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In Search of the
**BLONDE
TIGRESS**

The **UNTOLD** STORY of
ELEANOR JARMAN



SILVIA PETTEM

Foreword by JERRY CLARK & ED PALATTELLA

**ROSS-UNIVERSITY HILLS
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October 21, 2023

WHO WAS THE “BLONDE
TIGRESS?”

WHY WASN'T SHE A
BLONDE?

and... DID SHE REALLY END
UP IN DENVER?

*Historical photos courtesy Chicago Tribune, Chicago History
Museum, Illinois State Archives, and Sandra Oliver*

PART BIOGRAPHY & PART DETECTIVE STORY



Born Sioux City, Iowa, in 1901

Chicago, 1920s — early 1930s: Single mom & waitress

Caught up in robbery & accessory to murder, then prison in 1933

Escaped in 1940 & never was found.

FELLOW RESEARCHERS

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Humanize the forgotten and pull intriguing women from the past.

I'm in Colorado.
Mary in Ohio.
Micki in Virginia.



HISTORIC CONTEXT

Era of gangsters, Prohibition & the Great Depression

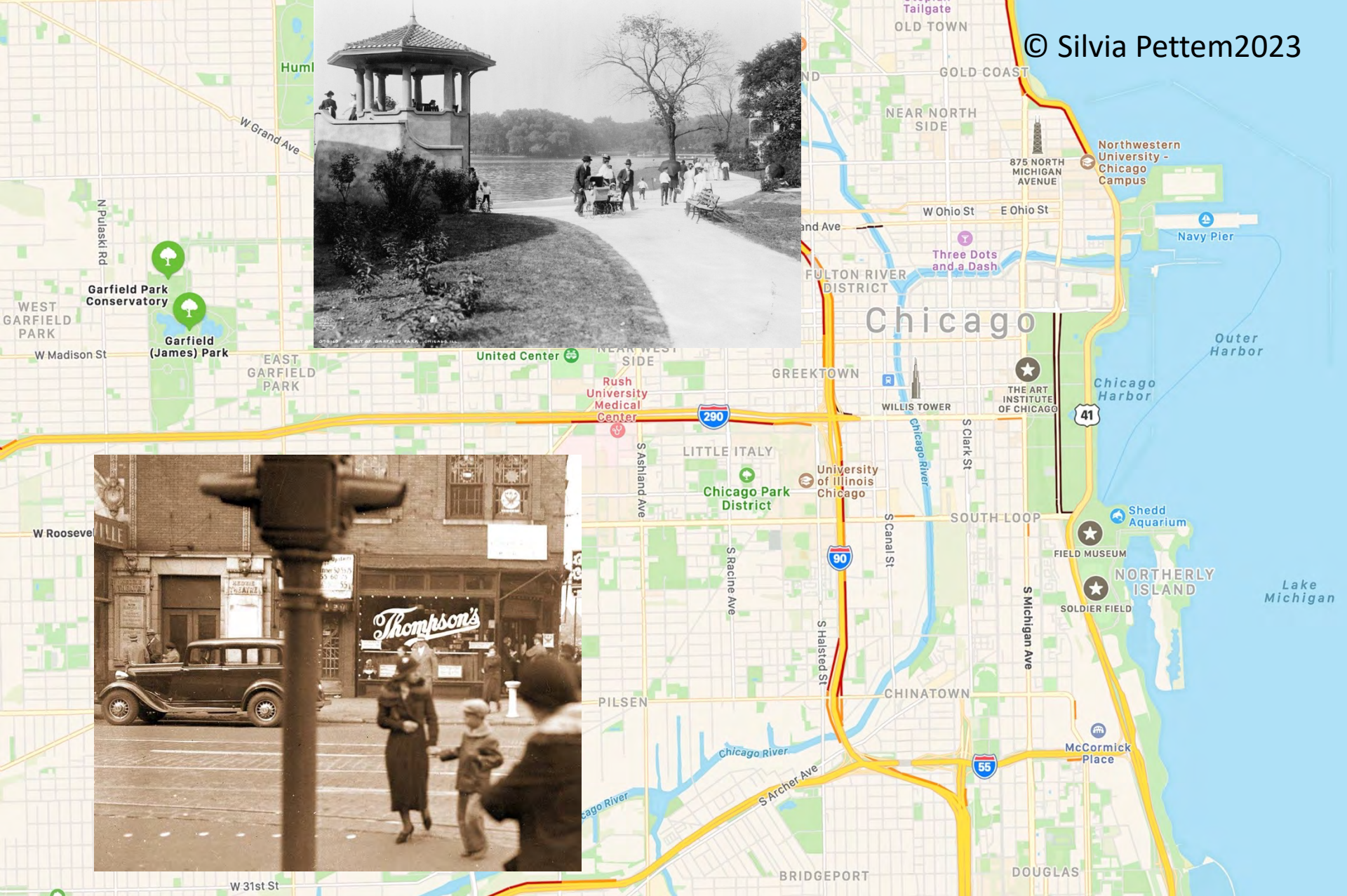
Eleanor a contemporary of
Bonnie Parker
(partner of Clyde Barrow)



