

## Appendix

### That Old Gang of Mine: The Purples of Detroit

Below is a confidential prospectus of the Purple Gang compiled by the Detroit Police Department in 1932. At that time, ten members were serving penitentiary sentences, seven were wanted for murder and kidnapping, four were dead and 28 were at large and being watched by the police.

HARRY KEYWELL. Age 19--1927. Height, 5-7 1/2. Eyes, Hazel. Weight, 125. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Med. Dark. Build, Slim. This man is now serving a Life Sentence in Marquette Prison for the Collingwood Ave. Massacre. This murder took place Sept. 18, 1931.

IRVING MILBERG. Age 23--1926. Height, 5-7 1/8. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Brown. Weight, 150. Complexion, Fair. Build, Slim. This man is now serving a life sentence in Marquette Prison for the Collingwood Ave. Massacre. This murder happened Sept. 18, 1931.

ABE KAMINSKY alias ANGEL FACE. Age 32---1925. Height, 5-3 1/2. Weight, 129. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Dark. Build, Slim. This man has a long record that has

arrests for Viol. State Prohibition Law, Robbery, Armed, Murder, Extortion, Carrying Concealed Weapons and Assault with Intent to Kill. Has convictions in Federal Court for Prohibition Law, Conviction in the Recorders Court for Carrying Concealed Weapons and is now in Jackson Prison on a term of 2 to 4 years on charge of Extortion.

HARRY LEVINE, alias SAM AXLER alias ABE AXLER alias ABE GOLD. Age 25--1927. Height, 5-4 3/4. Weight, 125. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Brown Black. Complexion, Dark. Build, Slim. This man has served a term in Sing Sing Prison for Burglary. Also served a term in the U.S. Penit'y at Leavenworth, Kas. on a Prohibition charge. He has a long record of arrests for Disorderly Person, Robbery, Armed, Murder, and Grand Larceny. He was tried in the Collingwood Ave. Massacre murder but was not convicted. He is not doing any time.

ABIE ZUSSMAN, alias ABE STONE alias ABIE THE AGENT. Age 23--1925. Height, 5-6 1/2. Weight, 134. Eyes, Hazel Slate. Hair, Lt. Chestnut. Complexion, Fair. Build, Slim. This man is a bootlegger and has been arrested by the Detroit

Police Department on charges of Disturbing the Peace, Violating the State Prohibition Law, Violating the U.S. Code, Murder and Robbery, Armed. He is not known to be serving any time.

SAM AXLER alias SIMON AXLER alias SAM ELLER. Age 26--1927. Height, 5-6 1/2. Weight, 145. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Dark Brown, Complexion, Dark. Build, Slim. This man has served a term in Sing Sing Prison for Grand Larceny, and has been arrested by the Detroit Police Department on charges of Murder, Robbery, Armed, Suspect of Shooting a Police Officer and was turned over to the U.S. Marshall on a charge of Violating the U.S. Prohibition Laws. He is not serving time.

JOE MILLER alias JOE HARBUS alias HONEY BOY MILLER. Age 27--1927. Height, 5-8. Weight, 185. Eyes, Blue. Hair, Brown. Complexion, Florid. Build, Stout. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police Department on charges of Extortion, Robbery, Armed, Murder and Violating the U.S. Prohibition Laws. He is not serving any time.

EDWARD FLETCHER. Age 25--1926. Height, 5-2 3/4. Weight, 122. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Dark. Build, Slim. This man was arrested by the Detroit Police Department on charges of Robbery, Armed, Murder, and Violating the U.S. Code. He was sentenced to serve 1 year and 10 months and pay a fine of \$5,000 in Leavenworth, Kas, in the Federal Court Detroit, Mich., on charge of Conspiracy to Violate the United States Prohibition Laws. He is not in jail at this time.

JULES JOFFA alias JULIUS JOFFA alias HARRY WILSON. Age 34--1927. Height, 5-6. Weight 144. Eyes, Blue. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Medium Florid. Build, Medium. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police Department on charges of Murder and Carrying Concealed Weapons. Has served a term in the Ohio State Reformatory on charge of Robbery, and is now serving a term in the Ohio State Penitentiary on charge of Burglary and Larceny. Sentence of 3 to 15 years. He is reported as having done some heroic work in the Penitentiary Fire of 1930.

HENRY MILLER. Age 29--1927. Height, 5-1/4. Weight, 132. Eyes, Blue. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Medium. Build, Short. This man shot and killed one Thomas McElroy, Jan. 30, 1927. He was exonerated by a Coroners Jury. He was also arrested in Detroit on charges of Robbery, Armed and several times as a suspect. Not in jail at this time.

