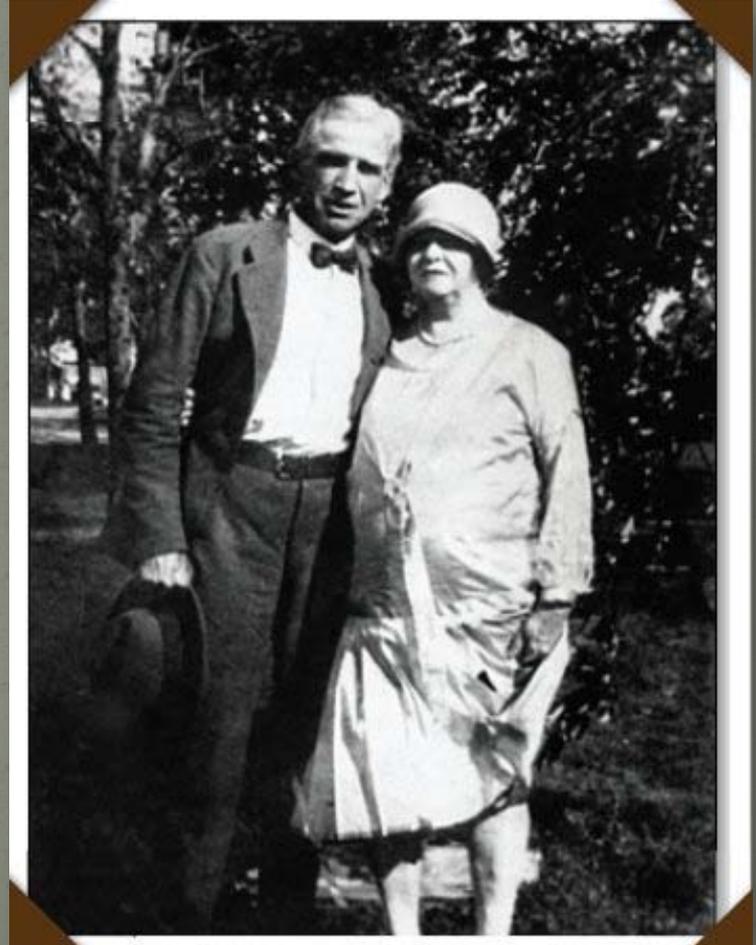


The Records and Legend of the Kate “Ma” Barker Shootout at Ocklawaha

Presented by George Albright III and Carson Good

Kate “Ma” Barker



\$1,200.00

REWARD

\$1,200.00

Twelve Hundred Dollars.

WANTED

For the Murder of C. R. Kelly, Sheriff of Howell County, Missouri,
on December 19, 1931

Members of the **Karpis/Barker** gang of Texas,
Oklahoma, Missouri & Kansas



Kate "Ma"
Barker



Arthur "Doc" Barker



Fred Barker



Alvin "Creepy" Karpis

Alvin "Creepy" Karpis, alias George Dunn, alias R. E. Hamilton, Ray Karpis,
& Raymond Hadley; Age 22, Height 5' 9", Weight 133 lbs., Hair Brown, Eyes, Blue.
Occupation worked in bakery.

Fred Barker, Age 28, Height 5' 4", Weight 120 lbs, Complexion fair.
Arthur "Doc" Barker; Age 25, Height 5' 6", Weight 128 lbs., Hair black, Eyes
brown, Complexion ruddy.

Kate "Ma" Barker, Age 50's, Height 5' 3", Weight 165(est.), Hair dyed black,
Eyes brown.

These individuals acting together *Murdered* Sheriff C. R. Kelly, West Plains,
Missouri, in "cold blood" when he attempted to arrest them.

The Chief of Police and Sheriff at West Plains, Missouri, will pay a reward of \$300.00
each for the arrest and surrender of either of these persons to **Howell County, Missouri**,
officers. This jurisdiction holds *Felony Warrants* on all of the above named individuals for
the crime of *Murder*.

Police & other authorities: Keep this Poster before you at all times as we want these
Fugitives. If further information is needed, Wire Collect Sheriff of West Plains.

