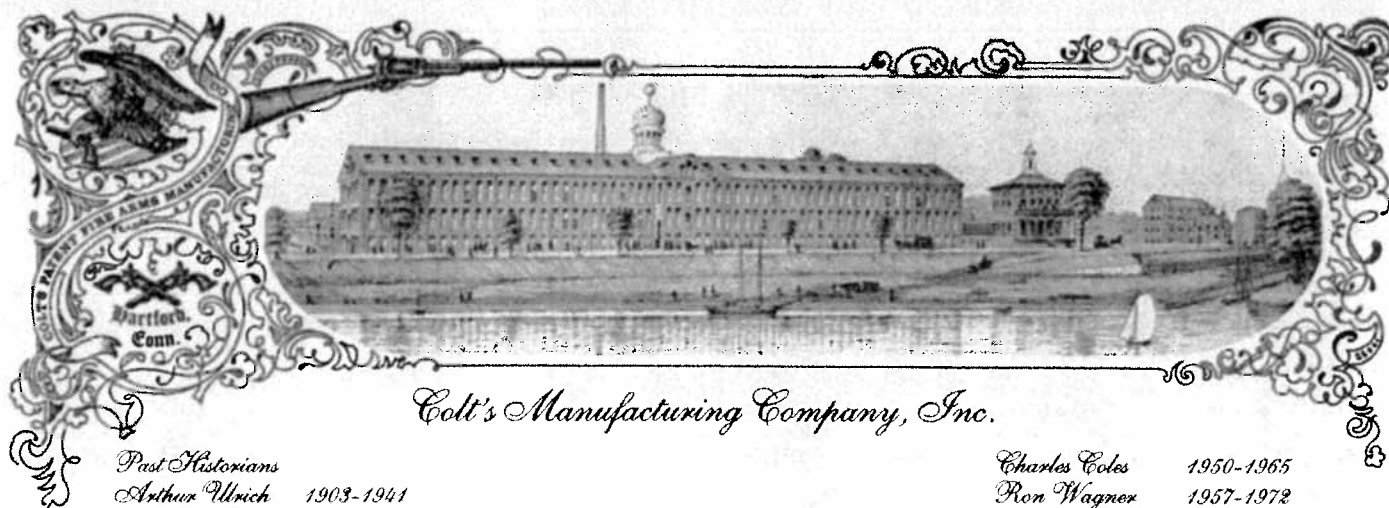




Colt's Manufacturing Company, Inc.

Past Historians

Arthur Ulrich 1903-1941
Harold Hart 1942-1945

Charles Coles 1950-1965
Ron Wagner 1967-1972
Martin Huber 1972-1993

August 8, 2001

Mr. Derrik Hufsmith

Dear Mr. Hufsmith:

Colt, by the means of this letter, is proud to authenticate the manufacture of the Colt firearm with the following serial number:

COLT MODEL 1903 HAMMERLESS POCKET AUTOMATIC PISTOL

Serial Number:	216003
Caliber:	.32/c
Barrel Length:	Not Listed
Finish:	Blue
Type of Stocks:	Not Listed
Shipped To:	Shapleigh Hardware Company
Address:	St. Louis, Missouri
Date of Shipment:	August 7, 1916
Number of Same Type	
Guns in Shipment:	100

We trust you will find the historical information, retrieved from the original Colt shipping records, to be of interest.

Sincerely,

Kathleen J. Hoyt

Kathleen J. Hoyt
Historian

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Office of the Historian, Colt's Manufacturing Company, Inc. P. O. Box 1868, Hartford, CT 06144



John Dillinger was born on June 22, 1903 in Indianapolis. A typical boy, except his mother died when he was three and he was raised by his sister until his father John W. remarried in 1912.

In 1919 the elder Dillinger moved the family to a farm near Mooresville. The family would eventually consist of two-half sisters and a half-brother. He thought the farm life would be good for his children. John never took to the farm and spent most of his free time in Indianapolis or in Martinsville, south of Mooresville.

In 1923, after John had supposedly stolen a automobile, he joined the Navy to escape arrest. No charges were ever filed on the matter. If the thief had actually taken place is not for certain.

Within months John jumped ship and headed back home, telling people he was discharged from the Navy. In early 1924 he met a sixteen year old Martinsville girl named Beryl Hovious and married her in April. It was soon apparent John took to married life as he did to the Navy. Often out late, the young couple quarreled violently.

John met Ed Singleton while playing on the Martinsville baseball team. An older man with a criminal record, he told John stories about ways to make easy money and it is apparent Singleton coerced the young, impressionable Dillinger into robbing an elder Mooresville grocery, B.F. Morgan.

