

# LESSON PLAN

**Lesson Title:** Popular Culture in Graphic Illustration  
**Grade Level:** 3rd – 8th, adaptable  
**Length of Lesson:** Six 45-minute Class Periods

**Lesson Description:**  
Students will learn about former FBI agent, Melvin Purvis. Through Purvis’ success in the FBI, bringing major criminals to justice, he became a popular culture icon. Games, comic books and cereal boxes were all designed to depict the “G-man.” Students will choose an historical figure on which to base a graphic story. Each student will write, develop and design a comic book based on their own real-life superhero.

**South Carolina State Standards:**  
ELA Writing: Standards 3, 4, 5, and 6  
Visual Arts: VA.CR.1, VA.CR.2, VA.P.3, VA.P.4, VA.C.7

- Instructional Objectives:**
- Students will select an historical figure on which they will base a graphic story.
  - Students will conceive, develop, and design a comic book.

**Vocabulary:**  
Elements of Art: Line, Shape, Color, Value, Space  
Comic Book  
Thumbnail Sketch  
Panel  
Gutter  
Splash  
Spread

**Florence County Museum Connections:**  
Melvin Purvis “Junior G-man” Comics, Pee Dee History Gallery

**Materials:**  
Pencil, Erasers  
White Drawing Paper, at least 9 x 12 or Comic Template\*  
Colored Pencil  
Black Fine-point Permanent Marker

- Questioning:**
- Melvin Purvis was a real FBI agent, born in Timmonsville, SC. He became well known for bringing serious criminals to justice. Why do you think people liked hearing stories about Mr. Purvis’ work? Why do you think they called him “G-Man”?
    - G-Man is short for “Government Man”, an American slang term for FBI agents.
  - In a comic book, you must tell your story with images as well as words. How do you think this helps the reader understand your story?

- Instructional Procedures:**
- Students will brainstorm a real-life present day or historical figure that they would like to use as the main character in their comic book.
  - Students should write out a description of their character. You may also require the students to research their real-life historical figure to present to the class. What is your character’s name? Describe their personality, occupation, and accomplishments.
  - Students will begin their comic book by making thumbnail sketches of what the character looks like. Take one idea and develop it, showing the character from the front, side views, full body, close up. What is the plot of your story? If your character is the protagonist, who is the antagonist? What will your story’s conflict and climax be? All of these ideas should be planned before beginning the final comic book design.
  - Students will create a rough draft template based on their thumbnail sketches and notes. In the rough draft students should create 3 practice panels with notes below each panel outlining the area of the plot depicted and any text.
  - Students will transfer rough draft drawings to final comic template, filling in additional panels as needed. Draw your illustrations first in light pencil. Add lettering, details and color. Finish with a fine point marker outline.
  - When the student’s story is complete, decide on the best composition for the cover of the book. What will the title of the story be? Students should carefully pencil in their cover design, finishing in the same manner as the interior content. (Students may want to create a rough draft copy prior to designing the cover on their completed comic book.)

- Closing:**
- How does your comic book bring the character you chose to life? What is the plot of your story? Setting? What is the climax?
  - How does your design make a particular aspect of the character stand out to the viewer?
  - Do you think your comic book will help other students become interested in learning about the real-life historical figure that you chose?

\*Comic Template can be found on our website at [flocomuseum.org/pee-dee-connections-lesson-supplements](http://flocomuseum.org/pee-dee-connections-lesson-supplements)

