



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PEIFER, JOHN P.

Peifer, Jack

R52522

DEAD

18	M	29	W	IOM	17
	I	20	W	OOI	18

JOHN PETER PEIFER

Newspaper article
good

(Jack Peifer)

(assn) ARTHUR (DOC) BARKER, FRED BARKER, "MA" KATE BARKER,
ALVIN KARPIS, CHARLES J. (LOCHUCK) FITZGERALD
HAMM KIDNAPPING EDWARD C. BARTHOLMEY, BYRON BOLTON, RUSSELL
FRED (Nurse Shotgun) MEGLEN
Crispin

Newspaper article covers all people
in Hamm & Bremer KIDNAPPING



Jack Peiffer.
@Jack Pfeifer.

32-1923

5'9"¹/₄

189

Dk Chest Hair.

Chest eyes.

Med Florid Com.

Musc Build.

F.P.C.

29	-	I	21
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20	-	0	
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STATE OF MINNESOTA, BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION

ROOM 22 STATE OFFICE BUILDING - ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

Record from

Ramsey

(Address)

St Paul

On the above line please state whether Police Department, Sheriff's Office, or County Jail

PLEASE PASTE PHOTO HERE

April 17, 1936

Received from

County

Date Received

Charge

Conspiracy Hamm

Sentence

Kidnaping

Place of birth

Litchfield Minn

Nationality

German

Age

43

Height

5 9

Weight

190

Hair

Dr Bro - Gray

Build

Med H

Eyes

Bro

Complexion

Med

Marks and Scars

Mole center

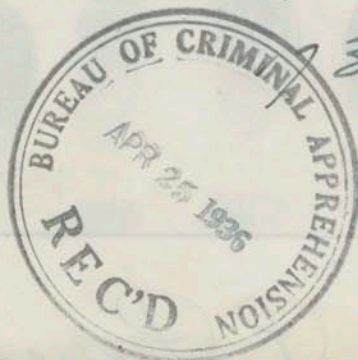
left cheek - scar left forearm circular

Paroled

Discharged

CRIMINAL HISTORY

St Paul 1934. In Liquor, Wdamp St Cloud Co Jail



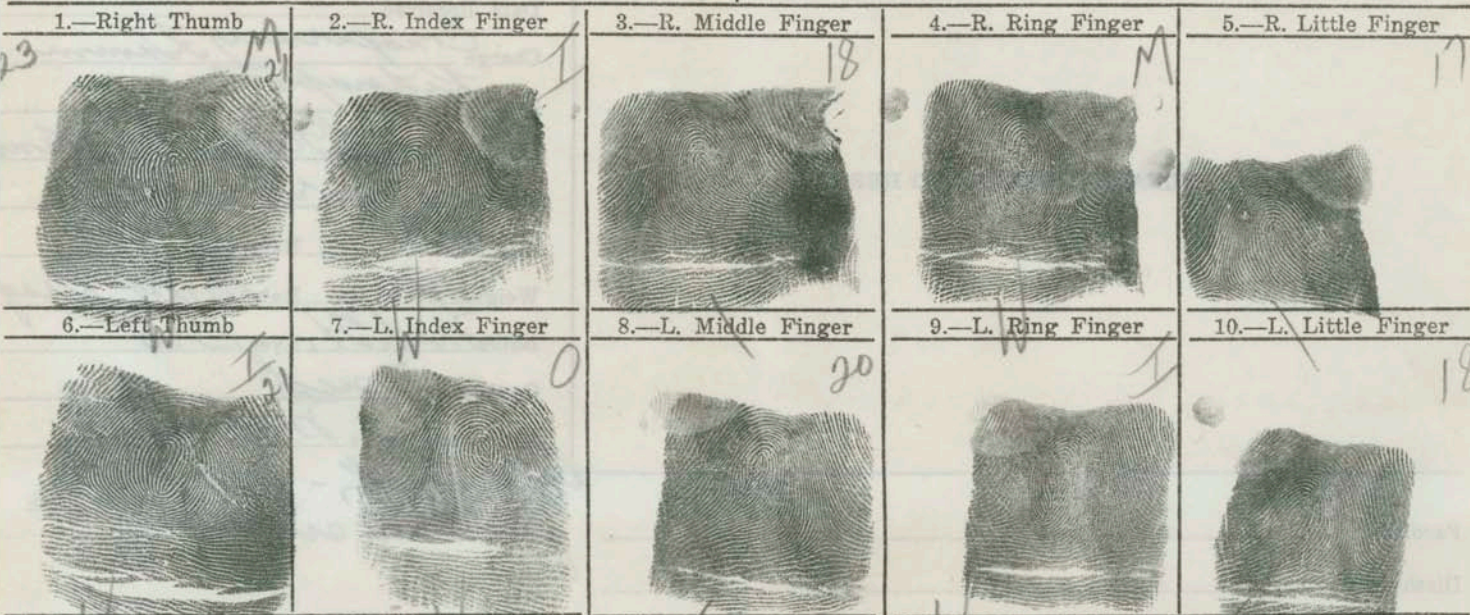
30(?) In. remaining open after hours rel. Hellhocks