On the evening of September 6, 1924 Dillinger, who had been drinking, accosted Morgan as he walked past the Christian Church. Armed with a .32 revolver and a bolt wrapped in a handkerchief, Dillinger hit the grocer over the head with the bolt, when Morgan fought back, John hit him again. With this, Morgan began shouting and grabbed the gun John was holding. It discharged, Dillinger fearing he shot the man, ran. Singleton was suppose to be waiting in a car for him, but Dillinger found his partner had disappeared.

John was picked up a few days later and questioned. There was no hard evidence against him, even Morgan refused to believe it was John who attacked him. But he was persuaded to plead guilty and was promised a lenient sentence, so John did so without a lawyer present.

The Judge threw the book at the young Dillinger sentencing him to 10 to 20 years in Pendleton. Singleton who had a past criminal record and had a lawyer, was given half the time.

John Dillinger had good reason to be angry. Singleton made parole in a couple years and John languished in prison for nine years and during this time his wife divorced him. Even though his marriage had began rocky, he soon grew to adore his young wife and was devastated over the divorce. So much he requested a transfer to the Michigan City prison to rejoin his friends Harry Pierpont and Homer Van Meter who had been transeferred there several years before John.

John was paroled on May 22, 1933 with one thing on his mind....to earn back the nine years that were taken from him. He was going to make a name for himself in a very short time span. The golden era of bank robbery was coming to a close and John knew his time was limited.

Before his release he and Harry Pierpont masterminded a mass prison escape and John would be the one to see it happen. Robbing several banks and businesses to raise the money to smuggle guns to Pierpont in Michigan City, working with an assortment of ex-convicts. William Shaw, Harry Copeland, Hilton Crouch, Sam Goldstein were among them.

Dillinger began dating a sister of a convict that was included in the prison escape, Mary Longnaker. She had been living in a boarding house at Dayton, Ohio. The police were alerted to this and on Septmber 22, 1933 John was arrested there while he visited her.

On September 26 Pierpont and nine others boldly escaped from the Michigan City prison with the guns smuggled in by Dillinger. Included in the escape were Charles Makley, Russell Clark, John hamilton, Ed Shouse, Walter Dietrich, Joe Burns, Joe Fox, Jim Clark and Longnaker's brother, James Jenkins.

Dillinger admitted to a Bluffton, Ohio bank robbery and was transferred to the Allen County Jail in Lima. Secretly, John most likely thought Pierpont could break him out of the smaller jail if he happened to come looking for him. Which, undoubtly Harry did.

On the evening of October 12, Harry Pierpont, Charles Makley and Russell Clark paid a visit

a visit to the Lima jail. Before they left they had freed John and murdered the Sheriff, Jess Sarber. The murder of the Sheriff had upset Dillinger. Contrary to most stories on John, he was not a cold blooded killer and felt Pierpont didn't have to kill Sarber.

For the next several months the gang raided the Auburn and Peru, Indiana police stations of weapons. They also robbed a Greencastle, Indiana and Racine, Wisconsin bank. Supposedly Dillinger and John Hamilton robbed a East Chicago bank on January 15, 1934 where John was said to have killed Officer Patrick O'Malley. There are many who speculate if Dillinger was actually there and if he was, the murder was an accident. The robber had fired at the legs of O'Malley and the policeman fell into the firing range.

The gang had been laying low in Daytona Beach, Florida. Pierpont decided the gang should move onto Tucson, Arizona. The group had enough money to last awhile and the eastern part of the country was looking for them everywhere. It was to be their undoing.

Russell Clark, Charles Makely, Harry Pierpont and John Dillinger were rounded up within hours of each by the Tucson police force on January 25. With them were their girlfriends, Mary Kinder, Billie Frechette and Opal Long. Long and Frechette were later released for lack of evidence, but the rest were sent back to Indiana. Pierpont, Makley and Clark were transferred back to the Michigan City prison to await extradition to Lima, Ohio where they would stand trial for the murder of Jess Sarber. Dillinger was sent to the Lake County Jail in Crown Point, Indiana to stand trial for the murder of Patrick O'Malley. Mary Kinder was held in Indianapolis for suspicion of aiding in the Michigan City escape, but was later released when the state was unable to build a case against her.

Dillinger once bragged no jail could hold him. The Indiana badman meant it. On March 3, 1934, John Dillinger walked out of the Crown Point jail with what he later stated, was a wooden gun. It is theorized the wooden gun was smuggled into him and that he did not whittle it himself during his many free moments at the jail.

