

## AUGUST H. "GUS" WINKELER

b. March 28, 1901; d. October 9, 1933; Age 27  
at time of Toledo robbery

Known Aliases: Michael "Big Mike" Rand, M. J. Michaels,  
Jerry Kral, James Ray



Augustus Winkeler was born on March 28, 1901.<sup>77</sup> He lied about his age in order to join the Army and serve in the First World War. He was assigned as an ambulance driver. This assignment led to the development of two enduring traits: Winkeler became hardened to death and loss, and he also became an excellent driver of different types of motor vehicles.<sup>78</sup>

As mentioned previously, Winkeler was recruited by Capone with Burke, Nugent and Carey as one of the "American Boys."<sup>79</sup> Capone apparently respected Winkeler for his demeanor and intelligence compared to the other members of the gang.

While being pursued by police near St. Joseph, Michigan on August 5, 1931, Winkeler wrecked the auto he was driving, seriously injuring himself and causing the loss of his left eye.<sup>80</sup> After this injury, Winkeler wore a glass eye.<sup>81</sup>

The photo on this page shows Winkeler after the accident.

While held in the hospital in police custody, detectives had Winkeler identified by numerous witnesses as being involved in various crimes. This was despite the fact that his face was badly swollen and bandaged. These false identifications were made in order to gain Winkeler's assistance in the recovery of stolen bonds taken in a Wisconsin robbery. Although the Toledo Police Department was notified of Winkeler's arrest, apparently there was no attempt to extradite him on the indictments filed on March 3, 1930.

Using the last names of Rand and Michaels, Winkeler later took over the operations of two nightclubs on Chicago's North Side for the syndicate. He became friends with politicians, police officials and other celebrities.

It is believed that Winkeler cooperated with the Bureau of Investigation (the F. B. I.) during the agency's investigation of the Kansas City Massacre. Frank Nitti supposedly learned of this and ordered his murder on October 9, 1933, while Nitti's predecessor and Winkeler's supporter, Al Capone, was serving a federal prison sentence.<sup>82</sup> One of Winkeler's killers was his friend and former accomplice, George Goetz.<sup>83</sup>

The Bureau of Investigation was founded in 1908. It became the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1935.

After his death, Winkeler's widow, Georgette, related much of the information about the Toledo Express robbery and the St. Valentine's Day Massacre to a book publisher, as well as to the Bureau of Investigation. When the first publisher was intimidated into not completing the book, the manuscript was subsequently published through the efforts of William Helmer.