Ro-2522 Duplicate
Leave This Space Blank

Name John Peter Peifer
Alias "Jack" Peifer

Classification 18 29 W I 17
18 20 W 0 18
Ref. _____

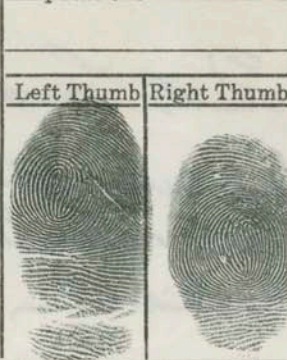
No. _____ Color Wat Sex Male



Four fingers taken simultaneously
Left hand



Amputations _____



Four fingers taken simultaneously
Right hand



Classified by _____
Verified by _____
Searched by _____

Prisoner's signature
✓ John P Peifer

GIRL IN KIDN

Kidnap Net Closes



JACK PFEIFFER.



—Tribune-UP WIREPHOTO.
EDMUND G. BARTHOLMEY.



CHARLES J. FITZGERALD.

OFFICERS HOLD MANKATOAN AS HAMM WITNESS

Reported to Be Friend of Fitzgerald, One of Three
Suspects Seized.

Clean-Up of Karpis-Barker
Gang Pushed—Arrests May
Reach to 25 or 30.

In preparation for its case against three Hamm kidnaping suspects, the government Saturday held a Mankato woman in the Ramsey county jail as a material witness.

The identity of the woman was not revealed, but it was reported she was an acquaintance of Charles J. Fitzgerald, one of three men arrested by department of justice agents in their clean-up of the kidnaping.

Karpis Hunt Pushed.

With three men accused of having taken major parts in the Hamm kidnaping in jail, the capture of Alvin Karpis and the hangers-on of the broken Karpis-Barker gang who still are at large became the objective of the department of justice.

Following the department's announcement that the \$100,000 kidnaping of William Hamm, St. Paul brewer, was "solved at last," came word that "there may be more arrests soon."

25 or 30 Involved.

"We intend to knock off every one who ever worked with this gang," said J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the bureau of investigation in Washington. "It may run to 25 or 30 people."

This forecast was made as the government moved rapidly to make firm its hold on three new Hamm

(Continued on Page 7, Column 1)

WOMAN IS HELD IN HAMM CASE

(Continued from Page 1.)

kidnaping suspects whose capture was announced earlier Saturday.

Within a few hours of the news that he had been arrested at his home, Edmund C. Bartholmey, Bensenville, Ill., postmaster, was arraigned Saturday afternoon in St. Paul. Bartholmey pleaded not guilty. His bail was set at \$100,000 and he was remanded to the Ramsey county jail.

2 in Ramsey Jail.