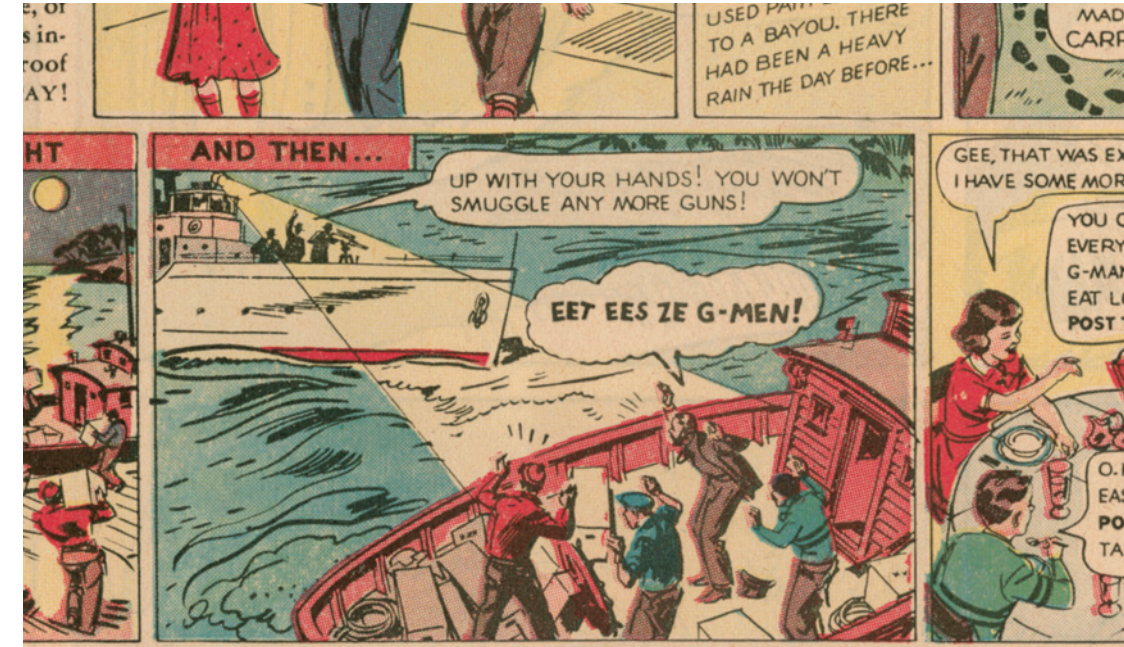


Florence County Museum  
111 West Cheves Street  
Florence, SC 29501



# PEE DEE CONNECTIONS

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## ABOUT THIS POSTER

Melvin Purvis, the son of a Timmonsville tobacco farmer, was born in Florence County, in 1903. After graduating from South Carolina College with a law degree in 1925, Purvis became a legal aid in Florence. In 1926, he applied for a position as investigator with the recently formed Federal Bureau of Investigation. Before his 30th birthday, Melvin Purvis had become special agent in charge of the FBI’s Chicago field office. He was American law enforcement’s answer to the growing threat of gangsters and organized crime.

During his career with the FBI, Purvis captured, killed and brought to justice the most notorious criminals of his day, including “Machine Gun” Kelly, “Pretty Boy” Floyd and “Baby Face” Nelson. Most famously, Purvis was credited for stopping the infamous bank robber John Dillinger, public enemy number one. In June, 1934, FBI agents under Purvis’ command confronted and shot Dillinger outside of Chicago’s Biograph Theatre, ending his reign of organized crime throughout the northern Midwest. Because of this, Melvin Purvis entered the public spotlight and quickly became an icon in 1930’s pop culture.

“G-Man” radio programs, pulp novels, product endorsements and comic books quickly capitalized on, and contributed to, Purvis’ celebrity status. He became a spokesperson for Dodge automobiles and Post Toasties cereal, while returning to civilian life in Florence as an attorney, newspaper editor and owner of WOLS radio station. In recent years he has been the subject of a best-selling biography and ETV documentary film. He was portrayed in the 2009 movie *Public Enemies* by actor Christian Bale.

The Community Arts Program is part of an arts integration program through the Florence County Museum. Funding for this program is provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts** and the **Trustees of the Florence Museum**.

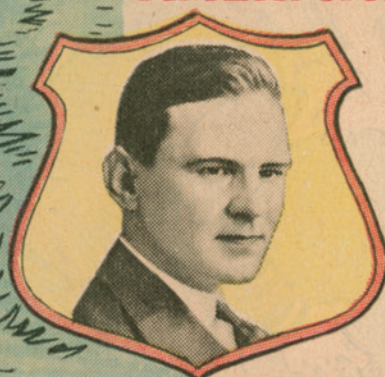


Florence County Museum | 111 West Cheves Street | Florence, South Carolina | 843.676.1200 | [flocomuseum.org](http://flocomuseum.org)

Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Sunday: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

# THE TRAIL OF THE GUN-RUNNERS

## AN INSIDE STORY OF MELVIN PURVIS AMERICA'S NO.1 G-MAN



MELVIN PURVIS, the young lawyer who became America's ace G-Man, who directed the capture of Dillinger, "Pretty Boy" Floyd, "Baby Face" Nelson, and many other public enemies. Mr. Purvis reveals here methods used in capturing criminals. Names have, of course, been changed. This inside story is published as proof that CRIME DOES NOT PAY!



WILL YOU TELL US A STORY WHILE WE'RE TAKING OUR POST TOASTIES HOME, MR. PURVIS?

ALL RIGHT--I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME I WAS SENT ON AN ASSIGNMENT DOWN IN LOUISIANA...

I WAS DETAILED TO HUNT FOR SOME GUN-RUNNERS WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO BE SENDING ARMS FROM THE COAST OF LOUISIANA TO A CENTRAL AMERICAN REPUBLIC. WE FOUND NO TRACE OF THEM UNTIL ONE DAY WE CAME UPON A LITTLE-USED PATH LEADING TO A BAYOU. THERE HAD BEEN A HEAVY RAIN THE DAY BEFORE...



LOOK, CHIEF--SOMEBODY'S BEEN ALONG THIS PATH SINCE THAT RAIN YESTERDAY.

HM... THOSE TRACKS ARE DEEP AND CLOSE TOGETHER -- THAT MEANS THAT WHOEVER MADE THOSE PRINTS WAS CARRYING A HEAVY BURDEN!



I PUT ONE OF MY MEN ON GUARD AT THE PATH, CONCEALED IN THE BRUSH. NOTHING HAPPENED FOR THREE WEEKS, AND THEN--

LOOK, CHIEF--A FARMER HID THIS BLANK PIECE OF PAPER UNDER A ROCK BY THAT PATH TODAY.

