

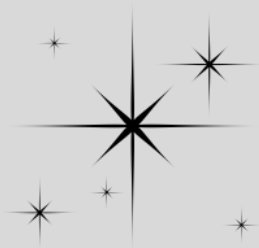
APRIL 28, 2026

AU HISTORY CLUB

The "Crime of the Century"

*The Kidnapping and Murder of Baby
Charles A. Lindbergh And The Trial of
Bruno Richard Hauptmann.*

By: Anthony T. Mastandrea



THE COURT HOUSE

FLEMINGTON, NEW JERSEY



THE SPEAKER
MR. ANTHONY T. MASTANDREA

AU
HISTORY
CLUB



CHARLES A. LINDBERGH JR.

“He was twenty months old, blonde. blue-eyed, and just beginning talking.”

AU HISTORY
CLUB

TIME

The Weekly Newsmagazine



Volume XIX

CHARLES AUGUSTUS LINDBERGH JR.
*A British Editor: "It will become increasingly difficult to avoid American
expansion among the forces of modern civilization, unless..."*
See NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Number 18

WANTED

**INFORMATION AS TO THE
WHEREABOUTS OF**



CHAS. A. LINDBERGH, JR.

OF HOPEWELL, N. J.

SON OF COL. CHAS. A. LINDBERGH

World-Famous Aviator

**This child was kidnaped from his home
in Hopewell, N. J., between 8 and 10 p. m.
on Tuesday, March 1, 1932.**

DESCRIPTION:

Age, 20 months

Hair, blond, curly

Weight, 27 to 30 lbs.

Eyes, dark blue

Height, 29 inches

Complexion, light

Deep dimple in center of chin

Dressed in one-piece coverall night suit

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO

**COL. H. N. SCHWARZKOPF, TRENTON, N. J., or
COL. CHAS. A. LINDBERGH, HOPEWELL, N. J.**

ALL COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE TREATED IN CONFIDENCE

March 11, 1932

**COL. H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF
Supt. New Jersey State Police, Trenton, N. J.**

JANUARY 2,

1928

TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



LINDBERGH

*Twenty years in our midst.
(National Edition)*

FIRST PERSON ON THE COVER OF TIME MAGAZINE
CHARLES A. LINDBERGH

IMPORTANT DATES IN LIFE OF CHARLES A. LINDBERGH

1927 - May 20-21. Famous solo flight from Roosevelt Field, NYC to Paris, France. 33 1/2 hours. "The Spirit of St. Louis."

1929 - Meets Anne Morrow - Dwight Morrow's daughter, Mexico City. Morrow U.S. Ambassador to Mexico.

1929 - May 27 - Marries her at Next Day Hill Home (part of Morrow estate), Englewood, N.J.

1930 - June 22 - Baby Charles born, same day as young Mother. Anne, 24.

1932 - March 1 - Kidnapping and murder of baby Charles.

1932 - March until April. Various kidnap notes.

1932 - May 12. Baby found dead. Wooden field, 4 1/2 miles from Hopewell home.

1934 September 19 - Bruno Richard Hauptmann arrested. 2 1/2 years have gone by since baby's murder.

1935 - January 3 - February 13. "The "Trial of the Century" Flemington, N.J. 10,000 - 15,000 invade this small, rural town. Tasteless displays in town.

1936 - April 3. Hauptmann executed - "Old Smokey" electric chair, Trenton, N.J. (In NYS, electric chair Called "Old Sparky" - Sing Sing Prison, up the Hudson River.



MORROW FAMILY

ELIZABETH | ANNE, DWIGHT JR. | CONSTANCE

ANNE WAS THE SECOND OF FOUR CHILDREN; HER SIBLINGS WERE ELISABETH REEVE, DWIGHT, JR., AND CONSTANCE. THE CHILDREN WERE RAISED IN A CALVINIST HOUSEHOLD THAT FOSTERED ACHIEVEMENT. EVERY NIGHT, MORROW'S MOTHER WOULD READ TO HER CHILDREN FOR AN HOUR. THE CHILDREN QUICKLY LEARNED TO READ AND WRITE, BEGAN READING TO THEMSELVES, AND WRITING POETRY AND DIARIES. ANNE WOULD LATER BENEFIT FROM THAT ROUTINE, EVENTUALLY PUBLISHING HER LATER DIARIES TO CRITICAL ACCLAIM.

ANNE MORROW LINDBERGH



ANNE SPENCER MORROW LINDBERGH (June 22, 1906 – February 7, 2001) was an American writer and aviator. She was the wife of decorated pioneer aviator [Charles Lindbergh](#), with whom she made many exploratory flights.

Raised in [Englewood, New Jersey](#), and later [New York City](#), Anne Morrow graduated from [Smith College](#) in [Northampton, Massachusetts](#), in 1928. She married Charles in 1929, and in 1930, became the first woman to receive a U.S. [glider pilot](#) license. Throughout the early 1930s, she served as a radio operator and copilot to Charles on multiple exploratory flights and [aerial surveys](#). Following the 1932 [kidnapping and murder of their first-born infant child](#), Anne and Charles moved to Europe in 1935 to escape the American press and hysteria surrounding the case, where their views shifted during the preliminary time of [World War II](#) towards an alleged sympathy for [Nazi Germany](#), and a concern for the United States' ability to compete with Germany in the war with their opposing air power. When they returned to America in 1939, the couple supported the isolationist [America First Committee](#) before ultimately expressing public support for the U.S. war effort after the 1941 [Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor](#) and subsequent [German declaration of war against the United States](#).



Early Life

Anne Spencer Morrow was born on June 22, 1906, in [Englewood, New Jersey](#). Her father was [Dwight Morrow](#), a partner in [J.P. Morgan & Co.](#), who became [United States Ambassador to Mexico](#) and [United States Senator](#) from New Jersey. Her mother, [Elizabeth Cutter Morrow](#), was a poet and teacher, active in women's education,^[3] who served as acting president of her alma mater [Smith College](#).

Anne was the second of four children; her siblings were Elisabeth Reeve, Dwight, Jr., and [Constance](#). The children were raised in a Calvinist household that fostered achievement. Every night, Morrow's mother would read to her children for an hour. The children quickly learned to read and write, began reading to themselves, and began writing poetry and diaries. Anne would later benefit from that routine, eventually publishing her later diaries to critical acclaim.

She first attended the [Dwight School for Girls](#) in Englewood. After graduating from [The Chapin School](#) in New York City in 1924, where she was president of the student body, she attended [Smith College](#) from which she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1928. She received the [Elizabeth Montagu](#) Prize, for her essay on women of the 18th century such as [Madame d'Houdetot](#), and the Mary Augusta Jordan Literary Prize, for her fictional piece "Lida Was Beautiful"

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Morrow and Lindbergh met on December 21, 1927, in [Mexico City](#).^[11] Her father, Lindbergh's financial adviser at J. P. Morgan and Co., invited him to [Mexico](#) to advance relations between Mexico and the United States.

At the time, Anne Morrow was a shy 21-year-old senior at Smith College. Lindbergh was a famous aviator whose solo flight across the Atlantic made him a hero of immense proportions.^[9] The sight of the boyish aviator, who was staying with the Morrrows, tugged at Morrow's heartstrings. She would write in her diary:



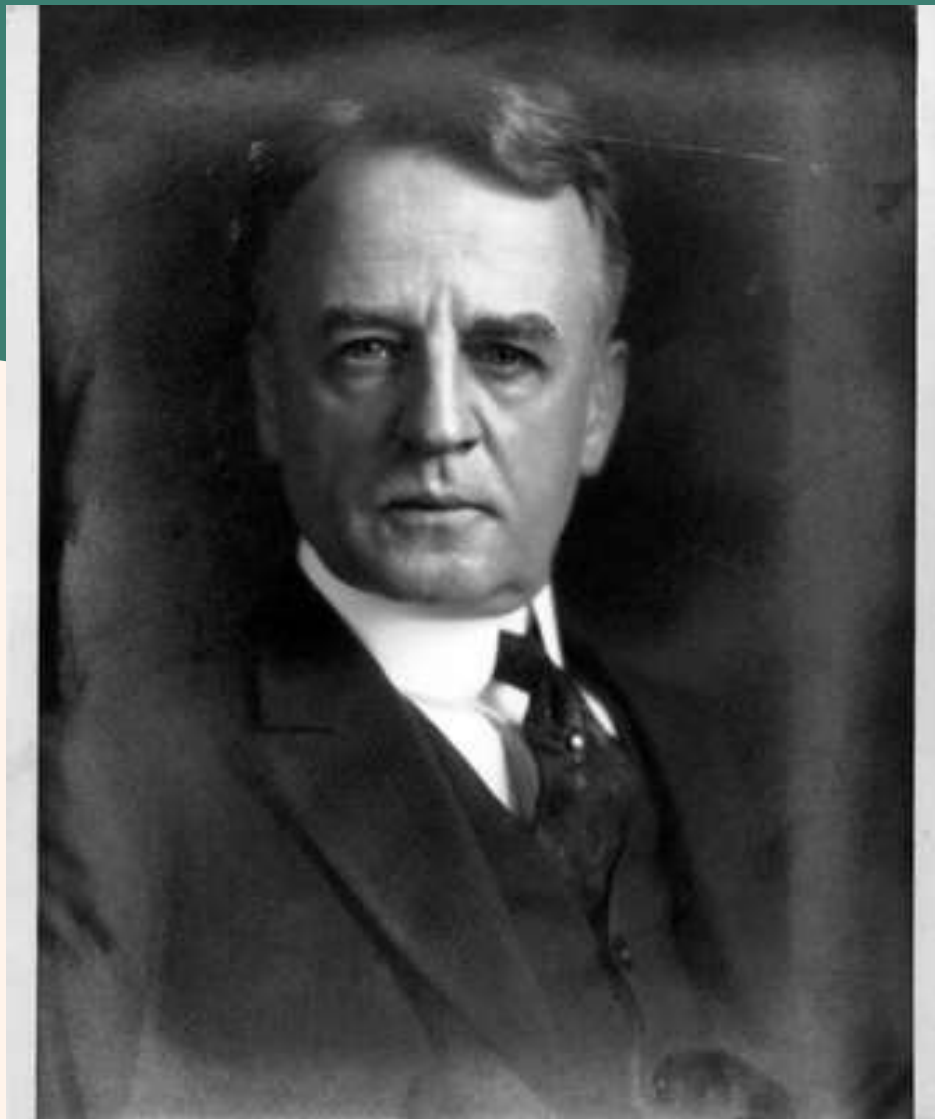
**Anne Morrow Lindbergh &
Charles A. Lindbergh**



Dwight Morrow

1873 - 1931

58 years old



MORROW ESTATE IN ENGLEWOOD



**NEXT DAY (TOMORROW) HILL
HOME PART OF ESTATE**

**TODAY - PRIVATE RESIDENCY
NOT A MUSEUM NO TOURS**



“PEOPLE NOT WELCOME”

Highfields House Hopewell, New Jersey



THE "CRIME OF THE CENTURY"

"He was twenty months old, blonde, blue-eyed, and just beginning to talk." Charles A. Lindbergh

Tuesday, March 1, 1932

New house at Hopewell (East Amwell) under construction. Still needs "a lot of fixing." Example: Some sources say the window in the baby's room doesn't close completely - however, most books say it was the shutters that didn't close properly. I'm going with the shutter problem. Most definitely, competent workers have to take care of this problem.

