized a problem. Verne and Vi had leased an apartment at 419 South Boulevard. And it was close to the tracks Vi described. The apartment was in Oak Park though. Not on Cleveland Avenue in Berwyn. Vi changed her information on October 11, 1934, to state Verne, Vi, and Betty spent the second night after the shooting at the South Boulevard apartment. Still not true, but perhaps McKee had caught the problem with Cleveland Avenue not being in Berwyn? The problem is, Carter Baum discovered Vi and Verne rented a furnished apartment for 30 days at the Washington Court Apartments, 116 Washington Boulevard in Oak Park on June 14. The morning of June 15 they moved their belongings from 419 South Boulevard to Washington Court before they flew back to Kansas City.

3. Vivian told the Bureau she, Betty, and Verne spent their first night in Chicago, Monday June 19, at the apartment of Volney Davis. Which was the apartment Alvin Karpis moved out of at 219 North Second Avenue in Maywood. They spent Tuesday night at the non-existent apartment on Cleveland Avenue in Berwyn. Volney Davis and Vivian drove Verne to the airport so he could fly to New York on either Wednesday or Thursday. She and Betty, possibly Verne also, spent Wednesday night with Volney Davis. She and Betty may have spent Thursday night at the Volney Davis apartment before flying to Minneapolis the next morning. Of course, another question must be raised here.
 - a. According to Betty, Verne drove her and Vi to the airport, and bought their tickets to St. Paul. Vi's story does not match up here either. Then there is the easiest and most obvious problem with her tale about staying with Volney Davis and him driving Verne to the airport one day, and Vi and Betty to the airport the next. Volney Davis and Edna Murray were in St. Paul participating in the Hamm Kidnapping. They were not in Chicago. After receiving the \$100,000 ransom for William Hamm the crew involved in the kidnapping released him on Monday June 19 in Minnesota. Most left St. Paul and drove to several cottages at Long Lake about 60 miles outside of Chicago on Tuesday June 20.
 - b. One more thing about Volney Davis and Edna Grace. Volney Davis topped Fred Barker with the old leaving a traceable license plate on the car trick. In addition to the Missouri license #157309 on the Essex driven by Fred Barker, another license number attached to the Hamm kidnapping address was Minnesota #B-14839 on a 1933 Chevrolet Special Sedan purchased May 23, 1933, from

Midway Chevrolet Company in St. Paul by CV Davis using the address at the St. Francis Hotel. They re-licensed in 1934 to Minnesota plate #B45372 registered in the name of EV Davis at Box 254 at White Bear Lake, Minnesota in January 1934. Yes indeed, Volney and Edna could not have harbored Verne, Vi, and Betty in Chicago on June 19 because they were in Minnesota kidnapping someone. And Volney Davis could prove it because his car, registered in his own name, was seen at the hideaway for the kidnapers in St Paul. Volney Davis and Edna Grace aka Edna Murray, had a second car in St. Paul. Another plate, Minnesota 1933 #B-455099, was on a 1933 Model 40 Ford Deluxe Coupe. The Model 40 was a small Ford with one bench seat for the driver and passenger. They also had a rumble seat in the rear of the car which could be opened so someone could sit outside. The car was registered to an E L Murrey at Box 345 White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Edna Murrey was undoubtedly Edna Grace Murray. The single seat Ford coupe is a good match for the description of the car Vi and Betty drove from St. Paul to the Gibson farm in Brainerd about June 23-25. Vi gave them an alibi, being in Chicago, not St. Paul. They may have returned the favor. Vi borrowed Edna's car to drive Betty to Brainerd, returned to St. Paul, then they drove together from St. Paul to Chicago. Volney had to drive his Chevrolet out of town. Vi may have agreed to go with Edna so she would not have to drive alone. The pieces certainly fit together. (Section 13 Page 3-42 7.27.33 Hall St Paul Report, page 6) (Section 28 Page 29-43 12.7.33 Hall St Paul Report, page 33) (Section 33 Page 78-83 1.28.34 Hanni St Paul to Hoover)

- c. One piece does not quite fit together. The Vivian Mathis Statement said she and Betty flew to Minneapolis, not St. Paul. Wold-Chamberlain Field served the twin cities, so the real question is which city did they go to after they arrived at the airport? Betty was certain she and Vi went to St. Paul. She was there with Vi a month before and stayed at the home of Harry and Gladys Sawyer. Vi told the Bureau she and Betty flew from Chicago to Minneapolis; however, Vi told her mother they flew into St. Paul, and she had borrowed the car from someone in St. Paul.

For whatever purpose she may have had; Vivian was blowing smoke on almost everything. She could not have stayed with Volney Davis and Edna Grace at their apartment Monday night. She could not remember which of their apartments they stayed on Tuesday. Betty Mathis said they stayed at a hotel though. Verne and Vi did make a quick trip to Chicago and rented a furnished apartment at an apartment-hotel to use during the World's Fair. They had promised Betty, they would take her. They moved their belongings in on the morning of June 15, then flew back to Kansas City where Vi got the new Missouri license plates for her Chevrolet. 'Mr. and Mrs. Charleson managers of the Washington Court Apartments 116 Washington Boulevard in Oak Park recognized a picture of Vi Mathis as a tenant who rented an apartment with her husband on June 14, 1933, stated they were from California and were visiting the World's Fair and their names were given as Vern E Mullen assigned first to Apartment 102 then 417 after the first apartment flooded. They moved their belongings in the morning of June 15. They paid rent through July 15, were absent for several days, they seemed to play golf almost every day and had 8-9 pair of golf shoes and 3 sets of expensive clubs.' The Washington Court would have appeared to Betty to look like a hotel. The large four story blonde brick and stone building had furnished short term and long term rentals with a lobby and front desk. An eleven year old would easily think it was a hotel. Their belongings

from the South Boulevard Apartment were already there. Their first room on the ground floor flooded in a rain storm and the manager moved their belongings to the top floor, room 417.' Perhaps the agents in the Bureau had forgotten about Carter Baum's March 9 Report by the time the Vivian Mathis Statements were made in October 1934. Normally the agent who prepares the Report would speak up; however, Carter Baum was murdered on April 22, 1934, by Baby Face Nelson. (Section 38 Page 43-68 3.9.34 Carter Baum Chicago Report, page 57-59)

The managers of the Washington Court noted Verne and Vi played a lot of golf but were absent for several days at a time. Verne was present more than Vi and there was no mention of seeing a little girl with them. Mr. Charleson thought they were driving a Ford with California license plates but was not certain. Several visitors were seen picking one or both up to play golf too. The building was well-known among the underworld in Oak Park. Rocco DeGrazia moved out after he was severely injured in a car accident the year before and was likely how Miller became familiar with the property. Rocco was a cousin of Louis Stacci and friends with Jack McGurn and Frank Nash.

