

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **62-2103**

REPORT MADE AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	DATE WHEN MADE 11/12/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/6,7/35	REPORT MADE BY W. J. DEVEREUX WJD:RP
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TITLE JOHN HERBERT DILLINGER, with aliases: John Hall, John Donovan Hall, Clarence O Cruso, Joseph J. Harris, J. H. Donovan, O Kirtly, Frank Sullivan, Carl T. Hellman - DECEASED.	CHARACTER OF CASE DEATH MASK OF DILLINGER.
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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Officials Coroner's office, Chicago, deny any permission given anyone take ~~death mask~~, Dillinger, County Morgue, July, 1934. Information that embalming school, Chicago, attempted to take mask, but ousted from Morgue and mask confiscated. Other information that Deputy Coroner then in charge of Morgue may have permitted death mask made without Coroner's knowledge. Such Deputy subsequently discharged because of dishonesty. Chicago undertaker denies masks taken at his parlors.

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REFERENCE:

Bureau letter dated October 24, 1935.
(File No. 62-29777).

DETAILS:

At the Cook County Morgue, West Polk Street near Wood Street, Chicago, Illinois, agent interviewed several office attendants regarding the identity of any Chicago person or firm who may have been permitted to make a death mask of John Dillinger when his body was at the Morgue on July 23 and 24, 1934. The individuals interviewed professed ignorance of any mask being taken excepting what they had read in the newspapers during July, 1934.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2 - Bureau 2 - Chicago COPIES DESTROYED 40 SEP 2 1964		62-129777-531	NOV 15 1935 DEC 2 1935
		NOV 1935 JAMES ONE ADVICE SECT.	

Dr. C. W. Muehlberger, Coroner's chemist at the County Morgue, with whom reporting Agent had become acquainted in another case, advised Agent confidentially that at the time that John Dillinger's body was brought to the County Morgue on the night of July 22, 1934, every politician and his friend in Chicago crowded into the morgue for the morbid purpose of viewing Dillinger's remains; that as a result, the officials having to do with the Coroner's office at the morgue, were practically ousted from their offices and were not in position to properly conduct their work. He stated that great confusion existed at the morgue several days, inasmuch as there were thousands of people who attempted to gain admission to view Dillinger's body, and that almost anything could have happened. He stated that he did not know of his own knowledge as to any persons or organizations who may have taken a death mask of Dillinger at the morgue, although he did advise that newspaper stories in July, 1934, carried the name of Professor D. E. Ashworth, of the Worsham College of Embalming, 620 South Lincoln Street, Chicago, had gained access to Dillinger's body under a pretext of making a mask for a crime laboratory and had offered the explanation that Coroner Walsh and former Special Agent in Charge Melvin H. Purvis of the Chicago Bureau Office had given him permission to enter the morgue and take the death mask. Dr. Muehlberger further advised that it was his understanding that Police Officer Alfred Mulvaney, now attached to Captain Shoemaker's Squad of the Detective Bureau and assigned at the Marquette Police Station, and who in July, 1934, had been assigned to the Coroner's Office, had checked up on Professor Ashworth's story and had ascertained from Coroner Walsh that he had given no one permission to take a death mask, thereupon Officer Mulvaney ousted Professor Ashworth and his students and confiscated the mask which he had partially completed.

Dr. Muehlberger furnished the information that Mr. Jacob Schewel, who was Deputy Coroner, in charge of the County Morgue in July, 1934, had since been fired by Coroner Walsh for dishonesty in office, such dishonesty, according to Dr. Muehlberger, being the accepting of gratuities and/or the demanding of gratuities for certain privileges at the morgue.