Hopewell home today is a place for male juvenile delinquents.

The Next Day Hill Home, in Englewood, was formerly part of. The Morrow Estate, is a private residence today.

The owner has signs outside his house saying "Not a Museum" and "No Tours."

However, the Elisabeth Morrow private elementary school - K-8 - is on the estate of the Englewood home.

The tuition ranges from \$50,000- \$54,000 per year. That's outrageous and an "absurdity."

The Lindbergh's usually leave Englewood on a Saturday afternoon and return Monday morning, but Little Charlie - the little Eagle as he was referred to - has sniffles, a cold, and feverish. Mother Anne also doesn't feel well. They decide to stay a day or two longer.

Anne and loyal servant Betty Gow rub the baby's chest with Vicks VapoRub. Betty makes a flannel undershirt from her old flannel petticoat. So it's Vicks, a flannel shirt, and baby's pajamas. (When the baby is found, the flannel shirt will be a positive "marker" in the murder.) Baby is restless, so given some lee-way - and 'pinned down" inside the crib. Betty was at the Englewood home, but called down to supervise the care of the baby.

Betty had to cancel her date with Henry "Red" Johnson, an illegal from Norway. The police "worked over" Red rather vigorously before they dismissed him as a "suspect." Poor Red went back to Norway, never to be heard of again. This ordeal might have been too much for him, as he becomes a frustrated alcoholic back home.

For some reason, the dog, who usually sleeps with the baby, is down the hall. ONE OF THE UNANSWERED. QUESTIONS.

Comment - Lindbergh wanted privacy and had a home in an isolated area, but on a visible hill. Also, the home lit up - the Lindbergh's have electricity - MOST PEOPLE IN THE AREA DID NOT HAVE ELECTRICITY.

Lindbergh is working in NYC. Was supposed to go to a big gala event honoring him, but forgot to go. (He's too cheap to hire someone who looks over these things.) He comes home around 7:50pm, eats dinner with Anne, 8-9 pm. Goes to study on the first floor; the nursery is over Lindbergh's study.

It's somewhere between 9-10 pm. It's a very windy and nasty night. Lindbergh hears a "crackling" sound outside. Thinks it might be a falling branch of a dead tree, or the wind making "funny noises." He also thinks this "splintering noise" sounds like the slats of a wooden box falling to the floor.



“What was that?” He exclaims. Anne hears nothing.

Nurse Betty Gow goes to Charley's room, the lights are out - she feels for the baby in the crib. No baby. She's startled - she runs to Anne, coming out of the bath. "Mrs. Lindbergh, do you have the baby?" "No, I don't, Betty - he's probably downstairs with Col. Lindbergh." Betty, in a panic state, frantically runs downstairs: "Col. Lindbergh, do you have baby Charles? He's not in his crib!!! Lindbergh says, "No, I don't have him." He burst upstairs - he looks all around the room for baby Charles. Then, grabs his gun and says to wife- "Anne, they have taken our baby." Anne is hysterically sobbing and crying.

Note on the windowsill, where the intruder came in - note is in a white envelope. Lindbergh doesn't touch it. Might foul up any fingerprints.

Lindbergh and an English butler and personal servant to him, Olly Whateley, frantically look outside for the kidnapper. They find no one, and in the process, mess up any footprints that may be useful in solving this disaster.

Finally, the N.J. State Police is called. Norman Schwarzkopf is the Commander. Schwarzkopf, a recent appointee, is a novice at this job. Until baby Charles's body is found, Lindbergh will be "running the show."

A homemade wooden ladder is found about 40 feet from the house -near the entry window. It is in three parts - but only two parts were used to enter the window. The two parts would be slightly too small to reach the window, so you would need an athletic type person to force his way in with his/her physical strength. The ladder, in three parts, went way over the window. Also, found beneath the window was a carpenter's chisel. The police assumed that this was to pry open the nursery window. A State Trooper slit open the envelope and read it to Charles Lindbergh.

5/15

Dear Jim!

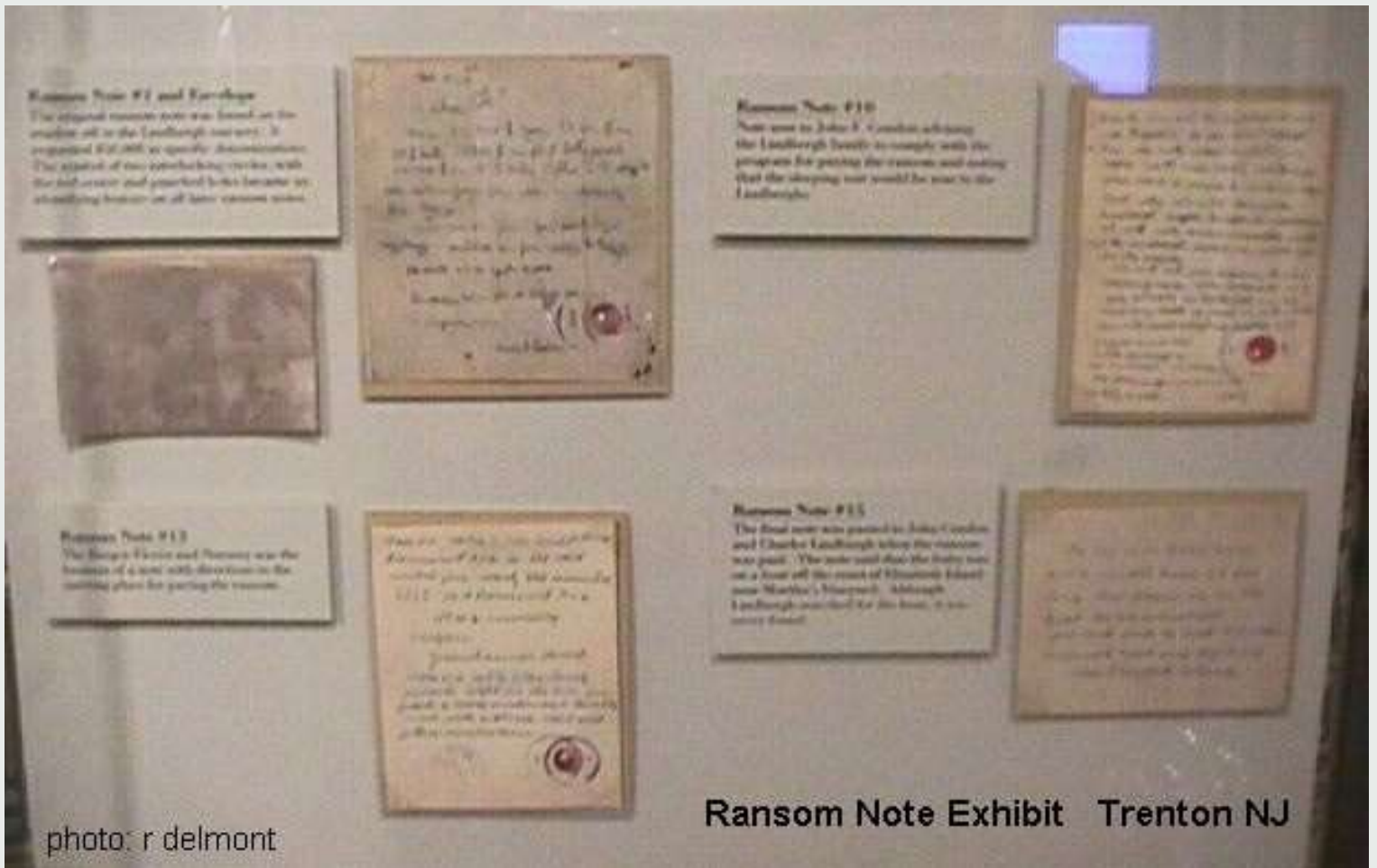
Have 50,000 \$ ready, 25,000 \$ in
20 \$ bills, 15,000 \$ in 10 \$ bills and
10,000 \$ in 5 \$ bills. After 2-4 days
we will inform you with a delivery
the money.

into warn you for making
ending public as for notify the
the child is in your care.

Instructions for a letter are
incomplete.

and 3-bills.





RANSOM NOTES IN THE LINDBERGH CASE

1. The first ransom note
was "found" by Charles Lindbergh on the windowsill in the nursery.

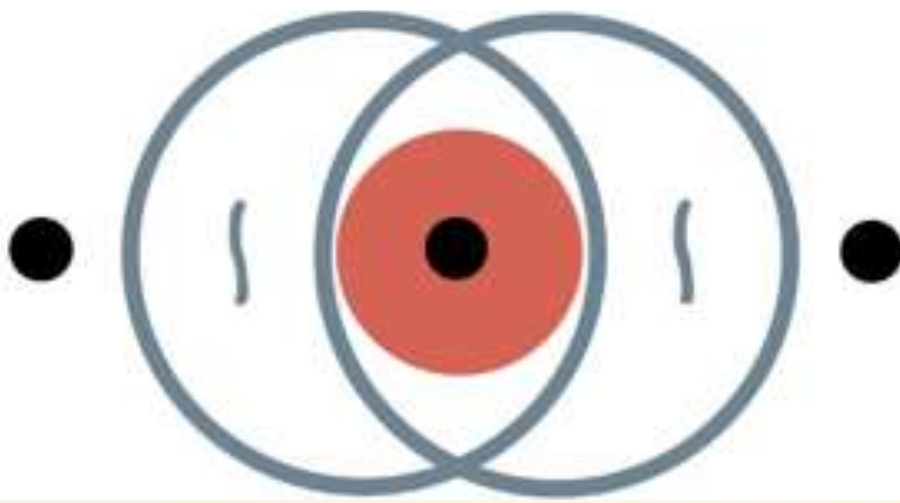
Dear Sir

**Have 5000\$ redy.
 25000\$ in 20\$ bills
 15000\$ in 10\$ bills, and
 10000\$ in 5\$ bills. After
 2-4 days, we will inform
 you where to deliver
 the money. We warn
 you for making
 anything public or
 notifying the police
 that the child is in gut
 care.**

March 1, 1932



The "signature" referred to consisted of two circles interlocking. There appeared to be three square holes punched, one in each of the circles, and one in the resulting oval where the two circles interlocked. The circles were blue in color. The oval was red.



SECOND NOTE (March 4

After the first, [another](#) ransom note was received. [The note](#) (pictured above in black & white) arrived via mail on March 6, 1932. It was [postmarked Brooklyn](#), New York, March 4. The second note demanded an increased ransom of \$70,000. The arrival of the note spurred a police conference at Trenton, New Jersey, to decide what should be done about the case.

Dear Sir. We have warned you not to make anything public, also notify the police now you have to take consequences- means we will have to hold the baby until everything is quiet. We cannot make any appointments just now. We know very well what it means to us. It is really necessary to make a world affair out of this, or to get your baby back as soon as possible, to settle those affairs in a quick way will be better for both. Don't be afraid of the baby- keeping care of us day and night. We will also feed him according to the diet.

We are interested in sending him back on gut health. And ransom was made aus for 50000\$ but now we have to take another person to it and probably have to keep the baby for a longer time as we expected. So the amount will be 70000, 20000 in 50\$ bills, 25000\$ in 20\$ bills, 15000\$ in 10\$ bills, and 10000 in 5\$ bills. Don't mark any bills or take them from one serial number. We will form you latter were to deliver the money. But we will not do so until the police are out of the case and the papers are quiet. The kidnapping we prepared for years, so we are prepared for everything.

