

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

1216 Smith Young Tower
San Antonio, Texas.
May 2, 1934.

MR. NATHAN	_____
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OTJ/ME

Director,
Division of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

H. S. LEBMAN
Unlawful Poss. Govt. Prop.
JOHN DILLINGER ET AL
Nat. M. V. T. Act

Dear Sir:

Having reference to my telephone conversation with you Monday morning, April 30, 1934, and the agreement reached that wide publicity should be given to the arrest of Leberman and the fact that he has been supplying notorious gangsters with machine guns and other arms, I am attaching hereto clippings from local San Antonio papers.

It is my honest belief that if each and every individual known to give aid and comfort in any manner to any of these gangsters is dragged out into the open, where the citizens of the town can look him over and know what he is doing, it will tend to close up some avenues of refuge and supplies that these gangsters have apparently been furnished. It will no doubt tend to make it all the harder for them to make new contacts and will cause some of their contacts that we do not as yet know about to become more wary concerning their dealings, as some of the so-called respectable citizens throughout the country who have been surreptitiously rendering aid to these gangsters will not know when they will be next to be advertised among their home-town people.

Very truly yours,

Gus T. Jones

Gus T. Jones,
Special Agent in Charge.

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H. S. LEBMAN
Unlawful Poss. Govt. Prop.

JOHN DILLINGER ET AL.
Nat. M. V. T. Act

SAN ANTONIO LIGHT
Apr. 30, 1934.

Dillinger's Guns Made in S. A.

GUNSMITH IS SEIZED BY U. S. AGENTS

Charge of Receiving Stolen
U. S. Automatic Placed
Against Lebman.

Following the arrest of H. S. Lebman, 29-year-old gunsmith and saddle store operator at 111 South Flores street, federal authorities Monday declare they had cut off one of the chief supply sources of machine guns and other deadly weapons used by John ("Wooden Gun") Dillinger and his notorious band of killers.

Lebman, it is claimed by federal agents, sold firearms to George ("Baby Face") Nelson, chief machine-gunner for the Dillinger mob, and to Homer Van Meter, Dillinger lieutenant.

Arrested Saturday night and held in Bexar county jail over the weekend, Lebman was arraigned before U. S. Commissioner Paul A. Lockhart Monday on a charge of receiving, concealing, and retaining a stolen government pistol. This was the only charge which could be brought under provisions of existing federal statutes, officers said.

IDENTIFIED BY PHOTO.

Department of Justice Agent Gus Jones, gangland Nemesis, who headed the round-up of the kidnapers of Charles F. Ulrich, Oklahoma millionaire, announced that Lebman had positively identified one of the men to whom he sold machine guns as Nelson.

Nelson was known to Lebman as Jimmie Williams. It was claimed

and identification was established through a photograph of Nelson.

Lebman's gunshop, visited by officers Sunday morning following his arrest Saturday night, was described as a veritable arsenal.

It was claimed that the stolen government pistol was wired to a work bench and was being converted into a machine gun.

Lebman was described as an expert gunsmith.

It was further revealed by Jones that a .38 caliber automatic pistol found in the wake of the battle between Dillinger and government officers in Wisconsin last week has been traced to Lebman's shop.

This gun, Jones said, was shipped to Lebman from a Fort Worth firm on September 18, 1933.

Lebman was released under bond Monday afternoon. Bondsmen are his father, Sam Lebman, 524 East Evergreen street, and Harry Hessel, same address.

Lebman was placed under \$2000 temporary bond when arraigned, returnable at 10 a. m. Tuesday.

Lebman pleaded not guilty. His hair was tousled, his face unshaven, and he was in his shirt sleeves when he appeared before the United States commissioner.

Jones explained how Lebman had been linked with allegedly supplying guns used by Dillinger gangsters.

It was admitted in Lebman's statement, Jones pointed out, that Lebman sold five machine guns to a Jimmie Williams, delivering them in St. Paul, Minn.

Jones said that Lebman, when confronted with a picture of George ("Baby Face") Nelson, readily admitted it was a likeness of the man he had known as Jimmie Williams.

This Williams was known to have kept company while in San Antonio last fall with Tommie Carroll, slayer of City Detective H. C. Ferrow.

Furthermore, Jones declared, Williams was with a man going under the name of Wayne Huttner.

Huttner, according to Jones, has been positively identified as Homer Van Meter, Dillinger's chief lieutenant.

When federal officers visited

Lebman's store Sunday following his arrest Saturday night, Jones reported, they found the stolen pistol, some 200 shotguns and rifles, and in addition to pistols, there was a machine gun.