67E - Coroner Walsh was interviewed by Agent under the supposition that Agent was trying to [REDACTED] and he stated that he had positively not given anyone permission or any organization permission

to take a death mask of Dillinger while Dillinger's body was in his possession. He stated that he had heard that a teacher at the Worsham College of Embalming at Chicago had been caught in the act of making a death mask at the morgue, but had been ousted and the mask confiscated. He also stated that a man whom he believed to be named Mr. May or Mays, and whom he believed to be connected with a dental laboratory in Chicago, had tried to reach him fifteen or twenty times during the day of July 23, 1934, and when he, the Coroner, finally telephoned Mr. May to ascertain what he wanted, it was ascertained that this person desired permission to enter the morgue and take a death mask of Dillinger's face. Coroner Walsh stated that he told this person that he would not be permitted to make any mask and several days later, this person came to his office and presented him with a plaster of Paris copy of a death mask, which this person stated he had taken even though Coroner Walsh refused to let him have permission. The Coroner further advised that as he remembered this person's conversation, he gathered that the individual had been given permission by John Dillinger's father to make the mask after Dillinger's body had been released by the Coroner's office.

Coroner Walsh exhibited the mask which had been given to him to Agent and it was noted that the mask bore an impression at the corner of the right eye which Coroner Walsh stated had been caused by the bullet which had entered Dillinger's neck and came out at that point. It was evident from the view of the mask that same was not taken after the body had been embalmed inasmuch as the impression was a perfect replica of the wound as it appeared on Dillinger's face before his body was embalmed.

Mr. Donahue, an investigator in Coroner Walsh's office, and Mr. Whalen, first assistant to the Chief Deputy, Coroner, both advised Agent that they knew nothing of any mask being taken at the County Morgue, except what they had read in the newspapers in July, 1934, to the effect that the embalming school on the west side had tried to take a mask, but had been ordered out of the morgue before they could complete the same.

Agent interviewed Officer Alfred Mulvaney, who had been attached to the Coroner's office in July, 1934, he now being attached to the Marquette Station, Chicago Police Department, and he advised that he had noticed that a Professor of the Worsham College of Embalming was engaged in taking a death mask of Dillinger's face when Dillinger's body was at the County

Morgue and he had asked this person who had given him permission to take the mask and had been advised that Coroner Walsh had authorized such procedure. Officer Mulvaney stated that he got in touch with Coroner Walsh and ascertained that no permission had been given to anyone to take a death mask and he thereupon ordered the person from the embalming college out of the morgue and confiscated the mask which was in the process of being completed.

Officer Mulvaney inquired of Agent the reason for the inquiries at this time and he was advised that Agent was trying to locate the organization in Chicago who had had permission to enter the morgue and take a death mask of Dillinger. He thereupon stated that if Agent desired he could interview an official at the Worsham College of Embalming at 620 South Lincoln Street, Chicago, and there learn the name of the man whom Officer Mulvaney had given permission to make a mask.

This Officer further advised that all that Agent need do would be to mention his name as having been the Officer on duty at the morgue at the time the mask was made by the officials of the Worsham College of Embalming.

Agent gathered from Officer Mulvaney's attitude that notwithstanding his statement that Coroner Walsh had not permitted anyone to take a death mask of Dillinger, yet such a mask was obtained, although he stated that no dental laboratory in Chicago had made such a mask.

Agent interviewed Mr. McCready of McCready's Funeral Home, 4506 Sheridan Road, Chicago, and was informed by him that no one had made any death mask of Dillinger while Dillinger's body was in his possession. He stated that he had been authorized by the Dillinger family to obtain possession of John Dillinger's body and prepare the same for burial and that he had gone to the County Morgue and had embalmed the body at the morgue. He stated that at the time he arrived at the County Morgue he had to wait about one hour until certain individuals who were there and who were then taking a death mask of Dillinger had completed their work, after which the body was turned over to him and he prepared the same for burial, later removing it to his Funeral Home. He stated that when he obtained possession of the body, the face was very much lacerated by the material which had been poured on the face and which had been taken off in a rough manner so as to tear certain parts of the face, the mustache and the hair.

Mr. McCready stated that when he did obtain possession of Dillinger's body for the purpose of embalming same he asked persons in charge at the morgue whether it was a practice to permit death masks to be taken of bodies in the charge of public officials and he was informed that it was not the practice and seemingly no one knew by what right the persons who were then making the mask were doing so.

Agent questioned Mr. McCready as to whether it was some person from the Worsham College of Embalming who was taking the death mask at the time he was there waiting for the body and he stated that he was later given to understand that it was someone from an embalming school who was making the mask. He reiterated his statement to Agent that no one made any mask of Dillinger's face after he had embalmed the body and removed it to his Funeral Home, although he would not state whether such mask had been made after the body had been taken from his Funeral Home to Mooresville, Indiana, by John Dillinger's father.

