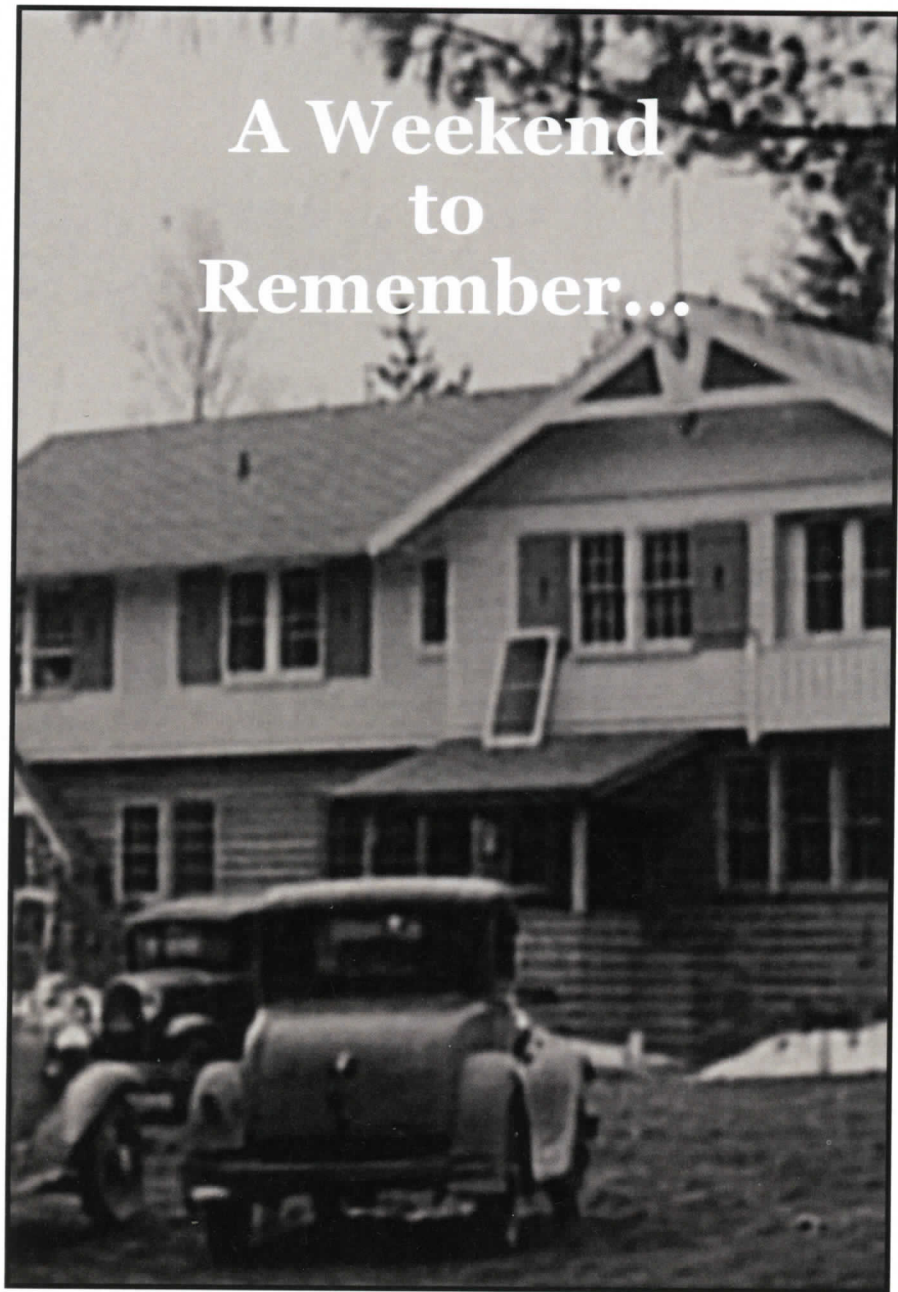


A Weekend to Remember...