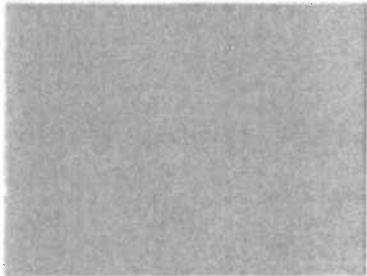
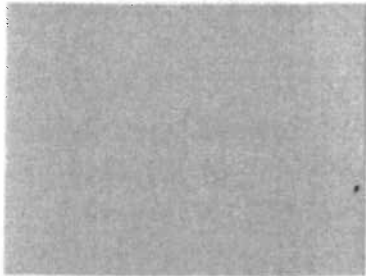
On the loose again, John quickly joined up with John Hamilton and his old friend Homer Van Meter. At this time Dillinger could not be too chosey about his associates and it is highly doubtful he had wanted to work with Lester Gillis, known as "Baby Face" Nelson. The gang Dillinger and Pierpont had formed was now gone forever.

Hitting the Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Mason City, Iowa banks where heavy gunfire was encountered during both. Dillinger had been wounded in the shoulder during the Iowa robbery. The risks were beginning to be not the worth to John.

Hiding out with his girlfriend, Billie Frechette at the Lincoln Court Apartments in St. Paul on the end of March. The caretaker had reported some suspicious activities and two FBI agents paid a call on apartment 303. Frechette opened the door and the agents asked to talk to Carl Hellman. Forgetting John's alias at first, she told them he wasn't there. They asked to speak to her then. Billie told them to wait while she dressed.

After a few minutes, Dillinger clears the way with a machine gun and he and Billie escape with John only receiving a wound in the leg. After spending a couple days mending at another hideout, they both head to Mooresville, the least likely place the FBI would be looking for John.

The Final Months HOME



Dear Mr. Trickel,

William Helmer's book "Dillinger" credits you with the photograph of Dillinger's arraignment. Your address was obtained from the "Machine Gun" site. Although the photograph is not very sharp, the person seated at Dillinger's left side appears to be my father, George W. Hufsmith, who was an Assistant Attorney General in 1934. During his life, my father told me that he had been involved in preparing the prosecution of Dillinger, and that he had accompanied the young gangster on his return from Illinois, and found John to be a "polite and personable young farm boy gone bad."

After John was gunned down, my father was given a Colt 32 automatic (1903) which was purported to be one of John's weapons, as a "memento." George carried the 32 for personal protection through his legal career in Rio de Janeiro Brazil, where I was raised. As a child, I was warned that the safety for the Colt had been filed off and was not operative. George retired in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where he became Teton County Prosecuting Attorney. As a young attorney, I filled his unexpired term in that office, and for a short while I carried the 32 as protection when a contract was made against my life by an underworld figure I was prosecuting for murder.

Now, toward the end of my life, I have become curious about that history, and spent many hours with books and sites on the Internet. For one thing, I would like to have a good copy of your photo to determine whether I can make a more positive identification of my father together with any information you might have of his name in connection with the case.

Thanks for your help, and I stand ready to compensate you for your trouble. Should you prefer, my E-mail address is – hufsmith@juno.com.

Best regards,

Robert A. Hufsmith

AFFIDAVIT OF ROBERT A HUFSMITH

Re: John Dillinger Trophy Pistol

I, Robert A. Hufsmith, 85 years of age and to perpetuate the matters set forth herein do depose and say: from I am the son of George W. Hufsmith, Assistant Attorney General of Indiana from 1929 to and until 1936 and lived in his household at all times and places mentioned herein.

As a curious adolescent, I had rummaged in just about everything in our household and discovered a pistol in the drawer of my father's bedside table. When I asked about it, he was alarmed that I had found it. I was severely admonished not to touch it under any circumstance, that it had belonged to John Dillinger, and that the safety mechanism had been filed off by Dillinger so that it would never be locked when he might have needed to use it. Needless to say, when no one was home, I took the pistol into an empty field and fired it on several occasions in my adolescence, returning it each time exactly as it had been in the bedside drawer. At that time I was unaware of who John Dillinger might be.

John Dillinger had followed a long and notorious career of crime and bank robberies, including the murder of Officer O'Malley in East Chicago (Indiana). My father as assigned to assist in the prosecution of Dillinger, who had fled to Tucson, Arizona, where he was seen and arrested by local police when the hotel in which he was staying caught fire. He was summarily dispatched to Chicago by private airplane, where my father and a contingent of Indiana officers took custody for the trip back to Indiana and trial for the murder of Officer O'Malley.

My father related to me that following the then customary prosecutorial practice, he was handcuffed to the accused, for the return trip, hoping to learn self-incriminating evidence which might then be used against the defendant at trial. During the trip, my father said Dillinger chatted freely, describing him as "a polite, well-mannered country boy gone wrong." Photographs of the arraignment in Crown Point Indiana show my father sitting at the prosecution table, as Dillinger faced the judge. Then, my father explained, Dillinger escaped from jail using a pistol carved from a bar of soap or wood, which he colored with shoe polish, stole the Sheriff's car and drove across the state line to Chicago, Illinois. Murder is a State matter, however J. Edgar Hoover dispatched G-Men to capture

or kill Dillinger on the charge of taking the Indiana Sheriff's stolen car across state lines.