Chicago after Prohibition



Bonnie Parker



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Chicago, 1920s — early 1930s: Eleanor a single mom & waitress

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Robbery, then murder.

George pulled the trigger.

Eleanor vilified by press.

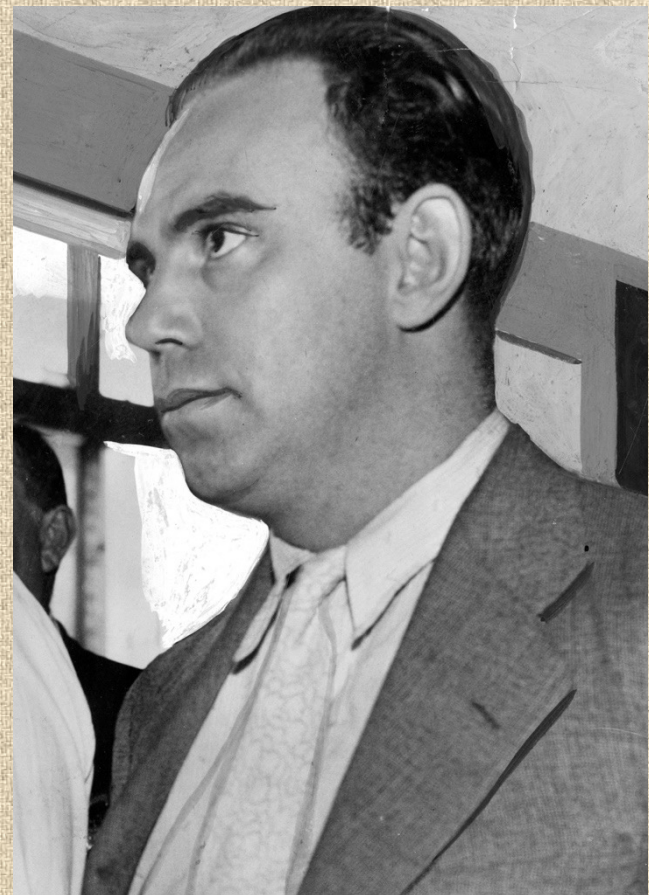


[TRIBUNE Photo.]

“BLOND TIGRESS.”

Mrs. Eleanor Jarman,
seized in killing of Gustav
Hoeh, aged merchant.

(Story on page 1.)