Part of the machine gun was in a safe, Jones said, and the other portion was concealed elsewhere. The two parts were ready to slip together, it was said.

The pistol which Lebman allegedly was fashioning into a machine gun had been ordered, it was claimed, by Huttner or Van Meter.

Lebman's statement disclosed that he had obtained guns in Fort Worth, El Paso and Corpus Christi.

It is claimed by Jones that the pistol which killed Detective Ferrow last December 11 had been obtained from Lebman. Carroll, the slayer, who shot his way out of a blind alley, has been traced to recent depredations with Dillinger and his outlaw band.

In the recent engagement between Uncle Sam's picked officers and the Dillinger clan at Little Bohemia, Wis., Carroll was one of the gunmen.

In signing the complaint charging Lebman with receiving and concealing the stolen weapon, Jones bitterly remarked:

"I have the statement from Lebman, and all I can file is this charge, since there is no other law under which to bring a charge."

Jones and other local federal agents declared that this should spur congress to act on the bill now pending which would make possession of firearms a federal offense.

COUNTY TO ACT

At the same time, however, United States Attorney W. R. Smith Jr. announced that he had found the last called session of the state legislature had passed a law making it a felony for a person to possess a machine gun.

Smith immediately went into conference with District Attorney Walter Tynan, he revealed, and Tynan, after viewing the statements of Lebman, agreed to prosecute in connection with the seizure of the machine gun.

Conviction under the state law, Smith said, carries with it a penalty ranging from 10 to 15 years in the state penitentiary.

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S. A. HEADQUARTERS

United States Marshal Guy McNamara, who has been active in the investigation, declared that this revelation should be an "eye-opener" for congress, awakening them to the pressing need for legislation which would control the sale and ownership of firearms.

McNamara said:

"San Antonio has been virtually the headquarters for the criminal gangs which have been terrorizing the nation. Not only have they looked to San Antonio for supplies, but they have come and gone here at will."

"We go out with pistols to fight criminals armed with machine guns," the marshal added.

Lebman's name had appeared at the time of the slaying of City Detective Ferrow last December.

At that time, Carroll, the two-gun slayer, was traced to Lebman's store. Carroll commandeered a truck at pistol point following his bloody escape from the trap on East Commerce street, and forced the driver to take him to Nueva and South Flores streets, officers said.

The gunman then dashed into Lebman's store, it was said, and procured a pair of blue riding breeches, which he donned for his escape.

He was never traced beyond the store until officers recognized him in recent brushes with the Dillinger mob.

Jones related Monday that Lebman's wife telephoned him following her husband's arrest and sobbingly begged that he be allowed to return home. The wife said Lebman's two small children were ill.

"I told her," Jones said, "that her husband would come back home to her and their children soon, but that the father of two small children in Virginia would never come back. The latter was Carter Baum, department of justice man, who was slain in the fight with Dillinger and his gang at Little Bohemia last week."

TO CHECK RECORDS

Declaring that he is going to "smoke them out," Jones was attempting Monday to check the records and transactions in all cases where guns have been sold to Lebman, in an effort to get the numbers of guns. Lebman kept no records, Jones explained. Three machine guns left at the Little Bohemia battleground might have been shipped from San Antonio. Jones said as their source has not been traced.

"We know now, and we want all the world to know, that gangsters have not only been coming here and receiving aid and comfort, but that they have even had supplies shipped to them as far north as St. Paul," Jones said.

S. A. HEADQUARTERS

"This is one of the answers to why we can't catch the desperadoes that are leaving a trail of blood over this country," Jones added.

Federal officers made the flat statement, after the news of the case had spread, that "San Antonio is headquarters for gangsters." "They can come and get their guns or have them shipped, or have them repaired," Jones said.

Local federal officials were in conference with Washington representatives all morning Monday, relaying details of the case and urging passage of the federal bill which would make it possible to prosecute Lebman under the new law.

Jones explained that Lebman sold Keith two .380 calibre automatic pistols last September, and that after the death of City Detective Ferrow, Keith had a .380 calibre pistol on his person when arrested at the Aurora apartments. Ferrow was killed with a .380 pistol, Jones said.

H. S. LEBMAN
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SAN ANTONIO EVENING NEWS
Apr. 30, 1934.

OUTLAW SHOT WAY OUT OF TRAP WITH WEAPON SOLD BY DEALER IN ALAMO CITY

Automatic Pistol Left by Gang When They Fled From Officers in Wisconsin Also Traced to Dealer Here.