April 20-22, 1934
Spider Lake, Wisconsin

Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes



This booklet was created for educational purposes only.
It was compiled and created May 2018 by
Kay Krans and Beth Dahlmeier.



A Weekend to Remember...

Spider Lake, Wisconsin

**Tour Guides: Kay Krans
and Beth Dahlmeier**

A Retreat

A recommendation to visit a place where no one could find the gang led to a weekend that affected the lives of many local residents, law enforcement, and federal agents.

John Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson, Tommy Carroll, Red Hamilton, Homer Van Meter, Pat Reilly, Helen Gillis, Marie (Mickey) Comforti, Pat Cherrington, and Jean Delaney arrived in Northern Wisconsin for a weekend of quiet and a restructuring of the gang.

Instead, a confrontation occurred between the Department of Investigation and the outlaws that almost brought down the careers of J. Edgar Hoover and other FBI agents.

The Place



The Dillinger Gang's weekend retreat,
Little Bohemia Lodge.



1930s Entrance
to Little Bohemia

\$1 steak, duck, or
chicken dinners



A



FBI photographs after the escape... (A, front view of lodge;
page 6, B, side view of lodge; C, rear view of lodge.)

B



C



Lakeside views of the **Little Bohemia Lodge**
(FBI photographs)



Lakeshore in front of **Little Bohemia** facing South



Steep Decline to the Beach of **Little Star Lake**



The Hosts

Emil Wanatka Sr.



Nan LaPorte Wanatka and her two
collies, Shadow and Prince

The Dillinger Gang



**John Dillinger—
Public Enemy Number One**



TWO OF DILLINGER'S HENCHMEN



Shown above are two of the members of John Dillinger's gang. Homer Van Meter (left) aided the much-hunted desperado in the Warsaw, Ind., police station raid, and may have been with him in the Mercer, Wis., battle. Tom Carroll (right), St. Paul bank robber, is the newest recruit of the gang. He took part in the Wisconsin fight. (Associated Press Photos)



Red Hamilton



Pat Reilly

Tommy Carroll and Baby Face Nelson Wanted Poster

BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION			
Bulletin No. 197		STATE OFFICE BLDG., ST. PAUL, MINN.	
		March 16, 1934	
Wanted on Warrant for Bank Robbery			
			
No. 1: GEO. NELSON		No. 2: THOMAS CARROLL	
Aliases, Lester Gillis, Baby Face Nelson		Aliases Jas. Roy Brock, Frank Stone, Frank Sloan	
Age 25 (1934)	Eyes Yellow-Gray-Slate	Age 37 (1933)	Comp. Medium—scar on right lower jaw bone—scar on neck front
Height 5 ft., 4 3/4 in.	Comp. Light	Height 5 ft., 10 in.	—furrow upper lip—scar corner of neck in hair—mouth turns to right
Weight 133 lbs.	P. P. Class: 3 Ra 15	Weight 166 lbs.	P. P. Class: 9 U OO Ref: 9
Hair Light Chestnut	19 Wa 15	Hair Dk. Chestnut	6 U OO 21 2
Build Medium	Ref: 13 Ra 15	Build Medium	
	19 Wa	Eyes Light blue	
No. 3: HENRY DOE		No. 4: WILLIAM DOE	
Age 30 to 35	Age 30 to 35	No. 5: RICHARD DOE	
Height About 5 ft., 10 in.	Height 5 ft., 9 in. to 5 ft., 10 in.	Age 30 to 35	Thin face—long thin nose
Weight 160 to 170 lbs.	Weight 135 to 145 lbs.		
Hair Black	Build Slender		
Comp. Dark or Sallow	Hair Dark		
Build Med. Muscular	Eyes Dark		
Slight Roman nose	Comp. Dark—long narrow face		
These men held up the First National Bank of Brainerd, Minn., October 23, 1933.			
If located, arrest, hold and notify either of the following:			
FRANK E. LITTLE, Sheriff, Crow Wing County, Brainerd, Minnesota.		M. C. PASSOLT, Superintendent Bureau of Criminal Apprehension State Office Building, St. Paul, Minn.	