THIRD NOTE (March 8

A third ransom note was received by Colonel Henry Breckenridge, Lindbergh's attorney, on March 8. This note requested a note in the newspaper from someone to act as an intermediary.

Dr. John F. Condon, a retired school principal, published in the Bronx Home News an offer to be an intermediary. The following day, a fourth note was given to Dr. Condon.

The note agreed that Dr. Condon would be the "go-between". On March 10, 1932, Dr. Condon was given \$70,000 in cash as ransom. He immediately began to negotiate the payment of the ransom through the newspaper, using the code name "Jafsie."

Mr Colonel Lindbergh Hopewell (FOURTH NOTE)

Dear Sir, Mr Condon may act as a go-between. You may give him the 70,000\$ make one packet, the size will be about-- (drawing appeared) We have notified you about what kind of bills. We warn you not to set any trap in any way. If you or someone else notifies the Police, there will be a further delay. After we have the money in hand, we will tell you where to find your boy. You may have an airplane ready; it is about 150 miles away. But before telling you the address. A delay of 8 hours will be between.

FIFTH NOTE

On March 12, Dr. Condon received an anonymous telephone call and a fifth ransom note. The note was delivered by a taxi driver, Joseph Perrone, who claimed the note was given to him by a stranger. The note informed Dr. Condon that another note could be found beneath a stone near the subway station.

Mr Condon

We trust you, but we will not come to your Haus, it is too dangerous. Even if you cannot know if the police or the secret service is watching you, follow these instructions. Take a car and drive to the last subway station from Jerome Ave. Here, 100 feet from the last station on the left side, is an empty Frankfurt stand with a big open porch around. You will find a note in the center of the porch underneath a stone. This notice will tell you where to find us.

Act accordingly

After 3/4 of an hour, be at the place. Bring money with you.

SIXTH NOTE (NO EXCHANGE

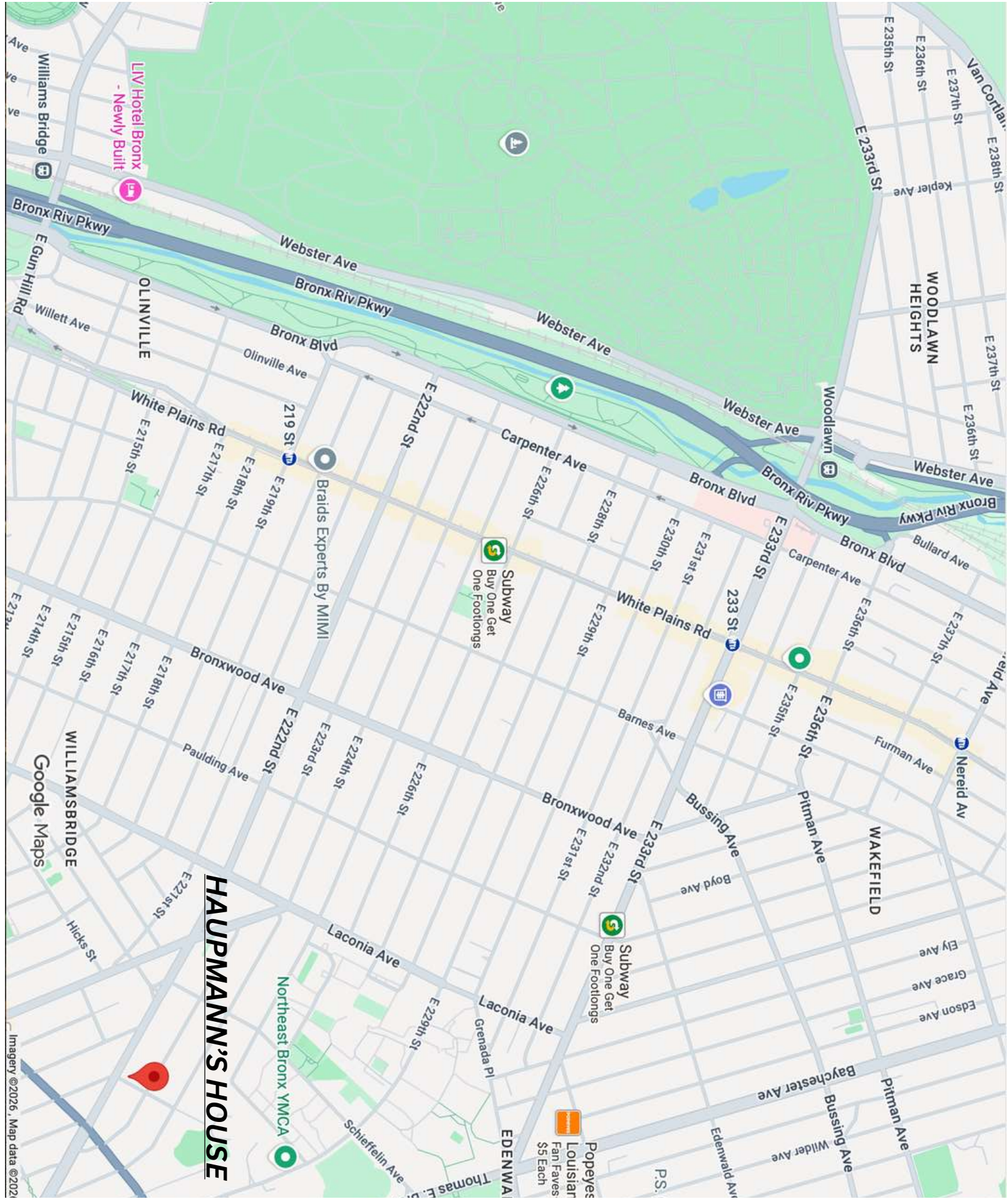
The sixth note demanded that Dr. Condon meet with the kidnapper at Woodlawn Cemetery, The Bronx, which is located near 233rd Street and Jerome Avenue. At the cemetery meeting, the man who called himself John discussed the payment of the ransom with Dr. Condon. John, also referred to as "Cemetery John", agreed to give Dr. Condon evidence to prove he had the child.

SEVENTH NOTE

On March 16, a seventh ransom note and a baby's sleeper (see the envelope) were sent to Dr. Condon. Lindbergh agreed the sleeper was his child's, and Dr. Condon continued to run advertisements in the newspaper.

Dear Sir. Our man failed to collect the money. There are no more confidential conferences after our meeting on March 12. Those arrangements to hazardous for us.

We will not allow our man to confer in a way like before. The circumstances will not allow us to make a transfer as you wish. It is impossible for us. Why should we move the baby and face danger? to take another person to the place is entirely out of question. It seems you are afraid we are the right party, and if the baby is all right, well, you have our signature. It is always the same as the first one, specially them 3 holes Now we will send you the sleeping suit for the baby. Besides, it means 3\$ extra expenses because we have to pay another one. Please tell Mrs. Lindbergh not to worry, the baby is well. We only have to give him more food as the diet says. You are willing to pay the 70000 note 50000\$ without seeing the baby first or note. Let us know about that in the New York American. We can't do it any other way because we don't like to give up our safe place or to move the baby. If you are willing to accept this deal, put these in paper



HAUPMANN'S HOUSE

LIV/Hotel Bronx
- Newly Built

Subway
Buy One Get
One Footlongs

Subway
Buy One Get
One Footlongs

Popeyes
Louisian
Fan Favos
\$5 Each

Braids Experts By MIMI

Northeast Bronx YMCA

Google Maps



**1279 E 222ND ST
BRONX, NY 10469**

\$900,700

SLEEK



MODERN



ELEGANT



- 3 bedroom
- Semi-Furnished
- rent to-Own
- Long-Tern Lease

To All Law Enforcement Officials, Wardens of Penal Institutions, Etc.

Reproduced below will be found specimens of the handwriting represented by two notes transmitted by the alleged kidnapers in the Lindbergh case:

cross the street and
walk to the next corner
and follow white line
to the road
take the money with
you, come alone
and walk
I will meet you

The boy is on Good Kelly
It is a small boat 28 feet
long. Two persons on the
boat. He are innocent.
you will find the boat between
Horseneck Beach and Jay Hook
near Elizabeth Island.

It is requested that you search the records containing the handwriting of all prisoners in your custody, or any persons coming under your observation or cognizance, for the purpose of ascertaining whether any of the specimens of said handwriting are similar to those indicated above. Should you have reasonable grounds to suspect that any of the handwriting which you may observe is similar to that of the specimen forwarded, it would be appreciated if you would, at the earliest possible moment, transmit specimens thereof, together with all available data relative to the individuals whose handwriting is forwarded, to—

COLONEL H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF.

EIGHTH

An eighth note was given to Dr. Condon on March 21, 1932.

NOTE

Dear Sir: You and Mr. Lindbergh know our program. If you don't accept, we will wait until you agree to our deal. We know you have to come to us anyway, but why should Mrs. and Mr. Lindbergh suffer longer than necessary? We will not communicate with you or Mr. Lindbergh until you write so in the paper.

We will tell you again; this kidnapping case was prepared for a year already, so the Police won't have any leads to find us or the child. You only pushed everything further out. Did you send that little package to Mr. Lindbergh? It contains the sleeping suit from the Baby. The baby is well.

Mr. Lindbergh is only wasting time with his search

NINTH NOTE

On March 29, the baby's nurse discovered the baby's thumb guard, the one the baby wore at the time of the kidnapping. The next day, a ninth ransom note was given to Condon.

Dear Sir: It is not necessary to furnish any code. You and Mr. Lindbergh know our program very well. We will keep the child in our safe place until we have the money in hand, but if the deal is not closed by the 8 of April, we will ask for 30000 more. also note 70000-100000 How can Mr. Lindbergh follow so many false clues? He knows we are the right party; our signature is still the same as in the ransom note. But if Mr. Lindbergh likes to fool around for another month, we cannot help it. Once he has come to us anyway, but if he keeps on waiting, we will double our amount. There is absolutely no fear about the child. It is well.

TENTH

NOTE

On April 1, 1932, a tenth note arrived.

Dear Sir, have the money ready by Saturday evening. We will inform you where and how to deliver it. Have the money in one bundle. We want you to put it in a certain place. There is no fear that somebody else will take it; we watch everything closely. Please let us know if you agree and are ready for action on Saturday evening. If yes, put it in the paper

Yes, everything O.K.

It is a very simple delivery, but we will find out very soon if there is any trap. After 8 hours you gett the address. from the boy. In the place, you find two ladies. They are innocent.

If it is too late, we will put it in the New York American for Saturday morning. Put it in the New York Journal.

ELEVENTH NOTE (APRIL 2)

The next day, Dr. Condon received an eleventh note from an unidentified taxi driver (JOSEPH PERRONE), which instructed him to go to a greenhouse at 3225 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, New York, to find the twelfth note.

Dear Sir: Take a car and follow Tremont Ave to the east until you reach the number 3225 East Tremont Ave. It is a nursery in Bergen Greenhouses florist. There is a table standing outside right on the door. You find a letter underneath the table covered with a stone, read and follow the instructions. Don't speak to anyone on the way. If there is a radio alarm for a police car, we warn you that we have the same equipment. have the money in one bundle. We give you 3/4 hours to reach the place.

TWELFTH & THIRTEENTH NOTES (APRIL 2)

The twelfth note agreed on another meeting to occur that night. Dr. Condon met with whom he assumed was John in hopes of reducing the ransom demand to \$50,000. Dr. Condon gave the man \$50,000 in gold certificates in exchange for a thirteenth note and a receipt.