The building had several organized crime figures who lived there at various times. It is important to note some of the vagaries from the managers could be an uneasy weariness about law enforcement nosing around. Carter Baum had discovered where Verne and Vi found shelter after the shooting and learned they did not exactly lay low. They either got a new car or found another license plate to put on the Chevrolet. The last time the Chevrolet was positively identified was June 17 in Kansas City, and no trace of it was ever found. The same can be said for Miller's 16 cylinder Cadillac he kept in Chicago. Vi later mentioned having a Cadillac she needed to sell while she was visiting the Buchalters; however, no trace of it was ever found either. There were no requests for long distance telephone charges at Washington Court, so it is not known whether any calls were placed from the apartment.

Observations by Edgevale Road Neighbors

The trail of telephone calls at the Farmer residence traced one of the alleged Nash conspirators to telephone number Jackson 7073 installed at 6612 Edgevale Road. The Bureau obtained telephone records from the date the phone was installed on April 11, 1933, until the most recent date records were available, June 16th. The Bureau asked the neighbors to watch the house just in case the "Moore's" did not leave town. In addition to talking with neighbors they spoke with the homeowner, Newman McFarland and various vendors connected to the home. On the morning of Wednesday June 21, the maid at the Erle Smith home at 6623 Edgevale saw a couple at 6612 moving some items out through the garage and saw what looked like a person or a dog which remained inside the car while they were there. She probably witnessed Frank and Edna Mulloy moving some canned goods, clothing, and odds and ends when they went to air out the house and calculate how many items for the moving company to transfer. Rosemary stayed inside the car while they worked. Agent Trainor prepared a Report on what was learned about the home and its renters on July 3, 1933:

'On June 22, 1933 SAC R.G. Harvey and Lt. BH Thurman interviewed Erle Smith of 6623 Edgevale Road. His home is almost directly opposite the 6612 Edgevale address allegedly occupied by one VC Moore, telephone number Jackson 7073. Smith said there was a brown Packard sedan about two years old apparently owned by one of the occupants and an Essex sedan, dark blue-black color with Illinois license. Smith said the occupants have been away for the past three days. He has been trying to recall what developments transpired at this address the date prior and the day of the Union Station shooting. Smith was not interviewed at length because Lieutenant Thurman and agent Harvey did not want to linger in the neighborhood and create suspicion.'

Smith got confused about the cars. The brown Packard Smith described was Frank Mulloy's gray 1932 Packard. It was frequently driven on dirt roads and had the appearance of being more brown than

gray. The Essex sedan owned by Fred Barker was a burgundy color and had Missouri plates. The car which was dark blue-black with Illinois license plates was Vivian's new Chevrolet sedan which had new Missouri license plates installed the afternoon of June 15.

'Smith came to the Kansas City office at 9:30 am on June 23 and was interviewed further by SAC Gus Jones, SAC Vetterli, SAC Brantley, Lt. B.H. Thurman, and SAC Harvey. Smith stated the Moore's have resided at 6612 Edgevale home for ten or eleven weeks. The house is owned by N.E. McFarland who lives at Lake Tapawingo. There is a youngster named Betty age between eight and nine years who resides at the residence some of the time and is allegedly a daughter of said Moore. The Moores formerly resided at Brainerd, Minnesota and Betty's grandmother is supposed to reside at Brainerd. Betty has a friend named Mary Ann who attends the Shafton Dance School and lives in the St. Vincent's parish whose father owns the brown Packard Sedan, 1932 Model, V-type shell, which is dusty from travelling on dirt or oil roads. A neighbor girl named Joan Alford, daughter of William P. Alford, lives next door to Smith and who is a very alert child, eight or nine years, became acquainted with Mary Ann several weeks ago at the Shafton Dance School. According to Smith, Mary Ann's parents do not want her to make any acquaintances. Last Friday the Packard pulled up and took Betty Moore away and they returned her early Monday morning June 19.'

The other little girl Smith identified as Mary Ann was Rosemary, the daughter of Frank Mulloy. Smith got his days and dates wrong. The day Mulloy picked up Vi and Betty was Saturday morning, not Friday. Mulloy returned Betty about 12:30 on Sunday afternoon June 18, not early Monday morning June 19.

'The Packard left shortly thereafter and had not since returned. There has been no activity at the house since early Monday morning. Joan Alford said when questioned they went to Chicago in a hurry Monday as something turned up. One woman at the Moore residence is described as: age 35; height 5 feet 7 inches; hair cross between blonde

and brunette. Another woman seen at the Moore residence is described as: height 5 feet 6 inches; weight 120 pounds; deep voice. Another woman seen at the Moore residence is described as: height 5 feet 7 inches; weight 130 pounds; hair platinum blonde; wife of the owner of the Essex Sedan and whose home is allegedly at Brainerd.' (The first woman described was probably Paula Harmon, the second Lillian Holden, and the third was certainly Vivian Mathis with her Jean Harlow platinum blonde look.) 'Smith said the Moore's never sat on the porch. A Wolferman delivery truck has been seen at the residence on numerous occasions. Yellow Taxicabs drive up at all hours of the day and night and usually leave in a hurry. Smith offered his house to agents to observe 6612 and he said the home on the other side of the Moore's is presently vacant and might be used. The Moores play golf a great deal.'

