

# One Dead, One Dying

by Laura Camien

Directed by Jerry Jay Cranford

Produced by Kansas Theatre Works

Kansas State University

November 2020

A Dramaturgical Slideshow by Shannon Blake Skelton, PhD

With Contributions from Heather Bigwood and Prof. Kathy Voecks



- January 2, 1932
- Missouri in the Great Depression
- Stolen Cars
- 2 Sisters Make a Mistake
- A Solitaire Farmhouse
- Tear Gas and Shotgun Blasts
- A Shoot Out and Massacre
- 6 Bodies on the Frozen Ground
- A Pair of Brothers Flee
- 2 Bodies in Texas
- A Crime Forgotten to Time . . .

**Kansas Theatre Works  
Presents**

# **One Dead, One Dying**

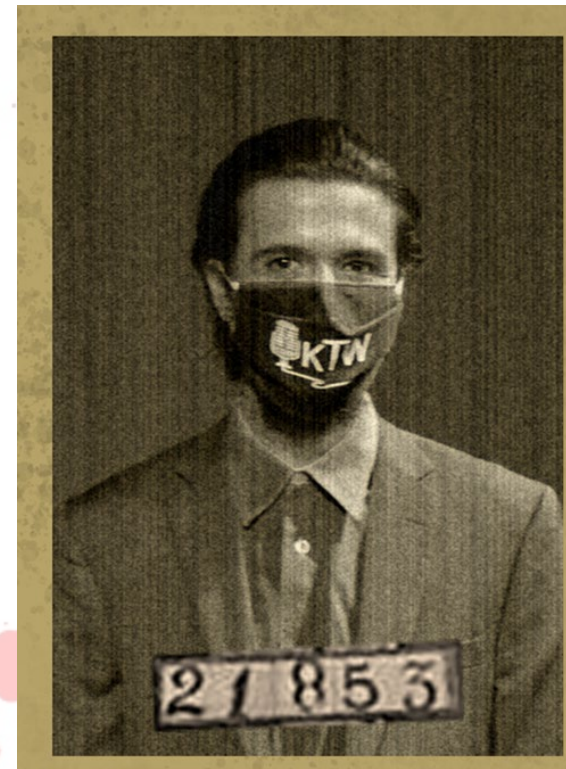
by  
Laura Camien



Harry and Jennings Young:  
Outlaws, Thieves, Murderers  
and Forgotten Public Enemies



Harry and Jennings Young  
(Jyck Green and Sam Martin)  
in *One Dead, One Dying*  
from Kansas Theatre Works





# The Historical Context . . .

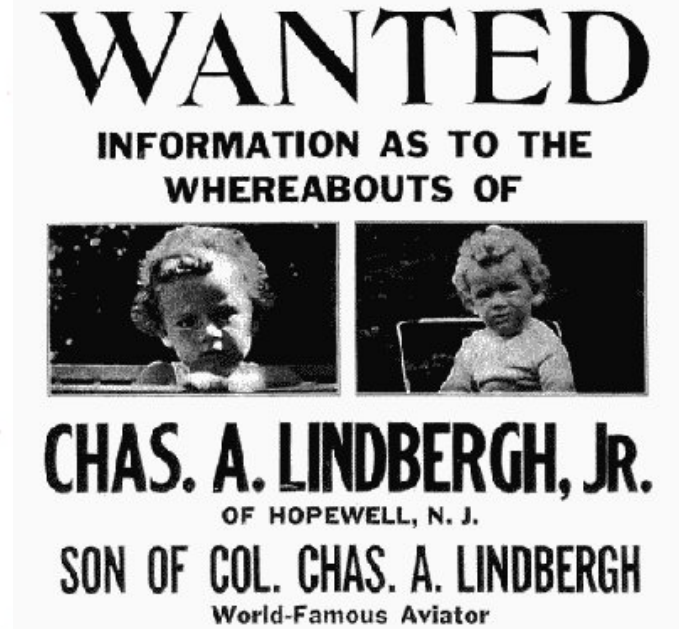
- 1932
- US unemployment reaches 24% with many living in cars and shanty towns.
- Prohibition leads to rampant bootlegging by organized crime.
- The Great Depression now worldwide.
- Banks nationwide continue to fail.
- Labor demonstrations and unrest rock the nation.





# The Historical Context . . .

- 1932
- Amelia Earhart completes the first non-stop solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean by a woman.
- Police fire upon 3,000 unemployed autoworkers marching outside the Ford River Rouge Plant in Dearborn, Michigan.
- Charles Lindbergh's 20-month-old son is kidnapped (and later killed).
- Franklin D. Roosevelt wins US presidential election.





# The Geography . . .

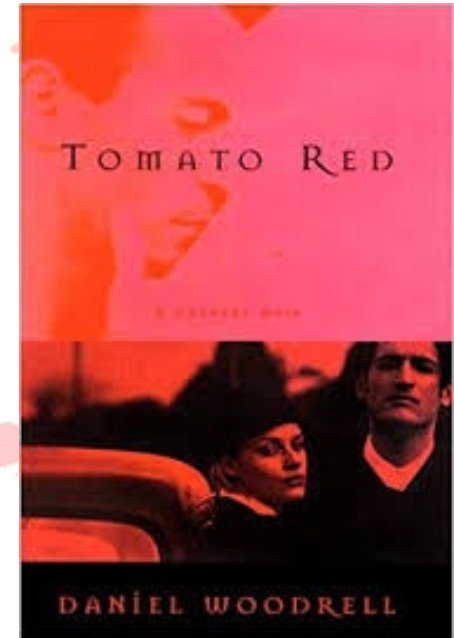
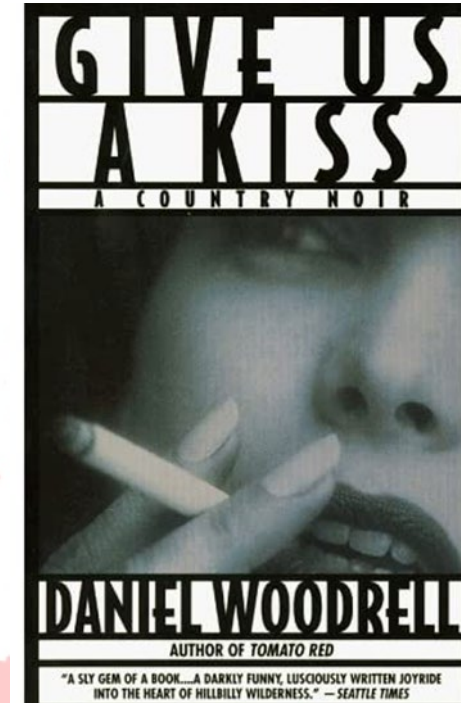
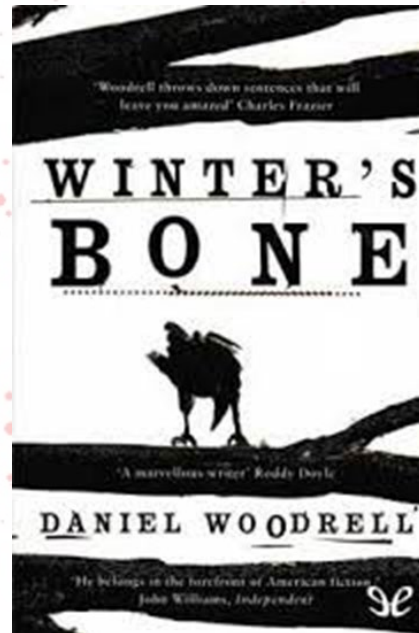
- The Young Brothers Massacre
- January 2, 1932
- The shootout took place in Brookline, Missouri (now in Republic) which is 7 miles west of Springfield, in the Ozarks region.
- The Ozarks cover nearly 47,000 square miles, making it the most extensive highland region between the Appalachians and Rockies.