RAYMOND BURNSTEIN. Age 23--1926. Height, 5-6 3/8. Weight, 135. Eyes, Blue. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Dark. Build, Slim. He has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Robbery, Armed, Murder and Extortion. He is now serving a life-sentence in Marquette Prison for the Collingwood Ave. Massacre of Sept. 1931.

HARRY FLAISH alias FLEISHER alias FLAISHER alias FLEISH alias FINK. Age 19--1921. Height, 5-6. Weight, 190. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Light Brown. Complexion, Medium. Build, Stout. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Kidnapping, Receiving Stolen Property, Counterfeiting, Robbery, Armed, Extortion and Assault with Intent to Kill. He was wanted on

the Lindberg Kidnapping case; he was in and released. He also was tried on the Collingwood Ave. Massacre murder but was released after Solly Levine disappeared. He is not in jail at this time but is awaiting trial on a Prohibition charge by the U.S. Court.

ABE BURNSTEIN. Age 26--1920. Height, 5-5 7/8. Weight, 160. Eyes, Hazel Slate. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Sallow. Build, Medium Stout. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Gambling, Disorderly Person, Murder and Extortion. He admitted shooting one Marty Levey at 10 West Columbia St., Detroit, Mich., Nov. 17, 1920, but he was acquitted in court. He is not known to be in jail at this time.

JOE BURNSTEIN. Age 20--1920. Height, 5-4 7/8. Weight, 129. Eyes, Violet Blue. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Medium. Build, Medium Slim. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Grand Larceny, Carrying Concealed Weapons, Robbery, Armed, Felonious Assault, and also Violating the Interstate Commerce Law. He is not known to be in jail at this time.

SAM PURPLE alias GEORGE COHEN. Age 19--1919. Height, 5-7 5/8. Weight, 166. Eyes, Gray Blue. Hair, Brown. Complexion, Florid. Build, Medium Stout. This man was arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Carrying Concealed Weapons (He got 3 to 14 years in Ionia that time.) and also was arrested on a charge of Violating the U.S. Prohibition Law, and was turned over to the U.S. Marshall. He is now wanted by this department on a charge of Murder.

HENRY SHORR. Age 20--1918. Height, 5-8 5/8. Weight, 149. Eyes, Azure Pale. Hair, Light Brown. Complexion, Swarthy. Build, Slim. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Violating the Interstate Commerce Laws, Robbery, Armed, Extortion, Larceny from the Person and also Grand Larceny. He is not in jail at this time, but if he is brought in, the Special Investigators Bureau would like to question him.

MAURICE RAIDER. Age 19--1918. Height, 5-4 1/8. Weight, 132. Eyes, Hazel Slate. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Sallow. Build, Slim. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Grand Larceny, Robbery, Armed and Murder. He is now doing 12-15 years in the Michigan State

Prison at Jackson, Mich. having been convicted of Manslaughter in 1930. He was granted a new trial by the State Supreme Court in 1931, but the conviction was upheld and he is now back in Jackson.

SAM BURNSTEIN alias BURNSTEIN alias SAM STEIN. Age, 23--1926. Height, 5-5 5/8. Weight, 225. Eyes, Blue. Hair, Brown. Complexion, Florid. Build, Stout. This man has been arrested in Detroit on charges of Prohibition Law, Attempt Breaking and Entering, Grand Larceny, Robbery, Armed, and also Extortion. He has been convicted several times. He is also Wanted for questioning by the U.S. Immigration Authorities. He is not known to be in jail at this time.

ISADORE BURNSTEIN. Age 19--1927. Height 5-5. Weight, 136. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Medium Dark. Build, Slim. Arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Gambling, Carrying Concealed Weapons, Investigation for Throwing Stench Bombs, and Robbery, Armed. He is not known to be doing any time.

PHILLIP KEYWELL. Age 25--1926. Height 5-8 1/8. Weight 148. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Dark. Build, Slim. This man has a

long record of arrests by the Detroit Police on charges of Grand Larceny, Robbery, Armed, Assault with Intent to Kill, Fugitive, Kidnapping and Murder. He is now serving a life sentence in Jackson Prison, having been sentenced by Judge Cotter on Oct. 10, 1930 for the Murder of a colored boy who found some liquor that had been planted by Keywell and some of his gang.

LOUIS FLAISHER alias FLAISH alias LOUIS FLEISHER alias FLEISH. Age 21--1926. Height, 5-10 1/2. Weight, 145. Eyes, Gray Blue. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Medium. Build, Slim. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Disturbing the Peace, Carrying Concealed Weapons (2 years probation on that charge) Carrying Concealed Weapons again (fined \$500 or 90 days on that charge), Receiving Stolen Property, Robbery, Armed and Murder. He is now serving a sentence of 10 years in the U.S. Penit'ry at Leavenworth, Kas. from the Federal Court Detroit, Mich., on a charge of Theft-Interstate Shipment.

