

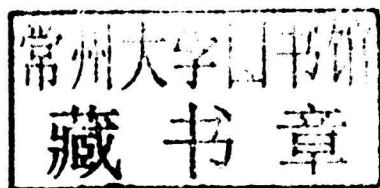
# Looking Back in Crime

What Happened on This Date in Criminal Justice History?

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James O. Windell



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# Introduction

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This book has a very simple premise. And that is that everyone is fascinated by looking back to see what happened on this date in history. It is even more intriguing to look back at criminal justice history. Just as people are eternally captivated by murder mysteries, detective stories, and legal shows, so are they compulsively interested in the history of criminal justice. What better way to learn about that history than by discovering what happened on this day in criminal justice history.

*Looking Back in Crime: What Happened on This Day in Criminal Justice History* features a treasure trove of important dates, significant events, and the infamous, unusual, and intriguing dates in criminal justice history, offering hundreds of dates, events, and facts that have particular relevance to criminal justice. There is at least one fact and significant event for every day of the year; in some instances, there are several for the same date. Among the comprehensive listing of events there are famous and not-so-famous crimes, the development of law enforcement, criminal trials, passages of criminal laws, Supreme Court decisions, important dates related to prisons, punishment, and corrections, forensic milestones, and cultural events that intersect with crime and criminal justice. In fact, no area of criminal justice is neglected. This book therefore provides a literal history of criminal justice, presented in an engaging, readable, and easily digested format.

This book started out as a feature in the author's introduction to criminal justice classes. It was quickly discovered that students looked forward to "This Day in Criminal Justice History." As a result, the author collected events in history for every day of the year. This collection has been growing and expanding for more than 14 years. If it has been enjoyed by the author's diverse, urban students, there is little doubt that this collection of facts, anecdotes, and historical tidbits will engage the classes of any criminal justice instructor or professor.

With this book, an instructor—and his or her students—will know about hundreds of events that cannot reasonably be covered in depth in any typical criminal justice class. Yet this simple feature of each class—called This Day in Criminal Justice History in the author's classes—can be a valuable teaching aid.

By utilizing this daily class feature, professors can give their students a better sense of history in terms of crime, law enforcement, and the justice

system while also providing students a greater understanding of what has gone before them and how critical events fit into the context of the overview of criminal justice they get from the textbook and lectures. This book can enhance any instructor's ability to captivate and involve students in plumbing the important events that they may never have heard of but which make up the rich and sometimes complex tapestry of criminal justice.

If you are an instructor, how can you best use this book in your classes? Here are several suggestions:

1. Use it as a resource to enhance your ability to bring alive stories and anecdotes that illustrate criminal justice history.
2. Assign it to your students as a supplementary textbook that they can use to increase their knowledge about specific events and circumstances in the history and development of the criminal justice system.
3. Use it to integrate all aspects of criminal justice with history, popular culture, important political and social figures, and significant social events.
4. Employ the book to add color and interest to your class. Filled with hundreds of dates and anecdotes, use it to quiz your students and engage them in the learning of history surrounding the development of the criminal justice system.
5. Keep it as a handy reference for you and your students to make sure you—and they—get the facts and dates right. This book provides an invaluable service as it corrects dates often erroneously listed in criminal justice textbooks. And, in addition, it adds dates that have not been available previously.

Finally, this is a book to be enjoyed by anyone interested in criminal justice. Its daily listing of criminal justice events will be a constant source of fascination and enjoyment.

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## January

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**January 1, 1863:** President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The Emancipation Proclamation was an order issued to all segments of the Executive branch (including the Army and Navy) of the United States by President Lincoln on this date during the Civil War. It proclaimed all those enslaved in Confederate territory to be forever free, and ordered the Army (and all segments of the Executive branch) to treat as free all those enslaved in 10 states that were still in rebellion, thus applying to 3.1 million of the 4 million slaves in the United States.

**1889:** New York legalized the use of the electric chair for executions (Figure 1.1).

**1983:** The Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982 went into effect. This is legislation designed to protect and assist victims and witnesses of federal crimes. The law permits victim impact statements in sentencing hearings to provide judges with information concerning financial, psychological, or physical harm suffered by victims. The law also provides for restitution for victims and prevents victims or witnesses from being intimidated by threatening verbal harassment. The law establishes penalties for acts of retaliation by defendants against those who testify against them.

**January 2, 1935:** Bruno Hauptman, charged with the kidnapping and murder of the infant son of famed aviator Charles Lindbergh, went on trial. The trial ends on February 11, 1935, and on February 13, 1935, Hauptmann is found guilty of murder in the first degree.