LET'S TEST IT... I'LL SEE IF MY SPECIAL DEVELOPER FLUID WILL BRING OUT ANY INVISIBLE WRITING!

**MELVIN PURVIS BRINGS OUT THE INVISIBLE WRITING...**

AHA! WE'LL MAKE ANOTHER NOTE JUST LIKE THIS AND PUT IT IN THE SAME HIDING PLACE! NOW, BOB, GET IN TOUCH WITH THAT COAST GUARD PATROL BOAT...

*Have fishing boat in Mariette Bayou at midnight last arms shipment*

FREE... Invisible Writing Set. See offer below.

**MIDNIGHT THAT NIGHT**

GOOD WORK, MY FREN'S! ZAT IS ZE LAST CASE OF RIFLES!

**AND THEN...**

UP WITH YOUR HANDS! YOU WON'T SMUGGLE ANY MORE GUNS!

EET EES ZE G-MEN!

GEE, THAT WAS EXCITING! NOW MAY I HAVE SOME MORE POST TOASTIES?

YOU CERTAINLY MAY! I WANT EVERY MEMBER OF MY JUNIOR G-MAN CORPS TO EAT LOTS OF POST TOASTIES!

O.K. MR. PURVIS. THAT'S EASY ADVICE TO TAKE -- POST TOASTIES SURE TASTE SWELL!

Boys' Badge and Girls' Division Badge (both shown above). Both badges are of polished gold-bronze design with satin-gold background, enameled in blue. Free for 2 Post Toasties package tops.

**Post Toasties Corn Flakes**

MADE OF CORN GITSY, SUGAR AND SALT

This is the new Post Toasties package. There are Mickey Mouse toys on the back of every box.

**TAKE MELVIN PURVIS' ADVICE ... HAVE ME FOR BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING!**

If those golden-brown Post Toasties could talk... they'd tell you why they're so good that folks everywhere call them "The Better Corn Flakes!" They'd tell you how they are made—from the sweet, tender little hearts of the corn, where most of the flavor is

stored...how every delicious flake is toasted double crisp, so it will keep its crunchy goodness longer in milk or cream.

All over the country enthusiastic members of the Junior G-Man Corps have written to Melvin Purvis, thanking him for his tip on Post Toasties. Operative Gordon Logan, 1825 Camp Ave., Rockford, Ill., writes: "I have a great big bowlful of Post Toasties every morning—they're the swellest tasting cereal ever!"

And how extra good they are with the luscious, juicy fruits that are in season now! You'll like them for luncheon, too! Ask Mother to get your Post Toasties now—the price is low. And join the Junior G-Man Corps!

**A POST CEREAL—MADE BY GENERAL FOODS**

**BOYS AND GIRLS! JOIN MY JUNIOR G-MAN CORPS!**

I'LL SEND YOU FREE MY OFFICIAL JUNIOR G-MAN BADGE...PUT YOUR NAME ON THE SECRET ROLL... AND SEND YOU MY BIG EXCITING BOOK THAT TELLS ALL ABOUT CLUES, SECRET CODES, SELF DEFENSE, INVISIBLE WRITING... SECRETS EVERY JUNIOR G-MAN OUGHT TO KNOW... INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO BECOME A ROVING OPERATIVE AND EVEN CHIEF OPERATIVE! ALSO MY BIG CATALOG TELLING BOYS AND GIRLS HOW TO GET OTHER FREE PRIZES! SEND THE COUPON NOW!

**TO JOIN:** Send two Post Toasties package tops with coupon below, to Melvin Purvis, c/o Post Toasties, Battle Creek, Mich. He'll enroll you as a member of his Junior G-Man Corps... send you his official Junior G-Man badge... his big, thrilling book that tells how to become a Junior G-Man and a catalog of OTHER SWELL FREE PRIZES!

**GET THESE OTHER SWELL PRIZES**

(Catalog tells how to get them)

**INVISIBLE WRITING OUTFIT AND COD-A-GRAPH.** (Shown in cartoon above.) Cod-a-graph enables you to make up your own codes! Free for 8 Post Toasties package tops.

**OFFICIAL KEY RING.** Holds 20 or more keys. Leather strap 3 inches long, with snap. Free for 4 package tops.

**AUTOGRAPHED PHOTO OF MELVIN PURVIS.** Suitable for framing. Free for 2 Post Toasties package tops.

MSN 8-3-36

MELVIN PURVIS, c/o Post Toasties, Battle Creek, Mich.

I enclose \_\_\_\_\_ Post Toasties package tops. Please send me the items checked below. Check whether boy ( ) or girl ( ). Age ( ).

( ) Membership Badge (send 2 package tops)

( ) Photo of Melvin Purvis (send 2 package tops)

( ) Invisible Writing Outfit (send 8 package tops)

( ) Key Ring (send 4 package tops)

(Put correct postage on letter)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

(Offer expires December 31, 1936. Good only in U.S.A.)