James A. Bridges
Chief of Police

Mrs. C. R. Kelly
Sheriff

West Plains, Missouri

U. S. DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE
REQUISITION NO. 448343-Y-46

JANUARY 13, 1935

WANTED

U. S. DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE DIVISION of INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NATION WIDE ALERT

NATION WIDE ALERT

FUGITIVE

FUGITIVE

FROM

FROM

JUSTICE

JUSTICE

NATION WIDE ALERT

NATION WIDE ALERT



Kate "Ma" Barker (Birth name: Arizona Donnie Clark)

DESCRIPTION

Born: October 8, 1871
P.O.B.: Ash Grove, Missouri
Height: 5ft. 5 1/2 inches
Weight: 175

Build: Stocky
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Comp: Ruddy

REMARKS

"Ma" Barker is leader & mastermind of the Karpis/Barker gang, a tightly knit group of as many as 25 career
criminals whose numbers fluctuate almost monthly. The most violent members consist of Ma's three sons, Lloyd "Red"
Barker, Herman & Arthur "Doc" Barker & co-gang leader, Alvin "Creepy" Karpis. To date the Karpis/Barker gang has
been responsible for three kidnappings, 10 murders & thefts of over \$1 million dollars during a three year, primarily in the
Midwest, that began in 1932.

CAUTION

"Machine Gun Kate" Barker has earned her nickname well and should be considered armed & extremely dangerous
at all times. All members of the Karpis/Barker gang are wanted on numerous violations of Federal law.

NOTIFY ANY LOCAL, STATE, or FEDERAL POLICE AGENCY IMMEDIATELY IF THIS SUBJECT IS SPOTTED

N

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Schlichter	✓
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

Mr. Connelley called and stated that they have located a map which has been identified as Doc Barker's map, on which is marked Ocala, Florida, which is the largest point near Lake Weir, and on another map of Florida, Lake Weir is surrounded by a pencilled ring. He stated that from the description given them by Monte Carter, and how to get to this point, it appears to be via Highway 41, which would corroborate the story told before by him; that he had not seen the map prior thereto. The map was secured from the apartment rented by Doc Barker. He stated that Carter has given them a "line-up" on the kidnaping, as to who kidnaped him (Bremer), who held him, and who negotiated for the ransom money, those involved being Volney Davis, Campbell, the Barker Brothers, and Karpis, Carter's part being in connection with the hide-out, which was arranged by "Shotgun" Zeigler through Elmer Farmer; that the place is in Bensenville (?) at two houses; that one of the families there at the time of the kidnaping is still residing there; that the other person who could advise as to what occurred is now living in town. Mr. Connelley stated he had in mind sending to the point - himself, Brown, Campbell and Jones - (R.L. to leave about 1:00 o'clock by chartered plane to Jacksonville, there to establish a headquarters, Jacksonville being the largest city near the point in question. They will arrive tonight about 7:00 o'clock and check the matter tomorrow morning; that the other men will leave on the 10 o'clock train tonight, the men being Wolfe, McDade, McKee, McLaughlin, Medala, Ryan, Sullivan, Melvin, J. C. White and Muzzey. Those left at the office will be LaFrance, Peterson, Durant, McIntyre, Walsh, Metcalfe, Chaffitz, Gillespie, McRae, Tillman and Winstead. Mr. Connelley stated they are still maintaining the observation of [redacted] who Volney Davis will undoubtedly contact. He stated Peterson will be left in charge, and that of course Durant and McIntyre will be there, both of whom are very substantial. Mr. Connelley stated they would take with them two rifles and a machine gun; the men going out tonight on the train will take three machine guns, two rifles, 2 shot guns, a gas gun, 3 vests, 2 sets of cuffs, flash lights and flood lights. I advised that our Thompson submachine guns were not much good against a bullet-proof vest. Mr. Connelley stated he had three Springfield rifles, and that the Jacksonville Office would undoubtedly have two rifles; that rifles will be the firearms needed; inasmuch as the ground in Florida is very level. Mr. Connelley advised he would wire when he reaches Jacksonville. Mr. Connelley stated that Mr. Nathan had suggested, in view of the new men left at the office, that about eight substantial agents be sent to the Office. I advised I would see what the Director desired to do concerning this matter. He stated that in connection with Peggy Doyle, the newspapers are endeavoring to ascertain her address, one of them suggesting that she had injured her arm in some manner, her arm being in a sling. He stated he understood one of the reporters had indicated to Mr. Nathan that they knew she had jumped from a window; that the Government was paying her a regular salary. Mr. Connelley seemed to think that if we told

b7D

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her to say absolutely nothing about the matter she would not do

700.576-3775

RECORDED

Respectfully,

&

INDEXED

JAN 19 1935 E. A. Tamm

DIVISION C

POLSON
TAMM
JAN 19 1935

3

January 16, 1935.

Time: 11:10 a.m.

Mr. Tamm

- 2 -

1-16-35

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

Mr. Alt telephoned from Jacksonville, Florida, and stated he had just returned from the Associated Press headquarters, in accordance with your instructions. He learned a bulletin was received to the effect that a group of about fifteen Agents and an undetermined number of men from Chicago were engaged in a gun battle at Oklawaha, about fifteen miles from Ocala; that the firing had been continuing since 7 o'clock this morning; that the gangsters are barricaded in a deserted house; that there are no casualties on either side, although machine gun fire was coming from both sides.

