



RAYMOND "CRANE NECK" NUGENT

b. 1899; d. by August 17, 1931; Age 29 at time of Toledo robbery

Known Aliases: Joseph C. Baker, Raymond Browning, Phillip Roy Anderson, Louis Waite, J. E. Moore

Raymond Nugent was born in 1899 and grew up in Cincinnati.⁶⁸ Nugent apparently served admirably in the Army during the Great War. With his wife, Julia, he had two children. His family, along with Bob Carey's girlfriend, were held in Toledo after the Express robbery. After that robbery, Nugent and the others fled to Chicago and the protection of Al Capone. Sometime after his family's release from detention, Nugent summoned them to Chicago for a visit.⁶⁹ Nugent's wife later worked as a maid in a Toledo hotel in order to provide for their children.⁷⁰

After his participation in the February 1929 Massacre, Nugent left Chicago to work with Capone's brother, Ralph, in Miami Beach, Florida.⁷¹ After his close call with authorities in March 1930, Nugent allegedly began to run his own saloon in that state. He was last seen in Florida in 1931. One story described him being killed by gangsters in New Jersey and left in a burning car.⁷² The more plausible story is that Nugent, forsaking his loyalty to Capone, began to buy his alcohol from other suppliers. Ralph Capone then ordered his death. Nugent's body was allegedly fed to alligators in the Everglades swamp. It was never found.⁷³

Rumors of Nugent's death began after August 17, 1931.⁷⁴ Nugent's wife stated that she had not seen him since he had left Chicago around April 1, 1930. She stated that she received a telephone call in April 1931 stating, "He's gone. Better pack up and go home."⁷⁵ She petitioned the probate court in Cincinnati on November 13, 1952 in order to have him declared legally dead. This was to collect his World War I pension of about \$1,500.⁷⁶