

I'm Calling About the Neighbors

April, 1933; Joplin, Mo.

Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker had been on a year-long crime spree ever since Clyde was paroled from the Eastham Prison Farm in Texas in February, 1932. Clyde had vowed revenge against the Eastham Prison Farm for the abuse he had endured while he had been locked up, and was planning a raid to free all the prisoners.

The gang mostly robbed small town stores and gas stations, stealing cars to make their way from state to state ahead of the police (in the 1930's police jurisdictions ended at state lines, so if a criminal could make it across into another state, the police could not follow). The gang had originally been Bonnie, Clyde and Ralph Fuchs, but Ralph and Bonnie had been arrested in a botched robbery, and Ralph was sent away for a long stretch - he never rejoined the gang. Bonnie was released after only a few months. In April of 1932, the gang shot and killed J.N. Bucher, and Clyde was accused of murder for the first time. A string of further robberies and murders occurred, including both lawmen and the innocent, totaling five victims between April and the end of the year. W.D. Williams, only 16 years old, joined the gang in December, 1932.

Marvin "Buck" Barrows was released from prison in March 1933. He picked up his wife Blanche and her dog Snowball, and joined Clyde, hoping to talk him out of his life of crime. Instead, Clyde convinced Buck to join them in a "war of Liberation" against Eastham Prison Farm. By now the gang consisted of Clyde, Bonnie, Buck, Blanche, and W.D. Jones. They had three cars, and an arsenal of rifles, shotguns, BARs and pistols.

On April 1st, 1933, they rented a two-bedroom garage apartment in Joplin, Missouri. The bottom half of the building was given over to a two car garage, while the apartment upstairs had two bedrooms, a living room, a small kitchen, and a bathroom. The gang relaxed; Bonnie writing poetry, the boys cleaning their guns and loudly playing cards. When Missouri legalized the sale of Beer on April 7th, they started drinking a case of beer a day.

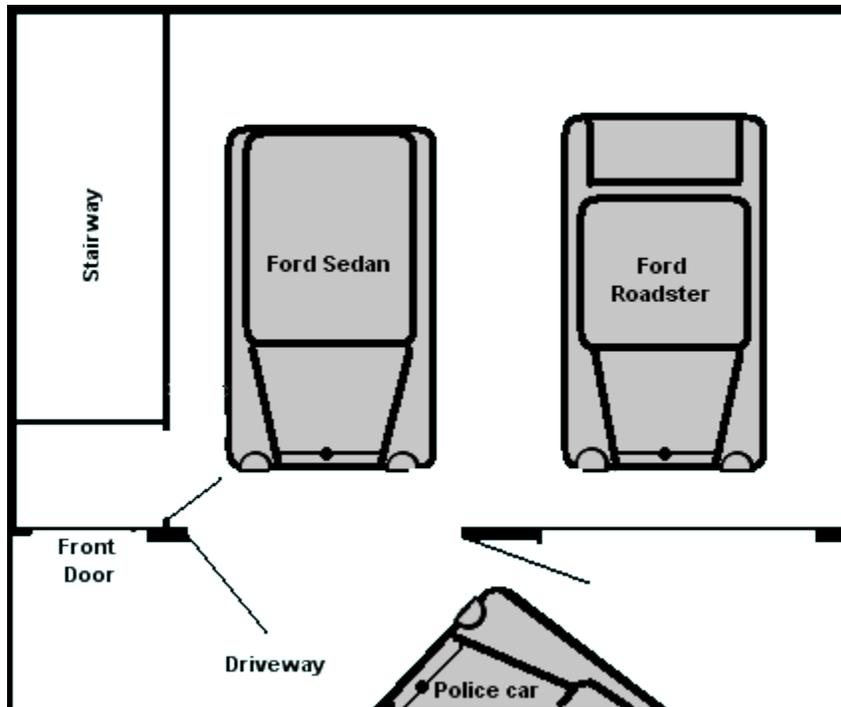
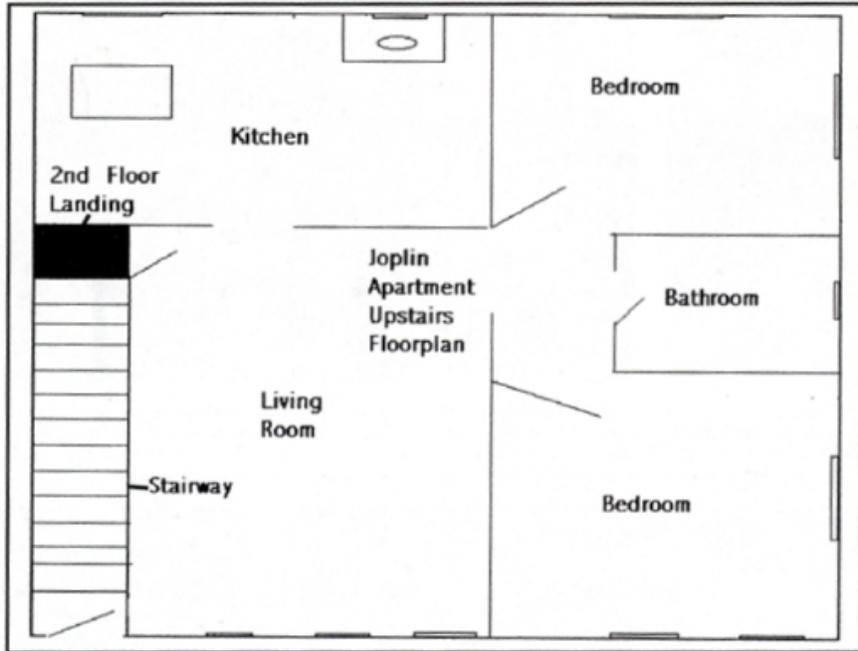
The neighbors eventually became suspicious of the people in the garage apartment with out-of state plates and late-night partying, and reported their suspicions to the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Sergeant Kahler decided to raid the suspected bootleggers, and obtained a warrant.