I stated that I want to be certain Mr. Connelley has sufficient ammunition in gas and guns. Mr. Alt advised that a group of Agents left Jacksonville this morning at 1:00 o'clock, at which time they had plenty of equipment. Mr. Alt was deeply concerned because he had not been able to contact any one in Ocala in order to get information. He places no confidence in the sheriff at Ocala. I told him I had in mind having either him or Mr. Lacour proceed to Ocala by chartered plane to make contact if it could be done safely, without becoming involved in the firing. I remarked that of course the members of the Karpis-Barker gang are the worst criminals in the entire country, and particularly not knowing the extent of their equipment and ammunition, I am deeply concerned lest our Agents exhaust their supply of equipment. Mr. Alt said he insisted last night that the Agents take shields with them, and although they were reluctant to do so because they felt they were not adequate to resist bullets, they did take them along; that the Agents were equipped with high-powered rifles and .351 guns. Mr. Alt stated that he had left in the office a couple of Monitors, a rifle and one machine gun. He did not believe they would need more guns, but it is now rather a question of ammunition.

Mr. Alt inquired as to the advisability of trying to contact somebody in Ocala. He stated he has heard favorable comments concerning the new Chief of Police at Ocala. Mr. Alt estimated that it would require approximately an hour and a half to reach Ocala by plane. I expressed concern over the fact that the press representatives will now interfere with the situation in the vicinity of Ocala; that I have confidence in our Agents' being able to handle the situation if there is no interference of this type. Mr. Alt did not feel that we need anticipate such interference due to the fact that they are located at an isolated spot and there had been no leak until this morning. I stated that no doubt the news reel and movietone representatives will rush in as soon as they learn there is a battle.

I instructed Mr. Alt to charter a plane immediately and proceed to Ocala in order to make contact, or if he felt Agent Lacour could handle this situation it would be all right to send him to Ocala. Mr. Alt expressed confidence in Mr. Lacour's ability to take care of this matter. I suggested that

he take with him additional high-powered rifles and ammunition. Mr. Alt said he would arrange immediately for Mr. Lacour to proceed to Ocala by the fastest plane available. I instructed that Mr. Lacour proceed by automobile from Ocala to the scene of the battle, taking with him the guns and ammunition, and then arrange to get in touch with us to inform us as to the status of the situation.

Mr. Alt stated that in the meantime, he would also attempt to make contact at Ocala by telephone.

Very truly yours,

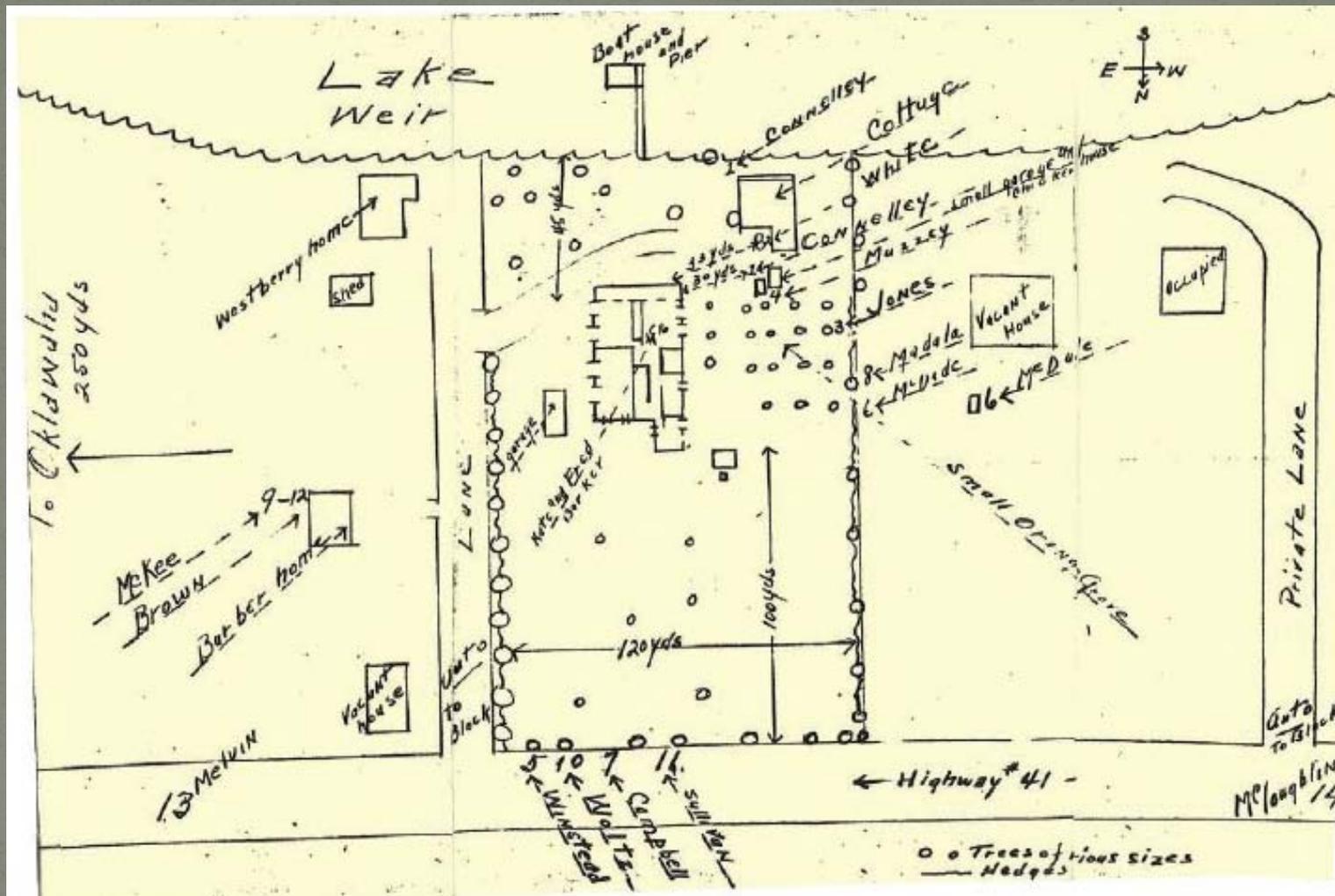
John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

