Public Enemies



0. Public Enemies - Story Preface

- 1. PUBLIC ENEMIES in the GREAT DEPRESSION
- 2. JOHN DILLINGER AND HIS FRIENDS
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Mug-shot image of John Dillinger from the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

I stole from the bankers who stole from the people.

> <u>Harry ("Pete") Pierpont</u> Member, Dillinger Gang

Robbing banks and getting away in fast cars, John Dillinger was busy during a thirteen-month crime spree (in 1933-34). How did this gangster, also accused of murdering a police officer and designated "Public Enemy Number One," become an American folk hero? Because Dillinger was also a gum-chewing, easy-quipping, lopsided-grinning, charismatic guy - and journalists loved to write about him.

If it hadn't been for Harry Pierpont, John Dillinger may never have become a "Public Enemy."

If it hadn't been for Indiana's Pendleton Reformatory, the two pals might have never met.

If it hadn't been for a prison in Michigan City, <u>Dillinger</u> may not have learned Pierpont's bank-robbing skills.

And ... if it hadn't been for Dillinger's bank-robbing skills, he might have failed to become the Depression-era's "most wanted man" (whom Americans secretly, or openly, admired).

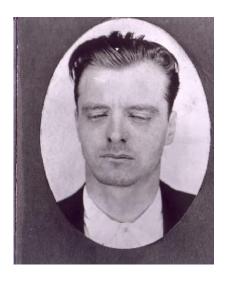
But ... this is not a story about might-have-beens. It's a story about what was - and what became of a group of gangsters who helped give birth to ht's a story about what was - and what became of a group of gangsters who helped give birth to htt's a story about what was - and what became of a group of gangsters who helped give birth to htt's a story about what was - and what became of a group of gangsters who helped give birth to https://example.com/helped-give-beens.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Public-Enemies

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Public-Enemies

Media Stream



Pete Pierpont - Dillinger Gang Member

Photo of Harry ("Pete") Pierpont - mugshot from the Ohio Department of Corrections. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. Quote from *Qutlaws and Gunslingers*, by Alton Pryor, pages 163-64.

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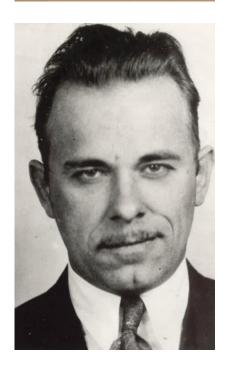


John Dillinger - Age 21

Dillinger's "mugshot," from 1924, online courtesy Archives of the Indiana Department Of Corrections.

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