The boy is on Boad Nelly. It is a small Boad 28 feet long, and two people are on the Boad. They are innocent. You will find the Boad between Horseneck Beach and Gay Head near Elizabeth Island.

Authorities searched near Martha's Vineyard twice, but the search was unsuccessful. No one accompanied Dr. Condon on his talks with John, but Dr. Condon insisted he could positively identify the man if he met him again.

May 12, 1932

Baby Lindbergh Found Dead
Kidnapped - March 1 - Over 2 months have
gone by

HISTORY CLUB

AU ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED

ATM

BODY OF CHARLES LINDBERGH JR



The body of Charles Lindbergh Jr., the son of Anne and Charles A. Lindbergh Sr., was kidnapped and murdered by Bruno Richard Hauptmann. The body was discovered in a wooded area, about 4 1/2 miles from the Hopewell home, on May 12, 1932. The kidnapping occurred on March 1, 1932.

DR. JOHN F. CONDON

THE TRIAL OF RICHARD "BRUNO" HAUPTMANN

• At the time of the Lindbergh abduction, Dr. John Francis Condon was a 72 year-old semi-retired educator and resident of the Bronx – a New York City borough he dubbed “the most beautiful . . . in the world.” Dr. Condon was educated at the College of the City of New York and Fordham University. He taught in New York City schools for over forty years and continued to lecture in his retirement. Dr. Condon was both patriotic and boisterous. A self-styled civic advocate, Dr. Condon frequently penned letters to the editor of the local newspaper, the Bronx Home News. Deeply troubled by the plight of the Lindberghs, Dr. Condon wrote an open letter to the kidnapers in which he offered to act as an intermediary.



His letter was published in the Bronx Home News on March 8, 1932. The following evening, Dr. Condon received a letter from the kidnapers – a letter authenticated by the same pattern of interlocking circles found on the ransom note left in the Lindbergh nursery. The Lindberghs subsequently authorized Dr. Condon to act as an intermediary. A series of communications between “Jafsie” – a moniker for Dr. Condon derived from his initials: J. F. C. – and “John” – the self-professed identity of one of the kidnapers – ensued. Jafsie met with John twice during the ransom negotiations: first to ascertain the welfare of the child; and later to deliver the ransom money. Both meetings took place in cemeteries.

Given his face-to-face contacts with the kidnapper, Dr. Condon was a key witness for the prosecution; Dr. Condon was the only one who could identify John. At trial he did so. In the Flemington, New Jersey courtroom, Dr. Condon unequivocally identified Bruno Richard Hauptmann as “John” – the individual with whom he had met and to whom he had given the ransom money. Without Dr. Condon’s testimony, the state’s case against Hauptmann would have been greatly weakened. Some, as lead defense counsel Edward Reilly argued on cross examination, believed that Dr. Condon himself was involved in the kidnapping. In his later years, Dr. Condon authored a memoir of the affair titled simply: Jafsie Tells All.



AT THIS TIME, THE KIDNAP LADDER FALLS UNDER THE SCRUTINY OF ARTHUR KOEHLER, A WOOD IDENTIFICATION EXPERT AT THE U.S. AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT'S FOREST SERVICE LABORATORY IN MADISON, WISCONSIN.

KOEHLER TRAVELS TO TRENTON, WHERE HE DISASSEMBLES THE THREE SECTIONS OF THE LADDER INTO THEIR COMPONENT PARTS.

THE RUNGS ARE NUMBERED 1 THROUGH 11, AND THE RAILS 12 THROUGH 17.

THE LADDER IS COBBLED TOGETHER FROM THREE KINDS OF WOOD: THE RAILS OF SOUTHERN PINE AND DOUGLAS FIR, THE RUNGS OF PONDEROSA PINE.

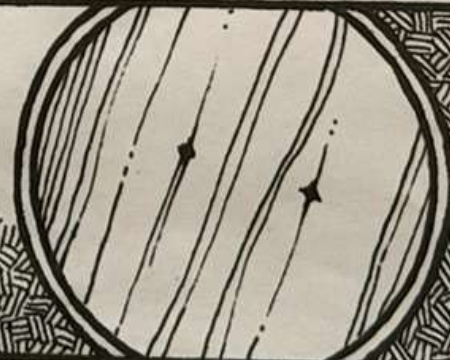
KOEHLER NOTICES A FEW INTERESTING ANOMALIES:



SEVERAL OF THE RUNGS HAVE BEEN PLANED BY A TOOL WITH AN UNEVEN BLADE THAT LEFT DISTINCTIVE MARKS.

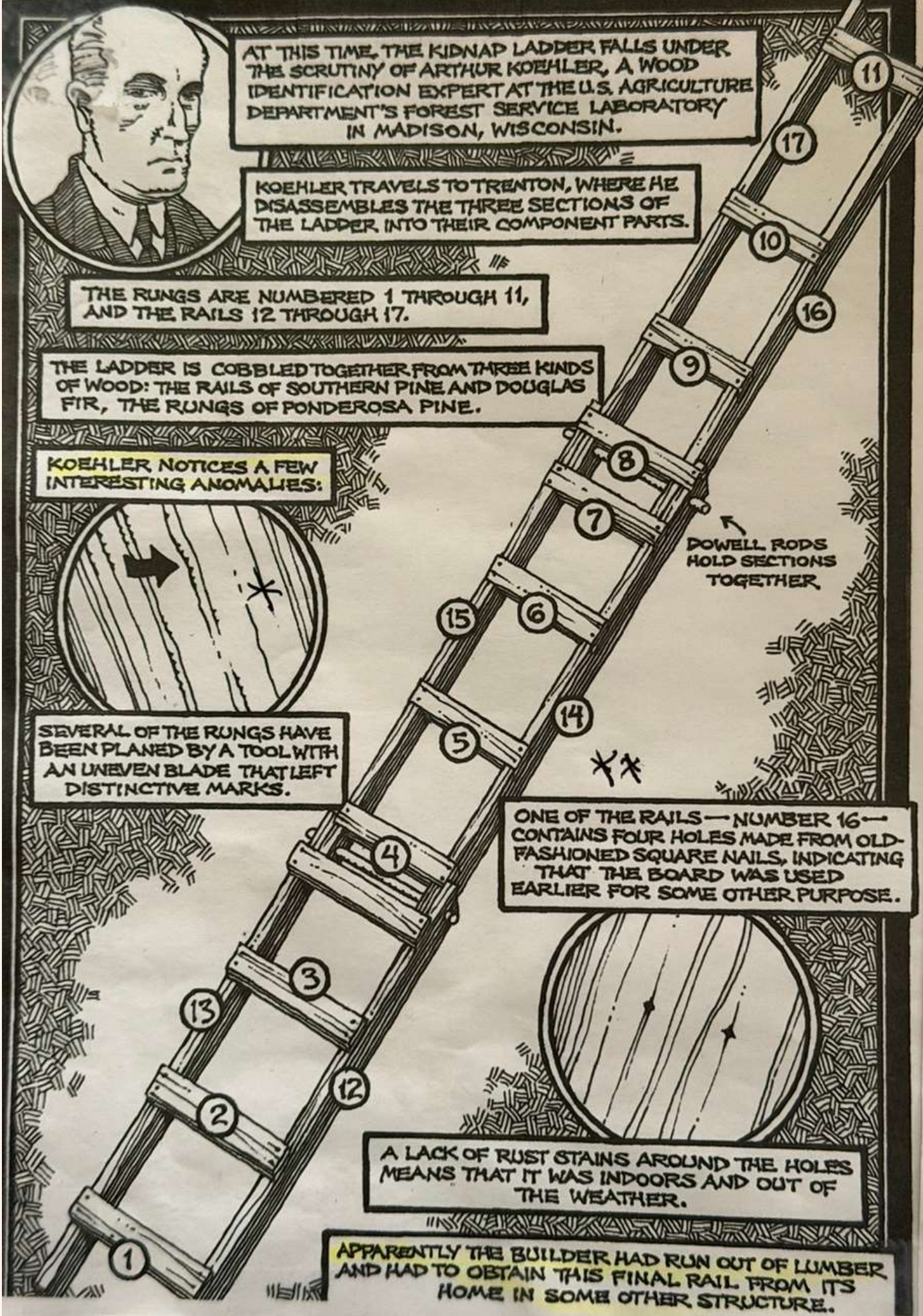
↑
DOWEL RODS
HOLD SECTIONS
TOGETHER

ONE OF THE RAILS — NUMBER 16 — CONTAINS FOUR HOLES MADE FROM OLD-FASHIONED SQUARE NAILS, INDICATING THAT THE BOARD WAS USED EARLIER FOR SOME OTHER PURPOSE.



A LACK OF RUST STAINS AROUND THE HOLES MEANS THAT IT WAS INDOORS AND OUT OF THE WEATHER.

APPARENTLY THE BUILDER HAD RUN OUT OF LUMBER AND HAD TO OBTAIN THIS FINAL RAIL FROM ITS HOME IN SOME OTHER STRUCTURE.



AS THE YEAR 1933 DRAWS TO A CLOSE, POLICE FOLLOW FRUITLESS LEADS WHILE CONTINUING TO CHART THE RAJ BILLS AS THEY TURN UP WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY



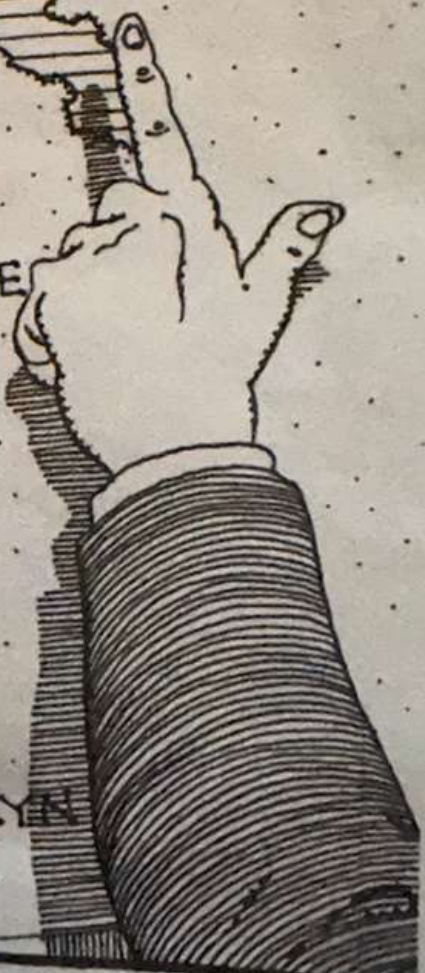
NEW JERSEY

MANHATTAN

BRONX

QUEEN

BROOKLYN



THEY SEEM TO CLUSTER IN UPPER MANHATTAN, THE GERMAN ENCLAVE OF YORKVILLE, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE BRONX.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 1933
THE CASHIER AT A GREENWICH VILLAGE PICTURE HOUSE IS CONFRONTED
BY AN UNUSUAL CUSTOMER.

IN A HEAVY ACCENT, HE
ASKS FOR A SINGLE
TICKET AND TOSSES HER
A SMALL SQUARE OF PAPER.



IT IS A \$5.00 BILL,
TIGHTLY FOLDED INTO
EIGHT SECTIONS.



IT WILL TURN OUT TO BE
ONE OF THE RANSOM BILLS.