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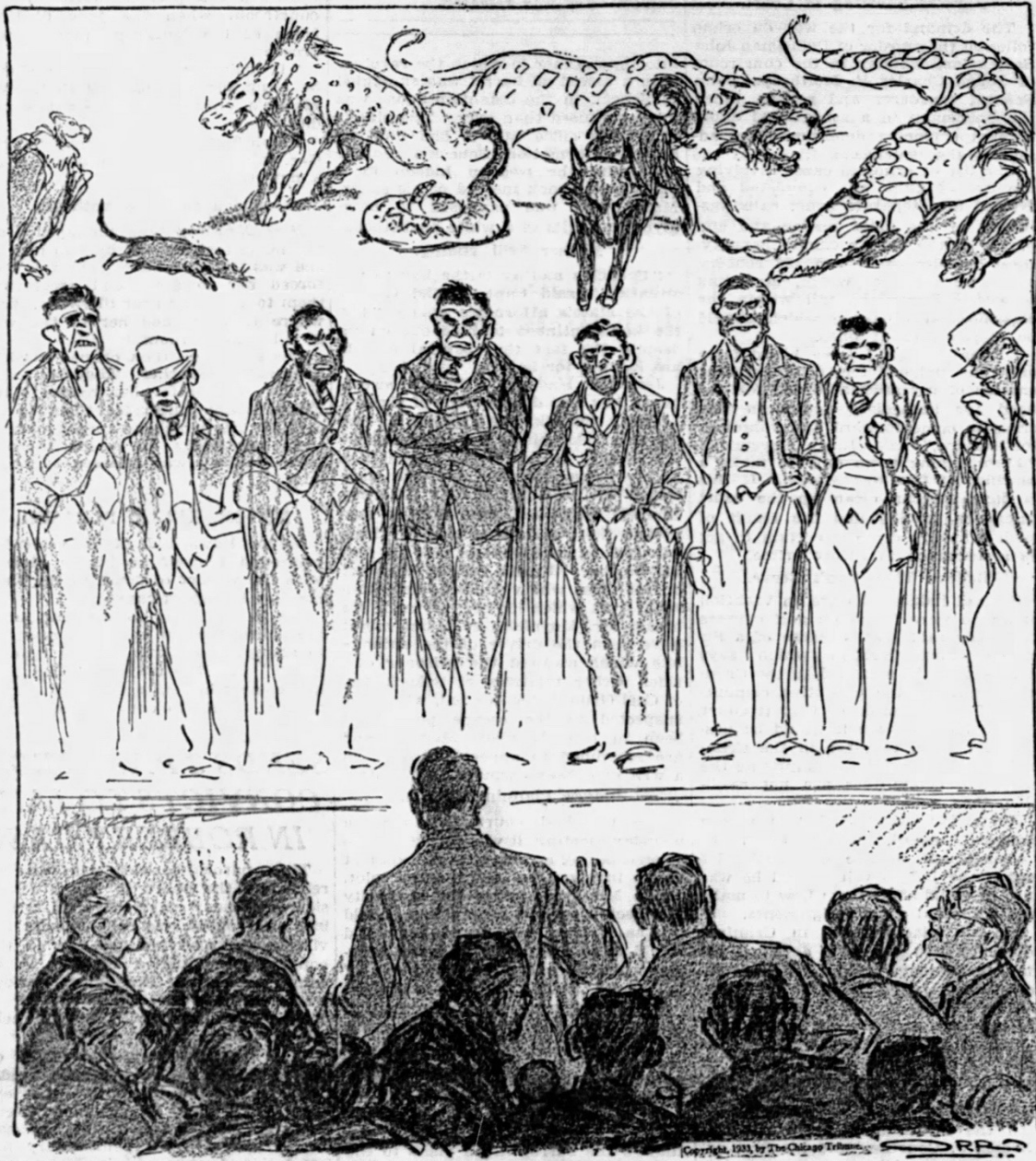
Chicago Tribune

July 1933

“Judge... by inward
resemblance to
animals...”

Newspapers
sensationalized crime
in order to sell
newspapers

WE SHOULD LEARN TO JUDGE OUR CRIMINALS BY THEIR INWARD
RESEMBLANCE TO ANIMALS RATHER THAN BY THEIR OUTWARD
RESEMBLANCE TO HUMAN BEINGS



Exposing myths:

Eleanor dyed her hair red while in hiding.

And court records would reveal that she was not a “tigress.”