A .38-CALIBER super-automatic pistol which was used by John Dillinger mobsters in their battle with Government agents and other officers at the Little Bohemia resort in Wisconsin last week has been traced back to San Antonio where it was sold by H. S. Lebman, South Flores street gun dealer, Federal agents reported today.

A charge of receiving and possessing a stolen Government pistol was filed against Lebman today.

Gus Jones, agent in charge of the bureau of investigation, U. S. Department of Justice here, declared that the pistol, found at the Wisconsin resort after Dillinger and his gang had escaped, was first traced to Wolf & Klar, a Fort Worth firm. Their records show that it was sold to Lebman here.

In a written statement, Lebman admitted selling the gun, and also admitted the sale and shipment of five Thompson sub-machine guns to a man named Jimmie Williams in St. Paul, Minn., in October, 1933.

Echoes of the slaying here last December of City Detective H. C. Ferrow reverberated through Lebman's written statement. He told of Tommie Carroll, alias James McLarkin, visiting his gun shop at 111 South Flores street immediately after he had shot Detective Ferrow and wounded Detective Alfred Hartman, but denied that he knew anything of Carroll's implication in the shooting at that time. Carroll put on a pair of blue denim pants in Lebman's store, it was stated, and walked out.

Carroll, under the name of James McLarkin, has been charged with Ferrow's murder. He has been positively identified as a member of the present Dillinger mob. Jones reported finding a

mantled Thompson sub-machine gun in perfect working order in Lebman's store Sunday. In his statement, Lebman said that this gun was secured from a man in Corpus Christi.

PISTOL MADE INTO MACHINE GUN.

Jones also found a .45-caliber automatic pistol on Lebman's workbench which he declared was being made into a machine gun.

In the written statement, Lebman said that this gun was ordered by a man named Wayne Hutner last November, while he was here with Carroll, H. L. Keith and others. Hutner, Jones declared, has been positively identified as Homer Van Meter, one of Dillinger's right-hand men, who started shooting in a recent fight in a St. Paul apartment house when Dillinger again escaped.

Jones said that the man Jimmie Williams, who Lebman named as the consignee for the five machine guns he shipped last October, is yet to be identified and located.

Excerpts from Lebman's statement follow:

"In June, 1933, one Jimmie Williams and a man named Fisher or Keith came to my place of business. At that time they had with them a woman whom Williams said was his wife. Williams and the woman had a little boy about

SOLD GUNS
"Keith had no woman who was in the same man who was arrested in an apartment house on Dec. 13 in connection with the shooting of City Detective Ferrow. These people remained in San Antonio about one week. While they were here I sold Williams and Keith two super-automatic pistols and two .38-caliber automatic pistols. These pistols I ordered by express from Wolf & Klar, Fort Worth.

"I never heard any more from these people until in the latter part of September, 1933, I learned it was when I had a letter from Jimmie Williams written from St. Paul, Minn., ordering two super-automatic, .38-caliber; two .45-caliber .38 automatic pistols, and three .38 rifles. In this letter Williams also wanted to know if I could get him some Thompson sub-machine guns.

"Through Harry Cushman, who travels for a gun trust concern and who should be well known to the fire department here, I learned that I could get some machine guns from John Stockmeyer, an insurance man who resides on Porfirio Diaz street, El Paso. I communicated with Stockmeyer. I do not recall whether by letter or by telegram, but he advised me that he could furnish me with some machine guns.

"I drove to El Paso in my car accompanied by a man named Melcey. This is the same man who was arrested in the apartment house with Keith. On this trip I secured two Thompson sub-machine guns and returned to San Antonio. This was in the month of October, 1933. I stated that same month made another trip to El Paso and obtained three additional Thompson machine guns from Stockmeyer. All these guns were shipped to Jimmie Williams at 1033 South Flores street, St. Paul, Minn. I do not recall whether I shipped the pistols at a different time than I shipped the machine guns. Williams also had sent me about \$200 in the letter he wrote me which I believe that approximately \$200 of this was in cashiers checks on some Chicago bank, the name of which I do not recall. The machine guns were shipped to Williams by express.

"I do not recall whether I shipped the machine guns at a different time than I shipped the pistols. Williams also had sent me about \$200 in the letter he wrote me which I believe that approximately \$200 of this was in cashiers checks on some Chicago bank, the name of which I do not recall. The machine guns were shipped to Williams by express. I do not recall whether I shipped the machine guns at a different time than I shipped the pistols. Williams also had sent me about \$200 in the letter he wrote me which I believe that approximately \$200 of this was in cashiers checks on some Chicago bank, the name of which I do not recall. The machine guns were shipped to Williams by express.