G-men arranged to trap Dillinger as he emerged from the Biograph Theater in Chicago. When he realized what was happening, Dillinger turned and ran, but was immediately shot by G-man Purvis. According to the Gary Post Tribune, his gun clattered to the asphalt pavement as he was shot. Nevertheless, no weapon was found, inventoried or offered in evidence at the inquest. A fake trophy from G-man Purvis to Hoover was proven to have been manufactured after Dillinger's death. The Indiana detectives were present at the Biograph, but they were without jurisdiction. My father was present to persuade Dillinger to waive extradition in case he survived Hoover's G-men. The Indiana men disliked the Chicago police, and the feeling was mutual. A few days following the shooting, the Indiana detectives, having returned to Indiana, were photographed openly displaying an automatic pistol to the Gary Post Tribune (July 24, 1934). My father did not tell me that the Indiana lawmen gave him the pistol as a trophy, but I have no other way to account for how he acquired the "Dillinger gun." My father seldom mentioned his experience with Dillinger nor did he display the "Dillinger Gun" because, I believe, he was uncomfortable owning a trophy that was involved in the violent killing of another human being. As mentioned above, when handcuffed to Dillinger for the trip from Chicago to Crown Point, he found Dillinger to be "a polite, well-mannered country boy gone wrong." In the course of research, I found a newspaper picture as he stood by Dillinger's corpse in the Chicago morgue, clearly showing that he derived no satisfaction from Dillinger's death, or the trophy it represented.

State of Arizona)
)ss.
County of Maricopa)



On this 27th day of February, 2016, before me personally appeared Robert A. Hufsmith, and being first duly sworn, stated that the contents of the foregoing instrument were true, and acknowledged that he signed as his free act and deed.

Commission expires: 12/14/16



STATE OF ARIZONA)
)ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

AFFIDAVIT OF
AUTHENTICATION

ROBERT A. HUFSMITH, being first duly sworn, on his oath deposes and says: At all times mentioned in this affidavit, the undersigned was and now is a qualified and licensed attorney admitted to the Bar of the State of Wyoming. Affiant is the son of GEORGE W. HUFSMITH, deceased member of the Bar of the State of Wyoming and the State of Indiana.

In 1934, George W. Hufsmith was Assistant Attorney General of Indiana in Indianapolis, where affiant was born. He was involved in some notorious cases, one being the prosecution of Stephenson (Grand Dragon of the KKK) for the curious charge of murder, where the cause of death was suicide by the victim of sexual assault. He was also appointed to prosecute John Dillinger, prior to his notorious escape from prison at Crown Point, Indiana using a pistol whittled from a piece of wood. Over some 30 years, my father often repeated the facts of his involvement with this case.

George W. Hufsmith, then Assistant Attorney General for the State of Indiana, was appointed to prosecute John H. Dillinger for bank robbery and murder. In 1934, it was customary for a prosecutor in a criminal case to be handcuffed to the defendant when being returned to Indiana for trial, with the expectation of learning any information from the defendant which might be useful in the subsequent trial. Dillinger was then being held in Chicago, having been returned from Tucson Arizona, where he had been captured. George Hufsmith was dispatched to Chicago and handcuffed to Dillinger for the return trip to Crown Point, to stand trial. Dillinger was described as an intelligent, polite and personable country boy "gone wrong."

Following his escape from the Crown Point jail, Dillinger was gunned down by the FBI in Chicago, which closed the prosecution case in Indiana. Dillinger's 32 caliber Colt automatic was given to George Hufsmith as a memento of the criminal case. He kept the gun for his personal protection during some 15 years of his legal career in Rio de Janeiro Brazil (where affiant was raised), and affiant was very familiar with the firearm.

Affiant was cautioned by his father that Dillinger had filed down the safety catch to guarantee quick access to the weapon. George Hufsmith

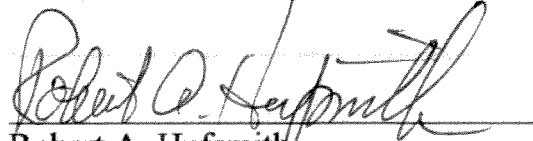
retired in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and after his demise the undersigned became Teton Prosecuting Attorney there, and carried this same 32 Colt for a brief time after a contract was made against affiant's life by an underworld figure charged with conspiracy to commit murder. From Dillinger's hand to a Wyoming law enforcement officer!