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COOK COUNTY JAIL

Dressed for the photographer



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT RECORDS

Started search for primary source documents

Original & Duplicate to the Bur. of Crim'l Inf. & Statistics keep Third Copy on File

8-4-33

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE—CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFENSE REPORT
(TO INCLUDE ATTEMPTS)

Each Report MUST Bear Central Complaint Room Number 52085

DATE OF THIS REPORT 8-4-33

ORIGINALLY REPORTED AS **Man Shot**

Central Complaint Room No. 52085

DISTRICT REPORTING 28

OFFENSE **Murder & Robbery**

ADDRESS **5948 W. Division St.**

NAME OF **Hoeh, Gustave**

IF BURGLARY

NATURE OF PREMISES

WHERE ENTERED

TOOLS USED TO ENTER

OBJECT OF BURGLARY

IF STORE, KIND OF

IF ROBBERY

NATURE OF LOCATION **In store & on street**

HOW LOBBED **Shot & killed**

WEAPON USED **revolver**

OBJECT OF ROBBERY **to obtain money**

ANY OTHER OFFENSE

NATURE OF LOCATION

HOW INJURED

EDWARD J. KELLY
MAYOR

JAMES P. ALLMAN
COMMISSIONER



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE
BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION

1121 S. STATE STREET
CHICAGO

Report # 5160.

Aug. 5th. 1933. 19

From: Chief Identification Inspector.

To: Captain commanding 28th. Dist.

Subject: Report on the murder of Gustav Hoeh of 5948 W. Division St. in his place of business at 5948 W. Division St. Aug. 4th. 1933 at about 2.40 PM.

Gustav Hoeh was shot and killed by some unknown persons during a robbery of his Gents Furnishing Store at 5948 W. Division St. Aug. 4th. 1933, at about 2.40 PM.

PHOTOS ESSENTIAL TO TELL THE STORY

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Under interrogation with Captain Malone



G. J. No. 262

Gen. No. 70149

CRIMINAL COURT OF COOK COUNTY

August Term, A. D. 1933

The People of the State of Illinois vs.

Eleanor Jarman, et al.

INDICTMENT FOR

MURDER

A TRUE BILL

Edward E. Mas... FOREMAN OF THE GRAND JURY

WITNESSES

- Earl Hoeh, Estelle Rogers, May Swanson, Willard Malone, Vincent Honings, William Fredericks

Filed AUG 15 1933

No Bail, \$

COUNTY COURT RECORDS

(Charges, Probable cause, Arraignment, Jury instructions, Sanity, et al)

Researcher scanned 100s of pages (large PDF files) of court records.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

-VS-

ELEANOR JARMAN, et al.

NO. 70149-50-51-52-53-54-55.

AFFIDAVIT

Richard Slater, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and says that he

Richard Slater

ATTORNEY, ELEANOR, LEO & GEORGE

Trial less than a week – August 1933



GIVE 'TIGER GIRL' 199 YEARS



Eleanor got most of the publicity

George executed in electric chair

Leo drove get-away car, 1928 Chevrolet, also got 199 years



ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT TRANSCRIPTS

Eleanor's testimony... in the wrong place at the wrong time

"The name of the gentleman for whom I answered telephones is Slater. He is more or less a pretty good friend of mine."

IN THE
Supreme Court of Illinois

DECEMBER TERM, A. D. 1933.

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, Defendant in Error.	} Writ of error to Criminal Court, Cook County.
vs.	
GEORGE DALE, Otherwise Known as GEORGE KENNEDY; ELEANOR JAR- MAN, and LEO MINNECCI, Plaintiffs in Error.	} Honorable Philip J. Finnegan, Judge Presiding.

ABSTRACT OF RECORD.

170 pages,
from
Illinois
State
Archives

Step-granddaughter of RICHARD SLATER sent photo. Man seeing Eleanor off at RR station appears to be him.

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MOVIES provided
(some) historic
context.





Administration Building for the
OAKDALE REFORMATORY, DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

Eleanor was a laundry worker, like these inmates.



Other inmates worked in the fields.

And as domestics, with superintendent



692-Dwight

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July Term, 1935

No. 7730

**Application for Commutation
or Parole of**

Eleanor Jarman

Convicted of

Murder

at the August Term,

1933, of the Criminal Court of

Cook County, and sen-

tenced to the State Reformatory

for Women at Dwight, Illinois

for 199 Years.

Letters of support:

“My husband, family, and I have known her approximately five or six years. To our knowledge, she always was a good mother to her children and always worked. She met the wrong kind of people...”