1 copy

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

7-576-3820

RECORDED	FILE
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U. S. Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice

Post Office Box 4907,
Jacksonville, Florida

Weapons

RAA:SLH

January 22, 1935

Director,
Division of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

CH 1/24

Dear Sir:

RE: ALVIN KARPIS with aliases--I. O. #1218;
ARTHUR R. BARKER with aliases--I. O. #1219;
RUSSELL GIBSON with aliases--I. O. #1213;
DR. JOSEPH P. MORAN with aliases--I. O. #1232;
ET AL - EDWARD GEORGE BREMER, Victim - KIDNAPING

I am enclosing Government bill of lading No. J69686, with yellow memorandum copy, covering one wooden box of miscellaneous firearms, valued at \$500.00, weighing one hundred and forty-two pounds. Also duplicate list of the guns and equipment which are contained in the wooden box covered by this bill of lading.

The above equipment was found in the house on Lake Weir, Oklawaha, Florida, after Kate and Fred Barker were killed on January 16, 1935.

Very truly yours,



R. A. ALT,
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosures
cc E. J. Connelley, Chicago
St. Paul
Jax #7-24

*Original 1/24/35
at Jacksonville
1/24/35
Panama
Kohn
1/24/35
F
C
D*

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

7-576-3921

JAN 28 1935

JAN 28 1935
MRG
S
EXP

GUNS, PISTOLS, CARTRIDGES and EMPTY SHELLS
TAKEN AT THE BARKER HOUSE AT OKLAHAMA, FLORIDA, ON
JANUARY 16, 1935.

One Thompson Machine Gun - 1921 Model - Number illegible
One Thompson Machine Gun - 1921 Model - Number illegible
One 50-cartridge drum for Thompson Machine Gun - did contain fifty loaded shells
One 50-cartridge drum for Thompson Machine Gun - empty
One 100-cartridge drum for Thompson Machine Gun - did contain seventy loaded shells
One stock for Thompson Machine Gun - Number 13578
One 45 Calibre Colts Automatic Pistol Number C-160657 - damaged by bullet hitting handle
One 45 Calibre Colts Automatic Pistol Number C-161841
Nine 45 automatic pistol clips
One 380 Calibre Automatic Colt Pistol - number illegible
Five 380 automatic pistol clips
One Browning 12 gauge Automatic Shotgun - Number 92970
One Remington 12 gauge pump shotgun - Number 272907
One Winchester 33 calibre lever action rifle - Number illegible.

The above were shipped to the Division, Washington,
D. C., on January 22, 1935, via Railway Express Agency.