George Hufsmith's widow felt insecure living in the remote Wyoming cabin and asked affiant to show her how to use the weapon. After removing the clip, it was given to her so that she might practice arming it by pulling back the slide. After grappling with the gun for a few minutes, she complained that she did not have the strength to cock the gun. "Well, we can try something else," I said. Reinserting the clip, I cocked the slide and put on the safety. "There, all you have to do is release the safety," I said! She declined to take the weapon, saying that she was afraid of it. "Nothing to be afraid of!" I said confidently pointing it at the window and pulling the trigger. Never did I realize how loud a 32 caliber would sound in a closed room, and the window had to be replaced....Of course, I had forgotten about the filed-down safety!

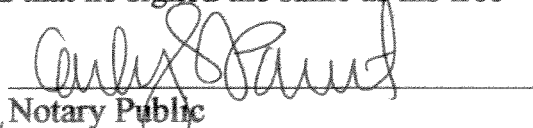
Now she is gone, and affiant has reached an advanced age, and desires to make and publish this affidavit to record the historical events and substantiate the identity of the relic described as:

Colt 32 caliber automatic pistol
Manufactured December 22, 1903
Serial No. 216003

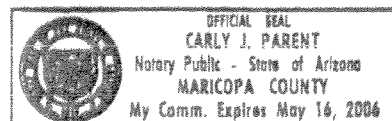
The foregoing affidavit and the facts therein set forth are true and I do so certify upon my oath.


Robert A. Hufsmith

On this 27th day of January, 2004, before me personally appeared Robert A. Hufsmith, who, being first duly sworn by me did state that the contents of the foregoing instrument were true and that he signed the same as his free act and deed.


Notary Public

Commission expires: 16 May 2006



COLT .32 CALIBER HAMMERLESS POCKET AUTOMATIC PISTOL

Serial #216003

(Revised August 26, 2006)

We are in possession of a Colt .32 caliber pocket automatic pistol from the estate of George W. Hufsmith, which is believed to have belonged to John Dillinger. George W. Hufsmith was appointed Assistant Attorney General of Indiana in 1929,¹ where he served until the change of State administration in 1936. During his tenure, Hufsmith was active in State utilities regulation and was assigned to assist local prosecutors in the conduct of criminal cases.

While I was growing up, the Colt pistol was kept in a drawer by my father's bedside for personal protection during his years as head of the legal department for Brazilian Light, Power and Traction Company in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I was warned several times by him not to handle the weapon, partly he explained, because the safety had been filed off by John Dillinger so that it might always be at the ready. In Brazil, I had little interest in who "Dillinger" might have been, and never pressed my father for any detailed explanation. He did tell me on several isolated occasions that in 1934, he was assigned by the Attorney General to assist the local prosecutor, Robert Estill in the prosecution of John Dillinger, who had been recently apprehended in Tucson, Arizona. Following Dillinger's hasty extradition from Arizona to Indiana, my father was among the law enforcement officers who accompanied Dillinger from the Chicago airport to Crown Point, Indiana, where he was to stand trial for the murder of Officer O'Malley during a bank robbery in East Chicago (Indiana). He described Dillinger as having been "a polite, well-mannered young farm boy gone wrong."

My father kept the pistol with little fanfare until his demise in 1959. The pistol was thereafter kept in my possession. For a short time, I carried it after learning that a "contract" had been made upon my life, when, as Prosecuting Attorney in Jackson, Wyoming, I had charged an underworld figure with a life insurance-murder scheme.

My family has urged me to dispose of this historical artifact, and to that end, to document and authenticate it to the extent reasonably possible. Reading the many books on the famous outlaw disclose and tend to support my father's claim of the artifact's identity.

My father's photograph appears to the immediate left of John Dillinger at his arraignment in Crown Point, Indiana,² representing the Attorney General's office to assist the local prosecutor in arraignment proceedings prior to the Crown Point escape.

¹ Indianapolis Star, September 13, 1929.

² Girardin & Helmer, *Dillinger The Untold Story*, (Indiana University Press, 1994), pp. 44-45. A clearer picture appears in PBS Home Video, *Public Enemy # 1*, The American Experience series.

George W. Hufsmith was a person of highly distinctive features. He was 6' 3" tall, having a portly stature of 210 pounds. His facial features were characterized by an olive complexion, a long aquiline nose and cleft chin. For those who knew him, there is no mistaking the identity of my father appearing at the left of Dillinger's corpse in a picture taken at the Cook County Morgue, immediately following the gunning-down at the Biograph Theater in Chicago.¹

To account for his presence, it is necessary to first understand the laws governing bank robbery and murder in 1934. These were not Federal crimes at the time. Dillinger could be arrested in Illinois on an Indiana indictment and held only briefly until extradition proceedings were commenced to bring him back to Indiana for trial. Without prompt extradition proceedings, the accused would be entitled a Writ of Habeas Corpus and immediate release. Extradition is initiated exclusively by the Indiana Attorney General, whereby the Indiana Governor petitioned the Governor of Illinois to surrender the accused to stand trial in Indiana. Assistant Attorney General George Hufsmith was the exact person who would have been dispatched to Chicago to file extradition proceedings if an arrest might be imminent.