The gang was getting the jitters, so decided to leave Joplin on April 14th. April 13th was spent getting their cars ready for the trip and looking for a place to rob to finance the trip. Clyde and W.D. went out in one of the cars, but had to return because it was acting up. As they were transferring guns to the new car, the Law showed up to serve the warrant: five officers from three jurisdictions (Missouri State Highway Patrol, Joplin Police, and Newton County Sheriff) in two cars. The police blocked the open garage door with their car, and...



The Barrow gang starts in the garage and the apartment – Clyde and W.D. are downstairs in the garage transferring guns to a new car, Buck is in the garage, having opened the door to get the car in; Bonnie, Blanch and Snowball are upstairs in the kitchen/living room. None of the gang are far from guns, and they can ignore running out of Ammunition or Jams, and may take an action to get a different gun.

The Lawmen are in two cars. The two Joplin city policemen are in one car (both have revolvers and there is one shotgun in the car), and the other three in the other (again, everyone has a pistol, and there is one shotgun). One car is parked in front of the open door, blocking the car inside the garage from getting out.



Gangsters	FISTS	GATS	GUTS	STUNTS	SMARTS	HITS	Notes & Weapons
Clyde Barrow	3	4	5	5	3	4	BAR, Pistol Tommygunner, Wheelman
Bonnie Parker	3	3	3	3	4	3	BAR
Buck Barrow	3	3	3	3	3	3	Tommy Gun, Pistol
Blanche Barrow	2	2	2	3	3	3	
Snowball	1	0	2	5	1	1	Dog
W.D. Jones	3	3	3	4	3	3	Shotgun, Pistol

Officers	FISTS	GATS	GUTS	STUNTS	SMARTS	HITS	Notes & Weapons
Sgt. Kahler, Missouri State Highway Patrol	4	4	5	4	4	4	Pistol Pistoleer
Trooper Grammer, Missouri State Highway Patrol	4	3	4	3	3	3	Pistol
Det. McGinnis, Joplin Police	3	4	4	3	4	3	Pistol, Shotgun
Det. DeGraff Joplin Police	3	4	4	3	3	3	Pistol
Constable Harryman, Newton County Sheriff's Dept.	4	3	4	3	3	4	Pistol, Shotgun

Blanche is a non-combatant, and there are doubts if Bonnie ever fired a gun, so you may let the women use guns or not, as you wish.