JCW:HAM.
7-24
Jacksonville, Florida

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11 MAR 22 1965

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
JAN 22 1935	
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA	
Route	File

7-576-3921

Bill to Division of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice
(Department or Establishment and Bureau or Service)

(Appropriation chargeable)

Jacksonville, Florida

**GOVERNMENT BILL
OF LADING**

R. A. Alt, Special Agent in Charge
Division of Investigation

January 22, 1935
(Date issued)

MEMORANDUM COPY

Revised from **R. A. Alt, Special Agent in Charge**

by the Railway Express Agency the public property hereinafter described
(Name of transportation company)
in apparent good order and condition (contents and value unknown), to be forwarded subject to conditions stated on the reverse hereof,
from Jacksonville, Florida to Washington, D. C.
(Shipping point) (Destination)
by the said company and connecting lines, there to be delivered in like good order and condition to Director, Division
of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.
(Consignee)

via _____
(Route journey only when some substantial interest of the Government is subserved thereby)

MARKS	NUMBERS OR PACKAGES	NUMBER AND KIND OF PACKAGES	DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES (Observe strictly carrier's freight classification. Avoid trade or technical names)	WEIGHTS
		one wooden box	Miscellaneous firearms valued at \$500	142 lbs.

Size car ordered _____ ft. Size car furnished _____ ft. Date furnished _____ Initials _____ Car No. _____

TARIFF AUTHORITY
(To be filled in by general office rendering account)

AUTHORITY FOR SHIPMENT

Ray C. Long
(Name of transportation agent)
January 22, 1935 Per [Signature]
(Agent)

CERTIFICATE OF ISSUING OFFICER
(To be filled out when this bill of lading is issued for use by contractor in making shipment)

Contract No. _____, or Purchase Order No. _____, dated _____, 19____

(F. O. B. point named in contract) (Loading office)
CARRIER'S RIGHTS TO SHIPPING CHARGES NOT AFFECTED BY FACTS SET OUT IN THIS CERTIFICATE

MEMORANDUM COPY

*Original sent to
Laboratory 1-26-35
CIT*

* Show also radio communication for shipment via coast carrier in cases where required. † Furnish this information in case of carload shipments only.

By WILTON E. MARTIN

Special to The St. Petersburg Times

Nothing like this had ever happened before in Oklawaha, unless it was The Great Freeze of Feb. 15, 1895. That day, acres of orange, grapefruit and tangerine trees, withered in the icy grip of the night before, began popping and splitting like firecrackers on The Fourth of July.

But no, sharply at 6:30 this day, as the first traces of the ascending sun feebly pushed into the eastern sky and reflected on the tranquil waters of Lake Weir, there was a

distinctly different staccato sound. The shattering barrage rose steadily, mushrooming into deafening crescendos.

Soon, the residents of tiny Oklawaha would come to realize they were hearing gunshots, not popping fruit trees. Because this was Wednesday, Jan. 16, 1935, the day all hell broke loose in Oklawaha.

THE DAY "Ma" Barker and her son shot it out with the FBI in one of the most thunderous battles in the Bureau's history.

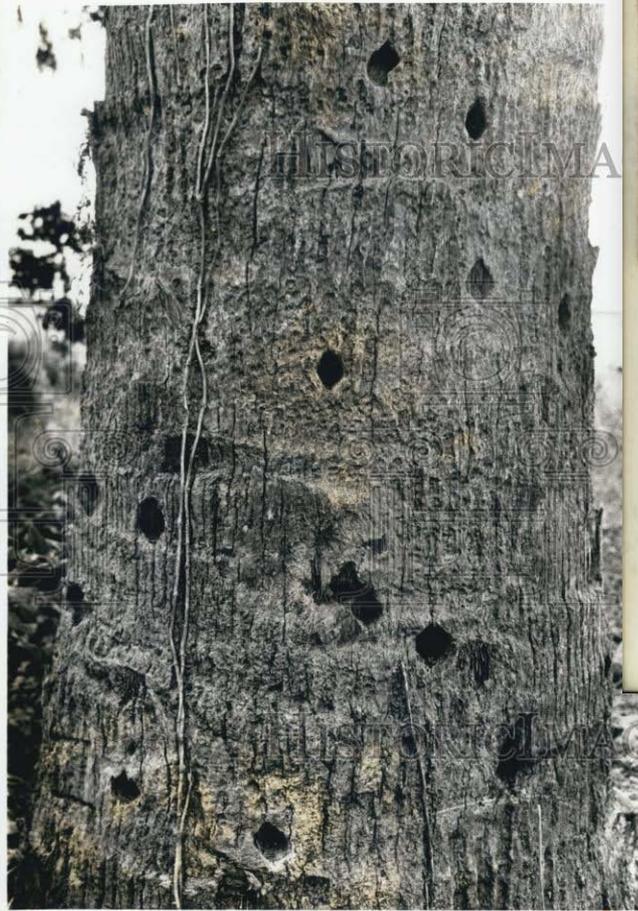
The book said it had to happen — that day. Else, Oklawaha may have gone on and on in its infinite obscurity — calm, quiet, remote, a likely candidate for "Peaceville, USA."

Until that day, hardly anybody had ever heard of Oklawaha outside a few Central Florida residents and the Seminole Indians who settled it as a village.

