



MISSING

ASTONISHING HEADLINES

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INTRODUCTION

Missing. Lost. Gone without a trace. No clues. Sometimes, only a mystery remains. Have you ever had your favorite CD or shirt go missing? You might get mad or annoyed looking for it. But what happens when a real treasure goes missing, or a space ship, or a person? Missing persons leave behind anxious and terrified loved ones.

Missing criminals are fugitives on the run from the law. They might have been captured by police officers, but then escaped. Or they might be suspects on the run, trying to avoid arrest. For crime fighters, it is very important to find missing criminals and make sure they are not a danger to the public.

It can be very sad, scary, or tragic when something important goes missing. Whole ships have vanished without a trace. Entire species of animals or plants can vanish from Earth. At first glance, it can seem as if there are no clues. But determined detectives and scientists look for answers.

Some of these disappearances have puzzled experts for years. With very few clues, they have to work out what exactly happened. Some of these disappearances are solved through detective work and luck. Others remain mysteries, never to be solved.

CHAPTER 1

The FBI's Ten Most Wanted

DATAFILE

Timeline

July 1908

Theodore Roosevelt creates the FBI.

March 1950

FBI creates the “Ten Most Wanted Fugitives” list.

June 1999

Terrorist Osama bin Laden is added to the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted list.

Where is Washington, DC?



Key Terms

database—a computerized list of information

federal—having to do with the U.S. government

parole—a closely watched prisoner on release from jail

terrorist—a person who tries to attack a country or group using violence



Did You Know?

Only seven women have made the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list. The first was Ruth Eisemann-Schier. Eisemann-Schier was wanted for kidnapping a Miami heiress in Decatur, Georgia. Eisemann-Schier later demanded \$500,000 ransom for her safe return.

The FBI's Ten Most Wanted

What is the FBI?

FBI stands for Federal Bureau of Investigation. The FBI captures people who break federal laws. Federal laws are those that apply to the country as a whole, not just to a single city or state.

The FBI also finds criminals who cross state lines. If a criminal commits crimes in more than one state, his or her crimes become a national concern. This is when the FBI helps local and state police catch the criminals.

The FBI also protects the United States from international criminals. International criminals are people who live in the United States, but commit

crimes in other countries. There are also foreign criminals, such as terrorists, who target the United States.

FBI Beginnings

President Theodore Roosevelt created the FBI in July 1908. In the FBI's early days, there were very few federal crimes. Investigators spent most of their time tracking down stolen goods and solving bank robberies. Capturing high-profile fugitives did not become important for the FBI until the 1950s.

J. Edgar Hoover became the director of the FBI in 1924, when he was only 29 years old. He set out to enlarge the FBI's role as a crime-fighting organization. Hoover introduced new programs, some of which are still used by the FBI today.

In 1926, Hoover started a fingerprint file. Fingerprints are used to help identify criminals. This file turned into one of the largest fingerprint databases in the world.

Toughest Criminals

Hoover's other important idea was the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list. This list is an important crime-fighting tool. It is still used today.

The FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives is a list of the 10 fugitives the FBI wants to catch the most. The list includes the name, a description, and a picture of each criminal. It also tells why the criminal is wanted. The list's purpose is to keep the public on the lookout for criminals on the run.

The idea came about when a reporter named Sam Fogg called the FBI one day in 1949.

Sam worked for the International News Service. He did not have any breaking news to report, so he decided to find out what or whom the FBI was investigating. He asked the FBI for the name and description of the 10 “toughest guys” they were tracking.

Fogg went on to write stories about these men for the news service. As a result, two of the men on the list were caught. Hoover realized the success of this idea and created a permanent list of the Ten Most Wanted Fugitives in March 1950.

The First Catch

The first person on the list was Thomas J. Holden. He was convicted of robbery and sent to prison. After many years in jail, he was released on parole. While Holden was free, he shot and killed his wife and her two brothers. Then he went on the run.

The FBI put his picture on the list. Back then, the Ten Most Wanted list was posted in post offices, general stores, and newspapers.

In June 1951, an Oregon resident spotted Holden. He was working under a different name. The resident told the FBI and Holden was captured.

The number of fugitives appearing on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List continues to grow. But the number of those found and arrested increases as well—many due to help from the public.

Today's Ten Most Wanted

In the 1950s, most of the criminals on the list were bank robbers, car thieves, and murderers. As the times changed, so did the types of criminals on the list.