# The Ozarks and Crime

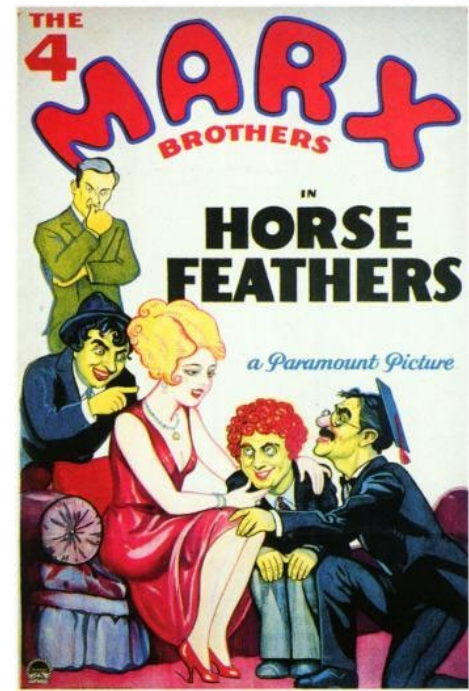
- Its remote location and challenging terrain have made the Ozarks a region for those “outside of the law.”
- Caves, waterways, rocky hills, dense forests and elevations can pose challenges to the uninitiated.
- Its (fictional) criminal tales continue today with the series *Ozark* and in the writings of Daniel Woodrell.





# (Pop) Cultural Context . . .

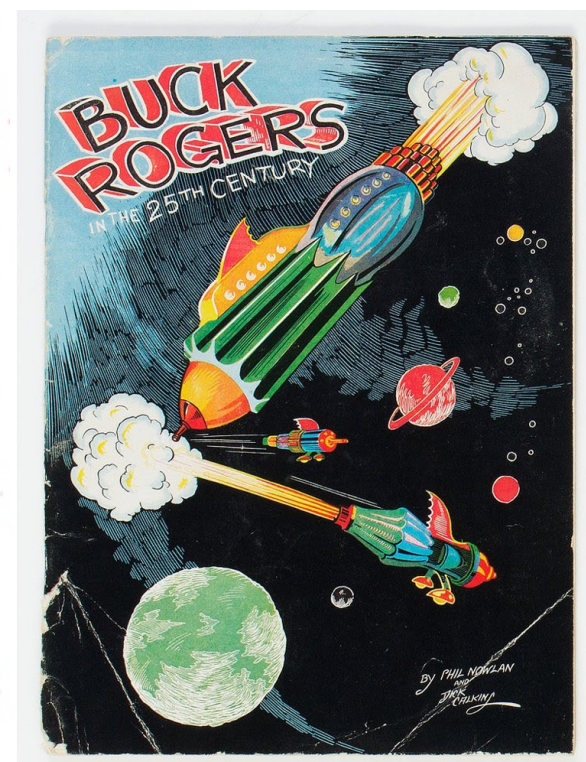
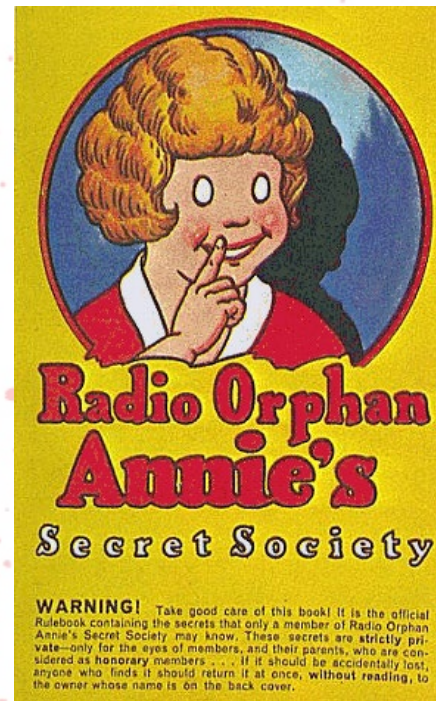
- 1932
- "Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?" by Rudy Vallee is (fittingly) a popular tune.
- "In A Shanty In Old Shanty Town" by Ted Lewis & His Band is also popular.
- Duke Ellington hits it big with "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)."
- Popular films include *Shanghai Express*, *Tarzan the Ape Man*, *Grand Hotel*, *The Marx Bros. in Horse Feathers*, *Scarface* and *The Mummy*.





# Golden Age of Radio

- In 1932, 60% of homes have radios.
- February 15<sup>th</sup>, straight man George Burns and genius comedienne Gracie Allen become regulars on *The Guy Lombardo Show*; they will become legends of radio, film and television.
- On April 6<sup>th</sup>, the first children's radio serial *Little Orphan Annie* debuts.
- *Chandu the Magician* debuts October 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The radio program *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century* premieres on November 7<sup>th</sup>.





# The Public Enemy Era

- In 1930, Frank J. Loesch founder of the Chicago Crime commission used the term “Public Enemy.”
- Regarding this term, Loesch later said “I had . . . a list of the outstanding hoodlums, known murderers. . . I put Al Capone at the head. . . . I called them Public Enemies.”
- The list's purpose was to shame those named and to encourage authorities to prosecute them.
- Most of these “enemies” were involved in organized crime during Prohibition (1919-1933) but had not been prosecuted.

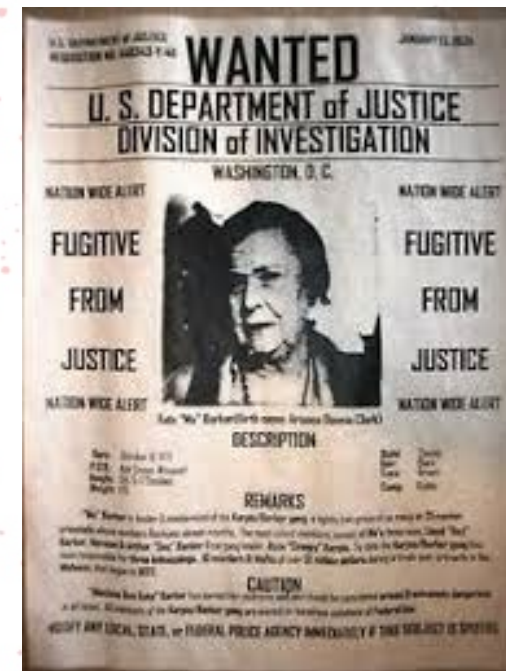


Al Capone (1899-1947)



# The Public Enemy Era

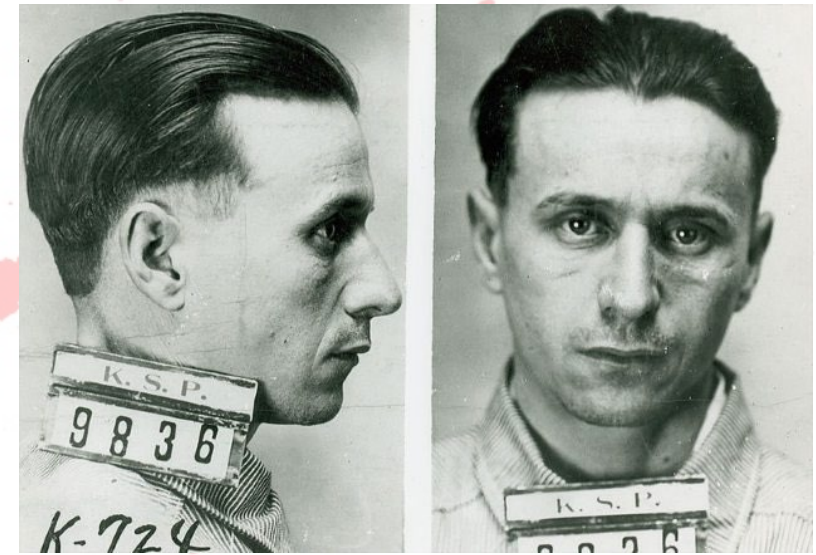
- J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI popularized the term by applying it to fugitives from the law during the 1930s.
- This early period of the FBI is sometimes termed the “Public Enemy Era.”
- Hoover’s “Public Enemies” were known and wanted criminals, already charged with crimes.
- These included John Dillinger (top), as well as Ma Barker (lower left) and ‘Pretty Boy’ Floyd (lower right).
- If particularly notorious, the criminal would be termed “Public Enemy No. 1.”





