

Dear Larry,

9/26/72

I have written you about one Joe ~~Kirk~~ Spring/Springler, etc., based on what John Ray had told me about his seeming mysterious appearance in John's cell when John was first busted. John later wrote me that he had read of the same person in one of Bill Turner's books. What John earlier told me is quite consistent with the enclosed graph from p. 165 of the hardback. It is also in paperback.

Here the name is given as Sprenz. The thing that makes it clear John was, in fact, much earlier, talking about the same guy is the strange plane crash. And John's forte is not names, as it is not spelling.

So, maybe you can come up with something? Thanks and best,

peared. The charges were reluctantly
fia leader smirkingly resumed business as
ates.

trageous scorn of the law provoked no
from J. Edgar Hoover. Instead, the FBI
re human tumbleweeds of crime: bank
freight car burglars, the whey-faced little
l checks in bunches, the hulking water-
crimes and criminals contributed hand-
rger statistics total with which the Direc-
ss and the nation.

make lively newspaper copy. This defi-
by the ingenious device called the Top
am, which designated some of the more
as the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Men."
v retired Inspector H. Lynn Edwards, the
ated in 1950 with much fanfare. It pulls
l going: when a fugitive is added to the
a brief description, and criminal data are
of the nation's newspapers; when he is
s a second publicity burst.

laced on the program by the FBI is indi-
k on a 1953 lecture by a headquarters
vice class: "Top Ten—good publicity—
w if certain newspapers' publicity results
deed it does. In the course of appropria-
March 6, 1961, Hoover revealed that
ad accounted for twenty-two Top Ten
television, radio, and magazine exposure
e of ten more.

re program nets some fugitives who might
aptured. In July, 1962, for example, a St.
rse taking the tour of FBI headquarters

recognized one of the Top Ten as a neighbor, and within
hours agents had in custody Hugh Bion Morse, wanted in Los
Angeles for assault to commit murder. On the twelfth annivers-
ary of the program, March 14, 1962, Hoover boasted that it
had bagged 154 "dangerous fugitives" since its inception,
while eleven dropped from the list had never been found.
Many of the Top Ten had been nabbed by local police, which
prompted the Director to hail the program as demonstrating
"the outstanding effectiveness of public and law enforcement
teamwork."

But the program also gave the public a grossly distorted
view of the crime picture by arbitrarily elevating to the status
of national menace an array of cheap thugs, barroom knifers,
psychopathic rapists, wife-beaters, and alcoholic stick-up men
—again, the "few preying on the few." This is not to say there
haven't been a few colorful and competent neo-Dillingers on
the list. There was Frank Lawrence Spreng, for instance, a
master of disguise who would pull a string of bank robberies
and disappear into the blue in a stolen airplane (the FBI billed
him as "the notorious flying bank robber"). Spreng led G-men
a merry chase. Once a trap was laid for him at a Vermont
airport when he notified a girl friend that he would drop in on
her, but he landed away from the airport at which the agents
were staked out and was gone again by the time they caught
on. He finally came a cropper when forced to crash-land on
the Yucatan Peninsula; Mexican police hustled him back over
the border and into the arms of the FBI.

Bank robbers Albert Nussbaum and Bobby Wilcoxson,
who made the list in the early 1960s, carried machine guns
and were not reluctant to use them. This trait, coupled with
their affection for a blonde "moll," inspired the Bureau to
compare them with Dillinger. But they didn't have his staying
power. Nussbaum was apprehended after a chase when his