It is also necessary to explain the jurisdiction of the FBI and the Chicago police and the function of each in the events at the Biograph Theater. The FBI was a newly formed Federal police force, under J. Edgar Hoover, to cope with cross-border fugitives. In 1934, the FBI authority was limited to powers derived from the Interstate Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution. The Dyer Act (National Motor Vehicle Theft Act) was enacted in 1919, designed to retrieve stolen vehicles. By stealing the Indiana Sheriff's car following his escape from Crown Point, Indiana and by driving across the state line to Illinois, Dillinger committed the only crime for which the FBI derived any authority to arrest. If he had surrendered to FBI agents, he could only have been prosecuted for motor vehicle theft. The Chicago police had jurisdiction to arrest Dillinger on an Indiana warrant for murdering police officer O'Malley. Chicago police resented the encroachment of FBI agents and feelings were openly hostile between the two law enforcement agencies, so much so that the Chicago police boycotted the Inquest into Dillinger's death.² Of all the enforcement agencies, the Indiana police were most highly motivated, after Dillinger had killed one of their own, namely officer O'Malley, during a bank robbery in East Chicago (Indiana). Working outside of their jurisdiction, the Indiana police located Dillinger in Chicago, probably as a result of an illicit relationship between Zarkovich (Indiana policeman) and a Chicago prostitute who was harboring Dillinger, and who ultimately betrayed him to the Federal G-men. It is clear that the Indiana authorities were the first to know the whereabouts of the outlaw. The Indiana Attorney General would have immediately dispatched George Hufsmith to file extradition proceedings in case Dillinger was arrested. Hufsmith would have been working closely with the Indiana police to handle all legal matters when an arrest might be made.

¹ Girardin & Helmer, *Dillinger, The Untold Story*, p. 204.

² Dray Matera, *John Dillinger*, Carroll & Graf (2004), pp. 359.

The circumstances surrounding Dillinger's death strongly suggest that the .32 caliber Colt in Hufsmith's possession was the real weapon which Dillinger carried to the Biograph Theater and which, as will be shown, was never accounted for. Dillinger was seen drawing (or trying to draw) a gun, but the one listed on the FBI inventory and displayed at FBI headquarters turned out to have been manufactured after Dillinger's death, and clearly could not have been his weapon.¹ Agent Melvin Purvis was under enormous pressure to deliver a memento to the publicity-keen J. Edgar Hoover. Purvis claimed to have removed the weapon from Dillinger's hand, although none of the agents at the death scene mention seeing Purvis remove a gun.² Agent Dan Sullivan made a detailed record of Dillinger's possessions, which included a spare magazine for a Colt pistol (but curiously not the pistol itself!)³ A Chicago officer who was the first to search the body swore he found no gun.⁴ No weapon was introduced as evidence at the Inquest to support the claim of "necessary force" in the shooting of Dillinger, nor did agent Purvis appear to testify concerning the weapon he claimed to have recovered.⁵ Much later, after Purvis resigned from government service, he contradicted the identity of the very gun he provided Hoover by writing that the "hammer" of Dillinger's weapon had been caught in the cloth of his trouser pocket, although the inventoried weapon was a hammerless automatic.⁶ The .38 pistol inventoried by the FBI and displayed in Hoover's office was clearly a "ringer" either to ingratiate Hoover, or "planted" at the scene to support the FBI claim of "necessary force" in the shooting of Dillinger. The actual weapon has never been reliably identified or accounted for. However there was one witness who stated that the gun was not in Dillinger's hand, as claimed by Purvis, but "clattered to the asphalt paving as he was shot."⁷

The single hypothesis which would explain the fate of that gun is that Dillinger had indeed drawn a gun, as witnessed, which "clattered to the asphalt paving as he was shot," and was quietly scooped up by the one of the Indiana cops during the ensuing confusion. Being outside of their jurisdiction, they were little more than bystanders, and because of the animosity with the other enforcement agencies, this weapon would not have found its way to the Chicago authorities, much less to the disliked G-men. The Indiana police displayed an automatic pistol, obviously a trophy, in the hand of Captain Timothy O'Neill (Gary Post-Tribune, July 24, 1934), the centerpiece being curiously unmentioned or explained in the picture caption and accompanying article.