Baby Face Nelson



The “Molls”



Helen Gillis, wife of
Baby Face Nelson



Jean Delaney, wife of
Tommy Carroll



Marie Conforti, girlfriend



Pat Cherrington, girlfriend
of Red Hamilton

Women in Dillinger's Life



Billie Frechette,
"The love of John Dillinger's life"

The women below double crossed Dillinger



Polly Hamilton,
girlfriend of John Dillinger



Anna Sage,
Madam in Chicago;
Dillinger lived with one of
her girls, **Polly Hamilton**

Community Members



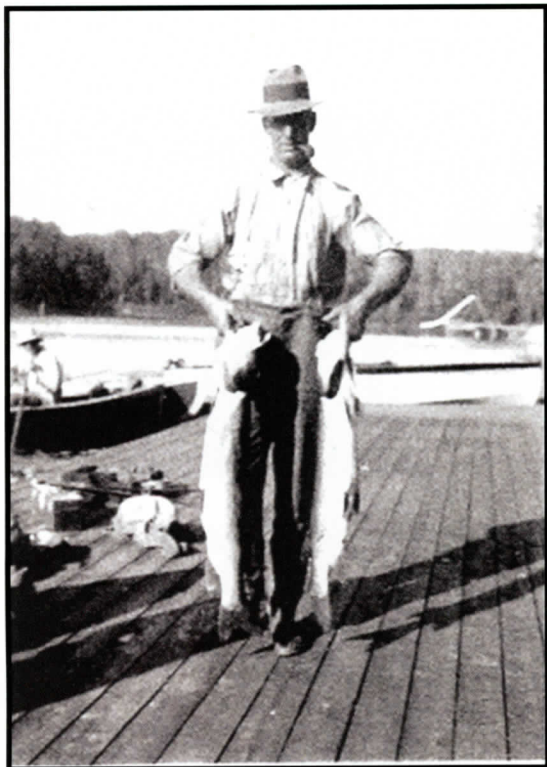
Carl Christensen
displaying his bullet-ridden
sheepskin jacket



Grave of **Eugene Boissoneau**, CCC worker, killed by federal agents at Little Bohemia Lodge



Carl Christensen at Runstroms Hospital, critically wounded and near death



George LaPorte,
brother of **Nan**
Wanatka and
Ruth Voss

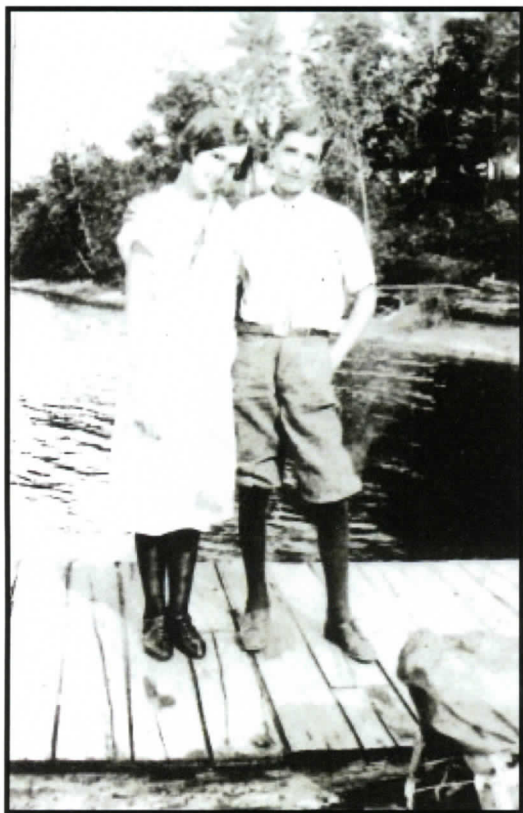


Emil Wanatka and LaPorte brothers
at Louis LaPorte's still on the Flambeau Flowage

Ruth LaPorte



**Henry Voss
with Audrey
and Lloyd Voss**



**Audrey and Lloyd
Voss as young adults**

Voss' Birchwood Lodge postcard





Alvin Koerner, owner of Koerner's Resort and operator of telephone exchange; far left in the photo Alvin Koerner is holding up is **George Bazso**

Koerner's Resort, Spider Lake





SYLVAN
LODGE
COTTAGES

... situated ...
ON THE NORTH SHORE
 ... of ...