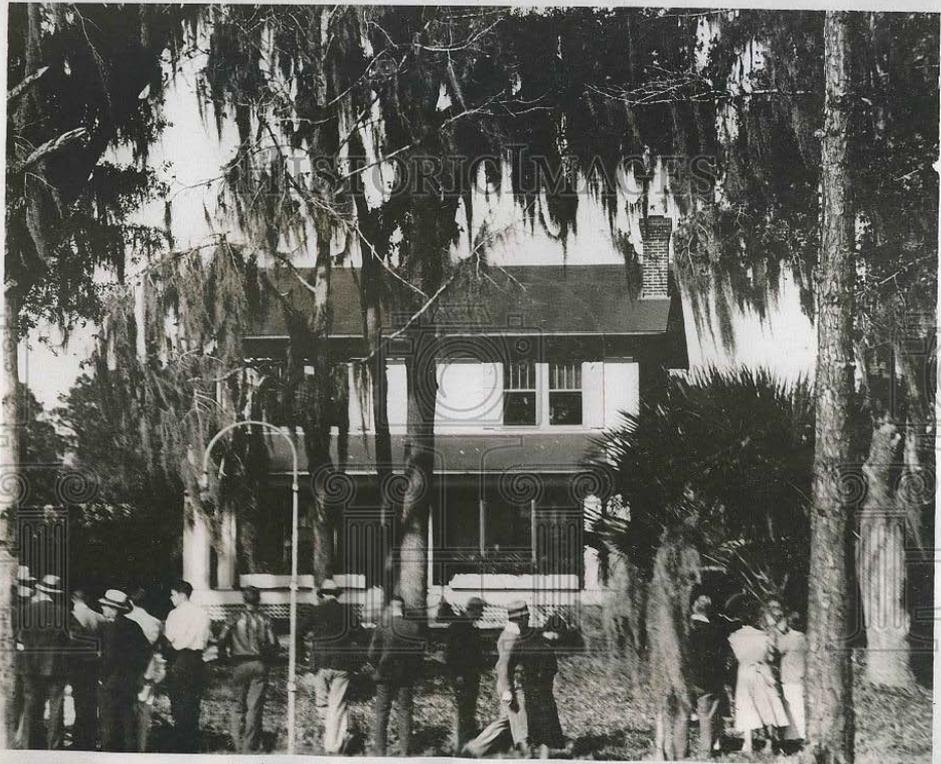
This Jan. 16 might have also gone on records as a "no news day," with the Associated Press topping its budget by identifying a German carpenter, Bruno Hauptman, as kidnaper of the Charles Lindberg baby. And a little-heeded story about unrest in Europe that some feared marked the rising of war clouds.



The house in Oklawaha, above, where Ma and Fred Barker traded bullets with lawmen. Today the house, bullet damage fully repaired, is used by a Miami family as an occasional vacation retreat. Bullet-scarred tree trunk (bottom left) is a grim reminder of the 'total war' that was waged in the sleepy town. Lawmen's view of the hideout (bottom right).



291315
OKLAWAHA HIDEOUT OF THE BARKERS
A VIEW OF THE OKLAWAHA, FLA., HOUSE WHERE FRED BARKER,
AND HIS MOTHER, KATE, ALSO KNOWN AS "MA" BARKER, BOTH
MEMBERS OF THE BARKER-KARPIS KIDNAP GANG WERE SURROUNDED
AND SLAIN IN A FOUR-HOUR MACHINE GUN BATTLE WITH FEDERAL
AGENTS. TREES AND SHRUBBERY PROVIDED SHELTER FROM THE
BANDITS' BULLETS, AS CAN BE SEEN IN THE PHOTO.
CREDIT LINE(ACME) 1/17/35



A3264-9

PHOTO BY
ACME NEWSPIR
220 EAST 42ND ST.
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THIS PICTURE IS SOLD TO
PUBLICATION ONLY AND MAY
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VERTISING PURPOSES WITHOUT
THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF
ACME NEWSPIR

REF. DEPT.
JAN 22 1935
NEA



A3264-0

291311
OKLAWAHA HIDEOUT OF THE BARKERS
ABOVE IS A VIEW OF THE LAKE FRONTING THE OKLAWAHA, FLA.,
HIDEOUT OF FRED AND MA BARKER, MEMBERS OF THE BARKER-
KARPIS, KIDNAP GANG, WHO WERE SURROUNDED IN THEIR
HOUSE THERE, AND SLAIN AFTER A FOUR-HOUR MACHINE GUN
BATTLE WITH FEDERAL AGENTS, JAN. 16TH. NEIGHBORS SAID
THAT THE BOAT HOUSE WAS KEPT ILLUMINED EVERY NIGHT BY
POWERFUL SEARCHLIGHTS, DURING THE TWO-MONTHS TENANCY OF
THE BARKERS AT OKLAWAHA,
CREDIT LINE (ACME)