'On June 26 Mrs. Erle H. Smith called the Kansas City office from 6623 Edgevale on phone Jackson 6130 stating a baggage truck was loading furniture from the residence. Assistant Director Harold Nathan and SAC Dwight Brantley immediately proceeded to the premises. The truck was gone but Mrs. Smith provided the license number of the moving van which was traced to Thomas L. Dalton at 84th and Madison Streets, Kansas City, Missouri. Mrs. Smith did observe a brown Packard was also at some distance from the residence 6612 Edgevale at the time the moving truck had arrived; a man had walked from the residence after giving instructions to the truck driver he got into the Packard sedan and drove away.'

'Thomas L. Dalton operates Waldo Transfer in Westmoreland Garage at 75th and Broadway was called by telephone to come to the Edgevale home to move some stuff. A large man met and let him in. He got from the place 2 single beds; mattresses; bed clothing, a washing machine; a floor lamp, and some bath room materials. He moved them to 14 East 56th Street Terrace, a brown colored 2 story house. The man who met him at 6612 Edgevale was at 14 East 56th Street Terrace. Dalton did not know how he got there, he did not see a car or anyone else at the home to drive him away. He saw a woman at 14 East 56th Street

Terrace ironing. Dalton was paid \$2.00 for his trip. He did not know the man and never saw him before.’

‘It is noted here in the report Sergeant B.H. Thurman accompanied Trainor to Edgevale Road on the investigation June 26.’ Lt. Thurman was reduced in rank to Sergeant by Chief Higgins as a disciplinary action for disobeying orders to not help the Bureau investigation. He was later terminated from KCPD.

‘It was discovered Francis Mulloy or F.B. Mulloy lives at 14 East 56th Terrace, telephone Hiland 0852, is a well-known bootlegger and has served a term in the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth for a violation of the National Prohibition Act. He is closely associated with Walter Rainey, gunman, stick-up man, etc. Dangerous character. Mulloy and Rainey are operating a chicken dinner joint at 85th and Wornall Road.’

‘The Mulloy phone has been tapped. Several calls have been made to J.E. Kathrens at 3834 Main Street at Logan 3400 who owns Kathrens Moving & Storage Company and he is very powerful in Democrat politics. A call was made to Fritz Mulloy at the Horse Shoe Tavern from the O.P. Inn on June 16. The Horse Shoe Tavern is supposed to be owned by John Lazia.’

(Section 4 Page 85-139 7.3.33 Trainor KC Report, page 106-113)

Sunday Morning June 18, 1933
Frank Mulloy helps Verne and Vi

The Bureau was able to interview Frank Mulloy on July 13, 1933 after James Sammons was arrested. He gave the Bureau some information on his connection with Miller who Mulloy first knew as Vincent Mason. He said the last time he saw Verne Miller was on Sunday June 18th. Much of Mulloy’s information was disjointed and incomplete. He provided much more detail in his October 1934 Statement. Mulloy did

confirm Miller and Vi stayed at his home for a brief time in the Spring until they moved into the Edgevale house.

He had helped Miller take care of some important business before he left town. What does a big time gangster killer for hire do when the police and a federal agency are hot on his trail and he has to get out of town fast? In Miller's case he asked Frank Mulloy to drive him over to Milburn so he could "get his golf sticks." Anyone who is addicted to golf knows the game is not a matter of life and death. It is much more serious!

"On Sunday June 18 around 10:30 am Mulloy received a call from Miller requesting he stop by Miller's home which he did in his Packard. When he got there, Miller came out and told him he wanted to get his golf clubs and Vivian had his car. Mulloy took him to Milburn where he got his clubs and shoes from the clubhouse while Mulloy stayed in the car. During the trip to and from Milburn, Miller remarked about how "hot" the town was going to be because of the slayings and he was going to leave town immediately and go to the lakes in Minnesota. Miller got out of the car, entered his residence and Mulloy went home. Sometime during the morning Vivian called Mulloy stating they could bring Betty back at any time and shortly after noon Mrs. Mulloy and he took Betty to the Miller residence along with Betty's dancing costumes. Vivian met them at the curb and took the costumes into the house with Betty and the Mulloy's drove off to get something to eat."

Mulloy provided information pertaining to Sunday and the following week, though some of the details were wrong and had to be corrected. The details are expanded upon in the appropriate areas of analysis rather than correcting everything here:

'About 8:00 or 9:00 pm Sunday evening Vivian showed up at the Mulloy's home.' Verne and Betty were nearby in the car, ready for the drive to Chicago. 'She asked him to take care of having the furniture stored because she and Verne were going to the lakes

and she gave him a key to the house. The Mulloys went to the Edgevale home on Wednesday morning June 21st and gathered a few items to bring to their home. They also opened some windows to air out the house. Mulloy arranged with Waldo Transfer Company to move Mason's effects. He met the movers at the Edgevale house on June 26th, and everything was transported to his house at 14 East 56 Terrace, and they are still stored there in the basement. He did recognize the photo of William Weisman' "whom I have known for some time past, he having been in the liquor business somewhere around New York."

(Section 8 Page 107-199 7.15.33 Trainor KC Report,
Frank Mulloy Statement 118-121) (Section 63 Page
53-58 10.4.34 Cowley Chicago to Hoover)

Vi's Story About Going to Chicago and Brainerd

Verne "called a friend whose name I cannot remember now but whom I know was engaged in the jewelry business. He made arrangements for this man to drive me to Des Moines Iowa. This man picked me up during the afternoon and after getting Betty from Mulloy's home, we drove to Des Moines arriving sometime after dark."