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PARTY REMAINS ONE MONTH

This party of people remained in San Antonio almost a month during which time I sold other Jimmie Williams or Keith two more .38-caliber automatic pistols, Williams, Huttner, McGannon, and the woman left San Antonio on

Saturday night, prior to the shooting of Detective Ferrow on Monday, Dec. 12. I believe it was (Ferrow was killed Dec. 11.) I know they left because they came to my store and told me goodby. Carroll and Keith remained in San Antonio.

Tommie Carroll had at one time asked me if he could borrow a pair of old pants to wear hunting. On the evening that Detective Ferrow was shot, and before I knew of the shooting and at about 5:30 p. m., Carroll came to my place and borrowed a pair of trousers and left my place walking. I have never seen him since. Later that same evening about 9:30 p. m. Keith phoned me to meet him on Broadway near Brackenridge Park. I met him and Nelcey. They were in the car of Keith's. Keith asked me about the shooting and I told him that from a conversation I had with a girl who had phoned me from Keene's drug store Carroll might have been involved as this girl had asked me not to say anything about her going with Carroll or knowing him in case anyone asked me. Keith said he was going to the apartments, get his clothes, and leave town. The next time I saw Keith was in the San Antonio police department after his arrest.

"I have not been able to find the record of a .38-caliber super-automatic pistol shipped to me on Sept. 18, 1933, by Wolf & Klar, but if one was shipped on that date it was one of the guns that I shipped to Jimmie Williams at St. Paul."

EXPLAINS LETTER FROM WILLIAMS.

In a supplementary statement, Lebman explained a letter which he received from Williams. The letter follows:

"Dear Pal: Could not write sooner. Enclose my personal letter in another envelope addressed to Jimmie. Hope to hear some good news from you soon. Don't get me any more outfits like the last one. It was 'one way' like I thought it was. I'm sure you understand what I mean. But don't get it 'worry' you." The letter was signed, "Jimmie."

Lebman's Statement

"I received the above letter from Jimmie Williams. It was posted in Minneapolis, Minn., and since having it called to my attention I now know that I was mistaken in the address of Jimmie Williams which I said in my previous statement was 1633 South Preston street, St. Paul. I now am sure that the address mentioned in the above letter is the place I shipped all the guns described in my former statement. I do not know what made me mention the other address.

"The outfit Jimmie refers to in the letter was a machine gun I sold him in September, 1933. I recall now that Jimmie and his wife returned to San Antonio about the 10th of September, 1933, and remained about three days. There was no one else with them. At that time he also bought one .38 superautomatic and a .35-caliber automatic pistol. This machine gun I obtained from a man in Corpus Christi, Tex. I believe he got the gun from a deputy sheriff. He called me up and I went down to Corpus and got the gun and I believe I paid him \$130 for the gun. I brought it to San Antonio and Jimmie was leaving that night and I delivered the gun to him. He paid me \$800 for it."

GUN TURNED OVER TO GUS JONES.

"Jimmie shipped this gun back to me to be repaired as it would not operate 'full auto' and that is what he meant by his statement in the above letter that it was 'one-way.' I repaired this gun and showed it to him when he came to San Antonio in November, 1933. This gun I am now voluntarily turning over to Gus T. Jones for the purpose of tracing its identity.

"Concerning the .45-caliber automatic, this gun was dismantled by me in the shape it was in and I was building it into a 'one-way' machine gun; the hand grip found with it was to have been affixed to the gun and the gun was to have been made to fire 'full auto.' This job was ordered done by Wayne Huttner while the gang was here in November, 1933. The job was not finished when Huttner left and I was to deliver it to Keith but did not on account of his arrest. This gun was not sold by me and I do not know where they obtained it."

Mrs. Mary Lebman, the gun dealer's wife, also made a statement.

The husband, making a statement, gave Lebman shortly after the shooting with Keith, Carroll, and others. Lebman was arrested during the trial by Jones, who was made a member of the investigation.

The complaint filed against Lebman charges him with unlawfully and feloniously receiving property of the Government, to wit, one .45-caliber automatic pistol, serial No. 77419. Jones declared that Lebman kept no record of his gun dealings. Lebman was arrested here following the killing of Ferrow and held for questioning, but was later released.

Carroll, who escaped following the killing, has lately been identified as a member of the John Dillinger gang. Keith has since been sentenced to 10 years in the penitentiary at Minnesota's post office robbery.