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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. Name's have, of course, been changed! This inside story is published as proof that CRIME DOES NOT PAY!

MELVIN PURVIS BRINGS OUT THE INVISIBLE WRITING...

AWA! 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...

Four folding boats in a Marquette Bayou at midnight tonight last—would shipmen?

FREE... Invisible Writing Set See offer below.

MIDNIGHT THAT NIGHT

GOOD WORK, MY FRIENDS! 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!



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 crunchiness 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 bowl of Post Toasties every morning—they're the sweetest 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!

GET THESE OTHER SWELL PRIZES

(Catalog tells how to get them)

INVISIBLE WRITING OUTFIT AND CDD-A GRAPH. (Shown in cartoon above.) Cdd-a-graph enables you to make up your own code! 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.

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!

NAME (Print correct package on letter)

STREET

CITY STATE

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

Detroit News, 1936, 2010.14.154

Melvin Purvis was the son of a Timmons ville tobacco farmer and 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 (FBI). 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 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 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 a hero 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. In 2009, actor Christian Bale portrayed him in the movie Public Enemies.

The Community Arts Program is part of an arts integration program through the Florence County Museum.

MAKE IT!

Materials:

Pencil, Eraser
Paper, Colored Pencils
Fine-point Black Marker or pen

Things to Think About:

- 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 to understand your story?

Create your Comic Book:

- Think of a person that you would like to use as the main character in your comic book.
- Write out a description of your character: What does your character wear? What is your character's name? Describe the personality of your character. Is your character funny, kind, happy, sad? What is something that your character is proud of, any accomplishments?
- Begin your comic book by making small "thumbnail" sketches of what your character looks like. Take one idea and develop it. Show your character from the front, side views, full body, close up.
- What is the plot of your story? Is there a conflict in your story and what is the most exciting event or the climax of the story?
- Now that you have thought about your character and your story, it is time to create your comic book. Draw your illustrations lightly in light pencil. Add lettering, details and color. Finish with a fine-point black marker outline.
- When your story is complete, think about the cover of your comic book. What will the title of the story be? How does your title relate to the story?
- Continue to work on your project, share your ideas, and read your comic book to others.