Agent reviewed the newspaper files for July, 1934, and in the Chicago Evening American, under date of July 24, 1934, the following news article was noted:

"DILLINGER DEATH MASK ATTEMPT HALTED"

"There will be no death masks of John Dillinger,

Six men invaded the county morgue early today, began work on two masks, and almost got away with the enterprise before authorities discovered they had been given no permission for their plan.

The group was led by a man who said he was Professor D. E. Ashworth of the Worsham College of Embalming, 620 S. Lincoln St. He named his companions as students and said Coroner Walsh and Melvin Purvis had said he could make the masks.

Deputy Coroner Jacob Schewel ordered Dillinger's body removed to a side room, where the work was started, while a crowd, anxious to view the body, waited impatiently.

Then along came Policeman Albert Mulvaney, gun expert of the coroner's office. Suspicious of the strangers, he called and learned that Coroner Walsh had given nobody permission to make masks. Mulvaney seized the nearly completed mask, believed to have been intended for commercial use, and ejected the "professor" and his students from the morgue.

A four-column picture accompanied the above quoted newspaper story, showing Professor Ashworth in the act of lifting the plaster cast from the face of John Dillinger's body which was also present in the picture and four or five persons were surrounding the Professor and presumably were the students of the embalming college.

No other reference was made in the newspapers during the month of July, 1934, to any death mask taken of John Dillinger.

No attempt was made to interview Mr. Jacob Schewel, former Deputy Coroner in charge of the County Morgue and who, according to information furnished, was discharged from this position because of dishonesty in the conduct of his office, inasmuch as it is not believed that he would give any information as to who took any death mask of Dillinger, since such a mask was taken, he probably was given a substantial sum of money to look the other way.

Likewise, no inquiries were made of the Reliance Dental Corporation, Chicago, which organization is mentioned in the Bureau letter of reference as being the sender of the complimentary copy of the death mask of John Dillinger to the Bureau. It is not believed that any discreet investigation or inquiries could be made at the Reliance Dental Corporation without the purpose of such inquiries or investigation being apparent.

- C L O S E D -

RELIANCE
DENTAL
MFG. CO.



MANUFACTURERS



& DISTRIBUTORS

189 NORTH STATE STREET
CHICAGO

W. J. Hoover
E. J.

January 3, 1935

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Division of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The Death Mask of John Dillinger has been forwarded to you and should be in your hands immediately following receipt of this letter.

I am sorry that we did not bring this to your attention sooner and send you the copy at a more appropriate time, but for definite reasons, we made no public showing of this gruesome trophy, and I hope you will pardon our seeming negligence.

Before sending this to you, I took it over to your local office and showed it to Mr. Ladd, who was very much interested. Mr. Purvis was cut of town, but we can show him the original when he returns.

I have also offered to demonstrate to the local office the simplicity of making duplications of this character by the use of our material, which we term Reprolastic, being a coined name from the terms reproducing elastic composition.

If there is any more information you desire, we will be glad to cooperate.

With kindest personal regards, we are

62-29777-5

Very truly yours,
RECORDED & INDEXED

RELIANCE DENTAL MFG. COMPANY

JAN 15 1935

62-29777-5
JAN 5 1935
Harold H. Gray

Relw 1/85

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **62-2108**

REPORT MADE AT Chicago, Illinois	DATE WHEN MADE 12-8-35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/4,6/35	REPORT MADE BY B. E. SACKETT
TITLE JOHN HERBERT DILLINGER, with aliases; John Hall, John Donovan Hall, Clarence Cruse, Joseph J. Harris, J. H. Donovan, Kirtly, Frank Sullivan, Carl T. Hellman (Deceased).			CHARACTER OF CASE DEATH MASK OF DILLINGER

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Professor D. E. Ashworth, Worsham College of Embalming, Chicago, secured death mask impression of Dillinger, which impression was confiscated by Chicago Police, Ashworth being prevented from finishing the mask. Harold N. May, Reliance Dental Manufacturing Co., Chicago, took death mask impression of Dillinger about 11:00 AM July 23, 1934 while body was in County Morgue, and finished mask in his laboratory. So far as he knows he is only person who secured a death mask of Dillinger and only made two positives thereof, one of which he sent to the Bureau and the other he has kept.


REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated November 26, 1935.

DETAILS: At Chicago, Illinois.

DETAILS: Mr. A. H. Worsham, owner of the Worsham College of Embalming, 620 South Lincoln Street, upon being interviewed, stated that at the time of Dillinger's death he was out of town and therefore does not know of his own knowledge the details regarding the taking of any death mask of Dillinger. He stated, however, that his assistant, Professor D. E. Ashworth, who was also in charge of the College during his absence at that time, attempted to secure a death mask of Dillinger and could perhaps better advise Agent of the circumstances.

For the information of the Bureau, Agent, in making this contact and all further contacts with respect to this matter, told the individuals interviewed as his reason for desiring the information that

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: 	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	62-29777-6558	RECORDED AND INDEXED: DEC 10 1935
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: ② - Bureau 2 - Chicago		UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	CHECKED OFF: DEC 13 1935
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		<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; transform: rotate(-15deg);">LINE 7</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; transform: rotate(-15deg);">SECT 14</p>	

the Bureau in all cases, and particularly in cases of importance, keeps a record of the facts in such cases for future reference and that in the present case, while it was known that a death mask of Dillinger was made, the Bureau did not have the facts with respect to the time, place, condition of the body, etc. and that this information was desired for statistical purposes.

Professor D. E. Ashworth, when interviewed, stated that a few days after Dillinger had been shot, the exact date of which he does not now recall, and while Dillinger was still at the morgue, he telephoned the late Inspector S. P. Cowley requesting permission to make a death mask of Dillinger; that his first attempt to reach Mr. Cowley was unsuccessful inasmuch as the latter could not be called to the telephone; that, however, according to Mr. Ashworth, he later contacted Mr. Cowley by telephone and made this request; that Mr. Cowley said that he thought it would be alright but that he would have to check up and advise Mr. Ashworth later. It is the contention of Mr. Ashworth that later in the day while he was conducting a class the switchboard operator at the school received a telephone call from Mr. Cowley, during which Mr. Cowley left a message for Ashworth granting him permission to take the mask. Mr. Ashworth stated that he contacted the coroner's office about 7 o'clock in the evening on the day he communicated with Mr. Cowley and was told that he could not make a death mask then because of the large crowd of people viewing the body but that he could come back at ten o'clock that night to make the mask. According to Ashworth he and some students went to the county morgue about 10:00 PM that night where he took the impression of Dillinger's face and head; that he had just lifted the impression from the face when Police Officer Mulvaney then assigned to the coroner's office, confiscated the mask and ejected him and his students from the morgue, stating that no one could take any mask of Dillinger. Ashworth claims that he never did get back the impression of Dillinger's face from the coroner's office nor did he see such impression destroyed and at the present time does not know whether the same was actually destroyed or whether the coroner's office had it finished. Mr. Ashworth stated, therefore, that he never did have a death mask of John Dillinger and that no one else connected with his institution had attempted to obtain such a mask nor did he know of any mask obtained on Dillinger by any other person.

It may be stated as an observation by Agent that Mr. Ashworth appeared quite ill at ease and nervous when he spoke about obtaining the consent of late Inspector S.P. Cowley, and his manner at the time of speaking of this was not such as to convince one that he was speaking the truth.

From a review of the newspapers for July, 1934, as set out in the report of Special Agent W. J. Devereux of this office dated 11-12-35, it appears that Professor Ashworth and his students attempted to obtain the death mask during the morning of July 24, 1934. However, according to Ashworth's statements, it was at 10:00 P.M., therefore the date was probably July 23, 1934.

