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Harrison, William J.

R 44402

© Willie Harrison

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Ref:

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William J. Harrison

Bremer KIDNAP

(Willie Harrison, W. J. Harrison, J. B. Bolton, W. J. Ryan)

(Assoc) Arthur (Doc) Barker, Fred Barker, Ma Barker, Alvin Karpis,  
Harold Alderton, Oliver Berg, John J. McLaughlin  
William Weaver, Harry Sawyer, Cassius Mc Donald,  
Byron Bolton, Elmer Farmer, Harry Campbell, Volney Davis  
Otto Peifer, Al Capon figure syndicate

KILLED by gang<sup>in</sup> MONTICELLO, ILL. prior to OCT 17, 1935  
body burned in barn

SEE JOHN PEIFER newspaper article

SEE newspaper article this file



**IDENTIFICATION  
ORDER NO. 1239**

February 12, 1935.

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

**Fingerprint Classification**

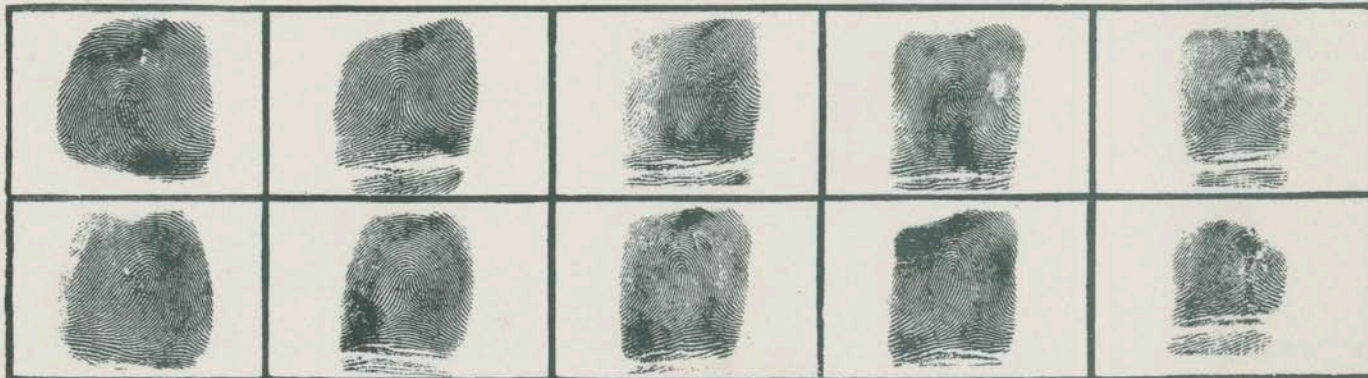
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**WANTED**

**WILLIAM J. HARRISON**, with aliases:  
**WILLIE HARRISON, W. J. HARRISON,**  
**J. B. BOLTON, W. J. RYAN.**

**KIDNAPING**



Photograph taken November 16, 1933.

**DESCRIPTION**

Age, 34 years (born St. Louis, Mo., September 27, 1900); Height, 5 feet, 6 inches; Weight, 155 pounds; Build, medium; Hair, light brown; Eyes, blue; Complexion, ruddy; Occupation, golf professional.

**RELATIVES:**

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Harrison, Sr.,  
parents,  
4539 Gibson Avenue,  
St. Louis, Missouri.  
Walter Harrison and Elmer Harrison,  
brothers,  
4539 Gibson Avenue,  
St. Louis, Missouri.  
Donald Harrison, brother,  
1115 Lawn Street,  
St. Louis, Missouri.  
Ben Harrison, brother,  
6164 Crescent Street,  
St. Louis, Missouri.



*William J. Harrison*

**CRIMINAL RECORD**

As William Harrison, #15232, arrested Police Department, Calumet City, Ill., April 14, 1933; charge, carrying concealed weapons; dismissed April 14, 1933.  
As William J. Harrison, #1829, arrested Police Department, Hammond, Ind., Nov. 14, 1933; charge, assault and battery with intent to rape; released to State Bureau of Identification, Crown Point, Indiana.  
As William J. Harrison, #14225, received State Bureau of Identification, Crown Point, Ind., Nov. 16, 1933; charge, assault and battery with intent to rape; released on \$5000 bond; dismissed Sept. 25, 1934.

William J. Harrison is wanted for the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer at St. Paul, Minnesota, on January 17, 1934. An indictment was returned by the Federal Grand Jury at St. Paul, Minnesota, January 22, 1935 charging William J. Harrison and others with the kidnaping.

Law enforcement agencies kindly transmit any additional information or criminal record to the nearest office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

If apprehended, please notify the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., or the Special Agent in Charge of the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, listed on the back hereof which is nearest your city.

(over)

Issued by: JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR

Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, Located at:	Building	Tel. No.
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*Mpls Tribune 10/17/33*  
**BREMER KIDNAPER  
 BODY IDENTIFIED**



William J. Harrison.