In jail Bartholmey will await trial on kidnaping charges with Jack Pfeifer of St. Paul, proprietor of the Hollyhocks night club, and Charles J. Fitzgerald, 61-year-old criminal with a long record of arrests on various charges. Pfeifer already is in St. Paul, and Fitzgerald was on his way from Los Angeles, where he was arrested.

With the capture of the three suspects, the department of justice announced that the gang that kidnaped Hamm as he left the office of his brewery in St. Paul at noon June 15, 1933, was the gang that kidnaped Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, January 17, 1934.

Although the Bremer kidnaping came later, the government scored its first victory against the gang in that kidnaping. Most of those involved in the \$200,000 Bremer case already are in jail or are dead.

The three newest captives in the Hamm kidnaping all were directly connected with the kidnaping, according to the government's accusations. Pfeifer is named as the "finger man." Fitzgerald is accused of being the man who shook hands with Hamm before two others poked guns in his ribs. It was in Bartholmey's home in Bensenville that Hamm was held captive until the \$100,000 ransom was paid, according to the charges.

Hamm Identifies Kidnap Jail.

Bartholmey's home, identified by Hamm as his kidnap jail, is just two blocks from the Bensenville home of Harold Alderton, where Bremer was held while the \$200,000 ransom negotiations were under way. Bartholmey was summarily removed from his position as postmaster as soon as postal officials learned of his arrest.

In their Hamm case clean-up, federal agents also were holding Morris Roisner of St. Paul. The agents emphasized, however, that Roisner had nothing to do with the kidnaping, and will not be charged.

Government Names Others.

Besides the three now in custody, the government named as members of the Hamm kidnap plot: Alvin Karpis, at large, and topping the list of the department of justice's list of wanted men.

Elmer Farmer, serving a sentence in the Bremer case.

Byron Bolton, also called William

KIDNAPERS' LAIR AT BENSENVILLE, ILL.



(PICTURE WIRED TO TRIBUNE EXCLUSIVELY IN NORTHWEST.)

Bensenville, Ill., April 18.—(AP—Wirephoto)—In this house in Bensenville, William A. Hamm, wealthy St. Paul brewer, was held by the Barker-Karpis kidnaping gang for four days while negotiations for his release for \$100,000 ransom went forward. Hamm was released June 19, 1933. Three of his abductors were arrested Saturday.

Bryan Bolton, now held in St. Paul in connection with the Bremer case.

Arthur "Doc" Barker, eldest of "Ma" Barker's boys, serving a life sentence in Alcatraz.

Fred Barker, killed with his mother in a gun battle with federal men at Oklawaha, Fla.

Fred C. "Shotgun Zeigler" Goetz, reported killed by gangsters.

As the department of justice wrote "solved" across the records of the Hamm case, it announced that it had brought about solution of 63 kidnaping cases since the passage of the so-called Lindbergh law in June of 1932.

Other Important Cases.

Other important cases, the successful records of which are written on justice department books include:

Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr., resulting in the execution of Bruno Richard Hauptmann.

Charles Boettcher, II, Denver, one life sentence imposed.

Peggy McMath, of Harwich, Mass., Kenneth Buck convicted and sentenced to 24 years.

Mary McElroy, Kansas City, three men convicted, two serving life sentence.

Jake Factor, Chicago, four life sentences.

John J. O'Connell, Jr., Albany, one conviction and a 50 year sentence.

Charles F. Urschel, Oklahoma City, 16 persons convicted, six of whom are serving life sentences.

Three Still at Large.

Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul, sev-

eral sentences, including three life terms.

George Weyerhaeuser, Tacoma, Wash., Harmon Waley was sentenced to 45 years and William Mahan still sought.

William Weiss, Philadelphia, two electrocuted, two others sentenced to death.

Three major kidnapers are still at large. They are Karpis, Thomas J. Robinson, Jr., former law clerk wanted for the kidnaping of Mrs. Alice Speed Stoll at Louisville, Ky., and William Mahan, called the "remaining principal" in the kidnaping of little George Weyerhaeuser, Tacoma, Wash., timber fortune heir, May 24, 1935.