Bear in mind that with the shooting, the matter became a Chicago homicide case and entirely outside of the FBI jurisdiction. Purvis was unsure of his role, and turned to a Chicago policeman asking, "What's the procedure now?"⁸ If a .38 caliber automatic had been recovered, it should have been taken with the corpse and other belongings into

¹ Girardin & Helmer, Dillinger, The Untold Story, p. 307.

² Tony Stewart, Dillinger, The Hidden Truth, (Xlibris Corp., 2002), p. 276.

³ Dray Matera, John Dillinger, pp. 356-357.

⁴ Stewart, Dillinger, The Hidden Truth, p. 275.

⁵ Cromie & Pinkston, Dillinger, A Short and Violent Life, McGraw Hill (1962), p. 253.

⁶ Girardin & Helmer, Dillinger, The Untold Story, p. 224.

⁷ The Gary Post Tribune, July 23, 1934.

⁸ Cromie & Pinkston, Dillinger, A Short and Violent Life, (1962), p.4

Chicago police custody, but none was found, inventoried or mentioned, and I offer that it had already been taken, unnoticed, by a member of the Indiana police contingent.

As inappropriate as it may first seem to a layman, souvenirs of notorious legal cases have traditionally been discreetly given as mementos to those having been associated with unusual cases. It is current practice in many jurisdictions to auction off items no longer needed to be held as evidence, simply as a way to unburden crowded evidence lockers. The example of J. Edgar Hoover in this regard was often less than discrete, items being frequently distributed as personal favors to entertainment celebrities to satisfy their macabre curiosity.

The incomplete and contradictory accounts of Dillinger's gun being a .38 automatic could only have been based on assumptions of what he "would be expected to have possessed" and that the actual weapon was the .32 caliber automatic secretly picked up by the Indiana police and given to their senior law enforcement official who was the Indiana Assistant Attorney General. It would behoove George Hufsmith to discreetly keep the memento to avoid annoying publicity and perhaps political criticism for keeping it as his private trophy.

"It was given to me because I had been involved in the prosecution of Dillinger before he escaped with a wooden gun," was the only explanation my father ever gave during his lifetime. The only agency which could have given him such a weapon as a memento would necessarily have been the Indiana police.

It remains to be explained how this particular .32 Colt pistol could have fallen into Dillinger's hands. Apart from the many arsenals of such weapons he possessed at different times, it is worth note that according to the records of Colt Manufacturing Company, the pistol with serial number 216003 was shipped to Shapeleigh Hardware Company in St. Louis Missouri as part of a shipment of 100 same type guns.

On about January 15, 1934, Dillinger and his sweetheart, Billie Frechette drove to St. Louis, Missouri, where they attended an automobile show at the Municipal Auditorium. There he bought a 1933 Hudson Terraplane, and after about a week, they drove on to Tucson, Arizona. ¹ There Dillinger and his gang were captured by police, almost by accident. The women were released without charge, and returned to the Chicago area with their possessions. After escaping from the Crown Point jail, Dillinger was reunited with Billie Frechette for a brief period from March 3 to April 9, 1934, ² thus affording him the opportunity to recover the weapon.

Robert A. Hufsmith
Executor of the estate of George W. Hufsmith
hufsmith@cox.net

¹ Stewart, Dillinger, The Hidden Truth, p.160.

² Girardin & Helmer, Dillinger The Untold Story, pp. 274-275.

DILLINGER

THE UNTOLD STORY

The never before published inside story of one of America's most notorious criminals, including the dramatic tale of how he tricked his way out of an escape-proof jail, eluded capture, and outsmarted J. Edgar Hoover and the F.B.I. until he was betrayed by "The Woman in Red."



GET-DILLINGER!

\$15,000 Reward

DECLARATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



DEAD



G. Russell Gordin
WITH WILLIAM J. HELMER

DILLINGER

IDENTIFICATION
ORDER NO. 1227
March 12, 1934.

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

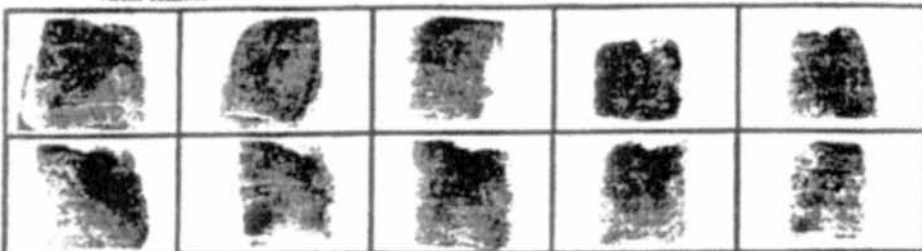
Fingerprint Classification

12 9 8 9
14 1 0 1

WANTED

JOHN DILLINGER, with alias,
FRANK SULLIVAN

NATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT ACT



DESCRIPTION

Age, 31 years
Height, 5 feet 7-1/8 inches
Weight, 163 pounds
Build, medium
Hair, medium chestnut
Eyes, gray
Complexion, medium
Dentures, natural
Nails and scars, 1/2 inch scar
back left hand; scar middle
finger (182) brown mole between
eyebrows
Moustache