THE CASHIER CLEARLY
REMEMBERS THE MAN'S
FACE...



HIGH CHEEKBONES, FLAT
CHEEKS, POINTED CHIN,
AND VACANT BLUE EYES.

WELL INTO THE YEAR 1934, THE RANSOM MONEY—OFTEN AS MUCH AS
\$40 PER WEEK—CONTINUES TO APPEAR. NONE OF THE BILLS THUS FAR
CAN BE TRACED TO ITS SOURCE.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15,
1934
THE BREAK COMES
AT LAST...

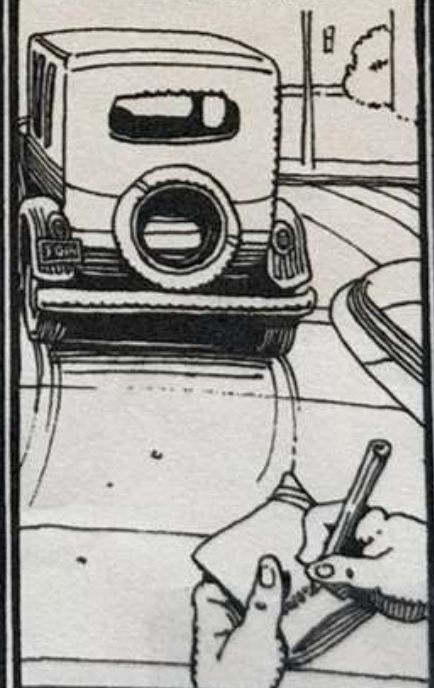


AT A FILLING STATION
AT 127TH ST. AND LEXINGTON
AVE. IN UPPER MANHATTAN.

A MAN IN A BLUE DODGE
PAYS FOR HIS GAS WITH
A \$10 GOLD CERTIFICATE.



SUSPICIOUS OF THE
BILL, THE ATTENDANT
RECORDS THE LICENSE
NUMBER OF THE CAR AS
IT LEAVES THE STATION.





PART FIVE
THE ACCUSED

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1934
NEW YORK POLICE HAVE TRACED THE OWNER OF THE CAR TO A
HOUSE AT 1279 E. 222ND STREET IN THE BRONX.



THE UPPER FLOOR IS THE HOME OF
RICHARD HAUPTMANN, AGE 35, A CARPENTER BY TRADE.

OFFICERS SURROUND THE HOUSE IN THE EARLY MORNING, WATCHING
FOR ANY MOVEMENT.

AT ABOUT 8:15 AM, A MAN EMERGES.



INSTEAD OF ARRESTING HIM ON THE SPOT, POLICE WATCH AS HE WALKS TO A GARAGE, ACROSS THE ALLEY.

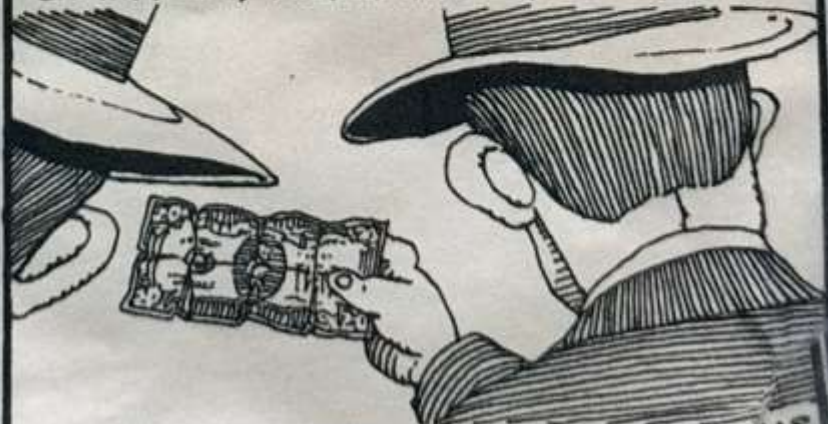
AND DRIVES OFF IN THE BLUE DODGE.



THE MAN IS STOPPED AS HE DRIVES DOWN PARK AVENUE IN THE FORDHAM SECTION OF THE BRONX.



A SEARCH OF HIS PERSON YIELDS A \$20 GOLD CERTIFICATE, FOLDED INTO EIGHT SECTIONS.



IT WILL TURN OUT TO BE ONE OF THE RANSOM BILLS.

ERNOON, HAUPTMANN IS BROUGHT DOWNTOWN TO THE NYPD'S 2ND PRECINCT AT 130 GREENWICH STREET FOR A THOROUGH INTERROGATION.



THIS WILL INCLUDE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PHYSICAL "PERSUASION!"

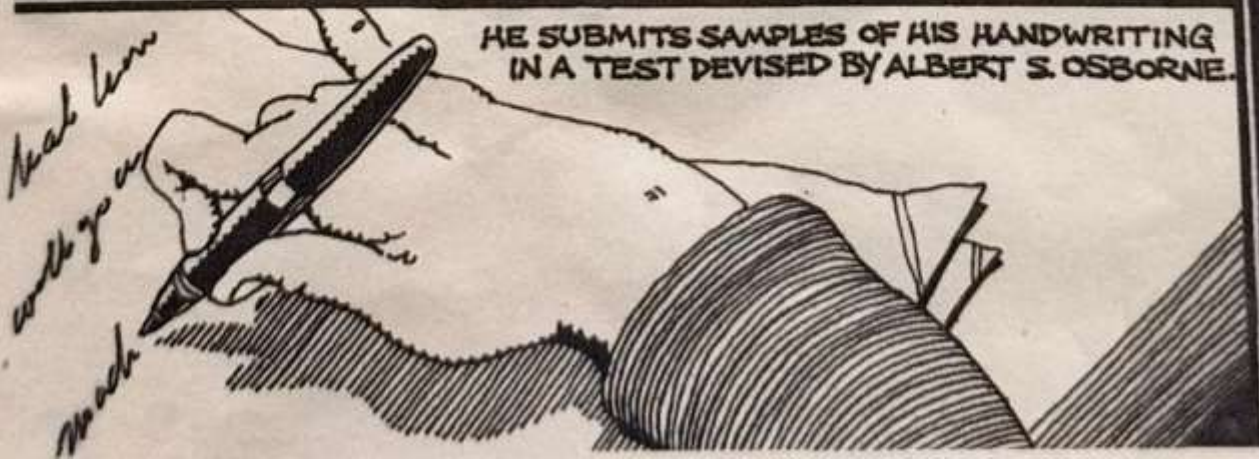


NEVERTHELESS, THE MAN FORCEFULLY DENIES HAVING HAD ANY PART IN EITHER THE KIDNAPPING OR THE EXTORTION OF THE RANSOM MONEY.

HIS FULL NAME IS:
BRUNO RICHARD HAUPTMANN.

HE IS AN IMMIGRANT FROM GERMANY AND SPEAKS WITH A HEAVY ACCENT.

HE PREFERS TO BE CALLED RICHARD OR DICK.



HE SUBMITS SAMPLES OF HIS HANDWRITING IN A TEST DEvised BY ALBERT S. OSBORNE.

*that letter
will go on
March*

HAUPTMANN, STANDING AMONG BURLY POLICEMEN, IS PRESENTED IN A "LINE-UP."



AMONG THOSE CALLED TO IDENTIFY HIM ARE...

CAB DRIVER JOSEPH PERRONE, WHO DELIVERED THE KIDNAPPER'S NOTE TO THE CONDON HOME ON MARCH 12, 1932.



CECILE M. BARR, THEATRE CASHIER, WHO RECEIVED THE FOLDED RANSOM BILL ON NOVEMBER 26, 1933.



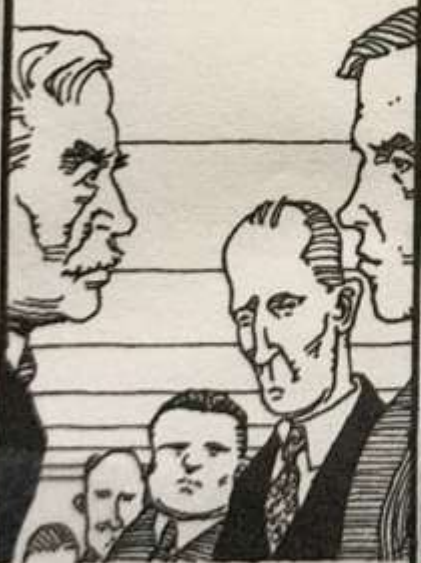
THE SERVICE STATION ATTENDANT WHO COPIED HAUPTMANN'S LICENSE PLATE NUMBER ON SEPTEMBER 15, 1934.



AND, MOST CRUCIALLY, DR. JOHN F. CONDON.



ALL PICK HAUPTMANN READILY ENOUGH EXCEPT FOR THE EVER-ECCENTRIC CONDON. HE FEELS HE NEEDS MORE TIME.



HE SLOWLY SCRUTINIZES EACH MAN, THEN TALKS PRIVATELY WITH HAUPTMANN, INCLUDING A FEW SENTENCES OF GERMAN.

HE ASKS THE PRISONER TO READ SEVERAL PHRASES ALOUD.

IT IS TOO DANGEROUS!

HE WOULD SMACK ME UP!



TO THE EXASPERATION OF POLICE, CONDON REFUSES TO IDENTIFY THE MAN AT THIS PARTICULAR PLACE AND TIME.



HIS ROUNDABOUT PLOY: HE WILL LATER CLAIM, IS TO CONVINCЕ HAUPTMANN TO CONFESS HIS CRIME.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
AT THE HAUPTMANN RESIDENCE, THE
SEARCHERS HAVE BY NOW SHIFTED THEIR
ATTENTION TO THE RAMSHACKLE WOODEN
GARAGE ACROSS THE ALLEY.



INSIDE, THERE IS A CARPENTER'S
WORK-BENCH.



THE TOOL SET IS MISSING A
THREE-QUARTER-INCH CHISEL,
THE SAME SIZE AS WAS FOUND AT THE
LINDBERGH HOUSE.

BEHIND A BOARD NAILED ACROSS
TWO UPRIGHTS ARE FOUND TWO
PACKAGES OF \$10 GOLD CERTIFICATES,
ABOUT \$1830, ALL OF THEM
RANSOM BILLS.



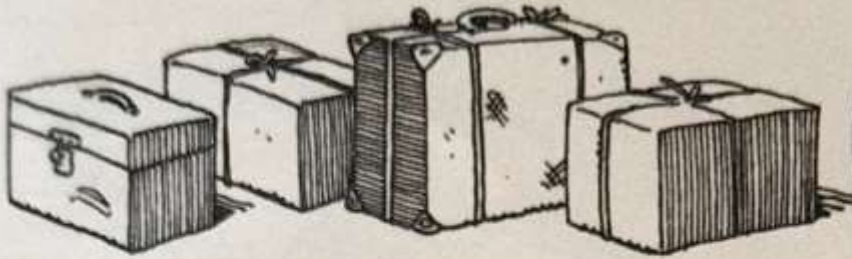
ANOTHER BUNDLE OF BILLS IS FOUND
IN A 1-GALLON SHELLAC CAN:
TWELVE PACKAGES, ADDING UP
TO \$11,260.

OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS, THE
GARAGE WILL BE SLOWLY DISMANTLED.



A FURTHER \$840 WILL BE FOUND, FOR A
TOTAL OF \$14,600 — A MERE FRACTION
OF THE FULL RANSOM PAYMENT.