**January 3, 1967:** Jack Ruby, the man who shot President John F. Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, died (Figure 1.2).

**January 4, 1982:** Jack Henry Abbott went on trial for the stabbing death of a man. This incident occurred 6 weeks after Abbott was released from prison after serving many years for various crimes, including the stabbing death of another inmate, a prison escape, and a bank robbery. Because of his writing talent, he gained support from such people as Normal Mailer, Jerzy Kosinski, and Susan Sarandon. While in prison, he published two books, one of which, *In the Belly of the*



**Figure 1.1** Electric chair. (Courtesy of Zaid Hamid, National Museum of Crime and Punishment.)



**Figure 1.2** Jack Ruby. (Courtesy of the Dallas Police Department.)



*Beast*, was widely acclaimed. In 2001, he was denied parole, and on February 10, 2002, he hanged himself while in prison.

**1978:** Ted Bundy's first murder victim was Joni Lentz. He was later accused of killing as many as 38 women. He was executed in the electric chair on January 24, 1989 (Figure 1.3).

**January 5, 1804:** The Ohio legislature passed the first of a succession of northern black laws that restrict the rights and movements of free blacks in the North.

**January 6, 1908:** Harry Thaw went on trial for the second time for the murder of Stanford White, a renowned New York architect, who was having a relationship with Thaw's lovely chorus girl wife, Evelyn Nesbit. Thaw confronted White at Madison Square Garden and shot him in front of a roomful of people. Because of the unusual amount of publicity surrounding the case, the judge ordered that the jury members be sequestered—the first time in the history of American jurisprudence that such a restriction was ordered in a trial. The first trial, which took place in January 1907, resulted in a deadlocked jury and a mistrial was declared. A second trial began on this day and lasted through February 1, 1908. Thaw's defense was temporary insanity, and he was found not guilty by reason of insanity, and sentenced to incarceration for life at the Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminally Insane in Fishkill, New York.

**1994:** American figure skater Nancy Kerrigan, the 1994 Olympic silver medalist, was clubbed in the right knee with a police baton by Shane Stant outside Cobo Arena in Detroit on the eve of the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. The attack was planned by Jeff Gillooly, ex-husband of Kerrigan's chief rival, Tonya Harding. Ms. Kerrigan recovered quickly and went on to success in figure skating events.

**2005:** A Texas Court of Appeals overturned Andrea Yates's conviction in the drowning deaths of her five children. Her previous conviction was overturned on the basis of a witness who told an untruth at the trial. A new trial was ordered.

**January 7, 1873:** The public corruption trial for William Magear Tweed ("Boss Tweed") began on this date. Tweed was an American politician who was most notable for being the "boss" of Tammany Hall, the Democratic Party political machine that played a major role in the politics of both 19th-century New York City and the state of New York. At the height of his influence, Tweed was the third-largest landowner in New York City, a director of the Erie Railroad, the Tenth National Bank, and the New York Printing Company, as well as proprietor of the Metropolitan Hotel. Tweed was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1852, and the New York County

# WANTED BY THE FBI

## INTERSTATE FLIGHT - MURDER



## THEODORE ROBERT BUNDY

### DESCRIPTION

Born November 24, 1946, Burlington, Vermont (not supported by birth records); Height, 5'11" to 6'; Weight, 145 to 175 pounds; Build, slender, athletic; Hair, dark brown, collar length; Eyes, blue; Complexion, pale /sallow; Race, white; Nationality, American; Occupations, bellboy, busboy, cook's helper, dishwasher, janitor, law school student, office worker, political campaign worker, psychiatric social worker, salesman, security guard; Scars and Marks, mole on neck, scar on scalp; Social Security Number used, 533-44-4655; Remarks, occasionally stammers when upset; has worn glasses, false mustache and beard as disguise in past; left-handed; can imitate British accent; reportedly physical fitness and health enthusiast.

### CRIMINAL RECORD

Bundy has been convicted of aggravated kidnapping.

### CAUTION

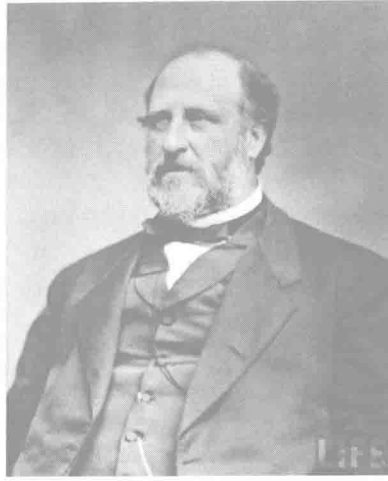
BUNDY, A COLLEGE-EDUCATED PHYSICAL FITNESS ENTHUSIAST WITH A PRIOR HISTORY OF ESCAPE, IS BEING SOUGHT AS A PRISON ESCAPEE AFTER BEING CONVICTED OF KIDNAPING AND WHILE AWAITING TRIAL INVOLVING A BRUTAL SEX SLAYING OF A WOMAN AT A SKI RESORT. HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED, DANGEROUS AND AN ESCAPE RISK.