# The Public Enemy Era

- The Depression-era public was fascinated with criminals and gangsters.
- Viewing banks and corporations as exploiting the poor, gangsters became aspirational and inspirational figures for many.
- In a time of poverty, breadlines and dustbowls in which banks seemingly broke the nation, robbery — for some — was seemingly justifiable.



Fred Barker of the Barker Gang



Gerald Chaplin – “The Gentleman Bandit”



# Public Enemies and Popular Culture of the 1930s

- Criminals – many quite violent – often softened their image by presenting themselves as modern-day rebellious “Robin Hoods.”
- Films such *The Public Enemy* (1931), *Little Caesar* (1931) and *Scarface* (1932) mythologized the criminal and gangster.
- By 1934, outrage against the perceived vulgarity of gangster movies reached its apex.
- Senator Wildman Brookhart of Iowa introduced a resolution towards tighter censorship of film.
- Gangster films were widely blamed for encouraging "copycat" crimes.
- A 1933 article in *The Literary Digest* termed the effects of film violence on children as comparable to "shell shock such as soldier received in war."





# Enter: The Brothers Young

- The Young brothers — Paul, Jennings and Harry — were the youngest boys in a family of 11 siblings born to James and Willie Florence Young.
- The family moved to a farm in Brookline, Missouri - about 5 miles south of Springfield - in 1918.
- Jennings and Paul had reputations as excellent marksmen.





# The Young Brothers – Early Crimes

- Their first burglaries took place in Oklahoma.
- Though poor, they drove a 1918 Ford (right), drawing attention.
- In Missouri, they burglarized hardware stores in Ozark and Nixa in 1918.
- They were arrested when stolen items were found stashed on the family farm.
- Jennings and Paul were convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary in 1919 but were released on good behavior short of their full sentence.





# The Young Brothers – Crimes Increase

- The brothers' father James – who reportedly condemned his sons' behavior - died in 1921.
- Their mother became their enabler, advocate and defender in succeeding years.
- 1924 Jennings and Harry were charged with railroad theft.
- Jennings alone was convicted, serving three years at Leavenworth.
- Paul was arrested for burglary in Texas, which landed him in the penitentiary.





# Grand Theft Auto

- By the late 1920s, Jennings and Harry had formed an auto theft ring.
- They would steal a car in Missouri, sell it in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Iowa or Illinois, then steal another on the way back to sell in Missouri.
- Their connections stretched even to the West Coast.
- Family members supported brothers' schemes, selling hot cars or holding them for later sale. The family's large barn stored the “appropriated” autos.





# Notorious!

- The Young Brothers become well known to the law enforcement officers of Missouri in the 1920s as small-time, two-bit thieves.
- Each served terms in prison.
- By the late 1920s, the three had become household names with local law officers and had even earned the nickname of the “Young Triumvirate.”
- Local authorities considered the brothers non-violent . . . . until June 2, 1929.





# Murder!

- On June 2, 1929, Harry Young, known for his temper, is stopped in Republic, Missouri for drunk driving.
- Rather than being taken to the drunk tank and lock-up, he kills marshal Mark Noe.
- This begins an unsuccessful two-year manhunt for Harry Young.
- Harry Young lives under an assumed name in Texas, continuing to steal cars.

**WANTED!**

**FLEES**

**MURDER**

*Slay*

**SHOCK**



Mug shot of Harry Young, Fort Worth, TX. Courtesy Of The Springfield Police Department



# The Sisters' Mistake

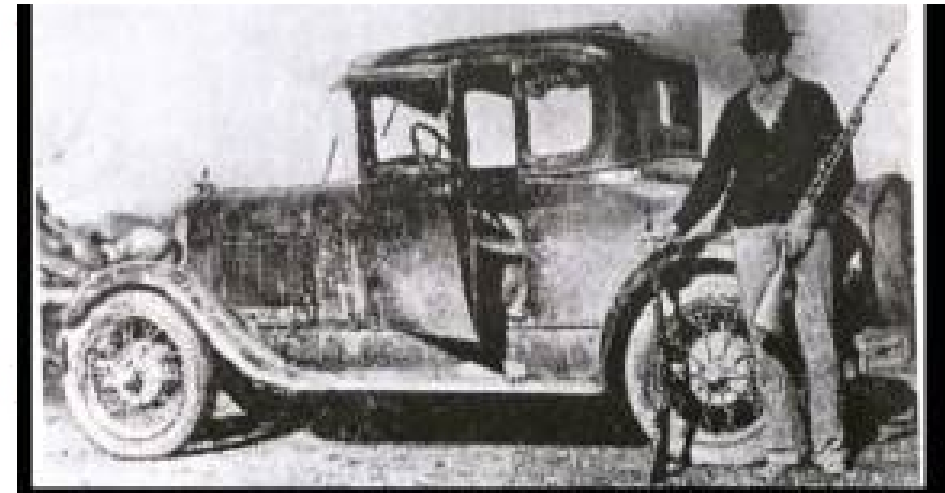
- On Dec. 31, 1931, the boys' sisters Lorena and Vinita Young (right) drive to Springfield to sell a car.
- Curiously, the sisters have no title for the car.
- The buyer recognizes them as members of the Young clan and calls Springfield police.
- At noon on Jan. 2, 1932, the women re-appear at the dealer's lot.
- Lorena and Vinita are quickly arrested.
- This event sparks what would become the Young Massacre as the law determines to apprehend the brothers in connection to the stolen car.





# Young Brothers Massacre

- The morning of January 2nd, 1932. . .
- Greene County Sheriff Marcell Hendrix and a group of lawmen approach the house to arrest the brothers for auto thievery.
- Hendrix had known their father and farmed nearby.
- Hendrix announced their presence, attempting to avoid a confrontation.
- The law carried revolvers and a single rifle. They would be outgunned.
- There is no response, so the order was given for tear gas to be deployed.
- No one emerges; officers suspect the house is empty.
- Hendrix and Deputy Wiley Mashburn go to the back door.
- Other officers position themselves in front of the house to apprehend any escaping occupants.

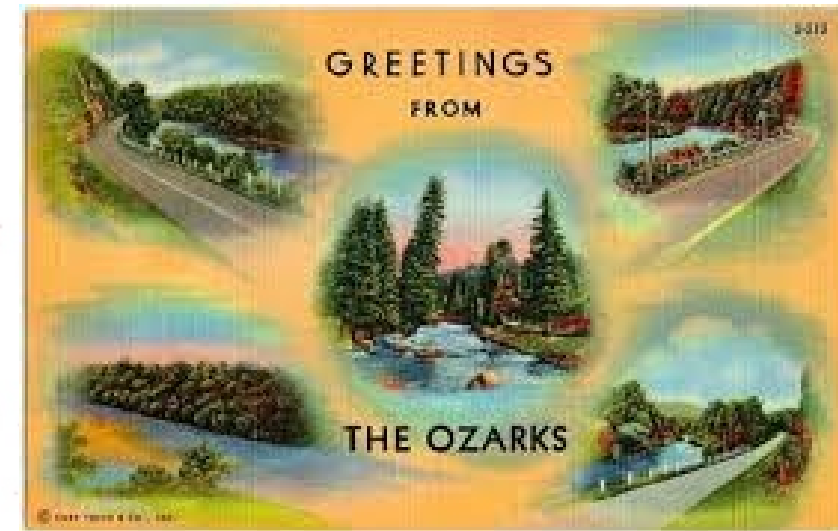


The Young farmhouse and a period automobile.