"Betty and I took a night train to Chicago arriving on Monday morning June 19. In accordance with prior arrangements Verne and I made I took a taxi to a dressmaker's shop operated by Madame Therese on Harding Avenue near Cermak Road where I waited for Verne. Verne met me there late in the evening. We went to the apartment of Volney Davis in Maywood where we spent Monday night. The following day, Tuesday, we went to an apartment where I was still paying the rent at Cleveland Avenue and the elevated car tracks in Berwyn, Illinois where we spent Tuesday night. We may have spent another night in Chicago but I'm not sure. If so, it was with Volney Davis. On either Wednesday or Thursday afternoon Volney Davis and I drove Verne to the airport where Verne took a plane for New York. We returned to

Volney Davis' apartment where Betty and I spent the night. On the following morning Betty and I went to Minneapolis, Minnesota via airplane our destination being my parent's home in Brainerd." (Vivian Mathias Statement)

Betty's Story About Going to Chicago and Brainerd

"Betty Mathis was interviewed at this point.... Betty did not in any way indicate she had knowledge of the massacre and, according to her grandparents, she has not been apprised of what occurred. She was questioned at length as to whether Verne Miller had returned to his home in Kansas City in the forenoon in an excited condition and replied he had not. She informed at no time had Miller ever brought a number of men to their home. She claimed she, her mother, and Verne Miller generally retired about the same time and said Verne and she arose in the morning about the same time. She seemed to recollect this vividly and remarked she and Miller had much fun in trying to arouse her mother, who was a hard and long sleeper. Betty Mathis remarked she, Verne Miller, and her mother had breakfast together every morning she was in Kansas City. She advised while it was possible Miller had visitors at her home, she was unable to think of anyone, but the single individual mentioned heretofore. (Betty did tell agents about JW "Red" Ward who she referred to as "Uncle Jimmy.") She was asked if she had any photographs or postal cards of her trip and said the only one was an airplane photo which will be treated later in this report. She stated her mother never had any dinner parties while in Kansas City, but she, her mother, and Miller had often gone to dinner downtown and to the movies occasionally. She said she had never visited any of Miller's friends or her mother's friends in Kansas City." ... "Betty Mathis stated sometime the last part of

June 1933 she, her mother, and Miller left Kansas City in the Ford sedan for Chicago, Illinois. They stopped overnight at some town enroute, but Betty claims she did not remember the name of the town or the hotel in which they stayed. The next day they drove into Chicago where all three remained for a few days in some hotel Betty claimed not to know the name of. She and her mother then parted with Miller and flew to St Paul, Minnesota, Miller retained the car. As she remembers, Miller purchased the airplane tickets for the St. Paul trip. Betty produced an airplane folder which she said she had obtained on the airplane during her trip from Chicago to St. Paul. The folder in question appears to have been issued by Northwest Airways. Upon arriving in St Paul, Betty advised, her mother borrowed a one seated car and drove her to Brainerd, Minnesota, to the home of her grandparents. Since then, she has been with her grandparents and attended school. While the child appears sincere, it is believed she probably has information which she did not furnish. She apparently did not identify any of the photographs in her own mind as when viewing them she would make remarks such as, "Gee ain't he funny looking." When asked if she recognized the photographs, she would say, "Oh no." The child is extremely intelligent and apparently possesses a very discerning mind. From her makeup it appears entirely possible, acting on instructions from her mother, she may have forgotten certain instances which would be of value to this investigation. Mr. and Mrs. Gibson were again interviewed, in the absence of Betty, and expressed the opinion the granddaughter really did not have any information of value to this case. They indicated they would like to feel satisfied all the perpetrators of the massacre at Kansas City were in prison. In this connection they advised they fear one or more of these

individuals, if at large, might likely come to Brainerd and kill Betty thinking she might have information regarding the crime.”

“A few days prior to the writer’s visit a strange car was seen driving about the school which Betty attends. The child became greatly perturbed and has been quite nervous since then.... With reference to the return of Vivian Mathis and her daughter to Brainerd during the latter part of June 1933, Mrs. Gibson stated she placed the time as about a week or ten days before the 4th of July 1933. She related that Vivian and Betty drove up in a small one seated car which Vivian said she obtained in St Paul. Vivian appeared very much worried and when crying remarked “something awful has happened.” While she did not openly state, she left the impression with her mother Verne Miller was mixed up in something “of a very grave nature.” Mrs. Gibson said she attempted to persuade her daughter Vivian to remain on the farm, but Vivian said “No, it might make trouble for you.” ... Vivian drove away that night without leaving any address or telling where she was going. Occasionally thereafter, until she was apprehended, packages were mailed to Betty by Vivian from various parts of the east. On two occasions Mrs. Gibson received letters from Vivian dated at Chicago and did call twice while she was a fugitive.”

(Section 41 Page 130-136 4.12.34 Anderson KC Report)

Bertha Gibson referred to Vivian’s car as a Ford and Anderson never corrected or clarified if she was driving her new blue and black Chevrolet sedan in May and a different, smaller car when Vivian returned in June with Betty. Betty Mathis recalled them driving the large car both she and Bertha Gibson identified as a Ford to St. Paul, Chicago, and Kansas City. The writer’s view is the small Ford Bertha

Gibson recalled in late June was borrowed from Edna Murray in St Paul.

Dorothy Rogers Principal of Betty's School

At first, the Burns detectives advised agent Hall not to attempt to openly interview John and Bertha Gibson. At the time of Hall's visit, the network of local citizens was producing good information and there was concern if the Bureau talked with the Gibsons it could spook them into not communicating with people. Betty was already spooked though. A Burns detectives' car was seen near her school and the Gibsons noticed people were treating them differently than usual. Hoover authorized agent Anderson to interview the Gibson's in April 1934 to speak with the Gibsons and Betty and he spoke with several people in town first. One such person was Dorothy Rogers who ran the Gordon School which Betty attended.

'Dorothy Rogers has charge of the Gordon School where Betty is a student, Betty is 11 years old, intelligent and very accomplished in music and dancing. Betty is very sly and more worldly wise than the usual child of her age. Rogers remarked Betty has never mentioned the massacre, Verne Miller, her mother, or anyone connected with them. She said several of the children at the school had informed Betty her mother was in prison and her stepfather Verne Miller had been killed. According to Miss Rogers this caused the child considerable worry and agony. Rogers said she confidentially talked with several of the pupils and told them not to make such remarks to Betty. Rogers asserted John and Bertha Gibson bear a very good reputation and could be contacted openly regarding their knowledge of this case.'