HOW DID HAUPTMANN COME INTO POSSESSION OF SO MUCH OF THE LINDBERGH RANSOM MONEY?



HE SAYS THAT HE FOUND IT AMONG SEVERAL BOXES OF PERSONAL ITEMS LEFT TO HIM BY HIS FRIEND AND BUSINESS PARTNER ISADOR FISCH.

HE AND FISCH ENGAGED IN SEVERAL VENTURES TOGETHER, INCLUDING THE FUR-IMPORTING ENTERPRISE.



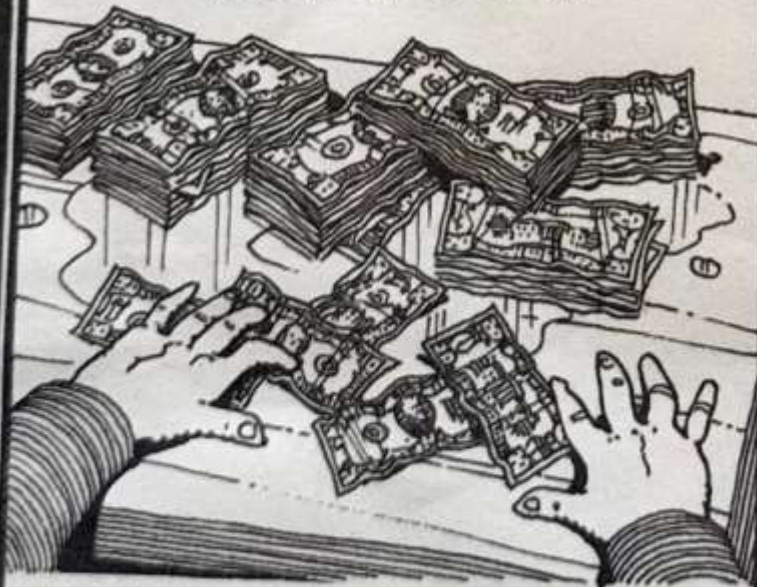
BUT FISCH, SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS, RETURNED TO GERMANY IN DECEMBER OF 1933, AND DIED IN LIEPZIG ON MARCH 29, 1934.

ONE OF THE BOXES WAS STORED BY HAUPTMANN ON THE TOP SHELF OF A KITCHEN CLOSET,...



UNTIL ONE DAY, DURING A HEAVY RAIN, A LEAK IN THE ROOF SOAKED THE CONTAINER.

INSIDE, HE WAS SHOCKED TO FIND STACKS AND STACKS OF CASH!



IN AUGUST OF 1934, HE DECIDED THAT HE WAS ENTITLED TO SPEND SOME OF THE MONEY, SINCE FISCH LEFT THE COUNTRY OWING HIM \$7000.

DESPITE HIS DENIALS, THE PRISONER IS CHARGED THIS AFTERNOON WITH EXTORTION.



BUT COL. SCHWARZKOPF BELIEVES THAT THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY WILL BE ABLE TO NAB HIM FOR THE GREATER CRIME.

AS HAUPTMANN'S PAST LIFE IN GERMANY IS SLOWLY UNCOVERED, IT REFLECTS UPON HIM POORLY.

HE HAS TOLD POLICE THAT HIS RECORD IS CLEAN, BUT IT TURNS OUT HE WAS CONVICTED SEVERAL TIMES OF LARCENY, ROBBERY AND BURGLARY.



IN ONE INSTANCE, HE BROKE INTO A HOUSE BY CLIMBING A LADDER TO A SECOND-STORY WINDOW.

HE ESCAPED FROM JAIL SEVERAL TIMES...



AND ENDED UP SERVING A THREE-YEAR TERM IN PRISON.

HE MADE THREE ATTEMPTS TO FLEE TO AMERICA, FINALLY MAKING IT—AS A STOWAWAY—IN 1923.



HE SETTLED INTO NEW YORK'S GERMAN COMMUNITY AND HAS SINCE LIVED A SEEMINGLY ORDINARY LIFE.



ON OCTOBER 10, 1925, HE MARRIED ANNA SCHOEFFLER, AN IMMIGRANT LIKE HIMSELF. IN 1933, THEIR SON MANFRED WAS BORN.

MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 24
OFFICERS STILL SEARCHING
THE HAUPTMANN HOME
COME ACROSS A NEW
PIECE OF EVIDENCE.



THE ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE
NUMBER OF JOHN F. CONDON
ARE FOUND WRITTEN IN
PENCIL ON THE DOOR FRAME
INSIDE A BEDROOM CLOSET;
ALSO THE SERIAL NUMBERS
OF TWO OF THE RANSOM BILLS.



HAUPTMANN RESPONDS
THAT HE DOESN'T
RECALL HAVING WRITTEN
THE NUMBERS... BUT
HE MIGHT HAVE, SINCE
HE WAS FOLLOWING THE
CASE AT THE TIME.



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

HAUPTMANN IS INDICTED FOR EXTORTION BY A BRONX GRAND JURY. LATER IN
THE DAY, OFFICERS OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE, WHILE SEARCHING THE
ATTIC OF THE PRISONER'S HOME, FIND A PUZZLING DISCREPANCY



ONE OF THE FLOOR-BOARDS IS MISSING... APPARENTLY SAWN AWAY

SEVERAL OFFICERS HAVE LOOKED HERE ALREADY, BUT NONE NOTICED THIS
GAP IN THE FLOOR. IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

AS HAUPTMANN AWAITS TRIAL FOR EXTORTION, WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE THAT LINKS HIM TO THE ACTUAL KIDNAPPING AND MURDER OF THE LINDBERGH CHILD?

NONE OF THE PRISONER'S FINGERPRINTS ARE TO BE FOUND ON THE LADDER OR ANYPLACE IN THE NURSERY.



THE ANALYSIS OF HIS HANDWRITING BY ALBERT S. OSBORNE IS, THUS FAR, INCONCLUSIVE.

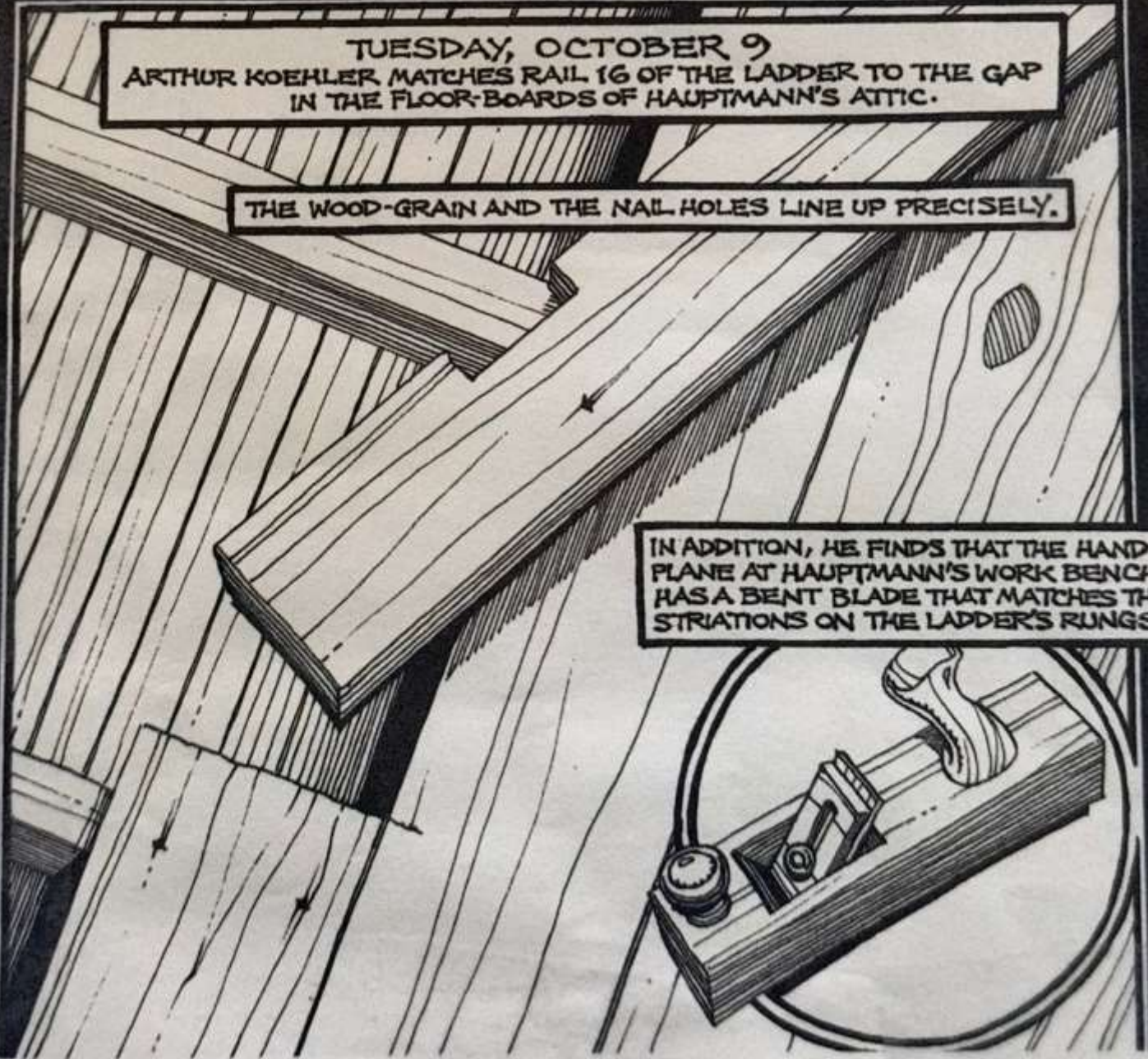
*... care for m
apt care
for all letter*

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8 NEVERTHELESS, HAUPTMANN IS INDICTED IN HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY FOR KIDNAPPING AND MURDER.



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9
ARTHUR KOEHLER MATCHES RAIL 16 OF THE LADDER TO THE GAP IN THE FLOOR-BOARDS OF HAUPTMANN'S ATTIC.

THE WOOD-GRAIN AND THE NAIL HOLES LINE UP PRECISELY.