No hint that the government was closing in on new Hamm case suspects leaked out before Hoover, head of the bureau, was ready to make his announcement in Washington.

Bartholmey, former railroad clerk, and local politician, was arrested in Bensenville. Pfeifer was arrested in St. Paul. Fitzgerald was arrested without a struggle as he left his apartment, in which he had been living, in the exclusive Whitshire district in Los Angeles.

Known Under 11 Aliases.

Under 11 picturesque aliases, Fitzgerald has been mentioned in the nation's police records since 1898. He was known as a member of the J. S. Morgan gang of safe and bank robbers which "worked" the central states and the southwest for many years. Fitzgerald now is 61 years old.

Minneapolis police records list

him under such names as Big Charley, Big Fitz, "Chi" Slim and Slim Williams. He also is known as Charles Jordan, Frank West, Daniel Mathias Logan, William Funk, Charles Morgan, J. P. Hammond and Charles Lowe.

Fitzgerald has served terms in the Kansas state penitentiary at Lansing and the federal penitentiary at Atlanta.

Hoover said there may be more arrests soon. Those jailed Saturday were named in secret indictments April 11.

Accuses Karpis and Barkers.

Hoover named as the actual abductors of Hamm, Arthur and Fred Barker, Karpis, Fred Goetz, Fitzgerald and Bolton. Goetz since has been slain.

Once before the department of justice thought it had landed the Hamm kidnapers in jail, only to fail in court to convict them when some of the state witnesses failed to testify as they previously had said they would be able to. On that occasion Willie Sharkey, Ed (Father) McFadden, Gus Shaffer and their leader, Roger Touhy, crashed into a tree during a drunken spree that followed a Wisconsin fishing trip. Arrested for drunkenness, they soon were found to be criminals with long records.

Touhy Gang Acquitted.

Hamm once identified them as his captors, but later said he could not be certain. All were brought to trial but acquitted.

Hamm was kidnaped as he walked from his office of the

Hamm brewery, which he heads, in June of 1933.

Three notes were received from his abductors by W. W. Dunn, sales manager of the brewery. Three days later Dunn, carrying \$100,000, dropped the money on a highway and two cars loaded with members of the kidnap gang picked it up.

Dunn, in accordance with instructions, went to a hotel in Duluth, and registered there. The following day he received a telephone call from Hamm, saying he had been released.

Freed Near Wyoming, Minn.

The release took place 45 miles north of St. Paul, near Wyoming, Minn. He went to a nearby farmhouse and telephoned Dunn. St. Paul police brought him back.

Hamm said his captors had treated him courteously during the five days he was held. He said he believed he had been taken to Lake Geneva, Wis., before the gang doubled back into Minnesota. It was Hamm's belief he had been transported across the state line that brought federal agents into the case.

Five Citizens Kidnaped.

In a period of little more than three years beginning in 1931, five St. Paul citizens were victims of kidnapers who collected more than \$300,000 ransom.

The kidnap wave began with the abduction of Morris Rutman, then proprietor of a clothing store. One suspect was killed by members of

his own gang and two now are serving long terms in Stillwater prison. No ransom was paid.

The same year, Leon Gleckman, convicted bootlegger and income tax evader, met a similar fate. It was principally through the efforts of Jack Pfeiffer, one of the three men just arrested for the William Hamm kidnaping, that he returned home alive. An undisclosed amount of ransom was paid. Four men are serving sentences ranging from one to 40 years in the state prison. A fifth man convicted died in prison a few years ago.

Haskell Bohn Ransomed.

On June 30, 1932, Haskell Bohn, son of a refrigerator manufacturer, was abducted from his home in an exclusive residential section. A note threatening death and demanding \$35,000 ransom was found in his garage. His eyes were taped and his arms bound for several days and his release came after a large part of the demanded ransom was paid. Vern Sankey, named as his kidnaper, subsequently committed suicide.

Hamm, head of the Hamm brewing company, was the fourth victim. He was held four days and released after payment of \$100,000.