Romantic **MANITOWISH LAKE** where
 the vacationist can always enjoy the cool breezes during the
 hottest summer days

MUSKIE, PIKE and BASS FISHING



Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lange and their resort on Manitowish Lake; kidnapped by **Baby Face Nelson**

Mitchell's Resort on Rest Lake



BACK VIEW AT MITCHELL'S RESORT

741



Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Mitchell of Manitowish, Wis.,
roused by Dillinger and forced to call hired man to
drive gang away.

The Law



J. Edgar Hoover,
Director of Federal
Division of
investigation (FBI)



Hugh Clegg,
Division of Investigation (FBI),
St. Paul



Melvin Purvis,
Division of
Investigation (FBI),
Chicago

Jay Newman,
Special Agent (FBI), shot in the altercation with **Baby Face Nelson** at Spider Lake, Wisconsin.



Above is the bullet ridden hat that Newman was wearing when he was attacked.



Carter Baum,
Special agent (FBI), killed by **Baby Face Nelson** at Spider Lake, Wisconsin.

The FBI Obtains Cars in Rhinelander

**THE GREATEST
AUTOMOBILE BUY
TODAY IS THE NEW
FORD V-8 FOR 1934!**

The new dual carburetion increases speed. New lines and interior finish, roomy and comfortable. A new and better clear-vision ventilation that has no exterior parts to obstruct your view.

THE ONLY V-8 BELOW \$2,000

WE INVITE YOU TO COME IN AND SEE
FORD'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT IN 30
YEARS. A DEMONSTRATION PUTS YOU
UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO BUY.

"The Car Without a Price Class"

Musson & Anderson
FORD SALES AND SERVICE
Rives Street Phone 82

Isadore Tuchalski rents his
car to the federal agents which
Baby Face Nelson then
steals.



Night of Terror

EXTRA THE RHINELANDER DAILY NEWS EXTRA
SEVENTEENTH YEAR—NO. 37
RHINELANDER, WIS., MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 23, 1934
PRICE FIVE CENTS

DILLINGER ESCAPES

Eludes Officers in Raid Near Mercer



RHINELANDER, Wis., April 23 (Monday).—(P)—Police Chief Joseph Hack announced early today that he was notified federal agents had surrounded John Dillinger, notorious desperado, in a wooded section near Mercer, Wis., about 40 miles northwest of here.

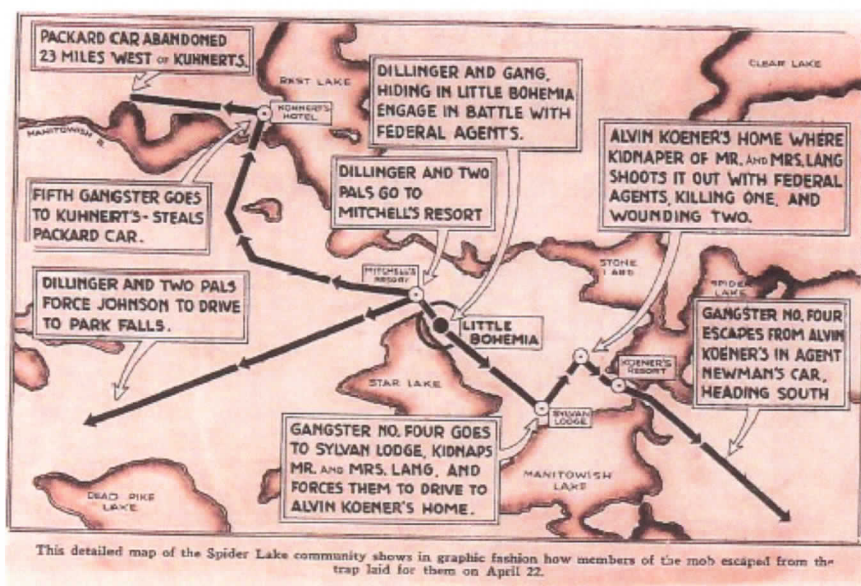
Dillinger, Aides Flee
"The radio was playing in the car," moaned Hoffman, "and then something hit me. I didn't know anything was wrong before that."

