

CAUSES OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR :

By SUZANNE CORMIER

Depending on whom you speak to, crime is a way of life for many. But the only problem is that it is illegal. Most big time criminals are involved in crimes such as robberies, smuggling, narcotics, extortion or murders. Those such as Al Capone are thought of as stark raving lunatics. Even as criminals are hunted by the law throughout the country, sympathy from the public reaches out to the tragic end of those such as Bonnie and Clyde.

Everybody has heard of Bonnie & Clyde but do you know the real story of their life in crime? Many myths surround them as surround Robin Hood, the truth of the story is that they were just a couple of small time crooks who robbed merely to survive through the great American depression. They murdered to avoid capture or out of contempt for the law, common to most criminals.

Born on March 24, 1909, Clyde Barrow was the sixth son of eight children born to a poor Texas farmer. Quick tempered and a latent homosexual, Clyde possessed a sadistic nature and a love for guns and automobiles. His friends and neighbors said that when Clyde was a child he would take great delight in wringing a chickens neck almost to the point of death and then stand and watch it in agony. He would sometimes break a bird's wing and then watch it in it's painful attempts to fly. Bonnie Parker who was eighteen months younger than Clyde was born to the family of a bricklayer. Her father died when she was four. She was living in Cement City near Dallas, Texas where she met Clyde.

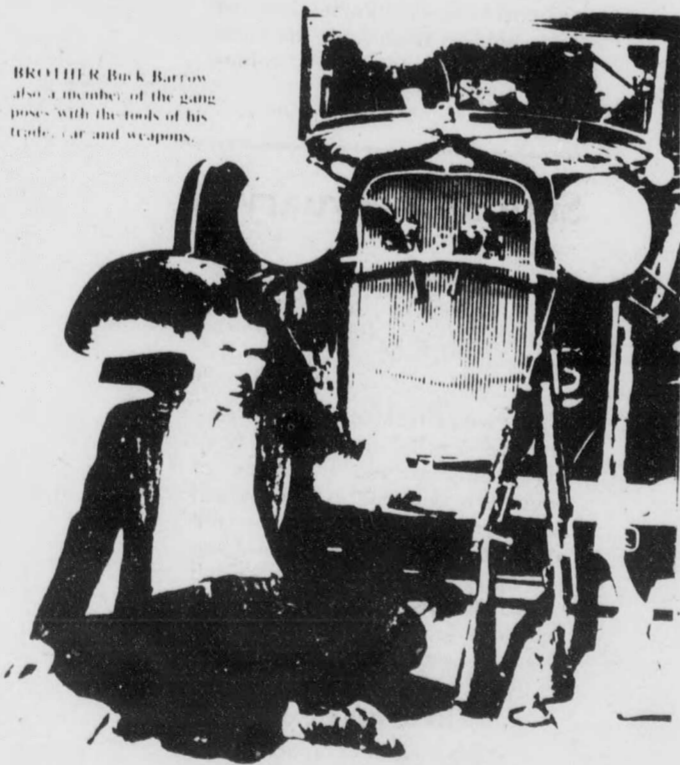
Clyde's father sold the farm to run a filling station in West Dallas. On January 1930 Bonnie, 19 years old, and Clyde, 21, crossed paths while visiting a mutual friend in West Dallas.

One night, while Clyde stayed at the Parkers, the police came for him. He faced 14 years in prison. However, he pleaded guilty to three of the seven charges against him and was let off with a light sentence of two years. Restless, because her man had been taken away from her, Bonnie calmly smuggled a gun to Clyde. He was arrested in Middletown, Ohio at gunpoint, and he was convicted to serve a 14 year sentence. He soon became frustrated at working in the cottonfields of the prison camp and asked an inmate to chop with an axe, two toes off his left foot. He was still on crutches, February 1932 when he was released.

He went back to Bonnie, persuading Mrs. Parker that he'd turned straight. Needless to say, this didn't happen. A multitude of consecutive crimes were about to develop.

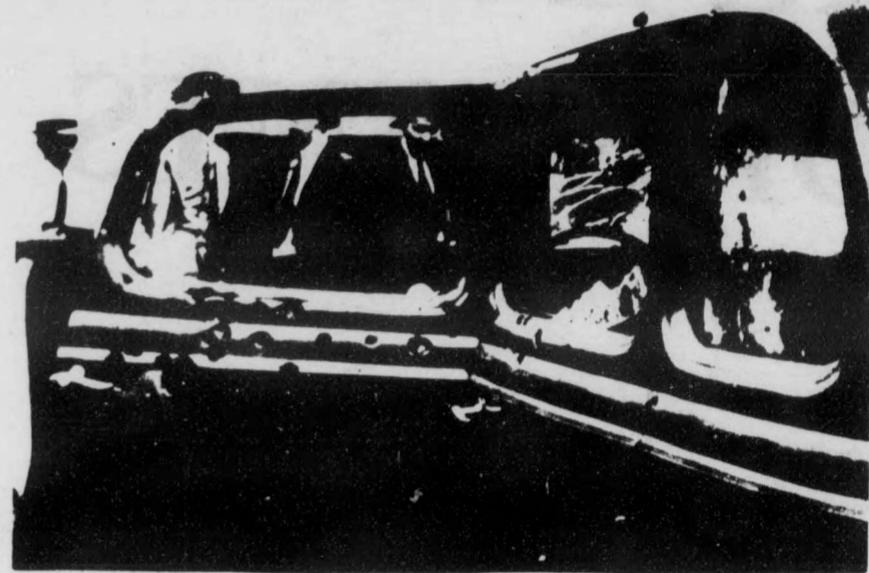
Their first murder was on April 17, 1932 when they gunned down a jeweller named John W. Bucher. They found a miserable \$40. This was just the beginning.

At the same time, Bonnie was taken in for questioning about a stolen car. She served a 3-month sentence. After her release, Bonnie and Clyde and a new associate, Ray Hamilton held up a filling station at Grand Prairie, Texas and got away with \$3500. It was the gang's biggest haul to this date.



BROOKER Buck Barrow, also a member of the gang, poses with the tools of his trade, car and weapons.

The "Barrow's Gang" as they were named consisted of Bonnie, Clyde and his brother Buck with his wife Blanche and a few others. After numerous robberies, the heat started coming on heavy. In one incident their gang of four was raided by the law at a summer lodge where they were hiding out. Buck was shot three times in the head while Blanche was temporarily blinded by flying glass in the shoot-out. Caught by the state police, Buck died in hospital while Blanche had to serve a ten-year sentence. However Bonnie and Clyde were still on the loose! After more killings the police in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas and Kansas were determined to capture the gang, dead or alive.



Supposedly Methvin's father, (Methvin was another member of the gang) put the finger on them for the police in exchange for his son's freedom.

Officers waited in the bushes by the side of a road, eight miles from Gibland, Louisiana. It was May 23, 1934, shortly after 9 o'clock when Bonnie and Clyde were ambushed in a stolen Ford V-8 sedan. In all, 167 shots were fired with fifty of these shots hitting Bonnie and Clyde and they died almost instantly. Their bodies were taken home to Dallas for the burial. Their life of crime was ended.

Many of the flowers for their funerals came from admiring strangers to whom Bonnie and Clyde were their folk heroes. There were those who snatched the roses, peonies and gladiolos from the coffin for souvenirs. The saga ended with Clyde only 25 years old and Bonnie 23. As Bonnie predicted in her poem, the saga would come to an end:

Some day they'll go down together
They'll bury them side by side,
To a few it'll be a grief-- to the law
--a relief
But it's death to Bonnie and Clyde"

BONNIE AND CLYDE

