A Record of Murder, Robbery, and Indiana Politics

By WILLIAM SHINNICK

FIVE YEARS ago—on Sept. 26, 1928—John Dillinger of Indiana performed a spectacular feat of outlawry. He liberated two desperate convicts from the Michigan City, Ind., penitentiary. A careless, inefficient prison administration, riddled by the spoils politics of Gov. Paul V. McNutt, made the task easy.

- That crew of murderous felons formed the nucleus of Dillinger's gang. Under his leadership they became the most serious criminal menace modern America has known. They robbed banks, they fought the law with machine guns, they slew policemen. With the $300,000 they seized they corrupted officials, women, lawyers, physicians. In one year their depredations cost society twenty human lives and a million dollars.
- McNutt was Dillinger's happiest hunting ground. That indians twice hid him upon his country—once on parole, once again when he was permitted to escape from the supposedly escape-proof Crown Point jail. That Indiana was never able or willing to arrest him, although sheriffs in Ohio and Arkansas seized him without bloodshed.
- Dillinger is long dead. He was shot to death by G-men and Indiana policemen in a situation where his capture alive was seemingly possible if attempted. Chicago detectives who wanted to take him and make him talk were warranted away from the scene of the killing.

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