Photograph taken January 26, 1934



John Dillinger

CRIMINAL RECORD

As John Dillinger, received
State Reformatory, Indiana,
September 16, 1929; charged
with robbery with intent to
convert to own use, 2 to 16 years
confinement.
As John Dillinger, received
State Reformatory, Indiana,
July 1930; charged with robbery
from Indiana, 2 to 16 years
confinement under Governor - considered
parole.
As John Dillinger, arrested
June 1931, charged, Dayton, Ohio, 1931;
charged, fugitive;
over to Allen County, Ohio,
1931;
As John Dillinger, received County
Jail, Lima, Ohio, September 26, 1932; charged, bank robbery;
As Frank Sullivan, arrested Police Department, Tucson, Arizona,
near to Lake County, Indiana, authorities;
As John Dillinger, 219687, arrested Sheriff's Office, Crown Point, Indiana,
murder - bank robbery; escaped March 3, 1934.
As John Dillinger, received County Jail, Lima, Ohio, January 30, 1934; charged,
fugitive; turned over to Allen County, Ohio, 1934.

The United States Marshal, Chicago, Illinois, advised of arrest of John Dillinger, with feloniously and knowingly
transporting Ford V-8 four door sedan, motor number 219687, property of Lake County, Sheriff, Lake County, Indiana, from Crown
Point, Indiana to Chicago, Illinois, on March 3, 1934.
Law enforcement agencies are requested to keep this information on file and to advise the nearest office of the Division
of Investigation, Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., or the
nearest office of the Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, Chicago, Illinois, of any information received.
Agent in Charge, Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.
J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR.

**A SHORT AND
VIOLENT LIFE**

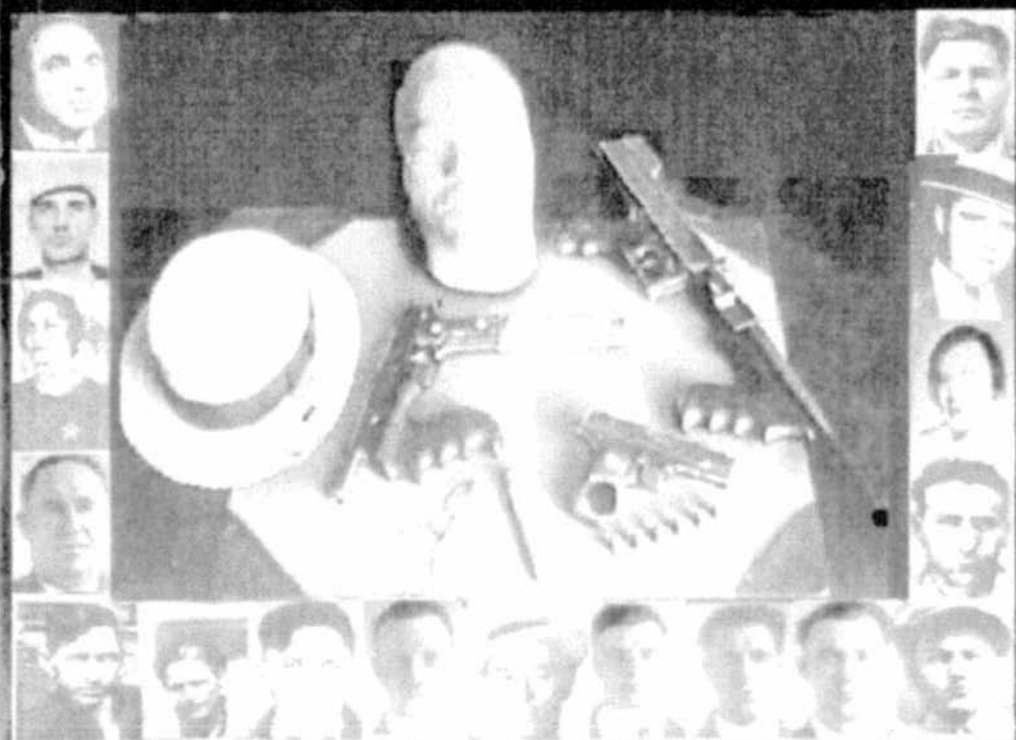
BY
ROBERT CROMIE
AND
JOSEPH PINKSTON

DILLINGER,

The Hidden Truth

*A Tribute to Gangsters and G-Men
of the Great Depression Era*

TONY STEWART



The Life and Death of America's First Celebrity Criminal