# Young Brothers Massacre

- Hendrix and Mashburn kick in the rear door and are mowed down by Harry and Jennings with shotguns.
- Hendrix is shot point blank and dies instantly.
- Mashburn is shot in the face and is later found barely alive near the back door. He dies at the hospital.
- Gunfire erupts upon the other lawmen.
- Another three officers, Tony Oliver, Sid Meadows, and Charles Houser are quickly gunned down.



Postcard from the Ozarks in the 1930s



# Young Brothers Massacre

- Out of ammunition, deputy Ollie Crosswhite is pinned down by gunfire behind a root cellar at the back of the house.
- The surviving lawmen, out of ammunition, are forced to abandon their dying comrades and flee.
- Unknown to the lawmen, Crosswhite is still alive and uninjured, crouching behind the cellar.
- As one brother keeps him occupied with gunfire, the other circles around the cellar and dispatches him.
- Out of bullets, Crosswhite is executed by a shotgun blast to the back of the head.
- Jennings and Harry ransack the bodies, stealing money and weapons.

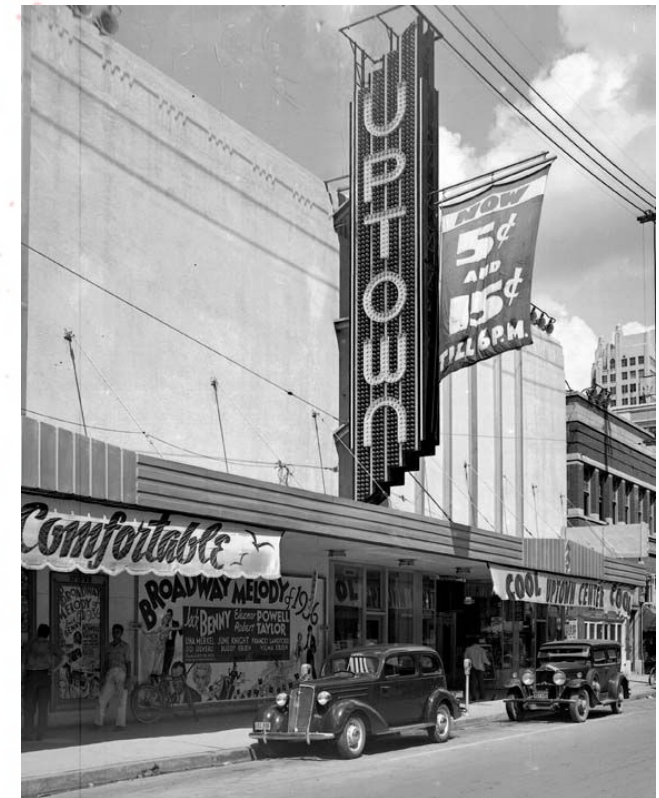


A 1930s couple in the Ozarks



# Escape to Texas!

- By the time reinforcements arrived at the Young farm, the brothers had hiked to Springfield.
- In Springfield they steal a Ford Coupe around 9 pm and head southwest.
- They make it to Streetman, Texas, almost 500 miles away.
- Their car overturns on a wet road at about 1pm Sunday.
- They hitch a ride into Houston (pictures to the right), where they rent a room from J.F. Tomlinson.





# Discovered!

- The story of the massacre reaches newspapers across the nation, including the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (right).
- Tomlinson reads a *Houston Post-Dispatch* story with the men's mugshots on Tuesday morning.
- Recognizing his new boarders, he tips off police.
- This time, the apprehending officers are well-armed.





# Showdown!

- Houston lawmen storm the boarding house.
- Jennings and Harry barricade themselves in the bathroom.
- The lawmen fire through the door.
- In the silence, a voice calls out, "We're dead. Come and get us."
- Jennings lay dead and Harry was dying.
- It is contended that they shot each other instead of being apprehended.
- Others claim that they were killed by Texas lawmen in retaliation for the murders in Missouri.
- The criminal career of Harry and Jennings Young abruptly concludes.



**ELUDES COPS**

**SHOT**

**DEAD**

**SLAIN**



# Springfield Newspaper Covers the Massacre

**NEWS LEADER**  
Largest Circulation Per Capita of Any City in the United States in the 50,000 to 75,000 Class

VOL. 4—NO. 31—The Springfield Leader, Vol. LXV—No. 278  
Springfield Daily News, Vol. XLII—No. 3 Member of The Associated Press SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 3, 1932 Entered at Post Office, Springfield, Mo., Second Class Matter, Act of March 3, 1879. \*\* PRICE 5 CENTS

## SIX OFFICERS SLAIN BY FUGITIVES WHO ESCAPE TRAP AT MOTHER'S HOME

**SISTERS' EFFORT TO SELL 'HOT' CAR CAUSED KILLING**  
Girls Attempting to Complete Deal for Sale At Very Hour When Six Officers Were Being Slain

**ARRESTED ON WARNING OF CAR DEALER HERE**  
Pretty Prisoners, One Mother Of Little Girl, Claim They Knew Nothing of Brothers' Activity

While hundreds of officers and enraged citizens searched the countryside for Harry and Paul Young, alleged killers of six officers, the boys' two sisters, Virginia and Lovena, lay on a cot in a police cell here, unconscious of the cause of the commotion in the police station.

Their arrest yesterday afternoon when they tried to sell a stolen car to Medley used car agency, gave officers the tip that the Young boys were in this section, although both

**Each of Brothers Vividly Familiar To Peace Chiefs**  
Harry, Jennings or "Jean" and Paul Young have been known to Greene county officers over a long period of years.

They all have served penitentiary sentences. Harry served a sentence in the state reformatory and then in the penitentiary, and was arrested on some charge after that.

Paul and Jennings were sentenced to the penitentiary for theft of an automobile. Jennings did a short time in the Greene county jail for stealing some clover seed. He figured in the news briefly when he escaped from Sheriff Alfred Owens and Jailer Frank Willey by jumping out of an automobile, and was later recaptured. Paul did some jail time, on a charge that officers said they could not recall.

**BANDITS' MOTHER HELD BY POLICE, GROWS HYSTERICAL**

**HOUSE THAT BELCH'D DEATH TO SIX**



**EX-CONVICTS POUR MURDEROUS FIRE ON SHERIFF'S MEN**  
Only Two, Wounded, Escape Hail of Bullets to Summon Aid—Possemen Scour Countryside in Vain as Man Wanted for Slaying of Marshal Noe of Republic Vanishes—National Guard ordered Out to Aid Hunt

Six Springfield officers—Sheriff Marcel Hendrix, deputy and four city policemen—were slain late yesterday afternoon by a rain of bullets fired from the farm home of the mother of Harry Young, fugitive from justice, when the officers knocked upon the door.

The murderers escaped and all night possses of officers citizens, national guardsmen ordered out by Governor Caulfield and Legionnaires combed the countryside in vain. In Tulsa, Okla., armed watch was kept over a home of a relative of Harry Young's.

Rumors that secret tunnels lead from the Young farm house into the orchard and other spots of hidden exit gained wide circulation early this morning, and it was thought the killers may have fled through them. Officers had found no such tunnels, however, and Mrs. J. D. Young, mother of the



# Springfield Newspaper Covers the Massacre

**Spotlight**  
CURRENT COMMENT  
By  
**FLOYD M. SULLIVAN**

**THE SPRINGFIELD PRESS** **Extra**  
PRICE 3 CENTS  
VOL. III—NO. 262  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 2, 1932.

# SLAYERS FLEE BARRICADE

## Terrorist Bomb Plot Against Wall Street Revealed

**RACKETEERS IN LEAGUE TO MURDER**  
High Government Officials Scheduled to Die in 3-Fold Conspiracy, Federal Investigators Learn.

**SLAIN OFFICERS**



**THIRD EXTRA**

**SWEEPING ARRESTS SMASH KIDNAP GANG**  
CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—Officials Saturday rounded up members of what they claimed was a gigantic kidnaping syndicate, allegedly ruled by a master criminal who directed a large number of members in kidnaping wealthy mid-western gamblers.