JACK STEIN alias MAX FROST alias MAX MOSKOWITZ alias LOUIS KLEIN alias HYMAN MOSKOWITZ. Age 29--1927. Height 5-6 1/2. Weight 210. Eyes, Blue.

Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Dark. Build, Stout. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Murder, Robbery, Armed and he did a 5-year stretch in Leavenworth, Kas., on a charge of Violating the Harrison Narcotic Act out of Detroit. He has been arrested in Buffalo, N.Y. and served time for 2nd Degree Grand Larceny (Pickpocket) and got a sentence of 2 to 3 years in the New Jersey State Prison out of Jersey City, N.J. on charge of Pickpocket. He is not in jail at this time.

SAM DAVIS alias THE GORILLA. Age 18--1926. Height, 5-1. Weight, 101. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Light Brown. Complexion, Florid. Build, Medium Slim. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Violating the U.S. Codes, Robbery, Armed, Extortion, and Carrying Concealed Weapons. He is now badly wanted by the Detroit Police Department on a charge of Murder. He is said to have killed one Harry Gold in Detroit, Mich. on the night of Feb. 17, 1932.

HYMIE ALTMAN alias HARRY ALTMAN alias NIGGER  
HYMIE alias JEW ALTMAN. Age 22--1926. Height  
5-7 1/4. Weight, 166 plus. Eyes, Hazel. Hair,

Dark Brown. Complexion, Dark. Build, Medium Stout. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Violating Immigration Laws, Investigation, Robbery, Armed, Loitering in a House of Prostitution, Violating the U.S. Prohibition Laws, Copyright Laws, Extortion and Murder. He is not in jail at this time.

HARRY MILLMAN. Age 18--1928. Height 5-7 1/8. Weight, 135. Eyes, Blue. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Dark. Build, Slim. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Robbery, Armed, Extortion, Kidnapping, Violating the Prohibition Laws, Carrying Concealed Weapons and also Hijacking. He is not known to be in jail at this time.

EDWARD SHAW alias LTTTLE ABE alias JACK STEIN alias ROBERT GRAY alias ABRAHAM WAGNER. Age 20--1927. Height, 5-3 1/4. Weight, 103. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Black. Complexion, Medium Dark. Build, Slim. This man has been arrested in Eastview, N.Y., charge, Narcotics; New York City, Homicide; Los Angeles, Calif., charge, Suspicion Burglary; and in Detroit, on charge of Robbery, Armed. He is wanted on charge of Homicide in New York City.

SAMUEL GOLDFARB. Age 23--1925. Height, 5-3 1/4. Weight, 123. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Dark. Build, Slim. Has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Robbery, Armed, Violating the Prohibition Laws, and Disorderly Person. He is not doing any time as far as we know.

ALFRED RUSSELL. Age 20--1925. Height, 5-9 1/4. Weight, 167. Eyes, Azure Pale. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Medium. Build, Medium. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Robbery, Armed, Pandering and Carrying Concealed Weapons. He is an Ex-Taxi Driver. He is not known to be in jail at this time.

JOSEPH LIEBLROFF. Age 24--1928. Height, 5-4 3/4. Weight, 133. Eyes, Slate Blue. Hair, Brown. Complexion, Dark. Build, Slim. He has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Robbery, Armed and also as a Disorderly Person. He is now wanted by the U.S. Immigration Authorities for Questioning. He is not in jail at this time.

EARL PASMAN. DEAD. This man was shot in Oakland on July 22, 1931. Died at Receiving Hospital at 9:15 P.M. Identified at the hospital by Fingerprints.

JOE SAXER. Age 29--1928. Height, 5-7 7/8. Weight, 139. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Dark. Build, Slim. Has been arrested on charges of Investigation, Larceny by Conversion, and was sentenced to serve 18 months in Leavenworth Penitentiary from Detroit, Mich. Federal Court on charge of National Prohibition Act, in March 1931. He should be getting out about now.

JACOB WILLMAN alias JACOB WILLIAMAN. Age 20--1927. Height, 5-5 7/8. Weight, 123. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Brown. Complexion, Medium. Build, Slim. Has been arrested in Detroit on charges of Robbery, Armed, Larceny from Person and Violating Parole. He is now doing time in Ionia Reformatory for Parole Violation. Returned in 1931.