At the Reliance Dental Manufacturing Company, 159 North State Street, it was ascertained that Dr. Harold N. May was the person who took John Dillinger's death mask. Mr. May, upon interview, had no hesitation in discussing the matter. He stated that he proceeded to the county morgue during the morning following the shooting of John Dillinger, which would be July 23, 1934, and that at about 11:00 AM he succeeded in having all sightseers barred from the room and he made an impression of the face and hands of Dillinger for the purpose of securing a death mask. It appears from Dr. May's statements that he had police co-operation and protection inasmuch as a squad of policemen kept all persons out of the room at the time he was making the mask, including newspaper reporters; that, however, several local politicians and officials in the City Government were outside with particular friends who wanted to see Dillinger's body and at one point during the process of taking the impression a few of these people were admitted to watch the operation; that one of these persons began to examine Dillinger's hands while some had a coat of substance used in making an impression, thus ruining the impression for Dr. May; that, however, he succeeded in obtaining a good impression of Dillinger's face after about 20 minutes work and finished the mask at his laboratory at 159 North State Street. Dr. May stated that he never did obtain impressions of Dillinger's hands or any other part of his body due to the fact that he had no more material with him and it was impossible for him to send to his office for an additional supply.

Dr. May advised that at the time he took the death mask of Dillinger, the body had been released by the Bureau and was merely in the county morgue awaiting removal by the mortician; that he did not obtain the approval or consent of any Bureau employee or official before taking the mask because such consent was not necessary, although before proceeding to the county morgue for the purpose of taking the mask, he telephoned former Special Agent in Charge L. H. Purvis inviting the latter to accompany him, which invitation Dr. Purvis declined to accept. Dr. May stated that there were no Agents or other representatives of the Bureau present when he took the mask of Dillinger; that Dillinger's body was still stiff as a board and had not been embalmed, or had his face or any other portion of his body been repaired in any manner.

Mr. May further advised during the conversation that Dillinger's face bore distinct signs of some person, previous to his visit, having attempted to take a death mask, inasmuch as some of the hairs on the eye-brow were pulled out and small pieces of skin lacerated; that he also found some substance clinging to the skin which indicated someone had tried to take an impression and as Mr. May put it, "his face was sure messed up". Mr. May does not have any idea who this person was except that he read in the newspapers that a Professor of some embalming school had attempted to obtain a death mask which had been confiscated and the Professor ejected and that he presumed that the professor was the individual who unsuccessfully tried to take the mask before his attempt was made.

Mr. May stated that he only made two positives from the negative of John Dillinger's face, one of which he sent to the Bureau and the other he has kept in his possession. He stated that his object in securing a death mask of Dillinger and sending a positive to the Bureau was to show the Bureau the kind of work, the substance he used and to show that his method shows up all facial changes, wounds, etc. and is much superior to the moulage which is now in general use.

It may be stated that the foregoing information was obtained from Mr. May during the course of a lengthy and general conversation, in as diplomatic and discreet a manner as possible. During the conversation an effort was made to diplomatically learn who had given May permission to take the mask. However, he was very evasive on the subject, stating that he did not remember just how it happened but intimated that the coroner himself had granted such permission and that he, of course, received the active co-operation and help of the police department inasmuch as several policemen kept all persons out of the room while he took the impression.

Mr. May stated that so far as he knows the death mask he took of Dillinger is the only one ever taken of that individual; that during the World's Fair in 1934 a concessionaire offered him a large sum of money for the privilege of exhibiting Dillinger's mask at the Fair but that this was declined by Mr. May. According to Mr. May he has never commercialized Dillinger's mask in any manner and does not intend to do so.

It may be stated that Agent observed, during his interview with Mr. May, a letter from the Bureau on Mr. May's desk with regard to Mr. May's product. Mr. May stated that he has been corresponding with the Bureau in an effort to convince the Bureau of the superior quality of his product over the so-called moulage now on the market and in use at the Bureau.



MAKING DEATH MASK OF DILLINGER—What purported to be an
surprise of Northwestern University's crime detection laboratory came
when authorities demanded credentials from (left to right) Walter
Professor D. E. Ashworth of Worsham College of Embalming.

Mrs. Mata Snyder, Marjorie Eker, Howard Johnson and Eve
They had told morgue attendants that the death mask of John
was to be used in the museum of crime. When Dr. Ashworth
was taking it for practice, the mask was confiscated.