**TWO YOUNG BROTHERS ESCAPE AFTER KILLING FIVE LOCAL OFFICERS**  
THE DEAD  
SHERIFF MARCELL HENDRIX.  
DETECTIVE CHIEF TONY OLIVER.  
DETECTIVE OLLIE CROSSWHITE.  
DETECTIVE SID MEADOWS.  
DETECTIVE CHARLES HOUSE.

THE WOUNDED  
DEPUTY SHERIFF WILEY MASHBURN, probably fatally.  
VIRGIL JOHNSON, detective, shot in leg.  
FRANK PIKE, detective, shot in arm.  
OREN BROWN, detective.

**CIVIL WAR IN CHINA SEEN AS JAPS CONQUER**  
Desperadoes, number unknown, barricaded in a house five miles west and one and one-half miles south of Springfield late Saturday afternoon murdered five Springfield officers and critically wounded another when they attempted to capture Harry Young, one of the gang, sought for two years in connection with the slaying of Marshal Slocum at Republic.

**Bachelor Judge Recommends Whipping for Wife-Beaters**

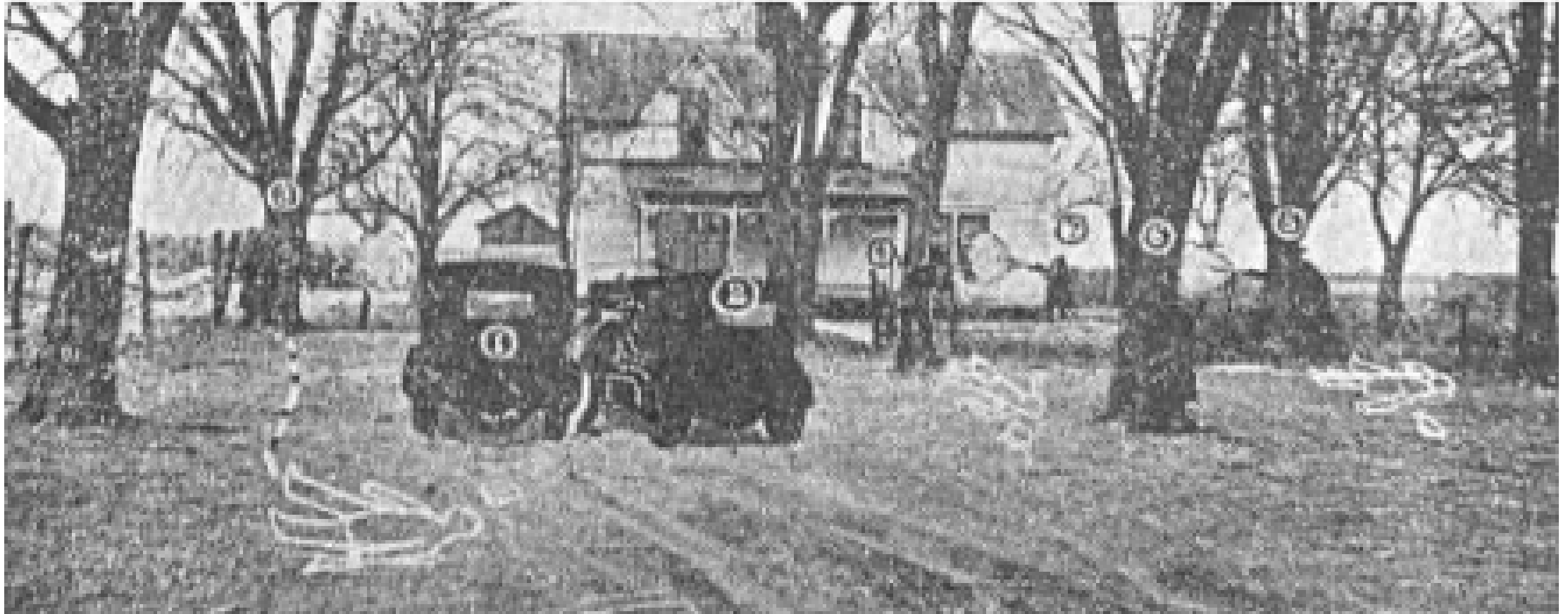


# Diagram of the Massacre

1. Deputy Crosswhite's body found.
2. Deputy Mashburn's body found sitting erect.
3. One of the brothers presumed to have moved along this route to Crosswhite.
4. The other brother fired from the dining room window.
5. Rear door and escape route of killers.







Recreation of the Massacre From Another Angle



# After the Massacre

- The Young home sits in eerie stillness following the shootout.
- Crowds gather at the scene to gawk at the grounds.
- Investigators confer, piecing together the events.





# Slain by the Young Brothers



Marcell Hendrix  
Sheriff  
Greene County



Ollie Crosswhite  
Deputy Sheriff



Wiley Mashburn  
Deputy Sheriff



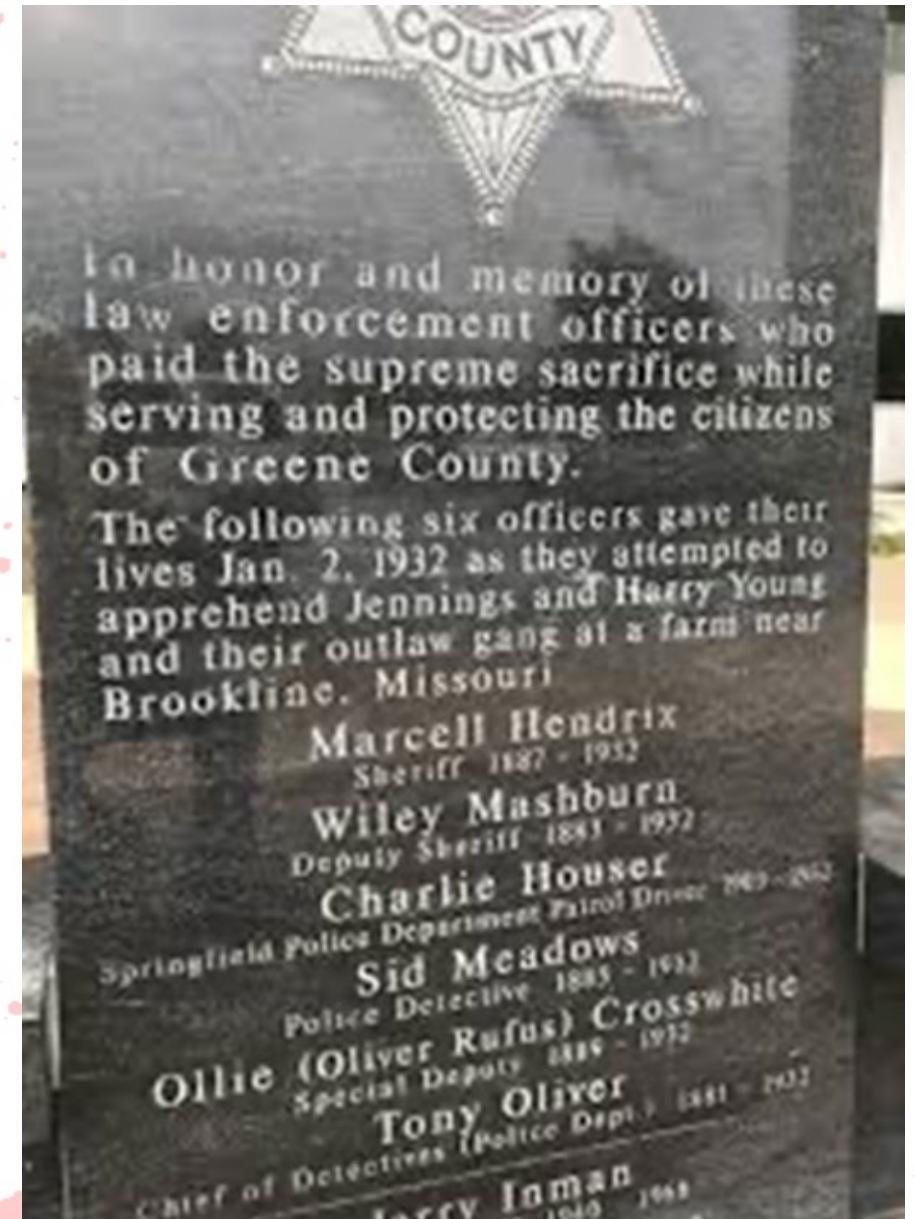
Tony Oliver  
Chief of Detectives  
Springfield Police