'The Gibson farm is close to a hamlet known as Parkerville about 6 miles north of Brainerd on Rural Route 5 and phone Brainerd 39F12. They advised the last several years they have known very little about Vivian's activities, she visited them once or twice a year and sometimes accompanied by Verne Miller. They have raised Betty who resides with them. On May 19, 1933 Vivian called them from St Paul

or Minneapolis inquiring about a dance recital Betty was taking part in that evening. Vivian told her mother she would drive to Brainerd and attend the recital and intended to take Betty on a vacation trip to Kansas City with her. Later that day she arrived at the farm driving a 1933 Ford Sedan accompanied by two men, one of whom she introduced as Mr. Stacci while she called the other Johnnie. They informed the Gibsons they had driven from St Paul. After attending the dance recital at Brainerd the party returned to the farm and the next morning the two men, Vivian and her daughter Betty left in the Ford Sedan for St. Paul.' (Section 41 Page 130-136 4.12.34 Anderson KC Report, page 130-132)

With a little bit of digging, it was possible to find the article covering the dance recital at Betty's school. The text is included and altered some to enhance Betty's name, as Vivian and most mothers would have read it. Let us keep in mind Vivian insisted on going to Betty's recital. The two men accompanying her, Louis Stacci and the man named Johnny who was probably Stacci's brother were in the Chicago Outfit. Must have been an interesting ballet.

Brainerd Daily Dispatch May 17, 1933 Brainerd, Minnesota

News briefs: Edited By MARY HAWKINS

ANNUAL SPRING FROLIC CAMP FIRE GIRLS
THURSDAY, FRIDAY AT SCHOOL

Annual spring frolic, sponsored by the Camp Fire girls to raise money to send the Brainerd members to the summer camp and to insure the carrying on of Camp Fire girls' activities in this city, will be held Thursday at 4 p.m. and Friday evening at 8 o'clock in the Washington High School auditorium. A gala program has been arranged. It features the dancing pupils of Miss Nell Silverman, instructor whose development of dancing classes in several sections has been lauded by critics everywhere, and will embody ballet, Spanish, acrobatic and tap dancing. Mrs. Betty Witham will be

the accompanist at the piano. Tickets are now on sale for this event. It is deserving of everyone's support in that it will provide the necessary funds for sending the Camp Fire girls to camp this year. The program is unusual in its characterization of the Terpsichorean art. Many children, ranging in age from eight to 18 years old will participate in the programs that are expected to draw capacity crowds to the auditorium.

The program:

Part I Silhouette- Ballet; Betty Jane Paine, Winifred Loom, Beth Pulkrabek, Betty Mae Koop, Jerry Bogganostos, Florence Richards. Fascination Little-Ballet; **Betty Mathis**, Nanie Bobs Hitch. Jazz Toe; Jerry Bogganostos. Toe Acrobatic; Beth Pulkrabek. The Dying Swan; Betty Mae Koop. Blue Danube, finale; Big Ballet. A Group of Camp Songs; Brainerd Camp Fire Girls.

Part II Good Night Vienna: tango and voice solo; Winifred Loom, Beth Pulkrabek, Jerry Bogganostos, Betty Jane Paine, Florence Richards, Betty Mae Koop. Gypsy Fantasy; **Betty Mathis**. Estudiantes, Spanish dance; Betty Jane Paine. Y Como-le-hago tango; **Betty Mathis**, Jerry Bogganostos. Tambourine Dance; Florence Richards. Finale, Habanera from Carmen; By Ensemble. Play; Wieners on Wednesday, Coached by Mrs. Burnett. Cast Mr. Wm. Foster, Helen Stout, Mrs. Foster, Marcella Van Essen...

Part III

1. Modern Flora Dora; Winifred Loom, Beth Pulkrabek, Jerry Bogganostos, Betty Jane Paine, Betty Mae Koop, Florence Richards.
2. Military Buck; Madeline Layman, Jerry Bogganostos.

3. You're Getting to Be a Habit With Me; Winfred Loom, Beth Pulkrabek.
4. School Days; Nanie Bobs Hitch, Lois Bush, **Betty Mathis**, Jerry Bogganostos.
5. I'm Yours for Tonight. Tap lineup.
6. Forty-Second Street; Beth Pulkrabek, Winifred Loom, Betty Mae Koop, Florence Richards, Madeline Layman.
7. Grand Finale, Shuffle Off to Buffalo: Entire Ensemble.

CI Information

Kansas City Police Chief Thomas Higgins hired the Burns Detective Agency to watch and report on activities at the Gibson Farm. The telephone company, post office, and two members of the Parker family were looking for any sign of Verne or Vi. While agent Hall was investigating, he spoke with Burns detectives WS Gordon and Roy Lapitz, who were staking out the Gibson farm from a nearby cottage they rented. With respect to the two trips Vi and Betty made in May and June, Hall's Report covered the details. CE Parker had the June 6 date off by two weeks, Clyde Parker spoke with agent Hall and gave him the correct information.

"C.E. Parker, who resides ten miles from Brainerd on North Long Lake near the home of John Gibson informed agent Thomas since contacted by agent JD Glass he had watched the Gibson family and its visitors to secure further information of value. He does not believe Verne Miller has visited the Gibson place for over a year and stated Vivian Mathis comes there very seldom.... On or about June 6th Vivian Mathis with two unknown men appeared at the Gibson place with a new Chevrolet Coupe remaining there one day and departed taking Betty with them. Vivian and her daughter returned alone in this car on or about Sunday June 25, 1933, Vivian remaining there only about 10 minutes then went away alone in the car." "Parker talked with Betty afterward and she informed him they went to St Paul, then Chicago

then came back from Chicago to St Paul by airplane and travelled back to the Gibson place in the Chevrolet coupe which Betty Mathis said belonged to Mrs. Ryan, a friend of Vivian Mathis. She also told Mr. Parker Vivian Mathis intends to return in July to get her and take her and her grandparents to the World Fair in Chicago.... At the Brainerd post office mail cover revealed Betty Mathis had received a box of salt water taffy from Atlantic City, New Jersey.’ ‘Clyde E Parker, who lives on North Long Lake and who owns the Brainerd Foundry stated: “Gibson and his wife are law abiding citizens, very honest” reside on the Clyde Parker farm some 200 yards from Clyde Parker’s house on North Long Lake, also called Parkerville.... His phone is on the same party line as the Gibson’s...before school was out this year, being sometime in May 1933, Vivian Mathis, accompanied by two men whose identification is unknown, appeared at the Gibson farm in a new Chevrolet Coupe.’ ‘Burns Detective Agency was retained by the Kansas City Police Department to monitor John Gibson in Brainerd. WS Gordon from the Minneapolis office and Roy Lapitz from the Chicago office spoke with agent Hall and they shared some information about what they had learned and will continue to do so.’ (Section 13 Pages 3-42 7.27.33 Hall St Paul Report, page 25-27 & page 32)

“Mrs. Ryan”

Betty Mathis insisted the one-seated Ford Vivian borrowed to drive her to Brainerd June 25 was a Chevrolet borrowed from a Mrs. Ryan. The only follow-up on the name Ryan mentioned in the file was the fact someone named Ryan was attached to the Holden-Keating file. Verne and Vi knew two people who used the name Ryan as an alias all the time and another who did occasionally. It is not at all clear who Betty referred to. It appeared easy to assume the name Mrs. Ryan was probably a simple diversion to make it easy for Betty to remember a name in case she was ever asked about who she and her mother stayed with on the way to Kansas City and on the way back to Brainerd. While chasing down this detail the writer uncovered the following information as a potential “Ryan” option.

