

**Dillinger and Hoover I**

**Lead: In the 1930s two men came to represent the struggle between forces of law and lawlessness. Dillinger and Hoover used the popular press to portray themselves to the public.**

**Intro: A Moment In Time with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: John Herbert Dillinger was perhaps America's most famous bank robber. He was raised on a farm in Mooresville, Indiana. After a turn in the U.S. Navy, from which he deserted, Dillinger was caught after a botched holdup and served nine years in various state prisons. He learned the craft of bank robbery at the hands of the professionals while incarcerated, and shortly after his release began a round of bank heists, five in four months. He gained his first national notoriety. He was daring, physically commanding, and was known for being a sharp dresser.**

**Captured, Dillinger was rescued by former convict pals and led the police on a nation-wide chase, finally being run to ground in Tucson, Arizona. Arrested and extradited, he used a wooden gun to escape the Crown Point, Indiana jail and was off on another crime spree. He slipped through two more FBI traps, but was finally caught after being betrayed in Chicago by a lady friend and brothel owner, Anna Sage. John Dillinger was shot to death July 22, 1934, on the street**

outside the Biograph Theater after watching a screening of the gangster film, "Manhattan Melodrama."

Dillinger's end was also the culmination of an intense publicity campaign by his nemesis, FBI Director John Edgar Hoover. Hoover used Dillinger to create favorable publicity for the FBI and for himself personally. Author Anthony Summers asserted, "Edgar succeeded at self-advertisement like no comparable public figure. Next time: Using the crook."

The producer of *A Moment In Time* is Steve Clark. At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.

### Resources

Demaris, Ovid. *The Director*. New York, NY: Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., 1975.

Ellis, Mark, "J. Edgar Hoover and the 'Red Summer' of 1919," *The Journal of American Studies*. Vol. 28, (April 1994): 39 - 59.

Floyd, Craig W. and Helms, Kelley Lang, ed. *To Serve and Protect*. Paducah, KY: Turner Publishing Company, 1995.

Girardin, G. Russell and Helmere, William J. *Dillinger, The Untold Story*. Indianapolis, IN: Indiana University Press, 1994.

Klungness, Elizabeth. "The Lookout." *American Heritage*. Vol. 48, (April 1997): 35 - 37.

**Miller, Jim. "A Flawed Law-and-Order Hero: New Light on a Crimefighter's Life - and Obsessions," *Newsweek*, 16 March 1987, 74.**

**Nash, J. Robert. *The Dillinger Dossier*. Highland Park, I: December Press, 1970.**

**Sorel, Nancy Caldwell. "First Encounters: J. Edgar Hoover and Emma Goldman," *The Atlantic Monthly*. Vol. 271, (January 1993): 105**

**Summers, Anthony. *Official and Confidential: The Secret Life of J. Edgar Hoover*. New York, NY: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1993.**

**Thomas, Evan. "Mr. God Goes to Washington." *Newsweek*, 23 September 19, 91, 56**

**Copyright by Dan Roberts Enterprises, Inc.**