Sid Meadows  
Detective  
Springfield Police



Charles Houser  
Springfield Police





# Springfield Newspaper Covers the Manhunt

Springfield Daily News  
VOL. 42—NO. 4  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 4, 1932  
PRICE 3 CENTS

## TRAIL OF SLAYERS LEADS TO TEXAS

### Two Men Wreck Car in Young Brothers' Old Haunts and Escape

**Today**  
Tom-Toms and New Year  
Good News and Opinions  
A Loyal Man, Hindenburg  
See the 1932 Automobiles

**AMERICAN CONSUL  
ATTACKED BY JAPS  
AND BADLY BEATEN**

Three Soldiers Pummel Calvert Chamberlain as He Steps From Car Bearing American Flag

**VIGOROUS PROTEST MADE  
AT JAPANESE CONSULATE**

Victim, Formerly Kansas City Resident, Arrived in Mukden Yesterday Enroute to New Post

**YOUNG SISTERS IN JAIL**

**MOTORCAR STOLEN  
FROM NEAR HERE;  
GUNS LEFT BEHIND**

Rifle and Shotgun Left in Car as Men Flee—  
Officers Confident Men Are Hunted  
Young Brothers—Texas Officers Keep  
Close Vigil—Mother's Tip Said to Have  
Precipitated Massacre.

The trail of Harry Young, the killer, led this morning back to his old haunts of crime in Texas.

Early Sunday afternoon two men, whose description fitted those of the hunted slayers of six Springfield police officers, wrecked an automobile bearing a Missouri license, near Streetman, Texas, 75 miles south of Dallas, and escaped.

The motorcar had been stolen from a man who lives at Bolivar.

The men halted a passing motorist but before they abandoned their wrecked car tore off the license tags and threw them into a cornfield.

In the car which they abandoned were found a high-powered rifle with only three cartridges left in the magazine and a shotgun which had been almost emptied of shells.

**OFFICERS ARE CONVINCED**

Officers here and in Texas were convinced the two men wanted for the massacre in the yard of the Young farmhouse here late Saturday afternoon and last night's strict watch was kept on every road and a guard was placed over every haunt of the two desperadoes.

Harry Young and his brother Jennings have been operating an auto theft ring from headquarters in Texas, drove to Springfield from Houston only a few days ago, was the tale of one of their stolen cars by their two slayers that led Sheriff Hendrix and his men to the Young home and their death.

**WOMEN ARE QUESTIONED**

While Texas officers kept a lookout for the desperado James Hornbostel assistant county attorney, and E. L. son, crack detective of the Prisco railroad, were questioning their mother and two daughters at police headquarters. From them they were obtaining the names of all their and sweethearts in Texas and the information was being turned to Texas officers.

**YOUNGS' KINFOLK  
HESITANTLY TELL  
WHAT THEY KNOW**

Brother-in-law Admits Seeing Harry and Jennings at Their Mother's Home Where Massacre Took Place

**FUGITIVES HAD SPENT  
MUCH TIME IN TEXAS**

Presence of Several Weapons  
And Liquor Confessed; Officers Claim Finding of Narcotic Tubes

Two background of the bloody battle at the Young farmhouse Saturday was dimmed, but by bits from reluctant witnesses held in the city jail Sunday night.

Albert V. Conley, 31, brother-in-law of the Young boys, who said he is an ambulance driver and who was arrested Saturday at 614 West Main street in Springfield by City Detective James Hale, said he had seen Harry and Jennings Young at the farm house.

Conley said he and his wife, and their 5-year-old daughter, Natalie, arrived here from Houston, Texas, about 11:30 p.m. Wednesday night, December 30.

**SEEN IN HOUSTON**

He said he was surprised to find Harry and Jennings at the home of their mother, Mrs. J. D. Young, where the slaughter occurred. He admitted when closely questioned, however, that on the way to Springfield he said to his wife, "If I knew the boys were going up, I would have gone to Waco (Texas) to see my mother and wait a few days until they clear out."

Conley said he saw the boys in Houston the day before he left there, but he did not know then they were working with Oklahoma officers.

**Ollie Crosswhite  
'Afraid of Nothing'  
His Friends Recall**

The death of Ollie Crosswhite in the raid at the Young farm Saturday night recalled to many Springfieldans the numerous times that he has faced the gun fire of lawbreakers.

Crosswhite was noted for his fearlessness as an officer.

"Ollie would fight a lone man, and was the sloughest made man and was again in describing the courage with which he would walk into the most dangerous situations."

During the administration of Alfred Owens as sheriff, Mr. Crosswhite was a regular deputy. Since then he has not been in regular service as an officer but when extra men were needed for particularly dangerous missions he was often called into service by the sheriff and police departments.

After the Greene county jail break one year ago and the escape of two desperate criminals to Oklahoma it was Crosswhite who was employed as special deputy sheriff to trail the men. He spent considerable time working with Oklahoma officers.

**AMERICAN CONSUL  
ATTACKED BY JAPS  
AND BADLY BEATEN**

Three Soldiers Pummel Calvert Chamberlain as He Steps From Car Bearing American Flag

**VIGOROUS PROTEST MADE  
AT JAPANESE CONSULATE**

Victim, Formerly Kansas City Resident, Arrived in Mukden Yesterday Enroute to New Post

Copyright 1932 by The Associated Press

**MUKDEN, Manchuria, Jan. 3.**—American consul Calvert B. Chamberlain, stepping from an automobile displaying the American flag and coat of arms, was assaulted and punitively beaten by three Japanese soldiers today on one of the main streets of Mukden.

American Consul General Merrill S. Myers accompanied Mr. Chamberlain to the Japanese consulate where he lodged a vigorous verbal protest with Consul S. Morishima against what he described as an "entirely unprovoked assault."

Consul Morishima promised a thorough investigation of the incident and it was expected immediately.

**FORMER KANSAS CITIZEN**

Mr. Chamberlain, formerly of Kansas City, Mo., and a member of the consular service for 20 years, arrived in Mukden yesterday enroute to his new post at Harbin from a vacation trip to the United States.

He left the American consulate general about six o'clock this morning and his automobile was

**YOUNG SISTERS IN JAIL**

Arrival of these girls in an attempt to sell a stolen car here Saturday



# Springfield Newspaper Covers the Manhunt

**THE SPRINGFIELD LEADER**  
Exclusive Dispatches and Features of The Associated Press  
VOL. LXX—NO. 274 (Published at Springfield, Missouri, Monday, January 4, 1932) SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 4, 1932—14 PAGES \*\*\* PRICE 3 CENTS

## KILLERS ELUDE TEXAS RAIDERS: GUN IN STOLEN CAR SOLD HERE

**UPHOLDS VETO  
OF CONGRESS  
DISTRICT BILL**  
State Supreme Court Rules  
Congressmen Must Be  
Elected at Large

**WHITE WRITES DECISION**  
Democrats Are Pleased  
While Republicans See  
Selves at Disadvantage

**HERE'S THE WHOLE YOUNG FAMILY**



**BENEFIT FUND  
PUT OVER \$2000  
BY QUICK WORK**  
Arch McGregor Pledges \$1,000 and Accepts Chairmanship of Committee

**FAMILIES TO BE AIDED**  
Every Cent Raised Will Go to  
Widows and Orphans of  
Slain Officers

**MOTHER**



**Identify Texas Suspects  
As Men Who Escaped Here  
After Farmhouse Slaying**

Home of Harry's Brother is Raided in Houston but Nothing Found Beyond Evidence of Recent Occupancy; Wife's Sister Arrested for Questioning; Weapons Identical With Those Used Here Found in Wrecked Machine.