WILLIE LAKS alias WILLIAM STEIN. Age 47--1928. Height, 5-7 1/4. Weight, 155. Eyes, Blue. Hair, Dark Brown and Gray. Complexion, Dark. Build, Slim. This man did a 5 year stretch in Leavenworth on Narcotic Act. Has been arrested for Murder, and is now Wanted on Charge of Narcotics by the Detroit Police Department.

LOUIS ACHTMAN. Age 34--1928. Height, 5-6 1/2.  
Weight, 166. Eyes, Gray Blue. Hair, Black.  
Complexion, Dark. Build, Medium. Has been arrested  
for Extortion, Violating the Prohibition Laws and for  
Investigation of Arson. He is not in jail at this  
time.

JOHN WOLF. Age 32--1928. Height, 5-5 3/4. Weight,  
187. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion,  
Medium. Build, Stout. Suspected of Hijacking.

JACOB LEVITES. Age 40--1928. Height 5-6 1/8.  
Weight, 127. Eyes, Gray. Hair, Gray Mixed.  
Complexion, Dark. Build, Slim. Has been arrested by  
the Detroit Police on charges of Extortion and  
Disorderly Person. He is now wanted for questioning  
by the U.S. Immigration Authorities.

CHARLES LETTER. Age 33--1928. Height, 5-9. Weight,  
199. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion,  
Dark. Build, Medium. Has been in for Extortion and  
Grand Larceny. He is not in jail at this time and is  
wanted by the U.S. Immigration Authorities for  
Questioning.

JACK REDFERN. Age 29--1928. Height 5-8. Weight, 118. Eyes, Gr. Blue. Hair, Medium Brown. Complexion, Medium. Build, Slim. Has been in for Robbery, Armed, and Disorderly Person. He is not doing time now.

LOUIS RAPOPORT. Age 32--1928. Height, 5-10 7/8. Weight 195. Eyes, Violet Blue. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Dark. Build, Medium. Has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Felonious Assault, Disorderly Conduct and Violating the Prohibition Laws. He is not in jail at this time.

LOUIS GELLERMAN. Age 25--1925. Height, 5 2/38. Weight, 133. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Dark. Build, Medium. Has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Violating U.S. Code, Counterfeiting, Murder, Extortion and Robbery, Armed. He is not known to be serving any time.

ZIGEI SELBIN. DEAD. Shot and killed at 8835 12th St., Oct. 26, 1929 at 12:30 A.M.

FRED SMITH alias FRED KAISER alias ALBERT RITCHIE alias "KID SMITH". Age 20--1925. Height, 5-9. Weight, 126. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Dark Brown.

Complexion, Sallow. Build, Slim. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Robbery, Armed and has been brought in for Investigation several times. He is not in jail at this time.

BENJAMIN MARKUS. Age 36--1928. Height, 5-8. Weight, 190. Eyes, Slate. Hair, Brown and Curley. Complexion, Florid. Build, Medium Stout. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Extortion and was turned over to the U.S. Government on a charge of Violation of the U.S. Prohibition Laws. He is not known to be in jail at this time.

ABE MILLER alias ABE MORRIS alias ABE STAFFSKI. Age 26--1927. Height, 5-7. Weight, 148. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Dark. Build, Medium. This man was arrested by the Detroit Police on charge of Robbery, Armed and turned loose. He is not serving any time as far as we know.

GEORGE CORDELL. Age 23--1922. Height, 5-7 1/2. Weight, 163. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Dark. Build, Medium. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police Department on charges of Felonious Assault, Robbery, Armed, Violating the

U.S. Prohibition Laws, Carrying Concealed Weapons and Murder. He served a 15-month term in Leavenworth on a Conspiracy Charge. He is out at this time.

FRANK KLAYMAN, alias JACK TUCKER. DEAD. Died in the Ohio State Penitentiary Fire April 21, 1930.

EDWIN SHAPIRO, alias IRVIN SHAPIRO alias BOB STONE. DEAD. This man was shot and killed by Unknown Persons in front of 2469 Taylor Ave., Detroit, Mich., at 3:30 A.M. July 29, 1927. He was identified by Fingerprints taken from his body at the Wayne County Morgue.

ISSIE KAMINSKY. Age 36--1927. Height, 5-7 1/2. Weight, 185. Eyes, Blue. Hair, Black. Complexion, Florid Dark. Build, Stout. This man is a Boot-legger, and has been picked up for Possession of Burglar Tools and for Extortion. He is not in jail at this time.

ABE OLENICK. Age 30--1931. Height, 5-11. Weight, 236. Eyes, Hazel. Hair, Dark Brown. Complexion, Dark. Build, Medium Stout. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Disorderly Person. He was brought in on one occasion for investigation of the shooting of Ben Bronson. He is not in jail at this time.