Bremer Held 21 Days.

The most sensational kidnaping, the last perpetrated here, was executed on January 17, 1934, when Edward G. Bremer, 37-year-old bank president, was seized by members of the Barker-Karpis mob at a street intersection a half block

from where he left his young daughter after driving her to school. He was slugged on the head, blindfolded and taken to a Bensenville, Ill., hideout. There he was held 21 days and freed after payment of \$200,000 ransom.

Four members of the Roger Touhy gang were acquitted of the Hamm kidnaping.

Eight men were convicted for the Bremer kidnaping, three pleaded guilty and five were killed by federal agents or members of their own gang. One, John J. McLaughlin of Chicago, since has died in prison. Among those serving life terms are Arthur (Doc) Barker, Oliver Berg and Volney Davis.

G-MEN WAITED MONTH TO NAB FITZGERALD

By Associated Press.

Los Angeles, April 18.—Department of justice sources disclosed Saturday that federal agents lived for a month in an apartment house alongside Charles J. Fitzgerald, 60, before they arrested him here several days ago.

Day and night department of justice agents shadowed the quiet, elderly man, wanted for questioning in the 1933 kidnaping of William A. Hamm, Jr., wealthy St. Paul brewer.

Finally the federal men became convinced he maintained no connections with anyone.

Eight agents gathered in apartments adjoining Fitzgerald's. Two "shadow men" trailed him into the

building. As he was about to step into his apartment, government agents came upon him quietly from both sides.

He surrendered, remarking only "I was expecting this."

Fitzgerald, who was questioned for several hours in a locked office, laughed at the federal men, refusing to say anything except to deny that he was connected with the Hamm kidnaping. He waived removal from Los Angeles and accompanied several agents east.

Hamm Money Believed to Be In Seized Box

7/8/36
Safety Deposit Receptacle
in Illinois Bank Held
by Court

Unopened pending a court order for its examination, a safety deposit box which an attorney for William Hamm, Jr., said may hold \$8,000 of the \$100,000 ransom paid for release of Mr. Hamm, was in court custody at Waukegan, Ill., today.

Federal authorities in St. Paul indicated they believed the box contained, not original ransom notes, but money for which ransom had been exchanged.

It is believed to belong, they said, to Charles (The Greeter) Fitzgerald, confessed participant in the Hamm abduction, one of three named by Mr. Hamm in civil suit in Lake county, Illinois, to recover part of the ransom.

Others named are John Vloski, 42 years old, and his wife, Tunie, 35, of Waukegan.

Will Open Box in Month

Albert Hall of Waukegan, who filed the suit for Mr. Hamm, said the box would be opened "within a month." He said he did not know the amount of money the box contained. He explained the \$8,000 figure was mentioned in a confession by one of the kidnapers.

A writ of attachment was issued late yesterday by Circuit Judge Ralph J. Davy, Lake county, in connection with the civil suit.

Mrs. Vloski said she and her husband had known Fitzgerald years ago near St. Paul as a friend of Belle Borne, Mankato, whose brother was the husband of Mrs. Vloski's sister. Mrs. Borne, free on bond as a witness in the Hamm case, was a close friend of Fitzgerald.

Continues Her Story

Mrs. Vloski continued:

"In February of 1935 Belle gave me \$12,000 and asked me to keep it for Fitzgerald. She said she was going to a hospital and would send for the money bit by bit. I agreed to the arrangement and put the money in a deposit box in the First National Bank. Last summer I took \$1,000 out and sent it by air mail to Fitzgerald in Los Angeles. Soon after I sent \$3,000 more," Mrs. Vloski said.

"When federal agents visited me last December I told them what I knew. I never profited one cent from the arrangement."

Asked if the safety deposit box contained actual ransom notes or bills received in exchange for ransom money, Hall said:

"St. Paul sources inform us the box contains actual ransom notes. Whether the money represents ransom notes or not, we will claim it."