FBI/DOJ

**Figure 1.3** Ted Bundy. (Courtesy of Federal Bureau of Investigation.)

Board of Supervisors in 1858, the year he became the head of the Tammany Hall political machine. He was also elected to the New York State Senate in 1867, but his greatest influence came from being an appointed member of a number of boards and commissions, his control over political patronage in New York City through Tammany Hall, and his ability to ensure the loyalty of voters through jobs he could create and dispense on city-related projects. Tweed was arrested in 1871 and charged with corruption and embezzlement. Tweed was released on \$1 million bail, and Tammany set to work to recover its position through the ballot box. Tweed was reelected to the state senate in November 1871, due to his personal popularity, but was rearrested, forced to resign his city positions, and was replaced as Tammany's leader. Tweed's first trial, beginning on this date in January 1873, ended when the jury was unable to agree on a verdict. His retrial in November resulted in convictions on 204 of 220 counts, a fine of \$12,750, and a prison sentence of 12 years. A higher court, however, reduced Tweed's sentence to 1 year. After his release from prison, New York state filed a civil suit against Tweed, attempting to recover \$6 million in embezzled funds. Unable to put up the \$3 million bail, Tweed was locked up in the Ludlow Street Jail, although he was allowed home visits. On one of these, Tweed escaped and fled to Spain, where he worked as a common seaman on a Spanish ship. The U.S. government discovered his whereabouts and arranged for his arrest once he reached the Spanish border. He was turned over to an American warship, which delivered him to authorities in New York City on November 23, 1876, and he was returned to prison. Desperate and broken, Tweed now agreed to testify about the inner workings of his corrupt ring to a special committee set up by the Board of Alderman, in return for his release, but after he did so, Tilden, now governor of New York, refused to abide by the agreement, and Tweed remained incarcerated. He died in the Ludlow Street Jail on April 12, 1878, from severe pneumonia (Figure 1.4).

**1931:** The Wickersham Commission released its report on the enforcement of the Prohibition laws of the United States. The commission focused its investigations almost entirely on the widespread violations of national alcohol prohibition to study and recommend changes to the 18th Amendment, and to observe police practices in the states. The report was critical of police interrogation tactics and reported that "the inflicting of pain, physical or mental, to extract confessions or statements ... is widespread throughout the country." It was actually the second report released on this date. It supports Prohibition but finds contempt among average Americans and unworkable enforcement across the states, corruption in police ranks



**Figure 1.4** Boss Tweed. [Courtesy of *LIFE* photo archive.]

and local politics, and problems in every community that attempted to enforce Prohibition laws. August Vollmer is the primary author of the commission's final report. It documents the widespread evasion of Prohibition and its negative effects on American society and recommends much more aggressive and extensive law enforcement to enforce compliance with antialcohol laws. However, the report also castigates the police for their "general failure ... to detect and arrest criminals guilty of the many murders, spectacular bank, payroll, and other holdups and sensational robberies with guns."

**January 8, 1998:** Ramzi Ahmen Yousef was sentenced to life for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

**January 9, 1984:** Angelo Buono, one of the Hillside Stranglers, was sentenced to life in prison for his role in the rape, torture, and murder of 10 young women in Los Angeles. Buono's cousin and partner in crime, Kenneth Bianchi, testified against Buono to escape the death penalty.

**1991:** Two New York City teenagers were sentenced for the April 19, 1989, rape and beating of a jogger in Central Park. Kharey Wise, 18, was ordered by Justice Thomas Galligan to serve 5 to 15 years for his conviction on assault, sexual abuse, and riot charges stemming from the April 1989 gang rape of the Wall Street banker. Kevin Richardson, 16, was sentenced to the maximum 5 to 10 years for attempted murder, rape, sodomy, robbery, assault, and riot. He was the only defendant convicted of attempted murder in the case. Three other juveniles were later sentenced. However, the convictions of all five were vacated in 2002 when Matias Reyes, a convicted rapist and murderer serving a life sentence for other crimes, confessed to committing the crime

alone and DNA evidence confirmed his involvement in the rape. This crime and the subsequent wrongful convictions are the subject of the Ken Burns and Sarah Burns 2013 film *Central Park Five*.