The first and least probable Ryan option was William J Harrison aka WJ Harrison aka Willie Harrison, aka WJ Ryan. Harrison was part of the Bremer kidnapping plot in early 1934 and a known associate of Doc Barker, Fred Barker, Alvin Karpis, John McLaughlin, William Weaver, Harry Sawyer, Elmer Farmer, Harry Campbell, Volney Davis, Jack Pfeifer, and was a part of the Al Capone liquor syndicate. He was reportedly killed in October 1935 because Alvin Karpis and Fred Barker suspected he might provide incriminating information about the Bremer kidnapping. His body, well, some of his body, was burned in a barn October 17, 1935. Only the burned torso was found. The head, arms, and legs were never found. Definitely a bad guy, but there is no indication Harrison aka Ryan was married or attached to a woman known as Mrs. Ryan.

The second candidate for the Ryan in Betty's story was Leon J Lyons aka Robert Ryan aka James Moore aka Jimmy Lyons aka Fred Ryan. Lyons had a list of impressive known associates which included Thomas "Yonnie" Licavoli and his brother Peter Joseph Licavoli, Leggs Layman, Fred Burke, Eva Brown, and Bob Kennedy. Lyons married Mary Roche using the name James Moore February 18, 1931 in Hastings, Minnesota. Mary Moore was born in Lakeville, Minnesota July 22, 1908. So, she did have some things in common with Vivian Mathis. She used the alias May Lyons, Mrs. Ryan, Mary Lane Moore, and other aliases. She was previously married to a man named Mollers who died sometime before 1931. They had a daughter who was born about 1925 in Lakeville, Minnesota. According to Mary Roche, Moore's mother Emma Roche, Mary was much more dangerous than James Moore. In her opinion her daughter should never be allowed outside a prison unless she was "examined by a doctor." She was a psychopath. In the early 1930's Mary Roche Moore was the only female bank robber on record in Minnesota. After she was arrested in late 1935 for the attempted robbery of a Twin Lakes bank, she started talking. She claimed her husband, James Moore aka Robert Ryan or Fred Ryan admitted to several crimes, including the high-profile murder of Detroit "reformed criminal" and radio personality Gerald "Jerry" Buckley on July 22, 1930, in the La Salle Hotel lobby

in Detroit. On January 9, 1936, Leon Lyons was shot and killed by Sheriff Roy H Wolfe and four of his deputies near South Bend, Indiana. Two days later the Detroit Police Department Homicide Squad interviewed Mary Moore at the Women's Reformatory at Shakopee, Minnesota regarding the Buckley Murder Case.

Neither of the individuals who were known associates of Verne and Vi who used the alias Ryan appear to be a good fit for Betty Mathis' story. One was not married nor involved with a woman using the name Mrs. Ryan and neither one ever had enough money to buy a new automobile. They were barely making enough money to feed themselves.

Another option was Paula Harmon. Her deceased husband Charles Harmon used the alias T.C. Ryan and Paula used the name Mrs. Ryan. She did not own a car though and was not known to drive. Probably never did. In May and June she was riding with Fred Barker in his Essex automobile and was at the home in St Paul June 17 during the Hamm kidnapping.

It is a good policy to pursue leads as far as they go; however, it appears there was no one named Ryan involved in the case. This is much more information than the file has on the matter. Vi probably used her blue and black 1933 Chevrolet four door sedan to pick up Betty in Brainerd on May 19-20 with Louis Stacci and another man named Johnny. And Vi probably borrowed the small one seated Ford from Edna Grace Davis aka Edna Murray in St. Paul to return Betty to Brainerd about June 25. Edna and Volney Davis were also part of the Hamm kidnapping group and Vi gave them an alibi by stating she stayed with them when she arrived in Chicago after leaving Kansas City. She likely accompanied Edna from St. Paul to Chicago where Edna rejoined Volney Davis and proceeded to a cottage on Long Lake 60 miles northwest of Chicago.

Bureau's Second Attempt at the Gibson Farm

Agent E N Notesteen and another agent at St. Paul drove to Brainerd on July 3, 1934, to follow up the Anderson Report of April 12. The Bureau wanted Betty to reveal more information than she did in the first interview. Agent Anderson left Brainerd with the impression the Gibsons were comfortable helping find the perpetrators and would be willing to talk further. Notesteen was from Huron, South Dakota so perhaps the Bureau thought the Gibsons would relate to him.

Unfortunately, when Notesteen appeared at the Gibson farm Bertha Gibson "immediately became hysterical." The Gibsons were angry "due to the activities of agents of the Division the family had been ostracized in the community." "Mrs. Gibson stated repeatedly Betty had already told everything she knew, as had both Mr. and Mrs. Gibson; if the Division desired any further information it should go to the gossips in the locality who know everything and much more than was known by the family. Mrs. Gibson would not enlarge upon this statement except to say everyone in the neighborhood knew all about the 'Miller Case' and the gossips knew a lot that never happened."

Betty was not at home when the agents appeared. The Gibsons would not tell the agents when they expected her to return. Mrs. Gibson would not allow the agents to speak with Betty and instructed them to leave her alone and "stop persecuting her."