Were from Richard Slater's family

ESCAPE – 1940

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After 7 years, Eleanor escaped with Margaret, another inmate.

Climbed fence

Polka-dotted dress

Margaret caught 2 months later



WHO HELPED ELEANOR AFTER HER ESCAPE?



Initial Form - 1933

STATE REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN
EXAMINATION BLANK

Name Jarman, Eleanor
Received September 2, 1933
Allyce _____
Discharge September 1, 1933 No. 800
192 years

REVISED FORM 1945

(My Slater should be Richard/Dick Slater)

a/1: Boy Slater 28 South St. Louis Ave. Chicago Sept 1931 to November 1932.
a/1: George Dale - ass. State in charge was electrocuted for crime.

Civil Status _____

HUSBAND Ray Jarman - born 1898 - Address has served several jail sent. in Chicago for non-support - 11-22-26 - 9 mos House of Correction.

Eleanor Jarman has children with Frank & Helen Kennedy - W. Madison St. Chicago
2 - Age _____ Address _____

Leroy Jarman born _____ Sioux Falls Nebraska
Laverne Jarman born _____ @ Sioux Falls Nebraska

EMORY - entered Iowa Training School for Boys, Eldora Iowa, paroled sometime in 1939 to his aunt. School history paroled: 6-26-39 disch 1-20-40

Grade 7th grade Location Hooster School Years attended 1916 or 1917

Graduated NO Left school at age _____

This information could not be verified when requested in 1940 - by S.E. Yeager Principal Hopson School (formerly Worcester St.)

Business NONE Location _____ Years attended _____

Trade NONE Location _____ Years attended _____

Work History

Occupation waitress at 14th & S. Kadzie at Famous Restaurant - 3 years. also at 954 Madison Street for one year.

Working when arrested NO Location _____

Worked at Paradise Restaurant Lake & Crawford Ave. January 1931 to November 1932 \$12.00 per week (verified)

Previous Record _____

Reason first arrest _____

Note: Dick Slater, very close friend of Eleanor's was located 10-8-40 by Chicago Police Department - he was living with his wife & child at 1662 Broadway in Chicago.

Religion _____

Confirmation _____

Denomination Lutheran Rite Episcopal

In case of injury or illness, please notify Mrs. Joe (Hattie) Stoker

Address 4210 Ridge St. Sioux City Iowa (sister)
Sister changed to 1811 S. Cypress St. Sioux City Iowa

In case of my death while in this institution or on parole from this institution, please send all my personal possessions to _____

Parents: Leroy & Laverne Jarman
with above named aunt.

Signature _____
Witness M. Schlosser
Date 1-10-45
(revised in accordance with recent information in record).

(Revised history sheet in case of M. Schlosser for ready reference.)

ADMISSION State Reformatory

Name Eleanor Jarman No. 6

Alias Killa Berens (maiden name) Date Ad. _____

Offense Murder Sentence _____

City Chicago County _____

Date of Arrest 8-9-33 Date of _____

Place of Birth Sioux City Iowa
(several birth-dates given but this is correct)

Marriage German descent Head of _____
Jarman's parents: Richard & Margat

Ray Jarman born: 1898 in Nebraska
Mother: Ray Jarman (verified) _____
1925 Divorced _____

Present address: 4300 West Madison Street Chicago

lived with sister: Mrs. J. also 1811 South Cypress Street in Chicago since 1925

FAMILY

Emilie
Mollie Schaefer married

Married _____ unknown

Married _____ 1909

Married Julius Berens

Married _____ unknown

Married _____ 1921

Hattie (Mrs. Stoker) - 44 in '38
Frank (Mrs. Tom Baker) - 40 in '38 (widow of Alfred)
Paul died at 50 yrs of age
Henry Berens - 46 in '38 -
Ulla Berens - 42 in '38 -
Alfred Berens - 40 in '38 -
Frank Berens - 36 in '38
Eleanor (our patient)
John Berens - 30 in '38

Frank & Helen Kennedy - W. Madison St. Chicago

Leroy - IA Training School for Boys

Paradise Restaurant Crawford Avenue Alaska

DICK SLATER

Paradise Res. was 170 blocks from Slater in 1930 census

263 Crawford

Hubbard - Just the non support

NE - 1840 - 1930

most likely

“Dick Slater, very close friend...”