**BULLETIN**  
Reports from Texas late this afternoon were to the effect that officers were close upon the trail of the Young brothers. Harry was reported to have been located at Houston and it was said that an arrest was soon expected.

While officers today were raiding the Texas homes and haunts of Harry and Jennings Young, hunters for the massacre of a Springfield police officer here Saturday afternoon, the high-powered rifle left mailed by two fugitives who shot and a wrecked car near Springfield, Texas, Sunday were found to be identical with those used in the slaying.

**MOTHER FEELS  
YOUNGS REALLY**

About 37 years old, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Young were going of their 12 children and had the family group picture taken when it was taken. All 11 are still living. About 10 are in the army and navy. The family is now in the city of Springfield, Missouri.



# An Ignoble Death for an Ignoble Man . . .



Harry Jennings (left) is removed from the Houston boarding house (right).



The background of the image is white with numerous pink splatters of varying sizes and shapes, creating a graphic, somewhat chaotic texture. The text is centered horizontally and vertically.

**WARNING:  
IMAGES OF SLAIN BODIES  
FOLLOW**



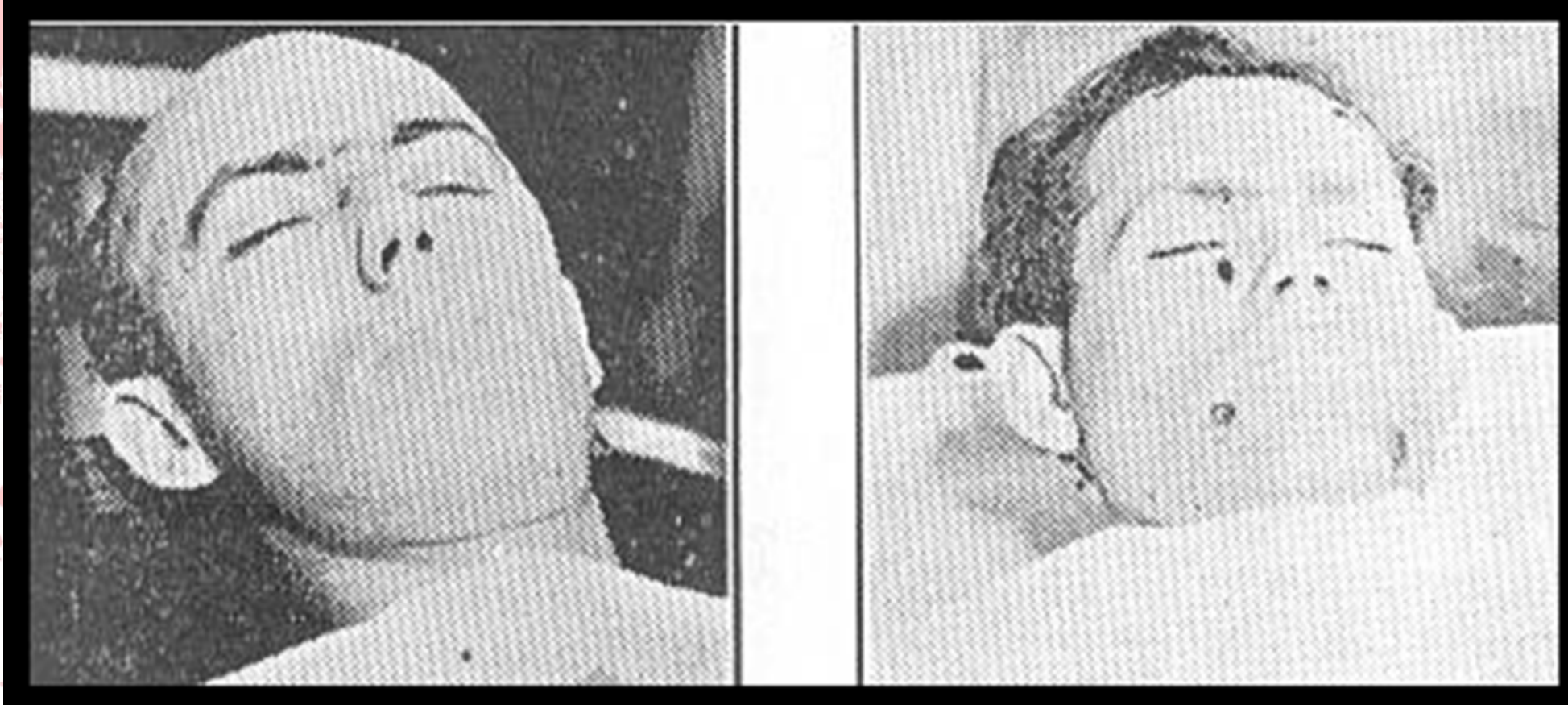
# Live By the Gun, Die By the Gun . . .



The once handsome Jennings Young – dead, collapsed on the bathroom floor of a Houston cottage, punctured by bullet wounds.