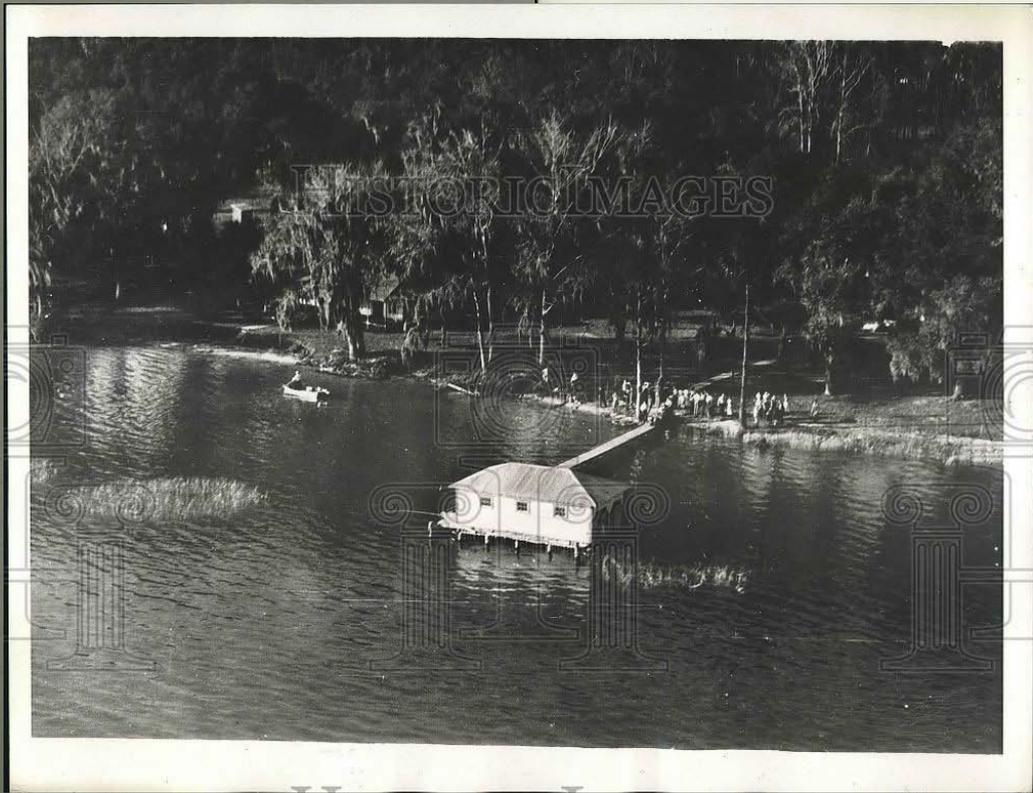
1/17/35

YOUR
LOANER,
PURPOSED
in us

NE Δ

JAN 22 1935

REF. DEPT.



A3264-0

291310
WHERE BARKERS MET BARKING GUNS
AN AERIAL VIEW OF THE SECLUDED VILLAGE OF OKLAWAHA,
FLA., WHERE FRED AND MA BARKER, WERE SLAIN IN THEIR
LITTLE HOUSE, BY FEDERAL AGENTS, AFTER A FOUR-HOUR
GUN BATTLE, JAN. 16TH. THE BARKERS, MEMBERS OF THE
BARKER-KARPIS KIDNAP GANG SUSPECTED OF THE ABDUCTION
OF EDWARD G. BREMER, WEALTHY ST. PAUL, MINN. BANKER,
HAD BEEN LIVING THERE FOR TWO MONTHS BEFORE FEDERAL AGENTS
WERE TIPPED OFF OF THEIR PRESENCE. RUNNING THROUGH THE
CENTER OF THE PICTURE IS THE MAIN HIGHWAY BETWEEN OCALA AND
LEESBURG, FLA.
CREDIT LINE (ACME)