Thomas Newman of St. Paul, Fitzgerald's attorney, said he understood "a large part" of the money belongs to Mrs. Borne. Newman said both Fitzgerald and Mrs. Borne deny the money was obtained through exchange for "hot" money.

G-Men

MEN ACTIVE IN BREMER, HAMM CASES IN PRISON

Further Action to Be Against Money Chang- ers, Harborers

With conviction of John P. (Jack) Peifer, St. Paul gambler and night club operator, of his part in the William Hamm Jr., kidnaping, the federal government's G-men today were ready to write finis across the dossier of two of the most famous crimes in the north-west's history.

Between court convictions and gang murders to close the mouths of criminals prone to talk about the Edward G. Bremer and Hamm crimes, the active partners in the two crimes have all been accounted for. Any further action will be against harborers and protectors and money-changers.

The summary shows 16 convicted, including seven who pleaded guilty; six killed, three of them by federal agents; two acquitted, and three, serving prison terms for other crimes, against whom charges have been dropped.

Lindbergh Law

All were prosecuted under the Lindbergh law in connection with the kidnappings of William Hamm, Jr., St. Paul brewer, in June, 1933, or of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, in January, 1934.

The list follows:

Arthur (Doc) Barker—serving a life term at Alcatraz for the Bremer kidnaping. Also charged in the Hamm case.

Fred Barker—killed at a Florida hideout in January, 1935, by federal agents. Implicated in both kidnappings.

"Ma" Kate Barker—killed with Fred by federal agents. Mother of Fred and Doc.

Alvin Karpis—sentenced Monday to life imprisonment at Leavenworth, but expected to be transferred to Alcatraz. Pleaded guilty to the Hamm kidnaping and indicted in the Bremer case.

John P. (Jack) Peifer—convicted as the "finger man" in the Hamm case.

Charles J. (Old Chuck) Fitzgerald—sentenced Monday to life imprisonment at Leavenworth. Pleaded guilty in Hamm case.

Harold Alderton—serving 20 years at Leavenworth in connection with Bremer case. His home at Bensenville, Ill., was used as Bremer hideout.

Oliver Berg—Life sentence for Bremer kidnaping standing against him. Now serving life at Joliet for another crime.

Dr. Joseph P. Moran—reported drowned by Karpis-Barker gangsters in Lake Erie. Alleged to have performed operations on Karpis and others to remove finger whorls.

James J. Wilson—Serving five years at El Reno, Okla., federal reformatory. Aided Dr. Moran in mutilating gangsters' fingers.

John J. McLaughlin—Died while serving a five-year term at Leavenworth. Convicted as money changer in Bremer case.

William Weaver—Serving life at Alcatraz. Convicted as Bremer kidnaper.

Harry Sawyer—Serving life at Alcatraz. Convicted as "finger man" in Bremer case.

Cassius McDonald—Serving 15 years at Leavenworth. Money changer in Bremer case.

Edward C. Bartholmey—Awaiting sentence. Home at Bensenville, Ill., used as hideout in Hamm kidnaping.

Byron Bolton—Awaiting sentence. Pleaded guilty to complicity in both Hamm and Bremer kidnappings and testified as government witness.

Elmer Farmer—Serving 20 years at Leavenworth. Pleaded guilty in Bremer kidnaping.

Harry Campbell—Serving life at Alcatraz. Pleaded guilty in the Bremer kidnaping.

Volney Davis—Serving life at Alcatraz. Pleaded guilty in Bremer case.

Russell Gibson—Killed by federal agents in Chicago at time of capture of Bolton, Jan. 8, 1936. Gang hanger-on.

Willie Harrison—Killed by gang. Charged in Bremer case.

Fred Goetz, alias George (Shot-gun) Ziegler—Killed by Capone gang. Indicted in Hamm kidnaping.

Philip Delaney and **William Vidler** were acquitted by a jury of indictments charging complicity in the Bremer kidnaping. Bremer kidnaping charges against Jess Doyle, Bruno Austin and Edna (Rabbits) Murray, all of whom are serving prison terms for other crimes, were dropped.