Poor agent Notesteen did not receive the sort of reaction he was expecting. Unknown to him, the Burns detectives were pressing their contacts for information. And rural small-town America can harbor people who enjoy minding other people's business, gossiping, and judging others. When they are incentivized to find out information negative behaviors can become even worse. The Bureau had not done anything to cause a problem, the Burns detectives and one CI had poisoned the well.

The positive side of rural America is most folks are honest, hard workers, humble, self-reliant, and possess a strong sense of right and

wrong. They value freedom, independence, and relationships with people they know in a way city people and the government do not understand. As dairy farmers, the Gibsons were involved in an especially challenging business. One of the most challenging sorts of agricultural work in the author's view. It requires long hours, significant financial commitment, and a lot of knowledge.

The Ricchetti and Floyd families endured similar problems to the Gibsons. It is not pleasant to know all phone calls are being listened to, mail is opened and read, people talk negatively to others, or being cut off from people who were previously thought of as friends.

It takes a lot to rile up most country folks, but when it happens, they can give someone "what for" in a way it will not be forgotten. Hoover was known for tirades, but he was not nearly as tough as any farmer or rancher in the country. In this instance, Mr. Gibson did not even say much. When her home and family are threatened then a farmer's wife will make things absolutely clear. Mr. Gibson knew it was best to let her unload. Duly humbled, Notesteen left the farm. The Bureau never darkened the Gibsons doorstep again.

(Section 49 Page 22-23 7.10.34 Notesteen St Paul Report)

Lillian Holden Spotted in Brainerd?

'Frank Mulloy told the Bureau the woman who had stayed with the Millers at Edgevale was known to him as Aunt Lil, who was Lillian Holden. A license plate trace was requested by the Kansas City office on July 26 for ownership of Illinois tags 816-254 on a Chevrolet sedan driven by Lillian Holden. According to a CI for the Kansas City police, the car and Holden may have appeared with Vivian Mathis at Brainerd, Minnesota the latter part of June 1933. The "small daughter of Mathis" has been returned to Brainerd at the home of Mathis' father John Gibson.'

The Report implied the license plate on Lillian Holden's Chevrolet sedan was a match for the car seen in Brainerd June 25. However, a

closer reading reveals Lillian Holden owned the Chevrolet sedan with the license plate Kansas City inquired about, and a different Chevrolet sedan with an Illinois license plate was seen on the car which showed up *May* 19. There was not a confirmation of what the license number on the car seen in Brainerd was. Vivian's blue and black Chevrolet sedan had an Illinois license plate on it until June 15. Furthermore, there was no confirmation from anyone another woman accompanied Vivian and Betty on June 25 when she drove to the farm in a small one seated Ford. Both Vivian and Lillian had Chevrolet sedans, not small, not one seat, and not Fords. (Section 12 Page 48-81 7.28.33 Trainor KC Report, page 79)

Lillian Holden came into the Belle Claire Beauty Parlor at Armour and Gilham on July 12. She was described as "the red-head girl known at the beauty shop as the sister of VC Mason had her hair done. She appeared nervous. She had not had a beauty treatment in some time and had stains under her fingernails which appeared to be hair dye. She told Mrs. Alexander Vi left for the World's Fair in Chicago." (Section 8 Pages 107-199 7.15.33 Trainor KC Report)

It is not known where Lillian Holden went after Verne and Vi left town. She did live at the Mulloy home before they moved to Edgevale so it could be a possibility she returned to Mulloy's. It does not appear she left Kansas City for Chicago until after July 12 though. Regardless of where Lillian Holden may have been, it appears the CI passed on bad information.

DOG

For all their detail-oriented investigative work, the Bureau never examined an interesting angle. The Kansas City Star printed a long, mostly false, article in August 1933 titled "Big Dog His Bodyguard." 'Verne Miller owns the big yellow dog, Rex, who did not bark or growl, he was kept chained to the front porch pillar of the Edgevale house, his coat may be dyed now to appear as a German police dog; Rex was reportedly on the front seat of the car when Verne Miller left

the Edgevale Road home when he left town.’ (Section 83 or SUB A2 Page 144 8.15.33 KC Star)

Miller had a brown brindle colored bulldog named Teddy, not Rex. He was not vicious, nor did he resemble a police dog. Although police were known to use several dog breeds in the era and had not migrated to mostly German Shepherds yet. Besides, Kansas City did not have a canine unit until four dogs were donated by citizens to the Police Department in 1960. And no one saw Miller leave town with a dog on his front seat. A maid working across the street at the Erle Smith home did see a couple moving a few things out of Miller’s home on Wednesday morning June 21st and thought she saw a dog or a person inside the car. The people she saw at the home were Frank and Edna Mulloy with Rosemary remaining inside their gray Packard.

People are wired to recognize something unusual, such as babies and dogs. It triggers a memory mechanism. Also, it can be a disarming way to interact with someone who is not well-known to them, and the interaction tends to stand out in someone’s memory more so than an encounter without something unusual or out of the ordinary injected into the situation.

Miller was about to go on the run and did not need an animal to care for or attract attention. Taking Teddy to the Gibson farm in Brainerd may have been a thought but Vi and Betty showed up without the dog in tow. And neither Vi nor Betty were ever asked about Teddy when they were interviewed. The dog is one of those loose ends. An investigator such as Lt. Columbo would want to know about the dog. “It’s probably not important, but something is bothering me, what happened to the dog? My basset hound can be a lot of trouble sometimes, and we never bothered to give him a name, but Mrs. Columbo would kill me if something happened to him. So, what happened to Verne and Vi’s dog Teddy? Where did he go?”