Kitchen at **Little Bohemia** with a display of weapons left behind by Dillinger Gang (FBI Photo)



The car carrying **John Morris, John Hoffman, and Eugene Boissoneau** at Little Bohemia when they were mistakenly shot by federal agents.

The Escape Routes



Robert Johnson's 1930 Ford Model A used by John Dillinger to evade federal agents. This car recently sold for \$165,000 at the Barrett-Jackson collector car auction.



Alvin Koerner's home and the Spider Lake telephone Exchange; scene of the second shootout



Northern Lights Resort where **Tommy Carroll** steals a car and escapes to St. Paul, Minnesota

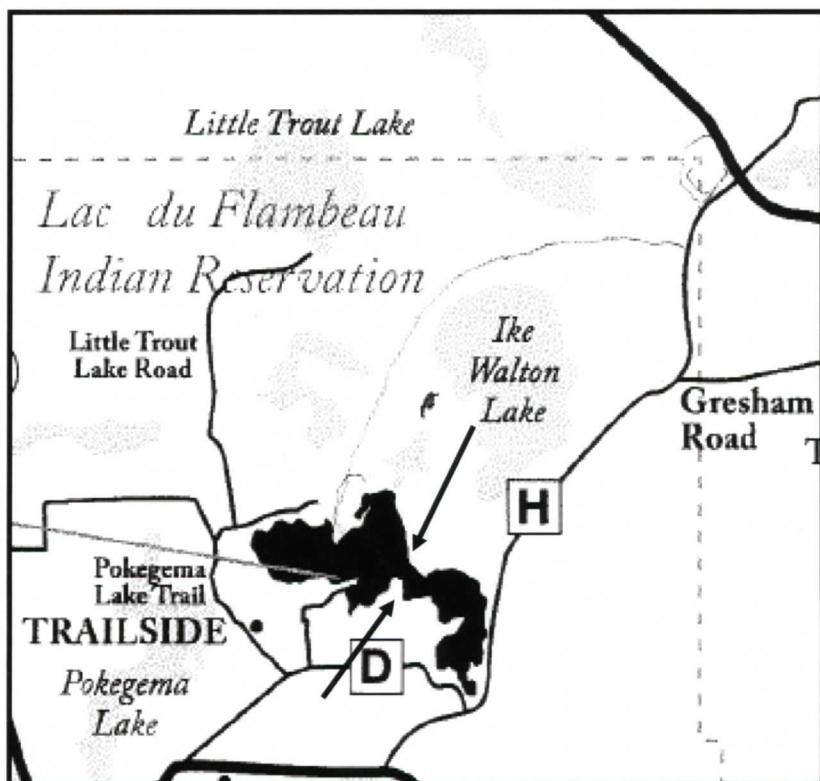


Carl and Ann Christensen were managers of the Northern Lights Bar



Scene of FBI staging center to plan and maneuver attack on the Dillinger Gang (currently Voss' Resort)

Baby Face Nelson hides out in Lac du Flambeau



Top Arrow: **Ollie Catfish's house**

Bottom Arrow: **Dillman's Bay Resort**

"Little fellow came to my house Monday, noon. He had three guns... He didn't sleep, watch me, woman, kids all the time. Stayed right with me nobody could get away. Three days he stayed with us. Our food was almost gone. All we had left to eat was bread and lard. We walked seven miles along trail toward Flambeau... **Al Snow** Indian policeman came along in a car. He had no gun. Man made them get out and took the car. He took me with him and dropped me on Highway 70. He left me there and said goodbye."