**1993:** Seven people were found shot to death at a fast food chicken restaurant in Palatine, Illinois, northwest of Chicago. The crime remains unsolved.

**January 10, 1811:** An uprising of over 400 slaves was put down in New Orleans. Sixty-six black slaves were killed and their heads were strung up along the roads of the city.

**1999:** The book *Perfect Murder—Perfect Town: JonBenet and the City of Boulder* was published by Lawrence Schilling (Harper Collins). It concerns the murder and subsequent investigation of 6-year-old child beauty pageant queen JonBenet Ramsey. The case remains unsolved.

**1999:** The hit TV show *The Sopranos* debuted on HBO-TV. Starring James Gandolfini as Tony Soprano, a Mafia chieftain, the show ran until June 10, 2007. The show concerned a New Jersey-based, Italian American gangster who tried to balance his personal life and his professional life as a gangster.

**January 11, 1794:** Robert Forsyth was the first U.S. Marshal slain in the line of duty.

**1967:** The Boston Strangler trial began on this date. In January 1964, 13 women were killed at the hands of a person who was dubbed by the media as the “Boston Strangler.” Albert DeSalvo confessed that he was the Boston Strangler. He was charged with 10 counts of murder, and despite having F. Lee Bailey as his defense attorney, he was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. On November 26, 1973, DeSalvo was stabbed to death by another inmate at Walpole State Prison (Figure 1.5).

**January 12, 1952:** African American novelist Walter Moseley, creator of the Easy Rollins detective series, was born in Los Angeles.

**1966:** *Batman* first appeared on ABC-TV with Adam West starring as Batman. The show was popular until 1968.

**1968:** AT&T announced its designation of 911 as a universal emergency number.

**1995:** Malcolm X’s daughter was arrested for conspiracy to kill Louis Farrakhan.

**January 13, 1929:** Wyatt Earp, who was a deputy U.S. Marshal in Tombstone, Arizona, died at the age of 80. A flattering and, some say, largely fictionalized, best-selling biography published after his death created his reputation as a fearless lawman. As a result of the book and the way he was portrayed in western movies and TV shows, Wyatt Earp became the epitome of the tough, fearless lawman of the Old West. Although in reality he may be little more than a figure



From "A Death in Belmont"

**Figure 1.5** Albert DeSalvo. (Courtesy of Federal Bureau of Investigation—Strangler Bureau.)

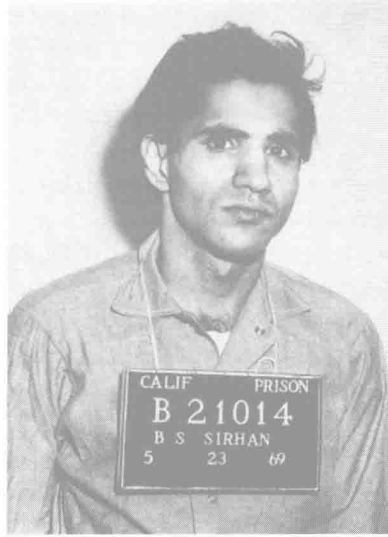
in western history, he did participate in the famous gunfight at the O.K. Corral.

**1947:** The case of *Francis v. Resweber* was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. The question before the court was whether returning Willie Francis to the electric chair a second time, after the current failed to kill him the first time, constituted cruel and unusual punishment. A majority of the court ruled that it is not a violation of the U.S. Constitution to send Willie Francis to the electric chair a second time.

**1969:** The Sirhan Sirhan trial began on this date. Sirhan, a Palestinian with Jordanian citizenship, was convicted at the end of the trial for the assassination of U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy. He is currently serving a life sentence at Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga, California (Figure 1.6).

**1988:** The U.S. Supreme Court decided the case of *Hazelwood School District, et al. v. Kuhlmeier, et al.*, an important First Amendment rights case for students.

**2004:** Dr. Harold Shipman, Britain's most prolific mass murderer, hanged himself from a noose made of bed sheets at Wakefield Prison in West Yorkshire, England. He was convicted 4 years earlier of



**Figure 1.6** Sirhan Sirhan. (Courtesy of California Department of Corrections.)

murdering 15 of his patients through lethal injection. An official inquiry in 2002 found he had actually murdered 215 patients, and possibly as many as 260, over a period of 23 years.

**January 14, 1991:** The first Carolyn Warmus trial began on this date. Warmus, who grew up in affluent Birmingham, Michigan, was charged with second-degree murder in the death of her lover's wife. The jury could not reach a verdict in this first trial, but in the second trial, she was found guilty and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison. She is currently serving her sentence in the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women in Westchester County, New York. At the time of the trials, the media referred to it as a fatal attraction case because of the resemblance to the 1987 hit movie in which a married man's lover proved she would stop at nothing, even murder, in a twisted attempt to make him hers.