The dog is hardly mentioned in the file, although Frances Nash mentioned him twice. Perhaps because she and her first husband ran a

kennel in Chicago. Someone having a dog seemed important to her. Frances Nash recalled: 'she met someone named Mother and her sons Freddy and Doc in St. Paul and identified a photo of Fred Barker. She saw them on another occasion at Louie's Place. While in St. Paul on June 10, 1933 with Frank Nash, they spent the night at a home of some friends but does not remember the address. The house was rented to Fred Barker, Doc Barker was with him, and a woman named Paula. After she left Joplin on June 17 she went to Wenona, Illinois to Chicago and then the residence of Louis Stacci, talked to his wife Helen and a brother named Johnny Stacci drove her from Chicago back to Wenona. She provided names of different places and friends with agents and details about Dick Galatas. Finally, she mentioned Miller had a large brown pet bull dog named Teddy.' (Section 15 Page 67-84 8.11.33 Trainor KC Report, page 72)

August 30 Frances Nash was interviewed again in Kansas City where she provided a timeline of names dates and places, 'she and Frank Nash were at Louis Cernocky's place in Cary, Illinois frequently in the summer of 1932. Frank Nash was drunk for about three weeks. She could always tell when Verne and Vi were there because his brindle dog would lay in front of the bar, they met Alvin Karpis, Helen Ferguson, Kate, Fred, and Doc Barker at Louie's place that summer.' (Section 19 Page 57-88 9.23.33 Keating Chicago Report, page 75)

A salesman at Saks Fifth Avenue also noted Miller's dog when he, Frank Nash, and Gus Winkler got some new suits. 'A suit purchased under name George W Miller gave the Hotel Piccadilly New York as his address. The suit was purchased for cash on November 22, 1932. There were two other suits and an overcoat sold in size 42. Salesman Herbert Strauss recalls the transaction and immediately identified Verne Miller as the other buyer who he had done other prior transactions with. Gus Winkler was apparently the third man who bought a suit and overcoat. Strauss described Miller as having a pleasant personality, friendly, easy to do business with and had a small bulldog he was quite fond of.' (Section 26 Page 148-156 12.5.33 Tracy NY Report, page 153)

For whatever reason, the presence of a dog triggered three memories of events which might not have been recalled so vividly otherwise. Maybe the dog is not so important. It was not seen at Washington Court, but neither was Betty. It was not at Brainerd. There is a clue though. Vivian told the Bureau after Verne returned from downtown the night of the shooting someone came to the door. She did not know who it was and went into their bedroom. The implication was the man who showed up took Floyd and Ricchetti away. A different version of her story said they had been gone since mid-morning though.

Who came to the door? Why did the dog not bark or make a ruckus when a stranger came to the door in the dark? Bulldogs are not necessarily aggressive, but they are protective of their territory and family. Regardless of whether this incident had anything to do with Floyd & Ricchetti leaving, the unnamed visitor was not a stranger and was known to the dog. Perhaps he took the dog away so Miller would not have to take care of it while on the run? Perhaps one of the men who helped at the station was going to have to leave town because he was recognized, and Verne gave him Teddy as a present for his girlfriend in New York? Unanswered questions can be so bothersome. Perhaps there is a simple answer somewhere?

After the Kansas City Police Department named Verne Miller and William Weisman as suspects in the shooting, the New York office requested the Pinkerton Detectives to help update their file on William Weisman, including any of his close contacts. On July 21, 1933, SAC Cullen in New York sent a memo and a copy of a July 20 Pinkerton National Detective Agency report on William Weisman to Kansas City:

‘please advise whether the facts are such as to warrant an investigation looking toward his location. New York office file #62-2721 on William Weisman is his connection with murder of John Finiello at Elizabeth, New Jersey September 19, 1930. Investigation at Theodore Lapres advised photo of Verne Miller resembles the person who shipped the taffy to Betty

Mathis. Includes copy of a report on Rising Sun Brewery involving William Weisman, Nicholas Delmore, Albert Silverberg, John Newman. Witness August Goebel was a fireman but was killed in 1932 probably to prevent him from testifying. Weisman was also wanted for the robbery of David Antick of the Sun Drug Company of Los Angeles May 31, 1925 and killing Antick September 27, 1930. Silverberg and Newman were arrested at St. Paul July 26, 1932 for killing New York gangster Albie Wagner. Tried, convicted, sentenced to life in prison at Duluth State Prison. Silverberg was born in Philadelphia, connected with Mike Duffy. Weisman, his girlfriend Nellie Connors, and Delmore lived together in St. Paul for several months. Weisman has a record in Kansas City charged with murder along with Gus Berger with whom he operated a restaurant in St. Louis, for the May 15, 1921 murder (name of victim and location omitted), the same Gus Berger was nearly killed several weeks ago in Newark and he has been confined in jail since. Another Weisman associate Abraham Goldfeder with a St. Louis record was killed three weeks ago at Hillside New Jersey between Elizabeth and Newark and the killing was believed to have been connected to Berger's murder. On June 29th Murray Marks aka Murray Moll, a Weisman associate in St Louis was killed in New York. In May 1923 William Weisman lived at 3052 Thomas Street in St. Louis later moved to 1448 Burd Avenue, St. Louis. Married Mary Agnes Lunz January 18, 1914 in St Louis. She is German "but speaks Jewish fluently" one son Stanley about 21 years old attending college in Missouri presently in Newark on vacation and was present when Goldfeder was buried, daughter Shirley lives in Newark, his father Frank Weisman is dead, mother re-married as Mrs. Bessie Shanker lives at 222 Chancellor Avenue in Newark telephone

Waverly 2-5150. Wife Mary E. Weisman lives at 211 Chancellor Avenue in Newark. Weisman is connected to “his sweetheart” Nellie Connors at 321 West 55th Street in New York, a former cabaret singer, lived with her in July 1932 in St. Paul as Mrs. William Stern. *She is described as 35 years old 5 feet 8 inches tall, medium build, red bobbed hair, usually has a **bulldog with her.***

(Section 10 Page 154-159 7.21.33 Cullen NY to KC)

This is the closest the case file comes to possibly solving the mystery of where Verne Miller’s bulldog Teddy ended up. Perhaps an unimportant detail; however, sometimes curiosity about something seemingly unimportant reveals things which are vital. As it happens, it sure appears Weisman was tied to Miller and the station shooting somehow. It would have been nice to know if Weisman brought Miller’s dog from Kansas City to New York, would it not?



Adam Ricchetti was tried and executed for killing Frank Hermanson. A Bureau agent killed Detective Hermanson. The agent killed two men before any "outlaw" even fired a shot. His fellow agents and agency covered it up and committed perjury.

KANMO Dossier

Union Station Shooting & Aftermath

by Ronald E Harlow

Order the complete book from the publisher [Booklocker.com](https://www.booklocker.com)

<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/12972.html?s=pdf>

**or from your favorite neighborhood
or online bookstore.**