-quotes by Ollie Catfish from newspaper article 1934

Aftermath

78TH CONGRESS
1st Session

H. R. 5509

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEBRUARY 7, 1935

Mr. GREENMAN introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on Claims and ordered to be printed:

A BILL

For the relief of Carl C. Christensen.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to Carl C. Christensen, of Spider Lake, Vilas County, Wisconsin, the sum of \$7,500, in full satisfaction of all claims of said Carl C. Christensen against the United States for damages resulting from personal injuries sustained by him on April 22, 1934, when shot by one Lester M. Gillis (alias Baby Face Nelson), while assisting two agents of the Department of Justice, Division of Investigation, in their endeavor to apprehend one John Dillinger and his associates.



The bill signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt awarding Carl Christensen compensation for his wounds in pursuit of the Dillinger Gang.

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE 1244

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMER CARLTON, PRESIDENT J. C. WILLEVEN, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LCO = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
WLT = Week-End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at
Washington DC 12 44 PM 7/20/35

Alvin Keeners Town Chairman -anitowish Wis

Pres. Roosevelt yesterday signed my bill to pay thirty five hundred dollars to Carl C Christensen

F Ryan Duffy

Phoned 1 10 PM

The End of the Gang

GOVERNMENT GLAD DILLINGER'S DEAD

FIND DILLINGER TRAIL AS HIS PAL IS SLAIN

Officers Blockade Roads In
Iowa as Outlaw Is
Reported Seen

TOMMY CARROLL KILLED

'Nelson---We Got Him,' Dying U. S. Agent Told Chief

Inquest Reveals Samuel
P. Cowley, Fatally In-
jured, Knew His Job
Was Well Done

CHICAGO, Nov. 30.—(UP)—An
inquest into the death of George

ANOTHER OF DILLINGER'S GANG KILLED

Homer Van Meter Shot
Dead in St. Paul Police
Trap

Dillinger Shoot Out Timeline

1903 Born in Indianapolis, Indiana

1923 Dillinger goes AWOL after 5 months in the Navy

1924 Robbed Mooresville grocer Frank Morgan, sentenced 10-20 years

1930 Hollywood movies captivate the American viewer to the glamour of gangsters

5/1933 Paroled from the Indiana State Penitentiary and began bank robbery career

5/10/1933 Dillinger robs his first bank

9/1933 Ten convicts escape from Indiana State Penitentiary

10/1933 Dillinger escaped from Lima, Ohio jail aided by convicts he helped escape from Indiana State Penitentiary

1/15/1934 Dillinger killed policeman William P. O'Malley while committing a robbery in Indiana

1/25/1934 Tucson, Arizona police capture Dillinger Gang

1/28/1934 Dillinger jailed in Crown Point, Indiana to await murder trial

3/3/1934 Dillinger escapes from Crown Point with a wood gun

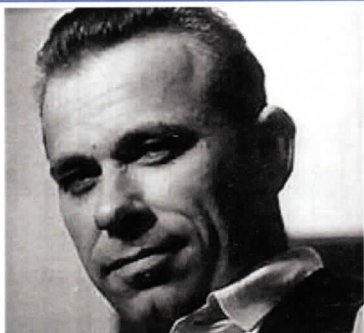
3/31/1934 Dillinger and Frechette in St. Paul apartment when they fled federal agents

4/20/1934 Hide out at Emil Wanatka's Little Bohemia Lodge in Spider Lake, Wisconsin

4/22/1934 Dillinger escaped under fire from federal agents at Little Bohemia Lodge

6/22/1934 Dillinger is informally named Public Enemy #1

7/22/1934 Dillinger is killed by federal agents leaving the Biograph Theatre in Chicago



Manitowish Waters
Historical Society

 **NORTH LAKE LAND**
DISCOVERY CENTER