# IDENTIFY BODY AS KIDNAPER'S

**Torso in Burned Barn Reported  
 That of William J. Harrison,  
 Bremer Suspect.**

The torso of a man found in the ashes of a burned barn last January near Ontarioville, Ill., has been identified as that of William J. Harrison, member of the Barker-Karpis gang and one of the 12 persons originally indicted for the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker.

Terse announcement of the identification was made Wednesday by J. Edgar Hoover, director of the bureau of investigation for the department of justice, the Associated Press reported.

Harrison had been a St. Louis professional golfer. Chicago police said he became an associate of the Capone liquor syndicate during the prohibition years and had operated a string of speakeasies in Calumet City, Ill. His criminal record was described as being brief. In 1933 he first was charged with carrying concealed weapons, and then arrested on an assault charge. Both charges eventually were dismissed.

It was surmised that the Barker-Karpis gang, knowing Harrison's propensity for talking, feared he might blab concerning the Bremer

(Continued on Page 2, Column 5)

# BODY IDENTIFIED AS KIDNAPER'S

(Continued from Page 1.)

kidnaping, so decided to put him out of the way.

Russell W. Keeney, state's attorney of DuPage county, Ill., said that Alvin Karpis is a likely suspect in the killing because he had "the strongest reason" for wanting "Willie" out of the way.

The body, he said, was discovered the day after the fire in January. The killers had gone to great lengths to prevent identification. Head, arms and legs of the victim were not found, and the only clue was a watch on which a repairer's mark and date still could be discerned. Federal agents, Keeney said, took over the investigation in September.

## Reputed 'Contact' Man.

Harrison, who was 34, was reputed to have been a "contact" man for the Barker-Karpis gang, arranging for hideouts and tending to other details in the gang operations west of Chicago.

Ontarioville is in the Illinois Fox river valley, almost in a direct line with Oswego, where was found the body of John Hamilton, member of the Dillinger gang fatally wounded by Dakota county, Minn., deputy sheriffs when the gang fled after a battle with federal agents at the Little Bohemia resort in Wisconsin. Ontarioville also is in a line with Barrington, Ill., where Baby Face Nelson was killed by federal agents. Bensenville, where Mr. Bremer was held captive pending payment of the ransom, is not far away.

## Five Still Sought.

Death of Harrison reduced to five the number of persons still sought in the Bremer kidnaping case. They are Karpis, his chief lieutenant, Harry Campbell; Dr. Joseph Moran, former Chicago physician; and two men indicted simply as "John Doe" and "Richard Roe."

Four of those originally indicted now are dead. They are Harrison, Kate (Ma) Barker, her son, Fred, and another son, Herman, who committed suicide rather than face trial. "Ma" Barker and Fred were killed in a battle with federal agents at Oklawaha, Fla.

# Killing Laid To Al Karpis

**Body Found in Burned Barn  
 Identified as Harrison,  
 Bremer Kidnaper**

Fears that William J. "Willie" Harrison might talk about the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping in St. Paul may have led to his death at the hands of Al Karpis or other gangland associates, authorities said today following the identification of a body found last January in a burned barn near Ontarioville, Ill.

The body was identified as Harrison's in a terse statement issued by J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the department of justice bureau of investigation in Washington.

Russell W. Keeney, state's attorney of DuPage county, Ill., pointed to Karpis, fugitive leader of the Karpis-Barker gang, as one of the likely suspects in Harrison's murder. It has not been determined whether Harrison, one of the 12 persons originally indicted for the Bremer kidnaping, died in the barn or whether his body was brought there for disposal.

The body believed to be Harrison's was discovered the day after fire swept the barn. The killers had gone to great lengths to prevent identification. The head, arms and legs of the victim were not found. The one clue was a watch on which a repairer's marks were visible.

From this federal men finally identified the body as Harrison's.

Harrison was said to be the contact man for the gang that kidnaped Mr. Bremer. He is supposed to have arranged hideouts and taken care of gang operations west of Chicago. He was known here as a former golf professional at St. Louis and was said to be a former member of the Al Capone liquor syndicate.

His elimination leaves only two major members of the Karpis-Barker gang at large. They are Karpis and his chief lieutenant, Harry Campbell.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

44402

October 28, 1935.

FINGERPRINT  
CLASSIFICATION:

19 L 9 T O 7 Ref: U  
M 1 T QI 7 T

APPREHENSION ORDER  
NO. 1239-359

Dear Sir:

Re: William J. Harrison, with aliases:  
Willie Harrison, W. J. Harrison,  
J. B. Bolton, W. J. Ryan.  
Kidnaping.

Identification Order No. 1239 on the above-named subject  
is hereby canceled, inasmuch as he has been identified as a deceased  
person previously found at Ontarioville, Illinois.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,

Director.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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