



**THE SECURITY GUARD**  
WAS CAUGHT BY SURPRISE  
WHEN DILLINGER FORCED  
HIM TO OPEN HIS CELL  
BRANDISHING A WOODEN GUN.

# THE ESCAPE IN STEPS

## A JAILBREAK THAT FUELED THE DILLINGER LEGEND

### 1. A FAKE REVOLVER

During his time in jail, Dillinger came up with the ingenious idea of using an ordinary razor blade to sculpt a piece of wood into a replica revolver.

The skilled prisoner honed the piece to perfection, darkening it with the black polish he used to shine his shoes.

This was probably the main reason why the Crown Point guards did not see through the gangster's clever ruse.

**DILLINGER FASHIONED THE "KEY" THAT WOULD OPEN THE PRISON DOORS FOR HIM FROM A PIECE OF WOOD**

### 2. A NAÏVE GUARD

On March 3, 1934, the famous bank robber pointed his fake revolver at the guard. The young man believed the gun was real and opened the cell door.

**THE LEGEND SURROUNDING THE GANGSTER WAS SO GREAT THAT THE GUARD DIDN'T THINK TO QUESTION THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE WEAPON**

The guards Dillinger came across on his way out of jail were all stripped of their guns as soon as the bank robber managed to secure real machine guns from the police arsenal.

### 3. GUARDS AS PRISONERS

Flaunting a machine gun in each hand, Dillinger overtook more than a dozen policemen. Some even ended up imprisoned in the cells of the notorious Crown Point Jail.

**THE PROCLAIMED "PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1" DISPLAYED HIS GREAT CREATIVITY AND DEMONSTRATED HIS GREAT COURAGE**

Finally, the coast was clear for the formidable robber, who was able to leave the prison in which he had been incarcerated less than two months before.

### 4. IN THE SHERIFF'S CAR

After having tricked the jail's security guards successfully, the fearsome fugitive wrapped up his escape by robbing Sheriff Lillian Holley's Ford V8 sedan and speeding off to Chicago in the police car.

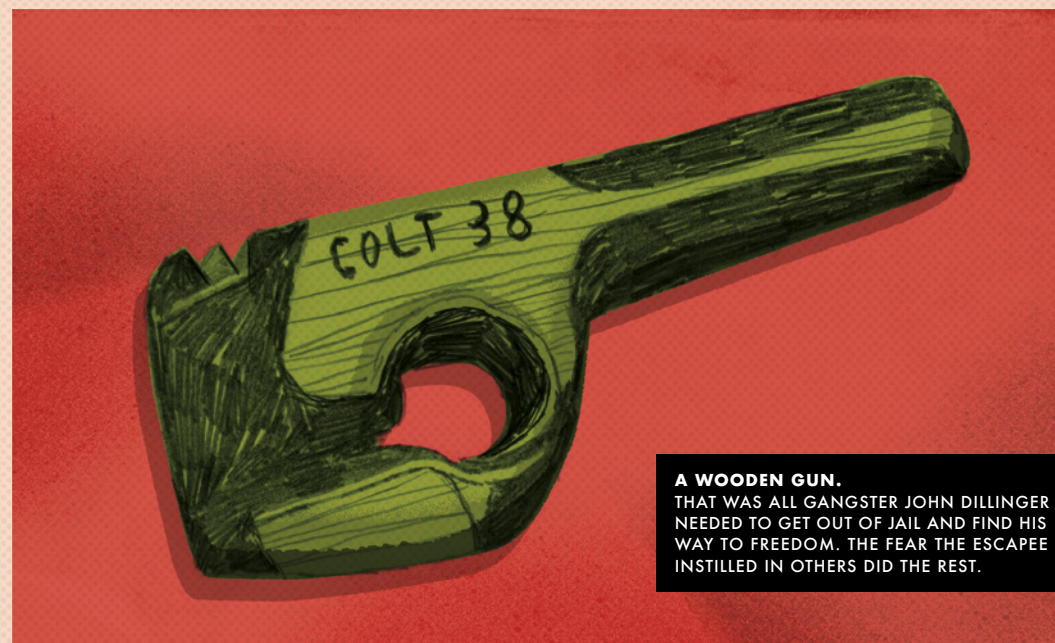
**STEALING THE SHERIFF'S CAR WAS DILLINGER'S ONE BIG MISTAKE, AND IT ENDED UP COSTING HIM HIS LIFE**

Headlines across the US mocked the authorities for their failure to handle the situation, boosting the robber's fame even more, if that were possible.

### 5. DESTINATION: CHICAGO

The fugitive, now wanted in five states, sought refuge in Chicago with his girlfriend, Evelyn Frechette, whom he had met a few months before.

In those days, Chicago was a mafia hotspot. It was here that Dillinger managed to team up with other powerful criminals to continue his bank-robbing career.



**A WOODEN GUN.**  
THAT WAS ALL GANGSTER JOHN DILLINGER  
NEEDED TO GET OUT OF JAIL AND FIND HIS  
WAY TO FREEDOM. THE FEAR THE ESCAPEE  
INSTILLED IN OTHERS DID THE REST.