# Brothers in Life, Brothers in Death

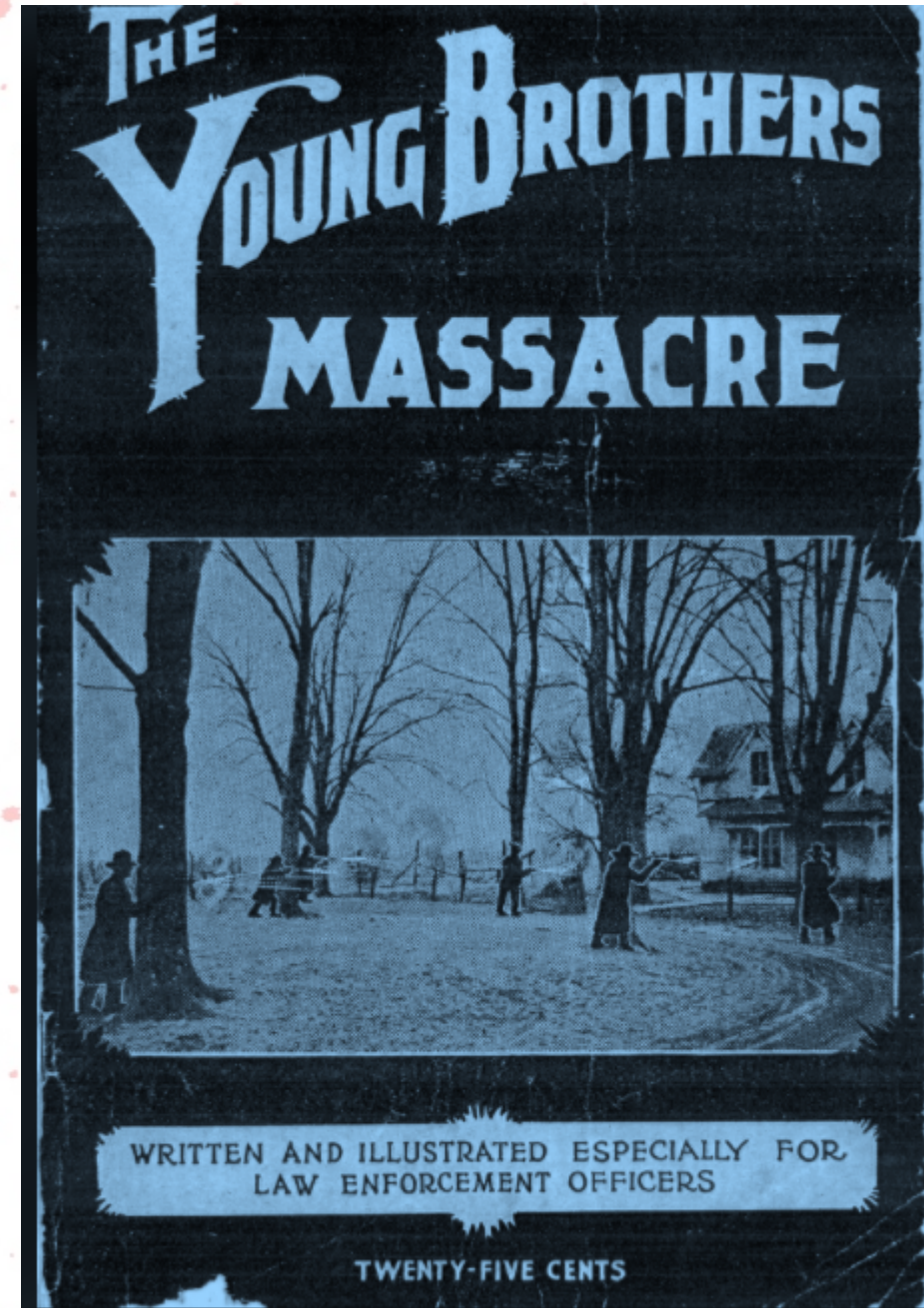


Harry and Jennings Young's Final Repose



# Lessons Learned

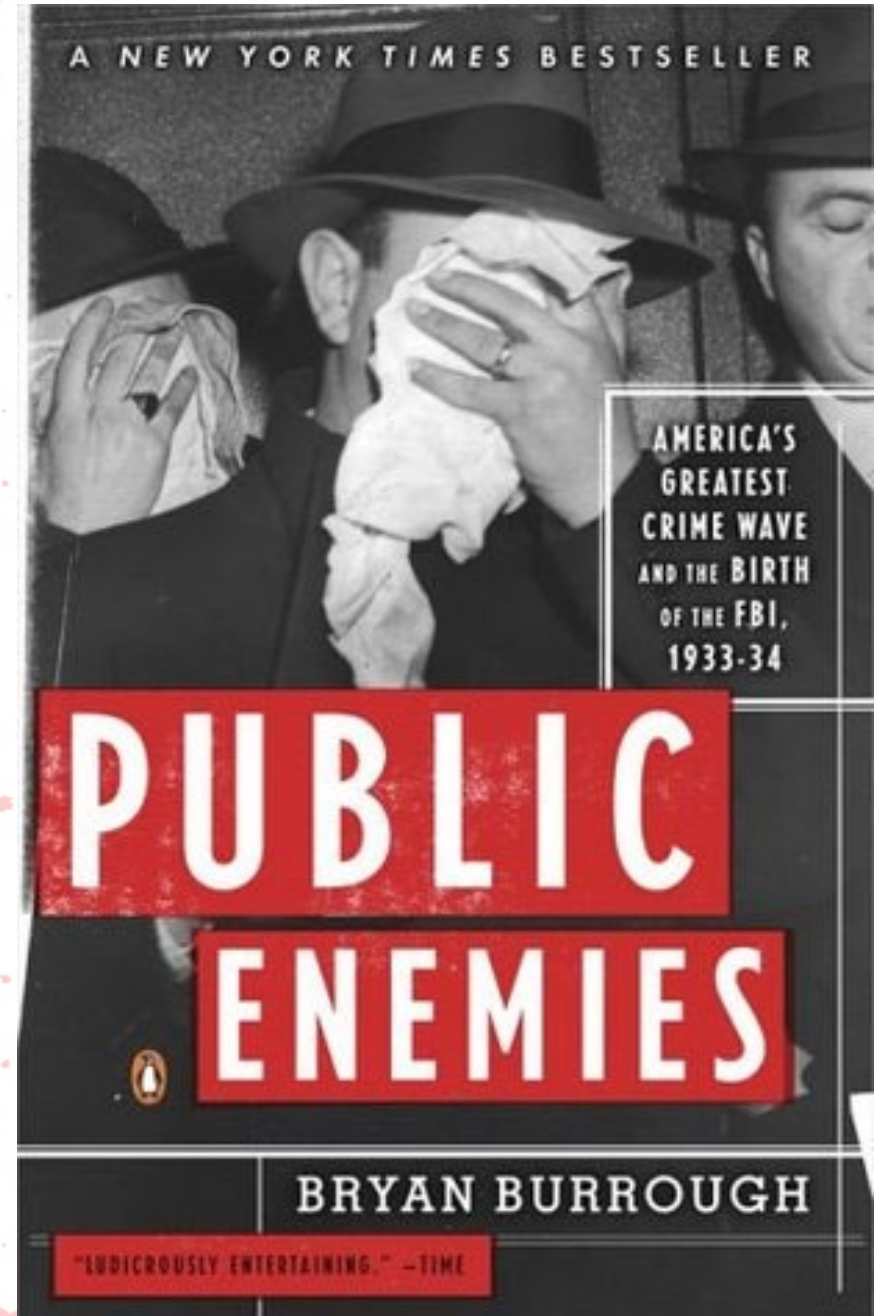
- By John R. Woodside, this booklet was used as educational material to examine the mistakes made by law enforcement.
- The massacre persuaded local law enforcement in the U.S. to take a more professional and cautious approach to armed standoff situations, particularly those involving persons suspected of violence.
- The massacre would remain the largest loss of U.S. law enforcement lives in a single day until September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.





# A Forgotten Crime

- The event is little known of outside of the Ozarks region of Missouri where it occurred, and even books dealing with the “Public Enemy Era” of the 1930s rarely mention it.
- This may be due to the geographical and cultural isolation of the Ozarks at that time.





# A Forgotten Crime

- As the Young Brothers' crimes took place among the Southern rural, poor—and concluded without an extended manhunt—the Young Massacre possessed neither the 'excitement' or 'danger' of the pursuit of John Dillinger or 'Pretty Boy' Floyd.
- The kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby on March 1, 1923 ("The Crime of the Century") pushed the massacre off the front page.
- The kidnapping and its aftermath would become a national obsession.





# The Subsequent Narrative

- On Jan. 5, 1932 the *Springfield Press* ran a first-person narrative by Lon Scott.
- Scott's story carried a preface: "What is important about it all is the lack of preparation for such emergencies in Greene County. All of us must admit it was a shameful disgrace to let six wounded and dying men lay on the cold ground at the Young home for seeming eternity in broad daylight."





# A Contested Burial

- Harry and Jennings Young are buried in Joplin as the Young family feared grave desecration if the brothers laid to rest near their home.



While a double grave was made ready for them in the McCauley cemetery near Ozark, the murderous brothers, Harry and Jennings Young, were buried this morning at Joplin. This picture shows how relatives prepared for the funeral at the McCauley cemetery.





*One Dead, One Dying* cast member Jyck Green (Harry Young) visits the brothers' final resting place in Joplin.





# The Young Farm Today

The original barn (which held stolen cars) still stands while a new home resides in current day Republic, Missouri on the former Young land.



This farmhouse in what is now Republic was the scene of one of the darkest moments for law enforcement in our nation's history. On Jan. 2, 1932, 10 local lawmen approached the house thinking outlaws Harry and Jennings Young might be there. They were. *Steve Pokin/News-Leader*



Two lawmen who had been hiding behind two trees for safety dashed for safety behind this barn, which is still on the property where the Young Brothers Massacre occurred in 1932. *Steve Pokin/News-Leader*





# The Murderous Brothers: Jennings and Harry Young



# One Dead, One Dying

By

Laura Camien

Directed by Jerry Jay Cranford

Produced by Kansas Theatre Works

Listen to the performance and an interview with the playwright at

[https://www.k-state.edu/mtd/theatre/kansas\\_theatre\\_works/index.html](https://www.k-state.edu/mtd/theatre/kansas_theatre_works/index.html)

Dramaturgy Slideshow by Shannon Blake Skelton, PhD



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