IN ADDITION, HE FINDS THAT THE HAND PLANE AT HAUPTMANN'S WORK BENCH HAS A BENT BLADE THAT MATCHES THE STRIATIONS ON THE LADDER'S RUNGS

HISTORY CLUB

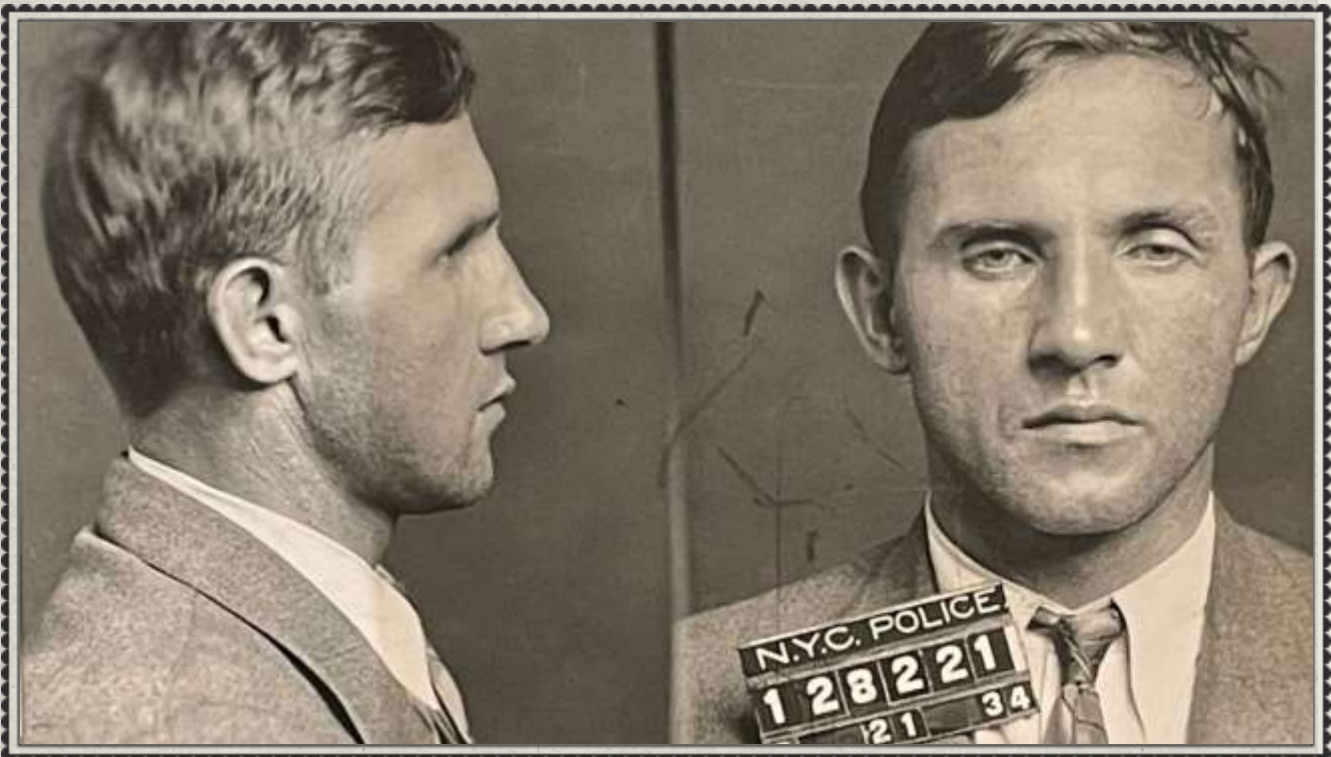
ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED

LINDBERGH KIDNAPPING GAS CAN



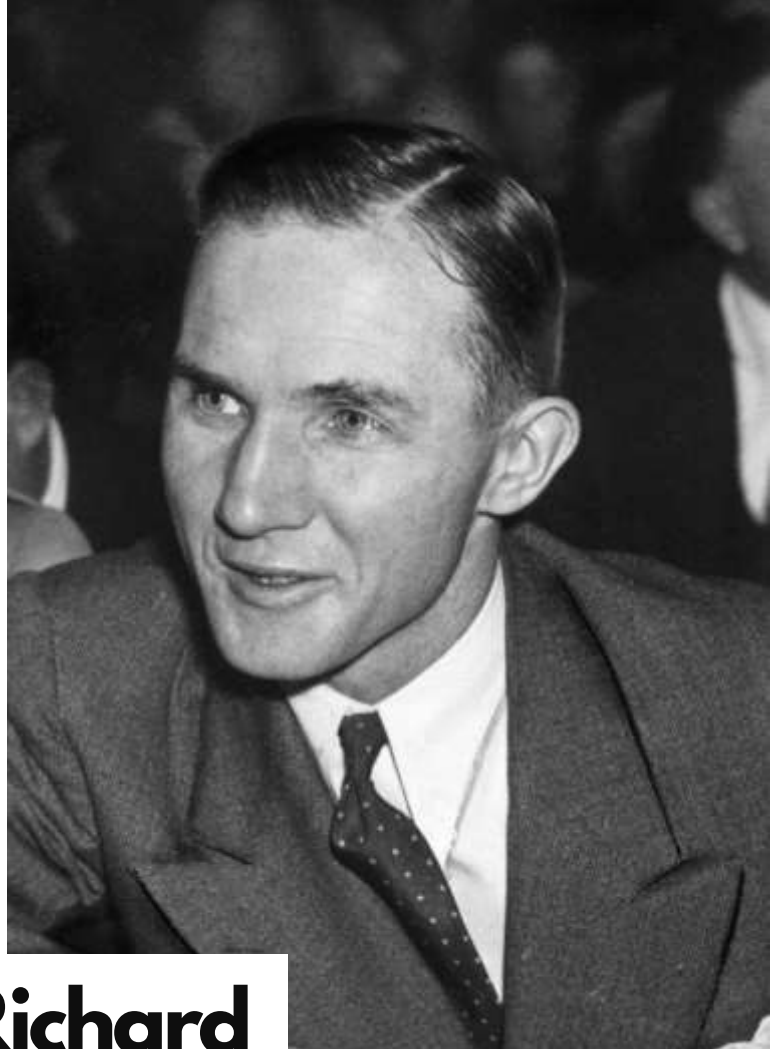
THE "LINDBERGH KIDNAPPING GAS CAN" IS A KEY PIECE OF EVIDENCE FROM THE 1932 KIDNAPPING OF CHARLES LINDBERGH'S SON, WHICH WAS FOUND TO CONTAIN \$13,750 OF THE RANSOM MONEY HIDDEN IN THE GARAGE OF BRUNO RICHARD HAUPTMANN. THIS [ARTIFACT: LINDBERGH KIDNAPPING GAS CAN - FBI](#) HELPED SECURE A FIRST-DEGREE MURDER CONVICTION AGAINST HAUPTMANN IN 1935, LEADING TO HIS EXECUTION IN 1936.

RICHARD HAUPTMANN



Bruno Richard Hauptmann (November 26, 1899 – April 3, 1936) was a German-American carpenter and criminal who was convicted of the abduction and murder of Charles Augustus Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of aviator [Charles Lindbergh](#) and his wife [Anne Morrow Lindbergh](#). The [Lindbergh kidnapping](#) became known as the "[crime of the century](#)". He was executed in 1936 by [electric chair](#) at the [Trenton State Prison](#). Both Hauptmann and his wife, Anna Hauptmann, proclaimed his innocence. In recent years, Hauptmann's guilt has been questioned by authors and researchers, and law enforcement behavior in the case has been widely criticized.

The trial of Hauptmann began on January 3, 1935, at Flemington, New Jersey, and lasted five weeks. The case against him was based on circumstantial evidence. Tool marks on the ladder matched tools owned by Hauptmann. Wood in the ladder was found to match the wood used as flooring in his attic.



**Bruno Richard
Hauptmann**



The net paid circulation for August
Daily—1,525,000
Sunday—2,200,000

DAILY NEWS
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER

2 CENTS
IN CITIES

Vol. 16, No. 75 84 Pages New York, Friday, September 21, 1934* 2 Cents 35,207 1/2 Copies

LINDBERGH KIDNAPER JAILED



**\$13,750 RANSOM
MONEY FOUND**

Archive

**HIDDEN UNDER
GARAGE FLOOR
IN EAST BRONX**

—Story on Page 3

THE LINDBERGH KIDNAPER—With seizure of \$13,750 of Lindbergh ransom money yesterday and arrest of Bernard K. Hauptmann, at left, solution of famous kidnap-murder is believed near.

—Story on 3; other pics. pp. 22, 23 and front page.

97297626

JOSEPH PERRONE



01/08/1935-Flemmington NJ:
Joseph Perrone, former Bronx, N.Y. taxi driver, now a CWA worker, is pictured in Hunterdon County Courthouse, Flemmington NJ, Jan.8th, when he identified Bruno Richard Hauptmann, on trial there for the alleged murder of the Lindbergh infant, as the man who gave him a dollar to deliver the ransom note to Dr. John F. Condon.

THE GASOLINE ATTENDANT



An alert gas station attendant, John Lyons, provided the crucial break in the Lindbergh kidnapping case on September 15, 1934, by recording a license number on a suspected \$10 ransom gold certificate. This bill, used by Bruno Richard Hauptmann at a New York station, allowed authorities to track and arrest him, directly leading to his conviction, according to the [FBI History Artifacts](#).

A

HISTORY CLUB

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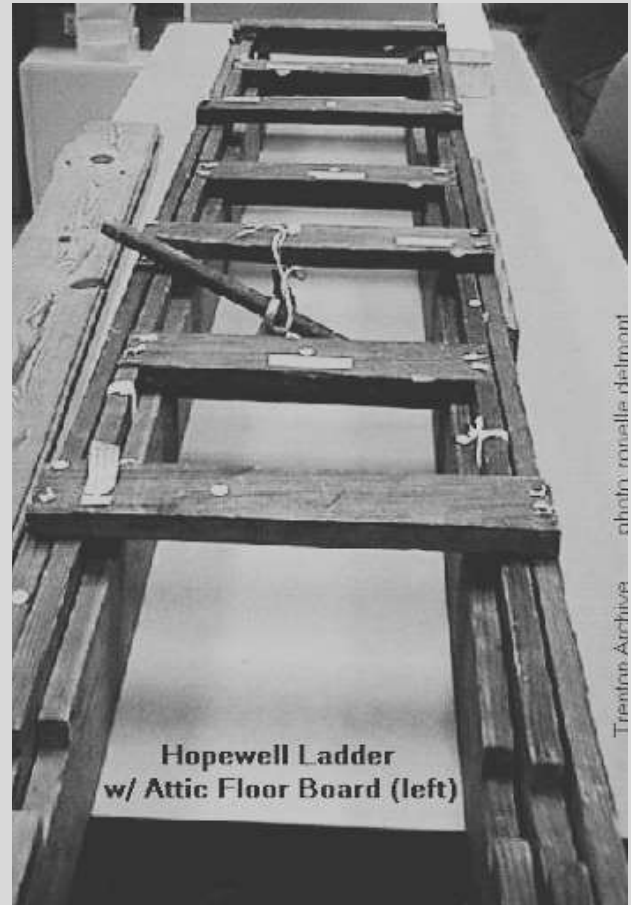
CHARLES LINDBERGH'S SON KIDNAPPING AND MURDER TRIAL