Prison files from Prisoner Review Board

Margaret Schlosser - census - 39 yrs. single - parole & other

THEN WHAT?

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Former boyfriend —

In addition to signing an affidavit, being a “friend,” and having a family who wrote letters:

Richard was a “collector” for gangster Jack Zuta (a former accountant for Al Capone)

Drove a taxi

Had rural retreat/hide-out

WHERE DID ELEANOR GO?

Richard Slater and wife had a rural property (hide out?)
north of Chicago.



DEC. 1939

REG. NO. 692 CLASSIFICATION (21) 5 A 17
 NAME Jarman, Eleanor REF. 2 Aa
 ALIAS Ref. 5 A

RIGHT HAND

2 Ta



LEFT HAND



FBI
WANTED
POSTER

Reward
raised from
\$50 to \$250
(more than
\$5,300
today)

JARMAN, Eleanor, #692, Escaped from State Reformatory for Women, Dwight, Ill., August 9th, 1940. Rec'd. from Cook County, Sept. 2, 1933, for Murder, 199 yrs. Age: 33 (33) Wt: 128; Ht. 5' ;Build slight; Comp: Blonde; Hair: Blonde; Eyes; Grey.

REWARD OF FIFTY (\$50.00) DOLLARS will be paid for the apprehension of this girl. If whereabouts are know please notify Miss Helen H. Hazard, Supt. State Reformatory for Women, Dwight, Ill., telegram collect. **REWARD NOW \$250**



POP CULTURE & WANTED POSTERS KEPT (SENSATIONALIZED) STORY ALIVE

The Blonde
Tigress!

Have You Seen
Her? Vicious,
Deadly, She'll
Turn on the
First Who
Tries to Send
Her Back to
Prison.
She's the

Most Dangerous
WOMAN ALIVE!



(Painted by Stuart Schmidt)
She . . . "pulled a blackjack from her
purse and started beating the man
on the head."

- False Social Security #
- Blended into society as an ordinary woman
- Worked as waitress
- In 1970s, family claimed contact

Witness testimonies in court proved that she did *not* strike the victim.

Grandson of 1940 escapee reveals name she used.

MARIE MILLMAN/MELLMAN

Sioux City Journal, December 11, 1994

I searched and eliminated — on Ancestry.com, Family Search, and newspaper sites — every MM of similar age who had parents, spouse, or siblings.

ONLY ONE LEFT (MARIE MILLMAN)

no paper trail prior to 1951

MARIE MILLMAN PRIVATE RESEARCH TREE

Marie Millman Family Tree

Tree search

Search

Tools

Edit



Marie H. Millman

BIRTH 4 MAY 1908

DEATH 14 AUG 1980 • Denver, Denver, Colorado, USA

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Facts

1908
(AGE)

Birth
4 May 1908

1 source

1951
43

Residence
1951 • Denver, Colorado,

In 1951, 1445 Stout (Stout) checked back to 1945 and in 1950 census. Got SS #

2 sources

1952
43

FBI "complaint"
31 Jan 1952 • IL

FBI filed complaint "because she [Eleanor] flew avoid confinement after conviction for the crime did the FBI have? Whatever it was likely happened

1953
45

Residence
1953 • Denver, Colorado, USA

1458 Welton, waitress

1 source

1959
51

Residence
1959 • Denver, Colorado, USA

Working at The Kitchen, living at Apt. 3, 1457 Vine St, Denver, Colorado

1960
52

Residence
1960 • Denver, Colorado, USA

Apt 3, 1457 Vine, waitress at The Kitchen

1961
53

Residence
1961 • Denver, Colorado

Record for Marie Millman, possible typo----- Living at Apt 7, 1530 Pearl

1964
56

Residence
1964 • Denver, Colorado

Working at Super Chef restaurant, Living at Apt 4, Marilyn Apart 1522 Pennsylvania St, Denver, Colorado

1965
57

Residence
1965 • Denver, Colorado

Working at Super Chef restaurant, Living at Apt 4, Marilyn Apart 1522 Pennsylvania St, Denver, Colorado