1/17/35

PHOTO BY
ACME NEWS
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SYNDICATED OR USED
WITHOUT WRITER'S

REF. DEPT.
JAN 22 1935
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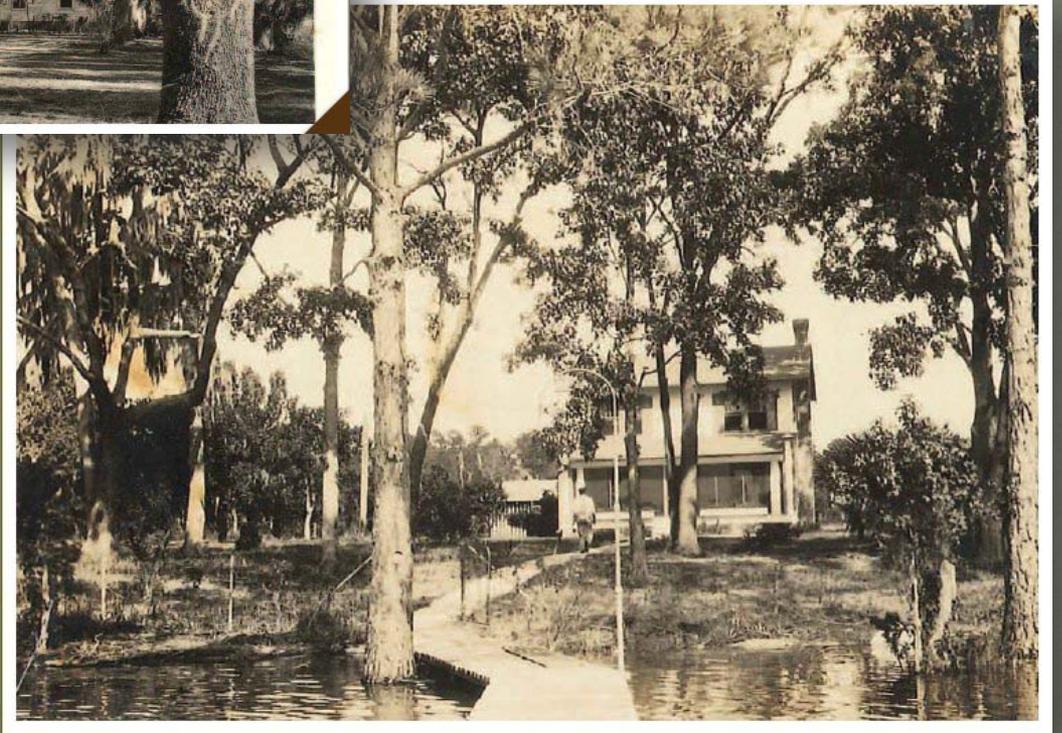
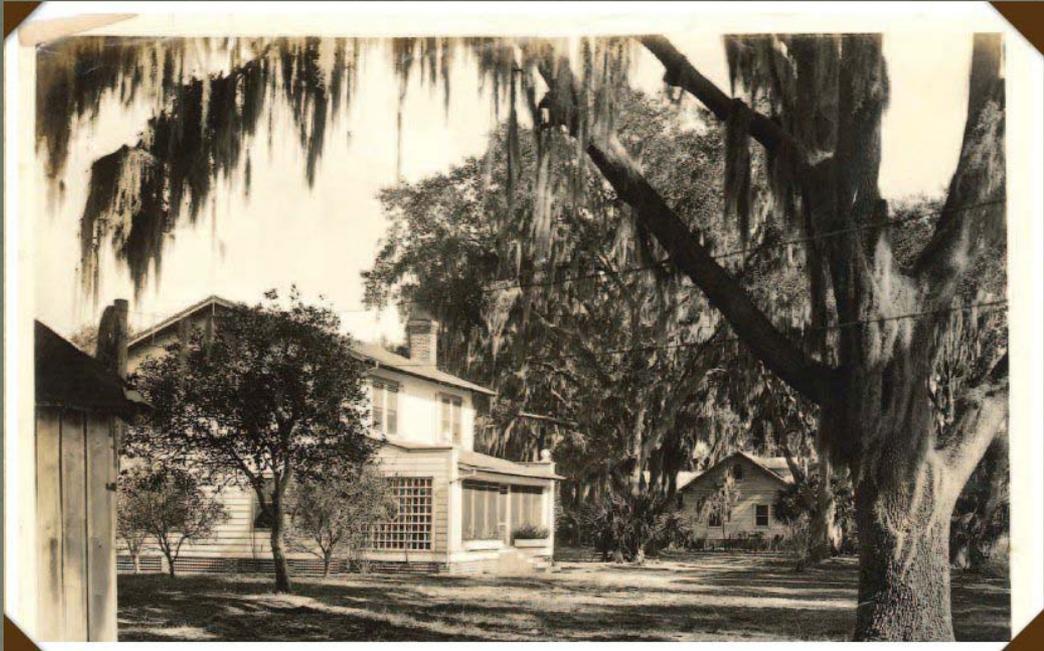
















Arizona D. "Kate" Barker

Died: January 16, 1935

Age 54 Years, 3 Months

*The darkest of nights,
Dawn I see a brighter day*

KATE BARBER

DIE : Jan. 16- 1935

Buried October-1935

The Darkest Night, Shall end
In bright Day.