**January 15, 1947:** Elizabeth Short, dubbed the "Black Dahlia" by the media after her death, was murdered in Los Angeles. Short's unsolved murder has been the source of widespread speculation, leading to many suspects, along with several books and film adaptations of the story. Short's murder is one of the oldest unsolved murder cases in Los Angeles history. Steve Hodel frequently writes about the case in such books as *Black Dahlia Avenger: The True Story*.

**1976:** Mystery novelist Agatha Christie died of natural causes.

**1981:** The show *Hill Street Blues* debuted on NBC-TV. A police drama showing the lives of the officers in a single New York precinct,

*Hill Street Blues* ran until May 1987, winning many awards along the way.

**1985:** The U.S. Supreme Court decided the case of *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, an important juvenile case related to the Fourth Amendment. A girl, only identified by the initials T.L.O., was suspected of smoking at her high school. An administrator demanded her purse, looked through it, and found a cigarette. She was suspended, but a suit was filed claiming that her Fourth Amendment rights were violated. The Supreme Court disagreed.

**January 16, 1920:** The Volstead Act took effect on this day, and Prohibition in the United States officially began. The book *Last Call* by Daniel Okrent details—as the subtitle indicates—the rise and fall of Prohibition.

**1936:** Serial killer Albert Fish (the “Moon Maniac”) was executed at Sing Sing Prison in New York. A child rapist and cannibal, he claimed to have murdered many people, but was only suspected in five murders, and confessed to three murders that were verified (Figure 1.7).

**January 17, 1964:** Massachusetts’ Attorney General Edward Brooke, the only African American Attorney General in the country, took over the Boston Strangler case, a string of murders that had left 13 women dead in Boston. The Boston Strangler has been identified as Edward DeSalvo, although there is some controversy about this.

**1977:** Gary Gilmore was the first person in the United States executed after the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976. Gilmore chose to die at the hands of a firing squad on this date in Utah.



**Figure 1.7** Albert Fish. (Courtesy of *NY Daily News*.)



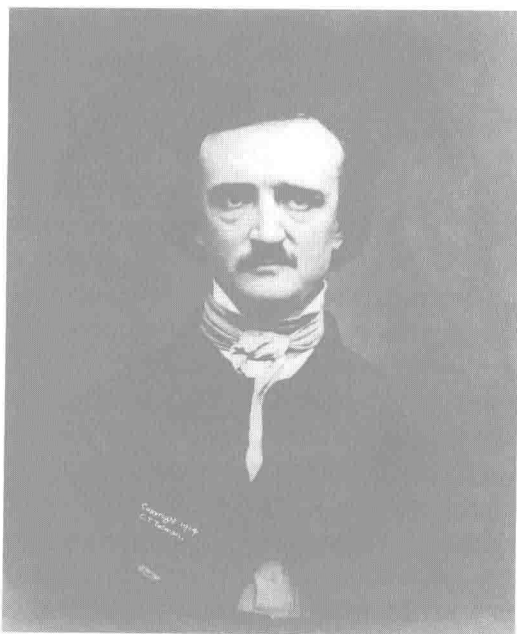
**January 18, 1788:** The first Australian penal colony was established as 736 convicts from England landed in Botany Bay. After America became independent, Britain had to look elsewhere to ship convicts.

**1989:** After the U.S. Sentencing Commission's published sentencing guidelines went into effect on November 1, 1987, defendants began challenging the constitutionality of the Sentencing Reform Act (SRA) on the basis of improper legislative delegation and violation of the separation of powers doctrine. On this date, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected these challenges in *Mistretta v. United States*, upholding the constitutionality of the commission as a judicial branch agency.

**January 19, 1809:** Edgar Allen Poe, the father of the modern detective story, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. His short novel *Murders in the Rue Morgue* is called by many the first detective story (Figure 1.8).

**1982:** The U.S. Supreme Court decided the case of *Eddings v. Oklahoma*. The high court reversed the death sentence of a 16-year-old boy who was tried as an adult in criminal court. The Supreme Court held that a defendant's young age, as well as mental and emotional development, should be considered a mitigating factor of great weight in deciding whether to apply the death penalty.

**January 20, 1959:** Carl "Alfalfa" Switzer, 31, the freckle-faced child actor in the *Our Gang* movies of the 1920s and 1930s, was shot and killed in a battle over a \$50 debt.



**Figure 1.8** Edgar Allen Poe. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress.)