1966
58

Residence
1966 • Denver, Colorado

Working at Super Chef restaurant, Living at Apt 4, Marilyn Apart 1522 Pennsylvania St, Denver, Colorado

1967
59

Residence
1967 • Denver, Colorado

Working at Super Chef restaurant, Living at Apt 4, Marilyn Apart 1522 Pennsylvania St, Denver, Colorado

1968
60

Residence
1968 • Denver, Colorado

Working at Super Chef restaurant, Living at Apt 4, Marilyn Apart 1522 Pennsylvania St, Denver, Colorado

1970
62

Residence
1970 • Denver, Colorado

Retired, Apt 14, 330 E 16th Ave, Denver, Colorado

1971
63

Residence
1971 • Denver, Colorado

Working at Sam's Cafe, Living at Apt 14, 330 E 16th Ave, Denver, Colorado

1972
64

Residence
1972 • Denver, Colorado

Unretired? Cashier at Sam's Cafe, living at Apt 14, 330 E 16th Ave, Denver, Colorado

1973
65

Residence
1973 • Denver, Colorado

Cashier at Sam's Cafe, living at Apt 14, 330 E 16th Ave, Denver, Colorado

U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995

U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995

U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995

U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995

U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995

1974
66

RETIRED (according to SS "Request for Earnings Record")
1974 • Denver, Colorado

SS# 500-14-3732 (Form is the only mention of middle initial "H.")

1976
68

Residence
1976 • Denver, Colorado

Apt 14, 330 E 16th Ave, Denver, Colorado

1 source

1977
69

Residence
1977 • Denver, Colorado

Apt 14, 330 E 16th Ave, Denver, Colorado

1 source

1979
71

Residence
1979 • Denver, Colorado

M Millman -----Apt 14, 330 E 16th Ave, Denver, Colorado

1 source

1980
72

Death
14 Aug 1980 • Denver, Denver, Colorado, USA

NO KNOWN HEIRS, per Denver Probate Court correspondence

1 source

1980

Burial
August 1980 • Denver, Denver, Colorado, USA

Fairmount Cemetery, Rev. Carl Davidson officiating

POSSIBLE ALIAS FOR ELEANOR BERENDT JARMAN

Marie Millman in Denver from 1951 to 1980 when she died there.

NO SS-5 FROM SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
NOT IN 1950 CENSUS (or any previous ones)

MARIE MILLMAN (alias)



244-9846

BREAKFAST
LUNCH
DINNER

Quality Food
Sensible Prices

Super Chef

338 E. COLFAX
DENVER, COLORADO

Worked at
lunch counters
in Denver,
beginning in
1951 —
the same year
that the FBI
stated Eleanor
had “fled the
state of Illinois.”

Richard Slater died in KY in 1968.

PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENTATION for alias — Marie Millman



- NO paper trial prior to 1951
- Denver City Directories 1951-1980 (no surviving neighbors)
- Social Security (SS Death Index, but no SS-5 application)
- NO “hints” on MARIE’s tree
- Denver Probate File for MARIE H. MILLMAN – shows NO HEIRS (& no family at all)

Pete's Kitchen today: No records, previous owners deceased



PROBATE FILE REVEALED MARIE'S GRAVE

Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, Colorado
(Flat stone in section 67)



IS MARIE (died 1980) ELEANOR?

If alias provided by family is correct, I believe so. Only an exhumation and DNA research can tell us for sure.



Years ago, NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST Edwin A. Lahey wrote:

When I am in some wayside diner late at night, and a beat-up old doll in her sixties is dishing out chili, I am tempted to ask if she is Eleanor.

But I never do. I keep hoping that she got some good out of life... Goodnight, Eleanor Jarman, wherever you are.

QUESTIONS?

www.silviapettem.com

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BLONDE TIGRESS
The **UNTOLD** STORY of
ELEANOR JARMAN



SILVIA PETTEM

Foreword by JERRY CLARK & ED PALATTELLA

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—
**SOMEONE'S
DAUGHTER:**
*In Search of Justice
for Jane Doe*
Updated Edition
& other books on
TRUE CRIME