Snowball is a little dog, and during the gunfight escaped the apartment, prompting Blanche to chase it down the street.

What Really Happened

Constable Harryman, who was first through the door to serve the warrant, was killed instantly. Detective McGinnis was shot and died in the hospital later that night. Buck managed to release the parking brake on the police car and push it out of the way, and the entire gang roared off in the sedan.

Snowball, an excitable mutt, had fled the apartment, prompting Blanche to chase after her down the street. The fleeing car stopped to pick up Blanche (leaving Snowball behind), and the gang made their escape.

Constable Harryman and Detective McGinnis were killed; W.D. Jones was shot in the side, Clyde and Buck were both shot in the chest, but none seriously injured.

The police found many guns, several rolls of film (some of which were published in the newspapers), Buck's wedding certificate and prison release papers, and Bonnie's poems, including one called "Suicide Sal" (<http://history1900s.about.com/od/1930s/qt/suicidesal.htm>).

Youtube link to scene in the 1967 Bonnie and Clyde Movie:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJN4fEqaimM>

Links used in compiling this scenario:

<http://debez.com/joplinhideout/index.html>

<http://texashideout.tripod.com/joplinapartment.html>

<http://www.mshp.dps.mo.gov/MSHPWeb/PatrolDivisions/TroopHeadquarters/TroopD/documents/TroopDHistory.pdf>

WANTED FOR MURDER
JOPLIN, MISSOURI

F.P.C. 29 - MO. 9
26 U 00 6

CLYDE CHAMPION BARROW, age 24, 5'7", 130#, hair dark brown and wavy, eyes hazel, light complexion, home West Dallas, Texas. This man killed Detective Harry McGinnis and Constable J.W. Harryman in this city, April 13, 1933.



BONNIE PARKER CLYDE BARROW



CLYDE BARROW

This man is dangerous and is known to have committed the following murders: Howard Hall, Sherman, Texas; J.N. Bucher, Hillsboro, Texas; a deputy sheriff at Atoka, Okla; deputy sheriff at West Dallas, Texas; also a man at Belden, Texas.

The above photos are kodaks taken by Barrow and his companions in various poses, and we believe they are better for identification than regular police pictures.

Wire or write any information to the

Police Department.

WANTED FOR MURDER

\$600.00 REWARD

JOPLIN, MISSOURI

On April 13, 1933, these men shot and killed Detective Harry McGinnis and Constable J. W. Harryman at Joplin, Missouri, in suburban residence district.

Reward offered: \$200.00 by the City of Joplin
\$200.00 by the County of Jasper
\$200.00 by the County of Newton

All rewards to be paid upon arrest and conviction

CLYDE CHAMPION BARROW

Age 23 years.
Height 5 ft. 7 in. BF.
Weight 125 pounds.
Hair Dark brown, wavy.
Eyes Hazel.
Complexion Light.
Occupation None
Home West Dallas, Texas.

This man is very dangerous; his record shows that he has killed at least three or four men before this and participated in several highway robberies.

FINGER PRINT CLASSIFICATION:

29 — MO 9
26 U 00 9



MELVIN IVAN BARROW

Age 31 years.
Height 5 ft. 5 in. BF.
Weight 110 pounds.
Hair Chestnut.
Eyes Maroon.
Complexion Ruddy.
Occupation Laborer.
Home Dallas, Texas.

This man was pardoned from the Texas Penitentiary on March 23, 1933, by Governor Ferguson.

FINGER PRINT CLASSIFICATION:

9 U 11 9
1 R 11 11



If more than one claimant for reward, parties offering reward will reserve right to apportion as they think proper.

These men made their getaway in a V-8 Ford Coach, Dark Green Color, 1932 model.

They were accompanied by two young women who lived with them in an apartment over the garage where the shooting occurred.

The assistance and co-operation of all officers is requested in the apprehension of these men.

Notify Police Department, Joplin, Missouri