EVIDENCE RELATING TO THE KIDNAPPING

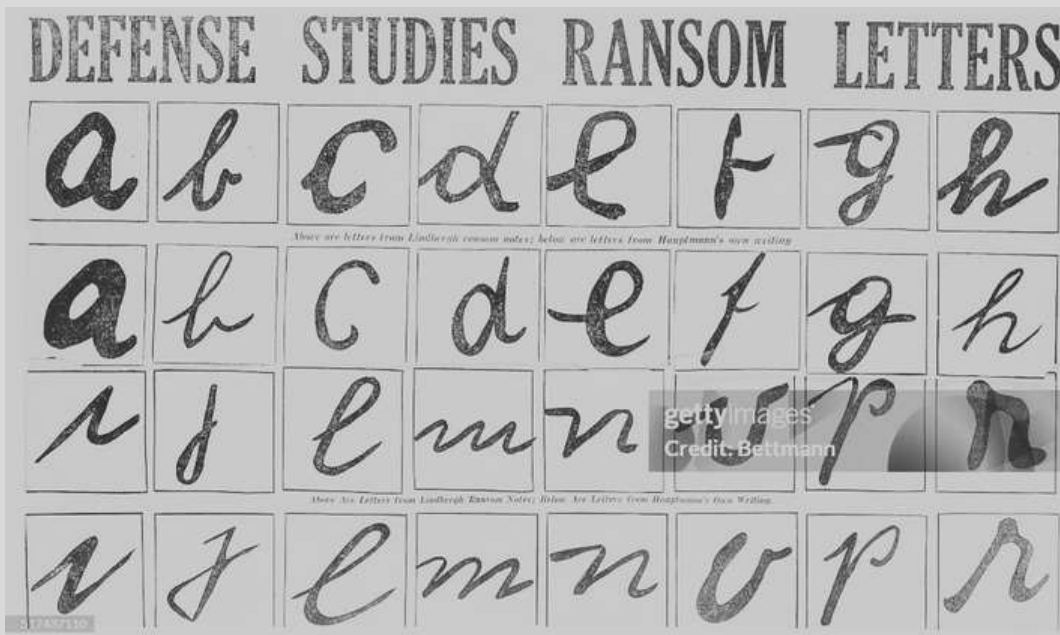
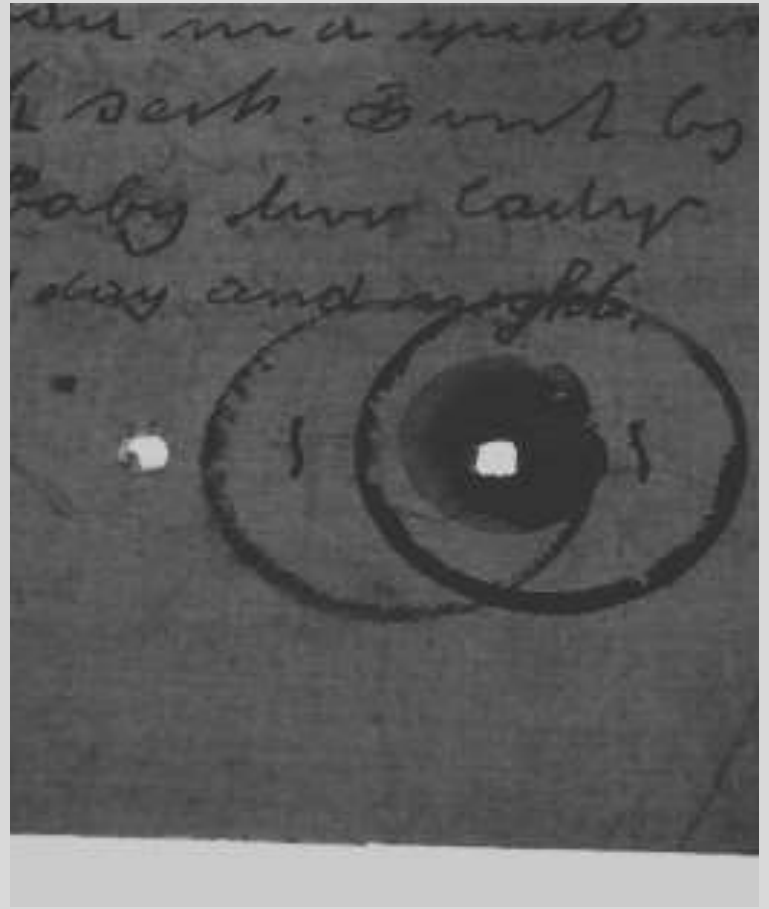
THIS 3-PART, LIGHTWEIGHT CONTRAPTION WAS FOUND ABOUT 50 YARDS AWAY FROM THE HOPEWELL NURSERY WINDOW ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 1, 1932. TWO MUDDY HOLES BENEATH THE NURSERY WINDOW LED POLICE TO BELIEVE IT HAD BEEN USED TO ENTER AND EXIT FROM THE CHILD'S BEDROOM.



The attic floorboard and ladder are the most important clues to the framing of the German carpenter. They were the **ONLY** pieces of evidence that could possibly have linked him to New Jersey and [the dead child](#). The extortion money could easily have been, as Hauptmann always insisted, Fisch's money and does not in itself link him or even Fisch to the murder/kidnap – at least not after 2 years. That money could have been thoroughly laundered by September 1934.

EVIDENCE RELATING TO THE KIDNAPPING

Handwriting specimens - letters A-R taken from Lindbergh ransom notes and from the handwriting of Bruno Hauptmann - are important documentary evidence in the trial of Hauptmann, charged in the murder of Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr.



EVIDENCE RELATING TO THE KIDNAPPING

Law enforcement officers and bank-employees had written down the serial numbers of the ransom bills, so that investigators could trace them back to the kidnapper. On this point, the administration of President Franklin Roosevelt gave them a fortuitous boost when it took the nation off the gold standard. It also required all American citizens to surrender their gold coins and “Gold Certificates,” the bank-notes that allowed conversion to gold coin. In their place, the government issued new “Federal Reserve Notes.”



APRIL 28,
2026

HISTORY CLUB

ACTIVITIES
UNLIMITED

DAVID T. WILTENTZ

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY



David Theodore Wilentz (December 21, 1894 – July 6, 1988) was the [Attorney General of New Jersey](#) from 1934 to 1944. In 1935 he successfully prosecuted [Bruno Hauptmann](#) in the [Lindbergh kidnapping](#) trial. He was the father of [Robert Wilentz](#), [Chief Justice](#) of the [New Jersey Supreme Court](#) from 1979 to 1996, as well as [Norma Hess](#), wife of [Leon Hess](#), founder of [Hess Corporation](#) and Warren Wilentz

Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr., infant son of [Charles Lindbergh](#) and [Anne Morrow Lindbergh](#), had been abducted from the family home in [Hopewell, New Jersey](#) on March 1, 1932. The child's body was found two months later a few miles from the Lindberghs' home, but the arrest of [Bruno Hauptmann](#), a German carpenter, was not made until September 19, 1934. Over \$14,000 in ransom money was found in Hauptmann's garage, and wood found in his home was said to match the ladder used in the kidnapping.

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The trial began on January 2, 1935, with Wilentz prosecuting. Press descriptions of the trial often focused on his sharp tongue and natty attire. Wilentz had no previous experience in trying criminal cases, but he was certain he could secure the conviction and execution of Hauptmann, whom he called "Public Enemy Number One of the World."^[4]

Wilentz built his case against Hauptmann on mostly [circumstantial evidence](#), supported by both [eyewitness](#) and [expert witness](#) testimony. Expert witnesses included handwriting expert Albert Osborn, who testified that Hauptmann had written the ransom notes, and wood expert Arthur Koehler, who testified that the wood used to construct the ladder found at the scene of the kidnapping came from Hauptmann's attic. Wilentz's final star witness was [John F. Condon](#), Lindbergh's go-between for the delivery of the ransom money, who testified that he had met Hauptmann and given the money to him.

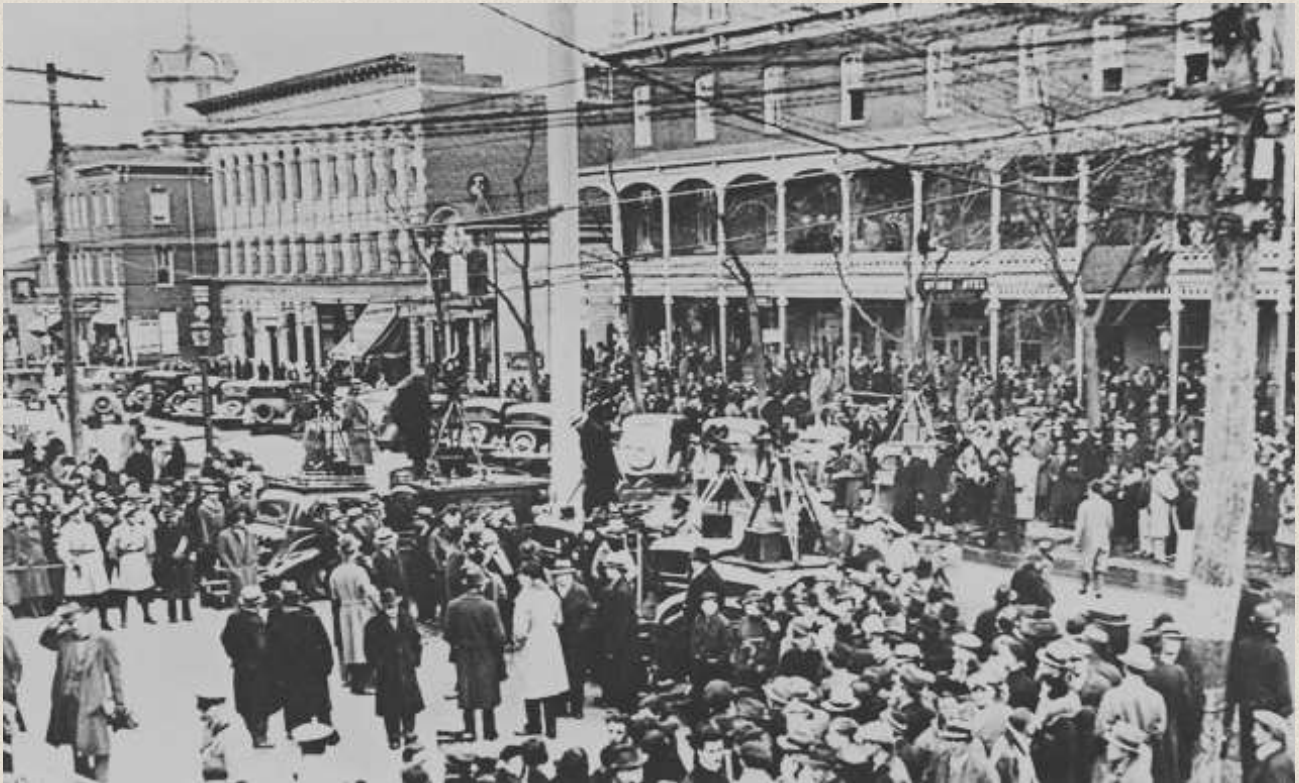
After Wilentz's effective presentation of evidence, the jury returned a guilty verdict and Hauptmann was sentenced to death. His appeals were rejected, despite a temporary reprieve from Governor [Harold G. Hoffman](#), who ordered the New Jersey Board of Pardons to review the case. Hauptmann was electrocuted on April 3, 1936.

The conviction was questioned many times in subsequent years, but Wilentz never wavered in his assertion that Hauptmann was guilty. In 1981 Hauptmann's widow, Anna, unsuccessfully sought to overturn the guilty verdict, requesting \$100 million in damages from Wilentz and the state, claiming false prosecution. At the time, [Robert Wilentz](#), David's son, was [Chief Justice](#) of the [New Jersey Supreme Court](#), though Anna Hauptmann's appeal was made in Federal District Court.

HISTORY CLUB

ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED

HUNTERDON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



FLEMINGTON, NEW
JERSEY

LINDBERGH -
HAUPTMANN
TRIAL

**CLOSING WITH VERY MOVING AND POETIC WORDS
BY SORROWFUL MOTHER, ANNE MORROW
LINDBERGH.**



ANNE MORROW
LINDBERGH AND
CHARLES LINDBERGH JR.

" I am glad that I spoiled him that last weekend of his life when he was sick, and I took him on my lap and rocked him, singing to him. And glad that he wanted me those last days. He was such a gay, lordly, assured little boy.

And had lived - always loved.

And a king in our hearts.

I could not bear to have him baffled, hurt maimed by external forces.

I hope he was killed immediately and did not struggle and cry for help - or me."



ELECTROCUTION